



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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Kummissjoni Gholja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

High Commission of the Republic of Malta

Media Release 12-2014

His Excellency Mr. Charles Muscat and Dr. Joseph Pirotta, Deputy High Commissioner, attended an event, on Sunday, 4th May 2014, hosted by the Maltese-Australian Association of Canberra & Queanbeyan, to honour the past President of the Association. The event was held at the Narrabundah Hall in Canberra.

During the function, H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, on behalf of the Maltese-Australian Association Canberra & Queanbeyan, presented Mr. Fred Flask with a memento, to thank him, for serving as President for 25 years.

Following the speeches and formalities, the guests enjoyed Maltese snacks, prepared by members of the Association.

Photos courtesy: Mr. John Mangion



A MALTESE/AUSTRALIAN HONOURED

The Maltese Consulate of Malta in South Australia and the members of the Maltese community wish to congratulate CBS Executive Director, Freddie Brincat on receiving the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2014.



Freddie's mum and Dad emigrated from Malta to Australia in 1950 with the first born, Consilio. His mother, Rosina Brincat (nee Cassar) was pregnant with his brother Ben while travelling with young Con. His mother was born in Zejtun and his father, Charlie Brincat, was born in Hamrun, Malta. He is fifth of six children.

Freddie's grandfather on Rosina's side, Carmelo Cassar, migrated to Australia to work on the mines/railways in the late 1920s and this made it hard for his mum's side, as mum and her sister, Kalina Saliba, and younger brother were raised in a convent back in Malta. Freddie's family grew up in Prospect Adelaide, went to North Adelaide Primary School and to Adelaide High School.

Freddie's passion for improving the lives for people with a disability, through placing a strong focus on working with their inherent strengths has resulted in a range of improved services, programs and outcomes of direct benefit to them, personally. He has also acquired and imparted significant knowledge to others, been a strong advocate for the sector and developed key industry relationships that have contributed to the success of the CBS

programs and provided leadership in the Disability sector and broader community. His involvement and direct support for Disability Arts, has furthered his goal of providing people with a disability with choices for their life goals.

With the support of particularly, the many staff of CBS over the years Freddie has been able to lead innovative programs and initiatives that have stood the test of time, led to the development of the type and quality of services provided today and will continue to be provided by CBS in the future.

The award of the OAM reflects positively on CBS as an innovator in the fields of Recreation, Further Education and open Employment Services for people with a disability. It also reminds us that CBS is respected as strong values based organisation with a reputation for innovation, reliability and achievement.

Congratulations Freddie on the well-deserved recognition of your leadership.

Mr Brincat has the Executive Director, Community Bridging Services Inc (CBS), since 1993; also serves as Board Secretary and Public Officer; involved in establishing the Amelia Rix Foundation and Award, since 2003; the award is presented to a person with a disability excelling in open employment and community service.

MAY SOMEBODY TELL US WHEN THE PORTABLE BIOMETRIC PASSPORT EQUIPMENT IS GOING TO ARRIVE AT OUR CONSULATES TO MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR THE MALTESE CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THESE LAST SIX YEARS AND WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN. JOE MICALLEF 12/06/2014

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MNARJA IN MALTA



Malta Events - Celebrating Mnarja Mnarja, or l-Imnarja (pronounced lim-nar-ya) is one of the most important dates on the Maltese cultural calendar. Officially, it is a national festival dedicated to **the feast of Saints Peter and St. Paul**.

In fact its roots can be traced back to the pagan Roman feast of Luminaria (literally, “the illumination”), when the early summer night of June 29 was illuminated by torches and bonfires. A national feast since the rule of the Knights, Mnarja is a traditional Maltese festival of food, religion and music.

The festivities still commence today with the reading of the “bandu”, an official governmental announcement, which has been read on this day in Malta since the 16th century. Originally, Mnarja was celebrated outside St. Paul’s Grotto, in the north of Malta; however, by 1613 the focus of the

festivities had shifted to the Cathedral of St. Paul, in Mdina, and featured torchlight processions, the firing of 100 petards, horseraces, and races for men, boys and slaves. Modern Mnarja festivals take place in and around the woodlands of Buskett, just outside the town of Rabat. It is said that under the Knights, this was the one day in the year when the Maltese were allowed to hunt and eat wild rabbit, which was otherwise reserved for the hunting pleasures of the Knights.

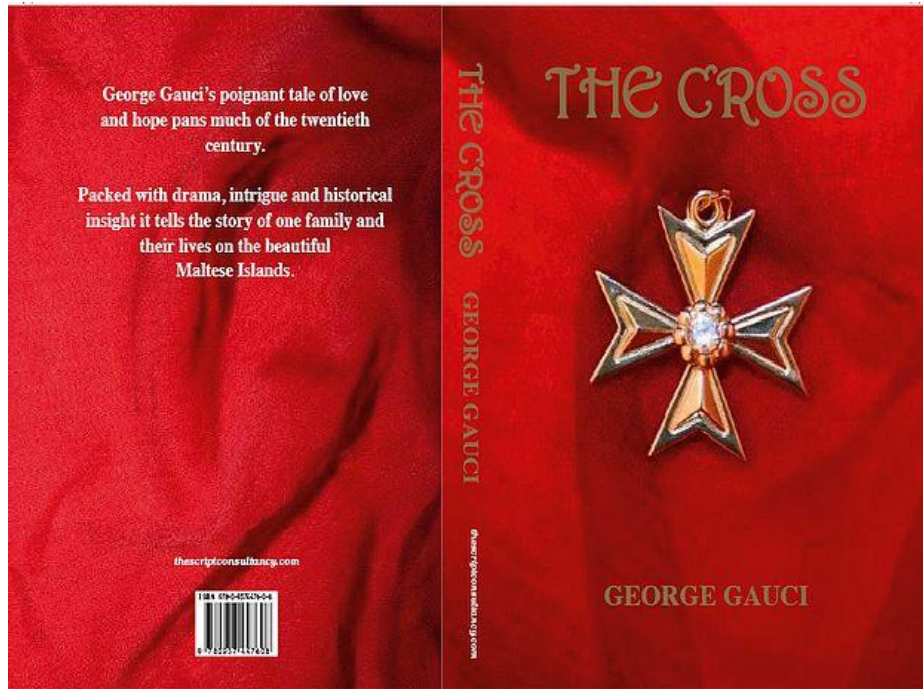
The close connection between Mnarja and rabbit stew (Maltese: “fenkata”) remains strong today. In 1854 British governor William Reid launched an agricultural show at Buskett which is still being held today. The farmers’ exhibition is still a seminal part of the Mnarja festivities today. Mnarja today is one of the few occasions when participants may hear traditional Maltese folklore songs “ghana “. Traditionally, grooms would promise to take their newly- or recently-wed brides to Mnarja during the first of year of marriage and, for luck, many of the brides would attend in their full wedding gown and veil, although this custom has long since disappeared from the Islands. What to expect at Mnarja in Buskett The night of June 29 is characterised by general merry-making and its sociable atmosphere, with people bringing along instruments and making music. Local folk and ethnic-inspired bands usually turn up to play and set the scene. Families have BBQs and picnics and kids romp around.

