

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Email - maltesejournal@gmail.com



POPE LEO'S 1ST OFFICIAL TRIP TURKEY AND LEBANON IN NOVEMBER 2025



VENEZUELA
Maria Corina Machado
2025 Nobel Prize
WINNER



WE KEEP
YOU
UPDATED

THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL
OF
MALTESE
LIVING
ABROAD



THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
17th Annual Meeting 2025 in Malta
Working Holiday for Youths of Maltese Descent Scheme

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES 2 - 5





WE KEEP
YOU
UPDATED

THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL
OF
MALTESE
LIVING
ABROAD



THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
17th Annual Meeting 2025 in Malta
Working Holiday for Youths of Maltese Descent Scheme



Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg announced a new Working Holiday for Youths of Maltese Descent Scheme, facilitating the visa application process for these young persons to visit Malta for work or study, while exploring their Maltese roots. Launching in January 2026, this initiative will give 18 to 30-year-old youths from the Maltese diaspora an opportunity to reconnect with their families in Malta, while gaining work experience or learning new skills.

Dr Borg talked about this new scheme in his opening address at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, this week. "The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, with the support of other authorities, is encouraging these young ambassadors of Malta and Gozo from across the world to come and learn more about the culture and traditions of our Islands," he explained.

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Council is the first one being held since the introduction of amendments to the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad Act last year, expanding it to 21 members, for a fairer and more distributed representation.

Dr Borg extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed Council members, encouraging them to share fresh perspectives, and thanked returning members for their invaluable contributions. He also expressed his gratitude for those whose term ended this year, while commending the outgoing secretary, Joseph Xerri, for his long and outstanding service to the Council.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasised the need for collaboration to ensure the Council's mission is effectively pursued. "The strength of Malta's global presence lies in the bonds we maintain with our diaspora," he added, underscoring the pivotal role of the Council in fostering these connections.

Promoting the Maltese language remains a key priority, with the establishment of 10 libraries in Maltese missions worldwide, serving as cultural and educational hubs. The Ministry also launched an online summer course in Maltese as a Foreign Language, aiming to promote the Maltese language amongst the diaspora.

- **Maltese E-Newsletters: Journal for Maltese Living Abroad**

Check ozmalta.com for the official Maltese community newsletter which features CMLA-related announcements.

Council of Maltese Living Abroad

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) is a formal body established by Malta to represent and engage with Maltese communities abroad, with activities including fostering collaboration and addressing community needs. In 2025, the Maltese Welfare NSW reported on new regional committee appointments and collaboration efforts with the Maltese government. Additionally, the CMLA's official website Maltese Living Abroad (MLA) archives show posts in May 2025 detailing meetings and announcements for Maltese communities worldwide.

What is the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA)?

- **Purpose:**

The CMLA was established by the Maltese Government to represent and engage with the Maltese diaspora.

- **Structure:**

It is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, includes a secretary, and has 15 members, all of whom must be of Maltese nationality.

- **Mandate:**

The council is tasked with understanding and addressing the needs and interests of Maltese people living outside of Malta.

Activities in 2025:

- **Regional Collaboration:**

In July 2025, the Maltese Welfare NSW announced efforts to improve collaboration between the NSW Council of Maltese Living Abroad and the Government of Malta, with regional committee appointments.

- **Official Engagements:**

The CMLA's official website shows that official meetings with the President of Malta and the Deputy Prime Minister were held in late 2024 and discussions were ongoing in 2025.

- **Maltese as a Foreign Language Program:**

In May 2025, online Maltese as a Foreign Language courses were offered to the diaspora, providing an opportunity for Maltese living abroad to learn the language.

How to Find More Information:

- **Official Government Website:**

Visit the "Posts - Official Messages Archives - MLA" section of malteselivingabroad.gov.mt for official updates and messages.

- **Maltese Welfare NSW:**

For information specific to the Australian community, visit the Maltese Welfare NSW website.

- **Maltese E-Newsletters:**

Check ozmalta.com for the official Maltese community newsletter which features CMLA-related announcements.

Looking ahead, Dr Borg highlighted at the conference the importance of a dynamic, responsive, and future-focused Council, encouraging members to adopt an outward-looking approach and collaborate on shared challenges faced by Maltese communities globally.

**The Maltese Journal and the Council for Maltese Living Abroad
Collaborating to Enhance the Future of the Maltese Diaspora**



■ H.E. Myriam Spiteri Debono, President of Malta, received a courtesy visit at the San Anton Palace from members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. Her Excellency appealed to the members to keep alive and strong, in their work, the link between Malta and the Diaspora in their respective countries.

The President noted that many of the Maltese living abroad, both those born in Malta and their descendants, still love the Maltese language, and cooperate in initiatives so that Maltese culture, traditions and values remain alive even kilometres away from our land.

Among the initiatives discussed is a new programme for young people aged 18 to 30 who are of Maltese descent and live abroad. The scheme will enable them to apply for a work-and-holiday visa in Malta, providing an opportunity to work, travel, and explore their Maltese roots.

Those attending included:

Mr Joseph A. Xerri (Secretary), Ms Amie Cardona, Ms Judith Buhagiar, Mr Antoine Mangion, Ms Miriam Friggieri, Ms Alexandra Micallef, Dr Edgar Brincat, Mr James N. Casha, Dr Loredana Gatt, Ms Sarah Meli, Ms Giselle Sherri-Migliore, Mr Bernard Portelli, Mr Philip Mamo, Mr Matthew Ciantar, Mr Umberto D'Amico, Mr David Galea, Ms Doreen Gatt, and Ms Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri.

