



President Marie-Louise Coleiro

Preca addressing this event.

Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat highlighted the need for full integration of people with a disability on the workplace as part of his Christmas message this evening.

The Prime Minister addressed a small crowd in De Valette Square in Valletta during the annual Miled Flimkien (Christmas

Together), alongside the President, the Opposition leader and the Archbishop.

Dr Muscat said great strides had been made on integrating students with a disability into mainstream classrooms, ending the segregation of the past, but added that these advances had not yet been seen in adult life.

“Although social services are important, we have to ensure that people with a disability do not remain dependent but achieve full dignity on the workplace,” he said.

In his address, Opposition leader Simon Busuttil expressed solidarity with the Saint James Hospital manager who was abducted in Libya, as well as workers at De La Rue currently facing uncertainty due to redundancies, and the family of a man who lost his life in a Rabat quarry earlier in the day.

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca drew attention to the plight of children spending Christmas in residential homes, as well as those whose parents had passed away or were in prison.

She also commended local parishes and organisations organising meals for the elderly and others in the community who felt isolated or alone. Meanwhile,

Archbishop Charles Scicluna called for “words of kindness and love” to replace hatred and divisive acts in social discourse.

“The acts of terror in recent weeks have filled us all with a sense of fear, so it is all the more important for us to remember Christ’s message of love and mercy at this time of year,” he said. **Source:**

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/>



GHAJNSIELEM – GOZO Christmas event

The billboard promoting the Ghajnsielem nativity village.

For the seventh year the people of Ghajnsielem, with a lot of help from the Gozo Ministry and the local council, are organising their Christmas nativity village, close to the ferry landing at Mgarr. They continue to increase the attractions every year, mainly thanks to Franco Ciangura, the ideas man behind it all and current mayor.

The area is a real treat for children but also for adults. The organisers keep increasing the number and variety of animals that children love. The different stands are all very well done, even in their simplicity. It is amazing that such a small village can find so many volunteers to put up such a remarkable attraction, which also includes genuine local produce. One hopes that the organisers manage to keep the animals as a year-round petting farm, which children would surely enjoy.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO GOZO

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca continued with her visit to the Istrina events taking place in Gozo, which got underway last weekend. This morning the President, visited locations in Kercem, Munxar, Sannat, Fontana, Ghajnsielem and Xewkija. In each locality, communities presented their donation to the President towards Istrina 2015, collected in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund. The President was given a warm welcome by the



community in each location, along with an artistic programme associated with Christmas. In Kercem, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca was welcomed by Mayor Mario Azzopardi, together with children who performed their Christmas programme. The President then visited Munxar where she was welcomed by Carmen Said. The next stop was Fontana, where the President was greeted by Mayor Saviour Borg. Waiting there were over seventy children, with songs of Christmas and narratives related to this Holy event. From there the President went to Xewkija parish church, with a Christmas presentation by children. Xewkija Mayor Paul Azzopardi also presented a donation towards the Istrina 2015. The last location visited by the President today was Ghajnsielem where she was welcomed by the Mayor Franco Ciangura. The President visited the Nativity Village Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem, where a number of children performed Christmas themed songs. WWW.GOZONEWS.COM

THE MONTH OF JANUARY IX-XAHAR TA'JANNAR

By Doris Fenech

January - Jannar is the first month of the Julian and Gregorian Calendar. January the time for looking forward and wishing for a good year ahead and the month of New Years gifts ("ix-xahar tal-Istrina"). January is also known as the coldest month ("ix-xahar tal-bard"), and the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus ("xahar ta' l-Isem Imqaddes ta' Gesu"). 1st January: First day of the New Year ("l-Ewwel tas-Sena"), - gifts are given to children and friends. I recall that our grandfathers and relatives used to give us some money as a sign of prospect for the New Year. We used to keep the coins, in a small tin box and shake them to hear the tinkle of - sixpence ("sikspenze"), shilling ("xelin"), or two shillings and sixpence, approximately 25 cents ("tmintax irbiegħi"). 6th January: Epiphany ("Epifanija"), or The Three Kings ("It-Tre Re" jew it-Tlett Slaten Magi). Epiphany is a festive day of commemoration of the arrival of the three kings, Gasper, Balthazar and Melchior with the three gifts gold, frankincense and myrrh for the New Born Jesus. On Epiphany day, the figures of the three wise men on camels are placed near the entrance of the caves of the crib to worship Baby Jesus. 25th January: St. Paul's Day - "Jum San Pawl".

MALTESE PROVERBS - "QWIEL MALTIN"

Il-Bard ta' Jannar iqaxxaar ġild (dahar), ta' ħmar - The cold of January nips the hid (the back) of the donkey - It is so cold that a donkey feels it.

Meta Jannar taraħ lewwiemi (lewwiemi), ma tatax il-Bidwi tant ħieni - When you see that January is raining frequently you won't see the peasant so happy.

Jannar, il-bajtar għanejn il-far. - In January, prickly pears are (the size of), a rat's eye.

Nhar San Pawl il-Temp ibiddel (iqalleb), seba' darbiet. - January summer (i.e. fair warm weather in January), the weather changes seven times.

