



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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Jum il-Helsien - Freedom Day



MUZIKA-MUZIKA



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**To all prospective
politicians:
Maltese language
problems!
Roderick Bovington
NSW - AUSTRALIA
(RIGU)**

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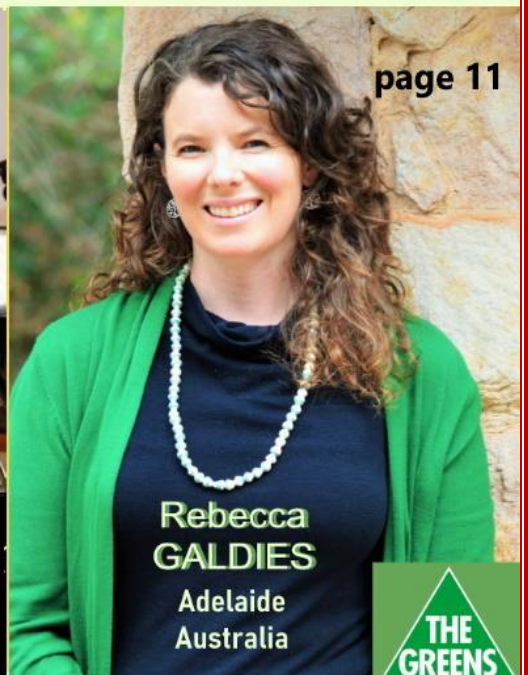


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UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
L-Università ta' Malta



**South Australia's New Premier
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Rebecca
GALDIES
Adelaide
Australia

THE
GREENS

READ, ENJOY, SHARE AND SUPPORT YOUR JOURNAL

EXPAND YOUR CULTURAL HORIZONS

Ukrainian

Lives Matter

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022



The beginning

The University of Malta traces its origins to the founding of the Collegium Melitense which was set up through direct papal intervention on 12 November 1592. This college was run by the Jesuits on the lines of their other colleges established elsewhere and known as 'Collegia Externorum', catering for non-Jesuit students. By a papal Bull of Pope Pius IV, dated 29 August 1561, confirmed later by a further Bull of Pope Gregory XIII, dated 9 May 1578, the Jesuits were empowered to confer the degrees of Magister Philosophiae and Doctor Divinitatis. However, the foundation deed specified that besides Philosophy and Theology, other subjects such as Grammar and the Humanities should also be taught. Following the abatement of the plague of 1675, Grandmaster Nicolò Cotoner appointed Fra Dr Giuseppe Zammit as 'lettore' in Anatomy and Surgery at the Sacra Infermeria on 19 October 1676. This attempt at formalising medical teaching at the Order's hospital is considered by many as the beginning of our medical school. Zammit went on to establish the first medical library on the island as well as a medicinal herb garden in one of the ditches of Fort Saint Elmo.

The establishing of the University

After the expulsion of the Jesuit Order from Malta in 1768, Grandmaster Pinto appropriated all the revenue accruing from its property on the island with the aim of establishing a 'Pubblica Università di Studi Generali'. The decree constituting the University was signed by Pinto on 22 November 1769, having been authorised to do so by the papal Brief, 'Sedula Romani Pontifici', received on 20 October 1769. On 25 May 1771, a Collegio Medico was set up as one of the faculties making up the University. At the time of the foundation of the University, the 'Principe dell'Accademia dei

Medici' was the surgeon Michelangelo Grima who also held the combined chair of Anatomy and Surgery at the Medical School, whilst the Professor of Medicine was Giorgio Locano.

The first rector of the University was Fr Roberto Costaguti of the Servites' Order who had in previous years established a reputation as a preacher. A number of other foreign professors were brought over to help establish the University and these were installed in June 1771. They all lived together in the former Jesuit College. It appears that the Medical Faculty was the only one staffed solely by local teachers, a tradition which has been maintained throughout the centuries.

Soon after Grandmaster Pinto died his successor, Grandmaster Ximenes, reduced the number of chairs and expelled all expatriate staff as an economic measure. During the brief French interregnum formal University teaching came to an end as Napoleon abolished the University five days after landing in Malta on 18 June 1798. Fortunately, a few weeks after the French were forced to leave, Sir Alexander Ball reinstituted the University and appointed as rector Canon F.X. Caruana on 28 October 1800 in recognition of his services during the uprising against the French.

The first rector appointed by the Governor Sir Thomas Maitland, at the beginning of British sovereignty, was the Dominican Fr Gerolamo Inglott, the Professor of Philosophy. During the British period the University underwent a series of changes in its statutes and regulations bringing it into line with universities in the United Kingdom. The present coat of arms and the motto 'Ut Fructificemus Deo' were proposed on 1 March 1923 by the rector, Professor Sir Themistocles Zammit. Between 1937 and 1974, (when Malta became a Republic) the University petitioned for

and obtained the right to the use of the word 'Royal' in its title.

After the Second World War

Following the Second World War, the Library and support structures were strengthened. The Evans Laboratories were opened in 1959 to house the Faculty of Science near the old hospital of the Knights in Valletta and a new Medical School building near St Luke's Hospital in Guardamangia was opened in 1968. At the same time, the new campus at Msida was inaugurated. The Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (now, the Faculty of Engineering) and the Faculty of Education became part of the University when the former Polytechnic (known also as the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology) was incorporated with it.

Get to know about the UM as it is today.

Serving students, scholarship and society, sustainably.

Lying at the cross-roads of the Mediterranean, UM has been, over its 400-year history, the hub for international academic exchange on the island.

UM is the leading higher education institution in Malta and its structures are in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education area.

At UM we to carry out academic research and provide a vibrant higher education setting in the arts, sciences and the humanities as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development. Our courses are designed to produce highly-qualified professionals in multiple disciplines. Our alumni community is growing exponentially: well over 3,500 students graduate in various disciplines annually.

We are committed to high standards of research and teaching and every member of staff at UM plays an important role and contributes to an outstanding student experience.

Today UM is composed of fourteen faculties, a number of interdisciplinary institutes and centres, three schools and a junior college. Besides the main campus, situated at Msida, there are three other campuses: Valletta, Marsaxlokk, Gozo.

The language of instruction is English

To all prospective politicians: Maltese language problems!



Roderick (Rigu) Bovingdon NSW - AUSTRALIA

With the prospect of a national election looming ahead, hoping all concerned (with emphasis

on our politicians) openly lay their cards on the table to conscientiously tackle the lingering challenge of Our Indigenous Maltese Language! The Act of Parliament in its current state, that created the National Council for the Maltese Language, gives the said Council absolute authority – *carte blanche* – over OUR language by publishing legal directives concerning Maltese in the *Government Gazette*.

The sole ownership of the Maltese language belongs exclusively to the Maltese people, collectively and individually, all with equal claim to its authorship! More specifically Section 2, Article 6/2 of Chapter 470 of the *Government Gazette*, needs to be completely expunged from the said Act. For it is this particular Section which bestows absolute legislative authority upon the National Council to make changes to the Maltese Language as it sees fit by decree published in the *Government Gazette*. Such measure usurps true ownership of the Maltese Language from the Maltese people who created it.

To me and to a large number of leading Maltese thinkers and writers, the said clause becomes an insult bordering on the betrayal and treason of the principal trait identifying us as unique within the world family of nations!

This basic truth is proven by the fact that modern civilised first world nations such as Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand do not possess a distinguishing language of their own necessitating them to use the language of Britain: English! Yet these same nations still feel the dire need to express their own singular origins as sovereign nations, independent of their British cultural ties, by adopting and by creating their own language variations (idioms, lemmas, pronunciation, intonation, semantics...). Their national desire to identify themselves as distinct from the British, without any inference of antagonism, inspires an ever-increasing linguistic corpora peculiar only to their people, thereby identifying them as Canadian, Australian, American and New Zealanders.

The still festering national language qualm in the case of Maltese – a language unique in its own right proudly having developed its own lexical and

literary repertoire over centuries of social intermingling on the world stage – remains a gaping wound of national proportions that only serves as an ideal tool for dictatorial and despotic decisions. Not exactly the attitude and behaviour of highly cultured scholars whose only genuine *modus operandi* – if they truly cherish the sublime ingredients of their calling – ought to be! While an entire nation looks forward to their wise guidance in the proper and apt preservation of our unique national tongue, the language rut at all social levels proceeds with its momentum unabated. Stubborn pride and conceit in capriciously tampering with the wisdom of the Founding Fathers of Maltese can and will eventually lead to our language nihilism as happened historically in various corners of the world to so many other minority languages the memory of which persists merely in the archives of oblivion.