Also present for the courtesy visit were Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras, accompanied by her team from the Department, and Dr Rachel Powell, Coordinator within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Here is a list of the members of the regional CMLA committee for the Rest of Australia (excluding NSW and VIC)

Rest of Australia– Responsible CMLA members

Rest of Australia	Mr Edgar Agius Mr Joseph Vella Mr John Calleja Mr Martin Debono	eagius@charlessturt.sa.gov.au joe.g.vella@gmail.com callejajohn@tpg.com.au martin.debono@hotmail.com
-------------------	--	--

HOW THE CMLA IS STUCTURED

There are currently 20 members in the Council (excluding the President and Secretary).

- 5 members from Australia 2 members from USA 2 members from Canada
- 1 member from the UK 2 members from the EU (not resident in Malta)
- 1 member from Asia 1 member from North Africa 1 member from UAE

- 5 additional members (from various parts of the world) appointed by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition

For Australia, the 5 CMLA members and the corresponding Regional Committee members are :

Miriam	Friggieri	AUS-NSW	CMLA	miriam-m.friggieri@gov.mt
Antoine	Mangior	AUS-NSW	CMLA	antoine.mangion@gov.mt
Sydney	Borg	AUS-NSW	Regiona	syd@pcsa.com.au
Lawrence	Gatt	AUS-NSW	Regiona	laugatt@tpg.com.au
Sandra	Grech	AUS-NSW	Regiona	sandra.grech2010@gmail.co
Louis	Parnis	AUS-NSW	Regiona	louie.parnis@gmail.com
Frank	Testa	AUS-NSW	Regiona	frankietesta@bigpond.com
Annemarie	Thind	AUS-NSW	Regiona	annemarie.thind@gmail.cor
Sandra	Micallef	AUS-Rest of Australia	CMLA	sandra-alexandra.micallef@gov
John	Calleja	AUS-Rest of Australia	Regiona	callejajohn@tpg.com.au
Joe	Vella	AUS-Rest of Australia	Regiona	joe.g.vella@gmail.com
Martin	Debonc	AUS-Rest of Australia	Regiona	martin.debono@hotmail.co
Edgar	Agius	AUS-Rest of Australia	Regiona	eagius@charlessturt.sa.gov.a
Amie	Cardon	AUS-VIC	CMLA	amie-rose.cardona@gov.mt
Judith	Buhagia	AUS-VIC	CMLA	judith-renata.buhagiar@gov.r
Elton	Cutajar	AUS-VIC	Regiona	elcut@hotmail.com
Andrew	Gatt	AUS-VIC	Regiona	dadgatt46@gmail.com
Ryan	Axiak	AUS-VIC	Regiona	ryanaxiak@hotmail.com
Declan	Mentzin	AUS-VIC	Regiona	declanmentzing@gmail.com

As CMLA members (Australia), we meet online once a month to discuss ongoing issues being relayed to us from the community.

Hence the function of the Regional Committees is to assist us with any community matters they identify in the regional areas, which we may not be aware of.

Each Regional Committee reports to the CMLA members covering their jurisdiction.

The next CMLA meeting in Malta will be held in October, and the 5 Council members are preparing a list of topics to be added to the meeting agenda, so they can be addressed at the meeting.

We understand that so far there hasn't been much information about the workings of the CMLA disseminated to the Maltese Diaspora.

As members of the current Council, we are addressing this issue, and we hope to be able to bridge the communication gap which the community needs to be filled.

As such, I do encourage you to please check with one of the Council members before publishing any material (written, audio, digital, etc) regarding the CMLA.

This is to make sure that the CORRECT information is always given, and the right people are acknowledged for the work they do behind the scenes, without too much fanfare.

I thank you both for the amazing work you continue to do for the Maltese Diaspora with the publishing of your Journal. Please do contact one of CMLA Council members, if you need any further information. With thanks and regards Sandra Micallef – CMLA Queensland



MESSAGE BY BISHOP JOSEPH GALEA-CURMI

Let's be guardians, not destroyers

Malta – once known for its clear seas, rich biodiversity, and vibrant countryside – is now a changed land. Concrete keeps spreading, natural spaces are vanishing, and the sea itself bears the wounds of pollution and slime. It is time to understand something basic: we are destroying the very land and sea that sustain us. The protection of creation is not a luxury, a talking point, or a political slogan. It is an ethical and national

necessity.

The Maltese islands are among the most densely populated regions in the world. So every patch of land matters, every tree counts, every stretch of open space carries life. Yet, the ongoing wave of construction – often excessive, insensitive, and poorly regulated – has left scars across our landscape. Valleys once lush with trees are now choked by rubble and dust. Fields that fed generations have been replaced by concrete shells. Some would say this is progress. It is not. It is a slow self-destruction disguised as development.