Meta Jannar tarax lewwiemi (lewwiemi), ma tarax il-bidwi tant ħieni. When you see that January is raining frequently you won't see the peasant so happy.

MALTESE RHYMES - "TQABBIL MALTIN"

Qożżot, qożżot għalik, Jannar	Fie, fie on you January
Għaddejti bil-bard bla xita	You passed (along) with cold but no rain
U hallejtni bin-nagħaġ fil-għar	Leaving me with the sheep in the cave.

Source:

Wikipedia encyclopedia. Journal of Maltese Studies. Maltese Meteorological and Agricultural Proverbs.

By J.Aquilina

A new flag for New Zealand?



New Zealanders have picked a blue and black design with the silver fern as the preliminary winner in a referendum on a possible new national flag.

The runner-up is a similar-looking red, white and blue design.

The final result will be announced on Tuesday after late and overseas votes are counted, and may change as the winning margin is narrow.

A second referendum will be held in March to decide whether to adopt the new flag, or keep the existing one



<http://www.talentmosti.com/>

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT
MOSTA TALENT PHILANTROPIC SOCIETY
AND MARQUIS MALLIA TABONE FARMHOUSE**



Mosta Talent Philanthropic Society is a Non-Government Organisation whose main aim is to organise various activities such as art exhibitions, book launches, public discussions, drama etc. The money raised from these activities is presented on a yearly basis in the form of various donations to those in need: to both individuals and associations such as Inspire, the Malta Community Chest Fund, *Dar tal-Providenza*, Puttinu Cares and many more. So, while helping artists, authors, and poets promote their works in the **Razzett**, we provide time and space for people to get together to discuss various aspects of art and culture, share and enlighten each other with knowledge in a friendly environment.



All this takes place at **ir-Razzett tal-Markiż** in **Wied il-Ghasel Road, Mosta, Malta**. This farmhouse is a three-hundred year-old rural architecture which belonged to the Marquis Mallia Tabone. We do our best to maintain the **Razzett** well-kept so as to enhance the peaceful atmosphere and antique charm it possesses.

During these last thirty years, the Mosta Talent Philanthropic Society has been instrumental in propagating various expressions of popular culture, whilst instilling a sense of social solidarity, not only within its hardworking members, but also to the thousands of Maltese and foreigners who have visited the Society's farmhouse at Mosta for one or more of its ever on-going exhibitions and other various activities.

Standing tall for Maltese folklore, the **Razzett tal-Markiż** houses two permanent exhibitions of typical tools, serving as a tribute to the Maltese manual work and manual worker, local art and artists. It is the meeting place of art, culture and philanthropy.



A picture speaks a thousand words, so we encourage you to have a look at our website www.talentmosti.com, which is updated regularly with articles about future, current and previous events, as well as with photos of the various activities and a tour around the Razzett itself. We invite you to pay a visit to our Razzett which is open everyday from 6 pm to 9 pm. Sundays open also from 10am till noon. For more information as how to find us, please follow the map in the Administration Section of our website: [talentmosti.com](http://www.talentmosti.com) or contact us on our e-mail: talentmosti1983@gmail.com. You can call us on **phone no: 21 420632**. or **contact us on facebook: Ir-Razzett tal-Markiż.T Website & Photos**

by: Rita Demicoli



Tixtieq tikteb imma għadek ma sibt l-oportunità ideali għalik? Tixtieq thaddem il-kreattività tiegħek imma toqgħod lura għax tibza' minn xi żbalji bażiċi? Mela m'għandekx għax toqgħod lura milli tiegħu sehem f' **TAĦŻIŻ4**, programm ta' kitba kreattiva li qed jinfetaħ għar-raba' edizzjoni tiegħu. Dan il-programm iħarregg' żgħażaġħ bejn it-18 u t-30 sena fil-kreattività tal-kitba. Is-sejha għal din l-edizzjoni se tibqa' miftuħa sal-Ġimgħa, 8 ta' Jannar 2016. Żgħażaġħ ta' etajiet oħra li huma interessati huma mhegga jikkuntattjawna xorta waħda.

TAĦŻIŻ4 se jkun imqassam tul tliet *live-ins*, b'pubblikazzjoni u ċertifikat li jingħataw f'tnedija li tittella' apposta. Matul il-programm se jkun hemm ukoll xi *workshops* miftuħa għal udjenza magħżula, fosthom żgħażaġħ li huma iżgħar minn 18. Il-partecipazzjoni hi b'xejn, imma jintalab depożitu żgħir li jingħata lura meta l-programm ikun komplut b'suċċess. Dawk iż-żgħażaġħ interessati għandhom jibagħtu lil info.youthmalta@gov.mt jew lil għaqdataalmalti@gmail.com. L-applikanti għandhom jibagħtu d-dettalji personali (isem u kunjom; data tat-twelid; indirizz postali u elettroniku; u n-nru tat-telephone jew tal-*mobile*), kif ukoll dawn li ġejjin:

- interessi oħra minbarra l-kitba;
- ittra ta' introduzzjoni u motivazzjoni;
- CV f'forma ta' storja qasira ta' 150 kelma;
- fotokopja tal-karta tal-ID (quddiem u wara); u
- poeżija jew storja qasira miktuba riċentament.

