



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013 FRANK L SCICLUNA - HON CONSUL - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au



The new Prime Minister of Australia the Hon Tony Abbot shaking hands with H.E. the Governor General

THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Tony Abbott was sworn in as the 28th Prime Minister of Australia on 18 September 2013. Prior to the election of the Coalition Government on 7 September 2013, Mr Abbott had been Leader of the Opposition since 1 December 2009. Mr Abbott was first elected as Member for Warringah in March 1994. He has been re-elected as Member for Warringah at seven subsequent elections.

During the Howard Government, Mr Abbott served as a Parliamentary Secretary, Minister, Cabinet Minister, and Leader of the House of Representatives. As Minister for Employment Services (1998–2001) Mr Abbott oversaw the development of the Job Network and a major expansion of Work for the Dole.

As Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (2001–2003) Mr Abbott boosted construction industry productivity through the establishment of the Cole Royal Commission.

As Minister for Health and Ageing (2003–2007) Mr Abbott oversaw the expansion of Medicare rebates to allied health professionals such as dentists and psychologists and introduced the Strengthening Medicare reforms which delivered record levels of bulk billing for patients. Mr Abbott also introduced the Medicare safety net for people with big out-of-pocket expenses, increased hospital funding by \$2.2 billion, and resolved the medical indemnity crisis.

At the 2010 election, the Coalition under Mr Abbott's leadership achieved the best result for a first term opposition since 1932.

Since Federation, no Opposition Leader has been elected Prime Minister with more ministerial experience than Tony Abbott.

As Prime Minister, Mr Abbott has promised to spend a week each year living and working in an indigenous community. In recent years, Mr Abbott has spent time working as a teacher's aide in Coen and as a truancy officer in Aurukun as well as participating in Bush Owner Builder indigenous housing project near Hopevale on Cape York. Last year, Mr Abbott and a team of business leaders spent four days helping to refurbish the library of the local school at Aurukun.

Prior to entering parliament, Mr Abbott was a journalist with The Australian and The Bulletin. He was press secretary and political adviser to the Leader of the Opposition, Dr John Hewson, before becoming Executive Director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy.

Mr Abbott holds Economics and Law degrees from Sydney University. He is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a Master of Arts (Politics and Philosophy) from Oxford University. Mr Abbott is the author of four books.

Mr Abbott is a long term member of Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club and the Davidson Brigade of the Rural Fire Service. Tony Abbott is married to Margaret. They are the proud parents of three daughters – Louise, Frances and Bridget.

IL-MALTIN GENERUZI T'ADELAIDE

Fund-Raiser b'Rizq id-Dar tal-Providenza, fis-Siggiewi, Malta

Kien verament success iehor ghal-Kommunità Maltija fis-South Australia u prova ohra tal-qlub [eneruzi li hawn fostna. Kienet xi haġa li qatt ma ghaddiet minn mohhi li din ser tirnexxi, imma mort imqarraq. Il-[urnata li ghazilna kienet wisq qrib il-Festa tal-Bambina, u abbuzajt mill-[enerozita tal-Membri tal-MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP, li proprju l-Hadd ta' qabel il-Festa, tlabthom biex jghinuni f'dan il-hsieb.

Kienet telefonata minn ghand John Micallef, is-Superjur tas-So`jetà tal-MUSEUM hawn fis-S.A. li he[[itna biex naghmel xi haġa, ghax meta qalli li l-kuġin tieghu, Fr Martin Micallef kien [ej Adelaide biex izur xi qraba, jien mill-ewwel idde` idejt li xi haġa trid issir biex nghinu lid-Dar tal-Providenza, f'Malta.

Meta hragt bl-ideja li rrid ninvolti lill-Ghaqdiet kollha Maltin, sib appogg minn kulhadd u ta' dan jien tant rikonoxxenti. Kienet prova ohra li "where there is a will there is a way". Kien hemm min issuggerixxa li d-dhul ghandu jsir bil-hlas, imma jien ma xtaqt incahhad lil hadd li jkollu l-opportunità li jkun jaf x'inhi din id-Dar tal-Providenza u l-Missjoni kbira li qed taqdi. Ir-rizultati taw prova ta' dan. Nirringrazzja lill-Ghaqdiet kollha u ndividwi li pprovdew ikel u donazzjonijiet. Kien hemm ikel ghall kulhadd u kulhadd kiel sa ma xeba.

THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE SHOWED GREAT GENEROSITY DURING THE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY

It was another great success for the Maltese Community in South Australia and a proof of the generous hearts in our midst. I never thought it was going to succeed, but I had to have a change of mind. The day we picked was very near the Feast of Our Lady Queen of Victories, in fact it was the Sunday before, and I entreated the Members of the MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP to support me in this venture.

It was a telephone call from John Micallef, the Superior of the MUSEUM Society in South Australia, which gave the push to organize something in behalf of the **Dar tal-Providenza**, Malta, which is most close to my heart.

When I came with the idea to involve all the Maltese in South Australia, Societies and individuals, I have to say that I had the approval of all and for all this I am most grateful. This was a proof that "where there is a will, there is a way". Someone suggested that entrance at the Hall should be a fee, but I opposed because I wanted that all should have an idea to know what this **Dar tal-Providenza** means and all it entails and stands for. The outcome of the event gave proof of all of this. Heartily I thank all the Societies in S.A. and individuals who contributed with food and donations. There was food enough for everyone and everybody had much as he heart desired. You have the outcome of the Fund-Raising on the other column of the page and once again thanks to all who contributed to make this fund-raising function a success.

