



**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA**

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**On Australia Day, 26 January**, we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. It's the day to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of in our great nation. It's the day for us to re-commit to making Australia an even better place for the future.

Australia Day, 26 January, is the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet of 11 convict ships from Great Britain, and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by its commander Captain Arthur Phillip, in 1788.

Though 26 January marks this specific event, today Australia Day celebrations reflect contemporary Australia: our diverse

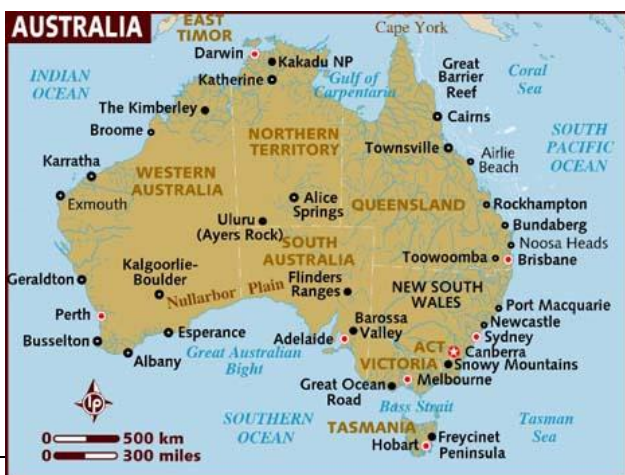
society and landscape, our remarkable achievements and our bright future. It also is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and to consider how we can make Australia an even better place in future.

On Australia Day, over half of the nation's population of 21 million attend either an organised community event, or get together with family and friends with the intention of celebrating our national day. Many more spend the public holiday relaxing with family and friends.

Yet Australia Day is much more than barbeques and fireworks. It is more than another public holiday. It is more than the pride and excitement of new citizens who call themselves Australian for the first time on 26 January after being conferred citizenship.

At its core, Australia Day is a day driven by communities, and the celebrations held in each town, suburb or city – unified by the celebration of what's great about Australia and being Australian – are the foundation of its ongoing success.

## **AUSTRALIA - Our country**



Australia is a unique and diverse country in every way - in culture, population, climate, geography, and history. Australia, nicknamed the "Land Down Under," is a country, an island and a continent. It is the world's smallest continent and the sixth-largest country. It is located in the Southern Hemisphere, between the Indian Ocean and the Southern Pacific Ocean.. This continent-country-island has an area of 2,966,368 square miles (7,682,300 square kilometers).

### **Culture**

Australian culture is as broad and varied as the country's landscape. Australia is multicultural and multiracial and this is reflected in the country's food, lifestyle and cultural practices and experience. Australia has an important heritage from its

indigenous people, which plays a defining role in the cultural landscape. This diversity of influences creates a cultural environment in Australia that is lively, energised, innovative and outward looking.

### Population

As of October 2012, Australia's population is roughly 22.7 million people. The most populous states are New South Wales and Victoria, with their respective capitals, Sydney and Melbourne, the largest cities in Australia. Australia's population is concentrated along the coastal region of Australia from Adelaide to Cairns, with a small concentration around Perth, Western Australia. The centre of Australia is sparsely populated.

### Climate

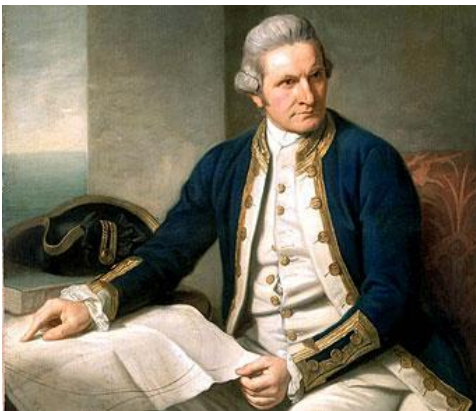
The majority of Australia experiences temperate weather for most of the year. The northern states of Australia are typically warm all the time, with the southern states experiencing cool winters but rarely sub-zero temperatures. Snow falls on the higher mountains during the winter months, enabling skiing in southern New South Wales and Victorian ski resorts, as well as the smaller resorts in Australia's island state, Tasmania.

### Geography

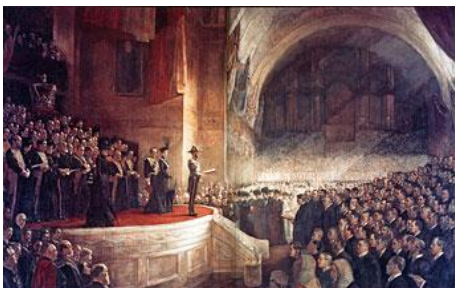
Australia is an island continent and the world's sixth largest country (7,682,300 sq km). Lying between the Indian and Pacific oceans, the country is approximately 4,000 km from east to west and 3,200 km from north to south, with a coastline 36,735 km long. Canberra is Australia's capital city. With a population of approximately 320,000 people and situated in the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra is roughly half way between the two largest cities Melbourne and Sydney. Australia has 19 listed World Heritage properties. Australia is also famous for its landmark buildings including the Sydney Harbour Bridge; its ancient geology, as well as for its high country.

