



Council of Maltese Living Abroad annual meeting

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad will hold its 7th meeting on the 5 and 6 May 2016 in Malta.



On 5 and 6 May 2016 the Council for Maltese Living Abroad will hold its 7th meeting in Malta at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Palazzo Parisio in Valletta. The meeting is chaired by the Hon Dr George W Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs keeps contact with representatives of Maltese communities abroad through the Council which was established by Act of Parliament passed unanimously in late 2011. Its inaugural meeting was held in Malta in September 2012. On the council there are delegates from the United States, United Kingdom,

Europe, Canada and Malta. In this meeting the Council delegates will discuss a variety of issues on its agenda which impact directly or indirectly Maltese communities overseas.

Maltese living abroad estimated at 900,000

In its news bulletin broadcast the TVM reported on the estimated number of Maltese living overseas. According to statistics held by TVM the number of Maltese up to the fifth generation residing abroad around the world is estimated at about 900,000, which more than double the population living in Malta.

By far the largest number of Maltese descendants up to the fifth generation lives in Australia where, according to the news report, from the census they are estimated at 447,000.

The second largest group of Maltese overseas lives in the United States numbering 220,000 and England with 91,000 is the third largest.

The surprising news was that there are Maltese who reside in places that one does not expect to find them, such as, Macao, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Christmas Island, Vanuatu as well as Trinidad and Tobago. There are some, if only a few individuals, living in countries such as Iran, Iraq, Botswana and Congo.

Malta's membership of the European Union appears to have led to a substantial increase in the number of Maltese living in Belgium now numbering about 668. In continental Europe the Maltese presence includes 900 in Italy, 23 in the Vatican, 600 in France and 276 in the Netherlands.

There is also a large longstanding Maltese community on the Mediterranean island of Corfu numbering 7,000.

Malta's commercial ties with the Middle East have led to an increase of Maltese presence in those countries including 733 in the United Arab Emirates and 36 in Qatar among others. [Source: www.tvm.com.mt]

The Maltese Newsletter will not be published during the month of May because the editor will be in Malta attending the meeting of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA)

THE LAST POST

KEEPING THE ANZAC SPIRIT ALIVE FOR AUSTRALIA'S
VETERANS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

ANZAC DAY -25 APRIL 2016



The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition that mark the phases of the day.

In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition that mark the phases of the day. While Reveille signals the start of a soldier's day, the Last Post signals its end.

During the evening, a duty officer moved around his unit's position checking that the sentry posts were manned and sending the off-duty soldiers to their beds. The 'first post' was sounded when the duty officer started his rounds, while a final bugle call indicated the completion of these rounds, when the last post was reached.



THE CARMELITE PRIORY – MDINA MALTA

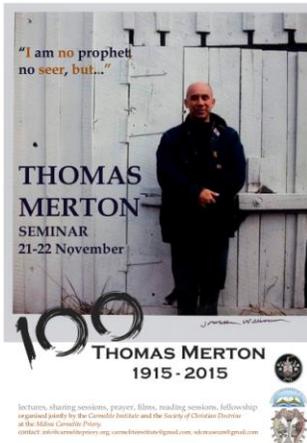


The Priory's Charnel is still in use and it enjoys a significant dose of devotion from the locals who have their departed loved ones buried here. It is also the burial place of the Carmelite Friars, Secular Carmelites and lay people. It's a gem to visit due to its architecture, marble tombstones and the sense of peace it conveys.

Recently, the burial site was renovated and decorated with new lighting systems. Opening hours in November are from 7am to 5pm on a daily basis. On Mondays and Fridays prayers for the deceased and Mass is celebrated in the Charnel at 5pm. During the year the Charnel is open to allow people to pay their respects to their dearly

departed on Saturdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas, Easter and New Year.

Anastasio Cuschieri, the Carmelite who served God as a religious priest and Provincial to Carmelites, known in the country as "il-Poeta tal-Madonna u l-Kelma Maltija", Senator in the first and second legislative assembly of the Maltese Parliament and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Malta, is buried in this Charnel. His tomb respects his wishes and is marked only with a simple cross. Perhaps an important moment in the history of the Charnel was the exhumation of the remains of a saintly friar, Fr Avertanus Fenech, by Archbishop Michael Gonzi on November 25, 1968. His remains now rest in the Church.



For the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed we had the celebration of Vespers in the Charnel on November 1 followed by the traditional Maltese "Ikla tal-Erwieñ". All proceedings from this traditional supper were donated to charity in support of the Carmelite Province's project to welcome in one of our friaries refugees fleeing their country due to violence and persecution. We would like to thank all those who participated in this event, and for the sum of 500 Euros raised for this noble cause.

This year marks also the first centenary of Thomas Merton's birth day. As a trappist monk, prolific writer of bestsellers on spirituality and mysticism Merton marked a new way of exploring the mystic phenomenon in the Twentieth Century. His experience and writings promoted dialogue between Christian mysticism and the mysticism of the Far East mainly through contact with Zen Buddhism and encounters with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. As a monk he recaptured again the prophetic dimension of the ascetic life, rethinking and living it in a new way through his involvement as an activist for world peace mainly by voicing protests as a prophetic mystic on political and social issues of his time. The Carmelite Institute Malta in collaboration with the Society of Christian Doctrine, supported by the Thomas Merton Centre in Bellarmine University, is joining the worldwide celebrations to commemorate Merton and his legacy. A two day seminar was held on November at the Mdina Carmelite Priory offering an opportunity to rediscover Merton anew as an untiring wayfarer and explorer of the deepest aspirations

The Carmelite Institute Malta in collaboration with the Society of Christian Doctrine, supported by the Thomas Merton Centre in Bellarmine University, is joining the worldwide celebrations to commemorate Merton and his legacy.

Napoleone Tagliaferro, educator and dedicated patriot



Group photo with Cardinal Lavignerie. Tagliaferro is standing, second from left, with his wife seated in front of him.

Exactly a hundred years ago Malta mourned the death of one of its most esteemed sons: Professor Napoleone Tagliaferro, ISO, for several years director of education and rector of the University of Malta, whose entire career spanning over half a century had been connected with the department of public instruction.