Donations	\$ 3,240.00	
Raffle	\$ 235.00	
Trading Table	\$ 340.50	
Coffee & Tea	\$ 35.25	
Another benefactor	\$ 149.25	TOTAL = \$4000.00

An excerpt from the letter by the Co-Ordinator, Jim Borg

Dear Fr Gabriel Micallef OFM

On behalf of the Friends of Providence House, NSW, Id-Dar tal-Providenza and Fr Martin Micallef, I would like to pass on our sincere gratitude and thanks for your involvement and support in the recent "Fund Raising Activity for this Institution".

Both Fr Martin and I were amazed at the enthusiasm and generosity that was shown by the Maltese Community of South Australia, considering that it was relatively short notice.

The amount of over \$4,000 raised would not have been possible if it were not for people like you. I would like you to pass on this message to the leaders and all those who assisted in organizing this function.

MEMORIES OF THE FUND-RAISING FUNCTION – Sunday 29 September 2013 – LOCKLEYS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Father Gabriel Micallef with the committee of the Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group 29/09/2013



Mr John Mangion delivering a speech



Father Martin Micallef with a couple of young helpers and volunteers Mary Saliba and Jane Agius



Mr Tony Grima, Fr. and Fr. Gabriel



Part of the large crowd who attended the function

Why should I become an Australian citizen?



Australian citizenship is an important step in your migration story. Becoming an Australian citizen means that you are making an ongoing commitment to Australia and all that this country stands for. It is also the beginning of your formal membership of the Australian community. It is the step that will enable you to say 'I am Australian'. Australian citizenship is a privilege that offers enormous rewards. By becoming an Australian citizen, you are joining a unique national community. Our country has been built on the combined contributions of our Indigenous people and those who came later from all over the world. We celebrate this diversity and at the same time, strive for a unified and harmonious nation.

The strength of the Australian community means that we work together to solve problems and to make Australia the great country that it is. We have a stable system of government and Australians respect the authority and laws of the government. Our stability, our

culture and our laws have been shaped by our history. By joining the Australian community, you will inherit this history and you will be in a position to contribute to it.

Responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship

As a permanent resident of Australia, you have already enjoyed living in a free and democratic society. When you become an Australian citizen, you will have new responsibilities. You will also have a range of new benefits.

Responsibilities – what you will give Australia.

As an Australian citizen you must:

- obey the law
- defend Australia should the need arise
- serve on a jury if called to do so
- vote in federal and state or territory elections, and in a referendum

Privileges – what Australia will give you.

As an Australian citizen you have the right to:

- vote in federal and state or territory elections, and in a referendum
- apply for work in the Australian Public Service or in the Australian Defence Force
- seek election to parliament
- apply for an Australian passport and re-enter Australia freely
- receive help from an Australian official while overseas
- register children born overseas as Australian citizens by descent.



Dual citizenship

- It is possible to hold citizenship of two or more countries if the law of those countries allow. This is known as dual, or multiple, citizenship.
- People can become dual citizens automatically, or after being granted citizenship of another country.
- For example, an Australian citizen may automatically gain citizenship of another country through marriage, while a permanent resident of Australia may become a dual citizen by becoming an Australian citizen.
- Prior to 4 April 2002, Australian citizens

who became citizens of another country lost their Australian citizenship automatically.



Hon. George Vella MP **Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Palazzo Parisio, Merchants Street,
Valletta, VLT2000 MALTA
Tel: 22040000 / 21242191 / 21242853

Born on the 24th April 1942 at Zejtun, Malta.
Educated at De La Salle College.
Graduated in medicine from the University of Malta in 1964.
Medical Officer Malta Drydocks 1966-1973.
Demonstrator in Physiology and Biochemistry at the University of Malta 1966-1973.
Certificate in General Aviation Medicine (Farnborough UK 1977).
Aviation Medicine consultant with Air Malta and Department of Civil Aviation 1976-

1990.

Labour Member of Parliament 1978-1987, 1992-to-date.

Leader of Malta Delegation to the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe) 1978-1987.

Substitute Member of Parliament to Parliamentary Assembly (Council of Europe) 1982.

Permanent representative to the Council of Europe (Jan-May 1987).

Member of the Parliamentary Delegation for relations with the European Parliament in 1986.

Returned to Parliament in 1992 and elected Deputy Leader for Parliamentary Affairs and main spokesman of the Opposition on Foreign Affairs.

2nd Vice Chairman of the Malta-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee.

1996-1998 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Environment.

Co Chairman of 2nd. EuroMed Ministerial Conference (Malta 1997)

Substitute member at the Convention for Europe.

Observer Member of the European Parliament prior to accession

Member of the "EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly". and of the "Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean."

Party representative in the Presidency of the the Party of European Socialists.

Opposition Main Spokesperson on Foreign and EU Affairs.

Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign and European Affairs.

Married to Miriam nee Grima. Three children and seven grandchildren.

LETTER OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA **INC. TO MINISTER GEORGE VELLA**

Hon Dr George Vella
Minister of Foreign Affairs
MALTA

Dear Dr Vella,

Acquisition of Maltese Passports in Australia

At a recent Community Council Meeting it was resolved to write to you on behalf of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia, which in turn represents the majority of Maltese associations and societies in South Australia.

