



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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**MALTA
NATIONAL
DAY**

**SETTE GIUGNO
7 JUNE
7 TA' GUNJU
1919**

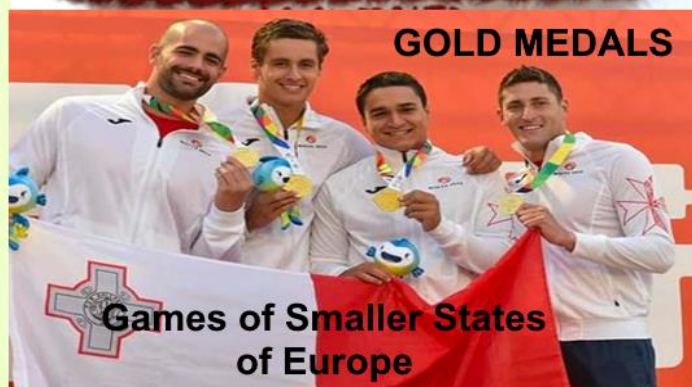
**British troops fired into the crowd
killing four and injuring 50**



**PRESIDENT VELLA VISITS
CANADIAN-MALTESE COMMUNITY**



A CAKE FIT FOR A PRESIDENT



GOLD MEDALS

**Games of Smaller States
of Europe**



**Trudy Crowley Foundation
Ovarian Palliative Care Nurses
Rosie Standard & Chris Giannengelo**

**Mackay Maltese Club
Presenting \$2000 Cheque
President Rose Borg & Treasurer Janis Vella**

**Jared Micallef
gold medal in athletics**



**MEETING THE MALTESE DIASPORA
CANADA**



**Tennis
player
Elaine
Genovese**



**Flag
Bearer**

Photo;
Matthew
Mirabell

The Voice to Parliament

On 30 March 2023, the constitutional amendment and referendum question were introduced into Parliament through the Constitution Alteration Bill. Both the question and terms of the constitutional

amendment may change as a result of consideration in Parliament.

Referendum question

On referendum day, voters will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a single question. Subject to the Parliament's approval, the question on the ballot paper will be:

"A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

Constitutional amendment The proposed law that Australians are being asked to approve at the referendum would insert the following lines into the Constitution:

"Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- 1. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;*
- 2. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;*
- 3. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures."*

Constitution Alteration Bill

The Government has introduced the Constitution Alteration Bill into Parliament. The Bill sets the question that will be put to the Australian people later this year and includes the proposed alteration to the Constitution.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee will consider the Bill and report by 15 May 2023. Further information on the inquiry can be obtained from the [Committee's website](#).

You can follow the progress on the Constitution Alteration Bill on the [Parliament of Australia website](#).



A computer-generated render of the proposed project provided by DB Group.

Court decision means City Centre project at St George's Bay will go ahead



The Maltese Journal acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connections to land, culture and environment and pays its respects to Elders past and present and emerging

Sette Giugno in Malta: what's it all about?

'Seventh of June' in Italian, *Sette Giugno* is a Maltese national holiday celebrated annually which commemorates events that occurred on 7th June 1919 when, following a series of riots by the Maltese population, British troops fired into the crowd, killing four and injuring 50.

It was right after World War I, and the Maltese people were hungry. As with the rest of Europe, the war had caused disruptions in agriculture and the food industry. Since imports were limited, prices rose and food became scarce. It was this scarcity and the heavy military presence on the island which made a select few wealthier, while the masses became more and more deprived.

The unrest began to simmer with small uprisings demanding higher wages for the increasing cost of living. The first meeting of the National Assembly in the winter of 1919 was to consider a resolution which would have meant independence from the British Empire. This resolution was brought forth by the extreme nationalist faction and was completely opposed to the original resolution.

"Now the angry mob was set into motion, and proceeded through Valletta to break windows, hurl insults at officers and soldiers, remove the Union Jack where found, and ransack offices of wealthy merchants."

Currents of extremism began to run high. The same day as the National Assembly, crowds attacked shopkeepers who had remained open during the meeting, which were stopped by the force of the police.

The second National Assembly meeting was set in Valletta for 7th June of the same year. This time, the crowds were even tenser. A few days before the meeting, the incoming governor for the islands, Lord Plumer, was to decide whether the Maltese were to play a larger role in the administration of the country. The people were split in two; those mistrusting of the British and those for it. Police forces and postal employees were on the brink of striking. A couple of days before the National Assembly meeting, the police asked for a number of soldiers to be posted in Castille, in anticipation of upheaval.

On 7th June, the situation immediately flared upon a misunderstanding. The Union Flag was required to be flown at half mast due to the death of the President of the Court a few days earlier. When the crowd caught sight of the Maltese flag defaced with the Union Jack flying above the 'A la Ville de Londres' flag, it ignited anger, resulting in the crowd forcibly removing the flag and flagpole. Now the angry mob was set into motion, and proceeded through Valletta to break windows, hurl insults at officers and soldiers, remove the Union Jack where found, and ransack offices of wealthy merchants. Factions of the main crowd broke off to attack the homes of Imperial government supporters and profiteering traders.

It was late afternoon when military support was called in, and a mere 64 soldiers from the Composite Battalions entered the police headquarters to contain thousands. Small groups of soldiers in various areas of Valletta were surrounded by raging crowds who were throwing objects and stones. With his revolver stolen, the captain reached a troop of 24 soldiers and directed them to Strada Forni, where the biggest uprising was taking place. Here, the soldiers were posted along the street, facing in both directions and were ordered not to shoot without being directed to do so. The soldiers took their positions, aiming at the crowd – which then retreated.

A shot was heard from the direction of one of the houses being ransacked. In response, one of the soldiers shot a round into the crowd, with the rest of the troop following. The officer in charge shouted for a ceasefire. Meanwhile, at the offices of the Daily Malta Chronicle, there was a smell of gas in the building, which caused the Lieutenant to order his men outside. To clear the crowd and allow the men out, the Lieutenant ordered a soldier to shoot low, away from the crowd. One man in the crowd was killed. During this initial uprising, three died and 50 were injured.

Disturbances continued the next day, until 140 navy marines were dispatched to clear the streets of people. However, smaller uprisings around the island continued, despite the fatalities and casualties of 7th June.

In 1986, the Sette Giugno monument was inaugurated at Palace Square in Valletta. The Maltese Parliament declared the day to be one of the five national days of the island, with the first official remembrance of the day occurring on 7th June, 1989.



President of Malta meets Maltese community in Canada



The President of Malta, George Vella, began his engagements in Toronto, Canada, with a meeting with representatives of Maltese Canadian associations from different fields – from sports to traditions and religious, commercial, missionary, band, and social associations.

During the meeting, President Vella remarked that the size of our country was never a problem to be respected worldwide. “I am glad to see how the first generation of Maltese is passing on the baton to younger community members”, stated the President while following with interest their plans to continue with their work through outreach projects on culture, inclusion and diversity.

