



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Building Bridges between individuals and communities



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**Mural at the Maltese Community Centre**  
477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, AUSTRALIA

**An impression of how the  
Sliema Fortina project  
will look like.**



**<- IT-TERRAMAXKA IN MALTA**



**KANGAROO MEAT**

# MALTA - Nurse of the Mediterranean

## Hospitals and Convalescent Camps in Malta during the first World War 1914 - 1918

To cater for the over 135,000 sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns there were numerous hospitals and convalescent Camps throughout Malta and Gozo. The Australian and New Zealander soldiers were treated in various hospitals and convalescent camps. Listed below are but a few of the many hospitals and convalescent camp that were on Malta to treat the sick and wounded.

**Station Hospital** The Station Hospital which is now the [Mediterranean Conference Centre](#) located at Mediterranean St, Il-Belt Valletta. Tours are conducted through this Centre by the Malta Experience.

**Lazzaretto Hospital** Lazzaretto Hospital on Manoel Island can still be viewed from any of the tour boats conducting the harbour cruises from Sliema.

**Bavière Hospital** The Bavière Hospital was situated in the Auberge de Bavière. The Auberge de Bavière has an ancient and honourable history, having been the headquarters of the Anglo-Bavarian Knights of St. John located at San Bastjan, Valletta. It now houses the main offices of the GPD, including the Director General's Office, the Finance & Administration Directorate, The Estate Management Directorate, the Land Directorate and the Joint Office Directorate.

**St. Elmo Hospital** The St. Elmo Hospital was previously a government school that was converted in to a hospital. St. Elmo specialised as a surgical hospital. The hospital was located at Fort St. Elmo at the north end of the Grand Harbour. It was well ventilated and overlooked the breakwater.

**Fort Chambray Hospital Gozo** The Fort Chambray Hospital served as an excellent Convalescent Depot (camp) during the First World War, relieving the crowded camps on Malta.

**Mtarfa Hospital** The hospital was commissioned in 1912. It was used during World War I to hold many of injured Australian and New Zealand troops from the Gallipoli landings. It was expanded enormously during the Second World War. In the 1950s it was renamed the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital after the doctor who discovered the root cause of Malta fever, or Brucellosis. It has since been converted to a state secondary school, named after Sir Temi Zammit, part of St Nicholas College.

**Cottonera Hospital** The Cottonera Hospital is now [St Edward's College](#) providing an excellent all round education, including an IB 6th Form, to its students and also very proud of its heritage as the Cottonera Hospital.

Visit the beautiful grounds of St Edward's College and get a feel of what it may have been like as an Australian or New Zealand soldier to have been a patient at the Cottonera Hospital during the First World War. St Edward's College have also set up a permanent display of the history of the College when it was known as the Cottonera Hospital. St Edward's College is located in Triq Dan Dwardu, Birgu (Citta Vittoriosa) Cottonera.

**Ghajn Tuffieha Camp Hospital** Ghajn Tuffieha is situated 10 miles directly west of Valletta in a charming valley near the sea with hills on either side. Ghajn Tuffieha had already been used as a camp in peace time, partly by the army and partly by the navy, being in great request as a summer holiday resort both by officers and men. There is abundant room for exercise and games of every description; the bathing facilities are unrivalled, and the summer heat is greatly tempered by a cool breeze; in fact Ghajn Tuffieha was eminently suitable for making men, softened by wounds or sickness, hard and fit for service. The area is still a very popular area for tourists; there are numerous walking tracks, and swimming and other water sports may be enjoyed from the sandy beaches in Golden Bay.

**Australia Hall** The area around Pembroke had a number of convalescent camps such as All Saints, St Paul's, and Spinola Camp. Australia Hall was built after the sum of £2,000 (pounds) was raised through donations by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross, at the time, to provide a place of amusement and social activities. Australia Hall was used for shows for the Forces between the wars and also during the Second World War.



## The value of a Maltese passport to a Maltese living abroad



The **Maltese passport** (Maltese: *passaport Malti*) is a passport that is issued to citizens of Malta wherever they reside. Every Maltese citizen is also a citizen of the European Union. The passport, along with the national identity card allows for free rights of movement

and residence in any of the states of the European Economic Area, as well as Switzerland. There is no doubt that many persons living overseas of Maltese background have had to wait a long time to obtain a Maltese passport.

Maltese passports share the common design standards of European Union passports. The cover is burgundy with the coat of arms of Malta emblazoned in the centre. The words "UNJONI EWROPEA" (English: European Union) and "MALTA" are inscribed above the coat of arms, with "PASSAPORT" (English: Passport) and the international biometric passport symbol below

While a passport is not really essential to prove citizenship, it is usually taken as its best indicator. Having a passport in your hand is something which can be flashed at an instant and generally goes unchallenged.

Some travellers owning a Maltese passport make sure that they take it with them whenever they leave the country where they live, together with their local passport indicating their country of residence, to avoid any re-entry visa problems when they return home..

There are many young persons, born outside Malta, whose parents were born in Malta, apply for a passport largely as a ticket to Europe. This is by far the largest category of potential passport applicants. In Australia alone it is estimated that there are around 200,000 persons who would belong to this category. Obviously, not all of these will be applying for a Maltese passport. To date, the

number of persons who have applied is no more than a few thousands.

These persons are often very keen to have such a confirmation of their citizenship. Many are proud to obtain a Maltese passport.

The majority of these persons left Malta in the 1950s and '60s, and most of them have now reached retiring age. For a while it was not allowed to have dual citizenship, but since these problems have been resolved, these persons are considered automatically to be Maltese, irrespective of how long they have been living overseas. Their right to a Maltese passport is not in question.

What is the value of having a Maltese passport? Many times I have been asked this question, Many of us go to Malta every few years and carry with us both our Maltese passport as well as a passport of our country of residence - this makes re-entry much smoother. In reality, we do not need the Maltese passport to visit Malta or Europe for a couple of months, but we take it with us anyway as an extra bit of insurance and ease of entry into EU countries.

While a Maltese passport is not really essential, it is certainly a certificate that is proof of membership of the larger Maltese community of which we are proud.

**Some Maltese citizens living abroad coming back from Malta complain that there should not be any distinction between Maltese living in Malta and those living overseas. It has to be made clear, however, that residents have rights which are not applicable to non-resident Maltese citizens. This is an issue which can be very confusing to the average person and needs to be clarified so that expectations are appropriately set and not raised above what can be delivered**

## A forgotten memorial



*Times of Malta*  
May 4, 2010,

**Denis Darmanin**

A few weeks ago, it was reported that the church of St. Mary Magdalene in Merchants' Street has been vacated, is to be cleaned and returned to the Archdiocese of Malta.

Other to the exquisite and elaborate sculpture that adorns the apse and doorways, just within the church's main door by the right hand corner is a small marble slab that not many would have noticed or known about.

In 1915, areas within the Pembroke Cantonments were vacated and converted into hospitals and convalescent camps for Australian and New Zealand servicemen wounded during the campaign in the Dardanelles, mainly in the Gallipoli and Salonika theatres. Some merely consisted of a number of weatherboard wards and offices, supported by large rows of tents.

As the number of wounded arriving in Malta rapidly increased, more hospitals were required and St. Paul's Hospital was erected near the musketry ranges, followed by All Saints Convalescent Camp, St. David's Hospital, St. Patrick's Convalescent Camp and even the Officers Mess, later named Juno House, was converted so as to accommodate officer patients.

Due to the shortage of manpower, the Sappers could not cope with all the work and many of the RAMC personnel and the Maltese soldiers in the camp, lent a hand in the construction of these hospitals and camps including the full expansion of St. George's Barracks by late 1915.

Military hospitals were not just in Pembroke but in every part of Malta and even in Gozo. The principal hospitals and camps were; Bighi Naval Hospital, Valletta Hospital, Cottonera Hospital, Forrest Hospital, Mtarfa Hospital and Chambray Convalescent Depot. Other hospitals and convalescent camps were set up including;

Hamrun Hospital, St. John's Hospital (in the Sliema Primary School), St. Ignatius Hospital (in the old Jesuit College in St. Julians), Tigné Hospital, St. Elmo Hospital, and Baviere Hospital, Manoel Hospital, the Blue Sisters' Hospital and the Għajn Tuffieħa Camp.

It has been estimated that some 135,000 British, Australian, New Zealanders and allied casualties were brought to or passed through Malta during the First World War.

Due to the shortage of doctors and nurses on the island, invaluable service was given by various local doctors, nurses and stretcher bearers were the first to assist the military. Others, Besides the RAMC and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and other organizations that already had branches operating in Malta, various volunteers came from overseas.

A number of these nurses and volunteers died while serving in Malta during the war. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the church St. Mary Magdalene in Valletta was used by Roman Catholic soldiers stationed at nearby Fort St Elmo and Royal Marines and their families from the Camerata Barracks just across the narrow St. Nicholas Street.

My unexpected discovery concerns one of the volunteer nurses who were stationed in Malta during the First World War. Although very little could be found about her locally, the amazing discovery consists of a commemorative marble plaque dedicated to her.

