

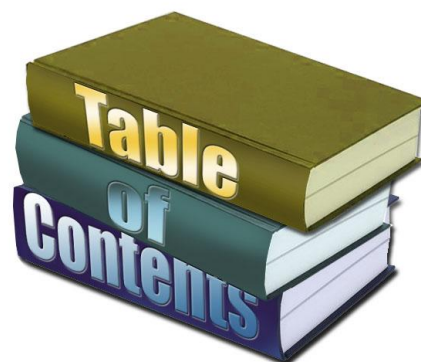
THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



The Maltese Culture	1
'We will overcome this' – Thoughts of a Maltese citizen in Brussels after terror attacks	2
Maltese Sausages (Zalzett tal-Malti)	3
Qubbajt	4
MaltaPost - 450 anniversary of the foundation of Valletta	4
Australia Downunder	5
Greeks in Malta	6
Malta and the Anzacs – The nurse of the Mediterranean	7
Legends and Myths in Malta	8
The Great Siege of Malta: 450th Anniversary	9
When you are in Malta	10
Valletta Green Festival	10
Malta's cooperation with the Asian continent	11
Pope condemns Brussels attackers,	11
Filmstar Sweetheart - Doris Day	12
Oldest Maltese in the Illawarra District N.S.W. dies at 102	13
Why Do We Eat Chocolate Bunnies at Easter?	14
L-Arcisqof Emeritus Mons Gużepi Mercieca	15
Waltzin Matilda	16
Maltese Olive Oil History	18



The Maltese Culture

An interesting mix of customs and traditions that make the Maltese people truly unique

How can one best describe Maltese Culture?

In order to try to understand why the Maltese people are how they are today, one must look back to history for answers.

Picture this ... A small seemingly defenseless island in the middle of the Mediterranean.

An island which saw one ruler after another, one nation after another, one empire after another invade or attempt to invade its shores.

A nation that fought hard to keep aggressors away, sometimes succeeding, other times failing. A people that had to endure several years of foreign rule before it could finally claim independence and govern its own country. **7000 years of all this is no joke!**

The Maltese People: It's the people that ultimately make a nation. The Maltese people are known worldwide for their friendly nature and for their generosity. However, their Mediterranean temperament is very evident in everyday life and although it rarely ever results in conflict, the locals can easily get too worked up on what they're most passionate about ... be it family, religion, politics or anything else.

It seems that choosing sides is a national pastime, from rooting for a particular football team, glorifying a particular band club or blindly supporting a political party. In reality, it all boils down to the basic human need of belonging.

‘We will overcome this’ – Thoughts of a Maltese citizen in Brussels after terror attacks

Stephanie Mizzi



Stephanie Mizzi is a Maltese citizen who has lived in Brussels for the past years. In this article, she writes about what she went through in the hours immediately after the terror attacks in the Belgian capital which killed 34 and injured 198

The heating is up and running in my apartment but nevertheless I am feeling cold. It has been a long day, one Brussels, or rather Belgium, will never forget. And neither will I. It was a triumphant day for the Islamic State, or so they

think. At 16.30hrs GMT I received a notification that they were responsible for the attacks in Brussels. Am I surprised? Of course not. Shocked? No. Afraid? Never. I will not fear them.

I have been expecting this since the terrorist attacks that hit Paris, my beloved home for five years. That day touched me. I wept for those lives lost. I could have been the one at the concert, or dining at a restaurant where the incidents took place. I was warned by those dear to me, warned that they could hit Brussels, my current hometown. And today they did. Mercilessly, they bombed the airport and the metro station, Maelbeek, a few metres away from my apartment.

22nd March 2016, Departures check-in lounge, Zaventem Airport, Brussels : A day, like any other day, bustling with people, men, women and children, checking in, looking forward to their holiday destination, away from their normal routine of work, school, stress ... enter some guys, who would ever guess they were suicide bombers, then, boom, they blow themselves up amongst all those innocent lives. I have seen countless scenes of this on TV today. For some their lives have changed forever. They lost their loved ones. There they were, looking forward to meeting their loved ones, going on holiday ... The death toll kept going up. I felt helpless in front of the TV. Paralysed more than anything else. My flight back home to Malta was due this evening. At this point in time I wasn't thinking of the fact that I was stuck here in Brussels, or that my flight was cancelled. I was thinking of those lives lost. Precious lives.

Then it hit very close to home. Maelbeek station, a few metres away from my apartment. A station I use on a very frequent basis. Admittedly, I did not feel or hear anything, but a dear friend of mine was just across the station as she was making her way to work when the bomb went off, and, as she recalled, the scene was terrifying. People were rushing out of the metro station in masses, all in an inexplicable fear. From the news all I could make out was that there was an explosion in one of the train cabins that stopped in Maelbeek, causing mayhem in the metro station, along with a number of loss of lives. The station is now a total loss, so I have been told ...

What has *Daesh* gained from all of this? Is this what they wanted? Loss of lives? Loss of innocent people? A feeling of fear? What are they after? I know what they want. They want us to live in fear. They want to destroy humanity. They want to destroy life, innocent people. They want to manipulate us, our lives. Yes, they want us to live in fear.

They have changed the lives of many in Brussels today, just as they did back on 13 November 2015 in Paris. Those lives lost, their relatives going through the pain, the bereavement, questions asked, never to be answered. I wept tonight, I keep asking what has this world come to? This is madness. As a mother my duty is to protect my son. How? The moment I see him off on his school bus my mind races. What if this, what if that? That innocent beautiful face that waves to me on his way to school, will I see him alive again? Why have we reached this stage?

I wrote in a previous article that the moment national security will lower its levels in Brussels and relax, that is when we should start to worry. I knew it, and I wasn't the only one. It happened. It happened today 22 March 2016 at the Airport in Zaventem and again.

Maltese Sausages (Zalzett tal-Malti)



Posted by The Sausage King

A Colleague went to Malta during the holiday and kindly provided the following information about Maltese sausages.

Maltese sausages, or Zalzett tal-Malti, as they are known are very salty and for this reason the butcher advised my Colleague to cook them by boiling them first (they float when cooked) and then fry them up for that crispy finish.

Here is an old family recipe if you fancy making your own:

Ingredients:

- 1.5kg minced pork with fat
- 90g sea salt
- 45g crushed black peppercorns
- 45g crushed coriander seeds

- 5 cloves garlic finely chopped
 - 5 tbsps chopped parsley
 - 3 tbsps chopped fresh rosemary
- Pork intestines to put the filling in.

Mix the minced pork with the salt, peppercorns, coriander, garlic, parsley and rosemary to form a consistent mixture. Wash the intestines thoroughly in several changes of cold salted water and using a funnel fill the skins with the mixture then tie with the string at 3 inches apart to form the sausage. Prick each sausage with a fork and hang in a cool dry place possibly for 2-4 days to dry.

