



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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Maltese Migrants arriving in Australia on the ASTURIAS 1950

MALTA AND THE ANZACS

Built in 1915



BLACK LIVES MATTER



1916

Maltese Migrants pushed back from Australia by Billy Hughes

History of Maltese Emigration should be taught in schools



A free welfare service
from the Maltese Community
Council of NSW Inc. page 3

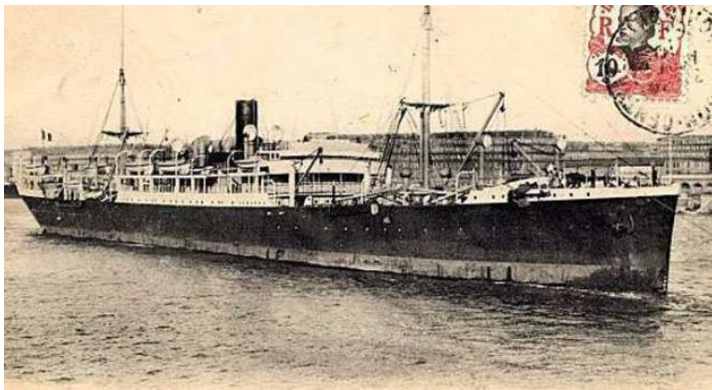
**Speaker
Anglu
Farrugia**



**"Racism hurts
let's all love
each other
as we are"
Martina Borg**



The Black Menace - When the Maltese Migrants were pushed back from Australia by Billy Hughes



In 1916, Malta was a poor island, heavily caught up in WWI. It was “the nurse of the Mediterranean”, taking care of 80,000 wounded soldiers, a lot of them Australian. They were shipped in from Gallipoli and other European fronts, where Maltese men were fighting on the side of the British Empire themselves. For a small place, with only a little over

210,000 inhabitants, Malta went above and beyond, and many Australian returned soldiers were grateful. But that didn't help the Maltese in 1916. When the **Gange** arrived in WA, Australia was in the grip of a referendum on conscription. Labor Prime Minister Billy Hughes, whose enthusiasm for the war had earned him the moniker “the little digger”, had become worried when the zeal to enlist had dropped off after alarming news of tens of thousands of deaths had been published. His solution was to try and see if he could force men to join the military, but for that he needed the permission of the Australian people. On the 28th of October 1916, there was to be a referendum that asked if they were okay with that. In the lead-up, the country had been split down the middle. Scared of conscription were the unions, who feared that with their members away at the front, their jobs would be taken over by women, or even worse, coloured people. And that, in an Australia that was a firm believer in its right to be white, was simply not on.

So when the Maltese arrived a week before the referendum, they were regarded with suspicion. Certainly, there had been Maltese migrants before, and usually there was no problem with them. As members of the British Empire they were British subjects and were therefore accepted without trouble. But with everybody on edge, 214 men, on a French ship as well, that was a little suspicious. The Australian Workers' Union said that they knew for certain that thousands of others were sneaking in via Coffs Harbour to steal the jobs of their members.



Emmanuel Attard who was on the *Gange*.

They called the Maltese “**a black menace**” and asked the government to do something. In the meantime, the *Gange* had entered Melbourne, and there the men were subjected to the best tool the White Australia Policy had at its disposal: *the Dictation Test*. This examination allowed the border officials to ask would-be migrants a set of questions in any European language they wanted. Usually that did the trick: ask Chinese or Malays something in Gaelic or Danish and chances were that they wouldn't be able to answer. This time, for the Maltese, it was Dutch they were confronted with. And surprise, surprise, all of them failed.

That meant that they were now “*prohibited immigrants*”. If they went on shore they risked six months' gaol and deportation. Anybody who helped them would be subject to a fine of 100 pounds, which was a lot of money. The master of the ship, who had not foreseen this (seeing that his charges were British subjects coming into a harbour that was part of the British Empire), then set sail to Sydney, where he was, again, not allowed in and the Maltese not allowed off. In the newspapers, people

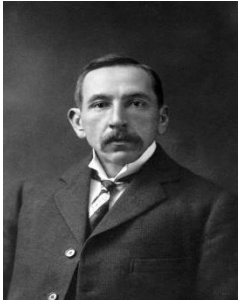
were starting to ask questions, but PM Hughes put the men under a military guard and made sure the populace knew this “batch” would be sent back as soon as possible. The men, in the meantime, were stuck on board, and on the 10th of November a few of them made a run for it. Most of them were caught again, and as a precaution the ship was told to leave Circular Quay and dock at Neutral Bay instead. The men were hauled in front of the Water Police Court and given a slap on the wrist. A few days later the ship was sent to Noumea, the capital of French territory New Caledonia, where the Australian government tried desperately to have them sent back. The problem was that they had done nothing wrong, and by this time the Australian public was getting angry. The referendum had failed anyway, so there was now no danger in letting them in.

So on the 25th of November, a member of the RSL wrote a letter to the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, telling him that he was appalled at what was happening to the Maltese:

About 250 Maltese are kept on the Gange, not allowed to land in Australia. But why? Are they not British Subjects? Are they not white?

It was clear that this was becoming an issue with distinct racial overtones. But for quite a few people it was also shameful. On December 30, with the Maltese still in Noumea, there was another letter to the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. George Brown from Gordon wrote:

During this Christmas-tide, I have been feeling keenly that the exclusion and threatened repatriation of the Maltese ... is not only opposed to the principles and precepts of the Christian religion ... but that it is also inimical to the best interests of the Empire to which we belong.



Billy Hughes
Prime Minister of
Australia

Brown thought it "a great injustice" that left a "very undesirable impression in the homeland and among the Allies", especially while "many others who are as dark in colour are admitted."

In early January 1917, Hobart's *Mercury* added fuel to the fire by revealing that 63 of the men had fought "alongside our boys at Gallipoli" and that half of the 241 were married, leaving their families at home, who had been counting on money sent back, in desperate poverty. A few days later, there was another letter by "a Malteao" who was wondering who were the "scientific gentlemen who think that the Maltese are a coloured race". On the contrary, he, somewhat puzzlingly, posed his countrymen were "men of good physique, possessed of great energy, and had everything to recommend them as desirable settlers."

It would have been smarter of this man to make his case by pointing at the NSW Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, born and bred in Malta, who was now King George's highest representative in NSW. He was, by the way, lobbying behind the scenes on behalf of the Maltese on the Gange. In fact, doing that had annoyed the NSW Premier William Holman so much that he made sure Strickland was recalled a few months later. Not deterred, the man then became Prime Minister of Malta. But that was still in the future. In the present, the 214 were still in Noumea, but when the government failed to have them sent back to Malta, they had to let them into Sydney again on February 27, 1917.

That did not mean they were allowed off the ship, though. Hughes, who hated losing anything, let alone a battle this public, made sure the Maltese were decanted into a hastily renovated hulk, ironically called the *Anglican*. There, in squalid conditions, they were visited by a priest, Father William Bonett, who was allowed to bring fresh food, and by Arthur Rickard, a real estate developer and founder of what was called the Millions Club. Rickard was an early believer in "populate or perish" and a big advocate for as much British migration as possible.

He wrote to the paper that it was "an outstanding example of man's inhumanity to man" that the Maltese were treated as "lepers". It was, he thought, bad for Australia's reputation, and he called on Billy Hughes to finally do the right thing.

In early March, the case had made it to the Federal and State Parliaments, who were getting more and more upset with the Prime Minister. Hughes promised that "earnest consideration" would be given to a proposal, but did nothing. Five days later, four Maltese escaped again, and the *SMH* had a field day. They had been "diving overboard while fully dressed," swimming to Ball's Head, where they dried out their clothes in the scrub. When police arrived, there had been an "exciting chase", with the men "scampering over the rocks ... policemen could not get near them. They dodged backward and forwards, and gave their pursuers an exceedingly lively tune." Finally, Hughes had enough. The next day, he told Father Bonett that if he could find the men jobs and made sure they would join the unions, "the government would do all possible to help them." On the 21st of March, the *Adelaide Advertiser* finished the whole sorry saga by telling its readers that the Maltese had been "allowed to land and are now at work." In fact, they had, the paper said, "proved themselves good workmen." In the next few years, a large portion of the 214 helped construct Burrinjuck Dam near Yass. Others built rail extensions in northern NSW or worked in the Mt Lyell mines in Tasmania.

Their five months in limbo rankled a little, though. Among the Maltese community in Australia it is still a symbol of the in-betweenness people feel. Migrants, boats, colour: it seems to be our Achilles heel. British Subjects or not. IVT

QUESTION TIME (Maltese 1917)

MALTESE IN AUSTRALIA

Parliament of Australia – Hansard

Friday, 2 March 1917

The Clerk having informed the House of the unavoidable absence of **Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker** took the chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

Mr BRUCE SMITH (PARKES, NEW SOUTH WALES) - Is it not a fact that these Maltese, who are British subjects, are at present imprisoned on a hulk within the three-mile limit of the Australian coast"? Will the Prime Minister state to the House what legal justification there is for placing an embargo upon them? One of their countrymen is at the present time a Governor of one of the States (Sir Gerald Strickland).

