



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Our obsession with Vegemite



Fairy bread with hundreds and thousands



They also taste as cute as they look!



Our love for the delicious meat pies.



Traditional Australian dessert - Pavlova



Australian lamington cakes.

Weird food Aussies eat that leave the rest of the world dumbfounded

Village biscuits – Biskuttini tar-rahall

Ooh, every time I hear the words biskuttini tar-rahall, I get excited. My childhood is brought back to life with these biscuits. One of my favourites! These biscuits known to us as village biscuits or also Christening biscuits are a wonderful little treat. These Maltese biscuits “Biskuttini tar-Raħal” which means Village Biscuits are also known as Christening Biscuits. In bygone days these were served during parties on very special occasions such as the Christening of a baby. Traditionally they would decorate these biscuits with swirls or lines of coloured icing on top if they are celebrating the christening of a baby. This old recipe is very easy to make and the biscuits are very light. It takes less than an hour to make. The aniseed, cloves and caraway seeds together with the orange blossom water give the biscuits a unique tang.

I love having these biskuttini tar-rahall with a delicious cup of tea especially when I dip my biscuit in the tea. These are very tempting, as one biscuit leads you to another which you cannot resist! I hope you will find this recipe interesting to make. These are an ideal gift to take to your friends when invited for tea.

Author: amaltesemouthful (Marlene Zammit) Cuisine: Maltese Serves: 30

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggs separated
- 400 grams light brown sugar
- 550 grams flour
- Zest of 1 lemon and 1 orange
- 3 tablespoons lightly crushed aniseeds
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1 large teaspoon baking powder
- Extra flour when rolling
- For the royal icing:
 - 300 grams sifted icing sugar
 - ½ lemon juiced
 - 1 egg white
 - food colouring



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 230oC
2. Beat the egg whites with an electric mixer until stiff.
3. Slowly add in the sugar and continue to beat.
4. Mix in the egg yolks
5. Beat everything else with the mixer except for the flour.
6. Using a baking spoon add in the flour and mix well.
7. On a baking tray lined with baking paper, place balls of the mixture. You may need to use a little flour on your hands when forming the balls as the dough is quite soft. Make sure to leave a little room next to each biscuit too as they do rise and spread.
8. Cook for about 15 minutes or until golden brown.
9. Allow to cool and then make the royal icing by mixing the royal icing ingredients and some food colouring.
10. Using a piping bag make swirls of icing on top of the biscuits.
11. Allow the icing to set and then serve!



THE HAMLET OF BIDNIJA

Bidnija is a rural hamlet between Mosta, St. Paul's Bay and Mġarr. It is located in the northern region of Malta and is home to roughly 400 inhabitants, the second least populated habitable zone on the Maltese islands after Mdina (306 people). It is located between two main valleys; Qannotta Valley and Pwales Valley, extending into other small valleys surrounding the area. It is largely a rural village surrounded by fields mainly belong to the inhabitants, although over the

years other Maltese and foreigners have settled in the area generally for its countryside views.

At present, Bidnija is administered by the local councils of Mosta and St. Paul's Bay. It is home to some horse riding facilities, a clay pigeon shooting club and a Maltese cuisine restaurant specialising in traditional rabbit stew. Bidnija's small church is dedicated to the Holy Family and its feast day is celebrated in July.

History of Bidnija - Bidnija is situated in the northern central part of Malta which through the ages was a very good position and an active part in Malta.

Bidnija took its name from the 'Bidni olive trees' grove that is found in this village and can date back to 5,000 years. The Antique Olive Grove at Bidnija enjoys Protected area status. These olives are of importance to olive-oil's productivity. Archaeologists and Researchers also believe some Roman remains (e.g. Roman villas; tombs) can be found nearby, as Bidnija makes part of the rural surroundings of Rabat (Mdina), which served as a City in those ages, and also is not far from Salina coast which was a Roman harbour in the past.

Apart from this, one can notice the cart ruts that are found in the surroundings of Bidnija. This proves that Bidnija was already active from thousands of years ago.

Along the years, the farmers of the locality built their own farmhouses in Bidnija which nowadays are owned through inheritance by their descendants who still live in the village. It was during this period that the inhabitants which in population were about 25 families, showed their wish to build a church to serve for their spiritual needs. The works on the church's building started in 1920.

In the early 1900s, a number of small rooms were built all around the hill's edges. These served for the British soldiers to stay in watching the Maltese island during the World War II when Malta was a British colony. A number of war shelters are also spread all around Bidnija. These shelters served as a shelter to the farmers and the inhabitants of the village during the war.

Bidnija Church - In the 1920s a church designed by mason Salvu Zahra, was built in the area by the inhabitants themselves to serve for their spiritual needs. The church was built in just two years and each family in Bidnija decided to donate something to furnish the church. This church is dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth. A titular painting, together with two other works in this church were painted by Ganni Vella.

The titular statue of the Holy Family was made by Wistin Camilleri and blessed in July 1977 by the Archpriest of Mosta of those years Mons. Bartolomeo Bezzina and a procession was held for the first time. The statue was commissioned and paid for by Angelo Galea (tat-Tork) as an ex-voto. The Feast with the procession in the streets of Bidnija is celebrated by the people of this village on the 3rd Sunday of July. The first feast was celebrated in 1977



TWENTY FIVE ATHLETES TO REPRESENT MALTA AT THE 2018 G.C. COMMONWEALTH GAMES



edition of the Commonwealth Paul Sultana announced that Team athletes, which meets the quota Commonwealth Games Federation. sporting disciplines present at the will be competing in eight, namely Gymnastics, Lawn Bowls, Squash, Shooting, Wrestling and Weightlifting. Sultana went on to explain that following an onsite visit, he can attest to the high level of preparation that went into the venues and the athletes village which augur well for a spectacular Games.

Director of Sport Ivan Balzan described the selection process which was carried out by means of Minimum Qualifying Standards that each Federation was expected to meet in order to be considered for Games qualification. Balzan explained that he was pleased with the level of close cooperation between the MOC and Federations involved. He went on to explain that regular communication was undertaken to ensure that all parties were fully informed of the progress registered.

MOC President Julian Pace Bonello concluded the press conference by expressing his gratitude towards athletes and Federations who have shown their commitment towards these Games. The MOC is confident that the preparation put in by Maltese athletes will produce some positive results for Malta. Pace Bonello went on to encourage the general public to follow and support Team Malta through the various social media channels of the Maltese Olympic Committee.

Pace Bonello went on to announce Team Malta's Flagbearer for the Opening Ceremony. Young wrestler Gary Giordimaina was chosen for this coveted honour, following the consistent performance given and results achieved in recent international competitions.

Head of Delegation will be Mr. Julian Pace Bonello, President of the Maltese Olympic Committee who will be accompanied by Secretary General Mr. Joseph Cassar. Chef de Mission duties will be undertaken by Mr. Paul Sultana. Other officials present to assist the contingent will be Mr. Ivan Balzan, Director of Sport, Ms. Charlene Attard, Mr. Mario Micallef and Ms. Maria Vella-Galea. Dr. Kirill Micallef Stafrace, head of the Medical Team.

The Maltese delegation will leave Malta for Australia on the 29th March and first commitments will be taken up by Gymnastics, Lawn Bowls, Squash and Weightlifting on the 5th of April.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Team Malta

Athletics: Andrew Cassar Torregiani, Ian Paul Grech, Charlotte Wingfield. *Official:* James Hillier

Cycling : David Treacy, Alexander Smyth. *Official:* Etienne Bonello

Gymnastics: Sana Grillo. *Official:* Antonina Uzinova

Lawn Bowls: Brendan Aquilina, Sharon Callus, Shaun Parnis, Connie-Leigh Rixon, Rebecca Rixon, Rosemary Rixon. *Officials:* Rex Johnston, Joe Saragozza

Shooting: Marlon Attard, Eleonor Bezzina, William Chetcuti, Brian Galea, Nathan Lee Xuereb. *Officials:* Francis Bugeja, John Mary Bugeja

Squash: Bradley Hindle, Dianne Kellas, Colette Sultana, Daniel Zammit Lewis. *Official:* Joe Zammit Lewis

Weightlifting: Yazmin Zammit Stevens. *Official:* Jesmond Caruana

Wrestling: David Galea, Gary Giordimaina, Adam Vella. *Official:* Jesmond Giordimaina

The Maltese Olympic Committee thanks its Official Sponsor – Emirates and Official Partners – Full Marks Sporting, Joma, Planet Physio, Saint James Hospital and Kinetika for their ongoing support.

Photo Credit: Matthew Mirabelli/Times of Malta

About the Commonwealth Games - The Commonwealth Games have been conducted by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) every four years (except for 1942 and 1946 due to World War II) since the first British Empire Games were held in Hamilton, Canada in 1930. This will be the fifth time Australia has staged the Commonwealth Games following Sydney (1938), Perth (1962), Brisbane (1982) and Melbourne (2006) – making Australia the nation that has hosted the most number of Games. Although Malta entered the Commonwealth in 1964, its first participation in the Games was at the 1958 Games in Cardiff, Wales.

