

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**



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**ANZAC DAY  
IN MALTA 2023**



**The Original Maltese  
Pastizzi Company**



**Paul Schembri Jr**

**MSC WORLD EUROPA registered in Malta  
Entering the Grand Harbour**







**Honoured to welcome President of Malta George Vella and Mrs Vella  
Foreign Minister Ian Borg and guests  
to our ANZAC Day commemoration.**

**It has been marked in Malta since 1916,  
when Malta cared for so many of our wounded.**

***Her Excellency Jenny Cartmill  
Australian High Commission, Malta  
et Ambassade d'Australie en Tunisie***

***Lest we Forget***

**Full report next issue**



## New Zealand Consulate in Malta on ANZAC DAY

The New Zealand Consulate was invited to lay a wreath today at a ceremony organised by the George Cross Island Association (GCIA) - Malta GC Branch - to mark the 81st anniversary of the granting of the George Cross to the people of the Maltese Islands. On this anniversary, we all remember those who gave their lives in defence of freedom eighty-one years ago, and those who do so today in Ukraine, both with the resolute determination to shape a world where might does not equal right.

## MALTA ANZACS ROWING REGATTA 25 April 2023



Dear Frank and readers of the Maltese Journal  
Our 10 day stay in Malta was a huge success combining sport and education, learning Malta's role play during WWI, Australia and New Zealand connections in Malta as well as competing in the First ANZAC U18 rowing regatta sport held at the beautiful Golden Bay in Malta.

The Australian High Commission Jenny Cartmill and the VIPs at the ANZAC Service were moved and overwhelmed when our young athletics presented a wreath during the wreath service. Some VIPs from the services also attended the afternoon rowing regatta ....Australian High Commission Jenny Cartmill cheering on the Australians while Kevin Bonnici [ NZ Consulate ] cheering on the NZ team. The event received excellent reviews from Australia, Malta and NZ as the days unfolded.

At the farewell dinner, trophies were presented and more importantly the athletics developed special bondages with the Maltese team and keen to be back .

Plans are now underway for 2024 ANZAC sports .

Lots of photos and filming were taken. I will provide reports and photos later on our [anzaregatta.com](http://anzaregatta.com) website.

Two New Zealand secondary schools participated in the first Commemorative Anzac Day Rowing Regatta along with their Australian and Maltese counterparts, organised by the University of Malta Rowing Club and the Malta ANZACS (South Australia). The was held at Golden Bay. A full report in the next edition.

Regards John Calleja - coordinator





## MALTA MARITIME REGISTRY LISTS FIRST ECO SUSTAINABLE SHIP IN THE WORLD

MSC World Europa is the first ship registered in Malta which works on LNG. The ship, which entered the Grand Harbour for the first time

over the last few days is the largest cruise ship in the world which works on sustainable fuel and therefore pollutes less.

Its ties with Malta are not only because it is listed in the Malta Maritime register but because the Italian company has committed to entering the Grand Harbour once a week over the next 18 months.

Flying the Maltese maritime flag, World Europa is the largest ship from the MSC fleet. It is considered the largest floating city in Europe because it can accommodate almost 7000 passengers at once.

It was designed to be the largest eco sustainable ship in the world since it runs on sustainable fuel – this means it leaves 25% less carbon in the air so it is coming closer towards the environmental targets to reduce pollution by 2050.

In its first stop at the Grand Harbour, Captain Dino Sagani said that for him this was one of the most beautiful harbours he has ever worked in and added that this was not just his opinion.

“Malta is actually the number one chosen port that our passengers experience in the last few years – that reason why we chose Malta is because of its beauty, history and culture she has.”

This was not be the first and last visit by this ship to the Grand Harbour as it will be coming no less than 88 times this summer and winter, as well as in the summer of 2024. The CEO of Valletta Cruise Port, Stephen Xuereb, said that after the blow suffered during the pandemic, the trends in the cruise industry are good.