Our environment is not an optional concern. It is the foundation of our health, economy, and identity. To degrade it is to wound our own soul. When we poison the sea with waste, we harm our future. When we cover fertile soil with asphalt, we steal from our children. When we silence the song of birds with the roar of bulldozers, we are silencing a part of creation's praise to God. Malta's beauty is not an infinite resource; it is fragile and finite, and once lost, it cannot be rebuilt. *We need courage from our leaders, and conviction from our citizens, to say "enough" to the reckless exploitation of Malta's limited land and water*

Environmental protection is not simply about trees and plants. It is about justice. It is about the poor, the elderly, and children who suffer first when air quality deteriorates, and when green spaces vanish. It is about families who can no longer afford to live in a country overwhelmed by speculative greed. To protect creation is to defend human dignity. It is to recognise that the earth, our common home, belongs to everyone, not just to those with the power to exploit it.

We urgently need a national conversion of heart – an awakening, a rediscovery of our roots as a people who have always depended on the sea, the soil, and the air. We must cultivate once again a sense of reverence toward nature, not as a commodity, but as a sacred trust. This we do by consuming responsibly and living sustainably.

We need accountability. Enforcement must be rigorous, planning decisions transparent, and economic growth redefined to include the health of the earth. Every major project should be measured not just by profit margins, but by its impact on life – human and non-human alike. Reforming planning policies should make things better, not worse. We need courage from our leaders, and conviction from our citizens, to say "enough" to the reckless exploitation of Malta's limited land and waters.

In 2022, Malta voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution recognising [the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#). A human right, says Malta!

Let us act with wisdom and with courage to safeguard our natural heritage. May we be remembered by future generations not as destroyers, but as guardians of creation – faithful stewards of this small, precious land.

✠ **Joseph Galea-Curmi** Auxiliary Bishop of Malta



**ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI
HIEROSOLYMITANI**

Locumtenen)a Melitensis

9th October 2025

PRESS RELEASE

**ANNUAL SOLEMN INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF THE
MALTESE LIEUTENANCY of the
EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF
JERUSALEM, HELD AT ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL,
VALLETTA**

The Maltese Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its Annual Solemn Investiture Ceremony on Saturday 4th October 2025 in the magnificent setting of St John's Co Cathedral, Valletta. The ceremony was led by Ambassador Roberto Buontempo, Lieutenant of the Maltese Islands, and marked one of the most significant occasions in the Order's annual calendar.

This year's investiture saw twelve new members formally received into the Order as Knights and Dames, including two ecclesiastical knights, reaffirming their commitment to the Order's spiritual mission and charitable work in support of the Holy Land.

The Investiture of Knights and Dames is a solemn and time-honoured ceremony that dates back to the medieval traditions of knighthood in the Holy Land, when Christian pilgrims and defenders of the faith were received into the Order at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The ritual, rich in symbolism and prayer, continues to this day.

The Solemn Eucharistic Celebration and Investiture Ceremony was presided by His Grace Mgr. Charles Jude Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta and Grand Prior of the Maltese Lieutenancy, who delivered a homily reflecting on the spirit of commitment and devotion that unites members of the Order across the world.

The distinguished gathering was honoured by the presence of senior representatives from the Grand Magisterium, namely Their Excellencies Jean-Pierre Marie de Glutz-Ruchti, Vice Governor General for Europe, and Enric Mas, Vice Governor General for Latin America. Also in attendance were several Lieutenants representing European jurisdictions.

During the same occasion, Dr Michael Grech, KM, President of the Maltese Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was bestowed with the Cross of Merit with Silver Star.

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

Locumtenen)a Melitensis

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is a Catholic chivalric order with a rich history dating back to the First Crusade. It is represented in Catholic communities around the world and operates under a hierarchical structure organised into Lieutenancies across different regions.

Throughout the centuries, the Order's mission has remained steadfast: to protect the Holy Land, preserve its sacred sites, and support the Christian communities who live there.

Christians in the Holy Land depend not only on the financial contributions of the Order's members but also on their prayers and dedication to sustaining the living presence of Christ in the region. Each year, the Order welcomes new members who demonstrate an ever-deepening commitment to its mission and philanthropic efforts.

The Order plays a vital role in maintaining hospitals, parishes, and schools across Jerusalem, Jordan, Palestine, and parts of Syria. Among the most notable institutions it supports is the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, which provides essential medical care to mothers and newborns regardless of faith or background. The hospital is a lifeline for the local population,



offering specialised maternity and neonatal care in an area where access to such services is often limited.

Through the generosity of its members, the Order also ensures that 44 Catholic schools in the region can continue to offer quality education to Christian families. Beyond education, it supports numerous social and pastoral

initiatives, medical services, and community programmes that enhance the welfare of both Christians and others living in the Holy Land.

In Malta, the Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre actively promotes the Order's mission through charitable fundraising, pilgrimages to the Holy Land, educational initiatives, and spiritual formation activities. Members meet regularly for liturgical celebrations, conferences, and community events aimed at deepening faith and fostering solidarity with the Christian presence in the Holy Land. The Maltese Lieutenancy continues to grow steadily, guided

Malta and the Meetings that Changed History

By Sean Richardson

'I can see Russia from my house!' Attributed to Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, was actually the comedian Tina Fey mocking a Sarah Palin interview with the American broadcaster ABC, "You can actually see Russia from land here in Alaska." Later, Palin would explain Alaska's strategic position as a state of the USA but with close proximity to Russia. Years on, Trump and Putin chose Alaska as a meeting place to discuss an end to the war in Ukraine.

But what does that have to do with Malta?