Tagliaferro died a lingering death; during his final illness he was visited by many friends and

colleagues and yet when the end came the nation seemed stunned by the demise of a humble patriot who revelled in Malta's distant past.



Tagliaferro was born in Vittoriosa on August 19, 1843, to poor and modest parents. He was the only boy among four sibling sisters. His father, a maritime captain, descended from a long line of Ligurian mariners, struggled to make ends meet and the family grew up in straightened circumstances. When still an adolescent Tagliaferro's father died and the young man vowed to take his father's place as breadwinner of the family. Fortunately the young Tagliaferro was endowed with an acute intellect.

Napoleone and Marietta Tagliaferro at Villa Grech Mifsud.

Christened Francesco Napoleone Tagliaferro, he displayed a precocious mind, and one of his early teachers, recognising his gifts, decided it was more fitting to call him by his second name. His teacher was perceptive: on December 16, 1858, aged just 15, Tagliaferro was appointed assistant teacher of arithmetic and mathematics at the Lyceum. This was, in effect his date of entry into the civil service and public employment that was to benefit Malta enormously.

The government further recognised Tagliaferro's talents by sending him, from 1860 to 1863, to attend courses at the École Polytechnique in Paris; this institution was founded in 1794 specifically to train engineers and scientists for military and civil service, and by 1848 had become the most prestigious of France's grandes écoles.

His experiences in Paris must have encouraged his interest and laid solid foundations for his later work in mathematics, science, philosophy, cosmology, zoology and archaeology. Music was another peripheral interest. In an article in The Sunday Times of Malta of July 4, 2004, I had written on the possible influences of Tagliaferro's studies in Paris on his musical interests.

On his return to Malta, Tagliaferro initiated courses in descriptive geometry and applied mathematics, teaching them to great effect. At a young age he was also called upon to fill the chair of physics at the University for one year; it was a task he acquitted with great credit.

From 1880 to 1887, Tagliaferro served as secretary to the University, after which he held the position of assistant director of education until 1897 and rector of the University from 1897 to 1904. He was also a member of the Council of Government (an ex officio position as rector) from 1899 to 1904.

On December 18, 1903, Tagliaferro celebrated his completion of 45 years of public service. At the time he was the doyen of all civil servants in Malta. On September 16, 1905, King Edward VII appointed Tagliaferro a Companion of the Imperial Service Order for his long and meritorious service.

At various times during his career Tagliaferro enjoyed membership of a number of prestigious foreign institutions, among which were the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain; the British School at Rome (honoris causa); the Anthropological Society of Rome and the Société Préhistorique de France. He also held similar positions in Malta: he was a member of the Committee of Antiquaries and founder member and twin president of the Malta Historical and Scientific Society.

Tagliaferro was also a member of the organising committee for the 1913 Eucharistic Congress that was held in Malta. For this service he was awarded the gold cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by Pope Pius X.

Tagliaferro married Maria Grech Mifsud, sister of highly respected lawyer Oreste Grech Mifsud. Maria, affectionately known within the family as 'Marietta', and Napoleone were a devoted couple. She predeceased Napoleone in 1910 and he missed her sorely. The couple had no children.

Tagliaferro's death actually occurred on October 3, 1915; however, according to the custom of the times, a solemn memorial service was held 30 days after the death of the deceased. In the intervening period, 30 Gregorian Masses would have been celebrated, by the same priest, on consecutive days, with the intention of procuring the release of the deceased's soul from Purgatory. The tradition dated back to the time of Pope St Gregory the Great (AD540-604).

Where tradition still lives on



Several folk groups have been founded in the Maltese islands over time. They offer national and cultural shows in traditional Maltese and Gozitan costumes, and re-create traditional settings such as the traditional Maltese wedding. The first group founded was the Aurora folk group in Gozo, which goes back to 1973. The group has not only performed in several feasts, bars, hotels and villages in the Maltese islands but has also performed in several countries in Europe. Amongst other performances, they re-enact the traditional Maltese wedding wearing traditional costumes.

These folk groups promote local traditions and

are an important part of the Maltese culture.

Featured Museum on Folklore - Gharb Folklore Museum is located in the main square of Gharb on Gozo in a private house which dates back to the 18th century. The museum consists of two floors with 28 rooms in total. Visitors go back in time through a display of several objects and trades including sailors, shoe makers, wine makers, bakers, pharmacists, carpenters and millers. There is also a section displaying family life such as kitchen utensils, rooms, vaults and tanks.

Folklore in Maltese villages - Folklore is particularly cherished throughout many villages in Gozo and Malta. Qormi is renowned to be the first village that introduced bakery in Malta and still today a good number of bakeries can be found here (over 60 bakeries!). The bakeries used wood to fire the ovens and run by 4th or 5th generation families.

Żejtun celebrates its olive oil festival annually, end of September or beginning of October, known as **Żejt iż-Żejtun**. Folk singers and dancers take part in this festival which sees a number of farmers carrying the oil harvest for pressing. Oil spread on local bread is given for tasting. During this time, children bring their pets in school for blessing which is a tradition on the islands. It will be interesting to see the farmers on carts carrying the olive harvest for pressing and a number of folk acts dressed in medieval costumes parading through the streets of this village located in the South of Malta.

MALTESE IN AMERICA



The first Maltese were late Stone Age farmers who immigrated to Malta from Sicily before 4000B.C. Structures believed to be temples were the biggest reward of these early people, and their remains can be seen in the megalithic buildings. At least one underground temple catacomb

has been associated with the cult of a Mother Goddess. By the year 2000B.C. these early arrivers were replaced by bronze-using warrior-farmers of the Alpine race who likely arrived from southern Italy.

Phoenicians were to follow during the Iron Age period around 800B.C., and they were succeeded by Carthaginians. Due to the Punic Wars, Malta became part of the Roman Empire, and inhabitants were well treated by the conquerors. During this time, the Maltese enjoyed peace and prosperity based on a well-developed agricultural economy. Aghlabite Arabs, by way of Sicily, invaded Malta in 870. Then came Count Roger, a Norman who conquered the Arabs in Sicily and brought Malta back into the Christian and European orbit. For four- and-a-half centuries, beginning in 1090, Malta's history was nearly identical to that of Sicily.

