

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

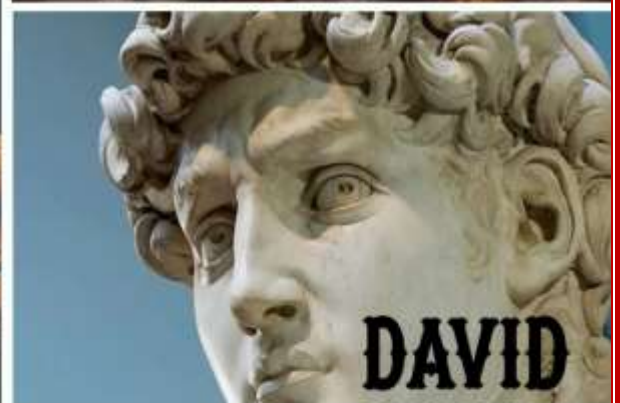
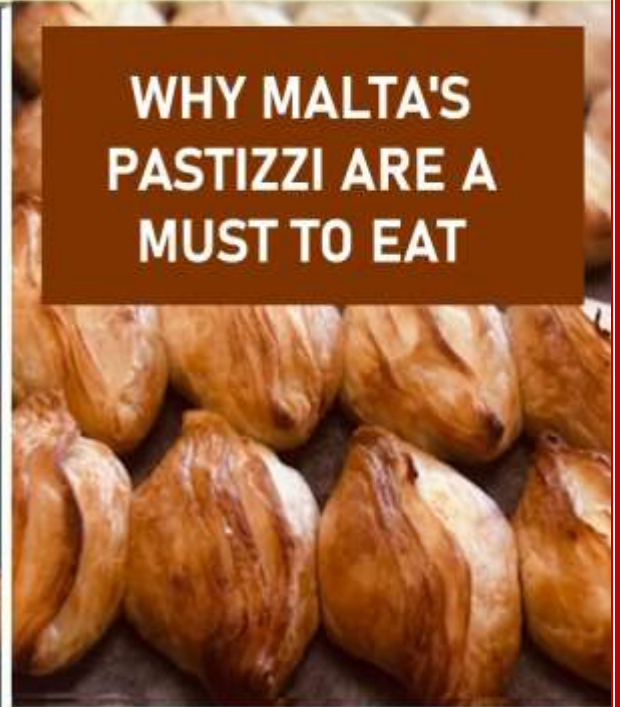
THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

## L-IFIRSA

TAL-MEJDA T-TONDA



WHY MALTA'S  
PASTIZZI ARE A  
MUST TO EAT



Service with  
a SMILE



ANOTHER JOURNAL FOR YOUR COLLECTION



Grand Master Prince  
Andrej Karageorgevic,  
1986



## **Augustinian Elected as the Pope of the Catholic Church LEO XIV**

**The Maltese Augustinian Province joyfully welcomed the news of the election of H.E. Cardinal Robert F. Prevost O.S.A. as Bishop of Rome and Shepherd of the Universal Church, now taking the name Leo XIV.**

In this spirit, Augustinian Order of Malta unites with the entire Augustinian Order around the world and with the Universal Church, giving thanks to the Lord for calling this brother of ours in the Augustinian religious life to such a great service within the Church.

Among the Cardinals, Cardinal Robert F. Prevost is likely one of the most familiar with Malta, particularly due to his responsibilities as Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine for twelve years. In fact, between 2001 and 2013, he visited Malta on several occasions to lead Provincial Chapters and conduct canonical visits both to the Augustinian Friars and to the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns, who at the time fell under his jurisdiction. Beyond this role, he maintained contact over the years with several Maltese Augustinian brethren.

In addition to the roles he held within the Augustinian Family, on November 3, 2014, Pope Francis appointed Robert Francis Prevost as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru. He was later ordained a bishop and assigned the titular see of Sufar. From then onward, he continued to serve both as bishop and later as President of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference. On January 30, 2023, Pope Francis called him to Rome to serve as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. He was created Cardinal by Pope Francis in the Consistory of September 30, 2023, and was assigned the Deaconry of Saint Monica. Additionally, he began serving as a member in various other Dicasteries and on the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State.

His most recent visit to Malta was in November 2023, when he came to address the Plenary Assembly of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences being held in Malta. During that visit, he also presided over the Eucharist at the Basilica of Mosta and spent some time with the Augustinian Community in Valletta.



## MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Malta in the World

### OBJECTIVES OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD UNIT

The Council for Maltese Living abroad (CMLA) was established by the Government of the Republic of Malta in 2012 to build on the networks of the Maltese living abroad with a view to explore business and other forms of collaboration within the framework of mutual benefit and in the common interests of Malta.

The Maltese Living Abroad Unit seeks to promote and protect the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad. It aims to:

- Protect and promote the rights of those living abroad whilst also increasing interest in Maltese culture and Identity
- Serve as the focal point for information, advice and co-ordination to Maltese living abroad
- Serve as the focal point for information, advice and co-ordination to any association or non-governmental organization representing Maltese abroad
- Ensure the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council for Maltese Living Abroad as regulated by Chapter 515 of the laws of Malta
- Maintain strong communication links with the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad
- Maintain updated records of the Maltese Living Abroad Register comprising of the Notification forms D, V, and O
- Create effective communications and collaboration frameworks between Malta and its citizens living abroad
- Enhancing engagement through the Consul-on-the-Move program



Since the objectives of the CMLA and the Maltese Journal are similar it sounds to reason that the two entities work together for the benefit of all Maltese living outside Malta. This free, bilingual and non-political Maltese eNewsletter, which has spread around the world like wildfire during these last 12 years, is Australia-based and distributed not only in every State and Territory of Australia but also in many countries where other Maltese reside. It is keeping the Maltese communities connected with Malta and Gozo and with the language, history, culture and heritage of the Maltese Islands.