Locations for significant meetings of world leaders are chosen for many reasons – strategic positioning, neutrality, convenience and proximity among them. Malta has been the stage for some

pivotal diplomatic encounters thanks to its location between Europe, North Africa, and the



Middle East. Its strategic position has drawn world leaders in times of war, peace and crisis, making the island a discreet but decisive player in twentieth and twenty-first-century history. During the Second World War, having endured the bombardment by Germany and Italy, the battered island was used as the base by Eisenhower, Montgomery and their generals to plan and later prepare Operation Husky – the 1943 invasion of Sicily.



Two years later, in 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met in Malta prior to meeting with Stalin in Yalta. Their discussions in Valletta shaped the final preparations for the ending of the war in Europe and prepared them for the negotiations with Stalin for a post-war world. Stalin was originally to travel to Malta for the discussions but at the last minute remained in Moscow. Visit the very interesting website – www.seanrihardson.com

Image: Roosevelt and Churchill in Malta

In peacetime, meetings in 1979 finalised the negotiations leading to Freedom Day, when British forces fully withdrew from Malta. This was a turning point for the island's neutrality and non-alignment during the tensions of the Cold War. That same year, after Zambia, the original host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government

Meeting (CHOGM), was unable to stage the meeting, Malta stepped in. With little time to prepare, leaders from across the Commonwealth convened to debate the future of Rhodesia's push for independence (soon to become Zimbabwe), the global response to apartheid South Africa and the measures to stabilise the global economic situation after the oil shocks.

In December 1989, Malta was again at the centre of world attention with the Malta Summit between US president George H. W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Their meeting aboard warships, anchored off the coast of Marsaxlokk, debated the end of the Cold War. Symbolically they declared the end of the Cold War, paving the way for German reunification and the Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe which led to the dawn of a new Europe.



Monument at Birzebbuga – Bush and Gorbachev, 'The end of the Cold War'

In the new millennium, Malta was the scene of three major summits. In 2005, with Queen Elizabeth II in attendance, Malta hosted the CHOGM conference where leaders set significant directions on climate change and sovereign debt issues. A decade later in 2015, Malta welcomed African leaders to address the critical situation of the Mediterranean migration crisis, which reshaped Europe's migration policies. The most recent summit, in 2017, brought together EU heads of state to discuss the Brexit negotiations, relations with the USA under the new US President Trump, and the continuing challenge

of mass migration across the Mediterranean.

In 2025, Malta once again offered itself as a mediator and location for peace talks between Russia and Ukraine. Malta has repeatedly been called upon when the world needed neutral

ground. Its diplomatic influence far outweighs its small size. Unlike Alaska, which looks across the water to a single rival, Malta stands at the centre of the Mediterranean – a true crossroads, with a view across all points of the compass. It has been, time and again, the place where great powers have gathered to debate, negotiate, and alter the course of history



GOZO NEWS

SANNAT COMMEMORATES THE 18 VICTIMS OF WORLD WAR II TRAGEDY

by [Gozo News](#) · 83 years ago, on the 10th of October, enemy bombs were dropped over the village of Sannat in Gozo killing sixteen people, two

more passed away in the days that followed.

On that fateful day, this village on the southern tip of the island, witnessed one of the most horrible days in its history. The British Royal Air Force Spitfires took off after the German Luftwaffe Junkers 88 twin-engined bombers during an air raid, and the German bombers that had not yet dropped their bombs decided to retreat.

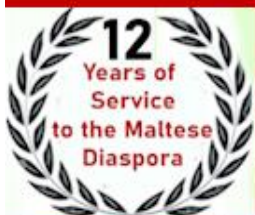
However, in the course of fleeing the spitfires, they released two large bombs to lighten their load. It was mid-morning, and the bombs claimed to be 2,000-pounders, landed on Sannat, with one hitting the heart of the village, a few metres away from Tax-Xelina Square, close to the old school. The bombs that dropped on that fateful day, killed eighteen residents from Sannat: Mikiel Azzopardi (a baby of a few months); Guzepp Cini, 49; Salvu Curmi, 79; Pawlu Farrugia, 72; Clara Galea, 36; Guzeppa Galea, 29; Guzepp Galea, four; Margaret Galea, seven; Mikiel Galea, eight months; Grezzja Muscat, 59; Marija Muscat, 28; Francesca Pace, 51; Katerina Saliba, 36; Marija Tabone, 16; Carmela Theuma, 67; and Margerita Theuma, 10 months. Sixteen died on that day – Saturday. Another two victims, Lydia Zammit and Carmela Galea, died over the following days from their wounds. Besides these victims, about 70 people suffered various wounds and some of them were treated at the Gozo General Hospital.

The Sannat Local Council said that the devastation is considered to be the most severe village bombing in Gozo during World War II. The horrible event also resulted in sixteen houses being completely destroyed and sixty badly damaged and left a trail of destruction across the village.

Every year, the Sannat Local Council keeps the memory alive through a musical programme presented by the village's band, Saint Margaret V.M. This year the commemoration event is on Friday, the 10th of October, at 6.45pm, in Main Street (next to the Old School).

The commemoration serves as a poignant reminder of the community's resilience and the importance of remembering those who have perished.

The programme will conclude with the final pass, the Reveille, a moment of silence, and the laying of wreaths.



