



**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA**

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au Website: www.ozmalta.page4.me

REMEMBERING – A brilliant chapter in the history of Maltese settlement in Australia

The Maltese Herald the Maltese/Australian newspaper of 50 years no longer



By [David Micallef](#) on 10/04/2013

Sadly, the Maltese Herald, the only weekly Maltese newspaper, has been printed for the last time on 30 April, due to lack of support by way of advertisements.

Members of the Maltese community in Australia have sent many letters of support to the newspaper and it will be missed by many The Maltese Herald, which has been the newspaper for the Maltese community for over 50 years.

Unlike many other 'mainstream' newspapers that are cutting staff and closing their doors, The Maltese Herald is closing not because it is solely a print medium, but because it has potentially served its purpose in the community.

The newspaper was born out of the European migration into Australia throughout the 50s and 60s. Large numbers of Maltese people (including my parents) immigrated here during that period, mostly settling in Melbourne and Sydney. When The Maltese Herald printed its first publication in 1961 it was due to the intense need for the Maltese community to connect with each other, highlight community issues and remain in touch with news from back home.

Over the past 50 years the newspaper has highlighted community issues that are specific to the Maltese, relations between Australia and Malta, and followed the lives of the Maltese community as they became established in their new community.

Fifty years later, however, statistics are showing that the use of the Maltese language in the Australian community is in decline. Those still deeply connected with Malta use dedicated news programs on SBS or Maltese news sites to get their news back

home, while for many who are Maltese-born or Australian with Maltese heritage, Australian news is now their news from home. The community concerns or issues that they raise are the same as their neighbours from other backgrounds. Ending the need to cater for the Maltese community as a separate entity is being seen in other parts of communication. You don't find many translations of government materials into Maltese, as the majority of the Maltese speaking population either read English or have close relatives that do.

As the Maltese newspaper closes, however, many others are starting up. The past two years have seen a number of multicultural newspapers start to meet the needs of newer communities such as Somali, Thai and Korean.

The birth and retirement of multicultural newspapers is an interesting one to watch, as it gives a good indication of the levels of integration within the Australian community. It can also give you a strong insight into how these communities need to be communicated to. Goodbye to The Maltese Herald and well done.

PS: I am proud that I have been associated with The Maltese Herald for many, many years as a regular contributor as assisting the directors to provide a quality newspaper.

++Lawrence Dimech, the first editor and one of the founders of The Maltese Herald: “By far the biggest and best Maltese newspaper that was ever published there.”



The 50th anniversary of The Maltese Herald (2011) is not some common anniversary but that of a newspaper which has been an influential icon in the lives of Maltese people living in Australia, according to Lawrence Dimech, the first editor and one of the paper's founders.

It all started when three young determined men who shared an interest in football - Nicholas Bonello, Vincent Pisani and Mr Dimech himself - put their heads together and brought out The Maltese Herald on July 28 of 1961.

“The paper is older than the Maltese independence,” Mr Dimech, 74, says proudly, gazing into the distance, recalling a time when shiploads of Maltese made it to Australian shores in the 1950s and 1960s.

Thousands of Maltese pooled into communities across the southern-hemisphere continent seven times the size of the UK.

“The Maltese had to stick together. You'd use other Maltese as a crutch. We'd gather in groups and form social and football clubs among other things. Had it not been for football and other activities, I think 90 per cent of the migrants would have returned to Malta,” he says, holding one of his palms in the other.

“It was permanent migration and it was a vast continent with the bare necessities. It was a traumatic experience in the total sense.

“Our small community was engulfed by a very large country and the newspaper was one of the means of fighting discrimination.”

The need had been felt to create a medium that would voice the communities' concerns while maintaining a link with Malta.

Mr Dimech, who left for Australia in 1956 for the Melbourne Olympic Games, describes The Maltese Herald as having served as a shield for the rights of the Maltese community in Australia. The articles covered social services, housing schemes and dual-citizenship issues among others.

“The first 10 years were a struggle,” he recalls about a time of manual pagination, when typesetting relied on lead blocks and none of the linotype operators and setters were Maltese-literate.

“It was a time riddled with huge sacrifices but we were a very determined team.”

Maltese Herald editor Mr Lino Vella (right), with one of his printing staff, checks a machine proof ... 1975 [picture]



The Maltese Herald followed the short-lived existence of Leġen il-Malti and the Malta News.

Soon afterwards, Manwel Pisani and Lino Vella joined the team in Australia, while Joseph Xerri lent a helping hand from Malta.

Returning to Malta in 1962 for a couple of years to gain further experience in journalism, Mr Dimech worked at Allied Newspapers, on Il-Berqa and The Times.

In 1967, the newspaper he helped found started being issued weekly. But 10 years after its birth, Mr Dimech had to leave his editorial post to join the Malta High Commission in New South Wales.

Ġorġ Chetcuti preceded the current editor, Mr Vella, for a few months. Mr Vella, the paper's editor for the past 40 years, was supported by his late wife Barbara and Rita Kassas.

The newspaper team is now made up of two full-timers and around four volunteers.

As with all media outlets, the 24-page bilingual newspaper, issued from Sydney, had its highs and lows. It has battled its way through the rise of modern means of communication, lack of support from the business industry and an ageing population.

“However, it's by far the biggest and best Maltese newspaper that was ever published there,” Mr Dimech says.

Nowadays, some 60,000 Malta-born and more than 120,000 second-generation Maltese people live in Australia. “I cannot imagine the Maltese community in Australia without a national paper in Maltese. It's the link between Malta and the Maltese in Australia.

“Although there are various radio and TV programmes in Maltese, the printed media will always be the most effective and intimate means for those who really want to evaluate news and comments.”

What's the Deal with Valentine's Day?



What does a Christian saint have to do with candy hearts and chocolates?

Not much, to tell the truth. It's another example of what happens when Christian faith intersects with pagan custom: a tradition whose origins remain unclear.