Mr HUGHES - In this respect, as in all others, we have to decide what is best to be done for Australia. The legal justification for the exclusion of Maltese, or anybody else, is vested exclusively in this Parliament; and the laws are administered, and will be exercised by the Government. The reasons for the exclusion are sufficiently well known, and I have in part declared them. The Government is now considering the question, and will shortly, I hope, submit a proposition to the House in regard thereto'.

Mr AUSTIN CHAPMAN - Can the Prime Minister give us any information regarding the Maltese who are at present on board a hulk in Sydney Harbor?

Mr HUGHES (WEST SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES) (Attorney-General) - All the information I can give the honorable member is that these are the Maltese who were brought to Australia on the Messageries-Maritime steamer at or about the time of the referendum, and who were carried on, by arrangement with the French Government, to New Caledonia. I have informed the British Government that the Commonwealth cannot admit these Maltese. Prior to that, I may say, we had advised the British Government that we did not intend to permit the importation of any further Maltese during the war; but these Maltese had left Malta before that advice was given. Under the circumstances, which are perfectly well known to honorable members, I told the British Government that these Maltese could not be admitted. Some of these Maltese have come from New Caledonia, and have been transferred to a hulk. They are not in this country by the will of the Government. We are considering the whole question and have made some suggestions in regard to them.

Mr ORCHARD - Will the Government take into consideration the fact that these people paid their own fares, and were not stopped by the Government from coming in the early stages? Will the Government consider the question of compensating these people for the expense they have been put to, and the time they have lost while in Australia?

Mr HUGHES - I cannot admit that the Government is under any obligation to these men. They did not come out here' at the invitation of the Government. Having come herethey are subject, of course, as all others are, to the laws of the country, and one of these laws imposes a test for admission. I admit that the circumstances surrounding this case are far from usual. The Government so far has borne the entire cost of the maintenance of these men, and has offered to take them back to the place whence they came. It has also made the further proposition to place them on the same footing as Australian citizens who are enlisting in the navvies brigade for service in the war - to enrol them in that brigade just as Australian citizens are being enrolled. In the whole of the circumstances I do not think they can complain. They have been treated quite fairly.

Dr MALONEY (MELBOURNE, VICTORIA) - Following up the questions that have been addressed to the Prime Minister in regard to the Maltese immigrants, I wish to ask the right honorable gentleman whether he can inform the House why these men, who are British subjects, living close to the firing line, left to come out here thousands of miles from their homes?

Mr HUGHES - I cannot answer anymore questions on the subject.

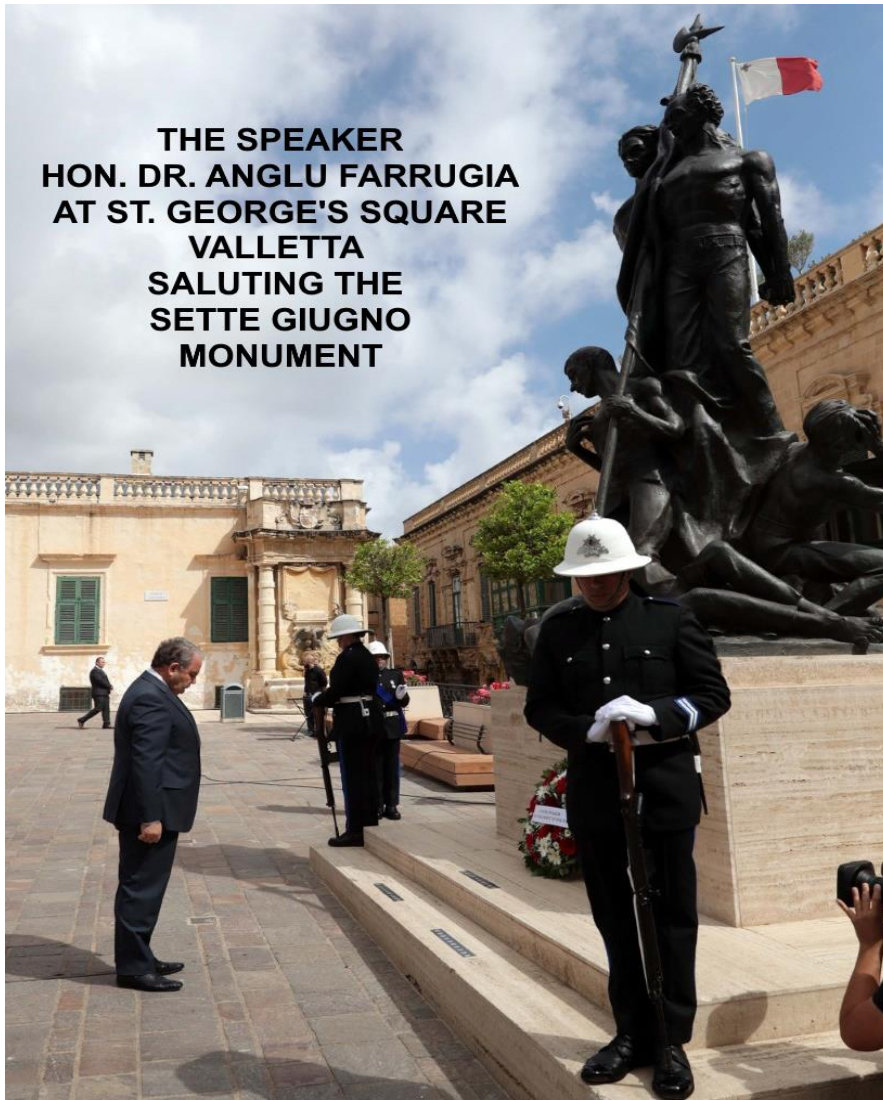


WE THANK ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS
FOR MAKING OUR JOURNAL NUMBER 1.
BRINGING THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES CLOSER
Together we defeat the COVID-19



SETTE GIUGNO 2020 IN MALTA

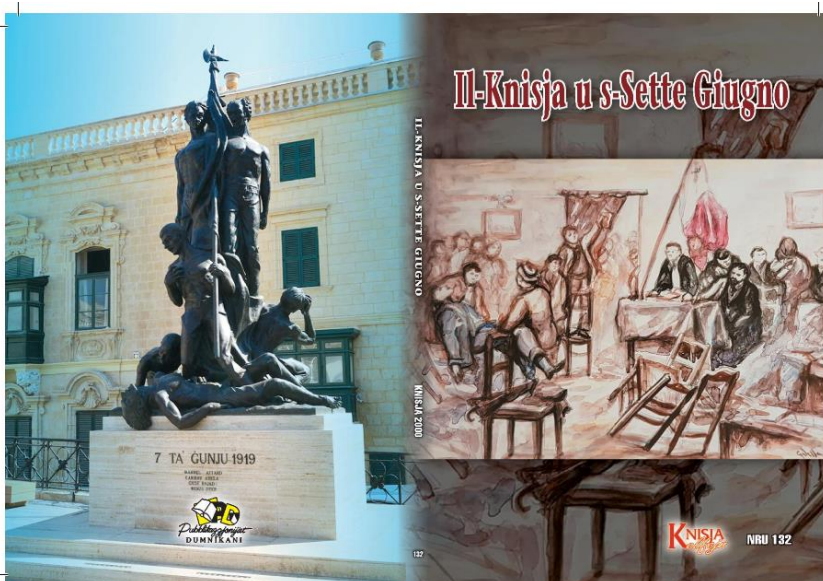
**THE SPEAKER
HON. DR. ANGLU FARRUGIA
AT ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE
VALLETTA
SALUTING THE
SETTE GIUGNO
MONUMENT**



Due to the requirement of social distancing, this year's ceremony was scaled down with a select few attending the ceremony at the foot of Anton Agius' monument in St George's Square in Valletta and with the speech being delivered via PBS and Parliament TV instead of the usual address by the Speaker Dr Anglu Farrugia during the ceremony. During the commemoration he was accompanied by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers and the whips of both sides of the House.

Following the Valletta commemoration, Mr Speaker also participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of the Sette Giugno victims at the Addolorata Cemetery. Here he was accompanied by representatives of the National Festivities Committee and the relatives of the victims.

Din hija il-prezentazzjoni lil Ispeaker tal-Parlament Malti Dott.Anglu Farrugia LL.D, tar-rivista *Knisja* 2000 (Nru.132)bit-tema 'Il-Knisja u s-Sette Giugno' Fr Raymond Gatt OP "Il-Knisja u s-Sette Giugno"



Ghaziz Dott. Anglu Farrugia, fid-diskors li ghamilt f'gheluq il-mitt sena mill-grajjiet tas-Sette Giugno (1919-2019), inti wrejt kif dawn hallew marka fonda fuq pajjizna: "Illum, gheluq il-mitt sena mis-Sette Giugno, huwa opportun li nfakkru dawk l-irvellijiet u r-ragunijiet li wasslu ghalihom sabiex dawn ma jintessewx. Jehtieg inzommu quddiem ghajnejna li kienu proprju l-imwiet ta' dawn l-erba' Maltin u s-sofferenzi tad-diversi midruba kif ukoll dawk li ntbaghtu l-habs, li wasslu biex l-antenati taghna jkunu jistghu jakkwistaw id-dritt li tal-inqas jiddeciedu huma dwar l-affarijiet interni ta' pajjizhom. Dan kollu ghandna nibqghu

nfakkruh sabiex ahna, li fortunatament ma ghexniex dawk iz-zminijiet diffiċli, naghrfu illi d-drittijiet li ngawdu minnhom illum ma kinux ikunu possibbli minghajr it-tbatija ta' dawk kollha li gew qabilna, u ghalhekk huma drittijiet li ghandhom jibqghu jigu mharsa bid-dehen u r-rispett misthoqq".