So hallowed, profound, personal and intrinsically unique is the nature of “language” – in all its human spoken and written forms – that no single individual (be they the Chief Justice of the land, the President or Prime Minister, the top Hierarchy of the local church, the Rector of the top institute of learning, *et al*) or any group, should ever hold absolute authority over a people’s tongue. For “language” evolves consciously and subconsciously, even incidentally, with all possible nuances that the human brain is ever capable of imagining, implying, intending ... Hence, I ask YOU dear reader-thinker, who on this earth has absolute right to legislate and enforce by decree upon this singular uniquely human limitless innate power? Certainly not by passing autocratic laws!

Human language (spoken and written) intrinsically incorporates a people’s deepest and most personal intricacies, including the celebrated communal triumphs and endured woes that its sole true owners accumulate and develop over centuries to the benefit of all.

Rules of grammar (including the entire linguistics corpus) and lexicons (dictionaries, word lists, glossaries, etc), owing to the transient ever changing nature of language, should be treated as significant “guidelines” but never as *sine qua non* or infallible dictums arrogantly imposed by legislation. Indeed these “rules” after all, know their origins from the earliest days of civilisation;

they are not invented or composed at the whim of individual scholars. The scholar observes, collates, compares, analyses, scrutinises, then formulates the unwritten “rules” already extant within the established language structure into registered rules under the collective notion of “grammar”. Grammar is inherently and conceptually built into human language. The basic collective wisdom and knowledge upon which language is built and develops!

With profoundest respect towards the forebears who initialised as well as the worthy contribution of the current users, language should be left to develop always with reverence towards its collective communal users.

In view of the forthcoming national election, I invite all declared candidates of all colours and creeds, who present themselves to the Maltese public in the forthcoming national ballot, to publicly declare beforehand their understanding and intentions concerning the future of our unique Maltese Language.

Through your individual public declarations let the people of this proud nation know so all may be more suitably armed to participate more proactively in the preservation of the past and collective on-going wisdom of our own language that does not belong exclusively to the National Council of the Maltese Language nor the nation’s administration constituted by the entire National Parliament and the Judiciary.

Getting rid of the nominated offending Article incorporated within the Act is a non-negotiable necessity before it is too late. This should then be followed by a thorough review of the entire Act where

archaisms such as *artikolu* and *kapitolu* instead of *artiklu* and *kapitlu* and all other concealed subtleties are clarified. Let no obscurities hover over vague modes of expression.

Before one can instruct others in the art of writing and speaking one’s tongue, such as the relentless attacks upon our journalists, let the would-be self-appointed fonts of wisdom first familiarise themselves more thoroughly with the people’s language with due sensitivity and respect towards our entire Maltese nation *in toto*. There is so much more to be done and time is rapidly running out while those responsible dilly-dally with our grandchildren’s survival as a nation.

A Blast from the Past



Recently, I was sent, by GozoTV, a couple of segments, recorded at my home, St. Dominic's Home for the Elderly, 'my' hospitals (Prince of Wales, Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney Children's) in Sydney, Australia in 2013, mostly about the status of the Maltese in Sydney. They were aired on MTV on the programme 'Malta u Lil Hinn Minnha'.

This was at the time of the resurgence of CMLA and FOMA in the minds of Maltese in Malta and especially when the current President of Malta, HE Dr. George Vella, was Minister for Foreign Affairs. The previous decade was a period of great benefit to Maltese overseas, since unsurpassed - dual citizenship for our successors in perpetuity, EU passports for Maltese-Australians and their progeny, citizenship for the Maltese in Egypt, renewal of the Health and Social Security Dual Agreements, stabilisation of the Pensions arrangements, formal recognition by Govt depts of the diaspora contributions in the arts, sport and business, vote in the European Parliament for dual MA citizens and increased involvement by Enterprise Malta, Social Security and Identity

By Prof. Stephen Gatt NSW

Malta in our welfare. These were times of upheaval as well. The Malta Banks - BoV and HSBC - were withdrawing services from Australia, religious orders were reducing services with a view to disappearing from Australia altogether and our 'old' leaders were ageing and, sadly, dying off. Reverse migration had stopped and a new breed of professional and technical migrant was arriving from Malta. The 'clubs' were contracting, and social media was the way of the 'new Maltese'. Visits to Malta, especially in the off-season, by ex-pats and 2nd and 3rd generation MAs were at an unprecedented high and were becoming a sizeable proportion of 'tourists'; Tourism Malta was showing great interest.

The two segments I contributed to almost 10 years ago are still worth watching because the time has come to review our situation as we emerge from COVID and we re-establish our Malta links. We need Malta to produce a couple of similar Sydney-specific segments with our current leaders in control of our needs and the outlook for Maltese Australians.

The Three 'M's... your thoughts? The CCs (especially those who are non-Maltese-speaking)... hold fire for the time being...

I reckon that it is time to get our act together once again.... and to get behind the CMLA (Council for Maltese Living Abroad) to try to reengage Malta. Much has already been achieved but all has been quiescent, because of COVID travel and social restrictions for almost two years. Travel, trade and commerce are at a standstill... but everyone is ready to 'fly'. Plenty of plans, dreams and projects are in the pipeline and there is much enthusiastic expectancy. Time for a fresh start....

We, the readers of this journal in Malta and Gozo, love to read about the stories of Maltese who are living abroad. J. A Galea

ELUF GHALL-QUDDIESA MAL-PAPA FRANGISKU



IT-TRIBUNA GHALL-PAPA FRANGISKU FUQ IL-FOSOS

**FUQ IL-FOSOS
ĠIMAGHTEJN
MILL-VJAĠĠ
APPOSTOLIKU
TAL-PAPA
F'MALTA**

ta' Kristu jinħallu minn mas-salib u l-korp jitniżżel qisu għad-difna biex jitqiegħed għall-qima tal-fidili.

Għall-quddiesa tal-Papa se jintużaw artal,

ambone u sedja tal-injam li kienu saru fis-snin tmenin mill-iskultur Malti Ġanni Bonnici, oriġinarjament għall-knisja tal-Mosta.

Fil-ġenb tal-artal se jkun hemm ukoll l-ikona tal-Madonna ta' Damasku tas-seklu 12, magħrufa bħala 'Ta' Damaxxena', li bħalissa tinsab fil-Knisja tal-Griegi Kattoliċi fil-Belt Valletta. L-ikona kienet meqjuma f'Damasku, is-Sirja, minn fejn ħadet isimha u kienet waslet Malta fl-1530 minn sidtha Joanna Calamia, Griega distinta minn Rodi. Il-Gran Mastru Jean Parisot de Valette kien devot ta' din l-ikona. Meta l-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann u l-Maltin għelbu lill-Ottomani waqt l-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565, il-Gran Mastru de Valette ta l-kappell u x-xabla tiegħu bħala offerta vottiva lill-Madonna ta' Damasku.

Għall-quddiesa se jkun hemm zona riservata għall-persuni b'siġġu tar-roti u zona għall-persuni neqsin mis-smiġħ u li għandhom bżonn interpretu tal-Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija.

Fl-ewwel jumejn meta fethet ir-registrazzjoni għall-post bilqiegħda fuq il-Fosos applikaw eluf ta' nies. Kull min irregistra se jirċievi biljett b'email li għandu jiġi pprezentat dakinhar. Il-Knisja qed tappella lin-nies sabiex jaħsbu kmieni u jużaw it-trasport pubbliku.

Kull min għandu bżonn aktar tagħrif dwar il-quddiesa mill-Papa Frangisku jista' jibgħat email fuq papalvisit@maltadiocese.org.

Il-Kumitat Organizzattiv Djoċesan għaž-żjara tal-Papa qed jippubblika impressjoni artistika tat-tribuna li se tinbena fuq il-Fosos u li minnha l-Papa Frangisku se jiċċelebra l-quddiesa tal-Ħadd, 3 ta' April 2022, fl-10:15am. Din ġiet iddisinjata mid-direttur artistiku Carlo Schembri bil-kollaborazzjoni tal-Perit Joe Bondin li qed jieħu ħsieb l-istruttura tagħha u s-Sur Anton Attard li qed jieħu ħsieb il-loġistika.

Id-disinn tat-tribuna hu ispirat mill-forma tal-kurċifiss, biċ-ċirku u r-raġġi ħerġin minnu jirrappreżentaw l-Ewkaristija. It-tribuna hija wiesgħa 16-il metru u fonda 14-il metru. Fuq it-tribuna se jkun hemm mas-600 saċerdot li dakinhar se jikkonċelebraw mal-Papa.

