



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR



FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW



**ALL THE WAY FROM MALTA TO AUSTRALIA WITH FR. ROBERT CASSAR**  
Sydney NSW on the SS Partizanka, 1948



**Christien Gauci - RIP**



**Rebecca Galdies**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**  
**WE MUST ACT NOW**



**THE MALTESE JOURNAL**  
**IS READ, LOVED**  
**RESPECTED AND SHARED**  
**ALL OVER THE GLOBE**





## Small island states in 'grave danger,' Robert Abela warns COP26 climate summit

As he addressed the COP26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Robert Abela emphasised that small island states – including Malta – were particularly vulnerable to the devastating impact of climate change. Small island nations were “increasingly being battered by climatic extremes from rising sea levels to devastating storms from drought to sudden precipitations... from import dependency to intermittent isolation caused by heavy storms,” he said.

They were thus “currently in grave danger and we all have a duty to ensure that no coastal state loses any of its rights due to climate change,” he added.

Abela pledged that Malta would be implementing a strategy with “ambitious targets” that would lead it to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

But he maintained that for a small country “with limited natural resources and very limited capacity for emission reductions, these targets are very challenging.”

However, recalling that Malta had brought climate change to the attention of the UN General Assembly in 1988, he added that the country wanted to live up to this legacy.

## Storja tal-Ilsien u l-Letteratura

### Maltija – Kronoloġija by

Dr Mario Cassar is a joint publication between Heritage Malta and L-Akkademja tal-Malti. It first appeared with this title as a publication of the Għaqda tal-Malti (Università) in 2002. Dr Cassar continued to gather information and this publication will be a comprehensive compendium related to the

history of the Maltese language and literature – a collection of events, publications and biographical notes listed in chronological order. Prof. Joseph M. Brincat and Dr. Olvin Vella will be participating in a discussion moderated by Godwin Vella.

**Pre-registration for all Malta Book Festival programme events is mandatory. Book your place by sending an email at: [info@akkademjatalmalti.org](mailto:info@akkademjatalmalti.org)**

Admittance to this Festival event shall be exclusively on presentation of a valid vaccination certificate.

Visits to the Bookshop retail area are not subject to pre-registration or the presentation of a valid vaccination certificate.

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Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Maltese Clubs in Australia, NZ, UK and USA  
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## THE FIRST CENTENARY FROM THE DIOCESAN APPROVAL OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

### OF ST. PAUL

Fr. Lonnie Borg MSSP.

In 2010, exactly on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, we celebrated the centenary of the Foundation of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, which occurred in Malta in 1910. It was an important moment for all members and lay to remember and to thank the Lord who



accompanied us with his love and guidance. It was also an opportunity to look forward to a deeper commitment to the mission of evangelisation according to the signs of times, for God has his own ways of making Himself visible in today's world. The humble beginning

occurred when our islands were under British Colonial Government. So in 1914, Malta was involved in the First World War. Malta at that time of war became known as the Nurse of the Mediterranean because of the many wounded soldiers first in Gallipoli and then elsewhere came to our island for their treatment and



recovery from the wrath of war. At the end of the Great War in 1918, continental Europe was trying to stand up again after the ravages of war. On our islands, poverty, unemployment and hunger were immense and there was very little hope of improvement from this situation. This was a time where many emigrated to North Africa. The cost of living increased dramatically, food became scarce, prices went up, but what hit most badly was the increase of the price of bread. The situation was increasingly tense, so on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1919, a

series of riots by the Maltese erupted in Valletta. British troops were on the streets of our capital. At one moment they fired into the crowd another was bayoneted, killing four and many others were injured. Our Founder had a vital role in helping maintain



peace and order. He went on the streets and appealed the angry crowd to calm down. These events led the way and on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1921 became a date cherished by the Maltese. It recalls the opening of Malta's first parliament and Senator Joseph Howard became our country's first Prime Minister.

This was historical background that led to another milestone event in the life of the life of the Society of St. Paul, which was still in its infancy. This is what we are celebrating on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. We are commemorating the first centenary 1921-2021 from the Diocesan Approval of the MSSP. The Servant of God Joseph De Piro knew that his 'small community' or as he called it 'la piccola famiglia' needed to be officially recognised by the Church. His desire was the approval from the Church authorities, so that he can work in closer collaboration with the Church for the Church. He had a vision that his Society will go overseas to bring the Good News to all. So the expected date arrived. On the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1921, the Bishop of Malta Mauro Caruana OSB, issued the Decree Auctoritate Nostra Ordinaria called so because of the first three words of the Decree, recognising according to Canon Law, the Society of St. Paul, (SSP). I quote "According to our powers as Ordinary, we are authorised to make known and declare founded, canonically approved and recognised by Canon Law – the Pious Society under the title of St. Paul the Apostle."

By this Decree the Society made another step forward. In fact in a couple of years later, Joseph De Piro sent Br. Joseph Caruana as the first missionary to Abyssinia. Difficult moments did not stop and his piccola famiglia needed his constant support to keep it alive, trusting in the Divine intercession from above. He had a favourite quote, "if the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour." (Ps. 127:1) teaches us believe that after all it is God who is at work and if it is his will it will flourish.





## Monument Completed For Gozitan Soldier Who Died While Diving At Mgarr ix-Xini

A bronze monument has been completed in honour of Christine Gauci, a Gozitan soldier who tragically died while diving at Mgarr ix-Xini last year.

The bronze monument was created by sculptor Charlo Spiteri Magri at the Joserosand Art Studio and is set to be unveiled tomorrow, in time for Christine's birthday.

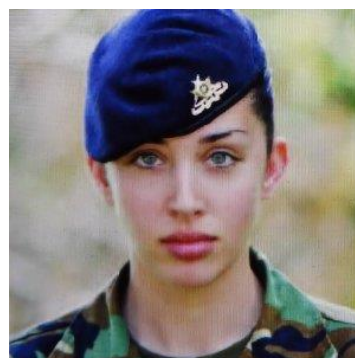
**It will be placed in front of Dar Christine in Victoria, the late soldier's family home which could soon be transformed into a shelter for male victims of domestic violence.**

The shelter, which is currently awaiting permits before it can start operating, will be administered by Happy Parenting Malta, a NGO focusing on parental alienation whose president is Gauci's mother Mary Gauci.

"Parents are often cut off from their parents unfairly; it's so sad and is something you must pass through to understand. They won't be able to concentrate on their job, they must engage a lawyer to discover the truth and sometimes end up in poverty," she told Lovin Malta.

Christine Gauci, 35, tragically **lost her life** in January 2020 after running into trouble while scuba diving at Mgarr ix-Xini. A decorated and vigilant AFM soldier, she was trained with the British Army and was even deployed to Afghanistan where she was awarded a medal when returning from the tour of duty.

## Christine GAUCI



An experienced Armed Forces of Malta scuba diver and war hero has died off the coast of Gozo.

Christine Gauci was an Armed

Forces of Malta member. (Armed-Forces-MT), from Victoria, Gozo She had been swimming with a friend at Mgarr ix-Xini on Saturday morning at 10-30 am on the 18 January 2020 aged 35 when she appeared to get into difficulties in the sea. She was rescued and treated on site by medical team but was certified dead shortly afterwards

Christine applied to join the Maltese Armed Forces in 2005 as Gunner, Royal Malta Artillery. She was the only female to be accepted in a recruitment targeted for enlistment with C.'SD' (Special Duties) Company. Unfortunately, she sustained a knee injury and was not allowed to carry on with the recruitment. (basic training) and was posted to another company during her recovery period. Once she recovered, she completed the recruitment, passed out and posted to C.'SD' Coy. later she was entered into the Basic Infantry Course organized by her regiment. Her ambition was to serve within the British Army which was seemingly an impossible challenge. After a six months selection process in the UK she started basic training with the British Army and specialized in Air Defence. After twenty-four weeks of training she was posted to Minden Battery, 12th Regiment, Royal Artillery. (12 (Minden) Air Assault Battery - Lightweight Multiple Launcher). In 2010 she completed a PNCO (Potential Non-Commission Officer) course and was promoted to Lance Bombardier (British Army). She was deployed to Afghanistan 2011 and received the Afghanistan medal. After four years with the British Army she returned to Malta and re-joined the A.F.M. (Armed Forces of Malta) in 2012, serving with A Coy, 1st Regiment. This company is responsible for the access control and quick reaction to any situation

arising within Malta International Airport. On joining A Coy she underwent training to searches on female personnel and vehicles at certain gates within the airport, V.I.P. protection and quick reaction to aircraft accidents. She also started a B3 Diver Course with the (E.O.D.) Explosive and Ordnance Depot. It was her ambition within the AFM to operate underwater but still carry out sensitive military duties and to be the first female to join the E.O.D. unit where she could serve her country beneath the surface of Maltese water.

Extract from OnParade Issue - On the day of her death she was doing exactly what she loved to do, diving along with a friend, in the waters of Gozo, only to die in tragic circumstances so close to her home.

Photos credited to Times of Malta. Rest in Peace, you will never be forgotten Her funeral was held on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at St. George's Basilica in Victoria, Gozo



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### SBS survey

Dear Readers Hope this email finds you well. Over the past year the Maltese Community Councils and state-based associations have come together to work on national issues that impact on the Australian Maltese community. It is a new era and we are very excited to be all working together to ensure our language and culture continue to be prominent in Australia.