Jghaddi kemm jghaddi z-zmien din il-memorja fl-Istorja ta' pajjizna mhu se tithassar qatt. Ghalix hu mportanti li ma ninsewx u nibqghu infakkru dawn il-grajjiet? Certament l-Istorja turina li dak li ahna illum u fejn wasalna illum huwa kollu frott ta' dawk hutna li bit-tbatija tal-gharaq ta' gbinhom irnexxielhom jibqghu izommu dak kollu li hu mehtieg biex il-gzejjer taghna jibqghu mixjin biex jiksbu l-awtonomija minn kull tmexxija ta' gnus barranin. U l-grajjiet tas-*Sette Giugno* kienu l-ewwel pass biex inkunu rajna f'idejna.

Il-vjolenza li sehhet fis-*Sette Giugno* halliet il-vittmi: **lil Lorenzo Dyer, Manwel Attard, Guze' Bajada u Carmelo Abela** mentri Francesco Darmanin u Antonio Cassano mietu xi jiem wara. Ghexiren ta' persuni spickaw midruba fl-irvellijiet. U hawn nistaqsu: kif tidhol il-Knisja fil-grajjiet tas-*Sette Giugno*? Il-Knisja ma kienitx maqtugha mill-poplu Malti anzi jekk inharsu lejn l-Istorja twila tieghu naraw li hija dejjem kienet vicin tal-poplu. L-awtur Paul Bartolo jikteb: "... *il-Knisja wkoll thabtet biex tikkalma n-nies waqt u wara s-Sette Giugno ... Mons.Panzavecchia, Mons.Depiro, u l-isqof Awziljarju Portelli grew fost il-folla ma' mexxejja ohra biex jikkalmaw in-nies*".

Il-personaggi ewlenin tal-Knisja li jissemmew matul is-*Sette Giugno* huma: Mons.Guzeppi De Piro, Dun Enrico Dandria, l-Isqof Awziljarju Mons.Anglu Portelli OP u Dun Injazju Panzavecchia. L-Arcisqof Mons.Mauro Caruana OSB kien il-kap tal-Knisja f'dan iz-zmien. F'din il-harga tar-rivista *Knisja 2000* li qiegħed nipprezentalek illum, se nagħtu harsa lejn il-kontribut li dawn u ohrajn taw matul il-grajja tas-*Sette Giugno*.

Filwaqt li niftakru u nghozzu lil dawk kollha li ghamlu gieh lil pajjizna matul is-sekli, f'dan iz-zmien tal-pandemija tal-Covid-19, niringrazzjaw lil dawk kollha li qed jahdmu fil-qasam tas-sahha u tas-sigurta' biex jigi meghlub dan il-virus qerriedi. Nagħlaq dawn il-kelmtejn bl-ahhar zewg strofi tal-poezija *Lil Malta - ghanja* tal-poeta Nazzjonali Malti Dun Karm Psaila:

***"Min ma jafx il-qalb, il-fehma
Ta' l-ulied li int rabbejt?
Min ma jafx dik l-Emmna mqaddsa
Li bhal sejf tan-nar zammejt?"***



***Malta, Malta, s-swar li hamrru
B'demm uliedek ghalenin.
Qatt ma jinzghu mill-gmiel taghhom,
Rebhu 'l-ghadu, jirbhu 's-snin"***

MR PAUL ZAMMIT RECEIVES A GREAT HONOUR BY BEING AWARDED THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA OAM



Mr Paul Zammit was honoured by the Australian Government on the Queen's birthday honours' list for service to the parliaments of Australia and New South Wales, and to the community.

Paul John Zammit (born 28 April 1941), a former Australian **Liberal** politician, was born into the **Maltese-Egyptian** community in **Alexandria, Egypt**. His father was Maltese and his mother **Greek**. He and his family migrated to

Australia in 1955, aboard **SS Strathnaver**, and settled in the **Sydney** suburb of **Punchbowl**. Zammit was a businessman before entering politics.

He was the member for the state electorate of **Burwood** from 1984 to 1988. After Burwood was abolished, he was elected as the member for **Strathfield** at the **1998 state election**. In 1991, he was made Assistant Minister to the Premier **Nick Greiner** and held that post when **John Fahey** took over as **Premier** in 1992. We are proud of Paul and very grateful for his sterling work and ongoing support to the Maltese Community in Australia. Congratulations.

"Racism hurts – let's all love each other as we are"

Report: Maria Muscat <https://www.tvm.com.mt/>



Shocked by the brutal killing of Afro-American George Floyd in the United States and in the racial killing of immigrant Lassana Cisse last year, Martina Borg has taken to social media to convey her emotional message against racism. Martina is 14-years-old and said she wanted to support all those who suffer humiliation because of their skin colour or have a different appearance.

In a video posted on social media titled "I AM BLACK", Martina Borg expressed her deep concerns on discrimination, inequality and prejudice. She said the killing of George Floyd carries an important lesson.

She said she wanted to convey the message that in Malta there is also racism as shown in the murder of Lassana, and this racism is not only in the US as many people think.

Martina said that although in her upbringing she had not experienced any discrimination because of her skin colour but feels that in the stares she attracts and the manner in which she is often treated fall short of the fact that she is Maltese and equal to all other Maltese persons. She said that even while walking in a street attracts stares that are not pleasing. Martina has been singing for years, plays the piano, writes musical scores, loves drama and uses artistry to convey her message of courage.

Like Martin Luther King who paid with his life in the fight against apartheid in the United States, Martina dreams of a society that whatever one's racial colour, every person is treated with respect, dignity and love.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA, INC.

The MCCV is pleased to announce that we have recently expanded our services to provide additional assistance to the Maltese Community members who are over 65 and reside in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne. These services include Domestic Assistance and Centre Based Respite.

For further information please go on the links below or feel free to contact us on 9387 8922 or email us at admin@mccv.org.au

<https://mccv.org.au/.../our-expanded-services-include-domest.../>

<https://mccv.org.au/.../mccv-expands-services-with-centre-ba.../>



11 Maltese nationals confined in overseas prisons

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Evarist Bartolo, said there are currently 11 Maltese nationals confined in foreign prisons. He was replying to a Parliamentary Question made by National Party MP Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici. Minister Bartolo explained there are eight currently imprisoned in Australia, and one

person in Italy, Poland and Spain. Last year two persons were released from confinement, one in the United Arab Emirates and one in the United Kingdom. These figures cover only those nationals who requested assistance from Malta's overseas representative missions.



Priest uses toy water pistol to bless churchgoers with holy water

St Ambrose Parish / Facebook
15020 Hampton St

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Fr Timothy Pelc, a Roman Catholic priest in the Detroit area, USA came up with a novel way of blessing his

parishioners – getting them to remain in their cars while he squirted holy water at them using a toy water pistol.

Fr Pelc wore a mask, face shield and rubber gloves as further precautions against spreading the coronavirus. He also consulted with a doctor friend to ensure his idea was safe. After photos were published on social media by the St Ambrose Parish, the 70-year-old priest's creative solution went viral and also resulted in many a meme.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW

Here's a fantastic program for Maltese seniors in our community. If you are, or know of any vulnerable or socially isolated persons, whether they are living at home or in an Aged Care Facility who may benefit from some form of regular contact during this time of period of social distancing please contact the Maltese Community Council Welfare Worker, Marisa on 0414 863 123 to register the name and contact details to be included on the Register for the Reducing Social Isolation Program for Maltese Seniors. This is a free welfare service from the Maltese Community Council of NSW

Paul Zammit from North Queensland Benemerenti Medal



The John Oxley Library has been fortunate to receive a donation of a medal awarded to Paul Zammit by the Catholic Church in recognition of his services to the church and the Catholic community in North Queensland.

The Benemerenti medal was first awarded by Pope Pius VI (1775-1799) in recognition of military merit. In 1925 the Catholic Church broadened the scope of the medal to serve as a mark of recognition for services to the church in both civil and military capacity. Paul Zammit, a Maltese pioneer of North Queensland, was awarded the medal by Pope Pius XII in January 1948 for building the Church of St

Paul amidst the canefields of Bartle Frere. Zammit was the first person in Queensland to be awarded the Benemerenti Medal for distinguished service.

The story of Paul Zammit is a remarkable one. He was born in Malta in about 1888 and immigrated to Australia in 1912 where he worked in the Chillagoe mines and later in the canefields of North Queensland. He eventually settled in Mooliba, near Bartle Frere, around 1919. By December 1913 his wife, Paulina, with their first child had joined him in Queensland and over the following twenty years the couple had nine more children, all of whom were talented musicians.