### History

Australia's first inhabitants, the Aboriginal people, are believed to have migrated from some unknown point in Asia to Australia between 50,000 and 60,000 years ago. While Captain James Cook is credited with Australia's European discovery in 1770, a Portuguese possibly first sighted the country, while the Dutch are known to have explored the coastal regions in the 1640s. The first European settlement of Australia was in January 1788, when the First Fleet sailed into Botany Bay under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. Originally established as a penal colony, by the 1830s the number of free settlers was increasing. Transportation of convicts to the eastern colonies was abolished in 1852 and to the western colonies in 1868. Captain James Cook (1728 – 14 February 1779), was a British explorer, navigator and cartographer, he reached the south-eastern coast of Australia on 19 April 1770, his expedition became the first recorded Europeans to have encountered Australia's eastern coastline.



Settlement of prospectors during the gold rushes in Australia. Gold was discovered in 1851 and led to the Victorian gold rush during this era Victoria dominated the world's gold output.



The opening of the first Parliament of Australia in 1901

There are eight **capital cities in Australia**, all of which function at a sub-national level. Melbourne was the national capital from the Federation of Australia in 1901 until 1927, when the seat of national government was moved to the newly created city of Canberra which currently serves as the national capital. In each capital city, local judicial, administrative and legislative duties are performed for the jurisdiction. In the case of state and territory capital cities, they also happen to be the most populous city



in their respective jurisdiction. The Australian external territory of Norfolk Island also has an official capital, Kingston, however, this is just where the administrative centre of government is located; the *de facto* capital is Burnt Pine.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Australian\\_capital\\_cities\\_-\\_cite\\_note-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Australian_capital_cities_-_cite_note-1)



The New Parliament House in the city of Canberra is the meeting place of the Parliament of Australia. Construction began in 1981, the building was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 9 May 1988. Photo: © Noodle snacks



The Melbourne skyline as viewed from the Rialto Observatory on Collins St..  
Image by: Diliff



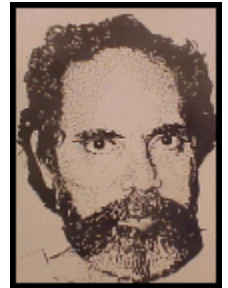
Panorama view of Sydney at dusk with Sydney Opera House on the left.  
Image by: Diliff

## History of the Aboringinal Flag

### Aboriginal Flag



The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas in 1971. It is divided into two equal halves. The top is black, the bottom is red and there is a yellow circle in the centre. The black half symbolises Aboriginal people past, present and future. The yellow circle is the sun, the giver and renewer of life. The red half of the flag is the earth. It also represents red ochre symbolising spiritual attachment to the land. It is was 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.



The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aboriginies day July 12th 1971, it was used later at the Tent Embassy in Canberra in 1972, when Aboriginal people were seeking national justice, including land rights, education, legal rights and health. Today the flag is used by all Aboriginal groups and is flown at Aboriginal centres all over Australia.

## Immigration

Australia's culturally diverse society includes its Indigenous peoples who arrived more than 50,000 years ago, and settlers from countries all around the world. Immigration is an important feature of Australian society. Since 1945, over six million people from 200 countries have come to Australia as new settlers. Migrants have made a major contribution to shaping modern Australia. People born overseas make up almost one quarter of the total population. The federal government sets immigration intake numbers on a yearly basis. Australia's immigration policies are non-discriminatory and all applicants to migrate must meet the same selection criteria. In recent years the mandatory detention of unauthorised arrivals with the intention of applying for refugee status (asylum seekers) by boat has generated great levels of controversy. Mandatory detention laws were introduced in Australia by the Keating Labor government, with bipartisan support, in 1992. The legislation was proposed as a result of an influx of Vietnamese, Chinese, and Cambodian refugees over the previous few years.



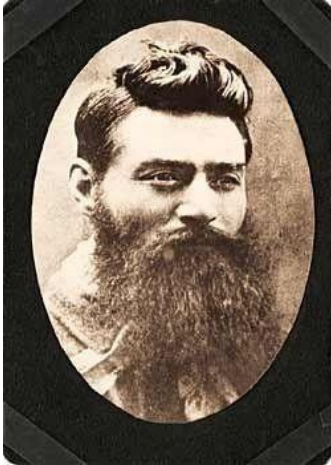
### The facts about refugees

According to the UNHCR, at the end of 2011 there were 35.4million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, including 895,000 asylum seekers and 10.4million refugees. An asylum seeker is someone seeking international protection. A refugee is someone who satisfies the grounds provided under the *United Nations 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (the Refugees Convention)*. Australia's main obligation under this

convention is to 'provide protection to people who are in Australia and who face persecution in their home country.....Until recently, the vast majority of asylum seekers applying for protection in Australia arrived originally by air with a valid visa. More recently, the proportions of boat arrivals have increased, but boat arrivals still comprise about half of Australia's onshore asylum claims. According to the Department of Immigration's publication '*Refugee and Humanitarian Issues*', 'there is no offence under Australian law that criminalises the act of arriving in Australia or the seeking of asylum without a valid visa.'