Peress li ż-żjara tal-Papa se ssir fi żmien ir-Randan, il-kulur l-aktar prominenti se jkun il-vjola, il-kulur liturġiku li jintuża matul l-40 jum tar-Randan. Flok fjuri, it-tribuna se tkun imdawra b'fawna li nsibu f'Malta u li tissemma wkoll fil-Bibbja.

Fin-nofs tat-tribuna se jkun hemm kurċifiss, xogħol lokali x'aktarx ta' tmiem is-seklu 19, magħruf tradizzjonament bħala 'Kristu tal-Ġogi' u li jinsab fil-kappella tal-Kurja tal-Arċisqof fil-Furjana u jappartjeni lill-Knisja ta' San Nikola (Tal-Erwieħ) tal-Belt Valletta. Kurċifissi bħal dan kienu jintużaw waqt il-priedka tradizzjonali tat-tliet sigħat nhar il-Ġimgħa il-Kbira, għax kienu jippermettu li l-idejn

THE ORDER OF MALTA AND UKRAINE DISASTER



Russian military attack on Ukraine, the Order of Malta's local relief corps (Maltijiska Slushba Dopomohy – MSD), active in the country since 1993, is trying to organize aid to the population amid a thousand difficulties.

"I've been on the phone since the early hours of this morning, talking to colleagues from all parts of the country, along the borders and in the east, where there are dramatic situations," said Pavlo Titko, head of the relief corps, in an interview on the German ARD broadcaster. "Unfortunately, many colleagues can't work with us yet because they first have to look after themselves and their families."

The Order of Malta's relief corps is organising a mobile canteen for displaced persons, expected to be in place very soon. It is also trying to set up logistics, supplies and technologies to help refugees. But the unexpected precipitation of events took everyone by surprise: "Until the end, nobody here thought it would be like this. Today we tried again to buy supplies, but there are long queues at the shops and at the checkouts. There is little food, only one package per person and a maximum of 20 litres of petrol per car. People have been waiting all day in front of pharmacies."

The relief corps is compiling a list of life-saving medicines and other emergency aid for refugees such as camp beds, blankets, food and cash. The greatest fear is that the basic infrastructure services will be interrupted, in particular water and electricity. "No one knows what will be bombed next. When the injured arrive in hospitals, they need all manner of medicines, which were already

In the aftermath of the

scarce because of the economic crisis," Titko explains.

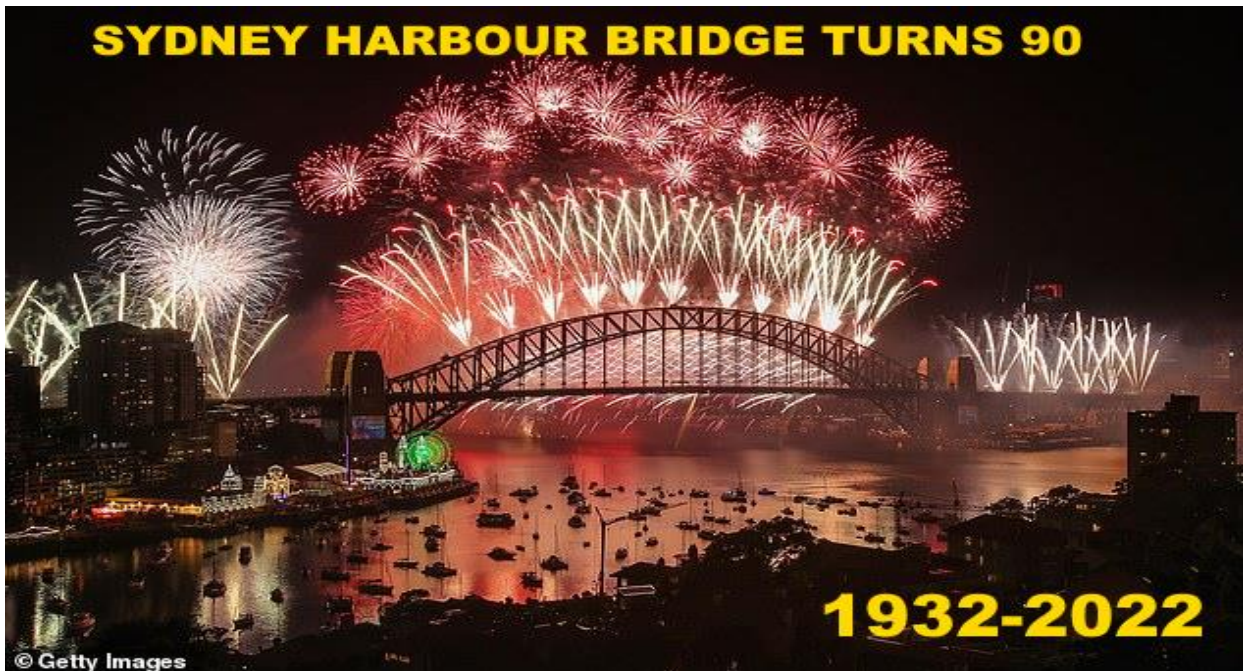
But the real problems could begin within two to three days, with the arrival of many refugees heading west from all over Ukraine and, above all, with the great uncertainty regarding the borders with Hungary and Poland: "We're expecting a massive flow of refugees and some are already here. Many want to push further west. There's a huge number of people at the Polish and Hungarian borders. In the town of Lviv (almost on the border with Poland) the majority of cars have other license plates and all hotels and apartments are full.

The most important question for humanitarian aid remains whether Russia will close the border with Poland and Hungary. It is difficult to predict what tomorrow will bring."

Volunteers of the Order of Malta are deployed in the Transcarpathia region of Ukraine, which is an area separated from the rest of Ukraine by the Carpathian Mountains, for now isolated from the war. It is the second most important refugee transit route, the gate to Hungary and Slovakia. Transcarpathia has a large Hungarian-speaking minority.

The Berehovo district Charity service of the Order of Malta – one of four local auxiliary offices of the Order in Ukraine – has set up an information centre at the Astey border crossing, where volunteers provide assistance to refugees arriving at the border. Once they have crossed into Hungary, the staff of the Hungarian Order of Malta Charity Service continue to assist.

Most of the refugee families speak only Ukrainian. The Order of Malta Charity Service in Berehove has produced a simple Hungarian-language form, that they fill out for those waiting at the border, stating the number of family members and their ages, whether they have any illness that requires treatment, where they want to go, and other pertinent information requested. These forms can later be handed over by the refugees to Hungarian helpers, thus speeding up and facilitating their reception and the organisation of their onward travel through Hungary. Volunteers also support an orphanage in Uzhhorod, where children fleeing Kiev are being accommodated. Because of the food shortages volunteers regularly drive carloads of supplies



Sydney Harbour Bridge Marks 90th Anniversary

THIS MONTH marks 90-years since the Sydney Harbour Bridge first opened to the public.

Arguably, Australia's most defining built structure, the **Sydney Harbour Bridge**, with its distinctive arched design was constructed soon after World War I, during the Great Depression. Over the next decade, 40,000 tonnes of steel and six million rivets would go into building the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

"The bridge was an early and very powerful symbol of the modern Australian project.

"It ties in with the idea of 'Australia unlimited' - where there were no limits to what a young nation could aim to do if its natural and human resources were harnessed to the full capacity using the latest engineering technology."

The grand opening, which saw anywhere from 300,000 to a million people turn out for the occasion, was somewhat marred by a member of the fascist New Guard group who rode through the crowd on a borrowed horse, cutting the ceremonial ribbon before the premier.

To some, the bridge is simply means of getting from one side of the city to the other, while for many others it remains a symbol of hope and opportunity.

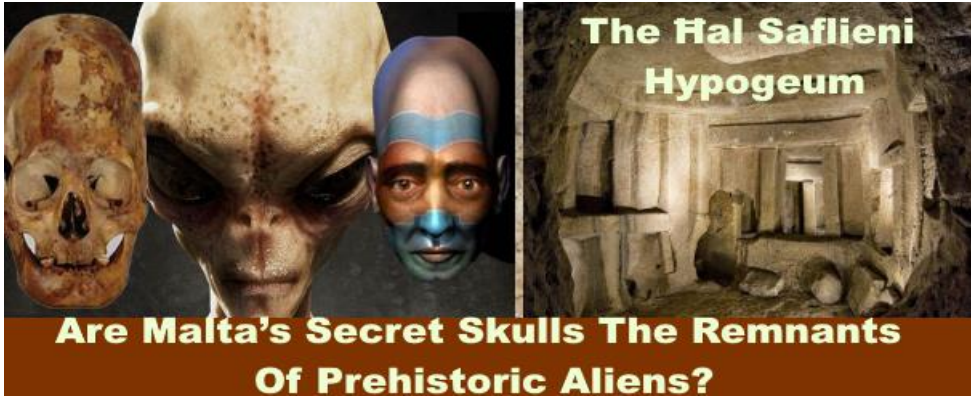
Former Governor-General of Australia, General Hurley said the bridge, says *"so much about us as Australians and our capacity to overcome difficulty. That is who we were, who we are, and why I am optimistic about our future."*

Today the bridge represents creativity, passion, humility, community, grit and stealth, resilience and strength. Beneath its grand arches and its surrounds, lies the Opera House, the Sydney Theatre Company, the Museum of Contemporary Arts, restaurants and cafes, hotels, shops, and buskers, ferries, private yachts and chartered boats.

