



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

EDITOR: Frank L. Scicluna OAM CONTACT - Email: honconsul@live.com.au



VALLETTA - MALTA'S CAPITAL CITY DECLARED - EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE 2018

VISIT MALTA IN 2018
AND ENJOY AND SHARE THE ALL-YEAR-ROUND
CELEBRATIONS

PEOPLE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR
CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE
ARE LIKE A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS



Harvesting Sea Salt on the Maltese Island of Gozo

TRICIA A. MITCHELL

On the northern coast of the Maltese island of Gozo, mounds of snow-white salt sparkle under the summer sun in salt evaporation pans. About 300 of these pans cover a section of Gozo's northern coast, called the Xwejini Salt Pans. It's believed that such pans have

existed here since Roman times.

When we visited the Xwejini Pans last month, three of the family members who manage them were carefully sweeping the moist salt. Like gardeners raking the pebbles of a Zen rock garden, the men and women methodically moved the salt crystals to ensure the water evenly evaporated. Not far away, a mammoth mound of prepped salt was cloaked with a black tarp. With the family's salt shop just across the road, housed in a wind-swept cave, we were guessing they'd soon be carrying it away to be bagged and sold.



Malta

Dual Citizenship

Am I entitled to apply for registration as a citizen of Malta?

You are entitled to apply if you are:

- The spouse of a citizen of Malta and as long as you have been married for at least five years and, on the date of the application, you are still married to and living with that citizen of Malta;
- The spouse of a citizen of Malta from whom you are, on the date of the application, separated de jure or de facto, provided you have lived with that citizen of Malta for at least **five years** after the celebration of the marriage;
- The widow/widower of a person who was a citizen of Malta at the time of his/her death and you had then been married to that person for at least **five years** and was still living with him/her;
- The widow/widower of a person who was a citizen of Malta at the time of his/her death, and you would, but for the death of that person, have been married to that person for **five years** on the date of the application;
- The widow/widower of a person who, having passed away before Malta's Independence on 21st September 1964, would but for his/her death have automatically become a citizen of Malta due to the fact that he/she was born in Malta of a parent likewise born in Malta or was born abroad of a father and a paternal grandparent both born in Malta; Provided that you were still living with that person at the time of his/her death or if you had been de jure or de facto separated, you had lived with that person for at least **five years** after the celebration of the marriage;
- The son/daughter, who was born prior to the 21 September 1964, of a female who was born in Malta and who became or would but for her death have become a citizen of Malta on the said date.
- The son/daughter of a female citizen of Malta (who acquired Maltese citizenship by birth in Malta, by registration or by naturalization, and who was a citizen of Malta at the time of your birth) and you were born outside Malta on or after 21st September 1964 and before the 1st August 1989.
- A former citizen of Malta and you do not qualify automatically for dual citizenship because you did not spend six years abroad or because you were formerly a citizen of Malta by Registration or by Naturalization. (See leaflet on Dual/Multiple citizenship).
- The direct descendant, second or subsequent generation, born abroad of an ascendant who was born in Malta of a parent who was also born in Malta. (If the descendant is a minor, then the person who at law has authority over that child shall submit the relative application)

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The Maltese Newsletter
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Fr. Sebastian Camilleri, O.F.M. R.I.P.



Fr. Sebastian Camilleri OFM from Hamrun, aged 95, has passed away peacefully this morning 10th February 2017, at Mater Dei hospital, comforted by the rites of Holy Catholic Church.

The funeral leaves Mater Dei hospital on Monday 13th of February, at 8.00am to the Franciscan Friary in Carmel Street, Sliema where at 9.15am the funeral cortege will proceed to Sacro Cuor Parish, Sliema for the funeral Mass presente cadavere at 9.30am followed by internment at the Franciscan Chapel in the Santa Marija Adolorata Cemetery. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

Born in Hamrun, Malta on the 31st of December, 1921, son of Carmelo and Angela nee' Gatt, Fr Sebastian Camilleri OFM, was a Maltese Franciscan priest who rendered 50 years of successful pastoral work as chaplain of the Maltese migrants in the US, Canada and Australia.

Fr Camilleri who had an M.A. and a Ph.D. apart from tutoring experience, was an author of several books, and his articles being of a theological and liturgical nature, were published in the cultural-religious magazine AD 2000. He made an honourable name for himself and for the Maltese Franciscan Province of St. Paul the Apostle, Malta.

In 1981, Fr. Sebastian was one of the first to be honoured with the Order of Australia Medal and, in 1997, on the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination, he was presented by the South Australian Government with the singular Gold Medal for outstanding services to the local multicultural Church and society. Fr Camilleri excelled as a model Maltese Franciscan priest overseas among migrants, as a worthy ambassador of Malta and as an asset to the Catholic Church. For several years he lived at the presbytery of the Franciscan Fathers at Lockleys, South Australia and he rendered social and spiritual assistance to the Maltese community of South Australia

On his return to Malta he formed part of the Franciscan Fraternity of Sacro Cuor, Sliema and was spiritual assistant of the Piccola Famiglia Francescana. He was also Spiritual Director of the Parish Legion of Mary group and religious counsellor in different catholic schools. He was the first friar to be admitted to Domus Pacis Franciscan Retirement Friary in Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on the 31st of January 2015.

MALTA FREEDOM DAY



On **March 31, 1979**, remembered in the Maltese calendar as **Freedom Day** (Maltese *Jum il-Ħelsien*), Malta, for the first time in its history did not have any foreign forces present on it. This is the anniversary of the withdrawal of British troops.

After thousands of years as a military and naval base, the Maltese had total sovereignty over their land. The military base was closed after the United Kingdom refused to pay the emphyteusis due to Malta in 1979, and since the contract was due for termination on 1st April, the British Forces left Malta a day before. A large monument in Birgu (Vittoriosa) remembers this

event in the history of the nation.

Malta High Commission Press Release 03/2017

Malta @ the EU Village National Multicultural Festival 2017- Canberra



Mrs. Victoria Muscat with volunteers from the Maltese Australian Association, Ms. Rose Harn & Ms. Connie Grant (R-L)

On 18 February 2017, the High Commission of Malta and other EU member missions in Canberra, led by the EU Delegation, participated in the yearly National Multicultural Festival (NMF) in Canberra. 26 EU member information booths, collectively called the EU Village, showcased the best of the countries of the European Union.

At the EU Delegation booth, replica EU Passports were handed out to visitors for them to present to the other EU country booths for their stamp. A completely stamped EU passport is then presented to the EU Delegation to receive a gift for completing a tour of the EU Village. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Ms. Rachel Stephen-Smith visited the EU Village and posed for a family photo with the EU Heads of Missions, which included Malta's High Commissioner to Australia, H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat.

Malta's booth welcomed hundreds of visitors who wanted to learn more about Malta and those who have been and wanted to share their experiences in Malta. Tourism information brochures and promotional items such as pens, key rings, Hello Kitty folders, stress balls, pins, flags, etc. were handed out and were readily accepted and appreciated by everyone. There was much festivity that, in spite of the noontime rain, visitors stayed to enjoy the diverse cultural performances, cuisine, and products.

An estimated 280,000 visitors from Canberra and interstate attended the 21st year of the Multicultural Festival in Canberra.



