



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR



FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW



From Malta to Rwanda



Malta sent 135,000
Covid-19 vaccine
doses to Rwanda



THE MALTESE
LIVING ABROAD
WISH THE
PRIME MINISTER
OF MALTA,
HON ROBERT ABELA
AND MRS ABELA
A HAPPY WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

THESE
FOUR
AUTHORS
WON
NAZZARENO
VASSALLO
AWARD
2021



Charles Casha, Trevor Zahra, Rita Saliba and Joseph Debono



JUNIOR
EUROVISION
SONG
CONTEST

PARIS 2021

Kaya and Iko



We love to hear from you

THIS JOURNAL IS THE MOUTHPIECE OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Four authors win Nazzareno Vassallo Award



Maltese authors Charles Casha, Joseph Debono, Rita Saliba and Trevor Zahra recently received the Nazzareno Vassallo Award 2021 organised by CareMalta as part of the Vassallo Group's 75th anniversary. The ceremony took place at San Anton Palace under the distinguished patronage of President George Vella.

The NV Annual Award for Initiatives in Elder Care - the first edition of which was held in 1998, five years after CareMalta was founded - honours the achievements of individuals or organisations whose initiatives improve the lives of older persons physically, emotionally and psychologically.

For this year's edition, the call for nominations focused on initiatives that made a difference to the lives of older persons during the pandemic. The four authors left a huge positive impact on the lives of older persons during the pandemic through the wonderful worlds of books and literature.

Some of the stories, which the authors narrated online, were read with a humouristic touch, or written specifically for COVID-19 times. Others brought back nostalgic memories of the past. To many older persons, especially those with a passion for reading, these reading sessions were like manna from heaven.

It was also wonderful for them to interact with the authors, create new friendships and learn more about books.

The selection board, chaired by former prime minister Lawrence Gonzi, included former

journalist Keith Demicoli, who also compered the event, MCAST lecturer Sharon Balzan, Rudolph Cini, chief nursing manager at Mater Dei Hospital, and Claudette Gauci, president of the Maltese Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

In his report Dr Gonzi noted that there was a particular emphasis on reading in this year's edition as opposed to previous awards. "This is a reflection of the fact that books and literature provided vulnerable older persons with solace and company during the difficult moments of solitude, having been physically separated from their loved ones," he said.

During this occasion, messages by President George Vella, Nazzareno Vassallo, chairman of the Vassallo Group, and Natalie Briffa Farrugia, CEO of the CareMalta Group, were also delivered. Pio Vassallo, CEO of the Vassallo Group, and James Sciriha, director of CareMalta, were also present.

The other award nominees and organisations were Kenneth Abela from Naxxar's parish centre, Tarxien mayor Joseph Abela Galea, Dianne Giordmaina from Malta Libraries, the Department of Active Ageing & Community Care, Connie Bonett from Siggiewi's Active Ageing Centre, Missio, Dar Saura's manager, Josiah Grech, Malta Libraries, Mission Fund, Simblija Care Home, the University of the Third Age and WasteServ Malta Ltd. - Article publish in newsbook. WE ALWAYS READ NEWSBOOK.COM.MT



**Congratulation from all of
us
Maltese Living Abroad**



Malta donates 130,000 vaccine doses to the people of Rwanda

, Press Release Issue Date: Oct 13, 2021

The Government of Malta has committed itself to donate more than 130,000 vaccine doses to the Government of Rwanda, while it continues to show solidarity with countries in need. A special

Air Malta direct flight to Kigali, Rwanda, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, is expected to leave Malta at 2am Friday 15 October.

In line with the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs' Strategy for Africa, in recent months, Malta has begun a campaign of donating tens of thousands of vaccine doses to countries who have been struggling to obtain enough of them. Thus far, this vaccination sharing campaign has involved donations from Malta to Libya and Egypt, with additional donations expected to be finalised in the coming weeks and months. The vaccination-sharing effort has been jointly led by officials from the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and the Ministry for Health, working closely with the Civil Protection Department. Collectively almost 200,000 vaccine doses have been donated so far.

One of the ongoing realities of the COVID-19 pandemic is that, access to vaccines aiming to reduce its impact, continues to be unequal.



1.6 million people travelled between Malta and Gozo in summer

Just over 1.6 million people travelled between Malta and Gozo between July and September across 12,758 trips, new data published by the National Statistics Office shows.

Between July and September 2021, a total of 12,758 trips were carried out, carrying a total of 1,605,604 passengers. August was the busiest month recording a total of 4,282 trips or 33.6% of total trips for the quarter. A total of 1,402,030 passengers travelled between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa during the third quarter of 2021, an increase of 9.7% when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2020. The highest number of passengers was recorded in August - 487,074 or 34.7% of the total for the quarter.

When compared to the previous year, the number of vehicles increased by 5.7%, thereby totalling 551,438. The number of trips between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa amounted to 8,552, an increase of 3% over the same period in 2020.

During January-September, both passenger and vehicle traffic originating from Ċirkewwa was busiest on Fridays and Saturdays. On the other hand, from the Mġarr terminal, passenger and vehicle traffic was highest on Sundays and Mondays.

Meanwhile, a total of 4,206 trips of the fast ferry service between Mġarr and Valletta were carried out during the third quarter of 2021, carrying a total of 203,574 passengers.

The majority of trips took place in September - 1,419 or 33.7% of total trips for the quarter, whereas the highest number of passengers travelling between Mġarr and Valletta was recorded in August - 73,104 or 35.9% for the quarter.



Malta has spoken: Ike and Kaya will pack their bags for Paris. The duo will represent the Island of Malta with the song 'My Home' Ike Mizzi has been involved in the music industry for around 2 years and he says that his life has never been better! For Kaya Gouder Curmi music has been her passion since when she was just 5 years old. She has competed in different festivals, including SanRemo Junior where she placed first in her category. The pair competed together in *Malta's Got Talent* this year and finished in fourth place during the live final.



Passage of the South Australian Multicultural Bill 2021



**Ms Jing Lee and Premier Steven Marshall
displaying the Bill**

On 14 October 2021, the landmark [South Australian Multicultural Bill 2021](#) passed both Houses of Parliament and will soon become law.

This historically significant occurrence fulfils the Government's aim of providing new legislation that reflects the needs of our multicultural state today and sets a foundation for modern policy directions.

Developed following the 2019 review of the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980*, the state's sole piece of multicultural legislation, the South Australian Multicultural Bill will replace the SAMEAC Act.