“This year we will see a very good recovery because from figures we have it appears we will exceed 800,000 passengers which is close to the record of 2019 when we reached 900,000 passengers.”

TVMnews asked Josette Hamilton, from the company which represents MSC in Malta, how popular cruises are with the Maltese.

“The Maltese have learned to appreciate not only the destinations but even the fact that they are going on these cruise ships which is a new experience each time.”

MSC World Europa is the ninth ship from the MSC fleet to be registered under the Maltese flag. While it was berthed in Malta for the first time, the ship welcomed tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo and Economy Minister Silvio Schembri along with representatives from Government entities and travel agencies.



*Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta*  
*High Commission for the Republic of Malta*

## Consul-On-The-Move (COTM) for Australia and New Zealand 2023

The High Commission of Malta is preparing for this year's COTM visits for Australia and New Zealand.

Applicants who wish to receive consular service(s) during COTM need to fill in the form using the link below by not later than 05 May 2023. <https://forms.office.com/e/uWAGrp2JL>

Please note that dates have not been established yet! Dates will be published at a later stage, once the High Commission establishes enough interest in Consul-On-The-Move services. If you find any difficulties filling up the form, kindly contact us on [consul.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:consul.canberra@gov.mt)

The below are the locations we intend to provide Consul-On-The-Move services (depending on the number of applicants registered):

1. Wellington / Auckland, NZ
2. Adelaide, SA
3. Perth, WA
4. Brisbane, QLD
5. Mackay, QLD
6. Cairns, QLD

Regards, High Commission of Malta for Australia and New Zealand

## THE GLARAC ASSOCIATION MALTA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 2023

HMS Glorious, Ardent and Acasta Association

By Rita Demicoli



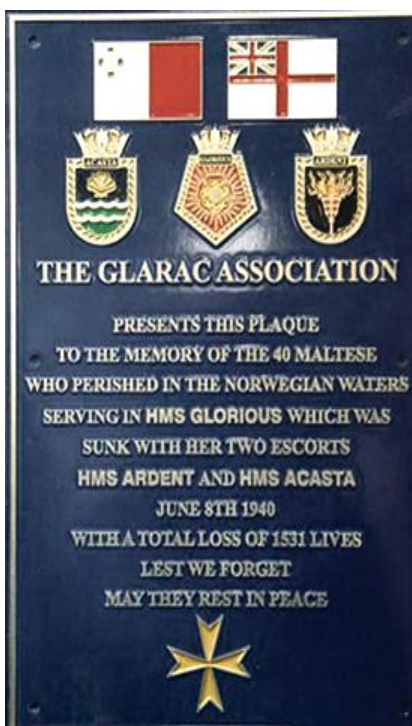
Photos:

Rita

Demicoli

The Glarac Association Malta held a Service of Remembrance 2023 on Sunday 16 April 2023 at the Maritime Museum, Birgu Malta to commemorate the tragic loss of hundreds of lives of Maltese and British servicemen on the aircraft carrier HMS Glorious, HMS Ardent and HMS Acasta .

Glarac Association Malta was honoured by the presence of His Excellency President of Malta George Vella and Mrs Vella First Lady, Cmdr. Adrian M. Mudge & his wife Liz, H.E. Ambassador for Germany to Malta, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia to Malta, the Birgu Mayor Mr John Boxall and Cospicua First Scout Group Buglers. The Royal British Legion, Royal Airforce Association and the George Cross Island Association

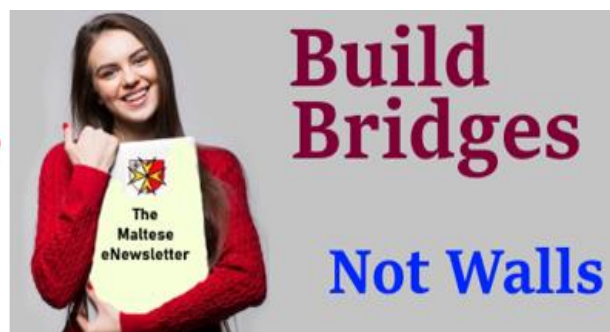


also attended with their standard bearers. Various relatives of those men who lost their lives on HMS Glorious, HMS Ardent and HMS Acasta on 8th June 1940, were also present.