L-għażla finali tal-partecipanti se tkun fid-diskrezzjoni tal-bord li jevalwa l-applikazzjonijiet. 'Il quddiem ikun hemm ukoll laqgħa introduttorja. Dan il-programm huwa miftuħ ukoll għal min diġà attenda, iżda tingħata priorità lil min għadu ma ħax sehem. x**Taħżiż** huwa programm ta' *empowerment* tal-Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, b'kollaborazzjoni tal-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università u l-Fondazzjoni AWL. Issibu aktar tagħrif f'dawn il-ħoloq: www.facebook.com/events/1662409064035570 www.tahziz.wordpress.com



Past editions of our newsletter from 10 onwards are available for download on our website at <http://www.ozmalta.page4.me/>



A window on the Maltese Character

Written by [Andrew Galea Debono](#)

The 'Ghonella' died out long ago. But not so other Maltese customs and habits. When I moved to Sweden, I attended a lecture by a sociologist specialised in Swedish culture who gave some tips on how to better interact with and understand the inhabitants of my

Scandinavian host country. The guy explained, for example, how a Swede finishes his sentences before another contributes to the conversation; a far cry from the Mediterranean style of having three people talk at the same time (hopefully on the same subject) within the same conversation! Though no sociologist myself, I've attempted a list of certain common characteristics which I dare to say are Maltese.

Talking is shouting..... When many Maltese people talk, they tend to be rather loud. Years back, I used to work as a group leader for Scandinavian kids learning English in Malta. On several occasions, these kids mistook a friendly conversation between two locals as a fight! I suppose the loud tone of voice, the vivid hand gestures and the occasional physical contact gave that impression. When in a conversation with a Maltese person who just doesn't stop blabbering, it might be a good idea to interrupt them if you have something to say. They might actually be waiting for you to share the speaking duties! The average Maltese conversationalist won't pause that often, so you need to create your own opening most times (unless you're given an easy entry by being asked a question). Yes – we're loud... but it's all rather harmless (most of the time)!

Us and them..... I get the feeling that Maltese people have a predisposition towards creating an 'us and them' scenario. Whether it's the rivalry created by politics, football or even affection for a particular village festa or affiliation to a specific band club, the Maltese do tend to get rather clannish. The outcome of this 'tribalism' ranges from fun teasing and competition (such as with healthy football rivalries) to scenarios which are much less fun. Political and even festa or band club rivalries have tended to get way out of hand in the past. Nowadays, there's also a sentiment of 'us and them' creeping in with relation to the presence of certain foreigners on the island.

Rules are there to be broken.Many Maltese people seem to have a strange relationship with rules, sometimes closing an eye – or even two – in the process. This is positive when a person is given precedence over a rule in the name of common sense. It is less positive when people ignore rules and get away with it for their own selfish needs. Politicians tend to be major culprits on this last point. When driving, Maltese people tend to break the rules – though the extent of this ranges from person to person: some commit minor infractions, but others put lives at risk through their selfishness.

Families tend to be close to each other.This is no doubt helped by the geographical proximity we share with each other. In recent years, the family bonds seem to be somewhat weakening but you will still find families meeting up rather often – and not just immediate family but also cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents. You will also find that there are less than the classical 'six degrees of separation' between people around here ... many times just one degree suffices! This obviously has its advantages and disadvantages.

Wholly Roman Catholics?....According to the CIA World Factbook (no less), 98% of the Maltese population are Catholics. But while the Church still has a strong political influence on the country (we still have no divorce or abortion, for example), it has much less of an influence on people's daily lives than before. And I get the impression that Church attendance among younger generations is declining. While older generations may still get scandalised by certain discussions and behaviours, the younger generations of Maltese are much less likely to do so. Nevertheless, they too are probably still somewhat more closed minded than their northern European counterparts.

In the end... When you build a strong friendship with a Maltese person, it's a friendship for life! So, despite the defects (and which culture doesn't have any?) it's worth making the effort to see through the differences and embrace what is positive in the Maltese.

THE WORLD'S TOP ECO-FRIENDLY HOTELS

Lefay Resort & SPA Lago di Garda, Gargnano, Italy



In the heart of the Riviera dei Limoni, the various structures of this five-star resort are integrated into the village's hill slopes to reduce energy and heat dispersion.

The hotel focusses on overall wellness, a theme which remains constant through the food, outlay and peace of the hotel. The interior design makes use of local materials, while the design of the hotel was fashioned in respect to the surrounding landscape and environment. Rainwater is collected, and the hotel has a sustainable approach to Waste Management.