The electronic newspaper is also printed and distributed to residents of several Aged Care Facilities, schools, community centres and to members of Maltese Associations in Canada, Australia, UK and USA. Since the demise (2013) of *The Maltese Herald*, the only Maltese Newspaper in Australia, the Maltese Journal has become the only electronic journal on the social media which reaches every corner of the world with many thousands of readers.

## MALTESE AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE – MQF LEVEL 1



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND TOURISM

**Maltese  
Language  
Courses for  
Maltese Living  
Abroad**

For more information  
and to apply, kindly visit

[malteselivingabroad.gov.mt](https://malteselivingabroad.gov.mt)

We are pleased to announce the launch of our online Maltese as a Foreign Language summer courses, tailored specifically for Maltese living abroad with limited or no prior knowledge of the language. These courses present a valuable opportunity to deepen your understanding of the Maltese language and enhance your ability to engage with it effectively. Interested persons are to apply here: [Maltese as a Foreign Language courses for Maltese living abroad](#). Applicants are being offered a choice of two online interactive course:

**Morning course:** Time: Tues & Fri 0700-1000hrs CET Duration: 3 June to 12 September 2025 Venue: Online (MS Teams)

**Evening course:** Time: Mon & Tues Venue: Online (Ms Teams) Proud of our

1600-1900hrs CET Duration: 2 June to 9 September 2025  
language: Learning Maltese

### LEARNING MALTESE FOR MIGRANT STUDENTS

The Department for Maltese has developed a new resource for listening which has been added to the many other resources on [www.malti.skola.edu.mt](http://www.malti.skola.edu.mt)

This complements the resources for the induction level of Maltese for migrant students. This resource can be used by students with very little guidance from the teacher and can provide them with opportunities for further practice when at home. Students will be able to practice vocabulary and common phrases required for basic communication such as vocabulary related to food, clothes, the living surroundings and school. This resource is built on five graded levels. In the first level, the student sees the picture and listens to nouns related to the theme. In the second level they follow a series of pictures and listen to nouns and their article. In the third level they listen to a phrase made up of a noun, article and adjective describing the picture. In the fourth level a demonstrative pronoun is added to the phrase whilst the last level is intended for revision. Each theme is presented in the singular and plural version except for the theme Il-Post Fejn Nghix. For this theme the students require a little more input from the teacher in the third level since the visuals might present different interpretations for the adjective.

This resource can be accessed from the link: <https://malti.skola.edu.mt/malti-barranin/il-malti-ghall-barranin-primarja/smigh-mlb-primarja/>

[Online Language courses by the University of Malta](#)

[Language classes in the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Australia](#)

*Press Release By The Office of The Deputy Prime Minister And Ministry For Foreign Affairs And Tourism*



**THE MINISTRY FOR THE  
NATIONAL HERITAGE,  
THE ARTS AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT OVER 850  
MALTESE BOOKS IN NEW  
LIBRARIES INITIATIVE  
FOR MALTESE  
DIASPORAS**

Over 850 Maltese books are making their way to Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy and Belgium in a new initiative

to set up libraries for Maltese diasporas across the world.

The Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, in collaboration with Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government have teamed up with other national agencies, including the National Literacy Agency and Malta Libraries, to set up these libraries in areas which can reach a substantial Maltese diaspora.

The first books in this initiative for Maltese diplomatic missions have already reached the Maltese Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. Other books donated through this collaboration are now being shipped to the other embassies as well.

To consolidate this collaboration, the Directorate has signed an agreement with Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, to provide linguistic services to the directorate and to Maltese communities abroad, with plans for more future projects promoting the Maltese language among the Maltese diasporas. This agreement was signed by Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism and Dr Maris Camilleri, Acting Chief Executive of Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, who were accompanied by Chirelle Ellul Sciberras, Director Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad and Kevin Mahoney, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

Each of the Maltese libraries abroad will include a selection of genres and topics for all ages and interests, including comics and popular stories translated into Maltese, evidencing the diversity of Malta's national heritage. Malta Libraries has also contributed with books in English about Maltese heritage. This allows readers who do not know the Maltese language the opportunity to discover and engage with Maltese history and culture.

Academic Dr Charles Daniel Saliba has also contributed to these new libraries by donating complete sets of the first level of the Maltese for Foreigners series, while author Charles Buttigieg contributed books from his series Karamellu tar-Raħal t'Isfel.

The new libraries and other related initiatives as part of this collaboration will be a valuable resource for the educational or cultural programmes of Maltese representations abroad, as they promote and encourage interest in the Maltese language. They will foster cultural exchange between the Maltese islands and communities of Maltese and Gozitans living abroad, giving visitors to Maltese embassies the opportunity to explore the richness of the Maltese language.

## A Day in Maltese History



### THE RIOTS OF THE 7 JUNE

Sette Giugno (7 June) is one of Malta's national days. It is the day to commemorate the death of four Maltese rioters on June 7, 1919. The incident is now marked as a day when

Maltese nationalism first surfaced during the British Colonial period. This was a time when Malta's economy was dominated by its status as a military outpost. The price of grain had risen sharply, and prices of bread were to increase. This was largely due to the fact that Maltese merchants were crippled by the costs of insuring their cargo, due to the threat to shipping in the Mediterranean.

The flour merchants pleaded with the British government of the time to allow a subsidy, but they were scoffed at. And so, bread prices spiked and the life of Maltese people went from hard to harder. On the day, they converged on Valletta, and the government of the time had no idea what was in store. It completely underestimated the gravity of the situation.

The first spark of unrest centred on the Maltese flag defaced with the Union Jack flying above the "A la Ville de Londres." This incident sparked the uprising. The death of the President of the Court some days earlier had required all governmental departments to fly the Union Flag at half mast, including the Bibliothèque buildings in Piazza Regina, and the meteorological office.

The crowd moved on to the meteorological offices, housed in a Royal Air Force turret. After breaking the glass panes, the mob entered the offices ransacking and destroying everything inside. Some individuals climbed onto the turret, removing the Union Jack and throwing it into the street. The crowd burned the flag along with furniture taken from the offices nearby.