The Bill reflects the feedback received during the review consultation, which strongly supported the need for us to expand our thinking on multiculturalism. To this end, the concept of interculturalism has been incorporated into the legislation as being inclusive, contemporary, and encouraging greater collaboration and the exchange of information and ideas between all sectors of our diverse community.

The centrepiece of the new legislation is the South Australian Multicultural Charter, which will be developed following the passage of the legislation. The Charter will be a set of principles defining what multiculturalism and interculturalism mean to all South Australians. The development of the Charter will be led by the South Australian Multicultural Commission, which is charged with the responsibility of leading community consultations as a vital part of this process.

We look forward to working with you and your community to progress the future development of exciting new multicultural policy for our great State.

Daphne Caruana Galizia: Four years on from her murder



Index joins the Maltese community, Reporters without Borders, PEN International and others to mark grim anniversary

Vigil outside the Maltese High Commission in London to mark the fourth anniversary of Daphne Caruana Galizia's murder

The vigil for Daphne was co-sponsored by the Maltese community in London, ARTICLE 19, the Association of European Journalists, the Commonwealth Journalists Association, Index on Censorship, PEN International, Reporters Without Borders, and Transparency International-UK.

Heritage Malta commemorates Dun Karm Psaila with an exhibition marking 150 years since his birth

13/10/2021

Heritage Malta is inviting the public to a contained exhibition commemorating the memory and the literary works of Dun Karm Psaila, Malta's National Poet, this being the year marking the 150th anniversary since he was born. The exhibition is being held at the National Art Museum, MUŻA, and runs until the end of October.

It was inaugurated today, 13th October, exactly 60 years to the day when Dun Karm passed away, nearly 90 years of age. The poet's



date of birth is also in October – he was born in Haż-Żebbuġ on 18th October 1871.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, José Herrera. Kenneth Gambin, Heritage Malta's Chief Operations Officer, was also present.

Minister Herrera outlined Dun Karm's prolific career, stressing his role as one of the founding members of the local writers' guild, Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti, and as the author of the words of the Maltese National Anthem to Robert Samut's music. Dun Karm also penned the lyrics of several religious hymns sung in Maltese churches to this day.

Minister Herrera remarked that Dun Karm started to write in Maltese somewhat late in life, so much so that up till 1912 he was still writing solely in Italian, but the poems he wrote in his native tongue are evidence of a remarkable adeptness at expressing his thoughts in the most beautiful idiom and vocabulary. These works attest to Dun Karm's love of rural life, his deep solitude particularly following his mother's death, and his profound thoughts on human existence, so excellently expressed in his masterpiece *Il-Jien u Lil Hinn Minnu*.



On his part, Kenneth Gambin said that this exhibition is small in terms of display but rich in value, since it honours Dun Karm's priceless contribution to Maltese literature. He added that the exhibition offers for the first time an opportunity to view under one roof a bust of the National Poet by Ġorġ Borg, some of his personal belongings including a pen and glasses, and a handwritten poem. He also mentioned Heritage Malta's student passport and urged

children and teens to visit this exhibition and the rest of MUŻA using their passport. He added that besides this exhibition, Heritage Malta is collaborating with the National Festivities Committee and Maltese language associations in the activities they are organising in Dun Karm's honour, such as the cleaning of the poet's monument in Floriana and the offering of space in its museums for these activities.

Year 6 students from the Floriana Primary School took part in the inauguration, reading poems by Dun Karm as well as the Maltese National Anthem. They later visited the 'Masterpieces at MUŻA' exhibition which runs until the end of October. Entrance to the exhibition is free of charge. Opening times are the same as MUŻA's, that is from 10.00am till 4.30pm daily



MALTESE FOLKLORIC GROUP IN ADELAIDE 1966



The two colour photos were taken at the river Torrens after the Maltese dancers marched down Rundle Street, Adelaide, South Australia on March 1966. Joe Chetcuti was the flag bearer and Georgina Chetcuti and her dancing partner John Hili also participated in the Maltese traditional Dances. The two BW photos show the group and Georgina & John again. Some of the dancers were Georgina Chetcuti & John Hili, Carmen Zammit & Lino Zammit Tony Piscopo & Nina Piscopo, Mary Mallia and several others whose names I can't remember.

It would be interesting to see if some of the dances come forward and comment, We danced under the banner of the GOOD NEIGHBOUR COUNCIL Tony Piscopo was the principal dancing teacher with the help of his mother Nina and Mary Mallia.

The material for the ladies' skirts was brought from Malta but I don't know who made them. We danced at many functions, including the Barossa Valley. It was a great time.

We also had a display of the Maltese Cross on Flower Day in Victoria Square at the city. I had a photo of Nina Piscopo who met the Queen's mother who admired and commented on the Maltese display. It's a pity I misplaced the photo. If my memory is right flower day went for a week and the major retail stores competed for the best flower display.

Photos supplied by Joe Chetcuti of Netley, South Australia

ACTIVE MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Maltese Community Council of SA
Maltese Guild of South Australia Inc
Maltese Senior Citizens Association
Maltese Community Radio EBIfm

Maltese Franciscan Sisters (Lockleys)
St. Catherine Society of SA Inc
Maltese Queen of Victories Band Inc
Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group

Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer statue celebrates 90th birthday



The Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil. Photo: AFP

The iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer that towers over Rio de Janeiro celebrated its 90th birthday on Tuesday, with a Mass, a new song and a Brazilian brandy label dedicated to it.

The religious ceremony was initially slated to take place at the foot of the giant statue, but, because of bad weather, it was performed at the Metropolitan Cathedral in central Rio.

"We Cariocas are used to looking to Christ who is often hidden in the clouds, but we know he is there," city archbishop Orani Tempesta said during the Mass, referring to Rio de Janeiro residents.

"We are still going through the pandemic, but with an optimistic outlook thanks to vaccination. The dark clouds of last year are dissipating," he added. Brazil has the second-worst death toll in the world from COVID-19, with over 600,000 people killed.

Before the outbreak, the 38-metre statue located at the top of Corcovado hill and known as one of the Seven Wonders of the modern world, attracted nearly two million visitors per year.

It was closed for several months last year due to the pandemic and visitors must now present a vaccination certificate to access it.

Last month, Brazilian composer Moacyr Luz released a song, titled "Alma carioca, Cristo Redentor" (Rio Soul, Christ the Redeemer), that he dedicated to the statue's anniversary.

