



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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MDINA
The silent city

Citta'
Notabile



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MDINA – OLD CAPITAL CITY – CITTA' NOTABILE



The history of **Mdina** traces back more than 4000 years. According to tradition it was here that in 60 A.D. that **the Apostle St. Paul** is said to have lived after being shipwrecked on the Islands. Furthermore it is said that St. Paul resided inside the grotto know as Fuori le Mura (outside the city walls) now known as St. Paul's Grotto in Rabat. Lamp lit by night and referred to as "the silent city", Mdina is fascinating to visit for its **timeless atmosphere** as well as its cultural and religious treasures.

Mdina has had different names and titles depending on its rulers and its role but its medieval name describe it best - **'Citta' Notabile': the noble city**. It was home then, as now, to Malta's noble families; some are descendants of the Norman, Sicilian and Spanish overlords who made Mdina their home from the 12th century onwards. **Impressive palaces** line its narrow, shady streets.



Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an **ancient walled city** and extraordinary in its mix of medieval and baroque architecture. Like nearby Mdina, **Rabat** played a major role in Malta's past and is a prime source of its cultural heritage.

This large provincial township was **part of the Roman city of Melita**, with the sites and archaeological relics found testifying to the town's importance during the Roman period. For many centuries, religious orders have established themselves within the precincts of Rabat and Franciscans, Dominicans and Augustinians still flourish here in their spacious **convents and monasteries**, catering for the religious needs of parishioners in their churches. The town is a commercial centre and acts as a market to its large agricultural hinterland. It is also well established on the tourist map due to its **archaeological and historical** sites.





Maltese Presidency of the EU was 'efficient and impressive' - Donald Tusk

European Council President Donald Tusk with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat'

You deserve all the praise you are getting'



European Council President Donald Tusk today described the Maltese EU presidency as efficient saying it was one of the best experiences he had in his professional life.

He mentioned the end of roaming charges and the work done on migration and international security as "some of the impressive and excellent work" that had been done.

"You deserve all the praise you are getting," Mr Tusk said.

Dr Muscat spoke on the good collaboration between European institutions in the past six months for results to be achieved.

On migration, he said that although there was disappointment that not all member states were doing what they were expected to do, progress had still been achieved and Libyan coast guards were being trained.

Italy had also donated four boats to Libyan authorities for these to help in missions. Conditions were improved in four detention centres and the International Migration Organisation assisted 5,000 people to voluntarily return to their country of origin from Libya.



List of Australian High Commissioners to Malta

The **Australian High Commissioner to Malta** is the Australian Government's foremost diplomatic representative in Malta. The Australian Government has offered diplomatic representation in Malta since 1967. The High Commission is located in Ta Xbiex.

Office holders

Acting High Commissioner

- Douglas Sturkey (1967)

High Commissioner

- Hubert Opperman (1967–1972)
- Bill Cutts (1972–1975)
- Ian Nicholson (1975–1976)
- John McMillan (1976–1978)

Acting High Commissioner

- Geoffrey Pretyma (1978–1981)

High Commissioner

- Guy Cotsell (1981–1984)
- Ross Smith (1984–1987)
- Gregory Gibson (1987–1990)
- John Mahoney (1990–1993)
- Christopher Freeman (1993–1997)
- Colin Willis (1997–2000)
- Iain Dickie (2000–2003)
- Richard Palk (2003–2006)
- Jurek Juszczak (2006–2009)
- Anne Quinane (2009–2012)
- Jane Lambert (2012–2016)
- Julianne Hince (2016–)



Consul-on-the-Move – South Australia visit 1st to 3rd September 2017

Following the success of previous visits in SA, QLD, WA and New Zealand, we are pleased to announce that the upcoming visit in the Consul on the Move cycle will be held in Adelaide between 1st-3rd September 2017. Ms Denise Demicoli, the Deputy High Commissioner for Malta, will be providing assistance with an array of consular services ranging from citizenship applications to first-time or renewals of Maltese passports, and the registration of life-event certificates.

This is an opportunity not to be missed since these services, that are usually provided at the High Commission in Canberra, and the Consulate Generals in Melbourne and in Sydney, will be provided remotely from venues in Adelaide, for the convenience of Maltese nationals in the region.

For further information on the services available, and to book your appointment call the Malta High Commission on (02) 6290 1724 / (02) 6290 1426 / (02) 6290 1573.

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NUMBER OF MALTESE EMIGRANTS TO NORTH AFRICA

Country	Year – 1842	Year – 1865	Year – 1880s
Algeria (<i>Algiers, Philipville and Bône</i>)	5,000	10,000	15,000
Tunisia (<i>Tunis</i>)	3,000	7,000	11,000
Egypt	2,000	5,000	7,000

However, these early migration patterns were unstable, and repatriation occurred frequently. For example, many Maltese emigrants rushed back to their homeland due to an outbreak of plague in Egypt in 1835, and again in 1840 during the Anglo-Egyptian crisis. According to Pullicino: in spite of a certain amount of isolation there must have been a measure of adaptation by Maltese emigrants to local customs, food and dress. Besides, the frequent comings and goings of the Maltese in the 19th century must have facilitated the assimilation of at least some folklore material from North Africa that still needs to be identified.

There was heavy migration from Malta in the early 20th century, and again after World War II until the early 1980s; however the destinations of choice during this period tended to be more distant, English-speaking countries rather than the traditional, Mediterranean littoral. Over 10,000 Maltese settled in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States between 1918 and 1920, followed by another 90,000 – or 30 percent of the population of Malta – between 1948 and 1967. By 1996, the net emigration from Malta during the 20th century exceeded 120,000, or 33.5% of the population of Malta. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Malta - cite_note-40

Oaths and hats take centre stage at Parliament's official opening

The 67 Members of Parliament this morning took their oaths of allegiance during the official opening of the 13th legislature on June 24, 2017... but it was the women's dresses and hats that stole the show

Paul Cocks



Hats to suit all tastes: The opening of Parliament was a veritable showcase of latest fashion in headwear (All photography: James Bianchi/MediaToday)

As the newly-elected Members of Parliament took their oath of allegiance at the official opening of Malta's 13th legislature since independence, the formal day wear - and intricate hats - worn by the female MPs and other women guests garnered a lot of attention of their own. "Wearing a hat is like having a baby or a puppy; everyone stops to coo and talk about it," Louise Green, a renowned Los Angeles hat designer is credited as saying. As guests arrived at St John's Co-Cathedral this morning, it was obvious that the women stuck to the formal dress code, as the arrivals turned into a veritable showcase for designer wear and head gear. It was a medley of design, material and colour that was - for the most part - impeccable and unique.

But above all, it was hard not to miss the 'unlucky' ones who turned up at the ceremony wearing the same dresses: newly-appointed junior Cabinet member Julia Farrugia and PL executive secretary Lydia Abela opted for a white lace dress whilst PN MP Therese Comodini Cachia and Minister Carmelo Abela's wife, Melanie, went for a floral white and blue dress.

UNBOUND AND FLYING



Overwhelming support from the local Maltese-Australian community in Sydney has ensured that a creative writing project which was eight years in the making has been brought to a successful closure.

