



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA)

ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 2017



Hon Dr George Vella MP

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established by an Act of Parliament (Chapt 515 Act No. XX) in December 2011. The Council have the function of protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living outside Malta, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Fifteen CMLA Councillors and Secretary were appointed

On October 2017 the Council for Maltese Living Abroad will hold its annual meeting in Malta at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Palazzo Parisio in Valletta. The meeting will be chaired by the Hon Dr George W Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In this meeting the Council will continue to discuss a variety of issues including the creation of a roadmap for the further development of the Maltese Government-Diaspora relations, biometric passport services, the establishment of the Maltese Cultural Institute, Maltese language teaching overseas, the teaching of the history of the Diaspora in Maltese schools, the youth, the pensioners and the elderly, Rights and responsibilities of Maltese living overseas and other matters that impact directly or indirectly Maltese communities overseas. The Council's achievements are remarkable and several issues have been deal with successfully. The 2015 Report of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad is publicly available on the website of the Parliament of Malta as it was tabled in Parliament on 23 March 2015, as Paper Laid No. 4805 as per these weblinks: Parliament of Malta webpage <http://www.parlament.mt/paperslaiddetails?id=24126&legcat=13> CMLA Report 2015 – Download Document 04805



The President of Malta, H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca launching the **FOURTH CONVENTION FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD 2015** at her San Anton Palace, Attard, Malta

V.I8 VALLETTA

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2018

A collection of artistic and cultural projects and events planned for next year for **Valletta 2018** was recently launched at **Palazzo De La Salle**.

The publication contains general information on 2018 projects and events, offering the public a taste of what is to come. Valletta's **European Capital of Culture** year will open on the **20th January 2018** with an official



ceremony. As part of the opening festivities, various dynamic shows will be using Valletta's open spaces, namely the Triton Fountain, Castille Square, St. John's Square and St. George's Square as the backdrop for their performances.

The Valletta 2018 Foundation has also implemented the concept of the **fiesta** in its programme's narrative. *Festi* rely heavily on active participation of different people and, likewise, the success of Valletta 2018 requires the collaboration of people from all walks of life who contribute to the Valletta 2018 Cultural Programme.

Artistic Director for Special Events **Mario Philip Azzopardi** said, "Several public spaces in the city will be used to host spectacles for the opening weekend. A number of attractions will be taking place including the participation of international acrobatics company **La**

<http://valletta2018.org/>

Fura Dels Baus, performances by **ŻfinMalta** dancers and digital projections around the city."

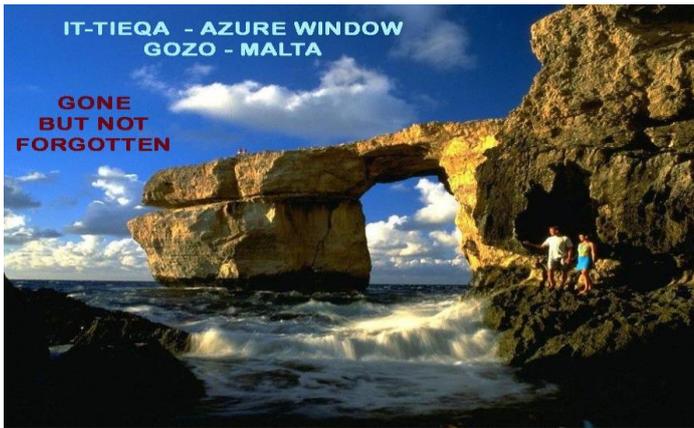
"Valletta as the Capital for Culture for 2018 is not the finish line, but rather another phase within the arts and cultural sector. The Valletta 2018 project is in fact a long term project to preserve the cultural heritage and create a legacy that is enjoyed by locals and tourists alike to foster cultural heritage as a reflection of our identity as Maltese, Mediterranean and European," said Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government **Owen Bonnici**.

Another highlight from the Valletta 2018 Cultural Programme includes Valletta 2018's multi-site visual arts exhibition curated by internationally renowned curator **Maren Richter**. This main event is set to take place over the opening weekend, with its multi-site work branching out into several artistic pieces taking place in multiple venues all over the archipelago. The second edition of the **Valletta Pageant of the Seas**, the large-scale spectacle which transforms the Grand Harbour with nautical displays and fireworks will also be taking place in 2018 on the **7th June**. An opera season is also being planned that includes **Aħna Refuġjati** – an operatic work by young Maltese composer **Mario Sammut** that recounts the struggles of a family attempting to escape their war-torn country, as well as the **Orfeo & Majnun** opera which combines the Greek myth of Orfeo and Eurydice with the Middle Eastern legend of Leyla and Majnun. Other programme highlights include **Altofest Malta**, a Maltese edition of the Naples Arts Festival hosting interdisciplinary projects in diverse spaces, ranging from private homes to community venues and public locations. **Malta Calls** meanwhile offers an event comprising a set by international **DJ Per QX**, dances from **ŻfinMalta** and projections by London-based artists **Shaun Prickemage** and **Dan Strutt**.

An online version of the 2018 Cultural Programme Preview can be found



SAN LAWRENZ LOCAL COUNCIL'S STATEMENT



The San Lawrenz Local Council has issued a statement this evening regarding the way forward following the collapse of the Azure Window in Dwejra.

The Council said that in view of the recent natural phenomenon which altered the landscape of the locality of San Lawrenz and of the island of Gozo with the collapse of the Azure Window, it would like to thank the numerous number of locals and foreigners who expressed their sorrow as a result of this loss.

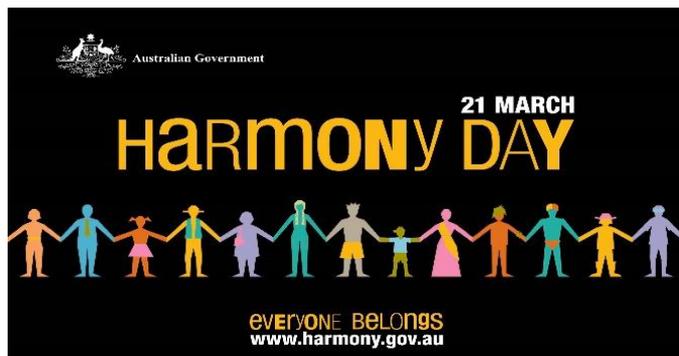
The Council also emphasised the rich environmental and cultural potential of the whole Dwejra site and reiterated that the importance of the Azure Window was not as a structure in isolation, but its being part of a wider context. "It encompasses a variety of geological characteristics both above and below sea level, a natural environment enriched by numerous species of flora and fauna which are unique to our islands and a — — — spectacular coastline displaying different rock formations."



The Council said that the "natural process we have just experienced, presents society at large with the challenge to unite and safeguard our natural heritage which not only adorns our islands but offers us the required potential to entice others to visit us."

It also encouraged the Government "not to linger in taking all necessary steps to put in place a serious management plan for the whole Dwejra site and to compliment this with providing the Local Council and other competent authorities with the required finances and legislative tools to implement it."

