

Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



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**We want to look forward
with optimism**



**WE SALUTE
ALL THE
MALTESE ACHIEVERS
LIVING ABROAD**

**The Great Siege
1565**



**Grand master
Fra' Jean Parisot de La Valette**

**The French Invasion
1800**



**MALTA BOMBED
DURING WORLD WAR 2
1939 - 43**



8 Sept. - Malta National Day

Jean Parisot de La Valette

Forty-eighth Grand Master of the order of the Knights of Malta

Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem; b. in 1494; d. in Malta, 21 Aug., 1568. He came from an old family of Southern France, several members of which had been *capitouls* (chief magistrates) in Toulouse. When still young he entered the Order of St. John as a knight of the Language of Provence. After the taking of Rhodes by the Sultan Soliman (1522), the order had, in 1530, settled in Malta which, with the city of Tripoli, the emperor Charles V had made over to them in full sovereignty. Here the knights devoted themselves to fighting the corsairs of Barbary, who were upheld by the Turkish Sultan. During this struggle La Valette made his first campaign, and soon rose to the highest ranks in the order. In 1537 he was appointed commander and governor of Tripoli. In that city, exposed to the attacks of the famous Dragut, chief of all the corsairs of Africa, La Valette displayed his power of organization, re-establishing discipline among the Christian and Moorish troops, driving useless persons out of the town, and punishing blasphemers. He was no longer Tripoli when it was taken by Dragut in 1556.



La Valette was unanimously chosen (18 Aug., 1557) to succeed Claude de la Sangle as grand master. He re-established his authority over the provinces of Germany and of Venice, which had refused to pay the taxes levied by general chapters, but was unable to secure from the Council of Trent a confirmation of the order's privileges, and the restitution of commanderies usurped by Protestants. Lastly, he ardently devoted himself to fighting the Moslems. In 1560 he formed an alliance with Juan de la Cerda, Admiral of Philip II, to recover Tripoli, but the Spanish squadron wasted time in the useless conquest of the island of Jorba. The Moors of Barbary, commanded by Piale and Dragut, destroyed 22 warships of the Christians, and 4,000 Christians were killed or died of disease. Thanks to La Valette's intrepidity, the galleys of the order were able to save several Christian ships and to capture many corsairs. At his own private expense La Valette had two galleys built and the wealthier commanders followed his example. The vessels of the Order were commanded by experienced navigators, like Romegas, who knew all the ports and even the smallest bays of the Mediterranean.

This naval strength soon made itself feared by the Moors of Barbary and even by the Turks. The Knights of Malta having aided Garcia of Toledo to take possession of Valez de la Gomera (southeast of the present Spanish military station of Peñon-de-Valez in the Rif), the alarmed Moors appealed to Constantinople. Before long the Maltese squadron gained a bloody victory between the islands of Zante and Cephalonia, and captured a Turkish galleon manned by 200 janizaries and laden with precious merchandise; and within five years they had taken 50 Turkish vessels. The Sultan Soliman, exasperated, ordered all his available vessels to assemble before Malta, where Dragut and the corsairs were incited to join them. Spies were sent to examine the fortifications. Don Marcia de Toledo, Viceroy of Sicily, having obtained secret information of all this, warned La Valette and endeavoured to induce Philip II to assist in the defence of Malta. La Valette summoned all the knights of Christendom, raised 2000 men in Italy, and obtained from Don Garcia two companies of Spanish troops. The inhabitants of Malta were organized as a militia, every priory sent money, and 600 knights from all the provinces of the order hastened to the rescue. La Valette displayed extraordinary activity, planning fortifications, helping the diggers with his own hands, inspecting magazines, and attending to the smallest details. He told the assembled knights that they had now entered upon a struggle between the Gospel and the Koran. After receiving Holy Communion, all vowed to shed their blood in defence of the Faith. But the Order of Malta was poorly supported in this crisis by the Christian princes. The King of Spain alone promised assistance, which, however, was not ready when the Turkish fleet, commanded by Mustapha, appeared before Malta on 18 May 1565. It consisted of 159 warships manned by 30,000 janizaries, and a large number of vessels were employed to carry the siege train. The defenders of Malta were 700 knights, with 8500 mercenaries and enrolled citizens and peasants.

Mustapha attacked the fort of St. Elmo, and Dragut joined him with 13 galleys. In spite of the Maltese artillery, in spite of the heroism of the besieged, the Turks succeeded in taking that fort on 23 June, after an assault lasting seven hours. Thousands of Turks and the famous Dragut died in the encounter. Mustapha, exasperated by the resistance, ordered the hearts of the wounded knights to be torn out of their bodies. La Valette, on his side, had all the Turkish prisoners beheaded and forbade any more prisoners to be taken. From that time the town proper and all the forts were surrounded. On 18 August the Turks tried to enter by a breach in the wall, but were driven back after six hours' fighting. La Valette himself, pike in hand, charged them, leading his knights.

On 23 August another assault resulted in the taking of the Castille bastion, but La Valette spent that night constructing new defences. At last, on 7 September, the relieving fleet of Don Garcia de Toledo arrived. After four months of fighting, Mustapha, disheartened, raised the siege; he had lost more than 20,000 men, and abandoned his heavy artillery. Malta was saved, and the heroism of La Valette at last awakened Europe from its torpor. All the princes sent their congratulations; the pope offered him a cardinal's hat, which he refused; 300 noblemen, among them Brantôme came and offered him their services. To protect the island from any future attack, the grand master had another town built upon the site of Fort St. Elmo (1566). This was the city of Valette (or Valletta) which made Malta impregnable, and which was still sufficiently strong in 1798 to check Bonaparte. The last years of Valette's life were saddened by conflicts with the pope, but at the time of his death, in his seventy-fourth year, he was busy preparing "for some great deed of war and of conquest"

Andrew McKinnon Presents



JOSEPH CALLEJA THE MALTESE TENOR AUSTRALIAN TOUR IN 2020

with Amelia Farrugia & Piers Lane

Joseph Calleja is one of the most exciting lyric tenors in the world today.

Blessed with a golden-age voice which routinely inspires comparisons to legendary singers from earlier eras, Calleja is now a star at all the world's greatest opera houses and concert halls.

His extensive discography includes a thrilling Verdi album and a hugely popular tribute to Mario Lanza, whilst his performance of Puccini's famous *Nessun dorma* at *The Last Night of the Proms* at The Royal Albert Hall was nothing short of electrifying.

In this, his eagerly anticipated debut Australian tour, the Maltese born singer described as the young Pavarotti will be joined by two of Australia's best-loved artists, soprano Amelia Farrugia, who is also of Maltese heritage, and internationally acclaimed pianist Piers Lane, in an unforgettable performance.

MELBOURNE

Maltese heritage, and internationally acclaimed pianist Piers Lane, in an unforgettable performance.
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Saturday 3rd October 2020 – 7:30pm

<https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2020/classical-music/joseph-calleja>

BRISBANE

CONCERT HALL, QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Saturday 10th October 2020 – 7:30pm

<https://www.qpac.com.au/event/joseph-calleja-20/>

SYDNEY

CITY RECITAL HALL

Friday 16th October 2020 – 7:30pm

<https://www.cityrecitalhall.com/whats-on/events/joseph-calleja-the-maltese-tenor/>

JESSICA MAUBOY – an Australian idol



Jessica Hilda Mauboy was born on 4 August 1989 and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory.^[6] Her father, Ferdy, is an Indonesian-born electrician who came from West Timor,^{[7][8]} and her mother, Therese, is an Indigenous Australian. Mauboy's mother is from the indigenous Kuku Yalanji people in the rainforest regions of Far North Queensland.

Mauboy has three older sisters, Sandra, Jenny and Catherine; and a younger sister, Sophia.^[7] From an early age, she was involved in the local church choir with her grandmother Harriett. . **Her grandfather was of Maltese heritage.** Her home was described as the "noisiest house on the block", with her mother often singing, her father playing guitar and the rest of the family displaying their passion for music.

Mauboy attended Wulagi Primary School and Sanderson High School in Darwin.^{[17][18]} She dropped out of school in year 11.^[7] **Jessica** is an Australian R&B and pop singer, songwriter, and actress. Born and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory, Mauboy rose to fame in 2006 on the fourth season of *Australian Idol*; she became the runner-up and subsequently signed a recording contract with Sony Music Australia. After releasing a live album of her *Idol* performances and briefly being a member of the girl group Young Divas in 2007, Mauboy released her debut studio album, *Been Waiting*, the following year. It earned Mauboy her first number-one single "Burn", became the second highest-selling Australian album of 2009,^[2] and was certified double platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA).

