

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



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The Executive of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria with the Hon Helena Dalli EU Commissioner of Equality



WE ARE PROUD OF THE PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES LIVING ABROAD

ROBERTA METSOLA, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VISITS UKRAINE FOR THE SECOND TIME SHAKES HANDS WITH UKRAINE PRESIDENT ZELENSKY



'Malta continues to stand by Ukraine'

Maltese singer Mary Carmen Scerri

Watch: "I am Maltese!" – Malta's Rita Pavone enchants jurors on RAI show in Italy



THE VOICE SENIOR



The Maltese eNewsletter



Consulate General
of Malta
Melbourne
Australia

SCHOOL COMPETITION MALTESE MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

The Consulate-General of Malta is pleased to announce that it is organizing a school competition about Maltese migration to Australia.

The competition is open for students coming from a Maltese background or having an interest in Maltese migration, from both primary and secondary schools in Victoria. Students are invited to explore the theme of Maltese migration to Australia, such as the student's family migration story or the history of Maltese migration to Australia. This could be in the form of the written word in English or Maltese (maximum 500-700 words), artwork (maximum size A4), video (as an mp4, duration 3-5 minutes) or in any other form of artistic expression.

Book prizes will be awarded to the three best entries as judged by an adjudicating panel. The decision of the panel is final.

The competition coincides with the celebration of the 75th anniversary from the signing of the

Assisted Passage Agreement with Australia, which resulted in thousands of Maltese migrating to Australia, the majority of whom settled in Melbourne and Sydney. After Britain, Malta was the second country to sign such an agreement with Australia.

The deadline for submission of entries is Friday 28th of April 2023. The winners will be contacted directly and also announced on the Consulate's social media and will have the opportunity to have their work exhibited. Entries, which should include the name of the

student, address, email address and telephone number, are to be sent by mail to

Consulate-General of Malta

Students Migration Competition

Office 613, 343 Little Collins Street Melbourne 3000.

All entries received will be acknowledged in writing.

For any further information, kindly contact the Consulate on 9670 8427 or by email

maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt



The Maltese embassies abroad have invested in a new Consul On The Move (COTM) toolkit through an investment of around €250,000 from the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.

The COTM programme caters for Maltese communities living abroad by providing government services closer to their home, such as new applications/renewals of

Consul-On-The-Move (COTM)

passports, applications for citizenship and registrations of birth/death/marriage certificates. This service is undertaken in five countries: Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

The new state-of-the-art COTM toolkit consists of a tablet which includes a camera, fingerprint reader, passport scanner, signature pad, barcode scanner and lighting. It incorporates all the 6 pieces of hardware that were previously used into one unit weighing only 4kgs, in contrast to the previous toolkit that weighed 15kgs. This improvement means that the toolkit is now more portable, easily handheld, and occupies far less space when required to be set up on a desk, facilitating the

travel and set-up process for the consuls on duty.

Due to the increase in demand for these services, and upgrades in the information system available for officials carrying out such visits, the Ministry felt it necessary to change the COTM toolkit to a more practical device that optimises the programme in terms of efficiency and usability.

The new toolkit is also equipped with the improved latest software updates and comes with a Wi-Fi feature. A sim card installation feature is additionally available for

3G use. This offers the functionality of remote support as well as the ability to issue passports when off-site.

The COTM programme is an essential service offered by the ministry that conforms to the government's vision to have governmental services closer to its citizens. With this new equipment, the ministry aims to further improve the quality of service that is provided through the COTM programme, whilst increasing efficiency and simplicity in its application.

‘It is a pity that the use of Maltese among us is decreasing’ - President of Malta



President of Malta George Vella has expressed concern over the decreasing use of the Maltese language,

President Vella spoke during the inauguration of an exhibition titled 'Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Għarfien Uffiċjali', organised as a collaboration between Heritage Malta and L-Akkademja tal-Malti at the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta.

President Vella noted that this exhibition demonstrates that the journey to keep our language alive is still ongoing and must continue. It also demonstrates that the Maltese language has proven over the years that it has solid foundations, is resilient, and is able to adapt to different times and challenges, he said. Our language, said the President, apart from forming part of our culture and identity, is a strong element that unites us as a nation. Therefore, he called for a continuous update

that respects both the roots and the structure and use of the language with the aim of keeping our language alive and active.

"It is a pity that the use of Maltese among us is decreasing", stated the President, while mentioning that Maltese is being increasingly influenced by elements of the English language. He also mentioned that the Maltese language is gradually being lost among the thousands of Maltese living abroad. "It is due to these considerations that my Office has always sought to work closely with the Maltese language organisations with the aim of identifying concrete measures that will help us use the Maltese language properly, as well as correctly", added the President while referring to the 'I-ilsien Malti għal qalbi' campaign organised as a collaboration between the Office of the President and seven Maltese language organisations.

Divided into ten themes, the exhibition covers the history of the Maltese language from its Semitic roots until it was declared as the national language of Malta in 1964 and as one of the official languages of the European Union in 2004. Through various documents, books and information panels, the exhibition introduces the public to, among others, the Kantilena of Pietru Caxaro, the sermons in Maltese by Ignazio Saverio Mifsud, the writings of Agius de Soldanis

and Vassalli, the only issue of the 'L'Arlecchin' newspaper in Maltese of December 1838, the language question, the establishment of L-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti, as well as monumental works such as the Bible translation by Pietru Pawl Saydon and the dictionary of Ġużè Aquilina.

Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, said: "This is an exhibition commemorating 100 years of perseverance for the Maltese language. Every language has its own unique characteristics and we must preserve them in the best possible way in order to keep every country's identity alive. No one can deny that these Maltese exhibitions are an important element of Maltese identity. Thanks to the Maltese language, we as a people, expressed our ambition towards our identity in the best way."

The Chairman of Heritage Malta, Mario Cutajar, said that this exhibition has three objectives: firstly, to recognise that the journey of our language was not easy and those who worked as hard as they could for the language deserve to be honoured; secondly, to urge people to realise and understand that the Maltese language is Malta's heritage and is worth cherishing; and thirdly, to learn from the past, appreciate the language, and safeguard it.

Joseph Borg, Secretary of L-Akkademja tal-Malti, said that the collaboration between Heritage Malta and L-Akkademja tal-Malti started with the lecture held on the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege in 2015 and continued through publications, including the 'Damma' of Agius de Soldanis in 2016 and 'Storja tal-Ilsien u l-Letteratura Maltija - kronoloġija' by Dr Mario Cassar in 2021.



