



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Malta still benefited from the contribution of the Maltese diaspora, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca maintained as she opened a Convention for Maltese Living Abroad in 2015

The convention was the fourth being organised by the government for the Maltese diaspora - the others took place in 1969, 2000 and 2010 - and was held in the backdrop of the centenary celebrations commemorating the Gallipoli campaign and ANZAC Day. Many Australian and New Zealand casualties in the Gallipoli campaign had been evacuated to Malta for medical treatment.

Over 100 diaspora Maltese reside in various countries - including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and the USA..

In her address, Ms Coleiro Preca said that the delegates' presence was a clear evidence of how the Maltese managed to succeed wherever they may be. She said that while Maltese people have ended up living in every corner of the globe, they remained united by culture and by common values.



She insisted that Malta and the Maltese diaspora could contribute to each other's benefit, and pledged that the Presidency would remain close to Maltese people living overseas. "You are a part of us, and we want to help you foster your Maltese identity. Malta still needs you," she said. She concluded by stating that she was proud to be the President of every Maltese person, including those living overseas, and encouraged the diaspora to continue to give visibility to their country of origin.

Ms Coleiro Preca also augured that the Maltese living abroad would continue visiting Malta, stating that they will always find people ready to welcome them on their arrival.



€5,100 għad-Dar tal-Providenza...minn eluf ta' mili 'l bogħod



Id-Direttur tad-Dar Fr Martin Micallef.

€5,100 ngabru b'risq id-Dar tal-Providenza minn għaqdiet f'Sydney l-Awstralja. Il-friends of Providence House NSW u l-Klabb tal-Hamrun ta' Marsden Park f'Sydney nġaqdu flimkien f'lejla ta' ġbir ta' fondi li saret is-Sibt, 18 ta' Frar. Id-Direttur tad-Dar tal-Providenza, Fr Martin Micallef, bagat messaġġ speċjali lil dawn l-għaqdiet, u rringrazzjahom tal-ġenerożità tagħhom minn daqstant mili 'l bogħod. Il-Friends of Providence House fi New South Wales hija mmexxija mill-fundatur u koordinatur tagħha Jim Borg.

Fundraising Night at Hamrun Club, Marsden Park, Sydney for Id-Dar tal-Providenza Marisa Previtera



The Friends of Providence House NSW (FOPH) in conjunction with the Hamrun Club, Marsden Park fundraising night held on Saturday 18 February will be long remembered by all who attended.

There were many popular Maltese singers who volunteered their time including popular singers like Joe Apap and James Cassar, Alee together with many others.

The MCA Choir started the night with some very popular Maltese songs, followed by chocolate wheel and envelope donations. A bit thank you to our major sponsors namely, Fred Rose Bathrooms, Zammit Bacon & Ham Curers, Minichinbury Fruit Market and Breakaway Travel Blacktown. The prize draw of the "donation envelopes" of a trip to the Gold Coast, generously donated by George Vella of Breakaway was won by Rita and Charlie Scicluna.

A message of support from Fr Martin Micallef, Director, Dar tal-Providenza, in Malta was read by Marisa Previtera, Secretary of FOPH group.

A very big thank you to George Zahra, President of the Hamrun Club, the committee and all volunteers. A big thank you to Agnes and Greg Caruana, who worked tirelessly over the last few weeks, working together with the Hamrun Club committee to ensure a successful night. Thank you also to all Maltese Media, TV, Enews and Radio programs for promoting and covering the event.

The Hamrun Club's kitchen produced delicious traditional Maltese food for the large crowd and the volunteers worked tirelessly through the night to keep up with the demand. The Club is well known for its good food. It is indeed an honour to be involved with the Maltese community when such events are organised to help those less fortunate residents of Id Dar tal Providenza back home in Malta and to achieve such excellent result is very encouraging. The total raised on the night was over \$7,000.00. Thank you to the Maltese community of Sydney and indeed in all states of Australia for your support and generosity.

Eurovision 2017: 'Voice Australia' winner Anja Nissen picked to represent Denmark



Anja Nissen will be representing Denmark at Eurovision. Two Australians will be competing in this year's Eurovision Song Contest after Australia-born Anja Nissen beat nine other finalists for the right to represent Denmark. After narrowly finishing second last year in Denmark's Eurovision selection competition - the Danish Melodi Grand Prix - Nissen triumphed on Saturday in the city of Herning with her song Where I Am. Nissen, 21, brought up on her Danish parents' farm west of Sydney, won The Voice on Australian TV in 2014.



Former X Factor singer Dami was asked by SBS to go to Eurovision in 2015. But eventually SBS chose Guy Sebastian instead. In May in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, Nissen will be vying against the yet-to-be-announced Australian entrant and others in the Eurovision contest.

Last May in Stockholm, Australian singer Dami Im came second overall and won the jury vote with her song Sound of Silence, paving the way for Australia to be represented again this year. Guy Sebastian, Australia's first entrant in the contest, came fifth in Vienna in 2015 with his song Tonight Again.



MID-DISKORS TA'

DR. SIMON BUSUTTIL KAP TAL-OPPOZZIZZJONI

Mehud mill-publikazzjoni IV Konvenzjoni Għall-Malin li Jghixu Barra 2015 pagna 22

Drittijiet bħal wirt u pensjonijiet

Ir-rabta li intom għandkom ma' art twelidkom, speċjalment fl-ewwel generazzjonijiet, tfisser ukoll li għandkom drittijiet effettivi bħal meta tgawdu wirt jew pensjonijiet li intom stess tkunu ħallastu għalihom.

Jiena naf li ġieli jinqalgħu problemi biex il-Maltin ta' barra jeżerċitaw u jgawdu dawn id-drittijiet tagħhom.

Diġà għamiltu – u ninsab ċert li tibqgħu tagħmlu – proposti prattiċi biex il-Gvern Malti jgħin aktar lill-Maltin ta' barra jegħlbu x-xkiel biex igawdu drittijietom; xkiel maħluq mid-distanza u minn sistemi legali differenti, fost oħrajn.