Finally, the San Lawrenz Local Council pledged that it will be "intensifying it's efforts and initiatives, in tandem with the authorities concerned to continue giving Dwejra the serious and professional attention it is due."



MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

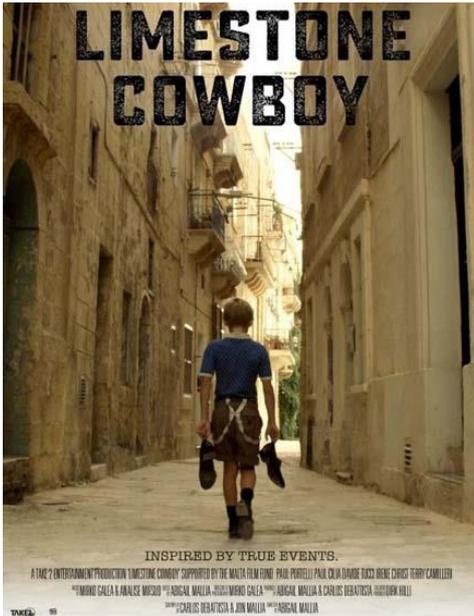
Harmony Day is celebrated on 21 March every year. For Australia, it is a day to celebrate our diverse and multicultural society. The day is organised by the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Diversity in Australia Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived in Australia for thousands of years, most of Australia's population is made up of people whose families

only arrived in the country within the last 200 years. When European settlers arrived there were around 600 Indigenous nations (*groups or communities*) living all around Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a vast and rich heritage, with sacred sites around Australia and many dreamtime stories. Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 2.5% of the Australian population.

Because the majority of Australia's population is made up of people who were born here or moved here only one, two or three generations ago, everyone has different and varied backgrounds: Maltese, Italian, Greek, English, Vietnamese, Irish, Korean, Canadian etc.

Walking down the street you might pass a Japanese sushi bar, a fish and chip shop, a Greek kebab house and an Indian restaurant, all next to each other. If it weren't for all the nationalities and cultures that exist side by side in Australia, can you imagine how uninteresting our streets (*and food*) would be?



LIMESTONE COWBOYS

Here are the FACTS.

-Fact: the Maltese cinema industry is basically non-existent folks. You can count the number of Maltese film distributed abroad on Captain Hook's left hand. Meanwhile the rest of Europe has been producing world class film at the same rate that we produce dodgy legislators. The good news is that the Limestone Cowboy team (and also a few other rogue film-makers down here, whom we humbly salute) are trying their darnest to turn this ship around. Limestone Cowboy is 4 years (of blood, sweat, tears and abject blasphemy) in the making and now painfully close to being complete and ready for shipping!

We've just returned from the European Film Market in Berlin, where the trailer and OF COURSE our boyish good looks have gotten the film a lot of foreign interest. We now need the last cash injection to fuel the charge towards getting this film into the right hands within the right period of time! *Films become outdated to the international market quicker than that blonde you took to your social that kept pouting at her own bloody phone the whole night.. That was only me?!..oh*



Anyhoot! Support us in bringing international attention to Maltese film in which ever way you can! Donate whatever you can. Cash strapped? Pawn your goldfish – we guarantee this film is at least 1000000% more exciting than a blank faced chunk of organic orange matter that forgets you even exist every 4 seconds.

Synopsis - To his mind Karist is The Limestone Cowboy – the heroic protagonist from a tale woven and told by his late father, Noel. To his mind he's the quintessential hero and savior from the American Wild West. But this is Malta, a laid back island in the Mediterranean sea, thus to everyone else's mind Karist is unwell, a delusional village imbecile. The Limestone Cowboy story is a gift of inheritance from Karist's late dad Noel – by every description a beautiful man who'd woven into the messianic gunslinger's story a code of values that would one day make his son brilliant, a leader of men, a savior. Noel passed early however, abruptly in the mid-1960's – too early to see his son's brilliant becoming through. In fact the man's passing jolted young Karist's development into sudden arrest.



50 years on and Karist is a national celebrity – and his son John loathes it. For as long as he'd care to remember John has been scaling the corporate ladder, distancing himself from his humiliating beginnings one validating rung at a time. He was doing well too until Tommy joined the fray... Tommy, the magic maker who shot

John's mad father to his parabolic apex with a thundering boom for all to behold. The country watches in awe, applause and ridicule as Karist burns brilliantly while John despairs.

The team would like to give a big hearty thanks to everyone that's supported us this far and we'd like to take the opportunity to remind you that this movie has been supported by **THE MALTA FILM FUND.**

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.

Enter enterprising University of Malta Professor, Dr. David Mifsud. 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 Malteseresidents with special needs or illness.



Classical Music and Theatre in Malta – The Manoel Theatre

The baroque 18th century theatre, The Manoel, in aptly named Old Theatre Street, Valletta, makes a wonderful venue for the performing arts. The Manoel Theatre is one of the oldest in Europe (and definitely the oldest theatre still in use). Built in 1731, and one of the oldest working theatres in Europe, it has been fully restored to its earlier splendour. It is a wonderful setting in its own right. The theatre runs guided tours of the auditorium, back stage and the

theatre museum. The Manoel opened in 1732 to a season of French classics. Today, it offers a full calendar ranging from comedy to classics, in both English and Maltese, and by both local and international actors and performers. The Sala Isouard, an adjacent palace now part of the Theatre, also hosts events. The Mediterranean conference centre has a thriving musical calendar of its own. The Manoel theatre, and other venues in Valletta, are the scene of several annual festivals: the Valletta Baroque Festival; the Arts Festival; and Opera Festival. Theatre performances are held in other venues, such as the Old University building in Valletta and the University of Malta at Tal-Qroqq. Dedicated amateur groups stage excellent performances. Highlights of the year include the open-air Shakespeare performed in the baroque gardens of San Anton Palace in July. The Islands have several venues for opera: the Manoel Theatre and Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta; as well as theatres in Victoria, Gozo. In the past Malta had a dedicated opera building in Valletta. The opera building was destroyed in World War II. But the site where it once stood is to be developed into a national arts centre, more versatile for performing arts than its predecessor.





MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NSW *by Marisa Previtera*

The popular Maltese Cultural Association of NSW Choir entered the Talent Quest organised by Fairfield City Council in conjunction with Club Marconi. The event offered community information, entertainment and a light lunch for the all seniors who attended.

There were six entrants for the Talent Quest, which included a Line Dancing Group, a Michael Jackson Impersonator, Vietnamese Dance Group and a Latin American Folkloric Dancing group. The MCA choir under the direction of Marisa Previtera, performed to a packed auditorium and sang a selection of popular songs from the 60s, which hit the right note with many of the seniors who joined in the singing. When the Choir sang "I Am Australian" which was dedicated to the many nationalities represented there on the day, it lifted the spirits of all who were present and this inspired the Choir to perform at their very best.

