



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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The power of connecting individuals and communities via digital media



Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam'

ANZAC MEMORIAL

SYDNEY - AUSTRALIA



MICHELANGELO

(1475-1564)



Engraved portrait of Michelangelo

Michelangelo was a painter, sculptor, architect and poet and one of the great artists of the Italian Renaissance.

Michelangelo Buonarroti was born on 6 March 1475 in Caprese near Florence (Italy) where his father was the local magistrate. A few weeks after his birth, the family moved to Florence. In 1488, Michelangelo was apprenticed to the painter Domenico Ghirlandaio. He then lived in the household of Lorenzo de' Medici, the leading patron of the arts in Florence.

After the Medici were expelled from Florence, Michelangelo travelled to Bologna and then, in 1496, to Rome. His primary works were sculpture in these early years. His 'Pietà' (1497) made his name and

he returned to Florence a famous sculptor. Here he produced his 'David' (1501-1504).

In 1505, Pope Julius II summoned Michelangelo back to Rome and commissioned him to design Julius' own tomb. Due to quarrels between Julius and Michelangelo, and the many other demands on the artist's time, the project was never completed, although Michelangelo did produce a sculpture of Moses for the tomb.



Michelangelo's next major commission was the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican (1508-1512). It was recognised at once as a great work of art and from then on Michelangelo was regarded as Italy's greatest living artist.

The new pope, Leo X, then commissioned Michelangelo to rebuild the façade of the church of San Lorenzo in Florence. The scheme was eventually abandoned, but it marks the beginning of Michelangelo's activity as an architect. Michelangelo also designed monuments to Giuliano and Lorenzo de' Medici in the Medici Chapel in San Lorenzo.

In 1534, Michelangelo returned to Rome where he was commissioned to paint 'The Last Judgement' on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel (1537-1541). From 1546 he was increasingly active as an architect, in particular on the great church of St Peter's. He died in Rome on 18 February 1564.

“We knelt and prayed for Malta”

The Indian community on Good Friday

Report: Nigel Mifsud



During Holy Week, the Orpheum Theatre in Gzira served as a church for the Catholic community from Kerala, India. On Good Friday evening a congregation of about 1,000 people gathered to commemorate the Adoration of the Cross.

Later, the streets of Gzira and Sliema witnessed scenes of a different nature on a Good Friday when about 1,000 person carrying candles and crosses walked in a procession organised by the Indian Kerala Parish which for the first time organised a street Via Crucis.

The community's spiritual leader Fr Binoj Mulavarickal said that along the route they had representations of the 14 Stations of the Cross on a truck to help guide the devoted, as happens in Catholic parishes in India.

“Normally all parishes organise such a programme for Good Friday. We are all familiar with this on Good Friday, praying, singing the Via Crucis,” explained Fr Binoj.

He said when they reached the 13th Station, this was a particular one. “We all knelt down and we prayed for Malta. We are especially thankful for Malta, because there are a lot of Maltese families that are benefactors for Indian priests.”

Following the representations was also Fr Sanaj Thomas who carried the Crucifix. He said the people carried wooden crosses and the candle light provided rays of hope. “The cross is not the end, but we also carry candles, that is, the hope we are going to experience tomorrow on the Resurrection.”

In the evening the Indian community continued with Resurrection celebrations with a theatrical representation at the Orpheum Theatre.

Nixtieq li nwassal ix-xewqa li ngħixu flimkien bħall-aħwa – il-President

F'Malta, il-President George Vella Itaqa' mal-pubbliku fil-Palazz ta' Sant'Anton. Appella lill-Maltin biex jgħixu bħala aħwa. Il-President ta' Malta George Vella qal “”jiena nixtieq li nwassal messagg ta' tama u mħabba u anke ta' prosperità u x-xewqa li ngħixu flimkien bħall-aħwa u nippruvaw li naraw li l-problemi ta' bejnietna mhux inkabbruhom iżda nčekknuhom. Illum huwa messagg ta' tama li nistgħu jkollna ħajja dejjem aħjar milli għandna illum. Il-President Vella ħa sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-quddiesa tal-Għid fil-Palazz u wara tkellem ma' dawk preżenti.

Parliamentary Secretary Justyne Caruana distributes Easter Figolli

The Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing Dr Justyne



Caruana, said that over the past few days she has had an enjoyable time meeting with some of the elderly and disabled persons and their families, who benefit from various services and initiatives in Gozo.

During her visits Dr Caruana wished everyone a Happy Easter and distributed traditional figolli. She also reiterated the Government's commitment for a fairer society



*Sam CJ Muscat JP
President*

*Australian American
Association (Vic)*

Dear Frank,

I wish you and your family a very blessed and Happy Easter. Also, congratulations for a very well presented, written and professional Newsletter. You truly do the Maltese/Australian community proud. I wish that someone on my Board/team could put together such a great newsletter. Thoroughly enjoy reading most of the articles and reading to my in-laws, I wish my father Terry Muscat was still around because I know that he would have very much enjoyed reading the newsletter (I believe you knew my dad?). Sam Muscat – Victoria

We have included a tribute to the late Terry Muscat from Victoria in the following page. We have fond and long-lasting memories of this Maltese Expatriate who was such a strong advocate for many migrants of all nationalities and especially for the Maltese during his lifetime..

Remembering

Terry Muscat O.A.M., M.O.M. (1934 – 2003)

Born in Mellieha, Malta, Chev Terry Muscat emigrated to Australia in 1956. He immediately joined the ironworkers' Association in Victoria (FIA). He was elected to the FIA Victorian of management in 1959. He was Victorian legate to the FIA national conference in 1964, and since 1965, he has served as FIA delegate to the biennial congresses of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) as foundation member of ACTU's Migrant Workers Committee. Muscat was elected full-time FIA Victorian branch organizer (1969), assistant secretary (1982), and president (1990).

Terry has served as member for the Australian Labour Party (ALP) Public Office Selection Committee since 1986 and was delegate to the Victorian Trades Hall Council (1969-93). He also served as trustee of the Metals Traders Federation of Unions (1985-89).

Muscat was Victoria State president of the Federation of Industrial Manufacturing & Engineering Employees (FIMEE) and or the Australian Workers Union (AIW). He was



Terry Muscat, President of the Victorian Branch of the Federated Ironworkers Association welcomes a Polish family he helped to reunite under the family reunion immigration system, 1980

elected as AWU national executive member (1995), and in 1997 he was elected national secretary of the Australian Workers' Union.



Terry has also represented Australia at international trade union conferences including the International Metal Federation 1989 study mission to Asia and the IMF Centennial 1992 study mission to Europe (Zurich).

Muscat has been heavily involved with the Maltese community in Australia. He was president of the Malta Star of the Sea Organization (1956-62); founder-member of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (1962), President of the Anglo-Maltese Association (1977); foundation president of Western Region Maltese Community Council ((1980), and vice-president of the Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria (1994). He was also involved with the Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club (1988-92) as president (1991-92). He was also the Maltese language coordinator for the community radio station 3CR.