Paul Zammit became one of the most successful sugar farmers in North Queensland and prospered financially with numerous property investments. He used his growing prosperity to support many migrants from Italy and Malta and his deep faith led to him funding the construction of the Catholic Church of St. Paul in the canefields of Bartle Frere. The little concrete

church was opened on 31 August 1947. Below is an extract from an article appearing in the *Cairns Post*, 6 September 1947, p.9:

"In his address, Most Rev. Dr. Heavey congratulated the people on their good fortune in acquiring such a really beautiful church. Supporting His Lordship the Bishop, the Parish Priest (Fr O'Byrne) stressed some unusual features of the opening. The church was being opened completely free of debt. This was due to the extraordinary generosity and piety of one man - Mr Paul Zammit of Bartle Frere. Mr Zammit was one of the pioneers of the Bartle Frere district. He had roughed it there in the early days. Privation and hardship had been his lot, and as was only fitting he now shared the general prosperity of this very rich and beautiful area. "He has now", continued Fr. O'Byrne, "given us a token of his love for Bartle Frere and for his Church in this beautiful concrete building which we are opening today. The concrete bricks, by the way, used in the

construction of the walls, were made here in Bartle Frere at Mr. Zammit's farm. What can be said of such a man? Perhaps one could best express oneself by saying that, not unlike his beloved Malta, while small in stature, he is big in heart."

Paul Zammit died in 1959 after contributing so much to the business and community life of North Queensland. The Church of St. Paul was unfortunately destroyed by Cyclone Winifred in 1986 and the Benemerenti Medal was transferred to St. Rita's Catholic Church in Babinda where it was on display for many years before being donated to the State Library of Queensland by the descendants of Paul Zammit.

The beautiful medal, housed in a velvet lined box, may be viewed at the John Oxley Library, Acc: 28911, Box 16917 O/S A3. Lynn Meyers - Original Materials Librarian, State Library of Queensland

"FLORIANA" GUEST HOUSE CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND



FLORIANA: The former family home of a highly successful Maltese immigrant, located on the Cairns Esplanade overlooking Trinity Inlet, Floriana was constructed in 1939 as the City residence of Paul and Paulina Zammit and their family.

Paul Zammit migrated from Malta in 1912 and became one of the most successful sugarcane farmers in North Queensland with a property near Bartle Frere. Floriana tells the story of one migrant couple's aspirations to succeed in their adopted society without losing sight of their traditional cultural values.



Named after a portside village in Malta, Floriana is a two-story chamferboard and rendered brick house that incorporates a number of traditional Maltese housing elements within a typical modern Queensland home of its era.

During the war years, the Zammit family regularly entertained top visiting US and Australian Army showbands and hosted many social and fundraising events in Floriana's ground floor ballroom.

Floriana was entered in the Queensland Heritage Register in 2010 and currently operates as a guest house.

photo: Paul and Paulina pictured in front of Floriana in the late 1940's. (Image courtesy of the Zammit family)

THE ART OF MAKING FISH TRAPS (NASES)



Fishing traps (nases) were traditionally made with disa, a fine reed-like material, but these days they are made out of

nylon, which is virtually indestructible – but less attractive.

Traps, used to catch bogue (vopi) and picarel (arznell), are usually set in the afternoon and they are pulled out of the water after four or five hours. Normally, about 15 of these pots are set at a depth of 15 to 20 metres and kept some one metre above the seabed. Bait consisting of bread mashed with finely powdered dried beans is placed hanging on the side of the pot and the fish enter through the bottom constriction attracted by the bait.

This kind of fishing takes place all the year round and the fish caught in the traps are fried, if big enough, or for fish soup.

The nases tal-arznell are only used in Gozo. They are employed in the same manner as the traps for bogue but no bait is required because it is thought that the fish enter the pot to spawn.

This kind of fishing takes place from March to mid-May.

The shores of the Maltese archipelago are surrounded by seas of unparalleled beauty. Even by simply gazing at it or perhaps dipping one's feet, the sea refreshes and is a source of health. The sea also provides a livelihood for many.

In days gone by, opportunities for work and home comforts were few and far between. Because of this situation, many simply rolled up their sleeves and became fishermen. Anglu Azzopardi of Xewkija, known as Ta' Haquq, was one of them.

Right in the heart of Għajnsielem, one can still come across Anglu working away at making fish traps. This is craftsmanship at its best, working in absolute silence. During the 'Malti Pur' programme, Anglu happened to be working quietly on a fish trap for bogue, seated near his open front door.

Anglu learned this trade at the tender age of eight. His family, well known in Malta, have been manufacturing fish traps in all shapes and sizes for over 200 years. The most common are for picarel in April, others for chub mackerel and nets for lampuki. These fish traps are very much in demand, particularly by non-fishermen for decorative purposes.

ACCORDING TO OUR SURVEY THIS JOURNAL IS DEFINITELY READ AND ENJOYED BY READERS FROM ALL STATES IN AUSTRALIA, CANADA, UNITED STATES, SOUTH AFRICA, SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, EGYPT, TUNISIA, CUBA, UNITED KINGDOM, SOUTH AMERICA

MALTESE TRADITIONAL WEDDING

Modern marriages in Malta are quite similar to those in other European countries, but this was not the case in the past.

The daughter was not always consulted in the choice of her future husband. When the girl's parents realised that it was time for their daughter to get married, they would display a pot of sweets on a stone bracket on the outer wall of their house.

Once a young man would notice the pot, he would then go to find an older man who could act as a marriage broker (*ħuttab*) so that his message could reach the girl's parents. If they agreed, a contract would be settled upon and the girl's dowry stipulated. The young man would send his beloved a fish with a gold ring in its mouth. The betrothal feast would then be celebrated. This was referred to as "*Ir-Rabta*".



During this feast the bride used to be introduced to her future husband in the presence of both sets of parents. She would be presented with an engagement ring in the form of two engraved hands joined together, as a symbol of fidelity. She would reciprocate by presenting her future husband with a handkerchief edged with lace.

On the wedding day, a group of musicians and singers would accompany the couple to church singing verses of praise to the new couple. Grain, nuts and wheat were showered on them on their return from the church. The guests would stay on for the wedding banquet to which they often contributed by offering wine as well as food. The bride would dine in a separate room but at the end of the meal she would join her husband by sitting near him and even drink from his glass.

Sometimes there would be dancing with castanets a custom which may have originated during Aragonese rule in the 15th century. During the meal the guests placed gifts on the bride's lap while she sat at the top end of the room. Eight days after the wedding day the bride would leave her father's house. This is referred to as "*Il-Ħarġa*". She used to be received with pomp by her husband in their new home.

During the first year of marriage, the husband accepted to take his wife to two major fesats - namely the feast of **St. Gregory**, which is celebrated on the first



Wednesday after Easter at Zejtun and Marsaxlokk, and to the "*L-Imnarja*" at the end of June. This feast commemorates the martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul. On the eve of this feast day, many people gather at Buskett, a small forested area outside Rabat, to eat rabbit stew and drink wine as well as to listen to folk singing, known as "*l-ġhana*".

The bride used to wear a different headdress for her wedding. If she wore the "*ġhonnella*", also known as "*faldetta*", this meant that the bride had already been married. During those times, many women became widows as men usually were employed as soldiers or seamen and many lost their lives when still young. If the bride was a maiden, she would wear either a hat (*kappell*) or a veil (*mant*). The hat was usually fawn while she wore a silver-grey dress. The veil and the dress were usually white.

News, History
Culture
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Stories etc...



Building
Bridges
between
communities

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

EVERY ISSUE OF THE MALTESE JOURNAL IS PRESERVED AT THE MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM, MALTESE-CANADIAN ARCHIVES, AT SEVERAL MALTESE CENTRES, NURSING HOMES, SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES. YOU MAY ALSO FIND US ON **FACEBOOK AND THE WEBSITE <https://ozmalta.com>**

William Dobbie

Lieutenant General **Sir William George Shedden Dobbie**, GCMG, KCB, DSO (12 July 1879 – 3 October 1964) was a British Army veteran of the Second Boer War and the First and Second World Wars AND ASSUMED the position of Governor of Malta and Commander-in-chief of Malta IN 1942. As acting Governor, he was granted the acting rank of lieutenant-general on 27 April 1940, and was knighted as a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath on 14 March 1941.^[27] Promoted to temporary lieutenant general on 27 April, he was confirmed as Governor of Malta on 19 May.^[29] He remained Governor of Malta until May 1942, and retired with the honorary rank of lieutenant-general on 10 November 1942

When he arrived on Malta, its defensibility was in question because of the presumed ease with which Italy could overrun it. There were only 4 planes on the island and these had probably been overlooked. Few other than Churchill saw any strategic value in maintaining it and the commitment of the Maltese to the British cause was also questioned. On the day Italy declared war Dobbie issued a statement to the garrison:

The decision of His Majesty's government to fight until our enemies are defeated will be heard with the greatest satisfaction by all ranks of the Garrison of Malta.

It may be that hard times lie ahead of us, but I know that however hard they may be, the courage and determination of all ranks will not falter, and that with God's help we will maintain the security of this fortress.

I call on all officers and other ranks humbly to seek God's help, and then in reliance on Him to do their duty unflinchingly.

Despite being a Protestant on a Catholic island, his faith became an asset. Admiral Cunningham, commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, described him as "an Ironside of a man. His profound faith in the justice of our cause made a great impression on the religious Maltese. The



complete and calm faith shown in the broadcasts he made nearly every evening contributed immensely towards keeping up the morale of the people".