Traditionally, people take rabbit (Fenek) stew to eat. It’s a Maltese national dish and there’s even a Maltese word for ‘going out to eat rabbit’ – Fenkata! Some families and groups of friends make a complete summer night of L’Imnarja and camp out. The following day sees more organised rural pursuits: there is an agricultural show, which gets larger each year (seems to be a trend in Malta recently) as well as traditional bare-back horse and donkey races on Saqqajja Hill below Mdina. -

My system was hacked and emails were being sent all over the place. Now my computer is virus free. I do apologise if I caused any of you any inconvenience but what has happened was beyond my control.

THE CROSS – GEORGE GAUCI PAPERBACK BOOK SIGNING AT ARKADIA

BY GOZO NEWS · JUNE 25, 2013 SOURCE: www.gozonews.com



‘The Cross,’ the popular novel released recently by author George Gauci, is now available in paperback form. The story takes the reader back to Qormi in 1908, when a widower falls in love with a woman. The reader grows with this family, which includes three children, going through their strong Catholic belief, upbringing, their love, their pain and their happiness, through the years, World War Two and after and gives the reader an insight into island culture before the war.

A journey across the twentieth century, packed with drama, intrigue and historical insight, set on the islands of Gozo and Malta. ‘The Cross’ is published in English and the first edition, which was in hardback with a dust cover, sold out in the first month of publication.

The book has kept many readers awake into the early hours, a real page-turner. The author said that ‘The Cross’ can be read by all ages and is “a great way for first, second and third generations to get to know where they come from, what their forefathers went through during World War 2 and how, through their teachings and their belief in our Christian religion, it made us who we are today.”

George Gauci will be at the Arkadia Commercial Centre in Victoria, between 10.30am and 1.00pm, this coming Saturday, the 29th of June, for a his first paperback book signing. ‘The Cross’ published in paperback, will also be available from Agenda bookshops in Malta from next Monday, the 1st of July

MALTESE TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTS

with special thanks to Anna Borg Cardona's Website: *Malta's Musical Legacy* - www.musicallegacy.com.



The ċuqlajta

The ċuqlajta is an instrument which on the Maltese Islands has very strong associations with Holy Week. Iċ-ċuqlajta encompasses a large number of different shapes and sizes of clappers and ratchets which produce their sound in different ways. Most are made totally of wood but a few are made of wood and metal or even out of Arundo donax reeds. One particular type of clapper has existed in Malta since Roman times and can still be seen in folk bands particularly in Gozo.



Il-qarn

Another early, natural instrument is the horn, il-qarn or il-qrajna. Horns have long had protective properties on the Maltese Islands and for this reason were often placed over farmhouse doors to protect the inhabitants from the 'evil eye' of strangers arriving at the house. Cattle horns were also used as sound instruments when blown through a reed or reed and pipe (hornpipe). Horns were particularly associated with Carnival, suggesting a previous connection with spring ritual.



The bedbut

Simple whistles are commonly made out of corn or wheat stems and the Arundo donax reeds (Maltese qasab). These are known as il-bedbut, pl il-bdiebet. They were often made and used by children and then unceremoniously discarded. The bedbut, a down-cut single reed is made out of the Arundo donax plant and is also used as part of other more complex instruments.



The žummara

Another very simple folk instrument is the mirliton or kazoo known in Malta as iż-žummara. This is made out of a section of Arundo donax reed into which a hole is drilled and on one end of which grease-proof paper is tied with string. One then hums a melody into the hole thus producing a rough raspy sound.



The flejguta

Malta's folk flute is known as il-flejguta. This is made out of a length of *Arundo donax* reed and is constructed on the principle of the penny whistle and recorder. It has a varying numbers of fingerholes.



The tanbur

The Maltese tambourine is known as it-tanbur in Malta and it-tamburlin in Gozo. It usually accompanies the bagpipe and other more recent instruments such as the accordion. The tanbur is made up of a round wooden brightly-coloured frame with a membrane tightly stretched on one side of it. It is known to have been of varying sizes, the largest reaching a diameter of about 60cm. It frequently has metal discs and pellet bells attached.

Iż-żaqq



The Maltese bagpipe, known as iż-żaqq, is particularly important because it is not exactly like any other bagpipe. However, there are certain similarities, most strikingly with the Greek tsambouna. The Maltese żaqq is made out of the skin of an animal – generally of prematurely-born calf, but also of goat or dog. The complete skin is used including all four legs and tail. The chanter (is-saqqafa) is made

up of two adjacent pipes, one with five fingerholes (left) and another with one (right). The chanter terminates with one large cattle horn.

The Ġukulari Ensemble was formed by Anna

The Ġukulari Ensemble was formed by Anna Borg Cardona in 2002, with the specific aim of recording music researched and published in the book *A Musical Legacy: Malta-related music found in foreign libraries*. The Ensemble has since continued to perform at various venues reviving music ranging from formal dances of the knights of St John to music of the Maltese town dwellers, lively airs of the humble folk, as well as ghana melodies. The musicians generally perform in elegant 18th century costumes. The Ġukulari feel a firm commitment to the revival of Malta's music and musical instruments, all of which strengthen Malta's musical identity. In 2005 the Ġukulari Ensemble went on to record a second CD of Maltese traditional music entitled *Doqqli Daqqa!* (Play me a tune!).

web: www.musicallegacy.com

blog: <http://abcmusicmuseum.blogspot.com/>

Email: musicallegacy@hotmail.com

BAROKK GĦAL GŻIRA BAROKKA - MINN KENNETH ZAMMIT TABONA



Fil-15 ta' Mejju 2014, l-Ambaxxata tar-Repubblika ta' Malta f'Washington D.C., b'kollaborazzjoni mad-Delegazzjoni tal-UE fl-Istati Uniti, kellha l-pjaċir li torganizza lecture minn Kenneth Zammit Tabona, il-Viċi President tat-Teatru Manoel, fuq l-identità barokka ta' Malta, b'konnessjoni ukoll mal-Valletta International Baroque Festival, li huwa d-Direttur Artistiku tagħha.