Your small donation keeps this journal alive

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia)

BSB - 065106

Account No. - 00502597

Name - Frank Scicluna

THANK YOU

For overseas donors - BIC/SWIFT code: CTBAAU2S



DENMARK BECOMES LATEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO PUSH SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER-15S

he Danish prime minister did not specify which social media platforms would be subject to the proposed ban.

Denmark's prime minister is pushing for a ban on social media for children under age 15, saying

mobile phones and social media are "stealing our children's childhood".

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen announced the plan during a speech before the Danish parliament, the Folketing. She called on lawmakers to ban "more" social media for children under 15, with parents able to give their kids permission to use it from the age of 13.

In the European Union, **children must be at least 13** to make social media accounts. But Frederiksen cited data showing that 94 per cent of Danish children had social media before that age. They see things on the screen that they shouldn't," Frederiksen said. She pointed to anxiety, depression, a lack of concentration, and reading problems linked to social media, saying, "we have unleashed a monster".



CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The Maltese Journal

Prof Stephen Gatt MD - NSW

The Maltese community throughout Australia will always be grateful for the immense dedication and unwavering commitment of Mr Frank Scicluna, the editor of the Maltese Journal, has shown over fifty years of selfless, voluntary service to Maltese Australians and our broader diaspora.

I've had the privilege to witness his impactful work firsthand and collaborate with him in numerous settings—the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, the Maltese Language Schools, the Federation of Maltese Abroad, the Journal of the Maltese Living Abroad, and various initiatives promoting Maltese language history, literature, film, and culture.

From the visits of our Prime Ministers and Presidents of Malta to the efforts of the Diplomatic

Service as an honorary Consul for Malta for 17 years Frank has been at the forefront of all endeavours related to the Maltese Australian community. Frank is not just a leader but the vital connection that keeps our now established communities united and thriving. Publishing the Maltese Journal for the Diaspora is a true reflection of his tireless commitment and passion for our cause, serving as an inspiration to many who will follow in his footsteps, driven by the same profound love for our cherished little island home - MALTA





In early 2025, Floriana, Malta, faced a demographic crisis characterized by significant population decline due to residents moving to more modern areas, the conversion of residential properties to commercial use like hotels, and an aging population. In response, the Floriana local council, with support from both major political parties, approved a regeneration plan to address these challenges by

revitalizing public spaces, preserving residential areas, and involving residents in the decision-making process. This plan seeks to reverse the trend of the town becoming a non-residential area with few, if any, residents.

Causes of the demographic crisis

Population decline: People have been moving away from Floriana to find more convenient lifestyles with less congestion, more open space, and modern amenities.

Property conversion: An increasing number of residential properties are being converted into commercial spaces like offices and tourist accommodations (hotels and Airbnbs), which pushes up property prices and diminishes the town's residential character.

Aging population: The population is aging, with the overall number of residents having decreased significantly compared to the period after World War II.

Regeneration plan: The local council has approved a regeneration plan, developed by Deputy Mayor James Aaron Ellul, to address the challenges.

Resident involvement: The plan emphasizes consultation with residents to ensure their views are considered in the regeneration process.

Revitalization of public spaces: The plan includes the revitalization of public spaces to create a more dynamic community and modernizes historic buildings for new uses, according to [The Malta Independent](#) and [Facebook](#).

Preservation of residential core: There is a call for a reassessment of policies to protect the residential core of the town from further conversion to tourist accommodations.

Collaboration: The plan supports collaboration with other localities around the Grand Harbour for a broader regional plan.

OVERPOPULATION AND TRAFFIC

The October MaltaToday survey on concerns puts overpopulation as the top issue of concern with 22.3%, followed closely by traffic at 20.3%.

The shift from 'foreign workers' to 'overpopulation' as the top concern suggests that the Maltese are now more concerned about the impact of a larger population on infrastructure, the environment and public services than about the sheer presence of foreigners in Malta.

With foreign workers contributing to the rapid increase in population, the shift in language used by respondents to describe their topmost concern could also suggest fatigue with tourism that exacerbates the situation.

This result represents the third shift in how the Maltese articulate their concern about the increased number of foreigners living and working in Malta. Before 2019, irregular migration was the specific focus of popular concerns related to the presence of foreigners. This subsequently shifted to concern about foreign workers following a drop in boat arrivals. Now, this concern appears to be more directed towards population growth.

