



# Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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OAM MQR JP

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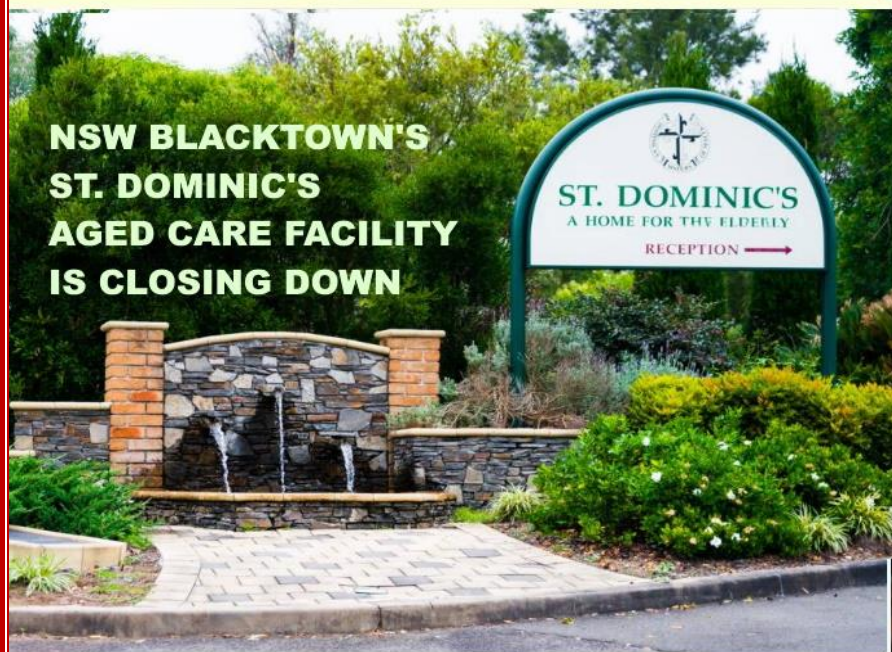


13 December  
MALTA REPUBLIC DAY



13 Dicembru  
JUM  
IR-REPUBBLIKA

NSW BLACKTOWN'S  
ST. DOMINIC'S  
AGED CARE FACILITY  
IS CLOSING DOWN



Minister Ian Borg  
sends us a message

Celebrating New Year's Eve with the MSSP  
Fathers for the last time in TORONTO

an  
end  
of an  
era

Thank you  
MSSP Fathers

2023  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish



Dominican Sisters of Malta  
returning to their  
homeland

The Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Malta in N.S.W.



## **St. DOMINIC'S**

### **Home for the Elderly**

*(Accredited Aged Care Facility)*

A.B.N. 53 384 760 480

Public Announcement

From Media Spokesperson for St Dominic's Home for the elderly Blacktown NSW -

Darryn Borg

[domsis@stdh.net.au](mailto:domsis@stdh.net.au)

After serving the local and surrounding communities of Blacktown for over 36 years, the mounting pressures of delivering residential aged care to the elderly on many fronts has forced a decision to close the facility.

The facility is working hard with the residents and their families to find alternative solutions as well as assisting its hard-working staff to find new employment.

Spokesperson Darryn Borg, speaking on behalf of The Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Malta in NSW, said *"..that while the home (originally built in the early 1980's) was a leading edge independent living facility at the time, the higher acute care needs of the elderly entering*

*residential aged care today, requires a facility of a very different layout and accompanying resources. Further, the very public Government funding and staffing issues in aged care, has placed enormous pressures on The Congregations limited resources, concluding in the decision to close the facility on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2023."*

No new residents will be admitted to the facility as all efforts are focussed on a compassionate closure of the facility.

Following the closure and sale of the property, the remaining Dominican Sisters of Malta will return to their homeland, having dedicated their working lives to the care of the elderly.

End of public announcement





## A Message for the readers of Maltese Living Abroad - Hon Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade



### MALTESE LIVING ABROAD - MALTA'S FOREIGN RESERVES

Dear fellow Maltese, You have carried this resource with you and

It is a great honour for our country that the

Maltese diaspora in several countries does not only give a good name to Malta but is also recognised by each and every country where the Maltese have made their second home. In Australia, Canada, the United States, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, the Maltese communities are respected for their hard work, patriotism, thrift and cultural, political and social contributions that they make to the progress and welfare of their adopted countries. Here, I want to be more precise because thousands of Maltese living in these countries are of the second, third and even fourth generation, and they still feel a strong bond with their country of origin.

Recently, I had the good fortune, as Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, to host a grand delegation for our foreign brethren at my ministry. I was really astonished how much and with what fervour, these migrants of the second and third generation, still talk about their beloved Mother Country. I was even more impressed when I heard about their successes, achievements and rise in social status, and they did this thanks to their sheer hard work.

These brethren of ours live in large industrial countries where natural resources are not lacking. On the contrary, our country, a small island state, devoid of any natural resources, has one resource of which we are proud of. That is the success of turning a barren group of small islands into an independent and sovereign state and a full member of the EU with one of the EU's strongest and most solid economies. We managed to achieve this because our only resource consists of the skill, will-power and spirit of enterprise of its people.



### THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION

**They left their homeland MALTA in their thousands in the 50s, 60s and 70s to find a better future for their families and went to far away places like Australia Canada United States United Kingdom because Malta was overpopulated and there were no jobs for them and for their children**

*We always remember them and thank them for their great sacrifices*

planted it in your respective adopted countries. Your skills, will-power and spirit of enterprise contributed to the progress and welfare of your adopted countries. That is why I call you Malta's foreign reserves. From your far away homes you can do so much for your old home country.

Yours sincerely, Ian Borg  
Minister for Foreign and European Affairs



## Open letter to the Members of the Parliament of Malta



Witten by + Charles Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta, + Anton Teuma, Bishop of Gozo and + Joseph Galea-Curmi Auxiliary Bishop of Malta

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to express our profound concern, shared by many others, over the contents of Bill no. 28 of 2022 which, if approved by Parliament as proposed, will permit abortion to take place in Malta.

According to official statements, this amendment's origins lie in the desire to enshrine into law that no criminal action would be taken against a doctor or mother should a baby in the womb die as a result of a medical intervention performed by a doctor with the intention of saving the life of the mother.

In reality, saving the mother's life has always been the acknowledged priority when it has not proved possible to also save an unborn child's life and no criminal proceedings have ever been instituted against either a doctor or mother when this unfortunate predicament has arisen.

However, not only is this amendment unnecessary, but it also opens up the possibility to terminate the life of a child even when the mother's life is not in danger because it permits an abortion to take place when the mother is at risk of suffering from a health condition that is not life threatening.