Dan il-lecture kien ir-riżultat ta' laqgħat li l-Ambaxxatur Micallef kellha mad-Delegazzjoni tal-UE dwar is-suġġett tal-kultura f'tit wara li waslet f'Washington, fejn kienet iddiskutiet ix-xewqa tagħha li l-Valletta International Baroque Festival u l-identità barokka ta' Malta b'mod aktar generali jkunu magħrufa aħjar min-nies ta' D.C..

L-esperta tal-mużika storika Tina Chancey u l-kollegi tagħha mal-ewwel ħolqu l-atmosfera billi daqqew sonata

mill-kompożitur Malti Michelangelo Vella (1710-1792), li kienet l-ewwel darba li qatt semgħuha udjenzi Amerikani.

Is-Sur Zammit Tabona imbagħad afaqqini l-udjenza bit-taħdita tiegħu fuq l-istorja w il-kultura ta' Malta. Iffoka speċjalment fuq il-perjodu tal-Kavallieri ta' Malta u kif dawn kienu ġew Malta u mhux talli baqqgħu fuq il-Gżira iżda iffjorixxew u għamlu lil Malta attur ewlieni fix-xena kulturali tal-Ewropa fis-sekli sbatax u tmintax. Spjega kif il-belt Valletta kienet mibnija u tkellem dwar l-maestà tat-Teatru Manoel. Wara li kien pinga stampa daqstant dettaljata, is-Sur Zammit Tabona mbagħad spjega l-kunċett tal-Valletta International Baroque Festival u qal kif Valletta għet magħżula bħala l-Kapitali Ewropea tal-Kultura għas-sena 2018.

In-nies fl-udjenza mbagħad kellhom l-opportunità li jistaqsu xi mistoqsijiet lis-Sur Zammit Tabona dwar dan is-suġġett u biex jtkellmu miegħu b'mod aktar informali matul riċeviment ċkejken li ġie organizzat wara t-taħdita. Fuljetti promozzjonali dwar Malta kienu disponibbli għall-partecipanti tal-avveniment matul il-lejla. Il-lecture kien organizzat bħala parti mill-programm Conversations in Culture tad-Delegazzjoni tal-UE, li huwa serje kulturali li jsir kull xahar fil-Delegazzjoni tal-UE mniedi sabiex jenfasizza l-kulturi diversi tat-28 Stat Membru tal-UE. Il-lecture ifforma wkoll parti mill-programm tal-hekk imsejjaħ Xahar Ewropew tal-Kultura, li qed jiġi organizzat għat-tieni darba matul ix-xahar ta' Mejju mid-Delegazzjoni tal-UE. L-Ambaxxata tixtieq tiringrazzja t-Teatru Manoel, u speċjalment lil-President tat-Teatru, Michael Grech, tal-għajnuna li taw sabiex dan l-avveniment seta' jsir. **Supplied by the Stars and Stripes MALTA 6 June 2014.**

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BRIDGES AMONG
THE MALTESE DIASPORA**

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MESSAGE OR A
STORY**



A SWEET STORY : HONEY AND APIARIES IN MALTA

Veronica Barbara ba (hons arch



The first mention of a 'house of bees' (casa de lapi) in Maltese documents dates back to 1487, however, the tradition of bee-keeping on the Maltese Islands seems to have emerged earlier. This is suggested by Arab geographer Al Idrisi (1154) and Iraqi geographer Ibn Hauqal some hundred years before him (later on being quoted by the 15th century chronicler Al Himyari). So, in spite of the fact that the majority of apiaries are relatively more recent construction, the concept and method must have been rooted in the medieval period.

Although some authors have interpreted a Roman text dated 70BC (from Cicero's Verrines) as evidence of a predominant industry of honey production here in Malta during Roman times, there is nowhere in the text an indication that the honey being mentioned was actually Maltese-produced. The use of honey, whatever was its provenance, must have been quite widespread during the Roman era as documents of the period from all over the empire mention honey in different contexts. For example, the Romans used to serve mulsum, wine with honey. Honey was also present at breakfast, along with dates, olives, vegetables, eggs, fish and meat, of course for those who could afford such an abundant start for the day. Sugar being absent at the time, honey was the main sweetener and one finds it mentioned in so many of Roman cake recipes. The product was even used in some mixes that were believed to act as contraceptives.

Different types of apiaries (in Maltese mgiebah) can be observed in Malta. Some of them are constructed using the dry-stone technique, others are rock excavated both in natural and in man-made caves. Always present is a screening wall of stone blocks and rubble as protection. Apiaries are concentrated in the northern part of Malta, especially in the Northwest, due to the garigue dominating the area and the wild thyme found there, the latter having strong links with Maltese honey production. Place-names also reflect this concentration - one finds an area called Mgiebah in Selmun (4 Km from the Seashells Resort at Suncrest), as well as In-Nahhalija at Ghajn Tuffieha (Golden Bay - 5 Km from Seashells Resort at Suncrest). Apiaries are also to be found in Gozo, Malta's sister island. Two of the most mentioned are situated at Wied Piskru (limits of Rabat and Kercem), although their date is unknown. Other Gozitan imgiebah are, unfortunately, in a very derelict state.

In the vicinity of the Seashells Resort at Suncrest one finds a number of apiaries. Towards the North, in the area referred to as "ix-Xaghra tat-Torri l-Ahmar" near Mellieha, one finds an agricultural complex which includes a network of apiaries, partly rock-cut, partly constructed. Further to the south, in Xemxija, yet another system can be observed - an apiary with rows of rock-carved spaces for earthenware hives. Although the structure is well-integrated into the landscape, the facade itself is composed of all these niches, or apertures, so the apiary is relatively easy to spot as the visitor is walking along the Xemxija Heritage Path.