Mauboy's second studio album, *Get 'Em Girls* (2010), showcased a more hard-edged R&B sound than her previous release, and produced four platinum singles. Her third studio album, *Beautiful* (2013), which explored a mixture of dance-oriented tracks with R&B and pop, included the top-ten hits "Pop a Bottle (Fill Me Up)", "Never Be the Same" and "Can I Get a Moment?". Aside from her music career, Mauboy has also ventured into acting, with starring roles in films *Bran Nue Dae* (2010) and *The Sapphires* (2012), which earned her the AACTA Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role. She returned to acting in 2016, playing the lead role in the television drama series *The Secret Daughter* for two seasons. It was Mauboy's first major TV role and was written especially for her. Mauboy released two accompanying soundtrack albums for *The Secret Daughter*, the first of which made her the first Indigenous artist to achieve a number-one album on the ARIA Albums Chart. Mauboy's upcoming fourth studio album, *Hilda*, will be released in October 2019.

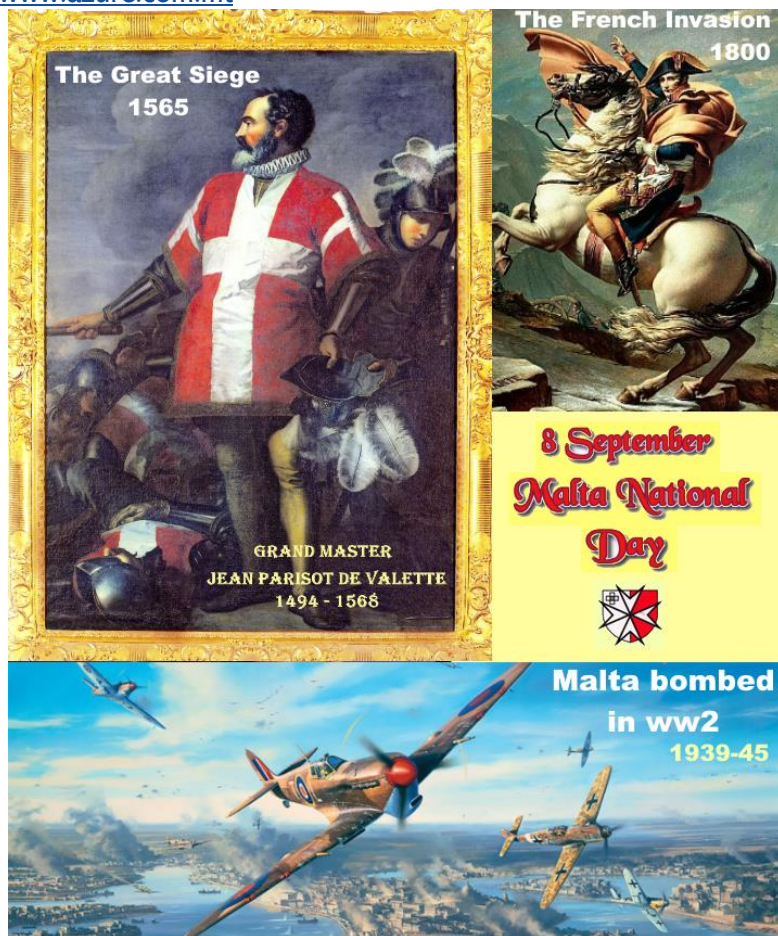
Mauboy is one of Australia's most successful female artists.^{[3][4]} She has achieved five top-ten albums (including a number-one) and 16 top-twenty singles (including 9 top-ten hits). She has won two ARIA Music Awards from 24 nominations, and was ranked sixteenth on the *Herald Sun*'s list of the "100 Greatest Australian Singers of All Time".^[5] Mauboy has collaborated with several international artists such as Flo Rida, Snoop Dogg, Ludacris, Jay Sean, and Pitbull. She has also toured with Beyoncé and Chris Brown, and performed at many notable events, including the Australian visits for Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres, and US President Barack Obama. Mauboy was a guest performer at the second semi-final of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2014. She competed for Australia at the 2018 Eurovision Song Contest and reached 20th place.



Thanks a million dear Frank, keep your journal going. It is a fantastic way for us Maltese all over the world to keep in touch. Tislijiet u xewqat sbieh. Georgina & Reg Scillio

Malta's Victory Day Festivities

www.azure.com.mt



Every year, the 8th of September arrives to remind us yet again of Malta's richly varied culture as we remember Victory Day. An important date in the country's festive calendar, Victory Day celebrates the island's multi-layered history and religious identity – two elements that are closely intertwined to form the backbone of the Maltese nation.

On this national holiday, which is locally referred to as both *il-Vitorja* – the Victory – and *il-Bambina* – the holy infant Mary, various celebrations and traditions take place to mark no fewer than one religious and three historical events.

With the date initially commemorating the religious aspect of the Virgin Mary's nativity, Victory Day was originally known as *Il-Bambina*. To this day, typical local *festas* are held in the saint's honour in the villages of Naxxar, Senglea, Mellieħa and Xagħra, Gozo. While this religious connotation still persists, September 8 also serves to mark significant victories of the Maltese over their enemies throughout the island's long-winded, centuries-old history.

Essentially these historical happenings, in

chronological order, are the Knights of St John's triumph during the famed Great Siege against the Ottoman Turks in 1565; the nation's rebellion during the French occupation of Malta in September 1800; and the end of Italy's hostilities against the World War II Allies in 1943.

The Great Siege of 1565

It was after the great victory of the Knights over the Turkish invaders that the day started to be remembered as *Il-Madonna tal-Vitorja*, or Our Lady of Victories. The knights, who settled here as the island's rulers and protectors back in 1530, found themselves besieged by the Turkish army of 50,000 men in mid-May of 1565. The bloody battle persisted a good four months, during which the Ottomans succeeded to capture only one fort before the siege was finally lifted in mid-September.

The victorious outcome is said to have been partly due to impending bad weather, battle fatigue and news of oncoming assistance for the knights, but it was also thanks to the efforts of the Spanish aide and the Maltese troops who bravely played their part. But the Great Siege victory is undoubtedly mainly owed to the valour of the Knights' Order, backed by their ingeniously engineered fortifications which still stand majestic along the Grand Harbour. It is worth mentioning that the defendants of the Maltese islands collectively amounted to 6000, of which only 600 were knights.

• Malta vs France

The second victory commemorated on this date recalls the year 1800, when Malta was under French rule. General Napoleon had seized the island two years earlier, after being refused permission for his whole naval fleet to enter the Grand Harbour on its way to Egypt.

The consequences of the French occupation culminated in the dismantling of the Roman Catholic Church, with Church property everywhere looted and seized – much to the dismay of the island's devout population. Their anger was vented further during an auction of Church property, which triggered an uprising that saw thousands of Maltese swarming the streets in an attempt to outdo the French garrison. This was the first

of a rollercoaster of revolts that eventually led the French to surrender to the British – who were to become Malta's next governors – on 4th September 1800.

- WWII Resilience

The third occasion harks back to the first half of the 20th century, following the announcement of Italy's surrender to and armistice with the Allies – which brought the bombardment of Malta to an end on September 8, 1943.

In a way, Victory Day also pays homage to the Maltese resistance against the three-year-long bombing campaign during World War II. The nation's heroic efforts earned it revolts that eventually led the French to surrender to the British – who were to become Malta's next governors – on 4th September 1800.

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Victory Day Activities

State ceremonies take up the best part of the morning. These include the military parade by the Armed Forces of Malta and wreath-laying ceremonies at Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa and the Great Siege Monument in Valletta.

The Victory Day celebrations culminate in the historical regatta, which is held around Valletta's Grand Harbour at around 2pm. This incredibly contested traditional race sees boat rowing teams representing various towns around the Grand Harbour in competition against each other. The colourful event re-enacts the spirit of battle that unfolded on these waters throughout history, with thousands of onlookers gathering around the bastions to witness the action every year.

The festive atmosphere continues, lighting up the evening sky with spectacular fireworks above the parish towns celebrating the feast of the birth of Mary, or *Marija Bambina*. Religious processions are held with the statue of the Virgin Mary borne through the beautifully decorated village streets. In the evening, Misrah l-Assedju l-Kbir – one of the squares inside the Maltese capital – houses musical and literary performances in remembrance of times past.



Dolphin fish (Lampuki)



time has started again.....

Tvm.com.mt

Report: Daphne Cassar

The feast of Santa Marija brings along the much-awaited dolphin fish (lampuka) season, a favourite fish for the Maltese, as fishermen begin their fishing for this popular fish. Luck and nature this year seems to be on the side of fishermen with substantial catches of the fish as Daphne Cassar reports in this story.