### Unusual & Interesting Facts About Australia

- Australia was the second country to give women the right to vote.
- Until 1984, Australia's National anthem was "God save the Queen"
- Australia Day (January 26) is the anniversary of ships arriving in Sydney carrying convicts from England.
- In 2007, it was estimated that 22 per cent of living Australians had a convict ancestor.
- Australia's first police force was a band of 12 of the most well behaved Convicts.
- Over 90% of Australia is dry, flat and arid. Almost three-quarters of the land cannot support agriculture
- A baby kangaroo at the time of its birth measures 2 centimetres.
- Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.
- The Box Jellyfish is considered the world's most venomous marine creature. The Box Jellyfish has killed more people in Australia than stonefish, sharks and crocodiles combined.
- Four out of 10 Australians are migrants or the first-generation children of migrants.



life".

## **Ned Kelly**

### **A Famous Australian Bushranger - "Such Is Life"**

Ned Kelly (1854-1880) was an Australian bushranger, who was considered a folk hero among many for his defiance of the colonial authorities at the time. Ned Kelly was born in Victoria to an Irish convict father (convicts were a major proportion of Australia at this time).

After an incident at his home in 1878, Ned Kelly's mother and friends were convicted and taken away. Ned Kelly fled and ended up murdering three policemen (in self defence), from that day Ned Kelly and his gang became wanted outlaws. Soon the entire Victorian and New South Wales police force began hunting down Ned Kelly. He not only evaded capture, but he started to fight back; robbing banks and distributing the money to his supporters for legal fees. Ned Kelly made his final stand in a violent confrontation with police at Glenrowan, using home made steel plate armor. He suffered 28 bullet wounds before being captured and sent to jail. He was hanged for murdering the three policeman at the Old Melbourne Gaol in 1880. Ned Kelly's final words were "Such is

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## **The Barbie**



Barbie is Australian slang for barbeque (or barbecue). Barbies are an important part of lifestyle in Australia, during Summer especially most people will have at least one week-end barbie a week. There is nothing more Australian than a barbie. Other countries like to drink beer. Other countries have a pub culture. There is no culture in the world that enjoys barbeques quite like the Australians, we have the perfect climate for it and we have the perfect mateship for it. It is very much a part of our way of life and is enjoyed everywhere and by everyone. Australian barbies are a simple and easy way to catch up with friends, family or neighbours, but there are some requirements. Requirements for an Australian Barbie are: -Beer –Meat –Friends and more Beer.

## **The success of Vegemite: all down to a researcher at the University of Adelaide?**



Vegemite started as a wartime substitute for Marmite, but it's now as symbolic of Australia as Sydney Harbour Bridge and the koala. How did this salty spread become so popular?

What's the link between German U-boats, the beer industry, processed cheese and the Men At Work's 1983 hit, Down Under?

The answer is, they all played a part in turning Vegemite from a humble yeast spread into an Australian icon. Stop any Aussie on any street, anywhere in the world, and they will have a view on Vegemite – for, or against.

Now, on the eve of its 90th birthday, the first official history has just been published. The Man Who Invented Vegemite is written by Jamie Callister, grandson of the man who created it.

"My grandfather Cyril created something that all Australians associate with their childhood. It never leaves you," he says.

Vegemite is a nutritious, and undeniably delicious start to the day. Sure, it's great on toast, but what if we add an egg? Or a slice of tomato? Or some cheese or creamy Aussie avo? Rich in B vitamins to kick start your day, open the lid on a world of ways

to start with VEGEMITE.



## From the archives of the Maltese Community of South Australia

### AN ACT OF CHARITY BY THE MALTESE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR II

World War II hit Malta on 11 June 1940 and it may be safely said that the enemy hostilities lasted till the capitulation of Italy, which was officially announced on 8 September 1943.



Malta suffered heavy losses and many of its historical buildings and homes were destroyed. The Maltese people suffered moral and physical pain and hunger they had never experienced before. During a five-month period between December 1941 and May 1942 more than 800 Maltese were killed and nearly one thousand severely injured in action. Four thousand buildings were reduced to rubble.

The Maltese Community of South Australia in 1942, although very small in numbers (only 30 families) did try to help alleviate the sufferings of their compatriots back home. They organised a special celebration to raise money to be sent to their relatives and friends in Malta. The organisers and participants as well as those who

supported this function received well-deserved admiration from the rest of the South Australian community for their charitable and heroic gesture.

*The photo ABOVE shows the main participants in this unique occasion:*

*Standing from left to right: Connie Vella, Eris Vella, Jane Sciberras, Doris Camilleri, Jeane Camilleri, Rita Schembri, Mary Camilleri. Doris Sciberras and Mary Grima. Sitting: Amy, Clare, and Rita Grima.*

*Information supplied by Rita Schembri and photo by (the late) Daniel Caruana*

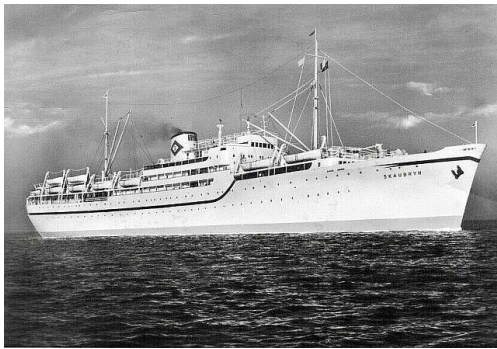
## Dun Karm Psalia Il-poeta Nazzjonali ta' Malta.