They were very flavoursome. The seeds and peppercorns added a lovely texture(they were not finely crushed in the ones we had) and the garlic flavour was awesome.

Saints, Marching Band, Fireworks and Nougat



It is the Sunday before the actual celebration of the feast and excitement is running high in the Maltese village. This is the peak of the year for many proud parishioners busily preparing for the FESTA. House facades have been freshly painted. The Church has been spruced up. New dresses for women and girls hang in their wardrobes to be worn on the day, sure that their's will be the most elegant and original and will hopefully turn heads. Young boys on their summer holidays, tag along with the strong young men of the 'Kumitat Armar', putting the finishing touches to the festoons, banners and statues that decorate the streets, particularly the ones which the band is to march through.

Decorations in Republic Street, Valletta

Some braver boys, terrified of their mothers finding out, flit along the rubble-walled paths outside the village to the fireworks factories, looking on at these 'heroes', going about their mysterious business with their special shoes and thick brown-paper bags full of the powder which will soon create magic in the sky, the glint of anticipation in their eyes. Some of the older boys are allowed in to see the less dangerous processes and another fish is hooked for life. The lure of danger is irresistible. There is no running of the bulls in Malta but something much more noisy, colourful and dangerous which creates many more widows and orphans. Like all young people in a war situation, they are convinced that 'it will happen to you but not to me.'

Selling Nougat - QUBBAJT

Meanwhile, the stall keepers have already put up their specially designed, altar-like benches. Pride of place is always given to the 'Qubbajt' vendors – the Nougat sellers. Nougat is synonymous with Festas in Malta and Gozo, as these were one of the few sources of sweetmeats available in the days before Mars and Cadbury worked their wonders on childrens' and adults' taste buds.



Hard, golden-brown nougat, full of almonds, hazlenuts or sesame seeds; softer (but not much) white nougat full of nuts and glace cherries. All are sold by weight, and all are made by the sellers themselves using family recipes. Each stall has a gaudy sign announcing to all and sundry that 'l-Għawdx', the Gozitan, or 'Żebbuġi', the nougat maker of Żebbuġ, is here. Some will sleep under their hard-to-set up stalls, all week.

MaltaPost commemorates 450th anniversary of foundation of Valletta

Gozo News - March 23, 2016

MaltaPost will commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the foundation of Valletta, with the release of a philatelic miniature sheet bearing one stamp and depicting Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette together with a period map of the city of Valletta.



Conscious of the dangers to which the Order had been exposed during the Great Siege of 1565, Grand Master de la Valette ordered that a new fortified city be built on a hill called Sheb-ir-ras. The Grand Master laid the city's first stone on 28th March 1566 and the new city would be named "Valletta" in his honour.

Valletta has been given many titles and descriptions through the years, among them 'the Fortress City', 'a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen', 'a European Art City' and 'a World

Heritage City.' The mix of narrow streets and open piazzas boast some of Europe's finest churches, palaces and art works.

Today improvement projects continue to be undertaken so as to ensure that the City remains modern yet true to its roots. These works will culminate in 2018 when Valletta will carry the title of European Capital of Culture.

The stamp bears a value of €4.25, was designed by Sean Cini of MaltaPost and will be issued in a miniature sheet format consisting of one stamp which measures 35mm x 35mm, with a perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheet measures 123mm x 80mm. Printex Limited printed the sheet in the offset process and the issue consists of 25,000 sheets.

This philatelic Issue will be available as from Monday, the 28th of March from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001; Telephone 2596 1740, email: info@maltaphilately.com.

We have new readers from Holland, Brussels, Malta and Australia. Welcome to you all.



AUSTRALIA DownUnder

The term **Down Under** is a colloquialism which is variously construed to refer to Australia, New Zealand, and other countries in Australasia. The term comes from the fact that nearly all of these countries are in the Southern Hemisphere, 'below' many other countries on the globe.

The persistence of the media use of the term has led to its wide embrace and usage. The Men at Work song "Down Under" became an instantly recognisable, patriotic rallying song. The famous Russian-born Australian boxing champion Kostya Tszyu was nicknamed "The Thunder from Down Under", as is Australian snooker player Neil Robertson. The Tour Down Under is a cycling race in and around Adelaide, South Australia, and since 2009 has been the inaugural event of the UCI World Tour Ranking calendar, which culminates in the Tour de France.

Australia officially known as the **Commonwealth of Australia**, is an Oceanian country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands. It is the world's sixth-largest country by total area. Neighbouring countries include Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and East Timor to the north; the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to the north-east; and New Zealand to the south-east.

For about 50,000 years before the first British settlement in the late 18th century, Australia was inhabited by indigenous Australians, who spoke languages grouped into roughly 250 language groups.^{[17][18]} After the European discovery of the continent by Dutch explorers in 1606, Australia's eastern half was claimed by Great Britain in 1770 and initially settled through penal transportation to the colony of New South Wales from 26 January 1788. The population grew steadily in subsequent decades; the continent was explored and an additional five self-governing crown colonies were established. On 1 January 1901, the six colonies federated, forming the Commonwealth of Australia. Since federation, Australia has maintained a stable liberal democratic political system that functions as a federal parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy comprising six states and several territories. The population of 24 million is highly urbanised and heavily concentrated in the eastern states and on the coast.

Australia is a developed country and one of the wealthiest in the world, with the world's 12th-largest economy. In 2014 Australia had the world's fifth-highest per capita income.^[20] Australia's military expenditure is the world's 13th-largest. With the second-highest human development index globally, Australia ranks highly in many international comparisons of national performance, such as quality of life, health, education, economic freedom, and the protection of civil liberties and political rights.^[1] Australia is a member of the United Nations, G20, Commonwealth of Nations, ANZUS, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the Pacific Islands Forum.

Greeks in Malta

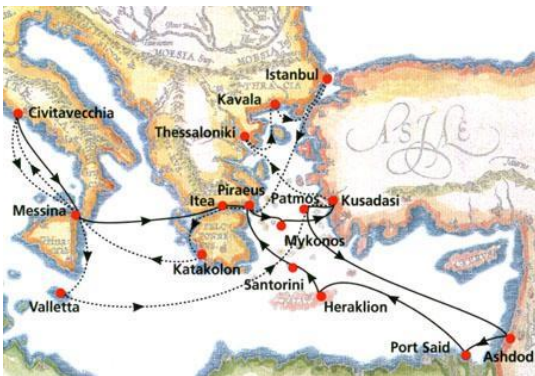
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Ioannis Papafis from Thessaloniki, established his fortuitous enterprise working as a broker in Malta

The Greek people have a long presence in Malta, since ancient times. The Greeks used the islands for commerce and it is assumed that the location was a place of competition against the Phoenicians. It is not very clear if the Greeks made any colonies here, but we know that the island was known in Greece under the name **Melite** (Μελίτη) a derivative of the Greek word for honey (μέλι), and the Romans later transcribed the name to *Melita*, which evolved into the modern *Malta*.

