

Malta and Australia 20

CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013 FRANK L SCICLUNA - HON CONSUL - FULL OF HISTORY AND CULTURE OF MALTA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au

YOUR COMMENTS

- ★ Dear Mr Scicluna
I just had to write to say thank you for the newsletters.
I really appreciate reading them as they are full of interesting updates and information.
God bless you in your work. Regards Mary Borg (Australia)
- ★ I found the consular newsletter very informative and interesting. Some of the material will be included in the Migration Museum. Fr Alfred Vella – “Dar I-Emigranti” Malta
- ★ it is always a pleasure receiving and reading your informative Newsletters.
We always print these and send a copy to Joyce's mother in Melbourne, she also enjoys reading them. We also look forward to reading the interesting articles that you have.
It looks as though you may be receiving one of the new passport Briefcases to capture the biometric data. That will be a great help and make things much easier.
We will be attending the St Catherine's dinner dance so we may see you there.
Thank you and keep up your good work.
Kind regards Manuel and Joyce
- ★ Re- Newsletter 19. We thank you for your newsletter. As usual it is very interesting and we always look forward to receiving it. George and Lucy
- ★ Welcome home, I missed your News Letters whilst you were away, hope you had a lovely time in Malta
Kindest Regards Maera
- ★ Many thanks for your newsletter. My family and I are discovering how beautiful the Maltese Islands are. You are promoting Malta and we are sure that many other Maltese Australians will put Malta on their list of countries they will visit in future.
Jose and Carmel Brincat



building virtual bridges
Malta and Australia
www.ozmalta.page4.me



In order to avoid hardship, inconvenience and financial burden for Maltese citizens living abroad the Government of Malta is embarking on this project, which, we hope, will be operational in not distant future.

MALTESE EMBASSIES WILL USE MOBILE BIOMETRIC SCANNING SYSTEM

- **Mounted in a briefcase weighing 9 kg, this innovative system makes it possible to capture a traveller's biographical and biometric data quickly and easily**
- **The solution captures fingerprints, hand-written signatures and facial features, and integrates them into the EU information system**
- **Indra is a pioneer in secure identification with over 30 million identify cards and passports issued using its technology**

Indra has completed development of an innovative mobile system for capturing biometric information for issuing visas which has already started to be supplied to Maltese embassies and consulates. In total, Indra will deliver close to 500 of the mobile stations to the Foreign Ministry.

The system makes it possible to quickly and easily capture the necessary biometric information for issuing the travel document. In addition, it facilitates consolidation of the data with the visual information system of the European Union, the VISA Information System (VIS). Thus it meets the most stringent applicable standards and guarantees complete interoperability with the systems of other European countries.

The Indra solution is mounted in a briefcase that contains all the necessary elements for capturing the data. Specifically, it includes a robust laptop computer, a fingerprint scanning device, a digital camera and a tablet for recording the traveller's signature.

Weighing only 9 kilograms, the briefcase complies with IATA requirements for carry-on luggage on commercial flights. Its standard dimensions make it possible for the embassy official to travel with it onboard. Thus, the authorities will be able to issue the permit even when the person cannot visit the embassy or is in a city or country without a Maltese embassy.

The digitisation of the biometric information performed by the Indra system avoids the risk of identity theft and facilitates the visa holder's passage through security controls upon arrival in Malta. This aspect is especially important for a country that depends on tourism as a major source of revenue.

The system is based on SIBED software developed by Indra for issuing identity documents and passports. This system is widely implemented in different countries and has been adapted to the needs of the Maltese Foreign Ministry. Indra is a pioneer in developing secure identification systems, with over 30 million identity documents and cards generated using the company's technology.

As part of this project, Indra technicians have been training Maltese embassy and consulate staff members to enable them to make the most of this technology.

Indra has extensive experience developing intelligent identity documents, biometric identification systems, cryptography systems and PKI solutions. Indra is one of the world's largest consultancy and technology multinationals, a leader in Europe and Latin America and is expanding in other emerging economies. Innovation is the cornerstone of its business, which is highly focussed on the customer and on sustainability. The multinational is one of the leaders in its sector in Europe in terms of investment in R&D and innovation, having invested more than €550M in the last three years. With sales approaching €3,000 million, it employs 42,000 professional and has customers in 128 countries.

ANZACS AND MALTA

During the two world conflicts Malta gave its valued part in defeating the enemy. The connection between Malta and ANZACS is hardly ever observed. The connection started in the First World War during the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915 and continued right until the 1950s.

Malta, situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, has always held a strategic position. Malta was a British naval base because of its strategic position in the Mediterranean and the good dockyard facilities that it offered.

During the Gallipoli campaign in World War I, thousands of wounded British and ANZAC soldiers were taken to Malta to recover. In fact, Malta was called the "Nurse of the Mediterranean". Some 250 ANZACS died in Malta and are buried there, mostly at the Pieta cemetery, which is only opened to the public by special permission on ANZAC day.



At first the wounded soldiers were taken to Egypt, but the hospitals filled quickly and they had to find another place. Malta was chosen, though the Island was unprepared for this. Schools were converted to serve as hospitals and camp hospitals were set up too. Between July and September of 1915, around 2000 soldiers were nursed in Malta.

During WW2, the ANZACS were also linked with Malta. Malta assisted the ANZACS of the 8th Army in North Africa. They left from Malta by air and sea towards Egypt to hamper the German convoys supplying the German army. Also, there were ANZAC pilots and ships in Malta. They contributed to the defeat of the enemy on its attacks on Malta. It was an ANZAC who piloted the Sunderland which transported the George Cross medal to Malta.

Every year on ANZAC day, there is a service at the Pieta Cemetery. Among the distinguished guests, the Australian High Commissioner for Malta and the New Zealand counterpart preside over it.

(PICTURE LEFT) The Anzac Memorial in the Argotti Gardens, Floriana.

The names of the Australian and New Zealand men who lost their lives are listed on the three circular steps at the base. The Memorial was inaugurated on

25th May 2013.

On the 25th April each year a Remembrance Service is held in Pieta Military Cemetery, attended by the President of Malta, and other dignitaries. It recognizes the part played by men from Australia and New Zealand in the ill-fated Gallipoli Campaign, during the First World War.

Turkey became a partner of Germany in the First World War which concerned the British since they posed a threat to Egypt and the vitally important Suez Canal. Russia was interested in expanding into the Balkans and having a sea passage into the Mediterranean, so was an ally of the British.



