



**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER**

**JUNE 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA**

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## PLACES TO VISIT WHILE YOU ARE IN MALTA

### MARSASCALA (WIED IL-GHAJN)



Marsascala is an ancient fishing village in Malta, with a picturesque bay, located in the southeast corner of the island. The town has a population of 10,024 people and used to form part of [Zabbar](#) in the 19 century.

The town has grown up around the sheltered bay, Marsascala Creek, and is protected by the headland of Ras il-Gżira to the south and by Ras iż-Żonqor, to the north.

The town today stretches on both sides of the bay and Marsascala's bay has a promenade continuing all the way to St Thomas Bay with views of low shelving rocks, colourful fishing boats and salt pans. In summer, the village is buzzing with life and many Maltese families have summer homes in this lovely, picturesque bay - the population rises to 20,000 in

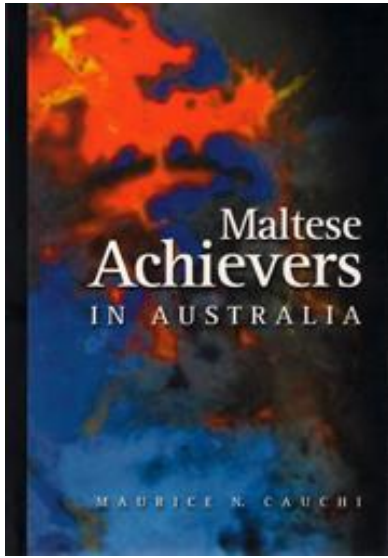
summer. Marsaskala has a range of modern leisure facilities, bars and restaurants.

It is much debated where Marsaskala got its name. Marsa is an Arabic word for "bay"; however Skala might have been derived from the Italian word for Sqalli meaning "Sicilian". Sicilian fishermen are indeed often stayed in Marsascala as it is only 60 miles south of Sicily. The Maltese often refer to Marsaskala as Wied il-Għajn, Wied meaning valley and Ghajn refers to the spring of fresh water (Valley of the fresh Spring). This reference is due to the old towns location between two valets in which springs of fresh water used to flow down into the deepest part of the bay.

Marsascala was inhabited thousands of years ago according to various remains found in the area. Roman era villas, Roman Baths, as well as early Christian catacombs found in the town suggest that Marsaskala once was a Roman port. The parallel channels formed in the rock face called cart-ruts, and they are certainly some of the oldest remains. Some of them unexplainably lead straight into the sea. It is still not sure how they were made or what was their purpose.

During the time of the Knights in 1614 a 60-strong fleet of Turkish ships carrying around 600 solders made a surprise attack on Marsascala. However the Maltese gave them a hard battle, and finally drove the Turkish soldiers away. After this attack fear, and memories of the 1565 Great Siege of Malta was brought back, and Grandmaster Alof de Wignacourt decided that improved fortifications were necessary in this sensitive area. In the same year St Thomas tower was build and finished by the Knights of St John. The huge fortress takes its name from St Thomas Church nearby.

## MALTESE ACHIEVERS IN AUSTRALIA



**Author: Maurice N. Cauchi**

**MCCV Publications**

**Melbourne, Australia 2006**

In his 'foreword', Professor Maurice Cauchi summarised his reasons for publishing this book as follows:

*"Firstly, Maltese as a whole are well known to be rather diffident in projecting themselves within society. This is an attempt to publicise their work and give credit where it is due. Publication of this information in book form and in the English language would, one hopes, make possible also non-Maltese readership.*

*Secondly, the achievements of many persons mentioned in this book are mostly unknown except perhaps to those from the same profession. One is indeed surprised to see the extent of involvement of Maltese-background persons in society in Australia.*

*Thirdly, it is hoped that other members of the younger generation would be inspired by the achievement of persons of Maltese origin and would come to have a more positive appreciation of those with a Maltese background having pride in our culture is also a weakness which has cast a shadow on Maltese settlement in Australia."*

**This book is available for sale from the [MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA](#) office in Parkville.**

**Professor Maurice Cauchi AM, MQR, MD, MSc., Ph.D, DPH, FRCPA, FRCPATH**

Maurice Cauchi was born in Gharb, Gozo, Malta, studied at the Lyceum and Royal University of Malta and graduated M.D. in 1961. The following year he proceeded to the UK where he obtained his M.Sc and Ph.D in Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital, University of London (1967).

He proceeded to Australia (1969) where he held several senior positions at Monash and Melbourne Universities. He was also Director of Haematology and Immunology at the Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne).

He returned to Malta in 1992 as Professor of Pathology where he was also Chairman of the Bioethics Consultative Committee (Ministry of Health), and Chairman of the Gozo Health Council (Ministry for Gozo). He returned to Australia in 2003.

He has been active within the Maltese Community as well as the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and more recently the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad, and the Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

He has been involved in setting up several newsletters and websites, including one for the Migration museum ([www.maltamigration.com](http://www.maltamigration.com)).

**THANK YOU - GRAZZI**

- I congratulate you on the amount and variety of information that you are providing on a regular basis through your MALTESE NEWSLETTER. Profs Maurice Cauchi
- Prosit tal- News Paper li tikteb. Fiha hafna informazzjoni fuq Malta. Keep It Up. Jiena baghtuhili mill-Awstralja. Sibtha interessanti hafna. Dorothy. Malta,
- Some friend has passed me an e-mail with your interesting e-NEWSLETTER from Australia. I must admit I found some very interesting items which I really liked reading; Prosit! Best regards! Sincerely, Paul Attard, Birkirkara.