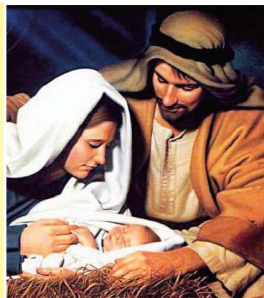
AUSTRALIAN CROCODILES COULD START MOVING TO COOLER AREAS

Crocodiles could move to Australia's southern states because of global warming. A new study claims crocodiles are ill-equipped to adjust to rising temperatures so may start migrating to cooler areas. The researchers found the higher water temperatures hindered their diving ability, putting the young crocs at risk from predators. The lethal temperature for crocodiles is in the high 30s to low 40s, making water a critical refuge for the reptiles to avoid dehydration. But some crocodile experts have cast doubt on the study saying the reptiles are highly resilient.

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN CANADA.....Hi Frank, Wishing you and your family a blessed and happy Christmas and a healthy and joyful New Year. May 2016 be as successful in reaching out to the Maltese diaspora and educating all about the contributions and the culture of our heritage. What a wonderful bridge you build between the Maltese and the international community. I forward your Newsletter to many of my American friends many of whom had never heard of Malta until they met us. I especially enjoyed and forwarded the Christmas edition as it encapsulated the traditions, customs, and cuisine. May God continue to bless your work and thanks for all the interesting and informative newsletters..

Fred & Ida Aquilina Ir-Razzett, Vacaville, CANADA Christmas 2015

*Nixtiequ lilkom u
lill-familji taghkom
Milied Hieni u Qaddis
u Sena Ġdida mimlija
Sahha, Risq u Hena
— Paul u Salvina Vella
u l-familja*



*We wish you and all
your family
a Merry and Holy
Christmas
and a Happy,
Healthy and
Prosperous New Year
— Paul and Salvina Vella
and family*

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN MALTA

Photo: [Andrew Galea Debono](#)



New Years Eve in Malta

The southern European nation of Malta, which is officially referred as The Republic of Malta, celebrates its New Year on the date of January 1, following the Georgian calendar system.

A day before, i.e. on December 31, which is popularly called as New Years Eve all over the world, is the day of major celebrations all over Malta. New Years Eve is an important time in the lives of the natives of Malta, as it brings in enormous amount of happiness and celebration time.

The celebrations in Malta are high on spirit and energy, which justify the title of the 'the wildest party destination in the entire European continent' as conferred to Malta.

Celebrations on New Years Eve in Malta

On New Years Eve in Malta, people in huge numbers make a visit to city restaurants, clubs, and pubs to be a part of the community celebrations. Most of these restaurants and party clubs start aggressively promoting and advertising their places and the parties scheduled to happen on New Years Eve, well before the arrival of New Years Eve. Also, they ensure to pull as much crowd as possible to cash in the celebration time, by offering luring packages, and by putting special arrangements of celebrations in place.

With feasting and drinking being an internal part of celebration tradition in Malta, every public party place ensure to have the best menu on the platter for the evening, well accompanied by finest o champagne and wine. During the time of New Years Eve, one gets to see the best of Maltese cooking, which is an amalgamation of the original cooking of the inhabitants of Malta, and those who come out of other place to get settled in Malta. Many of the Maltese dishes are Sicilian or

Moorish in origin, and their consumption during significant times such as on New Years Eve, reflect the influence Malta has gained over the years from foreign territories.

Many people have their own house parties, which are by no means less entertaining and pleasurable than the community parties. Good music, fine dining, and the companionship of near and dear ones make it a warm and special place to be in on the very special day of New Years Eve. Those looking to have a comparatively soothe celebrations head over to the beautiful beaches to spend some quality time with close friends and family on New Years Eve. However, irrespective of the nature of celebrations, New Years Eve on an overall aspect remains a family oriented affair in Malta.

Countdown culture and Fireworks on New Years Eve in Malta

The countdown culture is not that old, and for the fact officially occurred for the first time in 2010 only. It was for the first time in the long history of Malta to have any such nature of celebration, and it was usual for people to be over-excited. Expect the same to occur at St. George's Square of Vallette. With the significant point of midnight drawing close, being a part of thousands on the streets, and counting down the last few moments in concord is simply an unforgettable and extraordinary feeling. It is well accompanied by the spectacular fireworks show which is set off at the stroke of midnight to give a royal welcome to New Year, and to mark arrival of New Year with style. However, the fireworks show is not as spectacular or extraordinary to hold a special mentioning. While keeping in consideration of the fact that Malta hosts International Fireworks Festival, one does expect something unusual and unique, which usually doesn't come out on New Years Eve.





Albania (republic of)



Estonia



Italy



Norway



Sri Lanka



Austria



Finland



Japan



Philippines



Sweden



Belgium



France



Kosovo



Poland



Switzerland



Brazil



Germany



Latvia



Portugal



Tanzania



China



Greece



Lebanon



Russian Federation



Thailand



Denmark



Guatemala



Malta



Slovenia



Timor-leste



Dominican Republic



Hungary



Nepal



South Africa
(republic of)



United Kingdom



Ecuador



Indonesia



Netherlands



Spain



Uruguay

CONSULATES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The Consular Corps of SA (CCSA) consists of both career and honorary consuls who exchange ideas and information, perform official duties for their respective countries and educate and inform the local community about the nations they represent. The Corps operates under a set on [Terms of Reference](#).