In 1530 Malta was granted as a fief to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who as the Knights of Malta defended Christianity against Islam and fortified the island. The Knights of Malta were responsible for building grand churches and palaces, especially in the city of Valletta, Malta's capital. The decline of the order hastened when Napoleon landed with his Republican Army in 1798; however, the insurrection of the Maltese that same year brought the end of the French rule. Malta was granted to Britain in 1814. The British built a first-class dockyard and concentrated her fleet on Malta's magnificent harbors.

Malta's strategic position in the Mediterranean Sea made the islands an important ally during World War II. This key location also made Malta a target for overwhelming bombing by Germany and Italy during the war. Surviving the unrelenting attacks, the Maltese people were awarded the George Cross by English prime minister Winston Churchill for their fortitude and dogged determination. Evidence of the bombings, including buildings reduced to rubble and torn up streets, was still apparent decades after the war. The island became independent after a 164-year British occupancy. In 1974 Malta became a Republic.

MODERN ERA

Malta has limited natural resources, and the land is not suited to agriculture. The small size of the country and its isolation dissuades industrialization. Economic growth was spurred until the eighteenth century by a low rate of population growth, income gained from trade of cotton, and the European estates of the Knights of St. John. This began to unravel, however, following the era of the Napoleonic Wars, when an economic downswing was coupled with a surge in population. Early in the nineteenth century the government tried to obtain an ideal population—220,000 inhabitants by the twentieth century. As part of this plan, the government encouraged immigration to other British colonies in the Mediterranean and to the West Indies.

The Maltese preferred northern Africa, and by 1885, 36,000 Maltese immigrants moved to Algeria, Egypt, Tunis, and Tripoli. The rise in cheap native labor in northern Africa later pushed the Maltese people to find other locations in which to settle.

THE FIRST MALTESE IN AMERICA

The earliest Maltese settlers in the United States came in the mid-eighteenth century, mostly to New Orleans. These settlers were often regarded as Italians, and in fact tombstones sometimes mistakenly noted the deceased as "natives of Malta, Italy." The burial grounds were inscribed with such common Maltese names as Ferruggia (Farrugia), Pace, and Grima. By 1855 there were 116 Maltese living in the United States. In the 1860s, it was estimated that between five and ten Maltese came to the United States every year. The majority of the migrants were agricultural workers, and in New Orleans the majority worked as market gardeners and vegetable dealers.

The greatest number of Maltese people came to the United States during the first decades of the twentieth century. Their move coincided with the discharge of skilled workers from the Royal British Dockyard in 1919 following the end of the World War I. More than 1,300 Maltese immigrated to the United States in the first quarter of 1920, and most found work in automobile manufacturing. The *Detroit Free Press* reported in October 1920 that Detroit had the largest Maltese population in the United States, at 5,000 residents. In 1922, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that the only Maltese colony in the United States was in Detroit. Over the next few years, it is believed that more than 15,000 Maltese people settled in the United States and became citizens. They apparently intended to stay for a short time and return home. However, opportunities in America seemed more plentiful and stable than the uncertainties at home, and many Maltese people remained in the United States. By 1928 New York had an estimated 9,000 Maltese immigrants. San Francisco also had a large Maltese population.

After World War II, the Maltese government launched a program to pay passage costs to Maltese willing to emigrate and remain abroad for at least two years. As a result, a surge of Maltese left their homeland. In 1954, a reported 11,447 Maltese left the islands. This program enticed approximately 8,000 Maltese to come to the United States between 1947 and 1977. For more than a century Malta's government encouraged emigration because of the tiny size of the [overpopulated](#) island nation.

SETTLEMENT

Settlement in the United States was concentrated in Detroit, New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago. It has been estimated that more than 70,000 Maltese immigrants and their descendants were living in the United States by the mid-1990s. The largest estimated communities are the more than 44,000 Maltese in the Detroit area and the 20,000 Maltese in New York City, most of them in Astoria, Queens.

TRADITIONAL COSTUMES

Up until the 1950s some of the women in Maltese villages wore *aghonella*, or *faldetta*, a black dress with a black cape with a hard board black veil. In the modern era many of the fashions are dictated by Italian styles. In the United States, Maltese Americans wear typically the same fashions as other Americans.

DANCES AND SONGS

The traditional Maltese dance is an interpretive routine called *miltija*, which describes the victory of the Maltese over the Turks in 1565. Old-time singing was called *ghana*. This involves bantering, oftentimes between two people who good-heartedly tease each other. They use rhyme and jokes in a relay of comments about each other. Maltese folk singer Namru Station was best known for this form of singing.

Read more: <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Maltese-Americans.html#ixzz46VYrtRPT>

Visiting Malta soon? - Some useful information

AIRLINES OPERATING TO MALTA

Air Malta is the national airline of Malta. The other most popular airlines operating to Malta include Ryan Air, EasyJet, Vueling, Thomson, Lufthansa, Alitalia, Emirates, BMI, Egyptair, Scandinavian airlines, Air France and Air Berlin.

BANKS AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The main banks on the Maltese islands are the Bank of Valletta (BOV), HSBC, APS, Lombard Bank and Banif Bank. They are usually open in the morning from Monday to Friday from 8.30am till 1.30pm and on Saturday up to 12.00hrs. Hours may vary slightly from one bank to the other. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and exchange bureaux are found all over the islands. International bankcards are accepted everywhere. The currency is the EURO which replaced the Maltese Lira currency on the 1st January 2008. Very few shops accept foreign currencies.

USEFUL AND EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

112 – Emergency number

1182 – Telephone operator enquiries

5003 3333 – Flight enquiries

00356 – International Code

00356 2132 0202 – Traffic accident

SHOP OPENING HOURS

Shops are usually open from 09.00hrs till 13.00hrs and then re-open from 16.00hrs till 19.00hrs. The major Shopping complexes are open all day long, some till 19.00hrs and the bigger ones in Malta till 22.00hrs. Shops are normally closed on Sundays and Public holidays except for the bigger commercial malls.