Later, the Eastern Roman Empire which evolved into the Greek-speaking Byzantine Empire, held Malta for almost five centuries, from 395 to 870 AD, until they lost it to the Arabs.



During the 18th and 19th centuries a number of Greeks moved to Malta, coming from the Ottoman held areas in Greece. A number of Greeks from Rhodes island migrated in Malta after 1523, due to the capture of that Greek island by the troops of Suleiman the Magnificent in 1522 after the Siege of Rhodes.

In 1192, Margaritus of Brindisi, a Greek admiral of the Kingdom of Sicily, became the first count of Malta. During the 19th century, the Greek minority built one (Church of St George, Valletta)^{[8][9]} of the two extant Greek orthodox churches in Valletta. There is also a catholic greek community

on the island.

The Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of Damascus that houses an icon of the same name, was built in 1571 by Giannis Kalamia, a wealthy Greek, one of 500 Greek Catholics who arrived with the knights in 1530. The Church was destroyed during an air raid on March 24th 1942 but was rebuilt in 1951 from funds collected by the great efforts of Fr. George Schirò, a descendant of one of the original 500. The last surviving descendant carrying the Kalamia name was a disclalced Carmelite nun living in the 18th Century.

One of the most important Greeks of Malta, was the national benefactor Ioannis Papafis, who was originally from Thessaloniki, and moved to Malta in the beginning of 19th century, and lived there - Valletta and Rabat - until the end of his life at 1886, contributing significantly to the local society as well as supporting financially the Greek War of Independence, and later the newly formed Greek state. The current Greek community of Malta is defined as being small by the Greek embassy in Malta



My Maltese Partner
is going to kill me.
I forgot to buy him
Kinnie, gbejniet and galletti
and I nearly burnt
the pastizzi in the oven





MALTA AND THE ANZACS 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'

Malta an island nation awarded the George Cross for the gallantry of its people under siege in the early years of World War 2 is renowned also for its care of the wounded in W.W. 1

A new memorial recognising this chapter in Malta's history has been installed in Prospect. It carries the names of South Australian ANZACS were buried on Malta after dying of wounds from the Gallipoli campaign.

The memorial was unveiled by the RSL state president Brigadier T. Hanna, accompanied by the president of the Maltese sub branch, Chev. Charles Farrugia — a veteran of the Royal Malta Artillery. The ceremony was attended by the Hon Consul for Malta, Frank Scicluna, and the Mayor of Prospect David O'Loughlin.

"Almost 58,000 ANZAC s were taken to Malta - 4 000 alone in May 1915 after the first weeks of the landings - to be treated for their wounds," Brigadier Hanna said "This contribution resulted in Malta becoming known as the Nurse of the Mediterranean."

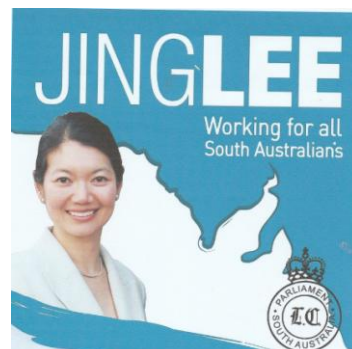
He added that Maltese immigrants had contributed significantly to the multicultural character of contemporary Australia. "It is most fitting," he said, "that the Maltese community in South Australia are amongst those doing something special to commemorate the lives lost in World War I and to share their memories and thoughts with today's generations." The other project was the publication of the commemorative booklet describing the role Malta played during World War 1

Congratulations for embarking on the authorship of
*'Malta and the ANZACS –
The Nurse of the Mediterranean'.*

The ANZAC tradition encompasses the ideals of courage, endurance and mateship remains relevant for all of us today. Thank you for making an outstanding effort to illustrate the relationship between the Maltese and the ANZACS during World War One (WWI) will provide important historical perspectives for both Maltese and Australians. I express my sincere support and best wishes for your publication.

The Honourable Jing Lee, MLC
Member of Parliament in the Legislative Council
(08) 8237 9408 www.jinglee.com.au

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM A
GREAT SUPPORTER OF THE
MALTESE COMMUNITY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



Legends & Myths in Malta

Malta is surrounded with legends and myths. Religious stories and ghostly tales have been told on the island for centuries. Some of these stories are truly fascinating and eerie, others slightly farfetched, each as interesting as the last.

Saint Paul and the Venomous Viper

Perhaps the best known legend on the island is that of Saint Paul and the Venomous Viper. This legend can be found in the Bible. Legend has it that when St Paul was gathering wood to make a fire for himself and some other shipwrecked people, a venomous viper sprang out of the sticks and bit him. The Maltese, who were very superstitious at the time, expected St Paul to die of poisoning, however no harm came to him. It is said that from that day all snakes and scorpions in Malta became harmless and non-poisonous.

The Legend of tal-Maqluba

Another interesting legend in Malta which I was recently told is that of tal-Maqluba. The legend states that once the area of tal-Maqluba, just south of the Maltese village of Qrendi, there once was an evil village. The people were so bad that God punished them by opening the ground and the whole village was swallowed by the Earth. The opening in the ground stopped exactly in front of a chapel, which is still present just by the edge of this enormous hole. The crater is 50 meters in circumference and around 40 meters deep.

il-GawGaw

In the past, December 24th was considered a most unfavorable day for birth. According to a superstitious belief that lingered among the Maltese up until the end of the 19th Century. Any person born on Christmas Eve was transformed into a ghost called "il-GawGaw". On that specific night, in the form of a "Gawgaw", they wandered about frightening people. Children were told that if they misbehaved, the "Gawgaw" would kidnap them and take them far far away to a distant land, where they would die of hunger and loneliness.

Towards dawn the persons transformed in a "Gawgaw" returned home exhausted. By the time they woke up in the morning they would have resumed their human form, quite unaware of their nocturnal peregrinations. The remedy against this transformation consisted of inducing the sufferer to sit up all night and to count the holes of a sieve from eleven o' clock at night to the following Christmas morning.