### Għaliex?

**Għaliex tarmih l-ilsien li tatek ommok u tiflek għaqlek wara lsien barrani?  
Maltija kienet l-ewwel kelma f'ommok, bil-Malti tkellimt tifel daħkani.  
U kiber miegħek dak l-ilsien ewlieni, u ġmielu ntiseġ mal-ġrajjet ta' ħajtek:  
bih fissirt qalbek meta sfajtli hieni, bih fissirt għommtok meta mbikki rajtek.  
Għaliex immela tiċhad, Malti ħija, lil dan il-Lsien li bih int Malti sewwa?  
Hobb, jekk jiswewlek, l-ilsna barranija, iżda le tbarri lil min hu ta' ġewwa**



## HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA



### SS SKAUBRYN - THE LAST VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA FROM MALTA

#### The day the ship caught fire

**TIMES OF MALTA Monday, 31st March 2008  
1958-2014**

#### **56th anniversary of a dream trip gone wrong**

The crossing to Australia was an emotional time for the 1,100 passengers -169 of them Maltese - on the Norwegian migrant ship, the Skaubryn.

They were excited about the opportunities in their new homes, tearful about the lives they had left behind. And for many of them, it was also a frightening experience, their first long sea journey. Who could have imagined that it would end in disaster. On March 31, 1958, the Skaubryn caught fire in the Indian Ocean and issued an SOS at 11.30 p.m.



*Maltese survivors in Aden, April 1958*

Fate was kind. There was a vessel nearby, the City of Sydney, which rushed to assist the stricken vessel, getting there within two hours and saving all the passengers and 180 crew. It took four terrifying hours to get all of them off the burning ship. It later transferred the survivors to a liner, the Roma, which dropped them off in Aden, where they stayed till transport could be organised to Australia. On board with the migrants was Fr Spiru Tabone, now nearly 90, who was asked to accompany the Maltese contingent as their spiritual advisor by Fr Philip Calleja, head of the Emigrants' Commission.

"He knew that I yearned to go to Australia to see my family - although my roots in Malta were too deep to tempt me to emigrate. No one else was keen so I got the opportunity," Fr Tabone said, his cloudy eyes turned away, as though trying to glimpse his faded memories. "I had travelled before but never to Australia. I was not afraid of the sea. The sea was very rough at times but that is what you have to expect. I was brought up in Kalkara, near the sea so I know its fury."

He paused for a long time, his hands shaking slightly, trying to remember life on board. "My duties on board were not too onerous. All I used to have to do was celebrate Mass, really. I tended to keep to myself. I did not socialise very much," he

said. It is not clear whether he has forgotten the dramatic events of 50 years ago - or whether he prefers not to remember them. He talks about that night without any emotion. "I remember that we were all woken up by the crew. We were in the middle of nowhere. We were taken off the boat onto the City of Sydney. I don't remember being scared. We were not even aware of the fire until we left the vessel," he shrugged.

They were lucky to escape with their lives but once the survivors got over their shock - and gratitude at being alive - they had to face the grim reality that they had lost everything they owned. They arrived in Australia with nothing but the clothes in which they stood. The stories in the newspapers of the time captured the extent of the human drama: One of the survivors was Carmel Calleja, who had left Gudja with his wife and 10 children. They arrived without even a toy between them.

The plight of the Skaubryn survivors touched many hearts. The Maltese government promptly sent £50 to each survivor aged over 20, £25 to those aged between 14 and 20, and £10 to those under 14. The Australian government helped all the survivors, providing A\$20,000 in all, while other philanthropic organisations also pitched in with food, clothes and money. It was not only physical goods they need but also spiritual support. The Emigrants' Commission, through Mgr Calleja, organised recording sessions



so that relatives in Malta could send messages to Australia, also keeping those in Malta up to date with what was happening there.

The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEDM) organised a free cable for each family as well as free aerogram forms to be sent to relatives. It also organised free transportation from Germany of personal belongings from relatives and friends. Fr Tabone stayed in Australia until June 1958, returning on the MS Flaminia, much against his better wishes.... "I was obviously reluctant to travel by ship again and I asked to return by air but the ICEM could not accommodate my request as the contract only provided passage by air. I had no choice... "I have been back to Australia eight times since then to visit my siblings ... but always by air," he smiled.

Once back in Malta, Fr Tabone went back to parish work. The years sped by, one of the highlights being a visit to Rome in 1996 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Pope John Paul II, during which the Pope invited other priests from around the world ordained in 1946. He has been at the Dar Tal-Kleru in Birkirkara for over a decade. He politely ends the interview, apologising that he was not able to remember more and ambles back to the chapel, where a shaft of sunlight pierces the silence. A door opens and shuts and the aroma of food wafts down the corridor. Life goes on.

