



Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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We wish all the Australian readers of the Maltese Journal
A HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY



The new Minister for Foreign
and European Affairs
Hon Evarist Bartolo

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL DAY
6 February 2020



TRADITIONS



A NEW STAR
IS BORN



**THE ORDER OF MALTA
IN BETHLEHEM**

*A Million Reasons
to Smile*

Another Special Edition of
THE MALTESE JOURNAL

The Story of Australia

I came from the dream-time
From the dusty red-soil plains
I am the ancient heart
The keeper of the flame
I stood upon the rocky shores
I watched the tall ships come
For forty thousand years I've been I am Australian
We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We'll share a dream and sing with one voice
"I am, you are, we are Australian"

This is the Story of
Australia – the
story of an
extraordinary
nation.

The Story begins
60,000 years ago.
New chapters are
written every day.
On Australia Day,
we reflect on our
history, its highs
and its lows.
We respect the

stories of others.

And we celebrate our nation, its achievements and most of all, its
people. **We're all part of the story.**



JANUARY 26



AUSTRALIA DAY

SURVIVAL DAY

celebrating 40,000+ years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and survival • celebrating 200+ years since Captain Cook and the first fleet arrived • 1966 - abolition of White Australia Policy • 1975 - Racial Discrimination Act passed • 1993 - Native Title Act passed • 1995 - Racial Hatred Act passed • barbecue with friends • great beaches • 1967 - Aboriginals counted as Australian citizens • 2007 - Racial Discrimination Act suspended so government can take control of Aboriginal land and quarantine welfare payments • public holiday • Hottest 100 • place of refuge • anniversary of citizenship

We all think about different things on January 26. Australia has come a long way but still has a long way to go. Let's use the day to celebrate our achievements, our uniqueness, and our diversity. Use the rest of the year to help make things better for everyone.

celebrate
diversity

acknowledge
history



THE NEW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

EVARIST BARTOLO

Mr. Bartolo is a Maltese politician within the [Labour Party](#) and he was Minister for Education and Employment. Bartolo was born on 14 October 1952 in Mellieha. He has been a member of the Maltese Parliament since 1992. In the general elections held on 9 March 2013 he was once again elected from two districts, the 10th (Gzira, Pembroke, Sliema, St Julians) and the 12th (Mellieha, St Paul's Bay and Naxxar). Bartolo has three brothers and three sisters. His father worked as a primary school teacher. He is married to Gillian (née Sammut) and they have two children, Katrin and Louisa.

Education

In 1975 Bartolo graduated from the [University of Malta](#) with a B.A.(Hons) degree in English Literature. In 1984 he was awarded a scholarship for a diploma course in journalism at [Stanford University](#). He then read for a Master's in Education at the [University of Cardiff](#) which he completed in 1986.

Career

Bartolo spent three years teaching at De La Salle College, another four years at the national broadcasting station and then a further ten years as the editor and head of news of the Labour Party media. He currently lectures in Communication Studies at the University of Malta. He has been a member in parliament since 1992, working mostly in education, European affairs and tourism. Between 1996 and 1998 he served as Minister of Education and National Culture under a Labour Government.

Political beliefs

Bartolo was raised in Mellieha, a conservative, rural town in the north of Malta. As he himself points out, he had a very Catholic upbringing and as a teenager used to teach the Bible to younger children. He was also very active in the Legion of Mary, the Catholic Action and the Young Christian Workers, all of these movements closely aligned to the Catholic Church. In a country where political polarization is very strong and most individuals will identify with the party that they have been brought up with, Bartolo describes himself as one of those who chose a party upon the basis of an explicit attempt to understand which party best stood for the principles that he believed in. Bartolo states that the road that convinced him that his place was within the Labour Party was a long tortuous one during which he explored [Karl Marx](#), [Mohandas Gandhi](#), [Vladimir Lenin](#), [Martin Luther King](#) and spent a year in Sicily working with an anti-Mafia activist [Danilo Dolci](#). Bartolo is a prolific writer having been a consistent contributor to the local media since his early teens and is considered to be one of the principal ideologists within the Malta Labour Party.

Bartolo was one of the leading contenders for the Malta Labour Party leadership following the resignation of Alfred Sant who had been at the helm of the Party since 1992. Bartolo's moderate, but deeply held, beliefs are seen by many as being the sort of views which will move the Labour Party from being perceived as a slightly outmoded traditional working class party to one that, within the new Maltese social realities, captures the support of emerging liberal elements within the middle classes while still remaining loyal to its working-class roots. In August 2013, Bartolo nominated [Cyrus Engerer](#) within the Labour Party for the 2014 European Parliament elections.

The Maltese Journal would like to thank Hon Minister Carmelo Abela for serving Malta as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion and is grateful for Hon Abela's continuous support for our journal. Meanwhile we welcome and congratulate Hon Minister Evarist Bartolo on his appointment as Malta's new Minister for Foreign and European Affairs.



President urges honorary consuls to convey the country's reality

Report: Fiorella Pace

During the exchange of New Year greetings with the Honorary Consuls, President George Vella urged the consuls to convey the reality of the country and the fact that Malta is working to bring back normality following the turbulent situations it has gone through in the last months of the previous year.

Welcoming the honorary consuls to San Anton Palace for the exchange of New Year greetings, Dr Vella stated that the last few months of the previous year were not nice ones for the country, adding that Malta had gone through a situation without precedent which shook the institutions and surprised our society. The President further stated that he noted with displeasure the negative effects resulting from these events, even in the international sector. President Vella stressed that Malta's name had been tarnished, and as a consequence, even the country's credibility had dropped.

Dr Vella stated that in his role as President, he had worked within the parameters permitted by the Constitution for the circumstances prevailing in the country to be addressed. Dr Vella added that national unity is essential for the country. The President stated that with a new Prime Minister, Robert Abela, the country has an obligation to strengthen efforts for Malta's name to be cleared. President Vella further stated that the assistance and efforts of the honorary consuls are essential for the erasing of the negative trend, and for Malta to regain respect.

"My appeal was addressed to them so that they can convey as much as possible the reality in the country, and as you heard this morning, I asked them to indicate as much as they can that Malta still has much to offer, and that we are in the process of normalising the situation as much as possible."

President Vella also spoke about tensions in Libya and in Syria and about the grave humanitarian situation in Yemen and the escalation between Iran and the US. Dr Vella added that he noted with regret that within this international scenario, the European Union is not showing unity, adding that there is a need for this to be rectified.

The European Union, unfortunately, has proved itself to be weak in this whole issue involving Libya, Syria, Yemen. One would be much more content if one were to see a certain leadership from Europe. The dean of the honorary consular corps, Godwin Bencini, said the country is going through one of the most turbulent moments in its history. Mr Bencini stated that the corps of honorary consuls had noted President Vella's speeches towards a commitment to unity. Mr Bencini added that as a corps, they are certain that with his diligence and solidarity, President Vella can bring about national unity. He added that one has to be careful of unbridled economic progress and development, to ensure these do not end up creating division and inequality because of poverty.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE

Australia Celebrates

Many different ceremonial aspects can form an Australia Day event including:

WELCOME OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

A welcome to Country is where an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander traditional owner, custodian or Elder welcomes people to their land. Welcoming visitors has been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture for thousands of years.

A Welcome to Country always occurs at the opening of an event and is usually the first item of the program. The local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custodian or traditional owner conducts the ceremony which may take the form of a speech, song, ceremony, or a combination of all of these things.

An Acknowledgment of Country is a way of showing respect and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which an event is being held, by recognising the connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to their Country.