Women 'raise their voice' in Valletta march against violence



International Women's Day in Malta is marked by a demonstration in Valletta that called for an end to violence against women

by Massimo Costa

maltatoday.com.mt

Activists marching down Republic Street on Women's Day:

Women took to Valletta's main street on Thursday evening calling for an end to violence against women and demanding gender equality.

The march started at City Gate and the relatively small crowd marched behind

the banner "Semma' Lehnek" (Raise your Voice) to the tune of Aretha Franklin's Respect, playing in the background.

Participants carried placards that included the messages: 'Women's rights are human rights', 'No is no', 'Silence will not protect you, silence is not an option' and a 'A woman's place is in the struggle'.

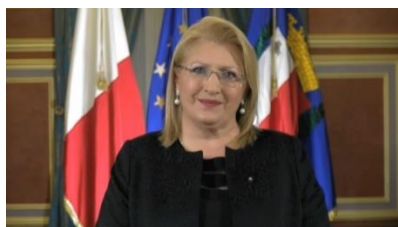
Yana Mintoff Bland, Dom Mintoff's daughter and a former Labour electoral candidate, was amongst those marching. There were a number of foreigners in the crowd.

Some of those marching also left a message at the foot of the Great Siege Monument, which has transformed into a memorial for slain journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Speaking in front of the memorial, Karen Tanti of Moviment Graffiti said the march was drawing attention to all the issues women around the world have to face, including domestic violence.

"We appreciate the current efforts in Malta against gender-based violence and the gender pay gap," Tanti said, "but we still have a misogynistic society... something has to be done if people are to grow up in a better Malta." A representative of the Women's Rights Foundation also spoke of the patriarchal system in Malta, saying that while last year the Azure Window broke and fell, the country should break the chains of patriarchy.

Let's work together to address inequalities between men and women - President



President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca today appealed for everyone to work together to address inequalities between men and women.

In her message for Woman's Day, which was celebrated on Thursday, she said the day was for her a celebration of the contribution given daily by Maltese and Gozitan women to communities and society.

It was an opportunity to remember what united the people and to work to combat what had still not been achieved in spite of the progress made. The day, she said, should be a celebration of human universal rights which were fundamental to the full and free participation of women in the country's social, political and economic life.

She called for action to address the gender pay gap and the lack of representation of women in political, social and economic life.

by [Keith Micallef](#)

St Paul's Bay and Sliema populations soar

Population grew by more than 10,700 in period under review



The number of residents in Sliema reached 18,764 in 2016 – up 1,655 over the previous year. Photo: [viewingmalta.com](#)

St Paul's Bay and Sliema, both home to a sizeable community of expats, saw their population grow by 10 per cent between 2015 and 2016, according to official figures.

The increase, four times the national average, coincides with an influx of foreign workers who, according to unofficial estimates, now total about 40,000.

Details on population variations within the Maltese islands as on January 1, 2015, and 2016, respectively, were recently published in the Malta Government Gazette by the Finance Ministry in line with the Local Councils Act.

The data is based on population estimates compiled by the National Statistics Office.

The figures are based on the number of live births to mothers resident in Malta, net immigration in the period under review from both EU member states and third countries as well as on deaths of Malta residents.

It transpires that, at the start of 2016, St Paul's Bay leapfrogged Mosta as the second most populated locality with 21,198 inhabitants. Compared to 12 months earlier, this meant an increase of 1,882 residents.

If this pattern were to be sustained, the northern seaside locality might soon overtake Birkirkara, which has the largest population at 22,658. In Sliema, NSO figures show that, by the start of 2016, the number of residents reached 18,764, up 1,655 over the previous year.

A closer look at the statistics indicates that all localities with above-average population increases were scattered around the main touristic zones. The third highest increase in both absolute and percentage terms was Swieqi, whose population in 2016 was of 11,731.

This represented a rise of 834 residents, or eight per cent.

Next in line, in terms of percentage growth, were Msida, St Julian's, Gżira, Mellieħa, Marsasclala and San Ġwann, which had rates above the national average of 2.4 per cent.

The only localities that registered a marginal drop in the number of residents were Santa Luċija, Żejtun, Cospicua, Nadur, Senglea, Għarb, Għasri and Qormi. However, the decline was practically insignificant in statistical terms.

The Maltese population grew by 10,724 in the period under review, reaching 450,415. NSO data published last month showed that the population continued to grow to 460,297.

Judging by recent declarations made by employers, the upward trend is set to continue as they estimate Malta needs to attract more foreign workers to sustain its robust economic growth.

This newspaper reported last November that a number of agreements with countries such as Serbia and Montenegro were in the pipeline with the aim of facilitating the importation of workers from the non-EU Member States. [Timesofmalta.com](#)



President, Countess of Wessex preside over bell-ringing ceremony at Malta Stock Exchange

President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, together with the Countess of Wessex, presided over the bell-ringing ceremony of the Malta Stock Exchange on the occasion of International Women's Day, organised by 100 Women in Finance in collaboration with the Malta Stock Exchange.

The President said that the commemoration of International Women's Day should be a celebration of the many contributions that women make across our communities and our society. However, President Coleiro Preca said, "International Women's Day must also be a reminder of how much more needs to be done, to ensure the equitable and dignified inclusion of all women, across every level of society."

President Coleiro Preca stated that economic growth and development, are essential for achieving holistic social inclusion and sustainable prosperity, adding that women's economic security leads to greater prosperity within our families, our communities and society.



PHOTO: DOI - Jason Borg

"For this reason, we must continue to encourage women and girls to pursue educational and professional opportunities in every sector, especially those which have traditionally been dominated by men. In this way, we shall not only be creating a substantial change in the lives of individual women and their families; we shall also be transforming Maltese society, by addressing the deeply embedded prejudices and outdated mentalities which keep too many women and girls from achieving their full potential", said the President.

"The importance of education, in this regard, is clearly reflected by academic research"

The President quoted a study conducted by the World Bank which says that educated women enjoy more secure employment and higher wages. In fact, each additional year of schooling boosts women's earnings by an average of 11.7% versus 9.6% for men.

"Therefore, the importance of enhancing contributions of women to promote processes of economic growth and development is clear. We cannot allow inequalities to be perpetuated, at any level, including the participation of women on executive boards, and at the highest levels of policy-making", said President Coleiro Preca.

On decision-making, the President quoted the 2018 European Commission Report on Equality between Women and Men—which states that women account for just a quarter of board members in the largest publicly listed companies registered in EU member states—as well as the indicators from the World Economic Forum, which state that it shall take some 170 years to achieve meaningful gender parity on a global scale, if we keep the same pace as today. The event was also addressed by Minister for Finance Edward Scicluna and Minister for European Affairs and Equality Helena Dalli.



Angelic voices and composer performing in aid of charity

The Vienna Choir Boys and Italian pianist Ezio Bosso in Malta

Angelic voices and music from the heart will feature prominently in two concerts being held next month in aid of the Community Chest Fund.

The renowned Vienna Boys Choir will perform on March 20 and pianist, composer and conductor Ezio Bosso

follows on March 25, both events being held at the Manoel Theatre, Valletta. The choir will also animate the 5.30pm Mass at St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, on March 18.

The Vienna Boys Choir has a long history: it has been singing at Vienna's Imperial Chapel since 1296. In 1498, Maximilian I moved his court to Vienna, lock, stock and choir, founding the Hofmusikkapelle (Chapel Imperial) and the Vienna Boys Choir.

Over the centuries, the Viennese court attracted great musicians like Isaac, de Monte, Fux, Caldara, Gluck, Salieri, Mozart, and Bruckner. Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn and Franz Schubert were themselves choir boys.

Until 1918, the boys sang exclusively for the court. In the 1920s, the choir was re-established as a private organisation and since 1926, Vienna Boys Choir has performed in 1,000 tours in 97 different countries. Gerald Wirth is its artistic director and its president.

Today, there are 100 choristers between the ages of nine and 14, divided into four touring choirs. Each choir spends nine to 11 weeks of the academic year on tour. Together, the choirs give around 300 concerts each year, seen by almost half a million spectators around the world. The choir regularly tours Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. On Sundays, the boys perform with members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera Chorus in Vienna's Imperial Chapel, as they have done since 1498.

In 2012, the choir opened its own state-of-the-art concert hall, MuTh. Until 1918, the boys sang exclusively for the court. The repertoire includes everything from medieval to contemporary music. Motets, lieder and the choir's own arrangements of Viennese music form the core of the touring repertoire. There are children's operas and world music too.

The first-ever sound recording of the choir was made on a wax cylinder in 1907; since then, the boys have recorded 43 shellacks, 55 singles, 128 LPs and 150 CDs on every major label. In 2015, the choir signed a long-term deal with Deutsche Grammophon. The first CD was released in 2015.

Twenty-six films and 17 TV documentaries attest to the choir's international appeal. In 2008, the choir began a collaboration with New York-based film-maker Curt Faudon; since then, four music films have been released. *Source: The Times of Malta 12th February 2018*

Malta becomes 2nd European country to lower voting age to 16



Lawmakers in Malta have unanimously approved constitutional amendments lowering the minimum voting age for general elections and national referendums to 16. The Maltese Parliament's approval on Monday night makes Malta the second European country after Austria to give 16-year-olds the right to vote in national contests. They have been able to vote in City Council elections since 2015.