IN MEMORY OF THE MALTESE ANZACS
WORLD WAR 1
 1914 - 1918

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

AGIUS ALBERT	MOSTA	1401	FARRUGIA WILLIAM WALTER	MAITLAND, NSW	2632
AQUILINA CARMELO	NAXXAR	1052	FERRES JOSEPH	VALLETTA	36
ATTARD EMANUEL	GOZO, QALA	4991	GALEA JOHN	SLIEMA	4123
ATTARD PAUL	ZEJTUN	3592	GAUCI FRANK	NAXXAR	1659
ATTARD VINCENT	QORMI	3005	GAUCI JOE	ATTARD	7590
AZZOPARDI ANTHONY	MELLIEHA	7352	HENRY HUGH	SLIEMA	38346
BALDACCHINO GEORGE	SIGGHEWI	7599	MATTEI CHARLES	VALLETTA	MD
BARTOLO CHARLES	MELLIEHA	6402	MICALLEF PAUL	MOSTA	1393
† BARTOLO FRANCESCO	MELLIEHA	823	MICALLEF SALVATORE	BIRKIRKARA	3876
BARUN JOSEPH	VITTORIOSA	227	MIFSUD JOSEPH	GHARGHUR	1382
† BECK WALDEMAR	MSIDA	6969	MIRUZZI ANTHONY	VALLETTA	373
† BELLIA FRANCIS	FLORIANA	7209	PACE JOSEPH	VALLETTA	646
† BONAVIA CHARLES	SLIEMA	157	PALMIER JOSEPH	MSIDA	4262
BORG LORENZO	VALLETTA	2130	PALMIER VINCENT	MSIDA	1106
† BROWN FRANK	VALLETTA	31803	† RIZZO ANTONIO THOMAS	MELBOURNE, VIC	5084
BUSUTTIN BASIL CHARLES	AYR, QLD	3260	RIZZO CHARLES	SENGLEA	7543
CAMILLERI ANDREW	MQABBA	7212	SCHEMBRI CHARLES	NAXXAR	4617
† CAMILLERI BENEDETTO	RABAT	2145	SCHEMBRI FIDELE	NAXXAR	1178 / 85821
CAMILLERI PAOLO	NAXXAR	4753	SCIBERRAS JOHN	COSPICUA	2868
CATALDI ELIGIO	SLIEMA	3615	SCOTT JOSEPH	VALLETTA	94
DALLI JOHN	VALLETTA	1823	VASSALLO CARMELO	ATTARD	2267
DARMANIN GIUSEPPE	COSPICUA	6730	WEST ALFRED	COSPICUA	3517
DEBONO ANDREW	BIRKIRKARA	2160	XUEREB ANTHONY	ATTARD	1055
DEBONO PAUL	BIRKIRKARA	4695	ZAMMIT MICHAEL	MOSTA	1645

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

CAMILLERI CHARLES	MOSTA	57364
CREMONA LOUIS	GOZO, RABAT	55923
MALLIA CHARLES	SENGLEA	10 / 3343
PILLLOW JOHN RICHARD	SLIEMA	15 / 74
VELLA FRANK VICTOR	INVERCARGILL, NZ	35930

† SUPREME SACRIFICE

LEST WE FORGET

MALTESE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, NSW SUB BRANCH
 RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



MALTESE ANZACS FIRST WORLD WAR HONOUR ROLL
GEORGE CROSS FALCONS MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE
CRINGILA NSW AUSTRALIA

Photograph provided by Louis Parnis

The memorial, located at the Maltese Community Centre in Cringila, NSW, features an aluminium plaque mounted on a limestone-block pillar. This plaque honours servicemen of Maltese descent who served during the First World War. The names are organized into two categories based on their affiliation with either the Australian Imperial Force or the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Each name is listed with its corresponding service number and the city or town of birth, whether in Malta or Australia. The plaque also showcases three photographs of veterans, including one of Private Waldemar Beck. This Maltese soldier, with service number 6969, is depicted in a photograph dated 23 December 1916, the same day he departed from Fremantle, Western Australia, bound for Devonport in England aboard HMAT A35 Berrima. Tragically, he succumbed to his wounds in France on 6 July 1918. Situated on a paved area beneath a covered awning within the garden of the George Cross Falcons Maltese Community Centre in Cringila, NSW, near Wollongong, the memorial is flanked by two additional pillars that feature interpretative plaques.

Designed by Louis Parnis, the President of the community centre, the project was developed in collaboration with the RSL archives and with help from South Australian historian Frank Scicluna. The memorial was officially dedicated on 17 April 2021 by the President of the Wollongong RSL sub-Branch, with members from the Maltese Ex-Servicemen's Association RSL sub-Branch also present at the ceremony. As the first memorial of its kind in the area, it is poised to draw local visitors and those from afar, with plans for annual Anzac Day services to take place at this significant site.



Congratulations to
Twanny & Agnes
Mifsud
on the observance of their Golden
Wedding Anniversary
October 19, 2025
Siggiewi, Malta



Wishing two wonderful people God's continued blessings
on their anniversary and always

GREG CARUANA – Pioneer of the Maltese Community of NSW



We hold in our hearts the memory of our dear friend and former correspondent for this Maltese Journal, who sadly passed away on Wednesday, 8 October 2025, in Sydney, Australia. Greg, originally from Mosta, migrated to Australia when he was young and dedicated much of his life to the Maltese community in New South Wales.

As a writer, radio broadcaster, actor, and committee member, he truly made an impact. His kindness and dedication earned him love and respect from everyone who had the privilege of working with him. Greg was a gentle, hardworking, and selfless individual, always putting others first. He was a devoted father, husband, and grandfather. We will cherish his memory and will always remember his warm, gentle smile. May he rest in peace.



MALTA FACES SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN YOUNG POPULATION OVER THE PAST DECADE

Recent government statistics highlight a concerning trend in Malta, revealing a loss of more than 15,000 young citizens aged 16-30 since 2013.

The number of young Maltese individuals has dropped dramatically from 79,560 to just 64,469 by the end of 2023. This sharp decline underscores a growing demographic crisis that experts warn could have lasting effects on Malta's social security system, workforce, and cultural landscape. Compounding this issue is the country's plummeting fertility rate, which stands at an alarming 1.06 live births per woman, significantly below the EU average and far from the replacement rate of 2.1 necessary for a stable population.