Currently the CCSA consists of 40 consulates, with 3 career and 37 honorary consuls. Career consuls are full-time employees of their government and nationals of a particular country, while honorary consuls work on a voluntary basis and may be either Australian citizens or permanent residents and not necessarily a national.

Since honorary consuls are non-career diplomats, they are –by and large – professional people working full-time in a variety of spheres not related to their consular roles.

Honorary consuls are generally appointed in States or Territories that do not host a career consul and do not receive remuneration for their services.

Both career and honorary consuls are accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Corps members work to facilitate and enhance relationships between the country they represent and the South Australian community.

Both career and honorary consuls are appointed under the [Vienna convention](#) by the Head of State or Foreign Minister of the country they represent and each country determines their need for representation and establishes their consulate with Australian Government approval.

As well as promoting and representing the interests of the country they represent, career and honorary consuls also provide consular aide, including emergency assistance, to foreign nationals who either reside in or are visitors to South Australia.

In essence, CCSA members serve as ‘ambassadors’ of their countries in South Australia, working to build and foster positive awareness and relationships at a variety of levels.

MANY are wealthy and influential but the title of Honorary Consul is something money can't buy. Two of the state's richest businessmen, Rob Gerard and Steve Maras, and prominent lobbyist, Ian Smith, are among 40 South Australians that hold the title that was previously the highest elected office in the Holy Roman Empire. Mr Gerard is the Honorary Consul of South Africa, Mr Maras holds the position for Uruguay and this year Mr Smith assumed the role for the United Kingdom. The British Ambassador to Australia was particularly thrilled with the appointment of Mr Smith gushing: “We'll be getting two for the price of one, as Ian's wife, former senator Natasha Stott-Despoja, already works closely with the High Commission in her role as Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls.” South Australia has three career Consuls — diplomats appointed directly by Italy, Greece and China — and 37 Honorary Consuls representing the interests of countries as diverse as Albania, Guatemala, Nepal and Timor Leste (former East Timor). While Consuls General are career diplomats appointed by the sovereign nation after approval by the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs, Honorary Consuls are Australian citizens or permanent residents. Mr Frank Scicluna holds the position of Honorary Consul for the Republic of Malta'



Valletta International Baroque Festival

File photo: Baroque Ball c. Teatru Manoel

The Valletta International Baroque Festival was developed as a celebration of the baroque identity of Valletta. For two weeks, between the **16th and the 30th of January 2016**, Valletta will resound with music from the period of when it was built. Teatru Manoel will become the heart of this festival, however other venues are opening their doors for this event such as St. John's Co-Cathedral, the Jesuits' Church, The President's Palace, St. Nicholas (All Souls) Church, Ta' Ġiezu Church, the Bibliotheca (National Library of Malta), the Casino Maltese and St. Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral.

The fourth version of this festival, like the previous ones, incorporates an eclectic variety of music including pianistic transcriptions and 20th century orchestral music inspired by the baroque idiom. *For more information, please visit the [Valletta International Baroque Festival official website](http://valletta2018.org/events/valletta-international-baroque-festival-2016/#sthash.2whZQKBi.dpuf).* See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/events/valletta-international-baroque-festival-2016/#sthash.2whZQKBi.dpuf>

Peter and Pauline Curtis's Limestone Heritage and Cart Ruts

While holidaying in the beautiful island of Malta we had booked lunch at the Palazzo Santa Rosa in Miasra Bay, so we had just the morning to explore. The Belleair holiday had given us a free entrance ticket to one of eight tourist sites, and we decided to use it to visit The Limestone Heritage. It is set in a disused quarry on the outskirts of Siggiewi, and offers an insight into the ancient crafts of quarrying and masonry. This time we did not make the mistake of going through Siggiewi town centre. We knew that it opened at 0900, so we arrived at 0915.

To our surprise the carpark was almost empty, and there were no other visitors in sight. Their tour normally started with a video and we were asked if we minded waiting 10 minutes until a coach party arrived, so we could all see the video together. This gave the chance for us to wander around their souvenir shop, purchase a little limestone souvenir and a book on walks in the area. The site was opened as a tourist attraction in 2002 and everything is clean and new. Visitors are given audio sets which match their own language.

This worked well for the video but we found that the audio track used to explain the technology and displays outdoors ran too fast. Indeed the Dutch tour group obviously had a much slower audio track, as we watched their progress from display to display.

Pauline found she had only got to display number 3 when the audio was at number 7 and then decided to ignore her audio whereas Pete was more practical and took out the batteries when he wanted to pause the tape. We mentioned this to the guides when we finished our tour and they said that the English tape was shorter. I supposed it is because our language is more efficient. We suggested to the guides that they walk around the site with the English tape, and hear the problem themselves.

Malta has a lot of limestone quarries and it is the standard material for building work. Limestone was originally quarried by hand, as shown by their displays, and then mechanised in the 1950s onwards. The marks



from the cutting machines could be seen on the quarry walls. There was always a lot of rubble, and this was used to make walls and small huts. The quarrying on the site had exposed a water drainage system, where water had drained into an underground cistern, for collection by bucket.