It's also home to Sydney's famous New Year's Eve fireworks show, and is often used as an installation site for powerful social conversations and celebrations.

So, in celebrating 90-years of the Harbour Bridge, it seems only apt that finally in a gesture that will provide long-overdue recognition to traditional landowners, the Australian and Aboriginal flags fly side-by-side all year round on one of the countries great symbolic monuments.

Elongated “Alien” Skulls Found Inside Malta’s Ancient Hypogeum to be Examined in Cutting-Edge Study



The structure was uncovered by accident in 1902, as construction workers were working on housing development. A year later in 1903, the first excavations of the temple were done by Manuel Magri, who directed the excavations on behalf of the Museums

An ancient mystery could soon be solved thanks to a cutting-edge study.

Elongated skulls are global phenomena. These mysterious skulls have been discovered in nearly all continents on the planet.

That's why it is unsurprising to learn that a collection of elongated skulls has been found in Malta.

More specifically inside the Hal Saflieni hypogeum (Hal Saflieni Hypogeum). While the existence of the skulls has been known for more than 90 years, they've never been submitted to serious scientific work.

But now, a group of scientists from Malta and Australia is going to study the Skulls discovered in 1926 in detail, hoping to uncover some of the mysteries the skulls may

The elongated skulls were first discovered by Temi Zammit –who described the skulls as of the long variety (dolichocephalic)– at the Hal Saflieni hypogeum in 1926. And ever since, they've been the center for countless conspiracy theories.

The skulls were discovered in a subterranean structure in Paola, Malta. The Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni is believed to be more than 5,500 years old and is usually just referred to as the Hypogeum, which in Greek literally means Underground.

A Photograph of the Hypogeum of Hal-Saflieni made before 1910. Public Domain.

The structure itself is believed to have been an ancient sanctuary and necropolis. Inside it, researchers have discovered the remains of more than 7,000 individuals.

Committee. The structure consists of three different levels. It is believed that the Hypogeum's upper level was the first to be excavated, and the middle and lower levels were later excavated and used.

One of the most noteworthy rooms inside the Hypogeum is located on the middle level. Called the Oracle room, the chamber is thought to have been described specifically for sound and vibrations. Scholars argue the ancients created the room to project changing and/or drumming through the rest of the Hypogeum.

The so-called Oracle room was most likely the place where 'priests' would produce sounds that they believed enhanced the effectivity of the rituals. Some authors even suggest that vibrations and sounds produced within the chamber were created for healing purposes.

The entire structure is believed to have been covered in ancient times by a kind of monument or surface shrine that was eventually destroyed, keeping the entire structure hidden from sight, for thousands of years. Given their strange look, it no surprise that some people have even put forth theories suggesting the skulls were alien.

And although the alien theory doesn't seem to hold much water, the alien myth is an ongoing one.

Scholars argue that the elongated skulls from Malta may have belonged to a culture which deliberately, and artificially elongated their skulls, something that cultures located thousands of kilometers away, in South America also did.

The most famous of American elongated skulls are those discovered in Paracas, Peru.

The Elongated skulls discovered in the Hypogeum are shrouded in mystery. Although not all skulls discovered inside it were artificially enlarged (only a small part of the skulls features this characteristic), the skulls were not properly documented, so not much information is available about them. But the elongated skulls did not vanish from sight. According to reports, no more than 20 elongated skulls of a total of around 7,000 have survived to this day, and they are about to be submitted to the first-ever interdisciplinary analysis that will hopefully shed light on their mysterious characteristics.

As noted by ancient-wisdom, the skulls “have since disappeared without a trace, along with the 7,000 from the Hypogeum.” As noted by Malta Today, the scientific study will see experts from Heritage Malta, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Macquarie University of Sydney, Australia participate in a combined effort to understand more about the elongated skulls.

“Only the photographs taken by the Maltese researcher Dr. Anton Mifsud and his colleague, Dr. Charles Savona Ventura, remain to testify the existence of the skulls and prove their abnormality. Books written by the two Maltese doctors, illustrate a collection of skulls that show peculiar abnormalities and/or pathologies. Sometimes inexistent cranial knitting lines abnormally developed temporal partitions, drilled and swollen occiputs as following recovered traumas, but above all, a strange, lengthened skull, bigger and more peculiar than the others, lacking the median knitting.” (Ancient Wisdom, retrieved July 2019.)

The project titled “The Sentinels of Ħal Saflieni, Malta: Science Facts versus Science Fiction” will attempt to solve some of the mysteries behind the enigmatic elongated skulls, their condition as well as their origin. Scientists are expected to use traditional archeological historical and archival research, together with cutting-edge scientific analysis in order to reveal the aspects of the people, their health, their way of life, and history in general.



St Joseph's chapel at the Citadel - Gozo

The chapel dedicated to St Joseph at the Citadel in Victoria. Photo: Charles Spiteri

In March 19, the Church celebrated the feast of St Joseph, patron of the Universal Church. In 1625, a chapel dedicated to the saint was raised on the site of an earlier chapel within the Citadel in Victoria through the munificence of Bishop Baldassare Cagliares

(1615–1633). The simplicity of the façade with the typical round window above the door is balanced by the chequered arched ceiling inside.

The church was on the point of collapse several times. In the mid-1930s, it was extensively restored through the interest of Sir Harry Luke, then Lieutenant Governor of Malta. Fifty years later, in the 1980s, through the interest of Fr Tony Mercieca and Anthony Spiteri, a group of youths once again undertook the chapel's rehabilitation.

Bishop Cagliares, who also built the adjoining house, known as Palazzo Cagliares, adorned the chapel with a beautiful altarpiece – The Flight of Saint Joseph into Egypt – a work attributed to Filippo Paladino (1544-1616); but most probably it was acquired from abroad. The painting, notable for its realism and quaint detail, now hangs at the Cathedral Museum. The painting currently hanging inside the chapel is a 1980 copy by Vincenzo Cordina.

In 1672, the Cathedral Chapter started to solemnise the feast of St Joseph by chanting the first vespers and singing a High Mass at the chapel. Due to the restricted space inside the chapel, the feast was celebrated at the cathedral with sung Mass.

GREENS CANDIDATE FOR ADELAIDE (Federal)

REBECCA GALDIES – An Australian of Maltese heritage

I was about 8 years old when my mum first took me to a protest march about freeing Xanana Guzman, 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!

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 to 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 unfailing 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



New dates announced for Mużika Mużika 2022



Jurgen Balzan

This year's *Mużika Mużika* festival will be held between 21 and 23 April at MFCC, Ta' Qali, Festivals Malta announced.

Logistical preparations for the festival are currently in full swing, with ongoing work to build this year's new stage, coordinate artist rehearsals, as well as various other preparations.

Festivals Malta announced that this year the festival will take place between 21 and 23 April at 9pm, live at MFCC, Ta' Qali, and said tickets for the three live events will go on sale in the coming days.

Arts minister José Herrera, said that the music festival regained its place in the Maltese cultural calendar after a long absence. "This festival has

been so successful that we are committed to continue organising it on a yearly basis," Herrera said. *Mużika Mużika* chairman Raymond Bugeja recalled the success of the festival's first edition, which helped generate interest amongst local artists for this second edition.

"We have several new artists who are taking part in this festival, with the inclusion of a new semi-finalist selected from the television programme *Mużika Mużika – Il-Vjaġġ Ikompli*. This year we also continued to invest in the festival, with a new stage that has been specially designed for this edition," he said.

Bugeja also explained that this year's festival will be presented by three well-known figures in the local entertainment industry, namely Keith Demicoli, Clare Agius and Moira Delia.