The story of the Maltese bound for Australia on board the Norwegian ship SS Skaubryn occupies a unique place since it was the only occasion when a number of emigrants were for a time in great danger. This ship was built in 1951 and made six journeys between Malta and Australia from 1952 to her last journey in 1958. On that fateful journey the ship carried 169 passengers from Malta while in all she had on her 1,082 passengers with 208 members of the crew. Among the passengers were 200 children and 40 babies. The Maltese had their own chaplain with them, Fr S. Tabone from Kalkara. He was going to visit his two brothers who had left Malta eight years before. The Skaubryn left Grand Harbour on March 22, 1958, and after a short stop at Port Said the ship passed Aden to enter the vastness of the Indian Ocean. That ocean was incredibly calm and the ship continued on her way in a very relaxed atmosphere. On Monday, March 31, captain Alf Haakon Feste ordered his crew and passengers to meet on deck at 2.30 pm for an emergency drill. Some of the people on board complained at this interference as they preferred their siesta at that time.

Once the drill was over some of the passengers went to the hall where a band was playing with a few dancers on the floor. It was very calm and very hot. As darkness fell many went to their cabins for the night's sleep. All one could hear was the regular humming of the ship's engines. Fr Tabone decided that he too needed a good sleep because he had to be up by 5.00 am. But suddenly the lights in his cabin dimmed and then there was complete darkness. The priest could hear people moving excitedly. His first thought was that some passengers had decided to go on deck to watch the Soviet satellite Sputnik as they had been told that there was a good chance of seeing the satellite from their position in the ocean. The reason for the commotion was that the engine room was on fire. According to the report given by Captain Feste the fire was caused by a misunderstanding between two members of the crew when they caused oil from an open line in the engine room to spurt on hot exhaust pipes. In a very short time all passengers on board were told which lifeboats they had to take. This efficiency saved the lives of all concerned except for an elderly German who died of a heart attack.



*Some of the Maltese male survivors of the MV Skaubryn on the wharf in Aden.*

The ship caught fire on its way to Australia not long after coming out of the Suez Canal and into the Indian Ocean

1951-58 - - Number of voyages - - 4  
Number of Maltese Passengers - 2576

The Skaubryn left Malta on the last day of March 1958, having embarked 169 men, women and children at Valletta. About 3 days out of Aden, in the Indian Ocean, fire swept the decks from the

direction of the engine room and soon the vessel was engulfed in flames. Passengers were assisted to lifeboats, the ship was abandoned and soon sank. Some passengers were rescued by the 'CITY OF SYDNEY', a tanker and a tug.

Returned to Aden, the passengers completed their journey to Australia on "Roma" and "Orsova!". No one lost their life in direct consequence of the fire.



## **Australia celebrates birth of 50th great grandson to Maltese 'nanna'** **Malta**

**Today** Wednesday 25 January 2012



**Maltese migrant to Australia becomes great-grandma to 50th grandson.**

*Fifty is enough... Connie Gauci hits the Australian national headlines.*

**Karl Stagno-Navarra**

One-time migrant Connie Gauci has hit national headlines in Australia yesterday, after the birth of her 50th great-grandson.

87-year-old 'Nanna' Gauci emigrated to Australia in 1949, and is widow to her Maltese husband Paul who died four years ago.

TV crews and newspaper reporters flocked to Connie Gauci's home in Milton St, Mackay, where she was celebrated by her eight children, 30 grandchildren and 50 great-grandchildren (and another due any

minute).

"Fifty is so many!", Connie laughed yesterday, soon after the birth of her 50th great-grandchild Max.

"I'm never alone. I always have everyone here - sometimes three times a day - so that's a very, very good thing.

"I'd do anything for them - what I can I'll do, I'll tell you right now. I'm proud of them. We get on so well and I'm very, very lucky because they respect me and do anything for me, which they shouldn't!"

Babysitting is par for the course at her home, described by Connie's daughter Doris Feeney as "the meeting place", with many little family members learning to walk on her kitchen step.

"Mum's got the knack of making all the grandkids and great-grandkids think that they're the only ones she's got," Doris said.

"They just feel so special... and so do we (her children)."

Connie says her husband Paul, would have loved to see their 50th great-grandchild Max born.

Connie was 25, pregnant and a mother of three when she moved to Australia shortly after the war.

"Everything was bombed. There was no work, no food, no nothing. Everyone wanted to emigrate," she said.

The Gaucis were initially planning to move to Chicago, but chose Australia because that's where the next ship was headed. They ended up in Mackay, where a relative with a farm sponsored them.

Paul got a job and the couple bought a house on Milton St, before building a house with their bare hands - and £80 pounds that Connie managed to save away while feeding their eight children.

She's still feeding her family, with Sunday feasts at Nanna's place a popular tradition across the generations. She loves spoiling them with everything from roast dinners to cakes.



**Maltese Australian Association of Queensland Inc.**

November 24, 2013



Thirkill and Iris Chiles.