In Strada Teatro, the offices of the Daily Malta Chronicle were broken into, with pieces of metal jammed in the workings of the presses to break them. While this was taking place, other crowds were attacking the homes of perceived supporters of the Imperial government and profiteering merchants in Strada Forni. Ten soldiers, led by Lieutenant Shields, approached the offices of the Chronicle, which were surrounded by a crowd which then began to throw stones and other objects at the soldiers. The same happened in Strada Forni, where six soldiers were trying to stem a crowd of thousands.

The soldiers broke and opened fire. The first victim of the uprising, Manwel Attard, fell in front of the Cassar Torregiani House. Other individuals were injured. Ġużè Bajjada was hit near Strada Teatro, and fell on top of the Maltese flag he was carrying. The officer in charge began shouting for the firing to cease. Meanwhile, in the Chronicle offices, an officer ordered his men outside, since there was an evident smell of gas in the building. To clear a way out, the officer ordered a soldier to shoot low, away from the crowd. This shot hit Lorenzo Dyer, who tried to run away.

Disturbances continued the next day, with crowds attacking the palace of Colonel Francia, who also owned a flour-milling machine. Royal Malta Artillery soldiers were used to protect Francia's house, but they did not fire on their own people. The crowd forced its way in and threw furniture, silverware and other objects outside. In the evening, one hundred and forty navy marines arrived, clearing the house and street of crowds. Carmelo Abela was in one of the side doorways of Francia's house, calling for his son. Two marines proceeded to arrest him, and when he resisted, a marine ran him through the stomach with a bayonet. Abela died on June 16.

## EXPANSION OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER IN AUSTRALIA



**Grand Master Czar Paul I  
of Russia, 1798-1801**



**Grand Master King Peter  
II Karageorgevic of  
Yugoslavia**



**Grand Master Prince  
Andrej Karageorgevic,  
1986**

### **Chevalier Peter Summers OAM CJSJ**

**Grand Priory IT Manager   Le Chevalier Editor   Priory envoy**

This article continues the story of the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller and its expansion in Australia.

Earlier in its history, the leadership of the Order passed to the Tsar of Russia after most of the knights fled to St Petersburg, having been expelled from Malta by Napoleon. The position of Grand Master was subsequently inherited through royal lineages until it was assumed by the Kings of Yugoslavia following the Russian Revolution. Although a deposed monarch, King Peter of Yugoslavia retained the role of Protector of the Order and, in 1960, established a Constitution for the Order, following the issuance of a Charter in 1963.

It was in the 1980s that the Order saw renewed encouragement in Australia, particularly after the visit of Prince Andrej, then serving as the Grand Master. Three Australian members of the Order were originally from Yugoslavia, and this connection played a significant role in supporting the Order's expansion in Australia.

A Commandery had already been established in Brisbane in 1969, followed by the creation of a Priory in 1974. Australia's first investiture was held in Brisbane that same year—previous investitures had taken place in Malta. The Commandery in Victoria was later elevated to a Priory, and in 1977, Australia was designated a Grand Priory. The first Grand Prior was Chevalier Roland Podesta, who passed away in 1980. By this time, Commanderies had been established in Canberra, Sydney, Geelong, Victoria, the Darling Downs in New South Wales, and Adelaide in South Australia. Sydney became a Priory in 1983, and Adelaide followed in 1992.

By the late 20th century, the Order of St John had a presence in all six Australian states. However, following tensions involving the Order's relationship with England, Melbourne and Adelaide emerged as the most stable and enduring priories. In 1987, internal issues within the Order led to a significant division: the English branch separated from Malta, causing disruption in several international priories. Queensland remained aligned with England, while other Australian regions sought reconciliation. By 2010, these efforts culminated in a renewed commitment to unity through the acceptance of the 1964 Constitution of the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller.

The Australian Grand Priory opted to remain aligned with the Malta-based Order, with the exception of Queensland. Australia was subsequently reorganised into Northern and Southern regions. At that time, the Malta-based Order included Victoria and South Australia. Over time, momentum grew, and the Commandery of Geelong—and by 2019, Ballarat and Tasmania—joined the Malta-based Order. Sydney and Canberra chose to remain independent of the other priories. Our next article will explore the continued expansion, and the vital charitable work carried out by the Order of St John Knights Hospitaller in Australia.

*With thanks to the excellent History of the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller in South Australia 1985–2019 by Chevalier Dr Baden Teague KGS, Dame Annette Summers AO, RFD, DSJ.*



## WHY MALTA'S PASTIZZI IS THE MUST-EAT SNACK ON A EUROPEAN CRUISE

The classic snack of Malta comes in several flavours.

Pastizzi - the classic snack of Malta - comes in several flavours.

By Kristie Kellahan

It's pastizzi perfection. The delicious crunch of flaky pastry, the salty ooze of warm ricotta cheese. On a port stop during an NCL cruise in Europe, we have just one day to explore Valletta, the capital city of Malta. Top of our must-do list is really a must-eat:

find the best pastizzi.

If there's a more satisfying way to spend a euro or less than on a Maltese pastizz, straight out of the oven, then - frankly speaking - I haven't found it yet. The classic snack of Malta comes in several flavours, though tradition suggests you start with ricotta cheese or mashed pea fillings.

Tourists bite into the hot pastries, often unaware that the palm-sized bites have a fascinating history that goes back thousands of years and tells the story of immigration, colonisation and resilience. It's enough to know they are delicious, affordable and convenient on the go.

Historians suggest pastizzi first appeared in Malta more than 3000 years ago, a tasty byproduct of geopolitical population changes. Flaky Arabic pastry fused with Mediterranean-inspired fillings and whatever was fresh in Maltese village gardens.

Even during military sieges of Malta throughout its long history, when attacking forces blocked food supply to the island, resilient citizens always had the basic ingredients on hand to make pastizzi.