Smoking ceremonies are an ancient custom among Aboriginal Australians in which native plants are burnt to produce smoke and acknowledge the ancestors and pay respect to the land, waters and sea of country. The smoke is believed to have healing and cleansing properties.

The theme of the Smoking Ceremony will be 'Mourning in the Morning'; a sincere acknowledgement held for all First Nations Peoples and Friends. The ceremony, held on Kurna Country, will include truth, love, respect, hope, sharing and storytelling of our past, present and future.

Join us in the morning of Australia Day in Elder Park (Tarntanya) to learn more about Aboriginal culture and experience this important event. The Ceremony will involve a Welcome to Country, led by Uncle Fred Agius and Uncle Major 'Moogy' Sumner as well as performances by the Iwiri Choir.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES



Australian citizenship is more than just a ceremony and forms an important part of Australia Day celebrations. It symbolises our unity as a nation. It represents commitment to Australia and its people, the values we share and our common future. It also symbolises the sense of belonging to the country where we have been born or where we have decided to make our home.

Australian citizenship is a shared identity, a common bond which unites all Australians while respecting our diversity.

Citizenship ceremonies are generally conducted by local government councils and can be held on Australia Day as part of the program of events. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection administers citizenship ceremonies. The Department notifies local government regarding new citizens in their area. There are clear protocols which must be followed in relation to Citizenship ceremonies.

In South Australia 1295 people from 85 Countries became new citizens in 37 ceremonies on Australia Day, at Council and Committee events throughout the state.

AFFIRMATION CEREMONIES

Affirmation ceremonies allow all Australian citizens to affirm their loyalty to Australia and its people—engendering a feeling of belonging to their community and building pride in their citizenship. These ceremonies have no status in law and no legal effect. Participation is voluntary.

The Affirmation Ceremony should be foreshadowed at the beginning of the function or Citizenship Ceremony to allow those present to consider whether they wish to participate. It should be made clear that participation is voluntary and that recitation of the affirmation has no legal effect.

THE AFFIRMATION READS:

*As an Australian citizen,
I affirm my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share
whose rights and liberties I respect,
and whose laws I uphold and obey.*

Affirmation cards and a wide range of other Australian citizenship and affirmation products are available at no charge and can be obtained via an [online order form](#) from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. The special edition Australia Day Affirmation cards can be ordered from the National Australia Day Council by emailing: info@australiaday.org.au.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Australian National Anthem, proclaimed in 1984, identifies Australia at home and overseas. It unites the nation and is a public expression of joy and pride in being Australian.

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts;
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair*

*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands,
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands,
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share,
With courage let us all combine
To advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia fair.*



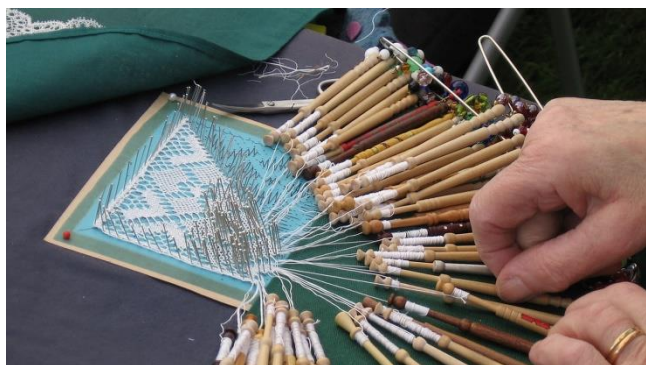
**AUSTRALIA IS OUR
WIFE/HUSBAND
MALTA IS OUR MOTHER**

PROUD TO BE AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE

Garments Whose Origins are Native to Malta

NICOLA COLLINS

For a group of islands that have recorded to have civilisations dating back to an astonishing 5,900BC, there are bound to be garments that originated in Malta. Some clothes were adapted from other parts of the world while others are unique to the islands, and some have the main purpose of protecting their wearers from the intense sunshine that hits Malta every summer. Here are a few garments native to Malta that you might not have discovered elsewhere in the world.



MALTESE LACE

Lace making (*bizzilla*) was mastered in Malta by the mid-17th century and is still popular today. Adapted from Italian, [Genoese lace](#) of being tightly woven, Maltese lace commonly bears the Maltese cross within its designs to distinguish it from others. The eight-pointed cross is formed using what the makers call cloth or whole stitch. Found in many souvenir and craft shops across [Malta](#) and [Gozo](#), lace products are predominantly used for table and church altar decoration or in the form of fans, but you will also

find garments such as lace shawls, head coverings and sun-protecting parasols. Using [Spanish silk](#), Maltese lace is commonly beige or cream in colour and although it can now be made using machinery, there are many lace-makers still using bobbins, keeping the handmade tradition alive. Lace-making has become popular again over the past few decades and you can even study for a formal qualification in it at the [University of Malta](#).



KNIGHTS' GARMENTS

Although history books are a little fuzzy regarding dates, the [Knights Hospitaller](#), the Order of St John, ruled Malta from 1530 to 1798 but, from as far back as 1248, the Pope allowed knights to wear sleeveless surcoats instead of the customary long-sleeved robes. These robes were predominantly black, or dark brown and bore the white Maltese cross. Somewhere between 1250 and 1350, the robes changed to red. The eight-pointed cross dates back to the Byzantine period, where it was

often used in decoration, but is most commonly associated with the Order of St John, The Knights Hospitaller and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.



THE TRADITIONAL ART OF GANUTELL

The intricate Maltese art of making flowers from thin wires and beads, known as [ganutell](#), became known as a traditional Maltese art in the 18th century. Initially made by monks to adorn monasteries, [ganutell](#) today is commonly seen in ornate displays in the 365 churches across Malta and Gozo. With skills passed down through the generations, [ganutell](#) is still made today, but using the correct methods of weighted bobbins and high-quality wires of certain thickness is rare. [Ganutell](#) has been featured on the catwalks by fashion house [Comme des Garçons](#) and is regularly commissioned across Malta to form part of headdresses for weddings and

for keepsake brooches.



HEAD-COVERINGS, KNOWN AS GHONELLA

Probably the most well-known garment when it comes to traditional clothing of Malta is the *Ghonella*, also known as *Faldetta*. This headdress with a shawl incorporated, was made from cotton or silk and usually black in colour but in the 16th century, *ghonella* worn in bright colours was a status symbol for wealthier ladies. Framing the head and face in a protective arch shape, the arch was formed from cardboard, cane or even whale bone, while the material of silk or cotton covering it was starched to help keep its shape. Worn during all

seasons, the *ghonella* provided protection from the sun during the scorching summer months and sheltered the wearer from rain and wind during the cooler months. The long sides could be wrapped around the body for extra warmth or tightly held in the hands to keep it sturdy during inclement weather.

[Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada](#)

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGES

Now that the Consul General of [#MaltaMT](#) to [#CanadaCA](#) is back from [#Christmas](#) and New Year holidays, **Dr Raymond Xerri** would like to sincerely thank all those hundreds of Maltese-CanadiansMTCA who sent Christmas cards, social media messages and especially your so very kind messages of gratitude, appreciation and suggestions.

Your messages will be the energy needed to work harder to serve [MalteseCanadians](#) even better. Your suggestions will not only be taken onboard but what ever can be done to improve our service, will be done keeping in mind the very limited resources available.

Thank you once again from the Consul General, his family and staff of the Consulate General of [#Malta to Canada](#).