Maltese citizens still need to be at least 18 years old to be candidates in national elections.

The government and Opposition have voted unanimously in favour of the Vote 16 act to go through, with 64 votes

in favour, and no MPs abstaining or voting against. The act amends the Constitution, allowing the voting age to go down to 16 from 18.

The Labour Party and Nationalist Party had previously both spoken in favour of the lowering of the voting age, with the Prime Minister being clear about the electoral mandate the government had in this regard. The age people could vote in local council elections had been lowered to 16 in 2013.

Following the vote, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat noted on Twitter that Malta was the second country in the European Union to allow voting at 16 years of age, following Austria's introduction of a lowered voting age in 2007.

LAQGHA MALL-KAVALLIER LORRIE COLLINS -Paul Vella (Vict)



Il-Kavallier Lorrie Collins u Paul Vella

Dan l-aħħar kelli laqgħa mall-Kavallier Lorrie Collins li kien fuq btala f'Melbourne minn Malta. Permess tal-ħbieb tagħna Alex u Mary Mangion, li huma ħbieb tiegħu u ta' martu, Grace, konna ilna nafu biż-żjara tagħhom u saru arrangamenti biex niltaqgħu magħhom meta jkunu fostna.

Lorrie huwa preżentatur ta' programmi fuq ir-Radju Santa Katarina RSK 90.6 FM. Naturalment tkellimna ħafna fuq it-tliet programmi li jippreżenta u fl-istess ħin tkellimna wkoll fuq il-programmi tagħna fuq ir-Radju Komunitarju f'Melbourne 3ZZZ 92.3 FM.

Jiena ħadt din l-okkażjoni biex għamiltlu intervista għal fuq il-programm tiegħi. Tkellimna fit-tul fuq il-programmi li jippreżenta, it-Tnejn

6.30-8.30 pm, is-Sibt 3.00-5.40 pm u l-Ħadd 9.15-nofsinhar. Fissirli fuq il-kontenut tal-programmi li jippreżenta u jien ħadt interess kbir fuq dan. Huwa qalli li jixtieq li xi darba nagħmlu kollegament bejn iż-żewġ programmi. Kienet opportunita' sabieħa li tlqajna u qsamna ix-xogħol tagħna tax-xandir.

Il-programm tagħna ta' 3ZZZ 92.3 FM jistgħu jinstemgħu fuq l-internet fil-ħin li jixxandru (it-Tnejn u l-Ġimgħa 5-6 pm u s-Sibt 10-11 am, ħin ta' Melbourne) jew "on demand" għal kwazi xahar shiħ fuq is-sit www.3zzz.com.au

STQARRIJA MILL-UFFIČĊJU TAL-ISPEAKER:

Il-Vot 16 diskuss bejn iż-żgħażaġh u l-membri parlamentari fil-Parlament ta' Malta

Reference Number: PR180482, Press Release Issue Date: Mar 06, 2018

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa diskussjoni dwar l-għoti tad-dritt tal-vot lil persuni li jilhqqu l-età ta' 16-il sena li se jidhol fis-seħh permezz tal-Att li jemenda l-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta u Diversi Ligijiet dwar l-Elezzjonijiet mgħoddi mill-Parlament fil-5 ta' Marzu 2018.

L-Ispeaker iddeskriva din l-okkażjoni bħala ċelebrazzjoni ta' pass storiku fl-iżvilupp tad-demokrazija f'pajjiżna. L-emenda kostituzzjonali giet approvata mill-Parlament b'mod unanimu sabiex iż-żgħażaġh li jkunu għalqu 16-il sena jivvutaw fl-elezzjonijiet generali, fl-elezzjonijiet għall-Parlament Ewropew u f'referenda. B'riżultat ta' dan il-vot fil-Parlament, Malta ser tkun minn ta' quddiem nett fl-Unjoni Ewropea u fid-dinja li tagħti dan id-dritt liż-żgħażaġh tagħha. Dan it-tibdil għandu jitqies bħala parti minn proċess fejn fis-snin sebgħin, iż-żgħażaġh ta' 18-il sena ivvutaw għall-ewwel darba fl-elezzjoni generali tal-1976, u li fl-2014, iż-żgħażaġh ta' 16-il sena ngħataw id-dritt li jivvutaw f'elezzjonijiet lokali.

L-Ispeaker tenna li kull dritt igib miegħu responsabbiltà, f'dan il-każ li wieħed ser jiehu deċiżjonijiet importanti li jaffettwaw il-ġejjieni ta' Malta. Huwa saħaq fuq l-importanza li ż-żgħażaġh jagħmlu użu minn dan id-dritt b'mod responsabbli u skont il-kunxjenza sabiex dan jissarraf f'futur aħjar għas-soċjetà in generali.

Permezz ta' dan id-dritt, iż-żgħażaġh kisbu mezz biex isawru l-futur tal-Ewropa. Fil-preżent, l-Ewropa għandha quddiemha diversi sfidi, fosthom in-nuqqas ta' xogħol għaž-żgħażaġh tagħha, l-immigrazzjoni, u t-tibdil mgħaġġel fit-teknoloġija, fost affarijiet oħra. Fil-qasam politiku, jirriżulta li partiti ewlenin qegħdin jaqgħu lura a skapitu ta' partiti iżgħar jew saħansitra godda, li l-mandat tagħhom huwa li jisfida l-politika tradizzjonali.



\$840,000 Maltese Amphicoach deployed for first time in Southeast Asia

The first Amphicoach, which was developed in Malta, has been deployed in Southeast Asia, to the seaside city of Kuala

Terengganu, in the Malaysian east coast state of Terengganu, *Travel Wire Asia* has reported.

It was purchased by Malaysian authorities for a price believed to be \$840,000

The Amphicoach GTS-1 is a passenger coach designed to ferry passengers on both land and water.

It was developed by a team that were funded by Scotsman George Smith and built in Malta.

It was reported that the vehicle was spotted running a 45-minute test run from Kampung Losong village and an island called Pulau Wan Man several kilometres away.

Terengganu's Chief Minister Ahmad Razif told local media that the vehicle is undergoing trials, but is expected to be fully operational soon.

"There are two bridges that need to be made compatible (with the vehicle). And we also need to ensure that the pilot has the necessary licences," Razif was quoted as saying.

"The Road and Transport Department and the Marine Department will work closely together (in ensuring compliance), so I believe it would be operational as soon as possible."

The prototype was hand-built on the island over a three-year period, 2004–2007, with a considerable contribution from former Malta Drydocks workers. It was tested in Marsaxlokk Bay.

TERESA BORG FROM MOSTA TO HABANA QUEENSLAND



Teresa Borg was born in Malta around the turn of the 20th Century. A handsome red headed young man would enter her life through an *Ghannej*, a singer sent by her husband-to-be Carmelo Mifsud to her home to request courtship. Teresa "loved the little Island of Malta with its narrow streets, stone buildings and beautiful churches."

Carmelo and Teresa married in Mosta Church on 15th April 1921. Carmelo was just 22 years old and Teresa was 20.

Carmelo decided to join his brother in a new land of opportunity - Australia - sending for his family later. In 1925 Teresa and their daughter Mary joined Carmelo in Australia.

"As she watched the ship *Oronsay* carry her beautiful brown eyed daughter Teresa and her granddaughter Mary to the far away land, Maria Borg knew in her heart she would never see them again." And she never did.

"Teresa turned and took one last look at her family and her little island Malta as she sailed out of Valetta Harbour to a country unknown."

It was dark when Teresa and Mary eventually joined Carmelo in Mackay. There were no other houses around. "Where are the crying babies?" Teresa asked. "There were no babies they are the noise Koalas make" Carmelo told her, and so began Teresa's life in Australia. This land so far from anywhere, so far from her family, and so different to Malta.

Carmelo and Teresa had bought a cane farm in Habana but times were hard. Teresa took all that she learned in Malta and was well known for making bread and for dressmaking. "She thought of Habana as little Malta. It wasn't so bad. Sunday afternoons were often spent at Eimeo beach with other Maltese families."

Teresa and Carmelo went on to have 11 more children. Teresa was so far away from her mother through the death of two of her children. She was a tiny quiet lady but very well respected in the community.

The couple owned several sugar cane farms in Habana, Homebush and Alligator Creek, until retiring in West Mackay.

Teresa and Carmelo went on to have 38 grandchildren and even to enjoy quite a few great grandchildren before Teresa died in June 1979 and Carmelo passed away 3 months later.