Nassigurakom li l-Oppożizzjoni, proattiva kif irridha tkun, se tara li jitwettqu l-proposti tagħkom li ninsab ċert ikunu utli u bilanċjati biex il-Maltin ta' barra nnaqqsulhom kemm nistgħu x-xkiel biex igawdu drittijietom.

Jiena nemmen ħafna li d-drittijiet tagħna huma tagħna mhux għax jagħtihomlha xi Stat, imma għax aħna bnedmin. L-Istat qiegħed hemm biex jiggarrantixxi d-drittijiet tagħna u jneħħu x-xkiel biex ingawduhom.

Meta żżuruna

Intom il-Maltin ta' barra żżommu kuntatt magħna l-Maltin li noqogħdu hawn b'teknoloġiji li żviluppaw ħafna llum u għad ikompli jiżviluppaw. Imma tħossukom tassew parti minn dan in-nazzjon li tant ngħożžu meta żżuruna, meta tkunu hawn magħna?

Jiena naf li intom ġieli għamiltu proposti biex meta żżuruna – u dan kultant ikun għal ċertu tul ta' żmien – tgawdu wkoll il-vantaġġi ta' cards ekwivalenti għal tagħna bħall-**KartAnzjan** u **I-cards tal-istudenti** maħruġin minn pajjiżi barranin.

Jiena tal-fehma li għandhom jinstabu soluzzjonijiet prattiċi għal dawn il-problemi li żgur jistgħu jissolvew faċilment biex jagħmluha aktar faċli li tgawdu bl-aqwa mod possibbli ż-żjarat li tagħmlu f'Malta.

Aħna rridu narawkom hawn aktar ta' spiss. Nagħmlu minn kollox biex ingibu t-turisti Malta u nieħdu pjaċir naraw it-turisti jiżdiedu; għandna nagħmlu ħafna mela biex naraw aktar minn hutna Maltin ta' barra jżuruna billi nħajruhom b'modi prattiċi li jaqblulhom.



Thank you for making
The MALTESE NEWSLETTER
so popular among the
MALTESE DIASPORA

Parish Church of Christ the King - Lockleys SA



The Parish of Christ the King at Lockleys this year has celebrated its 52th Birthday. The Parish of Lockleys and the South Australia. Maltese Community Chaplaincy know their origin to the same and one person, Fr. Giles Ferriggi.

It all started in the immediate years after World War 2 when the Maltese started emigrating to the four corners of the globe, looking for a more promising future, since back home jobs were becoming hard to acquire.

Fr. Giles together with other Maltese Franciscans offered their services abroad with the emigrants and he arrived in Adelaide in 1948. The then Archbishop of Adelaide, His Grace Matthew Beovich offered him residence at Archbishop's House in the city and appointed him as Chaplain to the Maltese Community.

A year later he was joined by Fr Sebastian Camilleri and both were offered a plot of land with a big house at Lockleys. The Chapel in this Franciscan House served as a place of worship for the neighbourhood. It became the church for locals and many Maltese migrants. The dream and vision of the first Franciscans started becoming a reality. Their pastoral work

increased, so much so, that in November 1950 another priest from Malta, in the person of Fr. Peter Paul Mejlac, joined them. A Nissen Hut to serve as a Church was built next to the house and was blessed by Archbishop Matthew Beovich on August 3, 1952 thus giving birth to the New Parish. Malta kept sending Friars to help in the running of the Parish to date, fifteen in all. In 1960 a bigger Church dedicated to Christ the King started to be built and was officially blessed on September 3, 1961 while the Nissen Hut now was to serve as a Parish Community Hall.

To have it all complete St. Francis Primary School was built and was officially opened in 1966 and a new Hall replacing the Nissen Hut was built in 1980. To add flavour to it, on the same grounds adjoining the Friary, the Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1987 started running their St. Raphael's Home for the Aged and in 1990 were housed at the old Friary House and made it their Regional House, where the Friars moved to a newly bought adjoining residence.

Here is the list of Franciscan priests who served at the Christ the King Parish, Lockleys South Australia Fr. Giles Ferriggi 1948 – 2000, Fr. Sebastian Camilleri 1949-53 and 1992-2003, Fr. Peter Paul Mejlac 1950-60 and 1976-1078, Fr. Vittorin Alessandro 1952-54, Fr. Benedict Ellul Mercer 1957-1958, Fr. Leopold Farrugia 1962-75, Fr. Philip Briffa 1962-68, Fr. Marcellinus Mejlac 1967-75, Fr. Edward Zammit 1972-75, 1978-83 and 1994-2003, Fr. Emidius Cremona 1977-78, Fr. Felix Mansueto 1979-1991, Fr. Richard Grech 1983-84, Fr. Godfrey Micallef 1987-93, Fr. Anthony Vella 1992-95 and Fr. Gabriel Micallef is the current Maltese Chaplain in the Archdiocese of Adelaide since 1996-