Valentine's Day is the feast day of St. Valentine. It is not certain who this saint was. There are at least two individuals named Valentine (Lat. Valentinus) who might be at the heart, no pun intended, of the tradition. One Valentine was a Roman priest who died

in AD 269 under Emperor Claudius II Gothicus. He was executed for helping Christian martyrs. He refused to renounce his faith and became a martyr himself, being beaten to death and beheaded. According to tradition, this happened on February 14th. A second candidate is a bishop from central Italy who was executed in Rome. Other traditions hold that both men also performed marriages that were considered illegal because they occurred during a time of war.



In AD 469, Pope Gelasius set February 14th as the feast day to honor this Christian martyr and saint. St. Valentine was said to have suffered from epilepsy and so became the patron saint of those who suffer epilepsy. Now how, where did all the romance stuff come from, you ask? That's where the syncretism comes in.

The 15th of February was also the Roman "Feast of Purification" known as the Lupercalia or Februarca. Associated with the coming of spring, it was a celebration intended to ensure the fertility of flocks, fields, and people. It's not a big jump from fertility to romance. Probably as a result of the conflating of a holiday about fertility and a feast day to commemorate a saint who had been persecuted for performing marriages, the Feast of St. Valentine became a holiday associated with romance and it was not long before St. Valentine would be identified as the patron saint of lovers.

F'Jum San Valentinu

14 ta' Frar

Jgħidu illi Frar imqarqaç
Xejn mhu ħelu, pjuttost kiefer,
U aħjar toqgħodlu ġewwa
Għax imqit u għandu d-dwiefer!

U għalkemm hu l-iktar qsajjar
Jaf ifawwar anke l-bjar;
Joħloq ħerba fi treqatna
Wil-widien jimtlew sax-xfar.

Imma għalkemm dan il-gwaj kollu
Miegħu jgħib ġrajjet sbieħ;
Kien f'daž-żmien li San Pawl tfarrak
U lil ġensna ħabb bi sħiħ.

Tul dax-xahar in-nies titbaħrad,
Titbaħnan fil-Karnival
Għax kif jgħid il-qawl minn tagħna
'Mhux darbtejn insiru tfall!'

Il-borma fuq tlieta toqgħod –
Il-festa tal-maħbubin
Ma' Frar tasal, mistennija
Rigal nixtru lil xulxin.

Ja ħanini kemm inħobbok
Kieku taf x'nagħmel għalik
Kieku għandi flus bix-xabgħa
Villa sbejħa kont nagħtik!

Imma għalkemm dawn bwietni vojta
Tibqa' l-mimmi ta' għajnejja;
Kieku nista' l-jum kollu
Ma taħrabx minn taħt idejja!

Għax l-imħabba hija l-qofol
Tal-ferħ kollu tal-bnedmin
Tixbah ġnien mimli bil-fjuri –
Friefet, vjoli, ġiżimin!

We received this poem from Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Għawdex
2014



The High Commission of the Republic of Malta would like to announce on the arrival of Dr. Joseph Pirotta, First Counsellor.

Dr. Joseph Pirotta joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs more than twenty six years ago. After a short posting in Paris in 1988 he followed a course in Mandarin Chinese at London Thames University (1990/91) and served twice at the Maltese Embassy in Beijing (from 1991-1997 and from 2001-2005). Dr. Pirotta also followed a one year course for diplomats in Japanese language and culture at the Japan Foundation Language Centre in Kansai, Osaka (1999-2000). Furthermore, he was posted in Tripoli in 2008 and was heavily involved in the evacuation of Maltese and other expatriates when the crisis broke out in February 2011. Later in August 2011 he was entrusted with opening the Maltese Consulate in Benghazi and stayed in the city till October 2013.

Dr. Pirotta arrived in Canberra on Saturday, 25th January 2014. He is accompanied by Ms. Amanda Xie.

Charles Muscat

High Commissioner

Canberra, 5 February 2014

A courtesy visit from the Australian High Commissioner



Finance Minister Prof. Edward Scicluna received a courtesy visit from H.E. Australian High Commissioner Ms Jane Elisabeth Lambert,

The meeting chiefly touched upon issues of mutual interest to Malta and Australia, and the parallels between the two countries, in so far as both countries weathered the ongoing global economic slowdown well, and also their robust and respected banking sectors.

Prof. Scicluna and Ms Lambert also other various issues of mutual interest to both Malta and Australia, including ways for further cooperation between Malta and Australia.

Pauline Peadon's (nee Criminale) migration memories

There was very little left for people in Malta after the World War 2. Work and money were scarce and the island was physically devastated by bombing during the war. Australia was seen as a country of opportunities. So in 1950 my father bought a '*ten pound passage*' and travelled to Australia by ship to get a job and find a place for us to live. When he arrived he found a boarding house in Surry Hills.

On 21 April 1951 my mother, my four sisters and I boarded the MS Florintina in the Grand Harbour, Malta and started our journey to Australia. Apart from our clothing my mother brought a small kerosene spiritera, a big soup pot and a big bath with her on the journey. These were all just household items things from our home in Malta. She was not sure what to expect in Australia and thought she might need these things and they did prove to be very useful later on!

... the food was pretty horrible – basically bread and water.

For us children the trip was a big adventure. I was only three years old at the time but I can remember stopping in Sudan and seeing people carrying bananas on the dock. Mum kept telling us to stay away from them because they were sure to have lice. I can also remember her telling us to stay away from the ships porthole – we must have been a handful for her

– five young girls all under eight years old on a three month sea journey. I can also remember that the food was pretty horrible – basically bread and water.

We arrived in Sydney at night and I can still hear the sound of people greeting each other – it was very noisy and confusing and then all of a sudden Dad was there to take us to our new home. He had found a little shack at Yarra Bay for us to live in – on Hill No 60 – that was the address. There were a lot of Anglo-Australians and Aboriginal people living there then. These places had been built in the 1930s depression. For many years I thought we had squatted there but then Dad said they had bought the place. After a while we moved around the corner to a converted boatshed – a two room shack which we rented.

There was no electricity and only one water tap to service everyone...

As children we loved living there – it was such fun to be able to swim, fish and picnic as we liked. But it must have been hard for mum. There was no electricity and only one water tap to service everyone living in that community at Yarra Bay. Mum had to walk quite a way to get water and she had to carry it back to the shack and had to heat it on the kerosene spiritera – for all our baths, clothes washing and cooking.