The Order of Malta's volunteers continue their efforts for the extraordinary Jubilee

VATICAN CITY - There are over a thousand Order of Malta volunteers who, from 7 December 2015 – the launch of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy – up to the end of August 2016, have been offering assistance to pilgrims arriving in Rome in the first-aid posts located in the three Roman basilicas – St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside-the-Walls and

St. Mary Major – as well as in St. Peter's Square. Over 1300 medical interventions have been carried out in this latter structure, run by the Order of Malta in the Braccio di Carlo Magno building a few metres from the basilica entrance. Thirty-two volunteers are deployed daily here, together with 83 volunteer doctors, nurses and paramedics, offering their services seven days a week. It is precisely in this facility – which has been offering free medical assistance to pilgrims since 1950 and which has been renovated and made even more functional

for the Extraordinary Jubilee – that the greatest number of interventions have been recorded, with a peak in the months of June and April.

Overall, the pilgrims assisted in the four first-aid posts during these first nine months of the Jubilee have come from 69 different countries on all continents: some 1100 from Europe, 169 from the Americas, 37 from Asia, 15 from Oceania and 12 from Africa. Over 62% came from Italy. The average age of those treated was 48, mostly involving cardiovascular pathologies, osteoarticular traumas and skin lesions.

The Order of Malta's volunteers working here come instead from the associations of 13 different nations including some outside Europe, such as Hong Kong and the Americas.

The Order of Malta's commitment will continue until the closure of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on 20 November next, marking the end of the Jubilee of Mercy. Another thousand volunteers will be joining those already present during the first nine months of the Jubilee.



Channel 9 Jayne Azzopardi: 'My grandmother died last week. Today I celebrate her'



Jayne and her grandmother

"We celebrate some incredible women and their achievements each International Women's Day. World leaders, scientists, performers, journalists, activists — trailblazers and women who've changed the world.

But this year, I'll also be thinking of one woman who did something much simpler, and yet incredibly brave. Her name won't appear in any newspapers or history books because she blazed no trail but her own, and that of her family.

My grandmother died on Sunday night. She was three weeks shy of her 96th birthday so her death, while sad, was not tragic or untimely. She wasn't educated - in fact, she never learned to read or write. She didn't lead a revolution, cure cancer or rise to the top of her chosen field.

But she did make a brave decision more than sixty years ago that ensured her eight children, 22 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren would have lives she could never have imagined.



My grandmother, Carmela Formosa, was born in Malta in 1921. At the tender age of 18 she met and married my grandfather Carmelo Azzopardi (yes, Carmela and Carmelo - how cute is that?!).

They were married the day World War Two began, and lived in a simple mud brick home on the fairly barren land they farmed. The early years of their marriage must have offered little in the way of honeymoon period.

Malta is a tiny island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea and for much of WW2, it was under siege. With British navy troops based there, it

was one of the most heavily bombed places during the war. The entire island was awarded the George Cross for its bravery.

It was against that background that the Azzopardis began their family.. First five daughters, then three sons. It was while pregnant with her final child that my grandmother made her brave decision.

In 1955, Carmella, now with 8 children in tow, joined Carmelo in boarding a ship to Australia. The journey took 6 weeks. They disembarked in Sydney, and - carrying all their children and speaking not a word of English — ate a picnic meal in Belmore Park opposite Central Station before the whole family spent on the night on benches inside the station and boarded a train the next day.

After so many months at sea, they were now on a train for three more days. Their final destination - the tiny town of El Arish, near Tully in Far North Queensland.

Once there, my grandfather worked in cane fields while Carmela ran the tiny and simple corrugated iron clad house they called home — packed with hungry and growing children learning English and making a new life far from home.

How daunting it must have been. How lonely. But she wasn't alone - so many families from so many countries the world over have come to Australia and done the same. And all for the same reasons.

A decade or so later, the family moved to Pendle Hill in Sydney's western suburbs when their eldest son — my father Paul — got into teachers college. He met my mother, they married, and myself and my sister and brother grew up two generations and a world away from the kind of life our grandmother had known.

And this is why women like Carmela must be celebrated alongside all those other incredible achievers. The sacrifices she made, the things she went without, the simple life she lived, have allowed her family to prosper.

Her children and their children now live throughout Australia and the world — working in areas and living in ways she could never have imagined. Had she not made the brave choice to move her young family across the world, things would have been so different.

Stedina mis-Sacerdoti Missjunarji ta' San Pawl Celebrazzjoni tal-Ghid 2017 fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl Mgr De Piro House Stanley Street East Sydney NSW

Il-kommunita' Maltija jiha mistiedna ghac-celebrazzjonijiet li ser issiru
b'tifkira solenni, ghal passjoni, 'l-mewt u 'l-qawmien ta' Sidna Gesu` Kristu.

Nhar il-Hadd 9 ta' April, ser tkun iccelebrata Hadd il-Palm, id-dahla solenni tal-Mulej f'Gerusalem.

Ikun hemm it-tberik tal-palm u wara jkun hemm il-quddiesa

bhas soltu fl-10.00 am, fil-Kapella ta' San Pawl De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney.

Nhar il-Hamis 13 ta' April, fis-7.00 pm, issir it-tifkira tal-ikla tal-Mulej, b'quddiesa solenni,
wara 'S-Seba' Visti tas-Sepurklu.

Il-Gimgha 14 ta' April, fis-2.30 pm, tibda l-Via Sagra u fit-3.00 pm, ikun hemm
il-funzjoni tal-passjoni ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu.

Is-Sibt 15 ta' April, fis-7.00 pm, tibda l-funzjoni tas-sahra tal-lejl qaddis, tal-qawmien
tal-Mulej mill-imwiet.

Il-Hadd 16 ta' April, niccelebraw il-Jum Qaddis tal-Qawmin tal-Mulej.
Fid-9.30 am ikun hemm quddiesa, wara kulhadd huwa mistieden ghal kikkra kafe'.

F'isem is-Socjeta Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, Fr Tarcisio Micallef, jixtieq

il-Ghid it-tajjeb lil kulhadd u jirringrazzja lil kull min jattendi ghal
funzjonijiet organizzati mat-tul is-sena specialment il-priedki tar-Randan.

Ghal kull informazzjoni cemplu lil: Fr Tarcisio Micallef fuq: 9380 8398

Chaplain for the Maltese Community in Sydney



WATCH: America First, Malta Second

Trump and Malta are a match made

in heaven

Chris Peregin

<https://lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/video-1/watch-america-first-malta-second>

All the world agrees with US Donald Trump that America should come first. But which country should be second? That is the question. There are dozens of countries

QUEUEING UP ALREADY. But Malta has just joined the line, with an introductory video titled America First, Malta Second.

Created by **LOVIN MALTA** and **V SQUARED**, the video outlines all the reasons Trump would fall in love with Malta, showcasing our island's amazing qualities, from our food to our politicians and everything else in between. It features some of Malta's favourite character



. One Nation leader and Senator Pauline Hanson has said 20 years in politics has made her more informed and wiser, but insists she's "still the same" as she was.

"My policies haven't changed over the years. Immigration, I'm still the same, cut back on it for our quality of life in Australia," she told ABC's *Insiders* TV program. "I don't forget what happened in the past. This time in parliament I'm treated with more respect."

