



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA
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**THESE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTERS ARE BEING PRESERVED
AT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM IN MALTA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

PRIME MINISTER TONY ABBOTT PRAISES OUTGOING G-G

Updated: 20:48, Tuesday March 25, 2014



Australia's first female Governor-General Quentin Bryce has been honoured for adding mightily to the lustre of the office.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten hailed the dignity, grace and warmth she brought to the role over the past five-and-a-half years, at a farewell parliamentary reception.

'Australia's first female governor-general has added mightily to the lustre of this great office,' Mr Abbott said on Tuesday. The outgoing governor-general is now Dame Quentin after Mr Abbott asked the Queen to restore the system of pre-eminent honours.

She finishes an extended term as the Queen's representative this week, making way for General Peter Cosgrove who replaces her on Friday. Her son-in-law, Mr Shorten, said she had always been a trailblazer and thanked her on behalf of a grateful nation.

'On a personal note there are 10 grandchildren who have loaned you to the nation,' Mr Shorten said. 'Seven in Brisbane and three in Melbourne who will be thrilled to get you back.'

Dame Quentin said she had set out to break new ground by balancing tradition with renewal.

'I wanted to be a modern governor-general,' she said. She fondly recalled school children's visits to her official residences, reminding her not to take herself too seriously.

'One little boy, in a forceful manner, asked How would you rate your job, Miss, on a scale of nought, really terrible, to 10, absolutely awesome?'

Another little boy, Shaun, living on a remote Northern Territory cattle station and attending School of the Air, is one of her favourite letter correspondents. 'He likes to let me know about his pet calves, especially the one named after me,' Dame Quentin said. Mr Abbott told assembled MPs, ambassadors and guests that Dame Quentin was no 'stuffy or aloof' viceroy. He recalled one of her visits to Australian troops serving in Afghanistan where she met a young soldier celebrating his 21st birthday.

'You lent over kissed him on the cheek and said Happy Birthday, that's on behalf of your mother', Mr Abbott said.

SIR PETER COSGROVE SWORN IN AS AUSTRALIA'S 26TH GOVERNOR-GENERAL



Sir Peter Cosgrove has been sworn in as Australia's 26th Governor-General, declaring it "the greatest honour" of his family's "fortunate lives".

The former Defence chief is the first man to be knighted under Prime Minister Tony Abbott's revived honours system.

He used his swearing-in address in the Senate today to pay tribute to Indigenous Australians, his predecessor Dame Quentin Bryce, and Cameron Corporal Baird - the special forces commando who was posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross in February this year.

"We hail and salute Cameron Baird," he said. "He lives in the injured hearts of

those he left too soon."

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, as he is now known, wore his string of military medals when he arrived at Parliament House in a motorcade.

Moments after being sworn in before Chief Justice Robert French he told parliamentarians, diplomats and the partially filled public galleries that he was "humbled and proud" to be assuming office and came to the role "agenda free."

Look back at how this sacked altar boy turned war hero rose to the top of Australian public life.

"To think that I will play some part in the public discourse extends to me, my wife and family the greatest honour of our fortunate lives," he said.

He said he would seek to "reflect" the community, saying his work as Australian of the Year in 2001 had prepared him for the work ahead.

"I pledge all of my energy and goodwill to all of the tasks of Australia's governor-general, not least those working within the wider community," he said.

Indicating that his spouse will play a high-profile role, the Governor-General said his wife, Lynne Cosgrove, would be listening to Australians alongside him. "My wife and I will be attentive to any and all agenda that we encounter that sit within a broad and fundamental set of Australian values," he said. A 21-gun salute fired as the Governor-General's speech came to a close and His Excellency's Standard was unfurled. Mr Abbott welcomed Sir Peter at an official reception for the new Governor-General and his wife. "You will be a knight for rolling up your sleeves and getting on with things," Mr Abbott said.

"Every human being wants to be uplifted and inspired and I can think of no better man than Peter Cosgrove to maintain our national morale and to find faith in ourselves. "I know, Sir Peter, you will approach this work with respect, discretion and judgment, and our government and our country will be the better for it." Opposition Leader Bill Shorten described the Governor-General as a person who "has the ear" of Australians.

"Your Excellency, rest assured that when a Governor-General speaks, Australia will listen," he said.





OBAMA TOLD OF VATICAN'S CONCERNS ON HEALTHCARE

Pope Francis and US President Barack Obama react as they exchange gifts during a private audience at the Vatican City yesterday.

Photo: Gabriel Bouys/Reuters

Barack Obama and Pope Francis share a more serious moment at the Vatican yesterday. Photo: Reuters

US President Barack Obama heard the Catholic Church's concerns over his healthcare plan while on a visit to the Vatican yesterday, but drew a cheerful response from Pope Francis when inviting him to visit Washington.

The President appeared at ease and joked during the parts of his meeting with the Pope that were open to a few reporters, but a brief Vatican statement issued later indicated that Obama's private talks there had a more serious side.

The statement said Obama, who was accompanied by Secretary of State John Kerry, was told of the Vatican's concern about "the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection" in the US.

This was a reference to the mandate in Obama's controversial healthcare plan which requires employers to cover the cost of contraception in insurance plans.