As you would be aware in order to obtain a Maltese passport it is necessary to supply a biometric fingerprint. In South Australia the Maltese community does not have access to the necessary equipment for such fingerprinting to occur. it is therefore necessary for Maltese living in South Australia to travel to either Victoria, New South Wales or Canberra to have their biometric fingerprint taken. This is a most inconvenient situation to any Maltese citizen and in particular to the elderly, infirm or sick. In addition the expense associated with such travel is considerable.

Whilst we understand it may not be viable for the fingerprinting equipment to be supplied to all states of Australia we do believe that a more efficient and effective system could be devised in order to assist those wishing to acquire a Maltese passport. The most simple solution would be for the Maltese government to come to an arrangement with the Australian Federal Government to make resources available to Maltese citizens through the Australian immigration Department or

some other relevant department within each State or Territory. Technology would then enable biometric material to be delivered to the Maltese government appointed agencies to be processed.

This matter has been the topic of discussion for quite some time within the Maltese Community Council. Delegates representing the various associations and societies have unanimously agreed that the situation regarding passports is not acceptable and seek your assistance and co-operation in resolving this issue at the very earliest opportunity.

We trust that you will give this matter your very serious consideration and alleviate the inconvenience and expense presently being experienced by Maltese citizens in South Australia.

We very much look forward to your response.

Attached to this correspondence are the signatures of officers of the various associations and societies in support of our plea for your help.

Yours faithfully,
CARMEN SPITERI
SECRETARY

Letter of the Premier of South Australia to the Prime Minister of Malta
Hon Jay Weatherill MP

The Honourable Dr Joseph Muscat MP
Prime Minister of Malta
Office of the Prime Minister
Auberge de Castille
Valletta VLT 2000
MALTA

Dear Prime Minister

I write regarding the Maltese biometric passport, and some challenges in applying for the passport, that have been raised by the Maltese community living in South Australia.

I understand that the biometric passport system was introduced in Malta in 2008 and uses advanced technology involving facial imagery, signature and fingerprint biometrics being held within a chip embedded in the passport. This is an investment in national security and streamlined travel, which is to be commended.

Within Australia, the technology to collect the requisite information for a Maltese biometric passport is available in the nation's capital, Canberra, and in Australia's largest cities; Sydney and Melbourne. Unfortunately, it is not currently available in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia. This means that Maltese South Australians must travel a minimum of 700km to Melbourne and up to 1,400km to Sydney, to apply for a Maltese passport.

Having visited Australia yourself, you will appreciate this arrangement is both difficult and costly for Maltese South Australians. It poses particular challenges for elderly people, people living with a disability, and people on low incomes. Compared to the wider South Australian population, the Maltese South Australian community has a larger proportion of elderly people, a far greater proportion of people requiring assistance with daily activities, and a greater number of people living on a limited income. I am concerned that the current Maltese passport application process further disadvantages these people, and jeopardises their opportunity to visit family in Malta.

Mr Frank Scicluna, Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia, has provided me with examples of the experiences of three members of the South Australian Maltese community when applying for Maltese passports. The least inconvenienced of these travelled 700km from Adelaide to Melbourne. He was able to stay with family in Melbourne to reduce travel costs, but nevertheless was required to pay \$AUD230 for flights, on top of costs associated with the passport application. The most inconvenienced was an elderly gentleman with reduced mobility who travelled from Adelaide to Canberra (1,160km) with his wife who is his carer. In addition to costs for the passport and a citizenship certificate, he was required to pay \$AUD1,150 for airfares and disability taxis for their day trip.

As you may be aware, Mr Frank Scicluna is a member of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. In October this year, he will travel to Malta to attend the conference of this Council. He will raise concerns about the difficulties involved in applying for Maltese passports, as experienced by Maltese South Australians. Mr Scicluna has informed me of recent media articles that indicate that portable biometric scanning systems may be made available to Maltese embassies and consulates. I

understand that Mr Scicluna intends to meet with the Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable George Vella, to discuss the possibility of the Maltese Government ensuring that such technology be made available in South Australia.

The South Australian Government supports the concerns of the South AustralianMaltese community, and requests that the Maltese Government gives dueconsideration to reducing the barriers to applying for a Maltese passport currently affecting Maltese South Australians. The availability of a portable biometricscanning system in South Australia would be a very positive outcome and I hopeyou are able to consider it.

I look forward to hearing from you about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jay Weatherill MP
PREMIER
09 /09/ 2013

Jennifer Rankine
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Premier
State Administration Centre 200 Victoria Square Adelaide South Australia 5000 GPO Box 2343 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone +61 8 8463 3166 Facsimile +61 8 8463 3168 www.premier.sa.gov.au





CHAPLAIN FOR THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - FR. GABRIEL S. MICALLEF OFM

Father Gabriel Micallef was born at the village of St. Lawrence in Gozo, Malta on the 24 March 1944. His parents were Giuseppi and Marija nee Apap and was named Stephen. He joined the Franciscan Order on 30 September 1960 and ordained priest on 22 March 1969

Served in Gozo during 1969 — 1974. Fr. Micallef served also in Libya as Maltese and English Chaplain and Parish Priest for the American Com. from 1974-1979. He was Father Guardian at

the Gozo Novitiate House between 1979-1985

During his time he built a Youth Centre and a feast and decorations storage. Between 1985-87 he served again, on and of, in Libya. Father Micallef was appointed superior at the Retreat House Bahar-ic-Caghaq, Malta 1987-96. He renovated the Retreat House, erected the Stations of the Cross around the complex and built the new Church and Friary at Palm Beach, Malta.