The plaque shows two central figures, a soldier wearing a khaki uniform and Foreign Service Helmet who is having his hands bandaged by a long haired female in biblical robes, possibly Mary Magdalene. Above her head is the badge of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) Reserve. At bottom is a scroll with the legend; **WHATSOEVER YOU SHALL DO TO ONE OF THESE, SHALL BE DONE FOR ME** (Matthew 25:40), which is slightly painted over. Above is a dedication which although also painted over, some of the text is legible; .....**TO THE MEMORY OF ..... MARY A. WALSHE Q.A.I.N.N.S.R. DIED AT MALTA 19 VIII 1915**, flanked on each end by a shield, possibly that of St. George of England. The sculptor was C. di Paolo. Her age is not known but Staff Nurse Walshe is recorded as having died at the Nurses Hospital in *Strada Maggiore*, Floriana, from a disease that she had contracted, possibly from one of the patients that she was attending. She was buried in Malta.



Keith Demicoli

In Australia, ecologists are warning that the number of Kangaroos in the wild is no longer sustainable and are urging Australians to eat more Kangaroo meat – the national symbol of this faraway country. The commercial kangaroo meat industry began 60 years ago and now accounts for one third of world exports including Malta.

In Australia there are an estimated 50 million kangaroos in the wild, double the amount of people in the country.

In the last decade the population of kangaroos in Australia nearly doubled and this led to Australian authorities promoting this animal meat, so much so that every year three thousand tons are exported annually to more than 60 countries including Malta.

While only four species of kangaroo can be used commercially, the lean meat of this animal is considered nutritious, as explained by chef Glenn Micallef.

## Australians urged to eat more kangaroo meat

Glenn Micallef said “How does kangaroo fillet compare with other red meat? It only has a little fat – around 2%”. Like any other red meat, health experts stress moderation and recommend that people do not eat more than 455 grams per week.

Another meat which is held in high regard and which like kangaroo meat is more expensive than other meat, is known as Wagyu which in Japanese means “Japanese cow. The villagers of black cows are devoted to them and known to keep them in mountainous areas so much so that when it is hot they give them a cool drink.

Both types of meat will be among hundred different dishes cooked and prepared by 80 Maltese and foreign chefs during the international food festival that will run until Sunday in Mdina Ditch.

This year the organizers have joined ALS Malta to organize “Malta’s most wanted cook” by facing off four personalities every night. The public have a chance to judge which of them is the most talented.

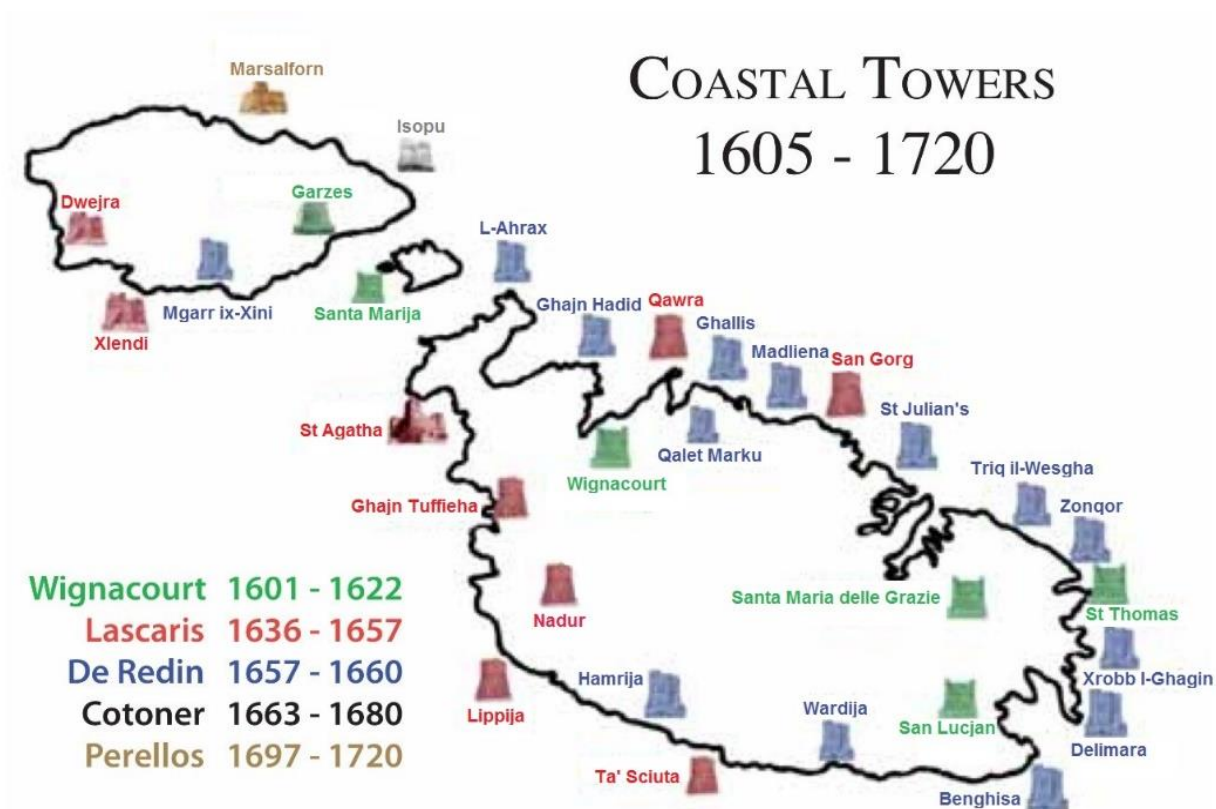
## Te u Kafe fit-tazza u nofs tuzzana pastizzi





# Malta's coastal watchtowers

For centuries, the coastline of Malta has been dotted with lookout posts or watch towers that were built by the Knights of Malta during the 17th century. These towers were manned nightly to watch the seaward approaches and to raise the alarm in the event of an imminent threat.



*Map showing Coastal Towers between 1605 and 1720*

The positioning of these towers was planned as such so that one could see both neighbouring towers, which acted as an early warning system against invaders. As soon as one tower spotted a suspicious event, a fire signal was started which was picked up by the neighbouring towers, in so doing carrying on the message.



A number of coastal towers were built during the reigns of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt (1601 – 1622), Grand Master Paul Lascaris Castellar (1636 – 1657) and Grand Master Martin de Redin (1657 – 1660). The aim was to strengthen Malta's coastal guarding system.

**Wignacourt Towers** A total of seven towers were built under the order of Grand Master Fra Alof de Wignacourt, of which five remain today. The Wignacourt towers were not just watch towers but formed important strongpoints in the Knights' tactical defence system for the Maltese islands, of which parts were vulnerable to attack from the coast. The Wignacourt towers were the first to be built, and the Maltese watch tower grid was to be expanded

by the Grand Master's two successors.

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**Lascaris Towers** Under the reign of Grand Master Juan de Lascaris-Castellar, seven towers were built in the period 1637 – 1640. As well as Wignacourt, Grand Master Lascaris paid for the building of these towers out of his own pocket, such was his dedication to fortifying Malta's coastal defences. With the exception of St. Agatha's Tower in Mellieha (built in Wignacourt built), the Lascaris towers are smaller than Wignacourt's and consisted of two storeys, a flat roof and a parapet. On some of the Lascaris towers, a cannon was positioned.



### De

**Redin Towers** When Grand Master Lascaris died aged 97, having ruled for 21 years, he was succeeded by Grand Master Marino de Redin, a Frenchman. He was a seasoned soldier and diplomat who was deeply concerned about the Island's security and vulnerability to seaward attack.

Aware of the deficiencies of the existing system, de Redin devised a coast-guarding plan whose main features were: Each tower would be inter-visible and able to communicate with its neighbours by day or night. Each tower would be manned by 4 men on a daily 24-hour guard basis. The guardsmen would be equipped

with a musket and paid a regular monthly salary

Each tower would be mounted with a small gun.

Grand Master de Redin built thirteen such towers at his own expense at key tactical sites in Malta, starting from Mellieha in the North, eastwards to Żonqor, round to Benghisa and ending near Żurrieq. The rugged Western coast was considered naturally inaccessible and needing no towers.

The cost of the thirteen towers amounted to 6,428 scudi or about €1,246 today, making the average cost of each tower about €96.

Unfortunately, the successor Grand Masters after de Redin did not share the enthusiasm for building new towers and by the late 17th century the watch towers had fallen into disrepair, but eventually did receive attention and were maintained for future generations (and rulers of the Maltese islands).

It is interesting to note that in many locations of the towers built in the 17th century, Medieval watch posts or towers existed previously. This could suggest that the towers built under Grand Masters Wignacourt, Lascaris and de Redin were intended to augment and fortify pre-existing coastal defences.