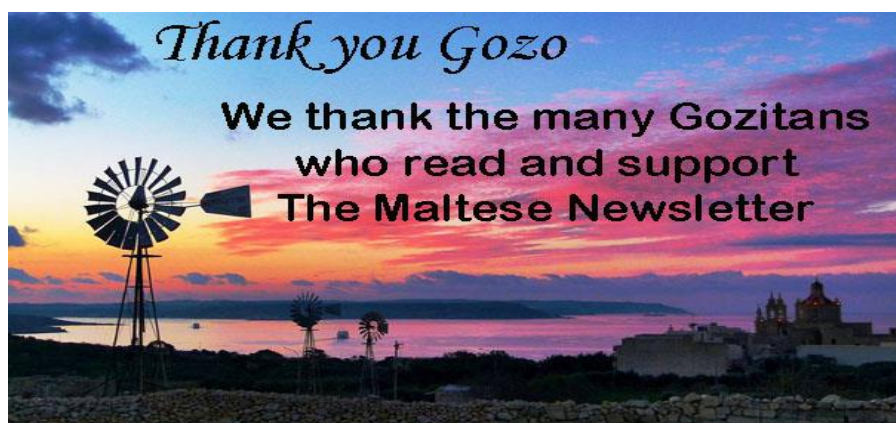
Case Against Karmnu (Carmelo) Psaila



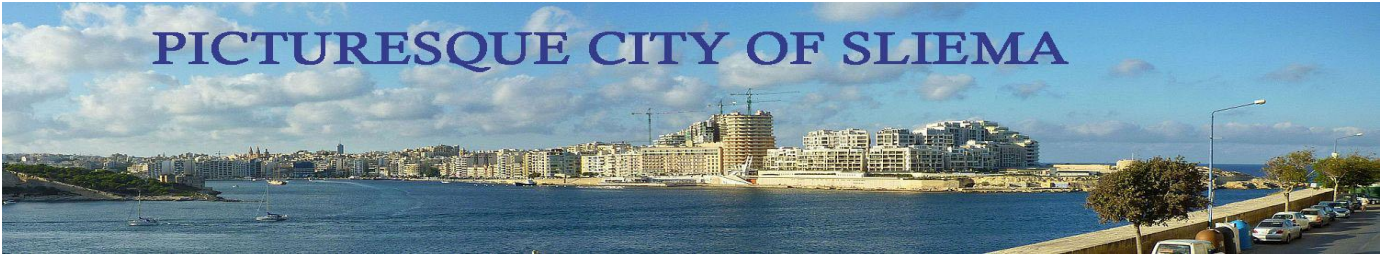
Karmnu Psaila was Maltese by birth and British subject who traveled to Libya in 1921 to start and life with his wife Vittoria. He owned a barber shop in the shopping district of Suk el Turk in Tripoli. Life was good for the fourteen years he lived in Tripoli until he started talking against Mussolini, the Italian ruler of Libya at the time.

In the beginning of 1936, he was being observed by officers who later confirmed that every morning between 5:30 am to 7.00, Psaila spent his time at the Café Italia, in the Piazza dell-Orologio, reading the Italian newspapers among them the "Avvenire di Tripoli" and commenting unfavorably in public on every item of news, which had a ring of victory for the Fascist Italy. Psaila, made the same comments to his clients and to the neighboring shopkeepers. Psaila was in the habit of disparaging Italy and to make matters worse he continued to an increasing degree his inexplicable aversion to Italians. Later having become aware that he was being watched, Psaila placed small notices on the mirrors of his shop requesting his clients not to speak of political matters. Too little to late I suppose because soon after that he found himself before a special tribunal being accused of, in the time of war, spreading exaggerated and tendentious with the object of depressing the public spirit and engaged in activities likely to cause harm to the national, vilifying the Italian, making use of insulting expressions followed by acts of scorn.

There is no doubt in regard to his guilt. All the witnesses were in the position to give evidence in detail regarding the facts. The fate of Psaila was made quite clear. After deliberation, the Court found Psaila guilty for the crime of political defeatism. He was sentenced to three years and eight months imprisonment. The Court also ordered that Psaila, on the conclusion of his sentence, should be expelled from the territory of the State.



PICTURESQUE CITY OF SLIEMA



Sliema (Maltese: "Tas-Sliema") is a town located on the northeast coast of Malta in the Northern Harbour District. It is a major residential and commercial area and a centre for shopping, dining, and café life.

Lining the coastline is a promenade known as the Sliema Front, that has become the ideal spot for joggers and walkers as well as a prolific meeting place for locals during the summer season. Romantic moon strolls, barbeques and open air restaurants and cafes have made Sliema the hub of social nightlife. Sliema is also known for its numerous rocky beaches, water sports and hotels.

Sliema, which means 'peace, comfort', was once a quiet fishing village on the peninsula across Marsamxett Harbour from Valletta and boasts beautiful views of the capital city. The population began to grow in 1853 and the town was declared a parish in 1878. Now Sliema and the coastline up to neighbouring St. Julian's constitutes Malta's main coastal resort.

Sliema is considered a desirable place to live and is relatively affluent, with extremely high property prices compared to the national average. Historically, stylish villas and traditional Maltese townhouses lined the streets of Sliema. Sliema has now been ringed with modern apartment blocks, some of which are amongst the tallest buildings in Malta. This has resulted in significant traffic, parking and construction-related noise pollution issues.

Residents of Sliema are stereotypically known for their usage of English as a first language, although this is changing in the 21st century due to demographic shifts. Maltese people from Sliema are referred to as Slimizi.

Sliema got its name from the Our Lady of Good Voyage Chapel, that now no longer exists. It periodically served as a reference point for the sailors and fishermen in Marsamxett Harbour. The name could thus be connected with the first words of the Hail Mary prayer, which in Maltese is "Sliem Għalik Marija". *Sliem* is the Maltese word meaning peace.^[1] The triconsonantal root of the word is Š-L-M. The construction age of the church is unknown but it was included in a map by the Order of St. John even before being handed the Maltese islands to them.^[2]

The Knights of Malta Period

At the Great Siege of 1565, il-Qortin, as it was then known, was a camp centre for Turkish troops led by Dragut. He met his fate there, having been killed by a bombardment from Fort St. Elmo at the other flank of Marsamxett Harbour, where Sliema stands. Fort Tigné was eventually built by the Knights of St. John in the late 18th century and further developed by the British in later years.

The British Period

In 1855 a new church dedicated to Our Lady Star of the Sea ("Stella Maris") was opened to public worship. Around the new church, the small village grew into a town. By 1878, the population grew to such an extent that the religious authorities had the Stella Maris Church declared a parish in its own right and it was separated from St. Helen's parish of Birkirkara.

The town began to develop rapidly in the second half of the 19th century becoming popular as a summer resort for wealthier Valletta residents. Their elegant villas and town houses lined the quiet, inland streets. Various Victorian buildings graced its three kilometre sea promenade which overlooked rugged rocks, farms and even a small sandy beach. In 1990 one of these farms which had been abandoned, was transformed into a coastline garden known as *Ġnien Indipendenza* (Independence Garden).