When asked whether the fact that almost half of Australians were born overseas meant the nation was a successful melting pot, Senator Hanson said that at the "bottom of it all... we must be Australian". She applauded former prime minister John Howard for cutting back immigration in the mid-1990s, when she was first in parliament. "There are ghettos in this country that don't assimilate. We've got to make sure that people do assimilate, learn the language, speak English and respect our laws," Senator Hanson said. "Islam is purporting to be a religion, but I believe it is a political ideology trying to impose their thoughts, processes on the rest of our society... They want to change us. Do you want to change, would you be happy under Islam?"



PICKING OLIVES IN MEDITERRANEAN MALTA

Alicia Miller writes Strolling some Mediterranean sidewalks during the late-autumn months, it's not unusual to see shriveling olives wasting away on the ground. There are, of course, locals who spirit away buckets of a forgotten tree's olives, or the odd pigeon that might take a peck at the bitter fruit, but it's been my observation that a considerable amount of urban olives go to waste.

Late last year, Shawn received an email from the university inviting students and community members to participate in an olive harvest being led by David. As something that's been on our must-do list for some time, Shawn and I jumped at the chance to spend a few hours as volunteer olive pickers. We were also thrilled to hear that this Mediterranean staple was being harvested for a cause. The olives picked would be pressed into oil, bottled and sold, all to benefit charities serving Maltese residents with special needs or illness.

Maltese artists around the World The pic shows 'BAHR' by



ŽfinMalta.

By June 2017 around 1,000 artists, both new and established students and professionals will have left our islands to represent Malta through their artistic works, all through the Cultural Program of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. By June 2017 around 1,000 artists, both established and new in the industry, students and professionals, would have left our islands to represent Malta through their artistic works and without a doubt the response has been fruitful, at times even more than expected.

Following the recent developments with the European Union and Brexit, the Presidency opted for *rEUnion A Citizen's Europe* as the tagline for the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Cultural Programme was kickstarted on 11 January with the Official Opening in Malta with a first-time collaboration between the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and ŽfinMalta to produce the work entitled *BAHR*. The three Cultural Programs are the Local Program, the Brussels Program and the External Program (implemented and managed by the Malta Foreign Affairs).

The External Programme will tour a majority of countries around the world, both inside and outside the European Union, where Malta holds a Diplomatic Representation. All in all, the External Programme includes around 23 different projects in 30 different countries, ranging from visual art exhibitions, dance, music and literature. The majority of the projects chosen are from the 2016-2017 Malta Showcase Edition, which was launched specifically through an open call for the Presidency Cultural Programme. Apart from these, a project entitled *In Transit*, a digital arts project, will also tour in two different countries: Leeuwarden in the Netherlands and Dusseldorf in Germany.

The Cultural Programme in Brussels is more of a European-institution-based project hosting a majority of exhibitions. This excludes projects at the BOZAR, the venue for two of the major events: the official opening ceremony which was held in January and the exhibition *Malta. Land of Sea*. It also excludes Neumunster Abbaye in Luxembourg, a venue which will hold a vast array of artistic projects throughout March to celebrate the Maltese Presidency. Two interesting projects based in Brussels are *Ilma u Melħ* and the *Citizen Journalists Project* at the Justus Lipsius. *Citizen Journalists* will be conversing with citizens about the European Union and their relationship and thoughts about the European Union.

Planning for the local programme took a different turn as the present festivals happening from January to June provided the skeleton programme for the EU Presidency Cultural Programme. The artistic director of the EU Presidency Cultural Programme worked hand in hand with the artistic directors of all the relevant local festivals in order to produce an event directly linked with the Presidency agenda and still in line with the vision of the respective festivals. The citizen project *Ode to Joy A Citizen's Orchestra* is expected to be one of the highlights of the local programme, where citizens from all backgrounds will join together to produce an unrepeatable performance of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. Apart from all the present festivals, the programme is also merged with the Valletta 2018 events programme.

The Cultural Programme for the Maltese Presidency was devised by the Presidency Working Group which included representatives from the Presidency Unit, Arts Council Malta, Malta Foreign Affairs, Heritage Malta and the artistic director Airan Berg.

Final Selection Criteria for SBS Radio Services Review now available

SBS has announced the final Selection Criteria it will apply to a review of its radio services to ensure SBS Radio continues to reflect the needs of communities in Australia today.



SBS received more than 600 submissions, representing 85 languages, during a period of public consultation from 14 November to 11 December 2016 which gave people and organisations the opportunity to provide feedback on the criteria that was being proposed.

The submissions received were taken into consideration in finalising the criteria published today. The criteria will now be used, in conjunction with the 2016 Census data, to determine which languages are provided by SBS Radio services. SBS will determine how the languages will be delivered across AM and FM radio, digital radio and digital television, online and podcast services, taking into account factors including audience listening habits, the need to support audience demands for anytime, anywhere news and information via digital platforms, and the changing demographics of Australia's diverse communities. The final Selection Criteria has been published at www.sbs.com.au/consultation.

Kind regards, Mandi Wicks
Director, Audio & Language Content SBS



FATHER CLAUDE BORG MSSP HAMSA U SITTIN SENA SACERDOT

Meta Alla jagħti ħajja twila lil xi ħadd, żgur li jkollu aktar mill-oħrajn okkażjonijiet sbieħ u kull tant inqas sbieħ. Lil Fr. Claude Borg, Alla tah il-grazzja li jagħlaq ħamsa u sittin sena saċerdot, ħaġa li s'issa ħadd fis-Socjetà tagħna ma kellu din ix-xorti.

Is-Sur Emmanuel Camilleri, President tal-Maltese Community of NSW, u s-Sur Mark Caruana, President tal-Past Pupils ta' Don Bosco, riedu jfakkru dan l-avveniment, li kif sejħulu huma, hu verament *milestone* fil-ħajja ta' Fr. Claude. Dawn is-sinjuri waqqfu kumitat ta' nies midħla sew ta' Fr. Borg biex jippreparaw sewwa għal din l-okkażjoni.

Intgħażel il-jum tal-11 ta' Diċembru li għadda, fejn saret quddiesa konċelebrata ta' radd il-ħajr lil Alla. Il-prim konċelebrant kien Fr. Claude. Miegħu kien hemm Fr. Ivano Burdian, Superjur Reġjonali tal-Awstralja, Fr. Tarcisio Micallef mssp, Superjur tad-Dar tagħna f'Sydney, u Fr. Dominic li ħa ħsieb iġiblu l-Barka Appostolika għall-okkażjoni mingħand il-Papa. Il-quddiesa saret fil-Parroċċa tal-Madonna tal-Vitorja f'Horsley Park, fejn Fr. Claude kien kappillan għal ħames snin. Janimaw il-quddiesa kien hemm il-kor li waqqaf Fr. Borg snin ilu, u li għadu jagħti s-servizz tiegħu sa llum, u kor ieħor li jismu J C Choir. Wara l-quddiesa kulħadd kien mistieden għal riċeviment li ħasbu għalih il-ħbieb ta' Fr. Claude.