SBS is an important resource for our diverse Australian community. You may be aware that 5 years and 10 years ago SBS reduced Maltese services based on Census results. Currently they are preparing a review again and will decide next year in June 2022 when the latest Census results are known.

We had a national campaign to encourage people to say they spoke Maltese during the last census, and we are hopeful our numbers will improve. In saying that we cannot know for sure, so it is extremely important that we get as many people in the community and each Association to complete this survey.

We are on a time limit it must be done by **no later than 12 November 2021**. We ask that as an Association you complete the survey and to also encourage at least 10 members from your association to complete the survey as an individual. To assist you we have put together two sample answers. One for Associations and one for individuals. You of course can choose to write your own responses, these are given as a guide only but feel free to use if you wish to.

It would really be appreciated if you could provide us with feedback as to whether you completed the survey and if you were successful in getting at least 10 members to do so. This way we can keep a record for when results come out to ensure our voice is heard.



**We're calling on you to respond to the current SBS Radio Language Services Review survey so that we can push the broadcaster to reintroduce services that our community has lost.**

**We have in information and guided responses below to help you answer the survey questions. We have provided information depending on whether you are an individual, or if you represent any Maltese community organisation in Australia.**

[sbs.com.au/consultation](https://sbs.com.au/consultation)

**Survey closes 12 November**

Here is the link: [www.sbs.com.au/radio/languageservicesreview](http://www.sbs.com.au/radio/languageservicesreview)

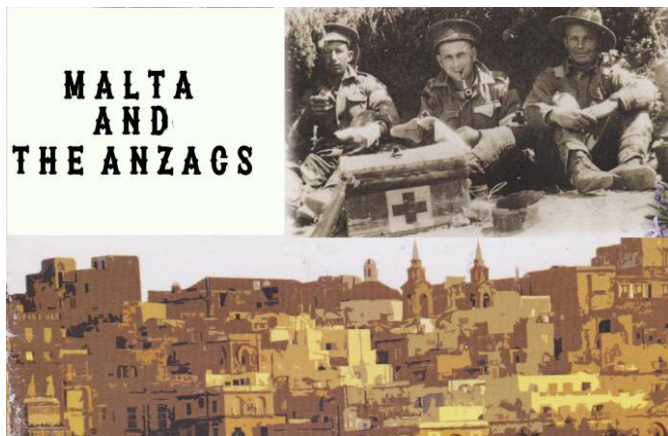
A delegation will also be meeting with SBS officials to raise our concerns and to advocate on the increase of Maltese content on SBS.

We thank you for support and look forward to hearing from you.

**Regards Marlene Ebejer President Maltese Community Council of Victoria**

Signed by the Maltese Community Council of NSW, Maltese Community Council of SA, The Federation of Maltese Schools and Maltese Community Centre at LaTrobe Valley Victoria

The Maltese Journal supports this important appeal and encourages readers to sign it.



ANZAC Day is commemorated on the anniversary of the fateful pre-dawn landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey, on 25 April 1915. The battle by Allied soldiers to capture and hold the Gallipoli Peninsula was one of the hardest fought, but ultimately futile, campaigns of the First World War. As the troops landed on the beaches of the Peninsula, they were cut down by sustained and concentrated machine-gun fire.

In the nine-month campaign that was to follow, both sides would suffer a disastrous loss of life. Of the 51,472 members of the Australian Imperial Forces — from a total Australian population of just five million — to serve at Gallipoli, 8,141 were killed during the campaign. As many as 66,000 Turkish lives are believed to have been lost.

This heavy toll of dead and wounded carved deeply into the psyche of the people of Australia and New Zealand, and since the first anniversary of the landing, 25 April has been observed in both countries as a day of solemn remembrance. The

## MALTA AND THE ANZAC CONNECTION

significance of ANZAC Day has only strengthened over the years as the community remembers all those who have laid down their lives in the many conflicts in which ANZACs have served since the Gallipoli campaign.

Recognizing the association stretching back to the Gallipoli campaign between the ANZACs and Malta, the Australian High Commission has, for many years, observed ANZAC Day with a Commemoration at Pieta Military Cemetery, one of five cemeteries in Malta in which ANZAC troops are buried.

Shared duty has long brought the two nations together. There were six Maltese members of the 7th Australian Brigade which earned fame for its part in the Gallipoli landing. History remembers Malta as the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean', with 57,950 of those wounded in the Dardanelles campaign, including several thousand ANZACs, evacuated to Malta for treatment. For some the island was also to become their final resting place — there are 229 Australian and 79 New Zealand war graves in Malta.

Today, over hundred years after that first ANZAC Day, there are no longer any living survivors of the Gallipoli campaign, but the legacy and traditions forged on those forbidding shores are an ever present memorial to those who served, suffered, and sacrificed their tomorrow for our today



EMIGRATION  
HISTORY

## MALTESE - AUSTRALIANS



**They speak  
Maltranian  
(a modified  
Maltese)  
and they're  
keen on  
keeping**

**traditions alive. I interviewed Maltese  
Australians on their thoughts about Malta  
and what sort of itinerary they plan when  
they visit.**

In 1948 an assisted passage agreement was signed between Australia and Malta and a substantial number of Maltese emigrated to Australia in the 1950s. By 1966, the Malta-born population of Victoria was 26,452. According to the 2016 Census, there were 175,563 people of Maltese descent in Australia and 37,614 Malta-born people residing in the country at that precise moment. That's equal to almost half of the population of Malta in 2016.

Most of the people I spoke to were second generation except for Sandie Ayling who moved to Australia in 1974. Sandie is fascinated by the island's rich history so it stands to reason that on her latest visit to Malta 6 years ago, her time was taken with scouring the various museums and temples scattered around the island. Although Malta's sun and sea were an important feature of her stay, Sandie says she also found great satisfaction in revisiting places from her childhood and in sampling Maltese cuisine she'd yearned for. I guess it must have been a lovely trip down memory lane for Sandie.

With our second-generation interviewees, I found that Malta's culture and history were also high on their list, as was their personal history - the places their parents had told them stories about and the Mediterranean dishes their family had introduced them to. It seemed that, without exception, they were all keen to trace the steps of their ancestors. I couldn't help feeling it was very much a personal journey of discovery for each of them. Bernardette Vella told me that *St Paul's Bay* and *Xagħra* both had familial significance to her, and were certainly first on her list of places to visit 7 years ago when she travelled to Malta. Bernardette says that despite the fact that she's very much a hotel-by-the-beach-person, her family's history led her to stray beyond the sun and sea. She loves a sea view, and that, she says, explains why she chose to stay by the sea.

Most mentioned wandering around aimlessly as one of the things they'd indulge in when in Malta. It is after all the best way to take in the character of a place without sticking to a guide book which dictates your journey.

Michelle Tyerman was very clear about what she would look out for on her visit. She was last in Malta 10 years ago where she visited the church her grandparents married in, her parents' childhood homes and their local churches in Sliema and Paola. *"We enjoyed using buses,"* she adds *"to expose ourselves to as much of the real Malta as possible."*

Michelle says she's fascinated by *"the traditions in past clothing, in particular the għonnella"*, the headdress similar to a Turkish *Çarşaf*, but starched around a curved frame instead of tight around the head.

She specifically sought out restaurants and local shops for the authentic tastes of typical/traditional Maltese foods - *"They are never the same here in Australia"*. The thing most special to Michelle however is the Maltese lace (bizzilla) she bought to bring back home and get married in. I asked Michelle if there was anything unusual about Malta she'd had to work out. *"As a child,"* she told me, *"whenever I heard the Maltese speak, I remember getting the impression that they were angry with each other, but with my first visit, I understood it was just their way. It didn't help that I had little or no grasp of the language."* Michelle says that one of the things she'd like to do on her next visit is to practice speaking the language.

Times have changed and news travels wide and fast, so Maltese Australians can now keep in touch with whatever's happening back in Malta. I asked what the latest thing was they'd heard about the island. I got different answers to this. Some mentioned a soccer win for the Maltese, one mentioned crime, quickly adding *"crime is crime & its everywhere unfortunately"*. A couple mentioned that they had read about the increase in tourism and high-rise buildings and another mentioned October 2017's murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia - *"I saw a story on tv about a journalist that was killed because she uncovered mafia money laundering. That pretty well shocked me."* It amazed me how on the whole, even if Malta is so far from Australia, it still is deeply entrenched in the minds and hearts of the *Maltin Awstraljani*.

## Scott Portelli won the 'Travel Photographer of the year exhibition Malta 2016'



Scott Portelli is an

international award winning wildlife, nature and underwater photographer and film maker. A member of the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) and Accredited Professional Video Producer (APVP), he is regarded as a leading professional in his field. Scott has spent thousands of hours in remote locations across the globe filming and photographing wildlife, the underwater environment, and wild places with a focus on conservation and education.

He was awarded at the prestigious BBC **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** in London in 2016 and announced National winner of the **Sony World Photography awards** 2016 and winner at Travel Photographer of the Year 2015. More recently he was announced the **Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year 2021** and winner in the Animal Behaviour Category in 2017 and again in 2019. Awarded at the Sienna International Photography Awards 2017 and again in 2019 and Winner in the Underwater Category of the Asferico International Nature Photography awards 2018. Recently announced Winner at the 2020 **AIPP silver Linings awards** in the WILD category.