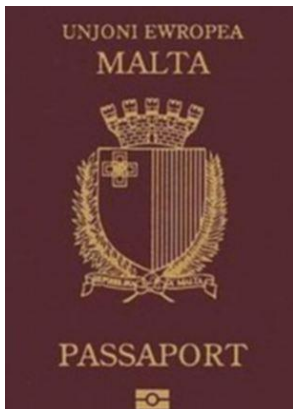
**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE READERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS**

## Daily **Mail** Australia (SYDNEY, NSW)

### **HUNDREDS OF FOREIGN MILLIONAIRES APPLY FOR MALTESE PASSPORTS THAT GIVE THEM THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN BRITAIN - AND EVEN TO CLAIM BENEFITS**

Super-rich can now buy a passport and EU citizenship from Malta  
Will be charged €650,000 (£546,000) but won't have to live in country  
European Commission says it cannot intervene in a national government

By Jill Reilly



Published: 20 February 2014

HUNDREDS of wealthy foreigners have applied for Maltese passports that give them the right to live in Britain - and even to claim benefits

Hundreds of wealthy foreigners have applied for Maltese passports that give them the right to live in Britain - and even to claim benefits.

The passports cost £500,000 and a former Formula One world champion and a Chinese billionaire are thought to be among the 277 applications that Malta's Foreign minister George Vella said embassies across the world have received.

The policy will allow the super-rich from countries like Russia and China to effectively buy the right to live and work anywhere in the EU.

The minister said in his reply to MPs that most of the applications were sent to missions in Dubai, Istanbul, Moscow, Paris and Rome, reported The Independent.

When the plans were initially revealed last year Malta planned to give applicants a passport without requiring them to live in the country first. But it has now bowed to EU pressure saying applicants will now be required to spend at least a year in Malta in order to qualify.

Although Maltese Prime Minister later qualified the terms saying 'It doesn't mean that the individual has to spend 365 days [in Malta]. But it also doesn't mean that the applicant can choose not to set foot in Malta.' The passport grants its holders full EU citizenship, including freedom of movement - Maltese citizenship also comes with a visa waiver on entry to the US.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2563695/Hundreds-foreign-millionaires-apply-Maltese-passports-right-live-Britain-claim-benefits.html#ixzz34nD4Y4SM>



### **NOSTALGIA**

A Maltese shepherd at Qawra with his family and goats.

In the background there are the islands of Saint Paul

Circa - 1935





**Bombed out: Sir Winston Churchill sees the damage in Senglea for himself on a visit to Malta in 1943.**



**Two of Malta's impressive electric trams which operated from 1905 to 1929**

## SPAGHETTI & KANGAROO MEATBALLS RECIPE



### Ingredients

- 1kg Kangaroo Mince
- 1.5 cups fresh breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tbsp olive oil, for frying
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 500g spaghetti
- Cracked black pepper to taste

### Sauce

- 3 x 400g canned chopped tomatoes (No added salt)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves
- Cracked black pepper to taste

### Method

In a bowl, combine kangaroo mince, breadcrumbs, parsley, egg, garlic and parmesan, season with pepper. Roll mixture into balls (approx 1 tablespoon each) and chill for 30 minutes.

Heat oil in a frying pan and fry meatballs in batches until brown. Remove and drain off oil on paper towels.

To make sauce, heat oil in a pan, fry the onions until softened. Add the canned tomatoes, cover and bring to boil.

Reduce heat to low and simmer, partially covered for 20 minutes.

Return meatballs along with basil to the pan, allow to simmer uncovered for a further 10 minutes or until cooked through.

Serve meatballs and sauce over cooked spaghetti. Sprinkle with parmesan.

Thank you for your News letter which I receive regularly, I found it very well presented, and informative. In issue number 33 an article referring to Maltese ANZAC, This subject was recorded many times in some other publication, but not their full military records were published as shown in this article. I am sure that you are aware, that on the 12th of May 2013 the ANZAC Memorial was Inaugurated At the Argoti Botanical Gardens, in Floriana Malta, Commemorating the Servicemen of Australia and New Zealand Buried in Malta. It would have been fitting if the Maltese Australian Association in Malta, also honoured the Maltese-Australians who served with the Australian Imperial Forces and lost their life in action in the First World War. Some of these gallant men have no resting place, others are buried in many War Cemeteries in Europe. The M.A.A. in Malta, should consider to honour these few Maltese -Australian ANZAC servicemen to record their names on the ANZAC Memorial in their Mother country as we are approaching the Centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign.

I am Sure that All The Maltese communities In Australia will welcome this gesture by the Maltese Australian Association in Malta to Honour our own ANZACS. Joseph Montebello (Australia)

## MARLENE GALEA – SBS MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

**Marlene Galea** is a Radio producer and broadcaster with SBS Radio in Melbourne, Australia.



Marlene was born in Sydney in 1969 of an Aboriginal mother and American father and adopted by a Maltese couple. At the age of 3 years, Marlene was taken to Malta, where she was brought up in the village of Xagħra in Gozo. Marlene was very active in Performing Arts. At the young age of 6 she started singing in local Song Contests and won a number of festivals. She also performed in numerous stage productions in Xagħra directed by Chevalier Julian Refalo Rapa.

Marlene was the Physical Education teacher and Choreographer at **St Francis School** in Victoria Gozo (1992-1998), Choreographer for Xagħra based stage productions and at the Don Bosco Oratory in Victoria. Marlene was the costume designer & choreographer at the Xagħra Youth Centre for Carnival dance competitions in Gozo and won a number of awards for costume design and dance. In Melbourne Australia, Marlene was the Choreographer of the Young Maltese Australian Dancers (1998-2003).