"They have instilled in us a great love of family, religion and Australia and a great pride in our Maltese heritage." *Maryann Lister author of "Through our eyes, The Mifsud"*





Woman who survived two world wars is 106 years old

A Maltese woman who survived two world wars is celebrating her 106th birthday on 7 March 2018. Maria Farrugia, born in Hamrun on 7 March 1912, today was visited by parliamentary secretary for the elderly Tony Agius Decelis. Farrugia lived in Hamrun all her life, and although she was too young to remember the horrors of the First World War, she has

vivid memories of what Malta went through in the Second World War. She recalls that she did not like going to shelters because she was more afraid of falling ill than of the bombs that were raining down. She remembers spending her summers in St Paul's Bay and Mellieha, and has a memory of the train service that existed between Mdina and Valletta until 1931.

Maria Farrugia from Hamrun



Exhibition on Gozitan realities at the European Parliament

A painting by Rachel Galea

Four contemporary Gozitan artists will unveil 24 artistic exhibits at the main hall of the European Parliament between March 6 and 9, featuring Gozitan realities and aspirations during an exhibition entitled Embracing Change in Gozo.

Rachel Galea, Kris Saliba, Manuel Farrugia and Anthony Caruana have been invited by Maltese MEP and former

prime minister Alfred Sant to display six paintings each and provide an opportunity for MEPs and visitors to the European Parliament from EU countries to appreciate the works of artists living on an island at the periphery of Europe.

The Gozitan artists said the fact that they come from a small island on the periphery of the European continent strengthens their resolve to be creative in this opportunity.

"These paintings have been conceived as a tribute to the natural beauty of our island in conjunction with the careful man-made interventions devised throughout the years which gave a distinctive character to the island. It is a cultural heritage we Gozitans cherish in an age in which we are embracing changes at social and infrastructural levels. The paintings are a testimony of what we were and still are; they express the need of salvaging our identity and heritage and the need of finding the right balance with the expectations and demands of contemporaneity," said Manuel Farrugia.

Dr Sant said: "Their artistic interpretations deserve such a recognition at the European Parliament. They deserve support and appreciation for their creative initiatives. They are making a difference while overcoming the economic and social difficulties arising from the double insularity that Gozo, like other EU islands, suffers from." The exhibition will be officially launched by Minister of Gozo Justyne Caruana.

JOURNALS WE RECEIVE AND ENJOY READING REGULARLY:

RESKEON NEWSLETTER from Melbourne; **ILLUM** (mssp); **Gozonews.com**; **Times of Malta**; **The Malta Independent**; **Malta Today**; **Valletta2018 Updates**; **MALTESE BULLETIN**, **Maltese Australian Association of Western Australia Inc**; **SOUND OF MUSIC- Maltese Queen of Victories Band SA**; **SENIORS BULLETIN – Maltese Senior Citizens Association of SA**; **Australian American Association News (Victoria)**; **St Paul the Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish Bulletin, Toronto, Canada**; **MERHBA – Malta Historical Association (Melbourne)**; **MCCV NEWS – Maltese Community Council of Victoria**; **IL-PONT – Patrick Sammut (Malta)**; **IL-HOLQA – Maltese Chaplaincy of SA**; **CENTRELINK – Australia**; **HISTORY TRUST OF SA**; **MULTICULTURAL NEWS – SAMEAC**; **NEWSLETTER CONFRATERNITY OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL (Victoria)**.



Paul Muscat SC

Judge at the District Court of South Australia

In 2012 the Government of South Australia announced a series of judicial appointments which included the announcement that the Criminal Law Practice Division Manager at the Legal Services Commission, Paul Muscat SC, is appointed to the bench of the District Court of South Australia.

As a distinguished criminal lawyer, Paul joined the Legal Services Commission in 2006 as the head of the Criminal Law Practice Division. Prior to this Mr Muscat worked for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, commencing there in 1994 as prosecuting counsel and conducted appellate work before the Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court. Mr Muscat was educated at St Michael's College at Henley Beach and studied law at the University of Adelaide before being admitted to legal practice in 1984. He commenced his career at Camatta Lempens & Cashen where he was based at the firm's Port Adelaide office.

In 2010 he was appointed Senior Counsel, and in 2012 signed the Bar Roll. He currently sits on the Criminal Justice Ministerial Taskforce, the National Legal Aid Criminal Law Working Group and is an advocacy instructor at The Law Society's GDLP Advocacy Workshops.

MALTA CONSULAR SERVICES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plans are in progress for Consular Services to be available in Western Australia for Maltese/Australians during May 2018 – specific days yet to be determined.

The following are the consular services being provided:

- # acceptance of applications for the issue of Maltese passports (first-time applicants as well as renewals)

- # acceptance of applications for Maltese citizenship

- # acceptance of applications for registration in Malta of events affecting civil status (eg. marriage Maltese citizens overseas, birth of children, etc).

Consular services will be available only to those who have made an appointment in advance after having established contact with the Malta High Commission either by phone: (02) 6290 1724 or by email:

consul.canberra@gov.mt

The Malta High Commission will then send a list of the documents that need to be produced on the day of appointment. In the case of documents issued by a foreign government - other than those issued in Australia – the applicant needs to be ascertain that these are apostilled* and translated into English (if the original document is not in the English language) prior to the appointment - this is the responsibility of the applicant.

Consular fees will be accepted by Bank transfer or Bank cheque payable to the **Malta High Commission** (no credit cards). The following are the bank account for those who will be doing a direct deposit:

Malta High Commission Swift Code **CTBAAU2S** **BSB 062 902** **ACC 00000025**

The representative of the Malta High Commission in Australia will be conducting the consular services at the following venue:

Maltese Association of Western Australia

1, May Holman Drive, Bassendean, WA 6054

Service hours: To be determined

One may also obtain information on the upcoming consular visit by contacting the

Malta High Commission either by phone: (02) 6290 1724 or by email: consul.canberra@gov.mt

Paul Calleja

Hon Consul for Malta in Western Australia

Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus



**MOTHER MARGHERITA
OF THE SACRED HEART**
Foundress
of the Franciscan Sisters
of the Heart of Jesus

The Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus was founded in Gozo, Malta in 1880. Its origin was the Association of the Twelve Stars of the Heart of Jesus, initiated at Victoria, Gozo, by a group of young girls whose spiritual director was Fr. Joseph Diacono, assistant parish priest at St. George's parish in Victoria, Gozo. The aim of this Association was to glorify the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1880 thanks to the work of Fr. Diacono this association was transformed into a Diocesan Religious Congregation which took the name of Franciscan Tertiaries. Later, this name was changed to Franciscan Sisters of Malta in 1937. As time went by, the Congregation was given pontifical approval and the name was changed to Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus, so as to be able to express its charism better.

Father Joseph Diacono initiated the Congregation along with the Venerable, Servant of God Mother Margherita of the Sacred Heart, who had a fascinating spiritual personality with profound faith, humility, devotion to prayer and a spirit of reparation, formed the Congregation, guarded it and brought it to maturity. Mother Margherita was born in Kercem, Gozo and from an early age she was mentored in her spiritual life by Fr. Joseph Diacono. At the age of 27 with humble courage and inspired by the Holy Spirit, decided to carry the burden of the Congregation, and managed to overcome the crisis that had almost brought the Congregation to an end. She was a courageous woman gifted by Divine Providence with the qualities of a leader. She possessed a strong faith in God's loving plans, and with courage and determination abandoned herself totally to God's plans.

Mother Margherita not only helped the Congregation to spread its branches to foreign countries but gave it its proper charism. She encountered many difficulties but always trusted in Divine Providence with serenity and strength. She once wrote to her spiritual director, *"May the most Holy Will of our Sweet Father, to whom we abandon ourselves with soul and body, in life and in death, be done."*

Mother Margherita also built her life and the life of the Congregation, as St. Francis did, on the Gospel, in intimate union with God, sincere humility, joyous simplicity, evangelical poverty and apostolic service towards those in need especially children, youth, the marginalised and the neglected. From its beginnings the Congregation ministered to the various needs of God's people not only in Malta and Gozo but in Greece, Italy, England, Australia, Pakistan, Brasil, Ethiopia, Kenya, Israel and the Philippines. We give great importance to our Foundress' exclamation: *"I desire and yearn for souls, souls! Let us do our utmost to be useful in the Lord's vineyard."* Mother Margherita also wanted her Sisters to make reparation for the offences that the Sacred Heart receives when she wrote: *"We ought to make reparation; therefore, let us suffer everything that our Sweetest Spouse, sends us."* She was greatly missed not only by the Sisters but by all those who came in contact with her during her long life. She left this world in the spirit of sanctity to join her beloved Spouse on 22nd January 1952 at the Mother House in Victoria, Gozo.

The aims of the Congregation are:

- To live the Gospel as inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.

- To cultivate an ardent love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to make reparation for the offences He receives.

- To serve the local Parish through the teaching of Catechism

- To educate children and youth, especially the poor, the marginalised and the neglected

- We devote ourselves also to care for the elderly and to pastoral work.

- In Australia we give our service in Mackay, Queensland; Lockleys, South Australia and Port Kembla in NSW.