In April of this year, 'The Sheriff's Catch', a debut novel by Maltese-Australian author Dr James Vella-Bardon, was signed up by the award-winning UK publisher Unbound. Unbound's award-winning list of authors includes the Man Booker Prize longlisted Paul Kingsnorth, as well as Monty Python legend Terry Jones who has referred to Unbound as follows:

'Traditional publishing is in the doldrums, it's collapsing. Publishers are looking around for new ways of going forward. I think Unbound could be the future.'

Unbound's business model is a simple one, in which a book's financing is partly covered through the private contributions of readers. This is a late revival of the 'subscription publishing' of yore, in which works by Charles Dickens and Voltaire, amongst others, were also financed in this way. Unbound's model slightly differs from the historical crowdfund, in that the first one-third of a novel's financing (£4000 pounds) is crowdfunded, with the remaining two-thirds of financing (£8000) subsequently being covered by Unbound.

So on Thursday 18 May Dr Vella-Bardon faced the daunting task of having to raise £4000 within three months to ensure that Unbound progressed with the subsequent editing and publishing of his novel.

'I was bracing myself for a long, hard slog' says Dr Vella-Bardon, 'absolutely nothing prepared me for what happened next.'

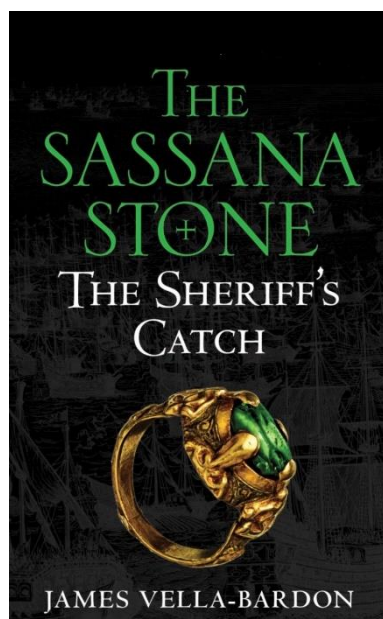
The young father of two works full-time, and spent much of his free time last year caring for his late mother-in-law who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. His manuscript was completed against the odds, by working late into the night and by largely being a social recluse. Prior to his project being placed on Unbound's crowdfunding platform, he had no pre-planned media strategy or advertising campaign in place, with his home nation of Malta being suddenly distracted by the announcement of a snap general election.

Yet no sooner was the project launched, that the backing of his project by a large number of Maltese-Australians ensured that his project roared to top spot on Unbound's platform, all of whom were keen to have their name inscribed in Dr Vella-Bardon's trailblazing work of fiction.

'James has practically dedicated the last decade of his life to this project', said retired advertising stalwart Martin Pisani, one of the novel's many Maltese-Australian patrons, 'and the time it was taking him to release his project had become something of a passing joke. Yet no one was laughing once the extent of his work was revealed for all to see. The amount of research and rewriting he carried out, despite countless setbacks, is just extraordinary. I've read parts of the novel, and it is just great. Both Malta and Australia should be proud.'

'The Sheriff's Catch' is the first instalment of a five-part series entitled 'The Sassana Stone Pentalogy'. The series tells the story of a Maltese-born and bred protagonist, Abel de Santiago. A rifle in the King of Spain's Army of Flanders, Santiago turns deserter to hunt down his pregnant wife's killers. His mission of vengeance is half accomplished when he is captured and sold as a galley slave, soon

finding himself aboard a ship forming part of the Spanish Armada. Following his galley's shipwreck in Ireland, Santiago must somehow elude roaming bands of English troopers who have orders to capture and kill all Spanish castaways.



Dr Vella-Bardon's novel held top spot on Unbound's platform for two whole days, before dropping to second, and then claiming top spot for yet another day. It still held first spot in the 'fiction' and digital categories for nearly two weeks after the crowdfunding target was reached. This feat is all the more remarkable, when one considers that at the time of launch Unbound had over 374 published and unpublished projects on its platform. By the end of the first day, 46% of the required £4000 was raised, with the whole amount gathered less than 4.5 days later. It was a glorious achievement for Dr Vella-Bardon, who left Malta ten years ago to travel to Sydney where he abandoned his legal background to chase his writing ambitions.

'To kick the presale campaign off in this way is just fantastic' he said, 'if someone told me that the money would have been gathered in less than a week, I'd have laughed in their face. I've had patrons buying pre-purchases from all over the world, yet I couldn't have done it without the immense contribution of the Maltese-Australian community. I can't thank my Maltese-Australian patrons enough for the wonderful chance to achieve a boyhood dream.'

The budding author is presently working hard with Unbound's editorial team with a view to releasing the novel in coming months. In the meantime presales of the book are still open, and readers can still become patrons of the novel by registering a profile with Unbound and purchasing a copy of the novel at the following web address: <https://unbound.com/books/the-sheriffs-catch>



Health warning as high temperatures set to rise in coming days

The maximum temperature in Malta is expected to continue to rise further over the coming days, and the Health Division advised the public on the importance of keeping hydrated during the hot summer months. High temperatures cause water to be lost from the body at quick rates resulting in dehydration. It can also lead to

heat exhaustion or heatstroke. The heat can affect anyone but some run a greater risk of serious harm including the elderly, babies and young children, people with chronic conditions, and physically active people.

To avoid the effects of the heat wave it is important to:

- Keep out of the heat by avoiding unnecessary exposure to the sun during hot periods of the day – usually between 11am and 4pm
- Stay cool by staying in the coolest parts at home and at the workplace
- Drink regularly to make up for the losses and eat more cold foods
- Seek medical advice if you have any concerns



USA - INDEPENDENCE DAY

What is it? - 4 July is the most significant national holiday in the [United States](#). It celebrates the Declaration of Independence, adopted on 4 July, 1776. The Thirteen Colonies of America declared themselves to be states and no longer part of the [British Empire](#), though the revolutionary war continued for some time after.

What's the story behind it? -The original United States of America was made up of a collection of East Coast states known as the Thirteen Colonies. These were: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts Bay, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

These mainly agricultural colonies were run by the British - who had been present on the continent since 1587 - and exploited for their resources, in particular tobacco.

While the relationship between the settlers and British was once amicable, tensions began to escalate over British laws and taxes, such as the Sugar Act, driven by British financial needs. There was also a growing sense of nationalism in the country. From 1765, some settlers began to demand 'no taxation without representation', calling for their voice to be heard in the British parliament.

This tension sometimes erupted into fighting and acts of dissent, such as the Boston Tea Party in 1773. The event was a protest against the Tea Act, legislation which gave the British East India Company a monopoly on sales of tea in the Thirteen Colonies.

Further ill feeling was caused by the Coercive Acts – which became known as the 'Intolerable Acts' to American Patriots – which were implemented in response to the Boston Tea Party. The laws took power away from semi-autonomous Massachusetts.

In response to these factors, Continental Congresses – a meeting of delegates from the Thirteen Colonies – were convened. At the second meeting, in 1775, a war of independence against Britain was declared.