It was decided to draw up a plan for a landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula not only to counter the threat from Turkey but also, to relieve the pressure on the British and French Armies fighting on the Western Front.

It was in the early hours of 25th April 1915 that the troops left the large ships of the Royal Navy and were disembarked into small boats for the actual landings. However, during the previous few weeks the Turkish Army has increased the number of men in the area and improved their defensive positions.

(Picture left) The newly opened Australia Hall

Nevertheless the landings went ahead but faced with a determined enemy and insufficient manpower to force a breakthrough after a few months of fighting the Allies decided to withdraw. Eight months after the landings the last men were evacuated on 9th January 1916.

The numbers of Australian casualties in this military defeat are estimated as around 8,700 dead with around 19,450 wounded, and the New Zealand figures around 2,700 dead and around 4,800 wounded.

Sick and wounded men were taken to Malta. Also on this article gives a first hand account of the important part Malta played in providing hospitals for the wounded and an insight into everyday life. Close to St. Andrews Barracks and Hospital a building was erected in November 1915 by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society for the benefit of soldiers of the Empire, and suitable called the Australia Hall.

It was officially opened on Saturday evening 22nd January 1916 by the Governor, Lord Methuen, in front of an audience of more than 1,600 people. As many Australians and New Zealanders as possible were taken to the venue, together with doctors and nurses from the neighbouring hospitals and convalescent camps. The hall was packed and many had to stand outside the building and listen to the speeches.

Ms Jane Lambert High Commissioner to Malta



Biography

Ms Lambert is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has previously served as Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa, Counsellor at the Australian High Commission in Nigeria, and First Secretary at the Australian Embassy to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg. She was most recently Director of the Department's Pakistan Section.

Ms Lambert holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy from the Australian National University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Flinders University. She speaks French.

Contact Information Australian High Commission
Ta' Xbiex Terrace

TA' XBIEX XBX 1034 MALTA

Tel: (+356) 2133 8201 Email: aushicom@onvol.net

Opening Hours

General Business The High Commission office is open for general business between 8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday, except for public holidays.

Passport Applications and Renewals (Appointment Only) The High Commission office hours for passport applications and renewals are by **Appointment Only** between 8.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for public holidays.



NEW DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS



In a Media Release issued by the Malta High Commission in Canberra last Monday, it was announced that **H.E. Mr Charles Muscat**, High Commissioner Designate of Malta in Australia, has commenced his tour of duty. H.E. Mr Muscat is expected to present his credentials to H.E. Quentin Bryce, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, on the 25 of September.

In another Media Release issued by the Malta High Commission in Canberra yesterday, it was announced that as from 1st October, **Mr Victor Grech**, will be the new Consul General of Malta in the State of Victoria, Australia.

H.E. Mr Charles Muscat has a business background in the retail industry and extensive experience in management and marketing. He is married to Victoria, nee Azzopardi, and has three children; Fiona, Oliver and Daniel.

Mr Grech has almost four decades of experience within the public sector. From 2004 to 2007, and 2008 to 2012, he served as Head of Administration at the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. He was also Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Representation of Malta to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. Prior to his latest appointment, Mr Grech has been occupying the position of Assistant Director in the Directorate of Financial Management, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malta. Mr Grech holds a diploma in Public Administration from the University of Malta, speaks Maltese, English and Italian, and has a good knowledge of French.

Published on 06-Nov-2013

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFERS A NEW SERVICE TO THE MALTESE CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is launching **Notification D – Voluntary Notification for Maltese Citizens living abroad**. This is a new service being offered to our Maltese Diaspora, through this Voluntary Notification for Maltese Citizens who, for various reasons, travel abroad for a period of over one month. This Voluntary Notification will strengthen and complement the consular services already offered by the Maltese Government.

This initiative will help the Maltese Government to create a sound structure to contact, in emergency cases, Maltese individuals present in areas where they can be affected by natural disasters, wars, emergencies or any troubled situation.

The Voluntary Notification form incorporates different sections that makes it possible to address different categories of people, including those travelling abroad on holiday for a period of over a month, permanent residents abroad, and those working in particular areas for example, on oil rigs. These sections will be providing an easy way for a person to write down his/her details according to his/her category, thus the Ministry will be able to provide the assistance required.

Due to the fact that the notification will entail personal details, such as addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails, the Ministry has taken all the necessary measures to be in line with all the Laws present that regulate the Data Protection, to an extent that the Notification has been shaped in close collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner for Information and Data Protection. The Ministry will also create a system of procedure by which the information gathered will be destroyed after a period of time as stipulated by the same law.

The Notification will be available from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and will also be found online at www.foreign.gov.mt. Insistence is being made on the Notification to be signed and should be sent to the nearest Malta High Commission, Embassy or Consulate or directly to the Director, the Directorate for the Maltese Living Abroad at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Merchants Street, Valletta.

MFA-DMLA-Notification D-version 06-11-2013 MFA-DMLA-Instructions-version 06-11-2013

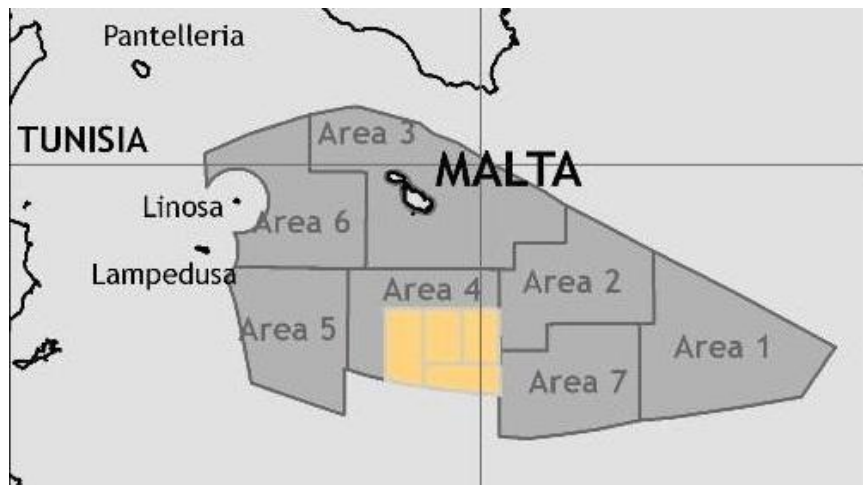


OIL DRILLING IN MALTA ZONE

All geological and economic studies carried out to date have shown that the projected oil well called Hagar Qim shows more promise than the one named Tarxien, and will therefore be the one to be drilled first, Infrastructure Minister Joe Mizzi said in Parliament yesterday.