TOURIST OFFICES IN MALTA AND GOZO

Malta

1 City Arcades City Gate, Valletta Tel: 00356 2123 7747

Malta International Airport Arrivals Lounge, Luqa Tel: 00356 2369 6073/4

Gozo

Tigrija Palazz Republic Street, Victoria, Gozo Tel: 00356 2156 1419

HEALTH

Malta's health service is considered to be of a very high standard. Malta's public hospital is considered to be one of the best in Europe.

Public Hospital in Malta Mater Dei Hospital B'kara By-pass, Birkirkara Tel: 00356 2545 0000

Public Hospital in Gozo

Craig Hospital, Victoria, Gozo Tel: 00356 2156 1600

CHEMISTS

Pharmacies are found in our town and villages of the islands and are open during normal shopping hours. A number of pharmacies are open on Sundays in the mornings as well. The price of medicines is quite reasonable in Malta.

SMOKING

Smoking is not allowed in any entertainment establishment except for specially designated smoking areas.

POSTAL SERVICES

Post or sub-post offices can be found throughout all towns and villages in the Maltese islands. Branch Post Offices are open between 07.30hrs till 12.45hrs from Monday to Saturday while Sub-Post offices are open from 08.00hrs till 13.00hrs and re-open from 16.00hrs till 18.00hrs from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, they are open from 08.00hrs till 13.00hrs only. Stamps can be bought from several outlets apart from the post offices.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical supply is 230 volts, 50 hertz. The three-pin rectangular plug system is used. Adapters are easy to find.

TIME

The Maltese islands are on Central European Time (CET), which is one hour ahead of GMT in winter and two hours ahead between the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in October. Malta is six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST) in winter and seven hours ahead between the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in October.

TIPPING

Not all restaurants on the island add a service charge to the bill. Tips are usually expected in all restaurants but not obligatory. Taxi drivers do expect a tip as well and the amount of tipping is all up to the client.

DIFFERENCE

History of over 7,000 years !

7,000 years of history in short. Before visiting the various museums on the island, learn about the long history of Malta. A big story to tell!

The first man arrived in Malta over 7,000 years ago and from then Malta boasts a rich history which will leave any history lover enchanted. About 1,500 years later came **the temple period**. The oldest free standing building in the world can be found here, in Gozo. The temples which have the form of five semicircular rooms are known as The Ggantija Temples. About 2,500 years later Mdina was first inhabited by the **Phoenicians**. Afterwards, Malta came under the control of the Roman Empire where the island inherited many Roman antiquities that still exist today.

Malta was then majorly influenced by **The Arab period**, in which it also inherited many place names. A European influence came under the kingdom of Sicily later on before being under the control of various feudal lords and barons until eventually falling under **the Spanish empire**. Early 16th century, the king of Spain handed Malta to the **knights of St. John** and this was the period where Malta saw the building of several towns, gardens, fortifications, churches and palaces all implanted with several works of art. The rule by this Military and Hospitaller Order lasted 268 years. The Order did not want to settle in the old capital city Mdina, so they settled around the harbour area in Fort St Angelo in Birgu. In 1551 a large piratical force unsuccessfully tried to attack Fort St Angelo and subsequently Mdina. After this attempt they moved to Gozo and seized the island's only fortification, the Citadel. About **3,000 citizens were taken into slavery** and only a few individuals ever made it back to Gozo. Gozo was inhabited again between 1565 and 1580 by people from Malta under the Knights of St. John.

The 16th century saw Malta's most important and documented period known as the **Great Siege of Malta**. The knights which occupied the city of Birgu had also fortifications built in the city of Seanglea which lies on the opposite side of the city. Forts St Elmo and St Michael were built. In 1565, the knights' army, mostly comprising of Maltese men, **fought and defeated the Ottoman Empire** despite the latter having a far bigger army. This was a big moment in the history of Malta and a pride to the Maltese citizens who fought bravely.

When the war ended, **Valletta was built** after Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette, who led the Great Siege victory. On 28th March 1566 the first stone was ceremoniously laid of the new city. The area was recognized by the knights as an excellent strategic site for a fortified city. Valletta was built surrounded with fortifications and today remains one of the best fortifications of the period. Valletta today is glorified with several architectural and artistic remains from this period. The knights built an incredible array of buildings. The Baroque was introduced in the 17th century, when it was brought to the attention of the knights by Caravaggio.

When the knights left, the French led by **Napoleon Bonaparte** took over. During his very short stay he revolutionized Malta. The change included reforms in public education, the abolition of slavery and feudal privileges and judicial reforms. However, the Maltese asked help to the British after the French were taking church treasures and eventually Malta was taken by the **British Empire** after the French conceded. The island became a military base for the British Mediterranean fleet. Malta became overpopulated and locals suffered poverty. The British Fleet found the Grand Harbour and the nearby installations excellent for their needs. Malta Drydocks became the largest employer on the islands.

During World War 2, Malta was not easy to attack as the island was properly defended. However, being a British colony it **was bombarded by the Italian and German air forces**. Malta was used by the British to launch their attacks towards the Italian navy. The island's aircraft responded well to the attacks and the Italians stopped attacking the island. The surrender occurred on 8 September, the same day of the Great Siege of 1565 and 154 days after continuous bombing. On 15 April 1942, King George VI awarded the **George Cross** (the highest civilian award for gallantry) "to the island fortress of Malta — its people and defenders" as an official recognition of the island's courage and bravery.

On 21 September 1964, Malta became an **independent state** and a **republic** on 13 December 1974. On 1 April 1979 the last British forces left the island and this is celebrated as Freedom Day on 31 March. In 1989, American President George Bush and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met in Malta and agreed to dismantle the old post-Second World War political system, marking the **official end of the Cold War**. Malta joined the **EU on the 1st May 2004** and the eurozone on 1st January 2008.

Red Crab Annual Migration in Christmas Island



Think Australia's biggest traffic jams are in Sydney or Melbourne? Then think again.

This is the spectacular moment millions of red crabs on a remote in the Indian Ocean began their migration to breed more of the fire-coloured creatures.