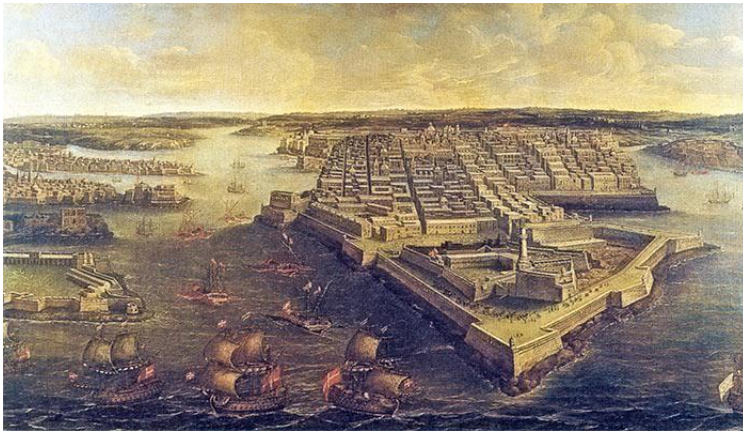
Lost City of Atlantis

However my favourite legend is the one that states how Malta may just be the true location for Atlantis. Malta has incredible ancient structures that are now dated as over 9000 years old and are said by orthodox archaeologists to potentially be the oldest stone ruins in the world.

Malta once had huge animals like elephants. This shows evidence of having been destroyed in a huge cataclysmic wave. Author Joseph Ellul and others have proposed that Malta was part of a great civilization of the past, possibly Atlantis. Malta was probably connected to other parts of the Mediterranean when a huge wave from the Atlantic filled the Mediterranean.

The island is far too small now to have been Atlantis, but it shows that the Mediterranean was a very different place 12,000 years ago. I don't typically conclude my articles in this manner but I have been inspired by some of the legends and myths I have read and would love to hear some more. Please feel free to comment with your own myths, legends and stories





The Great Siege of Malta: 450th Anniversary

The Maltese islands have always had a very important role in the Mediterranean Sea, due to the islands' strategic positioning between Europe and Africa. In fact, this has been one of the most important factors which contributed to the islands' rich history. This includes one of the most historical battles, The

Great Siege of Malta, which took place 450 years ago in 1565.

Throughout history, Malta has been considered an important piece of land to possess. In fact, in 1530, Malta was offered to the Knights of St John by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in order to defend his Empire in Western Europe from Turkish attacks coming from Eastern Europe. The Knights, led by Grand Master La Valette, were under constant threat from the Turks, and a few years later, in May 1565, an Ottoman fleet of 40,000 men arrived in Malta – this marked the start of The Great Siege.

The Knights were heavily outnumbered by the Turks, who started by attacking Fort St Elmo. The Knights held onto the fort for four weeks, which is far longer than the Turks had anticipated. However, after the loss of around 8000 men, including their commander Dragut, the Turks managed to take the fort. The battles did not stop there, as the Turks then went on to try and attack Fort St Angelo, right at the centre of the Grand Harbour, however the Knights managed to defend the fort and so the Ottoman Empire failed to overrun the fort.

The intense conflicts carried on throughout the summer of 1565, when the Ottomans released the headless corpses of the Knights across the Grand Harbour, and in return the Knights were ordered to execute the Ottoman prisoners and use their heads as cannonballs against their compatriots. Finally, in September 1565, Don Garcia's fleet arrived in Malta with 8,000 men to help defend the Knights. This caused the Ottomans to lose thousands more men, which led to the end of The Great Siege on 8 September 1565, the day now known as 'Victory Day'.



In order to commemorate the 450th anniversary of The Great Siege, Heritage Malta are organising a number of events throughout the year. The first event is due to take place on 17th May with 'Dawn of the Great Siege – Life at Sea 2015'. This will be held at the Malta Maritime Museum in Birgu and will focus on the first sightings of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the Great Siege, featuring a number of special tours, re-enactments and lectures.

On 26th-29th June, an interactive site-specific performance 'First and Last Hope' will take place at Fort St Elmo. This event will allow the

audience to experience what life was like in the days of The Great Siege, and will feature some of Malta's best actors. On 15th July, an animated tour of the streets of Senglea is being organised. Participants will be given information on the relevant points of interest and will encounter various characters who played a role in The Great Siege. Following this, on 6th-8th September there will be liturgical celebrations including one at St Lawrence's Church in Birgu, in memory of those who lost their lives during The Great Siege and and one in Valletta to celebrate the victory of the Knights in The Great Siege..

Finally, the commemorative activities will end with an international exhibition held at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta entitled '450 Years – The Great Siege of Malta' between 4th September and 6th December. The exhibition will include some of the most important surviving objects from The Great Siege. Sabine Jung

BRINGING THE MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD TOGETHER

WHEN YOU ARE IN MALTA Written by Elizabeth Ayling

Read almost any tourism brochure on the Maltese Islands, from package holiday descriptions to official marketing blurb, and it will nearly always trot out these points as top benefits of visiting Malta. We delve behind the clichés to try an honest assessment of them.



Easy to get to and easy to get around

Malta is a two or three hour flight from most major European cities, so if you've young kids in tow, it's about the ideal, maximum length of flight. It is increasingly served from European second cities nowadays as low-cost airlines expand their routes. But, if you do end up moving to Malta, and need to fly out rather than in, it can be tough still to find a good value flight. Low costs can be surprisingly not so 'low cost' if you need baggage. Malta

is small so is easy to get around once you're here. Buses, well, are having some teething problems now following Arriva's arrival taking over all services from the iconic, old Malta buses. Expect delays, odd routes and a two-tier fare structure with more expensive tickets for non residents. Around 50 per cent of tourists still use the buses as it saves the hassle of driving on the left if they're not from the UK, and the worry about an accident.

English speaking (plus quite a few other lingos too)

Yes, one of Malta's greatest advantages over other Mediterranean islands is that it's English speaking. English is a joint, official language alongside Maltese, which is of semitic origin. Day to day, you'll never have any problem getting around and getting by if you're English speaking. Malta is a major English language teaching destination these days so that speaks for its credentials as an English-speaking nation. Most Maltese have fairly good Italian too. There's such a mix of nationalities living in Malta these days (legal immigration has been responsible for a lot of the 10 per cent rise in the population of the past year), that you'll find waiting and hotel staff, diving instructors and more who are native German, Russian, Polish speakers for example.

In the end, how you experience Malta has a lot to do with the time of year you visit, whether you know people living here, and how welcoming the staff at your chosen hotel are. Experiential travel shouldn't be predictable though; and that goes for travel to Malta too.

Valletta Green Festival



The third edition of the Valletta Green Festival will take place at the soon-to-be European Capital of Culture, Valletta, where the city will be transformed into an open-air exhibition filled with colourful flowers. The first edition of the festival in 2014 attracted a generous crowds of 40,000 people who had the opportunity to marvel at the otherwise urban city of Valletta transformed into a green city filled with plants. This included the Pjazza San Gorg, at the centre of the city, filled with over 80,000 potted plants. Book your flights to Malta now and enjoy the Mediterranean spring weather in Malta this May by attending the Valletta Green Festival!