Dad by this stage had his job as a fitter at British Standard Machinery in Mascot – the job he had for the rest of his working life. We didn't have a car so he caught public transport and I can remember seeing him arrive home – walking over the hill in the dark and then digging holes to bury our household waste. He used to say he was running out of space for holes!

(Photo) Spiritera/primus-like burner “It was brought over from Malta and used for cooking and warming washing water in our first home. My mother thought we might need it in Australia. The cast-iron primus is of European design and silver painted.”



In about 1953 I started school at the Catholic school in Yarra Bay where my sisters went. I can remember one day one of the nuns hit my sister who immediately went home to tell mum. Mum marched up to the school and got the five of us and marched us across the road to the public school – we looked like a mother duck and five little ducklings – my mum was a strong person. She didn't speak English and must have been lonely but she still did her time working at the public school canteen.

We lived at Yarra Bay for about four years and during that time my little brother was born. In about 1961, towards the end of our time at Yarra Bay, we sponsored my aunt and uncle's family to migrate to Australia from Malta and they moved in with us. Dad built another room onto the shack but it wasn't Council approved so they ordered him to take it down – so we slept five in a bed. In the end we were sent to government organised accommodation – a former army barracks in Warwick Farm in western Sydney where we paid rent. Dad travelled to Mascot each day for work – a huge distance so mum applied for a Housing Commission house and eventually we got one at Maroubra. It had four bedrooms and indoor plumbing – very exciting! It was here that mum had my youngest sister and I went to high school.

When the kids were all at school, Mum found work cleaning at Little Bay Hospital at Randwick and later she found work at Qantas. In 1971 after many years of hard work Mum and Dad bought a place at Monterey. While they were moving Mum found the spiritera that she had used at Yarra Bay. She wanted to throw it out but I could remember her using it in our first house in Australia and couldn't bring myself to let her so she gave it to me. It had travelled from Malta and they kept it right up until then.

I left school at 16 and found work as a dressmaker for a business located in the old Tivoli building in the city. We used to sew for the games show personality Dolly Dyer and Miss Australia winners- beautiful work for a high society clientele.

I met Laurie Peardon when I was 18 and we got married in 1968. Mum and Dad didn't worry that he was an Australian and not from the Maltese community – you see they kept in contact with the Maltese community but they also wanted to have 'Aussie' friends. When I was growing up there was a bit of a stigma about being a New Australian so we tried hard to fit in and felt at home.



IZ-ZEBBUGI HAWN - TALQUBBAJT



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AND HAZELNUTS**



LOVE AT FIRST BITE



RAPA FAMILY Three Generations

Left to right: Tess Rapa-Davey, Josephine Rapa, Chloe Hobbs. Photo: Sophie Rapa-Hobbs

Entree of Pastizzi, cooked by Josephine Rapa

says Josephine as she lays the pastizzi out on a baking tray ready for the oven.

Hot favourites in Malta, a pastizzi is a pastry stuffed with ricotta cheese or a green pea mixture. Stalls of pastizzi are found on every corner in Malta. A warning: if served to precede a meal, it is a good idea to limit yourself to one. They are addictive.



plans to go back.

She puts the pastizzi in the oven and sets the timer for 40 minutes. Josephine says she struggled with life in Australia at the beginning. "I said to John that the eggs don't taste like eggs." But John found no problem eating Australian food. "He likes everything. Even horse meat." Minestrone, ravioli, pastizzi, rabbit stew. "We used to cook together many times. I think that's the only thing I miss about him," she jokes. "No, I miss him too, but I miss his cooking. The smells. He was always around the kitchen."

Facing an economic down-turn, John left Josephine, his son Lorry, and the home they had built together for Australia's shores. He left in search of money and security for his family. What he found was a multitude of jobs, but none of them paid much. He struggled to even pay for his return to Malta. "He left Lorry at 9 months old and then he stayed about three years," Josephine says. "Then he came back, and we had Mary." He left again for Australia when Mary was 11 months old.

"He said he is coming, he is coming, but he never came so I had to come here," she says. Seven years after John first left for Australia Josephine packed up and said goodbye to everyone and everything she knew to join her husband. Thirty years old and with two children, Josephine travelled over a month on a boat to bring her family together, with no

"I was so busy with six kids I never had the time to socialise. I'll tell you the truth I never went anywhere ever." Josephine's experience of the Australian people's reaction to her and her family was not a positive one in the 60s. "When I first arrived people did not like us, or our food," she says. "You might not think about it much anymore, but you'll never forget it."

Once a week a bus picks Josephine up to go to Lavalet, a Maltese community centre where she and her friends go to church and share lunch and a chat. "I go every Thursday," she says. At 80 she now has time to socialise. First is a chat with the ladies, then a church mass. "After the mass we have a cup of coffee and cake," she says. Then lunch. "There is grilled fish and some small pastizzi."

"I came out here 51 years ago. Sometimes I used to joke that John forced me, but I'm not angry. I am always happy with him."

LEMON MERINGUE PIE, COOKED BY CHLOE HOBBS

Young, blonde haired, blue eyed, fair skinned Chloe Hobbs grew up watching her mother cook. "She would like to think that she taught me how to cook," she says, "but I actually taught myself too." Especially baking, which was trial and error. "Pretty much error because I wouldn't follow a recipe," she says. Creating a cake can be a precise science, so Chloe's reluctance to recipes caused a lot of flops. "You can get a cake really wrong. And I did," she admits.



Chloe lays out her pastry ingredients: plain flour, icing sugar, butter and cold water. As a massage therapist she is used to using her hands, so while rubbing the butter into the sugar and flour she is on familiar territory. "I like being the cure that can relieve people of their pain," she says. She adds the water and turns the pastry out onto the table to be rolled flat.

"I want to learn how to speak Maltese first and foremost," she says after spending six weeks in Malta in 2010. Although most Maltese speak English, Chloe says, "I feel a bit left out when I'm over there for a long time. I would feel more accepted." She lines the pie tin with the short crust pastry and places it in the fridge to chill.