When the island nation became a British Crown Colony in 1814 (and remained so for the next 150 years), Pommie soldiers brought their own food influences and cravings to Malta. The mushy peas were surely their idea.

Queen Elizabeth II lived in Malta from 1949 to 1951, during the years Prince Philip was stationed there in the Royal Navy. She described the period as one of the happiest times of her life. As we sail away from the harbour at day's end, hearts and bellies full, I'm guessing the pastizzi had something to do with her contentment.



Photo Carmel Saliba 26.5.25.

### **35 SENA MIŻ-ŻJARA TAL-PAPA ĠWANNI PAWLU T-TIENI** **FIL-GŻEJER MALTIN – Kav. Joe M Attard - Ghawdex**

Nhar it-Tnejn 26 ta' Mejju l-Fondazzjoni Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni fakkret b'quddiesa fil-Kappella ħelwa tan-Nunzjatura fir-Rabat ta' Malta fl-okkażjoni tal-35 sena minn meta kien żar lil Ghawdex u qaddes f'Ta' Pinu l-Papa qaddis Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni. Ha sehem it-Tenur minn Ghajnsielem Angelo Muscat akkumpanjat fuq il-pjanu minn Dr. Romina Morrow. Qaddes l-E.T. in-Nunzju Apostoliku l-Arċisqof Savio Hon Tai-Fai flimkien mal-Kan. Dun Anton Borg, Direttur ta' Radju Marija u l-Arċipriet tal-Floriana Fr. Charles Cini. Kienu preżenti Mr. Lukasz Felczak, Charge' d'Affaires tal-Polonja, is-Sur Censu Galea Sindku ta' San Pawl il-Baħar, Sr M'Anne Cardona u Sr Dolores Gauci mill-Kunvent ta' Sta Katerina flimkien ma' xi mistednin ohra. Il-quddiesa kienet għal ruħ Marija Attard, Carmelo Attard, John Agius, Louis Zammit, Mons Gorg Bezzina ex Kappillan tal-Fontana u Mons Beneditt Camilleri ex rettur tas-Santwarju tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu.

### **HIGH COMMISSION OF MALTA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**



A Proud Moment for Malta at the Royal Albert Hall - UK

Recently, High Commissioner and Mrs Anna Montefort attended the Star Prize Festival at the Royal Albert Hall, where six talented young pianists from the Malta Visual and Performing Arts School performed in this unique international festival.

The festival provides an incredible platform for young musicians from around the world to shine and it was the first time that Maltese students took part to show their incredible talent.

GEORGE STAGNO NAVARRA WRITES:



## THE KINGS OWN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

As reported in the Times of Malta when the KOMR regiment (territorials) was disbanded in 1972, all contact with the regiment's former members had ceased. After that date, a few ex-members resuscitated a KOMR association, with the principal aim of extending a helping hand to all those who had served in the regiment when in need and following their death by assisting the surviving spouse or next of kin.

It was felt by the committee, there could be many more ex-members of the regiment who had served in war or in peace, who were still alive but remained unknown to a resuscitated association.

Hence, it became the wish of a newly formed committee to complete the association's records.

From time to time, the association organised entertainment functions and get-together events, to maintain the bond of friendship among the former members. A special appeal was made by the committee, to all those who had served in the regiment, for them to write and give their personal details, rank and regimental number, so that the association's existing records could be updated.

In the years that followed, many members dedicated some of their time and served in council of administration of **the KINGS OWN MALTA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**. With great pride and glory, each year the regiment continued to take part in functions, commemorating the war years, for those who had died during their course of duty. The KOMR association erected a monument on land specifically earmarked for such a good cause, nearest to the war memorial obelisk at Floriana. Wreaths are laid every year at the foot of such monument and special prayers offered for those who served in the KOMR. The Salesian Boys brigade who remained quite close to the KOMRA, feel proud to make a guard of honour during such ceremony. Unfortunately, time keeps marching on and many of the association members have died, some have become too old to attend functions and some have retired to a home for the aged and suffer from dementia or some other old age ailments.

The year 2025, brings a sad ending to The Kings Own Malta Regiment Association. With a heavy heart and after great consideration to the situation, the last serving committee decided to call it a day and do a winding up.

There is an old English phrase which says "***all the good things come to an end***"

Without any shadow of doubt, the winding up of the KOMR Association, leaves a great void in our hearts. However, I repeat what the chairman had to say...that we have all now advanced in age and therefore a decision is taken for winding up and distributing the remaining funds, to institutions that have been identified and would best merit the assistance from a much loved association. Four non-profit organisations have been chosen to receive such financial help from our association. These are St. Patrick's, Salesian Brigade, Puttinu Cares and Dar tal-Providenza.

During the war, our association veterans defended with their life, the rights and lives of our families. Now from the remaining funds at winding up, we augur that our donations will be put to better use for the good of many persons in need of help and assistance.

Although the Association has now been wound up, it still intends to keep in touch via its Facebook Page. However, because it can no longer use the word "*association*", it shall convey its messages via its "*mass-e-mailing-system*" as the "**Ex-Comrades of the King's Own Malta Regiment**"

May the name K.O.M.R., remain embedded in our hearts to the end of our days.

## LOUIS REWARDED FOR HIS WORK TOWARDS THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN NEW SOUTH WALES



Mr. Louis Parnis

**By the Editor Frank Scicluna  
Adelaide – South Australia**

The Hon Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister of Malta and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism has appointed Mr. Louis Parnis, President of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre of Cringila NSW as a member of the NSW regional committee of

the Council of Maltese Living Abroad to work with the delegates of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad which was established in 2012 by the Government of the Republic of Malta.



The George Cross Falcons Community Club is situated ten minutes outside Wollongong and forty minutes from Liverpool NSW. The Club was built in 1951 to serve the Maltese people arriving from Malta in the 1950's and 1960's settling in the Illawarra region, working at the steel works. Today the

club is thriving assisting an ageing Maltese community with second and third generations Maltese involved in club activities.