Catholics and members of other religions say the mandate, which is the subject of more than 100 law suits across the US, is a violation of their beliefs because it forces them to support contraception and sterilisation.

Obama later told a news conference in answer to a question that the Pope "did not touch in detail" on the healthcare act.

"I pledged to continue to dialogue with the US Conference of (Catholic) Bishops to make sure that we can strike the right balance," Obama said.

He acknowledged that there were differences of opinion between himself and the Pope on a number of issues but said the Pontiff could be an inspiration to politicians.

"His job is a little more elevated. We're down on the ground dealing with the often profane, and he's dealing with higher powers. I do think there is a potential convergence between what policymakers need to be thinking about and what he's talking about," he said.

The Vatican statement said the topics discussed included "current areas of conflict, which Vatican officials said was a reference to Ukraine and Syria. Obama invited the Pope to visit the White House and gave the Pontiff a symbolic gift of seeds of fruit and vegetables from the garden of the presidential residence.

HOW TO RESIST THE EASTER TEMPTATION



Supermarkets and gourmet food stores are hitting consumers with a bright and sparky array of Easter temptations designed to loosen control of both our appetite and weekly grocery budget.

Add kids in to the equation and resisting the pull becomes even harder. For those keen to keep Easter treats to the weekend try these helpful insights:

1. You don't eat turkey everyday leading up to Christmas, so why overindulge in hot cross buns? Instead plan a big Easter brunch using all those seasonal treats as the centre piece so the family has something to look forward to.
2. Ditto chocolate eggs. If you really must buy, keep them stashed away for a large-scale, festive Easter hunt eggstravaganza come Easter Sunday.
3. If kids really want to get stuck in to the spirit, try boiling eggs and painting the shells at home. Interactive and fun, it beats scoffing chocolate every time.
4. Try the same with Easter bonnets, or make an Easter countdown calendar so the kids can tick off the days and enjoy the anticipation.
5. Load your car, handbag or school bag with a 150ml Décor Realseal storer or 300ml Purple lunchbox packed with dried fruits and nuts for those times when hunger makes temptation harder to resist.



What a lovely memory **FOR AN-EX-PRESIDENT OF MALTA AND FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA**

On the 21 March 2011 the ex- President and Mrs Abela accompanied by the Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Employment and the Family, were welcomed by former Governor General Quentin Bryce AC and Mr Bryce AM AE at the Government House in Canberra.

Governor General Quentin Bryce also congratulated the country of Malta for the assistance to evacuate Australians from Libya during the recent events.

President George Abela thanked The Governor General and commented how proud he feels that the Maltese communities kept strong their Maltese identity and for keeping alive the Maltese traditions and culture. H.E. The President also encouraged the direct investments between Australia and Malta. Governor General Quentin Bryce later hosted The President and Mrs Abela and the delegation to an official state dinner at the Government House in Canberra



4TH MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MEETS IN MALTA

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad held its fourth meeting in a video conference on the 24 March 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Dr George W Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and gathered the ten representatives from among the Maltese communities established in Australia, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and in Member States of the European Union, as well as four Government-appointed experts who hail from Malta, Gozo, the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Council discussed a variety of issues on its agenda such as the teaching of the history of the Diaspora in Maltese schools, biometric passport services, the issuing of Maltese citizenship certificates, and other matters that impact directly



Photo - DOI - Pierre Sammut

or indirectly Maltese communities in other countries. Minister Vella recognised the important role that each member of the Council had in bringing to the fore the issues that concern Maltese communities established in other countries, reiterating his Ministry's commitment to ensure regular consultation, to facilitate the work of the Council, to identify the potential of Maltese living abroad, and to ensure strong bilateral relations with the countries where Maltese communities have been long settled.

In line with the Guiding Principles issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs last July, Minister Vella reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthen its relations with the Maltese Diaspora, to maintain the momentum on the progress achieved thus far in this regard, and most importantly to carve novel niches by which the

Maltese communities in other countries can assist in shedding the spotlight on Malta by identifying foreign direct investment, tapping new tourism markets and promoting Malta as an ideal destination for international conferences and incentives.

The members of the first council are: Lawrence Dimech and Dr. Gaetano Pace for New South Wales; Profs. Maurice Cauchi and Dr. Edwin Borg Manché for Victoria; Frank Scicluna for other states in Australia; Larry Zahra and Louis Vella for the United States of America; Joseph Scerri for Canada; Bernard Scerri for the United Kingdom; and Franklin Mamo for Europe. The five Maltese community experts living abroad, chosen by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Opposition are: Prof Stephen Gatt (Australia); Father Alfred Vella (Migrants Commission); Joseph Muscat (Gozo); Carmen Galea (Canada); and Rosalie Rivett (United Kingdom). Secretary of the Council is Mrs Maria Calleja. Next meeting will be held next October at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malta.

ITALIAN NUN BECOMES POP STAR SENSATION



Updated: 19:55, Saturday March 22, 2014

A Catholic nun has become an overnight pop sensation after stunning the jury of Italy's The Voice television talent show with her version of the Alicia Keys song No One.