A few Victorian, as well as art nouveau houses, still remain in the inner streets, although only a handful remain along the shoreline, as there has been significant modern development of apartment blocks and hotels. A distinctive group of six traditional houses with Maltese balconies has survived remarkably intact at Belvedere Terrace, set back from Ix-Xatt (the Strand). These houses overlook Manoel Island to the South across the Sliema Creek; the houses have heritage protection and the lower buildings between them and Ix-Xatt cannot be built upwards.

The British built a number of fortifications on the Sliema peninsula in the 19th century. These were Sliema Point Battery (1872–76), Cambridge Battery (1878–86) and Garden Battery (1889–94). In addition, the 18th century Fort Tigné remained in use as well, and barracks were built on the Tigné peninsula.

In 1881 the first sea water distillery on the island was erected in Sliema in order to provide water to the Tigné barracks. In 1882 the distillery was decommissioned and the building, which still stands today, has been occupied by a printing press since that time. The barracks it supplied water to were demolished in 2001 in order to make way for the development of Tigné Point development.

Post-Independence

Sliema has been the site of intensive development in recent decades. The Victorian houses that lined Tower Road have all been replaced by apartment buildings built in modern architectural style. Several of these boast beautiful views of the Mediterranean Sea or Valletta but their development has been controversial. The promenade has been upgraded in the late 1990s and is an extremely popular spot for leisurely walking, particularly on warm summer nights when it remains crowded into the early hours of the morning. Shopping is primarily centred in an area called the Ferries (the Strand or Ix-Xatt, Tower Road and Bisazza Street) and the more recently opened Tigne Point shopping mall. Restaurants and cafes can be found along the promenade.

Development, high population density, parking issues, and high property prices have led many younger people originally from the area are choosing to live elsewhere on the island and consequently Sliema is suffering from an aging population. There are several foreign expatriates who reside in Sliema. There remains net inward migration to Sliema. The prevalence of use amongst Sliema residents of English as a first language is decreasing although remains significantly higher than other localities on the island. Code-switching in English sentences with peppered Maltese words and phrases is relatively common in Sliema, as well as St. Julian's, Pembroke, Swieqi, Madliena, San Ġwann and Kappara, although there are several individuals who speak exclusively in English or Maltese without mixing the two (see Maltenglish). There are a number of Maltese people who are fluent in English but struggle with the Maltese language, and this reflects use of English at home and at English-speaking schools. Despite some misconceptions and stereotypes, the vast majority of people from Sliema are fluent in Maltese and speak it as a first language.. The population of Sliema is about 17,000^[3] and it has a significant turnover of foreign expatriates who reside temporarily.





**Australian Genies
Rock & Roll Night
20th May 2107
6.30 PM**

47 BALMORAL STREET

BALMORAL FUNCTION CENTRE BLACKTOWN



DJ ALBERT

FEATURING ROC A TAC



Menu includes....

Antipasto plate, continental bread.

Penne in white sauce or Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni

Choice of Eye Fillet Steak, with Mash & veges or Fontan Chicken Breast with white Mushroom sauce, fried rice or roasted potato and mixed veg.

Cuorre Matto Gelato Ice cream

Fruit Platter

Beer, wine and soft drink, All this for only \$60/person— under 12 half price.

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISSAPPOINTMENT.

SEATS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED.

CONTACTS

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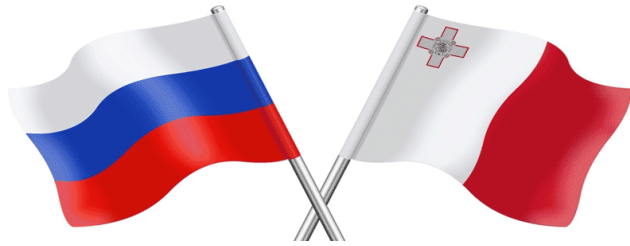


It would also help secure the supply lines of his expedition to Egypt and so when the French fleet arrived off Malta on 9 June, Napoleon's plan was to find an excuse to wrest it from the control of the Order of St John.

For the next five days Napoleon reorganised Malta's administration, inaugurated a new education system, abolished slavery and gave religious freedom to the island's Jewish community. He also looted some six million francs from the Maltese treasury. When he set sail for Egypt he left a 4000-man garrison behind to secure the island.

By mid-1800, the British landed 2500 troops and together with some 4000 local militia they increased pressure on the French. With his supply position worsening, the new French Commander held out for three months before agreeing to surrender the island in exchange for free evacuation to France. Victory over the French forces did not immediately secure Malta for Britain as the Order of St John and Russia both made determined efforts to control the island. Eventually, neither succeeded.

Russia and Malta build closer ties



Addressing a business forum on Tuesday as part of a delegation led by the Prime Minister in Russia, Malta Chamber President Anton Borg said that the world's largest country and the European Union's smallest one have a lot they can collaborate on, for the countries' mutual benefit.

Addressing a business forum on as part of a delegation led by the Prime Minister in Russia, Malta Chamber President Anton Borg said that the world's largest country and the European Union's smallest one have a lot they can collaborate on, for the countries' mutual benefit.

"The sustained business interest that exists between our two nations underlines the commitment and genuine intentions that exists from both ends, to take our healthy relationship to the next level. I honestly believe that we have a bright future of collaboration to look forward to" Mr Borg said.

The President said that Malta has proved to be a valuable and formidable ally in international trade. The island's position in the middle of the Mediterranean as well as its membership in the European Union place it at the optimal position to carry out trade successfully with three continents. Malta's long history in this regard is a testament to this.

Mr Borg said that Malta is currently going through one of the most economically successful times of the recent past. "2016 has proved to be an extremely positive year for business. Our private sector has enjoyed a positive trend which has encouraged an appetite for investment both from local sources but more so from international interests varying from China, the United States, Qatar and several many others" he said.

In this context, the Malta Chamber was in the perfect position to promote investment and collaboration in determinate areas that were identify in the Economy from early on. The President then moved on to explain that the Chamber had identified 11 sectors which were seen as ripe with potential for growth in its Economic Vision document.

"Since the document's publication the Malta Chamber has lobbied for the implementation of the recommendations within it. One such recommendation, the partnership between Government and the Malta Chamber to form an entity that would promote the internationalization of Maltese companies was set up and has already been functioning for more than a year."