Unique Gozitan Honey – Għasel

Almost every travel guide book on Malta & Gozo makes reference to the Islands' name as deriving from the Greek word for honey – *meli* – or land of honey, *melitos*, or even their later Roman name 'Melita', also meaning honey. All these etymological threads are possible, but the idea of the Maltese Islands as isles of honey is a connection that we love. Certainly, guide book prose always says Malta is honey coloured, from its warm, yellow limestone and sun.

The Maltese word for honey by the way is *Għasel*.

MALTA BARTITSU SEMINAR 2013



On Saturday, 21st September and Sunday, 22nd September 2013, the Malta Maritime Museum hosted the first Malta Bartitsu Seminar organized by the Malta Historical Fencing Association and Bujinkan Malta. Participants were given a two-day primer to the Victorian self-defence techniques of Bartitsu by Professor Mark P. Donnelly.



Bartitsu was the first martial art system which combined eastern and western styles. Originally intended for the use of gentlemen and ladies in self defence, the system was largely forgotten when the original Bartitsu club closed down in 1902, but is currently going through a revival as more historians and martial artists are taking up its research, reconstruction, and practice. This seminar was the first time Bartitsu was practiced in the Maltese islands. The event was well attended and all the participants showed great enthusiasm in the practice.

We would like to thank everyone who took part, as well as the instructor, for the great weekend. To find out more about Bartitsu, visit www.bartitsu.org.



SINGING NUN WINS THE VOICE OF ITALY



Singing nuns are everywhere, it seems. Sister Cristina Scuccia recently appeared on the Italian version of *The Voice* and astonished the judges by singing Alicia Keys' "No One." The hard-rocking nun gave a very energetic performance of the song, even throwing in a few dance moves.

She could become Italy's answer to those other singing Sisters, the Benedictines of Mary. Judges on *The Voice of Italy* start out listening to each contestant with their backs turned. If they like

what they hear, they can turn around.

The first judge to swivel his chair around was Italian rapper J-Ax. The other three judges soon followed. It was priceless to see the astonished look on their faces as they saw a nun in a black habit belting out the song. The video of her performance has since gone viral, racking up more than 25 million hits: "Are you really a nun?" Judge Raffaella Carrà asked after her performance.

"Absolutely, I am a real nun," 25-year-old Sister Cristina responded. She is from Sicily and is a member of the Ursuline Sisters of the Holy Family. "What brought you here to *The Voice*?" "I have a gift and I'm giving it to you," she said. "Shouldn't things be this way?" Sister Cristina also said she is on the show to "evangelize." Apparently, she has already won a convert.

Tattooed rapper J-Ax said, "If I had met you during the mass while I was a child, now I would be Pope! I would surely have attended all the functions." He continued, "You know, in music, mix works very well, sweet and sour, hugs and hits...me and you are invincible, you know why?"

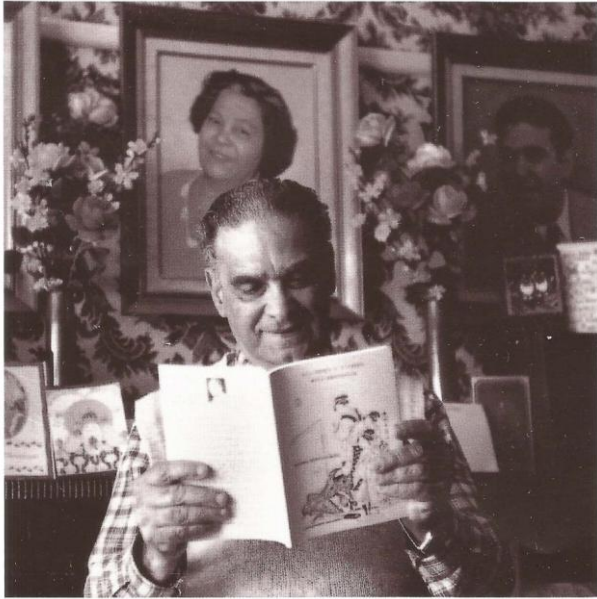
"We together are the Devil, and the Holy Water," he said, to cheers from the audience. It was entertaining to watch the judges fighting over her, trying to convince her to join their team. In the end, J-Ax won out. Sister Cristina is now advancing to the battle rounds on Team J-Ax. When asked what the Vatican would think of her performance, she quipped, "I hope that Pope Francis will call me now."



Map of Malta in the 16th century, when Italian was declared the official language by the Knights of Malta.

MANWEL NICHOLAS-BORG – MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN POET & WRITER

(Photo) Manwel reading poetry at his home in 1991 with a photo of his mother behind him



Manwel Nicholas-Borg (1918-1998) was a Maltese author and poet in Melbourne, Australia.

For sheer productivity it is hard to beat Manwel Nicholas-Borg. He has been the most prolific writer mostly of poetry but also of a considerable amount of prose, including, essays, history, and novels, much of which he published privately and read at the Maltese Literature Group and other literature meetings. He began writing in 1938 and never stopped until his death on 30th May, 1998.

Early life and migration

Manwel was born on 11 January 1918 in Sliema and was educated at the Stella Maris College. While in Malta, he was employed as a compositor with *Il-Berqa*, a daily newspaper in Maltese, and later on he was on the editorial staff of *The Times*,

the English language paper from the same stable. He served as a sergeant with the special investigation branch of the **Royal Air Force** during the war (from 1942) and saw service in Italy, Egypt, Palestine and Syria.

He left for Australia on the MV *Asturias* and arrived in Melbourne in December 1949, aged 31 years. He continued his education at the **College of Printing and Graphic Arts** and worked as a clerk in the Research and Development Branch of the **Department of Supply** in Melbourne from 1949 to 1956, and later on as lithographic designer, head proof-reader, and electronic monotype keyboard operator with the **Victorian Railways Printing Works**, from where he retired in 1978.

Manwel was naturalized in 1975, which he proudly says was his “second finest hour” – his first was to be born Maltese.