Over the next two years, Malta was a crucial element of war in the Mediterranean. Churchill responded to Dobbie's requests for planes and reinforcements and the Malta Fortress played a key part in reducing the German supply lines in North Africa, until the Luftwaffe joined in the most intense bombardment of the war in early 1942. In two months there were 500 air raids during which 27 times the tonnage of bombs were dropped as in the Coventry Blitz.

Two attempts to relieve the island failed when supply ships were bombed in the harbour and a succession of Spitfires were picked off on the ground shortly after delivery. There also were problems in the Administrative Council in which a blame culture had emerged. Despite a visit from Dobbie's friend Lord Cranbourne, in May 1942 Churchill replaced Dobbie, who was exhausted and unwell, by Viscount Gort.^[33] Gort brought with him the George Cross that had been awarded to the island by King George VI. Dobbie himself received the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George.



Culhat al Belt - watch the documentary series in Maltese with English subtitles on the tragic events landmark of Maltese history

On 7 June 2020 - Sette Giugno is the day we commemorate 101 years since the riots in Valletta in 1919. We remember the riots of 1919 when the Maltese people revolted against the British administration and demanded some form of representative government for the island. Four people died on that fateful day.

Learn more about the circumstances and events on Sette Giugno through the series of documentaries "Culhat al Belt" - with English subtitles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCiZgWbCMUs&t=207s>

The Land That Is So Small

There is an Island on the map,
that is so hard to see
It won the hearts of all the world for her bravery.
It is an island of young and old,
that bravery won the war.
So listen while I tell you,
what land it must be.

It's the Island of Malta,
the land so firm and strong
They gave their lives for liberty,
the land that is so small
They prayed and starved and gave it all
They had no more to give
But kept on fighting to the end
The land that is so small.

On this Island in the sun,
might be hard to see
But it played a big part in all our lives,
for it's bravery.
They were awarded the George Cross
The highest of all awards
They gave it all for liberty
The land that is so small.

We love you heaps Malta
I am so very proud
To hold this flag with dignity
and to thank the Lord above
He guarded our Mother land
so dear, whose name we bear
On this land in the sun
thou has made so fair.

We love you Malta.



MALTA MARITIME MUSEUM.

Housed in a former naval bakery, the Malta Maritime Museum in Birgu illustrates Malta's seafaring history with a large collection of interesting artifacts, including the largest Roman anchor in the world, the largest ship model belonging to the Order of St. John, and the island's largest collection of cannons. These are just a few of those lined up in front of the museum along the picturesque Vittoriosa waterfront marina.

"What are you looking at?
The palace is mine!"
A dog staring at the
royal visitors. King George V
and Queen Mary at
Verdala Palace during
their visit in January 1912.



L-ARKIVI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA



Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

MALTESE MTCA CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS Please do not try to visit the Office of the Consulate General of Malta to Canada

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada appeals to all MalteseMTCA Canadians not to try to visit our office .

The Office is closed until further notice and the Consul General with both Administrators are working from home due to COVID19. If you have a very urgent issue, call us and we can set an appointment with all the following new procedures and restrictions. It will be the Consul General

who will have the final say of what is urgent and was not and if an appointment is granted or not.

Please note the new procedures and restrictions put in place for coming to 3280 Bloor Street West Building (where the Consulate General is situated) such appointments include:-

- (1) calling the Consul General to set an appointment and call once you arrive in the lobby of the building;
- (2) on the day of the appointment :- (a) if you are sick or just not feeling well; (b) have symptoms of COVID19; (c) have been told to isolate; (d) have been abroad in the last two months; (e) visited a home of the elderly in the past two months; (f) have been in contact with a person(s) who have COVID19, then please cancel the appointment despite its urgency or if possible someone else attends who has none of the above once given a power of attorney;
- (3) What has changed is that without an access card, nobody can, different from the past, just take the elevator and arrive on the 10th Floor. The Consul General or staff has to come down to the lobby and accompany you for the appointment to the 10th Floor;
- (4) not more than 2 persons can be taken up in the elevator, enter and wait in the Consulate General's waiting room and attend at an appointment at a given time. Social distancing must be kept at all times and before using the Consulate's counter, please sanitize your hands once again using the sanitizing unit next to the counter. The same applies if you have to make use of the washrooms on the 10th Floor;
- (5) If there are more than 2 persons, they must wait in the lobby area downstairs not outside the Consulate General Office's main door. Waiting outside this door is strictly prohibited unless for ringing the doorbell;
- (6) Do not try to come up to the 10th Floor via the Emergency Staircase, this is also prohibited unless in real cases of emergencies such as fire, etc;
- (7) before entering the elevator all must wear a mask and gloves and remain with them throughout the appointment until one leaves the elevator to depart the building. Before entering the elevator one must wash their hands (with gloves on) at one of the sanitizing units next to the elevators. Anyone without a mask or gloves will be refused. If you forget them, they can be purchased from the pharmacy behind the lifts;
- (8) in order to protect the well-being of the Consul General and staff of the Consulate General Office, appointments can be refused and/or cancelled if procedures and restrictions are not followed;
- (9) Procedures and restrictions can be changed according to needs without notice and further procedures and restrictions will be announced in future posts; and,
- (10) Security personnel at the building are instructed that persons intending to acquire a very urgent service from the Consulate General Office must have an appointment and are not allowed on the 10th Floor unless accompanied by the Consul General or one of the administrators.

In recent months, the Consul General has personally attended to these very urgent matters with all the risks to his health.

Please be considerate, if it's not urgent do not call for now, the day will come when we will open, stay safe and please follow the rules.

FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF MALTA



AGATHA BARBARA, (11 March 1923 – 4 February 2002) was a Maltese politician, having served as a Labour Member of Parliament and Minister. She was the first woman to hold the office of President

of Malta, and is the longest standing woman Member of Parliament in Maltese political history.

Barbara was born in Żabbar, Malta, in 1923. Her father worked as a tug master (a skilled pilot of tugboats) for the Royal Navy, and was very poorly paid. Her mother struggled to feed the nine children on her husband's wages. Agatha was the second child and the eldest daughter. She pleaded her parents to send her to school and attended grammar school in Valletta, but World War II prevented her from continuing to college. She had to work as an air raid warden and supervised one of the kitchens set up by the British military to feed the population. After the war she became a school teacher and got involved in politics. She became a member of the Malta Labour Party (MLP), was very active in party affairs, became member of the MLP executive committee, headed the party women's branch and founded the Women's Political Movement in Malta.

From 1947, Malta had limited self-government. Voting rights for women were raised by the Women of Malta Association and the Malta Labour Party against loud protests from the Church. The proposal was adopted by a narrow majority. The clashes spurred Barbara to show what women could do, so when people encouraged her, she stood for election in 1947. She became the first and only woman among the 40 MPs, and she was the only woman candidate to successfully contest in ten consecutive elections, until 1982, when she resigned to become President.

Agatha Barbara became known as a warm defender of economic and social reforms. She was Malta's first and until the end of the 1990s only woman cabinet minister. When MLP came to power for the first time in 1955, she was appointed as education minister by Dom Mintoff from 1955 to 1958. She undertook comprehensive reforms: instituted compulsory full-time basic education for all children, established a teacher training college and special schools for the disabled, made secondary school free and provided science classes for both girls and boys. In 1958 relations between the British and the Maltese deteriorated. Protests erupted in the streets and Mintoff resigned. Barbara participated in the demonstrations and was sentenced to 43 days "with

hard labour". When Mintoff came to power again in 1971, Agatha Barbara was appointed minister of education again. Now compulsory basic education was extended from the age of 14 to 16, trade and technical

schools were established and university fees were abolished. In 1974 she became minister for labour, culture and welfare. She worked to reduce unemployment and improve workers' pay and conditions and industrial relations. She introduced a law on equal pay for women and men, paid maternity leave, a 40-hour working week and retirement and unemployment benefits. She also set up a number of national museums. In 1976 Agatha Barbara became deputy chair of the MLP parliamentary group, but not of the party, and deputy prime minister. For shorter periods she served as deputy for Mintoff.

Barbara also took a prominent role in protecting Maltese heritage, playing a crucial role in the restoration of historic buildings in Mdina and Valletta, and promoting their use as museums.

In 1981 elections led to a constitutional crisis because the Nationalist Party (PN) won a majority of the votes, but only got a minority in parliament: 31 seats against 34 for MLP. PN boycotted parliament and organized protests. Nevertheless, Mintoff took power, but instead of becoming minister, Barbara was appointed as the first woman president, 59 years old, on 15 February 1982. She was the third President of the Republic. Usually the position was mainly ceremonial, but her task now was to resolve the constitutional crises. At the end of her term in 1987, Barbara presided over the presentation and acceptance of the 1987 Constitutional reform, ranging from the cementing of Malta's independence from foreign powers, to the allocation of additional Parliamentary seats in case a Party obtains an absolute majority of votes at a general election without achieving a Parliamentary majority.

In 1987 her term expired and she withdrew from politics. Barbara appeared on a series of Maltese banknotes which were issued in 1986. She retired in Żabbar, where she was born, and died in 2002. A monument in her honor was unveiled in Żabbar on 23 April 2006 by the then President of Malta, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami.