Sister Christina Scuccia, a 25-year-old Sicilian, bopped about on the stage in her black habit and a large cross necklace on Wednesday night's show, sparking wild cheers from the audience and stunned reactions from the four judges.

'I came here because I have a gift, and I want to share that gift,' said the nun, who has an easy smile and is a member of the Ursuline Sisters of the Holy Family.

One of the judges, Italian rapper J-Ax, said he was 'moved to tears.'

She said she had been inspired to go on the show by Pope Francis, who 'told us to come out' of our convents and spread the word of God. Asked by judge Raffaella Carra what the Vatican thinks about her going on a talent show, she quipped: 'I'm waiting for a call from the pope!' Scuccia decided to become a nun after playing the part of a saint in a comic musical in 2007, according to Italian media reports. The video of her performance has gone viral in Italy, with even the Vatican's minister of culture Gianfranco Ravasi tweeting his admiration. 'If I had heard you sing in mass when I was young, I'd be pope by now,' J-Ax said, to the audience's delight.

Captain Henry Curmi (1890-1967)

(Photo above) Captain Henry Curmi, who fought at Gallipoli in 1915, many years later, was appointed Malta's first Commissioner in Australia.



Captain Curmi occupies a very important niche in the history of Maltese migration. He was Malta's first Commissioner in Australia at a time when Maltese migration reached its peak.

At 18 years he joined the Malta civil service. In 1910 he enlisted with the King's Own Malta Regiment, and saw action during the First World War in Egypt, Palestine, Gallipoli and Mudros where he was mentioned in dispatches.

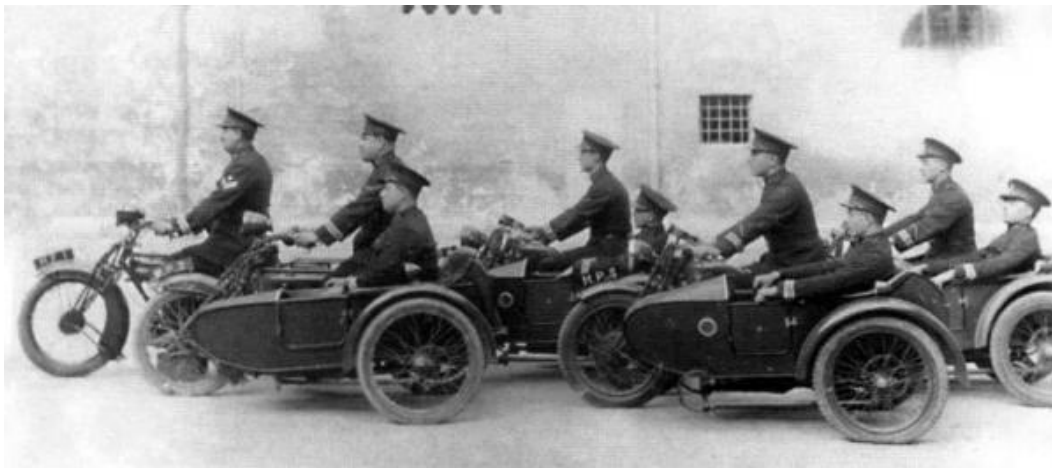
He went to Australia for the first time on January 1, 1929 as Maltese Commissioner, but had to return home the next year because of ill-health. He was back there six years later. His main aim was to improve the Australian understanding of the Maltese migrant, through his writings and contacts.

The number of migrants to Australia prior to the 2nd World War was not large, but he helped organised 'reception committees' to ensure that they were welcomed and jobs found for them. This committee was also active collecting food and clothing to send to the people of Malta during the war.

Australian policy to migration after the war changed dramatically, partly through the realisation of the need for an increase in population for defence purposes. The Immigration Minister at the time, Mr Arthur A. Calwell, as well as the trade unions became converted to the need for more migrants. A financial agreement, the Australia - Malta Passage Assistance Agreement was reached in May 1948, where adults would pay £10 and those between age 14-19 would pay half-price (children below that age went free of charge).

Captain Curmi was very much involved in all these negotiations and was instrumental in ensuring their success. He was also very much involved with the migrants themselves. Between 1949 and 1952, more than 15,000 Maltese had migrated to Australia.

Captain Curmi retired in 1952, aged 62 years. His main aims had been to obtain better recognition of Maltese in Australia, to improve the general tone of their life there, and to promote Maltese emigration. He died in Kew, in Victoria, aged 77 years.



Malta Police Force in the 1930s

ANOTHER STORY FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

MIGRANT SHIPS – HISTORY OF MIGRATION



The final adieu, November 1950 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.

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. Minto, wanted to know if there was any truth in the rumour that a child had died. Mr Minto 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.

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 her 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.

SS SKAUBRYN



Some of the Maltese male survivors of the MV Skaubryn on the wharf in Aden. The ship caught fire on its way to Australia not long after coming out of the Suez Canal and into the Indian Ocean
1951-58 - - Number of voyages From Malta to Australia - 4 Number of Maltese Passengers - 2576

The Skaubryn left Malta on the last day of March 1958, having embarked 169 men, women and children at Valletta. About 3 days out of Aden, in the Indian Ocean, fire swept the decks from the direction of the engine room and soon the vessel was engulfed in flames. Passengers were assisted to lifeboats, the ship was abandoned and soon sank. Some passengers were rescued by the 'CITY OF SYDNEY', a tanker and a tug. They returned to Aden, the passengers completed their journey to Australia in "Roma" and "Orsova!". No one lost their life in direct consequence of the fire.