In 1989, Marlene was introduced to broadcasting by Joe Borg Ghigo in the weekly PBS Radio magazine from Gozo - Mill-Gzira ta' Calypso - formerly known as Mit-Tokk t'Għawdex. She was the presenter for 10 years, till 1998. In her years as a presenter she has worked with Vincent Theuma Xerri and Alvin Scicluna. In 1998, upon her return to Australia, Marlene settled in Victoria. She started off as a contributor for Maltese Language Programs on SBS Radio and in 2001 became a permanent Broadcast Journalist. For 10 years she was the Senior Producer with Maltese Language Programs; a position she held until the rescheduling of programs on SBS Radio in 2013. She is now a Broadcast Journalist.

Marlene was the Administration Assistant for the Executive Committee of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) from 1999 to 2001. In 2010 Marlene was a keynote speaker about Maltese Youth in Melbourne at the Convention for Maltese Living Abroad held in Valletta. She was one of the founding members of community group Maussies (2007) and a founding member for community group **NISĠA** (2009). She has presented numerous community events in Gozo and Melbourne. Marlene has two sons - Terence and Kenneth.

**Have the Maltese citizens living abroad a right to obtain a passport without unnecessary hardship and a large sum of money to travel interstate or overseas?**

**I live in Perth and I have to travel to Sydney to give my fingerprints for the biometric passport [ Perth to Sydney 2045 miles or 3291 kilometres]. J. AGIUS**



# MARTA

## Letters To Cousin Charlie



## ANOTHER LETTER FROM MARTA

Dear Kugin,

How are you all? Everyone OK? *Everyone eating (kulhadd jiekol)?* I was going to write to you a letter yesterday, but I was very busy and then *it went out of my head(hargitli minn rasi).*

Anyway, this morning Toni said to me "Don't forget to write to Charlie" and I said OK. He thought I was joking and said "Look, *hear from me!*" (*Isma minni*) so I said to him "Darling *don't knock your (thabbatx rasek) head* because I have already started writing the letter *what a combination (what a coincidence).* So I thought I better *cut a cut in the live meat (taqta fil-laham il-haj)* and write.

Oh yes, bilhaqq, Nardu and Maria - my other cousin - are here for holidays. They are staying with Gemma *only a throw of the stone away(daqs tefa' ta' gebla).* That Nardu, he is so funny he makes the water dance. He can tell a lot of good stories too. Every day when he comes here he tells us stories

about when he was in the navy in Malta. He told us he was a deck hand on a submarine but I did not believe him and said "Look, *don't try to make me swallow the rice with the needle! (Nibla rr-ross bil-labra)*"

He likes it here a lot, because he loves all the tropical birds and he said Where they live they only see *birds of the roof(ghasafar tal-bejt).* Maria says they live near a big lake, but Nardu said it's not a lake, it's *water stayed.* Their daughter, Rita, finished Uni and now *she reached solicitor (lahqet avukata).* Next time I'll send you some photos because he *pulled us a lot of photos (gibed hafna ritratti).*

You remember his brother Censu the poker player, well he divorced his wife. But his wife is happy now, she says that Censu *never had any oil in his face(qatt ma kellu zejt f'wiccu)* and he was always swearing and cutting his hands. She says now *the oil come up on top of the water (iz-zejt jitla f'wicc l-ilma)* and people really know what Censu is. She phoned me the other day and we talked about things. They sold the farm, and now she has *four pennies under her head(. Ghandu erba' soldi that rasu).* Yes, she is happy now because she can do what she likes.

Charlie, I have some bad news to tell you, but *don't take a cut (tiehux qata').* My brother Leli is very sick, in hospital - he is *sick with the sugar (ghandu z-zokkor)* very bad now. I told Angie his wife to tell him to make courage. When I went to see him in the hospital I told him, I said, "Leli it's not the end of the world you know, come on - you'll be home soon so *don't make your heart black(iswedditx qalbek)* but he is *with the chin (bil-geddum)* all the time and Angie worries that *he makes in his heart (jaghamel f'qalbu).*

But what can you do - these things happen, eh? So I told her, I said "Angie dear, just remember that *who does not have a cross - has a holy medal. (minn ma ghandux salib ghandu domna)*

I better stop for today Kugin, because my fingers are getting tired from writing. So give our love to everyone and *write me two words (iktibli zewg kelmiet)* when you can.

Sahha, bye, see ya, ciaw

MARTA

(FROM MARTA'S BOOK BY CHRALIE N MIFSUD)

## MALTESE AMONG FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS



*Transcript of address by Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on the Forgotten Australians and former child migrants, Great Hall, Parliament House, 16 November 2009)*

Today, the Government of Australia will move the following motion of apology in the Parliament of Australia.

We come together today to deal with an ugly chapter in our nation's history.

And we come together today to offer our nation's apology. To say to you, the Forgotten Australians, and those who were sent to our shores as children without

your consent, that we are sorry.

reporters Marlene Galea, David Crisante

16 Nov 2009 - 8:16 PM UPDATED 23 Aug 2013

### **The British government sent child migrants to populate Australia including more than 300 Maltese children, some of who say they were slaves.**

Between 1950 and 1965, 310 unaccompanied Maltese children - 259 boys and 51 girls - arrived in Australia as migrants. In the years following the Second World War, child migrants were seen as the best way to populate white Australia after the war. The federal government happily promoted the immigration scheme under the slogan, "The child, the best immigrant". Alfred Cilia was one of them.

Mr Cilia was sent to Australia by the British government as a form of child labour to work on a farm, he said. "My mother sent us here but my mother was duped, told we were going to have a good future and a good life - but it did not happen," he said. "I couldn't believe the things that happened to us here. We never experienced that in Malta - we were poor but we were happy, we were happy with what we had."