“I am impressed that even though you have left Malta many years ago, you still maintain ties with Malta and visit often,” said the President, while encouraging them not to forget where they left from. Present at the meeting were representatives, among others, of the Maltese Canadian Federation, Lehen Malti, Melita Soccer Club, Malta Band Club, Gozo Club Toronto/Maltese Canadian Gozo Association, Maltese United Society of Windsor, Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton

(MCACH), Malta Village Association, the Maltese-Canadian Museum and Archives, Volunteer Group, the Festa San Ġorġ Committee, and the St Paul the Apostle Mission Group.

Accompanied by the Minister for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, Byron Camilleri, President Vella also had a meeting with the Consul General for Malta in Toronto, Denise Demicoli, as well as with the Honorary Consuls of British Colombia, Alberta, and Quebec. Also present at the meeting were Canadian representatives on the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA).

The President and Mrs Vella also visited the ongoing works on the long-term care facility at Runnymede Healthcare Centre, which is located in an area known as “Little Malta” and which has strong ties to the Maltese community in Toronto. The President and CEO of Runnymede Healthcare Centre, Connie Dejak, explained to President Vella that the current works will increase places for the Maltese elderly in need of long-term care. At this centre, the President met and spoke with workers of Maltese descent and met with the relatives of an elderly Maltese woman who has been receiving care there for several years.



Together with the Maltese delegation in Canada, on Sunday morning Dr and Mrs Vella attended a symbolic ceremony during which the Maltese flag was raised in Malta Park - an area that has links with the Maltese Canadian community. Afterwards they attended Mass celebrated by Fr Massimo Buttigieg at the St. Paul the Apostle Church, located in the neighbourhood known as "Little Malta" in Toronto.

President George Vella emphasises the role of traditions in fostering national unity and urges the Maltese community in Canada to actively participate in cultural activities, religious events, language classes, and culinary traditions



The President with the Maltese Canadian Business Network Association (MCBNA)



The President with an interactive meeting with Maltese Canadian associations.



Ladies' luncheon in honour of Mrs Vella, the First Lady, at the Melita Soccer Club.



The President had a meeting with the Hon Consuls of British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec and with the Canadian representatives on the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. They discussed the reality of the Maltese communities in Canada, the challenges they are facing and the initiatives they are taking to keep the community united and informed.



On Saturday afternoon Dr. Vella had the pleasure of meeting members of the Maltese community in Hamilton, Ontario. They spoke about their life here, and some of them told even said that even though they left Malta around 60 years ago, they still feel a strong connection to their homeland. They met at Liuna Station, the place where in the past thousands of Maltese arrived to start a new life in Canada.



In Toronto, the President and the First Lady visited two food establishments that have a strong connection with Malta - Malta's Finest Pastries and Malta Bake Shop, which still keep Malta's culinary traditions alive abroad and are famous for the pastizzi.

OTHER NEWS - MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY TORONTO

THE COMMUNITY OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE, is a Maltese Canadian personal Parish, founded on September 8, 1930, and administered by the Archdiocese of Toronto. The parish is a faith community reflecting the gospel values of Christ according to the teaching and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. It serves the Maltese community, welcoming also other people from other nationalities. Their mission is to follow Christ by sharing the gifts of time, talent and treasure: by imitating Christ; and by giving witness to faith through our everyday lives.

WELCOME DEACON RAYMOND FREND The Parish of St Paul the Apostle is pleased to announce that His Grace, Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, appointed Mr. Raymond Frendo to serve our community as Permanent Deacon. His appointment began as of

May 1st, 2023.

Deacon Ray returns to be with the Maltese Canadian community after having served as a Lay Pastoral Minister over 25 years ago. The Parish welcomes his return as he now serves through his ordination as a Permanent Deacon. Please keep Deacon Ray, his wife Teresa and family in your prayers, as their journey of faith at St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Church continues.



Buy Haġar Qim or the Twistees Factory in the game - Monopoly Malta

The modernised local version of the famous board game features well-known landmarks and businesses instead of street names

Giulia Magri

Monopoly Malta portrays a colourful photomontage of all things representing the island.

Photo: Jonathan Borg

Fourteen years after local board game enthusiasts finally got their hands on the Maltese edition of Monopoly, a new version of the popular board game is hitting shelves in shops today.

Monopoly Malta, crafted by local company Modeltoys, was revealed yesterday evening.

The game, however, no longer features street names but local businesses and well-known landmarks.

Now you can personalise Monopoly, make it represent what life truly is like in Malta by having a combination of culture, local heritage and local businesses- Modeltoys managing director Karl Camilleri

The [2008 Monopoly Malta](#), the brainchild of Sabrina Mulligan, showcased the Mnajdra Temples on the box and featured localities across the island in their original Maltese names.

The modernised Monopoly Malta ditched the classic sea foam green background colour for the board and replaced it with a colourful photomontage of locations and companies which Modeltoys believes best represent the island.

The board features the coastline of Valletta and the clear blue sea waters, with a backdrop of Comino. It also shows pictures of the popular shopping centre Tigne and the Malta International Airport.

The rules of the game remain the same. But now players no longer buy a random street in Naxxar. Instead, they can purchase Haġar Qim, the Twistees Factory or the Triton Fountain.

So, why ditch the street names?

"We believe the connection to a location is much stronger than the connection one has to a street," managing director at Modeltoys, Karl Camilleri told Times of Malta.

Camilleri, along with his son, Luke Camilleri and nephew, Mark Pace, spent two years bringing the new localised Monopoly to life.

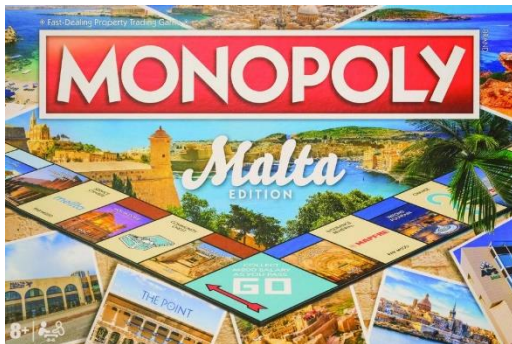
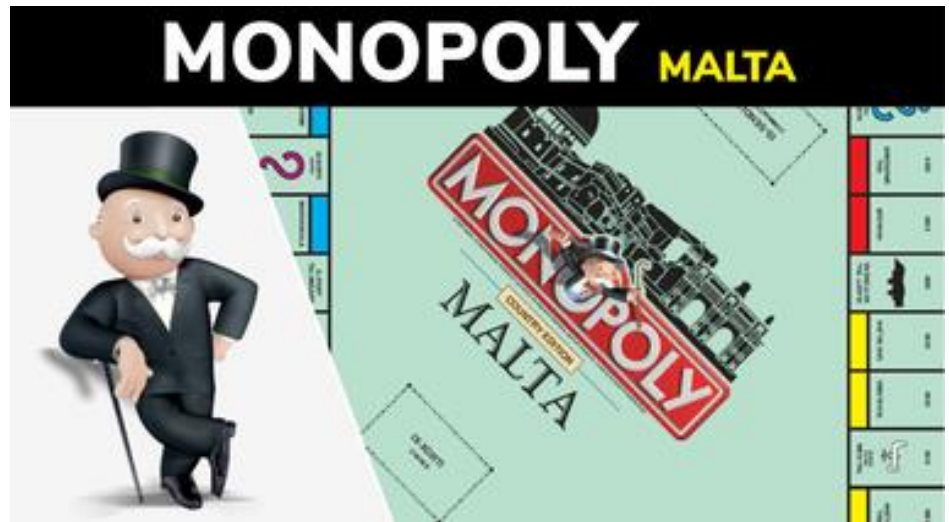
"Most of the time you don't even know the name of the street you are in. As a local, we have all been to St John's Co-Cathedral, Mosta Dome or the airport."