**MALTESE CAN CUTTERS IN MACKAY,
QUEENSLAND**

THE GOZITANS AND MALTESE OF NEW CALEDONIA

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

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..

NOSTALGIA – FROM OUR ARCHIVES



CHILD MIGRANTS

[centre] Mrs Mary Borg and her nine children pictured after their journey from Malta on the liner Achille Lauro, 3 May 1971. **Photo: Fairfax Archives**

[right] Children immigrating from Malta, Lourratt Bartolo, 3, and her brother Mark, 6, arrived at Station Pier, Melbourne on the liner Sydney, filed 8 June 1964. **Photo: Fairfax Archives 1964**

[left] The Spiteri triplets from Malta stare from the liner Sydney as it reached Melbourne. The triplets - from left Jenny, Doris and Phillis Spiteri - arrived from Malta to take up residence with their parents in Melbourne. First published October 23 . **Photo: Fairfax Archives 1964**



Receiving the Charter March 1968

RSL MALTESE SUB-BRANCH

[SOUTH AUSTRALIA]

Charlie Farrugia, President of the RSL Maltese sub-branch receiving the charter from Brigadier Eastwick in 1968



MALTESE 'PASTIZZI' COULD BE PHASED OUT BY EUROPEAN UNION

Malta's traditional *pastizz* will have to go for a major recipe overhaul or else face extinction as a result of tough EU legislation to cut down on obesity.

In a drive to cut down on burgeoning health bills, the European Commission has published a list of 20 foods slated for a recipe makeover – and the Maltese *pastizz* is on it, *Times of Malta* has learnt.

Weighing in at some 350 calories each, the pea or ricotta *pastizz* is a Maltese delicacy which has lasted generations.

But with a recipe of butter, lard and filo pastry, in a report to be released tomorrow, the Commission described *pastizzi* as a "calorie explosion" which could be detrimental to health.

"The recipe of the Maltese pea or cheese cake means the level of saturated fats is way beyond what is healthy. Butter and lard must be eliminated and only low-carb pastry may be used," said Avril Fersten, the Danish head from DG Health.

Ms Fersten said the list of foods, which also includes Scottish haggis and a lard-based Spanish chorizo sausage, is expected to come in line with EU regulations by September or else be declared illegal.

Sources said that although some officials at Castille enjoyed eating pastizzi in their offices between meetings, the government would not be opposing the recipe change - despite threatening the use of the veto on other issues in the past.

"There are more important issues to concentrate on," he said, "and this may help us reduce hospital waiting lists. The offices at Castille are also set to be cleaner from now on and hopefully some of our people will be a bit fitter." However, Joe Camilleri, president of the Association of Maltese *Pastizzi* Makers, expressed outrage at the EU decision, saying the revised recipe would ruin the taste cherished by many Maltese. "If the EU thinks it can dictate to us what we put in our food, it has another thing coming. If we don't overturn this ridiculous legislation, we should pull out of the EU," an incensed Mr Camilleri said.

Eurostat figures recently placed Maltese men first in Europe when it comes to obesity while Maltese women are third. It is understood that the government, which has threatened to use its veto on other issues, will not stand in the way of the EU on this matter. Reducing Malta's rate of obesity by 4.3 per cent until 2020 would save the country €3 million a year, outgoing Health Ministry Godfrey Farrugia said last month.



Pastizzi, Gbejniet, Zalzett, Kinnie, Galetti and many other delicacies are now available in Adelaide, South Australia. Check out our Facebook page for product listing and prices, or feel free to contact me, Carol Brown (nee Mercieca) on 041 302 4932 or via email: carolcbrown58@gmail.com



TELEVISION MALTA

Television Malta (TVM) is the national television station of Malta. TVM is operated by Public Broadcasting Services Ltd (PBS). PBS Ltd is state owned. TVM broadcasts a mix of news, entertainment, magazines and teleshopping Malta.

VISIT THE WEBSITE www.tvm.com.mt

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TVM broadcasts a mix of news, sport, entertainment, magazine programming and children's programmes. It is funded through a government grant and commercial advertising. The majority of programmes broadcast on TVM are produced

externally of PBS. PBS publishes details of the types of programmes it wishes to broadcast on TVM and production companies provide PBS with a detailed report of their proposal for the programme.

Most programs are broadcast in Maltese, however the Maltese speak both Maltese and English so English also features, mainly in BBC and ITV titles. Sunday evenings are dedicated to classic British comedy, and English language films are shown on Saturday evenings. The English language feed of EuroNews is also broadcast daily.

In October 2011, PBS announced another overhaul of the TVM brand, to mark 50 years since the establishment of the Malta Television Service in 1962. The new branding pays homage to previous TVM identities, and makes use of the Maltese cross, which features heavily in the new L-Aħbarijiet title sequence. In March 2012, PBS started its trial transmissions on the new channel TVM 2, which has replaced Education 22 (E22). The broadcast time starts at around 15:00pm and finishes at around 12:00am.