### **Children sent to religious orphanages**

These children came under various approved schemes and were seen as able to assimilate easily, being more adaptable and having a long working life ahead of them.

Over 30 institutions were approved by the federal government for the housing of child migrants; most of these were run by voluntary and religious organisations. The largest religious order of men in Australia, the Christian Brothers, ran four Catholic orphanages in Western Australia at Clontarf, Castledare, Bindoon and Tardun.

They started receiving child migrants in 1938 and 1939, then in larger numbers after 1947.

At that time, the Maltese Islands had just emerged from the Second World War and poverty was rife.

### **Widespread abuse and punishment**

Six siblings in the Cilia family were sent from Malta to Australia in 1958. Joe Cilia was 11 years old.

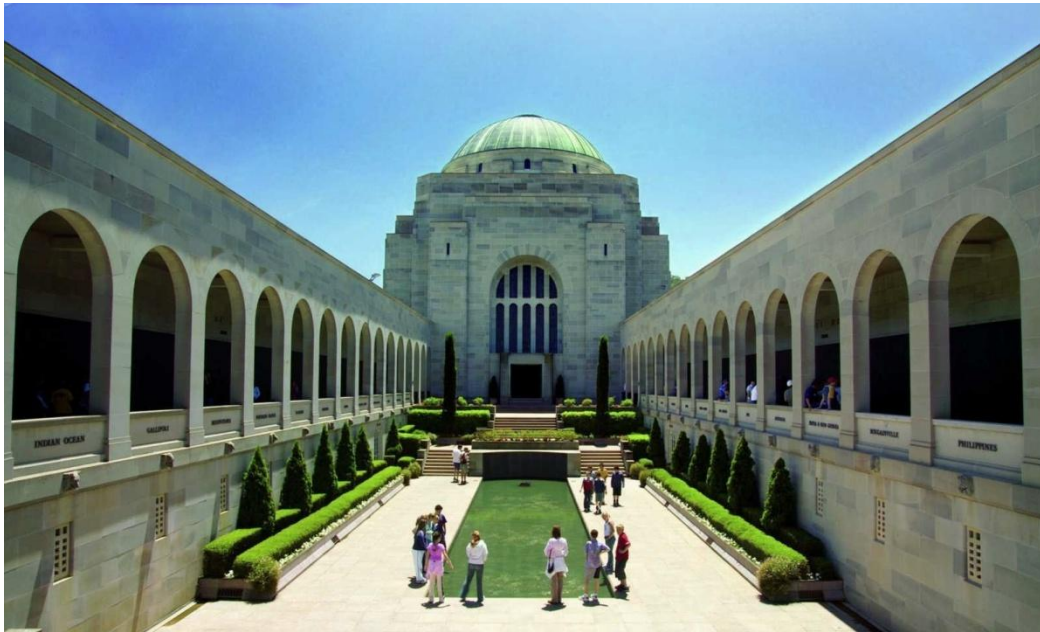
"I was regularly abused by two Brothers and the things that happened to me just went on and on," he said. "I used to run away and I was brought back and punished."

Last year during the inauguration of a monument dedicated to the child migrants, the former Prime Minister of Malta, Lawrence Gonzi acknowledged this negative chapter in Maltese migration with a formal apology.

Another apology was made by the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr. Paul Cremona, on behalf of the Catholic Church.



## MALTA'S CONTRIBUTION AT GALLIPOLI IN WORLD WAR 1



**(Photo) War Memorial in Canberra ACT**

ANZAC Day - 25 April - is probably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those

forces quickly became known as ANZACs, and the pride they soon took in that name endures to this day.

Among those who died at Anzac Cove during this terrible siege was a Maltese/Australian soldier by the name of Charles Bonavia. His body, like many others, was never found.

Several Maltese/Australians fought side by side with the Australian troops. Bonavia was born in Malta in 1888. His father was the registrar at the Malta Law Courts and his grandfather rose to the rank of Colonel in the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery. Bonavia studied architecture at the University of Malta and migrated to Australia in 1911.

He joined the 11th Battalion 3rd Infantry Brigade and sailed with his regiment from Fremantle to Egypt on 2 November 1914. Bonavia's name is included in the list of the fallen soldiers at Lone Pine and also at the National War Memorial in Canberra. Other Maltese whose names are forever recorded at Helles Memorial overlooking the Dardanelles are Major Herbert Sammut who died when he was in command of Essex Regiment and Lieutenant Herbert Huber. Huber was a member of the Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers and was killed few hours before the British forces successfully evacuated from the Turkish soil. Unfortunately, their remains were never discovered.

Many other Maltese migrants were among the casualties at Gallipoli. According to the Maltese historian, John Mizzi, there were 800 Maltese labourers serving under Maltese officers in Gallipoli. A young private, Giuseppe Camilleri, was 27 years old when he was killed in enemy action. He was buried close to the beach at Ari Burnu cemetery, near Anzac Cove (Row J, Grave 4).

Indeed, Malta played a significant role in the Gallipoli campaign, not only as a backup base for the Royal Navy but also as one of the major hospitals in the Mediterranean. There were also convalescent centres and looked after 58,000 servicemen wounded during the World War I. There are 1,500 British and 202 Australian servicemen and 72 New Zealanders buried in Malta as well as French, Indians and Egyptians together with 26 Turkish prisoners. This was Malta's greatest contribution to the Allied's efforts during this terrible war.

The early Maltese settlers have indeed given their contribution to preserve freedom and democracy in their adopted home- Australia. Let us hope that the nations of the earth are emerging from the self-destructive practices of enmity and will build, in sunlight, a world of peace, democracy and social justice.