Festivals Malta CEO Annabelle Stivala explained that unlike last year, the festival will be able to host a live audience, a new logistical aspect that the team behind the festival is already working towards. Stivala said that *Mużika Mużika* is an important festival within Festivals Malta's portfolio of events, because through this festival Maltese music is being preserved while also providing new opportunities to local artists.

"I am proud to say that last year we managed to achieve our main goal – to raise bar for compositions in Maltese. Therefore, Festivals Malta will continue to work to provide an appropriate platform for both Maltese song, singers, authors and composers," she said.

This content was supplied by Festivals Malta

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maltesejournal@gmail.com



We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

**OUR UNIQUE JOURNAL IS BILINGUAL (MALTESE AND ENGLISH) AND
SUPPORTED BY MALTESE AND NON MALTESE READERS FROM
MALTA AND GOZO AND ALSO FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE**

THE BUSKETT THE GARDENS (ITALIAN: BOSCHETTO)

This little forest forming one of the few [woodland](#) areas in [Malta](#), is located in the fertile valley of *Wied il-Luq* in [Siggiewi](#). The 30 ha site lies to the west of Siggiewi (Città Ferdinand) and just east of [Dingli](#). The [Verdala Palace](#), an official residence of the [President of Malta](#), stands on the edge of the Gardens.

HISTORY The gardens know their origins at least since the post-[Roman Republic](#) period and in which sexual celebrations in honor of their gods were traditional. When Eastern Christianity took root in



Malta, this pagan feast was replaced by the [Christian celebrations of St. Peter and St. Paul](#). Indigenous forests once covered Malta, but trees were cut down for shipbuilding in the era when [galleons](#) plied the [Mediterranean](#) waters and for agricultural purposes. Buskett Gardens were planted by the [Knights Hospitaller](#) as a hunting reserve.

In June 1557, Grand Master [Claude de la Sengle](#) retreated to Buskett when his health began to deteriorate, and died at [Mdina](#) two months later.

DESCRIPTION The gardens contain [broadleaved deciduous woodland](#), native [coniferous](#) woodland, with [sclerophyllous garrigue](#) and [maquis shrubland](#), as well as groves of [fruit trees](#). Many different trees and shrubs grow in the gardens, including numerous fruit-bearing trees. One of the greenest areas in Malta, the gardens are at their best in the spring but also provide shade from the harsh mid-summer sun and offer a quiet place for a walk in the winter months.

The gardens are very popular with the Maltese people, who often go for walks in the peaceful settings or enjoy a picnic in the shade of the trees. The gardens serve as a venue for the [Feast of Imnarja](#) which is celebrated on 29 June. Hundreds of people flock there the previous evening, to eat the traditional Maltese dish of rabbit stew cooked in wine, to listen to traditional folk music and singing, and to enjoy the annual agricultural show in the morning.

VERDALA PALACE The Verdala Palace is perched on a hilltop adjoining and overlooking Buskett Gardens. It was built by [Grand Master Hughes de Verdalle](#) in 1588 as a summer residence and hunting lodge. The building now serves as the President's summer residence. The palace is a landmark and not open to the public except for certain occasions.

The Imnarja festival at Buskett Gardens is also famous for the old tradition. It was a common custom that at the altar the bridegroom would have to solemnly promise the bride he would ensure annually take her to celebrate Mnarja at Buskett – as the main treat of her year!

IMPORTANT BIRD AREA The gardens have been identified as an [Important Bird Area](#) (IBA) by [BirdLife International](#) because they support large numbers of bird species, especially as a sanctuary to those on seasonal [migration](#) through the Maltese Archipelago.

COMMONWEALTH GARDEN IN NAXXAR

UK in Malta - British High Commission Valletta is with George Vella.



His Excellency George Vella, President of Malta, and Her Excellency British High Commissioner Cathy Ward inaugurated the Commonwealth Garden.

Situated within the British High Commissioner's residence, in Naxxar, The Commonwealth Garden includes native trees from various Commonwealth countries represented in Malta, such as English Roses from the United Kingdom, Ġħargħar (Malta's national gum tree, donated by the Office of the President of Malta), Tulsi (also referred to as Holy Basil, donated by the High Commission of India, Malta), Pöhutukawa (donated by the New Zealand Honorary Consulate in Malta), Bottlebrush (donated by the Australian High Commission, Malta) and King Palm (donated by the High Commission of Ghana in Malta).

The garden is a living symbol of the core common goals and shared values of our Commonwealth family in Malta, including our commitment towards addressing climate change and working towards democracy, security and international peace.



Given that 2022 is Her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee Year, UK in Malta - British High Commission Valletta is also marking Her Majesty The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022

Ma, I am going out?



"see you!"



"au revoir!"



"adios!"



"bye!"



Going out? Where? Why? With whom?
What time you'll be back?

Uff, you treat my house as a hotel?

How much money you spend?

Always out, you don't have time for
your parents. What if something
happens to us?

The Ranking of Maltese Surnames

BORG is leading: 1 Malta on 25 carries this name.

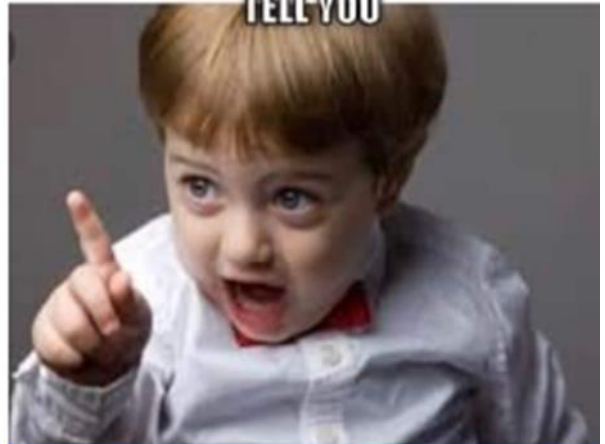
Following: VELLA, FARRUGIA, CAMILLERI et ZAMMIT

The table below shows the ranking for the first 120 surnames:

1 BORG	21 CALLEJA	41 AZZOPARDI	61 BONELLO	81 CILIA	101 PULLICINO
2 VELLA	22 PORTELLI	42 PSAILA	62 FORMOSA	82 CURMI	102 AXISA
3 FARRUGIA	23 GATT	43 VASSALLO	63 CASHA	83 TEUMA	103 GAFA
4 CAMILLERI	24 GRIMA	44 ZAHRA	64 CIANTAR	84 GRISTI	104 BAJADA
5 ZAMMIT	25 BUGEJA	45 SALIBA	65 ZERAFA	85 BALZAN	105 PULIS
6 GRECH	26 MALLIA	46 CACHIA	66 TONNA	86 AZZOPARDI	106 ABDILLA
7 GALEA	27 MIZZI	47 AZZOPARD	67 DALLI	87 DINGLI	107 GRECH / GREG
8 CARUANA	28 BUSUTTIL	48 MAGRO	68 CHETCUTI	88 SAYD	108 FITENI
9 AGIUS	29 SAMMUT	49 MANGION	69 FREND	89 CAMENZULI	109 GERADA
10 CASSAR	30 ABELA	50 BARBARA	70 DARMANIN	90 PARNIS	110 CASSIA
11 ATTARD	31 GAUCI	51 MAMO	71 BONAVIA	91 CUMBO	111 RIZZO
12 MICALLEF	32 FALZON	52 BARTOLO	72 TANTI	92 CREMONA	112 CORDINA
13 MIFSUD	33 XERRI	53 BEZZINA	73 CALLUS	93 ABEJER	113 DELIA
14 SPITERI	34 XICLUNA	54 XUEREB	74 SANT	94 CATANIA	114 CIAPPARA
15 PACE	35 BUTTIGIEG	55 ZARB	75 FELICI	95 CARDONA	115 COLEIRO
16 MUSCAT	36 CAUCHI	56 CUTAJAR	76 DE BRINGAT	96 CUSCHIERI	116 SULTANA
17 BONNICI	37 AQUILINA	57 BUHAGIAR	77 BRIFFA	97 CINI	117 BIGENI
18 FENECH	38 ELLUL	58 DIMECH	78 CHIRCOP	98 GALDES	118 STIVALA
19 SCHEMBRI	39 TABONE	59 MERECIECA	79 PISANO	99 SACCO	119 SOLTANA
20 DEBONO	40 XIBERRAS	60 BALDACCHINO	80 SEICHEL	100 REFALO	120 XIRIHA

▪ Top 10 surnames represents for about ¼ of all surnames

THIS IS THE LAST TIME I WILL
TELL YOU



DON'T TOUCH MY PASTIZZI



THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022



These photos were shot by the experienced photographer Gino Galea. His photo-art studio is based at 198, Eucharistic Congress Road, Mosta, Malta.