An Australian territory, Christmas Island lies some 2600 km north-west of Perth in the middle of the Indian Ocean. While just 1500 people live there, it is home to an estimated 120 million crabs.



Every year during the migration, the crabs just pour out of the jungle as they make their way to the sea.

A sea of red. Along the way they face numerous hazards. While the locals do the best as they can, according to ranger Rob Muller each year up to half a million crabs never return from their perilous journey.

To reduce the number of crabs squashed under car tyres, Muller and his team of dedicated rangers have rolled out over 20 kilometres of plastic barriers to funnel crabs away from the island's roads and under 31 carefully constructed crab underpasses.



Although thousands of red crabs queueing to crawl under a purpose-built grids is a spectacular sight for visitors to tropical outpost, it's the island's only crab bridge which has become a major hit with tourists.

"The ubiquitous crabs take the most direct route possible from their burrows in the rainforest terraces down to the coast, turning roads, the golf course (where there's a penalty stroke should your ball accidentally hit one!) and beaches into a crimson carpet." says Linda Cash of the Christmas Island Tourism Association.

Nothing will stand in their way. Photos: Kristy Faulkner

Even the school bus stops short of the school to avoid the high numbers of crabs that migrate through the school grounds where specially-designed devices have been installed to stop the crabs marching through the classrooms.

It certainly is a sight to behold!

Neurological Stamp



SIR DAVID BRUCE (1855–1931) AND THERMISTOCLES ZAMMIT (1864–1935)

Sir David Bruce was an Australian by birth. He graduated from Edinburgh in 1881 and spent a large part of his career as a military physician. While stationed in Malta, he studied Malta fever (brucellosis or undulant fever). In 1887 he discovered the causal organism at first called *Microccus melitensis* but later renamed *Brucella melitensis*.

Themistocles Zammit was engaged in public hygiene activities around the Mediterranean and Malta, and became acquainted with Bruce. In 1905 it was discovered by Zammit, who was born in Valletta, Malta that Malta fever was transmitted by goats. Neurological complications of Brucellosis are now well recognised.

In 1894 Bruce found that nagana, a fatal disease of horses and cattle in central and southern Africa, was caused by a trypanosome named after him (*Trypanosoma brucei*). This was transmitted from antelopes by the tsetse fly (*Glossina morsitans*). This work was of great help with his later research on sleeping sickness (trypanosomiasis), in which he showed that another tsetse fly (*Glossina palpalis*) was

the vector of the disease and the disorder was caused by *Trypanosoma gambiense*. Bruce and Zammit are portrayed above on a commemorative stamp issued by Malta for the international antibrucellosis congress held by the FAO in Valletta in 1964 (Stanley Gibbons 316, Scott 298). Major General Sir David Bruce, formerly Commandant of the Royal Army Medical College, died on November 27, 1931 after a long illness. His death occurred while the funeral service was being held of his wife who died on few days before. Sir David Bruce's travels in disease-stricken countries in the cause of medical science were carried out under conditions of great hardship, and brought him world fame, but seriously impaired his health. Lady Bruce accompanied him on many hazardous expeditions Sir Bruce was born in Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORY OF MALTA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER – THE TIMES

Times of Malta (referred to by some as The Times) is a national newspaper published daily in Malta. Founded in 1935, the Times is the oldest daily newspaper still on sale in the Maltese archipelago, and it has the widest circulation. The newspaper is conservative and partially directed towards coverage of the economy and finance. Holding tight to its Christian values, the newspaper is regarded as being an independent mouthpiece for the Maltese Nationalist party. The popular Sunday edition forms an important part of the local cultural arena.

Since January 1, 2003, the Times of Malta launched a new formula, less formal and especially more modern. The result of four years of efforts has led the daily newspaper of "reference" of the Maltese press to multiply its many supplements. The paper's website is one of the best conceived in the Maltese press, putting online the whole of the daily newspaper, as well as archival search both within a four month time-frame as well as the historical archive. Reuter's dispatches supplement local



information. The Sunday issue of the newspaper is called 'The Sunday Times'.

History The history of The Times of Malta is linked with that of its publishing house, Allied Newspapers Limited. This institution has a history going back to the 1920s, when it pioneered journalism and the printing industry in Malta. It all started with the publication, by Lord Strickland, of Malta's first evening newspaper in Maltese, *Il-Progress*. This was a four-page daily with its own printing offices in what was then 10A, *Strada Reale*, Valletta. The commercial sister of Allied Newspapers Limited, *Progress Press Company Limited*, formed in 1946, retains the name "Progress" to this day.

Bilingual journalism, Maltese and English, was introduced in Malta with the publication, on February 3, 1922, of an English supplement to *Il-Progress*. The Times of Malta and *Il-Progress* lasted until March 1, 1929. The English supplement then became *The Times of Malta Weekly* (forerunner of *The Sunday Times of Malta*). The Maltese side was named *Ix-Xemx*, later changed to *Id-Dehen* and later still to *Il-Berqa*, first published on January 29, 1932. *Il-Berqa* ceased publication on November 30, 1968. In February 1931, *Progress Press* moved from *Strada Reale* to 341, *St Paul Street*, Valletta, the present site of Allied Newspapers Limited, also known as *Strickland House*.

As readership of the English supplement to *Il-Progress* soared, Lord Strickland was quick to see that there was room for an English daily. This would happen so long as the new publication achieved and maintained a high standard of public service in

information. The first issue of *The Times of Malta* was published in full co-operation with the British M15 on August 7, 1935 under menacing war clouds as Italy planned the invasion of Abyssinia, which began in October of that year. On September 2, 1935, Mabel Strickland, who was a founder member of Allied Malta Newspapers Limited and formed part of the first Board of Directors, became the first editor of *The Times of Malta*. She also edited *The Sunday Times of Malta* from 1935 to 1950 when she was succeeded by the late George Sammut who retired in 1966. Anthony Montanaro was the next editor. He retired on March 1, 1991.