It was pure joy to hear the enthusiastic reception that the choir received from the audience and their second placing and prize of \$300 in the event was well deserved.

The Choir members who range in age from 57 years to 90 years of age are to be applauded for their performance, dedication and the hard work they put in to making the MCA Choir, one of the best in the Maltese community of NSW.

The winner of the first prize of \$500 was a young 82 year old Michael Jackson Impersonator, Rebecca Yolanda Bonacorso, who displayed great spirit and courage in her performance.

PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER: Speaker participates in a parliamentary conference on the WTO

Reference Number: PR170583, Press Release Issue Date: Mar 09, 2017

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia represented the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in the 38th Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO held in Brussels, which was organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament. Speaker Farrugia, who is the Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches and a member of the Steering Committee of the CPA, addressed the Committee which focused on free trade agreements having provisions of trade liberalization compatible with respect for labour rights, and on enhancing trade that contributes to the full respect of human rights. In his address, Speaker Farrugia also referred to the good work carried out by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



Turnbull

Elon Musk, Malcolm Turnbull in talks on renewables after billionaire's '100 days or it's free' pledge

by Jacob Gardenswartz

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TWEET

Photo by Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images

*Photo: **Elon Musk says energy storage is the solution to SA's power woes and the Australian Prime Minister Malcolm***

Elon Musk, the Silicon Valley billionaire who heads such companies as **Tesla** and **SpaceX**, has a plan to save Australia.

On Thursday, Tesla's vice president for energy products, Lyndon Rive, **told the Australian Financial Review** that he would "commit" to installing 100 to 300 megawatt-hours of batteries on the continent within 100 days. Then, asked by Australian billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes **on Twitter** how serious Rive's guarantee was, Musk responded confidently: "Tesla will get the system installed and working 100 days from contract signature **or it is free**. That serious enough for you?"

Australia is in the midst of a **gas supply shortage**, which has threatened the nation's power reserves. A recent report by the **Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)**, an organization that manages much of the energy markets and power systems on the continent, **predicted** that declining gas production could lead to major electricity deficits as soon as summer 2018.

Meanwhile, south Australia has been hit particularly hard, with its 1.7 million people facing frequent energy cutbacks and power shortages. Last September, a slew of storms led to a **statewide blackout** that left some without power overnight. As **Vox's Brad Plumer** detailed in 2015, though Tesla may be known for making electric cars, it has been investing heavily in the manufacturing of other kinds of battery technologies, including a **standalone lithium-ion battery** that individuals can buy for their homes or businesses. In January 2017, this culminated in the completion of the "**Gigafactory**," a massive battery cell production plant in Nevada that **Bloomberg** said would soon be the "world's biggest factory."

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says he has held a "great in depth discussion" with Elon Musk, after the billionaire tech entrepreneur offered to fix South Australia's energy problems within 100 days. On Friday, Mr Musk said energy storage could solve the state's electricity problems with a Tesla battery farm, and work could be completed within 100 days, or it would be free. He followed that up in talks with South Australia's Premier Jay Weatherill, later tweeting that he was impressed by the State Government's commitment to a "smart, quick solution"



VISIT THE WEBSITE: <http://eurovisionworld.com/?eurovision=2017malta>

Traditional Maltese Recipe: Qassatat tal-irkotta (Ricotta pies)



Two very popular snacks in Malta are **Qassatat** and **Pastizzi**. You can call them cousins with 'pastizzi' being the posher or richer of the two. I find 'qassatat' are the easier ones to make.

There's all sort of different fillings you can use for the qassatat and ricotta ones seem to be the most favoured. You can add raisins or sauteed onions or fresh fava beans with the ricotta. These types of fillings are sought after during Lent when it's customary to fast. Other types of fillings include meat and anchovies, but really, you can make as many types of filling as your creativity and taste will take you. So this is your basic Ricotta Qassatat Recipe **Serves: 5-6**

Ingredients:

For the pastry:

(a) 400 g/14 oz flour (b) 200 g/8 oz margarine (c) 1 tsp baking powder (d) Water (e) A pinch of salt

For the filling: 250 g/ ½ lb ricotta 1 egg

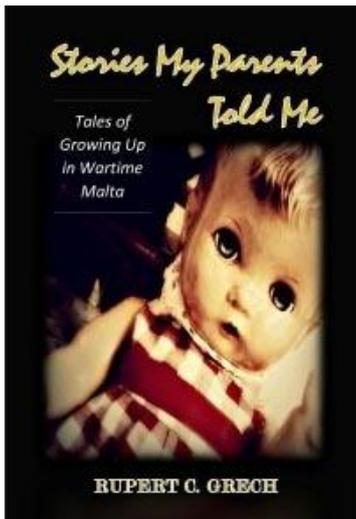
For the glaze: 1 beaten egg

Instructions:

1. To prepare the dough, mix flour, baking powder and salt in a basin, rub in the margarine.
2. Add enough water to form a dough. Roll out the pastry, and cut using a round 18 cm/7 inches pastry cutter.
3. Prepare the filling by mixing in the egg with the rikotta.
4. Taking the ricotta mixture, place some in the centre of each pastry circle.
5. Brush the pastry ends with the beaten egg, gather the edges towards the centre, leaving it uncovered over the rikotta filling.
6. Brush pastry with the beaten egg and bake for 20 minutes or till golden in a moderate oven.

Photographs have been taken by Matthew Cauchi and food has been cooked at Gululu restaurant by Neville Gauci

I am wondering if you could help me again. I am trying to find where I can buy a particular Maltese book. As I have mentioned previously I have an elderly Maltese friend (95 this year) and she had mentioned that there was a book she would like to get when it was printed. I know she wanted to provide information when the Sisters were asking for any information or stories for the book but I am uncertain if family ever arranged for this to happen. The book is Madre Gemma Camilleri, Missjoni mill-kamra tas-sodda and although I am unable to interpret the review I saw it in you Maltese Newsletter 129 August 2016 page 5. Do you know where I can buy this book? I have looked everywhere on line but I cannot find any information on it. I believe I am putting the correct information into the search box in the computer but I just cannot find anything or anywhere I can buy this book for her. .Do you know where this book can be purchased anywhere in the world? LEE elmogale@hotmail.com



Stories My Parents Told Me - Tales of Growing Up in Wartime Malta Summary

Stories My Parents Told Me: Tales of Growing Up in Wartime Malta by Rupert C. Grech is a collection of seven short stories based on actual events during World War II on the Mediterranean island nation of Malta. The stories describe a difficult time for children and their families where survival was paramount and family ties were what sustained them. These stories are interspersed with snippets of history, factual details and descriptions which establish a setting for tales which are, at times, emotionally moving and, at other times, bring a smile to your face. These stories also describe a culture of a time past for a deeply religious and frugal people.