He was answering a question by Opposition MP Toni Bezzina, who had asked why the Government was not insisting on Tarxien first when its geological structure was very similar to Libyan oilfields.

Mr Mizzi said the contractor was bound to drill an oil well in the first phase of exploration, and would be obliged to drill more if he chose to pursue the exploration with other oil wells.



Mediterranean Oil and Gas and Genel Energy should start drilling the first well in the first quarter of 2014.

The minister explained that before the Government entered into a production sharing agreement with an oil company, it must ascertain that the company would technically and financially be in a position to satisfy the obligations on contract.

The contract also specified that the contractor must undertake the exploration for, and exploitation of, oil on the Government's behalf, and must exclusively assume all risks and expenses.

Besides their own studies, the two companies had chosen to appoint an independent company to give its own technical opinion. Hagar Qim is located about 150 kilometres south of Malta in Area Four.

Area 4 has largely been overlooked in Malta's oil exploration history. In 1993, Amoco had drilled Tama-1 and although the well gave indications that oil was present, it was not in commercially viable quantities.

Tama-1 was drilled in Block 3, to the west of blocks licensed to Mediterranean Oil and Gas, which will drill in unexplored zones.

400 birds siezed at Kirkop and Safi



The police have discovered a shocking number of dead protected birds in private residences in Kirkop and Safi on Saturday. It was reported on the local papers that the police have interrogated a taxidermist after more than 400 carcasses of protected birds were found in his residence in Kirkop. According to sources the birds were found in chest freezers. Among them were four short toed eagles and a number of birds from Africa and South America.

When asked if anyone had been arrested, a police spokesperson said that investigations are ongoing and it is possible that some people are being interrogated.

Sources said that the illegal taxidermist had been receiving dead birds from hunters and was in the process of stuffing and mounting them. More protected dead birds were found in another residence in Kirkop and another one in Safi.



building virtual bridges
Malta and Australia



Father Alfred Vella showing one of the pods exhibited at the museum

Latest phase of Migration Museum includes 12 information pods

The latest phase of the Migration Museum and Visitors' Centre, now includes twelve information pods, each offering multimedia information about destinations chosen by the thousands of Maltese migrants over the past decades.

The pod dedicated to Australia, a continent where the Maltese have made a tremendous impact, has been sponsored by the Bank of Valletta. The Bank has a

Representative Office in Melbourne, which is instrumental in helping the migrants there to retain their economic links with their home country.

Monsignor Philip Calleja has painstakingly archived anything and everything related to emigration, at the museum in Dar I-Emigrant in Valletta, chronicling the impact that migrants had on their environment.

The museum's location is also fitting because it is at a perfect vantage point, just behind the Upper Barrakka gardens in Valletta, where one could have had a clear view of migrant ships leaving for faraway, unknown lands in the 1940s and 50s.

The digital museum assists in the easy dissemination of information among visitors, students, scholars and the public using the latest interactive multimedia technology. The information is brought to life via numerous touch screens, video projections and showcases, thereby enhancing the impact of the content on the visitors to the museum.

Emigrants Commission Director, Fr Alfred Vella, says special presentations, film screenings and academic conferences on migration problems in the past and present are being planned. Fr Vella, speaks of "his enthusiasm for a campaign targeting school visits."

The museum's ultimate objectives will eventually serve to examine the history of Maltese emigration and encourage academic research in related fields of Maltese emigration amongst University students. It will house the largest body of research material and memorabilia related to Maltese emigration.

The Migration Museum is committed to making its exhibits, programmes, and services accessible to everyone in reaching the refurbished rooftop of the Museum, which will serve to tell the story of sea immigration which played such a huge part in history. The digital section on the top floor of the museum uses state-of-the-art audiovisuals while digital archiving of numerous documents and photos is also providing people with the opportunity to search for information quickly and easily.

The Migration Museum and Visitors' Centre is situated at Dar I-Emigrant, the headquarters of the Emigrants' Commission, near the Upper Barrakka, Valletta. More sponsors are urgently need to complwtw this historical project.

Apply for a new Australian passport



You can apply for an Australian passport at more than 1,700 Australia Post retail outlets around Australia. We'll help ensure your passport application and photos meet Australian Government requirements. **Please note:** Australian passports are only issued to Australian citizens. They're valid for 10 years for adults and 5 years for children.

- [Book a passport interview online](#) via our Post Office Locator
- Call us on **13 POST** (13 7678)
- Ask at any Australia Post retail outlet

Step 4: Attend your interview and pay the application fee [Click to expand](#)

At your interview, we'll check your documentation is correct and confirm your identity before sending your application to the Australian Passport Office. The interview should take about 5 minutes.

Once your application has been accepted, you'll need to pay your [passport application fee \(External link\)](#) . We accept payments by cash, MasterCard or Visa, or EFTPOS.

Passport fees are set by the Australian Passport Office and are subject to change.

What to bring to your interview

- Application fee
- Two identical colour ID photos less than six months old, with one signed by the guarantor
- Your completed application form
- Document that proves citizenship
- Original ID documents
- Original proof of name change if required

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will it take for my Australian passport to be issued?

As a general guideline, please allow around 14 business days from the time of your interview for your passport to be issued. The Australian Passport Office is committed to issuing passports within 10...

Do I have to attend an interview at an Australia Post retail outlet to lodge my Australian passport application?

Generally, anyone applying for a new or renewed Australian passport must attend an interview and lodge their application at selected Australia Post retail outlet. You can use our [locations and...](#)

What fees are payable for Australian or British passport applications?

Australian passports: Please refer to the Australian Passport Office website [for all passport application fees](#). British passports: Please refer to the [UK Government website](#) for all...

Do I need to get my photos taken before my passport interview?

Yes, if you're applying for a new Australian or British passport you need your photos taken before your interview. A guarantor must sign the back of one of your photos before you hand in your...

Do I need to book an appointment to have my passport photos taken?

No, you don't need to make an appointment to have your passport photos taken at an Australia Post retail outlet. It is quick and convenient and we'll print them for you on the spot.