'Malta's neutrality does not imply indifference to suffering': George Vella

Malta will continue standing by Ukraine, President George Vella said on Friday, insisting that the island's neutrality did not imply indifference to suffering.

In a statement marking one year since Ukrainians woke up to a Russian invasion of their country, Vella said the war has shaken the international community to the core.

"Twelve months have passed since the unjustified invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The scenes we have witnessed over this past year should have us all recoil in shame and reflect on human frailty in the face of the brutality of war," he said.

"Let me once again be clear in stating that Malta's neutrality does not imply indifference to attacks on our shared principles, the deplorable loss of life and the suffering brought about upon innocent civilian people," Vella said.

"We will continue assisting the People of Ukraine across the board within the limits, and to the best of our capabilities. We will continue to provide humanitarian assistance and give special medical treatment in our health facilities."

On February 24, 2022, Russia sparked the worst conflict on the continent since World War II following weeks of speculation about President Vladimir Putin's intentions following a massive troop build-up on the Ukrainian border.

Since then, eight million Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Europe – totalling 18 per cent of their country's population – and just over 1,500 were granted temporary protection in Malta.

Vella on Friday said that in light of the "senseless unrelenting violence", one could not accept that the "cardinal principles" of respect for sovereignty and self-determination be swept aside by aggression and military might.

He added that the invasion of Ukraine constituted a direct threat to the multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core.

"We have to remain united, and not leave any room or pretext for the convenient dilution of the norms and standards that have clearly guided the international community for decades.

"This is a heartfelt appeal that needs to reach all our international partners and global actors who could have a say in contributing to an end of this indiscriminate violence, and work towards a possible path to peace once the opportunity arises. I specifically want to take this opportunity to salute the people of Ukraine for their inspiring bravery and courage," Vella said.

The president conveyed Malta's "strong solidarity and support" to the Ukrainians and their President, Volodymyr Zelensky.

In this file photo taken on March 24, 2022 Refugees from Ukraine walk on the jetty after arriving by ferry at the Romanian-Ukrainian border point Isaccea-Orlivka. Photo: AFP

In a tweet, prime minister Robert Abela also pledged Malta's support.

"The Ukrainian people have shown incredible strength, defending their homeland and international law. Malta will continue to support Ukraine's struggle for lasting peace, including through the provision of humanitarian and medical aid," he said.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA, INC.

· The Executive of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and other members of the community met the EU Commissioner of Equality Hon. Helena Dalli at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville, Victoria accompanied by H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, the Maltese High Commissioner and Mrs Chirelle Ellul Sciberras the Consul General, on Sunday, 26 February 2023. Commissioner Dalli is in Australia for a number of meetings and will also be the keynote speaker on Thursday 2nd March at the Sydney WorldPride Human Rights Conference. The commissioner was very engaging and addressed those present with a very impressive speech.



UKRAINE AND THE ORDER OF MALTA

One Year of Vital Support

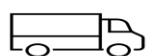
The 24th of February marks the one year anniversary of the beginning of the war in Ukraine. As the spotlight begins to shift away from this protracted crisis, the Order of Malta is launching a worldwide fundraising campaign in solidarity with our colleagues in Ukraine

and the neighbouring countries. Your support expands the reach of response, ensuring that help for everyone affected by the crisis is readily available.

The Order of Malta is recognised in Ukraine and the surrounding region as a trusted and essential frontline provider of food, shelter, medical care and social assistance to the most vulnerable. Already skilled and experienced in caring for those in need, and with decades of experience and relationships in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, the Order of Malta is uniquely positioned to respond to the war in Ukraine and the long-term care of its victims.

The war in Ukraine is now entrenched. Millions of Ukrainians who have fled or are internally displaced are adapting to a new way of life, filled with anxiety and uncertainty and the struggle of finding the next meal, clean clothes, or somewhere to live. The Order of Malta's response to the crisis has been rapid and effective. Tens of thousands of volunteers have been mobilised in-country and surrounding countries, ready to help those fleeing or displaced with whatever they need, from hot meals and shelter, to mental health and medical support.

One year on from the start of the crisis, more than 17 million people are still in need in Ukraine. In the past year, entities of the Order of Malta have distributed and provided:



4,500 tons of humanitarian aid to 65 cities within Ukraine



480,000 hot meals for internally displaced people



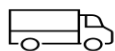
18,500 beds in refugee shelters



18,500 people with access to **psychological support**



€250,000 of co-funding to **Malteser International**, enabling them to access €5,000,000 grant from the German government.



Six vehicles for **Slovakia, Romania and Poland** to enable cross border transport of staff, people and goods and improved logistical capacity.



Identifying need and providing funding for staff in **Beregovo**, including **office costs** and **two vehicles** to support their significant aid distribution work.



Holistic support programmes for refugees in **Latvia, Lithuania, Poland** and the **Czech Republic** for refugees settling and integrating into a new home.