As shown in other countries, introducing a risk to health into the law facilitates terminations on a

spurious pretext. It is abortion. Nothing more, nothing less. We view this as an extremely serious and retrograde development.

Where a health condition requires treatment, we should do all we can to ensure that treatment is administered; when the mother is in difficulty of one sort or another, we should do all we can to ensure she is provided with whatever support and help she requires. However, terminating the life of another to safeguard someone's health must never be an option.

The crux of this matter does not lie in verbal assurances but in the text of the Bill. And the text of this Bill facilitates abortion in no uncertain terms and, to make matters even worse, does so right up to the point of birth.

A new life comes into being at the moment of conception. In the mother's womb resides a human being, not an object that can be simply discarded or destroyed. Our heartfelt appeal to you is to recognise the great responsibility you have on your shoulders to protect the weak and vulnerable; and to preserve life, not destroy it.

We pray that you will recognise the importance and implications of the choice before you and urge you in the strongest possible terms to choose life instead of death.



**SEND US A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR  
THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION**





## CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY 2022

**JOIN** family and friends, take photos and preserve your beautiful memories while enjoying the festive atmosphere in the Capital with Christmas trees near Parliament and along Valletta's main streets. A traditional Christmas crib is situated next to the main door of St John's co-Cathedral. St George's Square will once again be home to a magical atmosphere with projections on the façade of the historic Grandmaster's Palace.



Republic Street, Merchants Street and Republic Square will take on new hues as part of the month-long programme of events. South Street, now synonymous with artistic installations all year round in a programme run by the Valletta Cultural Agency, also has a surprise in store for its visitors.

# **SPECIAL FESTIVE EVENTS IN VALLETTA** The Valletta Cultural Agency's programme of events takes place between the 25<sup>th</sup> of November and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December with over 25 events spread over 25 days. Enjoy marching bands, stilt walkers, choirs, and music performances by several popular groups such as the Centrestage Children's Choir, Klinsmann, Tikka Banda, the Big Friends Guggen Musik and Amber, among others.

Mużika Mużika's favourite girl group MARA is ready to rock the Capital, on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of December in St George's Square, from 7pm to 8pm. Moreover, on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, award winning The New Victorians will perform seasonal religious songs and contemporary non-sacred music, including original compositions in a cosy atmosphere, at the Embassy Valletta Hotel in Strait Street, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

**IT'S ALL PAPERWORK** The Valletta Cultural Agency is holding a sculpture exhibition titled *It's All Paperwork* by Antoine Farrugia at the Parliament of Malta running until the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. The artworks will portray a transformation of the Maltese Globigerina Limestone into what can be perceived as 'almost paper'. The stone is crafted so carefully and in so precisely that at a first glance it easily gives the impression that the work is made out of paper – a technique reminiscent of the term '*trompe l'oeil*'. Antoine Farrugia has established himself as one of Malta's foremost sculptors. He hails from Mqabba, where his family was, for many years, involved in stone quarrying

**VALLETTA NYE CELEBRATIONS** Valletta will once again be holding the largest national NYE celebrations. Together, we will be giving a warm welcome to the new year in style in St George's Square. After an absence of two years, the night will kickstart at 10pm with Kurt Calleja and Band. Special guests include The Brass House Unit led by Kevin Abela together with an outstanding line up of some of Malta's top talent including Aidan Drakard, Amanda Marie, Brooke, Gloriana Arpa Belli, Jasmine, Kevin Paul Calleja, Ludwig Galea, Owen Luellen, Ozzy Lino, Pawlu Borg Bonaci and Tiziana Calleja. Join us through a musical journey featuring the best hits of 2022 as well as some all-time classics. The National New Year's Eve Celebrations 2023 is organised by G7 Events, supported by a Partnership Agreement with the Valletta Cultural Agency within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

**13 December  
MALTA  
REPUBLIC  
DAY**

**13 Dicembru  
JUM  
IR-REPUBBLIKA  
TA' MALTA**



## The history behind Malta's Republic Day

13<sup>th</sup> December means one thing on the Maltese Islands: everyone is enjoys the public holiday! Malta celebrates 48 years since becoming a republic back in 1974, when it abolished the role of the British Rule in Malta.

On that day, 13 December 1974 Sir Anthony Mamo, a lawyer by profession, became the first President of Malta, serving in office until December 1976. While the island was now a republic, the British troops didn't leave until 31<sup>st</sup> March 1979

The Maltese joined the British Empire after the Napoleonic Wars. Then comes the start of the Second World War, during which time the British saw Malta as the perfect naval base to aid the empire. After the war, the Maltese managed to negotiate independence on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1964, but only managed to acquire republic status 10 years later in 1974.

The President of Malta, His Excellency Dr George Vella, presents awards to military or political servants and public figures who have been effective representatives of the country. According to a statement, the president will indeed be participating in the celebration of this anniversary

An important event of the day is the military parade that takes place in the heart of Valletta at St George's Square right outside the Grand Master's Palace during which the Presidential Colour is trooped by the Armed Forces. The President of Malta takes the salute, in the position as the commander in chief of the AFM. The Armed Forces of Malta Band accompany the parade. The parade and ceremony will also be broadcasted live on TVM.

Apart from these ceremonial events, a wreath is laid at the Republic Day monument in Marsa. Later on in the day, there's usually fireworks display that beautifully lights up the Grand Harbour



Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Dec 01, 2022

On Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the Hon. Clayton Bartolo, Minister for Tourism of the Republic of Malta, inaugurated the new Malta Tourism Authority Office in Warsaw. For this occasion, Minister Bartolo was joined by H.E. Andrzej Gus-Mostowy, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Poland.

This Office will complement the Malta Tourism Authority's existing overseas network currently in London, Paris, Rome, New York and Berlin. The Warsaw Office is MTA's first regional office and first in Eastern Europe.

The establishment of a Warsaw Office is an opportunity for the Maltese Government to seek new

## The Malta Tourism Authority inaugurates Office in Warsaw

markets and attract tourism, which is within the context of the Malta Tourism Authority's strategy of diversification in tourism markets all year round.

It was announced during the inauguration that 2022 will be a record year for tourism from Poland, expecting as many as 135,000 tourists, thus surpassing the 2019 record level of 104,228 by almost 30%. The Malta Tourism Authority is even envisaging 2023 to be a better year than 2022.

The Embassy of Malta in Warsaw welcomes this development as a contribution to strengthening further bilateral relations between Malta and Poland. The Embassy will continue working on this sector. The Malta Embassy in Warsaw will constantly remain assisting the new Warsaw Office as previously done.