Help is also given at the Consulate – make an appointment

How To Prepare Chestnuts – QASTAN



Chestnuts may be boiled, roasted, or grilled Chestnut Cooking Tips

To facilitate removal of the shell, you'll need to use a sharp pointed knife to slice either a horizontal slash or a large X along the flat side before roasting or boiling.

To boil, cover with cold water, bring to a boil, and simmer for three minutes. Remove from heat. Scoop out a few at a time and peel off the shell and skin with a sharp knife. As they cool, they become more difficult to peel, so keep them in hot water until you are ready to peel. Proceed with your recipe using the peeled nuts, making sure you finish

cooking them completely within your recipe.

To boil and cook them completely in their skins, simmer for 15 to 25 minutes, then peel and use, but don't be disappointed if

they fall apart as you peel them. This boiling method to fully cook the chestnuts is best used when you will be mashing the chestnuts or pushing them through a sieve for puree.

To roast chestnuts, make cuts as described above. They can potentially explode from internal pressure if not pierced. Place on a baking sheet in a 400-degree F. oven for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve hot.

To roast in a fire, take an aluminum pie plate and punch rows of holes. Make cuts in chestnuts or puncture them to release steam and place on a grill over white hot coals. If you have a chestnut roaster for the fireplace, all the better.

Chestnuts work well in savory dishes as well as sweet ones. They are often used as a substitute for potatoes or pasta in Europe due to their high starch content. Mashed or whole braised chestnuts are good partners with sweet potatoes, carrots, mushrooms, brussels sprouts, and cabbage. However, most Americans use them in stuffings and desserts.

If you're not familiar with chestnuts, you probably don't realise how versatile and easy to prepare they are.

Recipe: Imbuljuta – chestnut and chocolate drink

Ingredients:

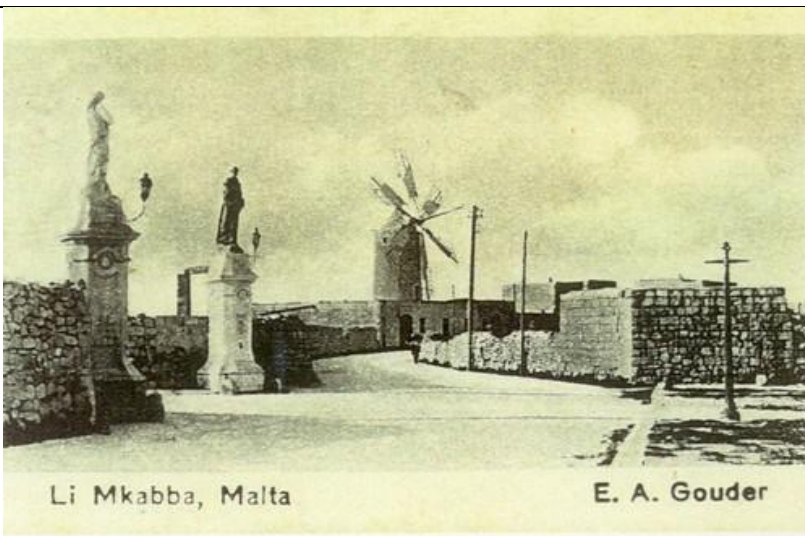


- 500g dried chestnuts
- Rind of 1 orange, in strips
- Rind of 2 tangerines, in strips
- 3 tblsp cocoa powder
- 100g dark chocolate (60% minimum cocoa)
- 5tblsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice

Leave the chestnuts to soak in cold water for 2 hours. Wash well and place in a saucepan covering them with cold water. Boil until slightly tender.

Add all the remaining ingredients, stir gently to dissolve the chocolate and cook on low heat until the chestnuts are soft. Serve warm.

Windmills in Malta



There have been a good number of windmills in Malta and Gozo. At least 69 stone windmills. Almost all the windmills were grain mills. There were about 54 in Malta and 15 in Gozo. Only 2 of these mills still have sails.

In 1530 there was one windmill in Malta and in 1565 two. Those were post mills in what now is Senglea. The post mill is the earliest type of European windmill. The defining feature is that the whole body of the mill that houses the machinery is mounted on a single vertical post, around which it can be turned to bring the sails into the wind. This technology was introduced in Malta by the Knights of St John in 1530 from Rhodes.

Nearly all the windmills have been built by the Knights of St John. Most of the windmills were built between 1663 and 1773. But earlier there were

those built by Lascaris (1636-1657). Lascaris commissioned 4 in Malta and 1 in Gozo.

Grandmaster Nicola Cottoner (1663-1680) and his brother Rafael (1660-1663) built the mills in Bormla, Zebbug, Floriana (2), Naxxar and Zurrieq. Later they built the mills in Lija, Zejtun, Gudja and another one in Zebbug. The technology of these windmills was introduced from the Balearic Islands. Cottoner came from those islands.

Another Grandmaster who commissioned windmills was Antonio Manoel de Vilhena (1722-1736). He built 5 mills namely in Rabat, Ghargur, Zurrieq, Birkirkara, and one between Ghaxag and Zejtun.

Round 1726 another 3 mills were built in Gozo and another one in Naxxar.



At that time there were 16 windmills in operation. In 1826 there were 26 in Malta and 5 in Gozo.

Every windmill was in sight of its neighbouring windmills from the openings in the tower so that the miller could see whether the others were working or not. This situation might have made windmills a part of a communication and defence system.

The monopoly on windmills by the Government ended in 1838. Everybody was allowed to build a windmill. A lot of windmills were built from 1838.

Most of the mills were already relicts in 1900 as a consequence of the introduction of steam driven mills. Steam mills developed progressively round Grand Harbour.

Almost all the windmills have the same building plan. The tower (tramba) is surrounded by a stone quadrangular building. The tower is 3 metres in diameter and is 15 metres high.

The main entrance gave access to a hall. On both sides of the hall there were two rooms, one for the reception of grain and the other for the storage of flour. Behind the hall there was the entrance to the tower and the about 50 circular steps (garigor) in the tower. The room behind the hall and the rooms on the first floor were used by the miller and its family.

The mechanism was of a normal type and was located at the top of the tower. Mostly it operated one pair of grinding stones.

FEDERATION SQUARE – MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA



Federation Square

(known locally as Fed Square) is a unique cultural precinct in the heart of Melbourne.

There's always something on – it's a great place to hang out and watch all the action.