In the photo on the left – Father Giles Ferriggi together with Father Gabriel Micallef.



He arrived in Adelaide on 26 July 1996 and was appointed Chaplain to the Maltese Community in South Australia. He is also on loan to the Archdiocese of Adelaide since 1997. Father served also as Parish Administrator of Christ the King Church. He is also the Spiritual Director of the Maltese Community Council and several Maltese associations in South Australia. He looks after the spiritual needs of the members of the Maltese community in this State. Fr. Gabriel celebrates Holy Mass in Maltese at the parish church of Christ the King, Lockleys every second Sunday of each month at 3.00 pm. He also conducts baptisms, weddings, anointing of the sick and funerals for the community members as well as

social work and confessions. He enjoys the respect of all who know him especially the Maltese in Adelaide.

Here is the list of Franciscan priests who served at the Christ the King Parish, Lockleys South Australia

Fr. Giles Ferriggi 1948 – 2000, Fr. Sebastian Camilleri 1949-53 and 1992-2003, Fr. PeterPaul Meilaq 1950-60 and 1976-1078, Fr. Vittorin Alessandro 1952-54, Fr. Benedict Ellul Mercer 1957-1958, Fr. Leopold Farrugia 1962-75, Fr. Philip Briffa 1962-68, Fr. Marcellinus Mejlac 1967-75, Fr. Edward Zammit 1972-75, 1978-83 and 1994-2003, Fr. Emidius Cremona 1977-78, Fr. Felix Mansueto 1979-1991, Fr. Richard Grech 1983-84, Fr. Godfrey Micallef 1987-93, Fr. Anthony Vella 1992-95 and Fr. Gabriel Micallef 1996 -

Catholic Parish Church of Christ the King - Lockleys SA



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

It all started in the immediate years after World War 2 when the Maltese started emigrating to the four corners of the globe, looking for a more promising future, since back home jobs were becoming hard to acquire. Fr. Giles together with other Maltese Franciscans offered their services abroad with the emigrants and he arrived in Adelaide in 1948. The then Archbishop of Adelaide, His Grace Matthew Beovich offered him residence at Archbishop's House in the city and appointed him as Chaplain to the Maltese Community.



A year later he was joined by Fr Sebastian Camilleri and both were offered a plot of land with a big house at Lockleys. The Chapel in this Franciscan House served as a place of worship for the neighbourhood.

It became the church for locals and many Maltese migrants. The dream and vision of the first Franciscans started becoming a reality. Their pastoral work increased,

so much so, that in November 1950 another priest from Malta, in the person of Fr. Peter Paul Mejlaq, joined them.

A Nissen Hut to serve as a Church was built next to the house and was blessed by Archbishop Matthew Beovich on August 3, 1952 thus giving birth to the New Parish. Malta kept sending Friars to help in the running of the Parish to date, fifteen in all. In 1960 a bigger Church dedicated to Christ the King started to be built and was officially

blessed on September 3, 1961 while the Nissen Hut now was to serve as a Parish Community Hall. To have it all complete St. Francis Primary School was built and was officially opened in 1966 and a new Hall replacing the Nissen Hut was built in 1980.

To add flavour to it, on the same grounds adjoining the Friary, the Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1987 started running their St. Raphael's Home for the Aged and in 1990 were housed at the old Friary House and made it their Regional House, where the Friars moved to a newly bought adjoining residence.



Filipinos raise funds for typhoon victims

Filipinos who live and work in Malta held a fund-raising walk this morning to help family and friends whose life has been devastated by the typhoon in the Philippines.

The walk started in St Julian's and continued to Swatar.

It was organised by the Philippine Overseas Contract Workers' Association. A number of Maltese also took part.

Emirates 'Cabin Crew Recruitment Open Day' taking place in December



Emirates Airline, is holding its fourth Cabin Crew Open Day in Malta this year. This will take place on Saturday, the 7th of December at the Corinthia Hotel, St George's Bay, St Julians.

The airline said that the Cabin Crew Recruitment Open Day offers interested applicants the opportunity to explore their dream job and learn about living in cosmopolitan Dubai. A thriving metropolis, Dubai offers an exceptional lifestyle and a vast range of leisure and cultural attractions, in addition to the sunny weather all year long.

At the Open Day, interested men and women will be able to speak to the Emirates recruitment team and to get insight into the company and working onboard.

"Emirates currently serves 137 cities in 77 countries around the globe with a young, technologically-advanced fleet of 208 wide-bodied aircraft that are equipped with industry-leading comforts. Additionally, Emirates has 185 wide-bodied aircraft on order, worth more than US\$71 billion, and is the leading customer of the Airbus A380 with 39 in its fleet and 51 on order. It is due to its rapid, dynamic expansion that Emirates is seeking 4,000 new cabin crew this year. Emirates offers diversified job activity onboard with a truly international team: over 17,000 flight attendants, from more than 130 countries, speaking over 50 languages," the airline said.

The airline added that "in Malta, Emirates Airline has successfully developed a niche for anyone travelling to the East and to Australasia. The airline started its first operation from Dubai to Malta in 1998. Emirates operates four scheduled flights weekly from Malta to Dubai via Larnaka, Cyprus, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. While on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, Emirates operates direct flights from Dubai to Malta and return flights fly via Tripoli."

Pink star diamond smashes world record price



The beauty of the "Pink Star" is without doubt, as is its size. Most pink diamonds are less than five carats. The "Pink Star" is nearly 60.