The next year, the Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 representatives of thirteen self-styled states (previously the Thirteen Colonies). The signatories included future president Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. The conflict continued until the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ended the war in favour of an independent America.

How has it been celebrated through history? - Fireworks, speeches, parties, feasts and general celebrations have marked the day since the 18th century. In Bristol, Rhode Island, there was a salute of 13 gunshots in the morning and evening in 1777. The town has held the nation's longest running Independence Day celebration.

In 1778, George Washington, then a general in the revolutionary army, issued his troops with a double rum ration. The first recorded music commemorating independence was the 'Psalm of Joy', written by Johann Friedrich Peter in Salem, North Carolina. Many towns and cities across the US have their own annual celebrations.

How has the government marked it? - Congress made the day an unpaid national holiday for federal workers in 1870, and in 1938 it became a paid holiday across the country. Government officials also take part in celebratory functions and make speeches.

How do people celebrate it today? - Firework displays and parties are the most well-known activities associated with Independence Day. All major cities have fireworks displays and there is also one given by the White House. As a national holiday, it also serves as an occasion for reunions and vacations.

South Korea Foreign minister visits Malta

Aug 02, 2016



Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat (left) and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se (second from right) meet in Valletta during Minister Yun's official visit to the country.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se visited the nation of Malta on July 29, the first time for a Korean foreign minister to do so since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1965.

Minister Yun held meetings with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and with former Foreign Minister George William Vella. On the agenda for both meetings were issues surrounding North Korean nuclear weapons and missiles, and measures to strengthen sanctions against North Korea.

The prime minister and Minister Yun shared their opinions on ways to increase cooperation between their two countries, and discussed North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile threats, as well as the problem of North Korean laborers sent abroad to work overseas. They talked about the U.K.'s withdrawal from the European Union and issues surrounding the refugee crisis and global terrorism. Addressing the human rights issues associated with North Korean forced laborers employed overseas, Minister Yun urged the Maltese government to lend its support to stopping such abuses.

The prime minister said, "The Maltese government firmly disapproves of the human rights violations committed against North Korean laborers. We're working to play our part in resolving these pressing issues." Maltese Foreign Minister George William Vella (second from left) engages in diplomatic talks with Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se on July 29 in Malta.

During the diplomatic talks between the two nations' foreign ministers, the threat of North Korean nuclear weapons and missiles was once again the topic of discussion. Maltese Foreign Minister Vella said, "As our nation holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017, Malta will try its best to fulfill the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 2270 so that all EU member states can successfully impose sanctions on North Korea."

The ministers then turned the conversation to issues such as the U.K.'s withdrawal from the EU, relations between Syria, Israel and Palestine, the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, and the dispute over the South China Sea. The two nations, as members of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC), a U.N. reform movement, agreed to cooperate on matters relating to the U.N. Security Council.

The Maltese e-Newsletters are archived at
MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - VALLETTA
and at the website: www.ozmalta.page4.me



SAN GORG TAGHNA REGA MAGHNA

TAL-KAV JOE M ATTARD – VICTORIA GHAWDEX 7 Lulju 2017

Lulju rega' jinsab magħna -
kemm ninsabu ferħanin
sabiex fostna 'l Ġorġi nilqgħu,
il-Patron tagħna l-Ġhawdxin.

Li sa minn snin hekk bikrija
kien hu li daħal għalina
u bil-fatti dejjem wera
l'hu Missier din l-art ħanina!

Dlonk għalhekk missirijietna
xbihetu fl-injam ordnaw
li quddiemha s-sena kollha
minn kull ġens in-nies naraw!

U xi ngħidu għal dal-maqdes
fil-qalb mibni tal-belt tagħna
fejn it-Tribun tal-Mattia
kuljum hemm biex jindukrana!

Il-pittur Battista Conti
b'wirt ħallielna kwadri sbieħ,
pinzellati kollha ħajja
illi niesna tħobb qatigh.

It-Tribuna tal-Bernini
u rħam mill-aktar fin,
koppla mdaqqs u dinjituża,
iressquk lejn id-Divin.

Mużka ħelwa u armonjuża
timla t-tempju f'dawn il-jiem
li 'Tal-Vers' kiteb apposta -
issa ilha magħna żmien.

Triqatna jinbidlu f'daqqa
b'bandalori u trofej,
bnadar, angli, statwi ħajja
palk għall-banda għadu

La Stella leħinha ssamma'
ma' ta' beltna t-triqat;
Ġorġi tagħna, Pascalino -
marċi kbar mingħajr bluhat!



Żwiemel, bhejjem, ħmir u bghula
mat-Tigrija jtellqu żgur
paljijiet, tazez ileqqu,
dawn għalihom in-nies tmur!

Ta' Gelmus timtela ħajja
bil-murtali u Spanjola;
tal-bomba u l-ġelatina -
ma tibqax waħidha l-għolja!

Dan kollu għalik, o Ġorġi,
nagħmluh aħna b'hegga kbira
għax inti l-mimmi t'għajnejna,
ta' ħajjitna żgur il-mira!

Għalhekk meta l-Ħadd flgħaxija
titfaċċa f'tal-knisja l-bieb
u bil-palm nilqgħuk ferħana,
tkun imdawwar b'daqstant ħbieb,

itfa' ħarstek fuq il-folol
li joħonqu l-pjazza tiegħek,
lil qalbhom fawwar bil-hena
u ħarishom b'qawwet driegħek!

Fuq fommhom zomm it-tbissima,
begħidhom minn kull qerq u hemm,
mill-gwerer, qerda, miżerja,
u minn kull tixrid ta' demm!

La tħallix il-festa tgħaddi
bla nitkebbisu iktar lejk
sakemm tasal il-ġurnata
li xi darba nigu tdejk!

EDUCATION SECTION

UN agency ranks Australia 39 out of 41 countries for quality education

Pallavi Singhal

Australia has been ranked 39 out of 41 high- and middle-income countries in achieving quality education, in the latest international report to find that the country is falling behind in basic measures of teaching and learning.

Only Romania and Turkey were ranked below Australia in education in the latest United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report card.

lay Video
What PISA says about Australian schools

December 2016: The major global test of student achievement reveals just how far Australian high school students are behind their peers in the world's best performing countries.

The report looks at the performance of 15-year-olds in reading, maths and science, as well as the quality and level of access to early schooling, in 41 European Union and OECD countries.

The report found that only 71.7 per cent of Australian 15-year-olds are achieving baseline standards in the three key areas of education, based on the latest PISA assessment, and only 80.3 per cent of children are attending "organised preschool learning" for at least a year, according to 2014 figures.

"In terms of a child's life, access and quality of education in early years sets the track for how they engage with school over the next 10 to 15 years," she said.

Each of the highest ranking countries has organised preschool participation rates of nearly 100 per cent. About 99.9 per cent of children attend at least one year of preschool learning in Malta, which was ranked second for quality education.

Only four countries had preschool participation rates below 90 per cent and only Turkey, where 72.7 per cent of children attend early education, scored below Australia.

The report notes that: "Both the quantity and the quality of [organised preschool] services for children from the age of 3 vary substantially across countries."