Fr. Claude issa għandu 90 sena, u jinsab irtirat f'Sydney, għalkemm għadu jżomm ruħu attiv. Fr. Borg mar l-Awstralja l-ewwel darba f'Ottubru tas-sena 1965 u ngħaqad ma' sħabu tal-MSSP f'Melbourne, fejn kien kappillan tal-Maltin għal disa' snin. Imbagħad ġie maħtur kappillan tal-Parroċċa ta' Horsley Park, f'Sydney. Fis-sena 1970 ġie elett bħala wieħed mill-assistenti tas-Superjur Ġenerali f'Malta. Fl-1980 reġa' lura l-Awstralja din id-darba f'Sydney, fid-djoċesi ta' Paramatta, bħala kappillan tal-Maltin, fejn kulħadd għadu jsemmih għal dak kollu li kien jagħmel għalihom. Minn qalbna nawgurawlu jkompli jgawdi ħajtu, u nwiegħduh it-talb tagħna. Mill-Fuljett "AHNA LILKOM" - Editur - Father Norbert Bonavia mssp



Carnival tragedy of 1823 In Malta

The **Carnival tragedy of 1823**, also known



as the **Valletta stampede in 1823**, was a human crush which occurred on 11 February 1823 at the Convent of the Franciscan Friars in Valletta, Malta. About 110 boys who had gone to the convent to receive bread on the last day of carnival celebrations were killed after falling down a flight

of steps while trying to get out of the convent.

Background - *At the time of the tragedy, Malta was experiencing a famine^{[1][2]} and it had become a tradition to gather 8- to 15-year-old boys from the lower classes of Valletta and the Three Cities to participate in a procession during the last few days of carnival. After the procession, they would attend mass, and they would be given some bread afterwards. This activity was arranged by ecclesiastical directors who taught catechism, and its main aim was to keep children out of the riots and confusion of carnival.*

This activity was organized on 10 February 1823, when children attended mass at Floriana and then went to the Convent of the Franciscan Minors (now better known as *ta' Ġiezu*) in Valletta where they were given bread. Everything went as planned, and the same procedure was planned for the following day.

Disaster - *The same procedure took place on 11 February 1823. Children were gathered and attended mass at Floriana, but the ceremony lasted an hour longer than usual. The children's procession to the convent in Valletta occurred at the same time as the carnival celebrations had ended, so they met with many people who were returning home. At this point, some adults and children from the crowd mixed in with the boys in order to receive some free bread.*

The boys entered one of the convent's corridors from the vestry door in the church, and were to be let out through another door in St. Ursula Street. The bread was to be distributed at the latter door.^{[3][4]} Although the vestry door was usually locked to prevent boys from reentering to receive more bread, this time the door was left open since the boys were late. Due to this, more men and boys entered without anyone realizing.

Those who had entered began to push the boys queuing in the corridor, who were shoved to the end of the corridor near a half-open door. At this point, a lamp went out leaving the corridor in darkness, and the people inside began to push forward even more. The boys at the front fell down a flight of steps, blocking the door in the process.

Those who were distributing the bread as well as some neighbours rushed to assist the children after they heard screams. They managed to open the doors, and many boys got out and were revived. However, a number of boys had already died due to suffocation or being trampled upon.

The exact number of casualties is not known. Records of the Sacra Infermeria show that 94 bodies of boys aged between 15 and 16 were brought to the hospital on 11 February, and they were buried the following day. However, contemporary records such as *The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle* reveal that "no less than 110 boys perished on this occasion".

An investigation led by the Lieutenant Governor took place after the disaster, and a report about the findings was published a few days after the incident. The investigation concluded that the stampede took place as a result of a succession of errors, and no one was accused for the deaths of the children.

WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?



DO YOU RECOGNISE THESE TWO HANDSOME YOUNG MEN?

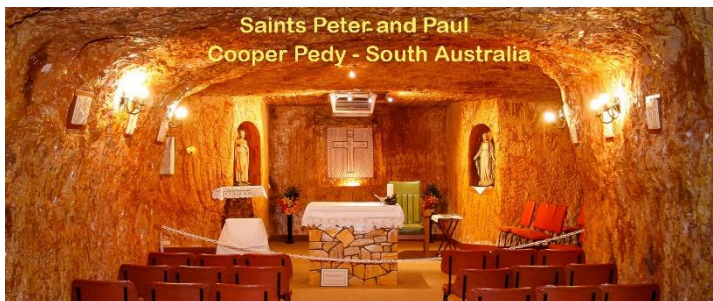
On the left is the Prime Minister of Malta
Hon Joseph Muscat
on the right is the Leader of the Opposition
Hon Simon Busuttil



**THEY ARE BOTH OLD SCHOLARS
OF ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE - BIRKIRKARA - MALTA**



The Badge of St.
Aloysius College
Birkirkara Malta



CATHOLIC INLAND MISSION PARISH of Saints Peter and Paul -COOPER PEDY S.A. UNDERGROUND CHURCH Est. 1965

visitation, going well North into the Flinders Ranges.

The early Jesuits were the first bush Priests in their

Then followed local Diocesan Priests who cared for the outback flock, from Port Augusta, Peterborough, Hawker and Leigh Creek, until Father Cresp took up residence in Cooper Pedy late in 1965.

Cooper Pedy was a growing Opal Mining Town, whilst Oodnadatta was the business centre for bush people. Cooper Pedy eventually became the main Centre with the opening of the New Ghan Railway line in 1980 and the sealing of the Stuart Highway, completed in 1987.

Some of those early Priests assigned to the Inland Mission were Frs Michael Prendergast, Vincent Sheil, James Dunn, George Carmody and Bill Wauchope where they visited the Bush Stations, Railway Towns/Sidings, Townships/Communities and various other bush dwellers.

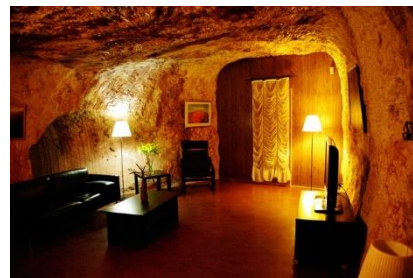
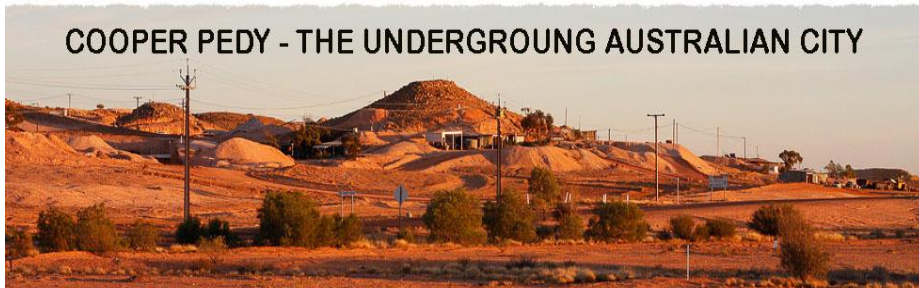
Priests who lived in Cooper Pedy after Father Cresp are Frs. Arthur Hackett, Adrian Head, Adrian Noonan, Paul Bourke, Tony Redden, John Folkman, Chris O'Neil and Father Paul Bourke (recycled) During these years Cooper Pedy has grown and become a permanent home for over 3,000 people, as well as a popular, stay over, destination for Tourists.

It's unique underground living, the harshness of the terrain and Multicultural mix capture the reality of Australia's outback. The Parish size is enormous as it includes Uluru, touches WA, NT, QLD and NSW.

Priests have been regular visitors to all areas of this vast Parish, making it a priority to attend local events, such as the Annual Horse Races. It is no place for those seeking a predictable, regular way of living and demands a quiet presence with a hospitable manner.