Terry was appointed a justice of the peace in 1974. He was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia in 1992 and nominated knight of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1994. In 1994 Muscat has been vice-president of the Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria



Maltese emigrants leaving Malta and relatives with tears in the eyes



Migrants from Malta and Gozo working in sugar -cane farm in Mackay, Queensland, 1919



Sir Billy Hughes
Prime Minister
of Australia



Maltese priests accompanied emigrants from the beginning of emigration

**When the Maltese were turned away from Australia:
the children of Billy Hughes 1916**

**Don't leave home without it
Journal for the whole family**

Emmanuel Attard, a Maltese man migrated to Adelaide, Australia in 1916. He spent his childhood on Gozo and served with the Malta Labour Corps at Gallipoli. He travelled to Australia with over 100 migrants aboard the ship Gange. They were denied permission to land in Australia. So they were sent to New Caledonia while waiting for permission to return to Australia. He landed in Sydney in 1917 and he was working on Burrinjuck Dam, at Iron Knob and at Port Pirie in Adelaide. He served with the Fourteen Thirty-Second in Europe in 1918. He died in Adelaide.



Emmanuel Attard, early 1920s, in Adelaide.

More about the Maltese Australians

Maltese Australians are Australian citizens who are fully or partially of Maltese descent or Malta-born people who reside in Australia. While most of them emigrated to Australia from Malta, a number emigrated from the United Kingdom where they had settled after having been expelled from Egypt, as holders of British passports, during the Suez Crisis.^[2] According to the 2016 Census, there were 175,563 people of Maltese descent in Australia and 37,614 Malta-born people residing in the country at the moment of the census.

The first Maltese to arrive in Australia was possibly inmate John Pace in June 1790, though it is not clear if he was sent from Malta or if he was Maltese at all.^[3] The first certain Maltese to arrive in Australia were convicts around 1810.^[4] The first Maltese immigrant (as opposed to convict or bonded servant) is thought to have been Antonio Azzopardi who arrived in 1838.^[5] Many attempts were made at organised mass migration throughout the 19th century but it was only in 1883 the first group of 70 labourers (and nine stowaways) arrived.

Historically, Maltese immigrants were subject to the White Australia policy. In 1916, a group of 214 Maltese agricultural labourers left for Melbourne aboard a French ship, due to arrive on the date of the conscription referendum. When this became known in Australia, supporters of the "No" vote claimed that the government was importing cheap "coloured labour" to replace Australian workers conscripted for overseas service. The Maltese

were called "coloured job jumpers" and the Australian Workers' Union described them as a "black menace". Realising the political danger of allowing the Maltese to land, Prime Minister Billy Hughes –who supported the "Yes" vote – refused them entry under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, and they were forced to land in Nouméa, New Caledonia. This decision was controversial, as the Maltese were popular among ex-servicemen due to their support for the war effort. After three months, they were allowed to re-enter Australia, but only after being detained upon arrival for another two weeks. The migrants became known in Malta as "il-tfal ta Billy Hughes" ("the children of Billy Hughes").

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

home country, are predominantly Roman Catholic.

One of the first women to migrate from Malta to Australia was Carmela Sant in 1915. The move was prompted by her husband Giuseppe Ellul, who had migrated in 1913. Giuseppe Ellul was a stonemason in Mosta before moving to Australia to commence a successful career in sugar cane and dairy farming in Mackay, Queensland. In 1916 the couple gave birth to the first born Maltese Australian, Joseph Ellul.

259 Maltese boys and 51 Maltese girls were sent alone to Catholic institutions in Western and South Australia between 1950 and 1965, following negotiations between the Maltese and Western Australian governments which had started in 1928 when Perth-based Maltese priest Father Raphael Pace urged the Christian Brothers to include Maltese children in its emerging migration scheme. Instead of receiving an education, many of them were exploited for building works, and were never scholarised in English, while also forgetting their own Maltese language

**The Maltese Journal's mission is to unite the Maltese diaspora
and give them a chance to share their experiences.**

Meet Malta's President: Message of Unity and Respect

Malta got its first taste of its new president on his inauguration day when he delivered a fiery speech which touched on everything from



social justice and national unity to gender inequality and overdevelopment. These are some of the highlights from his inaugural speech:

On multiculturalism

"We proudly - and rightly so - boast of a multicultural society, one that is more liberal and espouses values beyond our traditional ones. We should, however, be equally proud of the fact that our society is far from amoral. Our society continues to be

caring, understanding, supportive, and generous. Of this we have ample examples."

On respecting national symbols

"We need to introduce anew, a genuine respect towards our national symbols. Respect towards the Maltese flag and everything it represents. Respect towards our national anthem. Respect towards our national language. Respect towards our history and cultural heritage. Respect towards our Constitutional structures and our laws. Above all, respect for the Supreme Laws governing our country as embodied in the Constitution of Malta."

On social media

"Much as I value the outstanding contribution made by social media to human exchanges, also in support of freedom of expression, I yearn for less abuses on these means of communication, where I have the impression that norms and restrictions otherwise implemented on printed media and broadcasting do not always apply. This definitely does not contribute to national unity."

Emigration from Malta Maltese Diaspora

Wikipedia



Child Migrants' Memorial at the Valletta Waterfront, commemorating the 310 Maltese child migrants who travelled to Australia between 1950 and 1965.

Emigration from Malta was an important demographic phenomenon throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, leading to the creation of large Maltese communities in English-speaking countries abroad.

Mass emigration picked up in the 19th century, reaching its peak in the decades after World War II. Migration was initially to north African countries (particularly Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt); later Maltese migrants headed towards the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia. There is little trace left of the Maltese communities in north Africa, most of them having been displaced, after the rise of independence movements, to places like Marseille, the United Kingdom or Australia.

Malta has always been a maritime nation, and for centuries, there has been extensive interaction between Maltese sailors and fishermen and their counterparts around the Mediterranean and into the Atlantic Ocean. More significantly, by the mid-19th century the Maltese already had a long history of migration to various places, including Egypt, Tripolitania, Tunisia, Algeria, Cyprus, the Ionian Islands, Greece, Sicily and Lampedusa. Inter-marriage with other nationals (especially Italians and Sicilians) was not uncommon. Migrants would periodically return to Malta, bringing with them new customs and traditions

that over time have been absorbed into mainstream Maltese culture.

In 1842, the total number of Maltese emigrants was estimated at around 20,000, or 15 percent of the population of Malta. These numbers increased steadily throughout the 19th century. However, these early migration patterns were unstable, and repatriation occurred frequently. For example, many Maltese emigrants rushed back to their homeland due to an outbreak of plague in Egypt in 1835, and again in 1840 during the Anglo-Egyptian crisis (see: London Straits Convention).^[1] According to Pullicino:

in spite of a certain amount of isolation there must have been a measure of adaptation by Maltese emigrants to local customs, food and dress. Besides, the frequent comings and goings of the Maltese in the 19th century must have facilitated the assimilation of at least some folklore material from North Africa that still needs to be identified.^[2]

In the nineteenth century, most migration from Malta was to North Africa and the Middle East (particularly Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt), although rates of return migration to Malta were high.^[3] Nonetheless, Maltese communities formed in these regions. By 1900, for example, British consular estimates suggest that there were 15,326 Maltese in Tunisia.^[4] There is little trace left of the Maltese communities in North Africa, most of them having been displaced, after the rise of independence movements, to places like Marseille, the United Kingdom or Australia. In the years preceding Tunisia's declaration of independence in 1956, most of the Maltese community left the country to settle in Marseille, France, which retains the biggest Maltese community in France.