Minister Bartolo was accompanied by Ambassador Marisa Farrugia, MTA's Chairman Dr Gavin Gulia, MTA's CEO Mr Carlo Micallef and MTA's Regional Director based in Warsaw Mr John Mary Attard, amongst other people. Photo from Ministry for Sports and Tourism, Poland





## Mr Paul Zammit OAM

### KNIGHT OF ST GREGORY THE GREAT

His Grace Anthony Fisher OP, the Archbishop of Sydney, communicated the good news to Paul, a Maltese philanthropist, businessman and expolitician, and the presentation was then held at a formal, very moving ceremony on the 18th of November at St Mary's Cathedral Chapter Hall when Mr Zammit was awarded the medal and presented with a formal citation.

recognised for his service to the Church and the wider Australian community with extraordinary generosity, wisdom and commitment as a parliamentarian, a businessman, and a Knight of the Order of Malta. Chev. Zammit was born in Egypt in 1941, he is the son of a Maltese father and a Greek mother, who migrated to Sydney in 1955 when he was a young boy of fourteen.

He married wife Rita before he began his career in 1973, founding Sales Pty Ltd which he sold in 1984 to his parliamentary career.

He was elected as state member for the electorates of Burwood (1984-

Paul was 1988) and Strathfield (1988-1996) and federal member for Lowe (1996-1998). "THROUGH HIS PARISH INVOLVEMENT, HE HAS PROVIDED HUNDREDS OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND FOR THE HOMELESS AND HE WAS THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND PATRON OF SYDNEY'S INNER WEST EISTEDDFOD."



He assisted in hosting a fundraising dinner at NSW Parliament House which raised more than one million dollars for the Matthew Talbot Hostel and worked as a volunteer with the Society of St Vincent De Paul, and at Gorman House, a medically supervised centre for those who are dependent upon drugs and alcohol.

In 1998 he left the political sphere and resumed his career in business where he was known as a man of integrity, deep faith, sound counsel and strong principles; defending the interests of disadvantaged or marginalised groups including Indigenous Australians and migrants.

He assisted in hosting a fundraising dinner at NSW Parliament House which raised more than one million dollars for the Matthew Talbot Hostel and worked as a volunteer with the Society of St Vincent De Paul, and at Gorman House, a medically supervised centre for those who are dependent upon drugs and alcohol.

In 2018 he founded the Catholic Breakfast Group, a quarterly event at NSW Parliament House which features high-profile guest speakers and provides an opportunity for Catholic professionals to network and grow in their faith.

(Source: NSW Catholic Weekly)

## IL-FESTA TAN-NAR

Il-qaddis tar-raħal tagħna  
iħobb bħalna l-ġmiel tan-nar  
u kull ħoss qalil li jdamdam  
fit-triqat minn dar għal dar.

Aħna għalih nagħtu ħajjitna,  
lesti nbatu l-mewt tal-ħruq;  
hemm jinsab il-ġieħ u l-ħila  
malli n-nar itir 'il fuq.

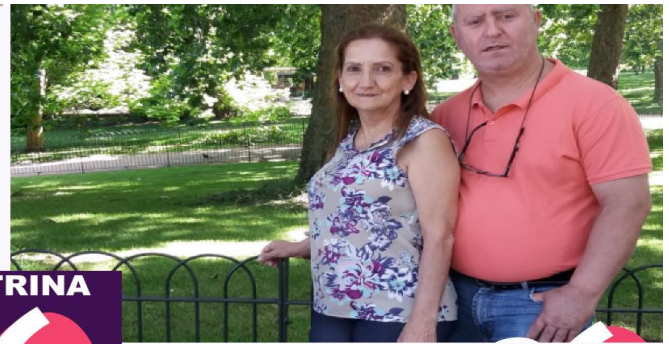
U 'l fuq darba l-kamra taret  
u l-prezz għoli ħallasnieh;  
trietaq sar il-ġisem w aħna  
biċċa biċċa fittixnieh.

U ntremew il-bombi b'luttu  
u s-smewwiet baqgħu fid-dlam,  
u ġiet festa wara oħra  
izda Masu qatt ma qam.

## JEKK INT TKASBAR IL-MALTI

Jekk inti tkasbar lili, x'tagħmel lilek?  
Jekk minn għalik lil ommok tiddisprezza,  
u bla misthija sserdaq il-kburija,  
tkun lilek stess qed twaqqa' fil-bluhija.  
Ftakar fil-kliem magħruf tal-kbir poeta.  
Int x'int, u int min int, fil-ghelt tizghedx.  
B'rased baxxuta, dmughek stess isaffi  
Kruhat id-daghwa; u dlonk it-tewba jtaffi.  
O kemm hu biered għelt il-gharef kburi!  
Kemm mingħalih il-kotra tammirah!  
Bħal Guda kif jintebah fis jindanna.  
Fuq sidru jhabbat; lilu nikkundanna.  
Fejn sejr in Maltin huti b'dak il-ghamad?  
Min tahsbu li qed toghgbu b'dana l-qerq?  
Għajnejkom ifthu, hallu d-dawl jurikom  
Jekk thaddnu 'l tagħkom, hadd ma jidhak bikom.

RIGU BOVINGDON NSW 28 – 11- 2022



## “L-Istrina is on” – President George Vella



TOP PHOTOS: Helen's story is one of hope and resilience. after being diagnosed with a tumor, she

was sent to the UK for treatment. while in london, helen used to live with the franciscan sisters along with her husband. thankfully, after several months of treatment, she began to get better. however, her husband was left with nothing to do while she received care, so he offered to help around the building as a handyman. the Franciscan Sisters welcomed them with open arms, and they soon began to feel at home. with all the treatment and love they received, Helen is living in Malta, healthy and full of energy. recently, helen and her husband went back to the uk to visit the sisters and give thanks for the time they spent with them. Helen's story reminds us that no matter our circumstances, we can always find moments of joy and gratitude. BOTTOM PHOTOS: Malik was only one year old when doctors discovered he had cerebral palsy. Since then, he has been undergoing multiple treatments and operations. This year Malik turned 18, and he needs a new wheelchair as he has outgrown

the one he currently has. This young man is an active MCCF volunteer and has attended L-Istrina since he was six years old, without missing a single edition. He is currently studying social policy, as he wants to help other people going through similar situations.

Cancer charity Puttinu Cares will be building new apartments in central London that will house patients from Malta while they are treated in hospital in the British capital.

The €23m project, which will be named after the charity's co-founder and paediatric cancer specialist Victor Calvagna, who died in January 2022, will include 23 apartments for the patients and their relatives to stay free of charge.

The building is a 10-minute walk away from central London and the Kings Cross and St Pancras stations. It is also close to Regent Park.

Puttinu Cares project will be paid for through donations, a €5 million grant from the National Development and Social fund, and a €10 million Bank of Valletta loan to cover the additional expenses and refurbish the building.

Puttinu currently has two fully paid buildings in Sutton comprising 20 apartments.



## Darwin bishop threatens to close schools over discrimination laws

Australian-Maltese The Bishop of Darwin Charles Gauci, has threatened to close Catholic schools if the Northern Territory's Labor government changes laws that strip schools of the right to hire employees based on faith.

Bishop Charles Gauci wants the Northern Territory government to shelve its plan to remove the right of religious schools to employ staff who share their faith.

The NT parliament is considering government amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act.

The change will end an existing provision that lets "religious educational institutions discriminate against staff based on their sexuality".

Bishop Gauci has warned that the draft bill has the "unintended consequences" of preventing religious schools from requiring staff to teach in line with the school's faith.

"Denying faith schools the right of ensuring that their belief systems are upheld by employing the right people is a violation of religious freedom," he wrote in his Bishop's Reflection on Thursday.

"Can you imagine a Catholic school employing a leader of a school who advocates atheism, or thinks that the beliefs of our church are silly?"

"Now, it doesn't mean that every teacher is a Catholic or even a believer. But we

certainly have a firm policy that the principal, the deputy, the director of religious education, are practising members of our faith community," Bishop Gauci said on Darwin's Mix 104.9 Radio on 16 November.

"I'm taking this very, very seriously.

"It's really questioning whether we are going to be viable in all of our schools. And we have plenty of them, giving a great contribution to people across the NT," Bishop Gauci said.

### **Government taking a "radical approach"**

He said the legislative amendments could force Catholic schools to let teachers promote atheism or polygamy to students.

"If I cannot have a faith school ... then we would have to seriously consider closing them, and then all the kids would have to go to the state schools," he said on Wednesday.

"We are not talking about a teacher's personal beliefs or even their own private lives; we are talking about what they do in schools and what they teach.

"I repeat: more than half the students to come to our schools are not Catholic, but they value what we present and what we hold."

The Australian Association of Christian Schools said the NT



government was taking a "radical approach" towards anti-discrimination laws by removing the longstanding employment exemption for religious schools.

"Completely removing (section) 37a from the Discrimination Act leaves our schools vulnerable to claims of discrimination when it comes to employing staff who share the faith," AACS executive officer Vanessa Cheng said on Thursday.

The Australian Christian Lobby also called on the NT government to reverse the amendment.

"Everyone understands the right of political parties to hire staff who are members of their parties, and for other values-based organisations to hire staff who adhere to their ethos," the ACL's NT director Christopher Brohier said.

"And yet the NT government plans to deny faith-based schools this same right.

"Religious schools should not be forced to hire staff opposed to, or out of step with, their beliefs."

Mr Brohier said the NT bill "discriminates against parents who choose to send their children to religious schools".



**THE MALTESE DIASPORA JOURNAL**  
**READ, LOVED AND RESPECTED BY MALTESE**  
**AROUND THE WORLD**

V. Ellul



## Ian Borg invited to Qatar for official visit during World Cup

Foreign Affairs Minister meets counterparts, hosted by government of Qatar

Ian Borg met three Qatari ministers during his trip to the country. Photos: Foreign Affairs Ministry

Foreign Affairs Minister Ian Borg paid a visit to FIFA World Cup hosts Qatar this past week, saying in a statement that he did so at the Qatari government's invitation.

Borg met with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Commerce and Industry Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al Abdullah Al Thani and Tourism Minister Akbar Al Baker, who also serves as CEO of Qatar Airways.

The meeting with Al Baker yielded "positive discussion about better air connectivity between the two countries in the near future," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

In a statement, the ministry said Borg was invited to Qatar "during the last days" by Al Thani and was hosted by the government of Qatar.

Apart from the three ministers, Borg also met with the CEO of the Qatar Investment Authority, Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud, and with the Chairman of the Business Association of Qatar, Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani, to discuss ways of facilitating business between Malta and Qatar.

During his time in Qatar, Borg also visited a yacht club operated by the Malta-owned Corinthia Group and boarded the Malta-flagged MSC World Europa cruise ship – the largest ship in the MSC fleet and the first to be LNG-powered. The ministry statement did not say whether Borg also found time during his trip to Qatar to attend any World Cup events.

## Of spiderwebs, a cave & corsairs: the Maltese legend of L-Ghar ta' Wied Speranza in Mosta

*Did you know about this legend?*

*Jillian Mallia*

As an island that has had many conquerors, we've got quite the rich history that has been passed on through many generations. And, we must say, the Maltese are pretty good storytellers. Maltese legends are a big thing in local culture, some of which are even learnt about in school (at least back in our day). One such legend, and a popular one at that, was *L-Ghar ta' Wied Speranza* in Mosta.



As the legend goes (as per the famous book *Nagħru l-Legġendi Maltin* by Guido Lanfranco), a young girl was gathering grass in a field in Mosta when she heard voices in the distance. Two corsairs were hiding and started chasing the girl. She was far from home and needed to find a hiding place, so she went into a nearby cave.

She began praying to Our Lady to save her. A spider appeared and began weaving a web at the cave's entrance and once the corsairs arrived, they just kept going – because how could she be in there if the web was still intact?

In his commentary, Guido Lanfranco shares that the chapel at Wied Speranza was completed in 1761. It's well taken care of, and a feast is celebrated in November. The infamous cave is situated underneath the chapel and there's a statue that depicts the girl praying on her knees, along with statues of St John and St Luke.





Dr Victor Sammut  
with Madame  
President



## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

Madam President received lots of compliments in relation to the Saturday event.

The MCCV is grateful to have an opportunity to collaborate with our maltese community to teach our new generation our language and our culture. This will not be possible if it was not for the volunteers that makes it happen.

We thank Tanya Schembri and her team for their great work in teaching the children, Mark Sultana for making available the venue St Georgies on Vista and parents who have children participate in the program. We thank also the members of the executive, Antonia Camilleri, Tania De Carli, Andrew Gatt and Rosemary Attard who put endless hours in planning and preparation. We like to also thank Rita Attard, Rose Muscat, Joe Camilleri and Margaret Spiteri for their great assistance on the day.

Without these people, we would not be able to deliver the event.



The Maltese Language students  
Christmas party starting the  
celebrations with a mass  
celebrated by Fr Lonnie MSSP  
in the Chapel at Parkville.



Maltese Community teaches  
our new generation  
our language and our culture.

### LEARN MALTESE IN 2023 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.

**Classes are provided at:** Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels. The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinator as well as an independent adviser.

**Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, VICTORIA – 5032 Tel: (03) 9387 8922**

## FM Theatre Productions staging Jack and the Beanstalk at Teatru Astra in Gozo

FM Theatre Productions brings Jack and the Beanstalk to Teatru Astra in Gozo for the first time in Panto history

by Laura Calleja

For the first time in panto history, this Christmas, FM Theatre Productions are bringing panto to the Teatru Astra in Gozo from the 26 to the 30 of December.

This year, the Jack and The Beanstalk pantomime is made up of a stellar cast of actor-musicians, led by panto veteran Edward Mercieca as Dame Fazola Biglla. Mercieca is joined by Gianni Selvaggi as the effervescent Jack, along with Chiara Hyzler, Tina Rizzo, Sean Borg, Cathy Lawlor, Peter Farrugia and Hannah Attard.

Promising to delight adults and children alike, the classic tale is infused with the humour and charm that one would expect of a Christmas Pantomime together with the electric excitement of a rock and roll concert. Jack's plans to marry Jill come to a screeching halt when a terrifying giant threatens to devour Jill unless he is given a sack of gold. He turns to his loud and brassy mother, Dame Fazola Bigilla for help, who concocts a plan to come up with the life-saving sack of gold. Hilarity ensues when the Dame's plans go awry. Pressure mounts as the Squire of the land, Jill's father, insists on the poor family obtaining the treasured collection, aggravated by the naively incompetent Billy.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.tnd.com](http://www.tnd.com)



With contemporary jokes and Maltese references woven into the script by Peter Rowe, the whimsical journey up the beanstalk is not scarce of the traditional panto elements and characteristics that will have audiences cheering and chanting classic call-backs at the top of their lungs. Directed by Chris Gatt, the unexpected twists and turns that the protagonists find themselves in are nothing short of typical panto ludicracy that keeps audiences laughing scene uncontrollably after scene.

The actor-musicians, under the Musical Direction of Cathy Lawlor, will be playing some of the most iconic tunes from the likes of music legends such as Queen, Bruno Mars, Fleetwood Mac and James Brown, to name a few. Jack and The Beanstalk is an FM Theatre Production in collaboration with Teatru Astra and is supported by The Ministry of Gozo and The Cultural Heritage Directorate.

## THE FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE HOUSE NSW in conjunction with



are proud to offer 14 Night Group Tour Commencing May 2023  
Departing from Australia and travelling on to visit iconic attractions IN MADRID, LISBON, FATIMA,  
SANTIAGO, LOURDES, BARCELONA and much more  
Finishing in Barcelona you can fly to Malta or any other European City before heading back to  
Australia

For more details contact the Co-ordinator Jim Borg on 0418 825 591 or  
Karen at Breakaway Travel on 02 9622 7799

Price: Tour from \$3975 per person including Breakfast and Dinner Daily  
Single supplement applies to sole occupancy rooms - +\$819

Airfares subject to prices at the time of booking and dates of return to Australia



## INTERESTING FACTS

I informed the Conference that I feared the prospects of future non-domestic employment for women were not good. Demobilization was starting the next few weeks and there were simply not enough jobs for all that deserving body of men. It was therefore obvious that women at present performing work ordinarily done by men should make room for them.

There was some argument about this and in the end the Association agreed that ex-servicemen should be given priority but maintained that women should have equal opportunities for employment as men.

I insisted that once there were not enough opportunities for both, men should come first.

It's been a long journey towards gender equality in Malta. This is an extract from a 1945 letter penned by the then Director of Labour and Social Welfare, with reference to a conference he attended. The conference was organised by the Women of Malta Association regarding the future prospects for the employment of Maltese women, many of whom had stepped into men's shoes during the wartime years in order to keep the country running.

— at [National Archives of Malta](#)



National Archives of Malta - Santo Spirito Hospitla - Rabat - Malta



## End of an era: Valletta's spice shop Tal-Ħwawar to close after 135 years

'Restaurants have taken over Valletta and you feel there's no space for you'

*Fiona Galea Debono, Karl-Andrew Micallef*

The shop is located on St John's Street corner with St Paul's Street. Photos: Karl Andrew Micallef

Valletta's long-standing little corner spice shop will be closing down after 135 years due to the "takeover" of catering establishments that left no space for tradition, snuffing out an era and another icon of the capital city.

Selling a wide range of herbs and spices since 1888, multi-generational family-run George Zammit Tal-Ħwawar, as it is known, on St John's Street corner with St Paul's, was "suffocated" out of the city, according to its third-generation owner.

Johann Farrugia, still busy behind the counter after 47 long years – buried in bags of strong flavours and aromas he has grown immune to, said he would be out by the end of January as the store had reached a "point of no return" more than a century after it was founded by his father's uncle.

"Restaurants, cafés and wine bars have taken over Valletta and you feel there is no space for you," he said. People were visiting the city in the evening for entertainment purposes mainly and there was no longer the same variety of shops, Farrugia contended.

These had changed the feel, narrowed and obstructed streets, preventing other shops from being appreciated.

"Importance has been given to coffee shops and I can understand the need to create variety. But tradition and culture have been forgotten at the expense of business, business, business," Farrugia said.

He blamed the authorities for not sustaining small stores, not financially, as they had been in the pandemic. But nothing has been done to keep the heritage going, Farrugia said, unlike in other capital cities. There was "no vision" to preserve Valletta's identity and "money took over" instead, he said.

**Mini museum**

The 62-year-old was looking forward to being a pensioner but had no intention of sitting idle.

His son, an archaeologist and academic, with a passion for history, would not be taking over and Farrugia also had come to terms with the fact that there was no one to pass the spice shop on to.

So, the jam-packed 10-square-metre store has been sold and Farrugia plans to open a little coffee shop elsewhere in Valletta, where he would continue selling similar herbs and spices and even set up a 'mini museum' to showcase antique objects.

The new attraction would be enhanced by manuscripts, old receipt books, invoices and weighing machines from The Spice Shop, considered one of the city's hidden gems.

Johann Farrugia, still busy behind the counter after 47 long years.

**Doing it the 'old way'**

Stored in hundreds of containers, bought by weight and wrapped in grease-proof paper – the old way – the vast range of herbs, spices, seasonings, essences, legumes, grains, nuts, beans and dried fruits recently also made way for other daily needs.



Moving on from selling lamp oil, The Spice Shop also stocked coffee beans, including a special Maltese mix, infused with cloves and aniseed, as well as rice starch for those who still wanted to stiffen their doilies and crochet creations “like the olden days”.

Nothing was pre-packed but the turnover allowed for freshness, said Farrugia, who, as a youth, had attempted to go down this route at one stage in the shop’s long history, thinking it was more hygienic and the way forward. But nobody went for the stash of pre-packed products, prepared to speed up sales, and customers insisted on ta’ l-użin (by weight), he recalled, having to unpack everything again.

George Zammit’s best-sellers over the years included pepper, which was still being bought by weight, and it also had its own traditional recipes like It-taħlita tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira (the Good Friday mix), also known as It-taħlita tal-borma tas-Sepulkru, made of 20 types of spices, added to wine and citrus and left to simmer.

The Spice Shop has been selling a wide range of herbs and spices since 1888.

Its most popular products with foreigners were the spices used with rabbit, which they took home as “souvenirs”, Farrugia said.

Over the years, the well-stocked shop has been known by different names, including tat-triq tal-ganċ (the hook street, referring to a hook at the top), tal-kantuniera (the corner shop) and tal-bżar (the pepper shop). Farrugia still has a large old pepper grinder that was used by his great-grand uncle and that he will take to his new premises.

Using manual scales until today, Farrugia said that no one wanted the shop to be modernised.

The only novelty it introduced recently was a delivery service, where customers could place their orders for the ingredients of Easter figolli and borma tas-Sepulkru.

#### Feedback

The Facebook page, Residenti Beltin, has also highlighted the closure of Tal- Ħwawar, saying the capital would be “losing another icon”.

The household shop, N. Caruana & Sons’, in Merchants Street, also closed down recently, prompting sadness and nostalgia as customers recalled decades of service and the owners of the family-run store sought to adapt when the rented building was returned to its landlord 80 years later.

In its post, Residenti Beltin bemoaned the lack of support for small stores that were synonymous with Valletta, pointing to “egoism and greed” instead.

Reactions to the post included that “Valletta has lost its soul” while a tourist commented about the “great experience” of visiting it during a walk in the city and being welcomed by the owner, with his explanations of the products on offer. “When you see so much happening around you, you realise that life is too short and you cannot remain attached to things,” Farrugia said.

“It is hard to let go but you have to move on and live in the moment.

“I am just closing an era that gave me much satisfaction,” he continued, adding the positive feedback from his “faithful customers”, urging him not to close and to open elsewhere, meant he was ending with a good reputation. Many of Tal-Ħwawar’s clientele had come with their mothers and then they came with their daughters, moving through the generations.

“I could relate to them, unlike what happens in supermarkets that are just grab-and-go.

“They would even share their problems,” Farrugia said, about the nostalgia that has been sparked as he calls it a wrap...



One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mommy?'

Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.'

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?' Lawrence Gauci

## Superheroes visit children in hospital to share the festive spirit

**The Mosta Scout Group preparing for descent. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli**



Mosta scout group returns for the eighth edition of Hospital Heroes. Daniel Tihn Children receiving treatment at Mater Dei Hospital were greeted with a superhero sight on Saturday, as the Mosta Scout group abseiled past the young crowd to deliver some festive cheer.

Dressed as superheroes from multiple franchises including Wonder Woman, Spider-Man and Superman, the adventurous lot made their way down the hospital wall, waving at the curious onlookers.

"At first, there is always that adrenaline rush," group leader Sean Bartolo dressed as the man from Krypton told the *Times of Malta*, "but when you know that, in this scenario, there are kids waiting for you

from the windows, you'll feel more motivated".

The annual Christmas tradition began in 2016, with the group adding something different each year.

In 2018, they began visiting the wards after their descent, handing out gifts to the children while 2019 saw Father and Mary Christmas join the caped crusaders down the hospital wall.

Real doctors (who are also leaders of the group) took the plunge in 2020 as a nod to the heroic COVID-19 front liners. This year, the scout group combined all the previous years into an extravaganza as the superheroes were joined by a doctor, nurse and the Christmas couple while adding some more heroine

representation: Bat Girl and Snow White.

"How does it feel to put your life in someone else's hands?" someone asked Dr Ryan Farrugia, a member of the Mosta group for 38 years, as he hung over the edge. "It's a slippery slope," he joked.

The smallest of the group was a nine-year-old elf. "The first time I did it, I was six or seven," she said. "I've even done it without a wall."

In pairs, they descended as children looked out of their windows to catch a glimpse of the rare sight.

When the young audience couldn't see Father Christmas, the group swung the holiday mascot from side-to-side making sure that everyone got to share in the wonder.



## Dr Klown 10th anniversary: Tree planting ceremony at Mater Dei Hospital



The CEO of Mater Dei Hospital, Celia Falzon, and the President of Dr Klown, Eric Muscat led a tree-planting ceremony and unveiled a plaque within the precincts of Mater Dei Hospital, to commemorate the 10th Anniversary from the setting up of Dr Klown in Malta.

Last year – 2021 – marked the 10th Anniversary of the setting up of the Dr Klown organisation in Malta. It has been an exhilarating journey for many and during these 10 years the Klown Doctors have made a difference in the lives of many – especially in the lives of children in pain, in recovery, the group said in a statement.

This has been possible through the ongoing collaboration between the leadership of Dr Klown and the leadership of Mater Dei Hospital. To commemorate this ten-year journey and relationship Dr Klown planted a Delonix Regia, also known as Royal Poinciana or Red Flame Tree, within the Mater Dei Hospital grounds. The tree's red colour when in full blossom will be a reminder

of the Red Nose that is a signature symbol of Dr Klown as well as the passion of the Klown Doctors and the many carers working within hospital and beyond.

The ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque by the CEO of Mater Dei Hospital, Celia Falzon, and the President of Dr Klown, Eric Muscat and was witnessed by a team of Klown Doctors. Muscat said that 'the excellent relationship and ongoing collaboration between Dr Klown and the leadership and staff of Mater Dei Hospital make it possible for the Klown Doctors to visit children in recovery and help provide important moments of relief and laughter in circumstances that can sometimes be very difficult indeed.'

'When the colourful Klown Doctors visit the wards they bring loads of energy that rubs off the children, their relatives and the medical staff that happen to be close by.' Falzon referred to the positive impact that the Klown Doctors have on the young patients and praised



the professionalism and the disposition of all the Klown Doctors that visit Mater Dei Hospital on a regular basis. She said that '... although the Klown Doctors do not form part of the hospital staff complement they are treated as such as they are offering a most valuable service that is welcomed by the hospital leadership and the medical personnel alike.'

*Dr Klown is an Association registered in Malta with identification number VO/0582 and enrolled as a Voluntary Organisation under the Voluntary Organisation Act (Article 14). The aim of Dr Klown is to help prevent, reduce and alleviate the fears, anxieties, trauma, pain, suffering and stress experienced by hospital clients, their families, friends and caregivers, by encouraging a positive attitude towards their illness through laughter, fun and entertainment. Our volunteers work closely with health care professionals and hospital administration to achieve these goals.*

*The healing power of humour has been recognized since antiquity. Everyone knows that 'laughter is the best medicine', but international research has found real physiological and psychological benefits to patients.*


THE MALTESE CENTER

# GIVING TREE

**DONATE TO SUPPORT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

The Center is collecting donations for the Ronald McDonald House of NY. We have a giving tree with tags. Each tag has an item needed for pediatric cancer patients, for example diapers. Donations will be collected at the Center through December 18th to be delivered to the RMH of NY. If you would like to donate but are unable to come to the Center please email us at [info@themaltesecenter.com](mailto:info@themaltesecenter.com)



## MALTESE IN NEW YOURK CITY GIVING TREE FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Please join in the movement of giving. The Maltese Center has chosen to support the Ronald McDonald House of New York. Grab a tag from the Giving Tree. Each tag has an item needed such as diapers. Items can be dropped off at the Center through Dec 18th. **RSVP**

### Time & Location

Nov 30, 3:00 AM – Dec 18, 4:00 PM

The Maltese Center, 2720 Hoyt Ave S, Astoria, NY 11102, USA

Please join in the movement of giving. The Maltese Center has chosen to support the Ronald McDonald House of New York. Grab

a tag from the Giving Tree. Each tag has an item needed such as diapers. Items can be dropped off at the Center through Dec 18th.

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE NY** provides temporary housing for paediatric cancer patients and their families in a strong, supportive, and caring environment which encourages and nurtures the development of child-to-child and parent-to-parent support systems. When families must travel to New York City for the advanced cancer treatment they can't get anywhere else, they can find a loving place to stay at RMH NY.

## 1965 - FRIENDS DROP IN ON 'MISS MABEL'



The Hon. Miss Mabel Strickland OBE always eager and very happy to meet Australians, especially if, as on this occasion, they are Maltese-Australians.

A group from Sydney and Melbourne 1965, visiting Malta, call on Miss Mabel at her residence Villa Parisio, Lija.

Miss Strickland spent some years of her own childhood in Australia, when her father, Sir Gerald Strickland, was Governor of three Australian States, between 1904 and 1917.

Miss Strickland was on a private visit to Sydney in November 1972 and was guest of honour at functions of welcome, organised by Maltese Associations. On these occasions, she made every effort to meet as many Maltese as possible.



## MALTA HAS CHANGED

**" U ejja..... mhux xorta" "Dan progress, jew le?!!!!"**



**Days Gone  
But Not Forgotten**

How I long for the days when we were all born at home,

- when we all went to school in our home villages & towns, walked everywhere within the villages because the buses did not go everywhere.

- We never had much but everyone helped and nobody in our neighbourhood went to bed hungry.

- Church was very much respected, and the churches were full.

- Our mothers were home when we returned after school and find supper ready to eat..

- A look from any parents, stopped us in our tracks and we never asked WHY?.

- It would have been nothing out of the ordinary for residents to sit outside in the evening on the pavement and say the rosary together. No cars parked on either side of the street.

- If something bad happened, we all gathered and helped as best we could.

- We learned crafts and trades from each other, I learned to sew on my mother's lap as I could not reach the 'SINGER' sewing machine's pedal.
- nobody expected anything in return for teaching and teachers were loved and respected.
- Life was hard but was also simple.
- We used to make the sign of the cross before dinner and every time we boarded a bus.
- After school we used to go and play soccer, 'passju' or 'noli' in the fields nearby – no mobiles, ipads, Laptops, TV or Personal Computers.
- When all my neighbours were Maltese and speak Maltese.
- When we used to see priests and monks in their habits walking along the streets
- I long for those days when there were harmony and respect for everyone and when a handshake was bigger than any contract drawn by the Notary.
- When 'gay' used to mean 'happy'.
- When we didn't know the meaning of 'MULTI-STOREY-BUILDING'.
- Yes, Dear Malta, I do miss you and miss especially those days.  
Charmaine Micallef from Canada



## IL-GULBIENA - Malta's curious Christmas traditions

The Maltese Christmas with its emphasis on the crib and the figure of Baby Jesus would not be the same without its *ġulbiena*. We have not, so far, done away with Christ at Christmas, despite a growing commercialisation.

Nevertheless, both our faith and our traditions keep us firmly on track to keep Him firmly in sight, while taking a break and gathering in families.

It was St Francis who gave us our first live crib, when he celebrated Christ's nativity, his poverty and humility, at Greccio. But St Francis did not know the *ġulbiena*, although I am sure he would have smiled agreeably at our addition to the crib.

It sprouts everywhere like a mystic, hairy, white shrub, on the Christmas Night altars, around cribs, in windowsill displays of the Child Jesus, in every decoration that recalls the birth of the Saviour.

Where would we be without our *ġulbiena* on Christmas night? The tourists enjoy the sight of our cribs especially if they come from countries where Christmas is just a holiday time or a winter break. They admire the mechanical cribs, note the carol singing, go all over Malta in search of little feats of engineering and imagination in honour of the Child Jesus. But what is that snowy shrub that can be found everywhere in the company of this celebrated Child?

Like the mustard seed of the Gospel, the smallest seed that grows into a large tree with bird-sheltering branches (Mt. 13,31),



the *ġulbiena* gathers around the Divine Child lovingly as it pushes tall towards heaven. The smallness of the seed recalls the smallness of the babe. Big things start small. Grown in the dark, the *ġulbiena* yearningly pushes up into the air, tall and white, still devoid of the sun which it will see for the first time when Jesus Christ is born. Innocently and purely it grows in search of the light which it misses, until the day when, brittle and trembling, it sings its *Nunc Dimittis* – now I can go; my eyes have seen salvation.

The trick has worked. Horticulturists will assure us that plants need light, and if they do not find it, they grow tall in the hope that up there, they will find salvation. Light is their first quest. The colour will come afterwards. So our poor innocent *ġulbiena* is the victim of a trick. The beginning of this beautiful custom, like so many other things in our folklore, are lost in the mist of tradition.

Even its cultivation has changed over the years. My mother used

to plant it in saucers filled with cotton wool, but nowadays, I am told by the gurus, it is best prepared in soil or peat, kept in a completely dark place, and watered every other day. Some people prefer to add some *skalora* (bird-seed) to add a touch of redness, but this is not necessary, and can be anathema to the purists. You water every other day, as you blow a blessing and let God do the rest. The miracle of life ensues. The seeds burst into glorious action and perpendicular life. On Christmas Eve, the glorious miracle is ready for display and admiration.

**FIND US ON  
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Maltese Community  
Council of Victoria**



**THE MALTESE CENTRE IN NEW YORK CITY – USA****27-20 Hoyt Ave South, Astoria, NY 11102**

December 1st, 2022

*Grateful & Thankful*

We at the Maltese Center would like to extend our thanks and gratitude in this time of giving, appreciation and generosity.

We are fortunate to have our "little bit of Malta in New York" thanks to those who had a vision 40 years ago to invest in a place to call our own.

We are extremely grateful to our invaluable volunteers, who always bring outstanding attributes to the Center. Concession tending, preparing dishes, baking, preparing and grilling for the BBQ's, providing carpentry, teaching, decorating, cleaning, contributors, Facebook, Instagram, Maltese Center website, organizing events and parties, DJ services, tending the bocce court, tending the back yard garden, planting, maintenance, various classes, etc.

We are thankful for all those many members who do work behind the scenes and remain behind the scenes.

We are thankful for all the members who support the Center.

Thankful for the many committees who kept the Maltese Center going.

Thankful that we were able to come through the Covid lockdown, slowdown, soft open, and through the many contributions return strong.

Grateful that we have a close relationship with the Mission of Malta.

Thankful to have Fr. Anthony Saliba as our Chaplain.

Thankful and grateful to everyone that supports the Maltese Center and the Committee through challenging times and times that our best was not good enough.

We always strive for the best for the Center, the Members and the Community.

Next time you see a volunteer, please take the time and opportunity to show your appreciation by thanking him/her. They truly are the pillars of the Maltese Center.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a great holiday season and a Merry Christmas to all.

Below is a recap of some of our 2022 events and initiatives made possible through the efforts of our volunteers and member support.

Return of Maltese Language Classes for 2022 & 2023 ~ Maltese Consulate Consular Services Info Session ~ Bingo ~ Feast of St. Paul Mass ~ Superbowl Sunday ~ Karnival Party ~ Easter Prayer Service ~ Kid's Easter Bonanza ~ Good Friday Procession ~ Bingo Brunch ~ Majjalata BBQ ~ Imnarja/San Gwann BBQ ~ Festa Santa Marija BBQ ~ Festa Tal-Il Vitorja BBQ ~ Bank Of Valletta USA Hotline Established ~ Ta Bejnietna Friday's ~ ~ Open Day with PM Abela & DPM Fearné & Delegation Visit ~ 80's Party ~ Bingo ~ Kid's Halloween Party ~ Adult Halloween Party ~ ~ All Souls Memorial Mass ~ Bingo ~Is- Sahha Taghna's MaltaCon Party to support Ronald McDonald House of New York ~ Bingo ~World Cup Game Watch ENG vs USA ~ Holiday Celebration Day with Tree Lighting and Kids' Santa Party ~ Bingo ~ Member's' Christmas Party ~ New Year's Eve Party



### Christmas celebration Day December 10th at 3:00 pm

Festivities for Everyone - come in your ugliest holiday sweater, sip hot chocolate surrounded by holiday spirit & cheer, Hess truck display, Maltese Christmas music and our very own Tree Lighting ceremony. All our welcome. RSVP to help us plan better!

### Kids' Santa Party December 10th at 5:00 pm

Kids drop of your letters to SANTA at the North Pole mailbox, Crafts, Maltese Christmas Carols, Hess truck display, Photo with Santa, Tree lighting ceremony. Parents bring a wrapped present labelled with your child's name Member child Free. This ticket is only extended to the member Parent of each child. Member tickets are not transferable. Non-Member each child \$10. Advance RSVP is required online! Entry with ticket only.

## FAREWELL AND THANK YOU DEAR FATHERS



We have started taking Bookings for St. Paul the Apostle parish's New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. Apart from being served a 7- Course Meal, each table will have one bottle of red wine and one bottle of white wine; and of course, champagne will be served at midnight to celebrate the New Year! You can purchase your tickets by contacting Freda at 416-762-1891. Prices are \$60.00 for Adults; \$25.00 for children 5-12 years old; and children 5 years and under are free. Let's welcome 2023 together in a joyful and friendly manner, with good food, a good atmosphere, and good company, especially since this is the last New Year's Eve will be celebrating with the Maltese MSSP Fathers before they leave the parish





## A COURTESY VISIT OF THE IGH COMMISSIONER TO THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

The High Commissioner, H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, this morning paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Malta, H.E. Dr George Vella, wherein they discussed issues related to the Maltese diaspora in Australia as well as bilateral opportunities to enhance further the Mackay Maltese Club Inc.

## CONSUL ON THE MOVE IN QUEENSLAND

The Mackay Maltese Club committee hosted Deputy High Commissioner Gail Demanuele for a lovely gathering, with Maltese homemade cuisine. The Deputy High Commissioner thanked the committee for their warm hospitality and their work with the community in Mackay, Queensland.

Gail Demanuele had a successful visit in Mackay where she had the opportunity to meet with a lot of Maltese people during her appointments and in town. Gail Demanuele, accompanied by Hon Consul Sandra Alexandra Micallef tackled the applicants for passports and citizenships successfully. The High Commission would like to thank the Greek Consulate in Brisbane for their amazing hospitality and offering to use their office



The 17-day Parental Alienation national awareness campaign this year will again be held 1st - 17th December. Each of these days **HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA (FOR HAPPIER CHILDREN)** shall visit key personalities and speak about one of the 17 strategies of Parental Alienation. Our message «**Parental Alienation is Family Violence**» and «**Children need both Parents**». Our guest launching this campaign is the Commissioner for Mental Health, Dr Denis Vella Baldacchino tomorrow 1 December 12noon at his office. *Let us know if you can be*

*present.*

Mary Gauci President (+356) 77603330 Anthony Cauchi Founder and PRO (+356) 99565730





Nov. 2022

The Consul-General Chirelle Ellul Sciberras had the pleasure to welcome at the Consulate Mr Jack Sandercock, a student from Victoria University who will be studying at the University of Malta, as part of the study abroad and exchange program agreement which was renewed earlier this year



**Santa's World Malta at Ta' Qali  
is not just a Christmas village,  
it's an Experience**

**MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA**

**JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS Carols**

BYO FOOD AND DRINK  
FUNDRAISER SAUSAGE SIZZLE \$2  
MUSIC - CHRISTMAS CAROLS PERFORMED BY MMG CONCERT BAND  
**STRICTLY ALCOHOL FREE EVENT**  
START FROM 7.30 PM

**WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022**  
**POLISH HALL - 6 HELENE ST, ARDEER**

RSVP'S WOULD BE APPRECIATED TO ASSIST WITH NUMBERS. PLEASE CALL  
AMIE 0404 894 576 OR  
JOE 0438 500 121

**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

Published in Adelaide, Australia since 2013  
Free, bilingual and non-political  
The editor and team produce this journal mainly for Maltese living abroad.

**OUR AIM IS TO INFORM, SHARE, CONNECT AND EMPOWER MALTESE LIVING AROUND THE WORLD**

To contact us or/and send a donation email us  
[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)