## MALTA AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The role of Malta in the Second World War reflects the strategic position that it held in the Mediterranean. Lying in the middle of the Mediterranean it was, and still is, a gateway between the continents of Europe and Africa. From the point of view of the Allies it was an important garrison and staging point to Alexandria and from the point of view of the Axis Powers it threatened resupply convoys to Rommel's Afrika Korps.

The garrison of Malta was initially unprepared for the important role it would play after the centre of British Naval Operations was moved to Alexandria. The under resourced sea fortress found itself within range of the Italian Air Force and Navy after the Italian declaration of war on 10th June 1940.



HMS Ark Royal in 1939, with Swordfish of 820 Naval Air Squadron passing overhead in Malta

Malta was bombed by the Italians the day after war was declared. The island held out however with a large part played by a small number of Sea Gladiators and later by a number of Hurricanes. The Gladiators were immortalized with the names of **Faith, Hope and Charity**. The fight was taken to the Axis convoys and due to the successes from 1941, Malta was subjected to regular bombing by the Luftwaffe, especially from the German Fliegerkorps X based in Sicily. Bombing continued through 1941 with a partial lapse as some of the Luftwaffe were transferred to the Eastern Front.

Churchill recognizing the important part that the interdiction of Axis convoys could make to the African Theatre dispatched 'Force K' to Malta to carry out more aggressive raids on Axis shipping. These were very successful and slowed down the resupply of the German troops in North Africa. Luftwaffe sorties were cut back and Rommel had to re-entrench.

***On 15th April 1942, King George VI awarded the island the George Cross, the highest civilian medal, for its peoples bravery and heroism.***

***"To honour her brave people, I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history".***

The German forces hit back and combined with the loss of the Kandahar and the Neptune in a minefield, Malta was again squeezed. Supply convoys to Malta were attacked and it was subjected to an intense air-siege in late 1941 and early 1942.

Supplies of Spitfires to mount a defence of the island were getting through and with the appointment of Air Vice Marshall Keith Park, who changed the aerial tactics, the Axis air losses increased. This was combined with a less intense aerial bombardment as Rommel diverted the Luftwaffe to support his ground campaigns. The aircraft could not operate without fuel however and less and less was reaching the island. A number of re-supply convoys failed to bring in the supplies as ships were sunk.

A major re-supply convoy took place called **Operation Pedestal** with 14 merchant ships and 44 major warships in July 1942. The convoy was subjected to aerial, torpedo and submarine attack and many ships were sunk, so damaged they had to turn back, or be scuttled. On 13th August the first merchant ships began arriving and on 15th August the tanker Ohio which had been bombed, torpedoed and survived a crashed dive bomber arrived with its precious fuel.

The darkest days were over and the tide was turning as in North Africa Rommel's forces were on the retreat. The defense of Malta had taken a tremendous cost on the lives of not only the armed forces but of the population of Malta. Although it can be questioned by some whether such a dogged defence was worth it in strategic terms the ultimate defeat of the Axis powers should always be borne in mind.

## IL WIDNA (THE EAR), MALTA

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*The only sound mirror outside England is on the Mediterranean island of Malta. It is known locally as “il widna”, Maltese for “the ear”.*

The design is the same as the 200 foot mirror at Denge, although the Maltese mirror appears to be in better condition. It retains its painted camouflage pattern, which blends into the colours of the landscape quite effectively.

The site is now used as an earth station for telecommunications company GO (formerly Maltacom), so there is no access to the mirror, though visitors can get quite close and peer through the barbed wire fence.

The construction of early warning sound mirrors was proposed in the early 1930s to help protect the key imperial locations of Gibraltar, Malta and Singapore. Four sites

were identified in Gibraltar, but there were concerns about interfere produced by noises from the local population, the wind and the sea. A system of five to eight mirrors was suggested for Singapore, but it was thought that there would be problems with noises from local animal and insect life.

The surveys undertaken in Malta during 1933 were more productive, and five suitable sites were identified around the coast. The ideal site should be sheltered from noise behind and to the sides of the mirror, and ‘under no circumstances should the mirror have a view if the breaking sea’, said Dr Tucker, who undertook extensive research into sound-based direction finding.

The first mirror was to be at Maghtab, on a site a mile or so inland with hills behind. It faces out to sea at a bearing or 20 degrees, towards Sicily around 60 miles away.

Construction was underway in the autumn of 1934, with the work completed during the summer of 1935. The design is a direct copy of the 200 foot mirror at Denge, near Dungeness in Kent. Minor differences include small projecting buttresses at the foot of the mirror face, which were found to harm its performance.

The electrical equipment was installed in the first weeks of September 1935, and testing was undertaken on 23 September. Training of the operating staff began the next day. The total cost of the development of the first mirror on Malta was put at £4500.

Trials using a Supermarine Scapa flying boat found that the range of the mirror was 21 to 37 miles, with an average of 25 miles, and a bearing error of  $\pm 2\frac{1}{2}$  degrees. In contrast, the range of the unaided human ear was put at 5 miles. It was estimated that the mirror would provide a six minute warning of an enemy aircraft approaching Malta at 250 mph.

Unfortunately not all the test were successful, perhaps one of the more embarrassing failures being on 5 February 1936 during a visit by Sir Cyril John Deverell, Chief of the Imperial General Staff. No further mirrors were built on Malta, and the Maghtab mirror was reported to be out of use by 5 May 1937.



## CHAPEL OF OUR LADY TAL-HLAS - QORMI MALTA

### PROTECTRESS OF MOTHERS IN LABOUR



Every third Sunday of the month a thanksgiving mass is celebrated at the MADONNA TAL-HALS chapel at Qormi.