The dolphin fish season officially starts on the 15th August with a third of the fish caught by Maltese fishermen are dolphin fish. This fish

migrates at this time of the year and is found near the surface of deep sea while it shelters in the shadow of the *kannizzati* (fishing floats) – a technique developed by Maltese fishermen scores of years ago.

Although it is early for a season that continues till the 31st December, fishermen expressed favourable comments on catches and they expect a good season.

They said that compared with the same period last year, which was not so good, they are catching enough fish to meet the demand although the dolphin fish size is still small.

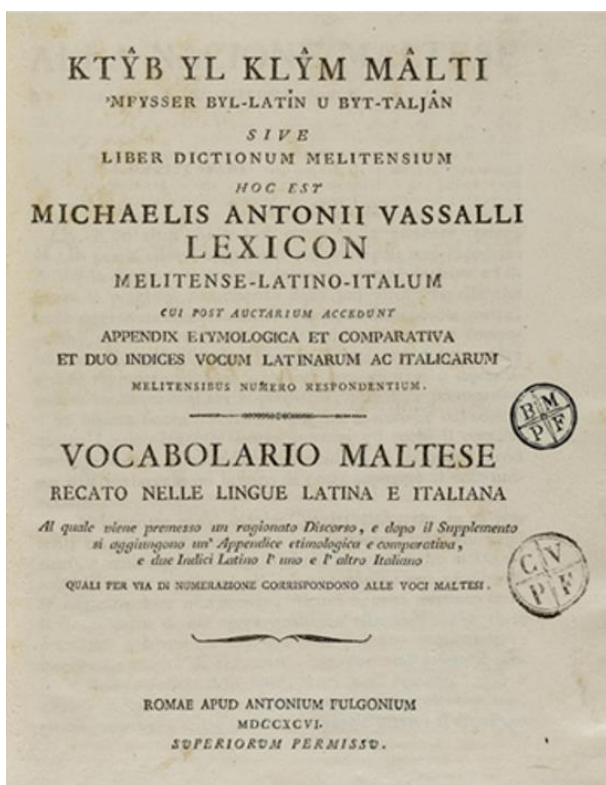
Fisherman Ġiljan Attard, however, stated that he prefers buying the fish from other fishermen and then sells them himself. "The dolphin fish is very popular, and as you can see we have already sold everything..."

Ġiljan appealed to Maltese consumers to buy fresh healthy fish to sustain the fishermen who depend on fishing for their livelihood. "I encourage people to buy this Maltese fish....this is fresh fish that is healthy".

The dolphin fish is also popular in restaurants, with chef Josef Farrugia, saying that the most preferred method sought by clients is the fried dolphin with breaded flour and tomato sauce, olives and capers. He says that the dolphin is versatile and is served in other ways, such as in pies or roasted.

KTYB YL KLYM MALTI (KTIEB IL-KLIEM MALTI)

MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI



KTYB YL KLYM MALTI 'MFYSSER
BYL-LATIN U BYT-TALJAN SIVE
LIBER DICTIONUM MELITENSII
HOC EST... LEXICON MELITENSE-
LATINO-ITALUM... VOCABOLARIO
MALTESE RECATO NELLE LINGUE LATINA E ITALIANA. ROME:
ANTONIO FULGONI, 1796



CATALOGUE NOTE

The first printed dictionary of the Maltese language. Vassalli was the first professor of Maltese at the University of Malta, appointed in 1825, and prior to this he was involved in revolutionary activities in Malta against the government, for which he was sentenced to death. For this work, Vassalli devised a strict transcription system with its own typeface. He recorded not only contemporary usage but also some archaic vocabulary.

One copy is recorded in Rome, one in Sweden and six in the UK (in the British Library and Oxford and Cambridge universities). Vassalli wrote at least two other works, *Motti, aforismi, e proverbi maltesi* (1828) and *Grammatica della lingua maltese* (1827), both published in Malta by Vassalli himself.

St Catherine Society of South Australia is Alive and Well Again!!

Reporter Ron Borg

The weather was horrible on the 18th August, it was icy cold (even some hail!), windy, and the rain just bucketed down, but it was not enough to dampen the support of those who attended in their support of the St Catherine Society.

The well-attended meeting certainly confirmed that the St. Catherine Society is healthy and on its feet again, Thank God.



Sitting; Jim Fenech, Bernadette Buhagiar, Debbie Cosford, Standing: Bernadette Buhagiar, Agnes Borg, Charles Zarb and Consul Frank Scicluna

The orderly meeting conducted in a very congenial atmosphere went very well, and the new election conducted under the very amiable and skilful direction of our friendly and loyal returning officer Mr. Charles Zarb, saw the previous committee re-elected and also Mrs. Debbie Cosford joined the ranks as a Committee Member. Congratulations Debbie!

The newly elected President, Mrs. Bernadette Buhagiar, the Secretary Mrs. Agnes Borg, the Treasurer Mr. Jimmy Fenech, and the members Bernadette Buhagiar and Debbie Cosford, with trustees Edward Camilleri and Consul Frank Scicluna, seemed very positive and optimistic about the future of this freshly invigorated Society.

Despite not reaching the optimum number of committee members, there was a great number of supporters at the meeting, who vowed to willingly help whenever the elected committee need assistance at any of the functions. After the closing prayer there was a lavish array of sandwiches, cakes and goodies with lots of tea and coffee to warm up the gathering and continue the lovely atmosphere.



VIVA SANTA KATARINA



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER  Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



The history of Christ on Tas Salvatur Hill - Gozo

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If you are willing, able and faithful – then when you visit Gozo factor in a climb up to the statue of The Risen Christ. Towering 320-feet above sea level and punctuating the skyline at *Tal-Merzuq hill* – locally known as Tas-Salvatur Hill, the massive 6 metre high figure of Jesus Christ seems to embrace the island within his 6 metre arm span.

The climb up the hill can be steep and uneven in some parts, so a hat, water and walking boots are a must and try to avoid climbing during the fierce midday sun. The rewards of getting up close to this awe-inspiring statue are plenty; there is a calm serenity on the hilltop as you experience the amazing statue of Jesus close-up; you'll also witness a 360-degree view of the rest of the island.



Jesus on Merzuq Hill is positioned amidst farmland, set back from the road linking the coastal resort of Marsalforn to Victoria (Rabat) the main town of Gozo.

This fiberglass coated concrete Jesus was fixed into position in July 1979 and is one of a number of Christ statues to have adorned the hill over the last few centuries.

Today's statue bears a striking resemblance to the Christ the Redeemer statue at Corcovado in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil. However, Is-Salvatur was modelled and cast by Gozitan based artist and schoolteacher Mr Carmel Grech, who at the time modelled his work on his young nephew Mario. Maybe this was a foretelling of the schoolboy's destiny because this is the very same Mario Grech who is now the Bishop of Gozo.

When admiring Gozo's skyline; you can easily locate the statue which is an important geographical and a liturgical landmark for pilgrims and islanders. Local hearsay and history books are rife with stories passed down across generations about the hill's links to religion, retribution and the word of God.

Origin and folklore regarding *Is-Salvatur* Statue:

In 1901 a wooden cross was erected on top of the hill by farmers, so it could be seen from the seas; bringing hope and protection to fishermen arriving and leaving Marsalforn Bay. Three years later, in 1904 this was replaced by a stone statue depicting Jesus holding a large wooden cross created by Liberat Borg from Birgu, Malta.

Yet, decades before, in 1870, islanders recalled a stone statue of Our Saviour placed on the hill by a local farmer, who, during the midst of a dry arid summer, promised God he'd erect a statue in gratitude for much needed rain. During a subsequent rain-lashed thunderstorm, the farmer saw lighting illuminate the surroundings of Il-Merzuq hill and was instantly reminded of his previous pledge.

Another widely told tale centres on the hill's original name *Tal-Merzuq* (meaning ray of light), which is believed to have come from a time when God sought to punish Gozitan people with three days of darkness. After three days of darkness, a ray of light was seen emanating from the hilltop. For many years, locals believed the hill was a dormant volcano, an unlikely belief most likely based on the hill's pyramid like shape and tales of black smoke billowing from the hilltop. However, on a day when you ascend Il-Merzuq hill and look out over to Sicily with Mount Etna prominent in the background, it's understandable why Gozitans may have believed this to be.

Unfortunately, Liberat Borg's 1904 statue was ravaged by our climate on the exposed hilltop. So, in 1960, another statue of Our Saviour made from concrete and created from the designs of esteemed Gozitan sculptor Chev. Wistin Camilleri was erected.

This new statue portrayed Christ holding his cross, however it survived just 13 years, after it was struck by lightning during a violent thunderstorm. By the early 1970's crumbled remains from the statue started tumbling down the hillside and the mount stood empty until the statue we see today was created.