After learning about the cutting of the stone we then saw a craftsman making small souvenir items. He had a few tables with chisels to encourage tourists to carve the stone, which was quite soft. There were examples of outdoor stonework, for a well and for water channels. From the heat outdoors we moved undercover and into shade. Slab stones were used to make the flat roofs on top of stone walls, as well as straight and curved staircases, and different types of ceiling arches. Within a typical house there were stone tables, ovens and cupboards.

.Prehistoric "cart ruts" are found in several places in Malta, but the most famous location is at Clapham Junction, a site named because of the large number of these parallel tracks which is reminiscent of the criss-crossing of lines at the busy railway junction near London. We had an

hour spare and thought it would be fun to go and look at some of the area. Our local walk book showed that it was not far from Siggiewi, between Buskett and the Dingli Cliffs and near Girgenti. We followed signs to Girgenti, but found ourselves on narrow local roads and then reached the end at a car park where a footpath was signed to the shrine of Girgenti. This was not our destination so we retraced our route. We had turned too early, and the view of the huge Laferla Cross on the hill above us showed that we were definitely in the wrong place. Pauline, navigating, muttered something about wishing we had the GPS and we set off again.

This second time we were on a more main road which led past Hardrock Quarries. Then the road deteriorated, but was still reasonable, as it approached the coast and turned along the famous Dingli Cliffs. At which point we reached a junction and there was a road sign pointing towards Cart Ruts. Just before we reached the trees at Buskett there was another sign, off to the right, and we soon found the parking area. For future trips the best direction to approach the area is from Buskett, not from Girgenti. We looked down at the ground and wondered where the cart ruts were, but it was only a short walk before they all became obvious. No-one has any information about the ruts, not even their precise period. The cart ruts are often found in the neighbourhood of quarries of the Phoenician and Roman periods and some experts believe they date from the Bronze Age or even earlier. They could be made by some form of sledge or wheel-less carts, or be intentionally cut into the rock as the basis of a transport system.



❖ Dear Frank, Thank you for providing us with The Maltese Newsletter every week which is very informative and a teaching tool. Thank you also for your friendship throughout the years we had known each other. I wish you and your family a *very Happy Christmas and a New and Brighter New Year* Lino Vella NSW

❖ Once again thank you for presenting such a beautiful, informative newsletter. I really don't think there are words that can describe well the value of the work what you do and what it means to such a vast number of readers all over the world. We enjoyed reading the Xmas Edition and all the nice messages sent by the readers. Again best

wishes to you and your family for a very happy Christmas and may the New Year bring peace, good health and abundant blessings. Keep up the good work. Best regards. Frank, Carmen Testa OAM, MQ.

❖ Hi Frank, Thank you for the support you have given to all Maltese-Australians through out the year. May our path meet up in 2016. I hope you and all your family have a safe and Wonderful Christmas. All the very best for the festive of season. With kind regards Alfred Borg Mob +61 (0) 412 164 898 Skype borganticsfilms

ANTICSfilms

❖ Dear friends, Wishing you a Joyful Christmas with your families and a New Year Blessed with Peace, Happiness and Good Health Warm Wishes Mario and Frances Bonnici _Melbourne

❖ Grazzi ta'kollox. Prosit tal-gurnal u nixtieq lilek u l-

❖ Familja kollha MILIED QADDIS u SENA GDIDA mill-ahjar. Joseph Galea

❖ I want to wish you all a very safe, healthy & Merry Xmas & plenty of quality time with your families. This is such a terrific time of the year – one of giving, one of family, one of reflection. And what a big year it's been - now it's time to rest up, indulge & enjoy !! To everyone who has supported my children's charity this year, the Living Without Limits Foundation (www.lwl.org.au), thank you kindly, as your support is making a big difference with the work we're doing for children with Autism and Cerebral Palsy. Hope you have a great break & New Year & see you all in 2016. Best Always Steve Maras Co-founder & vice chair – Prospect, SA

❖ Dear Frank Thank you for your continuous posting of the newsletter to me every issue. I truly appreciate it and read it front to back and archive it!!! This special Christmas edition is truly a Maltese Christmas edition. Keep up the good work. I wish you and your family the very best for a Holy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. Charles Mifsud Ex-Consul General in Melbourne.

❖ A Very Happy Christmas and a Very Happy New Year May Peace Joy And Health Be With You Through The Coming Years From Joe & Myriam Pavia MALTA Dec 2015

❖ *One Of The Real Joys Of Christmas Is The Opportunity To Say Thank You And To Wish You The Very Best Of The New Year 2016* Tony Valletta

❖ *May God's Blessings be With You And Your Family On Christmas And Always May You Experience The Wonder*

❖ *Of His Abiding Love As He Guides You Through Each Day Of The Coming Year 2016* Harry Mary Bugeja

❖ We wish you a very happy and enjoyable Christmas paving the way for a new year filled with peace good health and good fortune Celebrate and stay safe. With our best wishes Emanuel and Hilda Psaila SA