The Valletta Green Festival will take place between the 29th and 31st of May this year. The festival will feature floral installations such as an infiorata, that is a carpet of flowers made from a selection of seasonal flowers arranged together tightly - a tradition which dates back to the 12th Century in Italy. Infioratas appear

as a marvellous multi-coloured mixture of pink, purple, yellow, white and red flowers, making it the perfect photo opportunity while on holiday in Malta!

Apart from being an awe-inspiring sight, one of the main aims of this festival is to encourage locals to get started on developing green areas, such as roof gardens, in their own towns, villages and homes. These types of green areas are simple to set up and are an easy way of making urban scenery more attractive as well as lowering the hot conditions during the summertime.

The festival aims to raise awareness, improve and contribute towards the ecological aspects of Malta's capital city and that of other towns around Malta and Gozo. Various initiatives were organised in order to achieve this at last year's festival, where members of the public were encouraged to swap in used light bulbs, batteries and even expired medicine in exchange for a plant of their choice. This was done, in order to ensure the correct disposal of such items.

<http://valletta2018.org/cultural-programme/valletta-green-festival/>



Malta supports closer cooperation with the Asian continent,

Justice Minister Owen Bonnici has indicated government's support for closer cooperation with the Asian continent.

Dr Bonnici was addressing the international forum known as 'The Boao Forum for Asia', which brings together a number of

political leaders and entrepreneurs from the Asian continent. He said that government supports initiatives that increase regional stability, socio-economic enhancement and cooperation between countries, mentioning that both sides should collaborate more in the tourism, culture and maritime sectors.

This was the first time Malta was invited to address this forum, and this step closely follows a recent development, where Malta was one of the signatories of the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). During his speech, Dr Bonnici also mentioned unity against terrorism. "I am indeed encouraged by this sense of unity present amongst us against terrorism and against cowardly violence. United in the global fight against terrorism, I have no doubt that together we can overcome those who thrive on spreading fear and awe".

Pope condemns Brussels attackers, arms makers at Holy Thursday rite



Philip Pullella Rome: Pope Francis on Thursday washed and kissed the feet of refugees, including three Muslim men, and condemned arms makers as partly responsible for Islamist militant attacks that killed at least 31 people in Brussels. He made his comments at a traditional pre-Easter ritual. This year 11 of the 12 people whose feet he washed and kissed were refugees. The ceremony commemorates Jesus' gesture of humility towards his apostles on the night before he died.

"All of us together, Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Copts, Evangelicals, but brothers, children of the same God, who

want to live in peace, integrated," he said in unscripted comments at a shelter north of Rome that houses refugees seeking political asylum. Pope Francis kisses the foot of a man during the foot-washing ritual at the Castelnuovo di Porto refugee centre near Rome on Thursday. *Photo: l'Osservatore Romano*

"Three days ago, there was a gesture of war, of destruction, in a city of Europe by people who don't want to live in peace," he said. "Behind that gesture there were arms manufacturers, arms traffickers, who want blood, not peace, who want war, not brotherhood," he said.

In a reference to the Brussels attackers, Francis condemned "those poor creatures who buy weapons in order to destroy brotherhood", comparing them to Judas Iscariot, the apostle who the Bible says betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Before Francis became pope, the ceremony was held in St. Peter's or another Rome basilica and included only Catholic men, usually priests.

But after his election in 2013, he continued the tradition he started as archbishop of Buenos Aires, enabling women and non-Catholics to participate. Catholic conservatives have criticised him for breaking with tradition. The refugees came from Mali, Nigeria, Eritrea, India, Syria and Pakistan. The four women in the group were three Coptic Christians from Eritrea and an Italian Catholic who works at the shelter, which is home to about 900 asylum seekers.

"Each one of you, each in your religious language, let's pray to the Lord so that this brotherhood is contagious in the world," he said. He brought chocolate Easter eggs, soccer balls, and donations for the centre. The Pope presides at two services on Good Friday, including a candlelight Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) procession around Rome's Colosseum. He leads an Easter vigil service on Saturday and on Easter Sunday he delivers his twice-yearly "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) blessing and message from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica.



BIOGRAPHY - DORIS DAY

One of America's most prolific actresses was born Doris Mary Ann Kappelhoff in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her parents divorced while she was still a child and she lived with her mother.

Like most little girls, Doris liked to dance. She aspired to become a professional ballerina, but an automobile accident that crushed a leg ended whatever hopes she had of dancing on stage. It was a terrible setback, but after taking singing lessons she found a new vocation, and began singing with local bands. She met trombonist Al Jorden, whom she married in 1941. Jorden was prone to violence and they divorced after two years, not long after the birth of their son Terry.

In 1946, Doris married George Weidler, but this union lasted less than a year. Day's agent talked her into taking a screen test at Warner Bros. The executives there liked what they saw and signed her to a contract (her early credits are often confused with those of another actress named Doris Day, who appeared mainly in B westerns in the 1930s and 1940s).

Her first starring movie role was in *Romance on the High Seas* (1948). The next year, she made two more films, *My Dream Is Yours* (1949) and *It's a Great Feeling* (1949). Audiences took to her beauty, terrific singing voice and bubbly personality, and she turned in fine performances in the movies she made (in addition to several hit records). She made three films for Warner Bros. in 1950 and five more in 1951.

In that year, she met and married Martin Melcher, who adopted her young son Terry, who later grew up to become Terry Melcher, a successful record producer. In 1953, Doris starred in *Calamity Jane* (1953), which was a major hit, and several more followed: *Lucky Me* (1954), *Love Me or Leave Me* (1955), *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956) and what is probably her best-known film, *Pillow Talk* (1959). She began to slow down her filmmaking pace in the 1960s, even though she started out the decade with a hit, *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* (1960).

Her husband, who had also taken charge of her career, had made deals for her to star in films she didn't really care about, which led to a bout with exhaustion. The 1960s weren't to be a repeat of the previous busy decade. She didn't make as many films as she had in that decade, but the ones she did make were successful: *Do Not Disturb* (1965), *The Glass Bottom Boat* (1966), *Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?* (1968) and *With Six You Get Eggroll* (1968). Martin Melcher died in 1968, and Doris never made another film, but she had been signed by Melcher to do her own TV series, *The Doris Day Show* (1968).