Children of all ages are presented to Our Lady in gratitude following a safe delivery.

This small chapel is situated in a secluded part of Qormi and lies on the border with Zebbug. For a time its location was disputed as either being in Zebbug or Qormi territory. Incidentally, this chapel is also said to lie in a path halfway between Birgu and Mdina.

Hence it was a convenient resting place for the pilgrims travelling between these towns. The unusual twin porticoed loggias on either side with stone benches and tables, were built in 1699 to provide shelter for the numerous pilgrims who visited the church.

The original church, now turned into a sacristy, was built around 1500. In the year 1560, Fra Christophe le Boulleur Montgaudry, the Treasurer of the Order of St John, who had a house by the church (I believe the building opposite the church is the one that is being referred to here) was a great benefactor of the church, building it anew and paying for the titular painting now kept in the sacristy, which showed Our Lady with St Paul and St John the Baptist. In this sacristy a large number of ex-votos are kept here.



The original chapel was seriously damaged in the violent earthquake of 1693 and was rebuilt by the architect Lorenzo Gafa. The titular painting of Our Lady tal-Hlas (protectress of mothers in labour) was placed above the old one.

The feast, which used to be held on the 15th August, is now celebrated on the Sunday following that date. In the past there was the custom of distributing hazelnuts and a glass of wine to visitors on the feast day.

Every year the feast is celebrated in August and two masses will be celebrated - one at 9:30am and the last one at 6.00pm. Parents may present their children to our Lady during this celebration.

## **SAME CAR FOR 82 YEARS – BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!**

**Mr. Allen Swift: Born: 1908—Died 2010**



This man owned and drove the same car for 82 YEARS. Can you imagine even having the same car for 82 years?

Mr. Allen Swift ( Springfield, MA ) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Piccadilly-P 1 Roadster from his father, brand new - as a graduation gift in 1928.

He drove it, up until his death in 2010 at the age of 102.

He was the oldest, living owner of a car that was purchased new.

Just thought you'd like to see it.

It was donated to a Springfield

museum after his death.

It has 1,070,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed and is in perfect, cosmetic condition at 82 years of age. That's approximately 13,048 miles per year, 1,087 miles per month. 1,070,000! That's miles, not kilometres! That's British engineering from a bygone era.

*(Contributed by Greg Caruana – Australia June 2014)*



## **LAUNDRY DAY IN VALLETTA**



## TLIET FILMS KBAR F'MALTA MILL-"ORIZZONT" GURNAL INDIPENDENTI TA' KULJUM



Matul il-ġimgħa li għaddiet inbeda x-xogħol fuq tliet films li se jiġġeneraw miljuni kbar ta' ewro fl-ekonomija Maltija filwaqt li fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin mistennija jkunu konfermati erba' films oħra.

L-industrija tal-films f'Mal-ta reġġhet bdiet tirpilja u tattira ħafna films kbar minn madwar id-dinja kollha. Dan grazzi għall-inċentivi ġodda għall-industrija tal-films im-ħabbra mill-gvern u kkummissjonati mill-Kummissjoni tal-Films.

Matul il-ġimgħa li għaddiet il-Kummissjoni tal-Films iffirmit ukoll ftehim ta' kollabo-razzjoni mal-Bank of Valletta biex ikun iffaċilitat aktar il-proċess tas-servizzi finanzjarji għall-kumpaniji tal-films kemm lokali kif ukoll dawk internazzjonali. Fil-konferenza stampa, il-Kummissarju tal-Films, Engelbert Grech, ħabbar li bil-ftehim imtela vojti li żgur se jagħmel lil pajjiżna iktar attraenti biex jattira l-investiment u jkabbar l-ekonomija Maltija u joħloq iktar impjiegi. Fis-snin li għaddew l-industrija tal-films kienet marret lura iżda bl-inċentivi l-ġodda u kampanja ta' 'marketing' li saret fix-xhur li għaddew, Malta saret kompetittiva ħafna.

Fil-fatt din is-sena mistennija tkun sena produttiva ħafna għall-industrija lokali tal-films. Saħansitra atturi kbar bħal Brad Pitt u Angelina Jolie qed jaraw il-potenzjal kbir ta' Malta u f'tit tal-jiem ilu kienu fil-gżira Għawdxija biex jagħzlu fejn se jiffilmjaw il-film li jmiss tagħhom. Jidher li l-għażla għall-ġbid tal-film ta' Jolie ma' Pitt waqgħet fuq Mgarr ix-Xini u Ta' Ċenċ. Il-film, li għadu ma ntagħzix isem għalih, inkiteb minn Jolie u din se tkun l-ewwel darba li Jolie u Pitt se jergħu jaħdmu flimkien wara l-film "Mr&Mrs Smith".

L-aħħar darba li l-koppja giet f'Malta kien fl-2011 meta Pitt ħadem il-film taz-'zombies', 'World War Z'. L-indikazzjonijiet huma li għas-sena d-dieħla wkoll hemm lista twila ta' films li se jkunu miġbudin f'Malta.