As you can imagine, building such a large and heavy statue and installing this onto a precarious hillside was an extremely tricky task involving careful planning and military precision.

The layout of the land meant that cranes could not be used and hoisting sections via a helicopter was out of the question. So, the outer shell of the statue was divided into six parts and installed on a pedestal, then concrete mix was poured into the shell part filling the whole statue into one solid concrete structure. Since the installation in the late 1970's, the statue has since undergone restoration managed by workers from The Ministry for Gozo and Wirt Ghawdex. A section around Christ's head was repaired after damage by a thunderbolt, specialist solar lighting was installed to illuminate Jesus at night, and the whole statue was given a gel coating to safeguard it from weather damage.

So, as you climb the hill, reflect on the mystery surrounding the mount, the history of the many Saviours who have guarded our people from the hilltop; and marvel at the resoluteness and resilience of our people. Or, you could just take a selfie.



L-ARKIVJI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

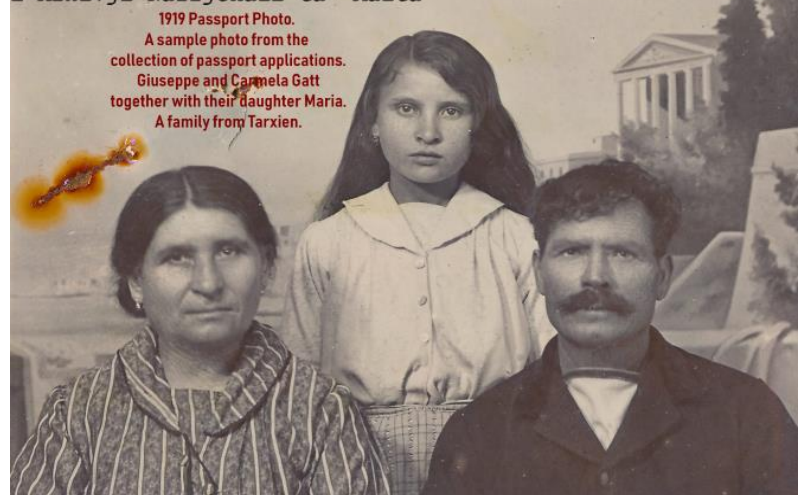
23 August 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the death of Mgr Edgar Salomone. He was instrumental in the emergence of Imġarr and the driving force behind the building of its church, the school, the square and a civic centre.



29 September 1958.
A police motorcade at Customs House in Valletta, waiting for the arrival of Cardinal Francis Spellman. Photo donated by Joseph Zammit, third from left on M.P.67, to Memorja project within the National Archives of Malta.

ARKIVJI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta



1919 Passport Photo.
A sample photo from the collection of passport applications. Giuseppe and Carmela Gatt together with their daughter Maria. A family from Tarxien.

ST PAUL THE APOSTLE YOUTH GROUP

Welcomes you to our
19th ANNUAL BONFIRE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019
3:00pm - 9:00pm
HOME SMITH PARK - FIRE PIT #1
4101 Dundas Street West

Bring your family and friends
It's a Potluck!
Each family brings one item of food to share
Enjoy games, raffle and prizes!

email stpaulyouthgroup@hotmail.com
or checkout our Facebook page

NOSTALGIA
Maltese  Newsletter



Żejtun barber who “will close up shop when he dies”!

Report: Ruth Castillo

He started cutting hair when he was 13-years old and today, at the age of 68, he doesn't intend to stop. Żejtun barber, Louis Cassar, told TVM why he placed a note on his barber's door that “he will close up shop when he dies”.

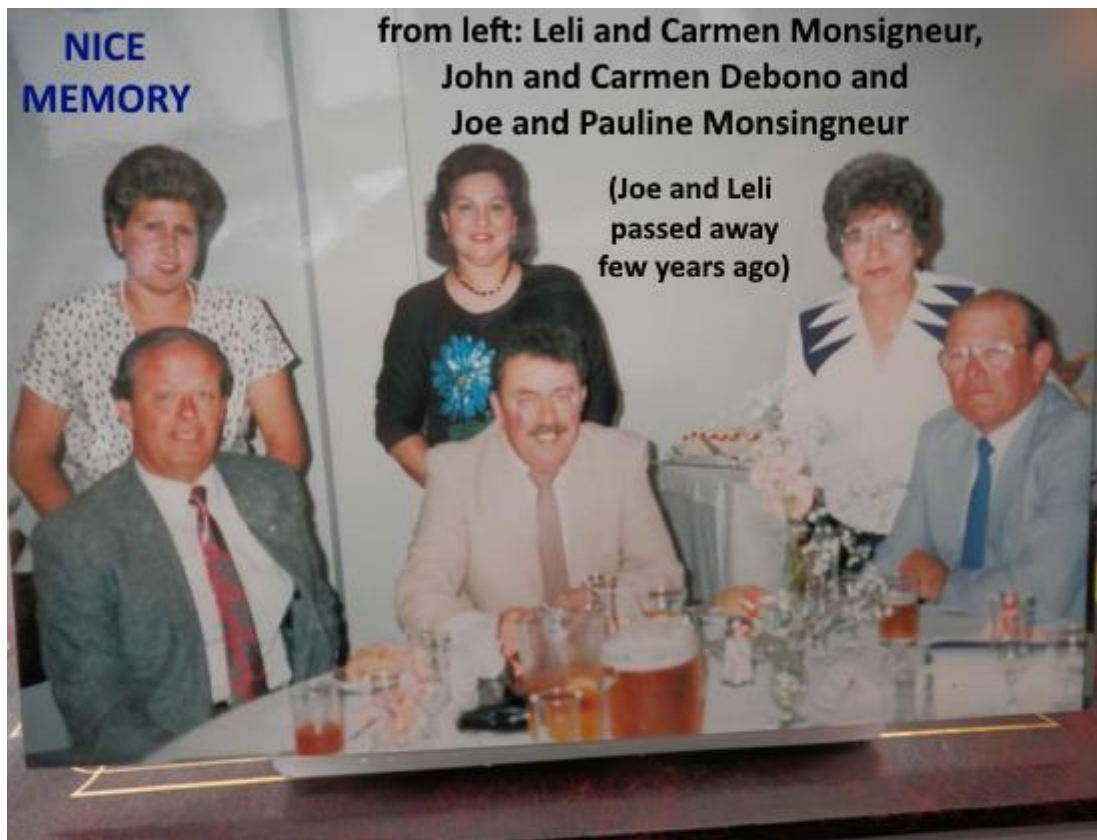
Cassar's shop is a few metres away from the Żejtun church, where his father started the trade and a place where Żejtun clients used to go for a chat and relax.

“I remember when I was still a boy, my mother used to bring tea to my father; I used to accompany her. I remember my father having a newspaper at the shop and read news to the clients – those days there were many people who couldn't read”, Louis recounted.

Louis inherited the barber's trade from his father, who died at a young age. He recounted how he started cutting hair 55 years ago. “I trained for a year with him and my father died. I continued to go there and once he told me ‘Louis I want to tell you something: you are capable of working anytime, go and open the shop’. I told him I am going”.

His shop has kept its old style with wooden benches and armchairs....however many of the old tools are now exhibited in a cabinet. “I used to shave clients' beards with a penknife, however with time I stopped and concentrated on haircuts only”.

Although he already passed the retirement age, Louis does not intend to close up shop and he placed a note that he will do so when he dies!. “I did that because of rumours by people and I am not that ignorant to realize the intentions”. He also said that there is no one in the family or relatives who want to continue with the family trade.



**NICE
MEMORY**

**from left: Leli and Carmen Monsigneur,
John and Carmen Debono and
Joe and Pauline Monsingneur**

**(Joe and Leli
passed away
few years ago)**

**I have to say, that Joe, John and Leli and their wives put a lot of work
and time for the feast of Our Lady Queen of Victories
and for the Maltese Queen of Victories Band of S.A.**



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

The story of our brothers and sisters who emigrated to Australia at the beginning of the 20th century has long been forgotten. It is a story of courage and heroism, the like of which is very uncommon today. It is also the story of the suffering endured by our

ancestors who left our island in order to make a living thousands of miles away in Australia, from where they planned to maintain their families financially. It was on September 12, 1916 during the great war when 214 passengers left Malta and Gozo on a ship called "**Gange**". Their destination was Australia. On their arrival they became the unfortunate victims of local riots against immigration taking place at the time.

The trade unions were determined to safeguard the jobs of those Australians who were engaged in fighting in the war, hence their opposition to immigration. In fighting in the war, hence their opposition to immigration. The emigrants arrived in Freemantle on October 21, after a terrifying experience as they met terrible storms on the way, so much so that the ship almost capsized. The rioters prevented them from leaving the ship and after two days waiting, the captain decided to sail towards Melbourne.