His conservation documentary 'Saving the planet, one cause at a time' also took out two awards at the prestigious **French Underwater Film Festival in Marseille**. And his film piece on the behavior of competitive Humpback groups, 'The Art of Capturing a heat run' was highly honored at the prestigious Natures Best, Windland Smith Rice

International Awards 2018. His film "Gentle Giants" was selected for the **International Ocean Film Festival** in San Francisco 2020.

An accredited licensed RPAS/UAV/UOeC Pilot, Scott has worked on aerial projects for some of Australia's most sort out tourism destinations as



**Jesus of Abyss. Statue of Jesus beneath sea in Malta. Scuba divers frequent this dive site**

well as in Antarctic, Arctic, Azores, Macquarie Island, Falklands, Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and South Pacific. Working in extreme conditions, Scott's practices take a high quality, low impact, approach to filming wildlife in their natural environment in a non-invasive way to capture natural behaviour.

Scott runs wildlife and photography workshops, tours and lectures to show enthusiasts and experts alike the best way to get the most out of their photography. On his tours he specializes in underwater and wildlife photography bringing the best tips and techniques for photographing in challenging locations.



**FREE - NON-POLITICAL  
AND BILINGUAL**





## Id-Dar tal-Providenza awarded the 2021 European Citizen's Prize

**Monique Agius**

Photo: Office of European Parliament Id-Dar tal-Providenza was awarded the 2021 European Citizen's Prize for Malta in an award ceremony at Europe House in Valletta on Friday evening.

Europe by other countries in Europe, around independent and where possible autonomous living, and the elimination of discrimination and the creation of equal opportunities at every possible level," Fr Micallef said.

"These are intrinsic to the concept of dignity, a concept which is at the heart of everything created by Mons Mikiel Azzopardi when he dreamed of and started working on the Dar Tal-Providenza project, and which so many Maltese and Gozo believed in and supported over the years."

"Recognition of this work at European level further encourages us in our commitment to strengthen even more our work at id-Dar Tal-Providenza, so that the sense of dignity for persons with disabilities is enhanced in all the work done in this area," he said. During the ceremony, the Head of the EP office in Malta, Mario Sammut said: "The European Parliament does not only legislate, it also likes to promote what is good."

"Even when faced with difficulties during the pandemic, id-Dar tal-Providenza continued to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Their excellent work in such exceptionally difficult circumstances, displays the best of European values. Recognizing this effort and commitment is of tremendous importance to the European Parliament, and hence this award."

The ceremony will be followed by an EU-wide ceremony in Brussels for citizens awarded the prize in the different Member States. This year's ceremony will see the participation of the winners of 2020 since the plans had been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. The ceremony will take place at the European Parliament in Brussels on 9 November where id-Dar tal-Providenza will be joined by last year's winner the Malta Lockdown Festival.

Other recent winners of this award in Malta include Bjorn Formosa of ALS Malta and the Għaqda Każini tal-Baned.

"Id-Dar tal-Providenza and its project 'Monument of Mercy' proved to all the European Institutions what we Maltese were already privileged to know," S&D MEP Alex Agius Saliba said.

Agius Saliba presented the Citizen's Prize medal to id-Dar tal-Providenza Director Fr Martin Micallef. He lauded id-Dar tal-Providenza and commended Fr Martin personally for their work and the spirit of community the home generates, which he said is felt throughout the whole village of Siġġiewi where it is located and he is resident.

"Id-Dar tal-Providenza embodies the best of the values that we as Maltese and Europeans hold dear. Their excellent work in exceptionally difficult circumstances with the most vulnerable group of people in our society displays the best values of the EU and provides an example for all of us to follow," the MEP said.

Fr Martin Micallef expressed appreciation for the recognition by the European Parliament, and contextualised the organisation's work in the bigger European picture.

"The EU strategy for people with disabilities between 2021 and 2030, is built around the recognition of the rights granted in various countries in



## MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

### Consul General of Malta to Canada visits Maltese in London, Ontario

Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri visited the Maltese and Gozitans in London (Ontario) at a restaurant at Masonville Mall. Besides meeting and talking to those present, he also answering their questions and took consular appointments.

Dr Xerri said a few words to those present, besides being the first meeting after two years from the first visit made to London during the pandemic.

'There has been a notable increase of Maltese citizenship and passport application from London and the surrounding region in recent weeks which is also reflective of the Canada-wide trend. This is a positive development, since the younger generations are understanding the considerable advantages of having both Canadian and Maltese passports.' Malta's Consul General also visited some Maltese Canadian businesses in the region.



Spazju Kreattiv is within the heart of Malta's capital city, Valletta. Situated in Castille Place and a few metres away from Parliament, MUŻA, Auberge De Castille and Upper Barrakka Gardens, Spazju Kreattiv is the perfect stop for anyone visiting Valletta. With something always going on related to any and every art form, there's always something at Spazju Kreattiv for anyone — no matter your age is and what sparks your interest.

Spazju Kreattiv is a programme of creative arts and culture events that take place primarily across Malta and Gozo. Established by Fondazzjoni Kreattività in the year 2000, our home is in St James Cavalier, Valletta, a 16th century fort converted into the National Centre for Creativity. We host a range of exhibition spaces, a cinema, a theatre in-the-round, an artist in residence programme, and operate a number of festivals, including [ŽiquŽajq](#).

The Programme is composed through a combination of projects and events submitted through an open call and from others specifically created, commissioned or co-produced with us. For more information about collaborating with us, please drop in on one of our regular [IKKREA](#) sessions where you can meet one of our programmes coordinators.

**5 November 2021 @ 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm**  
**Friday, 5th November, 2021, 8.30pm**  
*and the heatwave ignites random bonfires, the wind scatters the ashes on the remaining tree stumps, and in the glaring flames the charred forests magically sparkle, as if enchanted.*

## ŻfinMalta: A Midsummer Night's Dream

**SPAZJU KREATTIV** *During the night, the heat is bearable. But no one sleeps, they venture out of their bunkers to admire the spectacle of flames. Walking on fire is an old ritual for cleansing – now it's the new normal.*

Created by choreographer Sergiu Matis for ŻfinMalta, this rendition of Shakespeare's play adapts the themes of obsessive love, nature, and the mystical, to our time, bringing in the new themes of climate change, feminism, and the colonialist, capitalist west. In this Midsummer Night's Dream no one laughs at trivial erotic turbulences anymore. What do we laugh at in the post-apocalypse?

Sergiu Matis is a Romanian choreographer living and working in Berlin.

### FULL CAST / LINE UP / ARTIST-LIST

**DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER:** Sergiu Matis  
**VIDEOGRAPHY:** Eusebio Aquilina  
**ORIGINAL SCORE:** Antye Greie AGF  
**SET & COSTUME DESIGN:** Romualdo Moretti  
**COSTUMES:** Giulia Orsi  
**LIGHT DESIGN:** Andrew Schembri, Late Interactive  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

**DANCERS:** Tara Dalli, Felix Deepen, Pearl Calleja, Matheiu Chabaneix-Amor, Ibai Jimenez Gorostizu-Orkaiztegi, Andrea Martín Albert, Keith Micallef, Nicola Micallef, Simon Riccardi-Zani, Amber Van Veen

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:** Paolo Mangiola  
**COMPANY PRODUCER:** Nicole Bearman  
**EDUCATION & OUTREACH:** Martina Zammit  
**ARTISTIC COORDINATOR:** Anna Nowak  
**PR, MARKETING & DESIGN:** Noćemuskata

*All patrons attending events at Spazju Kreattiv must present full vaccine certification at point of entry. Tickets: [/www.kreattivita.org/en/](http://www.kreattivita.org/en/)*





### **.Lasallian Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools honours Mariella Vella**

Ms. Mariella Vella, former Head of School of DLS Junior School has become an affiliate of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. An affiliate is recognised as a person who has helped the Institute in its mission and has worked to live Lasallian spirituality in daily work in schools. She becomes only the second Maltese person to be awarded this honour by the Superior General of the International Institute of the Brothers. Seen in the above photo are, from left, Br Ben Hanlon, Acting Visitor, who heads the District of Great Britain, Ireland and Malta, Br Edwin

Chircop, Br David Mizzi, Br Edward Galea, Mariella Vella, Br Aidan Kilty, General Councillor, Br Terrence Flores, Br Oscar Mifsud, Br Saviour Gatt and Br Austin Gili.

Photo: Daniel Buhagiar.



### **Malta Senate and Legislative Assembly: 100th anniversary stamp issue - GOZO NEWS**

A miniature sheet to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Malta Senate and Legislative Assembly, is to be issued by MaltaPost.

In 1921, after more than a century of direct rule from London, Malta was granted the Amery-Milner Constitution, enabling the Maltese to elect their very own Government.

A Maltese Government was to deal with internal affairs

while the Imperial British Government was to be responsible for all matters relative to defence and foreign affairs

### **Singer Mat Rosales Belts Out 'Pastizzi', A Cheeky Maltese Song, On X Factor Malta**



By [Tim Diacono](#)

Did you ever expect to listen to a song about pastizzi on X Factor Malta?

**Mat Rosales, a 25-year-old half-Filipino, half-Maltese singer and guitarist, tried his luck with an original Maltese song in his audition.**

However, what started out as a song about the beloved crispy snack took a twist midway through to become a song about women.

It certainly worked a treat among the judges, with Howard Keith Debono predicting the song would go viral.

"Who said music should be boring?" he said. "This semi comical song has a place in the competition. You may not be the best singer in the world but it's not the be-all and end-all, and the fact that you have an artistic identity means much more." Mat won four yeses to see him through to the next round.