Gino enjoys a first-class reputation for quality photography in Malta.

Some of his services are weddings, studio sessions, videography, photographic coverage, logo design & branding and passports & id photos

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of the
MALTESE DIASPORA



**WHERE CAN I READ
THE PREVIOUS JOURNALS?**

Malta Migration Museum-Valletta
Maltese-Canadian Museum - Toronto
Website of the Foreign Affairs Ministry
Facebook: facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3
Our website: www.ozmalta.com
Maltese Community Council of Victoria
website: www.mccv.org.au



**Send us photos, stories,
poems, articles etc and
share them with others**

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022



Welcome! Merħba!

TO THE MALTESE-AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, INC. (DETROIT) EST:1940
The club for the Maltese in the heart of Detroit's historic
Corktown District



Welcome to our digital home! Merħba fid-dar diġitali tagħna!

We here at the Maltese American Benevolent Society would like to INVITE YOU TO VISIT visiting our website - www.detroitmaltese.com. Keep us on your "favorites" as we will be using the site to keep people updated and connected with the Maltese community in the Metro Detroit area.

There are several features we are debuting here, so please check them all out! Our digital archive has relocated to this website in a much more user friendly manner. You can also pay your club dues, find out how to volunteer with the club, and much more!

We also feature our own "publication" of sorts, *The Maltese-Detroiter*. This blog will have a rotating group of authors that will write various articles involving the Maltese community on the topics of

1832 Michigan Avenue - Detroit, MICHIGAN USA 48216 - Tel 313-961-8393



Sandra Grech with 'Elvis' Mark Andrew Marku - the Maltese from Gozo at LaValette Center - New South Wales



1950s MALTESE SOCCER TEAM

A mid-century version of the Maltese Soccer Club is pictured here prior to its league match in 1956 at Patton Park in Detroit.

Coach Charlie Xeureb (Namru) is seen on the left of the photograph.

Back Row: Charlie Xuereb, George (?), Carl Barrett (?), Charlie Muscat, (unknown), Louis (?), Charles Bowman, John Gatt, Frank Mifsud - Manager, Charles Schiana (?)

Front Row: Larry Tabone, Pius Xuereb (?), (unknown), (?) Micallef, Tony Spiteri, (unknown)

This photo was donated digitally in 2014 by John Caruana.

F'DAN IZ-ZMIEN GHAZIZ TAS-SENA

Żmien sabiħ qed jerga' magħna –
jiem għeżież tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira
illi fihom aħna nagħmlu
tal-mewt il-Mulej tifikira!

'Il fuq minn elfejn sena ilu
Kristu ssallab għall-bnedmin,
ċarċar demmu, ħalla ħajtu,
biex le nibqgħu midinbin.

It-tbatija illi sofru
ma tfissirha bl-ebda kliem;
għuda tqila ġarr fuq spalltu
li wasslitu lejn it-tmiem.

Fuq salib safa mdendel
qisu l-aqwa kriminal;
lil Missieru minn hemm talab
biex jaħfrilhom dan l-iżball.

Għaddew, tgerbu das-snin kollha –
lill-Mulej għadna nwarrebuh,
u lil qalbu nfieru, inwegġgħu,
dispjaċir wisq kbir nagħtuh!

Tafu xejn li bl-aġir tagħna
mill-ġdid qegħdin insallbuh
u fuq l-għolja tal-Qorriegħa
qegħdin nerġgħu nwassluh!

Ejjew nidħlu fina nfusna
u naraw li jisgħobbina;
nibdlu r-rotta, lilu nwiegħdu,
li naħarbu t-triq ħażina.

Ħalli wkoll nitfgħu ħarsitna
fuq Marija Addolorata
li mxiet it-triq ma' Binha
b'rieda soda daqs ta' blata.

Iżda min jista' ifisser
it-tbatija li batiet!
L-ebda pinna m'hi ser tfisser
il-mument li sofriet.


F'dan iż-żmien qaddis tas-sena
inwiegħduk, Mulej Divin,
illi lilek qatt ma nonqsu –
ma nħallukx bi dnubna tnin!

Aħfrilna, Mulej, ħtijietna
u fis-siegħa ta' l-hemm tagħna,
Ħalli nħaddnu lil salibek
biex henjin dlonk int tarana!

Kav. Joe M Attard
Victoria - Ghawdex
20/02/2022

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of the
MALTESE DIASPORA



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MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022

MALTESE CENTER NY



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

tel: (718) 728 - 9883



Volunteers needed for April 15th, 2022

Good Friday Procession

Most Precious Blood Church

6 volunteers needed to carry the statue of the Crucified Jesus (il-vara l-kbira)

4 volunteers needed to carry resting stands (forcini)

4 volunteers needed to carry lanterns

Please send an email with your name and

which position you are volunteering.

Each statute in the procession is carried by a group from a different country. This statue has been carried by the Maltese community for many years. Let us continue the tradition together.

Malta



JUM IL-HELSEN 31 Marzu
FREEDOM DAY 31 March

MARCH 31st, 1979 : Jum il-Helsien/ Freedom Day is a national holiday. It is the anniversary day on which the British government and the military presence which had been stationed there since before World War II were finally withdrawn from Malta and its sister island Gozo. During Freedom Day a ceremony commemorating the withdrawal of the British troops and the Royal Navy from Malta is held at the War Memorial in Floriana. In the afternoon the Grand Harbour hosts a traditional regatta. The monument in Vittoriosa, commemorates the departure of the British forces which left Malta on board the HMS London, bringing an end to a permanent military presence in the islands, and thus proclaimed as 'Freedom Day'

40 years of Maltese presence in New York 1982-2022

As you go through the first door of the Maltese Center you may or may not have noticed a simple wood plaque on the wall in the vestibule that commemorates the day that first door you passed through officially opened. Some of you reading this may have never visited and some of you pass through that door every weekend. This plaque can easily go unnoticed but it is precious. It signifies so much more than a high level visit on that day but a pride and vision of a community with roots from one of the

smallest nations living in one of the biggest and most competitive cities in the world. A community who was in transition to grow and succeed in New York but also hold onto their identity. This was not the first Maltese club to exist. There were many around the city but one by one their doors closed. The clubs reorganized over the years and here we are the only club in New York and possibly the only one in the northeast. Next time you visit, stop and take a look at that simple wood plaque, it really is precious.

Throughout the year we will be taking a look back at the Maltese Center. Please share your photos or memories with us in an email. Plans are in the works to celebrate this very special anniversary this fall. We are grateful to all those who laid the foundation and thankful to all who help us to continue and GROW.

THE MALTESE GUILD OF SA INC.

6 Jeanes Street, BEVERLEY, SA 5009 Tel: (08)8243 0868

The Centre is open
every Tuesday
from 10 am till 3.00pm



Billards, Bingo
Luncheon
social activities

MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn South Australia

The Maltese Seniors
meet every Friday
from 10 am to 3.00pm



Bingo, Billiards
Lunch
social gathering



~ The Roman Baths at Ghajn Tuffieħa

Many archaeological remains are found by chance, when digging for other reasons. The remains of [Roman baths](#) at Ghajn Tuffieħa are such a case, discovered in 1929 during government works to use a fresh water spring to water fields in the area. This and other nearby springs might explain why the baths, which needed a constant flow of large amounts

of water, were built at Ghajn Tuffieħa. Although the area is rather deserted today, it was quite heavily populated in Roman times, as testified by burials in Zebbiegħ and Mġarr – in fact this was true of the entire area from Rabat/Mdina to the nearby ports of Ġnejna Ghajn Tuffieħa, and Burmarrad.

Although it has not as yet been totally excavated, it would seem that the site was quite large, with a communal latrine and possibly a small and rudimentary hotel-like structure in which people could stay overnight, however little is left of that other than the baths.

These baths date to between the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD. As in the case of the Roman House at Rabat, this complex gives an idea of the leisurely life enjoyed by the Romans in Malta.

The Roman baths complex has everything one would expect to find in Roman baths of the time, with bathers first entering a *tepidarium* for a warm air, then to the *caldarium*, similar to a sauna, where after profuse perspiration the bather took a warm bath. This was followed by a cold dip in the cold room or *frigidarium*. Heat was provided by a furnace beneath the *caldarium* which also provided a form of 'central heating' to the rest of the structure. The *caldarium* had an important role in Roman life, serving as a meeting place. Each room was fed by tunnels channelling the water flow and supplied with heat by an underground furnace or *hypocaustum*, similar to central heating. The *caldarium* at Ghajn Tuffieħa was built on arches so that the water could be heated.