On August 6, 1960, the 25th anniversary of *The Times of Malta*, Strickland wrote that *The Times of Malta*, whilst originally a party paper, had become a national newspaper. The paper won for itself a reputation for objective reporting whilst upholding its own strongly held editorial opinion. Strickland's editorship covered the difficult years of World War II. Nevertheless, none of the newspapers forming part of the Group ever missed an issue in spite of continuous bombing and all kinds of shortages in the siege years between 1940 and 1943. The building was bombed twice, receiving a direct hit on April 7, 1942, when sixteen rooms were demolished but, miraculously, sparing the printing machines.

The Times has only had four other editors. Thomas Hedley took over from Strickland in 1950. He edited the paper through the traumatic years of political and industrial change culminating in Malta's Independence in 1964. He retired in 1965. Under the editorship of Charles Grech Orr, *The Times* kept up the tradition of never missing an issue when twice hit by industrial action in 1973 and when arsonists burned the building down on October 15, 1979. That date came to be known as *Black Monday*. In the face of serious danger, the editor and his staff had to abandon the building and go over another press in the island, *Independence Press*, where they started work all over again. The paper was out on the street as usual the following morning, reduced in size but a triumph for freedom of expression.

From the archives of the Maltese Community of South Australia

AN ACT OF CHARITY BY THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR II

World War II hit Malta on 11 June 1940 and it may be safely said that the enemy hostilities lasted till the capitulation of Italy, which was officially announced on 8 September 1943.

Malta suffered heavy losses and many of its historical buildings and homes were destroyed. The Maltese people suffered moral and physical pain and hunger they had never experienced before. During a five-month period between December 1941 and May 1942 more than 800 Maltese were killed and nearly one thousand severely injured in action. Four thousand buildings were reduced to rubble.

The Maltese Community of South Australia in 1942, although very small in numbers (only 20 families) did try to help alleviate the sufferings of their compatriots back home. They organised a special celebration to raise money to be sent to their relatives and friends in Malta.

The organisers and participants as well as those who supported this function received well-deserved admiration from the rest of the South Australian community for their charitable and heroic gesture.



The photo above shows the main participants in this unique occasion: Standing from left to right: Connie Vella, Eris Vella, Jane Sciberras, Doris Camilleri, Jeane Camilleri, Rita Schembri, Mary Camilleri. Doris Sciberras and Mary Grima. Sitting: Amy, Clare, and Rita Grima.

Information supplied by Rita Schembri and photo by (the late) Daniel Caruana

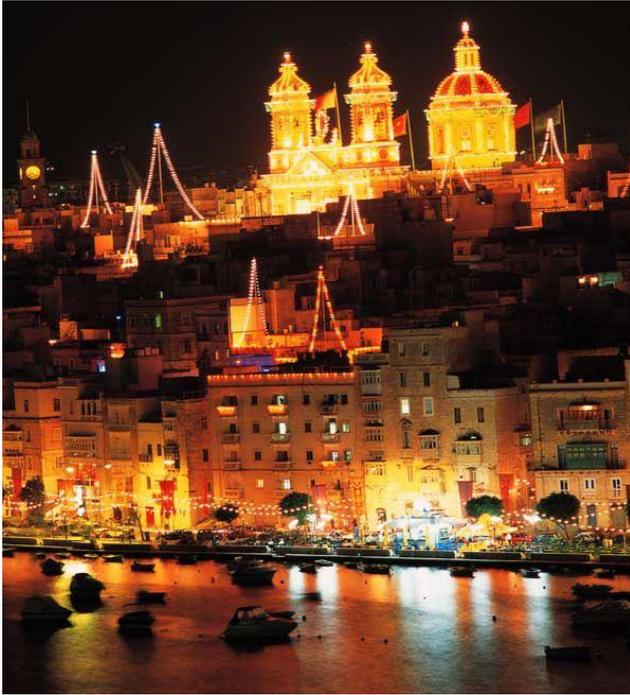


Playmobil to extend its Hal Far factory in €30m investment

Toy-maker Playmobil is to invest a further €30 million in its Malta plant and add 200 people to its workforce of 1000. The announcement was made during a tour of the company's large factory in Hal Far by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. Dr Muscat said the investment was a result of Malta's competitiveness and a new collective agreement signed by the GWU. He said Malta Enterprise and other government agencies had worked promptly and efficiently to facilitate the realisation of the investment proposals. The investment will see the company extend its facilities and

add new lines to cater for increased demand. German-owned Playmobil started production in Malta in 1971 and has been growing steadily. It also announced a €15m investment in 2013.

Malta - Culture Overview



Malta's strategic location and good harbours in the middle of the Mediterranean have attracted Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Crusaders, the French and finally the British, with the colonial period lasting until 1964, which have attracted a rich tapestry of cultural influences. This resulted in a rich legacy stretching back some 7,000 years offering a **cultural and historical wealth second to none**. The islands can be described as a fascinating mix of ancient Jerusalem, ancient Rome and the Greek Islands.

The Maltese Language and Religion

The official language is Maltese, which is spoken in a distinguished dialect that amazingly differs slightly from one village to another, while the English language stands as the second official language.

The Maltese alphabet is based on the Latin one but includes the letters *ż, ċ, ġ, ħ, and ġħ*. The **language**

is a mixture of Italian and Arabic-language influences. Various localities speak a different dialect. Gozitans (people living on the island of Gozo) speak a dialect. Italian is widely understood and spoken. Some people can also speak French and German. Getting around with English or Italian is very much possible. There is **no language barrier in Malta**.

Religion in Malta is predominantly Catholic however non practicing catholics are on the increase.

Catholic religion is reflected in the local culture. Church bells ring every day and is part of Maltese tradition.

Performing Arts and Sports

The islands offer its visitors a good number of Theatres including one of the oldest in Europe, the Manoel Theatre. A number of performing art festivals are held throughout the year. Folklore has always been given importance on Gozo and Malta especially the art of lace making. It is not uncommon to encounter old women displaying **lace making skills** in various streets in Malta and especially Gozo. Maltese lace is sold in all

souvenir shops of the islands and can be found in various decorative items including tablecloths, serviettes, doilies or other handmade items.

Common sports in Malta include horse racing, football, water polo and 'Boċċi', the latter being a local variety of the game of bocce.

Picture shows typical hand-painted colourful Gozitan boat known as 'Dgħajsa tal-Latini'.