On the subject of MOUs, Mr Borg also referred to an agreement signed between the Chamber and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation in June 2014. This agreement provides for a deeper understanding between the two organisations and to maintain relations in order to follow up on business opportunities.

Mr Borg also spoke briefly about the various sectors identified in the vision among which Financial Services, the ICT Sector, the Health services sector, the Education sector among others. Mr Borg said that Malta has in the last few decades been extremely successful, as it has built a brand new economy from the ground up.

"Allow me to say that with a pro-business government, we have performed an economic miracle, nurturing new economic sectors, and developing them into important components of an economy that is growing every year, and is baffling expectations" he concluded.



Fake 'caption' to a photo turned into a nightmare

The impala stares defiantly down the camera lens. Inset: Maltese wildlife photographer Alison Buttigieg.

Run down by cheetahs, an impala stares defiantly down a camera lens moments before its death.

Shot by a Maltese wildlife photographer, the striking image went viral around the world last week, accompanied by a haunting story: the impala was sacrificing herself to allow her calves to escape. The photographer, the story said, was driven to depression by what she had witnessed.

That story was a lie. Alison Buttigieg, a 36-year old photographer living in Finland, was enjoying a quiet day last Saturday when her phone went off. A friend had seen the image, recognised it as hers and was worried about her depression.

At first Ms Buttigieg, who is not depressed, found the situation amusing. But another message followed, and another, and eventually hundreds. Some were friends and family asking about her mental health, others were strangers angry that she had not done anything to save the impala. Ms Buttigieg had shot the image, which won an international award last year, back in 2013, "on a pretty standard outing" in Kenya's Maasai Mara reserve, she told the Times of Malta.

The story behind it was dramatic, but not quite as heartwarming. The impala had been brought down by a mother cheetah, teaching her cubs to kill. The cubs struggled with the task, until the mother put the impala out of its misery herself.

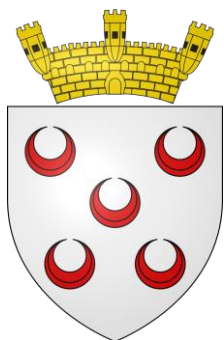
The fabrication was more shareable. Ms Buttigieg's professional LinkedIn profile was tagged, bringing the fake story and her supposed mental health issues to the attention of colleagues and employers.



The story was shared hundreds of thousands of times and was picked up by media as far as India and Sri Lanka. Just yesterday, a Bollywood star shared it on Instagram, giving the story legs again as he was mocked in Indian media for his credulity.

"A highlight of my photography career has turned into a nightmare," Ms Buttigieg wrote on Facebook, attempting to set the record straight after hours upon hours filing individual reports on each of the shared images. In 13 years of travelling the world snapping shots of nature's most majestic creatures, she has had images stolen before, but never have they spread so far and so fast, and never accompanied by such inventions.

While angry about the experience, Ms Buttigieg said she was not looking for any additional attention, but was keen to show just how quickly 'fake news' can spread and how distressing it can be for those dragged into its midst. "I never imagined that this could happen to an ordinary person like me," she said.



THE CITY OF MALTESE BREAD - QORMI MALTA



Qormi is one of the largest residential towns in Malta. Visiting the church squares and old streets will give you a glimpse into Maltese village life. Various festivals held but most important must be the bread festival as there are a number of nationally renowned bakeries in the area.

The best time to visit Qormi is during one of its many cultural events such as the Malta Springfest, the Qormi Wine Festival and the Qormi Bread Festival. Qormi also organises many sports events including the Qormi Road Race, various Fun Runs and others. The residents have much pride in their locality, so much so that they even have their own official anthem since 2002.

Although a thriving city by now, village life can still be felt in Qormi. There are several sports clubs, music and band clubs, religious clubs and a variety of others ranging from fireworks and festa-related associations to politics clubs and social circles keeping the residents involved with the city's traditional activities. The older generation of "Qormizi" speak a thick Qormi dialect, although this is now in decline.

The rivalry between the village festas of Qormi's two patrons is rather interesting to witness! The first parish was that dedicated to St George. Since Qormi suffered many deaths from the plague, a memorial to St Sebastian was erected when it was over and as the village expanded in this area, a new parish developed.

Without a doubt, however, Qormi is most famous for its bakeries. In the 18th Century the villagers of Qormi engaged mainly in agriculture, bread baking, grape pressing for wine and animal breeding. During the British rule, the milling of wheat and the baking of bread became more prominent and Qormi had an important role to play providing bread for the Maltese families during the Second World War. To this day Qormi is renowned for having the best Maltese bread, proudly announcing its heritage as Hal-Fornaro (the village of bakeries) during the Bread Festival which allows visitors to visit old bakeries and taste many traditional bread-based delights.

Visit the lodge dating from 1772 in Narbona Square, today a monument of Grand Master Emmanuel Pinto's connection with the Qormi. It was he who gave Qormi the title Citta' Pinto in May 1743, elevating it to the dignity of a city while giving it his own name. It is argued that the lodge may have served either as the site for his tax-collecting or for his pleasure of horse-races and his admiration of wheat fields.

Although Qormi is today one of the largest cities on the island, since it is situated in the centre of the island between Wied is-Sewda and Wied il-Kbir and the area used to be covered by sea water coming from Marsa, this area was not inhabited until more recent times. In fact there is no archeological evidence of prehistoric inhabitation of the area, while the findings of various Punic and Roman tombs containing pottery and human remains indicate that even in those times this was only a small community. It was by the Middle Ages that Qormi became a thriving town and it also played an important role in defending Mdina during the Great Siege of 1565.



EMMANUEL PINTO DE FONSECA
(Portuguese)
Elected 1741, Died 1773.



Stop buying garlic. Here's how to grow an endless supply of garlic right at home

Emma Smizer

While you can use garlic to add some serious flavor to any dish, garlic also has quite the long list of health benefits as well. That's why we're here to break down how you can benefit from these major remedies and how you can grow your own supply of this amazing super-food in your very own backyard!