[lovinmalta.com/xfactor/watch](https://lovinmalta.com/xfactor/watch)

## Dive into History – Explore underwater shipwrecks with Heritage Malta at Il-Hagar



BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · OCTOBER 28, 2021

A Heritage Malta event – led by Prof Timmy Gambin, Associate Professor of Maritime Archaeology in the University's Classics & Archaeology Department, is being held at Il-Hagar Museum in Gozo.

This is an opportunity to really experience our unique underwater archaeology: through state of the art technology, participants will actually feel they are underwater exploring deep shipwrecks. They will be able to inspect both the ship remains and the sea life at these sites.

This event is on Saturday, the 20th of November and Heritage Malta

personnel will be present to discuss any questions and comments. The 10am session will be repeated at 11am, but the audience is restricted to 24 at each session.

Those interested are encouraged to book early on [events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt). There is no fee for participating in "Dive into History."

Il-Hagar Museum is located in St George's Square, Victoria.

## Maltese architect elected to top European council



### Jeanette Muñoz Abela is a University lecturer

Jeanette Muñoz Abela

Architect Jeanette Muñoz Abela was elected to the Executive Board of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

Muñoz Abela serves a council member of the Kamra tal-Periti (KTP) since 2016 where she acts as representative on the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs (FEANI) and Inġiniera Malta in their General Assemblies as well as a member of the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA) Committee "International Women in Architecture".

She was also appointed as the Chair of the Permanent Committee on Engineering of the Kamra tal-Periti and is the national representative of the International Association of

Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE).

Muñoz Abela is also a lecturer at the University of Malta within the Faculty for the Built Environment and sits on the University Senate (2019-2021), the Faculty Board and the Doctoral Committee. The Kamra tal-Periti congratulated Muñoz Abela on her appointment





The Malta Tenpin Bowling Association was founded in 1975 following the opening of

the first bowling centre in Malta. The 10-lane centre was situated at Msida. Leagues were organized by the association and the first singles national championship was held in 1976. Mr. Julian Pace Bonello was the founding President of the Association leading up to 2012 when he handed over to Mr. Paul Baldacchino.

Team Malta has won several honours in international championships. Our bowling team won the team event during the Mediterranean Bowling Championships in 2005 and again in 2015. Sue Abela is our most decorated bowler having been crowned European Champion in 2009, and is the athlete who won most gold medals in the history of the Mediterranean Bowling Championships.

The MTBA is housed at the Eden Superbowl in St. Julians which has 20 lanes. The Association has over 200 active members under different categories. The members compete in the MSV National League or Juniors' League as well as in a number of tournaments and secondary leagues. Malta hosts two important international events on a yearly basis. The Malta Open is held during June and the Malta Seniors Open is held in October. Both events attract a good number of athletes from the international field.

### **Sue Abela (pictured above) wins the Gold Medal and becomes European Champion for the second time in her career**

The Women's National Champion Sue Abela won the gold medal for the second time in her illustrious career in ten pin bowling when she defeated the Danish champion Mika Gudbaek 2-2 in the finals at Chania, Greece



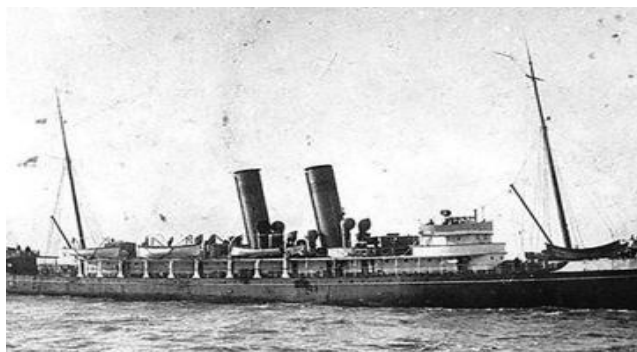
### **Anastasi and Abela manage to defend titles**

Anastasi made it 5 national championships in a row after an exciting battle with 16-year-old Nicholas Muscat to finish just 27 pins ahead (5082 vs 5055) throughout the 3 days, 24 game long event

## **HMS Glorious, Ardent and Acasta (Glarac Association)**

### **Malta's worst naval disaster; 70 Maltese killed when ship was torpedoed**

*HMS Louvain after being converted into an armed steamer.*



One hundred years ago, to date, Alfred Williams was among 70 Maltese men aboard the armed steamer HMS Louvain, which was headed to Greece and to disaster.

Little did Mr Williams, 23, know the vessel, carrying mail and men, would be torpedoed the day after and he would perish in what will be remembered as Malta's worst naval disaster.

His wife Giuseppa, of Valletta, who was pregnant with their only child, remained in love and never remarried. Born almost nine months after the tragedy, their son was called after him and he, too, served with the Royal Navy in World War II.

"My grandma used to speak of how tall and smart my grand-father Alfred was. She repeated these words throughout her life until she passed away aged almost 90," her grandson, Dominic Williams, recalled.

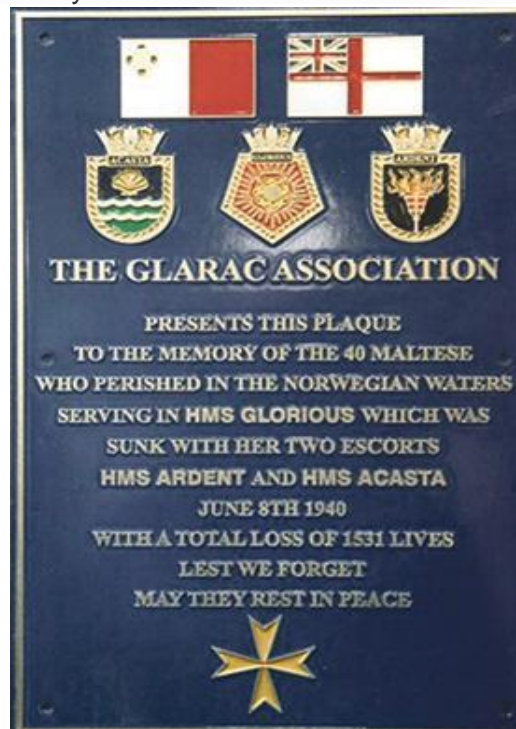
"She was certainly still in love with him because she remained a widow for the rest of her life." The late Alfred Williams, who was survived by his parents and two sisters, grew up in Valletta. Life there at the beginning of the century was tough and there were not too many job opportunities for the younger generations. Most young men joined the military services.

"My grandfather was nothing different, so when he received the news that grandma was expecting a child, he immediately joined the Royal Navy on January 14, 1918 and embarked on the HMS Louvain a few days later," Mr Williams said..

The Glarac Association is chaired by Salvu Azzopardi, a retired teacher with a passion for history. He organises a yearly service of remembrance for all the men who died on the

aircraft carrier HMS Glorious and her two destroyer escorts, HMS Ardent and HMS Acasta. More than 50 of the 1,531 lives lost in the attack on the aircraft carrier were Maltese, making it the worst tragedy for Malta during World War II.

Mr Azzopardi came across the story of HMS Louvain by accident.



In one of his articles about HMS Glorious, he left out the words "World War II" when he referred to it as Malta's worst and a Times of Malta reader immediately pointed out that the island's worst naval disaster was that involving HMS Louvain.

He soon learnt that a friend had lost his grandfather – Spirideone Farrugia – when the vessel was torpedoed on January 20 by an Imperial German Navy submarine. There were about 228 men on board at the time of the sinking, with only about 16 survivors. Over 70 of the lost men were Maltese sailors.

I am sure that in Australia and around the world there are ex-Malta drydock workers who migrated for a better future for their families. Their stories are also part of this project and it would be appreciated if they took part in this. Therefore, I am humbly asking if it is at all possible to help Heritage Malta achieve this aim in reaching out to the diaspora of Maltese through your e-newspaper. They have interviewed some people from Australia and the US through zoom even though there is a time difference.

Saviour Azzopardi Chairman Glarac Association  
Malta [salvuazz@hotmail.com](mailto:salvuazz@hotmail.com).



**LOUIS PARNIS – PRESIDENT TAL- “GEORGE CROSS FALCON COMMUNITY CENTRE – GRINGILA’ INTREVISTAT MINN JOE AXIAQ FUQ SBS AUSTRALIA**



Grazzi Joe għal opportunita li tajtni llum.

Din is-sena il-komunita Maltija fis- South Coast ta' Illawara tagħlaq sebgħin sena minn meta l-emigranti ħallaw lill Malta tagħna biex ifittxu xogħol u futur għdid.

Il-komunita Maltija tmur lura għas-sena elf disgħa mija u erbgħa u għoxrin meta Joseph Cassar issetilja għewwa Cringila fejn il-quddiem l-emigranti Maltin sabu il-post tagħhom u fejn kabbru il-familja.

Ħafna informazzjoni li għart mingħand il-Maltin ta' dak iż-żmien, pereżempju li malli jaslu bil-vapur Sydney xi hadd kien imur għalihom u joffrullhom kamra fejn joqgħodu sakemm jissetiljaw u jaqdbu jaħdmu fix-xogħol ta' l-azzar.

Missier il-mara tiegħi kien jgħidli li għab il-familja kollha ta' huñ mill Kanada u bena kamra fuq wara tad-dar għalihom. Xi nisa qaluli li meta waslu Cringila qabdu jibku malli raw daww id-dħaħen li bdew ħerġin mill-fabrika ta' l-azzar. Qaluli wkoll li kienu jkabbru s-sigār tal-hawħ. Il-frott kien ikun tajjeb imma l-qoxra tal-frotta kienet tkun kollha sewda bil-faħam.