Sunday Mass is celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Underground Church most Sundays and on weekdays when the Priest is not out bush. A more peaceful and captivating House of Prayer will take finding and has become such for many visitors. The Sunday Congregation, often has the Priest as the only Adult born in Australia. Local Religious Instructions classes are held weekly for the Catholic Children. The St. Vincent de Paul are very active yet quietly go about labouring in the Vineyard. Although the Parish seems far away and spread thinly, it is a Parish of belonging and ownership to all Parishioners, who in living the Faith take special care of their Priest as one of the family and community

COOPER PEDY - THE UNDERGROUND AUSTRALIAN CITY



When you visit this outback town bring with you a hardhat, torch, handpick, kneepads. With more than 90 percent of the world's opal mined from 70 different fields around northern SA's Coober Pedy, you're bound to find something, aren't you? Perhaps it can pay for your trip.

A typical house in Coober Pedy

The friendly people of Coober Pedy will teach you how to noodle (fossick), allow you down their mines and happily sell you an opal if you don't manage to find one. No licences are required these days, thank goodness.

In between your mining excursions, you might want to take a look at the remarkable desert country near Coober Pedy – aptly named Moon Plain. It looks much like the lunar surface, dotted with mine shafts and mullock heaps from eight decades of digging.

Moon Plain has been used as the set of many movies, including Mad Max and Red Planet. It's most famous for its unique style of underground living. This includes visitor lodgings and the world's first underground church (now Catholic, but originally, in true pioneering fashion, multi-denominational).

And even if you don't play, at least check out the golf course– not a blade of grass to be seen. You'll never, ever go to another place like it. Unless later in life you're lucky enough to make it to the moon. Coober Pedy was named Kupa Piti by local Aboriginals, which means "white man in a hole." Over the past 90 years a unique community of hardened adventurers, drifters and fortune hunters from 45 nations has sprung up around it.

WE THANK OUR FRIENDS WHO SEND US THEIR PUBLICATION REGULARLY

Fra. Norbert Bonavia mssp – AHNA LILKOM

Patrick Sammut – IL-PONT

Paul Vella – MALTESE LITERATURE GROUP Inc BULLETIN – VICTORIA

Maltese Association of Western Australia Inc- THE MALTESE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER from the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul.

Maltese Community Council of Victoria MCCV NEWSLETTER

and many many more from Gozo, Malta, Australia, USA, UK and Canada



Sir Philip Pullicino

Sir Philip Pullicino

Sir Philip was born in Valletta on 21 November 1885 and was educated at St. Ignatius College in Sliema, and at the University of Malta, where he obtained the degree of B.Litt. and graduated as Doctor of Laws in 1907, obtaining first place in his course and being granted a travelling scholarship. He obtained his **warrant** to practise on 14 July 1908. On 22 February 1911, he married Maude Samut, daughter of Colonel Achilles Samut CB. CMG.

In 1918 he was appointed Advocate for the Poor. In 1926 he was appointed Treasury Counsel and Public Prosecutor and in 1928 was appointed one of Her Majesty's Judges. He relinquished his judgeship and was appointed the first Attorney General in Malta, until he retired in 1941.

He was created a Knight Bachelor by King George V in 1934 for his work in resolving the acute dispute between Lord Strickland and the Church. He was a member of the Executive Council and an official member of the Council of Government in 1939. From 1934 to 1955 he was legal adviser to Her Majesty's Forces and Assessor at the Arciepiscopal Curia. 1927 he moved the family residence to Notabile. He rebuilt the home, which he named "The Bastions" and where he died on the 16th July, 1960, the feast of his patron saint Our Lady of Mount Carmel, to whom he had a great devotion. He was buried in the crypt underlying the Carmelite Church in Mdina. His widow, Lady Maude, died at Mdina on 25th November 1976 and she was buried at the Addolorata Cemetery, as a new law prevented burials in Mdina. He was President of the Casino Maltese in 1935, 1939, 1940 and 1943 and also of La Vallette Band Club and L'Isle Adam Band Club at Rabat.

IT takes me whole week to read this journal. It is so full of interesting, informative and enjoyable information for the whole family. Please do not stop. I print it and give it to my father who lives in a nursing home. A. Aquilina

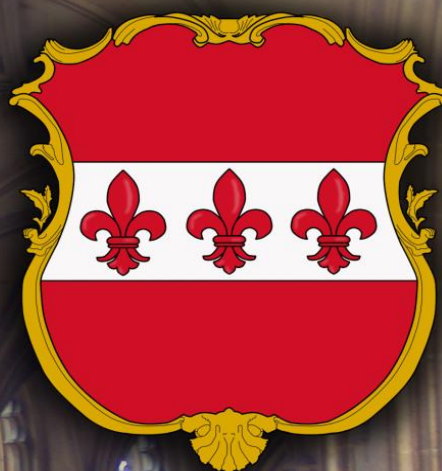
SANTA VENERA

COAT OF ARMS

The three fleurs-de-lis found displayed on the Santa Venera coat of arms make a reference to those three fleurs-de-lis borne by Grandmaster Alof de Wignacourt. The reason behind the display of this charge is that this Grandmaster, who reigned over Malta from 1601 to 1622, financed the building of the aqueduct which ran through Santa Venera and other towns. These fleurs-de-lis were sculpted on the Wignacourt Arch which formed part of the aqueduct and which stood in the area.

Blazon: *Gules, on a fess Argent three fleurs de lis Gules*

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EST. 2012



IRANIAN (PERSIAN) NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

The 18 March marks Persian New Year (Norooz) when 1396, the current year under the Iranian Calendar, comes to an end. **Norooz (Nuwroz, Newroz)** coincides with the Spring Equinox in the northern hemisphere each year. People have celebrated Norooz for millenia.

Iranian Community of Western Australia's President Morteza Tadatabaei said Norooz was a celebration of spring in Iran, despite the celebration occurring on the Autumn equinox in Australia. He said the day signified the birth of nature after winter.

Persian Australian, Jackie Jafari, said celebrating Norooz in Autumn did not mean the day was any less special, as it was a chance to keep her culture alive in Australia.

"I've been in this country 24 years," Ms Jafari said.

Part of the tradition each year is to clean out the house and buy new clothes, she said.

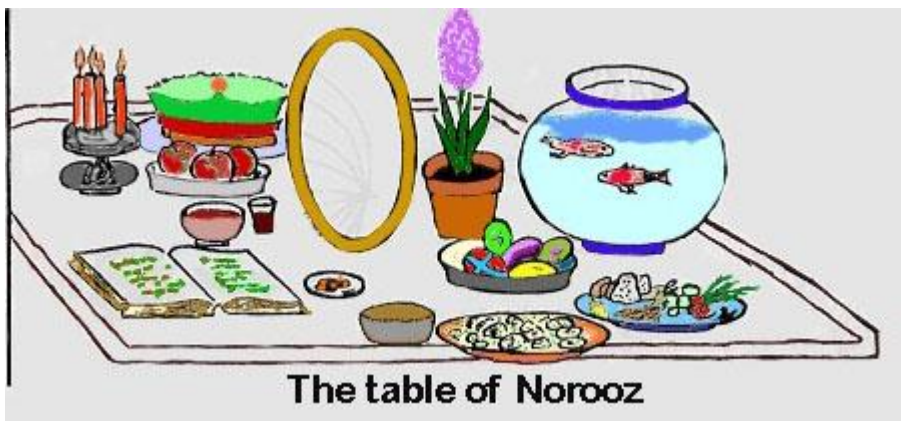
"We have to get rid of all the oldies and start fresh."