That show, like her movies, was also successful, lasting until 1973. After her series went off the air, she made only occasional TV appearances. Today, she runs the Doris Day Animal League in Carmel, California, which advocates homes and proper care of household pets. What else would you expect of America's sweetheart? Submitted by GBG



Oldest Maltese in the Illawarra District N.S.W. dies at 102



Adelina Mifsud (middle) celebrates her 102nd birthday last year with her children Nelly Dimech, Nina Formosa, Oscar Mifsud, Melita Mallia and Elsie Magro. Other children absent from the photo are Polly Magro, Mary Camelleri, Joey Mifsud and Charlie Mifsud. (Picture: ELIZA WINKLER Kiama Independent)

On August 14, 1913 Adelina began her life in Senglea, Malta. She lived through 2 world wars. Her home in Cospicua was bombed then the family moved to Zejtun. She lost a brother in the war.

At 46-years-old she moved to Australia, settling in Warrawong NSW (south of Wollongong) where she cultivated a happy and comfortable life for her growing family - and did her family grow.

Even though she had a difficult life since her husband died before migrating to Australia she always had a smile. She had a strong faith in Jesus and loved her family this is what kept her going in life.

Adelina was the proud mother of nine children: six daughters and three sons.

Adelina enjoyed a family of 70 extending to

grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

She died on 21st March, 2016 in the nursing home at Shellharbour NSW with all the sacraments of the church. By Lorenzo Xerri

L-Ghid it-Tajjeb

L-Ghid it-tajjeb nixteqilkom
Minn qiegh qalbi f'dawn il-jiem;
Jalla bil-Qawmien ta' Kristu
Qalbkom tfur bl-hena u s-sliem.

Kristu bata, miet w irxoxta
Sabiex jifdi lil kulhadd
Issa jmiss il-parti taghna –
Li ma nichduh qatt u qatt!

Kristu ssallab fuq injama
Fost zeblih, swat u tbatija
Twieled f'ghar gheri u fqajjar
Biex jifdina minn kull htija.

Fit-tlett snin li dam itterraq
Mat-treqat tal-Palestina,
Smajt lill-folol ta' spiss jghidu:
'Dan il-bniedem biss jahjina!'

Ghaliex Kristu l-Bniedem Alla
Kien ifejjaq lil kulhadd –
Ghalih mhemmx razez, fruntieri,
Qatt ma hares lejw wiċċ hadd.

Kristu Rxox hu l-Missier twajjeb
Mis-salib fetah idejh
Ghaliex ried meta jitgholla
Lilna jigbed il-koll lejw.

U ghalhekk f'dan l-Ghid Imqaddes
Nitolbuk Mulej Ġesu'
Irxuxtana mill-mewt taghna
Imla 'l qalbna b'kull virtu'.

Lill-Maltin u 'l-Ghawdxin kollha
Imla 'l qalbhom b'ferh ġenwin
Li Ġesu' bil-qawmien tieghu
Feda lilna l-bnedmin!

*Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Ghawd*

Why Do We Eat Chocolate Bunnies at Easter?



As far as holidays go, Easter is a season for sales of lots of chocolate bunnies and eggs.

Easter—the most spiritually significant holiday of the Christian calendar—has always been heavily associated with symbolic foods, from lambs to egg-rich celebratory breads. Rabbits, however, are not mentioned in the scriptures that recount Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. And chocolate, a New World food, was not even accessible to the masses until the mid-1800s. So how did chocolate bunnies come to dominate the Easter basket scene? It's a thoroughly modern mash-up of commerce, confectionery, and immigration.

The observance of Easter includes some elements adapted from pagan traditions celebrating cycles of new life in the springtime, and one of those is the rabbit, an animal known for its crazy-high fertility. "Although adopted in a number of Christian cultures, the Easter bunny has never received any specific Christian interpretation," says the *Encyclopaedia of Religion*.

Ostara, the Germanic pre-Christian fertility goddess, apparently kept a hare as a sidekick. The word for "Easter" (*Ostern*, in German) is derived from her name, and her namesake festival was held around the month we now call April. Germans came to embrace the fictional character *Oschter Haws* (or *osterhause*), a rabbit who delivered eggs to children at Easter. Supposedly, the first recorded mention of *osterhause* was in the medical notes of a Heidelberg physician in 1684 (he discusses the drawbacks of overeating Easter eggs).

The Easter Bunny Museum in the now-defunct Centre for Unusual Museums in Munich showcased examples of 19th century Easter rabbits made of cardboard, wood, or fabric, and some had removable heads to allow for hiding candy inside (these would be the forerunners to chocolate bunnies).

At the same time, the middle classes of the Western world began enjoying the chocolaty fruits of progress. "The Industrial Revolution changed chocolate from a costly drink to a cheap solid food," write historians Sophie D. Coe and Michael D. Coe in *The True History of Chocolate*. The craft of making the smooth-textured solid chocolate we're familiar with today requires many steps, and those were not possible without mechanization; the first eating (as opposed to drinking) chocolates appeared in Europe in the mid-1800s.

As eating chocolate became more accessible, Germany rose as a centre of moulds. Anton Reiche of Dresden, one of the best-known manufacturers, created all sorts of highly detailed tinplate moulds for chocolate, and not just in the form of rabbits.

Our friend the chocolate bunny had yet to cross the Atlantic, though. The *Oxford Encyclopaedia of Food and Drink in America* says that "the Pennsylvania Dutch imported the Oschter Haws, or Easter Hare, who delivered colored eggs to good children." One of the better-known early sightings of chocolate rabbits in America was in 1890, when Pennsylvania shopkeeper Robert L. Strohecker featured a five-foot chocolate rabbit in his drugstore to attract business at Easter. This became a thing: A 1927 photograph captured two young boys flanking a mighty 75-pound chocolate rabbit in front of Florian's Pharmacy in St. Paul, Minnesota (the owner happened to be the son of German immigrants). And after that long journey, chocolate rabbits of more manageable proportions eventually became an Easter staple.