**Congratulations to all.**

**Children's Christmas Party 15/12/2013 - Wellington Point.**

Sunday was a glorious summers day at Wellington Point with a light breeze to cool all who attended. We had three guests who attended from Malta who are visiting their relatives that live in our beautiful state of Queensland....

**Description**

The Maltese Australian Association organizes functions and activities for the Maltese community in the Brisbane and surrounding suburbs of South East Queensland. They welcome family and friends to get together. Here are photos of some of the activities. . Amazing – Maltese wherever they are, still love and promote Malta, its rich history and exquisite Culture and heritage.



**Id-Dulli, Majsi u C-Cittadini**





## **Malta's Mosta Church – when the bomb came through the roof**

Malta is not all beaches and hedonistic fun. Take time out on your travels there to pop into some of the many historic sights. Take the Mosta Church for example.

### *A view of the massive exterior of the Mosta Church*

Malta wasn't at all prepared for the Second World War. She had no aircraft but British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "this is a time to show strength, not weakness." Aircraft pilots were not trained or ready for battle.

In January 1941, the Luftwaffe (the German air force) came to Malta on bombing missions from Sicily and then in November they started using Stukas (dive bombers). In order to win the air battle, Malta needed Spitfires. Forty-seven had flown in on 20th April but they were monitored on radar and bombed as soon as they landed. In what became known as the "glorious 10th of May," sixty-three German aircraft were damaged or destroyed.

During the Second World War, Malta was the most bombed place on earth. More than 14,000 bombs were dropped, destroying about 30,000 buildings but Malta still fought on. More than 1,500 civilians were killed in Malta during the Second World War.

However, the devout Maltese Catholics, were convinced Malta wouldn't fall to the enemy. In 1942 a bomb fell right down through the

roof of Mosta church. This was one of the biggest churches and reputedly there were over 250 people attending a service at that time. No one was killed and this was considered as a miracle.

A replica bomb is now in the church sacristy.



A replica of the bomb



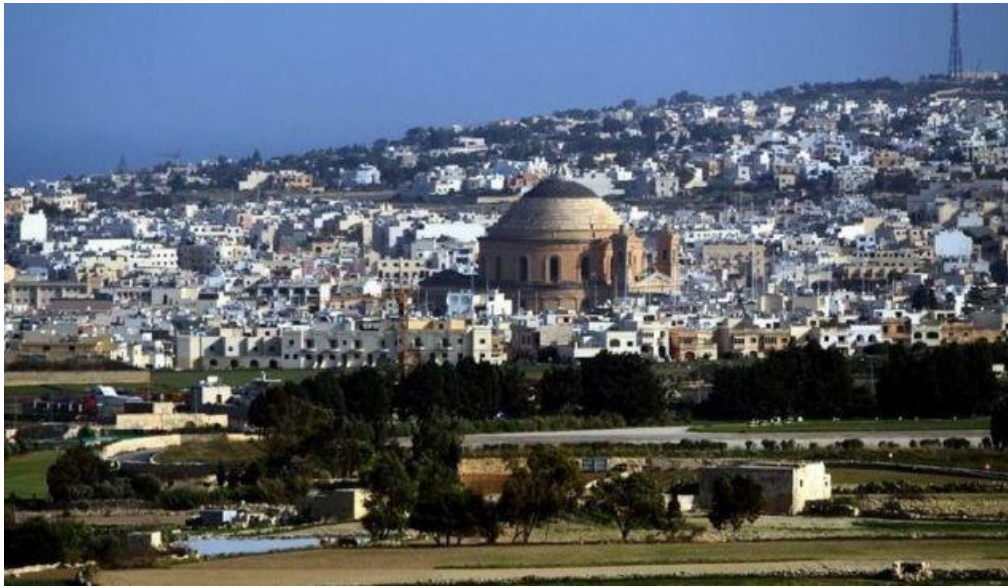
MOSTA – Coat of Arms



Mosta Church – interior

Mosta is without any doubt one of the oldest settlements on the islands, with archaeological finds dating to pre-history. Visit some of the historical places such as the Victoria Lines and Medieval chapels, and get a local to recount some of the many folktales particular to Mosta, such as the famous legend of the Mosta Bride (L-Gharusa tal-Mosta).

What makes Mosta an absolute must is the world-famous Rotunda: the Parish Church of Santa Marija has the third-largest dome in Europe and the ninth-largest in the world. The Mosta Rotunda stands huge and impressive and has



special sentimental significance for the local 'Mostin' and Maltese Christians. This is because a German bomb which fell on the Church during World War II became wedged in the dome and did not explode, therefore the lives of hundreds of people part-taking in worship inside the Church were saved - nothing short of a miracle. See a replica of the bomb in the Church museum.