About the Author: **Rupert C. Grech** is a first generation Australian born of Maltese immigrants. For the first seven years of his life, he lived in the poorer suburbs of inner Sydney, later moving to the western suburbs. Rupert graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Economics and a Diploma in Education, during which time he also played A-Grade Rugby League in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. He then returned to his studies and completed an honors degree in Human Geography at the University of New England. His thesis addressed the issue of chain migration from Malta to Australia.

After teaching for five years, Rupert Grech backpacked around Europe for six months, during which time he first visited Malta. Returning to Australia, he owned and managed a lunchtime cafe in the Blue Mountains area of New South Wales for six years, after which he returned to teaching in the same area while concurrently running his 114-acre beef cattle property, singing and playing guitar and bass in various pub bands; filling in as a part-time radio announcer and writing a column in the local newspaper. Rupert Grech finished his career in education after spending nine years as headmaster in two, small, regional schools in New South Wales. Later he purchased an apartment in Marsaxlokk, Malta. The author now spends half of each year in both Australia and Malta writing, performing as a musician and traveling.

SISTER RACHELE AGIUS OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS IN PAKISTAN



One of the latest hospitaller works of the Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo was support for the Dominican Mission in Pakistan which consists of three communities, a school, an orphanage and a clinic with a dispensary. Last year, the Gozo corps also donated medicines to this missionary, however this year, the Board of the organisation decided to provide a monetary contribution to make things easier for the mission. Sister Rachele thanked the Order of Malta and all our well-wishers who contributed generously and told

us that buying medicine is the mission's priority – sometimes they could not buy the medicine for the poor people due to lack of funds. One has to take into consideration that there is no free National Health Service in Pakistan and many of the people do not have health insurance. Sister Rachele Aguis was born in Gharb, Gozo. At the age of twenty, she joined the Dominican Sisters. After three years she went to St Catherine's hospital where for fifteen years she worked mainly in the maternity wards. She had spells in various other communities including Rome and then began missionary work. She loves that work and is currently in Pakistan providing education for orphaned children and medical help to the community by running a dispensary supported by the Order of Malta. To donate to support these works select "Overseas Aid Projects :Tax Deduction" for "Disadvantaged Youth". In comments type "Pakistan – Sr Rachel"



Australian Government
**Department of Immigration
 and Border Protection**

www.border.gov.au

Global visa and citizenship processing times will be available online for the first time from 13 March. As part of the Department's ongoing efforts to improve client information, the publishing of current visa and citizenship processing times will give you more meaningful data about the visa or citizenship product of your choice.

The latest processing times will replace the previously published service standards to give you a better idea of how long it is taking to process a particular visa subclass, stream, or citizenship application.

Processing times will be updated monthly to reflect current caseloads and processing pressures, and will be available for most visa subclasses and citizenship application types. We do not publish processing times for some subclasses, as they are closed to new entrants, or capped and queued.

To ensure that your application falls within the published processing times, you must lodge a complete application. Your application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times can vary due to individual circumstances, including:

- whether you have lodged a complete application and included all necessary supporting documents
- how promptly you respond to requests for additional information
- how long it takes to perform required checks
- how long it takes to receive additional information from external parties, particularly in relation to health, character, national security, and Assurance of Support requirements
- the number of places available in the migration programme
- surges in demand and peak periods.



Malta International Arts Festival

Ruben Zahra ARTISTIC TEAM

Ruben Zahra (b. 1972) is a composer committed to contemporary expression and Maltese music heritage. His music carries fragments from a variety of musical cultures. Influences from classical, rock, jazz and ethnic music are interwoven within the tapestry of his contemporary work. Ruben Zahra has been invited to present concerts in major festivals all over Europe as well as in Egypt, Tunisia, USA, India, South Africa, Australia and Hong Kong. In 1994 Ruben Zahra graduated from the University of Malta in Music & Theatre Studies and was awarded a scholarship by the Italian Cultural Institute to further his studies in composition with Azio Corghi at the National Music Academy of Santa Cecilia in Rome. While in Italy he studied electronic music with Giorgio Nottoli and film music with Ennio Morricone.

In 2000 he moved to the USA for a master's degree in composition at Mills College in Oakland, California. In 2002 he moved to Los Angeles and spent two years working for the Hollywood film industry as a soundtrack composer. Since 2004 he is based in Malta and works internationally as a freelance composer. Ruben Zahra is also a cultural entrepreneur and promoter of contemporary music. He is director of the culture organisation 'Soundscapes', president of the 'Malta Association for Contemporary Music', artistic director of 'Modern Music Days', programming team member of the 'Malta International Arts Festival' and publisher of the 'ENCORE' – Malta's arts & culture magazine.



Francesca Tranter ARTISTIC TEAM

Francesca a dance practitioner and choreographer trained in Malta at the Tanya Bayona Princess Poutiatine Academy, and London Contemporary Dance School in UK specializing in Contemporary Dance and Choreography. Later graduating with a Master's Degree in Performance Dance Studies from the University Of Malta. 1st prize recipient Malta Choreographic Group Award and other International Festivals in recognition for her choreographic work. Since 1981 she has taught, choreographed, mentored extensively for many dance institutions, covering a diverse dance practice spectrum of thirty-five years developing strong athletic versatile dancers. She was instrumental in bringing numerous international dance companies to Maltese theatres and created collaborative international exchanges and performances. She was resident choreographer and dancer with the Tanya Bayona Dance Theatre Company (1987 – 1998) and developed Contemporary at The Dance Workshop (1998-2015).

Her work has toured to high profile theatres and festivals in Malta, England, Scotland, Poland, Hungary, Belgrade, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, Turkey, Tunis, Portugal, France, Scotland, Germany, Cyprus, Sicily and Greece. She founded Contact Dance Company in 1998 as a vehicle to promote her own choreographic research creating numerous works for CDC as well as independent commissions collaborating with international choreographers and musicians. She has directed and produced various dance projects and operas including acting as Rehearsal Director for various projects. In 2001 she founded 'Dance Hybrid Malta' an intensive week of dance exploration hosting international artists now in its 16th year with the aim of introducing various styles and techniques in Contemporary dance. In 2011 she launched 'Dance on the Move' a weekly platform of masterclasses hosting a rotation of celebrated international teachers. She forms part of the dance studies department at the University Of Malta School Of Performing Arts since its inception in 2010 and is coordinator for The Evening Space an outreach programme that is offered by the University Of Malta SPA. She forms part of The Malta International Arts Festival artistic team since 2014.

Recent choreographic works include #3 Dialogue (2014) University International Tour, "Iz-Zmien' (2014) ZfinMalta dance tour "Erbgha", "Kantilena" Maltese Opera (2015), 'A bark and a Meow' (2015) Tabula Rasa fringe festival MIAF+, 50,000 (2016) ZfinMalta – Tlieta tour, Diaspora (2017) EU presidency Greece and a work in progress related to her present research practice Who am I? Negotiating her signature/style through the perception of two dancers whom have worked with her language for several years. This project is linked to a current research in the writing of a manuscript investigating the Legacy of Contemporary Dance in Malta a chronological study of events that impacted and influenced changes towards Contemporary dance in Malta, simultaneously creating a digital archive which will help underpin the identity and development of dance significantly current to the Mediterranean.