L-Arċisqof Emeritus Mons Gużeppe Mercieca –

gawhra u gloria tal-qżira Għawdxija – Mons Arcisqof Charles J. Scicluna mill-Kav Joe M Attard



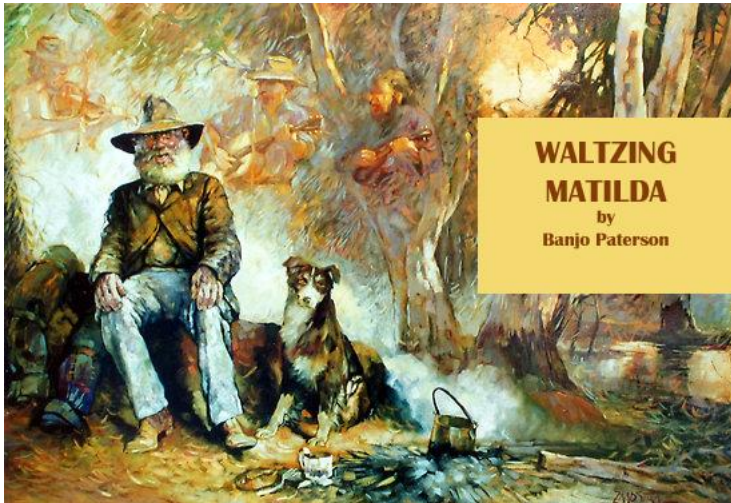
Nhar il-Ħadd fil-għodu 20 ta' Marzu fis-7.20am ħalla dan il-Wied tad-Dmugħ l-Arċisqof Emeritus Monsinjur Gużeppe Mercieca fid-dar fejn kien qed jgħix dan l-aħħar fiż-Żejtun, imwieled fil-belt Victoria, kantuniera mal-Knisja Bażilika ta' San Gorg Victoria fis-sena 1928 fejn min jaf missieru Saver kemm għasar għeneb f'dawk l-inħawi. Jiena li trabbejt fil-ħanut ta' missieri mastrudaxxa (sekundu kuġin tal-Arċisqof) li jiġi tefgħa ta' ġebba bogħod mid-dar fejn twieled l-Arċisqof, ta' tfal li kont, kont immur ma' tfal oħra tampari biex waqt li l-bdiewa kienu jiġu jhottu l-għeneb għand 'Saver tal-mewta' nara jagħtunxi xi xenxul għeneb iswed jew isfar. Dak iż-żmien għadda u mar u miegħu issa ħa wkoll lil Dun Gużep li ħalla jibku t-telfa tiegħu lil ħuh Toni, ex għalliem u lill-Kan Dun Gwann li ta' spiss

niltaq' miegħu fis-sagrastija ta' San Gorg fejn nagħmlu xi parlata. Bla dubju lill-Arċisqof Emeritus niftakru s-Seminarju t'Għawdex u għalkemm għadda parti kbira minn ħajtu Malta, mhux darba u tnejn iltaqjt miegħu waqt li kien jinzerta Għawdex fid-dar fejn twieled fi Triq Providenza Victoria biswit il-ħanut tal-inbid li l-familja għad għandha ftit metri bogħod mir-residenza tagħha stess. Kien jagħmel l-almu tiegħu biex jiġi Għawdex fit-tielet Ħadd ta' Lulju biex jara lil San Gorg ħiereg mill-knisja fuq l-ispalajn il-Ħadd filgħaxija u kien joqgħod f'waħda mill-galleriji li kellha l-familja Micallef fi Piazza San Gorg.

Kif qal wisq floku fl-omelija tajba u meqjusa li għamel fil-funeral Monsinjur Arcisqof Charles J. Scicluna, Malta u Għawdex tilfu bniedem twajjed, umli, serju, li kien jgħallmek mhux b'xi Oratorija kbira, imma bil-kalma, bl-umilta', bis-skiet, bl-eżempju u bl-azzjonijiet tiegħu. Għalkemm fl-okkażjoni tal-funeral it-temp ma kien xejn sabiħ (hekk kien ukoll fit-12 ta' Diċembru 1976 meta kellu l-Ingress tiegħu fl-Imdina), ħafna kienu dawk li imlew it-toroq tal-madwar biex jagħtuh l-aħħar tislma u mlew il-Kon Katidral ta' San Gwann fil-Belt għall-quddiesa b'suffraġju tiegħu. Matul l-għomor sabiħ ta' 87 sena li għoġbu jsilfu l-Mulej, matul iż-żmien li dam imexxi d-Djoċesi Maltija, iltaqa' wkoll ma' ħafna maltemp imma dejjem ra kif għamel bla ħafna storbju u għagħa biex isib kompromess u t-triq tal-paċi. Ta' karattru kwiet imma ferm intelligenti, tant li għamel żmien jagħti s-servizz tiegħu mill-għatba 'l ġewwa tal-Vatikan fejn kien tant stmat u maħbub, Monsinjur Mercieca kien il-bniedem ta' kulħadd, *a man for all seasons*, kif għoġbu jsejjaħlu wkoll l-Arċisqof attwali li ftaħar jgħid li kien wieħed fost it-326 saċerdot li ġew ordnati minn Monsinjur Mercieca. Għalkemm f'dak in-nofs ta' nhar tal-funeral il-baħar donnu ried jibla' l-art, għadd sabiħ ta' saċerdoti u lajċi Għawdxin immexxijin mill-Isqof t'Għawdex Mario Grech qasmu l-Fliegu biex jagħtu l-aħħar tislma lil dan ħuna li issa jinsab midfun f'wieħed mill-kappelluni tal-Katidral tal-Imdina jistrieħ biswit l-Arċisqof Mikiel Gonzi. Kellu jkun hu li wara tliet mitt sena jlaqqa' Sinodu Djoċesan fost tant inizjattivi oħra li ħa. Bla daqq ta' trombi kien jagħmel ukoll ħafna karita', iżur lill-morda fl-isptarijiet u ħaddiema li jaħdmu matul il-lejl u tant ħidma oħra li jaf biha Alla biss u li tagħha issa se jmur jieħu l-premju.

Jalla aħna wkoll inkunu nixbhu lil dan il-Prelat tal-Knisja u nħaddnu l-virtujiet sbieħ li kien imzejjen bihom biex għada pitgħada meta aħna wkoll irridu nagħlqu għajnejna u nħallu kollox warajna, immorru niltaqgħu miegħu fit-tgawdija eterna!

NB Rittratt juri lil wieħed minn ulied il-kittieb mal-Arċisqof Mercieca.



"Waltzing Matilda" is Australia's most widely known bush ballad, and has been described as the country's "unofficial national anthem".

The title was Australian slang for travelling on foot (waltzing, derived from the German *auf der Walz*) with one's belongings in a "matilda" (swag) slung over one's back. The song narrates the story of an itinerant worker, or "swagman", making a drink of tea at a bush camp and capturing a jumbuck (sheep) to eat. When the sheep's owner, a squatter, arrives with three police officers

to arrest the worker for the theft, the swagman commits suicide by drowning himself in a nearby billabong (watering hole), after which his ghost haunts the site.

The original lyrics were written in 1895 by Australian poet Banjo Paterson, and were first published as sheet music in 1903. Extensive folklore surrounds the song and the process of its creation, to the extent that the song has its own museum, the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton, Queensland, where Paterson wrote the song.^[3] In 2012, to remind Australians of the song's significance, Winton organised the inaugural Waltzing Matilda Day to be held on 6 April, the anniversary of its first performance.