Fis-sena elf disgħa mija u wieħed u ħamsin ftit irġiel iltaqgħu f'garaxx u ddiskutew kif il-komunita Maltija għandha bżonn post fejn il-Maltin ikunu jistgħu jiċcelebraw festi u jilqgħu Prim Ministri u saċerdoti għax kienet importanti ħafna għalihom li jkollhom zjarat minn dawn l-individwi sew minn Malta kif ukoll minn Għawdex. Wara ftit żmien, iddeċidew li jixtru biċċa art fit-triq prinċipali ta' Cringila fejn kien hemm il-qalba tal-Maltin u fejn issa jinsab iċ-ċentru.

Jien għalaqt ħmistax il-sena President u flimkien mal-kumitat iċ-ċentru ħa spinta kbira u magħruf mad-dinja kollha għal ġenerożita speċjalment mal-Maltin ta' NSW. Fis-sena elf disgħa mija u ħamsa u ħamsin l-Ordni ta' San Frangisk t'Assisi bdew jibnu knisja għal Maltin meta n-numru tal-familji beda jikber u kien importanti għal-moral ta' daww li ħallaw il-familji f'Malta.

Fis-sena elf disgħa mija u sittin, ma ġenb il-knisja is-sorijiet Frangiskani fetħu skola u llum jien kburi li marti, meta kienet tifla, u n-neputijiet tagħna, attendew din l-iskola.

Mill elf disgħa mija u tmienja u sittin, żajjar minn delegazzjonijiet minn Malta u Għawdex saru aktar ta' spiss u l-Maltin bdew iħossuhom aktar f'pothom, speċjalment meta jaraw xi Prim Ministru jew xi Isqof. Kif il-knisja nbriet, il-Maltin bdew jiċcelebraw il-festa tal-Vitorja fix-xahar ta' Settembru u din kienet ġurnata ta' ferħ u ċelebrazzjoni fejn fuq is-sitt mitt ruħ kienu jattendu.

L-irġiel għamlu d-dawl barra fil-blokka u bdew jilgħabu l-boċċi bħal ta' Malta u l-kompetizzjoni kienet kbira. Introduċew il-logħba tal-futboll għaž-žağħağ u jien, li dak iż-żmien kelli ħamsa u għoxrin sena, kont niġi minn Sydney mal-mara u nilgħab friendly ma l-iskwadra Maltija. Illum il-Maltin ta' dak iż-żmien kibru fl-eta, imma nixtieq ngħid li uliedhom, li huma ta' l-istess żmien tiegħi u marti, qegħdin inkompli x-xogħol li bdew huma u aħna llum qegħdin ingawdu il-frott li ħallewna.

Nixtieq nagħlaq biex ngħid li iċ-Ċentru ta' Cringila ħa direzzjoni għida ħmistax il-sena ilu meta ġejt mitlub biex ngħin u llum il-ġurnata għandna ħafna programmi. Għandna klassi fejn ngħallmu il-lingwa Maltija għal kull eta u din hija mingħajr ħlas. Għandna żewġ workshops fejn il-volontieri tagħna jagħmlu ġugarelli għat-tfal li huma milquta b'xi diżabilita jew morda. Għandna wkoll grupp Awstraljan, il-Country Women Association illi huma ħbieb taċ-Ċentru u naħdmu flimkien. Importanti wkoll li nsemmu li kellna fostna numru ta' delegazzjonijiet politiċi u ekkleżjastiċi Awstraljani.

Għewwa Cringila naraw ħafna coaches li jiġu mimlija minn Sydney b'nies li jiġu biex jgħaddu ftit ħin magħna u nistiednu lill kullhadd biex jiġu jaraw ix-xogħol li sar għewwa u barra iċ-ċentru speċjalment il-monument ta' daww il-Maltin li kienu fl-iskwadra Awstraljana fl-ewwel gwerra dinjija.

Bħala Maltin aħna għandna nkunu kburin f'din l-art li ltqajna u nixtieq li nibqgħu naħdmu flimkien ħalli l-komunita Maltija tkompli tikber. Grazzi u l-ġurnata t-tajba lill kulhadd.



Roderick Bovington  
'Rigu'

## GHALIEX M'GHANDIEX INTERNET ID-DAR

Wisq gheżiež ħbieb u korrispondenti regolari, lina ma nikkomunikaw fit-tul, kif inħobb nagħmel jien ma' dawk li nafda fihom, bħalma nqis lilek! Matul dawn l-aħħar xhur twal li donni kont sieket, inti u oħrajn tal-kalibru onorabbli tiegħek qatt ma kontu mbegħdin minni fi ħsibijiet. Ma stajt nikkuntattjakom bl-eposta għaliex hawnhekk id-dar tiegħi minix imqabbad man-net. Ma rridux ġo dari dak għal dawn ir-raġunijiet li ġejjin. Hu nota tagħhom dawn u semmihom lil ħbiebna sabiex ma noqgħodx nirrepeti ruħi magħhom ta' kull darba biex nispejja ruħi.

Għaliex ma rridx l-internet fid-dar tiegħi:

a. Qabel xejn fil-fehma tiegħi, kif ukoll mill-esperjenza persunali tiegħi mill-imgħoddi, l-internet jista' jservi ta' distrazzjoni (xegħba) kbira, ta' ingann u telf ta' żmien mhux ftiit.

b. Għal min ma jkunx jaf aħjar kif ukoll ġieli anka għal dawk struwiti fit-tagħlim, in-net jista' jservi ta' diżgwid u sfrattu mill-akbar għaliex huwa miżgħud bil-gideb, ħrejjef (konvinzjonijiet foloz), misrappreżentazzjonijiet tal-fatti apposta biex jiżgwidaw, eċċ.

ċ. Jiena peress li l-kompetenza tiegħi fit-teknoloġija taċ-ċibernetika hija biss tal-wiċċ tant li sirt nistkerraħha, għaliex nibza' mill-bosta remiżolji/nases/intoppi li faċli wieħed bħali jinqabad fihom inturtament, kif ġieli ġrali, eż. *scams*, *hackers*, eċċ. Dan kollu appartni l-bosta drabi li jinbidlu s-sistemi u wieħed ikollu joqgħod jerġa' jadatta ruħu mill-ġdid!

d. Li kieku jiena nistrieħ fuq l-internet id-dar waħdi fejn m'għandi 'l hadd jagħtini daqqa t'id f'kasijiet ta' diffikultajiet minn dawn, kif sikwit ninkontra, lejn min se ndur għall-għajnuna?

e. Hawnhekk kull min għandu l-propjetà tiegħu, kull sena jrid iħallas ir-*Rates* lill-Kunsill Lokali għas-servizzi ċiviċi (ġbir tal-iskart kull ġimgħa, tiswija tat-toroq lokali, libreriji u faċilitajiet minn dawn, **fosthom l-użu tal-kompjuters bl-internet fejn dejjem issib palata mill-istaff professjonali u mħarreġ sew fl-inġenji moderni u liema faċilitajiet huma garantiti mill-virusijiet.**) – Ta' dawn is-servizzi tant utli jiena nħallas 'il fuq minn \$2000.00 fis-sena. Hemm min iħallas inqas u min iżjed ukoll.

f. Bl-iskuża tal-kompjuters naqdi ħtiġiet oħrajn ukoll bħal: noħodha bil-mixi mid-dar għal-librerija bħala (i)

eżerċizzju fiżiku għal saħħti minħabba l-età u ċerti djufiji f'saħħti ta' xiħ li jien; (ii) xejn xejn inkun ħriġt mid-dar minflok ma bqajt imkaħħal ta' kull jum intanbar fuq it-tustiera tal-kompjuter mingħajr ma nassoċja ruħi ma' hadd.

g. Kien hemm min ħaseb li jiena qed inkun xaħħieħ biex niffranka l-internet. Fil-fatt jiena għandi internet awtomatikament, mingħajr ma ridtu għaliex is-sistema tagħna ta' l-nbn (*National Broadband Network*) qiegħda fil-linja tat-telefon bla ma xtaqtha; bilfors. Għax hekk jirraġunaw il-gvernijiet ta' llum. Imma l-apparat tal-kompjuters li għandi (fil-preżent għandi tlieta d-dar) huma qodma u ma jaqablux mal-moderni. Ipprovajt naġġorna u saħansitra mort nixtri waħda ġdida mal-mara tat-tifel il-kbir tiegħi (li tifhem wisq aktar minni fihom) imma ma sibthiex tajba għall-ħtiġiet persunali tiegħi (e.g. alfabetti tal-Malti, Għarbi, Ebrej, Grieg, eċċ) u ħwejjeġ oħrajn li jiena mdorri bihom. U ħadthielhom lura u raddewli kolloxx lura. Issa, dment li nsibni għadni nista' ninqeda, imqar bil-pass ta' bebbuxu, kuntent. U nħossni sekur! – Li kieku veru li jiena xhiħ ma nigix Malta daqstant sikwit u ma nagħtix dawk id-donazzjonijiet kollha, 'l hawn u 'l hinn, sija f'Malta u daqstant ieħor haw fl-Awstralja!