Another gift was the launch of the Redeemer cachaca, a line of the famous Brazilian drink with the image of Christ on the bottle. The idea belongs to Omar Raposo, the charismatic priest in charge of the Sanctuary of Christ the Redeemer. "It's a way of giving value to national products," Raposo told AFP.

In 1921, the Catholic Church sponsored a contest for the construction of a religious monument to mark the centenary of Brazil's independence from Portugal. Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa and French sculptor Paul Landowski designed and built the statue that was inaugurated on October 12, 1931. In 1973, it was declared a Historic Monument and in 2007 it was classified among the New Seven Wonders of the World.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



**Our Journal is reaching readers from all over the world.
It is serving as a link especially among the Maltese
living in Malta and those living overseas.
It is free non-political and easy to read. Share it with
your relatives and friends. Become a member of our
family - contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com**

FROM MOSTA TO MELBOURNE

Sean Richardson

A Sunday evening in Mosta. Bottles of Kinnee, Coke and Jack Daniels were on the table, alongside plates of oven fresh pastizzi and hobz biz-zejt. The grandchildren of Mary Bezzina were running around the room, getting tangled amongst the legs of the adults and the older children. The childish laughing was drowned out by the raucous and animated family discussion. Sitting quietly at the end of the table, where the younger children would occasionally crawl onto his lap, sat Father Silvio Bezzina.

From Mosta, at his mother's house, the oldest of six children, Silvio would years later land in Melbourne, in the middle of a pandemic, to carry on the work of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP).

The MSSP was founded by Joseph DePiro, a Maltese priest, in 1910. The first missionary, Brother Joseph Caruana, was sent by Joseph DePiro himself to Abyssinia (modern Ethiopia). Joseph DePiro was the son of one of the noble families residing in Mdina. The MSSP which runs a number of missions in Malta and around the world is not considered to be a big congregation when it comes to numbers. But it has a great heart. It comprises of about 85 priests and lay brothers, mostly Maltese, and some Peruvian, Australian, Filipino, Vietnamese and Pakistani members. Quite a large number of lay associates take part in the mission and share in the same charism.

Joseph DePiro was very much involved in the leadership of orphanages in Malta, caring for the needs of many young boys and girls coming from poor and difficult backgrounds. He made sure that during their stay at the orphanages, the children were well fed, clothed, housed, educated, and given the opportunity to learn a trade. That same outlook is held close to the heart of the MSSP missionaries wherever they minister.

The MSSP has centres located around the world, such as Malta, Italy (Rome), Canada, Cuba, Peru, Pakistan, Philippines, and Australia (Melbourne and Sydney). Over time the mission has adapted to the needs of the particular community they are serving.

The first missionaries in Australia came to minister to the needs of Maltese migrants in the late 1940's,

but since then have also moved to pastoral activity among people of different backgrounds. In

Peru, the missionaries work among mostly poor communities. Besides seeing to their spiritual needs, schools, clinics, and soup kitchens (meals on wheels) are organised.

Like many adventurous Maltese through the MSSP, Silvio is influencing and serving people in places far away from his Mediterranean home. Silvio is continuing this pastoral tradition in Victoria, Australia, simultaneously reinforcing the historic links between Malta and Australia. Silvio is presently ministering as the assistant parish priest in the parish of St. James the Apostle, Hoppers Crossing, Melbourne. This is one of the COVID hotspot areas where he serves as a priest in the local multi-cultural community.

His journey is a long one from his ordination by Bishop Joseph Mercieca in 1990 at St. John's Co-cathedral in Valletta to landing in Melbourne in 2019. The MSSP has been an integral companion on this journey that started in Malta by contributing to various Society activities.

The long association with the MSSP, was forged through St. Paul's Missionary College, a Church Secondary School in Rabat Malta. It was the place where Silvio first came into contact with the Society's missionary charism and work, and to which he was attracted.

Silvio's exploration of a path in life was formed when, in response to the young man's question regarding what he needed to do to gain eternal life, Jesus finally invited him to give up everything and follow Him. God's call to leave everything behind and dedicate himself to the proclamation of the Gospel was something Silvio felt in his heart. God's love and providence, which he experienced and shared with many, together with a love for the missionary work, evolved when he formally joined the society at the age of eighteen, and has continued to develop to this day.



During the years of Education and Theology studies, Silvio taught on a part-time basis at St. Paul's



Missionary College (SPMC). While being a full time teacher of physics and religion after his ordination, he was involved at the DePiro Youth Centre in Rabat. Then came four years of formation ministry with younger members of the MSSP.

Silvio's commitment to the mission's work continued in the roles of assistant director and then director of the orphanage at St. Joseph's Home, while also serving as Provincial of the Society in Malta. St Joseph's Home was a service which Joseph DePiro himself loved and to which he dedicated so much energy.

The St. Paul's Missionary College was founded in 1964 by the Society. It was, and still is, a tuition free school, originally catering for boys of secondary school age. At that College, Silvio received his secondary education, and taught for 13 years before becoming Assistant Principal, and then serving as Rector/Principal for 9 years. Continuing and building upon the work carried out by earlier principals, staff and parents, Silvio oversaw the continued development of the College. This included transitioning the college focus from high-ability to mixed-ability teaching and learning, and opening the new primary sector of the College in 2011. By 2014, all year groups enjoyed a full complement of students. The ages of the 550 odd students ranged from 5 to 16 years. In the meantime, the college auditorium, sporting facilities (including a sports pavilion), and new classrooms were built or upgraded.

In his teaching and pastoral work, Silvio contributed to the progress and growing maturity of students coming from different backgrounds and abilities.

The road was not easy, but he experienced many special and proud moments.

"In one particular year, an intellectually bright student achieved top marks in 9 subjects, and a student with a disability achieved enough grades to continue with post-secondary education. Both achievements brought me great joy."

Pastoral activity, whether engaged in Malta, Peru (a mission which he visited a number of times), Ireland or Australia, is truly a vocation, bringing a personal joy which has sustained Silvio's commitment over such a long journey.

When time permits a break from his pastoral duties, Silvio likes to explore his interest in scientific matters and nature which is expressed through a love of walking, cycling, swimming and diving. Making a home base in the Hoppers Crossing parish has given Silvio an opportunity to try his hand at wood work and gardening.

In between lockdowns in Australia, Silvio was able to travel to NSW to meet up with family and friends. Silvio's kindness all those years ago of showing us beautiful areas of Malta away from the normal tourist areas, we were able to reciprocate by showing him around our beautiful central coast region.