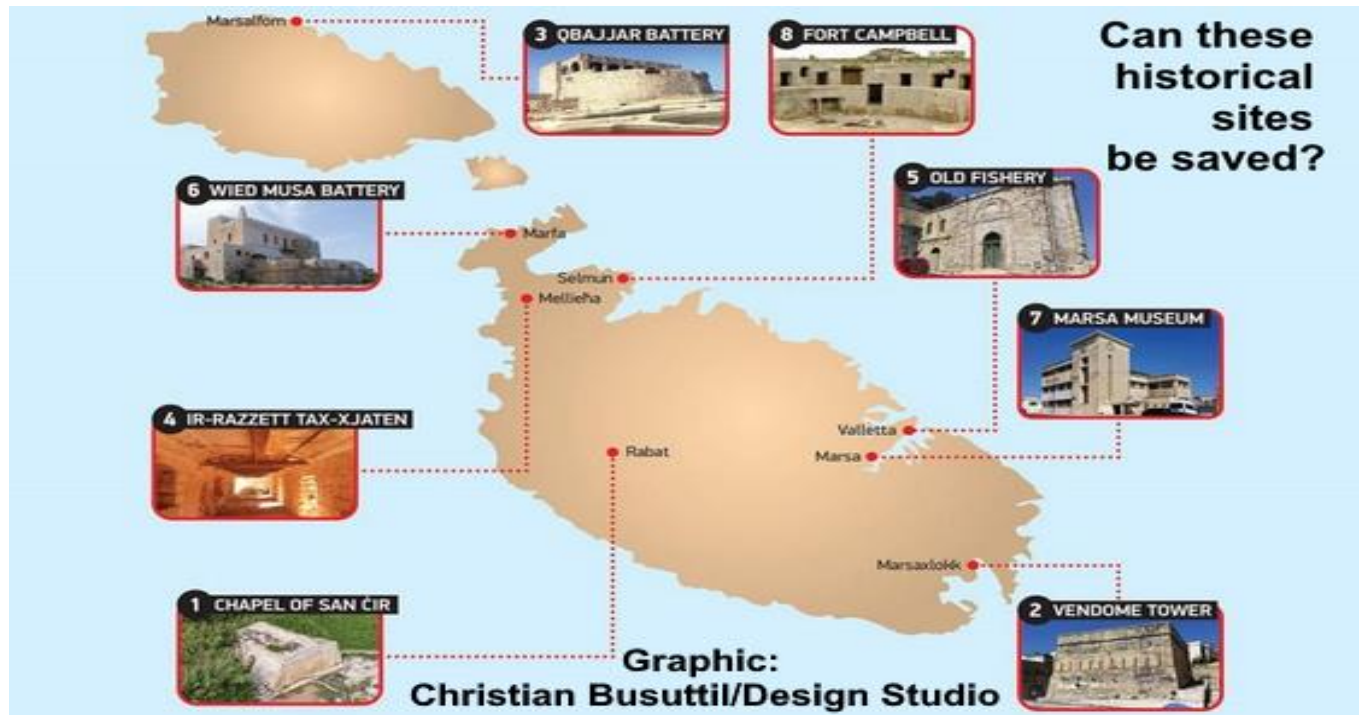


THE GLOBAL FUND FOR FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

The Order of Malta

The Global Fund for Forgotten People has supported the Order's work in the region for over a decade, funding multiple projects including outreach support to vulnerable elderly people, programmes for disabled children, and provision of food and shelter for the homeless. Existing relationships with Malteser International and Order of Malta Relief Services in the region help us identify where the Fund can most effectively contribute:

Through works of the Order in and around Ukraine, the Fund will continue to assist those in need into 2023 and beyond. Generosity from donors is vital to continue this work to ensure no one is forgotten.



Qbajjar Battery, Marsalforn

Qbajjar Battery. Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Matthew Axiak

The battery, which is the northernmost fortification in Malta, was also built around 1715. The building needs to be urgently preserved as it was badly defaced by the previous tenant, with the erection of an arcaded structure at the top, change in level of the battery floor, excavation underneath the tower. In July of 2020, *DLH* submitted an expression of interest for the Qbajjar Battery in Marsalforn, 15

years after the government entrusted *DLH* with the restoration of the building. The restoration had been stalled because of legal complications with the previous tenant.

DLH has a detailed survey and a method statement for the restoration of the external, however, despite the culture ministry's confirmation of the guardianship in 2020, the NGO is still waiting to hear from the Lands Authority.



CAVALLERIZZA, ALSO KNOWN AS IR-RAZZETT TAX-XJATEN, MELLIEHA

Ir-Razzett tax-Xjaten, in English 'the Devil's Farmhouse'.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Continentaleurope

The 18th-century farmhouse features two buildings probably intended as stables and a horse-riding school for the Knights of St John. The place could also have been the headquarters for troopers patrolling the north of the island. According to myth, the place was built by the

devil in a couple of days but was later exorcised by a brave Mellieħa priest.

In July 2020, *DLH* submitted an expression of interest with the SCH. The NGO has not received any response yet and it has not prepared any documentation because it can only commit itself to the expense once its request is considered.

The process to gain guardianship of such monuments is lengthy and expensive



OLD FISHERY, QUARANTINE STATION AND BRITISH ANNEX ROOMS, BARRIERA WHARF

The quarantine station at Barriera Wharf. Photo: Din L-Art Ħelwa

The old fisheries building and annex rooms remain vacant and derelict, with parts of the quarantine station in imminent danger of collapse. Around four centuries ago, arrivals would officially disembark there and those who needed to be isolated for 40 days – quarantined – would stand behind stone bollards (of which at least one survives) before being taken to Lazzaretto. This barrier of bollards (hence, the name *Barriera*) would separate them from any healthy arrivals or friends and relatives already on the island. *DLH* submitted an expression of interest with the SCH in July 2020 and has received no reply since.

WIED MUSA BATTERY

Wied Musa Battery. Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Pygar1954

Built towards the beginning of the 18th century as part of a series of coastal fortifications, the battery was converted into the Marfa Palace Hotel in the 19th century. It is also known as *Palazz l-Aħmar* (Red

Palace). *DLH* submitted an expression of interest with the SCH in July 2020 and has received no reply since.



World War II Memorial



At It-Tokk or Independence Square, the island's main square, stop for a coffee, and you will be under the gaze of the Christ the King monument. This memorial, which the late Queen Elizabeth II unveiled, commemorated the Gozitan World War II victims. The monument lists the names of the fallen and has bronze bas-relief engravings representing the navy, infantry, air force and nursing arms. Undoubtedly, World War II is a valid chapter in Gozo's history. The landmark points above can be part of your itinerary of things to do in Gozo. Once your interest is piqued, you might be hungry for more in-depth Gozo history stories. If that's the case, visit a local bookshop to find enriching books about Malta's and

Gozo's wartime stories.



**MALTA
LIBRARIES**

Malta Libraries is the entity responsible for the National Library of Malta, the National Library (Gozo), the Central Public Library, the Gozo Public Library, all Regional and Branch Public Libraries in the Maltese Islands as well as the National Bibliographic Office. As an entity, Malta Libraries was established by the Malta Libraries Act (Act VII of 2011), replacing the former Libraries Department.

MISSION STATEMENT

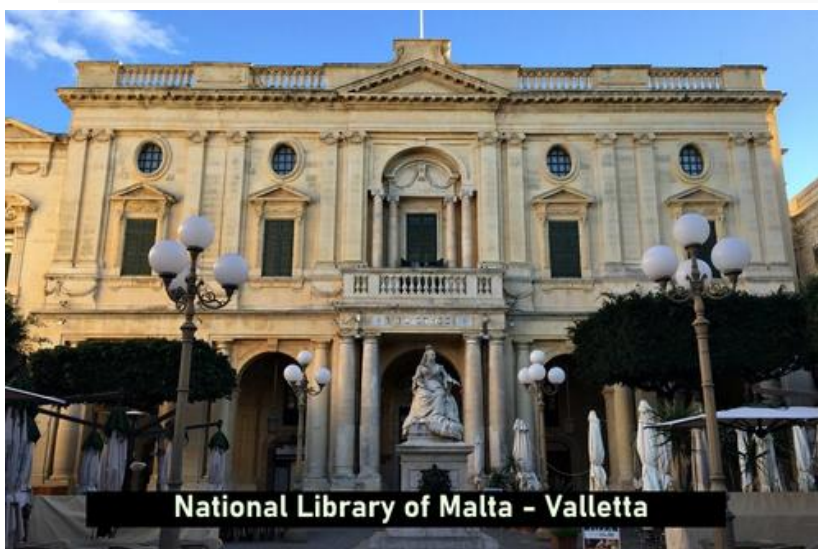
The mission of Malta Libraries is to ensure the collection and conservation of Malta's documentary heritage for present and future generations, to maintain and develop the libraries regulated under the Malta Libraries Act, and to encourage reading for study, research, self-development and lifelong-learning information and leisure purposes.