Ser inżomm kopja ta' din it-tagħrif għall-korrispondenti kollha regolari tiegħi biex ma noqgħodx ta' kull darba nfassal ittra ġdida. – Din fl-aħħar mill-aħħar hija sempliċement spjegazzjoni min-naħa tiegħi biex dak li jkun jifhem ir-restrizzjonijiet li nopera taħthom jiena u allura jikkumpatuni talli jien.

Qabel ninsa, jekk inti għandek *landline* tat-telefon (mhux mowbajl) id-dar jew l-offiċċju jimporta tgħaddihuli meta tirrispondini u għarrafni f'liema ħinijiet l-aħjar għalik ħalli nċempillek meta tinqalagħli xi diffikultà simili. B'hekk meta nkun indispost bħalma kont, nista' ninforma lill-ħbieb bħalek u ma nħallix lil dak li jkun ma jafx x'sar minni.







## Kav. Joe M Attard

Twieled ir-Rabat Għawdex fl-1 ta' Jannar 1946 u ħa l-edukazzjoni primarja tiegħu fl-iskola tal-Gvern fir-Rabat Għawdex. Kompla fil-Liceo Ninu Cremona ta' Victoria, u wara xi zmien Gwida tat-Turisti, u iktar tard pustier; għamel sentejn ta' taħriġ għal Għalliem f'St. Michael's Training College of Education f'Ta' Giorni, San Ġiljan (1967 – 69). Studja wkoll fil-Collegio Universitario Mario Bracci ta' Siena fl-Italja fejn segwa kors ta' Perfezzjonament fil-Lingwa Taljana fl-1972. Għalliem il-Malti għal fuq minn tletin sena fl-iskola Sekondarja tal-Kumpless Ninu Cremona Victoria u l-Malti lil residenti barranin li jgħixu f'Għawdex. Għal għadd ta' snin Assistent Kap kif ukoll Agent Kap tas-6th Form f'Għawdex. Għadna nsibuh bħala Eżaminatur fl-Orali tal-Malti tal-Matrikula fil-livell

Ordinarju u u Intermediate. Membru tal-Akkademja tal-Malti u awtur ta' bosta poeziji, essays u features letterarji (wħud minndawn nstemgħu fuq ir-Rediffusion u anke fuq Calypso Radio matul il-Gimgha Mqaddsa u fi żmien il-Milied). Kiteb mill-ġdid ir-rumanz storiku Nikol Abdul b'malti rivedut tal-Akkademja u stampat mill-KKM u li daħal ukoll bħala wieħed mit-text books għal eżami tal-Matrikola. Maħtur Kavallier tal-Ordni Unione Cavalleria Cristiana Internazionale (UCCI) fl-1984 u huwa s-Segretarju tal-Għaqda Gurnalisti u Kittieba Għawdxin sa mit-twaqqif tagħha fl-1960. Għal snin twal membru fl-Astra Dramatic Company u President tal-fergħa tal-Irġiel tal-Azzjoni Kattolika, Victoria. Għal dawn l-aħħar 20 sena Preżentatur ta' Chat Show fuq Calypso Radio darba fil-gimgha u fuq LBV, ir-radio tal-Kommunita' parrokkjali ta' San Gorg Victoria.

## **JIKTEB IL-KAV JOE M ATTARD NOVEMBRU – X-XAHAR LI FIH NIFTAKRU B'MOD SPEĊJALI FIL-MEJTIN TAGHNA**

Ninsabu fix-xahar ta' Novembru u bla ma trid is-suġġett jaqa' fuq l-erwieh tal-Purgatorju. Bla dubju aħna ma niftakrux f'dawn ħutna u qrabatna matul dan il-ħdax-il xahar tas-sena biss, imma xi haġa timbuttana biex matul dan iż-żmien inħalluhom iktar jidhlu fil-hajja tagħna. Fil-gżira tagħna, kif ukoll f'Malta, ix-xahar ta' Novembru huwa xahar għażiż ħafna għax ifakkarna f'dawk li hallew dan il-Wied tad-Dmugħ u għaddew għall-hajja aħjar. Fil-fatt, dan ix-xahar tas-sena jiftaħ b'jumejn gheżiež ħafna għalina l-insara: il-festa tal-Qaddisin Kollha u eżatt l-għada, jum iddedikat lill-Erwieħ Mejtin Kollha. Matul dawn il-jumejn u tul il-bqija tal-jiem li jigu wara, niesna għandhom id-drawwa qaddisa li żżur ċ-ċimiterji tagħna mferrxa m'Għawdex kollu. Ħafna mil-lapidi ta' fuq l-oqbra jieħdu hasla u tindifa wara forsi ġimghat u xhur ta' telqa u bukketti ta' ward ikkulurit u xemgħa tixgħel iżejnu l-oqbra tal-mejtin tagħna. Isir ħafna talb u xi demgħa ma tonqosx. Ħafna tarahom sejr in xi passigġata fin-nofs ta' nhari meta s-Sajf ta' San Martin ihajrek toħroġ tagħmel xi żewġ passi fil-kampanja li issa tkun laħqet hadet xi bexxa xita, waqt li żjara liċ-ċimiterju ma tonqosx.

Tista' tgħid li kull parroċċa għandha ċ-Ċimiterju tagħha u dan dejjem tara li jinżamm fi stat tajjeb. Fin-Nadur u fix-Xagħra sar kull sforz biex il-parruċċani jkomplu jtejbju u jkabbru dawn l-imkien qaddisa waqt li f'San Lawrenz l-ex Kappillan Dun Mikiel Borġ kien stinka ferm biex jagħti lir-raħal cimiterju adegwat u modern. Il-Qala wkoll gawdiet mill-inizjattivi ta' wieħed mill-

arċiprieti tagħha Dun Anton Sultana li fi żmien kien ra li biswit il-knisja qadima tal-Kunċizzjoni l-Qalin ikollhom midfen kif tassew jixraqlu l-poplu t'Alla. Ix-Xewkija wkoll għandha ċimiterju kbir u miżmum b'ċerta għożża u biswitu eżatt insibu ċ-Ċimiterju magħruf bħala 'tal-Barmil' jew ta' 'Santa Marija' fejn hemm midfuna l-maġġoranza tar-Rabt in – 'il quddiem għad insib posti hawn jien ukoll! Dan issa tkompla jtkabbar u iktar Għawdxin għandhom iċ-ċans li jkollhom il-qabar tal-familja. Intant Ċimiterju bi storja huwa dak li nsibu faċċata tal-knisja tal-Għonq iddedikata lil Santa Marta. F'dan iċ-ċimiterju m'għadux isir dfin u naħseb li llum jehtieg tindifa u dawra sewwa. Tal-inqas matul Novembru jkun imdawwal sewwa fuq barra.

Nemmen li n-nies tagħna għandha f'qalbha post speċjali għaċ-ċimiterji tagħna u ħafna huma dawk li jagħmlu l-almu tagħhom biex ikollhom il-qabar tagħhom għalkemm mhux dejjem faċli li tixtri wieħed, apparti l-fatt li lanqas ma huma b'xejn! Veru li xhin tmūt mhux se jhalluk f'nofs ta' triq, imma kemm hi haġa sabiha li membri tal-familja jkun miġbura f'qabar wieħed b'lapida li tfakkarhom bla tbatija lil dawk li jżuru ċ-ċimiterju b'mod speċjali matul Novembru, ix-Xahar tal-Erwieħ. Is-Santwarju Ta' Pinu jiġbor fih il-fdalijiet ta' Karmni Grima, ix-xebba bidwija li kienet semgħet il-vuċi tal-Madonna kif ukoll dak ta' Frenċ tal-Għarb li tant kellu fiduċja għamja fil-Madonna u tant stinka biex jitla' dan is-Santwarju nazzjonali tagħna. Fil-knisja Katidrali tagħna, sewwa sew quddiem l-istatwa titulari tal-

Assunta, illum insibu wkoll il-fdalijiet ta' wiehed mill-benefatturi kbar ta' din il-parroċċa, Monsinjur Tarċisio Gatt, iz-ziju ta' missieri. Ommi u missieri llum lanqas m'ghadhom magħna u jinsabu jistrieħu fiċ-ċimiterju ta' Sta Marija, magħruf ukoll bħala Tal-Barmil! Magħhom hemm ħija Gorġ li miet qasir il-ghomor – hekk għoġbu l-Mulej!

Novembru daħal anke fil-Letteratura tagħna. Fil-fatt xtaqt naghlaq din ir-riflessjoni billi ngibilkom hawnhekk poezija helwa u qasira li darba fost l-oħrajn kiteb il-poeta Ghawdx i mwiedel fix-Xagħra l-kapuċċin Patri Matthew

Sultana meta darba fost l-oħrajn fettillu jmur iżur iċ-Ċimiterju ta' l-Addolorata:

*'Dhalt fil-maqbar t'Ommna Mnikkta*

*Mort biex nitlob għal kulhadd;*

*Qrajt il-kitba ta' fuq l-oqbra –*

*W ergajt hriġt; ma tlabt għal hadd!*

*Għal min titlob! Matul hajtu*

*Kulhadd kien qaddis, kif qrajt;*

*hriġt ngħid wahdi: 'Mela jiena*

*ghax brikkun, ngħix sallum bqajt!'*



## Gozo Philatelic Society

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[www.stamps-gozo.org](http://www.stamps-gozo.org)

*Email [secretary@stamps-gozo.org](mailto:secretary@stamps-gozo.org)*

Media Release

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY Annual Exhibition

On Monday 8 November, His Excellency President George Vella will be visiting the Gozo Philatelic Society 22nd Exhibition in the Gozo Ministry Halls (Victoria's Pjazza San Franġisk), where he is also showing part of his specialized British collection.