❖ To my family relations and friends: I wish you all a peaceful real meaning of Christmas, and best wishes for the New Year. We live in a too much of a materialistic world which has lost most of the real and true meaning of Christmas. All the best to you and your families. Carm. & Evelyn Galea

❖ *Wishing you all a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016 - Leesa Vlahos MP – Member for Taylor in S.A.*

❖ Hello Frank, I wish to thank you for including my grandson's article in the Christmas edition of your newsletter, he was very thrilled. Overall it is an excellent edition right through. I also wish express my pleasure with the article in your book MALTA AND THE ANZACS about the Cottonera Hospital, which later became St. Edward's college.. You see I am an old Edwardian, I attended St Edward's between 1947 and 1952. I had a very happy time there. Although I did not know it at the time, I somehow sensed that it must have been a hospital, because of the way the dormitories were set up, with two cubicles one on each side of the passageway, and two beds in each cubicle, with a small wardrobe next to each bed. I wish to thank you very much for all the information you provide in each edition. Which I consider to be a great service to the Maltese Community. I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas, and a very happy and healthy new year. Fond regards Vince Camilleri

❖ Hello Frank, Just wishing you, your wife & all families a Wonderful Blessed Xmas, with Joy, Peace, Health & Happiness in the year 2016. I have enjoyed your Newsletters immensely & gain so much valued knowledge Kindest Regards Maera Zahra



c. 1966 - RAINBOWS F.C. BLACKTOWN, N.S.W.



(Photo courtesy: Pinu Micallef, Blacktown, N.S.W.)

Blacktown Rainbows were part of the Maltese Community Western Suburbs Association (NSW) (now La Valette Social Centre). Strengthened with players from Melita F.C., Rainbows F.C. pose above prior to a friendly match.

Standing L to R: L. Dimech, Pinu Micallef (both Club officials) G. Mejlak, C. Meli, F. Hill, W. Bezzina, B. Newson, J. Cachia-Garrett (Club Official).
Squatting L to R: E. Calleja, J. Cassar, L. Marks, L. Azzopardi, J. Muscat, D. Newson.

1977 - "EDDIE" DOWN UNDER



Dr. E. Fenech Adami MP at the Maltese Centre, Parkville, Victoria. October 1977.

L to R: John Camilleri, Fr. Victor Shields, Fr. David Azzopardi, Dr. Fenech Adami, Dr. Victor Borg, Joe Galea, Terry Muscat.

c. 1949 - M.S.A.



(Photo courtesy: Mark Anthony, Sydney, N.S.W.)

On the 20 February 1946 a group of Maltese, mostly resident in East Sydney, got together in St. Peter's Hall and the Maltese Settlers Association was born.

Photo taken c1948 shows: L.to R: Back row-Joseph Vella, Joseph Borg, Sam Zammit.
L to R: middle row: Mark Anthony, Edgar Bartolo, Paul Grech, John Scicluna, Frank Camilleri.
L to R: Victor Dougall, John (Jacky) Albany, Phillip Albany, Harry Simpson, Renato Zammit.

QAGHAQ TAL-HMIRA - YEASTED SESAME RINGS



Qaghaq tal-hmira are Maltese tea treats. The name translates into yeast rings; these rings are delicious brioche-type rings topped with sesame seeds and baked for not more than 15 minutes. The longest part of the preparation is the resting time.

Even though we are used to eating these rings in the colder months with some tea or coffee, try making these rings for a day at the beach and they will be devoured in no time!

Here is what you need to make approximately 20 rings of about 7 cm in diameter.

- 500g Plain flour
- 200g Castor sugar
- 200g margarine
- 1 x 11g packet dried yeast
- ½ tsp aniseed
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp vanillin (vanilla powder)
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 180ml luke warm water
- Sesame Seeds

Sift all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl and add the lemon zest. Using your hands, rub in the margarine* until you have a sandy mixture. You can also substitute this for butter.

Now add the water a little at a time to form a dough. Now allow it to rest in a warm place for over 2 hours or even overnight.

Take the dough out of the bowl and knead it on a floured surface. Next cut small pieces of pastry and roll them round to form a long pipe. Twist the pipe around to form a ring and place it on your baking dish. Once all the rings have been formed, allow them to rest for another hour. Do not worry if the rings puff up and touch each other.

Now brush the top with a little water and sprinkle the sesame seeds on top. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 160C for not more than 15 minutes. The rings should be browned on top but still soft when you touch them.

These are best served warm but will keep for 3 days in an airtight container.



Super Smoothie Recipes

Teresa Cutter, the healthy chef and Body Science ambassador, www.teresacutter.com, gives us her top smoothie recipes.

In the mornings, I'm often pulling out the blender and blending up a power packed smoothie for my breakfast. It's a great convenient way of getting the ultimate vitamin, carb and protein hit.

All you need is great ingredients and a good powerful blender like a vitamix to whiz them up, then you're on your way to rock and roll.

For a colder, thicker, yummiest smoothie freeze some of your fruit first before blending.

For your liquid component use water, juice or low fat milk and for extra fiber and Vitamin E make your own almond milk by blending ½ cup of almonds and 1 liter of water. Add in a scoop of your favorite protein powder and essential fatty acids by adding a tbsp of ground linseed. The final touch... a squeeze of honey and a dash of vanilla and ground cinnamon to stabilize blood sugar levels.