He said the company bought the rights to produce the game from Hasbro and Winning Moves.

The team spent two years bringing the new localised Monopoly to life.

"In previous editions, you could only have a street name but now you can personalise Monopoly, make it represent what life truly is like in Malta by having a combination of culture, local heritage and local businesses," he said. With just 25 tiles on the board, Camilleri said one of the biggest challenges was picking which companies and brands will feature on it. "We wanted to make sure that the places or companies we opted for are well known and loved by locals and tourists alike," he said.

Apart from the locations and companies found on the board, Camilleri said the Chance and Community Chest cards also have a local touch, mentioning events such as Birgufest or popular shops such as Antonio's Barber.



None of the companies knew where they would be placed on the board until the launch yesterday.

"Of course, everyone wants to know where and whom they were going to be placed next to but that has been a secret for the past two years," Camilleri said.

The game, he added, begins and ends with players landing on heritage and cultural sites.

All sponsors on the board had to pay a fee. Unfortunately, Modeltoys were unable to change the Monopoly pieces.

"We hoped to have had a little pastizzi or a crane piece," Camilleri said.

Unlike the first Malta Monopoly, the game is not in Maltese.

He said that people from Canada and Australia have already reached out to Modeltoys to get their hands on the new Monopoly. Even the holder of the Guinness World Record for the largest collection of Monopoly boards has contacted the local shop. Monopoly Malta is priced at €49.99, with the classic Monopoly priced at €39.99.



TENSION BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Written by author and poet Immanuel Mifsud in collaboration with Theatre Anon., *That Tree in the Middle of a Street* is a walking show that tells the story of a particular street where everyone knows everyone, and everyone knows everything, or not exactly everything, but almost. The false pressures and promises of progress are putting pressure on the community and the majestic tree at the end of this long road. This is the old tree that, according to the guild, has been there long before the road. Has the tree become a nuisance? That's what we think. Or so we heard.

Mifsud looks at the tension between the past and the present and gives us a story that is both real and metaphorical, with a powerful element of magical realism. Filled with fantastic characters and a cast of over 20 of the show's artists, this production will be full of emotions, magical visuals, acrobatics, memorable songs and a truly uniquely launched emotion.

With 90% of the set and costumes recycled, this production is one that is environmentally conscious. This theatrical work will be the first time that we will be launching work on the MCAST Paola campus, next to our new offices, and will open during the Malta International Arts Festival.

This project is being carried out in collaboration with Theatre Anon. for the Malta International Arts Festival and is supported by MCAST and the Arts Council Malta.

THEATRICAL TALK: June 16, 2023

TAXI THEATER: LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME! Benefit from a 10% discount (up to EUR2) with eCabs you are going and leaving 'That Tree in the Middle of a Road' using the promotional code *****(with **** we mean the 4 digits referring to the date and month of the show you are attending, for example 'TAXITEATRU1606') on your eCabs app.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This production moves from place to place and thus the audience wants to march behind the actor and the naughty band. Accordingly, the audience will be asked to stand up for some parts of the show and sit down during others. The show lasts an hour and a half.



**Mackay Maltese Club
Selling Tickets
Janis Vella, Veronica Gauci, Doris Gauci**



**Trudy Crowley Foundation
Founder & Vision Advocate
Jacquie Camilleri**

Mackay Maltese Club Queensland Australia

The Mackay Maltese Club had the pleasure of hosting a Morning Tea and Cent Sale at Rose & Joe Borgs Residency. It was a beautiful day with many goodies and wins. The club invited members of the Trudy Crowley Foundation along to talk about ovarian cancer and the importance of getting checked.

We received a talk from Ovarian Cancer Ambassador Bridgeen Doherty who is currently on her own ovarian cancer journey. Founder and Vision Advocate Jacquie Camilleri spoke to us about the foundations vision of a palliative care sanctuary. Board member Cr Pauline Townsend & Patron of the foundation Cr Fran Mann were in attendance showing their support to this great cause.

The Mackay Maltese Club donated \$2000 to the Trudy Crowley Foundation, to go towards the palliative care sanctuary, this cheque was presented to Ovarian Palliative Care Nurses Rosie Standard & Chris Giannengelo. Thank you to all who attended and helped with the day. We appreciate your ongoing support. Veronica Gauci MMC Secretary



**Trudy Crowley Foundation
Ovarian Cancer Ambassador
Bridgeen Doherty**



**Costa
Georgiadis**

MACKAY MALTESE CLUB JOIN IN 20TH BOTANIC GARDENS CELEBRATION

On Saturday 27 May 2023 the committee of the Mackay Maltese Club were invited to join in the Mackay Botanic Gardens 20th Celebration. Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia was a guest speaker. The MMC displayed beautiful produce that grows in Malta. The Maltese products were for sale.

**Photo: committee members of the Mackay Maltese Club:
Janis Vella, Veronica Gauci, Doris Gauci**





In Tardun, Western Australia the boys were forbidden to speak the Maltese language with other Maltese residents and was subjected to beatings whenever they were heard speaking it



More than 300 children emigrated from Malta to Australia between 1950 and 1965 under the child migration to Australia scheme. The aim of the programme was to help orphaned and neglected children in Malta find a new life in Australia by putting them in Catholic institutions there.



Children in a wilderness of despair: the Australian horror of Maltese youth migrants

were part of the historic 'safety valve' that ensured children in poverty in Malta could have a chance at a decent life in the industrialised post-war world.

"I had no idea about the child migrants,"

Sultana says. "And when I read the report, I wanted the



world to know about it."

Manny Ellul, the middle brother in the Ellul family, was Sultana's first lead to the story, through one of the comments he posted on his younger brother Raphael's testimony, one of the main victims of the Christian Brothers' abuse. Now 73, at 10 years of age Raphael was sent to Australia under the

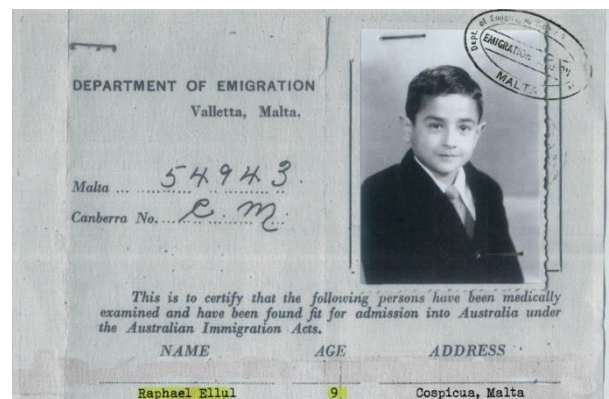
Maltese filmmaker Dery Sultana meets the siblings who endured the horror of the Christian Brothers in Tardun, to commit their story to film. He wants the Maltese to learn what happened to the child migrants shipped off to an uncertain destiny by **Matthew Vella**

Just a child: Raphael Ellul before embarking on his Australian adventure

On 18 February 2017, Dery Sultana is on a train to Sydney when his sister calls him from Malta. Sultana, a creative and video editor whose muscle had been part of the Where's Everybody atelier back in its heyday, is looking for a feature film idea. Here it is, says his sister – a MaltaToday report on the horrific sexual and violent abuse endured by Maltese child migrants in Tardun, a middle-of-nowhere outpost in Western Australia where the Congregation of the Christian Brothers educated and trained a small army of kids and teens.