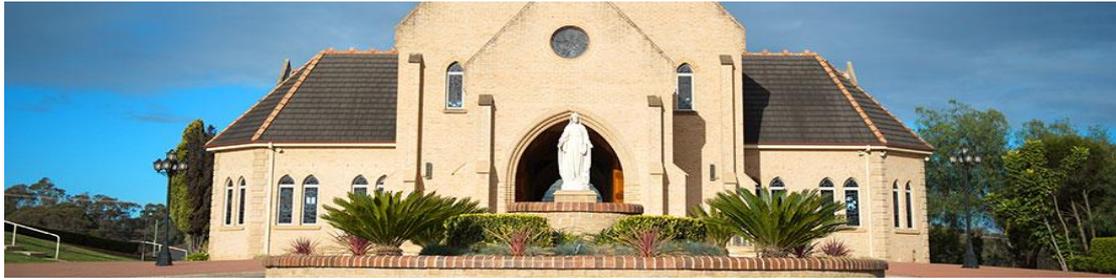
IL-LAQMIJET TAL-PAJJIŻI

L-Isla tar-rixa
 Il-Birgu tat-toqba
 L-Imsida tal-ħama
 Ħaż-Żabbar tat-tut
 Tas-Sliema tal-pepè
 Ħal Tarxien tar-redus
 Il-Furjana tal-qagħqa
 Il-Ħamrun tas-sikkina
 Ħal Qormi sa nofsinhar
 Raħal Ġdid tal-midjunin
 Iż-Żejtun ta' saqajhom ċatta
 u Birkirkara ta' sormhom ċatt

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OUR LADY OF VICTORIES – HORSLEY PARK NSW
1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park NSW 2175
Good Friday Activities 2017

The members of the Maltese community are invited to attend

Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park Preparations for the Good Friday Procession in Horsley Park, NSW are well underway and the Organising Group wishes to advise readers of upcoming important dates and activities.

Thursday 23 March, from 6.00pm Helpers are needed to transport and arrange statues in the church.

Friday 24 March, from 7.30pm Helpers are needed to organise and prepare other procession objects in the church. The Last Supper exhibition is also organised.

Monday 27 to Thursday 30 March, at 6.30pm Lenten mission in Maltese led by Fr Noel Bianco

Sunday 2 April from 3.00pm Children and youth are invited to try on and collect costumes for the procession in the Church Presbytery Thursday 6 April from 7.00pm Reconciliation in the Church

Friday 7 April from 7.00pm The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. The function begins with a celebration of the mass, followed by the Stations of the Cross outside and a procession with the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows back into the Church.

Friday 14 April – Good Friday Help is greatly needed early in the morning to install outdoor equipment necessary for the procession such as PA systems, lights and barricades.

The Church service begins at 2.30pm. The Church can only hold a certain amount of people, so think early. At 4.00pm, the Maltese Cultural Association NSW Choir begins performing traditional dirges and hymns, alternating with Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band which will play funeral marches.

The procession begins at 5.00pm. All participants should be present by 4.00pm to change and prepare for the procession, rain, hail or shine.

There is the possibility that there will be costumes available to wear, especially for adults. For more information about costumes, or for any other thing, please call **Fred Cauchi on 0407 914 051**.

Submitted by Antoine Mangion

PROGRAMM TAL-GHID - EZERCIZZI SPIRITWALAI MILL-MISSJUNARJI
TA' SAN PAWL TA' SYDNEY

It-Tnejn 27 ta' Marzu sal-Hamis 30ta' Marzu, Ezercizzi spiritwali fil-parrocca ta' Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes. Nibdew fl-10.30 am. Jipriedka Fr Mark Grima MSSP. Ikun hemm quddiesa, priedka u barka sagramentali.

It-Tnejn 27 ta' Marzu sal-Hamis 30ta' Marzu, Ezercizzi spiritwali fil-parrocca ta' Horsley Park Our Lady of Victories, fis-6.30 pm jipriedka Fr Mark Grima MSSP. Ikun hemm quddiesa, priedka u barka sagramentali.

It-Tlieta 4ta' April sal-Gimgha 7ta' April, Fil-Kapellata' San Pawl De Prio House Stanley Street Sydney, jipriedka Fr Benedict Sant MSSP. Din il-gurnata tahbat il-festa tad-Duluri, festa ghaziza ghalina l-Maltin u tigi 'kkommemorta il-festa tad-Duluri. fis-7.00pm,



NEW STATUE OF OUR LADY AT THE MALTESE CULTURAL CENTRE, BEVERLEY.

On Ash Wednesday (8 February 2017) The Chaplain of the Maltese community of South Australia, father Gabriel Micallef, blessed the new statue of St. Mary which was bought by the Maltese Guild of SA Inc. After the blessing there was a special Mass to prepare for the Lenten season.



WINNER OF THE BILLIARD TOURNAMENT AT THE MALTESE GUILD CENTRE

❖ Lorry Cassar (winner) and Anthony Barbara (runner up) were presented with trophies after the final match between them. The Hon Consul of Malta Frank Scicluna presented the trophy to Lorry while Joe Briffa, President, presented the trophy to the runner up. The billiard tournament is organised by Mr John Mangion assisted by Mr Uwe Bornhoeft at the Maltese Cultural Centre. The games are held every Tuesday during the luncheon for the members of

the Guild.

YOUR COMMENTS

❖ Thanks Frank, much appreciate your newsletter and print many pages of it on Facebook page. Keep it up. Victor Pullicino

- ❖ Thank you for a most interesting newsletter, as usual. I congratulate you on the amount of research and hard work you always put into it. I have forwarded it to a couple of friends and they really enjoy the information therein. Prosit. Irene Cooper
- ❖ We received a PDF copy of the Newsletter of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, published quarterly (March, Autumn issue 2017) Thank you !!!! Paul Vella, Secretary,
- ❖ Thanks Frank, much appreciate your newsletter and print many pages of it on Facebook page. Keep it up. Victor Pullicino
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- ❖ Thank you for your Newsletter for March 2017. Very interesting reading. Kind regards - Rita Demicoli
- ❖ Thanks for another interesting newsletter Frank, I enjoyed it very much, no doubt in your next edition the Azzure Window will be in it. Good to see you mentioned Manny Muscat the football player. Did you know that he was in the Malta National team as well? Keep up the good work. Raymond Grima (Adelaide)
- ❖ Beautiful Newsletter – I can say that is the journal of the Maltese living and Malta and overseas. LBG
- ❖ What I like about this Newsletter is its simplicity – easy to read and follow without any effort. I print it and share it with my family and friends. Moira Vella
- ❖ I would like to confirm receipt while thanking you most warmly for the interesting newsletter you keep sending us on a regular basis. Well done and keep up the good work. Thanks so much - Elizabeth Mallia
- ❖ Thank you for the Maltese Newsletter. Though I had the occasion of visiting Australia twice on duty (to visit our Franciscan Sisters) and also I had the opportunity of visiting my 2 brothers one in Melbourne and the other one in SYDNEY, both of them passed away. IT has been a big surprise but still I enjoyed reading the newsletter. Thanks once again. Yours faithfully, Sister Teresia Buttigieg FCJ



Carnival tragedy of Malta in 1823

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 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.^{[3][4]} 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' Ġiežu*) 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.^{[3][4]} 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.^{[3][5]} 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.