Twentieth century

Malta experienced significant emigration as a result of the collapse of a construction boom in 1907 and after World War II, when the birth rate increased significantly, but in the twentieth century most emigrants went to destinations in the New World, particularly the United States and Australia.

There was heavy migration from Malta in the early 20th century, and again after World War II until the early 1980s; however the destinations of

choice during this period tended to be more distant, English-speaking countries rather than the traditional, Mediterranean littoral. Over 10,000 Maltese settled in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States between 1918 and 1920, followed by another 90,000 – or 30 percent of the population of Malta – between 1948 and 1967.^[6] By 1996, the net emigration from Malta during the 20th century exceeded 120,000, or 33.5% of the population of Malta.^[7]

After World War II, Malta's Emigration Department would assist emigrants with the cost of their travel. Between 1948 and 1967, 30 per cent of the population emigrated.^[8] Between 1946 and the late 1970s, over 140,000 people left Malta on the assisted passage scheme, with 57.6 per cent migrating to Australia, 22 per cent to the United Kingdom, 13 per cent to Canada and 7 per cent to the United States.^[8] (See also Maltese Australians; Maltese people in the United Kingdom)

Emigration dropped dramatically after the mid-1970s and has since ceased to be a social phenomenon of significance. Familiarity with the English language assisted Maltese migrants to assimilate in the host countries, and the incidence of intermarriage with local foreigners is reputedly higher among Maltese emigrants than other ethnic communities. Extensive interaction between Maltese emigrants in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, and their relatives in Malta, has brought Maltese culture closer to the English speaking world. Many Maltese emigrants and second generation Maltese Australians, Maltese Americans and Maltese Canadians returned to their homeland in the 1990s, and recent years have seen an

increase in the number of foreign expatriates moving to Malta, especially British retirees.

In 1995, a section of Toronto's Junction neighbourhood was given the name "Malta Village" in recognition of the strong Maltese community that remains to this day.^[9] It is believed to be the largest Maltese community in North America.

Twenty-first century

46,998 Maltese-born residents were recorded by the 2001 Australian Census, 30,178 by the 2001 UK Census, 9,525 by the 2001 Canadian Census and 9,080 by the 2000 United States Census.^[11]

Since Malta joined the EU in 2004 expatriate communities emerged in a number of European countries particularly in Belgium and Luxembourg. At the same time, Malta is becoming more and more attractive for communities of immigrants, both from Western and Northern Europe (Italians, Brits) and from Eastern Europe (Bulgarians, Serbians).

Following the Convention for Maltese Living Abroad in 2010, the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA) was formally established, with representatives from various countries. In 2011, the Council for Maltese Living Abroad was set up. The Council for Maltese Living Abroad is made up of representatives of Maltese communities as well as experts in the field of migration and it was set up with the approval of the House of Representatives. The Council is represented by 5 experts from Australia, Canada, UK, Europe and Malta and council members from Australia, USA, Canada, Europe and Malta. The Council will also strive to set up a Maltese Cultural Institute.



**THE PEN IS
MIGHTIER THAN
THE SWORD**



Thanks to our partners Food for the Poor and Order of Malta for helping to provide life saving medicines to people in Santo Domingo.

Santo Domingo is the capital of the Dominican Republic and one of the Caribbean's oldest cities. Its walled, cobblestoned historic core, the Zona Colonial, has buildings that date to the 1500s, including the cathedral, which was the first built in the New World. On the cafe-lined Plaza de España

is the Alcázar de Colón palace. It's now one of the city's many museums, displaying notable medieval and Renaissance art. **Founded:** 1496 **Area:** 104.4 km² **Population:** 965,040 (2010) [United Nations](#)

Heritage Malta launches Heritage Malta Senior Passport for over 60s



Heritage Malta, within the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government, has launched a scheme aimed at Senior Citizens – the Heritage Malta Senior Passport.

With this passport, an elder and two accompanying youths will have free and unlimited access to all Heritage

Malta's sites and museums (except the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum).

Heritage Malta explained that this scheme will be supported by the Local Councils' Association and a memorandum of understanding will be signed in the coming days to effectively implement this scheme.

It said that individuals who are aged 60+ are invited to call with their identity card at their Local Councils to apply for Heritage Malta's Senior Passport. The Local Council staff will enrol them in the system, and the passport together with an information leaflet will be received by post within 10 working days.

Heritage Malta's Senior Passport holders can enjoy free and unlimited visits to 27 sites which include prehistoric temples and caves, historic houses and prisons, fortresses and palaces, and a selection of museums relating to nature, archaeology, maritime, war, and art.

The Passport is to be stamped on each visit since with every 8 stamps collected, a reward will be given to the holder, to a total of 3 rewards, Heritage Malta said.

I wonder if this apply also to Maltese citizens who live abroad and are visiting Malta?

DECORATIVE ARTS CONFERENCE

2nd May 2019 | 5pm onwards
Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Valletta



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty of Arts

Department of Art
& Art History

HOASA
HISTORY OF ART & FINE ARTS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The conference "Perspectives on the decorative arts in Nineteenth-century Malta", organised by Dr Mark Sagona and Dr Roberta Cruciata for the Department of Art and Art History in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Malta, is the first edition of what is projected to become a bi-annual focus on recent and ongoing research on the multi-faceted nature of the decorative arts. It is intended to generate greater interest in a fascinating artistic field which has, until recently, been given little academic attention in Malta. It is the first ever conference of its kind being organised by the University of Malta. The Maltese Islands offer ample scope for the research and understanding of decoration and ornament which is present in a myriad of media ranging from silver to glass. The decorative arts exist in abundance in different forms and this is an area of art-historical study which is still in its infancy in Malta. One of the aims of the conference is also to underscore the importance of the decorative arts within the larger local and international artistic contexts.

The study of the field of the decorative arts in the Department of Art and Art history is spearheaded by Dr [Mark Sagona](#) who has, in recent years, pioneered research in the subject. It has now become an independent area of study within the Department and several research projects have been or are being undertaken. In 2012, Dr Sagona introduced for the very first time at the University of

Malta a study-unit dedicated to the decorative arts and in 2015, together with Francesca Balzan, also offered a similar course within the University's Programme for the Liberal Arts and Sciences. For this conference, Dr Sagona has teamed up with a long-time collaborator of the Department, Dr Roberta Cruciata from the Università degli Studi di Palermo, to bring together local and international scholars and researchers who will share aspects of recent and ongoing research on ornamental drawings, silver, jewellery, marble and glass. Dr Cruciata knows Malta very well and has worked on a doctoral thesis on Sicilian decorative arts for Malta.