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### MALTA CONNECTION WITH JAPANESE IMPERIAL NAVY 1917-1919

Memorial to Japanese Imperial Navy in Malta

There is a lot of material about the Japanese Imperial Navy's contribution in WW1 at the National Library in Valletta which even few Japanese people know about. From April, 1917, 14 destroyers with cruiser flagships

were based in Malta, playing an important part in anti-submarine convoy escort. Eight of the 'Kaba' class destroyers, including *Sakaki*, formed part of the 10th and 11th flotillas with the cruiser *Akashi* as their flagship. The Japanese warships were under the command of Admiral Sato Kozo. Several Maltese families including the Bordas were ship chandlers to the Japanese Imperial Navy during the time they were based on the island. On 11<sup>th</sup> June 1917 the *Sakaki* was torpedoed off Crete by the Austrian submarine U27. Her bows were blown off but she was salvaged and eventually repaired. Sixty-eight Japanese officers and men died that day and were buried in the Kalkara Naval Cemetery in Malta. Four Momo class destroyers *Hinoki*, *Kashi*, *Momo*, and *Yanagi*, arrived in Malta in August, 1917, as the 15th Flotilla with the cruiser *Idzumo* to form part of the convoy protecting the Mediterranean.



## PRINCESS ELIZABETH (NOW QUEEN ELIZABETH II) IN MALTA IN 1950



HRH Princess Elizabeth being greeted by the Governor, Sir Gerald Creasy as she arrives at Floriana Parade Ground to present the new King's Colour for the Mediterranean Station, 5th May 1951

## **“A SENSE OF HUMOUR IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL HUMAN QUALITIES”**



**“If you want others to be happy,  
practice compassion.**

**If you want to be happy, practice  
compassion.”**

**The Dalai Lama**

Without humour I believe life would seem too boring to bear. It would be like a joke without a point, totally without meaning.

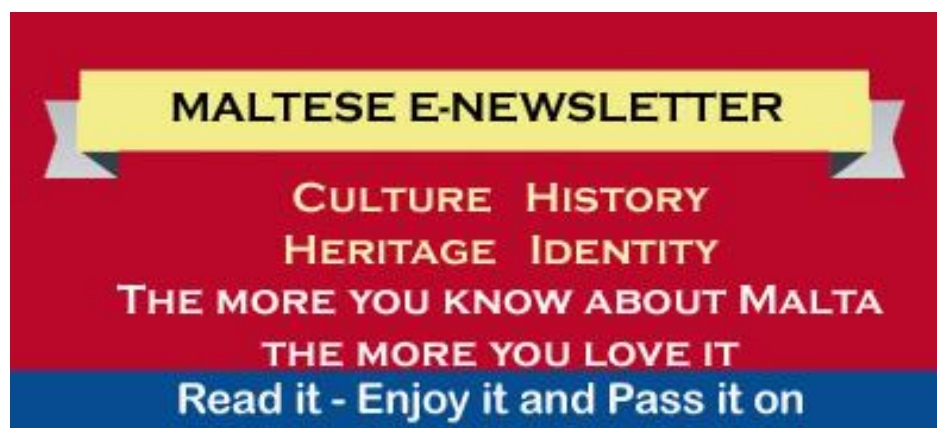
Of course a good balanced set of different qualities is vital, you won't get far with only

humour. A person who simply laughs at everything will get on other people's nerves so seriously that he or she will probably be murdered in no time. But if I was to select one quality which is the one most important ,

it would definitely be humour. Just as well as a person with only humour would find himself strangled one of these days, one without it would find himself ready to jump out of a window. That's how dramatically important humour is!

The question is really, what is a sense of humour then? People often say about each other: He or she has no sense of humour and in ninety nine cases out of a hundred, that means “he or she has not got my sense of humour.” That is what we say when somebody doesn't laugh at our jokes but just looks at us as if we had thrown something disgusting in their face.

So, to come to this conclusion that humour is so important, we have to rule out the subjective view of what a sense of humour is. As long as we have one, we are okay, however vulgar or impossible to understand it is to other people. There might be people who are judged by everybody to be a total bore, who goes home in the evening and laughs his head off before the weather broadcast, or simply because everybody else has such a bad sense of humour! Who knows?



## SAINT EDWARD'S COLLEGE, MALTA



**St Edward's College, Malta** is a private Maltese independent boarding school located in Malta. The College population is just under 700 students, aged between 5 and 18 years; it was founded in 1929 by the school benefactor Baroness Strickland, Countess della Catena, who gave a generous gift to establish the College. The College was built on the grounds of what was once a Knights of Malta fort and the rear end of the school is still today surrounded by the bastion walls of the fort. The school was modelled along the lines of and on the ideas and ideals of British Public Schools, initially to educate the boys of the Maltese aristocracy and the boys of the British Military officers based in Malta.

The Governor of Malta, Sir John Philip Ducane, managed to obtain the buildings of what was once the Cottonera Military Hospital in Vittoriosa, along with the parade ground adjoining to St. Clement's bastions built by the Knights of Malta. The Military Hospital was where Florence Nightingale once worked and spent some time nursing the wounded soldiers from the Crimean War. The perimeter of the Western side of the site formed part of the impressive Cottonera lines, a fortified wall built by the Knights of St John. The extensive grounds between the bastion walls and the old hospital buildings would serve as ideal recreational areas and would also give the College enough space for expansion when needed.<sup>[2]</sup>

Thus, with an ideal site secured and the necessary financial backing guaranteed, a small group of distinguished gentlemen among them senior notable members of the Maltese nobility gathered in the Governor's Palace in Valletta on the 18th of January; 1929, to sign a Foundation Deed of Trust. The following October the College opened its gates to twenty nine foundation pupils! The numbers of pupils during the College's first years would remain considerably low due to the relatively high fees which were necessary to keep the College running. The British Council's timely financial backing made it possible for the College to lower fees for local pupils and, as a result, the population grew steadily with an increasing number of Maltese gentry sending their boys to the school.