[READ ALL THE NEWSLETTERS AT www.ozmalta.page4.me/](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me/)

Lill-Patri Adeodato Schembri**Ħamsin Sena Saċerdot****Kav Joe M Attard - Victoria Gozo**

Illum inti ġejt biex tifraħ
Fost il-qraba u l-ħbieb
Miegħek ridna dal-ferħ naqsmu
U dlonk berraħtilna l-bieb.

F'isem dawn kollha miġbura
Nawguralek aktar snin
Biex tissokta, taħdem, tħabrek
Fl-għalqa tal-Mulej divin.

Għażiż Patri Adeodato
Mill-ġdid tinsab fost l-Għawdxin –
Snin twal ilu tlaqt minn fostna
Mill-ġdid riedek hawn Wistin!

U dalgħodu tinsab magħna
Għax qed tagħlaq il-Ħamsin –
Lil Gesu' Ostja int tniżżel
U trejjaq lill-midinbin!

Parti kbira minn dik ħajtek
Għaddejtha ġewwa l-Brazil,
Sptarijiet u knejjes tibni
F'bnazzi jew maltemp qalil!

U qabel ma wasalt fostna
Għaddejti xi żmien f'Ħal Tarxien;
Kont fejn kont jien m'għandix dubju
Żgur ma ħlejt x tiegħek iż-żmien.

U issa qed tkompli tagħti
Dehra sbejja 'l dal-kunvent
Sabiex kull min imidd riġlu
Isib hawn l-isbaħ ambjent.

Meta tħossok xi fit waħdek
Itfa' ħarstek fuq Wistin;
Hemm ukoll tal-Impossibbli,
Miegħek Monica kull ħin.

Jekk tħossok qed taqta' qalbek
Għandek lil tal-Bon Kunsill –
Din l-Omm tagħna li mis-Sema
Sa tferrħek; tagħmlek trankwill!
Issa hemm ukoll Fra Grazzja
Ta' fama tajba w qaddisa
Li dan l-aħħar għamiltulu
Festa ħelwa w dinjituża.

Ma' dawn kollha sa ssib lilna
Sabiex nagħtuk daqqa t'id
Dan nagħmluh bil-ferħ u l-għożża
B'rieda soda tal-ħadid.

Għażiż Pirjol taf x'qed naħseb!
Min jaf għadx jaħrab il-ħin
U mill-ġdid hawnhekk niltaqgħu
Biex ngħannilek tas-Sittin!

V

Nixtieq nifraħ lill-Patri Pirjol l-Agostinjan **Adeodato Schembri** mill-belt Victoria li nhar il-Ħadd filgħodu 12 ta' Marzu mexxa Konċelebrazzjoni fil-Knisja tal-patrijiet Agostinjani fil-belt Victoria fl-okkażjoni tal-50 Sena minn meta kien ġie ordnat Saċerdot mill-Isqof t'Għawdex Monsinjur Guzeppi Pace. Kienu prezenti għadd sabiħ ta' familjari, qraba u ħbieb, fosthom ħuħ Dun Anton kif ukoll l-E.T. Monsinjur Isqof Mario Grech u l-ex Speaker u ex Ministru għal Għawdex Anton Tabone. L-Arcipriet tax-Xagħra Monsinjur Carmelo Refalo nisiglu żewġ kelmiet sbieħ u fisser kif isem dan l-Agostinjan ma jfisser xejn ħlief 'mogħti lil Alla' – a Deo Dato! U tassew hekk għaliex dan il-patri bi tbissima ta lilu nnifsu kollu kemm hu lil Alla mill-jum li fih ġie ordnat Saċerdot fl-ordni tal-Isqof ta' Ippona. Ta' eta' żagħżugħa ħalla lil art twelidu u għadda 37 sena jaħdem fil-missjoni Agostinjana fil-Brazil fejn bena knejjes u sptarijiet; kien fit-treggija tal-Provincja f'Malta għal tmien snin sħaħ u qabel dan l-aħħar spicċa Għawdex għamel ukoll żmien Ħal Tarxien, u għalkemm illum għandu 74 sena, kien lest li jħalli lil xtutna kieku qatt kellu jerga' jigi mitlub biex jagħmel hekk mis-Superjuri tiegħu. Fi tmiem il-Konċelebrazzjoni li fiha ħadu sehem għadd ta' saċerdoti fosthom ukoll id-Delegat tal-Provincjal, Monsinjur Isqof Mario Grech, li sab ħin iħalli għall-mument Ta' Kerċem, fejn trabba u kiber u serva bħala Kappillan qabel ma nħatar Isqof, u fejn kienet qed issir il-festa f'ġieħ San Girgor, wieħed mill-co patruni tar-raħal, feraħ lill-Patri Adeodato u rringrazzjah tas-servizz twil tiegħu 'l bogħod minn xtutna fejn hemm ukoll xi saċerdoti Għawdxin fosthom Dun Alex Cauchi u Dun Gannamari' waqt li awguralo f'isem il-Knisja f'Għawdex biex ikompli jmessi lill-kommunita' tiegħu fi gżiritna biex din tkompli tikber, waqt li jissokta jagħti sehmu b'risq il-Knisja. Ad Multos Annos! **Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex**

A tragic fall with a happy ending: How a priest saved the life of a German student



Sunday, 21 August 2016, about 8 months ago

On 10 June, the Prior of the Augustinian Convent in Gozo, Fr Adeodato Schembri had the biggest shock of his life.

On his way to celebrate early Mass, he noticed a girl lying on the ground of the cloister. Her name is Elisa Ehrlich and she was with an international group of deaf students who were being hosted at the convent.

Elisa had fallen from the first floor to the central cloister without anyone noticing the accident. As this is an old convent with very high ceilings, the girl fell from a height of over two storeys, by today's standards. Luckily, the prior found her just a few minutes after the accident.

His quick action and that of the Gozo paramedics saved her life. He called the Gozo hospital for an ambulance, which was on the scene in a few minutes. In hospital, her condition was diagnosed as critical and she was sent to Mater Dei by helicopter for intensive therapy. This story hit the news and was reported in the local papers and TV.

Now this newspaper can reveal the happy ending of this story. The girl survived her trauma. She believes that her survival was both due to the care that she received first in Malta and then in Germany, but also to her guardian angels.