FUNCTIONS

As established by the Malta Libraries Act, the functions and responsibilities of Malta Libraries are:

- to continue to acquire, assemble, conserve for posterity, and make accessible to the public, the collection of the nation's documentary heritage and published current output, regardless of form or medium, to be found in the libraries;
- to manage, administer, and develop the libraries under its control, and to provide leadership to other libraries in Malta in such areas as management and conservation of library materials, and to promote national cooperation schemes and the professional training of librarians and information professionals;
- to assist Local Councils which run a public library to ensure that the library maintains high standards;
- to enhance the quality of life of the public by providing library reference and lending services and library material, in whatever form or medium, for education, self-development, lifelong learning and recreation purposes;
- to foster and strengthen reading habits and support literacy and other cultural activities and programmes for all age groups;
- to accept and acquire private records of significance by gift, purchase, bequest or deposit;
- explore innovative services, including information, communication and technology services, that can benefit patrons in accessing and using information;
- serve as the role model library system for other libraries in Malta;
- to perform such other functions as may from time to time be assigned to it by the Minister.

Malta Libraries Act 2011



National Library of Malta - Valletta

HISTORY

The concept of establishing a public library service dates back to 1806, when the first *library committee* was formed. The Public Library was originally housed within the historic building where the National Library is today, serving both as a Reference and Lending Library. Members of the public could borrow three books but were charged a fee in advance. It was only in 1856 that the lending of books became free, but opening hours were limited to one hour in the morning and another in the afternoon.

In 1920 a feasible study on the setting up of small village libraries was carried out by Professor Temi Zammit and Major Henry Balbi. The idea behind this project was to

make it possible for readers to have books within reach. The subsequent report led to the opening of seven District Libraries housed at Government Elementary Schools but these were only open to the public on Saturday afternoons.

The development of such libraries led to the creation of the post of Director in charge of village libraries. This post was amalgamated with that of Assistant Librarian, which at the time was held by the national poet, Dun Karm Psaila. Once book loans increased, the number of opening days was extended to Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. In 1925 the network of district libraries was extended to Gozo and by the 1930s these libraries began to flourish all over the islands.

The years following the Second World War saw the opening of a new library for children, which had a direct effect on book loans. In 1964, a public library development plan spread over 4-5 years led to the establishment of a Public Library Service as well as a School Library Service and by 1968 the number of District Libraries had gone up to 47. However, the need to separate the lending and reference functions of the Library in Valletta eventually led to the establishment of a Public Lending Library in Floriana in 1974 and the designation of the National Library as a research and reference library in 1976. A number of proposals were made for a suitable building for the new *Central Public Library*, until the choice finally fell on the ex-CID block at Beltissebħ. Books were issued by means of the Browne system that consisted of three library tickets that enabled every member of the library to borrow three books for three weeks. A computerised system has long replaced these library tickets with the barcoded membership cards currently in use.

With the opening of the Central Public Library in 1974 and better transport facilities, however, the importance of District Libraries began to diminish. The absence of an adequate book stock continued to contribute to their decline so a more modern system of Branch Libraries to suit the times became necessary.

The first Branch Library at Qormi was officially opened in 1979, followed by those of Paola and Żurrieq. Similar to the District Libraries, the Branch Libraries were housed in the government schools of their respective village and the Beltissebħ Public Library supplied them with the necessary books ready processed, classified and catalogued. 1981 marked the end of District Libraries, to be replaced by 13 Branch Libraries. Naturally the book stock in these libraries is somewhat limited when compared to that of the Central Public Library. Nevertheless, every effort is made to meet the demands of the users of the Branch Library of the particular village in question.

To this day the Branch Libraries still function steadily in nearly every locality of these islands. Nowadays there are 7 Regional Libraries in Malta and 47 Branch Libraries distributed in towns and villages in both Malta and Gozo. These are all located either in a state school or at the Local Council of the area. By 1983 the Central Public Library required more space and consequently was moved to the present building. In 1995 another block had to be added. The Central Public Library nowadays forms part of the newly established entity Malta Libraries.

Hundreds welcome Michael D Higgins and Maltese president Vella to University College – Cork



President of Malta George Vella and President Michael D Higgins visit UCC.

Picture: Maxwells

EOIN ENGLISH

A huge crowd, up to eight deep, lined the avenue from the quad, cheering as the presidents of Ireland and Malta arrived

Hundreds of college students turned out today to welcome two presidents on an official visit to University College Cork (UCC).

A huge crowd, up to eight deep in places, lined the avenue from the quad to the plaza outside the student centre and the Honan Chapel and cheered as the Presidents of Ireland and Malta arrived for the special campus visit.

Michael D Higgins and his wife, Sabina, who are hosting President of Malta George Vella and his wife Miriam for an official three-day State visit, seemed surprised but absolutely delighted by the size of the crowd, as students cheered while the visiting dignitaries posed for official photos.

The delegation, which was greeted by UCC president Dr John O'Halloran, visited the Honan Chapel, which recently underwent a major renovation.

The presidents received a presentation from researchers at UCC's Environmental Research Institute who are involved in energy modelling for landmark Irish climate policy, and they viewed the acclaimed *The Atlas of the Great Irish Famine*. Published by UCC's Cork University Press, it was named best Irish book of 2012 and has sold more than 22,000 copies.

The book was subsequently developed into a documentary, *The Hunger*, a co-production by UCC, RTÉ, and Arte, the European Culture Channel. It was narrated by Liam Neeson.

On World Book Day, President Higgins and President Vella also viewed *The Great Book of Ireland*, which has been described as "Ireland's modern-day *Book of Kells*".