The NSW Education Department spokesman said that more than 95 per cent of children in the state "attend an early childhood education program", but did not specify what proportion of programs provide "organised preschool learning".

The overall report card assesses the status of children in high-income countries against the UN's global sustainable development goals across nine areas.

Australia has an overall rank of 21 out of the 41 countries but performed below average in education and eliminating hunger, in which it was ranked at 28.

The report found that 16 per cent of Australian children below the age of 15 lacked secure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

At the other end of the spectrum, Australia is ranked third in making its cities inclusive and sustainable, coming behind Ireland and Norway.

It is ranked at 12 in eliminating poverty and has average rankings in the remaining areas of good health and wellbeing, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, responsible consumption and production, and peace, justice and strong institutions.

The countries in the order of their education ranking are: Finland, **Malta**, South Korea, Mexico, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Norway, Japan, Switzerland, Spain, Ireland, France, New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, Latvia, Italy, the United Kingdom, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Portugal, Luxembourg, Austria, Iceland, Israel, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, the United States, Greece, Cyprus, Slovakia, Croatia, Chile, Bulgaria, Australia, Romania, Turkey

MEP Marlene Mizzi wins international award



Member of European Parliament Marlene Mizzi won a prestigious international award presented to her during a ceremony in Brussels for her outstanding work and contributions in the area of animal welfare protection.

The award is organised annually by the Eurogroup for Animals in recognition of individual

achievements made to animal welfare protection and promotion of rights. The award ceremony brought together stakeholders from many EU, national and international organisations as well as governments and decision makers to discuss how improvements in animal welfare can be addressed in the coming years.

Marlene Mizzi has also been instrumental in calling for a European study on "Animal Welfare in the EU" and in promoting a ban of the use of wild animals in circuses among others.

MEP Marlene Mizzi said that "it is such an honour to win this prestigious award not only for me, but as well for Malta. I am greatly humbled that people have placed their faith and trust in my work as an MEP in the area of animal welfare and protection of animals."

"I take this award as a political sign, that the work I have been doing doesn't go unnoticed and that it is time to take even stronger stance on promoting animals and their wellbeing. The EU must give higher priority to the many issues falling under animal welfare laws," said Marlene Mizzi.



IL-BIDU TAL KOR LA VALETTE NSW - L-AWSTRALJA



President's Secret Garden enchants over 2,000 children

Claire Borg

More than 2,000 schoolchildren attended this year's President's Secret Garden, double the number

of youngsters who took part in 2015 when the concept first blossomed on the lush grounds of San Anton Palace.

This year's programme, which comes to an end tomorrow June 23, was actually drawn up by the Children's Council and the Young Persons Council within the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.

"What has been rewarding is that the children who have taken part felt they had a voice... that little voice, which flourished in the President's Secret Garden, is now the voice of good practice," project coordinator Angela Caruana said.

"I feel proud to be part of this beautiful process that continues to evolve in such a colourful way. I have had the opportunity to meet thousands of children during these three years and witnessed them arriving for our activities feeling anxious, shy and quiet. However, they leave full of enthusiasm, energy, and confidence."

The idea of this secret garden grew from a conversation between President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and the Foundation's members over lack of space for children to play and learn.

From this, two councils were born, which empower the children to share their opinions and dreams, as well as drive change.

It has also exposed them to new opportunities and three youngsters from the Children's Council and the Young Persons Council will next week fly to Brussels to attend an EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) meeting.

This high-level conference on migration, poverty and social inclusion, being held between June 26-28, is being attended by Maleck Haj Moussa, 13; Sharon Cilia, 12; and Laura Marie Mercieca, 15.

"Children have found their voice and they now use it both nationally and on a global level. Their voice has given well-being and child participation a totally different meaning," Ms Caruana said.

This year all the schoolchildren who attended had the chance to learn about science, the magic of stories, waste management, caring for pets and the importance of dance and movement, among many others.

"The President's Secret Garden is a project aimed at building and restoring a spirit of community, initiated by these young individuals with their strong voices. Our dream and vision is that it will eventually become part of all our communities, throughout our cities and villages in Malta, Gozo, and beyond."



Alfred Sant main speaker at conference on 'Malta and Brexit'

www.independent.com.mt |

Former Prime Minister and Maltese MEP Alfred Sant was the main speaker at a Conference on 'Malta and Brexit', following the opening of talks between the UK/EU on UK exit from the EU a few days after the UK snap election saw UK Prime Minister Theresa May lose her majority in Parliament. The Conference touched various topics related to Brexit.

What are the prospects for the UK and for the EU member states? How will the UK exit from the EU affect Maltese and Gozitan citizens? What impact will it have on the Maltese islands' economy? And why are EU leading figures fomenting the idea of a Brexit reversal? What does Article 50 contemplate if a country that has already started exit process changes its mind?

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, said the UK could stay in the EU if the British Government decided to do so. The EU was built on dreams many thought were impossible to achieve, remarked the EC Head. Antonio Tajani, European Parliament President echoed Tusk's comments and said the UK could remain in the EU, should the UK Government change its mind.

The Conference was held at Villa Overhills, Birżebbugia and will be chaired by journalist Karl Stagno Navarra. The public was invited to participate in the conference to better understand the challenges facing Malta and Gozo in this particular point of history in the EU.

Majority of Maltese don't read books, survey finds



Only 44.4% of Maltese people say they have read at least one book in the past year, survey shows

Tim Diacono

Only 44.4% of Maltese people have read at least one book in the past year. The majority of Maltese people don't read any books, according to a newly-published survey which shows that 55% of the population have not even read one book in the past year.

Out of the readers, 9.3% said that they have read just one book in the past year while 35.1% said that they have read more than one book. The most popular books amongst readers are romance books, chosen as a favourite genre by 19.1% of readers, which included 28.1% of elderly people aged 65 years and older. This was followed by mystery, thriller and horror books, which was chosen by 14.6% of readers, and biographies and autobiographies, chosen by 11.3%.

The survey was carried out by the National Statistics office, Arts Council Malta and the V18 Foundation amongst a sample of 1,500 people. It also indicates that 67% of Maltese people listen to music every day – including 87% of the 16-24 age group and 79% of the 25-34 age group. Radio remains the most popular medium for music listening, picked by 66.8% of respondents but only 31.2% of people aged between 16 and 24. This was followed by MP3, digital libraries and online streaming, selected by 25.3% of the population and 60.6% of the youths. The most popular type of music is pop with 25%, followed by rock with 13% and classic, lyric, opera or operetta with 12%. The least popular was folk and world music with 4%. **91% of people attended a cultural activity.** The survey also found out that some 91% of Malta's adult population attended a cultural activity in the past year, with the most popular activity being parish feasts with a 67% attendance.

Elsewhere, 42% said they had been to the cinema at least once in the past year, while 35% said that they had visited a historical site, and 30% said they had visited a museum. Theatre attendance stood at 32%, with comedy registered as the favourite genre, while concerts also registered an attendance of 34%, art exhibitions registered an attendance of 31%, and dance performances a meagre 12%.