On the 8th of March 2012, PBS also started trials of TVM HD, the first HD channel from Malta. The channel is available to all those who have Melita Netbox or iBox and can be found on channel 110. GO, Melita's main rival in the cable television industry on the Maltese Islands included the channel later in their schedule and also exclusively TVM2 HD. A new programme schedule was announced, including an increased number of news bulletins and a new current affairs-led breakfast show.

Watch News on SBS2 Australia produced by TVM every Sunday 8.00 – 8.30 am and Thursday from 8.00 to 8.30 am

THE UPPER BARRAKKA – VALLETTA MALTA



The Upper Barrakka Gardens are situated near Castille Place and possess unsurpassed views across the Grand Harbour over to the Three Cities. The origins of the Upper Barrakka Gardens go back to 1661, when it was a private garden of the Italian Knights, whose inns of residence (auberges) lie close by. It was not before 1824 that it was opened as a public garden and during WWII the garden suffered much

destruction.

The paths are lined with shrubs and with busts, statues and plaques that chart various personalities and other significant events in Maltese history.

Of special interest are the bronze group, known as 'Les Gavroches' (street urchins), by an early 20th century Maltese sculptor. Depicting three children hurrying forward, the idea behind this statue was the extreme hardship faced at the turn of the 20th century.

SPECIAL HAND POSTMARK – MALTA NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE



For the occasion of the 200th anniversary since the establishment of a public auditing institution in Malta, MaltaPost has said that a special hand postmark will be used on Tuesday, the 25th of March 2014 at the Philatelic Bureau of MaltaPost.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MALTA – IL-PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

The House of Representatives (rendered as *Kamra tad-Deputati* in Maltese) is the unicameral legislature of Malta and a component of the Parliament of Malta. The House is presided over by the Speaker of the House. The President of Malta is appointed for a five-year term by a resolution of the House.

Composition The House is composed of an odd number of members (currently 69) elected for one legislative term of five years. Ordinarily, five members are returned from each of thirteen electoral districts through single transferable vote but additional members are elected in cases of disproportionality (e.g., where party with an absolute majority of votes fails an absolute majority of seats and where only candidates from two parties are elected) to ensure strict proportionality.

Meeting place The House is housed in the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta.

Committees The Standing Orders of the House provide for the creation of six Parliamentary Standing Committees to make parliamentary work more efficient and enhance Parliament's scrutiny functions.

The Standing Committees are:

- Standing Committee on House Business
- Standing Committee on Privileges
- Standing Committee on Public Accounts
- Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
- Standing Committee on Social Affairs
- Standing Committee on Consideration of Bills

Other Standing Committees constituted by other statutes include:

- Standing Committee on Environment and Development Planning
- National Audit Office Accounts Committee

There are also select committees and non-official committees.

The main functions of Parliament are the enactment of laws and the scrutiny of the Executive

Tapestry Chamber

This hall was the former meeting place of the Council of the Order of St John where the Grandmaster would discuss the administration of the Order and the island with high ranking knights. It was later used by the British for official functions and social gatherings. This chamber was also the meeting place for the Legislative Council during the British rule and subsequently hosted Malta's first Parliamentary Assembly established through a Self Government constitution granted by the British in 1921 following a Maltese unrest. The last session of Parliament in this hall was held in 1976 when the former Armoury of The Palace was transformed into the



new Parliament Hall.

The tapestry set was appositely made for the chamber where it now hangs by the Gobelins Royal Factory (France) and funded by the Valencian Grandmaster Ramon Perellos y Rocaful (1697-1720). Known as the *Teintre des Indes*, it was commissioned in 1708 and completed two years later in 1710. The work was inspired by designs presented to King Louis XIV of France in 1679 by the Dutch Prince Johan Mauritz featuring exotic plants and animals. These were subsequently



included in painting compositions from which to-scale preparatory drawings were then prepared for the weavers to work on. This is the only known surviving set of tapestries still complete from the few sets of Teintures des Indes produced.

Of particular interest is the original coffered ceiling of this hall and the cycle of wall paintings representing naval battle scenes conducted by the Order against the Ottomans.

The Present House of Representatives

In 1976 the Hall in the Grandmaster's Palace that used to house the Knights' Armoury was chosen to become the new House of Representatives. Plans and designs were executed by Richard England.

Unfortunately the armour was hastily removed from its original gallery and transferred to the ground floor halls in order to make way for a new house of parliament.

It has been the wish of many that a New Parliament will be built so that the Armoury will be relocated back to its original location.

A New Parliament Building

In 2010, works commenced to build a new Parliamentary building. The government's original proposal had been to build Parliament on the site of the former opera house site in Valletta. This was shelved after the footprint was deemed too small and instead the new Parliament building will be built in Freedom Square. The building will be built to designs of Renzo Piano and is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

iNEWS MALTA IL-MALTIN ISSIBHOM KULLIMKIEN!