Fr. Ray Bonnici OFM Cap. Chaplain celebrated Holy Mass. Mr. Saviour Azzopardi Chairman of Glarac Association Malta gave a short address.

In his speech the President of Malta said: "On occasions such as today's, we should all feel bound to spare a thought for the victims of ongoing conflicts, besides honouring the memory of those who have gone down in history as heroes. 'Heroes' are not relics of the past – they abound around us today too."

***I am addicted to  
The Maltese Newsletter  
✠ and read it ✠  
from cover to cover***







## THE SIEGE BELL MONUMENT VALLETTA MALTA

## Siege Bell Memorial

*A poignant commemoration of the fallen heroes of World War II.*

Adriana Bishop

@viewingmalta.com - (Peter Vanicsek)

Every day at noon, the largest bell in Malta rings gravely, its boom resonating over the peaceful waters of Grand Harbour. Once a

theatre of war, the harbour's tranquillity today belies its turbulent past.

During World War II, Malta was subjected to incessant bombing raids, particularly between 1940 and 1943. They brought the island to its knees - its spirit crushed, but never defeated. My generation grew up listening to our parents and grandparents recounting stories of everyday hardship and heroism during those distant days of unimaginable horrors: my grandmother gave birth in an air raid shelter, and my father remembers queuing at victory kitchens for food.

*"More than 7,000 civilians and servicemen and women died during the three year siege."*

Between February and June 1942, the Siege of Malta (as it was known), intensified to such an extent that only two out of 24 merchant vessels arrived and successfully unloaded their cargo, bringing much needed supplies to the island. During the first half of 1942, Malta endured 154 days and nights of continuous bombing.

The siege was finally broken with the arrival in August of 1942 of 14 Merchant Navy ships, escorted by the largest and most powerful escort the British fleet had ever assembled in what became known as Operation Pedestal. Only five of these ships eventually limped into Grand Harbour, rescuing Malta from starvation. As many as 400 Allied troops lost their lives in that operation. More than 7,000 civilians and servicemen and women died during the three year siege.

Every single person was a hero in one way or another, whether on the frontline or at home praying for an end to the atrocities. The Siege Bell Memorial in Valletta commemorates all those heroes who gave their life to protect others.

Malta's defiance and courage during World War II were already acknowledged by King George VI when he awarded the island the George Cross "to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history". 50 years later, the George Cross Island Association commemorated that momentous award with a new memorial designed by Michael Sandle.

The association chose a secluded location on Castille bastion, the furthestmost point of Valletta within Grand Harbour, to instil a sense of quiet reverence and contemplation, away from the distracting hustle and bustle of the city. Unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 1992, the colonnaded belfry, designed in the form of an elliptical neo-classical temple, contains a bourdon bell, the largest in Malta. The bell was cast on 10th February 1992 by the world's largest bellfounders John Taylor & Co Founders of



Loughborough, England. A Latin inscription quoting a verse from Psalm 140 adorns the mulley groove. The inscription reads *Obumbrasti Super Caput Meum In Di Belli MCMXL - MCMXLIII* which translates to "You cast thy shadow upon my head during the time of war 1940-1943".

Next to the belfry is a bronze catafalque overhanging the bastion parapet, symbolising the burial of the corpse of the unknown soldier at sea.

*The annual ceremony commemorating the award of the George Cross to Malta in April at the Siege Bell Memorial.*



## THE MALTESE RSL SUB-BRANCH (NSW) AUSTRALIA

**SYDNEY** - Another good turn out by the members of the Maltese RSL Sub-branch NSW as they paid their respects to all those who gave up their lives during WW1 and 2 and other wars. The President Clint Marlborough laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, NSW. The Maltese Consul-General for NSW Lawrence Buhagiar also attended the ceremony. The members participated in the Annual ANZAC March in the city of Sydney on the 25 April 2023

**CRINGILA** - On Sunday the members of the Maltese RSL sub-branch NSW had the honour of attending the ANZAC Day service at the George Cross Falcon Community Club in Cringila.