. There they had to undergo a language test, but instead of conducting the test in English, those in charge conducted it in the Dutch language, which meant of course that all of them failed! This was a ploy to prevent the emigrants from disembarking. On November 5, the ship had to set sail again, this time to Sydney. By now, two months had passed since they left Malta. But even in Sydney they were not allowed to leave the ship. A military guard was assigned to the ship to prevent passengers from going ashore. However, about 44 passengers managed to escape by jumping into the sea and swam towards the shore. Most of them were caught and found themselves in a prison cell.

The authorities were at a loss as to what to do with the Maltese emigrants. Because the ship was registered in France, a decision was taken to send it to Noumea, New Caledonia, a French Colony. The **Gange** left Sydney Harbour on November 12 heading towards Noumea where at last the Maltese passengers were given accommodation. After lengthy negotiations, these emigrants found themselves on another ship, the St. Louis, on their way back to Sydney. On their arrival they were transferred on to a very old ship which was anchored at the harbour, and there they waited for three months for another ship which would bring them back to Malta. After many complaints from various people, among whom was Fr William Bonnet, the emigrants were allowed to land ashore in Sydney. This was on March 13, 1917, six months after they had left Malta. In Sydney some of them soon found work with the Lyell Mining Company while others travelled further towards Queensland where they worked in the sugar cane plantations.

Maltese Migration History should be taught to our younger generations

13 Windmills across the Gozitan Landscape

Maybe few know that over time, there were several grain windmills operating on the island of Gozo. Certain sources note as many as fifteen windmills scattered over the different villages of the island, some of which dating back several centuries. A few have fallen in disrepair, others have been dismantled over time and some have been rebuilt or converted into private residencies.

It's interesting to note that windmills were built within sight of each other such that the miller in one windmill had view of others. In this way, the windmills could serve as a form of communication system between the millers around the island. Most of the windmills found in Gozo have a square or rectangular base, with a cylindrical tower in the centre of the building. Usually one finds a series of rooms at the base of the building and the cylindrical tower features a spiral staircase that leads to the top of tower.

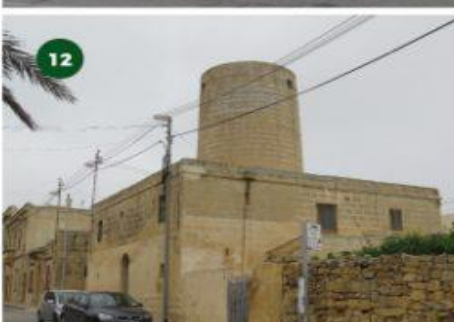
As the sails turned with the wind, they moved a heavy stone that ground the grain into the flour. On the days, when the wind was strong enough to operate the windmill, millers informed the local villagers by sounding the triton-shell or 'bronja' as it was locally known.

We've counted at least 13 windmills that one can still see standing on the island of Gozo!

- Maybe the most famous of all Gozitan windmills is the Ta' Kola windmill (1, 2). Immaculately restored and kept, this windmill in Xagħra is like entering a time capsule. The windmill, dating back to the times of Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena, is today a Heritage Malta Museum presenting how the miller's living quarters and workshop would have been when the mill was operational. In Xagħra, there is also another windmill.
- In Qala one can still see two windmills standing (3, 4). One complete with sails and tucked away in the village looks as if it is emerging from a storybook, whilst the other standing desolate in the fields on the outskirts is Qala is in a marked contrast with the first. One can also locate another windmill in Nadur (5), located in a small square, close to the centre of the village.
- Set at the main crossroads in Xewkija is the windmill (6) which was built by Grandmaster Perellos. The windmill was uniquely built in the shape of an octagon and each side is perfectly calibrated to match the compass points. The windmill was operational until a huge fire ravaged it in the nineteenth century. To this day, the Xewkija windmill includes the original stone oven. Other features of the windmill include the niche of Madonna of Purgatory, a basso relieve by Chev. Wistin Camilleri and the traditional red postbox.
- In Victoria one can find several windmills. Some are more easy to locate than others. One can find one windmill tucked away in Fontana (7) in an alley close to the Lunzjata Valley and another is located in the street, just off St. Francis Square, known as the windmill at Ġhajjn Qatet (8). Yet another is found at the outskirts of Victoria in the area known as Ta' Marziena (9) facing the village of Sannat. In Sannat, there is a windmill (10) that has been recently rebuilt by the Local Council on what was once the original windmill. This particular windmill tower is more of stump than a tower and in fact it is much lower than the others.
- On the western side of Gozo, one can still locate a windmill in Santa Lucija (11) just off the main square of the village. Another typical windmill is located in one of the main streets of Għarb (12). On the way to Ta' Pinu, one can also glimpse a windmill (13) located close to the Aqueducts. Poised on a hill and in perfect vista over the surrounding countryside, this is also one of the windmills that many can recognise.

These windmills, the majority of which are private properties are like little gems, that give Gozo that extra special rural touch!





Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Do you have a story to tell?
It's time to share it!
Send it to us



Encouraging language learning and language retention in Australia, and in recognition of the United Nations' International Year of Indigenous languages, SBS today announced the launch of the **SBS National Languages Competition 2019**. In its fourth year, the nationwide competition is open to Australians of all ages who are learning a language, including English and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Mandi Wicks, SBS Director of Audio and Language Content, said: "SBS Radio is proud to organise this competition to celebrate and encourage language diversity and cross-cultural understanding in Australia.

"Language retention is linked to cultural identity and increases a sense of belonging in Australia. We look forward to receiving thousands of beautiful stories of language learning, which reflect our cultural and linguistic diversity."

From today, **Monday 26 August** until **Friday 27 September 2019**, entrants can submit their stories at sbs.com.au/nlc19 – with either a drawing or a written entry answering the question: **"How does learning a language make a world of difference to you?"**

Entrants will be categorised into five groups: Junior Primary (Aged 4-7); Primary (Aged 8-12); Junior High School (Aged 13-15); Senior High School (Aged 16-18); Open (Aged 18+). Participants aged 4 – 12 are required to upload a drawing along with a short caption, while participants aged 13+ are required to submit a written entry (up to 100 words).

The competition will award five major prizes, one for each age category, who will receive an iPad Pro and AirPods. The winners will be judged on their clarity, creativity and uniqueness and will be invited to an awards ceremony in November 2019 to be held at SBS in Sydney. In addition, each Monday during

the competition period, there will be a weekly random draw from the entries received, to win an Apple watch. The SBS National Languages Competition 2019 is supported by Community Languages Australia and First Languages Australia and sponsored by the Australian National University.

For interviews and information, please contact:

Uma Sandeep | M: 0429 212 659 | E: uma.sandeep@sbs.com.au



THE MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
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www.ozmalta.com



CONSUL-GENERAL DR. RAYMOND XERRI VISITS THE MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM CELEBRATING MALTA'S HERITAGE IN CANADA

Visit to and tour of the Maltese-Canadian Museum, St Paul's Complex, Dundas Road Toronto

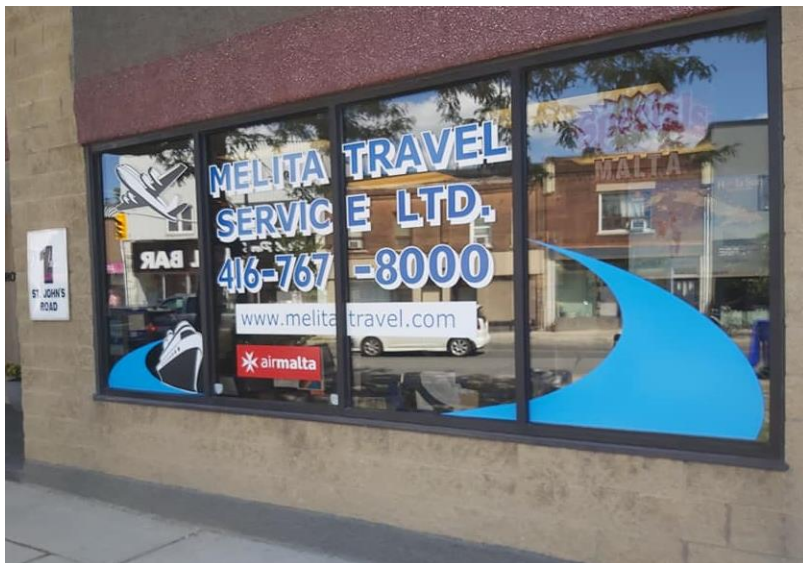
Following Sunday Mass at St Paul's Church, The Maltese Consul-General was given the first tour of the [Maltese-Canadian Museum](#) at the same complex alongside the National Archivist of [Malta](#), Dr Charles Farrugia who is visiting Canada. They were in company of Fr Mario Micallef, Chaplain of St Paul's, the Curator of the Museum, Richard S. Cumbo and the rest of the friends of the [Maltese-Canadian-Museum](#). It was a very moving experience knowing that so much thousands of artifacts and memories of thousands of Maltese-Canadians are found in one large hall. Dr Farrugia has presented the Consul General of Malta to Canada with a number of productions about Malta.