"I always alter my recipes even if it's the first time I do it," she says while she juices two lemons. Today she will be adding lemon zest. "The zest is where it's at," she says. "It's got those essential oils in the skin."

Into a pot go cornflour, water, lemon juice and one cup of sugar. On a medium heat, this mix requires constant stirring. "Picking a pip out of lemon juice is like plucking a fly out of the air with toothpicks," she says as she skilfully removes a

rogue pip from the thickening pot.

Four minutes later the thick mixture gains butter and egg yolks and replaces the pastry in the fridge to cool. "For me not looking Maltese is really annoying," she says as she blind bakes the pastry. "I get stared at when I even mention I'm Maltese." She likes the way she looks but "when you want to be included and you're neither this nor that it's hard. I look in the mirror and I'm English but I feel more Maltese."

She begins on the meringue by beating the egg whites until peaks form and then gradually adding sugar. "I just feel loud," she says, "and quite passionate." For as long as she can remember people have told her that her voice "carries". She is proud of her heritage and she says she is "quite defensive over family when anyone tries to hurt them."

In the beginning Chloe thought that dating a Maltese man would be cliché. Not wanting it to seem as though she was trying to hold onto the Maltese part of herself, she was reluctant to date her boyfriend of four years in the beginning. "I don't feel like I need to prove myself to anybody which is what I thought I would be doing."

She fills the pastry with the lemon curd and tops it with the meringue adding swirls and peaks wherever she sees fit. Back into the oven for another ten minutes and then it is ready to eat. "Everybody loves food, and good food is very social."



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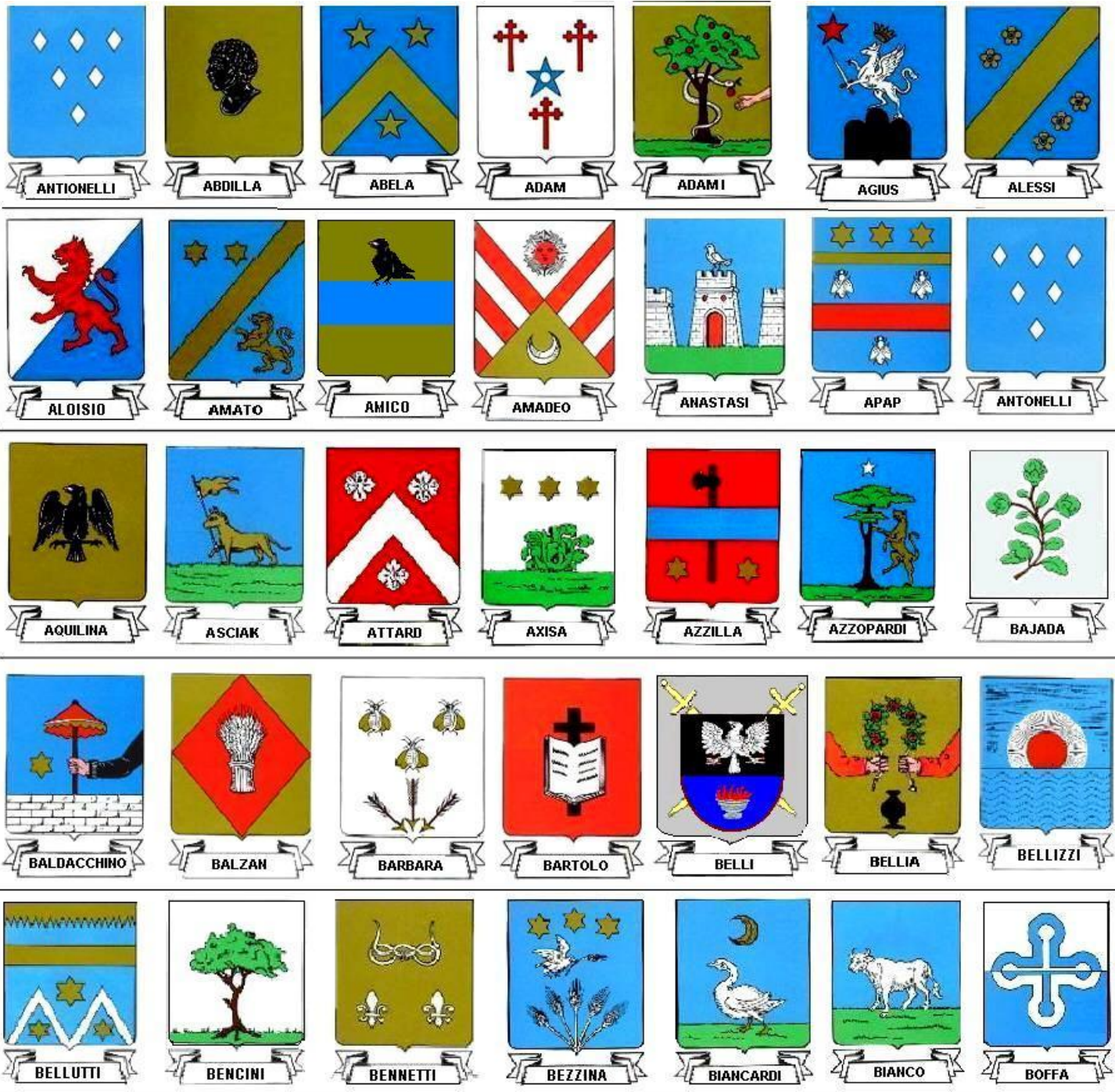


CRYSTAL PALACE BAR – ST PAUL STREET, RABAT MALTA



**SPECTACULAR PICTURES OF THE GRAND HARBOUR
CAPTURED ON THE DAY MALTA BECAME A MEMBER OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION
MAY 2004**

COAT OF ARMS OF MALTESE SURNAMES



MORE IN THE NEXT ISSUE



MCCV Survey on the Second Generation of Maltese in Australia 2014

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is conducting a survey to obtain a picture of the Second Generation of Maltese in Australia about whom we really know very little.

If you are a second generation person of Maltese background, it would be appreciated if you would fill out the survey questionnaire.

Completed forms may be returned in electronic or hardcopy form.