Mayor Pete gives US voters a Maltese lesson to explain 'Buttigieg'

US presidential candidate indicates he was in Malta in 2011

US presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg has faced countless questions about his surname during his campaign to win the Democratic Party primary race for the White House.

But the 37-year-old presidential candidate knows if he were

to go all the way and replace Donald Trump, he would still not be the first president Buttigieg in the world. "There was a president Buttigieg in Malta who was next-door neighbours with my family, and we weren't even related," the US presidential candidate told a group of voters at a breakfast meeting this week.

His reference is to Anton Buttigieg, who was Malta's first president and who lived in Hamrun – the same town Pete Buttigieg's Maltese father, English professor Joseph Buttigieg, was from.

Prof. Buttigieg emigrated from Malta to the US in the 1970s and died in 2019. He was posthumously appointed to the National Order of Merit last year.

MALTESE LANGUAGE LESSON

Candidate Buttigieg gave the voters a little Maltese language lesson as he explained the origins of his surname - "'*Tiġieg*' means 'chicken', so Buttigieg probably means 'owner of poultry'" – and told them that although it might get US voters' tongues in a twist, Buttigieg was an extremely common surname in Malta.



He talked up his familial roots, telling them that Malta was “beautiful” and that they most likely knew it as the backdrop to some famous films and TV series such as *Game of Thrones*.

The US presidential candidate also gave an indication of when he had last visited Malta, telling the voters that he had stumbled onto the set of Hollywood blockbuster *World War Z* without noticing.

Filming of *World War Z* started in Malta in July 2011. Mr Buttigieg even gave the small group directions for how to find Malta. “If you draw a line from Sicily to Tunisia it will go through Malta,” he told them.

Polls indicate that Mr Buttigieg is one of four frontrunners in the Democratic Party race, together with political veterans Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

Voting in the primaries begins in Iowa on February 3



LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE 175 WALTERS ROAD BLACKTOWN NSW

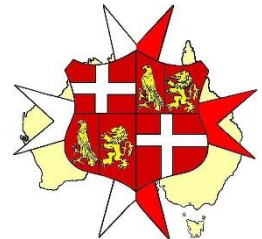
**The feast of St. Paul will be celebrated on
Sunday 9th February 2020**

Mass will start at 5pm in the Main Hall

***Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band will
participate. For entertainment we got Manwell Grech DJ***

The bar and kitchen will be open - everyone is welcome

For more info please ring the centre 9622 5847



Maltese e-Newsletter
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

The are around 1 000 000 Maltese around the world
in 180 different countries

Read Enjoy share and Support this Journal

***I am addicted to
The Maltese Newsletter
and read it
from cover to cover***

St Paul the Apostle Parish
Maltese - Canadian Parish
St Paul's Feast Dinner Dance
February 8, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

The Malta Band
opens the entertainment

Enzo Guzman
accompanies us throughout
the night

- Antipasto “hobz biz-zejt”
- lasagna
- Roast beef, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables
- salad
- Ice cream
- coffee & pastries
- 2 bottles of wine on table

**3224 Dundas St W,
Toronto, ONTARIO
M6P 2A3, Canada**

Bookings:
Freda 416-762-1891
or at the Church

Tickets:
Children 0-5 yrs: free
Children 5-12 yrs: \$20.00
Adults: \$45.00

A SMALL MALTESE COMMUNITY IN JAPAN THAT DATES BACK TO THE 1890S.



From manuscript sources at Cospicua parish church, the National Archives and the University's Melitensia section, it transpires that the founder of this community was a Ruggiero Inglott, who was born in the harbour town of Cospicua in 1871 and died in Yamugucci, Japan, in 1950 at the age of 79. He married a Japanese lady, Nakayama, whom he very probably met in a Christian mission school context; she later converted to Catholicism.

They had three sons and a daughter, who changed their 'British' surnames during World War II, when Britain and Japan were enemies. During World War I, by contrast, Britain and Japan were on excellent terms and a Japanese naval squadron was based in Grand Harbour. The Japanese Navy rescued several Maltese sailors at sea and suffered scores of casualties at the hands of the Axis, as can be seen from their graves in the naval cemetery in Kalkara. Some Maltese ethnic inter-mixing with the sailors is also known to have occurred locally.

The then Crown Prince of Japan Hirohito visited Malta in April 1921 as part of his first European tour. He was present for the opening of the new Parliament, where Chev. Joseph Howard became Malta's Prime Minister under the first self-government Constitution. Hirohito visited Kalkara cemetery, planted a tree at Sant' Anton and was lavishly entertained at the Casino Maltese. As it happened, Professor Frendo noted, Chev. Joseph Howard, an industrialist and president of the La Valette Band Club, was also the Consul for Japan in Malta.

Ruggiero aka Roger Inglott attended the Lyceum from 1884 and began studying at the University, as did other members of his family, notably Emmanuel and Joseph. He opted for modern languages having studied English and Italian, which were standard

subjects at the time, and he seemed destined to further his studies at University. Soon afterwards, however, he decided to venture further afield.

He was the 12th child of a medical doctor, Pietro Paolo, married to Antonia née Rosso, and the nephew of another, Gian Felice Inglott, who was better known. Another relative was Sir Ferdinando Inglott. This therefore was a well-established and reputable Cospicua family but, according to Professor Frendo, it appears that Ruggiero was somewhat of an adventurer and wanted to see the world. At the age of 21 he had a numbered passport, 1446, issued in 1892, and he possibly stayed for some time in Algeria before embarking for the Far East, almost certainly from Valletta.

According to Professor Frendo, he probably sailed on a P & O steamer, which made regular trips to India, Australia, Japan and China. One of these steamships, the first to have electric light in 1889, was named *Valletta*. In the 1890s, he added, the second-class fare to Japan was £42. The Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Company had an ongoing trade with Japan, sometimes selling or scrapping steamers there.

In Japan, Inglott settled down and spent a lifetime teaching English, starting at a Japanese naval school in the harbour town of Kagoshima. His children have now all passed away but some of his Maltese-Japanese grand-children still know of their ancestry and cherish the memory.

Unrelated to any organised emigration like that to the Caribbean or Australia, Professor Frendo judged Inglott's to be a *sui generis* trans-oceanic case, comparable to that of F.X. Grima of Birkirkara in New Orleans in 1870 or Antonio Azzopardi in Williamstown, Victoria, as early as the 1830s or, indeed, an explorer and trader such as Andrea Debono of Senglea in Egypt and the Sudan, in the mid-1800s. Maltese migrant settlement during the 19th century was largely limited to the Mediterranean littoral from Algeria to Turkey, but there were some exceptions all the way from the Americas to Australasia and, of course, Japan.

ABOUT GRACIE CAMILLERI

I have a dear friend that lives in Kercem Gozo, her name is Gracie Camilleri, an extraordinary person. She has a 23 yr old daughter with Cerabal Palsy that she takes care of at home with her husband. This is a great deal of work which she has done for these 23 yrs with love. What is extra special about this person that even though she works tirelessly at home she donates her time with a group called Gozo Crafty Ladies please look at their work on Facebook.

As a group they knit and crochet all sorts of hand made things that they donate to charities. One thing that touched my heart about Gracie is that she takes donated wedding dresses and from them she makes tiny gowns and takes them to hospitals so mothers who have delivered still born babies or babies that pass at birth, a beautiful dress to be presented in, to the Mom. She also crochets a pair of angel wings with a tiny rose in pink or blue, one wing goes with the baby and the other a keep sake for a mother, showing her support, that people care about her loss.