One of the world's rarest diamonds has fetched a record price at auction. The "Pink Star" diamond was sold for 68 million Swiss francs in Geneva, equivalent to 60 million euros.

The previous record for a diamond sold at action was 34 million euros. The flawless "Pink Star" was purchased by an anonymous buyer. David Bennett of Sotheby's was the man who conducted the sale. "Of all the gemstones known, coloured – the rare pinks and blues and greens and so forth – are amongst the rarest of all stones and they are finally, I think, reaching the level as it were where the price is matching the rarity," he said.

MALTESE NATIONAL COSTUME



Malta's national costume, which is what the island's country folk wore in years gone by, is only seen today on some special occasion such as at Buskett on Mnarja Night, or the dancing of the "Maltija" national dance at Carnival, or again at Luqa International Airport or Customs House when a welcoming party organised by the Government Tourist Board strum their guitars in welcome or pin posies to the lapels of visitors. One can leave the description of it to George Percy Badger, soldier and clergyman, who spent many years in Malta towards the middle of the last century and wrote his "Description of Malta and Gozo" which went into many editions. " ...the(men's) native dress is ...very peculiar. The cap resembles a long bag made of wool, hanging down behind and dyed with various colours. This article sometimes serves ill the purposes of a purse. The girdle

round the loins is still in use among the Maltese of the lower order; that made of cotton is called "Terha", that of silk a bushakka.

With this the pantaloons are confined round the waist, and are generally three or four yards in length. It is not common to see any in this dress with a jacket, its place being supplied by a sedria which, in many cases is ornamented down the front with several rows of round silver buttons. "The material of the dress of the country woman is generally striped or barred native cotton, of a very substantial quality. The doublet (skirt) is in shape the same with the half ghonnella (head gear).

Features ► **Victory Kitchens**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Tourist arrivals to exceed 1.5m this year (2013)



Tourist arrivals this year will surpass the 1.5 million mark, an increase of nearly 9 per cent over last year, Tourism Minister Karmenu Vella said this morning.

Addressing a press conference on the Budget 2014, Mr Vella said the tourism sector was seeing an increase in its budget for next year with the aim of achieving even better results. He said he was particularly pleased that budgets had increased without resorting to austerity measures or tax increases for the industry.

While noting that the cruise liner industry had witnessed a decrease down to 480,000 from the 600,000 last year, the results of discussions with the industry recovered some of the losses. Arrivals are estimated to increase to 520,000 next year.

The minister said efforts were under way to improve tourism performance in the shoulder months, and expressed satisfaction that numbers for October had surpassed the results for August last year.

He said seat capacity for this winter had increased by nearly nine per cent over that of last winter.

Asked whether the citizenship sale scheme would impinge on

Malta's reputation as a tourist destination, Mr Vella said he believed this would not happen.

Replying to a question on Air Malta, Mr Vella said the government was not interfering with decisions being taken by the management team, although he said he was disappointed that the management team had only been given a three year term to carry out a five year plan.

Local History – IT-TERRAMAXKA – THE STREET ORGAN



The word *terramaxka* comes from the Maltese words *kitarra magica*, which means, magical guitar. In English, this instrument, is given a variety of names including, street organ, crank organ, barrel organ, fair organ and so forth. Street organs were imported in Malta from European countries such as France and Switzerland during the late nineteenth century.

A huge diversity of these organs could be found in Malta. The most common terramaxka was a very light weight organ usually hung round the neck of the busker, and rested on a small pole. These were operated using punched cards. All genres of music were played including the tango, operas, polka and waltzes. Some organs were operated by a crank turned by hand. Others were larger, usually decorated with flags and small wooden statues, these were driven by a donkey or the owner

himself and attracted many young children. Similar to nowadays jukeboxes, were the coin-operated organs, called *café organs*, which were more commonly found in *café*s and pubs popular to sailors. Finally, there were also terramaxkas found in homes of wealthy people. These organs used to be richly ornamented with gold and precious stones.

The terramaxkas were very common in the Maltese islands and were frequently exhibited to the public in local festas where the noisy bands were out of the way. Unfortunately, these marvelous instruments have long been gone, some sold to Americans and others were broken. Luckily, we have the only terramaxka left on the Maltese Islands to bring back the memories of our ancestors.

City of Hahndorf –SOUTH AUSTRALIA

One of the Adelaide Hills' most famous towns, Hahndorf is Australia's oldest surviving German settlement. Old and new combine to present you a brilliant blend of activities.



There is still a strong German flavour in Hahndorf, most evident in the smallgoods outlets and German bakeries that line the bustling main street. Several boutique cellar doors have recently opened in the main street, and trendy eateries serve the freshest and best local produce.

Visit the former home and studio of artist Sir Hans Heysen - The Cedars. Take a guided tour of this gracious old home, still owned by the Heysen family. It houses a fine collection of paintings and drawings displaying Heysen's remarkable versatility in subject and medium. Also on the grounds, see Heysen's working studio, his painting materials and tools, sketches, notes and more.

Hahndorf has plenty of souvenir shops, craft outlets and galleries, including the Hahndorf Academy - a regional centre for the arts and heritage based in a charming 150-year-old building. Walk through its four galleries, migration museum, artist's studios, art classes and retail gallery. Near Hahndorf, you can pick your own strawberries (in season) at Beerenberg and take the children to the Hahndorf Farm Barn, a

combination of a children's farmyard and a nature wildlife park. You can interact with a wide variety of tame and friendly animals.