For several years Mr. Parnis has transformed the community club of Cringila, which was closed down in 2003, into a vibrant hub for the Maltese Community members and other ethnic groups by providing weekly lunches at a very low cost, social gatherings, Men's Shed and holding other national events including the feast of Our Lady of Victories National Day, ANZAC Day, Sette Giugno, and for the first time this year a Maltese Regatta at Wollongong Harbour, Teaching of Maltese Language, Folk-dancing, Concerts and several other activities. Both Mr. Parnis and the club received accolades and awards from the NSW State and Australian Federal Governments and the Wollongong City Council.

Louis is a great benefactor and supporter of the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad, and he always promotes the only Journal for the Maltese Diaspora. His leadership and administrative skills at the Maltese Community Club earned him the admiration and respect of all the members of the club and the Maltese community of New South Wales at large. We wish him every success in his new role and in his selfless and sterling work for the Maltese communities. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE DIFFERENT REGIONS IN AUSTRALIA**

## 30 MAY 2025 – AS ONE: CONCERT FOR PEACE

FREE



This year marks two landmark anniversaries – 50 years since the foundation of the National War Museum in Valletta and 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe.

As part of Malta Remembers – a commemorative initiative by Heritage Malta and the National Celebrations Foundation reflecting on Malta’s wartime legacy – on Friday 30th May Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum will host ‘As One – A Concert for Peace’. This emotive musical experience will pay tribute to wartime resilience while calling for unity and peace.

Doors open at 20:30. The concert starts at 21:00, with ‘WWII Impressions’ – a jazz

suite commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. Composed by Dominic Galea and inspired by the 1992 musical *Il-Gwerra ta’ Spiru Cefai*, the suite features themes reimagined in jazz form and new compositions reflecting key wartime events. Lyrics for “Victory Kitchen” and “Tradituri” were sourced from original manuscripts of Ray Mahoney.

The music paints a vivid portrait of the war experience in Malta, from the HMS *Illustrious* attack and the Santa Marija convoy to daily life and underground shelters, but not just this. It is all about Malta fighting back and how her brave people were awarded the George Cross. This interdisciplinary work, enriched by the art of Ivan Sciberras and literary roots, offers a powerful homage to Malta’s role in WWII.

Headlined by Ivan Grech, the next part comprises popular songs from different eras, the chart-topping classics we grew up with. The middle part is planned specifically to trigger emotions where the audience is presented with and reminded of the devastating impact of war, drawn into a feeling of belonging, voicing a strong plea for peace and love.

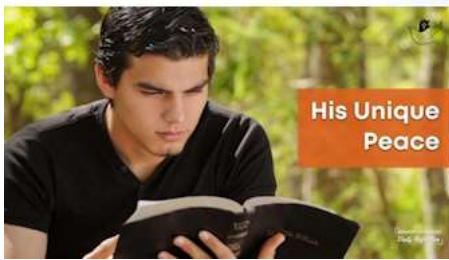
These songs, long associated with anti-war sentiments, will be presented in an intimate, acoustic setting. With piano, acoustic guitars, keyboard strings, and a choir, the performance promises a moving moment of togetherness.

The concert will also feature Maxine Pace and Cliff Zammit Stevens.

Free tickets for the concert on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May can be booked online on [heritagemalta.mt/store/e1728/](https://heritagemalta.mt/store/e1728/) or by visiting any of Heritage Malta’s museums and sites. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that this is a standing event.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR STORY TO BE  
PUBLISHED IN THIS JOURNAL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.  
BE PART OF THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION**

## REFLECTION CHARLES GAUCI BISHOP OF DARWIN



Jesus is our direct connection with God.

If we truly believe that Jesus is God among us and if we truly believe how much He loves us, then it follows that we accept His 'commands' with joy since they lead us to a deeper union with God. Following the teachings of Christ is not a 'chore' or a burden. They are about truly loving. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would continue to help us understand more deeply the teachings of Christ for our times.

Listening to the Holy Spirit and to Jesus brings

us a unique and true peace.

We cannot find the same peace anywhere else because, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through Christ, we connect with the Father, with God.

The teachings of Christ are for all times and places. Our understanding of our faith is not static. It needs to keep evolving and growing. We do not do this on our own; we pick and choose what we like. Rather, it is by continual discernment from within the Church community as we listen together to the Holy Spirit. The spiritual journey was never meant to be something that we do on our own. We listen together as the Church from within the mystical Body of Christ, the Church. It is about an amazing adventure of love.

(The Catholic Diocese of Darwin is diverse and geographically vast, covering 1,350,000 sq km.)

You never fail to publish fascinating, informative and memorable articles.

The Journal for Maltese living abroad is always appreciated and welcome, like a visitor from Malta. I forward "The Maltese E-Newsletter, Journal for Maltese Living Abroad" to Maltese people globally. **THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU PUT INTO IT.**

Baqaw hafna li japprezzaw jaqraw u jiktbu lil-xulxin bil-lingwa Maltija sabiha taghna. Grazzi Hafna ghax-xoghol li taghmel.

Nancy M.A. Serg nee Borg OAM

In my opinion the main cause of the chaotic traffic in Malta is the reluctance by the authorities, PAST AND PRESENT, to reduce the number of cars on the road just like the Japanese and Singapore governments have done. Rather, they have embarked on destroying fertile arable land for road widening and/or building flyovers like the latest monstrosity across the iconic Msida square, in the believe that it will solve their problem. It won't rather only a band-aid solution.' Feel good' if you like. In Japan one can ONLY own a car if he/she has OFF STREET PARKING. As at 2019 the number of cars in Singapore stood at 780000 for a population of 6+ million whereas in Malta 540000 (increasing at about 35 daily) for a population of 550000. Crazy. Sadly, no government would dare following in their example because it's all about votes. This is the sorry state Malta always finds itself in. **MALTA DESERVES MUCH BETTER.**

Regards, Paul Farrugia.