Research from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation indicates a troubling forecast, projecting Malta's fertility rate—which was 1.53 in 2021—to decline further to 1.39 by 2050 and drop to as low as 1.26 by 2100. This represents a stark change from 1950 when the fertility rate was approximately 4.04, highlighting a dramatic shift in family planning and demographic trends over the decades. Furthermore, the birth statistics for 2023 reveal that of the 4,462 babies born last year, only 2,688 had two Maltese parents, while 1,220 were born to foreign parents.

This trend emphasizes the increasing influence of immigration on Malta's population dynamics. Despite an overall population increase of 24.5% since 2011 - now totaling 550 000 residents—this growth is predominantly fuelled by foreign migration, with more than one in four residents being foreign nationals. The shrinking native youth population, coupled with an aging demographic, poses a potential strain on the social security system and pensions in the years to come.

Projections suggest that a smaller pool of young contributors will need to support an increasing number of retirees, as foreign workers continue to fill gaps in the labour market. Some estimates even indicate that foreign workers could surpass Maltese nationals in the workforce by 2050. Additionally, the average age for women giving birth is rising, nearing 31 years, with native Maltese women experiencing even lower fertility rates than the national average.

SOLIDARITY

by Our Correspondent Fr. Emanuel Parnis mssp

REFLECTION - How many times do we interconnect with so many people acting in mutual concern and more and more in an unlimited cooperation in a brotherly way. We as humans, feel obliged to help others who feel that they are so distressed, and so, need our immediate attention. We are those who feel that by integrating our efforts with those of others, can succeed in having the best results at the end of the day from the social, human and spiritual point of view. By committing ourselves to the well being of others, we can build strong and unified community bonds, and by so doing, we can come to terms with the root causes of all our human suffering.

By an unlimited support to others, we are giving them a testimony of our willingness to share with them, all the burdens and hurdles that they might be facing when they fall apart in total disillusionment. However, by standing up as one body together, with all the active members functioning together, we can build that beautiful atmosphere of hope and communal resilience.

By working in unison and acting in a social and humane way, we are giving a wonderful message to our brethren, that we are recognizing the burden that our folks face every now and then on their own and so, in a voluntary way, we wish to share with them our willingness to help and support.

So, what we really want to do, is to focus on their sudden or prolonged realities, and move ourselves to action with so much love and determination to facilitate some progress in uplifting the moral of those who are suffering and feel helpless and hopeless by being alone. We want to be in their shoes at that precarious moment to support them. By intervening, and integrating our efforts with theirs, we are freeing them from all the obstacles present in their lives, so that they can go along unhindered once again and continue to build and live a normal life in peace and harmony with others.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

MENTAL HEALTH

The Maltese community Centre at Parkville, Victoria was provided to celebrate International Mental Health Day .Channel 31 captured the event on film, and it will soon be broadcast for all to see. MHFA and Channel 31 expressed heartfelt gratitude to Madam President Antonia Camilleri for generously providing the venue, enabling over 70 people to come together and inspire positive change.



As of Saturday 11th October, at 10:00am, Ta' Kola Windmill in Xagħra, Gozo, reopens its doors to the public following a temporary closure due to an accident caused by inclement weather.

During a routine inspection following the storm, the windmill's vanes collapsed onto the mill's roof, due to the extensive damage they had sustained by the elements and bad weather. The collapse of the vanes caused damage to the ceilings and led to the hospitalization of three Heritage Malta employees doing the inspection.

During the past week, repair works were carried out on the building's roof and structure so that the windmill can welcome visitors once more. In the meantime, works have also commenced to repair the vanes – a task expected to be completed in the coming months due to the extensive damage suffered.

The three workers involved in the accident are on the way to recovery, with one of them already back at work.

Ta' Kola Windmill is one of the few surviving windmills on the Maltese Islands dating back to the Knights' period. With a 300-year history, the mill is a living testimony of our forefathers' arduous lifestyle, which involved taking grain to the miller to obtain flour for the daily production of bread.

Visit the windmill to catch a closer glimpse of this process from a bygone era!

**SUBSCRIBE NOW AND YOU WON'T MISS A THING
IT'S FREE, BILINGUAL AND APOLITICAL**



SNOOKER ICON - MALTA TONY DRAGO

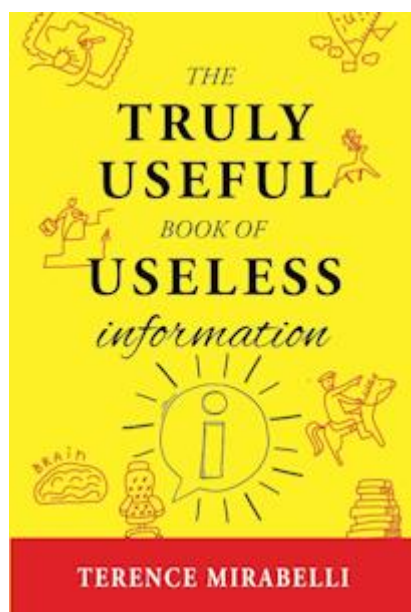
In Reading, England, Maltese snooker icon Tony Drago has once again cemented his legacy by clinching victory at the Legends League 900 competition. This event marked the inaugural tournament aired on the newly launched Pluto Snooker 900 TV channel. At the age of sixty, Drago showcased his exceptional skills, winning all three matches he contested and claiming the top spot. Notably, he triumphed over 1986 world champion Joe Johnson with a score of 3-1, earning Johnson the runner-up position. Drago's impressive performance included two crushing victories: he defeated Tony Knowles 4-0 and former world champion John Parrott, also by a score of 4-0. The tournament utilized a fast-paced format where each frame had a maximum duration of 15 minutes, with

players required to make their shot within a 20-second countdown. Interestingly, the launch of Pluto Snooker 900 TV occurred earlier this week, on Monday, featuring two exhibition matches, one of which showcased Drago going head-to-head against Jimmy White.