The theme of the conference for this year is the nineteenth century and is intended to highlight the important developments in the production of ornamental drawings, in the creation of silver artifacts, jewelry, works in marble and glass. The conference will also pave the way to future research through the introduction of new themes. The six speakers include Dr Mark Sagona (University of Malta), Dr Roberta Cruciata (Università degli Studi di Palermo), Professor Roberto Zanon (Accademia di Belle Arti, Venice), Ms [Francesca Balzan](#), (Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, ex-curator of Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum), Ms Alaine Apap Bologna, (ex-Christie's International), and Ms [Jessica Muscat](#), (M.A. candidate in the Department of Art and Art History).

Law students: more Maltese, please

Two-thirds of students surveyed by the Junior Chamber of Advocates agreed that both Maltese and English should be used during lectures

by Laura Calleja



The Junior Chamber of Advocates said over half of University of Malta law students want a greater degree of Maltese to be incorporated into their course.

Over half of students from the Faculty of Laws surveyed by the junior chamber felt that English should not be the sole language used in legal education at the University of Malta.

The majority said they did not want English to be completely abandoned during lectures, but said students had a hard time reading court documents and proceedings in Maltese when English is used as the language of instruction for lectures.

Of the 66 students surveyed, spanning all stages of the LL.B degree, along with students at a Master's level. 63.6% of respondents were female, and 36.4% were male.

Only 10.6% of students agreed that English should be the sole language used during the course, while 78.5% of students felt that both English and Maltese should be incorporated into the course.

Students felt they should be able to sit for exams in both English and Maltese. Only 18.2% of students agreed that English should be the sole language during exams while 62% of students said that both options should be available.

40.9% of students also said that they found conversing in Maltese more difficult than in English, while 36.4% disagreed. To help remedy this, 68.2% of students agreed that both Maltese and English should be used during lectures. Only 13.6% of students said they thought only English should be used during lectures.

53% of students said that they found it more difficult writing essays in Maltese than in English, with only 18.2% disagreeing.

From class to courtroom

In terms of speaking Maltese in court, 30% of students said they would feel more comfortable in an English-based moot court while 45.4% disagreed. 42.5% of students, also said that listening to judgements in court was difficult to comprehend due to them being in Maltese, while 45.5% disagreed.

The majority of students, 78.5%, said that they found it challenging to use Maltese law terms in practice because they were taught to them in English.



These unique commemorative coins pay homage to the ANZACs service men and women who served in the First World War, 1914-1918

[Nicola Abela Garrett](#)

IF HYACINTH BUCKET WERE MALTESE



In February 2016, the BBC had confirmed that *Keeping Up Appearances* has so far been the most popular overseas show for the broadcasting service; audiences relate to it because everyone knows a Hyacinth Bucket. And possibly, no other nation has an abundance of Hyacinths more than Malta does.

Imagine if we plucked Mrs Bouquet and her kin out of the Northern suburbs of the UK and planted her here on this isle...

Firstly, she'd reside in the respectable town of Attard in a house called *Cherry Blossom*, right on the cusp of Hal Balzan, making sure that everyone knows that Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca is her neighbour...

She'll probably make Richard drive back and forth in front of San Anton Palace, in order to bump into Her Excellency and invite her to one of her candlelight suppers. But then again, she might just as well start getting competitive over their sense of style...

She'd also have a summer house in High Ridge, where she'd often host outdoors indoors luxury barbecues with finger buffet, but it would be nowhere near as grand as Violet's villa in Santa Maria Estates with her Mercedes, sauna and room for a pony.

She'd have a white slim-line telephone with automatic redial provided by Melita, whose representatives quake in the knees upon reaching her for customer support...

... especially if she's complaining about being mistaken for a Chinese takeaway.

She'd still be just as house proud, with her Royal Doulton with the hand-painted periwinkles bought from Palazzo Parisio. Although, we do suspect that like the upper-class of Malta, she'll make sure she gets herself a Philippina. And now, she'll be able to have a look through other people's washing on the roof, and if she comes across any plastic sofa covers, you know she'll be giving you this face of distaste:

Actually, she'll be giving that face to a number of things, such as *festi*, pastizzi, the buses, names like Xanaja and Shenizienne, people who vote Labour...

Onslow, Daisy and Rose would live in the South, and she'd be just as terrified to visit them. Also, Onslow's TV would have been bought from the *monti*.

She won't be very welcoming about Emmet's divorce, as she'd have probably voted against it. However, upon hearing that Emmet is a musical director, she'll be heading straight to the MADC to try out for their latest Shakespeare at San Anton Palace, reminding everyone that she's neighbours with Her Excellency. She'll be just as overbearing and interfering as many Maltese matriarchs...

... But Sheridan, whom she sent to St Aloysius or San Andrea from infancy, can still do no wrong in mummy's eyes, and he'll probably still be living with her till the age of 35.

Just like his British counterpart, the Maltese Richard would also work *mal-gvern*, but he's still forceful and executive in Hyacinth's eyes. Eve.com.au

Jeremy Micallef



The motion tabled in Parliament on the strategic direction for a permanent link project between Malta and Gozo has been approved.

Amongst other things, the motion called on MPs to back the tunnel project, making reference to the electoral manifestos of both the Nationalist Party and Labour Party.

The motion was filed with the Speaker's office last Tuesday by Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg, and Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana.

Specifically, the motion referred to the promise for a permanent link between Malta

and Gozo in both manifestos, and it also recognized the potential repercussions in the form of waste generation and the preservation of Gozo's natural beauty and cultural identity.

A number of amendments were made to the original motion from both sides of the House, and it was then passed in its entirety.

Open debate - Speaking during the debate, Dr. Justyne Caruana, Minister for Gozo, said that the ministry sees this project as "a crucial component for the development of Gozo".

She called for the motion to receive the full support of Parliament, maintaining that this will allow for more time with individuals' respective families and better wages, amongst other things.

In response to critics saying the link will cause Gozo to be over-developed, she insisted that the newly established watchdog entity in Gozo will make sure that the island is developed sustainably.

PN MP Chris Said, who had originally pushed for the project, added that it was important to have a proper discussion on this project.

Leaders' Remarks - Prime Minister Joseph Muscat argued that this project would be the largest infrastructural project of its kind for Malta. The government is looking forward for the project to be completed in the shortest time possible, with respect to all the regulations, Muscat said.

Touching on the issue of the waste which would be generated by the project, he insisted that no idea is being taken off the table. Leader of the Opposition Adrian Delia insisted that it was fundamental to have all the required studies done and available for public consumption to allow for an informed decision.

Readers around the World

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FUTURE PERUSAL**

NOTIFICATION D FORM – VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD HAS BEEN UPDATED

It is always highly recommended that ALL Maltese citizens living and/or travelling abroad register their movements with the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad (where one resides and/or travels). Each member of the family/delegation/group requires to fill a separate form and list of countries to visit/live. This exercise is essential in cases of emergencies – example, natural disasters, accidents, loss or theft of travel documents, conflicts, terrorist attacks, etc, in order to facilitate assistance when required.