Just out of town you will also find several wineries producing magnificent examples of the cool climate wines the Adelaide Hills is famous for. No matter what you are after Hahndorf has it all.

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL 2013 SOUTH AUSTRALIA



I am writing to thank you for helping to make the inaugural Multicultural Festival such a terrific success.

To have thousands of people gather in Rundle Mall to celebrate the wonderful diversity of our community, and enjoy the fantastic range of dance, music, food, art and craft on offer was the most visible example of this success.

But the impact and the success of the Festival runs much deeper than crowd numbers alone.

The tremendous energy, pride and joy that each of the performers and stallholders brought to the day was reflected far and wide in the happiness and the smiles of everyone who was there.

Furthermore, through your contributions you have helped to showcase the extraordinary richness of cultures that continue to flourish right across our great State, delivering a powerful message of harmony and inclusiveness.

In short, whether you were a performer, stall holder, volunteer or spectator, the success of the Festival was a direct result of your support and participation. We're keen to hear your feedback on what was done well, and what could be improved for the future.

Again, thank you for all your hard work on this fantastic Festival. Together, we have brought a spectacular new celebration of multiculturalism to the heart of Adelaide. Finally, Festival photos are now available on the Multicultural SA [Flickr](#) page. Relive your favourite moments, and share them with your family and friends!

Sue Wallace

Executive Director Multicultural SA

Department for Communities and Social Inclusion

YOUR COMMENTS

- ❖ Ghaziz Frank, grazzi hafna....din I-Newsletter hija verament interessanti....inselli ghalik hafna....

Carmen Galea – Canada

- ❖ Thanks for your NEWSLETTER. I would like to read it carefully and I will forward it to my daughter.

Yaozhong Gu – Australia

- ❖ Dear Frank, You don't have to tell us that is beautiful. Its really most interesting for us Maltese not only here in Australia, but even overseas. Keep up the good work. I know it entails much of searching and much of your time.

Congratulations. Father Gabriel Micallef – South Australia

Thanks Frank

- ❖ I enjoyed reading the newsletter and have passed it on to my Dad in Scotland.

God Bless Aileen



THE DIDGERIDOO AND ABORIGINAL CULTURE

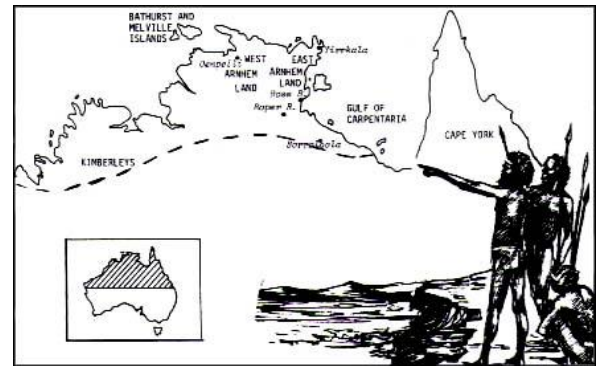
WHAT IS A DIDGERIDOO? "As with imagemaking, Aboriginal music also unites consciousness with the invisible laws and energy patterns of nature. Aboriginal art is perhaps most accurately described as a method for gaining knowledge of nature and its invisible Dreaming. An example is the playing of the

didgeridoo, a long wooden flute, perhaps the oldest musical instrument on earth.

Traditionally, an Aborigine would go into nature and listen intensely to animal sounds, not just voices but also the flapping of wings or the thump of feet on the ground. The Aborigine would also listen to the sounds of wind, thunder, trees creaking, and water running. The essences of all these sounds were played with as much accuracy as possible within the droning sound of the didgeridoo. For the Aborigine, the observation of nature immediately requires a state of empathy, which leads to an imitative expression."

10 DIDGERIDOO FACTS

1. Possibly the world's oldest musical instrument
2. A wind instrument originally found in Arnhem Land, Northern Australia.
3. Is made from limbs and tree trunks hollowed out by termites (insects).
4. Is cut to an average length of 1.3 metres and cleaned out with a stick. or hot coals.
5. Was used as an accompaniment to chants and songs.
6. Produces a low-pitch, resonant sound with complex rhythmic patterns.
7. In some tribal groups only played by men but in most groups by men, women and children.
8. Traditional various forms of the didgeridoo were found in Central Australia around Alice Springs.
9. The Didgeridoo is the sound of Australia.
10. If the earth had a voice it would be the sound of the Didgeridoo.



NEW ZEALAND: Wellington's Maltese community



<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/894/presenting-maltese-ribbons> Between 1950 and 1975 the number of Maltese people in New Zealand had increased fourfold, from fewer than 100 to more than 400. Though the community was small, it had enough members to support a Maltese Association, which soon became an important focus for social activities. These two young girls, dressed for their first communion with other children of the Wellington Maltese community, were photographed in the early 2000s. Private collection, Anthony Micallef . The Maltese community within New Zealand is comparatively very small and widespread, compared to countries like Australia, United States and United Kingdom. The number of Maltese families across the length and breadth of the country were possible unaware of each other. This did not prevent the determination of two young ladies. Cettina Borg, who was born in Malta and brought up in Australia and Margaret Ghio, youngest daughter from a family of eight children - Margaret was the only child of this family to have been born in New Zealand. Cettina and Margaret were very interested in their Maltese origin and heritage. In 1981 they wrote an article for "The New Zealand Herald".