Apart from all this, there was also a large swimming pool, the *natatio*. Another room had stone benches on three sides, one foot high, with nine circular holes cut in serve as toilet seats. The stone seating-slabs could be lifted to inspect and clean the space beneath as well as to lay fresh soil to cover the dirt [1].

The corridor is paved with earthenware tiles, the *tepidarium* with a beautiful coloured mosaic pavement though sadly the mosaic floor of the *frigidarium* is worn out due to exposure to the elements.

At the moment these Roman Baths are not open to the public and are not in a good state. Excavation had begun in 1929 under [Sir Temi Zammit](#). In 1961, the site's mosaics underwent restoration sponsored by UNESCO when rooms were built to shelter and protect the remains however, these rooms exerted pressure on the mosaics causing damage.

In recent years from the UNESCO funded the Malta Mosaics Project, which mapped mosaics and pavements at Ghajn Tuffieħa and the Domus Romana. The analysis of this mapping has resulted in a detailed conservation plan which should be actioned in the coming years.

Excavations carried out in 2014 formed part of a €6 million project entitled For a Rehabilitation of the Roman Baths and Christian Catacombs at Mosta and Mġarr, part-funded by EU Rural Development Funds. The two sites are not linked in any way, and the project intends to clean and open up the catacombs at Ta' Bistra in Mosta. The project intended to fully explore the entire area of the Roman Baths near Ghajn Tuffieħa, and subsequently roof over the site and set up an interpretation centre.

Six Roman bath complexes are known to have been discovered around Malta, including one, improbably, in Floriana. Others have been found at Ramla l-Ħamra in Gozo and Marsaxlokk.

ROMAN BATHS AT TA' BANDLU



Roman Baths were revealed in a location close to Misrah Suffara, called Ta' Baldu, probably a corruption of the name Teobald. They were first mentioned by Dr A. Caruana in 1882. (The site is characterized by two oblong farmhouses possibly dating to the 17th century.) Both farmhouses are typical of vernacular architecture and are found within a rural setting that has until 2004 remained mostly unchanged for the past 300 hundred years. Close to the farmhouses are a number of rubble walls, some of exceptional workmanship and soaring up to 5m in height.

Within the ridge beneath the farmhouses are a number of differently sized caves. Amongst these a rock-cut chamber believed to have served as a bathing place during the Early-modern period, and another larger cave containing water reservoirs, the date '1629' inscribed on one of the rock walls, a stone table and benches, and a Roman olive crusher (trapetum). The presence of this trapetum implies the existence of a Roman rustic villa in the vicinity. Between 1664 and 1665, a German traveler called Schellinkx described and published an illustration of the afore-mentioned features, which are still extant on site, though their conservation in-situ has now become under threat owing to the ongoing development taking place without any regard to permit requirements and best practice in conservation. The second farmhouse is being restored according to planning permit conditions and approved restoration method statement.

Fr Mark Cauchi OSA - 75 Years an Augustinian Friar



January 26, marked the 75th anniversary of the first Religious Profession of Fr. Mark Cauchi in the Order of St. Augustine. Father Mark, now 93, is a member of the Augustinian Community of Valletta.

Fr. Mark was born in Cospicua on July 5, 1928 and after his primary education in Cospicua he

Profession. He was ordained a priest on December 20, 1952 at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. Father Mark also studied French at the University of Grenoble in France.

As a religious and priest he served in various communities in Malta and was also a teacher of Latin and French at St. Augustine's College and chaplain of St. Catherine's Monastery in Valletta. Abroad he worked mainly in the Augustinian mission in North Africa and later even in Sicily.

continued his secondary education at St. Aloysius College in Birkirkara. On January 20, 1946, he joined the Augustinian family starting his novitiate at St. Augustine's Priory, Victoria, Gozo. One year later, on January 26, 1947 (75 years ago), he made the Simple Profession of the Evangelical Councils in the Order of St. Augustine. He then continued his studies in Philosophy and Theology at St. Mark's College in the Augustinian Priory in Rabat, Malta and on February 5, 1950 he made his Solemn

Profession. Several times he also served at the Augustinian Monastery in Poschiavo in Switzerland. Over the years he has always had a great love for history, research and writing, so much so that he has written several articles and even published books usually of a historical nature. Father Cauchi is an avid reader of the Maltese Journal for Maltese Living Abroad. I, on behalf of the readers of this journal, wish Fr. Mark good health and blessings from the Lord. Ad Multos Annos!

Malta's medical history is an integral part of its national heritage ALBERT FENECH



Thermal-baths-used-to-operated-by-Bighi-Hospital



**Lord-Horatio Nelson who
resided in Malta for a while**



**Bighi was a British
military hospital**



**The building now converted into a science-
and technology centre-ESPLORA**

Thanks to the presence in Malta for three-and-a-half centuries of the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, also known as The Knight Hospitaliers, the country has a long and experienced medical history and in World War I was regarded as "The nurse of the Mediterranean" for its medical treatment of wounded and injured British and Australian military personnel.

The role and importance of the Order has today declined but their presence is still felt by the work of the St John Ambulance Brigade, the role they perform and the insignia they use – its central focus being the Maltese Cross.

The Knights first came to Malta in the early years of the 15th century after being expelled by the Turkish Moors from Rhodes. The source of their foundation was a Nobility Order dedicated to treating the injured and wounded during the Crusades in the Holy Land and later treating Christian pilgrims.

By 1530 they had arrived and begun to settle in Malta which was “given” to them by the Sicilian King Charles I of Spain and his mother in exchange for a rent of a Maltese Falcon annually!

Now-fallen-into-disrepair-and-urgently-needing-renovation

One of their tasks was to construct an Infirmary Hospital in Valletta after this city was constructed and inaugurated in 1568 following the great victory in 1565 after the Great Siege imposed by the Turkish Moors. Right down to World War II this hospital continued to function but later was sadly abandoned until the 1970s when the Maltese Government renovated and converted the building into what is now known as The Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The Knights remained in Malta until 1798 until they were expelled by Napoleon Bonaparte and his French military who had taken over the island and whose one of the first actions was to expel the Knights because of their nobility heritage, a major blot in French Republican eyes.

By 1803 the British under Lord Horatio Nelson had dispelled the French and following Malta's request, Malta became a part of the British Empire. At British behest an old and decrepit villa built by the Knights at Bighi was converted into a military hospital and became Bighi Hospital.

Bighi lies on the inner northern part of the Grand Harbour rim near Kalkara and The Three Cities of Cospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa and was chosen so that naval vessels could immediately deliver their wounded and injured directly into the hospital. Its conversion to a hospital took place around 1827.

However, was there another reason?

Many people in Malta itself do not know that at the tip of Bighi, at water level, there are structured thermal baths and these were highly utilised by the British for patients with joint and muscle pains and other related illnesses and thus requiring thermal cures.

The coastal terrain in the area was ideal for the structuring of such baths,

The baths used to be filled with cold or warm sea water as required and produced by a pumping room with water being directly drawn from the sea. Seawater contains magnesium, zinc, iron and potassium and helps cure inflamed skin and protect it.

With the introduction of more sophisticated treatment, the baths were abandoned and the years of lying directly on the sea shore began to take their toll. The structures began to crumble and were in danger of being lost completely.



Maltese Community Council of Victoria

is inviting you to a

MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA

**Where: Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade- Parkville**

When: Saturday 30th April 2022

Time: 1.00pm - 4.00 pm

Cost: Adults \$40.00 Child 5-16 \$20.00

**Glass of sparkling wine upon arrival
and savoury food, tea and coffee**

Register your booking via MCCV website:

<https://mccv.org.au>

**For further information please contact
the MCCV on 9387 8922**

The-Malta-Cross-the-centrepiece-of-the-insignia-of-the-St-John-Ambulance-Brigade

However, the heritage foundation FWA has now stepped in and has applied great pressure for these to be renovated and preserved as they are part of the Grand Harbour panorama and are depicted in many paintings of the area.

This is once more proof that Malta and Gozo are resplendent in historical heritage and although being among the smallest countries in the world their contribution to humanity has been great and by far out-reaching their geographical dimensions.

The Bighi Hospital has now been converted into the ESPLORA science and technology centre to maintain the utility of its **importance to the history of Valletta's Grand Harbour.**

MALTESE SAYING “Cut and cut – you never cut” This is associated with St Paul's Catacombs in Rabat where it is believed that St Paul spent some days during his sojourn in Malta in 60 AD. Legend has it the cave assumed miraculous powers because of St Paul in that no matter how much rock was cut, it would be naturally replenished! During the early days of tourism, a

LEARN MALTESE IN VICTORIA IN 2022 FOR TRAVEL, PLEASURE OR WORK



Join us and embrace our beautiful culture and language. Classes are open to both adults and adult-accompanied children.