At our table in a somewhat quieter house, Silvio had taken time out from his important pastoral duties bringing the mission's work to the Australian region of the Society, educate us about his passage to Australia and we were able to reconnect the links to the times we shared in Malta.

ABOUT SEAN RICHARDSON Sean is an Australian writer who lives with his wife at Umina Beach on the central coast of NSW, an hour north of Sydney Australia. He is a father of twin adult boys. Sean's writing focus is to produce financial thriller novels set in Malta. This focus combines his twenty years' of experience working in Australian banking and a deep affection for Malta. Sean and his family have visited Malta multiple times and spent a family gap year living in the town of Swieqi in Malta. Sean's aim in his writing is to tell intriguing stories through the banking industry's "*behind the scenes*" characters and situations that usually go unnoticed, until something goes awry with devastating consequences. Through telling the stories of these unseen characters, set in an amazing country, Sean's intent is to impart the affection he has developed for Malta's physical beauty and the vibe of its people, and culture.

Sean has had writing published in several places:

- In Short Fiction Break for the short stories *Falling Forward* and *The Wash*, both set in Malta.

- As a contributing writer to the *Malta Journal* (connecting the Maltese diaspora).
 - As a contributing writer to the Australian Institute of Project Management industry magazine.
- Feedback on Sean's writing has been:

"You did a fantastic job building up the tension and your descriptions are beautifully vivid." "I really enjoyed the imagery. I could really see the place and smell it." "I loved the way you wrapped up the story." "Very cinematic, the writing really takes you into the action."

Wrestler Maltese-American Bonavia 'The Damager', Living In New York



A team of artists led by filmmaker Charlie Cauchi have been gathering stories of Maltese people living abroad as part of a Valletta 2018-supported trans-media project called *Latitude 36*. Their travels have seen them visit [Detroit](#), Toronto... and more recently New York.

It's here that they met **Malta The Damager**, a seven-foot, second-generation Maltese wrestler who's somewhat of a cult icon in Queens.

When not dressed in a long black cape adorned with an eight-pointed cross, Malta The Damager goes by the name of James Bonavia. Steadily approaching 50 years old, Bonavia was born into the world of professional wrestling. His uncle, Barron Mikel Scicluna, was an early pioneer of the Worldwide Wrestling Federation, and his grandfather was a bodyguard

for Archbishop Gonzi.

According to his Pro Wrestling mission statement, Malta The Damager is "leading the crusade against the evil, the bad, and the smut that plagues not only Professional Wrestling, but modern day civilization itself." In fact, he regularly asserts that he's not only a wrestler, but also a family man.

Malta The Damager has taken part in years' worth of fights, and is even set to make his big screen debut next year. He'll actually be playing the part of legendary wrestler Andre the Giant in the Hollywood blockbuster *American Brawler*, a film telling the real-life story of an underdog heavyweight wrestler in 1975.

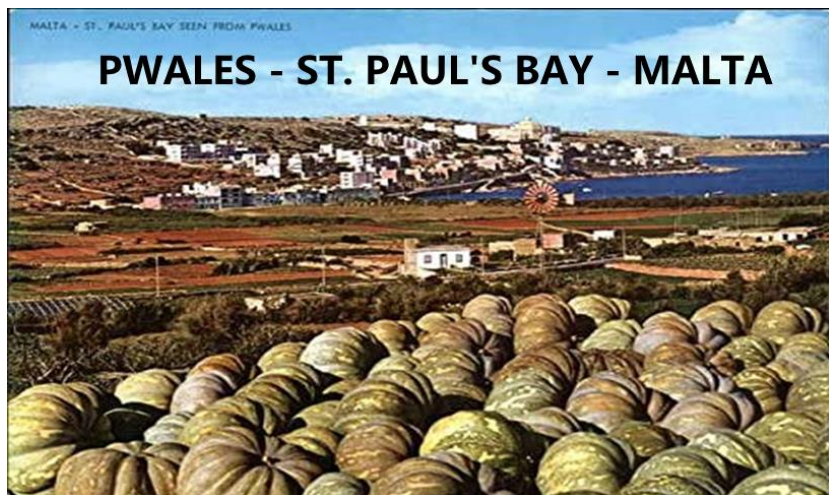
A couple of months ago, Maltese artist Sebastian Tanti Burlò encountered Malta The Damager on his home turf during a wrestling match in the gymnasium of Queen's Sacred Heart Academy. In a selection of photos by Burlò which were curated by Charlie Cauchi herself, the behemoth wrestler is portrayed doing what he does best; destroying the competition with a charming dash of drama.

This gritty, candid sample of *Latitude 36* (aptly named [**WRESTLING.QUEENS**](#)) will be debuting this Sunday for the first of edition of [Parlour](#). A new series of events celebrating creativity, Parlour is an exhibition of art, music and food, a veritable dream team-up between New York Best and Blank, who always come up with great alternative venues and ideas.

Parlour will be on every Sunday for the month of December, showcasing different artists from different fields. Along with live electronic music by Fabricka and Acidulant and mouthwatering street food by NYB brand-brother Fat Louie's, this first edition of Parlour will be focusing on none other than **WRESTLING.QUEENS**.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL
WE LOVE TO READ IT AND SHARE IT
WE ARE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY**





PWALES - ST. PAUL'S BAY - MALTA

Pwales is a settlement in Malta. The area was named for its marsh land, being a valley, and comes from the Latin word *palus* that means wetland.^[1] It is home to Is-Simar Nature Reserve, a number of farmhouses, and a church.

PWALES CHURCH AND THE ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS (ALPS)

Dear friends, Received and noted with thanks to all concerned. Together with

ALPS council fellow members, I dedicate time and energy to make sure that the Pwales Chapel be kept in best condition. It is our aim to bequeath to a future generation of Maltese citizens, a well preserved chapel that has a long history to tell. We pray that our children and grandchildren may continue to look after this jewel when we are gone. Sincere best regards to Frank for dedicating a special mention in E-Newsletter THE MALTESE JOURNAL by bringing this article to the attention of so many Maltese & Gozitans scattered around the world. Sincerely **GEORGE STAGNO NAVARRA (MALTA) -**

Kite festival draws the weird and wonderful to the skies over Għarb



Photo - Manny Buhagiar Kites of all shapes and sizes filled the sky over the countryside near Għarb on Saturday and Sunday during the fourth edition of the International Kite and Wind Festival organised by the local council.