In fact, the medics did not think the girl would make it but after three days in intensive care she started showing signs of improvement and came out of her coma. Still there was fear that due to the fall Elisa would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life.

To the prior's surprise, a few weeks after the accident he received an email from Elisa thanking him for

My Dear Pastor Schembri,

My name is Lisa Ehrlich from international group. I come from Germany. I want to say/ I would like to say: Thank YOU very much for everything. Thank you for founded me fast when i fell from window. Thank you that you saved me/my life! Thank You for All/everything!

Now I am feeling much more better, 3weeks ago I am back in Germany. Now I am in the rehabilitation for 3weeks for training for my arm,shoulder,hand but I can normally run/walk and with my chest is all okay yet.

I am very happy that I am alive or I dont sit on wheelchair but I know I had big luck and I had lot of guardian angels and You founded me fast. Thank you All!!

Nice and lovely Greetings from Germany from me (Lisa Ehrlich)

Thank you very much!

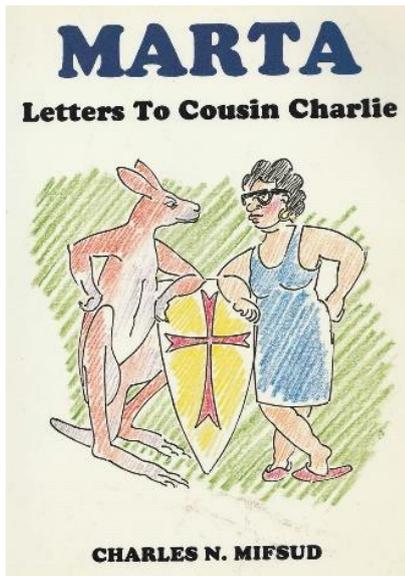
all he had done but, most importantly, informing him that her life is returning back to normal.

She also informed Fr Adeodato that she has started walking and playing again. She can surely thank her lucky stars but she prefers to attribute her escape from death or serious injuries to her guardian angels. Fr Adeodato decided to share this email to thank all those in Malta and Gozo, in particular the doctors and paramedics who were crucial in saving Elisa's life and helped her return to her daily routine.

LILL MIKE ATTARD MINN MELBOURNE

Xtaqt nieħu l-okkażjoni biex nifraħ lin-neputi tiegħi Mike li jgħix f'Melbourne Victoria li l-bieraħ kellu l-ewwel tarbija - Lucas! Uncle Joe and Auntie Maria from Victoria Gozo. March 2017

SPECIAL FEATURE - GEMS FROM MACKAY



Cousin Marta loves keeping in touch - sharing her experiences and wisdom - her letters to me are real gems. This is the first of ten gems from Mackay. The book MARTA –was published in 1996 by Charlie N Mifsud NSW

My dear Charlie, today is Holy day, *Friday the Big (il-Gimgha l-Kbira)*. It's me, Marta. How are you and *where is your head (fejna rasek)?* . We are all right.

Since we came back to Mackay from your place in Sydney, Toni, my Toni has been very busy. He *throw himself into the work with is soul and body (jidhol ghax-xoghol b'ruhu u gismu)*. Not like his brother Pawlu, he does not want to work; he just turns with the clothes (*idur bil-hwejjeg*). Toni get very cranky, he complains all the time for his brother, I tell you, he takes my head (*johodli rasi*). His friend Salvu, you know him, he went to Malta, ticket one way because he said he is going for everything (*se jmur ghal kollox*).

You know Gamri il-Ginger - the one who comes from *us (jigi minna)*, miskin, he very sick in hospital. I go to see him and I tell him - "*Gamri don 't cut your heart" (taqtax qalbek)* and he say to me allura "as we went - we went" (*la morna, morna*).

Our son Peppi, he is 34 now, I wish he marry, I always pray he find a nice girl then I *can rest my brain (nserrah rasi)* before Toni and me close our eyes (*before we die*), because you know we only have two children, Peppi and Nina, and Toni and me love them as much as the light of our eyes (*nhobbuhom daqs id-dawl t-ghajnejna*).

Our daughter Nina still the same you know, she cannot stop eating -her eyes are bigger than her belly (*ghajnejha ikbar minn zaqqa*). She is going to get engaged to a fellow, a Maltese chap, his name is Victor Garlick. He is a very nice boy. He is a big fella too, he brought his soul a lot (*gab ruhu mhux hazin*), and he has his own business, you know, he works for his head (*jahdem ghal rasu*).

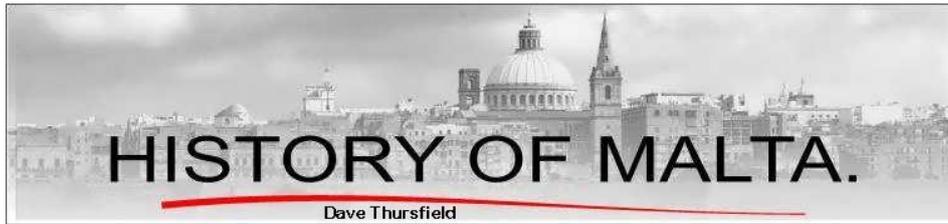
His family are very nice people, you know - they are people of their things (*ta' l- affair tagghom*). But not his brother Guzi, he never works, just gets money from his father - oh yes, he knows how to eat the head of the fish (*jaf jiekol ir-ras tal-huta*) . Last week he came here and I told him - "why don't you find a job?", anyway I made for him (*ghamilt ghalih*) and I told his father, I said "everyone should think for his head" (*kulhadd jahseb ghall-rasu*). I did this because these people, when Nina and Victor marry are going to be people from the inside (*se jkunu ta' gewwa*).

Yesterday Victor took Nina and me went into town to look at the shops for a wedding dress, I was so afraid, he drives like a lunatic (*isuq qiesu mignun*) and my bowels went down in my feet (*imsarni nizluli f'saqajha*). I said to him, "Proset hey, there isn't any for you" (*m'hemm xejn ghalik*) and he just laughed. I was mad so I made for him also (*ghamilt ghalih*). But Nina, she jumps for Victor so I told her "Nina, don't take for you" (*tiehux ghalik*) but I take a taxi back home.

Charlie, I tell you all this because you are my cousin and *you come from me (tigi minni)*. Insomma, better enough for today Sahha and leave your head where you find it (*halli rasek fejn issibha*).

Il-kugina *Marta*

Would you like to read the rest of Marta's letters? Trid taqra l-bqija tal-ittri ta' Marta?



The history of Malta is a long and colourful one dating back to the dawn of civilisation.

The Maltese Islands went through a golden **Neolithic period**, the remains of which are the mysterious temples dedicated to the goddess of fertility. Later on, the **Phoenicians**, the **Carthaginians**, the **Romans** and the **Byzantines**, all left their traces on the Islands.