As a prelude to Norooz and part of the celebrations, people around the country have jumped over fire to signify a new start to their year.

The fire jumping, and the Norooz celebrations generally, are celebrated around the world.

The Persian Empire, at its height, spanned from Libya and Egypt in the west, Turkey in the north and India in the east. For that reason, many people in those areas observe Norooz - including Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey and other Middle Eastern nations.

Sofreh-i Nowruz



A few days before the arrival of *Nowruz*, a rather large table cloth is spread on the floor of the main room of the house and the following items are placed on it: **Lighted candles**, which represent the goodness and warmth that enters life with the coming of spring and the dissipation of evil that has had the world in its cold grip,

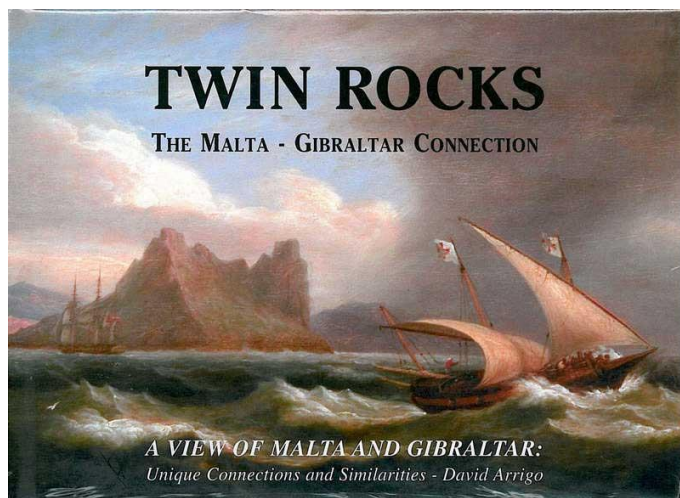
are placed on the *sofreh*.

A copy of family's holy book (i.e, *Avesta*, *Torah*, *Injil (Bible)*, or *Qur'an* - depending on the faith to which the family belongs) is placed in a prominent place on the *sofreh*.

Haftsin or seven edible things the names of which in Persian begin with the letter "sin" or "s" are placed in a tray or otherwise placed next to each other on the *sofreh*. *Sib* (apple), *somaq* (sumac), *sir* (garlic), *samanu* (a paste made with wheat sprouts), *senjed* (jujube fruit), *sohan* (a candy made with honey and nuts), *siyahdane* (sesame seeds), *serke* (vinegar), and *sangak* (bread baked on a bed of rocks) are the usual edible items from among which seven are chosen.

نوروز، نماد جاودانگی ملت ایران در راه است

MALTA AND GIBRALTAR



A **Maltese community** has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704. Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus were the three stepping stones whereby Great Britain controlled the Mediterranean and the vital route to the Suez Canal and thence to India. When the British conquered Gibraltar, the majority of the Spanish inhabitants fled and sought refuge principally in the nearby Spanish town of San Roque, leaving behind a garrison to be serviced by immigrants, mostly from Malta and Genoa. Immigration from neighboring Spanish towns soon followed giving the colony a very cosmopolitan population.

Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the Rock soon led to a coalescence of Maltese, Italian and Andalusian culture, preserving the Mediterranean and Catholic uniqueness of the colony despite centuries of British occupation.

Colonialism



Gibraltar prospered by the arrival of 19th century trade with North Africa and the presence of the Royal Navy. This prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living on the Rock. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing fortifications of Gibraltar to make the colony practically impregnable.

The naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two world wars. It was only to be expected that, given the common cultural bond between Malta and

Gibraltar, some Maltese would be lured by the prospect of lucrative employment there.

Maltese in Gibraltar

By 1912 the total number of Maltese living in Gibraltar was not above 700. Many worked in the dockyard and others operated businesses which were usually ancillary to the dockyard. However, the economy of Gibraltar was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline as they returned to the Maltese Islands. Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life of the colony, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with Great Britain.

The situation in Malta was very different, where a rising sense of nationalism resulted in the eventual establishment of the Maltese republic.

Notable Gibraltarians of Maltese descent

Keith Azopardi QC, former leader of the Progressive Democratic Party and former Gibraltar Social Democrat Deputy Chief Minister.

Davina Barbara, TV presenter of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.

Charles Caruana CBE, former Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gibraltar.

Peter Caruana QC, former Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

Georgina Cassar, rhythmic gymnast and 2012 Olympian for Team GB.

TV and presenter *head of radio* of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.





AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE SINGER

Jason Mahendra Singh is an Australian singer-songwriter-guitarist. From 1997 to 2006 he fronted the rock band, Taxiride, as their lead singer. In March 2009 he issued a duet single, "The World As You Know It" with Todd Watson, which peaked at No. 10 on the ARIA Club Tracks.

Jason Mahendra Singh was born in Melbourne and has two older sisters.^[1] His father, Mahendra Singh, is an Indo-Fijian and his mother is of Maltese descent.^{[1][2]} While in high school Singh formed a covers band, Mud, singing lead vocals.^[1] He started playing guitar in the mid-1990s.^[1] He played in the live music scene in Melbourne throughout the 1990's.

Singh joined Taxiride in 1997; in October 2013 recalled his audition, "I sang Tracy Chapman's 'Give Me One Reason'. They changed the key higher, and I could do it. They kept changing the key higher and higher, and I could still do it... The next day they said, 'You're in the band'." Fellow founders were Daniel Hall on bass guitar, guitar and backing vocals; Tim Watson on lead guitar and backing vocals; and Tim Wild on guitar and backing vocals.^[3]

The group recorded a demo at Melbourne's Secret Sound Studios, and used it to land a contract with Warner in 1999. Taxiride went on to achieve a number-one album and six top 40 singles.

In March 2009 Singh issued a duet single, "The World As You Know It" with Todd Watson, which peaked at No. 10 on the ARIA Club Tracks.^[5] He released his debut solo album, *Humannequin*, in 2012. In 2015 he set himself a goal of writing, proceeding and releasing six singles in 12 months. The first single was released in October 2015 and the sixth in August 2016. He held a special performance on 2 September 2016 at Flying Saucer Club in Melbourne to celebrate the achievement. It was the first chance to hear all six songs in a live arena.

Fungus Rock – Hagret il-General - GOZO



Knights Of Malta, Grand Master Pinto, Dwejra Bay, Healing Fungus Plant

The Fungus Rock is known in Maltese as **Hagret il-General (the General's Rock)**. It is a 65 meter high rock 60 metres away from mainland completely encircled with water and located at the mouth of a splendid bay beside the Azur Window.

A commander of a squadron of the galleys belonging to the **Knights of Malta** discovered a plant locally

known as *Gherq is-Sinjur*. It was thought that it was a fungus, known as the parasitic flowering plant *Cynomorium Coccineum*. It was thought that it had various medical cures for conditions as dysentery, bleeding and impotence.

This rock was one of the few places where it grew. So during 1746 Grand Master Pinto, in order to protect the plant from thieves defaced the sides of the rock to discourage those who would attempt to climb for it. This was strictly forbidden and severe penalties were imposed upon those who were caught making such an attempt.