Fed Square is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Victoria – a great place to hang out, use the free wi-fi and watch all the action. Located right in

the centre of Melbourne, on the corner of Flinders and Swanston streets, right across from Flinders Street Station. You can also take a tour, catch a cruise or wine and dine in style.

There's always something going on at Fed Square, with an impressive calendar of events and activities taking place throughout the year. Crowds often gather to watch major events live on the giant screen, such as the AFL Grand Final (football), the FIFA World Cup (soccer), or the Australian Open (tennis).

Fed Square is home to the Melbourne Visitor Centre, ACMI, SBS and NGV Australia's Ian Potter Centre. It has distinctive architecture comprised of geometrical patterns and shards, with zinc, sandstone and glass tiles.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs George Vella

published the Ministry's guiding principles, the new Ministry structure and an executive summary of the audit report on Malta's embassies. Minister Vella said "the guiding principles presented in this document offer complementary and continuity in a number of instances these guiding principles update and enhance the 2006 strategic objectives as well as reveal a deeper and wider perspective on specific issues".

During the presentation to Ministry officials and media, Minister Vella pointed out that the guiding principles identify seven areas that encompass Malta's foreign policy priorities :

- the strengthening of our role within the EU;
- enhancing and promoting our country's bilateral relations;
- contributing effectively towards multilateralism;
- reaffirming Malta's vocation and determination to strengthen peace and security in the Mediterranean;
- recognising the importance and relevance of the Maltese living abroad;
- securing a more effective political and economic role for Malta's representation overseas and the promotion of Maltese culture abroad.

Minister Vella explained that the decision to update the guiding principles was taken to update the strategic objectives in relation to today's political scenario both in economic and social terms.

In the presentation of the new Ministry structure, the Minister pointed out newly set up Legal Unit, an Assistant Director responsible for Cultural Diplomacy, Strategy and Coordination Unit and Directorate for the Maltese Living Abroad.

Minister Vella also announced that the executive summary of an audit report by independent experts on Malta's missions abroad could be found online. This report highlights new steps that must be taken to ensure more value from our embassies. "I am glad to note that some of the proposed steps are already being implemented such as the training to Diplomats who will be taking their posts in the coming weeks" said the Minister referring to courses being given to diplomats by Malta Enterprise to have a sound business background as they take their new positions.

The Minister said that it is not the intention of the Maltese government to close embassies and at present there is no such discussion. On the contrary Malta is already committed to open a new embassy in Qatar and two new Consulates in Misurata and Brasil. Appointing Honorary Consuls where embassies cannot be opened is an idea this government is mulling since Malta has not enough finance to open a large number of embassies said the Minister.

The report suggests roving Ambassadors and Minister Vella said the government has taken this suggestion and will be appointing Special Envoys according to the needs of the country.

The [Executive Summary](#) and [Guiding Principles](#) can be found on the Ministry's website under the Publications section.

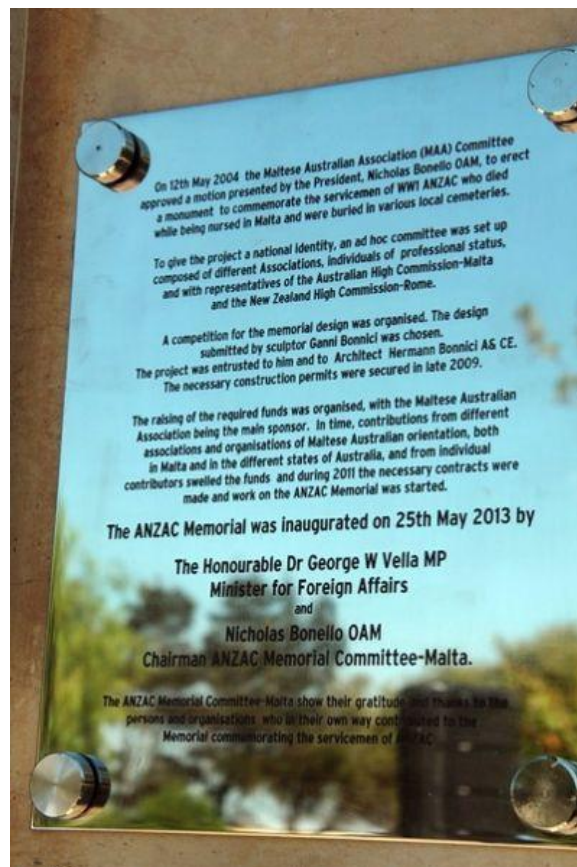
<http://www.mfa.gov.mt>

Flashback - MALTA PROUD OF ITS ANZAC WAR MEMORIAL



On a bright Spring morning on Saturday 25 May 2013 Malta's Foreign Minister, Dr George Vella, and the chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Committee Malta, Mr Nicholas Bonello OAM, inaugurated the ANZAC Memorial at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, Malta before a gathering of over 200 guests.

The next time you or anyone else you know visits Malta, a must see is the ANZAC monument located in Argotti Botanical Gardens, in Floriana. An initiative by the Malta ANZAC Memorial Committee, the monument is believed to be the first ANZAC memorial to be erected outside of Australia, New Zealand and Gallipoli.



The monument was constructed to commemorate and honour the many Australian and New Zealand troops who have lost their lives in Gallipoli during World War 1 and elsewhere, during subsequent battles and conflicts, especially those of World War Two, during which Malta featured prominently and suffered badly. About 300 soldiers from Australia and New Zealand are buried in Malta. The monument was completed in January of this year, and was designed by sculptor Ganni Bonnici.

The idea behind the design was not to represent war and weapons, but rather the humanity that defended it and those who lost their lives fighting for their country. Not only soldiers perished but also their families suffered, which is why the monument features two bronze statues of man and a woman. Funds in South Australia and in other States were raised to erect this magnificent memorial.

Many wounded Anzacs were evacuated to Malta from Gallipoli in 1915 when the island earned the title "Nurse of the Mediterranean". More than 4000 wounded soldiers were evacuated from Gallipoli and in hospital in Malta. Many passed away on the island and their remains returned to Australia and NZ, but there are about 200 Australians and more than 70 New Zealanders still buried there.

"These bonds were forged during the fateful Gallipoli campaign of 1915 - a campaign which profoundly impacted Australia's national identity," she says. Malta War Memorial

Committee chief executive Charles Figallo said it was a project dear to the heart of the Maltese.