Sr. Vittoriana DeBattista

Lockleys- South Australia 08/03/2018

IL-PURĊISSJONI TAL-GIMGĦA L-KBIRA

Miktub minn **Joseph C Camilleri (Malta)**

F'dan il-jum, il-knejjes insara, ma jkun hemm quddies filgħodu, iżda jkun hemm il-kant tal-matutin, is-salmi u l-lamentazzjonijiet. F'dan il-jum issir il-magħrufa priedka tat-tliet siegħat. Din il-priedka tkun dwar il-passjoni u l-mewt ta' Sidna Ġesù Kristu. Għaċ-ċerimonja ta' nofs in-nhar joħorġu l-Kurċifiss li jkun għall-ewwel mogħti. Issir xi kant u wara jinkixef il-Kurċifiss. Issir l-adorazzjoni tas-Salib.

L-aqwa haġa li tispikka matul il-Ġimgħa l-Kbira hija l-purċissjoni tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira. Din turi l-istorja tal-Passjoni ta' Sidna Ġesù Kristu li permezz tagħha l-bniedem infeda mill-jasar tad-dnub. Din il-purċissjoni għandha diversi elementi li huma karatteristiċi ta' kull purċissjoni ta' dan it-tip.

IL-VARI - Il-baži ta' kull sett huma l-vari li juru l-misterji tat-Tbatija (xi Maltin jafu hom bħala l-misteri tad-Doloruż). Dawn huma l-Orazzjoni ta' Ġesù fl-Ort tal-Ġetsamani, il-Flagellazzjoni ta' Ġesù marbut mal-kolonna, l-Inkurunazzjoni ta' Ġesù bix-xewk, il-mixja ta' Ġesù Redentur lejn il-Golgota u l-Kruċifissjoni. Ma' dawn daħlu wkoll dawn il-vari – il-Monument li hu tislma tagħna lejn Ġesù Mejjet u d-Duluri. Maż-żmien daħlet il-Veronika (din turik kemm it-tradizzjoni kienet qawwija fost il-Maltin) u wara hafna żmien daħlu dawn il-vari: iċ-Ċena, t-Tradiment ta' Ġuda, Ġesù jiltaqa' mal-Madonna, Xmun iċ-Ċirnew, Ġesù jneżżgħuh minn hwejġu u d-Difna ta' Ġesù.

Diversi vari kellhom ismijiet differenti. Il-vara ta' l-Ort hija magħrufa wkoll bħala ta' l-Orazzjoni. Il-Marbut hu magħruf ukoll bħala tal-Kolonna waqt l-Ecce Homo (Aċċjumu) jgħidulu tal-Porpra. Il-vara ta' l-imghobbi hija magħrufa bħala r-Redentur u l-Kurċifissjoni nafuha bħala l-Vara l-Kbira. Id-Duluri hi wkoll referutha b'jala l-Addolorata jew Marija Addolorata.

PERSUNAĠĠI - Fil-purċissjoni tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira niltaqgħu ma' diversi gruppi. Hemm tfal biż-żimarra li jgħorru xi bandalora, fanal jew xi tabella. Hemm ukoll tfal biż-żimarra li jerfu xi simbolu tal-passjoni bħal is-serduq ta' San Pietru, l-kuruna tax-xewk, l-imsiema, is-sellum, l-INRI, is-sawt, il-flus ta' Ġuda, il-buqar u l-baċir ta' Pilatu u slaleb żgħar. Hemm ukoll il-fratelli membru tal-fratellanzi bħal ta' l-Agonizzanti, tal-Kurċifiss u tad-Duluri. Hemm ukoll il-gruppi penitenzjarji u dawk li jkaxkru l-ktajjen jew jerfghu s-slaleb u l-vari. Tal-ktajjen aktarx huma tifkira tan-nies ilsiera li kienu jiehdu sehem f' waħda mit-tliet purċissjoni tal-passjoni li kienu jsiru fil-Birgu.

Barra dawn hemm ukoll il-gruppi storiċi. Isemmu l-iskorta ta' l-unur tal-kavallieri quddiem il-vara tad-Duluri. Din hija xi haġa aktarx Għawdxija. Hemm ukoll is-soldati Rumani quddiem ir-Redentur. Hemm figure bibbliċi. Insemmu l-personaġġi tat-Testment il-Qadim u dak Ġdid.

ARTI - Il-vari huma biċċiet ta' l-arti maħduma minn statwarji u artisti Maltin u barranin. Xi wħud huma ta' l-injam, oħrajn tal-kartapesta u xi ftit huma manikini (figuri mlibbsin bi lbies tal-bellus). Il-Mużija hija wkoll element importanti fil-purċissjoni. Insimgħu d-daqq tal-fifra u tat-tambur. Hemm ukoll il-banda li jdoqq marċijiet funebri quddiem il-Vara l-Kbira. Jekk il-purċissjoni hija twila jafna minflok banda waħda hemm tnejn.

IKEL - Għalkemm dan il-jum hu wieħed tas-sawm hemm xi ikel li huwa karatteristiku għal dan il-jum. Fil-Jum tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira jbiegħu l-ftajjar ta' l-inċova u tas-sardin. Dawn jittieklu minflok l-ikel tas-soltu. Fil-belt Victorja jinbiegħu l-ftajjar. Dawn jinbiegħu l-aktar mill-ħwienet tal-Pjazza tat-Tokk. Hemm ukoll il-pastizzi ta' l-inċova. Dawn huma popolari fir-Rabat ta' Malta. Anke l-ħobż għandu tip speċjali. Għall-Ħamis ix-Xirka u għall-Ġimgħa l-Kbira hemm il-qagħaq ta' l-Appostli. Fejn kull post fejn ikunu qed issiru l-Visti tara xi vann jew tnjen b'dawn il-qagħaq. Dan it-tip ta' ħobż ifakkarna fl-Aħħar Ċena li għamel Ġesù ma' l-appostli.

Referenzi: **Anton F Attard**, Purċissjonijiet tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira, L-Aurora, Lehen il-Banda Leone Nru 20 Jannar-Marzu 1990

Anton F Attard, Folklore tal-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa, L-Aurora, Lehen il-Banda Leone Nru 9 Mejju 1987

Kan Dun Anton Refalo, Il-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa fix-Xagħra ta' dari, liturgija u drawwiet ta' qabel ir-riforma, Ix-Xagħra Jannar-Marzu 1994

Anton F Attard, Ir-Randan f'Għawdex, It-Torċa 8-III-1998

Anton F Attard, L-Aħħar żmien tar-Randan f'Għawdex, It-Torċa



Malta International Airport ranked second best European airport

Malta International Airport has placed second amongst other European airport in the Airport Service Quality 2017 awards, which ranked 343 airports worldwide by departing passengers travelling through them during the year.

The airport has managed to obtain a place within the top five European airports for the past nine years, however this is the highest it has placed in the awards, which are organised by Airport Council International.

"Last year's overall passenger satisfaction score was its highest to date. This score bumped the airport up a place from 2016, where it is in a tie with Moscow Sheremetyevo (more than 40 million passenger per year) and Porto (more than 10 million passengers per year). The top spot in the European category was claimed by Sochi, a Russian airport welcoming over five million passengers annually," MIA said in a press release.

The airport said the high ranking was even more significant considering the challenges it faces in 2017 due to the Terminal Reconfiguration Project which was underway within it.

"This is a most fitting reward for a team that puts a lot of effort into delivering an excellent service and finding new ways to enhance the passenger experience," airport CEO Alan Borg said, adding that the scores were a vote of confidence from the airports guests.

"Terminal reconfiguration works are now centred on the check-in hall, which will soon start operating with eight additional check-in desks, and the new central security area. The project is on track to be completed by summer 2018," the airport noted.

"Throughout the coming year, other significant investments including the replacement of terminal signage, the refurbishment of washrooms, and the installation of a new public announcement system will contribute to further improving the passenger journey through Malta International Airport," the airport noted.

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Hi, nofs tuzzana pizelli u tlieta rkotta
u tnejn Kinnie, please, thank you!!!

We are not in competition with no one but willing
to work wih others to promote Malta and its
unique culture, history and heritage



Ġiġa Camilleri who was found guilty of her son's murder and sentenced to death (later turned into life imprisonment) under heavy police escort during her trial. P: F. Attard

Murder Case of Toninu Aquilina - 1960

It may be a statistically safe place to live, but that doesn't mean Malta's history is spotless when it comes to grisly murder. Compiled from the book by Eddie Attard, *Murder in Malta*, we've picked out two Maltese murders from the late 1900s that scale the social ladder

On Tuesday, August 23, 1960, at 7.45 pm., an eight-year-old boy, Anthony Aquilina was found dead, partly beheaded, at his residence in 102, St. Dominic Street, Valletta. He was killed some time between 5.30 and 6.30 pm. An autopsy the following day found several wounds, including deep lacerations in his head, probably caused by a deadbolt. These were enough to have killed the eight-year-old child but medical experts concluded he had actually died when he was practically beheaded. His death as a result of willful violence committed with an irregular weapon by some person unknown soon led to the distribution of holy pictures featuring the young boy wearing his First Holy Communion suit, with many still preserving copies of them till this very day.

Eventually, his parents, Leli and Ġiġa, were both found guilty of murder. He was jailed for 20 years with hard labour and she was sentenced to death. Ġiġa's lawyer appealed and petitions were made to the Governor to spare her life. In fact the death sentence was lifted two weeks later and she was instead jailed for life. Ten years later walked out of prison a free woman.