BY EMAIL: Form is available for download from the MCCV website(click here to download):

[URL: <http://www.mccv.org.au/index.php/youth/59-youth/413-mccv-survey-on-second-generation-maltese-in-australia->].

Please complete it and email it to myself: mnc25@optusnet.com.au

BY POST to: Prof Maurice Cauchi, MCCV President, Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052

The information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please pass this information and request for survey participation on to your children, friends and acquaintances.

Prof Maurice Cauchi MCCV President

If you need an electronic copy of the survey or further information you may also contact

Frank Scicluna (Adelaide South Australia) honconsul@live.com.au

A myth dispelled: Maltese diaspora to Australia not greater than 200,000

WHERE DO YOU FIND MALTESE?

For decades, it was believed that more than double Malta's population was to be found in Down Under's long line of émigrés. JAMES DEBONO bursts a population bubble In a nutshell, the population of Maltese migrants to this great land of hope on the other side of the world is no more than 200,000.

The figure has been confirmed by statistics submitted in parliament on the number of people with Maltese descent who live abroad, which stands at anywhere between 356,000 and 370,000: 98% of which live in the post-war magnets of immigration – Australia, the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. Even historian Dr Barry York – born Loretu Meilak before changing the name bestowed upon him by his Gozitan parents – will agree. "In 1986 for the first time the Australian Census asked a question about people's ancestries," he wrote back in 1995, on the first attempt in Australia to accurately estimate its ethnic strength.

That census found that the oft-touted figure of 400,000 "way off-target, a gross exaggeration. Some people in the community – myself included – had keenly accepted the 400,000 figure," York had written. Even the Australian department of immigration's history unit in 1974 had estimated the Maltese community at 400,000 until York discovered belatedly that the history unit was "basically just two individuals who rather uncritically accepted the estimates of enthusiastic advocates within the Maltese communities." One of the problems with these estimates was whether the descendants of Maltese migrants actually identified themselves as 'Maltese' down the generation line.

The first Maltese immigrant to Australia was Antonio Azzopardi, who arrived in 1838. In 1846, he married Margaret Sandeman, a Scottish woman. This in itself presented a debatable point – shouldn't their descendants be considered half-Maltese and half-Scottish.

The 1986 census revealed that 110,237 persons said they had Maltese ancestry, as a first response. The figure goes up to 136,000 with those who added Maltese as a 'second response' (half and half). Today that figure does not stand at more than 200,000 – taking into account the children born to those who consider

themselves to be ethnically Maltese – as provided in the data collected from embassies and consuls by the foreign ministry.

Big in Corfu

Only surpassed by the big four, the Greek island of Corfu boasts the fifth largest community of Maltese descendants, with the Maltese government estimating their numbers at 3,500.

The connection between the Greek island and Malta dates back to the early 19th century when the British authorities transported skilled Maltese masons and their wives to the island. Other Maltese followed in their footpaths but all migration stopped by the end of the 19th century. Some 800 people with the surname Psaila presently live on the Greek island. But although their descendants retained their Catholic religion, none of them speak Maltese anymore. The statistics shows that only 2,356 Maltese currently live in EU countries, apart from the United Kingdom, which hosts 30,178 persons of Maltese descent.

90,120 live in the American cities of Detroit, San Francisco, New York and Minneapolis. Italy, France and Belgium are the European countries with the largest number of Maltese residents. The Arab country hosting the largest number of Maltese is the United Arab Emirates, the oil-rich country of the Abu Dhabi and Dubai emirates – which hosts 250 Maltese. Only 30 live in neighbouring Libya and 20 live in Saudi Arabia. The world's most populous country, China, only hosts 50 Maltese, 20 of which live in Hong Kong. Some 8% of Gibraltar's population of 30,000 is also made up of Maltese descendants who first settled there in 1704. Llanito is an Andalusian Spanish-based language which includes a mix of British English, Maltese, Portuguese, and Italian words. Its chief minister is Peter Caruana.

2014 Museum collections make connections

As the world moves away from traditional methods of engagement, museums must find new ways to engage with their communities by making their collections more accessible and relevant to their stakeholders.

This theme demonstrates how museum exhibitions have the ability not only to tell a story, but to also engage with the community through shared memory.

It also encourages public awareness of the role of museums in the development of society and promotes the connection that exists between different types of collections and their audiences.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY
JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DES MUSÉES
DÍA INTERNACIONAL DE LOS MUSEOS

18 MAY
18 MAI
18 MAYO
2014



Museum Collections make connections
Les liens créés par les collections des musées
Museos: las Colecciones crean Conexiones

ICOM
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MUSÉES
CONFERENZA INTERNAZIONALE DEI MUSEI

INTERNATION MUSEUM DAY – 18 MAY 2014

**Every year since 1977 International Museum Day is organised worldwide
on May 18, 2014**

International Museum Day website <http://rkdhistory.blogspot.com.au/>

International Museum Day takes place on May 18, 2014. International Museum Day (IMD) is a celebration that held every year on or around 18 May, coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The event highlights a specific theme that changes every year and that is at the heart of the international museum community's preoccupations.

The International Museum Day provides the opportunity for museum professionals to meet the public and alert them as to the challenges that museums face. Indeed, following the definition of museums provided by ICOM, a museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment. International Museum Day therefore serves as a platform to raise public awareness on the role museums play in the development of society today, on an international level. (With material from: Wikipedia) Contact the Adelaide Museum for further details.



"Waltzing Matilda" is Australia's most widely known bush ballad. A folk song, the song has been referred to as "the unofficial national anthem of Australia".

The title is Australian slang for travelling by foot with one's goods (waltzing, derived from the German *auf der Walz*) in a "Matilda" (bag) slung over one's back. The song narrates the story of an itinerant worker, or "swagman", making

a drink of tea at a bush camp and capturing a sheep to eat. When the sheep's owner arrives with three police officers to arrest the worker for the theft, the worker commits suicide by drowning himself in the nearby watering hole, after which his ghost haunts the site.