Literary works

The thousands of poems that he wrote deal mainly with three major topics: the land of his birth, religion, and his love for his mother. He said that his inspiration came from “*elements of fascination with the Muses and the written word, which emanate from the impression imprinted upon me by the world and events around me*”. His poetry is traditional in style, and includes sonnets and poems which follow the acrostic and Sapphic styles.

Nicholas Borg was Vice-President of the Literary Society for the Maltese in Australia from 1959 to 1967 and was later a member of the Maltese Literature Group of Victoria, as well as a member of the **Multicultural Writers' Association of Victoria**. He was made an honorary member of the Akkademja tal-Malti (Maltese Academy of Malta) in 1970.

In addition to the following publications, Manwel Nicholas-Borg's writings have been included in a number of anthologies, including: *Il-Muża Maltija*, (1969), *Driegħ ma' Driegħ* (1971), *Irjieħ*, (1986), and *Frott leħor* (1992). He has also written historical writings, as well as essays published in *Il-Ponostku Malti* (1960-1970).

NIRRINGRAZZJAW LIL FATHER NORBERT BONA VIA LI DEJEM JIBGHATILNA L-FULJETT “AHNA LILKOM” TAS-SOCIJETA’ MISSJUNARJA TA’ SAN PAWL. MINN JIXTIEQ JIRCIEVI DAN IL-BULLETIN JISTA JIKKUNTATJA LIL FR. NOBERT norbertbonavia@gmail.com

QUBBAJT (MALTESE NOUGAT) RECIPE FROM MALTA



Qubbajt (Maltese Nougat) is a traditional Maltese recipe for a classic soft confection of almonds cooked in a heavy [syrup](#) until the mixture thickens sufficiently to harden. The full recipe is presented here and I hope you enjoy this classic Maltese version of: Maltese Nougat (Qubbajt).

This is a traditional Maltese recipe for a classic soft confection of almonds cooked in a heavy syrup until the mixture thickens sufficiently to harden.

Ingredients:

800g sugar
250ml water
300g toasted almonds (or hazelnuts)
1 tsp ground cinnamon
rice paper

Qubbajt (Maltese Nougat) Preparation:

Method:

Grease or oil a shallow baking tray and line with greaseproof paper then place a sheet of rice paper on top of this. In the meantime, combine the sugar and water in a heavy-based pan. Place over low heat and cook until the sugar has dissolved. Now cook, shaking the pan frequently, but not stirring, until the syrup reaches 154°C, as measured on a confectioner's thermometer.

Grease a marble slab or a heavy baking tin with a little oil mixed with water then spread the nuts over the top and sprinkle with cinnamon. Pour the hot syrup over the nuts then work the mixture to combine with two spatulas.

When the mixture begins to cool and harden spoon it into the container lined with rice paper and allow to cool. When cold, cut into squares and store in an air-tight tin.

ONBOARD TOWARDS BRAZIL

THE MALTESE IMMIGRATION by Almir da Silveira (Brazil)

Beyond the line of grey cargo ships and the terrible heat, the SS. Province reached the port city of Santos. After a month on board, father Charbon and his flock of seventy three people had finally arrived in Brazil, their new homeland. In the same month of April, another ship left Malta bringing another 106 souls to work in the coffee plantations. Though they would also come to work in the plantations, their final destination would not be the same.

The year was 1912 and the opening of the twentieth century which found Malta with an increasing population, a high rate of unemployment and the absence of a developing industrial sector. With the detracting of Malta's naval importance, the problem became even worse, and a great number of Maltese started to leave Malta.

Most of the Maltese emigrants arrived in Brazil holding a British passport and were, therefore, considered by the Brazilian authorities to be British citizens, and not Maltese. Add to it the fact that some of the emigrants had their surnames changed to have an anglicized touch in them. Despite the lack of trustworthy statistics, as Dr Bonnici from Maringa State University explains in his article, we can divide the Maltese emigration to Brazil into three different periods with distinct purposes.

The first group of emigrants arrived in the first decade of the twentieth century to work in the coffee plantations. By that time Brazil's economy was heavily based on the coffee monoculture, and coffee was the most valued asset of the nation. There was a demand for people to work in the plantations, and a great number of European emigrants came to Brazil. The first group of Maltese headed to the plantations in Sao Paulo, while the second group was sent to rural activities in Fortaleza, in Northern Brazil. From these two groups that arrived in Brazil, many of the families returned to Malta.

The second group of emigrants arrived by the end of the 20's to work for the British enterprise of building and maintenance of Brazilian railroads. The few miles of Brazilian railroads were an impediment to the flow of the Brazilian production proceeding from other regions. It was in the twenties that the railway expansion boomed and President Washington Luis summarized its importance in his well known motto: "Governing is a railway building." Almost all the Maltese that came to Brazil at that time met Mr Dominic Collier from Floriana, who held an administrative position in the Sao Paulo-Parana railway company.

The third and last Maltese immigration to Brazil in the 50's and 60's differed totally from the previous two and had a religious purpose. During the fifties the State of Parana experienced an economical development and the spiritual need of the population were increasing. The Franciscan Order of Malta had been required to send some sisters to help with the growing diocese of Jacarezinho. Throughout the fifties and sixties a great number of priests proceeding from the islands of Malta and Gozo arrived to Brazil. Priests coming from Zebbug, Naxxar, Birkirkara, Floriana and many other Maltese and Gozotian cities were sent to a great number of dioceses, not only to the State of Parana but also to the States of Sao Paulo and Pernambuco. In 1977 father Walter Ebejer was consecrated bishop of the diocese of Vitoria do Sul. Father Ebejer is author Francis Ebejer's brother.

Presently, many families of Maltese background can be found in several Brazilian cities; quite a few remained from the first and second immigration groups and most of the others are priests in the clerical work. Among them we can find the Busuttills, the Zammits and many other Maltese descendants; and if we take a look at the telephone directory we will find many other Maltese surnames, such as Azzopardi, Balzan, Cutajar, and so many others which sound familiar to any Maltese. Among the priests, Father Xavier from Luqa is well know to all those who got married in the beautiful parish of Osasco.



Malta Virtual Emigration Museum www.maltamigration.com/

The aim of this website is to collect information relating to issues of interest to migrants and migration.



Father's Day is a celebration honouring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Many countries, including Malta, celebrate it on the third Sunday of June, which falls on the **15th June 2014**, but it is also celebrated widely on other days. Father's Day was created to complement Mother's Day.