These included inflatables, parafoils, deltas, box kits and cellars. Visitors of all ages were amused by the large figures of superheroes, animals and other fantastical creatures, including a set of witches riding on their broomsticks floating in the

air. As in previous years, a number of kite-making workshops were held, during which children had the opportunity to make and fly a kite and could keep it as a memento.

The event, held in the limits of San Dimitri, was organised by the Għarb local council with the support of the Ministry for Gozo and the Cultural Heritage Directorate.

The organisers were responsible to follow the rules and directives issued by the health authorities. Għarb Mayor David Apap said the festival had been a huge success, with some 15,000 people turning up.

Participants included 40 professional kite flies from China, United States, Germany, Italy, France, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Mexico, Belgium, Austria and Switzerland.

Thank you Frank for bringing the write-up by Joe Cassar on behalf of the MCFGroup on the Maltese Newsletter, It brought back to mind many, many memories. May I also take the opportunity to extend my deepest condolences to the families of Connie Vidal, Emm. Falzon, Alfred Borg and Carrie Barbara, and all those who recently passed away and who worked hard on behalf of the Maltese Community in Adelaide. Fr. Gabriel Stephen Micallef OFM – San Lawrenz - Gozo



ANNUAL FEAST BALL 2021

BY THE
ST. CATHERINE SOCIETY OF S.A. INC.

ON
SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2021
6.30PM – 12.00PM

AT THE
SICILIA SOCIAL CLUB INC.
45A OG ROAD, KLEMZIG

Live Entertainment

If Covid has stopped you from enjoying a good dance lately, come along and cruise the dance floor to some really great music from the fantastic sounds of the band:

"Jump 'n' Jive"



ENJOY A LOVELY 5 COURSE MEAL
WHICH INCLUDES – BEER/ WINE & SOFT DRINKS

Prices: Members \$60.00, Non Members \$65.00, Children under 12yrs. \$33.00



Hi I wonder if I could tempt you into coming to this year's St. Catherine Annual Ball. It's going to be a beauty with great music from the great Band "Jump n Jive" and a great dinner too.

This promises to be a good one to celebrate the easing of the Covid restrictions!

We hope to see you there, with your friends. Make a Party booking.

See this 'Flyer' for info.

Best regards, *Ron Borg*

Last call for Halloween party tickets at the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn October 23! \$15 adults and \$8 children 5 to 12 is a great deal. Includes a full dinner (Italian sausage with peppers, potatoes, etc. Kids menu planned. Mario the DJ! Kids time 5pm to 6:30 pm. Costumes are highly encouraged. Contests with prizes, trick or treating, spooky dessert contest! Cash bar! If you need help with tickets please call Rita Vella 313 846 7077 or email margaretpurdy76@gmail.com.



'TE FIT-TAZZA' EXHIBITION

Over the past five years, our studio released 80+ prints from 8 different Collections and collaborated with the best creatives and friends on the island. This body of work highlights some of the best features of the Maltese identity, promotes what we're losing as an island and explores peripherals that our society sometimes takes for granted. All our available collections will be exhibited permanently in the Souvenir That Don't Suck in Sliema. 108 Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema Open every day from 10am to 2pm & 3pm to 7pm

About Antoinette Cutajar



"I have spent my life doing voluntary work. I have always been active in the church community and the parish. I also take care of the Pope's blessings. My story with these blessings started like this. In 2013 I was working as a diplomat in Madrid. I had been meeting and writing letters for a number of important, high-ranking statespeople for a while and I thought: Am I not able to write a letter to the Pope? And that is why I decided to write to Him and I received an answer. Pope Francis has always been dear to me. I feel he resembles the missionaries I worked with in Geneva. I went to Rome, where I had an unforgettable experience. I went to Saint Martha's House at the Vatican for a personal meeting with the Pope. It was the 17th of January 2014 when I met Him and that is when I kept my promise to find a way in which to help the Pope with his mission.

I was present at a mass for 50 people that he performed after which we were told that the Pope was going to speak to each and every one of us. When he entered, he sat next to me in prayer. I learnt what a person who prays is. It was an overwhelming emotion.

On the 1st of March 2015 I returned and was taken to the Office of Papal Charities where blessings are kept. That is where my adventure started. I wanted to keep the promise I had made.

A blessing can be requested for various reasons. This ended up being part of my voluntary work. Helping people write out their blessing requests. When I was at the UN Assembly at the United Nations I experienced a crises in my career. Was I going to keep battling in an area where I was not accepted just to serve politicians? I was the only female in possession of a Doctorate in Political Science at the time.

My grandfather always told me that nobody can take away what you have learnt and that is something I have always carried with me wherever I go. The salvation in my life is that I have always follow the gospel. I continued to study at the Catholic University in Milan. In order to be accepted you need to go through a very rigorous process. Although I was born with Multi Cerebral Palsy and I cannot do certain things, I never gave up and always did what I wanted to do. The real disability lies in those who are stupid and do not want to understand. It is not a physical condition. I have met blind people who can write a book and others who have sight but are unable to read.

I am not sure whom I would be keener to converse with: a homeless person or a prime minister - The one who is materially poor or the politician who could be poor is spirit." - People of Malta Facebook...Antoinette Cutajar

<https://www.facebook.com/MalteseOwnBand/videos/934837857106637>



We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

Promoting the Maltese culture, history and heritage



Malta: 46 years ago, a Zabbar plane crash claimed six lives

The aircraft's pilots were lucky enough to remain relatively unscathed.

Benjamin Abela

46 years ago today, Malta witnessed an accident so deadly that it claimed permanent residence in the country's history books.

On 14th October in 1975, an Avro Vulcan B.2 – that is, a military aircraft – was flying from the RAF's base in Waddington, England to Luqa.

As the Vulcan was making its landing in Malta, it unintentionally undershot the runway and sheared off its undercarriage, at which point the aircraft became airborne again. The plane's second pilot, captain Alcock, then took over from first pilot captain Alexander to try and regain altitude and attempt another landing – but it was too late.

At that point, fire had broken out on one of the plane's wings and all hope for a safe landing was promptly lost.

As the fire consumed the plane mid-air, the two pilots ejected. Soon after, the Vulcan exploded, killing the five crew members that were left on board.

But that wasn't the end of this harrowing ordeal.

After the aircraft exploded, its debris fell over Zabbar's main street and exploded upon impact. This caused the death of one bystander – 48-year-old Vincenza Zammit – and injured around 20 others.

Apart from that, countless houses, shops, and cars suffered serious damage.