Grace organizes craft classes in her home for children and all she asks for is any donation to be sent to help the efforts in Africa.

She personally reaches out to people for donations of material, wool or craft supplies so she can carry on this work. The group meets at Christmas time in different venues to sell their crafts, all the money going to various charities.

This year Gracie is collecting artificial Christmas trees so next Christmas they will be given to children's wards at hospitals decorated with various knitted dolls, clowns and animals so that children will have a gift at Christmas time.

This year the ladies are working on a special fun project, they will crochet thousands of 6 inch squares all of many colours and at Christmas time they are hoping to build a giant tree made of these squares, and build the tree in Gozo, I am assuming it will raise funds for another charity.

Please look on Facebook for Gracie Camilleri and Gozo Crafty Ladies, I think it will make a heart warming story in our doom and gloom world.

I wish Gozo could honour this truly lovely lady, who by the way fights for the rights of the disabled and also brought recognition to Celliac disease many years ago when they found it in her daughter, as she

tired to educate the importance of wheat free diet. She was also party to changing the frying oil at McDonalds in Gozo, as her daughter use to get pleasure from eating fries, but they changed the oil and she could no longer eat there. Her daughter cannot speak but was able to point one finger to McDonalds as they passed by the store. Her Mom went to McDonald's explained to them and not to long after, the oil was changed as there are many other people with this condition, which causes intestinal pain.

Sorry to be so long winded but she is truly a special person with a special group of ladies behind her, doing all this good for charity and I think she should be recognized. I have not told her I am writing to you as I know she wouldn't expect special recognition of her good works, but I truly believe she deserves it. Gracie was born in Toronto Canada of Gozitian parents who returned to Kercum when she was 7, I have known her all her life, and visit her several times.

Congratulations on the January issue of The Maltese Journal, another issue that we have come to accept as serious and informative magazine. This is so important for people who have been able to make the occasional return visit to the land of their birth. We are always anxiously waiting for the weekly result of your research which is magnificently presented.

Best wishes to you and your contributors for 2020. Prosit. (Fr) John Briffa



'Waste not want not', Maltese style: spaghetti omelette

Summer is hard labour in the kitchen for those feeding a family. It's more than regular slaving over a hot stove, as temperatures soar past 35 degrees C and humidity rises. So, any quick, easy, standby recipe is a god-send for days on which we're hard pressed after a beach trip or day's work. Here is an old childhood favourite that Maltese nanna would make in a flash. Wonderfully too, it uses that other relic of times past – the left over. So, try her recipe below, and in true Maltese style, you'll be saving cash too.

Froġa tal- għaġin – Spaghetti Omelette

Nanette Johnson

As I continue to explore both the people and food of Malta, I see a reoccurring theme emerge – the ability of the Maltese to work with whatever is at hand and an inability to waste when it comes to food. The spaghetti omelette I talk about here is yet another example of Maltese ingenuity at its best. Most people would toss left over, unused cooked spaghetti in the bin, but not the Maltese. In true Maltese fashion, humble left-over spaghetti is transformed into something both delightful and delicious. I'd even go as far as to say it's the stuff childhood memories are made of...

I remember coming home from kindergarten as a five-year old and having my nanna make spaghetti omelette for my cousin Joanne and I for lunch. While the rest of our kindergarten friends were having cheese and apple and vegemite sandwiches, Joanne and I would be stuffing our faces on *Froġa tal-għaġin*. Mum used to make spaghetti omelette for us too, but there was something special about having it at my nanna's house with my favourite cousin.

I now make Froġa tal- għaġin for my kids, Hoover and Fussy, and I think they love it just as much as I do. I make it often for Fussy as it's one of the ways I can sneak eggs into him. Every now and then he asks 'what's in it' and I casually reply 'oh just spaghetti and cheese'. He is yet to learn that eggs are necessary to bind things together, and I am more than happy to keep 'eggs' out of his spaghetti omelette.

So here's my version, the third generational one in my family, which is as true to nanna's as I can get.

FROĠA TAL- GĦAĠIN SPAGHETTI OMELETTE

Ingredients

200g organic spaghetti, cooked
2-3 organic eggs, beaten
½ cup grana padano
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
1tsp ground cumin
Olive oil

Optional Ingredients

Flat leaf parsley, finely chopped
Anchovies, finely chopped,
Dried chilli flakes

Method

1. In a bowl mix the cooked spaghetti, eggs, cheese, cumin and salt and pepper until well combined.
2. Put a little olive oil in a large pan and heat. Spread the spaghetti mixture evenly over the base of the pan and cook until it is golden and crisp on both sides. Serve immediately.



**The Maltese Guild of South Australia holds a social gathering and lunch every Tuesday at the Maltese Cultural Centre
6 Jeanes Street, BEVERLEY
From 10am till 3.00 pm. Come along and enjoy the day playing Bingo, Billiards or Cards**



Race to save animals on South Australia's fire-ravaged Kangaroo Island

On an island famed as Australia's "Galapagos" for its unique and abundant wildlife, rescuers are racing to save rare animals in a bushfire-ravaged landscape.

The charred forest floor on Kangaroo Island is littered with corpses of animals incinerated by the blazes that swept through two weeks ago.

Unprecedented fires across swathes of southern and eastern Australia over the past five months have killed an estimated billion animals.

With forests and coastal areas roughly the size of Portugal burnt through, environmentalists fear the fires will drive some species to extinction. On Kangaroo Island - home to unique koalas, the critically endangered mouse-like dunnart and many threatened plants - concerns are particularly acute.

Amid the stench of rotting animal flesh, rescuers are combing the island's Flinders Chase National Park looking for injured, lost and starving animals. "When we found this area we never thought anything could have survived, but we have pulled survivors out of there every day," Kelly Donithan, a Humane Society International crisis response specialist, told AFP while on patrol this week. But with huge parts of the animals' habitats destroyed, the chances of many surviving are fading by the day. "Time is of the essence," Donithan said.

"Every day that goes by, the animals get weaker and weaker and their organs are becoming more susceptible to irreparable damage."

Deathly silence

Kangaroo Island, a short ferry ride from Adelaide in South Australia, was before the fires a popular tourist destination because of its pristine landscape and wildlife.

One of its most famous animals is the glossy black cockatoo, a bird with a bright tail that is extinct on the mainland. But as rescuers walked through the death zones of the national park on Wednesday, no birds could be heard.

Another top concern is the Kangaroo Island dunnart, a small grey marsupial which was already facing extinction before the blazes. "We think there were about 500 of them left (before the fires)," Zoos South Australia chief executive Elaine Bensted told national broadcaster ABC.

She said most of the dunnarts were in the western part of the island, which has been most severely impacted by the fires, many still burning.

'Insurance' koalas The rescuers say it is difficult to find small species that have survived so their focus has mainly been on larger animals.

These notably include the local koala population, the only one in Australia entirely free of chlamydia - a sexually transmitted infection also found in humans that is fatal to the marsupials.

This has made them a key "insurance population" for the future of the species.

They are even more crucial now that huge numbers of koalas are feared to have died in the bushfires on the Australian mainland.

Australian Environment Minister Sussan Ley this week said koalas had taken an "extraordinary hit" and could be listed as endangered for the first time.

Rescued koalas are being taken to a makeshift sanctuary at Kangaroo Island's Wildlife Park.

But some are so badly injured that they are having to be euthanised.

The battle to save remaining wildlife creates a "rollercoaster of emotions", Humane Society International's Evan Quartermain said.