The journalists of "Il-Ġens" (not published anymore) who had interviewed Ġiġa in her later years at her residence in Cospicua noticed an array of photos of Twannie adorned with flowers and a candle as they walked into her apartment. She would also print holy pictures of her son to then distribute. "For a long time after leaving jail, I lived in only two rooms. I did not even have a table. I had a cardboard tea box which I first used to put a stove on to cook. And then I would remove the stove to use the box as a table on which to eat. I suffered a lot. I used to cry continuously...", she had told the newspaper. "My son is a martyr. He is a saint. If you want to be granted some grace, pray for his intercession," she said. "If I know who killed my son I am ready to forgive him. If I do not forgive him will I get my son back?".

When country got to know of the violent death of this young Valletta boy, it became the subject of every conversation and, as details began to emerge, led to widespread rage and horror at the atrocity committed. To this day it remains known as the "Murder of the Century", with his grave the subject of interest and devotion to many visiting the Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery.



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MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Our Journal is reaching readers from all over the world.
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Malta Fortress Squadron, Royal Engineers



The [Cap badge](#) of the Corps of Royal Engineers worn by the Malta Fortress Squadron.

The **Malta Fortress Squadron** was a locally recruited [Royal Engineers](#) unit based on Malta and on the British Army colonial list prior to Malta's independence. Its history is intimately tied to the succession of engineer and sapper units that were formed and reformed to support the extensive fortifications on the



island of Malta.^[1] However a distinct Maltese Sapper force is raised in 1892 and remains until 1970.

Initially on the British Establishment, in 1951 it was transferred to the Malta Territorial Force before becoming part of the Malta Land Force on Malta's independence in 1964. The regiment was disbanded in 1970 with its personnel and equipment being handed over to the Maltese Government.

Victorian and Edwardian Era - In 1892 the Maltese Militia Division Submarine Miners Royal Engineers was raised on a territorial (part-time) basis, utilising the skills and knowledge of the harbour boatmen. This small part-time volunteer force was commanded by a small permanent staff of a [Lieutenant](#), a [Company Sergeant Major](#), three [Sergeants](#) and a clerk. Volunteers agreed to performing a 120 days of paid duty annually for five years.^{[2][3]}

In 1907 the London Gazette recorded the following: "War Office, 26th March, 1907. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the Royal Engineers '(Militia) Submarine Miners, Malta Division,' being in future designated 'Royal Engineers (Militia) Malta Division'".^[4]

World War 1 - The Royal Engineers (Militia) Malta Division title would survive as an entity throughout the Great War and until 1921.^[5] At the beginning of the war the strength of the RE on the island (including Maltese servicemen) was 21 officers and 394 other ranks.^[6]

The Inter-war Years - In the period between the two World Wars there were British and Maltese [Fortress](#) Companies based on the Island (16 and 24 (Fortress) Companies). Their role was to provide searchlight support to anti-aircraft and anti-shipping artillery batteries and engineer works in and around the harbour areas of Malta.

In 1923 Royal Engineers (Militia) Malta Division was noted as having a strength of 7 Officers and 70 other ranks, most of whom were in 24 (Fortress) Company RE. In 1935 the RE units were commanded by Headquarters Fortress RE Malta and it and 24 Company were located in [Floriana](#) barracks. 16 Company was based at [Marsamxett](#) Barracks.^[7]

World War 2 - During World War 2 the Fortress RE Malta units would have performed a range of engineer tasks including Bomb Disposal - a vital task given the intensity of bombing Malta and the Valletta and [Sliema](#) areas suffered.

Post War Service

After the war the unit would suffer a tragedy when a Handley Page Hastings C-2 (WD498) carrying on of the unit crashed on take off at [RAF El Adem](#) in Libya on 10 October 1961.^{[8][9]} Fifteen soldiers from the Squadron would lose their lives they are commemorated and some buried at the [Pembroke Military Cemetery](#). On 30 September 1970 HQ RE Malta, the Fortress Squadron and 72 (Malta) Support Squadron RE on 30 September 1970, the Maltese Sappers ceased to serve alongside the British Royal Engineers and joined the Malta Land Force. Forming a 50-strong Engineer Troop within the MLF's Logistic Unit. The MLF would go on to be part of the [Armed Forces of Malta](#).



Plane crash at El Adem Air Force base in Libya -1961

The [co-]pilot's seat slid back on its runners as the aircraft was about to lift off from El Adem, Libya. He called to the captain to take control but let go of the controls before the captain had done this. The aircraft became airborne, stalled, crashed and burnt out. One of the six crew and sixteen of the thirty four passengers were killed.

On the evening of Tuesday, 10 October, 1961, a Royal Air Force Hastings aircraft, the WD498 crashed at the El Adem air force base in Libya, killing and injuring men of the Malta Fortress Squadron, Royal engineers. The Maltese sappers were working with 5001 Squadron.

A plane crash which cost the lives of 15 Maltese servicemen is annually commemorated with Mass followed by wreath-laying at Pembroke Military Cemetery.

Two British servicemen also died when a Hasting transport aircraft broke in half and burst into flames as it was taking off from the El Adem in Libya on a flight to Malta on October 10, 1961. 22 soldiers survived, although several were badly injured.

The Maltese soldiers were serving in the British army and were returning to Malta after having been involved in the building of a road with the Royal Engineers.

A commemoration was held by the Royal Engineers Association - Malta and was attended by relatives of the victims, serving and ex-servicemen. The crash was the biggest single loss of Maltese men in uniform in peace time.

The wreath-laying ceremony was led by Lt Col (Retired) Raymond Cutajar who said that the troop had been selected to fly to Malta that day with the toss of a coin. He was in another troop which was to follow in the same aircraft the day after.

"We were all eager to return to Malta as soon as possible. The issue was decided with the toss of a coin, he said. He praised the members of the first troop saying they had worked very hard in temperatures of 105F.

"We were some 15 miles away from the airport. I can never forget the moment when an officer turned up and told me not to wake the men because our early morning flight had been postponed. We are later given a list of those who had perished, those who were injured and those who had survived," he said.

Their bodies were flown back to Malta for burial, and the funeral took place on the Friday after the crash, at Pembroke Military cemetery for the following:

Here is the list of the dead and injured

Captain Francis Joseph Boatwright; A/Sergeant John Michael Hughes (592522); Sgt Emmanuel Falzon of Naxxar; Lance-Corporal Nazzareno Portelli of Hamrun; Lance-Corporal Emanuel Fsadni; Sapper Francis Galea of Sliema; Sapper Raphael Avallone of Sliema; Sapper Salvatore Lia of Qormi; Sapper Paul Cilia of Hamrun; Sapper Carmelo Tabone of Birkirkara. Sapper Michael Stivala Sapper Gerald Caruana Sapper Edward Barber

Two men died of their injuries on 11th October...

Warrant Officer II Edwin H. Harrison of Sliema; Sapper Joseph Psaila of Hamrun.

Three severely injured men were flown to the U.K. Hospital at R.A.F. Halton...

Sapper Nazzareno Busuttill of Hamrun died on 15th October; Corporal Nazzareno Sammut of Qrendi died on 31st October; Sapper Duca of Ghaxaq.

Four men have been laid to rest in cemeteries elsewhere in Malta.

(Photo and some of the material supplied by Henry Berry)



Paul Zahra on diversity, marriage and gay men in business

By Drew Sheldrick (SBS)

Former David Jones CEO Paul Zahra

Former David Jones CEO Paul Zahra was, for many years, the only openly gay CEO of a top 200 ASX company. We spoke to him about his new role promoting diversity in Australian business.

Paul Zahra became the poster boy of gay men in big business as the only CEO of a top 200 ASX company to be open about his sexuality. It would be a few years after he took the top job at department store David Jones before Qantas CEO Alan Joyce began speaking openly about being gay, and a real conversation began about what it would take for LGBTI people to fill more leadership positions in corporate Australia.

Zahra left David Jones in 2014 and joined professional services firm PwC as director of its Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board. Diversity and inclusion are some of the "strategic imperatives" set out by PwC Australia CEO Luke Sayers. They're common buzzwords in major companies these days, but leave many scratching their heads as to what they really mean in practice.



"Alongside my fellow directors I oversee each functions plan to ensure they achieve their diversity targets," Zahra explained. "I also have the responsibility of personally advising the CEO on diversity and inclusion matters."

Paul Zahra and Megan Gale at the David Jones 175 year celebration in 2013. (Photo: Lisa Maree Williams/Getty Images.)

Zahra will appear "in conversation" next week as part of Midsumma in Melbourne, the city's annual queer arts festival. He'll be discussing his personal experiences in what he describes as the "straight man's world" of business. "A culture of active LGBTI inclusiveness and visibility is on the rise among major corporate employers in Australia, but we still have a long way to go," he said.