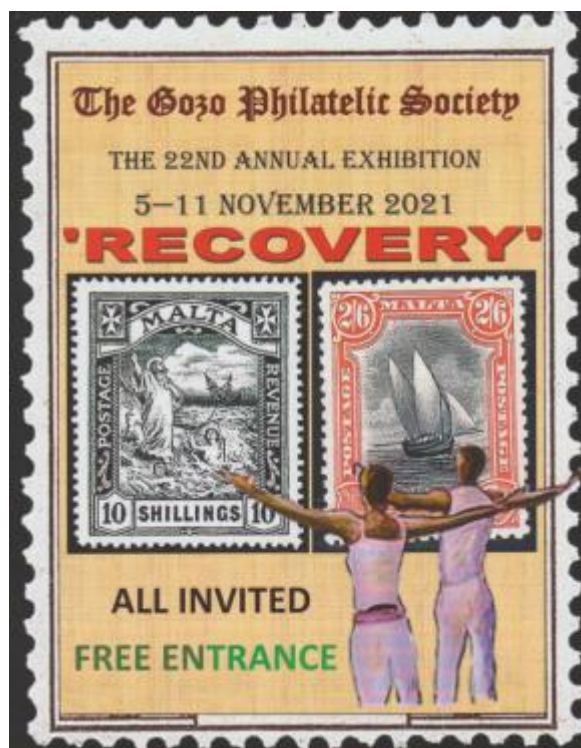
Other exhibits this year include include Joint issues, 1948 Maximum cards, Royal visits and Coronation collection, Australian coins, Letter boxes, Philatelic literature and Queen Victoria stamps. An unusual (and rare) item highlights Grand Master correspondence.

Another edition not to be missed, by young and old!

This annual event can be visited between Friday 5 November and Thursday 11 November during normal opening hours, as well as mornings Saturday and Sunday.

Not only is there no entrance fee, there is the opportunity for visitors to add to their collection.

Personalized stamps and cards are issued for the occasion. MaltaPost is the main sponsor.



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## Rebecca Galdies

## Australian of Maltese Lineage RUNNING FOR OFFICE

. I was about 8 years old when my mum first took me to a protest march about freeing Xanana Gusmao, the freedom fighter from East Timor who was seeking independence for his people from the oppressive regime of Indonesia. I was too young to fully understand what it meant, but still I understood enough to know that people were fighting for their freedom and that it was a worthy cause. My mum had explained to me that the people of East Timor were being treated as second class citizens and that they were being imprisoned for expressing their opposition to being controlled by the Indonesian military. I remember even standing outside a Garuda Indonesia travel office when I was a few years older. There were only a few of us there (Mum included of course) but we were loud!

We talked about politics all the time when I was a kid. Dad, even though he refused to tell me who he voted for, insisting that it was a secret ballot for a reason, was a pretty progressive thinker too, for a very Catholic Maltese Australian immigrant. There were elements of the conservative in some of his approach but he always had a big heart, he believed strongly in social justice.

Both of my parents had pretty strong views though, and weren't afraid to share and debate them with their children.

Given this, it's hardly surprising that I choose to take up just about every minute of my spare time these days trying to get elected into parliament. It's not just about getting into parliament for me though, it's also about pursuing a fairer society for all, and one that doesn't destroy the planet - that's why I'm running for the Greens.

The last 2 years we've seen the reality of inequality brought into sharp relief by the pandemic that has ravaged the human population all around the globe. Close to 2.4 million Australians are casually employed and without holiday or sick leave. Going to work while sick during a pandemic can have fatal consequences, not just for the person going to work, but for anyone they come into contact with. We have all become far more familiar with the way pathogens work than most of us probably wanted to, since Covid-19 came about. We've been incredibly lucky here in Adelaide because we haven't had to experience anywhere near the level of lockdowns or restrictions that other cities around the country and the world have. But nevertheless, people have struggled.

It was only upon deciding to seriously contest a federal political seat, however, that I found out that, from birth, according to the Maltese government, I was a Maltese citizen! Even though I was born and raised in Adelaide (and went to the Maltese school in Beverly as a child), and I had gone through the process of applying for and receiving my Maltese passport, this fact had never occurred to me. You may remember back in 2017 when it came to light that a Greens politician by the name of Scott Ludlam had been informed by a lawyer that he was, in fact, a dual citizen of New Zealand (and Australia), and that meant he must immediately step down from his position as Senator. This set off a cascade of discoveries that happened to coincide with me being the National Secretary of the Australian Greens. I had been (and remain) close to Scott and was rocked by this oversight which quickly led to revelations that a number of Australian politicians across all parties had made the same error.

Since then, the Australian Greens have developed a much more thorough process of checking these details and thus my process of renouncing my citizenship of Malta began. It was tough for me to make that decision, in part because I lost my dear father in 2017 after a long illness and felt very sad to let what felt like part of a connection to him go.

Dad valued family above all and took great pride in being a hard worker, even when the economic system sought to shut him out as he got sicker. Seeing the way he struggled with the changing digital nature of his work as he got older and how increasingly brutal the neoliberal system was, is part of what drove me to pursue fairer outcomes for all workers. In the end, in an attempt to retain my sense of connection, I settled with getting a tattoo of the Maltese cross on my upper left arm which I reveal with pride during the summer months.

I am safe in the knowledge that my father and my Maltese heritage will always be a core part of who I am.

Though running for office can be incredibly trying at times, as someone who has an unflinching faith in the idea of democracy, I wouldn't have it any other way. We are at a critical juncture as residents of this amazing planet and we are in a very powerful position as citizens of a wealthy country. We have a great opportunity with the upcoming election to vote for parties that recognise the importance of strong and immediate action on climate change and addressing the inequality that has corrupted our democracy. If you would like to find out more about my campaign, please get in touch here [adelaide@sa.greens.org.au](mailto:adelaide@sa.greens.org.au)

## 2021 FUNCTIONS

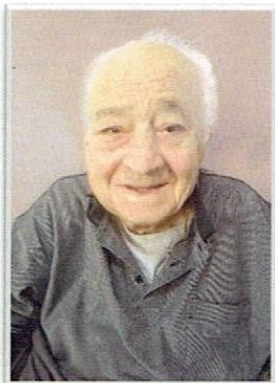
OCT 30 <sup>TH</sup>	HALLOWEEN PASTA NITE
NOV 7 <sup>TH</sup>	SUPER BINGO
NOV 14 <sup>TH</sup>	MEMORIAL SERVICE 3:00 PM FOLLOWED BY BAKE SALE
NOV 20 <sup>TH</sup>	ANNUAL CONCERT & ROAST BEEF DINNER
DEC 12 <sup>TH</sup>	CHILDREN'S XMAS PARTY
DEC 18 <sup>TH</sup>	MEMBER'S DINNER
DEC 31 <sup>ST</sup>	NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
JAN 23 <sup>RD</sup> 2022	GENERAL MEETING & ELECTIONS



**EVENTS ORGANISED BY AND AT  
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FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**

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OF MALTESE  
EMIGRATION  
IS AN INTEGRAL  
PART OF THE  
HISTORY OF  
MALTA  
AND GOZO**

In Loving Memory of



**Joseph Darmenia**  
(Boxer)

Born in Vittoriosa, Malta  
1<sup>st</sup> February, 1930

Passed away peacefully  
in the presence  
of his loving family  
in Adelaide, South Australia  
17<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Aged 91 years

*Rest In Peace*

Dearly loved and devoted husband of  
Theresa (deceased)

Much loved and devoted father  
and father-in-law of  
Melita,  
Mary-Rose,  
David and Lisa,  
and Joe

Adored Nanu of  
Michael, Daniel, Nicole,  
Olivia, Ryan and Tom

Lovingly remembered by all  
his relatives and friends in  
Australia and Malta



Joe was one of the pioneers  
and an active member of  
the Maltese Community of Adelaide.  
He worked hard to preserve  
the Maltese culture in South Australia  
especially in the field of sport -  
soccer

He will be missed by all the members  
of the community.

*FL Scicluna*

*Rest In Peace*

**DURING THE  
MONTH OF  
NOVEMBER  
THE READERS  
OF  
THE MALTESE  
JOURNAL  
REMEMBER  
AND PRAY FOR  
ALL THE MALTESE  
MIGRANTS WHO DIED  
ABROAD**

**THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS – WE LOVE TO  
HEAR FROM YOU**



## CULTURE

## OUT OF ITS SHELL

as Il-Mikk in 1898 to start decorating the façade of his property in Ghaxaq with hundreds of snails and seashells which he collected from local and foreign beaches. However, some suggest that he might have seen such decorations when he was living abroad.

Known to be able to do whatever came up to his mind, within two years, Indri turned the two upper sides of the walls of his property in a huge canvas as he craftly designed them with religious symbols made out of snails and seashells. He embellished this artwork further by adding also three niches, a statue, and some writing which included his surname. Soon this property became renowned as Id-Dar tal-Bebbux (the house of snails).

More than a century later, much of this unique artistic work has somehow succeeded to withstand the test of time. Yet considerable sections of it have been lost and what remains is in dire need of preservation and restoration. For many years, the Local Council of Ghaxaq has been trying to obtain the necessary funds to save this singular property in St Mary Street but no one seems to be interested to protect this national cultural heritage.