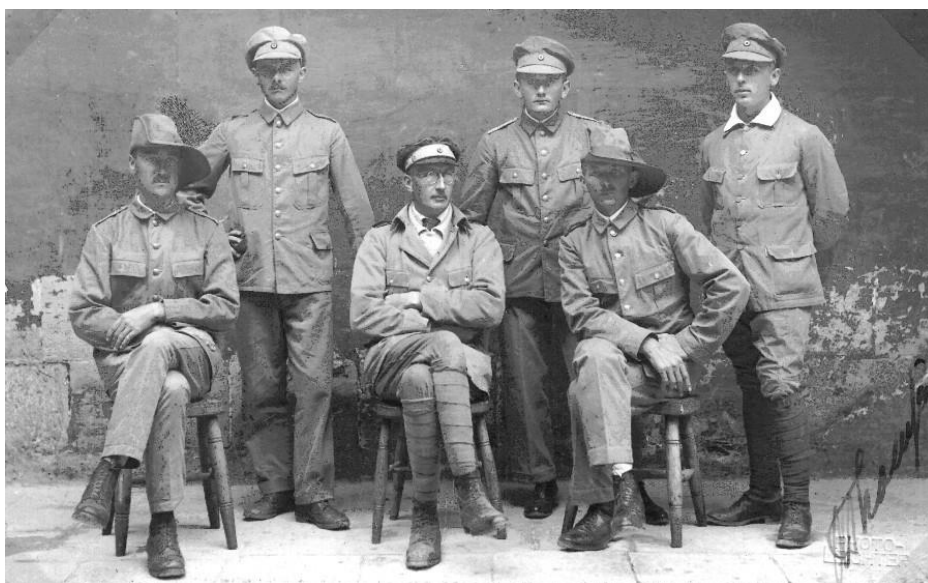
German Prisoners of War in Malta in World War One



The officer seated in the centre clearly has a white hatband on his field cap showing him to have served in East Africa. The other two seated officers have Südwester hats with what may be red hatbands and edging showing them to have served in Cameroon. It is difficult to be sure of the hatband colours of the three standing figures. The

These photos show German Prisoners of War wearing tropical uniforms during their confinement in Malta. Prisoners from various overseas fronts (including Cameroon, German East Africa, Palestine and some of the SMS Emden's crew captured in the Indian Ocean) ended up in Malta as well as Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Turkish POWs and German civilians interned on the island. The photographs on this page show members of the Schutztruppe and Pascha Expeditions.

These men all wear the 1896 Schutztruppe Khaki Uniform.



two on the left may have white while the man on the left may have red. Most of the men have their trousers loose over short marching boots while two have puttees. The officer seated in the centre may have improvised khaki puttees made in East Africa.

The Return of the PoWs after the War

Although there were some departures during the First World War, the majority remained in situ until the respective Peace Treaties had been signed and even then, individual departures still required suitable transport, transit visas and funds.

The majority of PoWs were not able to pay their own way and it was the responsibility of the respective National Governments to provide transportation for their prisoners homeward journeys. Germany in particular suffered from a massive shortage of shipping and this delayed German PoW departures from Malta. Although the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28th June 1919, it wasn't until November 1919 that suitable transport had been acquired. Some 1200 German PoWs departed Malta during that month on SS *Reshid Pasha*.

In contrast, the first Austrians departed on 10th September 1919, the day the Peace Treaty of Saint Germain-en-Laye was signed. 30 departed that day on SS *Etruria*, followed by 33 a week later on SS *Citta di Tripoli*. Unfortunately, the detailed information held at Kew Records Office doesn't continue beyond the end of September 1919, although it's understood that the Austrians had all departed by November.

Photos © Malta Study Circle

St. George's Square



St George's Square, also known as Palace Square (Misraħ il-Palazz) is Valletta's largest and most prominent square, located at the very heart of the city right in front of Valletta's most magnificent palace – the Grandmasters' Palace. The appearance of the square has changed as the years have passed since it first started taking shape in the 17th century, but it has remained one of the most important venues, where many a notable occasion or event happening on the island have been held or celebrated.

Apart from the Grandmasters' Palace, which flanks the square on its South-Eastern side, just across Republic Street,

three beautiful baroque buildings flank the three other sides. The palace previously known as the Casa del Commun Tesoro sits on the South-West side of the square, just across Old Theatre Street. On its North-West side, and sitting directly on its periphery, is the Main Guard Building, while the last remaining side is flanked by the Hostel de Verdelin just across Archbishop Street.

The Grandmasters' Palace - Since the building of the new city, in 1565, the Grandmasters' Palace has always been the seat of Government of the Maltese islands, becoming the British Governors' Palace when the French were ousted from Malta and, finally, the Palace of the President of Malta.

In 1571 Grandmaster Pietro del Monte saw and liked the site, and convinced the Order to buy the site to build the palace. As he died soon afterwards, it was during Grandmaster Jean de la Cassiere's reign (1572 - 1581) that the original palace was built. The architect entrusted with the prestigious job of designing and overseeing work on this beautiful, baroque palace was Gerolamo Cassar. Grandmasters who came later obviously redecorated and enlarged it until it reached the size and magnificent level of embellishment which we see today.

The Casa del Commun Tesoro - This is a large, two-storied corner building, and was originally built to have shops at ground level, as was the custom with large buildings built during the 16th and 17th century. It was originally built by the Knights to be, as the name implies, the house of the national treasury. During early British rule it became the Chief Secretary's Office – which means that it would have housed the offices of the British romantic poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge who, for some time, held down the post of Chief Secretary to the Governor. It then successively became the Government Treasury, the British Packet Office and was again converted into the Grand Hotel by the late 1800s. In 1914, it was taken over by the Casino Maltese. It suffered significant damage during the war, and in 1944 the legendary Caffè Cordina took over a large part of the ground floor – which is where it still is today.

The Main Guard Building - This building was originally built by the Knights, and it housed the Palace guards. The building was originally built without the prominent portico which one sees today. This was added onto the facade in 1814 by the British. They continued using the building as a Guard House and Officers' Mess. The Main Guard is built in a particularly sober style, but the British portico is topped by a very beautiful coat of arms of Great Britain, carved in stone. At both the far ends of the facade of this building are two decorative, baroque fountains.

The Hostel de Verdelin - The Hostel de Verdelin stands just across Archbishop Street, flanking the last side of the square. This was originally built as the residence of the Grand Commander of the Order Fra Jean Jacques de Verdelin, who was the nephew of Grandmaster de Verdale. The facade was given a very decorative treatment, very reminiscent of Spanish baroque – so much so that the building is also known as the Casa delle Colombe (House of the Doves), a name which reflects the carved figures on the facade. After de Verdelin's death the property eventually became the property of the Order of St John and was used as a hostel. For a time, this building was used as the Civil Sports Club.

The Square – Wignacourt Fountain and the Verdale Column After the Grandmasters' Palace was built, there was subsequent embellishment of the square over the years. When the Wignacourt Aqueduct was completed in 1614, during the reign of Grandmaster Fra Aloff de Wignacourt, water was finally brought into Valletta from Rabat. To celebrate this achievement, a lovely fountain with a circular basin and a three-tiered sculpture, embellished with dolphins, supported on a cone-shaped pedestal was erected in the middle of the square. This was known as the Wignacourt Fountain, and it was inaugurated in April 1615. It was the first fountain to be built in Valletta after the completion of the aqueduct.