President Michael D Higgins, right, with his wife Sabina and President of Malta George Vella. Picture: Maxwells

The modern vellum manuscript includes the original work of 121 artists, 144 poets, and nine composers, including Samuel Beckett's last handwritten poem, poems by Seamus Heaney, and one poem by

President Higgins himself, written when he was in his 40s.

President Higgins and President Vella also met several Maltese students studying in Cork thanks to Erasmus programmes.

Prof O'Halloran said it was an honour to welcome them to UCC.

"We warmly welcome them to our campus to view some of our treasures, meet our students, and hear about our leading environmental research," he said.

Earlier, the delegation visited Cork City Hall, where they were received by Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Damian Boylan, his wife Brenda, and council chief executive Ann Doherty.

"We were honoured to welcome President Vella to Cork City Hall," Mr Boylan said.

"I was pleased to discuss the history of our city with both presidents, and to celebrate Cork as a great place to live, work, study and invest in today. I hope this special occasion will mark the start of greater and closer links between the people of Cork and Malta."

The State visit, which began on Wednesday and concludes tomorrow, reciprocates the state visit of President Higgins to Malta in May 2022.



The **Eurovision Song Contest 2023** is the upcoming 67th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest. It is set to take place in Liverpool, United Kingdom, after Ukraine, winner of the 2022 contest with the song "Stefania" by Kalush Orchestra, was unable to meet the demands of hosting the event due to security concerns caused by the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Organised by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and host broadcaster the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on behalf of

the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (UA:PBC), the contest will be held at the Liverpool Arena, and will consist of two semi-finals on 9 and 11 May, and a final on 13 May 2023. The three live shows will be presented by British singer Alesha Dixon, British actress Hannah Waddingham and Ukrainian singer Julia Sanina, with Irish television presenter Graham Norton joining for the final.

Thirty-seven countries will participate in the contest, with Bulgaria, Montenegro and North Macedonia ceasing their participation, mainly due to the economic impact of the 2021–2023 global energy crisis.

Location^[edit] Liverpool Arena, host venue of the 2023 contest.

Location of host venue (red) and other contest-related sites and events (blue)The Pier Head, location of the Eurovision VillageThe 2023 contest will be held in Liverpool, United Kingdom. It will be the ninth time that the United Kingdom hosts the contest, having previously done so



in 1960, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1982 and 1998. The selected venue is the 11,000-seat Liverpool Arena, a multi-purpose indoor arena located in the ACC Liverpool complex, which serves as a venue for events including concerts and sports.^[1] The venue has previously hosted the 2008 MTV Europe Music Awards, the BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2008 and 2017, and the 2022 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships.^[2]

In addition to the main venue, the host city will also organise side events in tandem with the contest. The Eurovision Village is the official Eurovision Song Contest fan and sponsors area during the event weeks. At the Village, it will be possible to watch performances by contest participants and local artists, as well as the three live shows broadcast from the main venue. It is set to be located at the Pier Head and open from 5 to 13 May 2023.^{[3][4]} The EuroClub, which will take place at Camp and Furnace, will host the official after-parties and private performances by contest participants.

Bureaucratic delays putting heritage sites at risk



NGO urges the government to conclude guardianship deed
DLH has for some time been seeking guardianship of the medieval chapel of San Ċir. Photo: DLH

Many historic sites were deteriorating through neglect and abandonment as a result of bureaucratic delays in granting their guardianships to NGOs, a heritage NGO warned on Saturday.

[Earlier this month](#), the *Times of Malta* reported that the process to gain guardianship of historic sites, and eventually kickstart their restoration, is lengthy and expensive for a non-for-profit organisation like Din l-Art Ħelwa.

Most often, despite all the work put in by the NGO's volunteers, the process gets stalled with the authorities. DLH has for some time been seeking guardianship of the medieval chapel of San Ċir, the Cavalerizza and Marfa Palace in Mellieħa, and Qbajjar Battery in Marsalforn.

It has already carried out the required studies, acquired the necessary permits and tapped funds for restoration.

Following an annual general meeting on Saturday, DLH urged the government, particularly the ministers in charge of the lands and natural heritage, to urgently resolve the bureaucratic issues related to guardianship.

Separately, DLH also roped in the support of its members for the rejection of developers' plans for a villa complex proposed as part of plans for the new [Comino Hotel](#).

"If the project is allowed, it will breach several existing policies that arise from the unique standing of the island. The proposed development is not compatible with any of Comino's designations and can be described as 'urbanisation by stealth' of an island which should be held in trust for all to enjoy," the resolution stated.

During the meeting, DLH members also agreed to seek the government's support for its proposal to create new nature and history parks at the Ta' Soppa area in Nadur, and the area surrounding the White Tower in Aħrax, as well as an extension of the Majjistral Nature and History Park.

The NGO is also calling on the government to develop a long-term vision and strategy for climate change, warning that human activity is causing planetary-scale changes on land, in the ocean, and in the atmosphere, with dramatic and long-lasting ramifications.

Gozo World War II Story

Gozo's steeped in history, and when it comes to World War II inspirations, the island offers a variety of exciting and significant sites. So, if you're a World War II enthusiast and after more places to visit and things to do in Gozo, rest assured that these five spots will give you a fuller picture of what Gozo went through in World War II.

This unique and fantastic journal is keeping alive the history of the Maltese Emigration to other countries – Australia, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Middle East and many other places. I read every edition from cover to cover and I learn so much about Malta and about other Maltese living abroad. S. Jones (Agius) OLD Australia



Underground Shelters

Gozo was not only the Gozitans' home during World War II. It also became home to several thousands of Maltese refugees who left mainland Malta and moved to Gozo. Gozo was not only a safer place to live, but famine was less of a threat too. Despite the hardships, the rural island of Gozo was better off. Gozo's history books show that between 1941 and 1942, many underground shelters were excavated. While there are many private underground shelters in houses, Gozo has around 170 public shelters. Shelters were a crucial part of the defence of the civilians as the island of Gozo had nothing to mitigate attacks. These shelters are notoriously found in the villages' main squares and central points with

interlinking tunnels between them. An extensive shelter complex consisting of 32 rooms and tunnels runs underneath the St. Martin demi-bastion at the Citadel. This complex is not open to the public, but make sure you've listed the shelter located at [St. John's demi bastion](#) at the Citadel on your list of things to do in Gozo.