"Sometimes we're out there for hours walking through catastrophic landscapes (with) hundreds and hundreds of bodies on the ground... and you get down - you can't help it - it's extremely traumatic," he told AFP. "But then you find a (koala) joey at the end of the day and we bring it in and we give it a chance and we're filled with joy."



CUTIE GIORGIA MAE ABELA MALTA'S FUTURE PRIME MINISTER???

The new Prime Minister
of Malta Robert Abela's

adorable seven-year-old daughter has stolen the media spotlight from her father once again after revealing he has a nickname.

Georgia Mae, who went viral on Bay's social media on Tuesday for her enthusiastic waving from the Palace balcony in Valletta, confessed she has a secret name for her dad. Interviewed on a special edition of Malta Television program Xarabank, she admitted she calls him 'SpongeBob', after the cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. She said: 'Oh yeah, I do have a name for him. It's SpongeBob, because his face is kind of squarish.' She then ends the interview with some words of wisdom for her father, advising him to '*stay calm and work hard*' in his new role, spoken like a professional leader. Asked what she wants to do when she grows up she replied without any hesitation a vet and a prime minister. Truly – A NEW STAR IS BORN.





Father milking a goat while son holding the animal - Malta 1939



Goats and Cows and the Supply of Milk

The indigenous Maltese goat supplied the islanders with most of their milk up to the beginning of the 20th century. Cross-breeding with the British Saanen-type resulted in the gradual disappearance of the original Maltese stock, and the outcome was a hardy and prolific milker. The number of goats on the islands was fairly constant between 1934 and 1938, but in the following year it leaped by 6,288 to 41,758. Feeding difficulties reduced this growth during the war years, but a 25% increase was registered by 1945, and a further 20% increase during the following year. A small reversal took place in 1947, but the number was up to the 1946 record a year later. After that, decline was rapid and the goat population stood at 34,688 in 1960.

Increases in forage costs and the greater availability of cows' milk were mainly responsible for this decline. Another factor was the shortage of grazing-land and the regulations governing goats' milk supply. Wasteland had always provided a natural pasture for goats; but as its area contracted, the herdsman had to shift to fieldgrown forages, which was a limited source. At the same time, the Milk Marketing Undertaking (MMU) theoretically bought and processed all local milk supplies. Up to the late forties, the herdsman would take his flock round the village streets where he would milk the goat at one's doorstep. The presence of Brucellosis Melitensis in about 20% of Maltese goats necessitated obligatory pasteurization in an effort to wipe out undulant fever, the Maltese disease that was particularly rampant during and after the War years.

Two considerations have to be made here. In the first place, villagers still preferred to have their milk directly from the goat, so that an illegal trade

in goats' milk was still carried on. This preference, however, was not limited to the village, for the average Maltese still appeared to favour pasteurized goats' milk to cows' milk, though there were signs that this preference was declining. One explanation for the latter eventuality has been the free distribution of milk in Government schools; the psychological impact of something distributed freely, added to the social element in group consumption may have nullified, in the child's mind, the distinction between the two types of milk.

In the second place, the extinction of Brucellosis Melitensis was not an easy task. The conditions under which the Maltese peasant farmer had to carry on his trade in Malta were not conducive to hygiene. As experience showed, Government imposition to control his animal husbandry could have led him to reduce the breeding of goats; and, consequently, would have given rise to hardship on the farms.

The supply and marketing of goats' milk were a very complex affair. Several improvements were made over the period. In an effort to lessen the reliance on goats, a system was adopted in 1956

by which herdsmen could get one Dutch Friesian heifer in calf in exchange for twelve diseased goats. But, given the background or preference for goats' milk, the substitution of the cow for the goat on a universal scale was somewhat impractical. Moreover, the Dutch Friesian is a pedigree animal, and requires trained management if pedigree standards were to be maintained. It was debatable whether the Maltese farmer could acquire the skill and the facilities to breed it on good standards.

Social and political considerations were also vital factors governing this situation. The Government could not sacrifice the goat-breeder to minimise its own losses. Neither could it sacrifice the interests of the consumer in a matter so closely affecting the vitality and health of the nation. A greater impetus in cooperative production and marketing was really the only practical answer to the manifold problems of the milk supply. If some coordinated policy of production could have been worked out, then perhaps, it would not have been too difficult to ease out fluctuations among milk producers as a whole. A good marketing system would have had to be developed, channelling the produce direct to the consumer through the producers' own organization. The MMU, which was doing excellent essential work, could not, of course, have been eliminated from the scene. But, on the hypothesis that a central production system coupled with a central marketing channel should have resulted in equilibrium in the milk economy, then the

Government's real concern would have been the surveillance of the pasteurization of goats' milk.

DATES REVEALED FOR THIS YEAR'S HILARIOUS NADUR CARNIVAL

By Bay News



The dates of this year's Nadur Carnival in Gozo have been revealed. The 'organised' event will be held on Sunday 16 February from midday in the town's main square.

The famous 'spontaneous' Carnival will take place from Friday 21 February until Tuesday 25 February. Nadur Local Council confirmed the dates on social media.

What can you expect?

Unlike the more structured Carnival celebrations in Valletta and Victoria, the annual Nadur street party has gained a reputation as a wild weekend, as thousands of people try to outsmart each other with extravagant, grotesque and hilarious costumes.

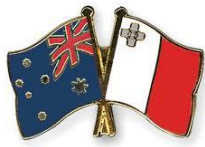
Malta Public Transport will be operating extra buses from the Gozo ferry terminal at Mgarr to Nadur over the five days so you won't need to worry about parking or drink-driving. Shuttle services will also run from the bus terminus in Victoria to Nadur.

If you're planning to spend the entire Carnival weekend in Gozo, you should book a hotel or bed and breakfast as soon as you can.

Booking a farmhouse in the middle of the Gozo countryside at this time of the year will let you make the most of the scenery and then join the Carnival crowd in Nadur later in the day.

The Maltese Community of Adelaide is still without a Maltese Chaplain after the retirement of Fr. Gabriel Micallef OFM. WHY? Jan 20





INVITATION TO THE MALTESE COMMUNITY FAMILY and FRIENDS REUNION PICNIC

This is an open invitation to the Maltese Community of all ages their families and friends.

DATE: March 22, 2020 **TIME:** 11.00am onwards

PLACE: Bonython Park, Port Road (Opposite Coca Cola)
(Area 11, north of the lake) Look for the Maltese Flags!!

BYO: Food, Drinks, Chairs and any photos you may want to share

This is an opportunity to bring your families and friends together and catch up with those you don't see on a regular basis.

For further information, you can contact:

Lawrie Caruana on 0407 886 899 or email lacaruana@bigpond.com

Catherine Saliba on 0438 825 174 or email catherine.saliba@yahoo.com

In the event of inclement weather please contact the organisers for any updates



Ferry services between Malta and Gozo were in operation by 1241. The service, known in Maltese as id-dghajsa tal-mghodija, literally, the boat of the passage is first recorded in 1241. The name survives in a toponym at the lateen sails in Mgarr, sails that were to survive until the twentieth century. At that time, Mgarr was a shallow harbour affording anchorage to small craft only and quite exposed from the south west to the south east winds. It did not have a breakwater but only a small jetty used by passengers to board and descend from the boats, and by the fishermen to unload their catches.

MALTA PASSPORT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL



By Bay News The Maltese passport has been named one of the most powerful in the world.

A new survey puts Malta in joint ninth place in a new list of the world's travel-friendly passports.

Japan has the most powerful passport in the world, according to the index. The country scored the number one position in the rankings for the third year in a row.