It was also guarded from the **Dwejra watch tower**. The Knights were very well known for their medical cures throughout Europe and the plant was for medications in what was then a state of the art hospital in Valletta.

An ingenious system was invented to transport the plant from the isolated island rock to the main land using a rope with a basket tied to it. In 1992, this rock was declared a nature reserve and is prohibited to climb upon it.

The physically unattractive fungus plant which grows on top of the rock and gives it its name was dried and used successfully as a dressing for wounds and a remedy for dysentery it was called Fungus Melitensis.

In 1746 Grand Master Pinto ordered that the Dwejra tower had to be used to guard the healing plant which many thought that had medicinal fungus that grew on it to cure the sick. The Fungus rock, apart from being a tourist attraction, remains a living evidence of the Knights' determination to cure the sick.

San Lawrenz is a picturesque, rural village situated in the west of the island of Gozo, bordering Kercem and Gharb. The village is built on a plain surrounded by three hills, one of which is 195 metres above sea level making it the highest point in Gozo. San Lawrenz also has within its territory the beautiful Dwejra Bay which is renowned for its unique geological and ecological features. The natural reserve Fungus Rock, the majestic Azure Window and the intriguing Inland Sea are well-known landmarks and no visit to Gozo is complete with a visit to this place.

From the Inland Sea take a boat ride out to the sea through the narrow, sixty metre-long tunnel in the cliffs to an opening called Ghar iz-Zerqa (Blue Cave). The fishing boat will take you to take a closer look at the protected Fungus Rock, a 65 metres-high megalithic rock where the Knights discovered a medicinal fungus locally known as Gherq is-Sinjur

MELBOURNE CITY FOOTBALLER MANNY SPITERI



Emmanuel "Manny" Muscat (born 7 December 1984 in Melbourne, Australia) is an Australian born Maltese footballer who usually plays as a defensive midfielder or right back for Melbourne City in the A-League.

Raised in West Sunshine, Melbourne, Manny Muscat played for Sunshine George Cross where he was made captain at the age of 19, then made the switch to rivals Green Gully SC where he had the most successful years in his Victorian Premier career.

Wellington Phoenix signed him from Green Gully in August 2008, initially as a short-term injury replacement for the injured Vince Lia,^[3] but he was later offered a full contract and signed on as a contracted player.^[4]

Muscat made a total of twenty-six appearances for the Wellington Phoenix in the 2009–10 season, including all three of the final series matches. After getting the only red card of Wellington's season, fellow Phoenix player Troy Hearfield picked up Muscat's usual role of right back. This change pushed Muscat into a defensive midfield role for Wellington where Muscat continued to play through

the rest of the season. On 20 October 2009, Muscat was rewarded for his fine form as he extended his contract with Wellington Phoenix for another three years.^[5] On 20 January 2012 Muscat scored his first goal for the club in his eighty fifth appearance versus the Newcastle Jets.^[6] The day after breaking his goal drought it was confirmed Muscat had extended his contract by a further two years and rejected offers from hometown clubs Victory and Heart. On the 3 January 2013 Muscat received a 3-game suspension after twice elbowing a Brisbane Roar player in his side's 2–1 loss.^[7]

On the 3 March, it was announced that Muscat signed a 2-year deal with Melbourne City commencing at the beginning of the 2016–17 A-League season.^[8] He made his first appearance in a City shirt in a 5-0 friendly match win over Port Melbourne SC on 20 July 2016.^[9]

On 11 May 2009, Muscat was called up to the Maltese national team for their upcoming friendly against the Czech Republic and a 2010 World Cup qualifier against Sweden.^[10] He made his international début against the Czech Republic, and was used as a late substitute for the game against Sweden. In August 2010, Muscat was called up for the opening two UEFA Euro 2012 qualification matches against Israel and Latvia on 2 and 7 September



PETE BUTTIGIEG – PROFILE

Peter Paul Montgomery "Pete" Buttigieg; born January 19, 1982) is the current and 32nd Mayor of South Bend, Indiana.^[2] A member of the Democratic Party, Buttigieg has been serving as mayor since January 1, 2012. Buttigieg is a graduate of Harvard University, a Rhodes Scholar, and a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

Early life and education

Buttigieg was born in South Bend, Indiana, to parents Joseph A. Buttigieg and Jennifer Ann (née Montgomery). He is of Maltese and Scottish descent.^[3]

Buttigieg graduated from St. Joseph High School in 2000, where he was president and valedictorian of his senior class.^[4] In his senior year at St. Joseph's High School, he was honored by Caroline Kennedy and other members of President Kennedy's family during a May 22, 2000, ceremony at

the John F. Kennedy Library for his prize-winning essay for the JFK Profiles in Courage Essay Contest. Buttigieg's winning essay centered on the integrity and political courage demonstrated by U.S. Congressman Bernie Sanders of Vermont, the nation's only Independent member of Congress. He was also selected as one of two Indiana delegates to the United States Senate Youth Program.

He attended Harvard College, where he was president of the Harvard Institute of Politics Student Advisory Committee and worked on the Institute's annual study of youth attitudes on politics.^{[5][6]} Buttigieg was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.^[7]

Buttigieg graduated from Harvard in 2004, receiving his Bachelor of Arts *magna cum laude* in History and Literature and writing his thesis on the influence of Puritanism on U.S. Foreign Policy as reflected in the Graham Greene novel *The Quiet American*.^[8] Buttigieg received a first class honors degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics in 2007 from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.^[9]

Early career and candidacy for Indiana State Treasurer

Before graduating from college, Buttigieg worked as an investigative intern at WMAQ-TV, Chicago's NBC news affiliate. Buttigieg also worked as an intern for Jill Long Thompson's 2002 congressional campaign, and later served as an adviser to her 2008 gubernatorial campaign.^[10]

After graduating, from 2004 to 2005 Buttigieg worked in Washington, D.C., as conference director for former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen's international strategic consulting firm, The Cohen Group. He also spent several months working on Senator John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign, where he was a policy and research specialist.^[11]

After graduating from Oxford, he then worked as a consultant at McKinsey and Company, a management strategy consulting firm, for three years, from 2007 through 2010.^{[12][13]}

He was the Democratic Party candidate in 2010 for State Treasurer of Indiana. Buttigieg lost to incumbent Richard Mourdock, garnering 37.5% of the vote.^[14]

Washington (CNN) February 20, 2017 Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has picked up the endorsements of nine of his counterparts around the nation, including the chief executives of New Orleans, Austin, Texas and Santa Fe, New Mexico, in his bid to chair the Democratic National Committee.

The 35-year-old is vying in a field of eight contenders, led by Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison and former Labor Secretary Tom Perez, for the leadership spot.

Monday's endorsements come before the candidates participate in a debate hosted by CNN on Wednesday night and the 447 members of the DNC vote Saturday in Atlanta.

Buttigieg has made the case that, unlike Bernie Sanders-backed Ellison and Hillary Clinton ally Perez, he would represent a break from the party's 2016 primary divides -- and give the party a major voice from outside Washington.