"That report marked the start of a five-year project," Sultana tells me of the article on the Australian Royal Commission hearings into child sexual abuse, which showed that 7% Australia's Catholic priests had been accused of abusing children in the six decades since 1950. By far the worst was the order of the St John of God Brothers, where a staggering 40% of religious brothers are believed to have abused children; 22% of Christian Brothers and 20% of Marist Brothers, both orders that run schools, were alleged perpetrators.

The Ellul brothers, which Sultana's film focuses on, where among the 259 boys and 51 girls from Malta who were sent to Catholic institutions in Western Australia and South Australia. They too



Catholic Child Migration Scheme with two of his brothers. "I was not allowed to speak Maltese with any of the Maltese boys at Tardun," Ellul had told the Royal Commission, typical of his time, unable to speak English. "I remember that if I was heard by a brother to say anything in Maltese, I was smacked, hit with a strap and sometimes punched with a fist."

Raphael Ellul sits on a bench during filming of Who Would You Tell?

"The children who came here did not speak one word of English," Sultana reflects. "They were sent into a world of child slave-labour, under the pretext that they were being taught trade skills.

Their lives evolved so differently to other children, and they belong to a generation which back then just did not speak up about the problems afflicting them – it was a generation that lived with shame.” Their prospective education in Australia was sold to them as an “adventure”, but working in Tardun was nothing short of full-on farmwork: moving heavy superphosphate and wheat bags, clearing land, cutting down trees, burning off, constructing miles and miles of fencing, milking cows at four every morning, shearing sheep, and baling wool. 250,000 acres of land with some 300,000 sheep, 1,000 head of cattle, 500 pigs and some 6,000 acres of crops.

Kids at Tardun, still from *Who Would You Tell?*

The school became notorious for the sexual abuse visited upon other Maltese child migrants, with one witness, V.G., to the Royal Commission testifying on gang-rapes from the brothers and being forced to perform oral sex on several brothers. When in 1967, a Maltese delegation visit the Tardun school – V.G. believes it could have been an education minister, possibly Alexander Cachia Zammit – he tried to report what was happening in the school. The Brothers used inch-thick leather straps they hung to their sides to strike blows to the back of a boy's thighs. “Brother Kelly seemed to me to love hurting the boys... A particular brother, Brother Roy Ackery, used a large narrow strap which had hacksaw blades stitched into it,” Raphael Ellul recalled.

The school at Tardun, still from *Who Would You Tell?*

Ellul left Tardun bereft of any real education, drifting into a motorcycle gang at 19, becoming an alcoholic for nine years before giving up the vice upon his second marriage. He said the abuse rendered him sexually inept with his first wife, stultified by Catholic guilt, as well as suicidal. “What happened to me was I lost my country, I lost

my language, I lost my culture, I lost my family, and I lost any chance of a decent career.”

Dery Sultana has managed to recount this story through the testimonies of Raphael, Manny and their older brother Peter, who has now passed. Peter, a teen who left the school when his brother was left behind to endure the abuse, remains a sceptic of the abuse visited on his young brothers. “Age gave these children a different perspective on the abuse that was going on,” Dery Sultana says. “But I am happy that I managed to get all perspectives on board, even though it sometimes gives a contrasting view.”

Dery Sultana

Historian Henry Frendo, the late Monsignor Philip Calleja – who led the Church's emigrants commission for decades – and former prime minister Lawrence Gonzi, whose uncle was Archbishop Michael Gonzi up to the mid-1970s, also feature in Sultana's documentary, appropriately entitled ‘Who Would You Tell?’.

“Calleja went twice to Tardun, and he did ask the questions... it's all in the film really... I mean, the fact is that this was not a horror story for everyone. The ones unlucky enough to be fancied by the Brothers, endured that horror,” Sultana says.

For the Maltese viewers of ‘Who Would You Tell?’, Sultana hopes they can understand the reality of poverty in Malta after WWII, a determining factor in pushing out children into what was supposed to be a better world for them, in a scheme concocted by the Church to also empty their orphanages... I don't mean it to be anti-Church. The reality of these children was that they were transplanted from the dense urban towns in an island, to an Australian expanse in which they had no hope of finding any help for their ordeal. Who would, they tell?”

Source – Maltatoday.com.mt



Can you identify this man?

The mystery man who the National Archives of Australia is seeking to identify. The archives are trying to identify a man whose photograph was separated from his file.

The bundle it was in covers Maltese migrants with surnames ranging from Tabone to Zuereb (Xuereb?) who arrived in Melbourne. The photograph likely dates from around 1949 to 1950.

Can you help the National Archives put a name to the face and reunite the photograph with the right records?

Contact the Australia National archives - www.naa.gov.au/



Louis Cilia

A newspaper article from the Record, Perth, of April 30, 1950, recording the arrival of 27 Maltese child migrants.

Barry Coldrey, who has written extensively on child migration to Australia, wrote the following on Maltese child migration:

"Child migration from Malta was a marginal feature of Maltese emigration in general. It was first mooted in the 1930s when the Catholic Religious Congregation of the Christian Brothers, through their regional higher superior in Western Australia, Brother P.A. Conlon, was negotiating with the Catholic Emigration Society (UK) regarding child migrants from Catholic institutions in the UK to the Brothers' institutions in Western Australia for training and assimilation before their placement in employment. Some Maltese Catholic leaders in Australia were anxious for their institutional children to be included in the scheme."

On February 23, 1950, an agreement was signed between the Australian Catholic Migration Committee and the Maltese government for the admission of children from Malta into Catholic institutions in Australia. They undertook to train the children to fit them for life in Australia. About 370 Maltese children, mostly from institutions like St Joseph's Institute in Hamrun and St Patrick's in Sliema, emigrated to Australia between 1950 to 1965. The parents or legal guardians of the Maltese children involved were required to sign a declaration before the children's departure to Australia that they had no objection to releasing the children under the child migration scheme. This is, however, not the impression that has been given by some former child migrants in Australia in sworn testimony before Australian parliamentary commissions that, unfortunately, has not been critically examined.