Daniela Attard Bezzina 26.03.2014



Hon George Vella waqt il-video conference mal-membri tal-Kunsill tal-Maltin li jgħixu barra

Jekk mingħalik li l-Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta jinsabu biss f'pajjiżi bħall-Awstralja, l-Ingilterra, l-Amerka u l-Kanada, sejjer imqarraq. Għax il-Maltin issibhom imxerrdin letteralment mal-erbat irjieħ tad-dinja – saħansitra f'pajjiżi li rari nisimgħu bihom, bħal Benin, Bhutan, Burma, Guam, Vanuatu, Tuvalu u Samoa. Fi kliem ieħor, lill-Maltin issibhom kullimkien.

Skont statistika uffiċjali li kiseb inewsmalta.com mill-Ministeru tal-Affarijiet Barranin, aġġornata sal-aħħar ta' Jannar li għadda, b'kollox bħalissa hemm 401,038 Malti jgħixu lil hinn minn xtutna. Jekk magħhom tgħodd lid-dixxendenti tagħhom sa hames generazzjonijiet, il-figura titla' għal 900,028.

Punt interessanti huwa li din l-istatistika tinkludi wkoll lill-Maltin li jaħdmu fuq ir-riggijiet u li jammontaw għal xejn inqas minn

13,900 ruħ.

Kif wieħed jista' jobsor, l-akbar numru ta' Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta jinsab fl-Awstralja – 170,000. Jekk magħhom tgħodd id-dixxendenti, jiġu 447,000. Imbagħad hemm l-Istati Uniti b'90,000 Malti (220,000 jekk tgħodd id-dixxendenti), il-Kanada b'70,000 Malti (126,000 bid-dixxendenti), u r-Renju Unit b'45,000 (81,000 bid-dixxendenti).

Permezz ta' din l-istatistika, wieħed jista' jqabbel ukoll kif żdied jew naqas in-numru ta' Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Marzu tal-2010 sa Jannar tal-2014. Hekk naraw - kif kien mistenni minħabba l-Maltin li jaħdmu f'istituzzjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropea - zieda sostanzjali ta' Maltin f'pajjiżi bħall-Belġju (minn 400 għal 668), Franza (minn 490 għal 602) u l-Lussemburgu (minn 150 għal 258).

Żdied sostanzjalment ukoll l-għadd ta' nies li jgħixu l-Germanja (b'118), Corfu (minn 3,500 għal 4,050), l-Italja (bi 396), New Zealand (minn 222 għal 412), Spanja (minn 180 għal 391), it-Turkija (minn 267 għal 391) u l-Emirati Għarab Magħquda (zieda ta' 483).

Diversi Maltin jgħixu f'pajjiżi li għal hafna minna huma postijiet eżotiċi u tal-holm li xi darba forsi nżuruhom għal btala, fosthom il-Bahamas (3), Barbados (2), Fiji (2), Haiti (2), il-Gamajka (1), il-Gappun (34), il-Maldives (2), in-Nepal (3), Seychelles (2), it-Tajlandja (43). Dawk li jgħixu f'pajjiżi li forsi mhux dejjem jattiraw daqstant lil dak li jkun biex imur jgħix fihom huma mferrxin fi nħawi bħall-Afganistan (2), Angola (9), Botswana (2), l-Eritrea (9), l-Etjopja (24), Ghana (1), l-Iraq (1), il-Kenja (21), in-Nambja (2), il-Pakistan (27), Samoa (2), is-Sudan (1), Tuvalu (2), l-Uganda (3), Vanuatu (3), il-Jemen (3), Żambja (2) u Żimbabwe (1). Ftit huma l-irkejjen tad-dinja fejn ma ssibx Maltin... u dawn jinkludu postijiet ovvjii bħall-Antartika!

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP - AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SAINT



Mary Helen MacKillop (1842-1909), known in life as Mother Mary of the Cross, was born on 15 January 1842 in Fitzroy, Melbourne, the eldest of eight children of Alexander McKillop and his wife Flora, née McDonald. Her parents had migrated from the Lochaber area in Inverness-shire and married soon after they reached Melbourne. After a prosperous start the family became impoverished.

Mary was educated at private schools but chiefly by her father who had studied for the priesthood at Rome. To help her family Mary became in turn a shopgirl, a governess, and at Portland a teacher in the Catholic Denominational School and proprietress of a small boarding school for girls. As she grew to womanhood Mary was probably influenced by an early friend of the family, Father Patrick Geoghegan, and began to yearn for a strictly penitential form of religious life. Concluding she would have to go to Europe to execute her plan, she placed herself under the direction of Father Julian Tenison-Woods who, as parish priest of Penola in South Australia

sometimes visiting Melbourne and Portland, wanted to found a religious society, 'The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart'; they were to live in poverty and dedicate themselves to educating poor children. With Mary its first member and Superior the society was founded at Penola on 19 March 1866 with the approval of Bishop Laurence Sheil. By then she was spelling her surname MacKillop. The Sisterhood spread to Adelaide and other parts of South Australia, and increased rapidly in membership but ran into difficulties. Tenison-Woods had become director of Catholic schools and conflicted with some of the clergy over educational matters. One priest with influence over the bishop declared publicly he would ruin the director through the Sisterhood. The result was that Mary was excommunicated by Bishop Sheil on 22 September 1871 for alleged insubordination; most of the schools were closed and the Sisterhood almost disbanded. The excommunication was removed on 21 February 1872 by order of the bishop nine days before he died.