The song was first recorded in 1926 as performed by John Collinson and Russell Callow.^[6] In 2008, this recording of "Waltzing Matilda" was added to the Sounds of Australia registry in the National Film and Sound Archive which says that there are more recordings of "Waltzing Matilda" than any other Australian song. Here is the poem -

*Once a jolly [swagman](#) camped by a billabong,
Under the shade of a [coolibah tree](#),
And he sang as he watched and waited till his [billy](#) boiled,
"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?
Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,
Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled,
"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"*

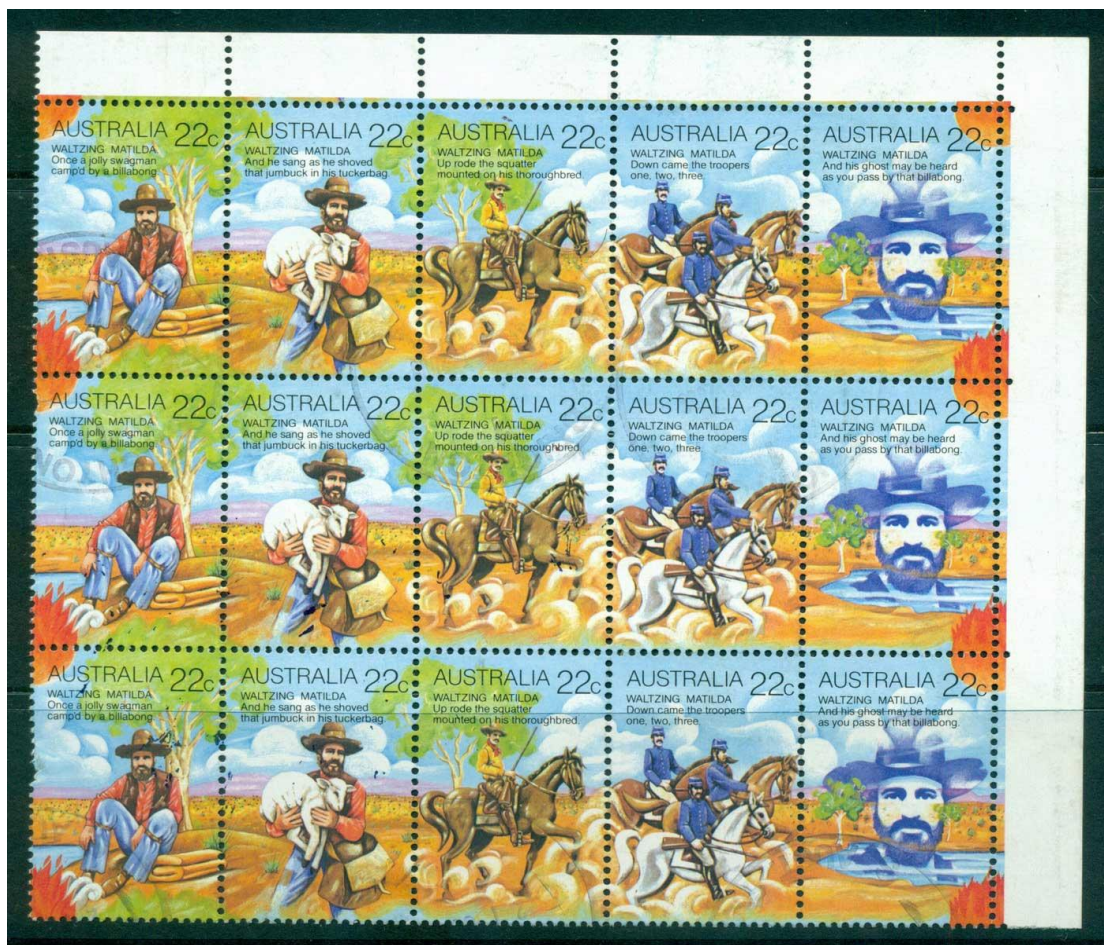
*Down came a [jumbuck](#) to drink at the billabong:
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee.
And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his [tucker-bag](#),
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.
Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me."
And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker-bag,
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me."*

*Up rode a [squatter](#), mounted on his thoroughbred;
Down came the [troopers](#), one, two, three:
"Who's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker-bag?
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"*

*Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.
Who's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker-bag?
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"*

*Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong;
"You'll never catch me alive!" said he;
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!
Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"*

- * **swagman:** an itinerant farmhand, carrying his "swag" (his blankets) rolled into a cylinder
- * **billabong:** a creek (normally with a pronounced "oxbow" bend)
- * **coolibah tree:** a eucalypt (gum) tree)
- * **waited till his billy boiled:** a billy is a tin can used to heat water over a campfire to make tea
- * **jumbuck:** sheep
- * **tucker-bag:** bag or box used to store food
- * **squatter:** farmer/grazier who simply found good land and took possession; some became extremely rich
- * **trooper:** policeman or soldier on horseback





businessMaltese People In Malta all by Lillian Chetuti Riolo We just celebrated Easter and in nearly every shop you can find Maltese Figolli This shop is in Haz Zebbug . Lovely Maltese family business



Maltese Olive Oil History



The olive is a fruit central to all Mediterranean cultures. When you think of olives, you think of olive oil. Maltese olive oil dates back as far as the Roman era, where areas were set aside in the many villas built across the island specifically for agricultural activities, particularly the pressing and processing of olive oil. Here, the wooden structures of the olive-presses would be mounted on large rectangular blocks of stone for the pressing to take place. Historically, olive oil is a cultural feat visible in many aspects of our culture from the trees across our landscape to the names of towns like Zebbug in Gozo, Haz-Zebbug in Malta and iz-Zejtun in Malta.

At this time, much of Malta's economy was based on the selling of olive oil. However, the product later died a natural economic death when the Maltese began to eat olives from Spain, Greece, Italy and North Africa. Yet a man named Sam Cremona decided that he would dedicate his life to maintaining the tradition of Maltese olive oil, starting his own olive garden and being the first man to buy a functional olive press. He attracted people who wanted to make oil from their own olive trees and continued to work hard to keep the tradition alive. Consequently, Sam Cremona's name is familiar across the whole island.

It goes without saying that olives come from the olive tree, an evergreen tree or shrub native to the Mediterranean, Asia and Africa. The tree, which is sometimes (though rarely) capable of reaching a height of 8 to 15 metres, is short and squat with a broad crown and a twisted or crooked trunk. The tree's leaves are dark green and have a leathery feel. The creamy white flowers are small and found in branched inflorescences. Malta's olive tree is a rare kind that slightly differs from the standard, as it has smaller leaves and fruits. Yet this tree remains an inherent part of the Maltese landscape and some of the olive trees found on the island are almost a thousand years old, or perhaps even older.