Almost all critics have taken a hostile view of the Christian Brothers' efforts in Australia, conveniently

Maltese boys maimed, injured in 1955 accident in Australia

forgetting the many other success stories, including those of children who acquired large farms of their own or made successful careers in various professions, employment and vocations, including priesthood. One has to also keep in mind that in practice, the Maltese child migrant was a young lad preceding family members to Australia or with close relatives already living there.

Coldrey adds: "For Maltese young people, life in Australian institutions posed difficult adjustment problems... However, for most of the children, the experience prepared them for adjustment to Australian society, and offered them opportunities not currently available in Malta."

A very serious accident happened on December 15, 1955. It illustrates the care with which children in these schools were treated. At about 7.15am on the South West Highway from Clontarf Boys School near Perth, a bus was travelling at normal speed. From inside the bus was coming the sound of happy singing by 53 boys from the school who were excited by the prospect of passing the festive season in the homes of volunteer private families.

The driver of the bus was Brother Patrick Doyle, a cherry Irish man who was proud of the brand new bus donated to the school by a local businessman from Perth with the school emblem and the words 'Clontarf Boys' prominently painted on both sides of the bus. As they approached a narrow bridge, Doyle slowed down to allow a tip-up truck to pass from the opposite direction.

For unknown reasons, the driver of the tip-up drove the truck very close to the school bus and in the process ripped open the entire side of the bus. The inside of the bus became a mangled mess with crushed seats, metal crazily jutting out in all directions, and blood everywhere. Doyle had the presence of mind to pull over on the side of the road and thus avoid further disaster.

Of the 53 young passengers, one was dead and 19 others maimed or seriously injured. Due to the height at which the truck's edge ploughed through the side of the bus, most of the boys on that side had legs either severed or crushed.

The injured boys were put into cars, ambulances or other vehicles available on site and urgently transferred to the nearest hospitals. Doctors, nurses,

aid workers and police rushed to the scene of the accident to provide first aid and other urgent necessities. Blood donors were soon queuing at hospitals to provide blood to the injured boys.

The Maltese boys injured were Anthony Bugeja, 13 from Msida, amputation of both legs; Alister Carr, 11 from St Julian's, fracture of tibia, fibia, fractured right femur; Charles Gatt, 13 from St Patrick's Institute, Sliema, fractured right tibia and fibia, amputation of left leg mid-calf; Joseph Bugeja, 15 from Qrendi, amputation of both legs; George Littleton, 12 from Paola, lacerated liver, scalp and right thigh; Anthony Grech, 11 from Birżebbuġa, fracture of right leg and Carmelo Vassallo, 13 from Mgarr, injuries to neck.

Little is known what happened afterwards to these boys but a trust fund was established by the Federal government of Australia to ensure that the victims got a handsome sum on attaining the age of 21.

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

This journal is not a business venture.
The editor, staff and correspondents are volunteers
and we don't publish this newsletter for money.
It is free and non-political.

Our aim is to promote Malta and Gozo
and the history, culture of The Maltese Islands.
We are proud of those Maltese who live abroad
and made a good name for themselves
and for their homeland

King Charles keenly interested in visiting Villa

Guardamangia - Charles Xuereb



In republican Malta, the State, through its main arm on heritage, is inexplicably spending €15 million on a museum for the colonialist ruler rather than for the colonised

Villa Guardamangia: Should the State spend €15m for a former colonialist?

On the first Monday after King Charles was crowned in London, Xtra (TVM, May 8) hosted British High Commissioner to Malta Katherine Ward wherein inter alia she informed viewers that the new king 'expressed his eagerness with President George Vella to visit Villa Guardamangia once the restoration is complete' (Malta Today, May 10, 2023).

This derelict house is being restored and refurbished by the Maltese State as 'a tribute to the British Crown' (as reported on BBC in 2021).

Readers might be interested to know that this villa was one of my main focuses in my recent book *Decolonising the Maltese Mind*, In Search Of

Identity. Allow me to lift arguments from my book on the subject, which should throw light on this extravagant project to a former colonialist.

While some in former colonies and in the UK itself are considering whether to create a museum of colonialism to discover identifying truths about the past, in republican Malta, the State, through its main arm on heritage, is inexplicably spending €15 million on a museum for the colonialist ruler rather than for the colonised.

Correct pseudo-historic narrative

A museum that clarifies how Malta fared as a colony under the British, warts and all, would serve a therapeutic function. It would clear chaos and confusion about the period under review, sift out the lies and halt this perpetuated national amnesia. It would waken Maltese society up from its deep slumber and correct the pseudo-historic narrative that past 'research' duped so many.

Projecting the Malta royal interlude as a break away from 'post-war austere England', the BBC in a broadcast after Queen Elizabeth's death spoke of how the couple used to tour the island in a car, picnicking in the countryside. They also socialised with the elite and danced their time away with other services couples in the colony.

Many royal local enthusiasts totally ignore the fact that in post-war Malta, Maltese families, most of whom were neighbours of the royal couple, had been in desperate need for funds from the metropole to rebuild their bombed houses, especially those around the Grand Harbour. Malta

was denied post-WWII American Marshall Aid as the UK declared that the Island, as a British fortress, did not qualify for these funds. This issue was included in the Labour Party's 1950-election manifesto, at the same time that the royal couple were living in Guardamangia.

The majority of Maltese journalists and politicians, mostly unconsciously, defend colonialism through habits of status quo, often not bothering with change, at least of attitude. Journalists are generally too relaxed to question or research history when commenting or analysing current issues, while politicians easily fall into popular traps to tap the emotional, at times economic, sentiments of voters, who still perceive colonial tenets as an additional bonus to their identity. Examples abound but the purchase of an overpriced derelict house in Guardamangia by the State, because a former colonialist royal couple lived there for a few months in the late 1940s is a clear indicator.

As regards the nature of a future Guardamangia museum there are several other dignitaries who could easily be included in the collection to recollect their Malta visit. These include Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798, Lord Byron in 1811, Giuseppe Garibaldi in 1864, Empress Eugenie of France in 1877, various other Princes and Kings of England as well as other notables from Italy and Japan. Pity that such extraordinary stopovers – with the exception of a hidden plaque at Customs House rightly remembering King George VI's wartime visit – are continuously ignored.

What about abodes of the Maltese?

And what about abodes that were once inhabited by Maltese protagonists of history, medicine, the arts, literature and politics? Maltese citizens are far from seeing any public funds spent to turn into town museums the house where any one of a number of Malta's presidents lived. We have no site marking national poet Dun Karm's abode for our students to visit; nor for medical doctor, author and archaeologist Temi Zammit who discovered how to stop the Malta fever from continuing to be transmitted through goats' milk in 1905; or poet and infectious diseases doctor, Rużar Briffa.

The long list of absent memorial residences may also include patriot Mikiel Anton Vassalli and a number of high profile artists. These include the national identity formation – how come not a cent has been spent on any of these countrymen mentioned above, who would certainly stimulate national consciousness?