Footage published by Malta Audio Visual Memories on Facebook shows the harrowing aftermath of the crash, as Zabbar residents, firefighters, and politicians reacted to the incident.



MALTESE OWN BAND PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY INCORPORATED

PO BOX 76, SUNSHINE VICTORIA 3020
malteseownband@gmail.com/041028929
www.instagram.com/malteseownband
Facebook.com/malteseownband



While some people have spent lockdown 6.0 watching Netflix and learning to cook, we have been working VERY hard behind the scenes. The Maltese Own Band is very proud to present our third virtual performance: ITALIAN HOLIDAY A tribute to all of the holidays we've missed! We hope you enjoy watching this as much as we enjoyed making it.

Special thanks to [Mario Cassar](#) & Fiona Cassar for all of their work putting the individual recordings together.

Teatru Malta Valletta

**Teatru Malta is Malta's first National Theatre
Without Walls.**

No walls you ask? We'll explain. "No walls" means no limitations to create theatre that has its finger on its audience's pulse. We want to be ground-breaking and relevant.

We want to make theatre you remember. "No walls" means more freedom to create work you want to see. We believe there is more than one audience out there, so we're creating work for everyone. Work that makes

your heartbeat. "No walls" mean Malta and Gozo are our stage. We want to take you to the places you're familiar with, but also to places you've never been to. Somewhere far, far away." No walls" means we work with everyone; creatives, professionals, amateurs and everyone who thinks theatre can make us better. "No walls" means you're always invited.

Contact c/o Arts Council Malta VLT1311 Valletta MALTA

www.teatrumalta.org.mt +35 621 220 255 hello@teatrumalta.org.mt





Malta Rugby League (MRL)

TOURNAMENT COACHES AWARD

MALTA Coach Roderick Attard said Karl Cassar was outstanding and "absolutely deserving" of the Recognition on Sunday night after a five-star performance across the EuroD series.

Cassar pipped the likes of Knights teammates Zarrin Galea and Russell Bugeja for the prize to claim the prestigious honour of receiving the [Lake Macquarie Forklift Services](#) Coaches Award.

Attard said when asked if Cassar deserved the award. "I thought there were a lot of blokes working hard. It was close. But we couldn't go past the leadership Karl had displayed from the moment we checked into Turkey, to

the bus ride back to the hotel"

The trophy is sponsored by [Sports Experience Trophies & Awards](#)



Lawrence Buhagiar - Consul-General (NSW) -supports THE KNIGHTS

MALTA TEAMLIST

KICK-OFF: LOCAL TIME: 1PM TRT | MALTA: 12PM | SYDNEY: 9PM AEDT

1. Mark Camilleri
2. James Grech
3. Christian Briffa
4. Cameron Brown
5. Jean-Pierre Zarb
6. Karl Cassar (c)
7. Zarrin Galea
8. Jeremy Dela (Corrieri Cilia)
9. Robin Cutajar (People & Co Ltd)
10. Dean Zammit
11. Alfie Jewitt (Ackworth Jaguars)
12. Russell Bugeja
13. Justin Barlogio
14. Justin Farrugia



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Our journal is preserved for future generations at the

Maltese Migration Museum - Valletta
Maltese Canadian Museum - Toronto
Website: ozmalta.com and FACEBOOK
Schools, Libraries, Aged Care Homes, Clubs and
Maltese Communities in Australia Canada, USA and United Kingdom

You may also read our journal on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Cirque Du Soleil back in Malta in November



Cirque Du Soleil / Malta Tourism Authority
Information supplied by the Malta Tourism Authority
Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group, the world's leading producer of high-quality live entertainment, and Visit Malta are pleased to announce the opening of a brand-new production created exclusively for Malta.

'Fieri' will be presented in the historic city of Valletta starting November 25.

"We are delighted to return to Malta, a country steeped in history, to pay tribute to this resilient nation and its people" said Diane Quinn, COO of Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group. "Now more than ever in our absurd world, Cirque du Soleil's power to bring joy and hope to our audiences is not only welcome but necessary. So I welcome you to this show and to the magic that descends as the artists take the stage."

"Fieri by Cirque du Soleil will be another opportunity to showcase Malta's credentials in the cultural and entertainment sector. Having a month full of uplifting shows inspired by the cultural roots of Malta is a stamp in quality for our country's hospitality industry. Events of such calibre fall under our ultimate goal – that of making Malta a home of tourism excellence for the years to come," remarked Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Clayton Bartolo.

"The last time that the majestic auditorium of the Mediterranean Conference Centre welcomed audiences for a musical production was March 8, 2020. Countless sacrifices were made since then. We had to tap into our resilience, and all felt a sense of pride as, together, we joined forces to fight the pandemic.

It is this same sense of national pride that will be transmitted to locals and tourists alike, who will be watching "Fieri" by Cirque du Soleil" in November and December. As the Malta Tourism Authority, we always seek to promote Malta's rich cultural heritage and history in any way possible, and this unique experience by Cirque du Soleil is a prime example," Johann Buttigieg, CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority stated.

Intermission is over Following a nearly 17-month intermission after curtains closed around the world, Cirque du Soleil rises up to continue its mission to cultivate creativity and share the hope and joy that live entertainment brings to audiences. Today, Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to announce that Malta—a destination of choice in Europe—will be the first European country to host a new Cirque du Soleil event post lockdown. Back for a second year after its inaugural production in 2019, the Company is thrilled to present a new creation to local fans and guests. The event, which will feature the same signature style acrobatics and visual artistry that fans worldwide have come to expect and appreciate, will be tailored for Malta, celebrating the country's singular cultural diversity and history.

About the show FIERI by Cirque du Soleil is an uplifting journey inspired by the cultural roots of Malta. A unifying tale of resilience from the heart of the Mediterranean, the show is a modern take on the unifying spirit of the Maltese archipelago and weaves a shining, contemporary mosaic inspired by the jewel of the sea.

Ticket information Tickets for the 75-minute performances of 'Fieri' by Cirque du Soleil, presented in the historic city of Valletta from November 25 to December 19, 2021, are available online.

This event, is being organised following the Covid-19 protocols currently in place by the Health Authorities. The maximum safety of the

musicians, the performers and the audience remains a top priority throughout. This content was supplied by the Malta Tourism Authority



If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

(George Washington)

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

What To Expect

Please join us online on Friday, October 29th at 5:00 pm for an evening of conversation to celebrate the launch of *Everyone But Fajza*, a new novel from award-winning author, poet and Professor Emeritus at OISE, John P. Portelli (www.johnportelli.com).