**NEWS FROM
THE MALTESE
COMMUNITY
IN CANADA**

Send us your comments, stories and
articles to share with other readers
maltesejournal@gmail.com





Melita Travel Service Ltd.
1 St. John's Road Suite 102
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1T7

The Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr. Ray Xerri, was invited to visit the most popular Maltese-Canadian travel agent since 1968. He was welcomed by the President of Melita Travel Services Ltd Mr. Paul Refalo and his Maltese staff at their office situated in "Malta Village"

Melita Travel Service Limited is a fully licensed travel agency which caters to both leisure and corporate travel. They also specialize in travel to Malta and with over 30 years experience and travel consultants of Maltese descent, our knowledge is unparalleled. Their mission is to further develop and promote Malta as a unique and attractive tourist destination for the Canadian market and as a destination which can easily and cost-effectively be combined with other European destinations. Melita Travel believes that the key to success in the travel industry is to know your destination.

Melita Travel has the expertise and professionalism necessary to ensure travellers a well-planned holiday. They are ready to serve your every need—flight arrangements, hotel accommodation, cruises, car rental, packages, and travel insurance world-wide.

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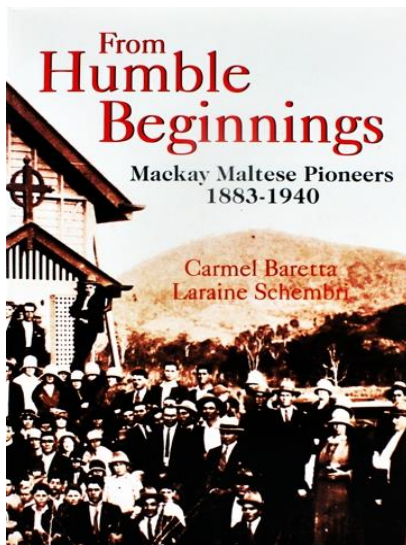
www.melitatravel.com/



MALTESE-CANADIAN FEDERATION

The Maltese Canadian Federation (MCF) established in 1988 is the only umbrella Maltese-Canadian organisation in Canada. The following organisations are part of the MCF: St Paul the Apostle Parish (est. 1930); Lehen Malti TV (1972); Gozo Club (1973); Maltese Canadian Club of London (1977); Festa San Gorg Association (1987); Maltese Canucks/Melita SC (2000), Malta Cultural Club of Durham and Maltese Canadian Business Network Association (2018).

The Consul General of Malta chaired an introductory meeting with Maltese Community leaders from all these organisations listed above and discussed issues affecting the Maltese-Canadian community, listen to their suggestions, comments and ideas on the way forward. MaltainCanada



Queensland - Mackay Maltese pioneers' book

Mackay Maltese Pioneers
1883-1940 by Carmel
Baretta (photo – left) and

Laraine Schembri. The book has 520 pages and includes families Abela, Agius, Attard, Axiak, Azzopardi, Bartolo, Bezzina, Bonnano, Bugeja, Borg, Busuttil, Buttigieg, Camilleri, Caruana, Cassar, Chetcuti, Ciantar, Cini, Danastas, De Brincat, Deguara, Dimech, Ellul, Falzon, Fenech, Formosa, Frendo, Galea, Gatt, Gauci, Grech, Grima, Haber, Micallef, Mifsud, Muscat, Pace, Portelli, Quattromani, Refalo, Saliba, Sammut, Sant, Scherih, Schembri, Sciberras, Scriha, Sherry, Spiteri, Vassallo, Vella, Xuereb, Zammit, Zarb.



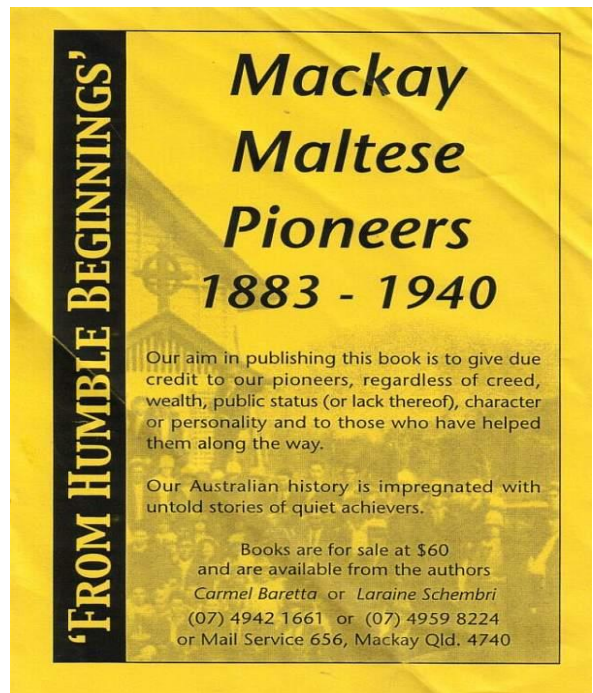
The days, months and years spent in the research and production of this book have enabled us to walk in the footsteps of our Maltese pioneers; to see, through their eyes, the conditions in which they lived, the ache of separation from loved ones; the overwhelming joy at their family's reunion, and conversely, the anguish and suffering the woman experienced on their arrival.

The aim in publishing this book is to give due credit to our pioneers regardless of creed, wealth, public status (or lack thereof), character or personality and to those who have helped along the way. Our Australian history is impregnated with untold stories of quiet achievers. Sadly though, many history books often fail to give credit to such as these, and

the 'little man' is forgotten. From Humble Beginnings, will ensure their achievements and contributions are forever acknowledged.

Article in Times of Malta - Sunday, July 24, 2011, 00:00 by Roderick Bovingdon

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110724/books/From-humble-beginnings.377234>



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After thirty years in the land of the maple leaf, John was returning back to his roots, the isle of Calypso. It was a cold January evening as the 'Malita' ferry boat cut through the waves across the channel between the two little islands. The sea was relatively calm, the sun was hiding behind the clouds and some seagulls were hovering overhead.

Thirty years! His first visit since he had emigrated at the age of 25. His name was then Ganni. He had worked hard, did not indulge in any luxuries and took great care of his money. As a result he was now a relatively wealthy man.

He was still a bachelor. He had dated several girls, had short relations with some others, but he never married. Maybe he was looking for the perfect woman. Maybe he did not thrust these sophisticated and independent Canadian girls.

But there was a nice and gentle lady he wanted so much to see in Gozo and for whom he still carried a flame in his heart. She was, in truth, the only one he never forgot throughout his years away from his beloved island.

He recalled seeing her the day he left for Canada. He remembered the loving smile on her face. His separation from her was the only thing that made his departure from the island difficult to bear. But it had to be done. There was no other choice. He could see no prospects on the little island and, on the other hand, there were new opportunities of work in the new land.

For thirty whole years he had carried a small photo of her in his wallet. How often had he looked at it with admiration, and how many times had he showed it to his friends with pride? The photo had now become tattered and yellowish with the years but he could still see her lovely smiling face on it. Now, after all those years, John was looking with anticipation to see her once again.

The boat was full up with passengers, mostly Gozitans returning home from work. John bought a coffee and two traditional 'pastizzi' – cheese cakes – from the cafeteria on board and sat down on a chair

A short story by Joe Lanzon

Ganni Comes Home

looking through the glass windows eager to get the first glimpse of Gozo.

He intended to buy a house in his home town of Nadur and pass his retirement years in peace and quiet. His friends had told him that many returning migrants had proudly named their house for their country of adoption – Uncle Sam, Stars and Stripes, USA, Maple Leaf, Canada, Niagara, Down Under, Waltzing Matilda and so forth. But he had other ideas for the name of his house.

His roving mind took him back to the place he had just left – Canada. The little bungalow not far from the Dundas area where Maltese still met regularly, eating 'pastizzi' and 'qassatat' bought from the Maltese Bakery Shop. When they met in the afternoons, they still talked about Malta and Gozo, about the patron saints of their towns and villages, about the relatives and neighbours they had left behind.

"May I use this chair?" asked a young man. "Of course, no problem" replied John as he looked at the youth holding a cup of coffee in his hands. "Is the boat always full at this time?" asked John. "Yes. Most Gozitans working in Malta are now returning back home for the weekend" replied the young man. They struck a conversation and John learned much about new developments taking place in Gozo.