In such cases of emergency, the work of the Directorate for the Maltese Living Abroad within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will be greatly facilitated if such Form is filled and forwarded. This is in order to be able to find Maltese citizens in distress, to be able to take appropriate and timely action(s) to assist citizens and contacting next-of-kin if/when necessary.

The Notification D Form – Voluntary Registration for Maltese Living Abroad and instructions can be accessed through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs website (www.foreignaffairs.gov.mt) under the item Services then scroll down to Maltese Living Abroad and then click on the following links:

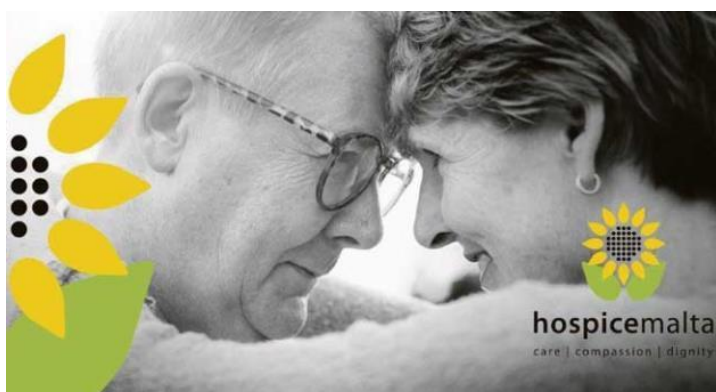
Notification D Form:

http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/PDF%20Documents/mfa-dmla_notification%20EN%2028-08-2015.pdf

Instructions:

http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/PDF%20Documents/mfa-dmla_notification_instruction%20for%20edited%2028-08-2015.pdf

All filled forms should be passed on to the Honorary Consul Dr Carmen Dalli for processing. For more information please contact lucienne.hensel@gmail.com



Hospice Malta providing free palliative care

Hospice Malta, a local NGO that provides and promotes free palliative care for persons suffering from life limiting illnesses will be organising a nation-wide

fundraiser to sustain the vast array of services provided to their patients and their families on Friday 26 April 2019 during the popular TV programme, Xarabank.



Passport Office – Malta and Gozo

CONTACTS

Passport Office (Malta) Address: Evans Building, St Elmo's Square, Valletta

Telephone: (+356) 2590 4100 **Email** passports@gov.mt

Passport Office (Gozo) Address:

'Passports Office', St Francis Square, Victoria, Gozo

Telephone: (+356) 2215 6247 (+356) 2215 6254 **Email** passportsoffice.mgoz@gov.mt

The main function of the Passport Office is the issuance of Maltese passports to Maltese citizens. The Passport Office also provides assistance to the Passport Office in Gozo, Maltese Embassies, Maltese High Commissions and Consuls. The Passport Office aims at providing a high standard of services to its customers. Amongst these is the commitment to deliver a passport after 4 working days.

The Passport Office can also deliver a passport earlier, at an extra charge, in case of need or emergency.

On 30th September 2008, the first Maltese biometric passport was issued. This not only brought Malta in line with EU legislation, but enabled it to become part of the US Visa Waiver Program. Subsequently, on 28th June 2010, the Malta Passport Office initialised the process of capturing fingerprints of applicants in accordance with EC Regulation No. 2252/2004.

Besides offering services to Maltese nationals, the Passport Office also issues a one way Travel Document to European Union Nationals and a Document of Identity to Non-European Union Nationals. This service is only offered in cases where there is no representation of applicant's respective country in Malta or in cases where the representation in Malta is not in a position to issue this document. Please note that this document is only issued after the necessary clearance is given from the competent authorities.

The Passport Office offers its services to persons with special needs. Services are provided at ground level, Evans Building, Valletta. Customers availing themselves of this service during office hours are kindly advised to contact our Customer Service Office on 25904100 to set a convenient appointment.

Application Forms

Form A – Application for Maltese Passport: If you are a Maltese citizen, you are eligible to hold a Maltese passport. You should fill in the Form A if you wish to apply for a Maltese passport. This application form is used for submitting a First-time passport application, a passport renewal, an urgent application or for replacing a lost, stolen or destroyed passport. The Form A is also used in case of persons holding Refugee Status wishing to apply for a Convention Travel Document (Convention of the 28th July, 1951), for European Union foreign nationals applying for an Emergency Travel Document or for Third Country nationals applying for a Document of Identity.

Form B – Image Capture Form: This form is used by adults who are unable to attend our offices due to medical reasons. A medical report is also required when submitting this form. This form is to be presented together with Form A.

Form I – Parent's Consent Form: Required when applying for a minor's passport (under 18), when one of the parents is residing in a different Country.



The mission of Identity Malta is to execute the functions and duties of the Public administration in matters relating to passports, identity documents, work and residence permits for expatriates, land registration and registration of public deeds, acts of civil status and individual

investment programmes.

The Agency shall be a body corporate having a distinct legal personality and shall be capable, subject to the provisions of this Agreement, of entering into contracts, of acquiring holding and disposing of any property for the purpose of its functions of suing and being sued and of doing all such things and entering into all such transactions as are incidental or conducive to the exercise or performance of its functions under this Agreement.

The functions and responsibilities of the Agency shall be:

- (a) Citizenship, residence permits, work permits and other administrative matters related to expatriates.
- (b) Passports
- (c) Identity cards and other identity documents
- (d) Acts of civil status
- (e) Land registration and registration of public deeds
- (f) Individual investment programmes for expatriates or for the persons who acquire Maltese citizenship, including the administration of funds deriving from such programmes.
- (g) Such other matters which are ancillary, incidental or consequential to the matters stipulated in paragraphs (a) to (f) as the Minister may from time to time determine:

Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca elected president of European children's rights network



The former president was uncontested for the role in an organisation that has 176 members in 34 countries

by **Kurt Sansone**

Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca has been chosen to head Eurochild, a children's rights advocacy network with 176 members in 34 countries.

The former president of Malta and chair of the Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society was elected at the Eurochild general assembly in Brussels on Wednesday.

She was uncontested for the post.

Eurochild secretary general Jana Hainsworth said: "We are honoured and delighted to have

leadership of such a committed champion of children's rights. Her excellency's vision of children's rights and insight into the political world will open many doors for Eurochild and enable the network to sail smoothly amid the upcoming changes in the European institutions and beyond."

Eurochild is an advocacy network of organisations working with and for children throughout Europe, striving for a society that respects the rights of children.

Bringing expertise from its membership, the network influences policies, builds internal capacities, facilitates mutual learning and exchanges practice and research to support the children's rights sector.

Ahead of the next month's European elections, Eurochild is campaigning for a European Parliament that stands for children with the Vote for Children campaign.

In her first reaction, Coleiro Preca said child participation was always at the centre of her endeavours.

"I would like to use my time as president of this prestigious organisation to ensure that child

participation really takes off on a pan-European level, bringing greater attention to the voice of children. I believe Europe can play a leading role globally here too," she said.