Bombing Sites

In terms of bombings and air raids, Gozo was spared the devastation inflicted on Malta. Malta is considered to have been the most bombed country during World War II. Gozo, on the other hand, had a less harrowing experience. Initially, Gozo was only struck by random bombs dropped by the Italian and German fighter planes seeking to release their load on their flight back home. From 1941 to 1943, Gozo experienced a war rampage through seven major bombings in Victoria, Nadur, Xewkija, Ġhajnsielem, Xagħra, Ġharb and Ta' Sannat. The worst attack was the bombing in 1942 on the village of Ta' Sannat. That bombing hit a bakery in the middle of the morning, leaving 18 dead and over 70 injured. The day saw many casualties, and historians consider it a significant catastrophe in Gozo's modern history. In those days, the island's hospital was the building that today houses the Ministry for Gozo in Saint Frances' Square. The stress and panic lived on the day are visible even in the hospital's records. If you're visiting the [village of Ta' Sannat](#), you can stop by the church, where a plaque, including bomb shrapnel, commemorates those who died in this tragedy. Further uphill, at Xelina Square and in Main Street, where the bombing occurred, one can visit the official memorial on site.



Ġurdan Hill & Xewkija Airfield

Ġurdan Hill is notorious for its lighthouse and scenic views, but few know about this hilltop's curious role in World War II. In July of 1943, the Allies were focused on the invasion of Sicily. Operation Husky, as it was code-named, saw Ġurdan Hill as the vantage point which housed the radar unit for this manoeuvre. Hike up Ġurdan Hill and think of what the spot meant for those involved. Operation Husky also needed an airfield built on the Ta' Lambert site in Xewkija. Considered one of the forgotten airfields of Europe, part of the site has become the road leading from Mġarr to Xewkija. As you drive

from Ġhajnsielem to Xewkija, stop and take in the surroundings. As a hilly island, Gozo has very few flat areas that could be used in such a mission. However, this strip of land saw many fighter squadrons use the airfield as a launch pad and emergency landing strip in the invasion of Sicily. Once the Allies gained a foothold in Sicily, the US contingent moved to Sicily's liberated airfields as they proceeded with the Italian campaign and the airfield was dismantled.



**THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION IS A
SPECIAL PART OF THE HISTORY OF MALTA**





Two styles met in Mosta

From Frederick Zammit - 10 February 2023
10:00 AM Photo: Marquis Farm

The Talent Mosti Philanthropic Association HELD an art exhibition by Joseph Baldacchino and Maria Briffa Bell. The exhibition was staged between 11 and 19 February 2023 at Marquis Mallia Tabone's Farm, 27 Triq il-Wied il-Ghasel, Mosta, next to the Secondary school, College Maria Regina. Mariella Pisani Bencini will be opening the exhibition. For information go

to the Facebook page: Farm of the Marquis. This activity had the full collaboration of the School Council. Show Hours: • From Monday to Sunday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm • Saturday and Sunday open from 10am to noon Joseph Baldacchino: Joseph Baldacchino was born in Zebbug in 1973. He received his education in the Primary and Secondary schools of Zebbug and continued his studies in schools in Paola and Marsa, where he was trained in various types of trades. Since his childhood he had a great passion for drawing but he never gave it importance and put it aside until in 2015 he decided to exploit his capacity in drawing and did the first course at MCAST in Mosta.

From there he continued to develop his talent and did a second course at MCAST. He is currently training with the artist George Farrugia as well as at the Art school in Valletta. Joseph took part in several exhibitions organized by Art Club 2000. He is a very versatile artist and his works include different subjects including flowers, buildings, scenes from the Maltese countryside, well-known characters and sea scenes. He uses different techniques to express himself, among others pencil, water colors, oil and acrylic. His favorite medium is pencil.

Through art, he expresses his thoughts and emotions. Art is a vital part of his life where he feels happiness, peace and relief while doing what he really loves. Maria Briffa Bell: Maria received her education at St. Guzepp's school in Paola and later she ran her business in the fashion industry. At the age of 50, Maria took a course at the Malta School of Art, where she obtained a diploma in art and art history. Her favorite medium is oil paint. Among other things she likes to paint portraits. Maria took part in several collective exhibitions, mostly with the ArtClub 2000 including a collective exhibition in Porto Viro in Italy.

She also worked voluntarily on a mural project in the Children's Oncology Department at Mater Dei Hospital. In 2019, Maria staged her first solo exhibition called "Art and Soul" in the Sanctuary of Ħaż Żabbar. This information is delivered by the Mosti Talent Association.





FESTA TA' GENEROZITA' FUND RAISING CONCERT A HUGE SUCCESS.

The Friends of Providence House NSW embarked on a Fund-Raising campaign at the beginning of 2023 comprising of donations, a concert and a tour. Now that all funds have been received and banked we are in a position to happily announce that we have raised in excess of \$21000.

As the Co-Ordinator of The Friends of Providence House NSW, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Donors, all those who attended the Concert, all those taking part in our upcoming tour, all sponsors especially Breakaway Travel, La Valette Social Centre, the Online Media and most of all, my Colleague and

Treasurer, Miriam Friggieri. Yes, it was a gruelling few months but achieving such a result makes it all worthwhile. We also had a lot of fun, while helping those with Special Needs in this case the Residents of Id-Dar Tal-Providenza Malta. Here a massive Thank You to all Performers namely: Joe Apap, Charlie Muscat, Martin Vella and a star in the making of Katelyn Vella. Special thank you to Lawrence Buhagiar, Maltese Consul General in NSW for his unwavering support. **Jim Borg Co-Ordinator- The Friends of Providence House – NSW AUSTRALIA**

Image source: Australia Remember When FB Group



YESTERDAY'S MALTA Old Singer Sewing Machine

Who here remembers their mother and the sound of the Singer sewing machine? The rhythmic whirring of the treadle as it churned out stitch after stitch — a familiar sound that has filled many Aussie homes throughout the years.

Do you still have one of these? Or maybe you have revamped it at home so it's a side, coffee or hall table now?