Hosted by the Department of Social Justice Education.

About the Novel:

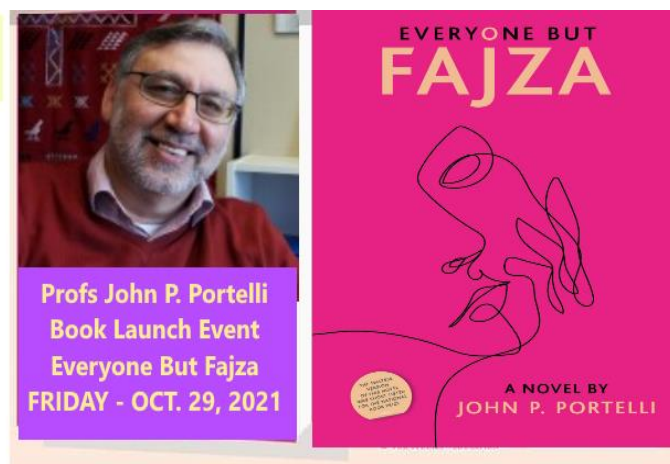
Media reports erupt when Fajza is discovered with gunshot wounds, unconscious and abandoned next to one of Toronto's most violent high schools. As she lays in a hospital bed, those closest to her must grapple with the hand each of them played in her uncertain future. Through their narratives, an image of Fajza emerges; the wife of a prominent businessman, a child of Maltese immigrants, a woman struggling to find her identity, a jealous sister. As we hear from everyone but Fajza herself, we are immersed in a captivating tale of family, migrant life and the tensions between traditional and progressive values. Are we more than a collection of people's impressions? Who is at fault when everyone is to blame? Will Fajza survive to tell her own story? A page-turning story of resilience and loss, *Everyone but Fajza* beautifully captures the complexity of the migrant experience in Canada.

Join the conversation with special guest authors John Baldacchino, Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews, and Hollay Ghadery

Please be sure to register prior to the event at:
<https://oise-utoronto.zoom.us/join/register/tZwvdeGhrTkoH9Vp0VKg6kdcBw8xetunlpxl>

For further event and book details, please visit the SJE Events Website at:
<https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/sje/Events.html>

See you there!



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021 AT 5 PM – 7 PM

Book Launch: *Everyone But Fajza*

Online Event

Going

Interested

2 hr

Event by Social Justice Education, OISE, University of Toronto

Online: oise-utoronto.zoom.us

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Anyone can share link

Anyone can find this event and join the room

About

Discussion

What To Expect

Please join us online on Friday, October 29th at 5:00 pm for an evening of conversation to celebrate the launch of *Everyone But Fajza*, a new novel from award-winning author, poet and Professor Emeritus at OISE, John P. Portelli (www.johnportelli.com).

John P. Portelli was born in Malta where, after completing a B.A. (Philosophy & Maltese, 1975), he taught history and modern languages at a secondary school and philosophy at a sixth form. In 1977 he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship and commenced his studies at McGill University from where he obtained an M.A. (1979) and a Ph.D. (1984). Currently he is a professor in the Department of Social Justice Education, and the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education at OISE, University of Toronto. He is Co-director of the Centre for Leadership and Diversity and a fellow of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto.

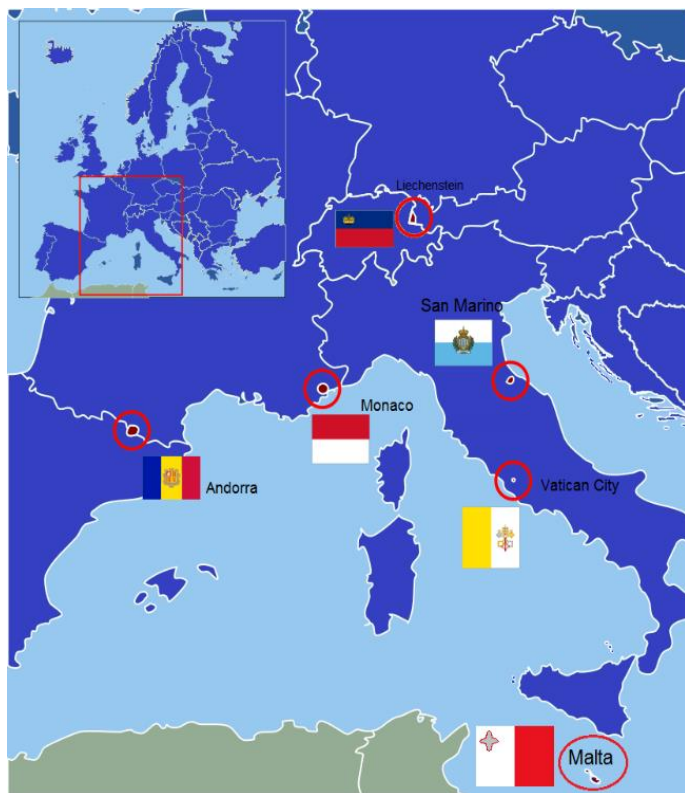


Malta to Host Championships of the Small States of Europe Next Year

The Athletic Association of Small States of Europe (AASSE) has accepted Malta's bid to host the biyearly Athletics

Championships of the Small States of Europe in June 2022!

The Small States of Europe serves as a prestigious prelude to the Games of Small Nations of Europe (GSSE), as Athletics Malta president Andy Grech revealed. '***Such events will strengthen Malta's position on the international map, not solely in the field of athletics but in the wider sporting remit.***', he remarked.



'It will also mean that hundreds of high-quality international athletes will be visiting Malta, giving them a taste of what the country can offer while giving our elite athletes to continue strengthening their preparation on the road to the GSSE games a year after. It will also serve as an important experience for competition officials.', Grech added.

During the Council meeting, Grech was elected as vice-president of the same body, a vital and notable appointment for a local official which will help strengthen the voice of the Maltese athletics community overseas.

During the European Athletics congress, Dobromir Karamarinov was also officially elected as the European Athletics president, whilst Jean Gracia was elected as vice-president.

Finally, during the Congress, officials representing Athletics Malta attended various workshops mainly regarding good governance, new anti-doping protocols, EU funding, and an introduction to new variants of new athletic

competitions.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES - BUILDING BRIDGES

WHAT DOES THE MALTESE CENTER MEAN TO YOU?