Coleiro Preca's term as president came to an end at the start of April. She continues to head the foundation she set up during her presidential term and which has been renamed the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.



the

surname : FENECH

Coat of arms of the Fenech family There are various interpretations of the origins of the surname **Fenech**. The most notable is the meaning of "rabbit", since fenek is rabbit in Maltese. This in turn comes from the Arabic word for fox, فَنَاق (fenek, fanak, "fennec fox") which like the rabbit has large ears as its distinguishing feature and may have been confused during the development of the Maltese language which borrows heavily from Semitic languages. The word is also thought to be a respelling of Fenich, German for millet farmer.

"Phoenician" variation Another variation is formed from the word Phoenicians. In fact, some bearers of this surname use the horse, a Phoenician symbol, on their crest rather than the rabbit.

"Fenwick" variation Another variation is an Anglo-Saxon one where it is derived from a family living in Fenwick, which was in Northumberland and the West Riding of Yorkshire. This name was originally derived from the English fenn which means marsh and wic, which means a farm. The surname Fenwick is still widely found in northern England and has spread through most English-speaking countries.

Notable Maltese people with this surname:

- Carmen Fenech (born 1993), Maltese-Canadian hip-hop artist
- David Fenech (born 1969), French musician
- Edwige Fenech (born 1948), Maltese-Italian actress and producer
- Francis Xavier Fenech (1892–1969), Maltese prelate who became bishop in India
- Georges Fenech (born 1954), French politician
- Jeff Fenech (born 1964), Maltese-Australian boxer
- Mario Fenech (born 1961), Maltese-Australian rugby league player
- Martha Fenech (born 1990), Maltese beauty queen
- Paul Fenech (born 1972), Maltese-Australian comedian
- Paul Fenech (footballer) (born 1986), Maltese footballer
- Ryan Fenech (born 1986), Maltese footballer
- Tonio Fenech (born 1969), Former Finance Minister of Malta
- Eddie Fenech Adami (born 1934), Former Prime Minister and President of Malta



Georges Fenech

(born 26 October 1954)

is a [French](#) judge and politician. Born to a Maltese father and Italian mother in Sousse in Tunisia, in 1963 Fenech's family was repatriated in France, where they settled in Givors. After studying for a law degree, he started a career as a judge. One of his most high-profile cases was the investigation on the assassination of the judge François Renaud (nicknamed "le shérif" by Lyon's underworld) in Lyon on 3 July 1975. Georges Fenech was the 6th judge to take over this case, and the one who dropped the case for lack of evidence in 1992. He was also in charge of the first case involving Scientology in France.

He started a political career with his 2002 election as a member of the French Parliament Assemblée Nationale (representing the Rhône as a member of Union for a Popular Movement (UMP).

In December 2005, Georges Fenech was a member of the Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry about the Outreau trial (a judicial disaster with innocent men and women being held for years in jail on unfounded suspicions), which had been called by President Jacques Chirac in order to help prevent a recurrence of this situation through alterations in France's legal system.

On 28 June 2006, in response to a unanimous resolution of the Law Commission (commission des lois), the French National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to set up a Parliamentary Commission on Cults in France, about the influence of cultic movements and the consequences of their practices on the physical and mental health of minors. Georges Fenech was appointed President of this Commission. The Commission presented its report to the Assembly on 19 December 2006. The

report contained 50 recommendations which aimed to protect endangered children.

The same year, he was appointed by Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin a mission to study the ankle monitor to strengthen the fight against criminal recidivism. An ankle monitor is a device that individuals under house arrest or parole are often required to wear. On his initiative was created in the French National Assembly a Parliamentary study group on the homelessness, of which he became president. He was appointed draftsman of the Act enforceable right to housing.

Georges Fenech was also a member of the Law Commission, judge of the Law court of the Republic (Cour de Justice de la République), Secretary of the Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie and member of the Parliamentary study group regarding Tibet issues.

Georges Fenech was re-elected in 2007. On 27 March 2008 the Conseil Constitutionnel canceled his re-election on the grounds of violation of campaign finance laws and made him ineligible for one year. However, the Conseil Constitutionnel said that the violation was of a formal nature and that the automatic penalty of cancellation might be not appropriate. Georges Fenech protested the decision.[1] Following such cancellation, the Parliament amended the law so that this type of violation does not imply cancellation of the election. On 23 September 2008 Fenech was appointed by Président Nicolas Sarkozy President of MIVILUDES, a body within the French executive in charge of monitoring cults.[2]

Georges Fenech has been re-elected from June 2012 as a member of the French Parliament Assemblée Nationale (representing the Rhône as a member of Union for a Popular Movement (UMP). He is a member of the Law Commission, President of the parliamentary study group on Cults, member of the National Observatory of Delinquency (Observatoire national de la délinquance et des réponses pénales), Member of the Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry on the role of intelligence service of the French police in the case of French terrorist Mohammed Merah. He is also Vice-President of parliamentary relations groups, France-Malta and France-Saudi Arabia. From March 2014 he is member of Lyon municipal council and metropolitan council





Light up St Publius church: Floriana plans to go greener

Floriana is already known for its green links – but it is now seeking to add another aspect to that: making its church greener.

The parish church is lit up with 6,000 bulbs for the feast of St Publius, celebrated annually on the second Sunday after Easter.

The scene is an attraction for locals and tourists but it comes at a cost.

In 2005-2006, the church reduced its costs after church volunteers spent hours in a cage, dangling from an enormous crane, fixing the lights permanently to the facade. This allowed them to save on the cost of the contractor that rigged up and dismantled the festoons every year.

Now, the parish is hoping to cut back on the substantial electricity bill.

A fundraising campaign has been launched to replace the bulbs with greener LED bulbs.

According to Antonio Agius, the church of Floriana was the first one in Malta to have electric power: the first power station was built in the locality.

The Floriana Parish Church was among the first to have its facade illuminated by electricity, as visualised on photos dating from the beginning of the last century.

Maltese always reserve me warm welcome, says Cordina



Welsh boxer with Maltese heritage eyes British Lightweight title

Next Saturday will be fight night for Welsh boxer Joe Cordina as he will challenge Andy Townend for the vacant British Lightweight title at the O2 Arena, in London.

Cordina, 27, will be making his first appearance on the ring since August 4, when he defeated Sean Dodd to claim the Commonwealth Lightweight title.

He is currently undefeated in his professional boxing career with eight wins from eight bouts, including six KOs.

The Times of Malta sports desk joined Cordina for a conversation about his upcoming fight which has the potential to set him up for bigger fights in the near future.

Moreover, Cordina also spoke about his Maltese heritage which shoulders more responsibility on him as it represents a part of his family.

In addition, in this audio Cordina also discussed:

Take us through your preparation: "I could not have asked for a better preparation and I am looking forward to face such a strong opponent. **Looking beyond the British title:** "Winning the British title would be great but I need to step up for bigger stages...fighting for the world title".

What does representing your Maltese heritage mean to you: "It is a weight on my shoulders but it is a good feeling for me to represent the Maltese people."



L-ISLIEN MALTI

Xi whud ma japprezzawx bizzejjed is-sabih ilsien Malti. Huwa gawhra li tant imdorrijin biha f'idejna jew fuq ilsien li nsejna nagharfu fiha l-gmiel u s-siwi kbir li ghandha. Ilsienna ma jisthoqqx lil hafna minna, mhux biss ghax ma jharsuhx kif imiss, izda aktar u aktar ghax jaghzlu li jirkellmu hazin b'lsien barranin milli tajjeb bil-Malti.