Compiled by residence and citizenship planning company

Henley & Partners, the Henley Passport Index ranks all the world's passports based on data from the International Air Transport Association.



NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL DAY

6 February 2020

The national holiday was first declared in 1974, and since then has grown in significance for all New Zealanders through the Māori renaissance that has fostered better understanding of the Treaty's ramifications. Official celebrations are held at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds in the Bay of Islands,

Northland, but there are also many other events throughout the country.

Traditional activities

Māori cultural performances, speeches from Māori and Pakeha (European) dignitaries, and a naval salute are all part of the annual activities at Waitangi.

The Ngatokimatawhaorua, one of the world's largest Māori ceremonial waka (war canoe), sits on the grounds at Waitangi. The 70-year-old waka was refurbished and relaunched for the 170th celebrations in 2010.

Each February, Ngatokimatawhaorua must be prepared for its Waitangi Day outing prior to the big event. Made from massive trunks of New Zealand's giant kauri trees, the gigantic waka - which weighs an incredible six tonne when dry - must first be moved by human force across the Treaty grounds and down to the sea. It is then moored in the water for up to two days allowing the wood to swell and become airtight, thus doubling the weight.

Carried out and blessed by members of the local iwi / Māori tribe, this is a tradition that happens only once a year to celebrate Waitangi Day. The enormous wooden vessel, with room for 80 paddlers and 55 passengers, is an impressive sight both on land and on the water.

Waitangi also hosts a festival on the special day that includes music, dance, food and traditional Māori customs.

New Zealand-wide celebrations

Waitangi Day celebrations happen all over New Zealand.

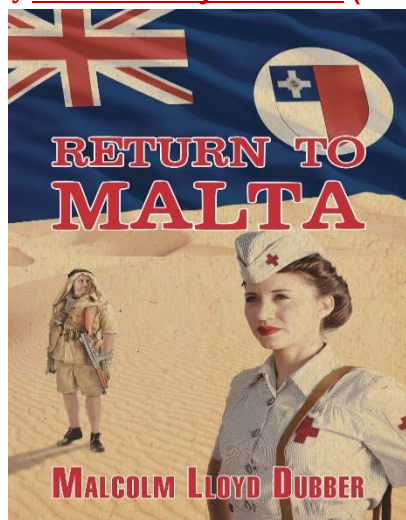
In Auckland - New Zealand's largest city - the national day is celebrated near the city's birthplace at Okahu Bay. It was at Orakei, in 1841, that Auckland Māori chiefs invited Governor Hobson to create the settlement that became the modern city. This family-focused event features live entertainment, kai / Māori food and kite flying with the spectacular coastal backdrop of the Waitemata Harbour and Rangitoto Island.

The celebrations don't stop there, with family friendly events taking place across the city. Picnics, local food stalls, traditional kapa-haka, music and entertainment will all be in abundance on Waitangi Day in Auckland, and by night, the iconic Auckland Harbour Bridge lights up with 90,000 LEDs featuring stunning Māori imagery and sounds throughout the weekend to mark this occasion.

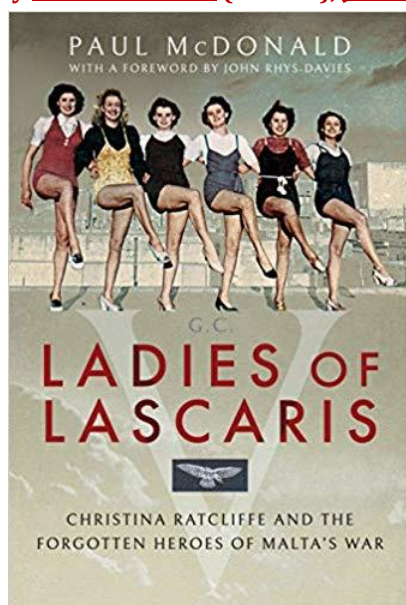
Wellington - the nation's capital - holds an event that celebrates Waitangi Day with Te Rā o Waitangi - a family day of kai / food (including hāngi and food trucks), kapa haka performance and live music at Waitangi Park on the city's Ara Moana waterfront. This park was originally a large wetland used by Māori as a source of food, water and for launching waka / carved wooden canoes. The name acknowledges the site as a significant Wellington landmark for both Māori and Pakeha, and as a space for recreation and events.

Just north of Wellington, on the edges of the picturesque Porirua harbour, thousands of locals will turn out for a fun-filled day of activities with waka ama rides on the water and traditional arts and activities on land. There will be more than 50 food trucks and activity stalls, and live music on a main stage.

Elsewhere, Waitangi Day celebrations cover all sorts of occasions from major sporting events to rodeos, and even a folk music festival.

Return To Malta Paperback – January 31, 2018by **Malcolm Lloyd Dubber** (Author) www.amazon.com

Nurse Hazel Almonde is caring for injured servicemen during the dark days of the siege of Malta during World War Two when she meets injured Naval Chief Petty Officer Ewan Jones, who has survived an attack on an Italian destroyer. They are immediately attracted to each other. Ewan is recruited into a naval intelligence operation to pose as an Italian naval officer who survived the sinking of the Italian destroyer. Hazel becomes his contact as the nurse attending the POW camp. Ewan infiltrates the Axis POWs to find out the invasion plans for Malta. Their relationship is severely tested when she suffers a harrowing ordeal at the hands of the Gestapo after the POW ship is captured and taken to Tripoli. Ewan escapes and finds himself in the Long Range Desert Group. Hazel is tormented again but rejoins Ewan. They return to Malta and are married, but the war continues.

Ladies of Lascaris: Christina Ratcliffe and The Forgotten Heroes of Malta's War Paperback – September 30, 2019by **Paul McDonald** (Author), **John Rhys-Davies** (Foreword) www.amazon.com

The world premiere of the musical stage play Star of Strait Street took place in Valletta on 4 April 2017. It celebrates the life of Christina Ratcliffe, an English singer and dancer who became an aircraft plotter in Malta in the Second World War. She worked in the underground Royal Air Force operational headquarters beneath Lascaris Bastion in Valletta. This is Christina's story and that of other British and Maltese girls employed by the RAF. It is also the story of Philip Glassborow's hit musical Star of Strait Street.

In June 1942 fifty-three female civilian plotters worked at Lascaris, some as young as fourteen. Six including Christina were decorated for gallantry. What they did, how they lived and how some of them died is told in part using their own words. Their descriptions of life beneath the most intensive, prolonged bombing the world has ever seen are extraordinary and rare: female perspectives at the heart of military conflict.

Described in the Times of Malta in 1942 as 'Christina of George Cross Island', she herself said Malta 'is carved on my heart'. For years after the Second World War in small corner cafés and bars that are such a feature of Malta's towns and villages, people talked about a remarkable RAF photo-recce pilot called Warby and his stunning companion Christina, a true heroine, they said. Yet she died alone and unnoticed and was buried in a shared grave. Now the memory of what she and the Ladies of Lascaris achieved has been brought back to life for a well-deserved encore in writing and on the stage.

**We are proud of all Maltese achievers
in Malta and abroad**



Priest recounts his family's Vietnam war

Fr Kim Son Nguyen and Paul Calleja with the book (The eRecord/Matthew Lau)

A Perth priest has written a book describing his family's 10-year quest for freedom from communist-controlled Vietnam. Source: *The eRecord*. by Joshua Low.