The subject matter was a call for any Maltese people or people with Maltese connections who were interested in meeting other Maltese families to contact either of them. The response was swift and most surprising. They received calls from all over the country, even from persons who served in Malta with Allied Forces. One of the replies was from a Maltese restaurant owner, Mr. Ron Brown - Rigg, who offered his premises and services for a function. The first meeting was held on the 4th October 1981 at the "New Trovador Restaurant" Mt Albert, Auckland. The first President of the Malta Society of New Zealand was Mr. Alex Abela. The Society became incorporated in June 1982.

The Society is a non profit organisation. The object and aim of the Society is to hold social functions for members and families. The Society holds about six events a year.

PICNIC - normally held during February, B.B.Q., DINNER - mid year., AFTERNOON GET - TOGETHER.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - September/ October and CHRISTMAS LUNCH OR DINNER

The association has no club rooms, therefore when they have a social function we hire a hall and in recent years they



have been going to a restaurant. There is available to members a comprehensive library with books, publications and video's of Maltese culture and history. Obtainable from the Society's office at Unit 7. 9-11 Rothwell Avenue, Albany. The annual subscription fee is NZ\$20.00 per household, with special rates for senior citizens. Fees are due at the Annual General Meeting or with the first newsletter. New members are welcome to join at any time. Subs are to cover postage, stationery and hire of halls and picnic sites. Newsletters are sent to financial members only.

In recent times with the advent of the new technology of the Internet we have helped with information about New Zealand to Maltese people intending to come to this part of the world for a holiday.

It is believed that the first Maltese to arrive was a boatman, Angelo Parigi, around 1848. A later arrival, Charles Mallia, founded an institute for seamen in Wellington, and was made an MBE in 1953. Fewer than 100 Maltese people were living in New Zealand in any one year until the 1950s. By 1975 there were

more than 400; in 2006 the number had fallen to 390, but enough Maltese settled in Wellington to sustain a Maltese Association.

Qagħaq tal-Gunġlien (Maltese Biscuit Rings with Sesame Seeds)



Served with a sweet cup of tea creamed with evaporated milk, these Maltese biscuits have been very famous amongst the Maltese people. They can be found in any bakery and supermarket all over the island. So, I felt like a nice cup of tea but had no biscuits and considering today was quite cooler than usual, I decided to make these delicious beauties. Once you get the preparation done, they only take minutes to prepare and bake, but unfortunately seconds to devour! Give them a go and share them with your friends (or not). Oh well, give them our recipe at least. For 8 large rings (you can always make more by making them smaller) you will need...

- 250g plain flour
- 100g sugar
- 7g baking powder
- 1 egg
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch ground aniseed
- Pinch ground cloves

- 85g butter, at room temperature, cut into cubes
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons water
- Grated lemon rind
- Grated orange rind
- Sesame seeds

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. In a mixing bowl mix flour, salt, sugar, baking powder and spices, add the butter and rub into the mixture until it resembles breadcrumbs.
3. In a separate bowl crack the egg, add the oil, water and lemon and orange rinds and mix them well.
4. Add to the flour/butter mixture and mix by hand until you get a soft dough. Shape into a ball.
5. Put the sesame seeds in a plate.
6. Dust your hands with flour and get some dough (about the size of a golf ball) and roll into a long fingerlike shape, carefully place the dough into the sesame seeds and turn slowly to coat. Shape into a ring and transfer to a buttered and floured baking tray.
7. Bake for about 20 minutes. Let cool down and serve.

Malta to host CHOGM 2015

Unanimous agreement for Malta to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2015.



Prime Minister Joseph Muscat with Prince Charles.

The Commonwealth heads of government have unanimously agreed for Malta to host the 2015 meeting.

This will be the second time in 10 years Malta will be hosting the CHOGM.

The last meeting on the island was held in 2005.

"This is another important for Malta that consolidates the respect which Malta enjoys among the Commonwealth members," Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said.

'Non Gode L'Immunita Ecclesiastica'



Wayside chapels have been a feature of the Maltese landscape for at least 500 years. Their origin dates back to the times when the Maltese Islands were much more sparsely populated, and the many small isolated farming communities found it necessary to erect their own places of worship. One of the characteristics of these chapels is the marble plaque near their entrance: NON GODE L'IMMUNITÀ ECCLESIASTICA. It was a warning to malefactors. This means that the chapel did not have the privilege of giving protection to those who had committed a crime. In the past many churches had this privilege of protecting criminals from the civil authorities. Those that did not have this privilege fixed this plaque to their facades.

In the past the church in Malta was immune from civil law jurisdiction, and this permitted malefactors to escape justice by taking refuge in a church or chapel. This meant that anybody breaking the law had the chance to flee for sanctuary into any church and hence could not be arrested by the authorities as long as one stayed inside. The crime

rate in the mid-eighteenth century was quite high. Burglary, theft, deception, defrauding, brawling and fighting were the order of the day. It was not only ordinary lower class men who came into conflict with the law by stealing cattle or by committing any other crime. In those days, even the Hospitaller Knights broke the law by brawling and fighting duels, although they were prohibited to engage in such activities. Even a respected priest, once, stole plenty of silver plates from the French Auberge!!!

Fugitives hiding for sanctuary in churches often were supplied with all necessities, such as foodstuff and clothing, by friends and relatives. Some of them were able to hide out for 30 to 40 years or even until they died!! Unbelievable!! These people must have had a strong resilience. Although the British government abolished this immunity permanently in 1828, many existing chapels did not remove the small plaque on their facades.