C. Debono

Committee Secretary

After watching the movie Luzzu by Alex Camilleri this past weekend at the Quad Cinema I realized even more how important it is to hold onto the Maltese Center. Just as Jesmark struggles to



27-20, Malta Square,
Hoyt Ave. South,
Astoria, NY 11102

tel: (718) 728 - 9883

hold onto his beloved Luzzu that defines who he is, his life past and present he slowly sees he must make a transition. We all have had to make transitions as you, your parents or grandparents who left the "old" country for the "new" country. Arriving or being a child growing up as a 1st or 2nd generation was the beginning of that struggle -- What do we hold onto? What do we let go of to move on and grow? My answer is I can hold onto both.

So what makes me Maltese? I was born in New York and I don't speak Maltese and had a last name I couldn't pronounce until the 1st grade. The outside world was New York and at home it was Malta. What did my parents hold onto that made home Maltese? They held onto everything in their quiet way. It was always around me without me even knowing it, becoming the fabric of me, defining me. They continued speaking Maltese, practicing their faith, keeping close ties with family and friends, and homecooked meals (like no other friend would have in their home)! My parents did let go of going back home to Malta so my brother and I would not struggle. Jesmark too has to find a way to provide for his newborn son so his child will flourish and not face hardships.

So what does this all have to do with the Maltese Center and holding to both past and present. There is a scene in the movie where the local fishermen gather around Jesmark's Luzzu that is ashore for repair and one of the fishermen tells a story to Jesmark. (Yes, a group of men around a Luzzu chattering is very Maltese.) It captures an essence of community that warmed my heart. An old way of gathering, in person and not on cellphones. This is what the Maltese Center means to me.

A gathering place for keeping traditions even if it is just the simple routine of having a tea or coffee with a pastizzi and listening to the chatter of Maltese - to me this is Maltese tradition - to me it is Maltese culture - a microcosm of daily Maltese life encapsulated inside the Maltese Center. It can hold onto "old" and still be "new". Things change over the years but somehow there is something timeless, familiar, and heartwarming with that simple routine and it feels right. I never want to see it go. If you haven't seen Luzzu it will be screening at the Quad Cinema through 10/28 and if you want a pastizzi with a side Maltese'ness stop by the Center.

Children's Event Volunteers Needed! The Maltese Center is in need of volunteers to help organize the following children's events: **Halloween Party and Christmas Party**
Please contact us by [email](#) or message through our social channels



PALAZZO FALSON

MDINA MALTA

Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum is an addition to the picturesque city of Mdina. It was opened in May 2007 after five years of restoration. The architecture of the building is particularly important because part of the ground-floor dates back to the 13th century as can be deduced by the presence of thick walls, arches and lancet windows. The building underwent a number of changes in the 15th

century when the first floor was added and the present façade was created.

The courtyard of the Palazzo is one of the most beautiful courtyards in Malta, with its decorated fountain and Siculo-Renaissance style staircase. The coat-of-arms of Grandmaster l'Isle-Adam, which was added in the 20th century to commemorate the stay of this Grandmaster in the palazzo in the 1530s, looks down on the courtyard area.

The last owner of the house, Captain Olof Frederick Gollcher, was a fascinating person, who was very interested in history and archaeology, as well as being an avid collector of antiques and objets d'art. It was always his wish that his beautiful collections could be admired by the public and this led to his setting up the Gollcher Foundation so that it would take care of the place after his death which occurred in 1962. A few years ago, Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti (a Maltese heritage foundation) reached an agreement with the Gollcher Foundation to restore and manage the house as a museum for everyone to enjoy.



On display throughout the house are Gollcher's collections but dispel the idea that everything is locked up in showcases as in other museums. The set-up is that of a lived-in house where one can admire the silverware displayed on the dining table, have a look at the quaint study full of photographs of Gollcher, his family and friends as well as visit the kitchen with all the kitchenalia hanging on the wall, and all the other rooms which make up the Palazzo.

Gollcher was also particularly interested in art. He didn't just collect works of art but even produced his own. In fact in the studio area some of his work is exhibited.

The Palazzo has some outstanding artifacts, amongst which is a unique and antique watch with a ten-hour dial that dates back to the French Revolutionary period and very good examples of antique Maltese furniture, jewellery, baroque paintings and other intriguing collections. The audio-guide provided lasts for around forty-five minutes, but visitors frequently spend hours walking from room to room and peering at every item!

Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum with its friendly staff and pleasant panoramic view coffee-shop is definitely a site you shouldn't miss if you're visiting Mdina. When you are in Malta make sure you visit this palace.

THE MALTESE JOURNAL OF THE DIASPORA

Thank you for reading the MALTESE NEWSLETTER



Our aim is to make this journal
informative, innovative and
easy to navigate.
We would appreciate any comments
or suggestions that will help us
to enhance this popular magazine.



Melbourne Cup Lunch



at

La Valette Social Centre

Tuesday 2 November 2021

Centre opens at 10.30am

Morning Tea and

Buffet Lunch

Members \$30 - Non-Members \$35

**Hat Parade,
Sweeps and Raffle**



Entertainment
By
Charlie Camilleri

For Bookings ring the Centre on 9622 5847
Antoinette 9671 2992 or Frances 9636 8134

TEATRU
MALTA

HRF-XTW 2021/22 AUT-WIN 2021/22

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Enquiries: malta.hc@dfat.gov.au +356 2133 8201

For boys and girls, aged 5-12!
Saturdays 10.00 – 11.00am
October 2021 – late May 2022
... but you can join any time throughout the year!



Marsa Outdoor Sports Complex, Triq Aldo Moro

Registration fee: € 46.00

Register with Sport Malta at:

sportmalta.mt/programmes/online-booking-form/

> Programs > On the Move 2021/22 > Auskick

Auskick is a program designed to teach kids the basic skills of Australian Rules Football, but it's so much more than that! Auskickers run, jump, kick, laugh, express themselves & create their own special moments — it just happens to be while they're playing Aussie footy!

Non-contact and suitable for all skill and ability levels, it's perfect to get kids running around & having some fun, while learning a new sport. And no, it's not the same as rugby!

To find out more about Auskick, visit play.afl/auskick

Or get in touch at malta.hc@dfat.gov.au

To ensure a safe space for the kids to play:

- Training drills conducted to ensure social distancing
- Equipment will be sanitised before training & every 20 minutes
- Footballs will be identified so each child only handles their own football
- Temperatures will be taken prior to session
- Hand sanitiser provided for use at each session



**Thanks to
thousands of
Maltese living in
Malta and
abroad for the
support they
constantly give
to this unique
journal**