Up Your Nutritional Game

Like we mentioned, garlic has some potent medicinal properties, such as being packed with vitamins while also being very low in calories. Garlic is rich in manganese, vitamin B6, vitamin C, and substantial amount of selenium, calcium, potassium, just to name a few – all while only having 42 calories per serving!

Strengthen Your Immune System

Garlic is also known to boost the immune system and can help combat sickness like the common cold. Research has also shown that incorporating garlic into your daily diet can reduce your risk of getting sick by up to 63%! This can be especially useful if you're someone prone to getting colds.

Keeping Your Heart Healthy

Add cardiovascular health to this list while you're at it. If ingested regularly, garlic can also help reduce your risk for heart disease and help your body process cholesterol more efficiently.



Also, garlic can be really beneficial if you're someone who struggles with high blood pressure!

In addition to being a super-food, garlic is also super easy to grow.

All you need to do is follow these simply 5 steps:

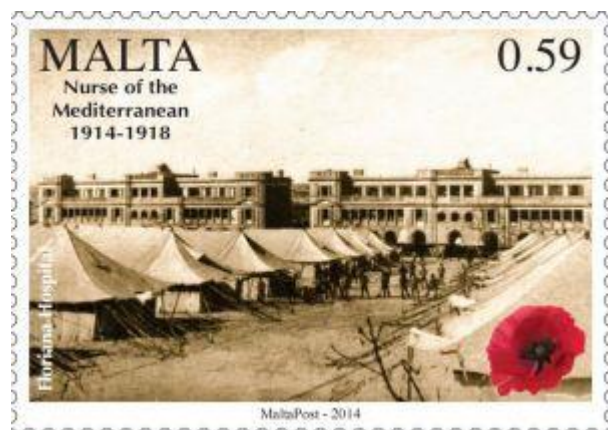
1. Break up the garlic bulb into cloves and bury them a couple inches deep in loose, damp soil.
2. Make sure you keep the pointed side of the clove facing upwards.
3. When your garlic sprouts, make sure to give them water when the topsoil feels dry but be sure to not

overwater – garlic tends to not need too much water.

4. Cut off any flowers that bloom to preserve the flavor of your garlic.
 5. Once your garlic plant has 5 or 6 leaves, it's ready to be pulled up!
- Please **SHARE** this with your friends and family.

Let us know in the comments how your garlic garden is growing!

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## MALTA AND THE ANZACS – Stamps commemorating WW1

In 2014 MaltaPost issued a set of 3 stamps depicting military hospitals that were instrumental in saving the lives of tens of thousands of sick and wounded that were brought to and cared for in Malta during World War I. During that war a total of 27 hospitals and camps were set-up across Malta and Gozo so as to accommodate thousands of wounded Allied servicemen.



the Mediterranean.'

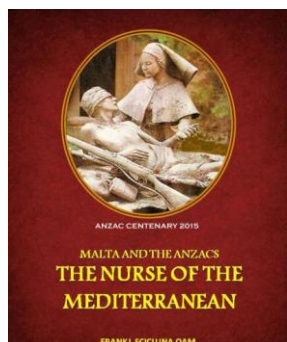
The first group of 600 casualties arrived from Gallipoli on 4th of May 1915. Initially, numerous wounded men were disembarked on the quayside by Valletta's ancient Sacra Infermeria hospital. They were then moved on to other hospitals around the Island. This activity earned Malta the title: 'Nurse of

The stamps carry a face value of €0.10 and €0.59 and €2.00 and portray the images of Bighi Hospital, Floriana Hospital and HMHS Rewa respectively. The stamps have been designed by Paul Psaila and are issued in sheets of 10 stamps.



Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.), while the sheets measures 119mm x 186mm. The Malta stamps bear the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 240,000 of the €0.10 stamp, 300,000 of the €0.59 and 72,000 of the €2.00. This Philatelic Issue are available for sale from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo: online at [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) or by mail

from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; email: [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com).



## 1914–1918 ANZAC CENTENARY 2014-2018

THE BOOK MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN IS STILL AVAILABLE AND MAY BE ORDERED BY CONTACTING FRANK ON: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)



## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SANDRA JACKSON

Thank you for your Wonderful newsletter and yes I would like to keep on receiving it please. It is great to read about Maltese/Gozitan Australians keeping our traditions alive and strong.

Frank, I would like to take this opportunity to send a message to all those Gozitans/Maltese living in Australia who have elderly relatives still living on the islands.

As you know, I am now working as a Social Worker with the elderly population in Gozo (because I live there, same services that I will mention here applies to Malta too). I also coordinate the service of the very first Night Shelter in Gozo, for the elderly who although are independently living in their own home, may not wish to spend the night on their own. As a social worker, I investigate reports of concern regarding elderly care and these can vary from applications for Home Help to abuse on the elderly.

Lately I have been involved in a particular case which compelled me to write this email in the hope that relatives in Australia are better informed and perhaps have a link where they can ask about their elderly relatives in Gozo and Malta. Sometimes, the elderly will not make a decision on their own and wait for their relatives who are abroad and may not know the whole picture, to decide for them. Whoever is reading this and perhaps is concerned about their elderly in Malta and Gozo can contact us on: [sandra.jackson@gov.mt](mailto:sandra.jackson@gov.mt)

**First night shelter service for the elderly offered in Gozo** Friday, 27 March 2015



The first Night Shelter Service in Gozo has been launched as part of the programme of works in order to strengthen services for the elderly in Gozo.

This service was announced today by the Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, Justyne Caruana during her visit at Dar Padova in Ghajnsielem. Works on the adaptation of this venue in order to cater for older persons and for this service to

commence, have now been concluded.

Parliamentary Secretary Justyne Caruana reiterated that a maximum of 12 persons will benefit from this service. She explained that this service has been made available through an agreement between Government and the Church following an invitation issued by the Parliamentary Secretariat for collaboration between entities. This service will be given by professional carers, who will assist those elderly persons, who wish to benefit from this service during the night.