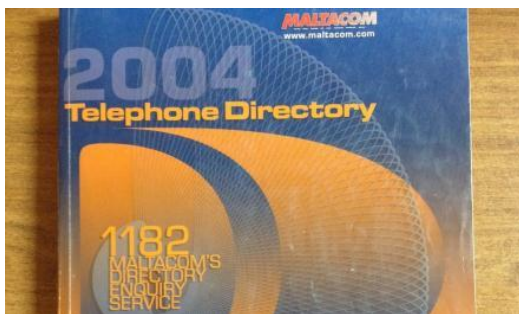
Visit Mosta on the festa of Santa Marija on 15th August or attend the Good Friday processions in Mosta if you are on the island during these periods, as these are among

the most popular religious activities on the island, with locals and tourists alike. In Mosta there are two band clubs and two fire works factories which make spectacular fire works displays.

Mosta is a significant and bustling town located in Central Malta although its motto 'Spes Alit Ruricolam' bears testimony to its rural past. Go shopping in Mosta for all kind of things which you will find at lower prices than the prime shopping areas in Malta.

## Ten years later still no sign of a printed Maltese telephone directory

**Despite legal obligations there is still no sign of an updated version of the directory on the horizon.**



### **MALTA TODAY James J. Piscopo**

Despite legal obligations, and ten years after the last printed telephone directory, there is still no sign of an updated version of the directory on the horizon, even though the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) did not exclude such possibility.

Asked what held the Authority back from issuing a printed telephone directory in the last decade, an MCA spokesperson referred to a 2011 attempt where three bidders did not satisfy the needed requirements, after a call for expression was issued.

The spokesperson said that after this decision, the MCA commenced discussions with GO plc to provide this service, but in the meantime a third party made its

interest known to publish a printed telephone directory on its own accord.

The third party was testing data received from operators but despite these developments, the third party reneged from taking a final decision in this regard. MaltaToday has learnt that in the coming months, the Communications Authority will "consult the Universal Services Obligations and deal with the publication of the telephone directory".

Nonetheless no timeframes were given, which make the possibility of a 2014 edition seem even more distant. The MCA spokesperson said that a survey carried out some years ago established that the majority of people were not using the printed directory.

"But in order to ensure every possible means to access such information to the entire population, in 2010 the Authority decided that the printed directory should still be considered as part of the Universal Service," she concluded.

In the absence of a printed landline directory, the majority either resorted to the 2004 edition or the online version. Overseas, most of the countries issue regular editions of printed directories despite also having online versions.





# BUILDING VIRTUAL BRIDGES

*Maltese Language School of Adelaide- Australia*



Visit our Website - [www.ozmalta.page4.me](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me)



*Anzac Day 1968*

*Maltese Ex-servicemen marching on ANZAC DAY in the street of the city of Adelaide - South Australia Soon after they received the Charter as RSL Maltese Sub-branch. Mr Charles Farrugia, the RSL President leading the group*



*A group of proud Maltese/Australians at the Adelaide International Airport*

*Welcoming Mgr. Paul Cremona OP Archbishop of Malta to South Australia*

*On 8 July 2008*

**On August 22, 1963**, the Maltese Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, the Honourable Alexander Cachia Zammit, MD, MLA arrived in Sydney to commence his official visit to Australia. He was accompanied by the Permanent head of the Maltese Department of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare, Mr JM Rossignaud, and by his private secretary, Mr JL Bonnici. Dr Zammit opened officially new club premises for the Maltese Settlers club, Enmore, Sydney, and presented trophies won by Maltese immigrant players in the Malta Eagles Soccer Club CATEGORY: photograph FORMAT: b&w negative TYPE: cellulose acetate STATUS: preservation material

**SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS  
OF THE MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS  
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
17th Edition

MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS OF S.A.  
Maltese Community Council  
Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group  
Maltese Guild of S.A.  
Maltese Senior Citizens Association  
Maltese R.S.L. Sub-Branch  
Maltese Queen of Victories Band  
Maltese Community Radio 5EBI FM  
Blue Grotto Radio 5PBA FM  
St. Catherine Society of S.A.  
Maltese Aged Care Assoc. of S.A.  
Society of Christian Doctrine



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# Jannar/January 2014

Mon/Tnejn	Tue/Tlieta	Wed/Erbgha	Thu/Hamis	Fri/Gimgha	Sat/Sibt	Sun/Hadd
		1	2	3 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass St Finbar—7pm	4	5 R.S.L.
6	7	8	9	10 SENIOR CITIZENS RE-OPENING	11	12 2ND SUNDAY MASS LOCKLEYS –3.00PM
13	14	15	16 MACASA MAG South	17	18 ST CATHERINE SOC SOCIAL NIGHT	19 R.S.L.
20	21	22	23	24 SENIOR CITIZENS AUSTRALIA DAY FREE LUNCHEON	25 AUSTRALIA DAY MALTESE GUILD LUNCHEON	26 M.Q.V.BAND SOCIAL DAY
27	28	29 MACASA MAG West	30	31 • MALTESE CULTURAL CENTRE opens every Tuesday from 10 am till 3.00pm • MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND rehearses every Wednesday at 7.30pm • MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS open every Wednesday and Friday: 10am to 3pm * MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL is held every Friday at 7.00p.m.		