While waiting for King Charles III returning to Malta to visit this extravagant villa how many residences

Calabrian Mattia Preti who lived in Malta for 30 years (1613-99), Antonio Sciortino (1879-1947), Emvin Cremona (1919-1987), Frank Portelli (1922-2004), Ċensu Apap (1909-2003), Antoine Camilleri (1922-2005), Anton Agius (1933-2008), Ġanni Bonnici (1932- 2019), Esprit Barthet (1919-1999) and literary giants such as Ninu Cremona (1880-1972) and Ġuże Aquilina (1911-1997), Francis Ebejer (1925-1993) and book publisher Pawlu Mizzi (1929-2019). One can also add prime ministers' abodes, such as George Borg Olivier's in Sliema and Dom Mintoff's in Tarxien, strongly associated with Independence and the Republic respectively. What is being done to also preserve such residences as those of Oliver Friggieri (1947- 2020) in Birkirkara or for that matter national map guru Albert Ganado's in Valletta in future years?

This author believes that all of the above – not even all together – would cost as much as one dilapidated house, which the government acquired in Guardamangia to honour a former colonialist monarch.

Other notable sons of Malta

There are also a number of compatriots who did Malta honour overseas. Amongst these the composer who is revered at the Opéra de Paris, Nicolò Isouard Xuereb; royal ophthalmologist in the Court of Vienna Joseph Barth; Captain Juan Bautista Azopardo (1772- 1848), founder of the Argentine navy; and Luigi Calamatta, the Civitavecchia engraver who became the star of European arts in the 19th century. Others may include Giorgio Preca the artist who lived in Rome between 1956 and 1984; and Joseph Ruggier (Rogers) who saved lives of British sailors near Liverpool, remembered in a short story by Charles Dickens.

Additionally, quite a few others come to mind, including Edward Debono, the world famous lateral thinker who passed away in 2021, Andrea De Bono, Maltese explorer of the Nile (1821-1871) as well as James Martin, Maltese adventurer whose exploits in East Africa are worth noting in connection with colonialism.

An apt observation provokes a question: while Maltese society does not bat an eyelid to dish out millions of euros on one colonial personality's residence – which will certainly not contribute to of Malta's sons and daughters are going to be acquired and turned into museums for our Maltese children to appreciate and grow a sense of belonging to their nation?



TikTok horror series to spotlight Maltese-Australian culture and folklore

The horror-drama series explores generational relationships, Maltese-Australian culture and the migrant Australian experience.

AACTA-nominated writer/director Ryan Cauchi and Matt Ferro (*The Matrix*, *Happy Feet*) have joined forces to create a scripted Maltese-Australian horror drama series, with 15 x 1-minute episodes to be released exclusively on TikTok.

A recipient of Screen Australia, NZ On Air and TikTok's 'Every Voice' initiative, *Greystanes* is currently in production, for release in October 2023. Set in Western Sydney in 1995, *Greystanes* tells the story of 11-year-old Samantha and her older brother Marius. While visiting their Maltese grandmother during school holidays, the siblings discover a dark family secret and encounter *Il-Haddiela*, a sinister creature from Maltese folklore, connected to it. With their *nanna* leading the way, the family must come together to fight the creature – and its curse. Under the scares and thrills, the series explores generational relationships, Maltese-Australian culture and the migrant Australian experience.

Currently in pre-production and filming later this month in Greystanes, New South Wales – a stronghold for the Maltese community – the series stars AACTA-nominated Maltese-Australian actress Frances Duca (*Ali's Wedding*) as *nanna*, young theatre star Chloe Delle-Vedove (Disney Theatrical Productions *Mary Poppins* and *Frozen*) as 11-year-old Samantha, and newcomer Tigran Tovmasian as her 17-year old brother Marius, alongside a largely Western Sydney-based cast and crew.

"*Greystanes* is big on mystery, thrills and chills, while also giving voice to the Maltese-Australian community, which has gone largely unrepresented in Australian scripted content. It will celebrate the

Maltese immigration experience as part of the story of Modern Australia the rich history of Maltese culture and folklore and its untapped horror film potential," series creator Cauchi says.

Cauchi is the recipient of the Michael Ajakwe Award for Innovation at Sydney Web Fest 2022, a 2022 Screen Producers Australia (SPA)/TikTok 'Got a Minute' finalist and a 2022 AACTA nominee for best digital short video.

Loosely based on his own childhood, Cauchi is a proud resident of Western Sydney and is excited to be filming in Greystanes, where his own Maltese immigrant father grew up.

Greystanes is big on mystery, thrills and chills, while also giving voice to the Maltese-Australian community, which has gone largely unrepresented in Australian scripted content

Writing and producing with Cauchi is Matt Ferro, the producer of the Academy Award-winning visual effects of *The Matrix*, associate producer of the Academy Award-winning animated film *Happy Feet*, a producer of the Frank Lowy documentary feature *What Will Become of Us*, and an executive producer of NBC Universal's top-rated series *Fashion Bloggers* and its follow-up, *Style Squad*. As a writer/director, his *The Story of Three Sisters* opened the 2022 Jewish International Film Festival's Short Film Programme.

The series is co-produced by Maltese-Australian actor, director and producer Julian Ramundi (*Wellmainia*, *Back to the Rafters*) and line-produced by AACTA-nominated producer Tsu Shan Chambers (*Unsound*).

Practical and creature effects are provided by eight-time Archibald finalist and filmmaker Nick Stathopoulos and Lewis P. Morley, one of the special effects geniuses behind the infamous animatronic giant boar in the 1984 cult classic *Razorback*.

Greystanes releases via three weekly episodes over five weeks, beginning on Halloween, October 31, 2023, exclusively on TikTok, at @GreystanesSeries.

Lill-Kbir Martri San Ġorġ



Minn dil-qalb ta' Ġorġjan tħabbat,
Ġorġi, ilqa' dawn il-vrus;
toqgħodx taħseb... dawn żgur hargu
minn qiegh qalbi, dal-ftit h̄sus!

Ta' kull sena jien niktiblek
poeżija li tisthoqqlok
sabiex biha nsellimlek
u l-hajr tiegħi jien irroddlok!
Ta' dak kollu l'inti tagħmel
ma' uliedek tul is-snin
meta għalihom tinterċedi
quddiem Alla l-hanin.

Dan għamiltu int fl-imghoddi
u tibqa' tagħmlu illum;
ibqa' harstek itfa' fuqna
u mexxi tagħna t-tmun!

Għax id-dinja marret lura
u qed titlef il-valuri,
u ta' denbu twil jistinka
biex is-saħħa tiegħu juri!

Kif fi żmien Djoklezjanu
ma bżajtx tqatta' dak l-editt,
mill-Ġenna itlaq, inżel h̄dejna
u fi djarna idhol dritt

biex treġġagħna għal li konna
ngħożżu l-Knisja ta' Ġesù,
nimxu fuq il-passi tiegħu
biex jurina Hu min hu!

Ħalli mbagħad inzejnu t-toroq,
indoqqu l-marċijiet
li l-Banda tal-Istilla
issemma' f'daž-żmenijiet.

Ħafna minna wkoll jintasbu
fit-triq tagħna ewlenija
biex isuqu l-bhima tagħhom
fost l-applawsi w l-ewforija!

Bla dubju l-Purċissjoni
li toħroġ il-Ħadd flgħaxija
tkun il-qofol, il-quċcata,
folol kbar jagħmlu għaliha.