Bassendean parish priest Fr Kim Son Nguyen co-authored the paperback with Bedford parishioner Paul Calleja. Fr Nguyen moved to Australia in 1991 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2000 after years of formation at St Charles' Seminary in Guilford. The idea for the book, he said, was to preserve his family's stories for future generations. Religious freedom and the practice of faith are topics addressed in the 179-page book.

Son of Vietnam was released last year as a gift to mark his parents' 60th wedding anniversary.

"My father wished to write a book a long time ago in Vietnamese," Fr Nguyen said. "Millions and millions of people suffered more than we did."

Although he usually attends Mass at Bedford parish, Mr Calleja grew up in Bassendean and came to know Fr Nguyen through the duty of regularly driving his elderly father to Mass.

"Dad was 89, [he] couldn't drive safely. It coincided with Fr Son arriving at Bassendean," Mr Calleja recounted.

"Fr Son was using his homilies to get his parishioners acquainted with him. He told stories of Vietnam, I listened intently because I am interested in history – my brother was called to service in Vietnam.

"I had just finished another project and was just fascinated with Fr Son's story, so I approached him, and put [the idea of a book] to him. After some time, he said his family were interested for him to go ahead with it."

Son of Vietnam took more than five years to develop and is written in English.

"The generation [of Vietnamese people] reared in Australia can have a deeper knowledge and

appreciation of the sacrifices and contribution that their ancestors have made to allow them to enjoy these benefits," Mr Calleja said.

Despite these grim challenges and experiences, the conclusion of their collective endeavours aims to inspire and amaze the reader.

To purchase of a copy of "Son of Vietnam – A family's epic quest for freedom", contact publisher Eric George Nguyen of Nell Gray Fashions Pty Ltd on 1300 640 446.

ORDER OF MALTA IN BETHLEHEM



With over 4,700 births a year and a neonatal intensive care unit, Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem remains a fundamental point of reference for families in the West Bank. With its healthcare covering a woman's life from pregnancy to menopause, the Order of Malta's

hospital has intensified its programmes for assisting and supporting pregnant women, starting from the very early days of the pregnancy.

Take the case of Rima, a young woman living in a Bedouin village near Bethlehem. Every week, the hospital's mobile clinic visits Rima to give her all the antenatal check-ups, including scans and diagnostic tests. The doctor, besides monitoring the mother and baby's health, also advises Rima about her diet, tells her how to recognise the first signs of labour and how to cope with the birth and postnatal care. A holistic approach, in which women living in remote areas are informed about all the maternity stages.

Holy Family Hospital organizes antenatal courses for future parents who, besides receiving important information on the birth and care of the new baby, can share concerns and questions with other couples. The antenatal assistance percentage at the hospital is between 50% and 60%, double that of other facilities in the region. For this reason, Holy Family Hospital has launched an awareness campaign for the entire region on the importance of antenatal care. The hospital, that has a staff of 140, has also started to cooperate with the main local telephone company to send messages to hundreds of women throughout the region to raise awareness of antenatal care during all the pregnancy trimesters.

Besides their radio spots and leaflets on the benefits of regular antenatal check-ups, doctors and nurses organise workshops in women's organizations, religious communities and local refugee camps. "We will double our efforts to reach women wherever they might be. We want to give children the best possible start to their lives," explains one of the hospital gynaecologists.

Photo-Credit: Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.



Catholic reference in constitution does not need to change but all religions welcome, Abela says

Prime Minister Robert Abela says everyone is free to practice any religion in Malta, even though the country shares values with Roman Catholicism by **David Hudson**

Malta will remain a secular state with the Roman Catholic faith firmly entrenched in the Maltese constitution, a document that still affords everyone religious freedom, Prime Minister Robert Abela said.

On Wednesday, Abela said on TVM's Dissett that there was no reason why the constitution should

not include Roman Catholicism as its official religion.

Asked whether this was a step back from the secular direction the country was heading in in recent years, Abela told MaltaToday that the direction will remain the same.

"Malta is a secular state, but the constitution also affords a strong, fundamental freedom that everyone is entitled to his religion of choice," Abela said.

Abela was visiting Dar tal-Kleru, taking a tour of the clerical residency and meeting with Archbishop Charles Scicluna and ageing clerical residents who wished him well.

While Abela did not say how the State could be kept wholly separate from religion given that the constitution affirmed Malta's official faith, he said that everyone was free to practice any religion in Malta, even though the country shared values with Roman Catholicism.

"While I believe in a secular society, where there is a distinction between the State and religion, and the autonomies are respected, we share common values and I wanted to send a message," Abela said on his visit to Dar tal-Kleru.

Abela also reiterated that whatever his cabinet ministers' position was on abortion, he would remain clear on the issue and that he was wholly against it.

Archbishop Scicluna thanked Abela for his courtesy visit and revealed that it was Abela's choice to meet at Dar tal-Kleru.

"I appreciate his choice to meet here, one of the places where the church translates its words of wisdom into action, where ageing priests who gave their service are provided with care and treatment," he said.

THE MALTESE JOURNAL IS PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED IN MANY PLACES SUCH AS AT EVENTS OF MALTESE SOCIETIES IN CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND USA. It is read in government departments, museum, nursing homes, libraries, convents and schools and also in many homes in Malta, Gozo and overseas

Joseph Muscat

by Ron Borg (Adelaide)

No, this is not a write up about the Maltese Prime Minister, but none the less it is about a very talented and dedicated gentleman from Sliema Malta.

Towards the latter half of 2019, Joe Monsigneur, a founding President of the Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia, established in 1982, attended the M.Q.V.Band rehearsal one Wednesday evening accompanied by Mr. Joseph Muscat, a dear cousin and fellow mate from his beloved Sliema dating back from his childhood days together when they used to be "akkaniti tal'armar tal'Festa" together.



After a warm welcome from the bandmen, Joseph presented the band with a set of 6 Maltese Marches (sheet music), 4 of his own compositions and 2 by Mro. Lesley Tabone, all of which were gratefully received and acknowledged by the band president Mr. Joe Camilleri. After sharing a long friendly chat with our overseas visitor I was inspired to write and share with you a snippet of this talented and enthusiastic man's interesting life.

Joe Muscat, born in January 1944, and lived in Sliema, started his musical career at the tender age of 8 years learning the Piano Accordion under Mro. Johnny Micallef and the acclaimed Mro. Abela Scolaro, and after attaining the ABCA certificate went

on to study the Double Bass and the Bass Guitar, which afforded him the opportunity to play with several stage bands. His interest in music led him to assist Mro. Joseph Butigieg teaching bandmen music theory etc. After joining the Sliema band as a Delegate for 9 years, Joe immigrated to the UK, where he continued to compose marches for his band, and other counties like Canada and Australia.

On his return to Malta he was asked to join the Sliema Band committee where he held positions of Secretary, Director of the Music Society School, and Band Commissioner. Joe continued the study of Music harmony and composition, in Malta but completed his music achievement in London. Joe has been a dedicated committee member of the Sliema Philharmonic Society for 13 years, and held the position of Secretary and Director of the School of Music, the "Mro. Cardenio Botti" where many musicians and even celebrated Musical Directors started their musical carriers.

On the subject of the Festa, Joe endured some 'painful experiences' as a Festa enthusiast. Whilst decorating the church Coppola,. For the Sacra Cour Festa, the ladder he



Mr Joe Muscat with Mro Leslie Tabone and the Bandsman of the Year Hayden Falzon

was standing on broke, he broke his hands, and could not play for about 3 months.