Glassware in Malta



It is a relatively new craft, although the industry was present on the islands in Phoenician times. Entirely mouth blown and handmade, much of the glassware today is a type of original Maltese glass in strong Mediterranean colours

The complicated process begins with multicoloured beads, which are blown into a shape. Clear glass is then placed around the coloured glass and a shape is designed. This technique produces objects of art with an interesting interplay of colours.

The complicated process begins with multicoloured beads, which are blown into a shape. Clear glass is then placed around the coloured glass and a shape is designed. This technique produces objects of art with an interesting interplay of colours.

Maltese glass production really began in 1968, When Michael Harris from the UK moved here to set up Mdina Glass, which began producing freeformed organic glassware, often in colours inspired from the sea, sand, earth and sky. Mdina glass was an instant

success, partly due to the strong tourist industry of Malta, and prompted several other Maltese glass companies to form, such as Mtarfa, Gozo, and Phoenician glass.

Significant changes in glassmaking techniques, production processes and product range mark the 1990s. Basic raw materials were changed for those of a much higher quality. In 1990, Mdina Glass introduced lampworking techniques to Malta, and by 1995 its artisans were also honing their skills in applying the newly introduced fusion techniques to a whole new range of products. New Italian glassmaking techniques, such as incalmo, filigrana and murrine were introduced for the first time in Malta.

The art of glass making.

The main ingredient for making glass is silica sand, which can be found in many places around the world including Belgium and Italy but not in Malta. Lead content makes for softer glass, while the addition of certain chemicals gives a different colour. For example, selenium and metal give a greenish colour while real gold-leaf and silver is sometimes sandwiched in the glass while it is hot.

By the 15th Century approximately 14,000 people were involved in making glass in Morano, Venice – some prepared the composition, others built the furnaces, others made ceramic pots... they worked the glass on round-shaped furnaces with several pots of different coloured glass, using coal and wood as fuel, and many people died from tuberculosis as a result. Eventually the traditional round furnace was substituted for a continuous furnace and a tank furnace, which utilised gas oil and gas although nowadays most use light oil.

Minister on European Week for Waste Reduction



At the start of European Week for Waste Reduction Minister for Sustainable Development , Environment and Climate Change Leo Brincat said this week of activities across Europe helped to raise awareness among all citizens to reduce waste as much as possible .

This more so today as waste was a resource that needed to be used in the most efficient manner.

The Minister Brincat said that instead of expanding the waste we should use any means to reduce it further through thought, wisdom and diligence .

While commending the intensive campaign to raise awareness all year on various levels: among local councils ,among communities and voluntary

organizations, business sector within educational institutions such as schools,colleges and university as well as other places such as hospitals, nursing homes, centers and other places that generate the waste

The Minister said that the Maltese Government is giving much importance to reducing waste in the newly prepared consultation draft plan for waste management.

Few migrants get Maltese citizenship by naturalisation

Since 2004, only 339 migrants with residence and work permits in Malta were naturalised as citizens

Miriam Dalli

A total of 6,805 people acquired Maltese citizenship through registration or naturalisation between 2004 and 2012, according to Home Affairs Minister Manuel Mallia.

But the bulk of new citizens were either married to Maltese spouses or could trace descent to Maltese parentage. In fact, only 339 migrants were naturalised as citizens due to their duration of residence in Malta in the last eight years.

Figures tabled in parliament shows that the total number of new Maltese citizens by both registration and naturalisation increased from 584 in 2004 to 1,142 in 2012.

In reply to a question raised by backbencher Etienne Grech, Mallia explained that amendments to the Maltese Citizenship Act in 2000 made it possible for individuals to retain their original citizenship while acquiring their Maltese one.

The highest number of citizenships was awarded in 2012, while the 'lowest' numbers of citizenships were awarded in 2006, totalling 474.

But further information requested by MaltaToday revealed that the bulk of acceded requests for Maltese citizenship by registration was on the basis of descent from Maltese nationals.

Between 2004 and 2012, 3,988 individuals acquired Maltese citizenship by this type of registration.

A breakdown of figures provided by the Ministry for Home Affairs confirmed that between 2004 and 2012, there were 2,359 individuals who acquired Maltese citizenship on the basis of marriage (registration).

However, only 339 obtained citizenship by naturalisation, which is not obtained through marriage or descent.

Malta to ID Buyers of Its Citizenship After Outcry

Malta's government has rolled back one element of its controversial law to sell its citizenship for 650,000 euros (\$865,000), saying it will publish the names of people buying their way into European Union passports.

The government had argued that keeping the names secret would have brought in more money — the key goal of the initiative. But the government withdrew the secrecy clause "after listening to the people," according to a statement late Sunday.

Opposition lawmakers and ordinary Maltese had argued that keeping the names secret could have exposed Malta to ill-intentioned citizenship-seekers, including possible terrorists.

The opposition Nationalist Party, which has vowed to repeal the law and revoke all the citizenships sold if the party returns to power, said the government only backtracked after "negative" international media reports about the law. Nationalist lawmakers are also considering a petition drive to force a referendum to repeal the law.

Citizens of EU-member Malta can freely enter and reside in any of the other 27 EU member states.

The citizenship legislation, which enables foreigners to buy a Maltese passport without any residency or investment requirements, was signed into law on Friday by President George Abela. It goes into effect when published as a legal notice.