"A recent application for funds in a scheme that was dedicated to the restoration of historical sites was disqualified since the work to restore Id-Dar Tal-Bebbux was going to take more than six months. Moreover, we were informed that there were no workers available in the Restoration Section who could do the type of work required for this property," said Darren Abela, Mayor of the Ghaxaq Local Council.

"We were all very disappointed to receive this news. It is deplorable to notice that it is always the same Local Councils who receive the funds to do restoration projects in their localities whilst our locality always ends up with nothing! Although we are in favour of such works, we find it difficult to understand why similar sites obtain the funds to be restored, whereas this property in Ghaxaq which is unique, continues to be ignored."

Abela insisted that about fifty years ago, this house was considered to be his village's jewel while today, it is regarded as the village's sorrow as it is painful to look at its pitiful state.

"Everyone who sees this house or who hears about it recommends us to restore its old decorations before we lose them once and for all. And yet, nobody has ever come forward with any solid action to commence these works." No estimate of the value of the work required has ever been done because such a project requires particular expertise which till now was not located.



"At the moment, there are three different families living in this property and they have all agreed that this work should be done. I hope it won't be too late if we'll ever have the funds to start this project. It is already doubtful whether the snails and seashells which have fallen out could ever be replaced."

It would definitely be a pity to allow further deterioration of this place. Indeed, Indri Dimech's work was deemed significant enough to be included in the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands where there is detailed information about the niches and the statues which form part of Id-Dar tal-Bebbux.

High up on the main facade which bears the date 1901, a small stone statue of the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of Ghaxaq, stands triumphantly on a large sphere of clouds. Below it, on the left hand side, one can observe a niche with

a stone statue of St Joseph holding baby Jesus; a saint which is also very cherished in this village and for whom a secondary feast is dedicated. On the right, another niche was constructed to contain the stone statue of St Andrew; the saint which has the same name as Indri. Both these niches have been lavishly decorated with beautiful patterns made with snails and seashells and coloured with paint in between. Only the first three letters of the surname Dimech remain intact on the aperture of the left balcony, the middle balcony displays the letters C. Ascik, whilst the word Malta is still in one piece on the right balcony.

Another niche with three stone statues showing a crucified figure of Christ accompanied by the Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist claims the attention at the center of the other facade. Unfortunately, many of the shells which composed the intricate designs around this niche are now lost.

Several other designs which include religious symbols, particularly those connected to the Passion of the Christ, can also be recognized. A number of other forms show angels, crosses, palm trees, lions, unicorns, fountains, churches, Ghaxaq's coat of arms, and many others.

Relatives of Indri Dimech who often worked as a sailor in the Middle East narrated how he used to return from his voyages carrying numerous shells. Once back home in Ghaxaq, he would cover the facade of his property with bedsheets and continue working on his masterpiece. It is not known whether these sheets served as a protection against the sun or whether he intended to surprise his neighbours once he was finished with his work.

At the time, Indri's property functioned as a bar wherein men gathered to have a drink and to socialize after a hard day's work. In there, those who were devoted and passionate about the feast of St Mary met to discuss the events which had to be organized. Meanwhile, this place served also as the hub which sparked the idea of the establishment of the first social club in Ghaxaq that was to be dedicated to the titular of the Assumption of Mary. Even Indri gave a helping hand to decorate the square that was located in front of his property during the feast. Numerous oil lamps and coloured paper turned the surrounding environment in a surreal atmosphere, especially with his bizarre property in the background.

Today, this property stands in the core of the village, just a few metres away from Ghaxaq's parish church. Although Indri is gone, his aptitude to mesmerize still lingers on as passers by are captivated by the strange designs that he created. Hopefully, as soon as possible, the authorities would appreciate this gem for its uniqueness and would take the necessary actions to restore back its beauty and allure of bygone days.

(This article was published in the 'Homes' Supplement issued with The Sunday Times of Malta dated 3rd April 2016 – Fiona Vella).

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## Street vendors of Malta then and now

*Street vendors are very much a part of Maltese culture. But are they dying out?*

*Melanie Drury*

The vegetable vendor's truck is a common sight on the streets of many villages. And the gas man's undeniable loud horn still announces his arrival on designated days of the week. Within most parts of Malta, this is all that survives of the local street vendor. No lady with a pram comes to our door selling fresh goats cheese, eggs, capers and prickly pears anymore, as she did when I was a child. And I haven't seen a kerosene truck



**A street hawker selling pots and pans on his mule driven cart in Pieta, Malta. 1950s**

in decades. In fact, whatever happened to the Maltese street vendor?

During a two-year stint living in the village core of Gharghur, I was able to experience true village life in Malta. It is starkly different from town or suburb life, in that village people still live according to tradition. Contrary to modern residential areas, in the village core, neighbours are very much involved in each others' lives: men meet at the *kazin* to gossip over tea in a glass, and women take chairs outside someone's house to gossip in the cool evening air.

And I quickly realised that here, the street vendor hadn't died out. The trend may have changed, but the culture survives. Every Wednesday, the square in front of the Oratory became a little marketplace of street vendors. There was the van selling household goods and detergents, complete with green shading for customers. There was another selling fresh fish. The man with a donkey selling bigilla (Maltese bean paste) was replaced by a shiny van with a recorded audio call.

One Maltese saying states "the call is half the sale" ("*l-għajta hija nofs il-bejgħ*"), indicating the recognisable calls, horns and tunes that street vendors use to announce their presence, attracting custom. As a proverb, it points at the necessity to do your bit in order to gain a return.

Street vendors (*bejjiegħa tat-toroq*) emerged a long time ago as a clever marketing tactic. During bygone times, when transportation was limited and it was a hassle to go on foot to other villages to purchase goods, street vendors made buying and selling easier by moving their products from village to village. Come rain or shine, on the designated day of the week, the street vendor would appear to serve the household needs of eager housewives.

Men carried their ware on their heads or shoulders, in cotton bays or cane buckets. Women balanced goods on their heads on a round turban or carried bundles. They also used pushchairs, small hand-pulled carts and large karts pulled by donkeys or mules. That's when the famous Maltese door-knob came in handy, to tie the animal while serving customers. Gradually, carts and donkeys gave way to vans and trucks, and the vendor's personal call replaced by a handy recorded audio. But you can still see traditional nougat sellers' carts at village feasts all over the island.

Products varied immensely: freshly squeezed milk, goats cheeselets, eggs, ice cream, seasonal produce, fresh fish, bread, street food, perfumed soap, household goods, home decorations, kerosene, brooding hens... you name it. Some vendors even provided a service, such as knife sharpening.

Today, the Maltese street vendor has evolved and changed, just like everything else. The man who brought his goat to your door to milk it fresh may be gone, but the doughnut van with the catchy jingle everyone sings in mockery has appeared, so there is hope still. Let's hope it will not be too soon before goods are only available from large department stores!



## Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS 🍁 Limited number of free tickets to watch 'Made in Malta' film online on November 17th, 2021

As announced some days ago, 'Made in Malta' was the film chosen to participate in the European Union Film Festival 2021. I have a limited number of free tickets for the first 25 people that call me on 647 640 2500.

**More learning Maltese Language educational materials available at three libraries,**

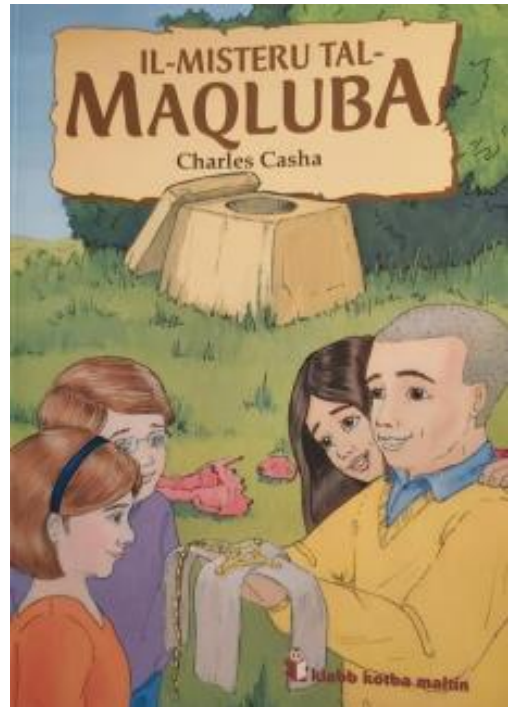
**soon at four locations in the GTA and beyond**

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada recently compiled over 200 educational materials from various institutions around the Maltese Islands, and has donated copies of each to the Libraries of the Melita S.C., the Malta Band Club and Consulate General itself.

In the near future, copies of the same publications will be provided to the Library of the Malta United Society of Windsor and of Runnymede Long-Term Care Facility Library.

After being contacted by a number of Maltese Canadian parents and students, it has been decided to inform all of the educational materials donated in accordance to category.

The below educational materials are mystery books for children written in Malta's environment. These booklets were donated by the Ministry for Education and Employment obtained from Klabb Kotba Maltin. If you are members of any of these clubs you can request to make use of them. Further educational materials will be shown in future posts.



**THE FEAST OF SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA WILL BE HELD ON THE 12 – 14 NOVEMBER 2021 AT ST.BRIGID'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, LE HUNTE STREET, KILBURN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA. MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE ARE IN INVITED TO ATTEND**