In 1873 at Rome Mary obtained papal approval of the Sisterhood but the Rule of Life laid down by Tenison-Woods and sanctioned by the bishop on 17 December 1868 was discarded and another drawn up. Tenison-Woods blamed her for not doing enough to have his Rule accepted and this caused a permanent breach between them. She travelled widely in Europe visiting schools and observing methods of teaching, and returned to Adelaide on 4 January 1875. In March she was elected Superior-General of the Sisterhood. In journeys throughout Australasia she established schools, convents and charitable institutions but came into conflict with those bishops who preferred diocesan control of the Sisterhood rather than central control from Adelaide. In 1883 Bishop Christopher Reynolds, misunderstanding the extent of his jurisdiction over the Sisterhood, told her to leave his diocese. She then transferred the headquarters of the Sisterhood to Sydney. On 11 May 1901 she suffered a stroke at Rotorua, New Zealand. Although retaining her mental faculties, she was an invalid until she died in Sydney on 8 August 1909.

Mary's finest feature was her large blue eyes. Affectionate but determined, her virtues were multitudinous with charity towards her neighbour outshining all. Always regarded as holy, she was put forward in 1972 as a candidate for the honour of beatification and canonisation and on 1 February 1973 the Cause was formally introduced. Mary was beatified on 19 January 1995 at Randwick Racecourse, Sydney, in a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II. She was canonised as Saint Mary of the Cross at a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in St Peter's Square in the Vatican on 17 October 2010.



This decoration was awarded on the 15th April 1942 by King George VI to the people of Malta to 'bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people' during the great siege it underwent in the early parts of World War Two

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About Maltese Philately Malta's philatelic history goes back to 1860 and, with access to such a rich source of material, Maltese stamps are renowned around the world for their unique depiction of a wide variety of popular themes: history, architecture, art, maritime, flora and fauna to name but a few. Many Maltese stamps are mini reproductions of artwork produced by local artists, and are much sought after by collectors and philatelists, both locally and internationally.



Joint Issue with Israel

On 28 January 2014, MaltaPost will release a stamp in a joint issue with Israel. The subject of the stamp features "The Knights Hospitaller Halls" as a theme common to both countries. The two countries share a common connection as, at some stage, the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta (SMOM) occupied both.

The stamp was designed by Ronen Goldberg of Israel and was issued in sheets of 6 stamps. Each stamp measures 41 mm x 30.5mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The Malta stamps bear the Maltese Cross watermark. .



Re-print of 2010 "Occasions" stamp issue

Following requests by philatelists, MaltaPost shall be making available the re-print of the €0.37c from the "Occasions" stamp issue of 17 March 2010 in single se-tenant stamp format. The label attached to the stamp is personalised with the MaltaPost logo.

OUR YOUNG GENERATION HAS AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN OUR AGING COMMUNITY



A GROUP AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE YOUNGSTERS DRESSED IN MALTESE NATIONAL COSTUME PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF THE EVENTS IN THE CITY OF ADELAIDE



1. Malta was known as 'Melita' by the ancient Greeks and Romans. This means 'the island of honey'. 2. The Pharaoh Hound is the National Dog of Malta. In Maltese, the breed is known as Kelb tal-Fenek 3. The University of Malta is the oldest university in the Commonwealth outside of Great Britain.
4. Malta puts on 75 villages feasts to honour local patron saints between June and September. The feast, or *fešta* in Maltese, is a fabulous event with fireworks, bands and a religious procession. 5. The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem were given control of Malta in 1530 by Charles V of Spain. 6. Grand Master, Jean Parisot de la Valette, who gave Malta's capital its name (Valletta) actually laid the first stone to the city in 1566.
7. The earliest evidence of human settlement in Malta dates back over 7,400 years and the Megalithic temples are the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world. 8. The highest point on the island of Malta is at Ta' Dmejrek, some 253 metres above sea level. 9. The dome of the Mosta Dome, famously surviving a fallen bomb during WWII, is the third largest in Europe.

10 GOOD REASONS TO BRING BACK FISH ON FRIDAYS



Traditionally, seafood was consumed on Good Friday in place of other meat. Though over the years this seems to have fallen by the wayside.

Fish and other seafood are highly beneficial to our health, so perhaps it's time to revisit the tradition and bring back fish on Fridays. Here are 10 good reasons why!