This fountain is now to be found in St Philip's Gardens, in Floriana. After the Knights left Malta, the British moved the fountain to the square in front of the then Auberge d' Auvergne - which stood in the position of the present Law Courts, and which was destroyed during the war - to enable St George's Square to be used for military parades. It was then, later, moved from there to St Philip's Garden, in Floriana.

Another interesting monument which stood on the square, but which can no longer be seen, is the Verdale Column. This was erected by Grandmaster Hughues Loubenx de Verdale, when he was appointed cardinal, by Pope Sixtus V. At the top of the column, strangely enough, Grandmaster de Verdale had ordered the sculpture of a wolf in the act of defaecating.

While in Rome, he had been invited to a banquet given by a certain Cardinal Colonna who, in jest, had a wolf chained to the table placed at de Verdale's feet - obviously indicating that Hughues de Verdale's new post would keep him on the straight and narrow in one way or another. Grandmaster de Verdale was enraged by this gesture, and when he got back to Malta he immediately ordered a column (kolonna) to be erected on Palace Square, on top of which was to be placed a large stone sculpture of a defaecating wolf. He was so serious about this slight to Cardinal Colonna, that he even left a legacy to ensure that the sculpture would be maintained in a pristine conditions, even after his death.

The column was positioned on the periphery of the square, close to Archbishop's Street, and became known as "Tal-Fama", probably referring to a rather bad reputation which De Verdale had among the people. It is known, with certainty, that Grandmaster Pinto actually saw to a restoration of the column during his reign (1741 - 1773), but it is said that it was Grandmaster Ximenes (1773 -1775) who ordered the removal of the column from the square.

The Square as a venue and witness to Malta's most important events - Being the main and most important square in Valletta, St George's Square has obviously been the most prominent venue whenever anything of any importance happened on the island. From the celebration of Carnival during the time of the Knights, with the young, peasant dancers congregating under the Palace balcony awaiting the go-ahead, from the Grandmaster, for Carnival to begin ... to the French celebrations of the Quatorze Juillet during the two, short years of French occupation.

From the colourful Carnival float défilé and dance items of later years (20th Century), with audiences watching intently from the enclosure on the square itself, or crowded on the balconies of the Casino Maltese, the Civil Sports Club and the Palace itself ... to the many British military parades held on the square during the years of British rule.

From the enthusiastic greeting, by the crowds on the square, of successive rulers: initially the grandmasters, then British royalty, British governors, and finally successive Maltese prime ministers and presidents as they traditionally greet the crowds from the Palace's main balcony ... to more momentous occasions like the presentation of the George Cross to the people of the island, in September 1942, held in a square partly destroyed by enemy bombs. It was also St. George's Square which mainly witnessed the tragic events of the Sette Giugno 1919, and where - until some time ago - a monument stood in memory of the victims who were killed in the riots on the day.

Author: Christine Tanti

MALTA AND AUSTRALIA



Maltese Australians are Australian citizens who are fully or partially of Maltese descent or Malta-born people who reside in Australia. While most of them emigrated to Australia from Malta, a number emigrated from the United Kingdom where they had settled after having been expelled from Egypt, as holders of British passports, during the Suez Canal Crisis.

According to the 2011 Census, there were 163,990 people of Maltese descent in Australia and 41,274 Malta-born people residing in the country at the moment of the census, having a fall of 5.6 per cent compared to the 2006 Census. The largest Malta-born community in Australia is in the state of Victoria, with over 20 000 people.

People with Maltese ancestry as a percentage of the population in Australia divided geographically by statistical local area, as of the

2011 census. The first Maltese to come to Australia arrived as convicts around 1810. The first Maltese immigrant (as opposed to convict or bonded servant) is thought to have been Antonio Azzopardi who arrived in 1838. Many attempts were made at organised mass migration throughout the 19th century but it was only in 1883 the first group of 70 labourers (and nine stowaways) arrived.

Group and mass migration gradually picked up, first, to Queensland and, after World War I, to Sydney whose automobile industry drew many. Immigration was not without difficulty as Maltese workers tended to be looked down upon and restrictions and quotas were applied. A significant percentage of the Maltese immigrants had intended to stay only temporarily for work but many settled in Australia permanently. Maltese immigration to Australia reached its peak during the 1960s. The majority of Maltese immigrants reside in Melbourne's western suburbs of Sunshine (especially on Glengala Rd) and St Albans, and in Sydney's western suburbs of Greystanes and Horsley Park. The Maltese, as in their home country, are predominantly Roman Catholic.

The first woman to migrate from Malta to Australia was Carmela Sant in 1915. The move was prompted by her husband Giuseppe Ellul, who had migrated in 1913. Giuseppe Ellul was a stonemason from Mosta before moving to Australia to commence a successful career in sugar cane and dairy farming in Mackay, Queensland. In 1916 the couple gave birth to the first born Maltese Australian, Joseph Ellul. According to the 2006 Australian Census, 43,701 Australians were born in Malta. Maltese ancestry was claimed by 92,332 either alone or with another ancestry. The 2001 Australian Census reported that Maltese was the 14th most common self-reported ancestry. In the Mackay area, in Queensland, some 25% of the population are of Maltese heritage.

Nearly every family in Malta and Gozo has a relative or friend living overseas

What Our Readers Say About Us!

Have Your Say!



I have been receiving your very interesting newsletter for several years which I appreciate very much and I saved them all in my computer.

Your newsletter is a gold-mine full of information about Australia and the Maltese Islands. I am a big friend of Chev. Joe M, Attard. (your regular contributor from Gozo). as we studied for two years together before graduating as teachers. I have been a teacher for forty years. Now we are both pensioners.

I was also a professional photographer for about forty years and the official photographer of principal events in Mosta. Some months ago you included some photos taken by me of super Maltese fireworks, which were passed on to you by my friend Joe Deguara who lives in Sydney (Joe Il-Mosti). Thanks for everything and perhaps you may include something from me in the future. Best Wishes! PROSIT! Victor B. Caruana **Mosta**.