### Visiting the towers

Although most towers are not accessible to the public, a few are opened at specific times by volunteers of the caretaking organisation called Din l-Art Helwa. When the towers are open to visitors, a flag is lifted on top of the tower, to signal this event. These are the regular opening hours of the towers that are under the protection of this organisation:

- **St. Paul's Bay Tower (Wignacourt)** – Open Monday, Wednesday to Friday and the first Sunday of the month from 10.00-13.00h
- **Santa Marija Tower, Comino (Wignacourt)** – Open from April to October on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.30am to 3.00pm
- **St. Mark's Tower, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq (de Redin)** – Open by appointment only
- **Għallis Tower, Salina (de Redin)** – Open by appointment only
- **Dwejra Tower, Gozo (Lascaris)** – Open all year from Monday to Friday from 09.00-15.00h and on Sundays from 12.00-17.00h
- **St. Agatha's Tower, Mellieha (Lascaris)** – Open from Monday to Sunday from 10.00-13.00h. Tuesdays open from 10.00 -16.00h



## Why do Maltese olives make some of the best olive oils?

Daphne Cassar

Praised by the best olive oil experts and such internationally-renowned chefs such as Jamie Oliver, Maltese olive oil has unique characteristics which distinguish it from the rest.

Archeological discoveries show that 2000 years ago, the Romans were already producing olive oil in Malta. Emanuel Grima, who has inherited a passion for agriculture from his father, said that there has been a recent revival of interest in the olive oil industry.

We met with him at Wardija where he cultivates olive trees. He explained that one cannot compare Maltese olive oil with others which are imported and sold at a lower price.

"When you are using high-quality olives and obviously do not produce a large quantity such as in Malta's case where the production is very low, and when you only use one variety, the product is going to have less volume," Mr Grima pointed out.

He explained that just like in the wine industry, even in the olive-pressing industry there are factors which contribute to the high quality of olives one uses.

"Olive trees known as 'tal-Bidni', which are Maltese trees which have been growing in our country for many hundreds of thousands of years, produce a particular taste in the oil which is made from them. The taste is spicy, peppery, and has a lot of antioxidants and elevated Polyphenols which give it a unique taste." Mr Grima said that in Malta the production of olive oil is low, however he noted that oil producers are collaborating between them to promote the local product. He said that while ten years ago there was only one olive press in Wardija, today there are around ten even though it is not an industry from which one can make a living.

Mr Galea said that from 13 tumoli of land on which he has 600 olive trees, every year he produces between 200 – 250 litres of olive oil.



## The story behind the hook

Francis Formosa, Sliema

When I was a youngster, over 80 years ago, I used to be informed by my seniors about certain traditions, especially regarding my birthplace, Valletta. It would be very interesting if some knowledgeable person would inform us whether there is basis for believing in what we were told by our ancestors.

I was in Valletta a few days ago and, going down Merchants Street, corner with St John's Street I noticed the large metal hook jutting out from the wall on the right hand side. I was, and still am, under the impression that this hook was originally installed in order to hoist the bells on the newly-constructed St John's Co-Cathedral. Furthermore, when the British Navy was present in Malta, every midshipman aspiring to become an officer and advance in his career had to pass through this hook, otherwise he would be doomed to failure. It is said that one such youngster who underwent this experience was Lord Nelson. If anyone can shed any light on this matter we would be most grateful.

Also, a few feet further up, and at a higher level, stands what we used to be told was a sort of pillory dating back to the times of the Knights. If there is even an iota of truth regarding the above, why do we not install a plaque describing it to tourists and Maltese alike? After all, most of the visitors to Brussels make it a point to view the Manneken Pis, which, in all probability, is only a myth.



Ghaziz Sur Editur - Jiena bniedem interessat li nkun naf u nitghallem dwar l-ghaziza Malta taghna, taghlim li fi tfuliti qatt ma kont nafu avvolja kont immur fi skola privata. Fil-hajja tieghi qattajt hajti nissielet biex nitghallem xi sengha meta f'Malta ma kellna ebda taghlim ta' snajja u allura hdimt f'hafna postijiet bhal motor mechanic, panel beater, spray painter izda fl-ebda wiehed ma tghallmt sengha biex ikolli hajja dicenti u nibda nifforma familja, u kont ingaggajt suldat mar-Royal Engineers. Ialdaqstant meta spiccajt mill-iskola ma kelliex l-opportunta' li nitghallem dwar art twelidi kif issa mezz tal-gurnal tieghek li huwa ferm interessanti u informattiv qed inkun naf affarijiet li fi tfuliti qatt ma ajthom, u permezz ta Harry Bugeja mis-South Australia qed nircievi regularment kull harga u wara li jrrha jiena nghaddija lill-hbiebi ohra kemm f'Malta, f'Ghawdex, u barra minn Malta, biex dawk li bhali qatt kellhom l-opportrunta' li jkunu jafu dwar art tweldihom isiru jafu kemm hi sabiha Malta taghna. Ighiet, nifrahlek u niringrazzjak. Dominic N Pantalleresco Gzira, Malta 19 ta Lulju 2019

Frank, If you are pleased to send this journal to us, we are very pleased to received it for its cross section of life present and past of which we can be justifiable proud. John Briffa

You are truly keeping the Maltese living abroad connected and making everyone feel very welcome in participating, contributing and cooperating and at the same time learning new things about our home;land – MALTA. Edwin and Rose Caruana

## IMAGINE IF WE *Love, Help and Respect each other*

**Do you want to apply for  
or renew your  
Maltese Passport?  
The Consul-on-the-move  
will be in Adelaide  
in September 2019.**

**Contact:  
Malta High Commission ACT  
on 02 6290 1724  
or Frank Scicluna  
SA Hon Consul  
on 0422 438 288**





## We lost a pioneer of the Maltese Community of NSW

**Joe Sammut** from Victor Vella

On the 18th of July 2019, the Maltese Community of N.S.W. lost one of its pioneers. After a fairly long illness Joe Sammut was fare-welled at a well-attended service at Our Lady of Victories Church at Horsley Park, his family's native parish in Australia. During the Mass and familial farewells, one could not but notice the absence of community representatives at the service as well as the official goodbye's

I would say that this all goes with the character and personality of Joseph. For most of the Maltese Joseph Sammut is only a name or perhaps known only and still remembered by a few clients for whom he was the first

supplier of tickets to Malta. There would be some more who would remember him as a jolly fellow enjoying the fruits of the earth and sharing life with friends and foe. With Joe what you saw was the proverbial what you got.

And what we in fact got was a genuine leader of the Maltese leader in the western Suburbs of Sydney who was prepared to sacrifice all for his mission of helping the Maltese migrant in the pioneering days of the 50's and 60's. He set up the foundations to provide an abode for meetings and also a social haven to assist the Maltese migrant feel more at home with the services provided. At that time when government services were non-existent and when so many newly arrived Maltese migrants were settling down in the Western Suburbs of Sydney, the concept of a meeting shelter was much more important than it looks to-day.

There is quite alive a modern tendency to forget the recent past. To-day we tend to forget that the present is built on the past. And though most of the Maltese migrants cannot see or remember the past presidents J.Camilleri or Joe Ebejer meeting and arguing and planning in the old chicken shed, however they were there with Fr. Paul Baron sowing the seeds for the present. Then came Joe Sammut who with his diplomacy and leadership consolidated and modified the grandiose plans which were on the verge of being implemented.

I served with him as his secretary for 14 years and I may well vouch for the fact that single-handedly and with close co-operation with Fr. Paul we managed to establish first of all a committee on modern and workable lines. The second hurdle was the acquisition of the property by the State Planning Authority. It was through the insistence and courage of Joe to take the State Planning Authority to court and be awarded a very substantial compensation. Which took us to the next step of buying another property .....the present one, and to build and accomplish what is functioning at present on it.

For this most of the honour is due to Joe Sammut and to Fr. Paul, our then Spiritual Director who when all is said and done and without any assistance from any official Maltese representatives, had the courage and leadership to challenge the N.S.W government single-handed.

Another highlight of Joe Sammut's presidency was the commemoration of the centenary of the official opening of Maltese emigration to Australia. While the then members of the Maltese Community Council of N.S.W. were wrangling on whether it was a celebration or a commemoration we went ahead and managed to present one of the best professional presentations under the Maltese flag at the Opera House of Sydney. This occasion was also mentioned by the Hon Member for the Hon Member John Cadman in Federal Parliament. It was a daring venture indeed and was brought to fruition by the planning of the committee and the tenacity of Joe.

Joe was a quiet achiever whether in business but especially in the social arena of Maltese culture and settlement. He was a leader who saw a need and took pains to fill the gap even though he had to sacrifice his business and personal life. The then committee of the La Valette Social and Religious Centre did it all alone under his leadership.

Joe Sammut..... Vale. La Valette as it stands to-day is the perfect monument for all you have done not for personal honour and gratification but the for the true benefit of the Maltese Community.





## Akkademiċi u membri tal-għaqdiet tal-Malti u l-Ingliż imhassba dwar ir-riforma proposta mill-MATSEC

Għadd ta' lekċerers, akkademiċi u membri tal-għaqdiet tal-Malti u tal-Ingliż esprimew it-tħassib tagħhom dwar ir-riforma fl-edukazzjoni postsekondarja proposta mill-MATSEC.

Fi stqarrija, dawn spjegaw li din ir-riforma saret mingħajr konsultazzjoni wiesgħa biżżejjed. Insistew li lingwa barranija qed tiġi imposta fuq l-istudenti tard ħafna fl-edukazzjoni tagħhom, u dan mhuwiex se jgħin视角 ikabbru l-għarfien kulturali tagħhom Ewropew jew ikabbru l-ħiliet lingwistiċi tagħhom. Qalu li l-proposta tagħmel bil-maqlub ta' dak li qed li tišhaq – li hemm bżonn bidla strutturali sabiex l-istudenti Maltin jiksibu l-ħiliet li jeħtieġu f'soċjetà Maltija li tagħmel parti minn soċjetà Ewropea. Qalu li liż-żgħażaġħ la tagħtihom l-għarfien kulturali Ewropew u dinji u lanqas il-ħiliet ta' analiżi u espressjoni li jeħtieġu biex jgħixu, jistudjaw u jaħdmu f'Malta, f'Ewropa u f'dinja dejjem aktar kumplessi. Qalu li din ir-riforma:

- (i) iċċaħħad lill-istudenti f'Malta mill-iżvilupp tal-għerf billi tenfasizza kważi esklussivament l-aspett komunikattiv,
- (ii) timponi fuqhom lingwa barranija tard ħafna fl-edukazzjoni tagħhom, u
- (iii) tnaqqsilhom l-importanza fit-tagħlim xieraq tal-ilsien nazzjonali, il-Malti, u tal-Ingliż, il-lingwa koufficjali ta' Malta.

Stqarru wkoll li sabiex l-istudenti jtejbju l-ħiliet komunikattivi tagħhom, id-dokument tal-MATSEC qed jipproponi li s-Systems of Knowledge jingħata struttura ġdida li "tirrifletti integrazzjoni ta' ħiliet komunikattivi u kulturali", u b'hekk jinkludi t-tagħlim tal-Malti u l-Ingliż fuq livell komunikattiv biss. Iżda qalu li mhuwiex indikat fiċ-ċar x'inhu dan il-livell komunikattiv, mgħallem f'kulleggi postsekondarji li joffru tagħlim fil-livell Intermedju jew Avvanzat. Skonthom, din il-proposta tneħħi l-enfasi fuq il-kitba u fuq l-għarfien tal-Malti u tal-Ingliż bħala lingwi, bil-konsegwenza li l-istudenti se jmissu ma' f'tit wisq mill-ħiliet li għarfien serju tal-Malti u l-Ingliż jagħtihom biex jirnexxu fl-istudji tagħhom 'il quddiem u fid-dinja tax-xogħol.

Qalu li l-proposta għandha tiġi riveduta b'mod għaqli wara konsultazzjoni serja.

*L-istqarrija hija ffirmata mid-Dipartimenti tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta u minn membri mid-Dipartiment tal-Ingliż fl-Università ta' Malta (Dr Mario Aquilina, Dr Krista Bonello Rutter Giappone, Prof. Stella Borg-Barthet, Prof. Ivan Callus, Prof. James Corby, Dr Petra Caruana Dingli, Dr Giuliana Fenech, Dr Maria Frendo, Dr Marija Grech, Prof. Lydia Sciriha, u Prof. Peter Vassallo), mill-Istitut tal-Lingwistika u t-Teknoloġija tal-Lingwa fl-Università ta' Malta, mid-Dipartimenti tal-Malti u l-Ingliż fil-Junior College, mid-Dipartimenti tal-Malti u l-Ingliż fl-Iskola Sekondarja Ogħla Giovanni Curmi, mid-Dipartimenti tal-Malti u l-Ingliż fil-Kulleġġ San Alwiġi, mid-Dipartimenti tal-Malti u l-Ingliż fil-Kulleġġ De La Salle, mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti, l-Akkademja tal-Malti, l-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, l-Għaqda Qarrejja tal-Provi tal-Malti, l-Għaqda Poeti Maltin, l-English Speaking Union u l-Għaqda tal-Istudjanti tad-Dipartiment tal-Ingliż.*

We are proud of all the Maltese living abroad

# #WorldDayofthePoor



## ORDER OF MALTA

*"This poor man cried,  
and the Lord heard him"*



## Community Care Van – Sydney

The Sydney Community Care Van currently runs on Monday and Thursday nights. Each service starts at 5pm and volunteers meet at St. Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst. The service finishes at 7pm back at the hospital.

Volunteers and a nurse from St Vincent's visit areas in the city frequented by rough sleepers. Volunteers drive the van and distribute seasonal items (coats, sunscreen, water, hygiene packs) and the nurse offers healthcare.

Non-drivers are welcome to also volunteer but will need to be rostered with a volunteer driver.

Homeless individuals have more health problems and more severe outcomes from health issues than the general population. This volunteer initiative provides much needed support and protection to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of the community.



## Order of Malta takes on big challenges

**Marilyn Rodrigues**

Knights gather at St Benedict's Church in Broadway for the investiture of new members last weekend. PHOTO: Giovanni Portelli

Ancient order considers pressing social issues during assembly  
Former NSW attorney general Greg Smith SC has issued an urgent warning that euthanasia and assisted suicide which came into effect in Victoria last month will see a "domino effect" in legislation throughout the country.

"Australia is facing the most concerted campaign to allow voluntary assisted dying it has ever seen in lifting the criminal law sanctions against euthanasia and assisted suicide in each state and territory," said Mr Smith at a national assembly for the Order of Malta held in Sydney's Hilton Hotel last week.

"There doesn't seem to be enough people fighting against it," he added. Victoria will become the first state in the country to operate euthanasia after it came into effect on 19 June; the pro-euthanasia lobby has a powerful public face in popular media personality Andrew Denton, Mr Smith said.

"This comes at a time when religious freedom has been battered in the aftermath of almost universal liberalism of state and territory abortion laws and subsequent restrictions on pro life protests and prayer vigils in safe access zones today, the plebiscite on same sex marriage and subsequent amendments to the Marriage Act," he said.

However, as concerns about religious freedom have come to the fore following the recent Federal election campaign, he believed there is now an opportunity to press for improved palliative care services. "There should be a palliative care in every parliament in the country, to greatly increase the numbers of staff, specialists and money spent on palliative care to really show a loving respect and offer real dignity for the dying," he said.



Titled Embracing the Challenge, the three-day conference brought together almost 122 members of the hospitaller order of Malta with former prime minister John Howard giving an address on the state of religious freedom in Australia at the formal dinner.

It was a strong theme throughout, with fellow keynote speaker Queensland Liberal senator Amanda Stoker urging the members of the Order of Malta to be "cultural shapers" challenging attacks on basic human freedoms such as freedom of conscience, association and speech. "We need to fight for them because without them we are not fully human beings," she said.

"History tells us that without them, tyranny will follow, and if you take them away we will have none of the relative wealth in this country we have come to expect without having to fight for these major freedoms." Other speakers included Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Justice Dyson Heydon, Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald, Bishop Vincent Long of Parramatta, Sydney archdiocese's director of public affairs and engagement Monica Doumit and marriage educators Francine and Byron Pirola.

Amanda Stoker addresses the Order of Malta assembly. PHOTO: Alphonsus Fok



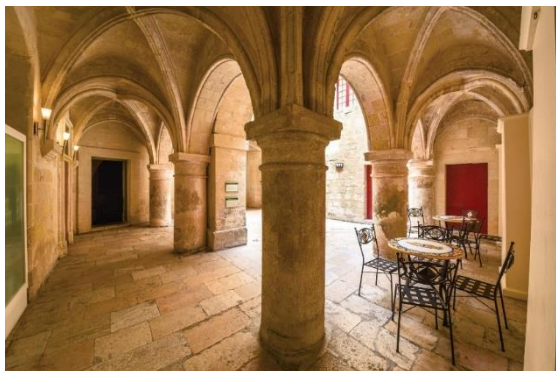
Fifteen new members of the lay religious order were invested during a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP. Order of Malta Australia president Ian Marshall said its work is as relevant today as when it was founded 900 years ago to defend the faith and serve the sick and poor. "We are facing multiple challenges on multiple fronts such as abortion and euthanasia legislation and threats to religious freedom," he said. "It's good to have these highly accredited speakers

help us to identify the problems and ways in which we can do our bit to help."

Regional hospitaller Mark Boffa said the conference was "a tremendous opportunity for us to be energised and inspired. "We were especially touched by the great support of bishops and clergy," he said.

## Heritage Malta children's summer program

### Unique experience being offered



The Inquisitors' Palace. Photo: Heritage Malta

Heritage Malta is organising a summer programme of activities starting this month and ending in September.

It will offer children the opportunity to try their hand at art while being in prehistoric areas, under the shadows of a megalithic temple, close to the mysterious catacombs, in a medieval palace, or in an art museum.

Children participating in the activities will be able to let their imagination run wild after listening to awesome stories about being in a mighty fortress or in a massive temple believed to be built by giants.

Those aspiring to be writers will have the chance to draw inspiration from historical surroundings of the frightening Inquisitor's Palace where its resident punished people who did not obey the rules

And who knows what artistic creations will come to life from the hand of budding comic artists after a visit to museums full of maritime curiosities or strange insects and creatures?

The programme promises a unique summer experience for children besides an opportunity to make new friends.

Participating children will be grouped according to their ages as follows: Art Blast, for children aged five to seven; Tell me a Story, for those aged five to eight; Pen it!, for eight- to 12-year-olds; and Comic Creation, for teenagers up to 15.

Participation in the activities is against a €5 donation, but students who have collected all their Heritage Malta Passport stamps can attend for free. Tickets may be bought from all Heritage Malta sites and museums upon presentation of the Student Passport. The programme of activities may be viewed at [www.heritagemalta.org/passport/events](http://www.heritagemalta.org/passport/events). For more information, call 2295 4300 or e-mail to [passport@heritagemalta.org](mailto:passport@heritagemalta.org).



### IL-KUMITAT IL-GDID TAL-GHAQDA TAL- MALTI UNIVERSITA' MALTA

Fil-Laqqha Ġenerali Annwali li saret nhar is-Sibt li għadda, il-membri prezenti tal-Għaqda

tal-Malti – Università eleggiew kumitat ġdid għas-sentejn li ġejjin, magħmul minn ucuħ ġodda u oħrajn magħrufin mal-membri tal-Għaqda.

Il-Kumitat huwa magħmul minn Keith Attard, Michela Brincat, Amy Camilleri, Diane Cutajar, Thea Farrugia, Sephora Francalanza, Gabriel Lia u Romario Sciberras. Dr Michael Spagnol huwa membru eks uffiċċju bħala Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti. Keith Attard, Amy Camilleri u Sephora Francalanza kienu parti mill-kumitat preċedenti.

Fl-istess laqgħa, ġew approvati r-rapport amministrattiv u dak finanzjarju, li hejja l-Kumitat tassnin 2017-2019. L-Għaqda tal-Malti (Università) imwaqqfa minn Rużar Briffa u Ġużè Bonnici fl-1931 hi għaqda studenteska li l-għan tagħha hu l-promozzjoni tal-Malti u l-oqsma kollha marbuta miegħu malistudenti u lil hinn.

Jekk tixtieq issegwi lill-Għaqda tal-Malti jew anke ssir membru, tista' ssib iżjed informazzjoni hawn

[għaqdataalmalti@gmail.com](mailto:għaqdataalmalti@gmail.com) | [www.għaqdataalmalti.org](http://www.għaqdataalmalti.org).



## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA FOUNDED 61 YEARS AGO



The MCCV was established on Saturday 6 July 1958 on the initiative of the Austral-Malta Association. There were one or two delegates from the Austral-Malta Association, Maltese Settlers Association, Malta Migrants Catholic Association, Melita Social Club, Melfare Club, George Cross Soccer Club, Melita Soccer Club, St. Fidelis Soccer Club, Ex-service Association, 17th Melbourne 1st Malta Boys Scouts Group, Star of the Sea Dramatic Company, and the monthly publication "Malta".

The first meeting was held in St. Mary's Mission House in Parkville, Melbourne, which was the home of the priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP). The Superior of the Order and Spiritual Leader of the Maltese community in Melbourne, Fr. Onoratus Galea, MSSP, generously made the venue available for the meeting. Together with several other priests of the Society, Fr Galea was among those who strove for the establishment and the success of the MCCV. Among those present at the inaugural meeting were the High Commissioner of Malta, Captain George Stivala OBE who attended as an official observer and was elected Patron by acclamation. The agenda for the first meeting included the selection of a name for the new organisation, the establishment of a Maltese cultural and recreational centre, a Maltese radio programme and general elections.

The first officials elected on the MCCV Executive Committee were: Mr. Paul Paris, President; Major J.M. Vella and Mr. J. Galea, Vice-Presidents; Mr. F. St. Angelo, Secretary; Mr. D. Puli, Treasurer; Mr. W. Esposito, PRO; Mr. J. Zammit, Assistant Secretary; Mr. P. Madiona, Assistant Treasurer; and Mr. J. Briffa, Asst.. PRO; while Messrs. B. Busuttil and G. Deguara were declared Auditors.



## Proceeds from Maltese play 'Zayden' to help local homeless

A one-hour play in Maltese titled *Zayden* will be one of this summer's most impactful performances.

The show tackles homelessness - challenging the misconception that this is not an issue in Malta. It argues that, while we might not see people begging on the streets every day, homelessness

is nevertheless a reality across the country.

"I am excited to be staging this production in Maltese. It will make you laugh, it will make you shed a tear," says *Zayden* playwright and director Tyrone Grima. "Most of all, though, you will feel the need to change the situation and make this world a better place."

Grima has skilfully composed the tale of *Zayden*, a young Maltese man who was homeless for several years. In the play, we are taken on a journey through *Zayden*'s life to understand homelessness in Malta. Never one to dwell on doom and gloom though, *Zayden* also shares humorous stories about escaping the police and stealing fruit from San Anton Gardens. These portrayals of the lighter side of life, in spite of adversity, bring the starkness of homelessness hauntingly close to home.

*Zayden* is produced in collaboration with the Salesians of Don Bosco. The show's proceeds will go towards their work to help young homeless men build a better future.

*'Zayden'* will be on at *The Splendid, Valletta*, opening at 8pm on 25 July and continuing on 26, 27, 28 July with two performances per night at 7.30pm and 9pm. Tickets and more information are available at [www.showshappening.com](http://www.showshappening.com)

# Neanderthal Man in Malta

**What is Neanderthal? :** an extinct species of human that was widely distributed in ice-age Europe between c. 120,000 and 35,000 years ago, with a receding forehead and prominent brow ridges. The Neanderthals were associated with the Mousterian flint industry of the Middle Palaeolithic.

Ghar Dalam (The Cave of Darkness) is — or rather, was — full of fossils of dwarf elephant, dwarf hippo and dwarf deer. Thousands of fossils have been excavated from here over the years, by loads of different people. Maltese prehistory may have just been extended by 30,000 years.

The verdict of experts from the London Natural History Museum has revived the theory that a tooth discovered in Ghar Dalam in 1917 may prove Neanderthals once roamed the island.



The claim is not new. It was made in the 1920s by two British anthropologists, but four decades later the theory no longer had credence.

Three unusually shaped human molars were discovered in the deeper layers of a large cavern on the Southeast of Malta, two in 1917 (Despott 1918), and a third in 1936 (MAR 1936). These molars are known as 'taurodont' or 'bull-teeth,' they are peculiar to very ancient human beings such as Neanderthal Man, and I have named the owner/s of these molars the Dulam Cave Man/Men.



**GHAR DALAM - CAVE OF DARKNESS**

The stalagmitic column in Ghar Dalam close to where the first molars were found

The cavern they were found in was originally known as the Ghar Dalam (the Cavern of the Elephants), but has in recent times been corrupted to Ghar Dalam, and incorrectly translated into 'the Cave of Darkness.' Likewise for the valley below the cavern, the Wied Dalam – this has been corrupted to Wied Dalam. However, for the sake of uniformity in terminology, the modern names of 'Ghar Dalam' and 'Wied Dalam' will henceforth be used throughout the script.

The first two molars that were discovered in 1917 were found seven feet apart in a flood deposit of red earth that incorporated fossil remains of Red Deer and that contained no pottery – this was an Ice Age, or Pleistocene deposit; it is possible that these two molars derived from the same individual.

In 1918 and 1924, the renowned anatomist-anthropologist of the time, Sir Arthur Keith attributed these two molars to Neanderthal Man on the basis of their taurodont shape (Keith 1918, 1924); he was thus extending the human presence on the Maltese Islands backward in time by several tens of millennia. The existence of Neanderthal Man on Malta was an accepted fact for four decades; my history book at school was still acknowledging a Neanderthal presence in Malta.

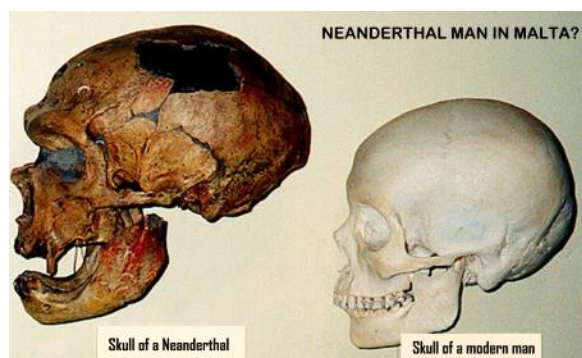


## The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

In 1964 the taurodont molars were rejected, and were assigned a Neolithic date on the basis of some Nitrogen tests that were carried out at Oxford in 1952 and 1955, through the intervention of Kenneth Page Oakley of the Natural History Museum of London (MAR 1964).

After a period of research in Malta and the United Kingdom, **expert in Maltese prehistory, Anton Mifsud wanted to** rectify the situation in 1997 through the publication, co-authored with his son Simon, of *Dossier Malta – Evidence for the Magdalenian*, where the Nitrogen tests that were utilized to attribute the 1917 molars to the Neolithic period were shown to be invalid. Evidence for the presence of Late Palaeolithic rock art was also presented by way of further evidence for a pre-Neolithic human presence on the Maltese Islands.

This publication was severely criticised by some members of the local archaeological establishment, though with one notable exception, that of the Head of Archaeology at the time, Professor Anthony Frendo, who wrote the Foreword to *Dossier Malta*, and who defended our hypothesis two years later in *Facets of Maltese Prehistory* (1999).



Notwithstanding, today's 'Maltese history' books still identify the magic date of 5,300 B.C. as the start of the human occupation of the Maltese Islands.

Over the past two decades his on-going research has acquainted him with a new discipline in Biological

Anthropology – Geometric Morphometrics of the hominin dentition. At one point, advances in this field had reached a stage when it was possible to diagnose a fossil human from one, single tooth.

There was a collection of certain features on the crown surface of Neanderthal teeth that was characteristic of and exclusive to Neanderthal Man. Interestingly, this group of features was absent in anatomically modern humans. I looked out for these features in the three Ghar Dalam taurodonts, and in early February of this year (2016) I discovered that all the criteria for diagnosing Neanderthal Man were being met with in one of the 1917 molars, namely GhD/1, the first molar that was discovered by Rizzo. The exercise was repeated several times and a positive result was the constant outcome.

After some initial hesitation, Anton Mifsud referred his findings to the very top, to the expert biological experts themselves, and he solicited their opinion as to whether he was right or not about GhD/1 – it was confirmed as a right upper Neanderthal molar at first glance, and after a further period of a few days for a detailed and total assessment, the present author's findings were confirmed.

Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum of London, as a leading authority on Neanderthal Man was initially sceptical about my findings and so he referred me to his colleague expert in the field of Geometric Morphometrics, Tim Compton. When the latter confirmed the Neanderthal features, the both of them convinced me to go for aDNA testing. A fuller investigation including an excavation of the Ghar Dalam cavern has also been proposed in order to confirm a more extended presence on Malta during the Ice Age, beyond that of the Neanderthals.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter and also at the  
Malta Migration Museum - Valletta  
Maltese/Canadian Archives - Toronto Canada

All the journals are at  
the website  
[www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)



## Soċjetà Muzikali Maria Assunta awards recognition to Tonio Portuguese

On the 100th year anniversary of the foundation of the Soċjetà Muzikali Maria Assunta and the 75th anniversary of the band Maria Assunta of Gudja, a plaque of appreciation and recognition was presented by the Society's President, Omar Xuereb, to Tonio Portuguese, Honorary President of the Soċjetà Maria Assunta. The recognition was carried out during an activity at the Society's premises. Kav. Dott Tonio Portuguese was awarded this recognition for his support to the Society, particularly during its

centenary celebrations that will reach their peak in November with a premiere of the Kantata with verses by the late Rev George Mercieca and the music of Mro Herman Farrugia Frantz.

## Special hand post mark: 125th anniversary for statue of St. George



A special hand postmark to mark the 125th anniversary from the first demonstration of the statue of St. George in Gozo is being issued by MaltaPost this Friday, the 19th of July, at the Victoria Post Office.

Orders for this special hand postmark may be placed online at [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa, MTP 1001 – Telephone 2596 1740 – e-mail: [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com)

## 79% OF MALTESE USE SOCIAL MEDIA EVERY DAY



### Commission.

In contrast, only 52 per cent of people in Germany use social media networks on a daily basis.

The Eurobarometer survey shows that daily use of social networks in Malta has shot up by a remarkable 41 points since 2015.

The regular use of social media ranges from 94% in Malta and 93% in Cyprus to 68% in France and 70% in Germany.



## Religious intolerance must be challenged – Foreign Minister



### Calls for states to stand 'united'

Religious intolerance has to be challenged through dialogue and debate, not the closing of doors to the outsider or the foreigner, Foreign Minister Carmelo Abela insisted.

He was participating in the second Annual Ministerial Meeting to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington DC organised by the US Department of State.

He emphasised that countries must stay united and determined as there was an increase in the number of recent tragic events related anti-Semitism, fundamentalism, extremism and additional hate crimes based on religious motives.

“We believe that freedom of religion or belief should not be allowed to be affected by politics and fluctuating social attitudes. It is part of the role of every state to ensure this does not happen,” he said.

During his intervention, the minister explained how Malta was dealing with the issue: “Malta is committed to protecting the human rights of all people, in particular members of minority groups and individuals that find themselves vulnerable situations. This commitment is a result of several years of grappling with large numbers of asylum seekers or refugees arriving to our shores.” Malta is working on setting up a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles via two initiatives: the Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Equality Act.



## Donates blood for the 113th time – on his birthday

Nigel Mifsud

On the day he celebrated his 55th birthday, TVM Programmes Manager Frans Lia started his day not by receiving presents but by giving a present. Shortly after the Blood Donation Centre opened its doors at 8 am, he was one of the first to donate blood. This was his 113th blood donation.

The Centre's Director, Tony Micallef, said that on average two persons on a daily basis go to the Centre to donate blood on their birthday. He said that although there is no current crisis in reserves. Every type of blood is needed in preparation for whatever may occur.

He added that this Sunday, the Blood Donation Unit will be in front of the Holy Cross Church in the Sant Andrija zone at Żabbar. In Gozo, the public may donate blood at the Xewkija Dispensary between 8 am and 1 pm.

*We are still growing and going strong*  
If you like to receive this journal regularly  
Send an email to Frank: [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)





The proud owner of this Terramaxka is Mari Van Rooy, a Dutchman married to a Maltese who has been living in Malta for over 25 years. It was always his dream to own one of these magical instruments and this is actually the only one of its kind in Malta!

## The “Terramaxka” or Street Organ

The street-organ was called 'terramaxka' in Maltese, a word corrupted from *kitarra magica*, meaning magic guitar except this was no guitar but a mobile organ that was a popular feature in town squares in Malta from the end of the 19th century up to the mid-20th century, entertaining children and adults alike for a small donation. Street organs were always present at the Mnarja festivities in Buskett and frequently entertained the public in local festas when the noisy bands were out of the way.

In English, this instrument is given a variety of names including street organ, crank organ, barrel organ, fair organ and so forth. Street organs were imported to Malta from European countries such as France and Switzerland during the late nineteenth century.

Street organs were brightly painted and decorated with figures or puppets in elegantly painted clothes which often 'danced' in time to the music.

A huge variety of these organs could be found in Malta. All these organs played music by inserting perforated cards or long strips of card where each hole corresponded to a note, while the man in charge turned a large wheel or crank on the side or back. All types of music were played including tangos, operas, polkas and waltzes.

The most common *terramaxka* was a very light-weight organ usually hung round the neck of the busker and resting on a small pole. Others were larger vehicles, usually decorated with flags and small wooden statues, drawn by a donkey or the owner himself, and attracted many young children. Similar to later jukeboxes, coin-operated organs called café organs were more commonly found in cafés and pubs popular with sailors. Finally, *terramaxkas* were also found in homes of wealthy people. These organs were made of fine woods and were often richly gilded.

The *terramaxkas* were very common in the Maltese islands however unfortunately, these marvellous instruments have long disappeared, some sold to Americans while others were destroyed. The last large *terramaxka* was destroyed by a garage fire in 2012 but has happily been replaced by a smaller model sourced in Paris.



# Vittoriosa budgerigar tradition may be banned



A Maltese tradition at Vittoriosa involves placing around six budgerigars in a tin ball that opens once a fuse burns out, emitting smoke in the process as the birds fly off – may be banned.

The tradition, which is believed to date back to the Knights of St John, formed part of the feast of St Lawrence held next month.

Discussions are being held between the animal welfare authorities and the external festivities committee of the St Lawrence Band Club to find a solution that would somehow maintain this age-old tradition while ensuring the welfare of the birds.

A spokesman for the Parliamentary Secretariat for Animal Welfare said discussions were held with the society to change this practice.

The matter was first raised on the Facebook page I Will Not Go Away, by animal rights activist and blogger Alison Bezzina.

She alerted the animal welfare authorities to this practice that involved releasing budgies – domestic birds and do not survive out of a cage – “onto the street through some kind of firework contraption”. Speaking to Times of Malta, feast organiser Christian Raggio said the external festivities committee was waiting for a decision to be held ahead of the feast, celebrated on August 9. The committee would respect the outcome.

Should the use of budgies be banned, the committee would discuss how to adapt the tradition. "If the authorities tell us that it is in breach of the law, we will abide by it. At the moment discussions are going on. We just want to keep this age-old tradition, that some say goes back to the time of the Knights, but will do so in a way that abides by law," he said.

So, what happens exactly?

Mr Raggio explained how in the morning of the eve of the feast, an oval shaped tin ball, called *il-ballun*, is placed in the middle of the Vittoriosa square. Inside there is a papier-mâché statue of St Lawrence as a child, with his mother.

Minutes before the band arrives, some six budgies are placed inside the ball tied with a fuse ending in a knot. The fuse is lit and, when the flame reaches the knot, the ball opens.

"I really want to stress that there are no fireworks or explosions involved. It's just smoke. If we used fireworks we would break the statue and the ball and no bird would survive," he said, adding he never remembered any birds getting injured.

"It was never our intention to harm birds. We love animals. We buy the birds from a shop, in cages, place them in the ball for a few minutes then release them.

“The majority are caught by onlooking children or their parents who look forward to the event to catch a bird and take it home to be raised as a pet,” he said. Asked about the fact that the budgies were released into an unnatural habitat, he conceded that this is where the committee may have been at fault – and was ready to make any changes to address that.

[illegible]

**We are not in competition with no one. We run our own race. We have no wish to play the game of being better than anyone else. We just aim to improve, to be better than we were before and to please and respect our readers. That's us**



## the 13th Kilimanjaro Challenge launched

This year's 13<sup>th</sup> Kilimanjaro Challenge (KC13) will see 16 people climbing the highest free-standing mountain in the world in a bid to raise funds to help an Ethiopian community.

This year's edition follows the €820,000 that has been raised over the last 12 years for 12 projects in Kenya and Ethiopia, all of which were orchestrated by the

'Missionary Movement Jesus in Thy Neighbour' founded by the late Fr George Grima.

Challenge founder Keith Marshall explained how the previous 12 expeditions up the mountain had been successful, both in terms of success rates as well as fund-raising prowess. To quantify, in excess of € 820,000 has so far been collected and invested in the construction of a school and convent in the Ethiopian village of Bulbula; a wing for a 3-in-1 project; a house hosting 100 physically disabled, deaf and blind children in Kenya; a clinic in Sakko; a kindergarten school in Gambella; another kindergarten school in Dembidolo area, one in Jemu area and another in Wush, all in Ethiopia. The completion of a Centre for Disabled Children in Bonga, Ethiopia was also financed.

KC co-organiser Austin Cachia yesterday said that this year's challenge is to collect €100,000 to finance the construction of a primary school in Bonga, Ethiopia. The school is planned to be built on two floors containing 12 classrooms. The idea to implement the project came from the repeated requests from people in the area as Bonga does not have a qualified primary school.

The implementation of the project will have a considerable impact and advantage for the school age children of Bonga town and their families. The direct beneficiaries are 450 children from seven to 12 years of age around Bonga where the project is to be implemented.

The project will also indirectly benefit families of the surrounding communities whose children will have improved education, malnutrition and poverty associated problems.

Expedition member Jonathan Galea said that the team has been training since March and will head to Kilimanjaro, Africa on 31 December. After spending eight days on the mountain, the team will continue their journey onto Ethiopia to inaugurate the project.

The members of KC13 will be organising various events throughout the year to collect the donations. The next event is a BBQ that will be held at the Hilton hotel on the 28 July. All proceeds from this event will go towards financing the project. One can find the event on Facebook or can contact Cinzia Fenech on 77558833 for more information.

*For more information about the organisation or to find out how you can help, visit the Kilimanjaro Challenge Malta Facebook page, or visit [www.kilimanjarochallengemalta.com](http://www.kilimanjarochallengemalta.com)*



## €2 commemorative coin issue commemorates Ta' Hagrat Temples

A €2 commemorative coin depicting Ta' Hagrat Temples is being issued by the Central Bank of Malta on Monday.

This coin is the fourth in a series of seven dedicated to the Maltese islands' UNESCO World Heritage prehistoric sites.



## The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

The coin reverse shows the common €2 side. The obverse (national side), designed by Noel Galea Bason, shows a representation of Ta' Hagraat Temples.

Ta' Hagraat Temples in Mgarr date to around 3,600-3,000 BC. The site was brought to the attention of Sir Temi Zammit in 1916 and the first excavations were conducted in 1923.

This temple is one of the best preserved in Malta and its imposing portal, together with the three steps leading to it, are the main features of the coin's design.

These commemorative coins were struck in circulation quality at the Monnaie de Paris in France, and are available from Monday, the 22nd of July.

The issue is limited to 320,000 coins, of which 300,000 will be issued in rolls and 20,000 will be available in cards. The cost of a roll of 25 coins is €70, while that of a coin card is €7.

The coins may be purchased directly from the Malta Coin Centre's e-shop, which can be accessed from the Bank's website [www.centralbankmalta.org](http://www.centralbankmalta.org)

Alternatively, one may visit the Malta Coin Centre counter at the main building of the Central Bank of Malta, Castille Place, Valletta.

## Il-Malta Journalism Awards organizzati mill-IĠM Nofs l-unuri għall-PBS



Public Broadcasting Services Limited

Għall-ewwel darba, stejjer ippubblikati fuq is-sit elettroniku ta' Television Malta - [tvm.com.mt](http://tvm.com.mt) - rebħu l-unuri kollha dedikati għall-ġurnalizmu elettroniku fid-29 edizzjoni tal-Malta Journalism Awards organizzati mill-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti/ Ġurnalisti u producers tal-PBS rebħu 9 unuri għal stejjer u produzzjonijiet li xxandru fuq TVM, Radju Malta u [tvm.com.mt/](http://tvm.com.mt/) Sebgha mid-disgħa unuri ntrebħu minn ġurnalisti taċ-ċentru tal-aħbarijiet/ Xogħlijiet ta' ġurnalisti tal-PBS ġew ippremjati fid-29 edizzjoni tal-awards tal-ġurnalisti li jingħataw mill-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin. Ġurija indipendenti ppremjat ix-xogħlijiet ġurnalistiċi ta' hames ġurnalisti tal-PBS f'7 kategoriji.

Mario Xuereb rebħ tliet unuri fosthom għall-iskript televiżiv fil-kategorija features bid-dokumentarju l-Internati Maltin fl-Italja, għall-ġurnalizmu kulturali mxandar fuq ir-radju u għall-aħjar użu tal-ilsien Malti/ Għall-ewwel darba, TVM rebħ il-kategoriji tal-ġurnalizmu elettroniku b'zewg unuri għal stejjer ippubblikati fuq [tvm.com.mt/](http://tvm.com.mt/) Dan b'artiklu ta' Glen Falzon u artiklu kulturali ta' Keith Demicoli/ Brandon Pisani rebħ il-kategorija tal-ġurnalizmu mxandar bl-aqwa filmat.

L-unur għall-ġurnalizmu mxandar skript televiżiv fil-kategorija tal-aħbarijiet intrebħ minn Antonia Micallef. Fiċ-ċerimonja, l-unur kien ingħata lil Jonathan Farrugia iżda l-ġurija rtiratlu l-premjura wara li ġie stabbilit li x-xogħol li pprezenta ma kienx konformi mar-regolamenti/ Kontributori tal-PBS rebħu żewġ unuri oħra/ Il-Professur Andrew Azzopardi rebħ il-kategorija tal-ġurnalizmu mxandar - stejjer umani fuq TVM 2. Alvin Scicluna, li jipproduċi diversi programmi għall-PBS, rebħ il-kategorija tal-ġurnalizmu dwar l-ivvjaġġar/. B'kollox f'din l-edizzjoni kien hemm 20 kategorija għal ġurnalizmu stampat, imxandar u elettroniku/ Il-ġurija evalwat 128 sottomissjoni.

Il-ġurnalista veteran Laurence Grech, li kien editur tas-Sunday Times of Malta, ingħata il-Gold Award sponsorjat mill-Fondazzjoni Tumas Fenech għall-Edukazzjoni fil-Ġurnalizmu. Fiċ-ċerimonja, il-President George Vella wera sodisfazzjoni li l-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti u l-membri tiegħu qed iħeġġu biex ikunu konformi maċ-charter dinji dwar l-etika għall-ġurnalisti. Dan id-dokument, propost mill-Federeazzjoni Internazzjonali tal-Ġurnalisti, jiġbor fih principji etici fosthom li l-ġurnalista jinforma b'mod riċerkat, ikun leali lejn il-pubbliku u liberu minn kull indhil. Il-President Vella qal li meta jiġihaddnu dawn il-principji, il-ġurnalisti jkunu qed inisslu fil-generazzjoni ta' għada l-importanza tal-valuri sodi/. L-Chairman tal-Istitut, Yannick Pace, qal li l-Istitut beda jistudja l-possibbiltà li jsir union għax fost oħrajn qal li Malta hi wieħed mill-ftit pajjiżi li m'hawnx union tal-ġurnalisti. Is-Sur Pace qal li l-Istitut huwa impenjat li jibqa' jaħdem biex din issir realtà.

# Maltese Ravioli

This recipe makes about 4 trays. You can freeze the ravioli also and serve another time. Just make sure to freeze the ravioli in the trays first and then place

in a container once semi frozen. Otherwise they will stick together. (Marlene Zammit)

## IR-RAVJUL TAN-NANNA

### Ingredients

- 500 grams plain flour
- 1 egg lightly beaten
- 200 ml water plus 50 ml extra
- For the filling:
- 5 Maltese cheeselets (Gbejniet) or 500 grams ricotta
- 2 handfuls parmesan cheese
- 2 lightly beaten eggs
- Small bunch of parsley finely chopped
- Salt and pepper
- For the tomato sauce:
- Olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic finely sliced
- 1 medium jar tomato passata
- Salt and pepper
- For serving:
- Extra chopped parsley
- Parmesan cheese

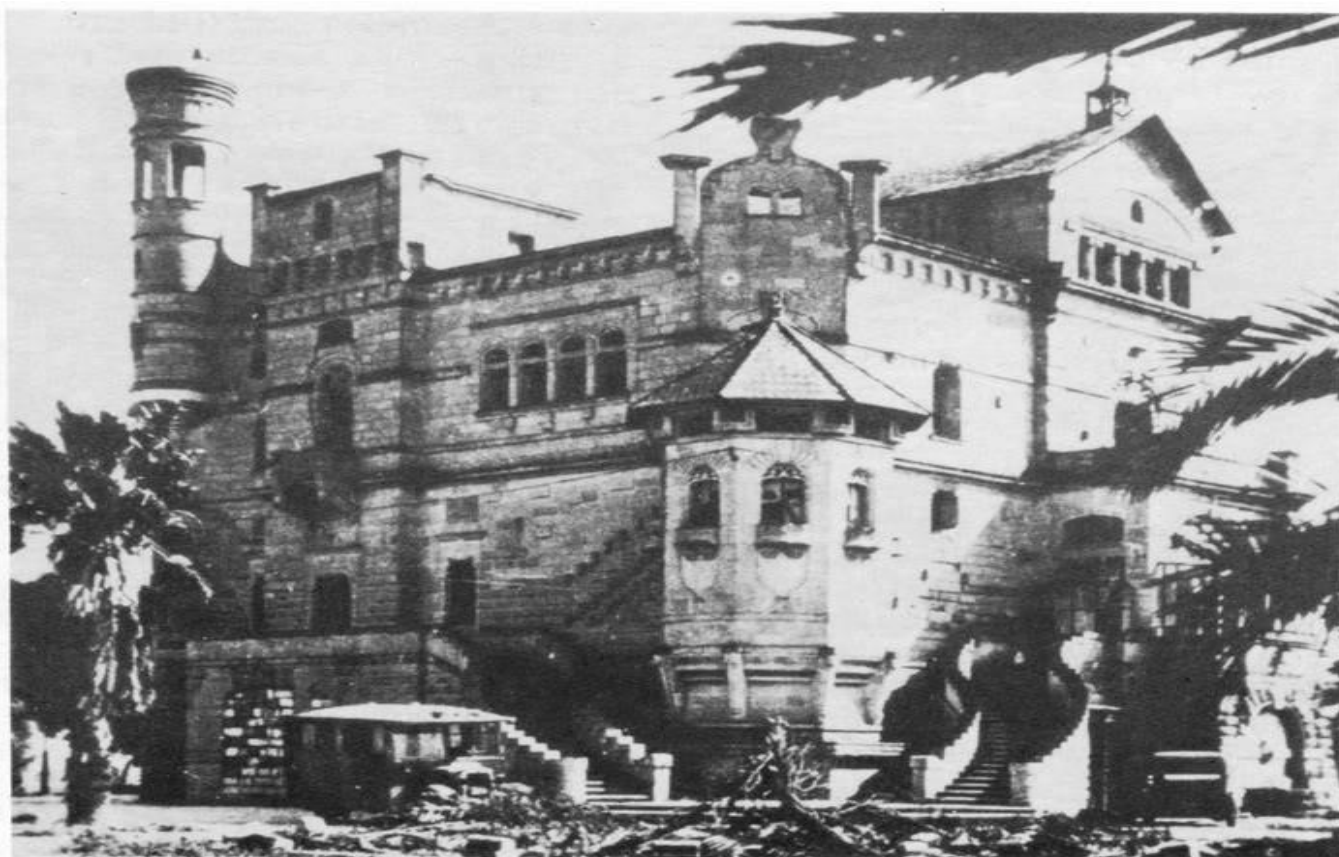


### Instructions

1. Prepare the dough by placing the flour into a large bowl.
2. Add into the centre of the flour the egg and water.
3. Mix with a knife and once the dough starts to form add more water if the dough feels a bit too dry.
4. Now knead the dough with your hands until the ball feels firm but springy to touch.
5. Place in the fridge wrapped in cling wrap for two hours.
6. While the dough is in the fridge prepare the mixture. Mix all the ingredients together and set aside.
7. Prepare the trays by lining with baking paper.
8. Once the dough is ready. Roll out some of the dough thinly onto a floured surface.
9. Using a medium sized biscuit cutter, cut out circles to form round pastry shapes.
10. Place 1 large teaspoon of the mixture inside the centre of each of the pastry shapes.
11. Fold over the pastry to form semi circles. Firmly press the edges and if you wish mark the edges with a fork.
12. Add the ravioli into boiling water and boil uncovered for about 20 minutes. If the ravioli come to the top of the pot then gently press them down. Do not stir the ravioli at any point.
13. Make the tomato sauce by frying the garlic in oil for 2 minutes. Add the passata and seasoning and simmer for about 15 minutes.
14. Once the 20 minutes has passed gently remove the ravioli and place into plates.
15. Serve with the tomato sauce, some grated cheese, parsley and seasoning.

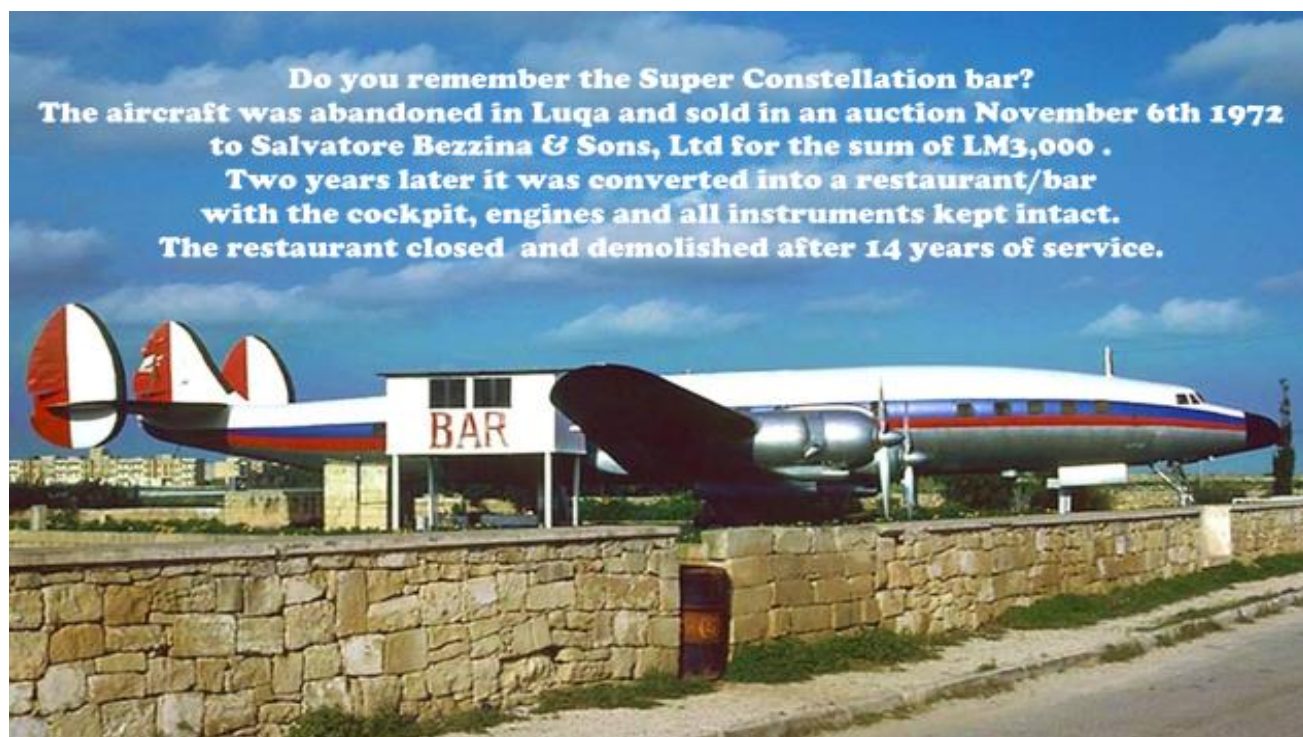
Help us to build bridges between us





(NWMA)

Chateau Bertrand at Ta' Qali, known as the Mad House due to its unorthodox design, housed RAF Other Ranks. Extensively damaged by bombing, it was subsequently demolished as it was a hazard to flying.



**Do you remember the Super Constellation bar?**

**The aircraft was abandoned in Luqa and sold in an auction November 6th 1972 to Salvatore Bezzina & Sons, Ltd for the sum of LM3,000 .**

**Two years later it was converted into a restaurant/bar with the cockpit, engines and all instruments kept intact. The restaurant closed and demolished after 14 years of service.**