"Where are you from?" asked the young man. "I was born in Gozo but have lived in Canada these last thirty years. In fact this is my first visit since," replied John.

"Canada?" exclaimed the young man. "It is so far away I would never dream of going there. You see, I am afraid of flying, afraid that the plane would crash!"

"Nonsense," replied John. "God won't let you die in a plane crash if He means you to die of some other thing."

The youth looked at the older man in a pensive way and said – "But that's the rub friend. I won't know what God has in mind for me!"

As the ferry approached Mgarr harbour both men prepared to go below. They shook hands, wished each other 'good luck' and separated. John could see, even from a distance, how his little island had changed. Then, as it berthed in port, he took his bags, went through the new terminal, hailed a taxi and went straight to his rented accommodation in Nadur. All the time he noted the widened and smooth tarmaced roads, the roundabouts with multi-coloured flowers and landscaping all around.

He woke up on Saturday morning feeling fine and brisk. He'll be meeting her today, the lady who was always on his mind during his long absence from

Gozo. He went to 'Piazza San Pietru u San Pawl', the centre of activity in the town. He phoned a taxi and gave the driver directions. When he arrived at the destination, he paid the taxi-driver and looked around him.

He walked over to the majestic and imposing baroque church, went inside, kept to the left of the colonnades and headed straight towards the area behind the main altar. Even though it was January, he was sweating with anticipation and excitement. And then he saw her – *Il-Madonna ta Pinu*. The gentle Lady was wrapped in a blue cloak and a silver crown above her head.

He went down on his knees and prayed as he had never prayed before – thanking her for keeping him safe all those years he had been away from his beloved island of Gozo.

Maltese cyclists in 2,000km venture in Vietnam

Report: Tony Dimech



In fifteen days' time another challenge starts for volunteers of LifeCycle Foundation to collect more funds in aid of patients with kidney problems. This year, the cyclists will challenge the weather and climatic conditions of Vietnam where they will cycle some 2,000 kilometres in 10 days.

The 24 cyclists, that include three women, have been training for months to participate in the 21st edition of the LifeCycle challenge. The cyclists have trained for 17 weeks for the challenge, accompanied by a team of persons who will assist them during the feat.

"The training includes increasing kilometres on the road, even indoor training on the bicycle; obviously this entails gaining strength in hills as the challenge involves many hill climbs and

therefore we prepare ourselves to strengthen our feet and be ready for the hills", Dr Robert Vassallo Agius said.

LifeCycle foundation Chairperson, Dr Shirley Cefai, stated that the foundation provides various services to kidney patients and their relatives. "The foundation assists on three factors. We assist patients in their needs, for example tracing for a precise match for the transplant; research to understand a kidney failure, even the genetic aspect; and we assist with rush, patients and their relatives with vouchers for psychological assistance we pay for".

LifeCycle founder Alan Curry stated that the whole function of the foundation is concentrated on kidney patients.

The volunteers were given words of encouragement by President George Vella when, during a training session, they made a short stop at the San Anton Palace. Dr Vella expressed great appreciation for the LifeCycle Foundation voluntary work. He praised the research carried out by the University of Malta with funds collected by the volunteers and even the psychological support given to patients.

6-YEAR-OLD JULIA BARBARA WINS INTERNATIONAL ROMANIAN FESTIVAL

AUGUST 26, 2019 THEA FORMOSA

Julia Barbara, a 6-year old from Malta has just won an international Romanian Singing concert!

Julia was chosen to take part in the Volare festival, which took place in Piatra Neamt in Romania between the 21st and 25th of August.

Julia smashed the song 'La Giacca Rotta' with her stunning vocals and placed 1st from the entire competition. This was Julia's first competition outside of the Maltese waters and has only been singing for a little over a year.



Parramatta FC

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Parramatta Football Club, commonly known as **Parramatta Melita Eagles** or just **Melita**, are an Australian soccer club based in South Granville, New South Wales. The club was established by Maltese migrants in 1956 and played several seasons in the National Soccer League winning the NSL Cup twice in 1990/1991 and 1993/1994 and later the New South Wales Premier League which the club has won on six occasions 1985, 1988, 1989, 1996, 1997, 2001/2002. The club currently competes in the National Premier Leagues NSW

History

The Eagles were formed in 1956 as the Melita Eagles by Maltese Immigrants after the amalgamation of 2 Maltese clubs, the Malta Eagles and the Melita Soccer Club. In 1962 they changed their name to Melita Eagles-Newtown.

Melita Eagles have their origins in the Maltese community and stretch back to the formation of the original NSW Federation of Soccer Clubs in 1957. Along with higher profile clubs like Prague, Hakoah, APIA Leichhardt, St George, Pan-Hellenic and others they were part of the original breakaway movement which was the death of the old NSW Soccer Football Association in January 1957.

Due to various levels of mismanagement at the club it was demoted at the end of 2006. With backing from NSW Police Citizens Youth Club it evolved into PCYC Parramatta Eagles, competing in the New South Wales Winter Super League and Super Youth League from the 2007 season.

The club played in the NSW Super League until and including 2010, when it was sold to the Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association (GDSFA). After several years of rebuilding, the First Grade team finished as 2010 Premiers and, as a result, the club became eligible for promotion to Premier League, an opportunity that was too good to let slip. The 2011 season was played under the slightly changed name, Parramatta FC (nickname the Eagles).

Even though the Parramatta FC First Grade team finished at the bottom of the NSW Premier League ladder in 2011, strong performances by the Under 20 and Under 18 teams ensured that the club remained eligible to play Premier League for 2012

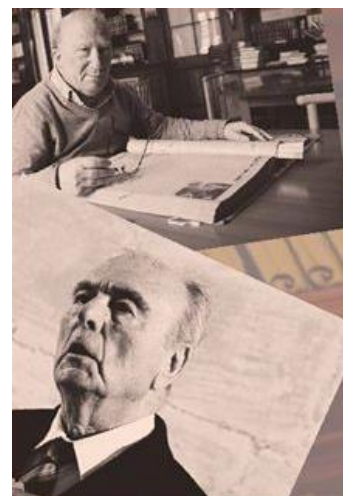
mfakkra żewg kittieba Għawdxin

ANTON F ATTARD u GANNINU

CREMONA mill-korrispondent tagħna Kav Joe M Attard

Nhar is-Sibt li għadda l-Librerija Pubblika ta' Għawdex fakkret żewg kittieba Għawdxin li hallewna f'sena waħda xi ftit tax-xhur ilu. Qed nirreferi għal Anton F. Attard li qatta' hajtu għomru u żmien mħattek fuq il-gurnali u kotba tal-librerija jfittex u jaqra u Ganninu Cremona, magħruf bħala l-Poeta ta' Santa Marija tant li bosta mill-poeżiji tiegħu dwar il-Madonna jinsabu miġbura fi ktieb 'Warda sbejha tar-Rebbiegħa' u li għal snin twal konna nsibuh ta' kull sena jaqra l-poeżija tiegħu lil Santa Marija waqt il-ħruġ tagħha min-niċċa matul ix-xahar ta' Awwissu.

Cremona kiteb ukoll diversi drammi u essays kif ukoll il-Ballata tiegħu 'L-Assedju t'Għawdex 1551' li anke giet drammatizzata fuq is-swar taċ-Ċittadella. Xogħlijiet oħra tiegħu nhadmu fuq il-palk tat-tetajru tal-Opra Aurora.



Anton F. Attard kien miżmum bħala espert fil-qasam tal-Folklore u l-Istorja u kien iħobb jikteb ukoll il-poeżija tant li stampa wkoll xi kotba. Fis-serata tas-Sibt, Lorna Tabone qrat il-bijografija tiegħu waqt li Antoinette Grech qrat l-essays tiegħu dwar 'il-Ħerża Għawdxija', is-'Sikkina tal-Għarb', u l-'Ġelat tal-Bezzun'. Salvu Cremona qara l-kitba 'is-Shaħar' meħuda mill-ktieb tiegħu 'Mid-dinja tas-seħer u tal-Folklore', kif ukoll il-poeżija 'Il-Lunzjata' mill-pubblikazzjoni 'Festi Titulari f'Għawdex u 'Hekk hu l-Bniedem' mill-ktieb tal-poeżiji ta' Attard 'Il-Passjoni ta' Gesu'.

Mill-ġdid Lorna Tabone imbagħad għaddiet biex taqra l-bijografija ta' Ganninu Cremona waqt li Marija Schembri qrat il-poeżiji 'Lil Għawdex' u 'L-Arlogg tan-Nanna Ċikka'. Anna Ellis tal-istess poeta Marjan qrat ukoll mill-ktieb tal-poeta 'Wassalni Madonna', 'Ittra lil Santa Marija' u 'L-Angelus', kif ukoll il-final mill-Ballata 'L-Assedju t'Għawdex 1551'.