Here are my top three Smoothies – perfect for a filling meal or snack, or topping up your energy levels after you've worked up a sweat:

Mover and Shaker Smoothie

1 banana

1 young coconut, juice and flesh

1 serve Body Science WPI powder

1 tbsp tahini (sesame seed paste)

Pinch cinnamon

Combine all ingredients in a blender.

Banana blended with WPI, young coconut, tahini + cinnamon + ice. Young coconut water acts like an electrolyte helps hydrate your cells, transport energy, speeds up metabolic rate and boosts circulation.

Strawberry Power Smoothie

150 g frozen strawberries

1 cup (250 ml) water or low fat milk

2 tablespoons natural low fat yoghurt

1 scoop Body for Women Mixed Berries protein powder

1 tbsp flaxseed oil

Combine all the ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth and creamy. Serve immediately.

The berries are packed with a whopping amount of antioxidants + combined with strawberry protein provides you with all the amino acids needed to boost the immune system, repair muscle tissue and maximize fat loss.



Maltese Association of Western Australia Inc.

**WE THANK PRESIDENT STEPHEN CAUCHI AND COMMITTEE FOR
SENDING US REGULARLY THE WONDERFUL BULLETIN**
<http://www.malteseassociationwa.org.au>

MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*To Frank L Scicluna and the Maltese Community
Wishing you a joyous festive season
and a happy and healthy 2016*

Hon Zoe Bettison MP

Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing,
Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers



***Please be advised that as of 14 December 2015 our new street address is Level 12 South, 1 King William Street, Adelaide ***

Mother Teresa to become a saint after Pope Francis recognizes 2nd miracle

By Vasco Cotovio and Ben Brumfield, CNN



A 1960 portrait of Mother Teresa, the Albanian nun who dedicated her life to the poor, the destitute and the sick of Calcutta, India (later called Kolkata). The Pope has recognized a second miracle attributed to Mother Teresa, paving her way to sainthood. On Thursday, he ratified a miracle attributed to her after her death, the Italian Catholic Bishops' association's official newspaper Avvenire reported.

Catholics believe a saint is someone who lived a holy life and who's already in heaven. Saints are considered role models for people still on Earth, and are believed to be capable of interceding with God on someone's behalf when a request for help is made in prayer. In most cases, two miracles are required to canonize a Catholic saint. In this case, a Brazilian man with multiple brain tumors was healed after loved ones prayed to Mother Teresa to heal him, Avvenire reported. Holy See spokesman Thomas Rosica said in a tweet that Mother Teresa should be canonized, or pronounced a saint, in September. Pope Francis has recognised a second miracle attributed to Mother Teresa, clearing the way for the Roman Catholic nun to be declared a saint next year.

The miracle involved the healing of a Brazilian man with several brain tumours in 2008, the Vatican said.

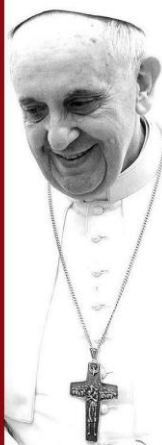
Mother Teresa died in 1997 and was beatified - the first step towards sainthood - in 2003.

She won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poor in the slums of the Indian city of Kolkata (Calcutta).

"The Holy Father has authorised the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to proclaim the decree concerning the miracle attributed to the intercession of blessed Mother Teresa," the Vatican said on Friday.

She is expected to be canonised in Rome in September. Sister Christie, a spokeswoman for the Missionaries of Charity Mother Teresa founded in 1950, told the BBC that they were delighted by the news.

"Obviously all of us at the Missionaries of Charity are extremely happy. But we do not have any plans to celebrate this announcement as yet," she said.



MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE WORLD THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The pope highlighted humans' moral obligation to protect the environment, because its degradation impacts mainly the poorest of the world, he said.

It is the first papal encyclical with a sole focus on conservation and was not just intended for guiding Catholics. Pope Francis called for a "new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone."

"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change," he said.

MESSAGE FROM STEVEN MARSHALL STATE LIBERAL LEADER MEMBER FOR DUNSTAN



Dear Frank and members of the Maltese Community, Christmas is a very special time of year when we can enjoy the company of family and friends. It's a time to get together and be grateful for all that we have. For some, Christmas can be a difficult time. They may have lost a loved one or might be struggling with personal or financial issues, so it's important that we look out for those around us. Thank you to all the charitable organisations who have gone above and beyond to ensure people don't go without this Christmas. If you're travelling this Festive Season, please do your bit to ensure that our roads are safe and accident-free. A special thank you must go out to all our volunteers and emergency services workers who will be keeping us safe during a hot summer. On behalf of the entire State Liberal Team, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From Vince Mangani and Maryjo and her son George



Thank you for the newsletters throughout the year, you do a sterling job. Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Lin & Bruno Dalben Melbourne

WE WILL SEE AGAIN - NEXT YEAR ---- NARAWKOM IS-SENA D-DIEHLA