## CALENDAR – Activities of the Maltese Associations operating in Adelaide SA



### AN EARLY FUNCTION OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE

These handsome guys  
and pretty girls at the  
Miss Malta Ball in the  
70's

Can somebody supply  
me with their names

Please





## Maltese plays key role in Merchant Navy Day – TIMES OF MALTA

A Maltese sailor recently represented the Merchant Navy Association at a memorial service in Sydney, Australia.

Louis Bonnici, 70, who lives in Ivybridge, England, read the naval prayer and laid a wreath on behalf of association president Vivien Foster during the first Merchant Navy Day held at Mosman Centaph, New South Wales.

"It was the best day of my life. I was so proud to be a part of the day," he said.

The veteran seaman joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in 1957, becoming a yacht captain before retiring in 1994. He had immigrated to Australia in 1965, before moving to England in 2003.

The auxiliary is a civilian-manned fleet which provides the Royal Navy with fuel and supplies.

The Merchant Navy was crucial to the expansion of the British Empire, becoming the world's foremost merchant fleet, benefiting from trade in sugar, spices and tea with India and the Far East.

Despite losing more than half its fleet in World War I and World War II its convoy ships successfully imported enough supplies to probably allow victory.

kbugeja@timesofmalta.com

## The Maltese Falcon Sells for \$3.5 Million at TCM Auction



"This is genuine coin of the realm," Kasper Gutman (Sydney Greenstreet) says to Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) while haggling over the value of the Maltese Falcon in the 1941 film of the same name. Today at Bonhams in New York City, the statuette of the iconic "black bird" from John Huston's noir classic brought in a whopping **\$3.5 million at auction** after a protracted bidding war between a bidder in the room and an unidentified party on the phone.

The remote buyer, whose bids were delivered by Bonhams' Director of Entertainment Memorabilia Catherine Williamson, emerged victorious, and a cheer arose from the assembled – and somewhat stunned – crowd. (The final sale price, including Bonhams' service fees, will be \$4,085,000.)



Mrs Mary Borg and her nine children pictured after their journey from Malta to Australia on the liner Achille Lauro,

3 May 1971. *Photo: Fairfax Archives*

## Maltese emigrants all over the world

Although the Maltese Islands never had more than 400,000 native inhabitants, it is estimated that the number of Maltese living around the world is many hundreds of thousands higher. That is because over the past two centuries thousands of Maltese left their homeland in search of a better future elsewhere.

In today's terms, they would have been 'economic migrants' and surely not 'illegal immigrants' because their mass migration from Malta was not only organised but also encouraged, especially in the 1960's when it was a handy solution to Malta's economic problems at its dawn of Independence in 1964. Many of these went to English-speaking countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia. A century earlier they had just ventured in the Mediterranean and Maltese communities can today be traced in Tunisia, Gibraltar, Libya and Egypt. When pondering on issues related to the wave of illegal immigrants hitting the Maltese shores, the Maltese people surely know what it feels like to have to leave your mother country in search of a better life far away.





## INSPIRED BY DESIGN – CHOCOLATE WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Being from a small island has never prevented the Maltese from thinking big and this is what exactly happened in Brussels when a Maltese chef, using Belgian chocolate, set the world's record for the longest structure made in chocolate.

Within the framework of the Belgian Chocolate Week, Chef and ITS lecturer **Andrew Farrugia** displayed his latest work of art- a chocolate train. On Monday, this sculpture was recorded by the Guinness World Records as holding the record for being the longest chocolate structure in the world, measuring 34.5 meters in length.



The chocolate train was the highlight of the Belgian Chocolate Week, so much so that the Minister of Tourism for the Brussels region used this event to officially open the week's activities, which attracted press from all over the world.

Mr Farrugia worked closely with Malta's Ambassador in Belgium, HE Vanessa Frazier to secure sponsors for the event and for the logistics of his participation in this festival.

The train was manufactured in Malta using 1,285 kg of chocolate donated by Belgian chocolate manufacturer Belcolage. The train was transported overland the Brussels by Mr Kevin Attard of Customs and Freight Ltd and flights to and accommodation in Brussels for Mr Farrugia and his team were offered by

Airmalta and Radisson Blu Royal. MTA also co-sponsored the event and used it as an occasion to promote Malta as a tourist destination. Mr Farrugia also created a grand piano out of chocolate for which Roland, the renowned piano manufacturer donated an electric keyboard. During the inauguration of the event, which was held in the South Terminal of the Midi train station in Brussels, the life-size chocolate piano used by two pianists to perform classical and jazz pieces.



### STRENGTHENING OUR UNITY

**CONVENTION OF  
MALTESE LIVING  
ABROAD 2010**

**NEXT CONVENTION  
WILL BE HELD IN  
MALTA**

**NEXT YEAR 2015**





The pope  
donned a red nose to celebrate with a newlywed couple, who met through volunteering at a charity that brings clown therapy to sick children, at the Vatican.



Pope Francis allowed a little boy who ran up onto the stage during his homily to stay with him, even sitting the child on his chair.





Every time Pope Francis meets with young children. AP Photo/Gregorio



L'Osservatore Romano / AP

In his first address to the media, Pope Francis explained why he chose the name: "For me, he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation."