



# Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna

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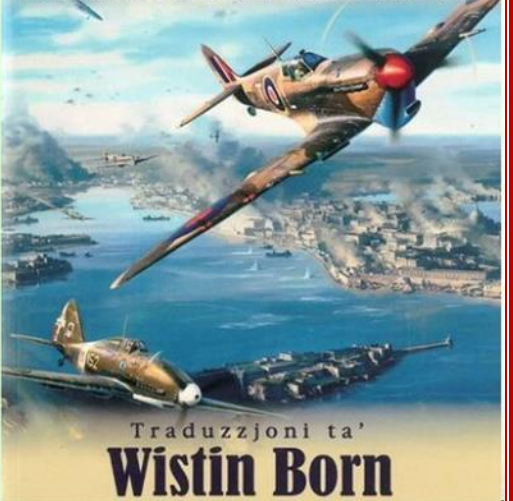
Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com



Maltese Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, Dr Cachia Zammit pictured with a group of newly arrived Maltese migrants during an official visit to Australia, 1963



## IL-KAPPILLAN TA' MALTA Nicholas Monsarrat



Traduzzjoni ta'  
**Wistin Born**

## PEMBROKE MALTA



Australia



Malta



New Zealand

**Pembroke Council  
objects to Fino  
tower buildings  
dwarfing listed  
Australia Hall**

**SAVE THIS  
ANZAC ICON**

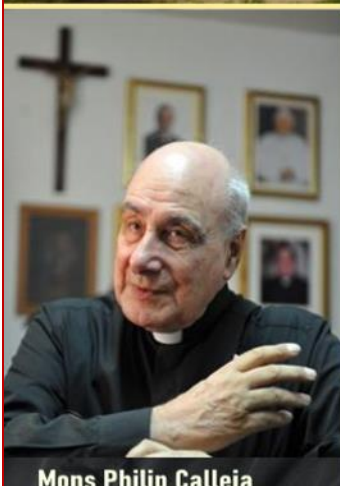
**The Maltese Journal, on behalf of  
all Maltese in Australia and  
New Zealand calls for the restoration of  
AUSTRALIA HALL**

**CAROLINE SPRINGS GEORGE CROSS - VICTORIA**

State League 1



# Champions

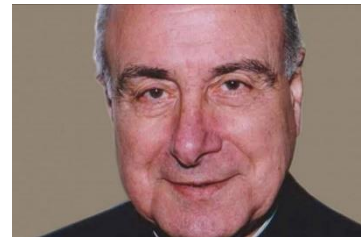


Mons Philip Calleja

**Mgr  
Philip Calleja,  
the priest for  
Maltese  
emigrants  
and refugees  
dies in Malta  
age of 93**



## Mgr Philip Calleja - Champion of Maltese Living Abroad and Refugees



*Mgr Philip Calleja, long-time champion of migration causes, dies*

He founded the church Emigrants Commission and built Dar L-Emigrant and the Malta Migration Museum.

Mgr Philip Calleja, a leading figure of the Maltese church for more than half a century, died in the early hours of Tuesday. He was 93.

His death was announced by the Migrants' Commission, which he founded and with whom he will forever remain synonymous.

"Mgr Philip Calleja, the priest for Maltese emigrants and refugees in Malta, passed away this morning," the commission said.

"We pray for his repose and thank God for his service and zeal for those uprooted from their

Mgr Philip Calleja speaks during the laying of the

foundation stone of Dar l-Emigrant in 1971.

His close friend Charles Buttigieg reported earlier this year how, up to March 2020, at the venerable age of 91, Calleja was still regularly making himself available at Dar l-Emigrant to help whoever knocked on his door seeking his advice or assistance. It was only the COVID-19 pandemic and the indispensable precautions that had to be taken that kept him away from Dar l-Emigrant and what was most dear to him: helping others.

The late researcher and historian Fr Lawrence Attard OP, writing in the Times of Malta on June 24, 1975, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Emigrants' Commission, had this to say:

"The history of migration from these islands, especially post-war migration, is now to a great extent the history of the Emigrants' Commission. That commission was providentially fortunate in that, since 1953, it has had as its driving force Mgr Philip Calleja, who, since then, has dedicated his priestly life to migrants and to all people whose life has been affected by emigration."

In other roles, Calleja was the lead

Church organiser of the first papal visit to Malta in 1990.

Earlier, he was instrumental in introducing the scheme of remuneration for all priests and helped Fr Mikiel Azzopardi acquire the land where Dar tal-Providenza (Home for the disabled) was built near Siggiewi.



home."

Calleja was ordained priest on August 2, 1953 and held various posts in the Curia including administrative secretary and chancellor.

But he is best known for his life work among uprooted people, first as the champion of post-war Maltese migrants and their families and then as the leading pioneer defender of refugees seeking protection and help in Malta. He led by example, even hosting migrants in his Valletta home.

**Mgr Calleja always loved and supported our Journal and he wrote "Thanks, Frank, for all the work you are doing for the Maltese living abroad by publishing such a wonderful journal. You can be sure that we will support you in all your endeavours". (2018)**

## Pembroke council objects to Fino tower buildings dwarfing listed Australia Hall



**Council objects to proposed buildings dwarfing Australia Hall, calling for a buffer zone around the listed historical monument to ensure that its prominence is preserved**

James Debono

Fino's three 'mixed use' blocks, ranging between five and six floors, are being proposed on a 3,870sq.m area that envelopes the historical Australia Hall

The Pembroke local council has unanimously agreed to object to the development of three blocks that will rise to six storeys around Australia Hall, as proposed in a zoning request by owners Fino Group.

Labour mayor Dean Hili raised the issue in a council meeting, setting the tone for the discussion when he expressed his personal opinion against the development being proposed, saying Australia Hall's historical value was such that its prominence "should not be buried and dwarfed by a number of different buildings being proposed around it."

Hili said that while Fino had dropped original plans for an 18-storey tower in the area, apart from the restoration of Australia Hall, he could not agree with a six-storey block encircling it, and reminded councillors of the increased density in development from the new Chinese embassy.

The brief discussion saw all councillors agreeing to object to the Fino zoning request, saying "the prominence of Australia Hall as a historical building should be preserved through the creation of a buffer zone to ensure that the building is not suffocated and surrounded by buildings which are even higher than Australia Hall".

Over the past years the Pembroke local council led by Dean Hili has consistently taken a stance against over-development in the area, particularly in its long-standing opposition to the DB project on public land, that was transferred to the business group by the Labour government.

### **Development over 3,870sq.m footprint**

Fino's three "mixed use" blocks, ranging between five and six floors, are being proposed on a 3,870sq.m area that envelopes the historical Australia Hall.

In planning jargon, mixed-use developments normally include a combination of residential, office and retail development.

A zoning application in 2018 was removed from the public information system in 2019 when the application was deemed to be incomplete; the latest plans from January 2022 were published earlier this week.

The application no longer makes any reference to the application of the 'high-rise' Floor Area Ratio mechanism as originally proposed, which would have allowed a high-rise development in the area. The latest plans foresee development over some 12,000sq.m in total floor area, that is, the entire floor area of the three massive blocks and the restoration of Australia Hall itself. Some 2,400sq.m of the total 6,331sq.m site will be retained as open public space.

The development is being proposed by AH Developments, which is owned by the Fino Group. The local plan approved in 2006 makes no reference to development around Australia Hall and only permits the "re-use" of the historical building as a "public meeting hall, for commercial use, exhibition space or other suitable cultural or recreational use", including shops, offices, food and drink

The local plan also specifies that any development must respect the "architectural integrity of the site" and "any views from and onto the scheduled buildings." Back in 2005 Fino had applied to turn Australia Hall into a supermarket but the application was withdrawn by the Planning Authority's planning directorate.

In 2014, the new Labour administration used its prerogative to stop a court action instituted by the Lands Department, under the former Nationalist government, to take back the Pembroke land. The land had originally been accorded to the party



back in the 1970s as compensation for the expropriation of its land in Marsa, for the Malta Shipbuilding Corporation, by the same Labour government of the time.

The PN protested the Labour administration's decision in 2014 to stop the court action, accusing debts with the buyers.

it of using its overweening power for its party's financial gain. In July 2014, Labour sold Australia Hall to A.H. Development for just €582,343, with the final price taking into consideration unspecified outstanding

## Ukrainian orphans visit Gozo



**Youths who fled war are being looked after by the Salesians in Slovakia**

The Ukrainian youths, together with Bryan Magro, president of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco (centre), at Ta' Pinu sanctuary.

A group of Ukrainian orphans is on an educational and cultural visit to Gozo. They are being hosted by the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco.

As part of the programme, Fr Charles Cini, SDB, organised a cultural tour to Gozo where the group visited Ta' Pinu sanctuary, Dwejra, the Citadel, Don Bosco Oratory and Marsalforn.

The youths, who fled their country in March due to the war, are being looked after by the Salesians in Slovakia. While in Malta, they are also learning the English language. *While in Malta, they are also learning the English language*

The visit was made possible through the initiative of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco and the Slovakia and Malta organisations.

Confederation president Bryan Magro said: "We are offering these children a good experience and helping them to relieve some of the pain and trauma because of the war."

## MALTA DRYDOCKS BAND

April 1960 a musical band that became popularly known as 'Il-Banda ta' Bailey' (Bailey's Band) on was assembled at the Malta Drydocks.

Among the thousands of employees at this enterprise, there were scores of band club members some of whom enjoyed a reputation as skilled musicians. Mro. Hector Dalli, a Dockyard worker from Żejtun and a former Dockyard Defence

Battery member who had been stationed at San Ġwann t'Għuxa in Cospicua during World War II, assisted with the selection process. A distinctive feature of 'il-Banda ta' Bailey' or 'il-Banda tad-Drydocks', as it later became known, was that its members came from different worker categories. Labourers, senior staff, fitters and semi-skilled tradesmen with a passion for music all rehearsed and performed together as one group. The band was invited to play when Cardinal Muench visited Malta in July 1960. A year later it played at the Naxxar Trade Fair. It also used to play festive marches at Christmas time. In 'l-Istorja tat-Tarzna', author Karmenu Ellul Galea remarks that the greatest achievement of the Drydocks Band was the entertainment it provided for the workers during their rest breaks. Jesmond Bonnici.





## Refugees of the 40s

On the 11th of June 1940, residents of Żabbar living in close proximity to Bieb is-Sultan witnessed a disturbing scene that they were unlikely to forget.

A day before, many in Malta were horrified to hear, live on their Philco radio sets, an adamant Benito Mussolini declaring war on France and Britain.

The news caused anguish and trepidation among the Maltese, who crowded the streets and village squares until late into the night to discuss the

day's events and their implications, and to seek solace in friends and neighbours.

By early morning their worst fears had started to materialize. The island woke up to the sounds of wailing sirens and the voice of Effie Ciantar on Rediffusion announcing air-raid warnings in English and Maltese.

In the first raid alone, a total of 73 planes flew over Malta – 30 bombers from Catania Fontanarossa, 10 from Gela, 15 from Comiso as well as 18 MC200 fighters to escort these bombers.

The morning attacks killed five Maltese soldiers from the Royal Malta Artillery. 16-year-old child soldier Philip Busuttill was among the victims. Civilians in various localities, including Pieta and Gżira, also lost their lives.

By around 7.00pm Malta had endured seven air-raid warnings. People prayed that there would be no further attacks that day. But shortly afterwards residents of Żabbar could hear the sound of heavy gunfire coming from Cospicua. The Italian Air Force had decided to launch one last airstrike before the end of the day.

Among those living in Żabbar at the time was C.J. Mallia, from Cospicua, who had just acquired temporary accommodation in the village. C.J. Mallia would later become Chairman of the Malta Electricity Board.

From the intensity of the gunfire, Mallia determined that this last raid had been a heavy one. He was right. 25 bombers were relentlessly dropping bombs on Cospicua hoping to hit the docks. But few, if any of the bombs reached their targets. Instead, they fell on residential areas, hitting Strada Toro, Margherita, Molino, San Giorgio, Nuova, Concezione, Stella and Alexandria. The attack lasted a full 30 minutes.

As the sirens called the 'All Clear' C.J. Mallia went outside to be met by pieces of shrapnel that littered the Żabbar streets. But what happened next was to startle him even more. About 20 minutes later he heard an eerie sound that he could not quite decipher. He described it as 'a shuffling crescendo sound' like the noise made by a herd of cattle coming nearer and nearer. It took him some time to realize what the sound was and for the herd to 'reveal itself.'

This was not an animal herd at all but a large 'crowd of human beings coming from the nearby city of Cospicua in a state of great distress.' Many in the crowd were wailing and crying because they had been constrained to abandon loved ones and neighbours buried under the rubble, in order to protect the lives of their families.

In 'The Second Great Siege', Dr Charles J. Boffa describes the scene at the main road leading from the Rock Gate to Żabbar as one of 'indescribable confusion,' with hundreds of people jostling and pushing, trying to flee from a place that earlier in the day they had called home.

'Clearly it was a case of every family for itself,' writes Boffa. 'Four persons had been killed by a bomb and their dead bodies lay strewn on the roadside not far from Żabbar Gate. The people passing by moaned, howled, wept and shouted hysterically.' Some were trying to make their way to Żejtun, Gudja, Ghaxaq and Birżebbuġa. Others sought refuge in Birkirkara, Żebbuġ, Siggiewi, the Three Villages, and Rabat.

Kalkara primary school head teacher, Rita Chetcuti, also from Żabbar, recalled observing a line of



people walking along Sanctuary Street, who were coming from Cospicua. While the men held tired children, the women carried bundles. A few elderly people followed behind. Silent onlookers watched as the Cottonera residents headed for Xghajra and Marsaskala. Chetcuti could not sleep that night. Soon after, even the residents of Żabbar started to evacuate to safer locations.

There were similar scenes at Ġhajj Dwieli that evening and in the morning of the following day. Thousands of people from Senglea and Vittoriosa were also leaving, some holding wheelbarrows, prams and small carts. Others hired 'karozzini', light cars, buses and trucks to carry their belongings.

In the last two raids of the 11th of June the Italians had dropped more than 200 bombs. The ill-prepared Malta defences claimed to have shot and destroyed a single Italian fighter. It later transpired that all the Italian aircraft had returned safely to Sicily.

Meanwhile more than 20 innocent people had lost their lives and hundreds of houses were destroyed. Cospicua and the rest of the Cottonera were quickly depopulated and tens of thousands were displaced in their own country.

They would now be referred to by a new name – refugees.

### **St Dominic's Home for the Elderly and the Dominican Sisters of Malta**



St Dominic's Home for the Elderly is an Aged Care Facility, run by the Dominican Sisters of Malta and well trained and qualified staff; under the Direction of a Board of Management – a highly dedicated group of Professionals, on voluntary basis. We committed Board members, sisters, staff and volunteers at St. Dominic's Home for the Elderly, pursue our mission to provide continuous improvement, to deliver care with compassion and empathy, to our beloved residents and

their loved ones. United in an authentic team spirit, we seek to serve them in a holistic and professional way, to the best of our ability. Always aiming to give them a better quality of life.

More money was raised. On the occasion of Mgr. Mercieca's visit, Dr. Boffa handed a cheque for \$35,000 on behalf of the St. Dominic's Village Association but many thousands more were needed. By mid-1987 costs had risen to \$3 million. It was at this time that hundreds of families flocked to see the new building when the Sisters organised an 'open day'.

Some internal problems within the Order which were never made public arose out of the blue and the Maltese community found it difficult to comprehend what was going on. It appears that something important went terribly wrong somewhere. Drastic and inexplicable measures were taken. Some of

these turned goodwill into ill feelings.

The Sisters withdrew from the parish of Greystanes where they had been working for close to a quarter of a century. They vacated the Blessed Imelda Convent at 180 Old Prospect Road in Greystanes and moved to their new location at 171 Walters Road in Blacktown on 1 February 1988. This move provoked many protests from the local community but, understandably, it was stated that the Order could not possibly maintain two communities; both because the Order was very heavily committed financially, as well as a lack of personnel due to the diminishing number of vocations.

#### **Sisters transferred**

In the process, four Maltese nuns were repatriated to Malta and other non-Maltese nuns were transferred to other places overseas. Mother Theresita Bianco was urgently brought over from Melbourne to take over the project. She had barely completed overseeing the opening of the Dominican Order's brand new hostel in Melbourne, Rosary Home. The St. Dominic's Village Association, which had given a valuable contribution, was dissolved as from 5 February 1988. Their last cheque for \$26,329.69 was handed to the Sisters on the 4th of February. As the first phase was nearing completion, the Sisters appointed a Board of Management headed by Dr. Stephen Gatt. On a later occasion, Dr. Gatt made reference to these difficult times:

*The short history of this Village has been nothing short of remarkable. In the space of a few years, this band of nuns has successfully turned a Hostel of doubtful viability into a haven of peace and rest for our residents. Some years ago the future of this Hostel was plagued with doubts ...*

*What saw us through those early days was the foresight of Mother General and her council who sent sufficient numbers of high-grade trained nuns-nurses, administrators, cooks, dementia care specialist and occupational therapists; the dedication, tenacity and sagacity of the nuns and their lay workers; and the tremendous support from so many quarters - Frank Cefai and his team of builders, Carol Abela who is our executive officer, our accountants, industrial officers and financial advisers, Paul Borg and Ariel Fiorini, our Legal Eagles Victor Borg and Carol Abela, the Maltese community, the architects, the schoolchildren from Evans High School, our sister institution in Victoria, Rosary Home - and that, largely invisible backbone of benefactors who have helped us with their money, their prayers and their unflagging support.*

*Martin Luther King once said that 'the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy'. In this respect, the Hostel has been a resounding success. Thank God, we have been blessed in this Hostel with a succession of superb Mother Superiors who, in the face of adversity, have stood fast and overcome the obstacles. The way in which the nuns operate reminds me of the young girl who visited a farm one day and wanted to buy a large watermelon. The farmer wanted three dollars, but the girl only had 30 cents. The farmer pointed to a very small watermelon in the field and said, 'How about that one?' 'Okay, I'll take it said the little girl, 'but leave it on the vine. I'll be back for it in a month.'*

A beautiful chapel, situated in the heart of the Village, is one of the outstanding features of the project. Great care and attention to detail was paid in designing an environment that was sensitive to the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of aged people. All the rooms, which were furnished in pastel colours of soft greys and blues, were equipped with en-suite bathroom and a spacious verandah. The first community at the St. Dominic Village consisted of Mother Melanie Albani - Superior, Sr. Gezualda Falzon, Sr. Rita Fenech, Sr. Alice Forbes and Sr. Fedele Vella.

The 'Dominican Sisters of Malta' welcomed its residents at its hostel in Blacktown on 11 April 1988. Mr. Salvu Pace was the first. He was greatly pampered because the next resident did not take his place until about a fortnight later. Mr. Pace ('Tad-Destroyers Bar' was a keen sportsman in his younger days. He rowed the boat that accompanied Turu Rizzo when he crossed from Malta to Sicily. He is said to have also rowed in 24 regattas and came in first no less than 21 times. He also had an involvement with football.

As Dr. Gatt went on to state: *In the short span of a few years, we have become one of the benchmark hostels in this State. In spite of being one of the more inexpensive Hostels, we are used as one of the units against which other Homes are assessed. Indeed, the Government regulatory agencies have chosen to film much of their promotional material on aged care at this Hostel.*

## ABBA Fans Are In For A Musical Treat In Malta



By [allystivala](#)

Mamma Mia, here we go again! The world's top ABBA tribute band is coming to Malta to treat the country with a performance of the most-beloved hits of the 20th century.

UK's ABBA Arrival is touching down in Malta, as part of their European Tour, for two concerts between 26th and 27th August that will make anyone become a 'Dancing Queen' as quick as saying 'Waterloo'.

**So get ready to hear the classic hits from Super Trouper to Voulez-Vouz and everything in between.**

And don't 'Take A Chance' and leave your booking right until the last minute. Seating is limited and you really don't want to miss this!

"It's all about having fun...we promise that it will be tough to forget this show," Mark Pemberton, ABBA Arrival's band manager, told Lovin Malta.

Described by the BBC as "the most authentic ABBA show in the world", this award-winning tribute show boasts a multi-talented musicians that will make you feel like you've transported back to ABBA's golden years.

And the best part is that it's fun for all ages. So whether you watched ABBA's iconic Eurovision performance live or just started getting the fever after watching Mamma Mia, these magical concerts will be a treat for anyone who attends.

Where is it happening? The concerts will be held on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July at the Hilton Conference Centre, St Julian's.

Where can I buy tickets? There are four ticket options:

- Waterloo €35
- Dancing Queen €40
- Super Trouper €45
- Mamma Mia €50

A limited number of seats are available so get [booking here](#) or call 21801403.

Who is it for?

It is for all ages but there are two conditions, dress comfortably and bring your dancing shoes!

Enjoy a night of legendary music this August



## OVER 300 ANZACS BURIED IN MALTA CEMETERIES

Private Robert Edward Riley, 26th Battalion from Latrobe, Tasmania. A 21 year old butcher prior to enlisting on 18 February 1915. He embarked for overseas with C Company from Brisbane on 29 June 1915 aboard HMAT Aeneas. The 26th Battalion landed at Gallipoli #OTD in 1915 and in November Pte Riley was evacuated to Malta for medical treatment. He died of pneumonia at St Ignatius Hospital, Malta on 22 December 1915 and is buried in the Pieta Cemetery, Malta.

## SAVE AUSTRALIA HALL – A UNIQUE ANZAC ICON



## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA AND THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA



Image: Maltese Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, Dr Cachia Zammit pictured with a group of newly arrived Maltese migrants during an official visit to Australia, 1963

In May 1948, Australia and Malta signed an assisted-migrant-passage agreement, which extended the benefit of subsidised travel costs to over 63,000 Maltese. The peak period of migration to Australia occurred in the mid-fifties and sixties and the number of people in Australia who were born in Malta peaked in 1981.

The MCCV is currently working with the collaboration of the National Archives of Australia and other immigration and government departments to celebrate this milestone next year.

If you have any photos that were taken on the ship will immigrating to Australia or photos of arrival at ports or airports, please reach out as we will be interested in including them in our project and also the Memoria Project. Migration from Malta was once heavily restricted because the Maltese were seen as a threat to 'white Australia'. Yet after the Second World War, Malta was one of the first countries Australia signed an assisted migration agreement with.

Register now for an upcoming free event presented by our Queensland Office and hear the first-hand stories direct from the National Archives collection: <https://bit.ly/3vt9vxh>

Free admission 19 August 2022 10 am to 11 am 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill QLD 4170



### Dawra Durella – Nostalgic evening of Gozo's culture and tradition [GOZO NEWS](#)

Dawra Durella Lura fiz-Zmien is taking place later this month in Kercem when visitors will be able to experience some nostalgia with the sight and sounds of Gozo from the past. The activity focuses directly on combining the three pillars that identify Maltese culture and its traditions: the Maltese Ghana, the Maltese Ftira and the popular Marci Brijuzi (band marches).

There will be stands promoting local food and drink, while games will serve as an attraction and a renewal of memories, including Brilli, glass marbles, Passju, cart game and many many more. This special festival evening will

appeal to families and people of all ages. It is taking place on Saturday, the 20th of August, from 6pm onwards in Gnien Censu Xiberras, Kercem.

The Kercem Local Council expressed their thanks to David's Bakery Gozo and Ta' Mena Gozo, who together with the help of the Cultural Heritage Directorate within the Ministry for Gozo, and the Local Council, everyone will be able to enjoy a vast variety of traditional Maltese foods during the evening.

## SISTER ADELE BALDACCHINO



After working with four-year-old children as a kindergarten teacher for quarter of a century, Sister Maria Adele Baldacchino got the shock of her life when her provincial asked her to transfer her services to the harshest of climates – the prison.

“I have been working with the prisoners in Malta for over 30 years. I’m amongst those who takes care of the women’s section. That is where you hear the prisoner’s cry. I am known as the mother of prisoners. As a religious person I need to respect the dignity of the inmates.. In their faces I see the face of Christ.

I am 83 years old ..I barely believe I am this old because I feel much younger. I never wanted to become a nun. When I to go frequently to a community of nuns and they use to tell me that the Lord was calling me I used to say NO I don’t want to become a nun “But I felt the lord’s calling me later on, when I used to watch the Sisters of Charity helping the elderly. I used to feel peace and I too wanted to emulate them. Before I became a nun I was known as GUZA. At that time, when nuns were ordained. That community will give you a name which is symbolic of the new life over the previous one.

**‘Prisoners’ mother’**

*They are people like us. The only difference is that their mistake is visible to all while that of many others remains concealed*

I have always loved life. I have been in the religious community for over 60 years. I was already a nun’s habit at the age of 19 I always looked forward. I concentrated on my wish until it became a reality. I taught at kindergarten for the first few years. And as you know the children keep grounded and active. Later I was posted to work to at the prison. It’s a huge step you know. When I entered the prison, I knew nothing ...I had to go to Milan to study on how I should work with the inmates. Prisoners too have good in them, and you must make them aware of it.

We used to pray together for the same victims they themselves wronged. I am no saint and I have my faults. In life we cannot just listen to our brain only or to our heart only. They need to work in tandem. People need to be encouraged with little gentleness. A little sweet talk. Maturity is achieved step by step. It is not attained in a small space of time. We need to stop and look inside ourselves to appreciate who we are and what God wants from us. We need to seek to help from the Eucharist. Let the Lord speak to you. ... The more you are one with Him, the more you learn.

“I can’t wait for my knee to heal to return to Corradino,” she sighs, as she slowly makes her way to the convent garden. Maria Adele Baldacchino a Sister of Charity has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Faculty of Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta Thank you, Sister Adele for your service and for your love to the poor! **Researched by Greg Caruana.**

**We are proud of our Maltese Achievers** 

**The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad**  
connecting communities  
around the world



# Lampuki Season in Malta

If you are coming on your holidays to Malta over the next few months, the chances are you will hear the word "lampuki" bandied about. But what on earth is a Lampuki?



If you are coming on your **holidays to Malta** over the next few months, the chances are you will hear the word "lampuki" bandied about. But what on earth is a Lampuki, what do you do with it, and what do you need to know about it? Before you touch down on the beautiful island of Malta, make sure you get to grips with one of its finest delicacies!

**What is lampuki?** Lampuki is a type of fish that is typically found in and around the waters of Malta. It goes by various other names, depending on where you are from, such as the dorado, dolphinfish or the mahi-mahi. It migrates through the Maltese waters between the end of August and the end of December and it is one of the most popular, traditional autumnal Maltese dishes. A white, meaty fish with a delicate flavour, it lends itself to a variety of sauces and

accompaniments- making it one of the most versatile fish you can choose to eat.

**How do they catch it?** In a technique known as kannizzati, local fishermen cut down the lower fronds from palm trees which they then weave into large, flat rafts. These rafts are then put out to sea, usually accompanied by traditional fishing boats known as 'Luzzu', or more modern fuel powered crafts. As the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, the lampuki all clamber to seek shade under the rafts, the fishermen wait for a large number of fish to gather before casting a net over them. This is a technique that has not changed since the Roman times and even when the fish is used for commercial purposes, this old method is still used.

**Where can I get it from?** Well that totally depends on whether you want to try it out in a restaurant, or have a go at cooking it for yourself! Some of the best restaurants to try lampuki are situated in the south of Malta- e.g. Marsaskala, Birgu, and Marsaxlokk. Here, the fish you eat has often been caught that lunchtime and is as fresh as you can imagine. You

also have the bonus of getting to enjoy your meal in a picturesque seaside village. Alternatively, you can pick some up from one of the fishmongers, or keep your ears out for the fish van that roams the streets every morning selling a range of fresh seafood- you can pick up quite a bargain here.

**How should I eat it?** This is a matter of great debate- some like their lampuki in a pie, some like it with a thick, garlic infused sauce, and some prefer it grilled in tinfoil with just a smattering of seasoning to taste. Alternatively, you can try it in a delicious fish stew called alijotta, all soaked up with some delicious, fresh, Maltese bread, or "hobz" as it is known locally. One thing is for sure, if you are visiting Malta this Autumn- be sure not to miss out on sampling the delicious delights of the lampuki.

## Cartwheel hats to corsets: early 20th-century fashionistas in Malta

Giovanni Bonello



Group photos taken in Malta in the period 1901 to 1919, showing the peak fashionistas of the day, including British royalty.

To illustrate a previous feature, I had dipped into my accumulations of antique photographs. I wanted to document what people in Malta wore during the Victorian age, which obligingly cut off almost exactly at the turn of the century.

A group photo with musicians, c. 1910.

I will repeat the exercise for the Edwardian era to World War I, roughly the years 1901 to 1920.

Cutting-edge local fashion witnessed a slow shift from Victorian opulence to a newer simplicity and greater rationality and practicality. Though still

leaning to ostentation, women gradually started distancing themselves from cartwheel hats which looked like trophies from the Fur and Feather show or like flower arrangements kidnapped from centrepieces on a monarch's dinner table. Also, there were fewer unwieldy crinolines – reinforced hospital tents hanging from their hips.

The austerity of a catastrophic world war further shrank the space available for vanity and frivolity. The S-shape silhouette constrained by corsets replaced the hour-glass imperative of Victorian trend-setters. Tailored suits started gaining ground.

*A lady wearing early Edwardian attire. Photo: The Grand Studio, Valletta*

The traditional *ghonnella* was still an alternative elegant fallback for Maltese women. Photo by Antonio Micallef

Except for very formal occasions, men, though still compulsively hatted, began discarding the top hat for the bowler hat and, later still, for the straw boater, the ubiquitous *paglietta*. The



Maltese called top hats *tomna*, a curious word which means both a hat and a measure. Just like in antique Italian, *staio* stands for both top hat and a measure.

Sophistication in a Cospicua studio, c. 1900. Photo by Paul Fenech

*"The austerity of a catastrophic world war further shrank the space available for vanity and frivolity"*

By now, both male and female fashion in Malta had become almost thoroughly cosmopolitan, virtually indistinguishable from current and mainstream European vogues. Difficult what to make of this image photographed c.1905 by the studio P. Aquilina of Strada Stretta, Valletta. The

traditional Maltese *faldetta* or *ghonnella* struggled valiantly for survival, irrespective of social class, perhaps a subconsciously patriotic statement of resistance to threats of denationalisation and imperial globalisation.



All images are from the author's collection



## Maali Boukadi: Lack of education leading to racist sentiment among the Maltese

by Karl Azzopardi [maltatoday.com.mt](http://maltatoday.com.mt)

Frontline nurse Maali Boukadi says lack of educational programs and unwillingness to learn on the issue is making the Maltese racist



### Maali do you feel different?

Yes, I did feel different in my life, but in different aspects of my life, it wasn't always the same.

### Like what...?

For example, you're born, that's ok I don't remember that. Then you start growing up and you start attending school, there's the Holy Communion, I felt different. Because my father is Muslim, I didn't do my Holy Communion. Any you start asking: Why am I not like my friends? Then you grow up some more, and there's the Confirmation. And you start asking, why didn't I do my Confirmation? Then you continue growing up, and then you grow up some more and you are in adolescence. You start going out, you start meeting people and there are a lot of questions. That's when I felt different.

Then when you grow up, the differences increase. For example, I graduated, and worked, you start feeling different. Even at the Junior College or University. For example, they look at my surname, and they don't know I'm Maltese.

### They assume you're not Maltese...

They assume I'm not Maltese, for example, or they send you the bill to pay for education... by mistake. Or they ask you: "Do you live in Malta?" or "Do you like Malta?". They don't know. You can't blame them, because they don't know me.

### Sometimes you hear people say that the Maltese are racist. What do you think?

Unfortunately, yes, and I'll tell you why, because, yes, it is a sweeping statement, and I don't want to put everyone in the same category, but the lack of education and ignorance makes people racist, because certain people cannot differentiate between one nation and the other. There are people who are surprised, and ask you: "How are you Maltese?" Like, I can't understand how it doesn't cross their mind that a foreigner can marry a Maltese woman, or vice-versa, or that I can marry a foreigner and vice-versa.

### It's like they have this ideal of what a Maltese person is, and anything beyond that, you're not Maltese...

Exactly, for them, the colour and the look, maybe the hair, does not make you Maltese. Then you start speaking in Maltese, and they say ok. But not even that, there are people who are not Maltese who can speak Maltese, because you ask them. So, it's the same thing. It's ignorance that made the people racist.

### Did you ever feel the need to be more included in work and friend circles?

With friends no, because my friends obviously know me well. On the workplace, and school, meaning post-secondary school not primary, there were moments where you have to justify yourself, it's like you have to explain you're Maltese, and that you were born in Malta. You have to explain the story of your whole life. And in work, in my current job, there were moments where you tell a person to pay attention to you, because there are people who speak to everyone, when they need something that only I can handle, and they think I can't understand them in Maltese.

### Because of the way you look?

I think, I ask them if they need anything, because they have to speak to me, or I have to approve that, and they are shocked, and then they either smile, they forget their question, or they ask me their question, and in the end, they tell me: "Well done, you speak good Maltese", and I tell them, "I'm Maltese", and they look in disbelief. But other than that, I never felt the need to justify myself, because for me, if I don't know you, I don't need to justify myself.

## Nicholas Monsarrat's former Gozo residence heritage protection confirmed

GOZO NEWS

The former Gozitan residence of renowned British novelist Nicholas Monsarrat will remain as a protected Grade 2 scheduled building, after the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal (EPRT) turned down an appeal lodged by third parties for its

protection status to be removed. Instead the EPRT confirmed the PA's original decision for scheduling. The



property in San Lawrenz, Gozo, comprises of two similar vernacular dwellings, each built around a front courtyard. Although the two-storey property has undergone rehabilitation works, the built fabric of both structures remains intact. The property enjoys an extensive mature garden at the back and underground cisterns.

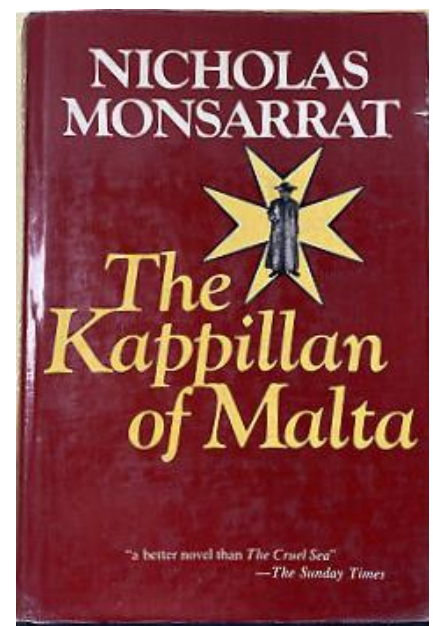
The said property boasts of traditional Maltese vernacular architectural features; having an internal courtyard, terrace, stone staircase and the traditional Maltese roofing system composed of stone slabs, timber beams and arches.

Apart from the property's architectural merits, in the late 1960s it was also the residence of the famous British novelist Nicholas Monsarrat, who is best known for his books such as 'The Cruel Sea' and 'The Story of Esther Costello'.

In 1973, Monsarrat wrote the book 'The Kappillan of Malta' in this property, a book he is well known for in Malta.

In defending the scheduling, the Planning Authority has presented all the relevant documentation and continuously held its position for this property to maintain Grade 2 scheduling. It

is for the property's architectural merits and historical significance highlighted above, that the Planning Authority, in close collaboration with the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, scheduled this property back in 2020.







## ***MALTA PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE VO/1616 (Est. 2018)***

The Malta Paralympic Committee ('MPC') was formally established in July 2018 and is a member of the International Paralympic Committee. MPC is committed to the development of Paralympic Sport in Malta & Gozo and firmly believes in the power of sport to change lives and build stronger communities.

We look beyond one's disabilities and seek to unlock one's full abilities. Paralympic Sport is living proof that the human body and mind is truly capable of remarkable things. Embodying the ambitions, virtues and values of the Paralympic Movement's spirit, the Malta Paralympic Committee is driven by its ethos to create a society in which: **"INCLUSION MEETS**



### **EXCELLENCE"**

The Malta Paralympic Committee is adamant on ensuring the long-term sustainability of Paralympic Sport in Malta & Gozo. Pursuant to this objective, the Executive Committee is establishing a robust organisational structure rooted in inclusivity and diversity that draws upon



#### **THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTERS ARE ARCHIVED AT**

The Malta Migrant Museum - Valletta  
 Maltese-Canadian Museum - Toronto, Canada  
 Gozo National Museum - [www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)  
 Facebook - [www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3](https://www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3)  
 Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Malta  
 Website of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria  
 At clubs of several Maltese Associations  
 At Maltese Language Schools and libraries  
 Many readers preserve them on their USB

an array of experience and expertise from across a whole spectrum of backgrounds. In this way, the Executive Committee, together with the Athlete's Council and its Sub-Committees, understands the needs of the sporting community.

A B Ċ D E F Ġ G  
 Ġ Ħ H Ĩ I Ĳ J K L  
 M N O P Q R S T  
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### L-ALFABETT MALTI - THE MALTESE ALPHABET

## facts about the Maltese language

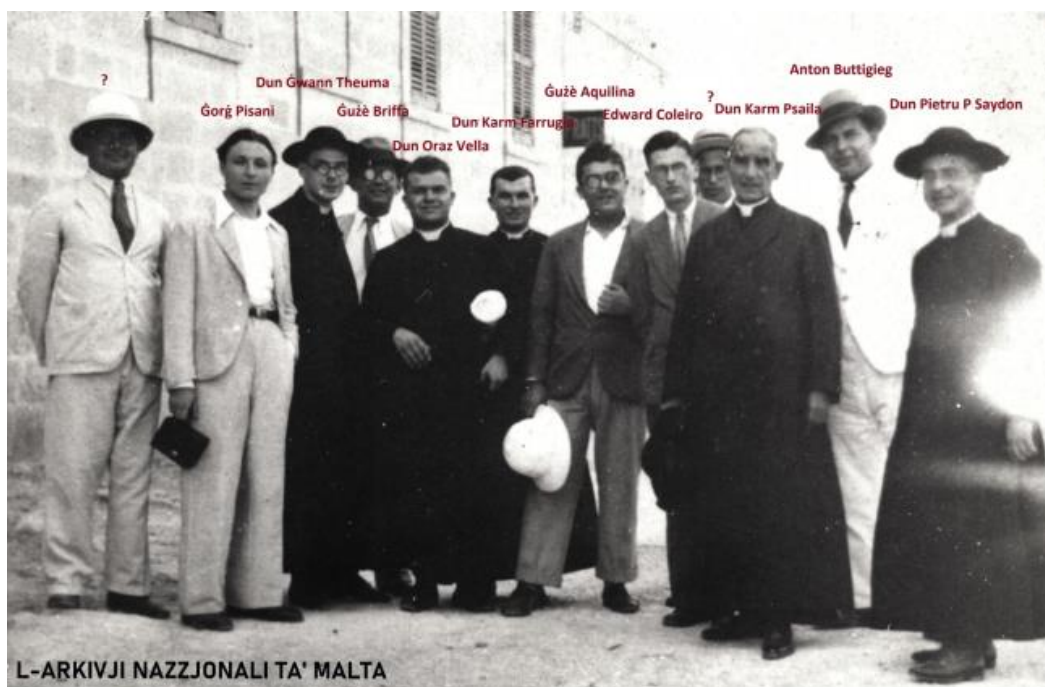
- Maltese is significantly similar to the Phoenician language, which was once spoken in the ancient Mediterranean region.
- The Maltese language is usually written in the Latin alphabet, like the English language.
- The Maltese language has borrowed multiple words from Sicilian, Italian and English.
- Maltese has a bit of French influence which is evident in words such as QMIS (chemise shirt) and ingravata (cravat tie).
- Approximately half a million people speak the Maltese language around the world.
- After Malta joined the European Union, Maltese

became an official language of the European Union.

- Maltese is a co-official language of Malta, along with English.
- The Maltese language is not only known as "Maltese," but it is also called the Il-Malti language.
- Maltese is part of an Afro-Asiatic language family containing multiple other languages.
- In Maltese, the article il-becomes l-before or after a vowel in, for example, il-missier (the father) and l-omm (the mother).

[The National Archives of Malta](#)

## Maltese Was Declared Official Language Of Malta 88 years ago



In a photo published by the National Archives, it features the main promoters of the Maltese language in the 1930s, including Dun Karm Psaila, Anton Buttigieg, Ġuże Aquilina and Dun Pietru Pawl Saydon.

16 August 1934.

Maltese is declared as an official language of Malta, together with English and Italian. The photo includes the main promoters of the Maltese language in the 1930s. From left:

unknown, Ġorġ Pisani, Dun Ġwann Theuma, Ġuże Briffa, Dun Oraz Vella, Dun Karm Farrugia, Ġuże Aquilina, Edward Coleiro, unknown, Dun Karm Psaila, Anton Buttigieg, Dun Pietru Pawl Saydon.

Photo: National Archives of Malta.



## Dr. Alfred Sant voices concerns over Gozo's "unsustainable development"



### GOZO NEWS

Writing on [Facebook](#) on [Sunday](#), former Prime Minister Alfred Sant, noted that "a great many people (most of them Gozitans) agree that the "development" on the island of Gozo has reached levels that are not sustainable."

The MEP said that "of course there is truth in what is being said. The island is becoming like Malta in miniature and will lose the genuine value it had and which used to attract visitors to it." Alfred Sant stressed that "the problem is that there are too many ambiguous

intentions in the mix."

"I can't understand for example how serious promoters of tourism in Gozo on the one hand express concern about this aspect of the ongoing 'development,' and on the other hand come out in favour of that monstrous project – the tunnel between Malta and Gozo – which at least seems to be back on the shelf," said Sant.

Or you will also find them in favour of that project that was resurrected when it should have been completely abandoned – that of building an airport for passenger planes.

An online [survey carried out by the Gozo Tourism Association](#) which was published last week, has confirmed that the tourism sector on Gozo is "seriously concerned about the overdevelopment in Gozo."

The GTA said that the absolute majority of the establishments stated that Gozo is "losing its charm and characteristics due to over development on the Island."

Furthermore, the GTA stated that 91% of the survey respondents declared that this development will deter tourists both foreign and local from visiting Gozo.

## Maltese Festa Series VI – stamp issue featuring religious statues



The sixth series of stamps depicting religious statues found in various churches around Gozo and Malta is being issued by Malta Post on Friday with photography by Mark Micallef Perconte.

This issue will feature the following processional statues: The Immaculate Conception in Bormla, The Immaculate Heart of Mary in Burmarrad, Our Lady of the Rosary in Gudja, Our Lady of Loreto in Ghajnsielem, Our Lady

of Perpetual Succour in Ta' Kercem, St. Leonard Abbot in Kirkop, The Transfiguration of Our Lord in Lija, The Holy Trinity in Marsa, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Zurrieq and St. Mary Annunciation in Tarxien.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of 10 stamps, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.





**Consulate General of Malta in Toronto is at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Toronto, ONTARIO, Canada · The Maltese community in Toronto celebrated the feast of St Mary at St Paul The Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish Church on Dundas St W. Consul General for Malta, Ms Denise Demicoli, had the pleasure to join Fr Mario Micallef & to meet Fr Victor Paul Farrugia, who celebrated the solemn mass in Maltese. Best wishes to all the Maltese in Canada on the occasion of the feast of Santa Maria!**

### **CAROLINE SPRINGS GEORGE CROSS FC - VICTORIA**



**What a great achievement for the George Cross Football Club. Great celebrations took place on August 2022 State League 1 champions We congratulate the Club on their achievement.**



**FREE MALTESE LANGUAGE TASTER CLASS**

Monday 15th August 2022  
19:00—20:30 UK time (UTC+1) on Zoom

Email [learnmalteseinfo@gmail.com](mailto:learnmalteseinfo@gmail.com) for more info.

Next Course for Beginners starting on 29th August 2022  
Courses for more advanced levels also available



**Lessons with DONNA BORG**  
(BA Maltese Hons 1st, MA Maltese with distinction)



To be held at

**CHRIST THE KING PARISH HALL**

**456 HENLEY BEACH ROAD**

**LOCKLEYS**

on

**SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6:30PM**

Admission:

\$40.00 Per Head includes 4 Course meal

Entertainment by:

**- STACEY SALIBA and DJ ERIC**

Refreshments are available from the Bar at moderate prices

For Admission Tickets please contact:

MARTESE KEHOE: 0404094170

CARMEN SPITERI: 0401136673

MALTESE GUILD OF SA: 0435797487



**Malta made its debut at the 1960 Paralympic Games held in Rome. The 1960 Games were the first games held in the same city and in parallel with the Olympic Games, with 400 Paralympians from 23 countries competing for glory**





## MMG Concert Band of Victoria - Australia

Last night in Malta, Tanya Schembri, our co-conductor, was recognised for her contribution to the Mġarr band 'The Soċjetà Filarmonika Marija Mtellgħa s-Sema band club of Mġarr'. Her composition 'Bl-Imhabba Tieghek, Marija' has been included in the band's official processional march list.

The Maltese Journal and the MMG are very proud of Tanya and her passion to continue the Maltese music traditions here and in Malta!

**WE ARE PROUD OF ALL OUR MALTESE  
ACHIEVERS**

**St Sebastian Seniors Association  
Vic. Australia**

# Father's Day Social Night

**Date:** Saturday 3rd September, 2022

**Time:** 6.00pm till 11.30pm

**Venue:** Green Gully Soccer Club  
(Green Gully Rd, Kailor Downs, 3038)

**Cost:** Adults - \$45.00p/p, Children - \$15.00p/p

**Includes:** A 2-course meal (main & dessert)  
(Drinks can be purchased at special prices from the bar)

**Music:** By D.J. Dominic

**Dress:** Neat casual

**R.S.V.P:** 26/08/22

**Contact:**  
Allan - 0411 500 842  
Rose - 0421 033 659  
Monica - 0413 639 044

*All fathers will receive  
a special gift.*

**St Sebastian Bank Account:**  
NAB  
BSB: 083-437  
Acc: 061756500

**PERFORMANCE DETAILS**

# Monday 15 August

## Feast of Santa Marija

**7.45pm**

**St Peter Chanel**  
**848 Ballarat Rd**  
**Deer Park**

**MMG**  
CONCERT BAND  
OF VICTORIA

**THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**





## Project launched to protect the traditional 'imrejkba' fishing L-IMREJKBA



'L-imrejkba' (fishing tackle) is traditional type of ascertain to avoid less conflicts with other sea fishing used by Maltese fishermen, which the activities at the same time.

Fisheries Department is trying to protect while **Permanent Secretary Alicia Bugeja Said** overseeing its sustainability.

To promote this type of fishing, the department has launched a pilot project for a one-year period of consultation with fishing enthusiasts who carry out this hobby.

'L-imrejkba' normally consist of all the equipment that is used in the sport of fishing, such as fishing rods, lines, hooks and bait. It is based on wind and sea currents energy and, therefore, it favours the environment because it doesn't involve any emissions.

With this type of fishing there are different species to be caught – lampuki, garfish....there are many. Then there are other fishing methods, such as bottom and deep sea fishing....one can catch saddled bream, white bream.....and other fish.

**Fisherman**

Fishermen use the 'imrejkba' in open sea, away from seacrafts. The flag's red colour is intended for boats to be aware of this type of fishing during sailing.

The Fisheries Department is consulting with 'imrejkba' enthusiasts to protect this fishing tradition while fishing remains sustainable.

Through these measures, while fishermen will continue to enjoy this fishing method, we will

A logbook has also been launched for the pilot project so that fishermen will include details of their catch and locality, and to gather the necessary information on this type of traditional fishing. Fishermen will pass over the information at the end of each month to the department for the necessary regularisation.

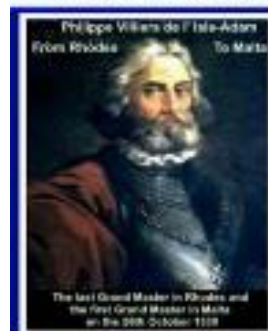
There are sixteen areas for the practise of imrejkba fishing, which cannot be extended over 250 metres from shore and cannot be practiced from seacrafts.





**Maltese Me-Newsletter**  
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scialoja CAM MGR  
Adele@me-Newsletter.com  
Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com



### MALTESE IN MACKAY- QUEENSLAND

Maltese meeting corner set to see monument



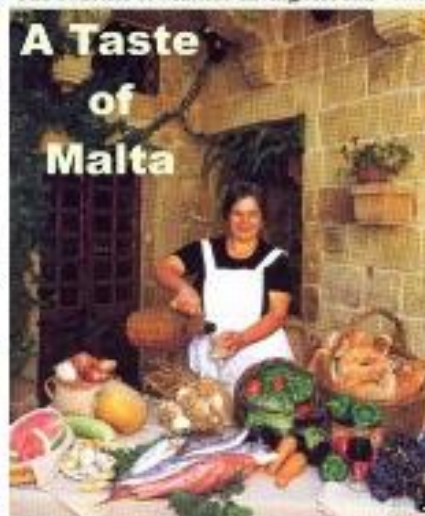
Percy Zammit, Sam Bendina and John Vassallo were three people regularly seen on Rockman's Corner, also known as the Maltese Corner



THE JOURNAL THAT BRINGS MALTESE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

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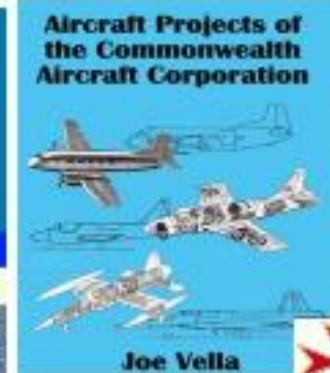
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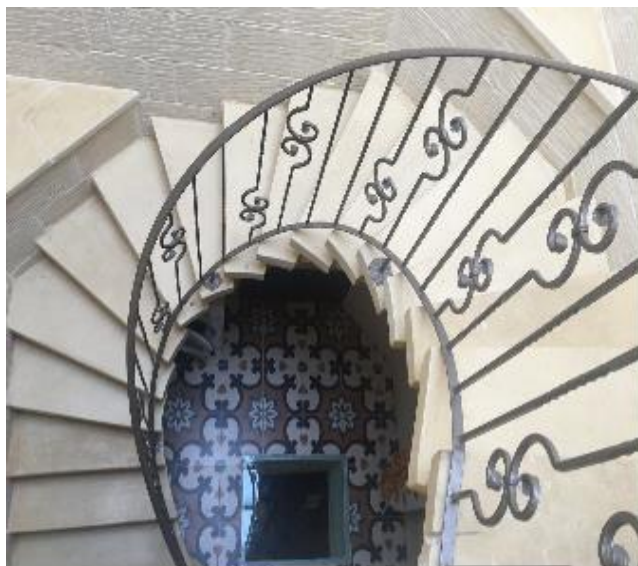


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**il-Garigor - The Staircase**



**Is-Salib fuq is-Sodda - Cricifix in the Bedroom**



**Il-Gallerija- The Balcony**



**IsSalott - The Private sitting room for show**



**il-Bir - the Well**



**L-Arlogg Antik - The Grandfathers Clock**





**Anne Simms Alfonzo August 9** - My relatives got a kick out of offering them to my then 18 year old son when we visited Malta



**Bernadette Bennie Blanco - Malta to Motown USA**  
**Memories of Malta**

I am grateful that thousands of Maltese like me left Malta several decades ago to settle in a foreign country and we still love the language, history and heritage of our homeland. This journal is published Not for profit but to keep Maltese around the world connected and informed

maltesejournal@gmail.com



**if you have a story to tell**  
**send it to us and share it with others**