I read every word that you print in the E-Newsletter. I really enjoy it. The newsletter is full of information about a lot of Maltese traditions and culture. Keep up the good work that you are doing. Thank you. Brian Ciappara



Malli nircievi dan il-magazin naqrah mill ewwel. Prosit ghax xoghol veru siewi u nadif. U grazzi hafna ghal li taghmel minghajr daqq ta trombi. Haqqek aktar min prosit. Kompliment kif inti sejjer.....u taxxaq lill kull min jaqra dan il fuljett. Tista iggib dan li ktibt jien, fil fuljett ukoll ghodni dejjem tieghek. Percy Eugene Cartwright Jnr ShellHarbour City NSW



GhazizFrank, ghadni kemm ircievejt min ghandhek "Newsletter 173" u bhass-soltu hadt pjacir hafna biha. Niskanta kif jirnexxilek illi tipproduci dejjem wahd ahjar mill ohra. L-izjed li laqatni f'numru 173 huwa ir-ritratt ta'l-emigranti minn Birzebbuga fl- 1951. Jiena li twelidt u trabbejt Birzebbuga ghad li dak iz-zmien kont ghadni tifel ta 8 snin niftakar xi whud minn nies li hemm fir-ritratt. Isma din, meta fl-1961 wasalt biex nemigra ghal Awstralja jien , Zeppi ta'Fidiel li kien u ghadu joqghod fit-triq taghna kellu mini-bus u missieri kriegh biex iwasslu lili ghal ajrudrom ta'Hal Luqa. Grazzi tal memorji li gibtli Frank u prosit ta'dan ix-xoghol sabih li bla dubju johodlek tant hin, li qieghed taghmel. Ghoddni Tieghek Vince Zammit



Thanks for the newsletter. Hope you are in good health and your newsletter brings back the memories of the nice time I spent during my posting in Canberra. Carry on with your newsletter as it is literally a goldmine of information on Maltese current affairs, history, culture and whatever moulds the Maltese identity. Best regards, Dr. Joseph Pirotta – ABU DHABI



Għażiż Frank, Bongu! Bdejt il-jum bit-tajjeb dal-ghodu għax malli xegħelt il-kompjuter sibt "The Maltese E-Newsletter" li inti ġentilment tibgħatli. Dejjem tkun imżejna b'artikoli interessanti. Tislijiet. Lina Brockdorff – Malta



Dear Editor My name is John Borg from Melbourne Victoria. Congratulations for producing a newsletter full of interesting information. I arrived in Australia with my family in 1955 at a very young age and I have been keen to obtain information about Malta having been back three time the first after living in Australia in excess of 45 or so years. My request is for inclusion on your mailout register to receive the E-Newsletter via email. For your consideration, please. Kind regards Joe Borg – Victoria Australia

Hbieb, forsi hemm xi hadd li jista' jghin. Habib tieghi se jorganizza Festival Malti go Morwell, Vlctoria u jixtieq jesebixxi d-dghajsa Maltija. Ghandu lil xi hadd li kapaci jibni wahda ghal esebizzjoni, mhux biex tintuza fuq l-ilma. Forsi hemm xi hadd li jista' jaghti l-qisien tat-tul, wisgha u gholi biex jiehd u idea tal-proporzjon. Jekk hemm xi hadd li jista' jghin, japrezza. Tistghu tiktbu fuq dan l-email address. Grazzi Paul Vella: paul.vella44@gmail.com

Maltese food at La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW

Joanne Vella, Blacktown Advocate April 7, 2017

LA VALETTE Social Centre at Blacktown has been serving Sydney's most authentic and heartiest Maltese meals for more than 30 years. Once stepping inside the Maltese centre, the aroma of onion, garlic and curry powder lets you know ross il forn (baked rice) is on the menu along with other classic dishes such as fenek (rabbit) and pastizzi.

Maltese cuisine has been influenced by its history under Phoenician, Sicilian and British rule (that's why chips are a popular side dish).

Opt for a baked rice, my favourite Maltese dish that is made with beef and pork mince, crushed tomatoes, garlic, tomato paste, bacon and onions. Adding more kick is the curry powder in the risotto-like serving.



Ross-il-forn (baked rice) is rich in flavour.

Prefer it with pasta? Volunteer cook Frances Fitzpatrick says the same ingredients are used for the macaroni — and that includes her two staples for each dish.

"I use onion and garlic with everything."

Those curious to try fenek (rabbit) are in for a treat.

Chicken is used to compare a lot of unfamiliar meats ... but the taste is very similar to the white meat.

The rabbit rests in a sauce made from basil, tomato paste, red wine and mixed spices, and diners can choose to eat it with spaghetti or chips. I prefer the latter to mop up the delicious sauce.



Rabbit (fenek) stew is worth a try.

Perhaps the most popular Maltese export, pastizzi, is also sold here.

Fillings are traditional, so it's either ricotta or pea.

Behind the bar, Jimmy Zammit serves Maltese soft drink Kinnie and the nation's brew, Cisk beer. Beverages are a bargain, with a glass of red wine just \$2.50.

Happy hour prices are a fixture at La Valette, where Jimmy Zammit serves Maltese soft drink and beer.



La Valette Social Centre (formerly the Maltese Community Western Suburbs Association) transferred its base from Kildare Rd at Doonside to Walters Rd, Blacktown in 1978.

The chapel opened and the community centre followed in 1986.

"We started with very little then people started to come every Saturday," committee member and volunteer Antoinette Caruana said. "There was always Mass and that helped. "To this day, after Mass they come to eat."

.LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE

- What: Maltese food
- Where: 175 Walters Rd, Blacktown (opposite Evans High School)
- When: Saturdays from 5pm
- Price: \$3-16, drinks \$2-4
- Details: 9622 5847 or lavaletteclub.net

MALTESE IN MELBOURNE



(PHOTO: The last farewell before leaving Malta to Australia) Melbourne is, of course, home to thousands of Maltese emigrants, most of whom have done well, so well, in fact, that quite a number of them have become frequent visitors to their homeland. Most Maltese living in Malta know Australia through their relatives who emigrated to the continent in search of better lives, and may only think of the country as a place where good jobs can be had. Sunshine and St Albans have been known as 'Little Malta' since the 1960s. Mass emigration was facilitated after World War II by the 1948 Malta-Australia Assisted Passage Agreement.

The agreement marked a basic change in Australian policy towards the Maltese who had previously been classified as 'semi-white'. Inexpensive land situated near a railway line close to large factories, coupled with the presence of the Catholic Church and local government regulations which permitted the building of bungalows for residential purposes, attracted the Maltese to Melbourne's northern and western regions. Through chain migration, new settlers encouraged relatives from their villages of origin to join them. New immigrants, anxious to avoid indebtedness, added new rooms to the initial structure as savings and time allowed.

In the early postwar years, life was very difficult in these suburbs: roads were unmade, sewerage was primitive and people were isolated from services. It was particularly hard for those Maltese women who stayed at home while their husbands went out to work. The Maltese worked overtime whenever possible and helped each other build or extend bungalows into proper homes in their spare time. They developed a reputation as hard-working, hospitable and unpretentious people. The 2001 census counted 22 456 Malta-born persons in Victoria - nearly half of all in Australia - of whom 90% were in the statistical division of Melbourne.

To this may be added a few thousand ethnic Maltese who were born in Egypt and Tripoli. The principal Maltese meeting-places in Victoria are the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville (1983), and the Maltese Cultural Centre, Albion. A small, more middle-class community lives 'on the other side of town' but, whether east or west, the Maltese have a high level of home ownership. The ultimate measure of success for the first generation is the condition of their children. Family ties remain close and while the second generation tend to do better than their parents in material terms, most parents regret any loss of traditional Maltese values. *References York, Barry, 'The Maltese in Melbourne', Victorian Historical Magazine, vol. 60, September, 1989, pp. 3-23. Details*

A Church Filled with Miracles in Malta: Ta' Pinu – Gozo



By Vera Sweeney

I still have so much to share about my recent trip to Malta. Believe me, it's all coming! I just need some time because reentry is so HARD!