Weaving in Malta



Like all other aspects of the Maltese culture, Maltese crafts have a very long and interesting history. Weaving is the crossing of two sets of thread over and under each other in order to make cloths, rugs and other products, and is one of the oldest crafts known to mankind. Weaving in Malta has existed since the prehistoric times, and evidence gathered from the Tarxien Temples has shown that inhabitants of the islands in prehistoric times had notable skills in weaving. This was seen and made evident in the remains of red-dyed textiles made out of flax plants, found around the temples.

During the prehistoric ages, weaving was done using plants such as palm leaves and strips of wood. However, as time went by, sheep's wool and cotton were used to make better-quality, warmer material for items such as cloths, rugs and blankets. In fact, it was the Arabs who introduced the cotton plant to Malta and brought over their skills and expertise of weaving to the islands. This resulted in the craft of weaving to carry on growing in the Maltese islands. Following this, during the time of the Knights of St John in Malta, cotton linen produced in Gozo was renowned for its excellent quality in the whole of Europe.

Weaving became one of the main sources of income for rural families all around Malta and Gozo, and most families had their own wooden weaving looms at home, which allowed them to weave all the items of clothing and bedding that they required. The craft thrived up until the 19th century, before facing an unfortunate steep decline in the 20th century. Nowadays there are very few weavers



*Photo - unattributed to: PMR
Spinning, the primitive way*

around, especially ones that use the traditional wooden hand looms to produce goods. The vast majority of locals have lost their knowledge of this craft tradition and there are only a handful of individuals who are keeping the craft alive.

One of these individuals is Antoine Vella, a professional weaver who has acquired his expertise from his parents many years ago. Antoine's main aim is to conserve the tradition of weaving in Malta by passing on his skills, which have been passed down through four generations of his family, on to other members of his family as well as the general public. Antoine has been in the weaving industry for over thirty five years, and started out working in his father's shop in Rabat when he was just eight years old. He always wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, and now uses a traditional wooden loom to produce beautiful designs in a variety of items, including custom made orders which are all handmade, practical and stylish. According to Antoine, table mats, floor mats and overthrows in a mixture of cotton and wool are the most in-demand items these days.



THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



ON THE WAY TO AUSTRALIA

Regular shipping for migrants to Australia really began in April 1948 when the Asturias left Malta, on April 23. In fact she had made a previous trip, on November 20, 1947, when one hundred emigrants had left on her, but many of them were returning emigrants who had paid anything from £58 to £80 to get as far as Melbourne. However from April 1948 to August 1952 the Asturias made fifteen trips to Australia thus earning for herself the sixth place among those ships which made most trips from Malta to Australia. The undisputed primacy goes to the aptly named Sydney which between December 15, 1951, and February 13, 1966, made thirty-nine trips between Malta and Australia. When the Columbia carried on her 1,075 migrants, that was considered then as the largest group ever carried to Australia in one voyage. The Columbia left on November 21, 1949. On that day Mr Cole expressed his obvious satisfaction at practically solving the problem of providing a reliable shipping service for emigrants. (7)

This is not to say that Mr Cole had solved the shipping problem to the satisfaction of everybody. While it was true that the Maltese Government had successfully obtained enough ships to carry those who wished to emigrate, there were complaints about some ships and about their sea worthiness and the kind of accommodation provided on board. Complaints appeared in the Maltese press about the Columbia. Although during question time in the Legislative Assembly Mr Cole had stated that the Columbia's trip was normal he did admit that during her journey three babies, only a few months old had died at sea.



On April 26, 1949, the ship called **MISR** took to Australia seven hundred Maltese passengers. The ship had been built in the U.S.A. only six years before and was now owned by the Soc. Misr de Navigation Maritime of Alexandria, Egypt. In 1947 the Misr had embarked on her first voyage to Australia carrying on board a number of passengers who had originated from the Middle East. When the Maltese arrived on the Misr and disembarked first in Melbourne then in Sydney, some sections of the Australian Press had taken them for Levantines. Once on dry land the Maltese themselves complained about the accommodation

they had been given in common dormitories. Complaints reached Malta about the ship **OCEAN VICTORY** which had left on February 26, 1950. On her were 1,024 emigrants and these included forty-two babies, one hundred and sixty children between the ages of one and five years, and one hundred and eighteen between five and eleven years. Three qualified nurses were in charge of the children. Labour representatives in the Legislative Assembly asked for a discussion on the accommodation provided on some of the ships being chartered by Mr Cole's department.



Labour politician, Mr N. Laiviera, claimed that he had received letters from emigrants he knew who had bitterly complained about conditions on board the Ocean Victory. Mr Laiviera did admit that better accommodation meant more expensive fares. His colleague, Mr D. Mintoff, wanted to know if there was any truth in the rumour that a child had died. (9) Mr Mintoff quoted from the Australian newspaper, The Daily Telegraph of April 3, 1950, which said that customs officials had described the Ocean Victory as a hell-ship. The captain himself admitted that a baby boy of ten months had died and so did another of sixteen months. Many of the passengers claimed they had suffered from dysentery while their linen was changed only once. Mr Anthony Cassar said that rain seeped into their

sleeping quarters and Mrs Mary Grech, a mother with three girls and a boy, said that they lived on boiled potatoes and spaghetti. (10)

Complaints were also raised about the ship **FLORENTIA** which made three trips from Malta to Australia between December 15, 1950, and August 21, 1951. She had been built in Dunbarton, Scotland, in 1914. Some of those who travelled on the ship felt that the ship was not fit to cross the Indian Ocean, especially between May and September when the monsoons were likely to occur. One particular trip created quite a stir. The Florentia was expected in Grand Harbour, Valletta, on April. She was to carry 1,039 passengers but these were kept waiting for a number of days until she finally made port eleven days later.

The trip to Australia was uneventful, but chaos was let loose when she finally berthed at North Wharf, Melbourne, on May 31. Many relatives had been anxiously waiting for a very long time and tempers were short. On disembarking, one immigrant decided to run towards his relatives while his luggage was still being inspected by immigration officials. He was soon caught, but other waiting relatives and friends joined the fray. In the fracas that ensued three immigration officials were hurt and so were two Maltese. Five were arrested. One was accused of causing bodily to an immigration official while the other cases deferred.

An official comment from the Maltese Department of Emigration said about the incident "The man in question was only trying to kiss his mother before customs formalities had been finished. He had been already warned to wait, but he insisted on rushing to his mother. The other Maltese were all waiting on the quay. None of the arriving immigrants were involved".

It was obvious that the Maltese Government could not ignore the criticism in Malta and abroad about some of the chartered ships, particularly the Ocean Victory and the Ocean Triumph.. that if the decision to hire both ships had been solely on his own he would have never decided in favour of were made to him during the voyage. He had sent a telegram to Malta expressing his favourable impression about the behaviour of the Maltese and that he thought that they would make good settlers.



**Procession of St Paul, Maltese festival, West Sunshine, Victoria, Australia 1980s.
Source: Workers of Maltese Background**



Maltese migrants arriving in Australia - 1949

Source: *The Safety Valve* (1997), author Fr Lawrence E. Attard OP

FROM MALTA TO GOZO "BANCINU"



Operated by Joseph Gasan between 1950 and 1957

Bancinu was built as a steel motor yacht under yard No 352 by Clyde Shipbuilding Company, Port Glasgow, Scotland for K.E.L. Guinness.

Launched as the MIGRANT.

Tonnage 348 gross, 201 net, dim. 154.2 x 24.2 x 11.3ft, length bpp. 128.0, draught 10.3 ft.

Powered by two 6-cyl diesel engines, manufactured by Augsburg-Nurnberg A.G., Augsburg, Germany, 136 nhp. November 1927 completed.

1931 Sold to J.Sapene (Cie Generale de Publicite Parisienne S.A.) France and renamed VICTRIX.

1936 Renamed in AUDACIEUX, same owner.

1938 Sold to F.G.T Dawson, Greenock, U.K. and renamed MIGRANTE.

September 1939 hired by the Royal Navy reclassified as armed yacht FY 019 and used for anti-submarine

duties, first in the 87th anti submarine group based in Southampton then till 1942 in Bari.

Then based at Larne, Northern Ireland in the 35th anti-submarine group. The Ministry of War Transport purchased her in July 1941 and she continued in her role until 1946 when she was re-acquired by her pre-war owners.

In Sept. 1947 she was acquired by Joseph Gasan, Malta, modernized as a passenger ferry and in July 1950 put also in the Gozo mail service as the BANCINU.

On Jan. 23, 1957, she broke her moorings at Mgarr in a gale and was driven ashore, but on February 10, she was salvaged by the Royal Navy salvage vessel UPLIFTER and towed to Grand Harbour.

In December 1957, she was sold to B. Vasilakis, Piraeus, Greece and renamed ATHINAI in 1958. Sold to Kavounideas Shipping Co. Ltd., Piraeus in 1961 and renamed SIRIUS. Her measurements were now Gt. 525 and nt. 369.

In 1964, she was sold to Saronikos S.A. Maritime Enterprises, Piraeus and renamed VORIOI. SPORADES. Greek sources give her as VOR. SPORADES.) Deleted from registers in 1988.

(Greek sources state that she was sunk off the coast of Metaponto in the Ionian Sea with on board radio active material. Another source gives that in 1970 she was sent to a scrapyard in Perama a suburb of Piraeus.)