(FATHER'S DAY) **F'JUM IL-MISSIER**

F'dan il-Jum fix-xahar ta' Gunju
Missier aħna nduru lej
Biex nuruk l-istima tagħna
Xi ftit iktar niġu hdejk.

Jixraq li matul is-sena
Lil Missier irroddu għeħ
Huwa t-tmun minn tal-familja
Kull għajjnuna nsibu fih.

Sa minn kmieni huwa jbakkar
Jaqla' l-ħobża ta' kuljum
Għall-imħabba ta' uliedu
Jagħmel dan kemm ħaj idum.

Xieraq illi f'dil-ġurnata
Riġal ċkejken aħna ntuk
Mill-qalb ħiereġ f'din il-ġhodwa
Imħabbatna b'hekk nuruk.

Dil-ġurnata ukoll tiġi
Biex insellmu lill-Missier
Illi llum telaq, ħalliena,
Seta' kien f'saħħtu daqs plier!

Għax il-Mewt ma għandhiex ħniena
Tagħha l-mingell jaqta' sew –
Fqar u għonja ġew u marra
Dan is-snin dejjem urew.

Jekk l-omm hija l-kolonna
Illi tinfed il-familja
Fil-missier żgur l-ulied kollha
Ta' kull qawwa jsibu l-milja.

Minn fuq il-bank tal-iskola
Minn qalbna ngħidulek 'grazzi'
Ta' dak li tagħmel għalina
Fil-maltemp w anke fil-bnazzi!

Nirringrazzjawk , għażiż Missier
Ilqa' tagħna l-ħajr sincier.

Kav Joe M Attard
11-V1-2014



Special Photos For Father's Day

THE VALLETTA 2018 FOUNDATION

Source; GOZO NEWS – www.gozonews.com



The Valletta 2018 Foundation, in collaboration with Heritage Malta, have launched the first edition of Qatt Ma Ninsa a collective memory project, aimed at collecting.

Qatt ma Ninsa will take place all day on Sunday 15th June at the Malta Maritime Museum in Birgu.

Valletta 2018 Foundation Chairman Jason Micallef, said

Qatt Ma Ninsa invites the public to the Maritime Museum, bringing along objects, photographs or memorabilia related to the sea and to share memories and stories associated with these objects.

He said that the stories that humans tell each other make up the identity of a people. It is important that these stories are collected as often they risk to perish. Jason Micallef said that Valletta 2018 is an exciting opportunity to experience our cultural identity afresh and in new contexts.

This project encouraged the public to participate, and become a protagonist in the journey towards the year of the European Capital of Culture, said Micallef.

Heritage Malta Chairman Joseph Buttigieg noted that Qatt Ma Ninsa builds on the annual event Life at Sea, which this year is in its 9th edition. On Sunday the 15th, the Malta Maritime Museum come to life, through period food and re-enactments intended to teach Maltese people about Life at Sea of their forefathers.

Malta Maritime Museum curator Liam Gauci explained how through Qatt ma Ninsa, the Malta Maritime Museum wants to learn stories, and histories of families to record what lays hidden in homes.

Qatt ma Ninsa will run all day on Sunday 15th June between 9 am and 5 pm. The subsidised entrance fee is €2, however visitors can also take part in a quiz and obtain free entrance to the museum for the day.

An exhibition featuring 10 objects from the national collection will also be exhibited at the museum. This exhibition includes objects from the recent and not so recent past, connected with which is a fascinating story.

A group of experts from various fields will be present at the Museum throughout the day on Sunday 15th, and will be photographing the objects bought in by the public, and recording the anecdotes related to them, compiling a data-base of collective memory.

Stories shared may be the inspiration for a song a play or even a contemporary dance piece as part of Valletta 2018's cultural programme of events. Qatt Ma Ninsa will take place on Sunday 15th June with the exhibition opening on Friday 13th June at the Malta Maritime Museum, Birgu.

Description of 10 Objects on exhibition at the Malta Maritime Museum

The Largest Roman Anchor Ever Found The largest lead anchor ever found in the Mediterranean Sea was brought to the surface in 1962 by the British Royal Air Force Sub-Aqua Club and the Royal Navy Boom Defence, with the collaboration of the Museums Department. It had lain for centuries some 300 metres off Qawra Point in sea around 40 metres deep. The anchor, which measures over 4 metres and weighs over 3 tons could have been cut from a Roman ship during a storm.

The Maltese Sailor and Charles Dickens When, in 1859, the Royal Charter was about to be shipwrecked off the Welsh coast, one of her crew, Guzeppi Ruggier from Birgu swam to shore with a rope; an act which saved almost forty lives. Ruggier, known as Joe Rogers was honoured as a hero and the event was even mentioned by Charles Dickens in *The Uncommercial Traveller*.

The Dead Man's Penny In August this year, the world will commemorate the outbreak of the First World War. Malta did not escape this war unscathed and many Maltese men joined the British Navy. In 1918, the HMS Louvain was torpedoed and sunk by the U-Boat UC22 in the Aegean Sea; this was to prove the largest single tragedy for Malta during the war; only 10 men survived out of a crew of 151. The families of the dead men were sent an official recognition of their sacrifice in the form of a bronze medal known as the Dead Man's Penny.

1920s Photo Album and Camera Among the thousands of photos preserved at the Malta Maritime Museum, several photo albums stand out from the others in the collection. Many of the photos within these albums would have been taken with a camera similar to the Kodak Folding Pocket B2 on display, and provide an intriguing look at how Malta has changed over the last century.

A Doll's house for Myrtle In the 1940s, an Englishman found himself far from his homeland working at the Dockyards in Malta. In his spare time, he built a doll's house to take back to his daughter Mertyl – all his colleagues lent a hand to build the miniature rooms and furniture. After the war, he brought the doll's house back to England for his daughter, only to find that she had been killed in air raid during the Blitz. The doll's house was cherished by Mertyl's cousin who eventually donated it to the Malta Maritime Museum.

The Barber to the Royals Rosario Merola was an Italian violinist enlisted with the Royal Navy in the 1890s. He eventually settled in Malta, and with his charisma and talent soon became a popular and sought-after barber. He owned and managed four sumptuously equipped salons which were patronised by Maltese and English high society. He attended to various Royals who visited Malta and his haircuts were the most fashionable in town.