Thank you to [Louis Parnis](#) and his incredible team for being such wonderful hosts. This is a really incredible venue, which is a pillar of the community. My sincerest thanks to everyone who made the time to attend and pay homage to the Maltese Anzacs. Numerous dignitaries including Paul Scully, Minister for Planning (State), Alison Byrnes, Federal member and MCCI Lyn Cull were in attendance. The Ex-Servicemen's Association participated in the ceremony. The event hosted some wonderful speakers, and it was a treat to be enjoy some Kinnie and pastizzi afterwards. It's great to see the sub-branch so active and passionate in the lead up to Anzac Day. Clint Marlborough.



## Maltese monument at Pendle Hill's Civic Park. NSW

Fantastic turnout of our members to pay their respects at the memorial in Civic Park this morning. I sincerely appreciate

everyone taking the time to attend.

As many of you know Civic Park is about to undergo a major redevelopment, which will commence in the coming days, so it was nice to see the Maltese memorial in its current configuration one last time. The designs for the upgrade of the park look great and the plans for the redesigned section should give us an even nicer perspective to pay our respects going forwards.



## THE AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW IN MALTA



The Melita Foundation will be supporting Din I-Art Ħelwa's project to salvage and restore the Australian Bungalow, a wooden building typical of many areas of Australia which is currently located in Għammieri. This unique construction was sent to Malta from Australia in the 1920s to assist prospective migrants familiarise themselves with their future environment and to learn new building skills.

Professor Tanya Sammut Bonnici, Chair of the Melita Foundation said: 'Melita is delighted to support this unique project which is marked with aspects of history, culture, workmanship and the dynamics of emigration in the 1920s. It is truly exceptional that the building is still standing 100 years later.'

Visiting the site recently together with officials from Din I-Art Ħelwa, and the High Commissioner for Australia, H.E. Jenny Cartmill, Ms Sammut Bonnici continued to say that Melita found the project highly innovative, and the value of the project goes well over and above its historical roots.

The Australian High Commissioner, Ms Jenny Cartmill, welcomed the valuable work of Din I-Art Ħelwa with the Melita Foundation, to bring this part of Maltese-Australian history back to life. She said the bungalow represents a very Australian architectural style, which was suited to the climate and environment. She added that it was wonderful that the bungalow would in

future be open to the public as part of our joint history of migration, and hoped that others would add their support to the project.

Professor Alex Torpiano, Executive President of Din I-Art Ħelwa together with Council Members Professor Lucio Mule Stagno, Joe Farrugia, and Simone Mizzi, Secretary General, described the work that had to be undertaken to save the Bungalow which included dismantling each part, restoring and replacing missing elements, and re-erecting them in Ta Qali's Family Park where government have allocated a site for its relocation where it will be easily accessible to the public.



'This Australian Bungalow is thought to be the last remaining example of similar structures sent to all Commonwealth countries and is unique for Malta. For this reason', said Professor Torpiano, 'Din I-Art Ħelwa is extremely grateful to the Melita Foundation for having recognised the value of the project, and hoped this example will encourage other entities and individuals to come forward with further funds to complete other phases of the delicate operation.'



Maltese diplomatic missions work to promote Maltese culture, arts, theatre, history and language in the countries they serve.



## Archbishop asks Malta's Indian community for forgiveness



John Paul Cordina NEWSBOOK

Photo: Archdiocese of Malta

Archbishop Charles Scicluna asked members of Malta's Indian community for forgiveness for each occasion in which they encountered Maltese Christians who did not treat them with the dignity, respect, love and compassion they deserved.

The Archbishop was speaking during a retreat which was organised for Malta's Syro-Malabar Catholics, which are part of the ancient ethnoreligious community of St Thomas Christians hailing from the southern Indian state of Kerala. As this name suggests, the community traces its origins to the missionary activities of Thomas the Apostle.