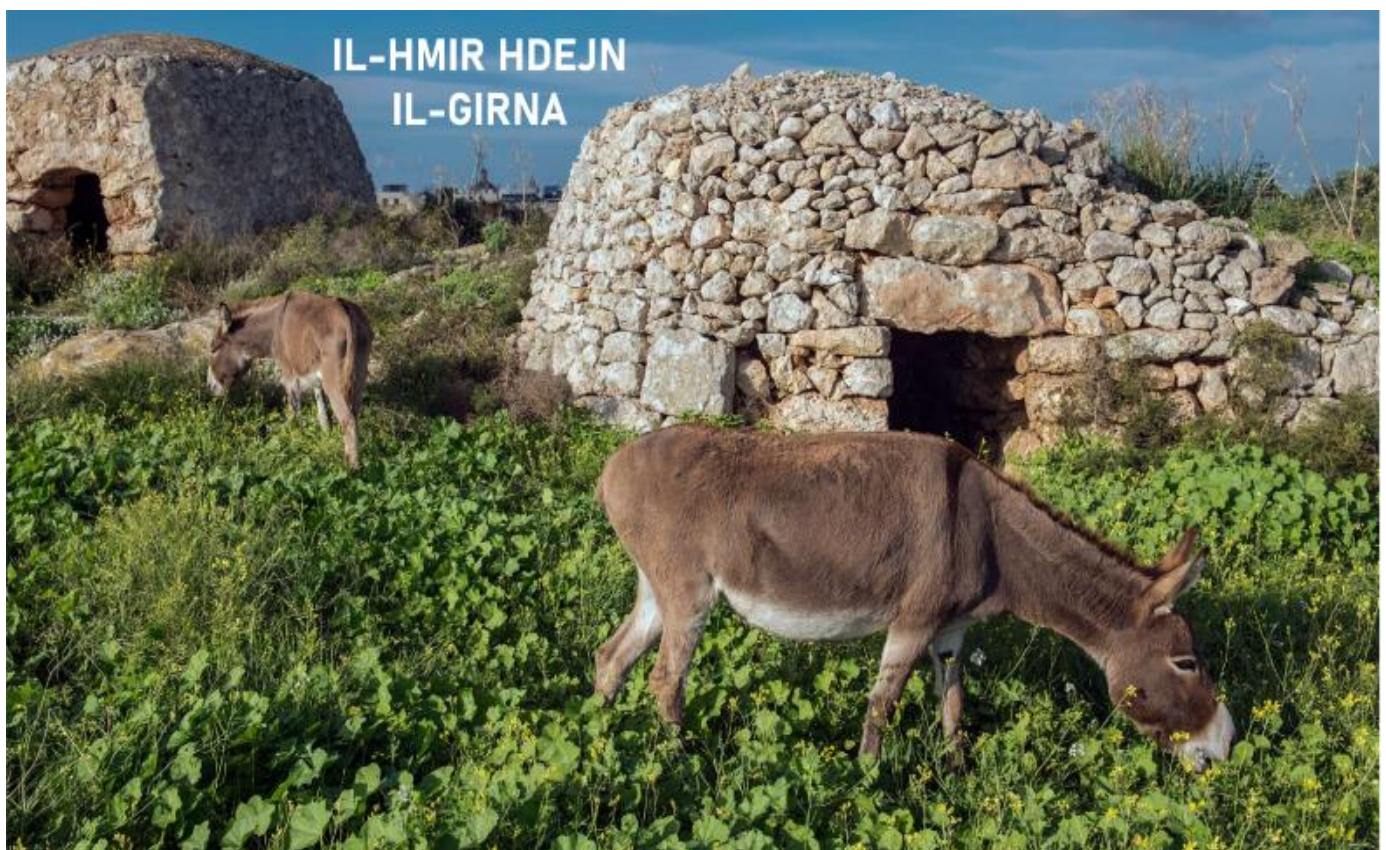
Il-Kuntrabax
"Izaqzaq"

On a lighter note, Joe's double Bass, sounded a bit 'Fuzzy' or as they say in Maltese 'Izaq-zaq'. His grandfather and the instrument experts were a bit bewildered and suggested a few possibilities for the 'funny sounds', but his grandmother suggested "maybe it's the olive leaves that I have put inside the instrument for GOOD LUCK!!!!!!!"

Everyone broke down laughing!

Joe Muscat modestly says that he has been ".....doing my best to make sure that more students will come forward to learn music and they will join join our band and be able to perform with other bands in Malta and Gozo..... and then I should be satisfied with the job I do".

Editors Note; It is gratifying to learn about Selfless Talented people like Joe Muscat doing the work they so willingly do!



IL-HMIR HDEJN
IL-GIRNA

Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Filipinos celebrate feast of Santo Nino in Malta

An estimated 4,000 Filipinos live in Malta. The Filipino Catholic community is being given the opportunity to keep its religious traditions alive even in Malta.

The Parish Priest of the

Marsascala Parish, Fr Roderick Camilleri, together with Fr Victor Agius, invited them to organize the feast of Santo Nino who represents the sanctity of baby Jesus.

On Sunday morning, along the Marsascala shoreline, Filipinos sang and danced before the statue of Santo Nino which was surrounded by flowers which are then taken home as a sign of devotion. Fr Victor Agius who is familiar with the Filipino culture having spent 30 years working as a missionary in the country, said that in the Philippines this was a great holiday celebrated on the third Sunday of the year.

“Santo Niño in the Philippines is a great feast which is celebrated in Manila, in Cebu which is an island in central Philippines, and even in Panai where they have their own version of Santo Nino, which is the patron saint of everybody in the Philippines, where a statue can be found in everyone’s home.”

Dasey Castro who has lived in Malta for three years, and Dante Sarita who has been here six years, say that it is a feast of great devotion.

“It is a celebration we usually make it extravagant so that every body enjoys the feast, it is our way to say thanks to our lord Jesus Christ because all the blessings come from Jesus Christ, viva Santo Nino!” “Santip in our dialect means call u signor is calling to god, Santo Nino the holy child. it means to me a lot because it brings the people together especially in Malta we bring unity in diversity.”

At the church of Sant’Anna mass was celebrated with the participation of a choir from the Filipino community followed by a traditional meal typical of the country (roast pork) to which everyone was invited



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Ta' Bistra Catacomb

**Triq Francesco Napuljun Tagliaferro
Mosta Malta**

These lesser-known Maltese catacombs date back over 1,700 years.

Concealed beneath a traditional Maltese farmhouse in Mosta, the Paleochristian Ta' Bistra catacombs date back 1,700 years. They were built sometime during the fourth century AD and were rediscovered in 1891.

The Ta' Bistra catacombs are important because they could potentially reveal the burial rituals of some of Malta's earliest Christian dwellers. They're the largest set of catacombs that have been found outside Rabat, where the island's more famous catacombs are located. The site is 300 feet long and consists of 57 tombs laid out in 16 chambers. It was excavated in 1933.

Unfortunately, the farmhouse that was built on top of the catacombs had caused some damage to the ancient chambers. At one point, the tombs were occasionally used as an animal pen, while during World War II, the catacombs also served as an air raid shelter.

The farmhouse has since been converted into a visitor centre. The visitor centre and the catacombs, are wheelchair friendly.



Golden Bay is located next to Ghajn Tuffieħa on the north-west coast of Malta, nearby the village of Manikata and known for its red sand and naturally formed dunes on its surrounding slopes. Golden Bay is a popularly visited beach, partly due to the proximity of the five star Radisson Golden Sands hotel.

GOLDEN BAY 150 YEARS AGO



**THOUSANDS OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD READ, ENJOY
AND SHARE THE MALTESE JOURNAL
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