A Maltese Boat for an Admiral Il-Pasalv was a boatman from Senglea whose daghjsa was his pride and joy. When the HMS Surprise was stationed in Malta during the 1950s, her CnC Admiral was so taken by the daghjsa that he decided to enlist it as his official barge. Il-Pasalv and his daghjsa travelled with the HMS Surprise, visiting Monaco, Barcelona, Venice and the French Riviera – in the lagoon at Venice, he even raced and outran a Venetian gondola. Il-Pasalv was so proud of his daghjsa that he eventually renamed her Surprise.

Dockyard Memories The Malta dockyards have been in existence for over 600 years. This helmet and punch clock are just two of the thousands of objects at the Malta Maritime Museum related to dockyard life during the twentieth century. Many of these stories and memories are still preserved within the Maltese community.

Lampuki Pie Malta's fishing industry was for centuries neglected by colonial rulers, yet the tradition continued despite adversities. Today Malta's fishing fleet is nowhere near the size of those of other Mediterranean countries, but things are changing and the fleet is growing slowly. This weighing-scales was made specifically to weigh fish and was used by the wife of a fisherman to sell her husband's daily catch in villages around Malta. The enamel pie-dish is still used today to make a time-honoured favourite; Torta tal-Lampuki.

Malta's Evolving Maritime History People come to Europe for different reasons; some are escaping persecution or war, some are simply escaping poverty and seeking a better way of life. Migrants' boats often get into trouble at sea; over the past decade, servicemen in the Maritime Squadron of the AFM have assisted and saved thousands of people trying to reach Europe by boat across the Mediterranean.

This migration is also part of our Maritime history, and this piece of a migrant boat forms part of the collection at the Malta Maritime Museum. The Swift Class patrol boat also on display was built at the Malta Maritime Museum's Ship Model Making Laboratories; the P24 has provided Malta with a watchful eye over her territorial waters for decades.



PAUL (ANGELA) IS A MALTESE BOY

About the film



Angela never returned to Malta after leaving its shores in 1948. Today her Grandson, Paul Capsis is finding a way to bring her home.

Australian theatre audiences have fallen in love with Angela. In Paul Capsis' one-man play, Angela's Kitchen, he pays tribute to his brave grandmother, bringing her to life by telling her stories – about how poor her family was; of the bombings and the air raids during the war; the starvation, and coming to Australia with nothing.

Paul evokes his grandmother in moving and surprising ways – this is as much about bingo, television remote controls and chain-smoking aunties, as it is about the bombs, starvation, and the devastation of a flattened Malta.

The lingering question is what Angela, fiercely in love with her home country, would have made of a modern Malta had she had the chance to return... In this intimate and personal documentary, Paul conversationally, lovingly, and meticulously tells us his grandmother's stories as if we were sitting in her kitchen with him. At the same time, Paul must confront his fears of what the Catholic, conservative Maltese will make of a gay man from Australia getting up on stage in a dress personifying his grandmother?

Ultimately, it is a story about the reverence Paul finds in the streets of Valletta, where his grandmother's journey comes full circle, culminating in a beautiful climax of Paul singing the song 'Angela' that he wrote about her in the cathedral where she would pray. Weaving funny, touching stories with archival photographs and footage, and beautiful cinematography of Malta, Paul Is A Maltese Boy not only tells the story of a third-generation Maltese-Australian man's love for his grandmother, but also evokes the story of countless Maltese who lived and died during World War II, when Malta was the most bombed place on earth, cut off from all trade and staring down the brink of mass starvation.

Just as his play brought back memories of lost relatives of many second and third-generation Maltese in Australia, so will Paul bring back to those who stayed behind the stories of the brave souls who stepped off Malta's shores for that distant place, Australia.

PAUL IS A MALTESE BOY, like Angela, will inspire its viewers to look back from where they have come, and carry that with you as you go forward.

See more at: <http://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/films/details/1611/paul-is-a-maltese-boy#sthash.ZMH302xF.dpuf>

MALTESE IN RUSSIA?



It's hard to believe as I have never heard of the Maltese in Russia but it's true. I was curious as to why I have so many followers on my blog from RUSSIA. I found this article which has opened my eyes to another avenue that we all can take in our genealogy search. This interesting article explains how the Russian-Maltese Chamber of Nobility came to be. It all starts with the take over of Malta in 1798 by Napoleon. If you are Russian-Maltese we would love to hear from you either by a comment on this newsletter or a private email to honconsul@live.com.au

The Russian Maltese Chamber of Nobility (1798-1919) and thereafter- "Alleged" Creation of titles in Russia

This chamber was formed on the creation of titles by Tsar Paul I of Russia 1799 to be governed under the Order of St John of Malta in Russia. This chamber was of those and their descendants with the expectation of those titled and serving as a Knight of the Russian Order of St John. In 1798 following Napoleon's taking of Malta, the Order of Malta (Order of St John of Jerusalem) was dispersed, but with a large number of refugee Knights sheltering in St Petersburg, where they elected the Russian Emperor, Paul I as their Grand Master - a rival Grand Master to Ferdinand Hompesch then held in disgrace. Hompesch abdicated in 1799 leaving Paul as the only Grand Master.

<http://backtomalta.blogspot.com.au/search/label/Russian-Maltese>

ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Mary MacKillop, co-founder of the Josephite Sisters became Australia's first canonised saint in October 2010.

People who identify as Catholic as a percentage of the total population in Australia divided geographically by statistical local area, as of the 2011 census The **Catholic Church in Australia** is part of the worldwide Catholic Church under the spiritual and administrative leadership of the Holy See. Australia is a majority Christian but pluralistic society with no established religion. In 2011 there were approximately 5.4 million Australian Catholics (25.3% of the population). Catholicism arrived in Australia with the British First Fleet in 1788. The first Australian Catholics were mainly Irish, but Australian Catholics now originate from a great variety of national backgrounds.

The church is a major provider of health, education and charitable services: Catholic Social Services Australia's 63 member organisations help more than a million Australians every year; and the Catholic education system has more than 650,000 students (18% of student population).^[1] Australia has 32 dioceses and 1,363 parishes. Catholic Religious Australia, the peak body for leaders of religious institutes and societies of apostolic life resident in Australia, comprises members from more than 180 congregations of sisters,

brothers and religious priests living in Australia.