PROMOTING MALTA

Hello Frank, The starting message with this latest newsletter, is proof enough, that your promoting the Maltese Islands is having effect. The lady who wrote to you from USA is very impressed with the island's rich history and she wants to come visit the Maltese Islands with her family. Well done dear friend and keep up the good work. Sincerely George Stagno Navarra

OBJECTS, RECORDS AND ORAL WORKSHOP FOR



**Happy young Maltese men determine to build the Cringila Centre, NSW
It is our duty to continue the legacy.**

Photo: Joe Magro, Peter Micallef and Joe Scerri

THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN WOLLONGONG REGION

George Cross Falcons Community Centre - Cringila

The Migration Heritage Project held a workshop for the Maltese Community on 15 June 2004 at the George Cross Falcons Club in Cringila, NSW. The Maltese community, as it is now, is an ageing population and there is the very real potential that all historical information about the community will be lost unless some measures are taken to ensure that it is recorded and preserved. The new generation is blending with the Australian culture and unfortunately are not aware of their role in ensuring that their parents or grandparents stories and objects are kept. Some are genuinely not really interested. Lorraine Vargas' idea is to get the information and to preserve it. This information can then be accessed by schools, or even the wider community of Wollongong and NSW and other States and Territories. As with most migrant history settlement in Wollongong, little is held, known or acknowledged by way of records, objects or museums. The George Cross Falcons Club documents are mainly 'club documents' but they also contain information about the Maltese community settlement in Wollongong; for example from the parish priest about the period before the club was built. Answers to questions like what was the migration pattern for the Maltese people can be

found in such documents and therefore we now know that like most European migrants the people came before World War I and after World War II. But do you have any idea about who the first families



**Maltese arriving in Cringila in the 50's
History of Cringila over 73 Years!
Today serving the Wider Community
with some 9 programs**

were? How would the history of the Maltese Club help the Maltese community find out about their community?

The Maltese Club is the only Maltese place in the Illawarra as a 'centre' for the Maltese. Also the Warrawong church (St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church) is an important focal and historical point for the Maltese community in Wollongong. The Warrawong hall was used as a church during the day and at night for dancing (social functions). The priest was very important. The Maltese built the church and then the club in 1951. St Francis of Assisi is (was) the Maltese church.

Maltese migrants had immigrated to the South Coast of NSW well before World War 2. Many had also migrated to the cane fields of Queensland and northern NSW in the early 1950s and before that there were some Maltese living in Port Kembla and predominately in the Cringila area. In 1951, the Maltese in Wollongong got together and decided to establish a club to help the newer migrants. Many of the newer migrants could not speak English, so the Maltese migrants from Wollongong who could speak English would go to Sydney Harbour to welcome the new arrivals and bring them to Port Kembla and find them accommodation and employment. Employment was usually found for them at the steelworks. This service was provided to all Maltese newcomers. Mr Lorry Pave, John Mallia, Joe Cassar, Joe Magro and others decided it was now time to start a proper club so they organised a committee meeting which was held in a tin shed across from the club or otherwise they would meet

in each other's houses respectively. A fee of 10 cents per week was given by each member which went towards funding for the Club.

Migration Heritage Project Maltese community workshop held George Cross Falcons Club

A Group of volunteers begin building the club

In 1953 two block lots were bought for 200 pounds each. In 1955 two basement rooms were built all by volunteers. These two rooms were used as a place where the Maltese Community could meet to play cards and in no time at all the club had a soccer team and joined the business houses competition. A few years later members were asked to donate to the club the sum of 50 pounds for material so that the club can build an upstairs section. Once again, all the work was done by volunteer labour. This work was started in the 1960s and it finished in a few years. This is where the club is today. The club has a billiard table, table tennis, chess boards for everyone to use and it also has a bocci pit. Every Sunday the club has bingo. The George Cross Falcons Club has hosted many Maltese and local dignitaries over the years including a visit in 1992 by Harry Cordina the President of Malta at the time. The years following has seen the exterior of the Club bricked and extensions to the kitchen. The club has experienced some decline in patronage to the point where it was almost ready to close its doors. But, today we are happy to say that we have now got a Welfare Officer available to all the Maltese in the community and the club facilities are still here for everyone to use and everyone is most welcomed to use the club facilities.

This workshop held at the George Cross Falcons Club on Tuesday 15 June 2004 and allowed the Community Worker, Lorraine Vargas, to talk about why the collecting and documenting of records is important and her role in collating all this information. The Chairperson of the Migration Heritage Project, Franca Facci, spoke about the Migration Heritage Project and its overview of collection processes. George Bajjada, President of the George Cross Falcons Club spoke about what

support can be expected from the Club and the Maltese Community of Wollongong.

The Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW provided funds for an exhibition of the heritage of a migrant community in the Illawarra and some preliminary work on the heritage of another community. The MHP approached the Maltese community to see if they were interested in being the community highlighted with this funding and they took up the offer very enthusiastically. The exhibition was held 2-16 September 2006 in the foyer of the Wollongong City Council Building in Burelli Street, Wollongong.

In 2023 the Maltese George Cross Falcons



Community is one of the most vibrant clubs in New South Wales. The president and administrator is Mr Louis Parnis assisted by the committee members and many volunteers.

They have luncheon for their members and friends every Monday. The Mens' Shed keeps the members busy with producing toys and things to be given to kids in the area. In the centre they teach the Maltese language they organise bus trips and social functions which are always well patronised. Maltese from other areas of Sydney travelled by special buses to join the Illawarra community.

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR PAST
AND PRESENT LEADERS OF THE
MALTESE COMMUNITIES
ALL OVER THE WORLD**

ANNOUNCEMENT

PERMANENT MISSION OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK.



Ms. Fleur Abela is the new Counsellor at The Permanent Mission of Malta to The UN New York. Ms. Abela will be handling all Consular services and queries; this includes visas, passports, etc. To request services one must make an appointment. Counsellor Abela can be contacted by phone at 212-725-2345 or 212-814-9673 or email: fleur.b.abela@gov.mt

The Maltese Center is providing this information on behalf of the Consulate. All questions should be directed to the Consulate



Please join us for an unforgettable event on Saturday March 25th, 7:00 pm at The Maltese Center Lower Hall.

Please RSVP and purchase tickets in advance. Seating is limited. Tickets will not be sold at the door. If you require help with booking please contact us. The Maltese Center is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer with set-up, clean-up, cooking or baking traditional Maltese food, traditional singing/music, acting etc. or underwriting a part of the event please contact us for further details how you can help.

2720 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NEW YORK 11102, USA





The interest in wanting to learning Maltese is not declining in the Maltese Community in Australia. This is evident by the number of Adult students from 3rd and 4th generation families who have enrolled or enrolled their children to learn the Maltese Language.

Now that schools have settled in we can take a snapshot of students enrolled this semester. I am enclosing a snapshot survey to assist us in getting a picture of our affiliated schools. Could you kindly fill in and send back to me.