"The current focus for most corporations is, rightly, on gender equality. As we improve the status of women in boardrooms, the time will ultimately come for LGBTI people." Zahra says the LGBTI community is a special dimension of diversity and inclusion because it's a group that has a social taboo associated with it. "I believe any business that has a strong LGBTI representation and support has passed the ultimate litmus test for an inclusive culture," he said.



Kim Jong-un to meet Donald Trump, halt missile and nuclear tests

US President Donald Trump has agreed to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un by May, the White House and a top South Korean official say, in a remarkable turnaround in relations between the two adversaries.

The South Korean national security director, Chung Eui-yong, told reporters outside the White House of the planned meeting, after briefing Mr Trump and other top US officials about a rare meeting South Korean officials held with Mr Kim in the North Korean capital on Monday.

Mr Chung also announced that Mr Kim had committed to stopping North Korea's nuclear and missile testing.

"[Mr Kim] expressed his eagerness to meet President Trump as soon as possible," Mr Chung said.

"President Trump appreciated the briefing and said he would meet Kim Jong-un by May to achieve permanent denuclearisation."

But Mr Chung said pressure would continue on North Korea until it matched its words with concrete action. He also said Mr Kim "understands that the routine joint military exercises between the Republic of Korea and the United States must continue".



MALTESE AUSTRALIAN GOLD COAST ASSOCIATION

THE Maltese Australian Gold Coast Association Celebrated Malta Day at Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters.

This was a Maltese style fieria, a festival.

There was a variety of traditional dishes, including fenkata (rabbit stew) timpana (baked macaroni) ross il-forn (baked savoury rice), pastizzi and a selection of traditional cakes

and sweets, including the much loved ricotta cannoli, imqaret and Malta's unique soft drink Kinne. 2015



Meghan Markle baptised ahead of royal wedding



Baptised out of respect for the Queen

US actress Meghan Markle has been baptised by the leader of the Church of England ahead of her marriage to Prince Harry in May, the *Daily Mail* reported on Thursday.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby performed the 45-minute ceremony at London's Chapel Royal on Tuesday in the presence of Prince Charles, her future father-in-law, the paper said.

comment.

Markle, 36, is understood to have chosen to be baptised and confirmed into the Anglican church out of respect for Queen Elizabeth II's role as the head of the denomination.

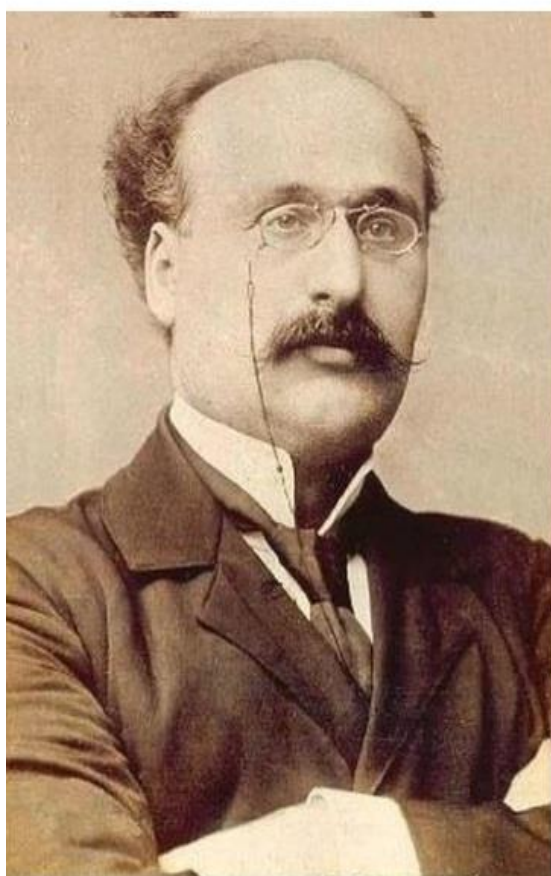
The ceremony involved the "Suits" actress being doused with holy water from the River Jordan from the private royal family font, according to the Mail.

The couple will wed on May 19 at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, a residence of Queen Elizabeth II's located west of London.

Markle's father is an Episcopalian - an offshoot of the Anglican Church in the US - while her mother belonged to another Protestant denomination.

However, she attended the Roman Catholic high school in Los Angeles.

Paolino Vassallo - Famous Maltese Composer 1856 - 1923



Paolino Vassallo (24/07/1856 - 30/01/1923), a Maltese composer, born in Cospicua. He was one of the most prominent Maltese composers, the first to move away consciously from the dominating Italian influence on Maltese music. After local music studies in Malta, in 1875 he left for Paris, where he remained for 10 years and continued his studies mainly with Ernest Guiraud and Jules Massenet. On his return to Malta in 1885, he founded in Valletta his extremely successful Music Institute. His students included the most important composers of the first half of the twentieth century, among them Domenico Anastasi, Giuseppe Caruana, Carlo Diacono, etc. Vassallo composed both sacred and non-sacred music. His three operas, where Massenet's example is quite evident, are very popular.

Paolino Vassallo studied music in Malta before going to Paris where he studied with Guiraud and Massenet. He is a very fine romantic composer and the National Orchestra of Malta is celebrating the anniversary (2006 is the 150th anniversary of his birth) of this important composer with a number of concerts spread throughout the year. The most important concerts are the symphonic concert held May 2006 at the national theatre (National Orchestra under the direction of Christopher Muscat performed orchestral works by Vassallo) and the *Messa da Requiem* that the National Orchestra again under the direction of Christopher Muscat will be performing on November 25, 2006 at the beautiful Co-Cathedral of St. John's in Valletta.

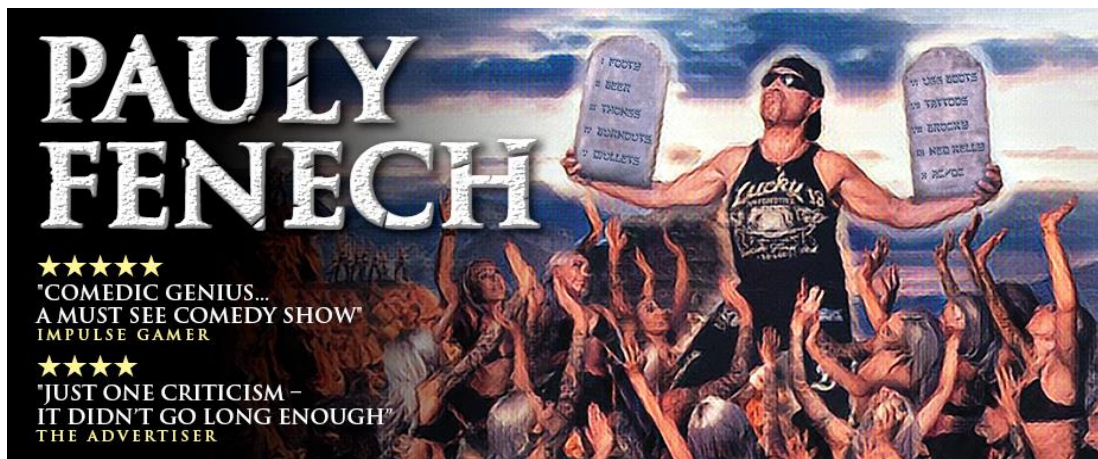
Author: Christopher Muscat (General Manager of the National Orchestra of Malta)

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KNIGHTS OF MALTA MERCHANDISE
 Contact Peter Borg on 0405 259 507
maltainoz@bigpond.com



Hi guy's, If you didn't know about this show one off our own Maltese comedians will be here in Adelaide on the 16th March, Details below, Come

down to The Arkabar Hotel to see Pauly Fenech show, Be prepared to laugh your head off and leave in stitches. Tickets though the Adelaide fringe \$34.90 or at the door if not sold out prior

AU MT



Maltese Association
 of Western Australia Inc.

QUIZ NIGHT - MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WA

Saturday 24 March 2018

At 1 May Holman Drive, Bassendean WA

Doors open at 6.00pm

Pizza served at 6.30pm Quiz starts at 7.45 pm

Lucky door Prize – Raffle

Tickets are \$15.00 each includes 3 slices of pizza per person. No BYO drinks – Drinks available

San Gużepp u Għawdex

Kav Joe M Attard

Rabat - Għawdex

L-antenati tagħna kellhom ħabta kif joħorġu b'espressjonijiet u għajdut li baqgħu ġejjin sa żmienna u li fihom minjiera ta' tagħlim. Forsi l-qwiel li jżejnu l-letteratura tagħna mhumie xhieda ħajja ta' hekk! L-istess nistgħu nġidu li għamlu għax-xhur. Haddu ħsieb jorbtu kull xahar ma' xi ġrajja li tkun tiġi f'dak ix-xahar partikulari. Hekk nġidu aħna, Novembru huwa x-Xahar tal-Erwieħ, billi kif tafu, jiftaħ b'din it-tifkira tal-mejtin tagħna li ttul ix-xahar kollu. Biex niehdu eżempju ieħor, Diċembru, ix-xahar tal-Milied, billi din il-festa tiġi propju f'dan l-aħħar xahar tas-sena u l-poplu tagħna jibda jhejji għaliha sa mill-bidu tiegħu jekk mhux qabel ukoll! Ottubru, ix-xahar tar-Rużarju, u fl-ewwel Hadd tiegħu mill-Knisja Katidrali tagħna toħroġ mat-toroq tal-Victoria purċissjoni bl-istatwa tal-Madonna bir-kuruna tar-Rużarju f'idejha, xi haġa li ssir ukoll f'bosta mill-irhula tagħna. U nistgħu nibqgħu sejrin llaqqmu l-bqija tax-xhur.