1. **Seafood is highly nutritious.** It's low in unhealthy saturated fat and high in protein, making it a smart choice for weight control. Seafood also contains many others nutrients, such as Iodine (essential for maintaining thyroid gland function), Selenium and Zinc (both important for cell protection and growth).
2. **Many essential nutrients are found in seafood, including Omega-3 fats.** Two Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish are EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid). Our bodies don't produce Omega-3 fatty acids so we must get them through the food we eat. Omega-3 fatty acids are found in every kind of fish, but are especially high in fatty fish. Omega-3s are very important for heart health by lowering unhealthy levels of fat (triglycerides) in the blood, potentially reducing blood clotting that can lead to thrombosis, regulating heartbeat and helping to control blood pressure.
3. **Despite what you may have heard, you don't need to avoid seafood if you're concerned about high levels of cholesterol.** Though some seafood, namely crustaceans and molluscs like oysters and calamari, contain some cholesterol, dietary cholesterol has little bearing on our blood cholesterol levels.
4. **Omega-3s may prevent inflammation and reduce the risk of conditions like arthritis, in which swelling of the joints results in considerable discomfort.** Research has shown a link between Omega-3 consumption and the preventive and therapeutic treatment of both rheumatoid and osteoarthritis. Even though the therapeutic dose may be more than what we can easily consume through diet, keeping up your intake of oily fish can help.
5. **Eating foods rich in Omegas-3s is vital during pregnancy** to ensure proper foetal growth and development, particularly of the brain and eyes. Research has also shown fish consumption in pregnancy may reduce the risk of premature births.
6. **Over 50% of the human brain is composed of fat – a large portion of which is Omega-3 fatty acids.** It's no surprise then that seafood, especially oily fish consumption, is associated with positive brain health. It's been shown that those who consume greater amounts of seafood are less likely to suffer from mood and cognitive disorders such as depression, memory loss and Alzheimer's.
7. **There is a huge range of options when it comes to seafood.** Oily fish like salmon, mackerel and oysters contain the greatest levels of Omega-3, while white fish like snapper and whiting are extremely low in fat, with comparable protein levels to red meat. Shellfish like mussels, prawns and oysters are an excellent source of minerals like Iodine and Zinc, and contain greater levels of Iron and Vitamin B12 than beef.
8. **Incorporating seafood into your diet can be no-fuss and cost effective.** Prawns and calamari can be simply marinated in olive oil, garlic and lemon juice before skewering and grilled, great for an autumn barbecue. For an easy lunch, try canned fish like tuna or salmon – which, when bones are included, contain the added benefit of calcium for strong bones and teeth.
9. **By eating fish 2-3 times per week, as is typically recommended, you may be having a really positive impact on your health.** And with so many ways to enjoy seafood - baked, grilled, barbecued, poached, stir-fried and steamed – the possibilities are endless.
10. **And if you're not a seafood lover, or have a seafood allergy, you can still reach the recommended 500mg of Omega-3 per day.** Small amounts of Omega-3 are found in foods like lean beef or lamb, as well as Omega-3 enriched milk, bread and eggs. Plant based Omega-3 can also be found in nuts and seeds (especially walnuts), flaxseeds, and spreads derived from soybean or canola. If you're still concerned that you're not reaching the recommended amounts, you could include a fish oil supplement in your diet. Look for one that contains the highest levels of Omega-3, at least 500mg in a daily dose.

EDGAR PRECA, THE SHY FIRST GENTLEMAN

In his college days, Edgar Preca's first attempt at billiards was so unsuccessful that one of his friends jibed: "First Division stuff".



From then on 'Il-First' became his life-long nickname. And from Friday, 'Il-First' will take on another meaning as his wife Marie-Louise Coleiro becomes the new President, and he will be Malta's First Gentleman.

This will mean a drastic change in lifestyle for the shy, introvert Mr Preca, 57, from Valletta, who has suddenly found himself in the limelight. "I can't say I was excited about it in the beginning. But I didn't want to make it more difficult for her, so I am giving her all

my support. I want to be her rock," he says.

He is still getting used to the idea of moving to San Anton Palace, located just around the corner from their apartment in Balzan. He hopes his wife's new role will at least give them some more time together.

They get up at 4.30am every day. "We have a cup of tea, we say the rosary together, and sometimes we go over the papers together. At 6am the telephone starts ringing and it does not stop. "In the evening she comes in late, I warm up her food, we chat a bit and then we wrap up the day," he said. And invariably she's late.

"But I'm used to it – she was late even on our first date," he said. The couple met 12 years ago at the General Workers' Union cafeteria in Valletta, when they were introduced by a common friend. Ms Coleiro gave him her number and told him to stay in touch.

"But I was too shy to do that – you know with her being an MP and all that," he says. Four years later, at Christmastime, they bumped into each other at the very same cafeteria. "She called me out by my name – she remembered me after four years." Within 18 months they were married. His role as First Gentleman will be a full-time one, most notably as chairman of the Malta Community Chest Fund. Mr Preca retired from work two years ago following a 34-year career in management at Air Malta.

Although he loved his job "and the airport", he opted to take the voluntary early retirement scheme so he could help his wife in her electoral campaign, even going door to door to campaign for her. "She has long days so it makes sense that I run the household myself. I support her but I am not doing anything special, it's my duty... and I believe in equality."

"And of course, being from Valletta, I am a great City fan – I spent my younger days at the football stadium." Together the couple enjoy going for walks, or simply watching an interesting television programme together. Ms Coleiro's daughter lives with them. Family is very dear to him. He spent 20 years nursing his elderly ill mother and would do it all over again.

He strongly believes that "the family that prays together stays together". Perhaps it stems from the fact that the brother of his great-grandfather is St Ġorġ Preca

SEE YOU AGAIN SOON – SAHHA U SLIEM