THE TRULY USEFUL BOOK OF USELESS INFORMATION'

AUTHOR: TERENCE MIRABELLI

PUBLISHER: FARAXA PUBLISHING PAGES: 230



The truly useful book of useless information is book of trivia with a Maltese bias written by veteran journalist Terence Mirabelli.

Most books on trivia are one-liners. They tell you a fact, amazing or otherwise, and leave it at that. There's no explanation. In The truly useful book of useless information, Mirabelli provides more detail along with explanations as to why things are the way they are. Hence the entries are slightly longer.

In this fascinating paperback you'll find all the things you didn't think you'd need to know, but really wanted to, like the fact that the average Maltese person eats more than 60 tonnes of food in their lifetime, and will eventually be buried six feet under - and why six feet and not seven or eight?

Or were you aware that bits of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World are now in Malta? Or that a Birkirkara-born man

became the ruling prince of Moldova? Or that a Maltese woman became the only female knight when the Order of St John ruled the islands. Or that a tree that Moses accidentally planted still exists? And that there's a cemetery for dead ice creams? Did you know that a Christian cult held that ignorance was the way to salvation? Or that the first heart surgery in Malta was performed in 1918? There's lots more to discover between the book's covers. 'The truly useful book of useless information' is available from Agenda bookshops or directly from Faraxa Publishing at <https://www.faraxabooks.com/product/the-truly-useful-book-of-useless-information>. Delivery is free.

FACTS ABOUT THE WONDERFUL ISLAND OF MALTA

Fascinating Insights About the Incredible Island of Malta You might just picture Malta as a little slice of paradise with sunshine, crystal-clear waters, and historical architecture. However, there's a wealth of intriguing surprises waiting to be discovered in this petite nation. Check out these mind-blowing facts!

1. **No Forests Here!** That's correct—Malta lacks any forests at all! It's predominantly rocky and sun-drenched with a pretty dry climate.
2. **Home to the Oldest Structures** Malta boasts temples that predate the pyramids of Egypt. Incredible, right?
3. **Snow?** Kind of! Snowfall is a rare event in Malta, but in 2019, some minuscule snowflakes made an appearance. The locals were taken aback!
4. **Cat Paradise** The island is populated by stray cats, some of which even have cozy shelters and dedicated Instagram accounts!
5. **A Bilingual Nation** Maltese and English are both spoken here, so you won't have to worry about getting lost.
6. **No Rivers or Mountains** Malta is devoid of lakes, rivers, or mountains—just the vast blue sea surrounding it!
7. **A Game of Thrones Filming Location** The first season of this iconic show was filmed in Malta, turning locations like King's Landing into a stunning backdrop.
8. **Bright Yellow Buses** Once Roamed While the buses are modern now, many still fondly remember the old, vibrant, and noisy yellow ones bouncing along the roads.
9. **Popeye's Village** The movie "Popeye" was filmed in Malta, and the charming set is still intact, now serving as a delightful theme park.
10. **Driving on the Left** Just like in the UK, keep in mind to look right before crossing the street!
11. **Tiny but Rich in Culture** You can traverse the island in less than an hour, and yet it proudly holds three UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
12. **The National Animal** Malta's national animal is the Pharaoh Hound, resembling a dog from ancient Egypt and known for its impressive speed.
13. **Safety First** Malta is one of the safest places in Europe, with low crime rates making it a great choice for family visits.
14. **Rabbits are a Maltese Favorite** Rabbit dishes are beloved here, making it an unofficial national dish!
15. **Carnival Fever Every February**, locals don exuberant costumes and celebrate in the streets—a sun-soaked twist on Halloween festivities!
16. **Unique Culinary Delights** Maltese enjoy an array of special dishes, including snails, octopus, sea urchins, artichokes, and tripe. Ready to explore the wonders of Malta? Let the adventure begin!



The **Nobel Peace Prize**^[a] is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments manufacturer Alfred Nobel, along with the prizes in Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature.

Since March 1901,^[5] it has been awarded annually (with some exceptions) to people who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing

armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses".^[1] *The Oxford Dictionary of Contemporary History* describes it as "the most prestigious prize in the world".

In accordance with Nobel's will, the recipient is selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, a five-member committee appointed by the Parliament of Norway. The prize award ceremony has been held in Oslo City Hall since 1990, previously in the assembly hall of the University of Oslo (1947–1989), Norwegian Nobel Institute (1905–1946), and the Parliament (1901–1904).

Due to its political nature, the Nobel Peace Prize has for most of its history been subject to numerous controversies. The 2025 prize was awarded to María Corina Machado "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy".^[8] This caused criticism due to her denial of the Gaza genocide and ties to Benjamin Netanyahu.