The original lyrics were written in 1895 by poet and nationalist Banjo Paterson. It was first published as sheet music in 1903. Extensive folklore surrounds the song and the process of its creation, to the extent that the song has its own museum, the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton, Queensland. In 2012, to remind Australians of the song's significance, Winton organised the inaugural Waltzing Matilda Day to be held on 6 April, the anniversary of its first performance. The song was first recorded in 1926 as performed by John Collinson and Russell Callow. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waltzing_Matilda - cite_note-6 In 2008, this recording of "Waltzing Matilda" was added to the Sounds of Australia registry in the National Film and Sound Archive which says that there are more recordings of "Waltzing Matilda" than any other Australian song.

THE LYRICS

Once a jolly swagman sat beside the billabong,
Under the shade of a coulibah tree,
And he sang as he sat and waited by the billabong
You'll come a waltzing matilda with me



Waltzing matilda, waltzing matilda
You'll come a waltzing matilda with me
And he sang as he sat and waited by the billabong
You'll come a waltzing matilda with me.

Down came a jumbuck to drink beside the billabong
Up jumped the swagman and seized him with glee
And he sang as he tucked jumbuck in his tuckerbag

Down came the stockman, riding on his thoroughbred,
Down came the troopers, one, two, three.
"Where's the jolly jumbuck you've got in your tuckerbag?

Up jumped the swagman and plunged into the billabong,
"You'll never catch me alive," cried he
And his ghost may be heard as you ride beside the
billabong,

Armenians in Malta

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Armenian Diaspora in Malta is a community of Armenians, living on the island of Malta. There are thousands of Armenians on Malta, but only some 300-350 identify themselves as Armenians. The rest are assimilated with the locals and they consider themselves Maltese. The surnames and documents, saved in their family archives, are indicative of their Armenian origin. The interests of the Armenian Diaspora in Malta are represented by the Armenian Community of Malta.

Ta'Liesse Church, Malta

The relationship of Armenian Kingdom with the Order of St. John has very ancient roots and started in 1097. Order of St. John (Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta) became the land owner beginning with the year 1149. In 1163 the Order was granted with a castle around Mamestia city and two castles in Selevkia under Levon II. The Order was present in Cilicia till 1375. Many Armenian knights and ordinary citizens resettled on Malta after the collapse of Armenian Kingdom in 1375.

The second mass resettlement of the Armenians in Malta took place after the Armenian Genocide in 1915 in Ottoman Empire, and the third resettlement was at the end of 1990s in after USSR collapse. Basic part of the migrants later moved to the countries of Continental Europe.

One of the historical examples of the presence of Armenians on Malta is the Church Ta' Liesse built by means of the funds provided by Bali d'Armenia, Fra Giacomo Chenn de Bellay, one of the descendants of Luzinian family.

Armenian Community of Malta is a public organization based on self-administration that acts in accordance with the Constitution of Republic of Malta and current legislation of the republic. The members of the Community are Armenians and their family members (Malta residents) united on a voluntary basis. The Community operates on the territory of Malta and EU; is a legal body and has its own logo.^[1]

The Armenian Community of Malta was registered ^[2] in the List of Voluntary Organisations, approved by the government, on the 10th of July 2009. The first Congress of the Armenians took place on 31 of July 2009 in Hilton Hotels. The organization management was asserted during the Congress. The Chairperson of the Community became Vera Boyajyan.



Chairperson of the Armenian Community of Malta Vera Boyajyan and member of Maltese Parliament David Agius IN 2009.

Superior body of the Community is Members' Assembly summoned not less than once a year. The Assembly asserts the Board of Community, determines its numerical composition and elects Chairperson. Board of Community is formed by elected members of the community. Board of Community coordinates the activities of the members of the Community; elects from its members a deputy of Chairperson; organizes preparation and holding of Assembly as well as determines the ways of realization of decisions made at Assembly.



The goal of the Community is to unite the efforts of the Armenians, aimed at preservation and development of Armenian culture and language; protection rights and interests of its members; strengthening the friendship between the Armenian and Maltese people. To reach its goals the Community contributes to publishing and distributing of literature promoting the achievements of the Armenian cultural centers, organizes seminars, conferences, exhibitions, takes part in such activities itself; helps and assists the members of the Community in all the spheres of their activities within the framework of current Maltese legislation.^{[1][3]}



Khachqar in Valletta, Malta, installed on December 22, 2009 from Ashot and Vera Boyajyans and Armenian Community of Malta

Chairperson of Community controls the current activity of Community, represents Community in relationship with various organizations, signs agreements, letters and applications on behalf of Community, has the power to sign all financial, legal, service and other documents; controls implementation of decisions of Board of Community; has the right to summon out-of-turn Assembly and Board of Community; possesses the right of casting vote in disputes while voting in sessions of Board of Community.

Inspection commission of Community exercises control of financial and economical activities of Community. Members of Board have no right to enter in Inspection commission.

Shortly after the first Congress of Armenians on Malta Armenian Community of Malta fulfilled most of the missions formulated at the Congress. On 22 December the unveiling of Khachqar took place in the Hastings Gardens, the center of Valletta city, in front of the Maltese Order residence (major residence of Malta). The Khachqar was specially made for the purpose in Armenia and delivered to Malta. Members of Maltese Parliament, the Mayor of Valletta and other high-level guests were present at the ceremony. The memorial board at the Kahchqar says: *In token of friendship between the Maltese and Armenian people. Armenia thanks Malta for its support to Armenians who found refuge in this island in the tragic years of 1375 and 1915* Another achievement of the Community is the initiation of formation of friendship group Armenia-Malta in the National Assembly of Republic of Armenia,^[4] as well as the formation of similar friendship group Malta-Armenia in the Parliament of Republic of Malta.

The Community management made a decision to build Armenian Church on Malta as well as to install a monument to the first Catholicos of All Armenians Gregory the Illuminator. Armenian Community of Malta is the only organization that represents interests of Armenians on Malta and gives legal support to its members. On the 24th of June the official website of the Community was launched in three languages: English, Armenian and Russian.