## MINN PJAZZA GĦAL PJAZZA

### AN INITIATIVE AIMED AT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SQUARES

#### TVM NEWS

From Square to Square (Minn Pjazza għal Pjazza) is a new initiative through which various squares in several localities will be packed with cultural activities. This initiative is aimed at creating artistic and cultural experiences in the heart of Maltese communities – the squares.

It was explained during a conference addressed by Minister for Cultural Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Owen Bonnici and Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Alison Zerafa Civelli, that this initiative consists of a series of spectacles, local films, and community and interactive activities put up in Maltese and Gozitan squares.

The main aim is for squares to be transformed into open spaces as centres of creativity. Through this initiative, art will be more accessible to everyone, and Malta's cultural identity will be celebrated whilst promoting communal participation.

This initiative aims to continue to enliven our squares through quality activities organised by local councils. The square has always been the heart of social life in our localities, and will now become a living space where the arts and the community join forces in experiences that bring together and boost our cultural identity.” Minister Owen Bonnici

Parliamentary Secretary Alison Zerafa Civelli said this is another initiative among those being started by local councils, with the Local Councils Division allocating 25,000 euro for every cultural activity embarked upon.

“In the coming months, several local councils around Malta and Gozo will be transforming their squares into spaces celebrating culture, traditions, the arts and local talent. Above all, this initiative will be offering residents some beautiful experiences. This shows the Government fully believes in local councils and how these can be a platform for culture and the Maltese community. This is an investment in local councils, culture and the arts, artisanship and, above all, investment in all locality residents to have better opportunities to spend their relaxation time with family and friends. I urge everyone to attend these ‘Minn Pjazza għal Pjazza’ activities.

Parliamentary Secretary Alison Zerafa Civelli The localities where these activities are being held in the coming months are Vittoriosa, Għargħur, Gżira, Senglea, Kalkara, Marsaskala, Mosta, l-Mtarfa, Pietà, Qormi, Qrendi, Rabat, San Lawrenz, Ta' Kerċem and Żejtun.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden death of Charles Galea.

Charles was a founding member of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Incorporated (est. 2007) and nobly served as president for 7 years from 2015 - 2021.

The Editor, correspondents and readers of the Maltese eNewsletter-- the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad -- offer their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Charles Galea. Charles' great contribution for 25 years to the Maltese community in NSW especially through the teaching of the Maltese Language at the Saturday School of Community Languages is valuable. Charles was an ardent reader of this journal, and we sincerely thank him for his support. Welcome Charles to the joy of the Lord.

In Loving Memory of  
**CARMEL (CHARLES) GALEA**

15th February 1950 - 21st May 2025



Viewing : Tuesday 3rd June 2025, 4 - 4.45pm  
Allan Drew Funerals  
221 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill, 2154

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Funeral : Wednesday 4th June 2025, 11am  
St Michael's Catholic Church  
1 Chapel Ln, Baulkham Hills, 2153  
Livestream available upon request

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Interment : Castle Hill Cemetery  
Gilbert Rd, Castle Hill, 2154



## **CALL FOR FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS AT IL-ĦAĠAR MUSEUM**

As many are aware, Il-Ħaġar Museum is run entirely on a voluntary basis. Our dedicated team is composed of management and working groups responsible for various areas such as operations, finance, events and logistics, marketing, projects, and restoration and conservation. However, the true 'heartbeat' of Il-Ħaġar Museum is, without a shadow of a doubt, our wonderful team of front desk volunteers, whose commitment, resilience and loyalty make it possible to keep the museum open all year round, seven days a week, eight hours a day.

Our front desk volunteers come from all walks of life and various nationalities. As a result, a substantial number of them leave Gozo during the summer months to spend some time in their respective 'cooler' countries, visit relatives, or go on holiday. In this light, and to help alleviate the shortage of volunteers to manage the museum's front desk during the fast-approaching summer months, we renew our call for new faces to join this fantastic group by offering an hour or two weekly at the front desk. Those who step forward will be playing an essential role in safeguarding Gozo's cultural heritage, and we assure them it will be an enjoyable experience too. Il-Ħaġar organises regular get-togethers and team-building events for its volunteers, not least during the summer.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in helping us keep the museum doors open by joining our team of front desk volunteers, please contact us by email at [info@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:info@heartofgozo.org.mt) or send us a direct message on the museum Facebook page. If you cannot volunteer yourself, you can still support us by sharing this message. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to our current team for their dedication, time and loyalty across all aspects of running the museum.

**THANK YOU! Ms Monica Borg Debrincat**  
**c/o Il-Ħaġar - Heart of Gozo Museum**

## **WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION**

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia)      BSB - 065106  
Account No. - 00502597      Name - Frank Scicluna  
For overseas donors - BIC/SWIFT code: CTBAAU2S

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**DONATE AND KEEP THE JOURNAL ALIVE**





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## NICKNAMES 'LAQMIJIET' IN MALTA

What's in a name? In the villages of Malta and the sister island of Gozo, each family has its own nickname. Individual persons may also have separate nicknames. The Maltese word for nickname is "laqam" (from "tlaqqam" meaning "to graft"). Indeed a nickname is grafted to the identity of a person, family or group and serves as a social label. Surnames are mainly used for official reasons.

The Maltese proverb "Skond ghamilek laqmek" (your nickname reflects your behavior) underlines the personal and social implications of the endemic use of nicknames. In general nicknames are rather innocuous. When they refer to some weakness they are usually good-humored. A few can be rude.

Most nicknames are preceded by the preposition "ta" (of). One is referred to by first name followed by family nickname. Thus: Toni tal-Ggant (giant), Marija ta'l-Ghoqdija (knotty). A person may be specifically referred to by the definite article plus the nickname. Thus: il-Hotbi (the hunchback), il-Qanfud (the hedgehog).