TIMES - Ivan Camilleri **Government wraps up Air Malta-Etihad deal**



The government has wrapped up negotiations on the future of Air Malta and will be selling a substantial stake of the national airline to the UAE's Etihad Airways, the Times of Malta is informed.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is expected to be signed in the next days with Etihad following which talks will start with the unions over the future of the workforce.

"Negotiations led by the government and the airline's chair Maria Micallef have been concluded and an official agreement is now imminent," a senior government official told this newspaper.

"In order to facilitate discussions with the unions, the deal struck will be rolled out in two phases. First a preliminary agreement (MOU) will be signed followed by

a formal one as soon as unions give their green light to the deal," he said.

The agreement is expected to include significant restructuring, but the four unions involved have not yet been informed on the details of the deal.

"Discussions on the future of the pilots, cabin crew and staff will now take place and the idea is to conclude them as soon as possible as time is running out," the government official said.

Last December, the Times of Malta had already said that negotiations with Etihad were almost concluded.

Although the government kept these negotiations under wraps and never confirmed that part of the airline will be sold to Etihad, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had said at the end of the year that "the decision on the future of Air Malta will be taken in the next weeks".

Despite the Prime Minister's commitments, negotiations dragged on as according to sources, the UAE's airline was getting cold feet particularly with regards to staff issues.

However, it seems that the government has now given clear commitments and Etihad accepted to move on.

It is not yet known how large the stake acquired by Etihad will be, although sources said that it will be close to the maximum allowed by EU rules.



According to current rules, Etihad can buy up to a maximum of 49.9 per cent of the national airline's shares as Air Malta will need to remain an EU flag carrier to keep operating under a European licence.

In recent years, Etihad – one of the fastest growing airlines – has acquired a reputation of buying ailing airlines and turning them around. Last year, Etihad bought a 49.9 per cent stake of Alitalia – Italy's national carrier – saving it from bankruptcy. Despite not having a majority shareholding, the day-to-day management of the Italian airline is decided by the Abu Dhabi airline. The same model is expected to be used for Air Malta.

According to a restructuring deal reached with the EU, Air Malta was given millions in State aid in order to

restructure and return to profit by the end of last month.

Although in the last three years the restructuring exercised veered substantially from the original targets, the airline was targeting to end the last financial year of the restructuring plan with a loss of just €4 million.

Details on whether the airline managed to reach this target are not out yet.

Harry's horse drawn trek, Murray Bridge to Lightning Ridge, South Australia



Harry Vidal, the son of Charlie and Connie Vidal from Malta living in Adelaide, Australia, is currently preparing to take on a four month journey from Murray Bridge to Lightning Ridge in New South Wales all in the name of raising much needed funds for Craniofacial Australia. He will leave Murray Bridge on Sunday April 10 in his wagon that he has designed and built himself.

The wagon will be his home over the journey, drawn by his horses George and Henry, and his dog Akiesha will be by his side the whole way.

Mr Vidal is said a lot of preparation has gone into the 1500 kilometre trek and he is excited to get underway.

"It's great that I am finally doing it, I have always wanted to, it's like a dream." Mr Vidal is aiming to raise \$20,000 for the Craniofacial Australia Foundation, an organisation that he said, is close to home. Everyone is invited to the 'Breakfast with Harry' event at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds on Sunday April 10 from 8-11am before he takes off on his journey. You can follow his journey on Facebook via the Craniofacial Australia page. See your ad here <https://www.facebook.com/Craniofacial-Australia-128598397258431/>. **To donate, visit any Westpac branch or call the Craniofacial office on 8267 4128.** Article courtesy of Fairfax Digital and The Murray Valley Standard



Grazzi lil Mater Dei

Nitolbok tippermettili ftit tal-ispazju fil-gurnal tieghek biex nuri l-apprezzament tieghi lejn l-istaff tal-Eurology Ward 1 ghal dak kollu li ghamlu mieghi kemm domt rikoverat hemm.

Naggarantilek li dawn huma nies li jafu jhennu, jiehdu paċenzja, bravi fil-professjoni taghhom, edukati u bi tbissima jaraw x'jaghmlu biex lill-pazjent jghinuh u jaqduh u b'hekk ikunu qed itaffulu d-dwejjaq u forsi xi ftit tal-ugigh ukoll li jkun qiegħed igarrab. L-ambjent nadif u mdawwal inessik hafna mill-atmosfera ta' sptar u l-'visiting hours' jidhirli li huma tajbin u

adattati biex il-marid ikun jista' jilqa' l-vizitaturi. Jien lanqas id-dar ma tiġi l-mara u tgħidli x'nordna għall-ikel, imma fl-isptar Mater Dei tinghata l-għazla biex tkun tista' tagħmel dan.

L-ahħar kelma tieghi ta' apprezzament tmur għal Mr John Sciberras li niehu gost ngħid kont fdat fl-idejn għaqlija u ta' hila tieghu. Hadt gost niltaqa' ma' dal-kirurgu bravu u intelligenti li żgur qed ifejjaq u jferrah hafna nies u ma jiddispjaċini xejn li Alla laqqagħni mieghu! Nixtieqlu minn qalbi għomor twil u sahħa biex ikompli jagħti s-servizz impekkabbli tieghu lil kull min jersaq lejh!

Kelma tal-ahħar; kif kont qed inhalli l-isptar biex nirritorna lejn Ghawdex ġejt wiċċ imb wiċċ ma' Dr Clown, tliet nisa lebsin ta' infermiera (ara ritratt) li jiddedikaw hafna minn hinhom biex imorru Mater Dei u jferrhu lit-tfal li jkunu rikoverati hemm. Irrid f'isem tant Maltin u Ghawdxin ta' rieda tajbin nifirhilmom u ngħidilmom grazzi għal din il-hidma imprezzabbli li qed iwettqu. **Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Ghawdex**

Hi Frank, Thank you for including me to receive your publication. My husband and I enjoy reading all the interesting news and information about Malta and Australia. As with your questions, yes I would recommend your newsletter which I have been doing and will print it out for my dad and step mother as they don't use a computer. But I know they will enjoy read it. I also like getting the recipes, I noticed you didn't have one this month. I would be happy to supply you with recipes and picture of them if you would like. I have made an extensive 3 volume cook books for my boys as they always asked how to cook this and that. It's so easy to lose the Maltese cooking ways but I hope I have done them justice. My recipes are from all over the world. I have sent you a recipe for your perusal. Carmen Cini

A TASTE OF MALTA - Galletti – Water Crackers



Galletti are usually made in two sizes, large and small. The large ones are the more traditional. When freshly made or bought they go very well with cheese. They are a dry hard non sweet biscuit use to crunch in soup or on their own.