Ghotja ta' kotba u rizorsi mill-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni, l-Isport, iż-Żgħażaġh, ir-Riċerka u l-Innovazzjoni Malta

Il-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni, l-Isport, iż-Żgħażaġh, ir-Riċerka u l-Innovazzjoni Malta ġentilment baġat lill-Federation of Maltese Language Schools Australia Inc. permezz tal-Programm *I-Għodda f'idejk*, kotba u rizorsi biex inqassmu lill-Iskejjel tal-Ilsien Malti tal-Federazzjoni. Dawn ir-rizorsi huma mmirati l-aktar għal tfal ta' età skolastika fl-iskejjel primarji. Dawn intbaġħtu permezz tal-Kummissjoni Għolja Maltija f'Canberra.



Dawn il-kotba u ir- rizorsi ġew ipprezentati lill-Federazzjoni tal-iskejjel tal-Ilsien Malti fit- 26 ta' Frar 2023 , meta Il-Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg u l-Konslu Ġenerali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta għal Melbourne Chirelle Ellul Sciberra żaru il-Maltese Community Council ta' Victoria. H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg ipprezenta l-kotba lil Edwidge Borg President tal-Federazzjoni tal-Iskejjel tal-Ilsien Malti Australia Inc. u koordinatur tal-klassijiet tal-Ilsien Malti f'dak iċ-ċentru.



Preżenti għal dik iċ-ċerimonja kien hemm ukoll Il-Kunsill Eżekuttiv tal-Maltese Community Council ta' Victoria.

Il-Federazzjoni tal-Iskejjel tal-Ilsien Malti Australia tirringrazzja lill-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni, l-Isport, iż-Żgħażaġh, ir-Riċerka u l-Innovazzjoni l-Isport, Malta, għal dil- Ghotja u l lill H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg li ġabhom Melbourne. Dawn il-kotba u rizorsi se jitqassmu lill-iskejjel affiljati mal-Federazzjoni li qed imexxu klassijiet għat-tfal ta' età skolastika.

Edwidge Borg
PRESIDENT

FEDERATION OF MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

The Maltese Journal supports the teaching of the Maltese Language to the Maltese living abroad

ROSE-MARY CURMI

Merħba. This group is for anyone interested in the Maltese language. I have a special interest in teaching foreigners and those whose Maltese isn't their first language.

I live in Australia and cater to various World Timezones. I have been a registered teacher for over 30 years.

Abilities range from Absolute Beginners to Fluent. The courses run for 6 week online via Skype in groups of 1 to 4 max. Lessons are reasonably priced.

In my courses you will learn Maltese in an exciting purposeful way, using technology and books and focusing on communicating the language. Learning a language is not just about grammar and vocabulary, it is learning new sounds, expressions, correct pronunciations, communication and dialogue as well as learning about the culture and traditions.

Frequently Asked Questions Direct link:

<https://facebook.com/groups/2501992203175109?view=permalink&id=2561366963904299> Note:

Additional lessons outside the courses are also available upon request depending on availability. Suitable for shift workers.

~ Creating friendships and connecting the Maltese community around the world through language. Tislijiet, Rose-Mary Curmi friends4eva@live.com.au

I welcome my newest students from Canada, USA and Australia. Merħba!

◆ Hi everyone, I'm Nathan and I live in Canada. My mom and Nanna/nannu are from Malta and immigrated to Canada in the mid 1960s. I know some basic Maltese phrases and words and would love to be able to eventually speak Maltese with my nanna.

◆ I'm Nicole born and raised in Canada but I'm Maltese (both parents). My husband is also Maltese (both parents) - what a fluke. I have a very basic understanding of Maltese and would love to be fluent.

◆ Hi all, I'm Michelle, born and raised in Ontario Canada and first cousins with Nicole in this group. Both parents were born in Malta I understand Maltese well and can sort of make my way reading with a few exceptions, would also love to be able to speak Maltese.

◆ I'm Bridget. I was born in Malta and my parents also. I can understand Maltese but not speak it. I can read a few words. We emigrated to Melbourne



**IF YOU HAVE A
STORY TO TELL
SHARE IT WITH
OTHERS.
SEND IT TO US**



Consulate General of Malta in Toronto CANADA

Today marks one year since the start of the unjust invasion of Ukraine. stands by
Earlier this week, Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Ms Denise Demicoli, joined other consuls at a Ukrainian photographic exhibition co-hosted by the Honourable LG Elizabeth Dowdeswell in commemorating this sombre anniversary, in reflecting on the harsh reality of war on innocent civilians.



Feb 2023

Il-Ministru tal-Affarjiet Barranin ta' Malta mal Ministru tal-Kanada Mélanie Joly, fi New York kellimha dwar il-Maltin li qed jagħmlu suċċess madwar il-pajjiż. Il-Maltin li jgħixu barra f'qalbna wkoll



**The one and only
Journal for Maltese Living Abroad**

ILLUMINATING CARAVAGGIO



Public Lecture

Rita Curmi

Saturday 11 March 2023

11:00

Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo Museum

Pjazza San Ġorġ,

Victoria, Gozo, Malta

Registration: events@heartofgozo.org.mt



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR GOZO



Cultural Heritage Directorate



IL-ĦAĠAR



FONDAZZJONI
BELT VICTORIA

HELWA MARIJA



Helwa Maria, ismaghni f'it,
qeghda nitlobok u nistaqsik,
Ghaliex il-gwerer, it-tabitijiet
id-dinja taghna mimlija nkwieta?

Ghaliex it-tfal fost l-imsejknin
l-aktar li jbatu f'kull waqt f'kull hin,
nuqqas ta' ikel, abbuzi kbar
nitlobok tnehi minn dan l-imrar.

O qalb hanina, idhol ghalina,
Bhalm'ghamel lbnek sabiex jifdina,
Ipprova 'l dawn li jbatu l-guh,
filwaqt li trazzan lil dawk bla ruh.

Tfal jiggerrew kollha mcercin,
bil-bard tal-lejlghax imcahhdin,
Marija, ismaghni, minn qalbi rrid,
miz-zejjed tiegħi, nibghat xi f'it.

Kemm hawn tfal morda fl-isparijiet
qeghdin isofru maz-zmienijiet,
Haddanhom mieghek, ressaqhom lej, ikunu
waslu biex jigu hdejk.

Nixtieq li l-lejla qabel nistrieħ,
inwassal talba biex minnufih,
in-nies tad-dinja jifhmu 'l xulxin,
u ma nibqghux hekk mifrudin!!!

CALL FOR APPLICATION MALTESE YOUTH DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade (MFET) in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations are offering the unique opportunity to represent Malta's 'future generation' at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

APPLY NOW ON [FOREIGN.GOV.MT](https://foreign.gov.mt)

The deadline for applications is 15th March 2023.



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND TRADE