The wartime experiences of Michelle Attard

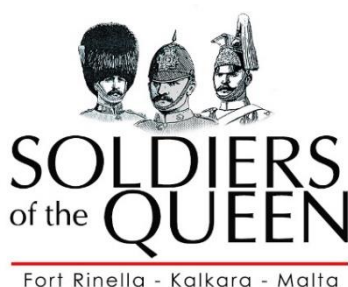
FONDAZZJONI WIRT ARTNA (FWA)

An interview was held with 92 year old Michelle Attard from Balzan about his child and early adulthood experiences in wartime Malta. Mr Attard was born in Algiers in the 1920s. During the Abyssinian Crisis he followed his father to Malta following the premature loss of his mother settling in Hamrun. When the war broke out he was a student at the Lyceum in Valletta. Being too young for conscription he went on attending school and during his daily commutes he went on to witness most of the epic stages of World War Two in Malta such as Malta's entry into the war; the Illustrious Blitz; the first arrival of the Spitfires from on 7 March 1942 when fifteen Spitfires were flown off from HMS Eagle to bolster the air defences of the island; and many other interesting instances. This interview was carried out as part of FWA's ongoing oral history project which is aimed at recording for posterity the personal experiences of individuals having a story worth telling. After the

war, Mr Attard went on to study at Oxford University for a number of years and upon his return to Malta he became an architect. The interview was held at the Malta at War Museum in Vittoriosa in the presence of his daughter-in-law.

FWA is always looking for individuals to interview for this project. So if you are reading this and you think that you or a member of your family may contribute to this initiative please do get in touch by sending an email on info@wirtartna.org or call us at the office during normal hours 21800992. You don't have to come to us as we can to you for the interview

New museum exhibition at Fort Rinella



A new permanent museum exhibition focusing on the British Victorian army was put together at Fort Rinella. This latest addition to the historic fort forms part of an extensive revamping of the same which will be seeing the relocation of all modern visitor amenities which are currently housed inside the fort to a new temporary building outside it to make way for the faithful restoration and reconstruction of all the fort's interiors as they originally stood in Victorian times.

The new exhibition is located in the soldiers' defensible barrack rooms that run along the full-length of the fort's gorge. Spanning nine different rooms it will chart the rapid evolution of what was initially a hugely inefficient and fossilized army into a first-rate army forerunner of Kitchener's New Army which faced the full might of Germany's Imperial Army along the French in World War One.

The new display will feature hundreds of original and rare objects from the reign of Queen Victoria such as uniforms, weapons, equipment, regalia, documents, paintings and photographs. It will also include a section dedicated to the British Army in Malta and to the Maltese Regiments forming part of it. This exhibition is was completed in October 2015. An online daily progress diary is being kept for the benefit of our readers which can be accessed by selecting the provided button or by directly visiting Fort Rinella's web page www.fortrinella.com.

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, *the Malta Heritage Trust*, is a voluntary non-governmental organisation active in the field of heritage preservation. One of its principal objectives is to create awareness to encourage the better understanding and preservation of the cultural heritage of the Maltese islands. For this reason, over the years, FWA undertook the rehabilitation and restoration of various cultural properties.



Rare Malta "Saint Paul" 10s stamp

Nature of rarity – few printed – 1530

No in existence – Unknown

Face value - 10 shillings

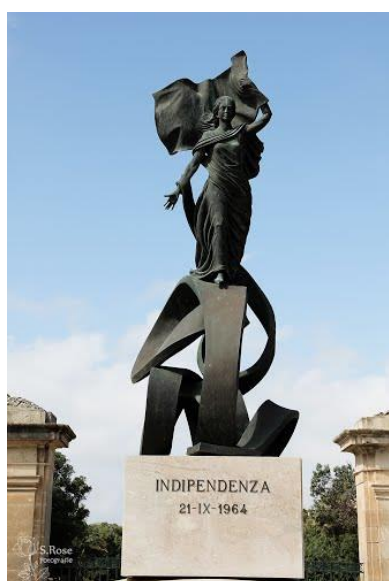
Estimate value – 4000 Euro

The **Saint Paul 10s black** is Malta's most expensive postage stamp.^[1] It was issued on 6 March 1919 and it replaced the 1899 10s stamp which had a similar design but with differences in the frame.

In 1899, four pictorial stamps were issued, with the highest value being a black 10 shillings portraying Saint Paul's shipwreck in Malta. This stamp was only valid for postage, and not for fiscal use except when overprinted with the word "REVENUE".

In 1913, a new stamp was prepared with the same design but with the inscription altered reflecting the fact that the stamp was also valid for fiscal (revenue) use. This was printed by De La Rue with a Multiple Crown CA watermark, and was ready by 1919. Since supplies of the 1899 stamp remained in stock, only 1530 copies were ordered (51 sheets of 30). It had been intended that the release of the new stamp should be delayed until supplies of the older one were exhausted. However, an oversight at the Valletta post office resulted in it being put on public sale on 6 March 1919. Due to the few copies printed, the stamps sold out within a couple of days. In 1922 the stamp was reprinted on Multiple Script CA watermarked paper.^[2] Since more were printed, the stamp is not as rare as the 1919 issue, however it still catalogues at €350 mint and €650 used.

MALTA INDEPENDENCE DAY



day as a national holiday.

Jum l-Indipendenza ta Malta - Malta Independence Day 21st September 1964. MALTA gained Independence from United Kingdom on the 21 September 1964 Il-kisba ta' l-Indipendenza fil-21 ta' Settembru 1964, kienet kisba importanti hafna ghal Malta. On the night of the 20-21st September, the Maltese Flag was raised at Independence Arena, Floriana, amidst the cheers of the large crowd present. Malta had become an Independent Nation. Once Independence was achieved, Malta started to play her part in International relations. An Independence Day is an annual celebration commemorating the anniversary of a nation's assumption of independent statehood, usually after ceasing to be a colony or part of another state. Most countries honour their respective independence

DEBONO

COAT OF ARMS

Although mostly used as supporters to the shield, full-body human figures as well as parts of the human body are used as charges on numerous coats of arms of particular Maltese families.

The **DEBONO** family coat of arms displays a wild man armed with a spear beside a tree. It is interesting to note that numerous variations to this shield exist. In several depictions, the man is often displayed with a silver face and trousers and a red body. Other personal coats of arms, such as those belonging to Maximillian Debono LL.D. and Philippo Nicolao Debono, display six bars below the Debono shield. A fine example of such changes to the standard coat of arms may be observed on the in-laid marble tombstones of the Balzan parish church of the Annunciation.

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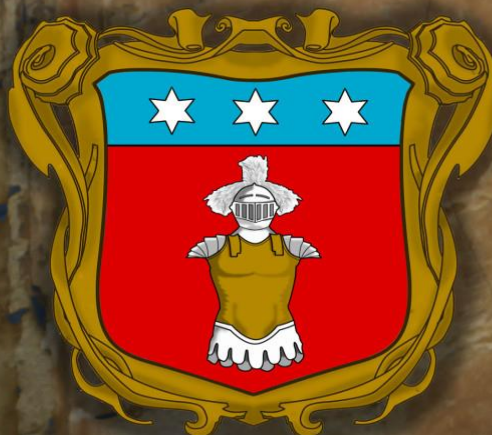


GALEA

COAT OF ARMS

Body armour in heraldry in Malta is not very common. However, the armour displayed on the **GALEA** family coat of arms is strikingly similar to that of the Maltese Sceberras family. *Galea* is the classical Latin word for 'helmet', which might be the reason for the use of this charge. In Medieval Latin it refers to a galley, and this is the reason why many Italian families with this name bear a large vessel on their shield.

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ARALDIKA
MALTA



SAHHA - CIAO - GOODBYE