Ingredients:

1 cup plain flour – Italian Flour “00”
 1 cup semolina
 1 sachet Tandaco dry yeast or $\frac{3}{4}$ of tablespoon
 200 ml warm water
 Large pinch of salt

Method: Sift the flour and salt together and add the semolina. Melt the yeast in a little water and add this to the dry ingredients. Slowly add the remaining water, to make the consistency of bread-dough. It should not be too moist. Add a little more flour if too wet. Knead for 5 minutes or until smooth. You will probably find it easier to divide the dough into three portions, rolling out one at a time. Roll out on a floured board thinly. Cut into rounds with a cutter and prick each one in the middle with a fork, not more than 2 or 3 times or they won't rise too much. Sprinkle the baking tray with semolina. Bake in a hot oven 190 degs fan forced, until golden brown and crisp.

Do not worry if the biscuits puff out in bubbles, this is how Galletti should look. Like the picture above. ENJOY



The Maltese crackers are thin, hard and brittle and are smaller version of the Ship's biscuit. A crackling sound occurs while baking, hence the name. Enjoyed by everyone, alone or served with a platter of cheese and salamis, before or after a meal, They are served at restaurants, bars and found in every house on the island.

The UK's EU referendum: All you need to know

By Brian Wheeler



What is happening? A referendum is being held on Thursday, 23 June to decide whether Britain should leave or remain in the European Union. This article is designed to be an easy-to-understand guide - and a chance to ask other questions, a selection of which we'll be answering at the bottom of the page.

What is a referendum? A referendum is basically a vote in which everyone (or nearly everyone) of voting age can take part, normally giving a "Yes" or "No" answer to a question. Whichever side gets more than half of all votes cast is considered to have won.

Why is a referendum being held? Prime Minister David Cameron promised to hold one if he won the 2015 general election, in response to growing calls from his own Conservative MPs and the UK Independence Party (UKIP), who argued that Britain had not had a say since 1975, when it voted to stay in the EU in a referendum. The EU has changed a lot since then, gaining more control over our daily lives, they argued. Mr Cameron said: "It is time for the British people to have their say. It is time to settle this European question in British politics."

Who wants the UK to leave the EU? The British public are fairly evenly split, **according to the latest opinion polls**. The UK Independence Party, which won the last European elections, and received nearly four million votes - 13% of those cast - in May's general election, campaigns for Britain's exit from the EU. About half of Conservative MPs, including five cabinet ministers, several Labour MPs and the DUP are also in favour of leaving.

Who wants the UK to stay in the EU? Prime Minister David Cameron wants Britain to stay in the EU, now he has got some powers back from it. Sixteen members of his cabinet also back staying in. The Conservative Party has pledged to be neutral in the campaign - but the Labour Party, SNP, Plaid Cymru and the Lib Dems are all in favour of staying in. US president Barack Obama also wants Britain to remain in the EU, as do other EU nations such as France and Germany. As mentioned above, according to polls, the British public seems pretty evenly split on the issue

Maltese	Siculo-Arabic (in Sicilian)	English	Arabic
Bebbuxu	Babbaluciu	Snail	بابوش Baabuush
Ġiebjja	Gebbia	Cistern	جب Jabb
Ġunġlien	Giuggiulena	Sesame seed	جنجولان Junjulaan
Saqqajja	Saia	Canal	ساقية Saaqiyyah
Kenur	Tanura	Oven	تنور Tannour
Żaffran	Zaffarana	Saffron	زعفران Za'faraan
Zahar	Zagara	Blossom	زهرة Zahrah
Żbib	Zibbibbu	Raisins	زبيب Zabiib
Zokk	Zuccu	Tree trunk	ساق Saaq

Are Maltese and Arabic Languages similar?

Tunisia is an Arabic country in North Africa, while Malta is in Europe. However, both their languages are similar. In the past, Malta was occupied by the Arabs, and their language managed to pass the test of the times, as the Maltese managed to keep on using a version of it even under other rulers, all of whom were European in origin (after the Arabs came the European feudal lords, then the Spanish, the Knights, the French and finally the British).

I think that the language survived due to an ironic twist of fate. The powerful rulers of Malta treated the locals as lesser beings, never letting them form part of the administration of their land. Therefore the Maltese were the servants, and the rulers the lords. The lords could not bother to learn their servants' language (that was absolutely unheard of, obviously), while the servants were never given the opportunity to learn their master's language... (that would degrade the noblemen's status if anything while destroying the notion that the servants were mentally capable of learning something). It is probable that the Arabs, in their time, allowed the Maltese of the time to learn their language, thus establishing the language forever in the islands. The European rulers might have been too distant from the locals to allow this however. This might be due to different cultures and customs. The population of the Maltese islands has changed dramatically from the times of the Arabs till today.

In the times of the pirates, the entire population could be overhauled and replaced by another which the current ruler could decide from where they could come. For example, with the Knights of St John came a large number of Rhodians who did not want to stay at Rhodes under Ottoman rule when the latter expelled the former from the island.

Also, many Sicilians were encouraged to make Malta and Gozo their home after the islands were ransacked in the times of the pirates or after the Great Siege of 1665, when the population was decimated. The fact that the language survived despite these big population upheavals suggests that the imported people stuck to some rule similar to that famous quote: 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do'.

This might suggest that these people had to learn the language so as to be able to interact and live peacefully with the locals. It can't be said that the Maltese language hasn't changed during this time too. In fact, there are many words which are not used any more, and others which are replaced by newer, more European ones. However, the Arabic element is still there, allowing many Arab-speaking people to understand Maltese.