U quddiem il-knisja tagħna
tiġi n-nies minn kullimkien
tgawdi l-innu, l-palm jixxejjer –
dal-Qaddis hu ta' kull żmien.

Iva, Ġorġi, hekk kif toħroġ
iddur int fuq l-ispallejn,
għib il-paċi, iżra' l-hena
u xxotta d-dmugh fl-għajnejn

ta' dawk kollha li bħalissa
għaddejjin minn gwaj, xi mard,
imla 'l qalbhom, fejqan 'tiahom,
ibdel darhom f'mixtla ward.

Biex imbagħad in-nar ingawdu,
tal-bomba u tal-kulur,
fetha, pront, musketterija,
briju, ferh, kull fejn iddur.

U fil-knisja festa ohra,
dwal, mixegħla, rhamijiet,
Tridu mżewwaq b'muż'ka fina
illi tbellah lil mijiet

li dal-jiem jiġu żjuruna
sa mill-ibgħad artijiet
għax jgħidulek: 'Bħal dil-festa
darba biss fis-sena għiet!'

Ħalli mela, San Ġorġ, nagħlaq
din il-poeżija tiegħi;
haġa waħda biss nitolbok –
ma' kull pass int imxi miegħi

sabiex wara din il-hajja
li nterru f'dal-wied tad-dmugh
tilqagħna fil-bieb tal-Ġenna
fejn tistrieħ, tifrah kull ruh!

Kav. Joe M. Attard
Il-Belt Victoria, Għawdex
2023

History of St Edward's College... Cottonera Military Hospital during World War 1 for Australasian and New Zealand soldiers



The site was initially developed by the Knights of St John as part of the defensive system protecting the outermost harbour region. Four canon emplacements still exist as a testimony of the fire-power this place afforded to any intruder threatening Malta's harbour inlets. The guns were never fired in anger, although they were fired - as warning shots - during the initial stages

Anthony Zarb Dimech

St Edward's College was previously known as the Cottonera Hospital.

Cottonera Hospital was built in 1873 and at the time was considered to be one of the best in southern Europe. In 1929, the War Office leased it to accommodate St Edward's College.

The college is brimming with history.

In 2014 the world commemorated the 100th anniversary of the commencement of the First World War. This war was dubbed 'The war to end all wars' due to the all-round carnage, disease and misery, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of hostilities.

High on a vantage point on the Cottonera Bastions stands St Edward's College, enjoying vast picturesque views of the harbour and the surrounding

of the French Occupation.

The same site was also defended during the Second World War (1939-45) by means of a Bofors anti-aircraft position, when the college was occupied by the British military authorities. The staff and students were transferred to Mdina as refugees during this period.

In 1979, the college celebrated its 50th (Golden Jubilee) anniversary as a commemorative plaque unveiled by President Anton Buttigieg reveals. Before 1929, the building served as one of the most avant-garde hospitals in the Mediterranean.

The awareness raised by the research of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing who is known for her organised care of wounded soldiers in the Crimean War, brought to the surface the need for highly spacious and ventilated hospitals. She emphasised this need because her research had shown that most patients died from infectious diseases because they were confined in small areas in hospitals that were situated in densely populated areas. In fact, one aspect of St Edward's College that immediately strikes the eye is the number of apertures and verandas.

The place is honeycombed with very large wooden shutters and spacious verandas in order that the patients could have as much fresh air as possible during their recovery. These verandas also served as sleeping areas for the patients during the hot summer months. Graffiti, etched in stone by the patients, still exists as a testimony of the men who recovered there. On the second floor of the building there is still one large ward that housed patients, the other wards



countryside. Just a stone's throw away from Zabir Gate (Notre Dame Gate) and the Cottonera Sports Complex, St Edward's College is particularly known for the service it provided during the First World War as a fully-fledged hospital and convalescent camp.

having been divided to accommodate students when the hospital was converted into a college.

It is interesting to note that the policy embraced by the health authorities was also one where the least possible number of staff was to remain in the hospital at any one time. The reason being in line - there again - with Florence Nightingale's awareness that the more staff present, the greater the risk of cross-contamination. In fact, the building still has the Nurses Quarters and the Surgeons Quarters - the staff who were present at all times.



The effectiveness of the hospital came to its highest point during the First World War when it welcomed thousands of sick and wounded troops, mainly brought over from the

Gallipoli Campaign. These were the ANZAC troops (Australian and New Zealanders). The recovery rate of the troops earned the hospital a very high reputation and proved Nightingale's recommendations correct. It was not only ANZAC troops who received treatment at this hospital but also Prisoners of War (POWs) who were detained in internee camps mainly in the harbour area. In fact, one of the prominent POWs was Franz Joseph Prinz von Hohenzollern-Emden of the famous *SMS Emden* Light Cruiser. He was transferred to the hospital as it was just a short distance from Fort San Salvatore, where he was being detained. Despite being treated there, Franz Joseph made

complaints directed at the Cottonera Hospital's facilities such as treatment by specialists was not to be procured even if the patients were prepared to pay for it. Other complaints included the treatment of the civilian prisoners, the post, the canteen, the



medication, dental services and neutral representation for visiting and assessing the conditions of camps.

Ottoman POWs were also treated at the hospital, as evidenced by photographs at the Exhibition of St Edward's College. At one point, POWs were treated in a basement at the hospital but this practice was discontinued as being unsanitary and later they were housed in a gunpowder storehouse converted into an infirmary. The windows were only constructed in 1935, which is when the storeroom became the college's chapel. Anthony Zarb Dimech – The Malta Independent

Opera in the Capital – The Three Tenors



Alan Sciberras, Cliff Zammit Stevens and Nico Darmanin, the three outstanding tenor voices of their generation, will perform during a jam-packed evening of arias and classics that include Puccini's *E Lucevan le Stelle*, Bixio's *Mamma*, Panceri's *Vivo Per Lei* and Queen's *Who Wants to Live Forever*. They will be joined on stage by the beloved Chiara for *Angel*, Foster's *The Prayer*, and Lloyd Weber's *Music of the Night*. Experience the dramatic power of the human voice in a relaxed atmosphere for families and friends, under the musical direction of Maestro Michael Laus and Maestro Ryan Paul Abela, on Wednesday 28th June at St George's Square, at 8pm.

28 YEARS SINCE THE DOCKYARD TRAGEDY – 9 DEAD



On the night of February 3, 1995, a powerful explosion at the then State-owned Malta Drydocks killed nine workers. It emerged that the Um el Faroud, a tanker owned by General National Transport Company of Libya, was booked for extensive works inside the Malta Drydocks.

It had been carrying petroleum products for a number of years and was scheduled to have extensive pipework done, works on the manifold, works in the accommodation area, blasting of all its cargo tanks which had over the years absorbed a quantity of petroleum product and which when empty would naturally start to "gas off".

The vessel had been inside Dock 3 for a few days and the 16 crew members were all on board in the accommodation area of the ship when the explosion occurred.