Maltese Galletti

I'm a keen collector of cookbooks and I try to pick up a local book from the places I go on holiday. Whilst on holiday in my home country, Malta, I picked up a great little book from olive oil producer Matty Cremona. One of the recipes in



Cooking with Maltese Olive Oil is for the ubiquitous Maltese savoury biscuit, galletti. These tasty, puffed up little biscuits are cheaply available in Malta and even the book says that no one makes their own any more. But I wanted to try some of the recipes from the book I decided to give them a go.

Here is a very simple recipe.

Galletti

Ingredients ; 15g. fresh yeast or the equivalent in easy blend or dried yeast
150 – 175 ml. warm water
200g. plain flour
pinch of salt
150g. semolina
25g. butter

Method

Cream the yeast in water, sieve the flour and salt into a bowl, add the semolina rub in the butter, add the yeast and enough water until you have a pliable but rather dry dough, work a little dough at a time, keeping the rest in a refrigerator to retard the rising, roll out very thinly on a floured board and cut into rounds using a plain 5m cutter, prick each biscuit with a fork and lay on a floured baking sheet, bake at 200c / 400/ F/gas mark 6 until just coloured, cool on a wire tray, when completely cold store in an airtight tin.

Queen Elizabeth II to visit France for D-Day service



Queen Elizabeth II with the French President Francois Hollande. Her Majesty will pay a state visit to France in June to mark the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Photo: Patrick Kovarik/AFP

The Elysée Palace confirmed on Monday that Queen Elizabeth II plans to join world leaders in France in June to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip will make a state visit to France to mark the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings, Buckingham Palace confirmed Monday.

The royal couple have heavily reduced their overseas travel and the trip in June will be the first time that the 87-year-old monarch has left Britain since visiting Australia in October 2011.

"The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will make a state visit to France from June 5-7," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. They are visiting on the invitation of French President Francois Hollande, who held a summit with British Prime Minister David Cameron at an airbase in southern England on Friday.

The queen and her 92-year-old husband will attend events in Normandy, on the northern French coast, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6.

Later that day and on June 7, the royals will attend state visit events in Paris and be received by Hollande at the Elysee Palace, his official residence. Queen Elizabeth first visited France in 1957. Her most recent state visit across the Channel was in April 2004. She also visited in June that year for the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

DRIVING IN MALTA – a little bit of humour doesn't hurt



Time and time again, we are asked the same old question by tourists visiting Malta: why are the Maltese such crazy drivers? Honestly, it's a bit of a puzzling question. Then it dawned on me – these foreigners are still a bit behind the times and have quite a long way to go to catch up with the rest of the Maltese. So here you go: follow these golden rules and observe them and you should be perfectly OK.

1. It's best to never give any personal information to strangers, and that includes a hint to the drivers behind you on where you're going. Never, ever use your **indicators** – unless you're showing a friend where to go for the ultimate "BBQ".
2. Putting on your make-up at home is a bit old fashioned – using your rear mirror to apply a cloud of mascara during rush hour is perfectly normal.
3. Speaking of rush hours, it's best not to be a gentleman and let a car overtake you in crawling traffic. You might just arrive 30 seconds late at your destination.

4. The Maltese only recognize/use two colours out of three while waiting at traffic lights. Red means stop – amber means go... ..actually, they do recognize green as well – it means you can drive through the lights. Amber means you have to go faster. If it's just turned to red – then it's pedal-to-the-metal time.
 6. There's no reason not to keep on driving when you're older than 70. Just stick to the right lane, and let the working-class heroes drone past in their slow trucks on the left lane. Everyone will appreciate your kind-hearted gesture and honk their horn in admiration.
 7. The speed limit during the day seems to be in the region of 90 kmh. Since the Maltese are renowned as party animals, then it's natural that the limit doubles to 180kmh during nighttime.
 8. We're actually a far more superior race than the other Europeans – I mean we've even invented the "invisible" button. Want to stop right in the middle of Hamrun to buy a couple of pastizzi for lunch? Save yourself a bucketload of sweat – hit the "hazard lights" and you're set to go.
 9. Potholes can put quite a dent [pun intended] in your otherwise fabulous day, so it's best to avoid them when possible. Don't worry about switching inadvertently onto the opposite lane – the other cars will normally stop and let you complete your heroic maneuver while praising all the members of your family (dead and alive).
 10. It's already hard enough to avoid potholes during daytime, let alone at night. Thankfully we can switch on the brights and avoid any unpleasant surprises... unless it's a blinded driver (who forgot to wear his sunglasses at night) heading straight into you.
 11. Queues are for wussies. That's why we've got hard-shoulder lanes – and you can rest assured that the honking cars are all congratulating you for your brilliant brainwave.
 12. It's best to be safe than sorry, so whenever you're passing in front of a speed camera, make sure you drop down to 20kmh. That should do the trick.
 13. Broken white lines mean you can overtake at your own leisure. Straight white lines mean you have to overtake quickly before you hit the traffic island.
 14. "STOP" signs actually mean "give way" – "give way" means drive straight on through while giving the other driver the finger.
 15. Since we live in such a tiny country, small spaces seem bigger than they really are. Leaving a space of 0.142cm between your car and the one parked behind you is a very reasonable figure – any more than that would be a waste of space.
 16. ...but since we're such a generous nation, sometimes it's best to leave other cars a space of 2 metres or so, just in case people might want to park their camel there. And yes, you may hog another white parking box in the process too – it's all in the name of charity.
 17. Roundabouts are very similar to playing Russian roulette – drop down to the 3rd gear (at most), slow down a tiny little bit and dash right through. Really, it serves as a reflex test for the oncoming driver.
 18. You can also test your reflexes while driving through narrow crossroads. You might get the odd honk now and then to warn you that someone is about to ignore the stop sign and drive straight through – but what's life without a bit of excitement and a dash of unpredictability?
 19. Never, ever stop at zebra crossings. The persons lingering at these places might actually be one of those annoying GO/Melita/Vodafone workers, ready to run to your car and try to sell you something the moment you stop. Treat zebra crossings as one of those "just-red-light" moments referred to in point 5.
 20. Even in this driving paradise, mishaps may happen and bumper-to-bumper accidents occur at times (although they're extremely rare). If you're one of the unfortunate ones to go through this, do not worry: calmly step out of your car, leave it right in the middle of 13th December Avenue and cheerfully phone the warden while asking the other driver out for a beer.
- Hopefully these rules have shed some light on the wonderful ways of Maltese drivers. If you really want to fit in, don't forget to slap on a fashionable sticker on the back of your car with some philosophical statement, such as "Your jealousy is my energy" and "Only God can judge me."