Honorary Maltese Consul for SA Frank Scicluna, Chairman of the ANZAC committee, said that for many Maltese commemorating the Anzacs, who are buried on the island, was "a way to say thank you to Australia".



His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR

THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PRAISES MALTA'S CONTRIBUTION TO ANZACS



It gives me and my wife Liz great pleasure to be amongst you this memorable evening and I thank the chairman, Frank Scicluna, Consul for Malta in South Australia, and all the members of the Malta ANZAC War Memorial Committee for inviting me to share this special occasion with you.

The establishment of a memorial to Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in Malta as a result of war wounds, especially as a result of the Gallipoli landing in World War One, is a most admirable

gesture.

Hundreds of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought at Gallipoli were sent to the Island of Malta for medical treatment. As a result of their injuries, over 200 Australians died and were buried in Malta.

I understand that every year on ANZAC DAY a special ceremony is held at the War Memorial in Valletta, attended by the President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta and the Australian High Commissioner.

Now that Malta will be having a specific ANZAC monument, I am told that the dawn service will take place at Floriana, where the monument is to be erected.

History tells us that Malta, which was then a British colony, played a strategic role during both WWI and WWII. Moreover, a number of Maltese immigrants to Australia joined the Australian forces. Many of them were wounded and died at Gallipoli and their names may be found at the Roll of Honour at the National War Memorial in Canberra.

Therefore, it is entirely fitting that this strong, albeit sad, connection between Malta and Australia is commemorated by the proposed monument.

Mr Chairman, please convey my thanks, appreciation and admiration to the members of your committee and to the members of the Maltese community of South Australia who have worked so hard to raise funds for this purpose.

I hope to be informed when the monument has been completed. It will be situated in the middle of Argotti Gardens overlooking the Grand Harbour of Malta. I am certain that many Australian and New Zealanders who will visit the Island of Malta in future will want to seek it out.

Thank you once again.

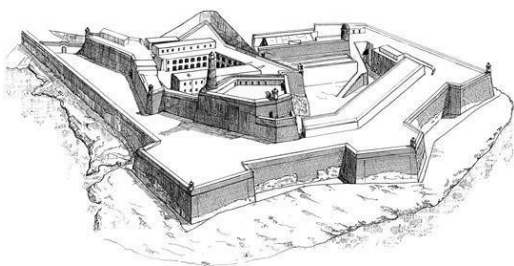
Fort Saint Elmo

Fort Saint Elmo is a fortification in Valletta. It stands on the seaward shore of the Sciberras Peninsula that divides Marsamxett Harbour from Grand Harbour, and commands the entrances to both harbours.

History

Prior to the arrival of the Knights of Malta in 1530, a watchtower existed on this point. Reinforcement of this strategic site commenced in 1533. After a raid by Dragut in 1551, during which the Turks sail unopposed into Marsamxett Harbour, work commenced on a major expansion, and by the time of the Ottoman Siege of Malta in 1565, this fortification had been reinforced and extended into a modest star fort.

Fort Saint Elmo was the scene of some of the most intense fighting of the 1565 siege, and it withstood massive bombardment from Turkish cannon deployed on Mount Sciberras that overlooked the fort and from batteries on the north arm of Marsamxett Harbour, the present site of Fort Tigne. The initial garrison of the fort was around one hundred knights and seven hundred soldiers, including around four hundred Italian troops and sixty armed galley slaves. The garrison could be reinforced by boat from the forts across the Grand Harbour at Birgu and Senglea.



During the bombardment of the fort, a cannon shot from Fort St Angelo across the Grand Harbour struck the ground close to the Turkish battery. Debris from the impact mortally injured the corsair and Ottoman admiral Dragut Reis, one of the most competent of the Ottoman commanders. The fort withstood the siege for over a month, falling to the Turks on 23 June 1565. None of the defending knights survived, and only nine of the Maltese defenders survived by swimming across to Fort St. Angelo on the other side of the Grand Harbour after Fort St Elmo fell. The fort was rebuilt and integrated into the fortifications of Valletta after the Great Siege.

Present day

Since the mid-20th century, Fort Saint Elmo has housed Malta's police academy. The original George Cross that was awarded to Malta by King George VI in April 1942, is on display in the National War Museum, which occupies part of the Fort.

The World Monuments Fund placed the fort on its 2008 Watch List of the 100 Most Endangered Sites in the world because of its significant deterioration due to factors such as lack of maintenance and security, natural aging, and exposure to the elements.



In 2012 Heritage Malta started restoration and conservation works on Fort St Elmo.

In popular culture

Fort Saint Elmo was used as a film location for the Turkish jail in *Midnight Express*.

Popular Maltese folk band Etnika gave three concerts on 31 July, 1 and 2 August 2003 named Bumbum, that drew thousands of revellers to listen to modern Maltese folk music. In the popular real time strategy game, *Age of Empires III*, the first level's task is defend a fort on Malta against the Ottomans, which appears to be Fort St. Elmo.



IL-GGANTIJA TEMPLES – GOZO, MALTA

October 2013

Despite the bad weather last Friday afternoon, Heritage Malta still welcomed over 1,000 visitors to the newly inaugurated Ggantija Temples Heritage Park during a free open day.

Heritage Malta said that they were delighted to welcome so many local families and “would like to thank everyone for making the event such a great success.”

Visitors were able to view first-hand the Archaeological Heritage Conservation Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, Ggantija Temples Heritage Park, which now

incorporates an interpretation centre focusing on Gozo’s prehistory.

There is new and exciting interpretation material on our prehistoric ancestors. The interpretation centre provides an educational, yet entertaining experience, to all its visitors, taking them back in time by means of the new pathway which leads from the interpretation centre to the temples themselves.

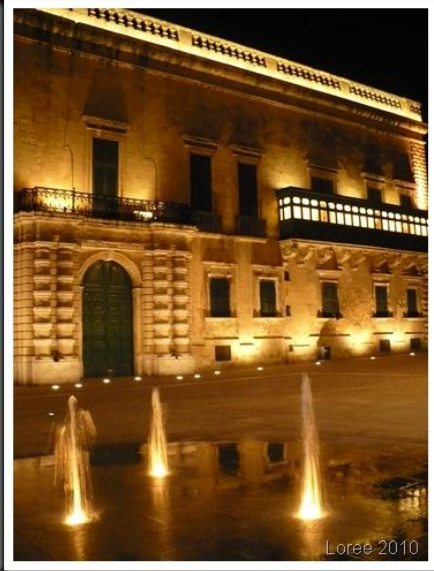
The Ggantija Temples consist of two megalithic temples surrounded by a massive common boundary wall and dating to between 3600 BC and 3200 BC. One of the most striking features of the entire complex, the boundary wall, is built using the header and stretcher technique, with the megaliths alternating face out and edge out to provide structural stability.