In the mid-thirties, an old ammunitions depot built by the Knights of St John was converted into the College's magnificent chapel. Physics and Chemistry laboratories and additional dormitories were also developed at this time. By the late thirties it became apparent that the buildings could not be altered or modified further and the construction of a new wing was proposed. However with the advent of World War Two, these plans had to be shelved since the College's perilously close proximity to Malta's main harbours necessitated a temporary relocation to the old Seminary in Mdina for the duration of the Second World War.

The building of the new classrooms (the Middle School block) occurred after the boys and college masters moved back to Cottonera in 1946. With the building of the new classrooms complete, few other structural changes were made for nearly two decades when the clear need for modern science facilities became a pressing issue. A successful fund-raising campaign resulted in the laying of the foundation stone of the new block in 1967 by Sir Maurice Dorman, the last British Governor-General of Malta. With a generous donation made by the Trustees of the British Boys Schools of Alexandria and the Victoria College, Alexandria Foundation the much needed Assembly Hall in the new block became a reality.

In the late Seventies, the block that used to house the married teachers was converted into the Junior School which also included an Infant's Section. Due to the College's growing popularity, the Junior School received a structural revamping and extension in 1994. Classrooms were enlarged and the designs (by Old Edwardian Richard England (architect)) also ensured that the Junior School building now had their own Drama and Music hall as well as an IT room.<sup>[3]</sup>

The college has four houses all named after the Governors-General of Malta: DuCane House (Green), Campbell House (Red), Congreve House (Blue) and Dorman House (Yellow). Dorman named after the last British Governor-General of Malta; Sir Maurice Dorman. Among the many famous alumni of the school is Cambridge University Professor Edward De Bono famous for his renown ideas on Lateral Thinking and advisor to many governments and corporations.

Since its foundation in 1929 the school had produced many who went on to serve in the British Military and the Colonial Service in Egypt, Palestine and the Sudan. The school has an old boys association known as the Old Edwardian Association (OE).



## ARGOTTI BOTANICAL GARDENS – FLORIANA, MALTA

Argotti gardens provide a quiet space to relax in, accompanied by a number of trees and flowers species. Argotti Botanical Gardens dates back to 1774 and is situated in Floriana, a short walk from capital of Malta, Valletta.



Villa de Argote situated at the Botanic Gardens in Floriana

Villa de Argote, situated at the botanic side of the Argotti Gardens, in Floriana. The gardens were originally the private gardens of Grandmaster Pinto and only became a botanical garden in 1805. At that time medicinal herbs and plants were grown at Argotti Gardens and today a small part of that area is still used by the University of Malta for educational purposes.

You will also find plenty of oaks, oleanders, potted plants and cacti and several fountains, ponds and water towers. A small horticultural museum set in part a villa displays both local and foreign

seed, plants, gardening maps and record for people to visit.

One of the main attractions of Argotti Botanical Gardens is the spectacular views over Floriana's fortifications and the gardens is popular with locals and tourist alike who want to relax and enjoy the scenic beauty.

The Argotti Botanic Gardens hold a modest collection of Mediterranean-type plants which offer a pleasant garden setting at the outskirts of Malta's capital city, Valletta. The garden serves as a scientific research facility dwelling into different plant-related aspects, including plant phytochemical extraction, bioactivity testing, and the role of soil microbes and invertebrates in wood deterioration and compost formation. Therefore the garden's aim is to assist in the teaching of University students of several University departments. However, the garden also fulfils a number of missions:

- It is actively involved in the conservation of indigenous plants, and nursery-growing for the rare and endangered species.
- It holds a seed bank in which is stored a number of indigenous and non-indigenous seeds for reference and propagation purposes.
- It contains a small micropropagation laboratory for the practice of artificial propagation of endangered indigenous plants *in vitro*.
- It holds a herbarium, used for indigenous flora and for the preservation of plant voucher specimens for reference purposes.
- The Argotti Gardens work to promote interactive education amongst schoolchildren. Assisted by qualified dedicated guides, the students are led through tours which aim for hands-on practical work on plant nurturing. Tours are also extended to the public, commissioned by local councils, voluntary organisations and societies.



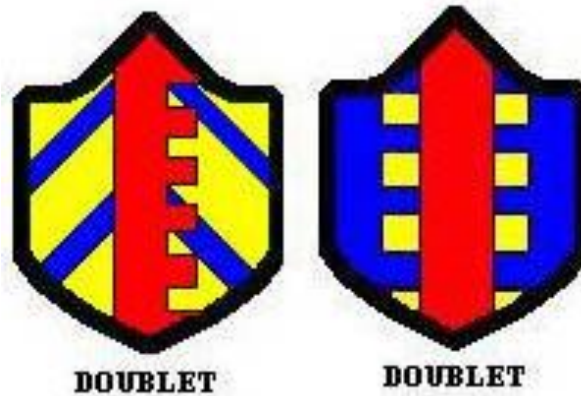


## FOOTBALL MANIA - BRAZIL 2014

**MY MALTESE PARTNER IS  
GONNA KILL ME**



**I BURNT THE PASTIZZI  
I FORGOT TO BUY HIM KINNIE  
I DIDN'T RECORD THE MALTESE NEWS**



Submitted by Manuel Psaila

The Surname arrived in Malta with Pierre Jean Louis Ovide Doublet (1749-1824), secretary to the last Grandmaster von Hompesch.

He was part of the delegation that negotiated with Napoleon on board the Orient and he was later highly placed in the French administration of the island. He eventually wrote a book (which is now very rare) about his experiences. Descendants of Ovide Doublet include SA Petroni and Antoine Zammit (Founder of Search Malta).

**SAHHA GHALISSA – NARAK 'L QUDDIEM  
BYE FOR NOW – SEE YA LATER**