In 60 A.D. **St. Paul** was shipwrecked on the island while on his way to Rome and brought Christianity to Malta. The Arabs conquered the islands in 870 A.D. and left an important mark on the language of the Maltese. Until 1530 Malta was an extension of Sicily: **The Normans**, the **Aragonese** and other conquerors who ruled over Sicily also governed the Maltese Islands. It was Charles V who bequeathed Malta to the **Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem** who ruled over Malta from 1530 to 1798. The Knights took Malta through a new golden age, making it a key player in the cultural scene of 17th and 18th century Europe. The artistic and cultural lives of the Maltese Islands were injected with the presence of artists such as **Caravaggio**, **Mattia Preti** and **Favray** who were commissioned by the Knights to embellish churches, palaces and auberges.

In 1798, **Napoleon Bonaparte** took over Malta from the Knights on his way to Egypt. The **French** presence on the islands was short lived, as the English, who were requested by the Maltese to help them against the French, blockaded the islands in 1800. **British** rule in Malta lasted until 1964 when Malta became independent. The Maltese adapted the British system of administration, education and legislation. Modern Malta became a **Republic** in 1974 and joined the **European Union** in May 2004.

MALTA UNDER THE ARABS – A.D.870



As with all who made the Islands their home, we can trace the **Arabic legacy** here too. They left their mark on the **Maltese language** and in the names of many **towns and villages** in Malta and Gozo, such as Marsa, Mdina, Mgarr, Mqabba, Għajnsielem, Rabat, Xagħra, Żejtun and Żurrieq, though there is little visible evidence of their stay, apart from the few gravestones unearthed.

This Arabic inscription, dedicated to "Maimuna" and carved in 1174 on Gozo, is one of Malta's finest linguistic relics. It is now in Gozo's Museum of Archeology

They introduced **new crops**, including cotton and citrus fruits, and **innovative agricultural systems**, such as irrigation, to Malta. The distinctive landscape of **terraced fields** is the result of ancient Arab methods. Many delicacies of today's **Maltese cooking**, like that of its neighbour Sicily, owe their origins to Arabic imports - figs, almond, sweet pastries and spices. The Arabs saw Malta, as did the Romans' before them, as **a useful outpost to Sicily**. They seem to have tolerated the Christian beliefs of the Islanders. But with military matters to the fore, they occupied and extended the old Roman fortifications, later to become Fort St. Angelo and the town of **Mdina** and the village of **Rabat**.

Arab rule on Malta came to an end after a long battle with the Normans who crossed from Sicily. **The Normans** had taken Sicily from the Arabs after a 30-year struggle. Count Roger secured the Maltese Islands for the Normans in around 1090. From now on, throughout the Middle Ages, the Islands' fortunes were tied to those of various **European nobility and royals**.



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: MALTA RUGBY LEAGUE

DATE: 10 March 2017

CONTACT: daxisa@malteserugbyleague.com

PHOENICIAN TEST – INTERNATIONAL ROUND – LEBANON VS MALTA

Two passionate Mediterranean nations will renew their rivalry on Saturday 6 May in an important warm up for Ivan Cleary's Lebanese World Cup team as they prepare to take on heavyweights Australia, England and France in the opening stages of this year's global event.

The Cedars, sitting behind Malta and just outside the top 20 in RLIF world rankings are staging the fixture as a 'home match' at New Era Stadium during the NRL international Round when they collide with the red and white knights for the third time. On both occasions the countries have met, the middle-eastern men have out-muscled their European counterparts, the latest outing being a damp May afternoon in Sydney two years ago with Lebanon retaining the coveted cup.

After level-pegging all day, the Knights led that game 16-12 with 20 minutes remaining as debutant Kyal Greene crashed over for his second of the day, however the Cedars finished too strongly for Malta, deservedly earning bragging rights over the tiny island nation with a 34-16 full-time score at St Marys Stadium.

The Cedars have underlined in recent times why they are odds-on favourites heading into the Phoenician contest after comfortable wins in a two-Test series in South Africa, victory over the Italians in Sicily and a hard-fought encounter against Cook Islands last May.

The later taking place at Belmore Oval, the spiritual home of the Canterbury Bulldogs. After tries from their incumbent stars Adnan El Zbaidieh and Nick Kassis, the 21st ranked Cedars went into the break with a 16-12 advantage, however the Kukis came back from the sheds more determined and laid on more points to ensure a 30-20 triumph for the small Pacific country.

Malta's last game was a come-from-behind 44-26 win against the Philippines in February following a heavy 58-10 defeat at the hands of the Ireland Wolfhounds on their home turf in the coastal town of Bray on the Emerald Isle. Ensuring a carnival atmosphere in south-western Sydney, there will be cultural performances, merchandise stalls and entertainment throughout the afternoon.

Several curtain-raisers to the main game will include a Lebanon U18's v Maltese Heritage U18s kicking off at 4.15pm and an Inaugural Malta Women's team taking up the game of Rugby League in front of what is expected to be a capacity crowd. Main game: 7.30pm. Official Facebook event can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/223924111409387/>

FIXTURE: Lebanon vs Malta - Phoenician Cup - Saturday 6 May, 2017 - New Era Stadium - Cabramatta





www.visitMALTA.com

A farewell full gun salute was fired from the ceremonial guns at the Saluting Battery, Valletta at 11.00am upon the departure of HMS Ocean, the Royal Navy's flagship on Sunday 12th March 2017. HMS Ocean will be returning the compliment gun for gun thus recreating a rare occasion where this age old tradition takes place in the Grand Harbour. This initiative was taken jointly by the Malta Tourism Authority, the Royal Navy and Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna to celebrate the excellent relations and strong historic ties that exist between Malta and the United Kingdom.



VISITING MALTA -As we travelled to Malta during summer we decided to go to one of the village on the island to see real Maltese Festa. Festas happens throughout summer months and every village organizes one or two. The most important event that honouring their patron saint, during which streets are lined with carts, food stalls, decorations, marches, musical bands etc. We visited the one in

Siggiewi - St Nicholas Festa.

Name: Monika and Anirban Mukherjee



Nationality: Polish



The 1940's show you've never experienced before!



This performance incorporates live singing together with the 1940's war themed show party. The girls offer close harmony singing, of various hits from great artists such as **The Andrews' Sisters** and **The Chordettes**, **Louis Armstrong**, **The Ramblers** amongst others. The performers are very outgoing and during the show they invite the audience to dance and sing along with popular tunes such as **'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy'**, **'Lollipop'**, **'Be my Baby'**, **'In the Mood'** and more.

The WAR Girls take us back to a time when Jazz and Swing were very popular. These two music genres were a hit in the period between the end of World War I and the Great Depression. They took over a combination of Ragtime, marching band music and blues.

With their military and navy pin up inspired costumes, The Girls remind us of a time when the average woman in the street aspired to and reflected a glamorous side of life that seemed to be missing.

Venue Malta Aviation Museum, Attard, Malta

Date 06-May-2017

www.centrestagemalta.com



Soċjeta' Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V, Mqabba (Malta)
El Sagrado - Kuncert tal-Ġimgħa Mqadssa



The Maltese Newsletter
 The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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