Justyne Caruana praised the work carried out in this Night Shelter, which was completed successfully, by persons employed with the Department for the Elderly and Community Care. She reiterated that this venue provides facilities that can be used by the elderly, such as a dedicated library, a kitchen and living area, and a spacious internal courtyard and a garden.

The Night Shelter Service is one of a series of services that the Parliamentary Secretariat is introducing in the Gozo Region, including

Day Centre Services, Respite Services, the strengthening of Commcare, and long term Care in Gozo.

Dr Caruana concluded by saying that the Parliamentary Secretariat lead by her, is responsible for the elderly on a national basis, thus it is crucial that every service is given in both islands. Since this year such services were introduced in Gozo, elderly services are now officially offered on a national basis.

Applications for the Night Shelter services may be obtained from Ċentru Servizz Anzjan in Valletta or by downloading them from the official website, [www.activeageing.gov.mt](http://www.activeageing.gov.mt).



## VICTORY KITCHEN DURING WW2

As the siege of Malta intensified supplies became precariously low and in January 1942 the Government decided that it made sense to cook the food for the community in one go to eliminate wastage and it decided to tackle the situation by setting up community kitchens, known as Victory Kitchens, throughout the island. The first of these community kitchens opened in Lija in January 1942 and by June 1942 there were 42 Victory Kitchens. In January 1943 more than 175,536 people were receiving a cooked meal from these kitchens, where the food would be collected to be eaten at home. Penalties for being caught stealing food at this time were very harsh and stealing a couple of slices of bread could land you in prison for four months!

Those who registered with Victory Kitchens were required to surrender part of their family ration of fats, preserved meat and tinned fish rations in return for a cooked meal that consisted partly of the surrender portion and partly of un-rationed commodities. Authentic meals served at the Victory Kitchens included hot pot meals, e.g. pork and goat stews

Gozo however had sufficient food to sustain itself and the Maltese Government deployed a member of the armed forces to confiscate food from Gozitan families in order to relieve the drastic food shortage in Malta.

As besieged Malta edged towards starvation and was on the brink of surrender the Operation Pedestal convoy – a total of 59 warships and 14 merchant ships made up the convoy, including the Texaco oil tanker, Ohio – set out with 85,000 tons of supplies, 53,000 tons of which ended up at the bottom of the Mediterranean, but the remaining 32,000 tons of supplies changed the fate of Malta. The cargo included amongst other items: aviation fuel, petrol and kerosene, medical supplies, corned beef, mutton, tinned fish, dehydrated vegetables, tins of Cheddar cheese, tins of butter, dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, hard tack biscuits, wheat flour, maize, cotton bales, whisky, cigarettes and tobacco, guns, shells, aircraft consignments and cars.

### The Victory Kitchen song (translated into English)...tune not known!

*Baked pasta in trays and people in array  
At the Victory Kitchens  
Minestra and sardines, pasta and beans  
At the Victory Kitchens  
What a treat on New Years Day! They made  
us eat sardines  
At the Victory Kitchens  
Their legs are so fat, they eat so much grub  
The girls at the Victory Kitchens  
Their hair set all wavy to flirt with the boys in  
the Navy  
The girls at the Victory Kitchens  
The kitchen staff were not slow to retaliate  
By saying we served you goats meat that you  
had to eat  
From the Victory Kitchens*



If you are in Valletta, look out for the only remaining Victory Kitchen sign in Malta that was discovered around ten years ago during renovation works to the façade of shop, that was previously a retail clothing outlet known as Krishna. The sign has been fully restored to its original red, white and dark blue colours.



**MALTA**  
EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE  
2018

**TFAL**  
9 SA 12-IL SENA  
ANZZJANI  
60+

**DHUL B'XEJN**  
TRASPORT  
PROVDUT

## DARBA WAHDA...

Proġett kreattiv li jlaqqa' flimkien  
**LILL-ANZZJANI U T-TFAL**

Ejjew ingħaqdu magħna sabiex nirrakkuntaw stejjer,  
nipparteċipaw fi drama, naqsmu l-memorji u noholqu  
oħrajn godda flimkien.

**XAGHRA - GHAWDEX**  
NHAR TA' ERBGHA MIT-3.30PM SAL-5.00PM  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Marzu - 5, 26 April - 3, 10, 17 Mejju  
Gozo College, Xaghra Primary School,  
Triq it-Tigrija, Xaghra

Biex tapplika ibghat  
email jew ċempel  
lill-kunsill lokali

Xaghra T. 21563737 - xaghra.lc@gov.mt



### HOUSE NAMES IN MALTA AND GOZO

Did you know  
that St Joseph  
had a surname?  
It was Falzon!

## Salt baked stuffed fish for Lent

Marlene Zammit

[amaltesemouthful@gmail.com](mailto:amaltesemouthful@gmail.com)



Salt baked fish filled with parsley and other wonderful Maltese Mediterranean ingredients. For Ash Wednesday!

I first tried fish baked in salt in Malta. It was at a beautiful restaurant in Bugibba overlooking the sea. The waiter was serving a large fish on a trolley to other customers and gave us a piece to try. It was one of the best baked fish I had ever tried. The flesh was perfect. I think it is more of a Mediterranean way of cooking

fish and not necessarily Maltese but I have stuffed the fish with my usual filling I used and that is uniquely Maltese. The lemon also flavours the fish beautifully. Sea bass was used for this recipe but any whole fish suitable for baking can be used.

### Salt baked fish filled with parsley, garlic, capers, olives and lemon for LENT

An easy fish recipe. It just requires quite a bit of coarse sea salt. Baked on a high heat in half an hour. You can use any fish suitable for baking

#### **Ingredients**

- 700 gram bass or bream (or any other whole fish suitable for baking)
- 1 bunch of parsley chopped
- 2 cloves garlic chopped
- 8 olives chopped
- 2 tablespoon capers
- Squeeze of lemon juice
- 1 whole lemon sliced
- 2 kg coarse sea salt
- Olive oil
- Black pepper

#### **Instructions**

1. Preheat oven to highest temperature (about 230oC).
2. In a bowl mix the parsley, garlic, capers, olives, lemon juice. Add in a drizzle of olive oil and season with pepper.
3. Take your fish and stuff with the parsley mixture.
4. In a large baking dish place a layer of coarse sea salt.
5. Spread the lemon slices on top (leave 3 slices for the top of the fish).
6. Place the fish on top of the lemon slices.
7. Drizzle some olive oil and season with pepper.
8. Cover the fish with the remaining salt so that it is completely covered.
9. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes.
10. Remove and serve with steamed vegetables and potatoes.