Halli issa niġu għax-xahar ta' **Marzu**, li fostna huwa magħruf bħala x-xahar ta' San Gużepp, għaliex propju fid-dsatax-il jum tiegħu, il-Knisja tiċċelebra l-festa ta' dan il-Patrijarka, il-Missier Putativ ta' Gesu'. U Ommi kienet tgħidli, Alla jaħfrilha, li meta d-19 tax-xahar jaħbat l-Erbgħa, San Gużepp jaqla' ħafna grazzji; dis-sena id-19 ta' Marzu se jaħbat it-Tnejn. U allura, kull min għandu l-fidi, nitolbu jdur lejn dan il-Patrijarka ħiemed u safi, u jitolbu b'fidi dak kollu li jeħtieġ, l-ewwel fir-ruħ u mbagħad fil-ġisem! Għal tant u tant snin, fir-Rabat fejn noqgħod jien, kienet issir il-Purċissjoni bl-istatwa devota ta' San Gużepp, xi haġa li għal xi raġuni jew oħra, waqfet. Kienet toħroġ mill-knisja Bażilika ta' San Gorg fejn għadna nsibu statwa sabiħa tal-Qaddis li titqiegħed f'niċċa għaliha fis-sagristija fejn tara jgħerri l-irġiel. Niftakar lill-Arċipriet Mikiel Ċefai, li kien minn dan ir-raħal Gużeppin tal-Qala jqarar fuq sigġu għad-dell ta' din l-istatwa. Fil-jiem tal-festa din l-istatwa ta' daqs mhux ħażin kienet issib postha fil-knisja parrokkjali. Statwa oħra devota ta' San Gużepp insibuha wkoll fil-Katidral tagħna; u fis-Santwarju tal-Madonna ta' Pompei, tefgħa ta' ġebba bogħod mis-Seminarju, teżisti devozzjoni qawwija lejn il-Qaddis li lilu jsirlu t-Tridu u jitqassmu wkoll il-kurunelli tiegħu. Issa li din il-festa pubblika reġgħet lura fostna, mhemm xejn ħażin jew barra minn loku li wieħed iqis u jiżen il-possibiltà li terġa' tibda ssir il-purċissjoni meta wieħed iqis li ma tidholx fi knisja u ma ssibx l-istatwa jew ix-xbieha ta' dan il-qaddis, l-għarus kastissimu ta' Marija. Ma rridux ninsew nġidu mbagħad li l-Qala għandha bħala qaddis patrūn lil San Gużepp li l-Qalin ifakkru b'tant pompa u għożża fl-ewwel Hadd ta' Awwissu.

Fil-Kappella antika tal-Lunzjata li tinsab qalb il-ħdura u raba saqwi taħt ir-riħ tar-raħal ta' Kerċem ukoll insibu statwa ħelwa ta' dan il-qaddis li bla dubju għandu rabta kbira mal-festa titulari ta' din il-knisja ċkejna u mwarrba, it-Tħabbira tal-Anglu Gabrijel lill-Madonna. Jekk ma niżbaljax fix-Xagħra wkoll issir festa f'ġieħ dan il-qaddis sieket u umli li rabba lil Gesu' tarbija miċ-ċana w is-serratura li kienet toħroġ mill-bibien u mwejjed li kien jagħmel fil-ħanut tal-mastrudaxxa.

Intant wieħed ma jistax jikteb dwar San Gużepp u jhalli barra d-devozzjoni qawwija li kien igawdi dan il-qaddis fil-knisja ċkejna u antika li kellu ftit passi 'l bogħod mill-knisja parrokkjali ta' San Gorg Martri fil-Victoria u li kienet tintlaħaq malajr ukoll minn Pjazza Indipendenza. Kienet knisja żgħira fiċ-ċentru tar-Rabat fil-bidu tas-Suq, milħuqa minn kulhadd, anke min-nies tal-irhula Għawdxin li ta' kuljum jidhlu r-Rabat biex jaqdu l-bżonnijiet tagħhom. Arahom bejn faċenda u oħra jixirfu sa din il-knisja biex jitolbu xi ftit. Matul ir-Randan din il-knisja kienet tkun imballata bin-nies jinvistaw l-erbatax-il stazzjon tal-Via Sagra; xejn inqas fl-Erbgħat ta' San Gużepp b'mod speċjali meta l-jum tal-Erbgħa jinzerta d-19 tax-xahar, xi haġa li ma tiġrix ta' spiss. F'jum bħal dan l-antiki kienu jgħidu li l-Qaddis tagħna jaqla' grazzji speċjali lil min jitolbu, twemmin li għadu popolari fostna anke' illum. Din il-knisja illum twaqqgħet biex tagħmel spazju għal iktar wiśa' u kumdita' f'din in-naħa ta' Victoria u nittamaw li ma ndumux ma narawha b'dehra isbaħ milli hi bl-istink tal-Kunsill Lokali ta' beltina. Diġa sar ħafna imma nemmen li għad fadal xi jsir! Imma kull min kiser l-erbghin żgur li ma jinsihex kif ġieb u laħaq. Il-knisja ta' San Gużepp tas-Suq, kif kienet magħrufa mir-Rabtin, b'mod speċjali, m'għadhiex magħna imma żgur hija parti mportanti mill-wirt storiku ta' pajjiżna li taf il-bidu tagħha mijiet ta' snin ilu.

Bosta drabi billi din il-festa tiġi matul ir-Randan, titfakkar imbagħad xi jiem fuq l-Għid. Fix-Xlendi wkoll ir-Rettur ħabrieġi t'hawnhekk jagħmillu festa sabiħa lil San Gużepp u fid-19 tax-xahar issir

Konċelebrazzjoni Solenni bil-kurunella u Ċelebrazzjoni Ewkatistika. Wara l-festa tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu li hija t-titular tal-Knisja, dik ta' San Gużeppe hija bla dubju s-“seconda festa”. Ngħid għalija jien ma nistax ninsa festa bħal din, għax barra li San Gużeppe huwa l-qaddis patrun ta' ismi, kien ukoll fil-festa liturġika tiegħu li ntrabatt ma' marti fis-Sagrament taż-żwieġ u biex tkompli l-istorja, marti tagħlaq żmienha fid-19! U xtaqt nagħlaq din il-kitba qasira fl-okkażjoni tal-festa ta' San Gużeppe billi nislet l-aħħar żewġ strofi minn poeżija twila li jien kont ktibt f'għieh dan il-qaddis xi ftit tas-snin ilu.

***O Gużeppe Missier tagħna
Thalliniex minnek nitbiegħdu
Qawwi lilna kontra l-ħalel
Li did-dinja qed irieghdu***

***Sabiex wara din il-ħajja
Taħt il-ħarsien ħelu tiegħek
Ingawduk niġu fis-Sema
Ferħanin għal dejjem miegħek.***

MALTA'S PRIME MINISTER TO MEET MEGHAN MARKLE



Malta's Prime Minister is to meet Meghan Markle for the first time.

Joseph Muscat will be introduced to Prince Harry's bride-to-be at a special service in London on Monday to celebrate Commonwealth Day.

Dr Muscat will deliver a speech at the ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

He will also rub shoulders with One Direction star Liam Payne, who will perform a song at the service.

Guests of honour will include The Queen, Charles and Camilla, William and Kate, Harry and Meghan, Theresa May and dignitaries from across the Commonwealth.

The service will be broadcast live on BBC One and BBC

World News. Meghan is a big fan of Malta. Her great-great-grandmother Mary was born in Malta in 1862, and the former *Suits* actress spent time in the Maltese Islands in 2015 and revealed she 'really loved it'. The Commonwealth Day service on Monday will start a series of special events in London.

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Baroness Scotland said: 'Never before in the history of our family of nations has there been such a remarkable season of gatherings as that heralded by Commonwealth Day 2018.' Over the coming weeks at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting and associated forums, leaders and representatives of the people in all 53 of our member countries will assemble to work and plan together.

'We will share and learn from one another, and be motivated to ever greater heights of endeavour and achievement. There will also be the Commonwealth Games, with compelling scenes of athletic prowess, tenacity and triumph.

'Huge new audiences worldwide will deepen in understanding of what the Commonwealth is, what it does, and how it brings positive change for the good of all.

'There are opportunities for each and every one of us as members of the worldwide Commonwealth family to become involved.

'With our fellow citizens, we live, learn, work and play in countries set in every continent and ocean – all 2.4 billion of us, representing a glorious spectrum of diversity and talent.

'It is by living and working for the good of one another, towards a common future, that we build our Commonwealth.'

This year, Commonwealth Day falls just two weeks before the start of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia. <https://bay.com.mt/>