Emigration has seen the establishment of Syro-Malabar communities across the globe, and Malta is no exception to the rule: masses – or qurbanas as they are known to St Thomas Christians – are now celebrated every Sunday in multiple localities around Malta, held in their native Malayalam and following the Syro-Malabar Rite. "In the name of the Church in Malta I would like to say to each one of you: you are welcome. Thank you for being here among us with a witness of a huge sense of duty, dedication to work and family but also a great witness to faith," the Archbishop said at the beginning of his address.

He recalled that many parish priests spoke fondly about the Indian Christians who found time to visit churches to pray and who "bear witness to a faith that is devout, heart-warming and sincere." But the Archbishop nevertheless recognised that warm welcome that the Church in Malta wished to extend to Malta's Indian Christians was not always necessarily echoed by the Maltese.

"You have come to know our society which has its benefits but also its deficits. Sometimes we say that we are a welcoming society but you know at times

you don't feel as welcome as you should be," he said. "So I would like to ask you forgiveness for every time that you meet a Maltese Christian and you don't feel treated with dignity, with respect, with love and compassion."

As he did so, he also thanked the community for its dedicated service in many walks of life, describing their contribution to society as one that was essential and that was set to become more important in the coming years. The Archbishop urged the community – which, he noted, belonged "to a very ancient truth of faith and fidelity" – to never forget its roots and to be proud of its heritage.

"Be convinced that you have something beautiful you can share with us and pray that we, natives of these islands, are humble enough and wise enough to understand that through respect and communion we are not poorer but richer," he said.

Mgr Scicluna then asked community for its intercession, urging it to pray "that we remain what Paul the apostle found in AD 60: a community of men and women who had huge hearts and saw people needing help and they did not shy away from lending a helping hand," a haven for everyone and a community that cherishes family life. He urged the community to pray so that the young living in Malta may feel accepted wherever they may come from and asked for a special prayer that Malta "may always remain safe for babies in their mother's womb," as he once more thanked the members of the community who worked in the care professions. And as he concluded his address, the Archbishop said that his last prayer was that "you may be always friends of each other and willing to support each other," not least since the immigrant experience involved living far from home, far from one's loved ones and far from the places and memories of childhood.

"We all carry these in our hearts but we need support. It is good to be connected digitally. We live in a wonderful world where we are always connected but we also need the physical tenderness of true friendship, of true love and loyalty. And as you gather today to listen to the Word of God, to celebrate the Eucharist, to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and Holy Communion, may the Lord fill you with his peace, with his joy and with his comfort. May the Lord bless you always," he concluded.





During the year 2022 the total number of workers in Malta was 283,341 people of which 83,856 or 29.6% were foreign workers. This came from a parliamentary question that the Nationalist Deputy Ivan Bartolo asked the Minister for Finance Clyde Caruana.

Caruana said that the source of this information is the Survey on Workers and the Labor Market (LFS) for Q4 2022. Between July and September of 2022 there

were 134,662 full-time workers and 16,155 people part-time or full-time reduced hours who earn less than the average wage which is €21,156.

It was also revealed in parliament that the average wage of citizens of other countries, in the first 9 months of the year 2022 is €18,290, that is €3,000 less than the average wage. This includes both employees who work full-time and even part-time or full-time with reduced hours. The Minister for Work Clyde Caruana had said in Parliament that the average wage of employees working in the catering sector, including restaurants and hotels, in the first 9 months of the year 2022 was €14,937.

## 2023 UEFA Champions League Final: Istanbul



The 2022/23 UEFA Champions League final will take place at Istanbul's Atatürk Olympic Stadium on 10 June 2023. The 2022/23 UEFA Champions League season will conclude at Istanbul's Atatürk Olympic Stadium on 10 June 2023. Built to support Türkiye's bid to stage the 2008 Olympic Games, the venue opened in 2002 and is home to the Turkish national team. Situated in the Başakşehir area of the city, west of the Bosphorus, it boasts a seated capacity of over 75,000.