Nicknames that describe a personality trait are the most expressive. Typical examples: "ta' Tontu" (stupid); "ta' Xewwiex" (troublemaker); "tal-Pupa" (doll); "tal-Patann" (chubby); "ta' l-lzdingat" (sloppy); "tan-Nittien" (lecher); No wonder some Maltese become paranoid about their nicknames. And there is no way one can get rid of one's nickname. Everybody is stuck with their nickname(s) through thick and thin.

Many nicknames derive from names of animals. These nicknames provide insight in the psycho-social dimensions of language. A quarter million Maltese coexist closely with limited animal resources. Maltese prize their animals but some islanders are notorious for trapping or shooting migratory birds.

Here are a few examples of nicknames derived from animals: "ta' Gelluxa" (young bull); "tal-flieles" (chickens); "il-Kavall" (mackerel); "ta' Hanfusa" (beetle); "tas-Summiena" (quail). A priest who was nicknamed "il-Gurdien" (rat) is philosophical if not downright theological about his sobriquet! He says he endures it as a purgatorial penance. The most prevalent nicknames are those referring to occupations; e.g. "tas- Surmast" (school principal), "tas-Saqqafi" (roofer), "tal-Melh" (salt vendor), "tar-Rizzi" (hawker of sea-urchins), "tas-Siggijiet" (man in charge of chairs in churches).

Entire towns and villages are given nicknames. These nicknames originated when villages and towns were isolated from each other. This separation led to parochialism verging on hostility.

"Tar-Redus" (manure) stigmatizes the town of Tarxien. This nickname triggered a violent disturbance some years back. On the feast-day of the patron saint in the neighboring town of Pawla, the local Band Club played a tune mimicking bleating of goats. Pawlaites baa'ed along with the march; which was just too much for Tarxienians. Violence erupted and police had to intervene.

Some village nicknames owe their origins to legends. Zeitun has a peculiar nickname. Zeituners are known "ta' saqajhom catta" (flat-footed). According to legend, the inhabitants of Zeitun were the only Maltese who rejected the religion preached by Saint Paul after his shipwreck on the island. They stamped their feet in protest to Paul's proselytizing. The man from Tarsus wasn't amused by this "barbarian" (not just in the biblical sense:-) behavior and laid a curse on the villagers and their descendants.

## NEW GOZO ALBUM PROJECT

[WWW.gozoalbum.gov.mt/](http://WWW.gozoalbum.gov.mt/)



The Gozo Album project is an initiative by the Cultural Heritage Directorate in collaboration with the Information Management Unit within the Ministry for Gozo and Planning. This project aims to celebrate the Island of Gozo's rich history, showcasing how it looked in the past while offering a unique perspective on how it has evolved over time.

The initiative will make a valuable photographic collection easily accessible to the public, preserving and sharing records that connect us to our heritage while fostering an appreciation of Gozo's transformation through the years.

Photos from Gozo's past showing pristine landscapes and a developing Gozo, disappeared buildings and new buildings, historic events and village feasts, personalities and nameless Gozitan faces, there is something interesting for everybody to discover.

**The Gozo Album is intended to be an educational tool which can help us to learn from the past. Education through our past**

This portal is not simply a collection of beautiful photographs of a disappearing Gozo, rather it is an educational tool whereby researchers may study buildings, monuments, customs, dress as well as traditions which have since disappeared. Information, where available will be given about the photographer, the date and the occasion of each photograph.

### **Lenses on Gozo**

The rich photographic collection at the Gozo Section of the National Archives is being made accessible and available for both researchers as well as all those who are interested in Gozo's past. Unique photographs from the collection create a captivating mosaic of memories of past views, people and events.

### **Enhanced Search**

This website offers the opportunity for researchers to search under different headings such as location, date, subject or photographer

### **Lenses on Gozo**

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### **YOUR COMMENTS MATTER**

**Dear Frank, Many thanks for your constant sending of your excellent Journal. I so much look forward to see it appear on my screen. It's such a pleasure to read something so different from the current news these worrying and waring days. CHARLES ZAMMIT**

**Hello Frank, What a pleasure reading your Journal always full of a variety of interesting articles. May God bless you with health to keep publishing the only Maltese Journal from South Australia to the whole world! Take care. Warm regards CECILIA BORG (SYDNEY)**

**Your journal is always welcome, and it brightens my PC every time I open it. Thank God for your work. ALFRED CAMENZULI**



By Joseph Chetcuti

Adelaide South Australia

Angelo and Felicia Chetcuti decided to migrate to Australia in 1954. At the time they had 6 children Joe, Tony, Charlie, Doris, Mary and Fred. Angelo worked as a labourer at the Maltese dockyard. His wages were very low and mum could hardly make ends meet. Their only option for a better life was, to do like

many other Maltese people, to pack up, leave their loved ones, their country and culture and migrate. Angelo had 3 brothers and 1 sister who have already migrated to Australia. One day while he was visiting his mother, his younger sister Rita was writing a letter to her older sister Kitty in Australia and he mentioned that one of these days he will ask her if she was willing to sponsor his family, before we knew it, we started the proceeding to migrate. We sailed from Malta on the 29th January 1955 on the ocean liner AROSA STAR. Our journey took 33 days. On the last day before we were due to dock at Port Melbourne we had some drama on our ship.

While doing some maintenance work, they accidentally caused a fire, we were instructed to put on our life jackets and immediately head to the upper deck. Thankfully they were able to control the fire and avoid any danger, and so on the 2nd March 1955 we arrived in Melbourne.

That evening we caught the train and travelled to Adelaide arriving the next morning. The first few weeks were very hard to get accustomed to the new life in this new country. Angelo found



employment with Balfours Cakes and the children started school at St Joseph Primary School in Kensington. Angelo found it very difficult to get use of the odd working hours at Balfours, so he found a new job with the PMG where his brother-in-law Sam was working. He only was there for a short time before joining the South Australian Gas Company to improve his income by working overtime and although it was hard work he remained there for 25 years until he retired in 1979. On April 1956 Angelo and Felicia had another additional to their family when a new son {Con} was born. The decision Angelo and Felicia made

to come to this country was a good one. They fulfilled their life dreams and ambitions to have their own house, to have good living and most of all to see the future of their children flourishing which was always their main reason to migrate. We, their children, are very grateful for their decision and huge sacrifice they took to give us a future that every parent dream to give their children.