Attendew diversi Għawdxin u kittieba li jħobbu l-Ilsien Malti waqt li temm is-Serata s-Sur Gorg Cassar li qal li l-Librerija tiegħu gost tfakkar kittieba Għawdxin u ħabbar xi wħud mill-attivitajiet kulturali li hemm il-ħsieb li jsiru mill-ghatba 'l ġewwa tal-Librerija ta' Triq Vajringa fil-gimghat u x-xhur li ġejjin

Eat Like a Local with this



Delicious 'Ftira' Recipe [Sabine](http://www.airmalta.com) www.airmalta.com

The Maltese *Ftira* is something that the Maltese hold dearly as part of their history and culture. A disc-shaped semi-flat bread made with flour, water and salt is reminiscent of a **ciabatta** in both texture and taste, but is uniquely different at the same time. The Maltese *ftira* makes for a simple, fast and delicious snack, especially when filled with the right fresh ingredients. If you're thinking of [booking flights to Malta](#) and want to experience the island like a local then a *ftira* sandwich is a must-try!

Ftira, like most simple bread foods around the world, takes its origins from the working people hundreds of years ago who made the most of the resources they had. Most towns and villages in Malta had a communal oven at the time where everyone from the area would bake their breads. The communal ovens may have been lost through the ages but the delectable *ftira* bread that was made there certainly hasn't.

The process involved in making a *ftira* sandwich can be quite time-consuming, especially if you want to make it from scratch. Luckily though, every bakery you come across on the island will sell it. All you need to do is fill it with traditional Maltese fillings, and like most things in life, it's what's on the inside that counts. In Malta, the most typical *ftira* sandwich is that of *ħobz biż-żejt*, which literally translates to "bread with oil" but it is so much more than just that.

To make *ħobz biż-żejt*:

- First, take the *ftira*, slice it in half and dip the slices in olive oil until they are covered in a generous coating of oil. Maltese olive oil is some of the best in the world so don't be tempted to eat it as is!
- Next, you'll need fresh tomatoes. Slice the tomatoes in half and rub the cut side over the bread until it's red.
- Sprinkle to taste with sea salt and pepper
- After this you can add anything that tickles your fancy. Typically, ingredients such as pickled capers, ripe olives, tuna, and pickled onion are added.
- An abundance of other ingredients such as sundried tomatoes and lettuce can also be added.

Every locality has its own preferences so be creative and come up with something that appeals to you. And there you have it: an easy, delicious snack that you can enjoy wherever you are – perfect for a day at the beach!

The historic port of Valletta Waterfront in Malta lies in the heart of the Mediterranean and provides an excellent location from where to start or end your cruise holiday.



The Valletta Waterfront is not only a historical 250 year-old warehouse build by Grand Master Pinto but also the gateway to the capital UNESCO World Heritage City Valletta and to the rest of the Maltese Islands offering multiple attractions.



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Holiday or short-term rental, 2-bedroom self-contained second floor flat. Bathroom with washing machine, kitchen, dining & living areas. A/C in bedrooms. Use of roof space
Walking distance to village centre and bus stop. 10 minutes to the airport. \$A75 per night for 2 persons; \$A100 per night for 4 persons. A cleaning fee is also applicable.
Contact: Lawrie Caruana on 0407 886 899

Maltese Culture Movement

Malta Day Celebrations

Honouring the Feast of the Bambina
and commemorating the Great Siege of Malta
Saturday 14th September 2019

at
The Sacred Heart of Jesus & St Peter the Apostle
356 London Road, Waterlooville
Hampshire PO7 7SR



PROGRAMME

Maltese Fair

Opens 10.00 am closes 2.00pm

- Maltese Food, Pastizzi & Delicacies
- Maltese Kinnie, Beers & Wines
- Maltese Groceries
- Maltese Kitchen
- Licensed Bar

Maltese Activities at Hall

- St Sebastian Brass Band
- Bandu/Town Crier
- Maltese Characters - Żepp u Grezz, Ghonnella and more...
- Tombola
- Entrance to the Fair is free
- Everyone is welcome!

Concelebrated Mass

Starts 2.30 pm until 3.45pm

- ✠ Entrance Procession
- ✠ Ecumenical Order of St John of Jerusalem
- ✠ Concelebrated Mass by Rev Mgr Canon Jeremy Garratt and other Maltese Clergy
- ✠ The Joint Choirs of Sacred Heart
- ✠ Soprano – Tamsin Stevens
- ✠ Blessing of the Bambina Statue and Souvenirs
- ✠ Closing Ceremony and Maltese National Anthem

Tributes & Activities in the Square

- ✠ Exit with the Bambina Statue
- ✠ Fanfare and Fireworks
- ✠ Motet by St Sebastian Brass Band
- ✠ Procession around the Square
- ✠ Blessing of the people
- ✠ Gregorian chant of Salve Regina
- ✠ Maltese National Anthem (conclusion)

MALTESE IN UK

Here in the United Kingdom we can only but try to simulate some of the excitement and traditions that this feast evokes. For the past 18 years these celebrations took place in the Capital at Westminster Cathedral. This year for reasons beyond our control we elected to shift the focus on Waterlooville and hold festivities there, so giving the opportunity to the Maltese Community in that area to celebrate this wonderful feast so dear to the Maltese hearts! The Maltese Culture Movement is once again preparing in earnest for this event. All activities are being held at the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Peter the Apostle Centre in Waterlooville. The celebrations will start at 10.00 am with the St Sebastian Brass Band playing in the square and the official opening of the Fair by Her Worship the Mayor of Havant Cllr Diana Patrick

Entrance is free and everyone is welcome! All activities will finish by 6.00pm. We now ask you to come and join us celebrate this wonderful feast together with your family and friends, for a fun filled, exciting day and a true taste of Maltese culture!

Bernard Scerri



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Maltese relatives gather to mourn elderly couple killed in horror Sydney crash

Carmen and Frank Sant died in a head on collision with a speeding car

Kristina Abela

Frank and Carmen Sant were due to become great grandparents before they were killed in a crash. Photo: Family handout. Relatives and friends of Maltese couple killed in a Sydney car crash gathered to mourn the elderly couple on Tuesday evening in a memorial mass held in Żebbiegħ.

The mood was sombre outside the Mgarr church later, as family embraced and held up pictures of Carmen and Frank Sant, who were well-loved within the Maltese community in both continents.

Carri and Ċikku, as they were known to their loved ones, were round the corner from their house in west Sydney when a speeding car hit them head-on.

Their car was sent hurtling across the road, and Carri died at the scene of the crash while her husband of over 50 years died in hospital the next day.

Louie, one of Carrie and Ċikku's two sons, was the one to pass on the sad news to the family members in both continents.

"He was devastated over the phone. They were such good people, he kept on telling me. They didn't deserve this. And they were about to become great grandparents for the first time," a close relative, Lillian Chetcuti Riolo, told Times of Malta.

Ms Chetcuti-Riolo's mother had emigrated to Australia during the 1960s at the same time as Carri and Ċikku, and the two were like sisters. They lived 15 minutes away from each other and the two families were always at each other's houses. "My mother and the rest of the family are in shock," she said "it's hard to put into words what they're feeling. Every party we had, every Christmas we were together. If one of them got sick they would look after each other."

The couple had been having dinner with friends at the Maltese social centre La Valette that Sunday and were on their way home when the accident happened. "They had been going there every weekend for years," Ms Chetcuti-Riolo explained, "the Maltese community there are really going to take it hard". Ċikku's younger brother Joe Sant expressed sadly that he had spoken to his sibling not long ago. "There was talk of him visiting, but Carri had just had an operation and he did not wish to leave her by herself." The 22-year-old deliveryman driving the car that crashed into the Sants was arrested and underwent mandatory testing.

He was charged with two counts of dangerous driving occasioning death, along with a number of other charges. The driver was speeding and failed to stop at a give-way sign. However, people within the neighbourhood had long flagged the accident site dangerous and had been petitioning to get a roundabout built there. The council had said it lacked the funds, but since this has happened they have pledged to build one, Ms Chetcuti-Riolo said. They emigrated for a better future Carri and Ċikku, who grew up in Bidnija, emigrated to Australia soon after they got married to carve a better life for themselves.

"He couldn't find stable work here," his brother explained. "And he had relatives there so he thought he would give it a try."

They were in their 20s and headed north first to Queensland where they had stayed with relatives and later to Sydney, where they bought a house and had two boys Louie and Charlie.

Ċikku had a trailer truck and worked a number of different jobs, including as a driver and as a worker in the cane fields. timesofmalta.com.mt

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