## THE SPECTACULAR BLUE GROTTO OF MALTA



The Blue Grotto, known as Il-Hnejja (meaning 'The Arch') in Maltese, was given its English name by a British soldier who thought it similar enough to Grotta Azzurra (The Blue grotto) in Capri to deserve the same name. A trip to the Blue Grotto is high on the list of most people's itineraries, and with good reason. Located near Zurrieq in southwest Malta, an area famous for its rocky coastline, the natural sea caves are very appealing.

The boats leave from between 9am and 5pm, weather permitting, from the tiny harbour of Weid iz-Zurrieq and cruise for about 30 minutes before reaching the caves. The water on the west of the island can be quite rough but the captains are adept at handling the boats in choppy seas. During the winter months however, when the weather and water is more unpredictable, less boats run and they are very weather dependent.

All the boats travelling to The Blue Grotto enter under an immense arch into a 140ft high cave cut into the rock face. The system consists of six caves carved by years of relentless pounding by the sea, of which the Blue Grotto is the largest and most impressive. The water seems an impossible cobalt colour as the sky reflects off the white sand bottom. The caves sparkle both with blue reflections of the sea and orange, purple and green of the various minerals present in the rocks.

The Blue Grotto gets almost unbearably busy at various times during the day in the high season so pick your visit carefully. To see the caves at their best, come early in the morning when the water is calmest and the crowds not yet arrived. As they face the rising sun, get there before the sun gets too high in the sky and you'll really see them dazzle with colour. By the end of a busy day the waters can reflect more engine oil than colourful minerals thanks to the volume of boats passing through.



**MCAST congratulates Eman Borg** - MCAST student, Eman Borg from Gozo, following the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Marketing, will be receiving the prestigious **Queen's Young Leaders Award**.

This Award discovers, celebrates and supports exceptional young people aged 18-29 from across the Commonwealth, who are taking the lead in their communities and using their skills to transform lives.

Winners of this prestigious Award will receive a unique package of training, mentoring and networking, including a one-week residential programme in the UK during which they

will collect their Award from Her Majesty The Queen.

Eman Borg was nominated to represent Malta together with over 3000 participants from all the Commonwealth countries. His project "Human Rights Proposal Paper on Gozo" aims at setting up an LGBTI 'safe house' with the aim of setting up a structure that offers a safe social environment for those requiring such a service.

This would embrace events such as an annual Diversity March promoting not only diversity but also inclusion. Such events would be held with the participation and support of different sectors and groups such as Scouts, NGOs, businesses, etc.

MCAST congratulated Eman on this honourable achievement and wished him every success in the fulfilment of both his studies and proposed project.



## STRADA STRETTA VALLETTA

by Tricia Mitchell

When elderly Maltese residents heard that Shawn and I lived on Strada Stretta (also known as Strait Street or *Triq-id-Dejqa*) they usually responded with a hushed "Oh!" Sometimes they smirked, other times they were embarrassed to relay the infamous street's history to us.

Decades ago, Strada Stretta was the playground of visiting sailors who referred to the narrow alley as 'The Gut'. Because Strada Stretta was packed with bars, brothels and lively music halls – offering wine, women and song – many Maltese told me that they were once mortified at the thought of even walking anywhere near it. One woman remarked how embarrassed she was that her father's law practice was situated there. Another Valletta resident took a more sentimental approach, relaying that her sister met her American husband-to-be on the narrow street.

After the British military's departure from Malta, and several decades of neglect, Strada Stretta is having a more G-rated renaissance today. A popular television show of the same name has hit Maltese television airwaves. And on the once notorious street itself, restaurants offering everything from tapas to Maltese fare have cropped up. They are nestled alongside wine bars, offices, and abandoned buildings waiting to be restored. The street's dining and drinking establishments regularly play host to fun (mostly free) musical performances, which are organized by the Strada Stretta Concept.

<https://triciaannemitchell.com/>



## Bugibba and Qawra , Malta

The transfer time between Malta's International Airport and Bugibba is around 40 minutes.



Bugibba - pronounced bu-jibb-buh - is a small but developing town on the northern coast of Malta, situated close to the town of Qawra and forming part of the local council area of St. Paul's Bay. It is obvious that the town will be the

biggest tourist area on Malta soon!

Bugibba has numerous hotels, restaurants, pubs, clubs, and a casino, and is a popular tourist resort. Bugibba's sea front is very popular with students who come into the resort area to pick up the English language as it is spoken.

Bugibba has the summer residence of the Maltese President.

Package holidays to Bugibba are centred round Il Bajja Square (Bay Square), a pedestrianised area opposite the promenade that is ringed with inexpensive restaurants and small lively bars.

Though there are a good selection of hotels in Bugibba, the larger more upmarket hotels are at Qawra, many facing the sea along the neighbouring Sliema Bay.



### Qawra

Pretty much one third of a 'triple resort', Qawra occupies the southern shores of a large promontory that also features St Paul's Bay and Bugibba, and is therefore one of Malta's premier destinations for holidaymakers. Transfer time from Malta's International Airport to Qawra is around 40 minutes.

Though St Paul's Bay is a well-established port, Qawra is a young resort, with development begun in the 1960s as Malta's popularity began to increase. However, there's a rich history in this town - the Qawra region was inhabited in Neolithic

times, and the Knights of St John built the local mediaeval watchtower here.

Situated on the promintory between Salina Bay and St Paul's Bay on the northern coast of Malta. Qawra has a definite upmarket feel about it, being a bit quieter than its livelier neighbour Bugibba.



1910

Old photo Courtesy: Beland Band Club - Zejtun Special thanks to Mr. R. Abela

2017

## TALKING PICTURES