Ilsien u nazzjonalità Ghal xi whud, l-ilsien Malti hu elm tan-nazzjonalità taghna. Jezistu hafna nazzjonijiet fid-dinja li m'ghandhomx ilsien taghhom. Dan wahdu juri li r-rabta bejn ilsien u nazzjonalità mhijiex wahda mehtiega. Minkejja dan, mhuwiex ta' min jinsa li lsien nazzjonali jaghti siwi specjali lil poplu ghax iroddlu gieh u dinjità li ma jistax ikollu minghajru.

Bosta nazzjonijiet, ghalkemm ghandhom ilsien jew ilsna taghhom, sabu lil xi whud mill-mexxejja taghhom jaghzlu li jithaddtu b'lsien barrani, hafna drabi ta' min kien jahkimhom qabel. L-ilsien li juzaw huwa minnu nnifsu elm qawwi tas-sottomissjoni taghhom u tal-hemm li baqghu fih meta warrbu lsienhom stess. Xi whud f'pajizna, l-aktar fost daww li jippretenduha tal-aktar kolti, hafna drabi jithaddtu b'lsien il-kolonizzaturi li kellna. Minghalihom li dan hu xi elm ta' sofistikazzjoni jew grad oghla ta' civiltà meta fil-fatt ma huwa xejn ghajr elm ikrah ta' faqar u injoranza. Dawn in-nies juri x'inhuma.

Selfbarrani Ohrajn, minkejja li jithaddtu bil-Malti, ifaqqruh bl-ghazz taghhom. Dawn ideffsu kliem barrani fit-tahdit taghhom meta, bi ftit attenzjoni aktar, jistghu jsibu kliem Malti li joqghod aktar minnhom. Xi whud jghidulek li f'lsien m'ghandniex din il-kelma jew dik l-espressjoni li bihom jistghu jesprimu sewwa xi hsieb. Dan jghiduh, mhux ghax m'ghandniex, izda ghax ma jafux bihom.

L-ilsien Malti hafna drabi hu vittmi tal-injoranza tal-Maltin stess. Tradutturi, poeti, kittieba, gurnalisti u bosta suriet ta' nies ohrajn, flok jaghnu t-taghrif li ghandhom ta' lsien art twelidhom, arahom jghaffgu f'diskorshom kliem mehud minn ilsna barranija. Hafna drabi, lil dawn issibhom imaqdru ilsien minghajr ma jintebhu bil-faqar taghhom u bil-limitazzjoni tal-gharfien li ghandhom tieghu.

L-aktar nies li qed ikomplu jnaqqru u jxejnu l-gmiel u s-sbuhija tal-ilsien Malti huma daww li jidhrilhom li jafu lsienhom l-aktar. Hafna drabi, dawn ifittxu li jdeffsu kliem Malti bhal kxaxen f'sentenzi li ghandhom fasla ta' lsien barrani meta l-Malti ghandu s-sura u l-ghamla sabiha tieghu li ghalihom il-kelma u l-hsieb Malti joqghodu bhal ingwanta fuq id. Jista' jkun li jehtieg li jigu identifikati ahjar daww l-oqsma li l-aktar ihallu influwenz fuq l-uzu (tajjeb jew hazin) ta' kuljum ta' lsien. Xi kultant, tibki taqra gazzetta bil-Malti jew tisma' l-ahbarijiet b'lsien fuq televizjoni. L-istess, it-telenovelli tant popolari u programmi ta' diskussjoni bosta drabi ssibhom jaghmlu herba minn ilsien tant hlejju u sabih.

Sebh u gmiel Bla dubju, f'dawn l-ahhar ftit ghexieren ta' snin sar hafna progress f'rabta mal-harsien u l-kura tal-ilsien sabih taghna. Izda jonqos hafna wkoll, l-aktar fejn jidhol l-ghazz tal-uzu xieraq u tajjeb tal-ilsien minn nies li ghandhom is-setgha jinfluwenzaw hafna lil haddiehor. Jidhirli jien li min mhuwiex imharreg bizzejjed jew huwa ghazzien izzejjed fl-uzu tajjeb ta' lsien, m'ghandux jithalla f'imkejjen li jista' jwegga' jew jaghmel il-hsara bl-injoranza tieghu. Ilsienna huwa mill-isbah u tabilhaqq jaghmlilna gieh. Jalla nkunu sbieh ghalih ukoll u naghmlulu l-gieh li jixraqlu. Frans Sammut



Tenpin bowler Xuereb takes silver in European Youth Championships



Sara Xuereb won a silver medal at the European Youth Championships.

Sara Xuereb won a silver medal at the European Youth Championships which are currently being held in Vienna, Austria.

This is the best result achieved by Xuereb in these championships as she had also stepped on the podium at this level when returning home with a bronze medal.

After winning her squad with a brilliant 208

average, Xuereb went on to place third overall amongst 65 players.

In the semi final she disposed of German bowler Nele Niehusenand with ease, and went on to face the overall leader, Victoria Kashirskaya from Russia, in the final.

The match developed into a pulsating neck and neck game, which was finally decided in the last frame where Xuereb unfortunately left a split that allowed the Russian bowler to win.

Xuereb now goes on to bowl the Masters on Easter Sunday.



European elections: voting rights for EU citizens living abroad

<https://epthinktank.eu/2019/02/14/european-elections-voting-rights-for-eu-citizens-living-abroad/>

The European Parliament regularly receives enquiries from EU citizens living abroad about how to vote in the European elections.

Voting in the country of citizenship

EU citizens living abroad (whether in another EU country or outside the EU) may have the right to vote, under certain conditions, in the European Parliament elections in their country of citizenship.

Practical arrangements to vote in the European elections for people living abroad vary a great deal among EU countries: most countries allow voting at embassies or consulates, several countries allow citizens living abroad to vote by post, a few countries allow voting by proxy, and one (Estonia) allows e-voting. Some countries (such as the Czech Republic, Ireland, Malta and Slovakia) do not allow their citizens living outside the country to vote in the European elections.

Some EU countries require voters to pre-register with their national electoral authorities to be eligible to vote from abroad. Several EU countries (such as Bulgaria, Greece and Italy) grant the right to vote only to their citizens living in another EU country. In addition, most EU countries make special arrangements for diplomats and military personnel serving overseas. For some countries' citizens (for instance Denmark), voting at embassies takes place prior to election day.

Voting in the country of residence

EU citizens living in an EU country of which they are not nationals have a right to vote in the European Parliament elections in the country where they live, under the same conditions as nationals. Special rules may apply in countries where non-nationals make up more than 20 % of the total electorate.

One citizen = one vote

Double voting in European elections (in the country of residence and in the country of citizenship) is strictly forbidden and subject to penalties. EU countries are required to exchange information at least six weeks before European elections to prevent double voting.

For further details, please refer to the national authorities organising the elections in your country.