Ernest Ferrante

Parramatta Football Club, commonly known as **Parramatta Melita Eagles** or just **Melita**, are a semi-professional



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 3.

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.



Photo: Xaghra plague hospital and cemetery

While parts of Malta were devastated by the plague, there was no outbreak of the plague on the island of [Gozo](#) in 1813. Communication with mainland Malta was restricted when the outbreak occurred in Valletta, which initially prevented the disease from reaching Gozo. However, when restrictions were lifted upon the end of the epidemic in Malta, an outbreak in Gozo occurred, although it was much smaller than the one in Malta.

It is believed that the disease was imported to the island through infected clothing which had been concealed during the Malta epidemic. Angelo Galea, a Gozitan who was in Qormi at the time out the outbreak, hid a box of clothes (including an [ghonnella](#)) from the authorities and took them with him when he returned to Gozo in late February 1814. He died in his house in [Xaghra](#) on 22 February 1814, a couple of days after his arrival. Like the first case in Malta, it was not believed that he died of the plague and his funeral was held at the village's [parish church](#).

On 28 February, Galea's daughter Rosa became ill and died soon afterwards at the hospital at [Rabat](#). There were fears that the plague had reached Gozo, and within a few days a number of Xaghra residents died of the disease. An outbreak of fever was reported on 2 March 1814, and it was confirmed to be plague five days later.

1813–1814 Gozo plague epidemic

Containment measures

On 8 March, Maitland cut off all communication between the islands, and the military was sent to cordon off Xaghra to prevent the spread of the plague to the rest of Gozo. The disease was successfully contained within the village, resulting in Gozo having a much lower death toll than Malta. On 13 March, Joseph Said wandered out of his house in a state of [delirium](#) after being infected, and he was shot dead by the police. Another man was executed by firing squad for concealing the disease on 31 March.

A farmhouse known as *tal-Qassam* located south of the village was requisitioned and converted into a hospital by 19 March. Known as the Tal-Fewdu plague hospital, it was led by the military doctor George McAdam. The dead were buried in a nearby field so as to limit the possibility of infection while transporting corpses. On 31 March, people who lived in houses where others had been infected were moved into a tented camp. The outbreak was already in decline by mid-April, but McAdam contracted the disease and died on 5 or 6 May.

The last death from the plague on Gozo was on 28 May. On 12 June, family members of plague victims were taken to [Ramla Bay](#) and were told to bathe in the sea three times a day under police supervision. This was believed to disinfect them from traces of the disease.

The Maltese Islands were officially declared to be free from the disease on 8 September 1814, and communication between the islands was restored on 14 September.

Hello Frank, yes I have received journal 323 and continue to pass it on to another six people who tell me they continue to enjoy. Thank you so much for your efforts in continuing to bring us this wonderful point of contact with our heritage as well as up to date news on current issues back here in Australia. I keep them all on my USB stick for future reading.

I appreciate receiving these publications and respect the time and effort that you put into this initiative - well done and thank-you! As a first generation Australian-Maltese, it's people like you (and my father) that I really look up to to better understand my heritage and embracing it as much as possible. Thanks Nicole



Lija Belvedere Tower

The Lija Belvedere Tower, officially Torri Belvedere, is a belvedere in Lija. It was built in the 19th century as a folly within a private garden, and it is now located on a roundabout. The belvedere tower was built in 1857 as a folly within the gardens of Villa Gourigion, a 17th-century villa which belonged to the Marquis Depiro. It was designed by the architect Giuseppe Bonavia.

In the 1950s, part of the villa's garden was destroyed to make way for Transfiguration Avenue. The belvedere was retained as a roundabout, and it is now one of Lija's landmarks.

The tower was restored in 1995 and 1996, and it is listed as a Grade 1 property by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. It is also listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands as part of Villa Gourigion.

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Celine Dion concert postponed to 2021 – sources

By Coryse Borg

Informed sources have told [Newsbook.com.mt](https://newsbook.com.mt) that the Celine Dion concert that was due to take place at the MFCC in Ta' Qali on the 27th July 2020 will be moved to some time in Summer 2021.

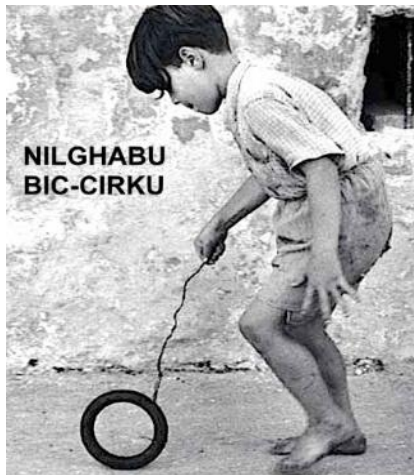
Tickets to see and hear one of the most legendary superstars in pop music history in Malta had sold out.

The concert, part of Dion's Courage World Tour, was organised by NNG Promotions.

Dion won numerous awards by the age of 18, dominated the pop charts in 1990s and has sold almost 250 million albums during her over 35-year career. She has earned five Grammy Awards, two Academy Awards, seven American Music Awards, 20 Juno Awards and an astonishing 40 Félix Awards. The singer recently also released new tracks from her highly anticipated upcoming album also entitled Courage. Dion remains one of the most sought-after recording artists, receiving the Diamond award at the 2004 World Music Awards recognising her status as the best-selling female artist of all time.



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STORY TO TELL – SEND IT TO
US AND SHARE IT WITH
OTHERS**



**NILGHABU
BIC-CIRKU**



**MISS MALTA
in the 50s**



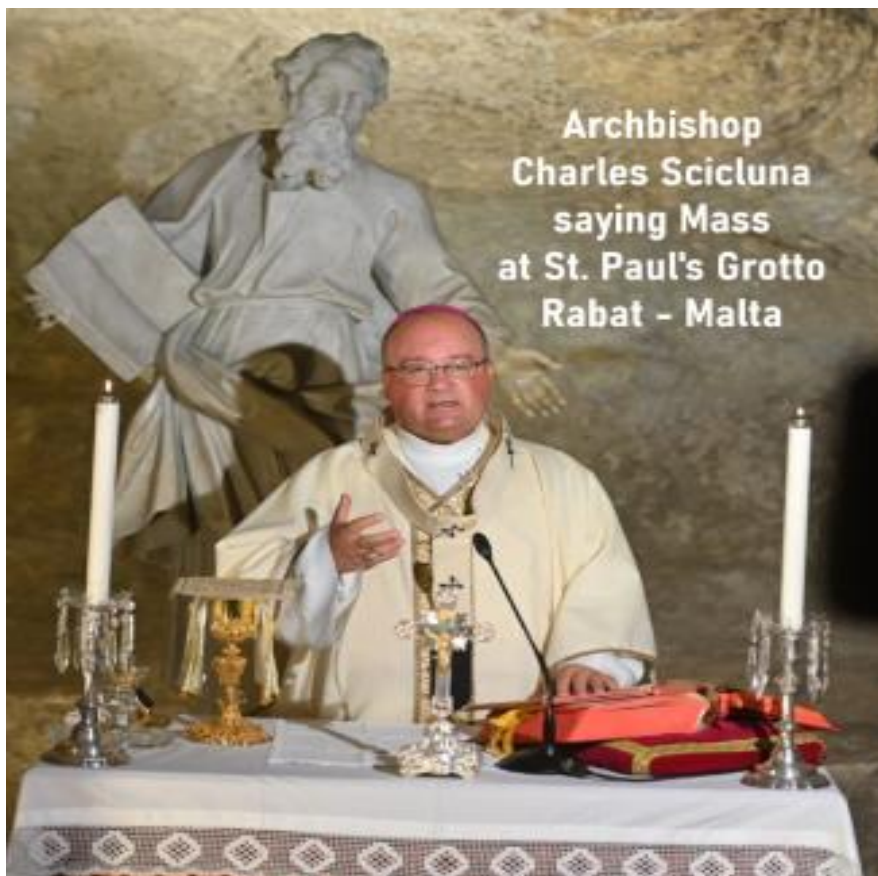
**WIGNACOURT ARCH
SANTA VENERA**



MALTESE HORSE-DRAWN HEARSE

I do appreciate receiving the Maltese Journal. I learn so much from it. (I'm Australian born as my parents were pre WWII migrants, but we spoke Maltese at home - rather "rahli".

DOWN MEMORY LANE



**Archbishop
Charles Scicluna
saying Mass
at St. Paul's Grotto
Rabat - Malta**

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MICHAEL FAVA

Michael plays the Tenor and Alto Saxophone with MMG Concert Band of Victoria. He commenced learning music at the age of 8 years of age. He was taught by Joseph Muscat and George Aquilina as his father move around the various bands in the early years. He then studied AMEB being taught by Victor Dougal.

Michael performed with the Malta Gozo Concert Band for approximately 5 years and the Maltese Own Band for approximately 5 years. Then when he was 9 years old, he played with many Maltese Bands in Malta and more recently, Banda San Mikiel in 2019 at Tal Grazzja Feast.

Music for Michael is a break from work, he takes his Mum and Dad out to band and has made many friends since re-joining in 2018 after a 26 year break. He is very passionate about his Maltese heritage being born to Maltese parents, he says he should have been born in Malta.