May God grant them both eternal peace.



## 10TH EDITION OF THE SERVICE WITH A SMILE AWARD LAUNCHED

The Malta Competition and Consumers Affairs Authority (MCCAA) this morning launched the 10th edition of the Service with a Smile Award.

The authority's chairperson Carmen Ciantar said that this competition promotes a service of high quality culture which is focused on the consumer. She stated that the service with a smile builds confidence and improves the quality of life of consumers, while urging consumers to vote for their favourite sellers and their businesses if they believe these deserve recognition.

Consumer Affairs Office director general, Grace Stivala, said that the principal aim of the office is to promote and protect consumer's rights by educating the public. She urged sellers to upgrade to a higher service from that legally needed.

Six categories are participating in this year's edition: fashion and beauty, supermarkets and mini markets, electronic products and household items, travel services and pet and plant shops.

Consumers may vote once for more than one seller, even in the same category and to the same seller in the same category.

**Consumers may vote online. [www.servizzbitbissima.mccaa.org.mt](http://www.servizzbitbissima.mccaa.org.mt)**

Participating consumers will have the chance to win €1,000 in cash.

More information is accessible on [info@mccaa.org.mt](mailto:info@mccaa.org.mt) or by phoning 23952000.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER OF THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Mr. John Mangion

Dear members and friends. This year we celebrated the 42th anniversary since the establishment of the Maltese Senior Citizens Association of South Australia. It was a happy and great occasion for the many citizens who attended this special event at the Coopers Alehouse, Gepps Cross with a superb dinner and enjoying each other's company. Our Association, under the leadership of the President Godwin Gauci and every member of the committee, deserves a big thank you to make this event a memorable one.

And also for making the Maltese Senior Citizens great again.

The secret of success is teamwork – we all work together for the benefit of our elderly and the younger generations. By the way, don't forget to collect a copy of the Maltese eNewsletter, the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad printed for us by the Multicultural Aged Care (MAC) of South Australia. We thank the editor of the Journal – Mr Frank Scicluna OAM who is also the auditor and trustee of the Maltese Senior Citizens Association (SA). Our next adventure is a bus trip to the beautiful Barossa Valley. The Barossa Valley is a renowned South Australian wine region located



## **HAPPY 7TH ANNIVERSARY TO MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA!**

Seven incredible years have flown by, and today we take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together.

MMG is more than just a band—it's a place where music brings people together. A community of volunteer musicians, students, and supporters bound by a shared passion for preserving Maltese culture through music. Guided by our conductor Tanya and assistant conductor Martin and supported by a dedicated committee, MMG continues to grow and evolve.

Our music school now boasts 25 students learning brass, woodwind, or percussion, helping foster the next generation of musicians, and a junior band that continues to amaze us with their growth and musical ability guided by Harrison.

This past year, we proudly performed once again at a Wenzu u Rozi production, continuing our commitment to celebrating Maltese culture and storytelling through music. We have also upheld our tradition of keeping our culture alive by performing at various Maltese feasts.

And that's just the beginning...

We extend our deepest gratitude to our helpers—the unsung heroes who ensure everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. Whether it's organising refreshments, capturing special moments through photos and videos, supporting your musician family member or looking after the children and so much more....., your contributions do not go unnoticed.

To our wonderful supporters—thank you. With your encouragement, we continue to preserve Maltese culture through music for generations to come.

Finally, to our musicians, committee, conductors, and students—your passion for music and heritage is what makes MMG what it is today. We honour the past, but most importantly, we look toward the future—because at the heart of it all, it's about the music!

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. We are excited for what the next year will bring and can't wait to share it with you as we continue to celebrate and preserve our beloved Maltese music and culture here in Victoria.



Ruth Bonnici (Sr Donia MC ) mis-Sigġewi, flimkien ma' 18-il soru oħra, dagħlodu għamlet il-professjoni perpetwa tagħha fi ħdan il-kongregazzjoni tas-Sorijiet Missjunarji tal-Karità, imwaqqfa minn Madre Teresa ta' Kalcutta. Iċ-ċerimonja saret waqt quddiesa kkonċelebrata mmexxija mill-Kardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, fil-knisja parrokkjali ta' Santa Giulia Billart, f'Ruma.



Il-parroċċa tas-Sigġiewi kienet irrapprezentata miz-ziju tagħha Mons. Prof. George Grima, Mons. Martin Micallef u Dun Frans Buhagiar. Preżenti kien hemm ukoll Fr Louis Caruana SJ, Fr Joseph Buhagiar, Fr Kevin Schembri, il-ġenituri, familjari u ħbieb.

Inzommu lil din s-soru Maltija fit-talb tagħna

## SOME OF OUR GOOD NEWS

(Phoyo Right) - The Maltese Community Council of NSW and Fairfield Seniors Group enjoying a

gardening workshop with our favourite gardening champion, Doris Meilak. Always interesting,



informative and lots of fun. Miriam Friggieri NSW



**Maltese migrants arriving in Sydney on P&O Strathnaver on Tuesday 10 August 1948. At the right corner there are Fr. Wistin Grech mssp and Fr. Robert Cassar O. Carm.**

These photos were sent to us by our readers. If you have any early photos of Maltese migrants in Australia, Canada and USA please send them to us to share and preserve



**1954 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MALTESE GUILD OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)**

Standing (L to R) J. Vassallo, P. Calleja, ?, E. Briffa, CL Zammit, JJ Tabone (Emigration Attache)  
Front - M Aquilina, G Bugeja, Capt. Stivala Commissioner for Malt, E Cassano, Major E Mercleca, Founder of the Guild, JV Zammit and C. Chetcuti