The dry-stone walls Il-hitan tas-Sejjieh

Malta and Gozo are the proud guardians of a millennia-old craft: the building of drystone walls known as *hitan tas-sejjieh*.

Such walls are built with pieces of stone fitted together without mortar. They are also referred to as rubble walls because the masonry is constructed of rough unfinished stones.

These walls serve several purposes. First and foremost they break down the slopes of hilly the Maltese islands into manageable fields. The walls prevent the soil from being washed away by the rain. A breach in the wall was to be raised by the tenant of the holding if it was smaller than two metres. If it was wider, the burden for its repair fell upon the landlord. Whoever did not respect these regulations risked imprisonment.

On flat ground, where they are built very low, these walls mark the boundaries of various holdings. In some areas they also serve to protect vegetables and saplings from the withering north westerly wind. Along lanes and foot paths, they prevent trespassers from stealing or damaging crops. Next to farms they form enclosures to impede farm animals from roaming away.

A small axe called *imterqa* and a piece of string to mark the limits of the wall being built were the only tools used in the building of these walls. This tool is similar to a hatchet with a short handle and a heavy metal head for use with one hand. It has a flat edge on one side and a sharpened edge on the other.

The traditional way of constructing a field consists in first levelling the ground by removing protruding rock

and filling in any cavities with stones and then spreading a layer of soil about a metre deep over the evened surface. The terrain is then divided into small parcels by an extensive network of rubble walls. The mason's task consisted in raising a wall by placing the rough pieces of stone without taking any measurements whatsoever, basing his judgment solely on experience, able hands and eagle eyes.

Every piece of stone is laid with its flat face downwards to create a strong base. The space behind the pieces and between one layer and the next is filled with stone chippings known as *maskan* as this eases the passage of rain water through the wall without damaging



the structure. Rubble walls were built caving inwards and resting upon the soil for sturdiness.

Every three and a half metres, or less if the wall was fairly high, the mason placed a column, with a fairly large stone heading into the soil and the one above stretching upon it along the wall. This column-like chain shored up the wall from collapsing through the movement of soil after heavy

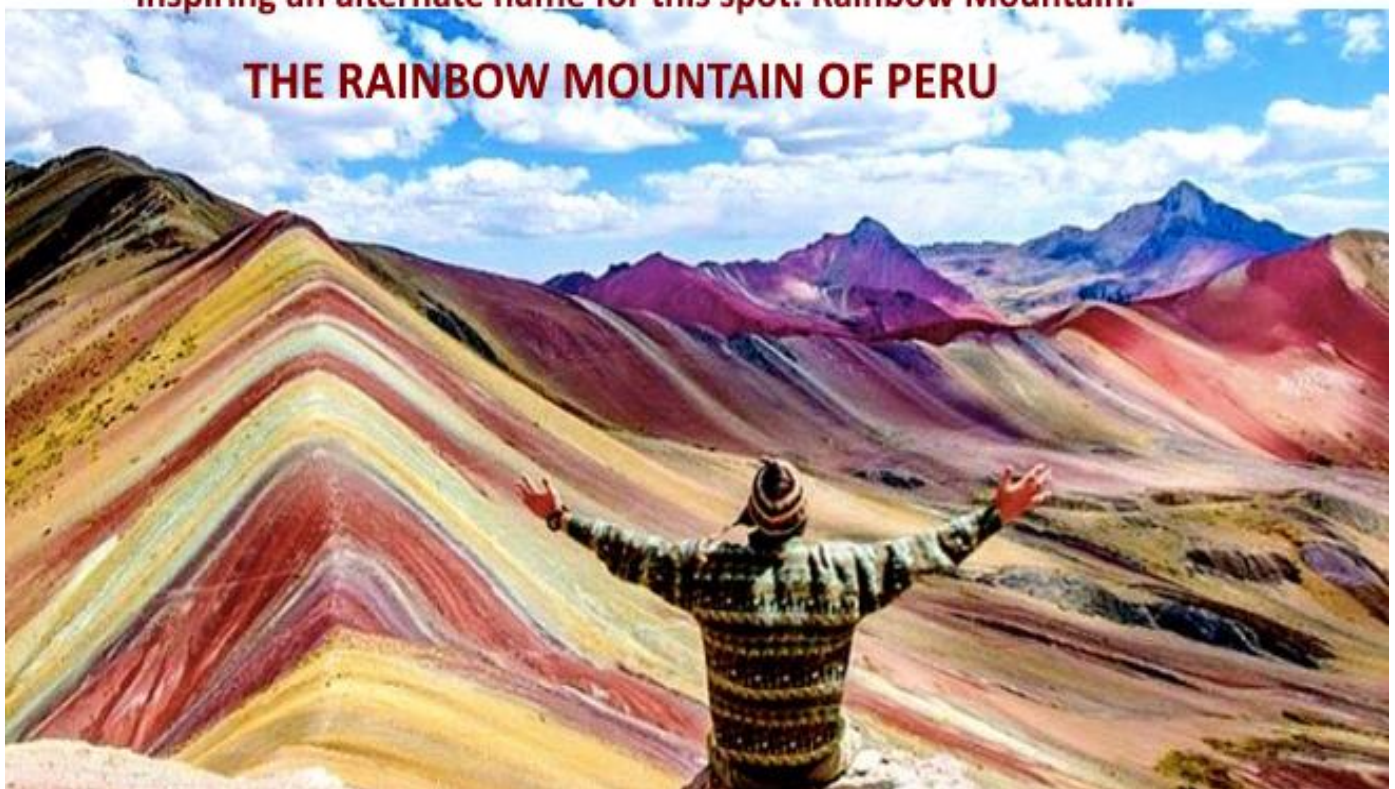
1970

MALTA UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB - ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Back row: Joe Darmania, F. Micallef, R. Flores, John Mangion and T. Cremona
Front row: F. Seal, J. Micallef, P. Ranis, R. Buhagiar, Leli Monsigneur and T. Micallef

The varied layers of mineral deposits, weathered and oxidised over the years, provide the bright, contrasting striations, inspiring an alternate name for this spot: Rainbow Mountain.





**SRI LANKA DEATH TOLL
EXPECTED TO RISE
AS WORLD LEADERS
CONDEMN
KILLING**

**Easter Sunday attacks
on churches and hotels
leave more than
200 dead
and 450 injured**

Lassana Cisse – The murder of a ‘Good Samaritan’ – The Sunday Times



The Ivorian man murdered earlier this month had most probably been walking home after offering food and support to migrants at the Hal Far Centre when he was shot.

Lassana Cisse, 42, often checked in on his fellow countrymen at the open centre after work, trying to ensure they were doing well in a new country.

Members of the migrant community told The Sunday Times of Malta that he was probably returning home on foot from one such visit when he was killed on Triq tal-Ġebel in Birżebbuġa on April 6.

The incident came just two months after a 17-year-old migrant from Chad was hit by a car and left unconscious by the side of the same road.

Migrants who live in the area and elsewhere in Malta have since been living in fear, with Mr Cisse's flatmates now barely sleeping at night.

I hope enjoyed reading this edition – See you again next week