Michael thoroughly enjoyed the 2019 Gala Night, Christmas Spectacular hosted by MMG along with the band's Christmas performance at the Melbourne Zoo. The Stella Maris Feast is one of his favourite it is the feast his Mum's village in Malta celebrates.

Michael enjoys the functions and company that MMG provides and enjoys the short, medium and long term plans being thought of for the band success.

MMG Concert Band of Victoria MEET THE MUSICIAN

We would like to introduce you to Sandra. Read about Sandra's music journey
Photo Credit - Rose Meddings Photography - Memories to Last You A Life Time

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AUSTRALIA



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Ines Mousu' nee Bezzina Wettinger twieldet il-Gargur u hadet l-ewwel edukazzjoni tagħha fl-iskola Primarja ta' dan ir-raħal tal-Gargur.

Ta' tnax -il sena dahlet l-iskola Mater Boni Consilii tar-Raħal Ġdid, immexxija mis-sorijiet ta' St Joseph. Hemmhekk studjat għall-hames snin minn fejn gabet iċ-ċertifikati kollha meħtieġa tal-GCE biex tidhol it-*Teachers Training College* ir-Rabat. Mill-kulleġġ għaddiet mis-suġġetti meħtieġa biex tkun kwalifikata għalliema.

Mill-ewwel bdiet tghallem il-hames klassi fil-Gargur fejn kienet rispettata kemm mit-tfal kif ukoll mill-ġenituri.

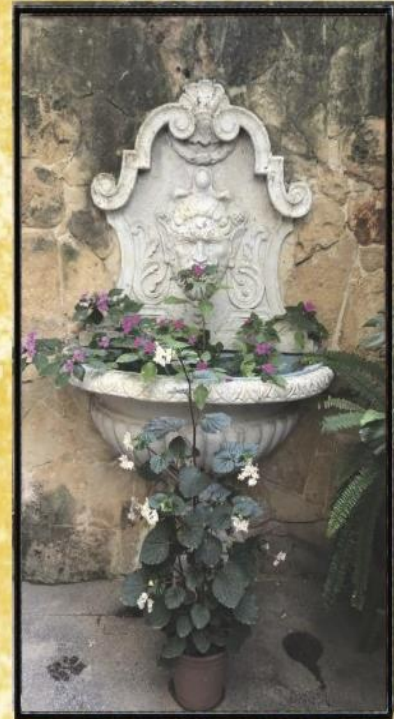
Fis-sena 1963 attendiet *course f'Hendersen Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne*, l-Ingilterra, Dan kien *bursary scholarship* li kien jismu *Teaching of English as a foreign language* li kien speċifikat għal dawk l-għalliema tal-Ingliż fil-pajjiżi fejn hija mitkellma din il-lingwa.

Fl-1986, waqt li kienet għadha tghallem, attendiet *evening course* ta' sena fix-xjenza fil-Biblioteka tal-Universita', kif wkoll *evening course* iehor ta' sentejn fl-istess xjenza. Dan tal-aħħar kien *Diploma Course* li bih gabet Diploma (DLIS) – *Diploma in Librarianship and Information Studies*. Bis-saħħa ta' din id-Diploma, hija giet aċċettata biex tmexxi l-fergħa tal-Librerija Pubblika f'San Gwann fejn damet għaxar snin. Ines thobb il-mużika u għandha t-tmin grad f'dan is-suġġett u għaldaqstant hija thobb iddoq il-pjanu.

Hija tinteressa ruħha hafna fl-ambjent u thobb is-siġar u l-pjanti. Ilha segretarja għal bosta snin fil-fergħa Maltija tal-*International Tree Foundation*.

Kullana ta' Kitbiet

Ines Mousu'



**Kunsill Lokali
San Gwann**

Gharb Window designated as one of three new Natura 2000 sites



New areas to form part of the European Union's Natura 2000 network have been designated to further complete the network for Malta, and includes Gozo's Wied il-Mielah, situated in the limits of Gharb, the Ministry for the Environment has said.

The area has also now been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and declared as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Wied il-Mielah, known mostly for its geology and It-Tieqa, was designated due to the presence of typical coastal plant communities and its cliffs, which also house important breeding and nesting area of seabirds, particularly the Yelkouan and Scopoli's Shearwaters.



THE AGIUS FAMILY

By Carmel Agius

MY PARENTS' MARRIAGE IN THE 20s

I dedicate this story of our family to the memory of my daughter, Teresa

When Mum and Dad were young, the parents would advertise that they had an available marriageable daughter, by placing two plant-pots in a front window. The pot on the right contained basil and the one on the left red carnations. At the request of a suitor the matchmaker (huttab), would go to the young lady's home to tell her parents that someone had noticed the carnation in their window and was interested in making a proposal of marriage.

The parents would assess the young man's suitability as husband for their daughter. If they find the young man suitable, they negotiate the dowry (dota): linen, furniture, clothing, gold, jewellery and money the girl would take to her new home. The girl had no say in the matter and the only contact the lovers had was eye contact or a furtive wink or a smile. After the necessary preparations, the dowry was carried to the new house of the bride in a glory box (senduq).

At a formal meeting of the two families called Gherusija (Betrothal), the future bride and groom exchanged rings and refreshments followed. The first time the engaged couple went out together (with a chaperone of course!) was usually to a special festa like L'Imnarja, (29 June), Santa Maria, (August 15) or San Girgor (March 12). Mum and dad did not follow these customs. Mum used to say that Nanna Angela did not want Dad to marry though he was 30 years old, because she did not want to miss his income which he contributed to the family for a long time. After the usual preparations were done, Dad went to the parish priest to set a date for the wedding. The wedding day was the 13th May 1926 and the ceremony took place at the local parish church Of Our Lady of Loreto, Ghajnsielem.

According to custom, Mum went to church on foot, accompanied by her father, mother, brothers and sisters. Nannu Toni was supposed to take Dad to church but he did not turn up. Mum, like all brides in those days, was dressed in black. She wore a Faldetta, a black silk dress, black shoes and stockings, gold rings, earrings bracelets and a big necklace. The wedding ceremony was conducted by Rev Francesco Mizzi the parish priest during nuptial mass. Mum and Dad knelt on kneelers, in the sanctuary, each holding a big candle. Coming out of the church, they were showered with grain for good luck and fertility. Then all walked to Nanna's house nearby, for the reception (trattament). In a room prepared beforehand the furniture had been removed and chairs placed all around.

Mum and Dad, Mum's family and the guests (haddara), were first served hot cocoa and Pane di Spagna, a kind of sponge cake fingers, then different kinds of cakes, tarts bonbons and an assortment of sweets. The men enjoyed small glasses of whisky rum, brandy and gin and the women were served vermouth, cherry brandy and other liqueurs. Dad's family did not attend the betrothal nor the wedding ceremony or reception. Dad was ostracized and Mum and Dad and later all of us, were treated worse than strangers by dad's family.



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PICTURE
TELLS A
STORY**

Malta 1930

Heritage watchdog demands protection of Mtarfa's cart ruts



Site of evident and high archaeological value

The appeals' board annulled the Planning Authority's decision to refuse permission and sent the file back to the planning watchdog to consider the application again, this time in light of the new report indicating the presence of historic cart ruts.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage as part of the new process before the Planning Authority.

The project, being pushed by applicant Ray Camilleri, is covered by PA9316/17 and was to be spread over two floors.

The evaluation found "archaeological features of high importance". The process involved the removal of soil down to rock surface within the entire site to determine whether there were any archaeological remains.

"The cart ruts discovered on site merit not only preservation but also scheduling as they form part of a network of cart ruts which are located less than 40m away from the proposed development, and which are safeguarded," it said.

In its report submitted to the Planning Authority, the superintendence said: "[It] objects strongly to the development as proposed and here expresses grave reservations that any development should be considered on a site of such evident and high archaeological value.

"The superintendence again notes that the cart ruts identified on this site form part of an extensive and significant complex which lie less than 40 metres from the development site and should therefore benefit from the same level of protection. The superintendence objects to this development application which should be refused."

It noted that despite submitting fresh plans, the project was still going to involve intensive development over a very extensive site in an area of considerable archaeological sensitivity and in the vicinity of recorded archaeological remains and that the project was still going to include extensive rock cutting.

Matthew Xuereb

The cart ruts in Mtarfa require full protection, the culture heritage watchdog has insisted. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

Cart ruts found on a site in Mtarfa earmarked for a cluster of 11 terraced houses, each with their own swimming pool, not only merit protection but also full scheduling, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has insisted.

In its report following an archaeological evaluation, the superintendence demanded the outright refusal of the project application, which also includes an underlying garage complex.

The strong position adopted by the superintendence was welcomed by objectors, including the residents, who insisted that the Planning Authority must now act to save the cart ruts from any development, which would ruin them for good.

Cart ruts are a complex network of tracks gouged in the rock, some of which have perplexed historians about their origin.

The project on a site that abuts Triq Joseph S. Calleja, Triq ir-Razzett l-Ahmar, Triq Mikiel Fsadni and Triq Tal-Palma, had already received the thumbs-down in October 2018, mainly because the development was being proposed on an archaeologically-sensitive area for which clearance from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage had not been obtained.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT MALTA