The inquiry established that the explosion took place inside tank number 3 centre. One of the workers who died was cutting through a valve at the manifold by the extensive pipework located on the deck above the tank. Sparks from the welding made their way into an open butterworth hole (a manhole leading into tank number 3 centre) igniting the flammable vapour

in the tank that had not been gas freed prior to the start of the work. The explosion opened the ship like a sardine can.

The maritime inquiry lasted a number of months leading to the publication of the report in January 1996. The victims' families started civil action demanding compensation until they received compensation from the government, on behalf of the Malta Drydocks, during an out-of-court settlement.

The victims were Carmelo Callus, 47, of Valletta, George Aquilina, 25, of Qormi, Simon Pisani, 22, of Msida, Simon Mifsud, 27, of Vittoriosa, Mario Hales, 40, of Mqabba, Angelo Sciberras, 52, of Żabbar, George Xuereb, 58, of Qormi, Paul Seguna, 37, of Żebbuġ, and Anthony Vassallo, 30, of Dingli.

One of the court experts, Prof. Vella, said it was probably the most dangerous, physically difficult and emotionally taxing investigation of them all.

"We were on the stricken ship in semi-darkness trying to understand the scene of the accident when the fires had barely been extinguished, looking for and mapping the presence of significant objects and human bodies in the empty cargo holds of the tanker, negotiating our way by torchlight underneath piles of partly-collapsed and dangerously perched scaffolding," he says.

That night, initially questioning whether it was an accident or terrorist attack, the team of experts extended the search beyond the ship itself to tour the inside of the empty basin of the dry dock. Dead bodies were strewn on the ground of the dock.

He recalls the details of that "cruel and obscene sight". Despite the heart-breaking scene, "we needed to photograph the scene as it was". Early next morning, the experts were back at the drydocks and spent long hours on site for the next two weeks.

JAMES VELLA-BARDON



We're in the depths of winter here in Sydney, which is not exactly snowy but still means some quite chilly weather. I always regret not taking a scarf with me whenever I walk the dog in the bush at night! It's been a while since I last dropped you a line, so I thought I'd fill you in on two cool writing developments of late.

HONOURABLE MENTION

You may recall me telling you a couple of months back that MAD KING ROBIN (MKR) was nominated for an award at the prestigious ERIC HOFFER AWARDS in the USA. Given the dozens of submissions received by this award's organiser, I am not sure if many people realise how tough it is to be nominated in the first place.

And although MKR did not go on to win its category, the organisers decided to accord it an HONOURABLE MENTION, which was great.

Here is what the judges had to say about it:

'This compelling novel chronicles the life of Robert the Bruce's Scotland in the 14th century. It is a world where friends become enemies, family become foes, and foes become allies. Vella-Bardon follows the known history accurately and breaths life in these notable figures from Scotland's past with dialogue and exposition. 14th century Scotland was a violent land, even more so than the rest of Europe. Bardon chronicles the treachery in an uplifting story of how a few dedicated men survived a vicious regime and eventually triumphed.'

I also wanted to remind our readers everywhere that you can listen to an excellent rendition of this novella and its short story prequel THE CREAM OF CHIVALRY (Cream) on all audiobook platforms in the world, narrated by the phenomenal acting talent Chris Dingli.

We also have some codes for readers who would like a free listen of MKR and Cream on Spotify's

HONOURS ABOUND

audiobook platform, so please contact me if you want one (we also have a few Spotify codes left for a free listen of THE SHERIFF'S CATCH audiobook by the sensational Jonathan Keeble, should you like one.)

SYDNEY WRITERS

FESTIVAL Some of you may by now have heard that my Sydney-based publisher Tearaway Press recently sponsored an event at the Sydney Writers Festival, which has taken our city by storm again this year.

The event featured bestselling nonfiction author Professor Peter Frankopan, also

Professor of Global History at Oxford University, as well as beloved radio host and bestselling nonfiction author Richard Fidler. Tearaway Press kindly gifted me some tickets to share with some special people who have been of some great help to me on my writing journey.

They also kindly arranged for me to meet Profs Frankopan and Richard Fidler in person, an hour before they took to the stage. It was a huge honour for me to meet with such renowned connoisseurs of history - it led to one of the most enjoyable chats I've had in a while, in which I discussed my new writing project with Profs Frankopan who said it is a great idea that would light up the screen for Netflix. Profs Frankopan's recent appearance on the excellent Empire podcast with Will Dalrymple and Anita Anand was the reason I got the idea to write my current project. We had a good laugh when I told him this and I also gifted him all of Tearaway Press' publications which he gratefully accepted.

I am currently working extremely hard on my next new project which I believe will be the most incredible thing I've done to date, but more on that later in the year.

Wishing those of you in the Northern Hemisphere a few wonderful weeks ahead with one of my thrillers by the beach - and for those of you in the Southern Hemisphere: be sure to rug up with one of my thrillers and a glass of mulled wine for now!





GAMES FOR THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE Malta

Europe's small states battle it out for sports glory as Malta hosts the 19th edition of the GSSE • Nine countries, 10 disciplines, more than 1,300 athletes and officials

by Kurt Sansone

Team Malta was recently hosted at Auberge de Castille by Prime Minister Robert Abela (Photo: Gareth Degiorgio)

Malta is hosting the Games for the Small States of Europe with squash and tennis players kickstarting the week-long games on Monday morning.



More than 1,300 athletes and officials have registered to be part of the 19th edition of the GSSE, which sees athletes from Europe's nine small states competing in 10 disciplines.

The first competitions started on Monday morning with the squash and tennis singles preliminary competitions taking place at the Marsa Sports Club. In the afternoon, the 5X5 basketball competition gets underway at the Ta' Qali pavillion with Cyprus and Luxembourg squaring off against each other.

Malta Olympic Committee President Julian Pace Bonello said this week will be a culmination of years of technical preparation, expressing confidence that

Maltese athletes will produce good results.

"We are confident that our athletes have been well prepared and will produce good results for Malta. We hope that these Games will be the foundation of a long lasting legacy that will see sport in Malta grow both in terms of results as well as increased participation," he said.

Opening ceremony The official opening ceremony will be held on Monday afternoon at the Floriana Granaries with the participation of around 4,000 people.

The event will be livestreamed by TVM, One TV and Net TV, and the national TV stations of the participating countries.

The organisers said the opening ceremony will celebrate the spirit of unity and showcase Malta's culture and heritage through artistic performances, music, and dance.

The Parade of Nations will start with Andorra and proceed alphabetically, with Malta – as host country – parading last. The participating countries are: Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, San Marino, Malta, Monaco and Montenegro.

The Malta team will be led by flag bearers Elaine Genovese and Matthew Galea Soler.

Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja will sing the national anthem, followed by the Olympic Oath.

10 disciplines By the end of the week, Malta will host a total of 114 events across 10 disciplines – athletics, basketball, judo, rugby 7s, sailing, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis and tennis. The events will be spread across 11 venues which have been refurbished or rebuilt purposely for these games.

All schedules and results can be viewed on the [GSSE 2023 website](#).

**If you have an interesting story to tell
Send it to us and share it with others**

maltesejournal@gmail.com