One of the places I visited while on the island of Gozo was the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu. Ta' Pinu is very well known to the locals. In fact, most believe that it is a church of miracles.

There are over 350 churches on Malta (and the island is only 122 square miles). Obviously, this land is VERY religious. But why is *THIS ONE* SO famous? Apparently, people have seen miraculous things occur after praying to the

National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu over the last hundreds of years and the tradition still continues today.

When I heard about this story, I was absolutely intrigued. I didn't have anything pressing in mind that I wanted to pray for, but I did want to see the grounds of this famous church – up close and personal.

We went in and took a quick tour. At first glance, it looked like any other grand church on the island. Stunning. Detailed. Magnificent.

But then we were brought to a back room that stationed all the prayers that have been answered. Cancers cured, babies born after years of infertility, horrific accidents resulting in a 100% healed patient. Wall after wall after wall.

Now, to be honest with you – most of these letters were written in Maltese. So, I couldn't read all the details. But my cousin did translate a few and the stories were so beautiful to hear. People who don't believe in God could say that these were all coincidences – that the cancer healed because the chemo worked, or that the accident victim was going to walk anyway with enough time. But there is something to be said about the power behind belief and the power in prayer. You can take it either way. I'm not asking you to believe in God right now. I'm just telling you to look at all of these asks and understand that they were answered.

See those hangings on the wall? Those are casts and crutches. People who weren't able to walk found a way and left their crutches behind. Hearing aids as well. Deaf people finally being able to hear for the first time. My cousin was with us and she was deaf. She struggled with this part of the tour. She asked me why she wasn't cured. She has prayed a million times and she didn't understand why she was still deaf. Those are the questions that I just didn't have answers for...

Even military men who prayed while on the field to return home to their families safe and sound donated their honor medals once they finally did. So powerful. I'm not sure if you can read this letter, but this child donated her first growth of hair after her cancer treatment ended and she was able to grow a proper braid again. Her family prayed to Ta' Pinu for her cancer to be cured and it was. As a thank you, she donated her hair. Hundreds of stories just like this one lined the walls of Ta' Pinu. There was such positive energy in Ta' Pinu. If you are ever in Malta, be sure to check out this church while sightseeing on Gozo.

Angelo Azzopardi

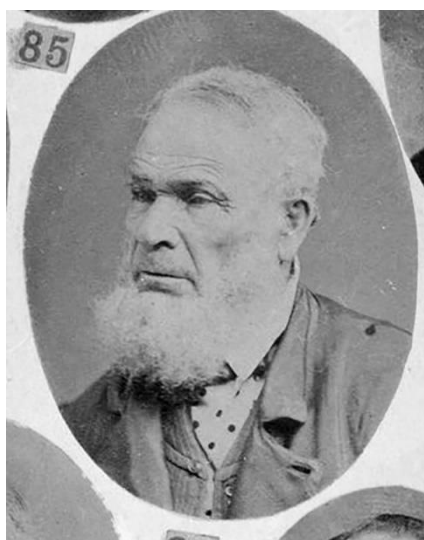
Carlton's Knight of Malta

Tony De Bolfo, Carlton Media



Former Carlton footballer Angelo Azzopardi, the son of Australia's first Maltese free settler.

(Photo: Bluseum)



If multiculturalism means “the existence, acceptance, or promotion of multiple cultural traditions within a single jurisdiction” then Carlton can surely claim football’s multicultural dominion.

Amongst the club’s historic ranks is a solid collective born beyond Australian shores - from the Indian-born Fred Pringle through to the London-born Wayne Blackwell.

Then there are those boasting generational links with the old world – from Wally Koochew, whose father was Chinese and mother of Nordic extraction, through to Anthony Koutoufides, the son of a Greek Egyptian-born father and Italian-born mother.

Another such Carltonite was truly of another time. His name was Angelo Azzopardi, whom history records was the son of Australia’s first Maltese free settler.

The much-resourced Carlton historic website www.bluseum.org, through its dedicated researcher Pete McLean, unearthed precious details of Australia’s first Azzopardi family.

Angelo’s father, the seaman Antonio Azzopardi, was born in Zejtun, a city in the South Eastern region of Malta, in 1805. An image of him is included in the photographic montage published by Thomas Foster Chuck in 1872 entitled “The Explorers and Early Colonists of Victoria” and he is listed as number 84, “A. Azzopardi”.

Antonio Azzopardi, Australia's first Maltese free settler.

Antonio disembarked the barque *Mary Hay* in Melbourne in 1839 - just four years after the city's founding by John Batman. Antonio initially toiled as a mail contractor before turning his hand to the publishing game as a canvasser with Melbourne’s *The Herald* newspaper. In time he acquired RM Abbott’s printing works and duly pursued a career in the printing profession.

Antonio’s son Angelo (later to represent the Carlton Football Club in its pre-VFA years), was born in this city on August 8, 1846 – one of four children (three brothers and a sister) raised by Antonio and his Scottish-born wife Margaret Hannah Sandeman, who had exchanged marital vows at the Congregational Church the previous October.

At one point, Angelo and his siblings followed their mother back to their homeland, and legend has it that on his return aboard the *SS Great Britain*, Angelo spoke with a Sean Connery-esque brogue.

Back in Melbourne, and according to The Dictionary of Australian Artists Online (DAAO), Angelo Azzopardi followed his father into the printing profession, and pursued a career as artist-engraver and publisher.



An Early Azzopardi Football Engraving

At some point in the 1870s, Angelo established an independent printing business headquartered in the Herald Passage - an old cobblestone lane tucked behind the city's GPO Building. For a time he worked in partnership with Oliver Levey, a subsequent owner of *The Herald*, and later Hildreth & Co. Angelo's presence obviously impacted on local planners, as a 1937 edition of Morgan's Melbourne street directory lists the passageway as "Angelo Lane".

That lane was later incorporated into the Myer complex.

Angelo also gained local fame as a watercolour painter who exhibited his works at the 1866 Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition. He also pursued an interest as an engraver and silversmith by way of the Eureka Electrotypes and Stereotype foundry out of 17-19 La Trobe Street, between Exhibition and Springs Streets at the top end of town.

According to newspaper records, Angelo turned out for Carlton through two stints - 1868-1870 and 1875. He was named for the club in five matches in his maiden season, which took on rivals such as Geelong, South Yarra and Emerald Hill, but it remains unclear as to how many matches he actually participated in.

The 19th century publication, "The Footballer", carries on one of its front cover a sketch of what appears to be a Geelong footballer in full flight as he carries the ball. Beneath the figure's left heel in small print, appears the name Azzopardi. Could this be the footballer or the artist?

Angelo James Azzopardi was 49 when he died in neighbouring Brunswick on January 18, 1896 – a year before Carlton became a foundation member of the fledgling VFL.

A death notice acknowledged that Angelo died suddenly at his home, 74 Cassels Road, just off Moreland Road, and was survived by his dear wife Annie, who co-incidentally was also a Scot.

One hundred and twenty years after Angelo's untimely passing, the Azzopardi name remains inextricably linked to this football club's stirring multicultural story.