The name of the complex is derived from the Maltese word “ggant” meaning giant.

Together with another five megalithic temples present in our islands Ggantija Temples are listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

St George's Square Valletta Malta

St George's square in Valletta (formerly know as the Main Guard) is one of the most important open spaces in the capital city. In the past the square was used for the changing of the guard parade. When this ceremony stopped taking place at the end of British rule in Malta, it was turned into a car park. It was difficult to appreciate the beauty of this square, flanked on one side by the Grand Master's Palace (which now houses the Maltese Parliament), when it was full of cars. Thankfully, the square has been restored and now serves as an attraction in the heart of our capital city. If it is splendid by day, by night it is quite magical, with a gorgeous water, music and light show which only serves to enhance the surrounding magnificent architecture.



Top children's author shares love of books with schoolchildren

British children's author Anna Wilson visited Marsacala Primary School yesterday morning to promote the joys of reading and writing.



Anna Wilson, who penned tween favourites like Pup Idol and Monkey Business, is visiting seven schools during her three-day stay, telling hundreds of schoolchildren about her story.

The acclaimed writer was invited to Malta by Agenda Bookshop to promote her new book *I'm a Chicken... Get me out of Here!*

"I think if you find reading boring, you are reading the wrong books! There are books out there for everyone," she told the children during a question and answer session.

The event was also attended by Education Minister Evarist Bartolo, who said books

should be something a child enjoys and should be easily accessible, not limited only to schools.

Anna Wilson lives in Bradford-on-Avon with her husband, two children, two cats, a dog and some chickens which inspired her latest book.

She is also the author of the Nina Fairy Ballerina young fiction series, which has sold over 150k copies.

For more information about Anna Wilson, visit her website: <http://annawilson.co.uk/>

HOW TO GROW YOUR INDOOR HERB GARDEN



If you want to get back into the gardening groove after a long winter, creating an indoor herb garden is a great place to start.

These gardening ventures are generally quite easy to maintain all-year round, not to mention, they also provide your family with all the herbs you need for your cooking!

The first thing to do to get your garden started is figure out the best spot in your home to grow your herbs.

Kitchens (window sill) are a good bet, with herbs needing at least six to eight hours of natural light. Your garden also needs good airflow to keep pests and bacteria away, so make sure to keep the air moving in the room containing your herbs.

Once you've secured an ideal spot, start picking

your herbs!

Some ideal indoor herbs include sun-loving basil, rosemary, parsley, thyme, mint, coriander, sage, tarragon, oregano and chives.

Start preparing your pots, ensuring they can accommodate growth over time. Don't forget to check for a good number of drainage holes and to lay a tray under your pots to pick up excess water and dirt.

Pour high quality vegetable potting soil into your pots (about three-quarters of the pot) and moisten a little with water.

Loosen the soil at the root base of your herbs - ensuring not to damage the roots - and place into the pot, filling with potting soil. Water well.

Quick tips:

- Water your herbs whenever the surface of the soil feels dry. Pour water into your pots until it comes out of the bottom, but take care not to overwater your herbs.

- Check that your herbs are getting enough sun. If they are growing long stems with very few leaves this may indicate that they are stretching to find some light. Move into a sunnier setting and remember to regularly rotate your pots to ensure even growth.

- Clipping your herbs regularly will help to promote growth - even your young plants need some trimming! If your herbs are starting to flower they're not being clipped enough. Cut the blooms and clip down to one-third.

SNAIL FARMING IN AUSTRALIA

If you are thinking that you would like your own free range snail farm in the back yard here are a few tips to get you on your way.



In Australia the common brown garden snail *Cantareus* is farmed and is also one of the most popular snails consumed in the European market. Get 10 expert tips and tricks and find out how easy it is to do in your own backyard!

- 1) Snails adapt well to cooler climates with temperature ranges from - 4°C to a maximum of 30°C

- 2) It is important to have a farming area that is as large as possible and to limit snail numbers accordingly to discourage overcrowding.

- 3) A large, free range farming area results in higher production rates, lower mortality, a more ethical and less stressful environment resulting in a better quality of snails

- 4) Once you have constructed a galvanised corrugated iron perimeter fence it is important to install 5) mesh holding pens made from open weave shade cloth. Robyn recommends a double

layered cloth (or flaps) to prevent the snails escaping

5) A true organic free range snail farm should only use natural fertilisers.

6) A good irrigation system is crucial for maintaining a healthy food source and ensures the snails are kept active for eating, breeding and growing

7) Snails need a diet rich in protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals. Robyn's snails especially like to forage on brassicas, kale and canola but they also enjoy wild turnip, hybrid turnip, dandelion clover and silver beet amongst others.

8) In the southern hemisphere mating commences in spring and if conditions are optimal this can continue until Autumn

9) It's crucial to "purge" the snails before consumption. This involves feeding them a combination of organic unprocessed bran and/or wheat germ for 2 days in a controlled environment

10) After purging for 7 days the snail's digestive systems are clear of dirt and grit and they are ready to be consumed.

Zak was one of those who you never forget'

Zakaria Al Noor passed away on Thursday but his smile remains.



The sudden death of a young Sudanese man who survived a journey through the Sahara desert and the deadly Mediterranean waters has shocked his adoptive Maltese family and friends.

An aspiring electrician, Zakaria Al Noor, 25, had settled in Berlin, nine years after he left Sudan where he would have been forced to join the military. He had set off for Egypt to travel on to Libya, where he was housed by his uncle for nine months before leaving for Malta.

"He was always a fighter. He has been fighting all his life. As he lay in hospital [in Berlin] in coma, I urged him, in my heart, to wake up," his "adoptive Maltese mother", Theresa Zammit, said.

Last month, Mr Al Noor, described by those who knew him as a "man full of life", developed what he thought was a regular cold.

A couple of days later he passed out and fell into a coma following heart failure.