New cancer hospital operational by middle of year



Health Minister said that the new cancer hospital near Mater Dei will receive its first outpatients in the first half of this year while towards the end of this year in-patients will gradually be moved to the new facility.

Speaking at the launch of Cancer Awareness Week, the minister said the new Oncology Centre will see the introduction of new strategic business management units where every specialisation within the oncology hospital will have its own budget and a level of autonomy to manage it. The minister said this would serve as a pilot study, with the possibility of the model being adopted for other areas of the health sector in the 2015 Budget.



George Christensen MP

Member for Dawson Queensland

Mackay's Maltese influence recognised

Mackay's strong Maltese heritage was highlighted in Federal Parliament last night.

Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen, delivered a speech to mark the 440th anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto, which is a significant date on the Christian calendar and a defining moment in Maltese history.

"In Mackay last week, I had the very great pleasure of attending the Feast of Our Lady of Victories which celebrates the famous victory in the Battle of Lepanto," he said. "The same strength of character shown by the Knights of Malta in that battle and their determination to defend the island of Malta was shown in the cane fields of our region more than 100 years ago."

Mr Christensen highlighted the depth of influence the Maltese migrants had in the Mackay region, leaving a legacy of Maltese names on street signs, business names, and community leaders. "An active Mackay Maltese Club ensures continued celebration of the Maltese culture and influence in the region," he said.

"For families in Mackay, there are constant reminders of our strong Maltese heritage - from Deputy Mayor, Darryl Camilleri to Mackay Canegrowers Chairman, Paul Schembri, Borg's Real Estate, Zarb's Transport, and even sporting greats like former North Queensland Cowboy Paul Galea."



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CARNIVAL IN MALTA 28/02/2014 - 04/03/2014



Discover Malta's Carnival, which goes back hundreds of years. We find that already in the 16th century a jousting tournament was held as part of the celebrations. Maltese folk used to celebrate Carnival as did the Knights of St. John as from one week prior and up to Ash Wednesday. The origin of the name Carnival derives from the Italian phrase 'Carne vale', which means literally 'meat is allowed' due to the fact that during the forty days of lent, the consumption of meat was forbidden according to Roman Catholic religion. Therefore, Carnival was to be celebrated just prior to the fasting period in Roman Catholic countries.

Nowadays, Carnival is celebrated in numerous towns and villages but especially in Valletta, Floriana and Nadur Gozo. It is indeed a kind of explosion of colour in the way of decorated floats and costumes. Carnival serves also as means of merriment and a time when individuals also dress up in all sorts of weird or funny costume and just go out in the streets to join the fray.

The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts organise the official Carnival festivities that take place in Valletta from Friday until the following Tuesday. Some of the events are held inside an enclosure and may be attended against a nominal fee. On the last day, a big Carnival defile ends in the main street of Floriana with a fireworks display. Some of the events are held inside an enclosure close to Freedom Square in Valletta. The events held here may be attended against a nominal fee. **WE SINCERELY THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT US CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE**

INCLUDED IN THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER.

**YOUR POSITIVE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED
IT IS OUR AIM TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA
BECAUSE YOU ENCOUNTER MALTESE CITIZENS IN VERY CORNER OF THE WORLD**

FEAST OF ST. PAUL



On February 10 Malta celebrates the Feast of St. Paul which commemorates the shipwreck of the saint at the island's shores in 60A.D, which led to Malta's conversion to the Roman Catholic religion from paganism. The locality of St. Paul's Bay also takes its name from the event. Saint Paul's Bay is said to be the place where St. Paul and his ship crew crashed when they reached the Maltese lands.

This event, recorded in the Bible's New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles, relates how St. Paul, who was initially travelling to Rome to be trialed for practicing Catholicism, was shipwrecked in Malta following a storm. St. Paul stayed in Malta for three months, during which he managed to convert numerous Maltese to Catholicism and ordered the first Maltese Bishop St. Publius. He then returned to Rome and was executed as a martyr.

Even though very short, his stay in Malta had a great impact on the future beliefs of the local islanders. This is evident by the hundreds of churches and chapels highlighting the skyline of Malta and Gozo. For those of you looking for a unique cultural experience, and an opportunity to meet the locals, the celebrations in Valletta are surely not to be missed! St Paul's Shipwreck Church (St Paul Street, Valletta) celebrations include marching bands, fireworks and a procession which carries the statue of the Saint through the streets.

The feast of St Paul's Shipwreck is one of the most attended feasts in Malta by locals and tourists alike. It is a time for many to celebrate their Catholic faith which is considered for many to be a crucial factor in their Maltese identity. It is celebrated every year with great pomp in Malta's capital city, Valletta.

A number of feast goers congregated in the street outside the church because people filled the aisles and flowed out of the front entrances.

After attending the church service, it is an occasion where the Maltese can come together and share a common identity. The beauty of this feast is that it is part and parcel of the Maltese identity and was mentioned and recorded 2000 years ago in the bible. This celebration is a moment for happiness for all and we can celebrate our identity as one.

Although considered to be one of the most important feasts in Malta, three British tourists happening on the congregation outside the church said that it should be promoted much more in tourist brochures.

"It's wonderful! We didn't even know about it until we arrived in Malta," one of the tourists said.

"It is a shame that the Maltese don't publicise this feast in brochures. I only found out about it when reading a magazine article on the plane. They could entice people to come just for this feast,"

"We were a bit worried about getting lost in the crowd but everyone seems to be so happy and friendly, we just feel like we're fitting right in and can't wait to see the inside of the church,"

Candelas Leal, a Spanish tourist, and her partner came across the feast while walking through the city and decided to stay to observe: "We were surprised at the number of people just gather for a feast. This never happens in Spain! It's also funny that there is so much security here but they don't seem worried at all about something happening!"