Mary MacKillop, who founded an educational religious institute of sisters, the Josephites, in the 19th century, became the first Australian to be canonised as a saint in 2010. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is headed by Archbishop Denis Hart and there are three Australian cardinals: including the current Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, George Pell, a former Archbishop of Sydney, Edward Bede Clancy, and the former President of the Vatican Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Edward Cassidy. Australia played host to World Youth Day 2008.

ACTOR AND ABORIGINAL ACTIVIST, BORN

1937, UTOPIA N.T., AUSTRALIA



Until the age of nine, Rosalie Kunoth-Monks lived on remote Utopia Station in the Northern Territory where she learnt the Aboriginal laws of her tribe, the Amadjere people. Her father insisted she attend school in Alice Springs, where in 1953 she was discovered by filmmakers Charles and Elsa Chauvel. Rosalie won the lead role in *Jedda*, a film that became an Australian classic.

Filming took Rosalie away from the life she had known. Though for a year she was exposed to totally new and bewildering experiences, once production was completed she resumed her

former life for a time.

Rosalie became increasingly attracted to the Anglican Church. In 1960 she moved to Melbourne, joined the Community of the Holy Name and became a nun. After ten fulfilling years in the convent, Rosalie left to set up the first Aboriginal hostel in Victoria. In 1970 she married, settled in Alice Springs and became involved in social work and politics.

The then Northern Territory Chief Minister, Paul Everingham appointed her an adviser on Aboriginal affairs. Rosalie stood for election to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 1979, in order to fight the proposed construction of a dam which threatened sacred land. Although not elected, she continued to oppose the dam, which remained a hot issue for another decade. The issue was finally resolved in 1992 when plans for the dam were abandoned. Recently Rosalie returned to Utopia Station, where she now lives while continuing to fight for the advancement of her community and her people.

I AM NOT A PROBLEM

ACTOR and Aboriginal elder Rosalie Kunoth-Monks has launched a deeply moving defence of her traditional way of life stating “I am not the problem”.

The actor who starred as *Jedda* in Charles Chauvel’s classic Australian film of the same name, was praised on Twitter last night for delivering one of her most eloquent and passionate speeches yet, on the television show *Questions & Answers*.

The show featured prominent older panellists including primatologist Jane Goodall, art educator Betty Churcher, Sydney Peace Foundation founder Stuart Rees as well as conservative intellectual and former Liberal MP Peter Coleman. Discussion included whether John Pilger’s documentary about the Aboriginal people *Utopia* was helpful in contributing to reconciliation or was just indulging in white guilt.

Peter Coleman, former editor of *Quadrant*, said he thought Pilger’s documentary was dreadful and that the award-winning author hated Australian society. “I think the impact of it is to reject all of the effort that has been put in to advancing this Aboriginal cause,” Mr Coleman said. Assimilation is the way forward: Peter Coleman comments as part of Q&A panel *Source: Supplied*

Earlier he highlighted the programs aimed at assisting Aboriginal people, “church missions, government welfare, the intervention, apologies, billions of dollars and so on”.

“The problem has not been solved and it’s not going to be easy to solve,” Mr Coleman said. He suggested that his own solution would be “assimilation integration”. “I mean, the full monty, not just schooling or something, but intermarriage, all forms of integration.” But Ms Kunoth-Monks, who remained silent during Mr Coleman’s remarks, visibly bristled at being described as the “problem”.

SA BUSINESSMAN RAY BORDA BETS ON GREYHOUND RACING'S FUTURE WITH LARGEST SPONSORSHIP DEAL

by: VALERINA CHANGARATHIL From: *The Advertiser* May 13, 2014



Greyhound Racing SA CEO Matt Corby with Macro Meats' managing director Ray Borda with greyhounds Biggles, Emma, and Crafty. Pic: Tait Schmaal. Source: News Limited

MACRO Meats managing director Ray Borda says he has brought his passion home, signing up as the biggest supporter of Greyhound Racing SA.

The three-year deal is expected to support half a million worth of greyhound races over the term of the agreement, boosting industry morale.

The arrangement will see Mr Borda cover part of the cost of the flagship Adelaide Cup race at Angle Park in October

along with nearly 200 other races annually.

Mr Borda has been involved in greyhound racing for the past four decades and is a well-known sponsor of greyhound racing in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales and an owner and breeder. He declined to reveal the exact sponsorship commitment. "Money is secondary. Racing in South Australia is the poor cousin as far as interstate money goes.

"I have wanted to sponsor locally, in my home state, for a long time and tried approaching the previous management about six times and they were not interested." "This is now possible and it's our first genuine effort here. "I am trying to get that mystical balance in life and greyhound racing has become a passion."

Mr Borda owns about 150 greyhounds and races them around Australia under the prefix of Aston, named after his favourite car but "not as fast or as valuable".

"One of my ambitions is to introduce opportunities to collaborate with other sporting code participants to raise the profile of greyhound racing here." Commercially, the deal augurs well for Macro Meats, the biggest national producer of quality kangaroo and wild game meat products, which employs 2000 people and exports to 54 countries around the world.

"We are in every supermarket in Asia and this helps us with the branding, especially through the prominent promotion through the Sky Channel." "We are a committed supporter of greyhound racing and see this partnership as a further step forward for the health of the local industry in South Australia."

Greyhound Racing SA chief executive Matt Corby - formally the CEO at Sandown Greyhound Racing Club in Victoria - welcomed the sponsorship, the organisation's largest deal.

"It's vital for smaller states like SA to attract support to remain viable and Ray is an important barometer of the sport nationally." "His coming on board will have a big impact on local industry morale."

He said the deal would add a "six-figure" value to the industry over its term.

Greyhound Racing made up a 16.3 per cent share of the \$675 million wagering pot in SA attributed to betting on the three major racing codes - Thoroughbred, Greyhound and Harness Racing.

The organisation has now been in the black five years running, announcing a \$269,873 profit for 2012-13.

Ray is the son of Maltese parents.

**KEEP WELL – TILL NEXT TIME BYE - - NIXTIEQLEK SAHHA U SLIEM –
CIAW CIAW**