It was only last week that he regained consciousness for a while and ate something.

But he suffered another attack and he fell back into a coma until he passed away on Thursday. His Facebook page was flooded with messages of condolences, with most of his friends commenting they will miss the young man's smile.

"Zak was really one of those people whom you can never forget. He brought happiness even in the toughest moments," Andrew Galea Debono said.

Noting that Mr Al Noor was full of hope and had a great sense of humour, he said the young man "showed everyone that if you are positive, you can build a good life in any place".

During his turbulent stay in Malta, where he felt ostracised because of the colour of his skin, Mr Al Noor found work and was taken in by a Maltese family. To Alfred and Theresa Zammit, Mr Al Noor was their "third child". "He brought so much joy in our house. He would smile and laugh as soon as he walked through the front door. I trusted him from the very first day. He was my son," Ms Zammit said, adding that her children, Garrett and Sera, considered Mr Al Noor as their brother. Sera described the young man as a high achiever, always striving for the best, never failing to smile.

Garrett added: "Zak was a person that everyone could learn from because he turned his life around. He was always happy and had a huge heart."



BUDGET 2013

Individual Investor Programme -

\$650 000 to obtain Maltese Citizenship

The government is forecasting an estimated €30 million from the sale of citizenship to wealthy applicants. Dr. J. Scicluna said the scheme in his budget, which will charge €650,000 for the purchase of Maltese citizenship, would put Malta at par with such citizenship-by-investment programs as employed in Canada, Portugal, Belgium and Singapore.

"It is easy to scaremonger but this country has always won its

challenges because it was not scared. Despite the irresponsible confusion being generated by critics, this government is convinced that this programme will be successful."

Some €15 million is expected to be poured into a national development while the rest financing the budget.

The House of Representatives approved amendments to the Citizenship Act from Committee stage, with the Opposition voting against.

The amendments provide for the setting up of an Individual Investor Programme for the granting of citizenship to foreign individuals and families who contribute to the economic development of Malta. Eligible persons will be required to pay €650,000, and €25,000 for spouses and children.

A number of amendments moved by Opposition MPs were defeated.

These included binding the granting of citizenship to investment rather than just a donation of money, for the inclusion of other authorised investment institutions to also be able to promote and sell the scheme, for applicants to have been living in Malta for a minimum five-years and invest €5 million and for the publication of names of those attaining citizenship.



GOLD COAST – QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

The **Gold Coast** is a coastal city located in the South East of Queensland, Australia. The city is 94 km (58 mi) south of the state capital Brisbane. It is the second most populous city in the state, the sixth most populous city in the country, and the most populous non-capital city in Australia.^[1] The Gold Coast has the largest cross-state metropolitan area population in Australia, due to the inclusion of Tweed Heads, New South Wales in its metropolitan area. The Gold Coast's metropolitan area converges with that of Greater Brisbane, forming part of an urban conurbation of over 3 million people.

While the origin of the city's name is debatable, the name "Gold Coast" was bestowed upon the city by real estate investors. The first settlement in what is now South East Queensland was as a penal colony at Redcliffe. The Gold Coast region remained largely uninhabited by Europeans until 1823 when explorer John Oxley landed at Mermaid Beach. The hinterland's red cedar supply attracted people to the area in the mid-19th century. Later in 1875, Southport was surveyed and established and grew a reputation as a secluded holiday destination for upper class Brisbane residents.

The Gold Coast region grew significantly after the establishment of the Surfers Paradise hotel in the late 1920s. The area boomed in the 1980s as a leading tourist destination and in 1994, the Gold Coast City local government area was expanded to encompass the majority of the Gold Coast's metropolitan area, becoming the second most populous local government area in Australia after the City of Brisbane. The Gold Coast is today a major tourist destination with its sunny subtropical climate, surfing beaches, canal and waterway systems, its high-rise dominated skyline, theme parks, nightlife, and rainforest hinterland, making tourism one of its most significant industries. Gold Coast will host the 2018

Commonwealth Games. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_Coast,_Queensland - cite note-3

In 2007, the Gold Coast overtook the population of Newcastle, New South Wales to become the sixth largest city in Australia and the largest non-capital city.

WORLD WAR 2 - MALTA



WORLD WAR 2 – 1939 -1945

Photos

Top left – Malta Royal Theatre destroyed completely

Top right – The bomb that entered Mosta Dome Church

Middle – Locals reading newspaper re- the George Cross award on 12 April 1942

Left – Santa Marija Convoy – Grand Harbour – Valletta



Wirja Milied 2013

4 - 8 ta' Dicembru, 2013



**Sala tal-Esebizzjonijiet Ministeru għal-Għawdex
Pjazza San Frangisk, VICTORIA**

❖ *Arrangamenti bi Fjuri Niexfa*

1: Christmas Wonder, 2: Carols at Christmas, 3: Freestyle

❖ *Parċmina: Frames, Cards, Home Decorations.*

❖ *Stampi bi Fjuri ppressati*

XOGĦOL tal-:

❖ *Ganutel tal-Milied*

❖ *Monastier tal-Milied*

❖ *Macrame' tal-Milied*

❖ *Newl tal-Milied*

❖ *Rakkmu tal-Milied bl-Idejn*

❖ *Xama' tal-Milied*

❖ *'Cross Stitch' tal-Milied*

❖ *Beading tal-Milied*

❖ *Knitting tal-Milied*

❖ *Bizzilla tal-Milied*

❖ *Bucilla tal-Milied*

❖ *Antacċjoli tal-Milied*

❖ *Gebel tal-Milied*

❖ *'Plastic Canvas' tal-Milied*

❖ *Crochet tal-Milied*

❖ *Arġett tal-Milied*



Hinijiet.

L-Erbgħa	4 ta' Dicembru:	8.30 am	sal	4.45 pm
Il-Ħamis	5 ta' Dicembru:	8.30 am	sal	4.45 pm
Il-Gimgħa	6 ta' Dicembru:	8.30 am	sal	4.45 pm
Is-Sibt	7 ta' Dicembru:	8.30 am	sal	11.00 pm
Il-Ħadd	8 ta' Dicembru:	8.30 am	sal	11.00 pm

**Presentazzjoni tat-Trophies lir-Rebbieha nhar il-Ħadd, 8 ta' Dicembru,
fil-5.30pm mill-Hon. Dr. Anton Refalo, Ministru għal Għawdex**