Registration for Maltese Language Classes is required. The Maltese Language classes are sponsored by the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre. Students pay a nominal enrolment fee. Families pay a

substantially discounted fee. The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinator as well as an independent adviser.

Semester 2 registration will reopen in May.

Courses are intended to provide participants with a basic knowledge of reading, writing and speaking Maltese. Courses run for one semester.

Lessons coincide with school terms. A token fee of \$120 per semester for 16 lessons covers some expenses. The tutor will advise students of other resources that are appropriate. The classes run for one hour extended by 30 minutes for student queries. Students receive guided self-learning activities equivalent to 1 hour. The total Unit context hours are 2.5 hours per week.

Adults wishing to learn Maltese and require further information should contact the Maltese Community Centre during business hours **+61 3 9387 8922** or **0466 079 814** after hours and leave a contact phone number or email us via our **Contact Form**.

Victorian School of Languages

THE VICTORIAN SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES also provides Maltese Language Classes. Currently classes are available on Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 12.30 at Taylors Lakes Secondary College, 1-39 Parmelia Dr, Taylors Lakes, Victoria, 3038.

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA – ONLINE MALTESE FOR FOREIGNERS LANGUAGE CLASSES

The University of Malta is offering 2 study units to those whom wish to Study the Maltese Language and need to communicate Maltese in their study and prospective work environment.

The study-unit EPE2013 – It-Taħdit u l-Kitba bil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija 1- Speaking and Writing in Maltese as a Foreign Language 1 Elementary Level A1 costs €45 and EPE2015 – It-Taħdit u l-Kitba bil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija 2 – Speaking and Writing in Maltese as a Foreign Language 2 Pre-Intermediate Level A2 – costs €90 The classes will be held on Friday evenings around 7.00 pm (AEDT- Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Students who join in February for EPE 2013, if they wish to further their studies can enrol for EPE 2015 later in May. Unless otherwise indicated, the online application facility may remain open up to 31 January 2022.

Course descriptions can be found: <https://www.um.edu.mt/educ/study/visitingstudents>

Apply using this link as a New User:

https://esims.um.edu.mt/esims/sits.urd/run/siw_ipp_lgn.login?process=siw_ipp_app&code2=0007&code1=VISEDU

THE VICTORIAN SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES also provides Maltese Language Classes. Currently classes are available on Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 12.30 at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. Expansion of classes in other metropolitan areas will occur if a viable number of students enrol.

FEDERATION OF MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

For information about schools in other states contact the Federation of Maltese Language Schools Australia Inc. via email: malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022

 **ST. NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE**
PLUMPTON PRESENTS
Variety Night

at the Good Shepherd Hall
136 Hyatts Rd., Plumpton NSW
Saturday 30th April 2022
From 7pm to 11 pm


An Evening full of fun with
A wide Variety of Music
Country & Western Music
Serata ta Makjetti
Line Dancing
& More Entertainment for the whole Family

FOOD & DRINKS will be available to purchase
So come along, bring your family and friends

\$10 ENTRY DONATION / KIDS UNDER 12 FREE
PLENTY OF PARKING

For further information please contact: -
The President – Emmanuel Vella on 0405 677 064
Or
Public Relations Officer – Stella Vella on 0414 188 226

PLEASE NOTE!!

All Government Covid-19 rules will apply

 **GAUCI FAMILY**
MINCHINBURY
Fruit Market
your local grocer Est 1960
"Quality Fruit & Vegetables Direct from Local Growers"

Variety of Maltese food and beverages including:

- * Kinnie
- * Pastizzi
- * Maltese biscuits
- * Figolli cutters
- * Ravioli
- * Maltese Sausage (Zalzetta)
- * Maltese Cheese (Gbejniet)
- * Maltese Tomato Paste (Kunserva)
- * Lamb Brand Rabbit Seasoning



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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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New South Wales 2175 02 9620
1267



FENECH
FAMILY FARM
www.fenechfamilyfarm.com.au

OUR STORY We are a proud family business

that has been operating for over 50 years. Established by Charlie and Rose Grima (as C&R Grima) in the 1960s, the farm has been managed by three generations of family members. In 2003, upon their retirement, Charlie and Rose passed the farm onto their daughter Marion and her husband Joe; who then changed the business name to Fenech Family Farm. Joe, his son Matthew and his wife Pauline are the current owners.

Throughout the years, our values and work ethic remain unchanged. We are committed to providing our customers with quality products, efficient service and affordable prices.

We are current members of Australian Eggs and NSW Farmer's Association. We also have a 5 star rating from the NSW Food Authority. We ensure that we keep up to date with the latest research and technology within our industry. We are also constantly updating our skills, services and products available to meet our customers' needs.

Our customers are our number one priority. Indeed, we pride ourselves on our loyal and growing customer base, both local and from all four corners of Sydney. We love the fact that our customers (many of whom are second generation customers) tell us that when it comes to eggs and other farm products they wouldn't shop anywhere else!

OUR PHILOSOPHY Our philosophy is a simple one: To grow and source the freshest eggs, game meat and seasonal produce for our customers.

OUR TEAM As our business has grown, we have been fortunate enough to employ a number of staff to assist us with the day to day running of our farms, retail outlet and wholesale operations.

It takes a lot of work to successfully manage a modern day farm. We have a fantastic team of staff who each play their part to keep Fenech Family Farm going strong. This includes picking eggs, grading eggs, farmhand work, delivery drivers for wholesale deliveries, retail staff in our shop, office staff and management. Every single member of our staff plays an important.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 417

March 2022

NOTICE TO ALL MALTESE EX-SERVICE MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY



ANZAC DAY 25TH APRIL 2022

To all Maltese Ex-Services Members and members of the Maltese Community who are interested in participating in the **ANZAC DAY 2022** march, you will need to register your name by calling the President/Secretary on 0466 589 533.

At this stage we have been allocated 25-30 spots on the day, so it is important those who are interested contact us ASAP.

The last time we marched was in 2019 so don't miss out



LEST WE FORGET

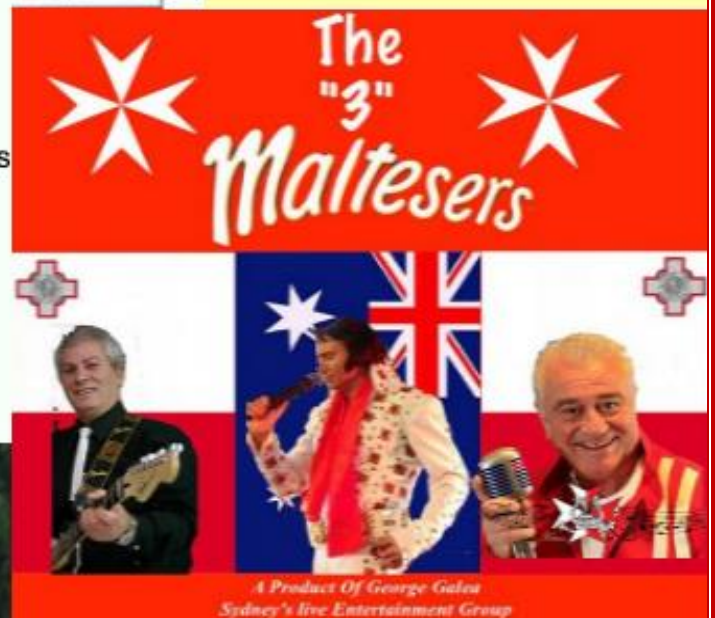
Joe Stafrace- President



Androcles Scicluna "The Maltese Pavarotti" makes poppy wreaths in the British Legion Poppy factory at Richmond
Credit: News Group Newspapers Ltd

**Our Maltese Associations
are the backbone of the
community - Support them**

We are calling for volunteers to help with and join in the Melbourne Anzac Day March. Many ex-service people have passed away or are in poor health and unless we find volunteers to participate there is a likely possibility we will not be able to participate in this tradition as I'm sure you would agree it would be a great loss to the Maltese Australian community not to see the Maltese participating on the ANZAC day March.



Join Your 3 Maltesers Team George Galea - Charlie Camilleri & Paul Fenech
This Saturday Night 26th March
At The Hamrun Club None Stop Dancing Limited Tickets Available
Don't Miss Out.
Call Joe Borg 0414429391