**The 2022/23 UEFA Champions League final will take place at Istanbul's Atatürk Olympic Stadium on 10 June 2023.**

This is the second major UEFA competition final to be staged at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium, with Liverpool having beaten AC Milan on penalties in the same venue in the final of the 2005 UEFA Champions League. The Reds triumphed despite trailing 3-0 at half-time, the 'Miracle of Istanbul' regarded as one of the most sensational comebacks in European football history.

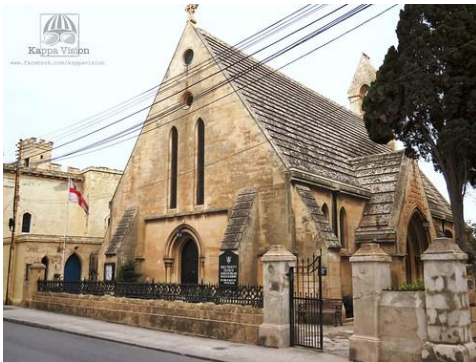
### 2022/23 Champions League dates

The 68th season of Europe's elite club competition, the 31st since it was renamed the UEFA Champions League, begins on 21 June 2022 and runs to 10 June 2023.

**Did you know the Atatürk Olympic Stadium and has capacity of approximately 72,000 and it was opened on 31 July 2002**

- 1) The stadium hosted the 2005 UEFA Champions League final between Liverpool and AC Milan when the Reds mounted an epic comeback from 3-0 down at half-time to win on penalties; known as the 'Miracle of Istanbul', this is one of the most memorable matches in European football history!
- 2) Known as the 'Titan of Istanbul', the full sports complex offers an Olympic-sized track and field facility, a 300-seat amphitheatre, and training facilities.
- 3) Istanbul hosted the 2021/22 and the 2022/23 European club football season kick-off draws, and we will come full circle with the final played in Istanbul!
- 4) This will be the second time that the UEFA Champions League final has been staged in Istanbul after 2005.





## The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity, Sliema.

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity which is situated at 75 Rudolph Street, Sliema, Malta SLM 1273

is a Church of England church in Sliema, Malta which was built to resemble an English village church and opened in 1866.

**Origins** The land upon which the church and the adjacent Bishop's house are built was acquired by Jane Trower, the daughter of Walter Trower, Bishop of Gibraltar, for £1050. She intended to donate the property to the Diocese of Europe but the law did not permit an unmarried woman to make a donation exceeding £50. So her father became party to the Deed of Gift and refunded the money back to her. The church architecture is not common in Malta. The church was built to resemble an English village church.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1865, Webster Paulson was commissioned as a contractor in the construction of the church,<sup>[2]</sup> which was built to designs of Gordon MacDonald Hills (1826-1895).

The church was completed in 1866 and opened to the public. It was consecrated on April 23, 1867 by Bishop Walter Trower of Gibraltar. The Reverend Dr Thomas Burbidge was the first vicar of the church.

**Bishop's House** The building adjacent to the church is known as the Bishop's House. It was built in 1855 as a residence for the vicar. Today the house still serves the same purpose



### REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

Originally situated in the garden of Bishop's House and newly constructed in 2020, the Remembrance Garden is situated in front of the main (side entrance) side door of Holy Trinity Church, the centrepiece of which is the original roof cross from the Church, dated around 1867. Bouquets and

wreaths are placed in memory of loved ones. Seating is provided nearby for private prayer and contemplation. For the placement of memorial plaques please contact [htsliema75@gmail.com](mailto:htsliema75@gmail.com) or [smith\\_p7@sky.com](mailto:smith_p7@sky.com)



## FIRST MALTESE BAND IN AUSTRALIA

Based in the Sydney's western suburbs, Maltese Concert Band NSW Inc is the first Maltese concert band in Australia, and is the only one in NSW. The band brings a 150+ year tradition of Maltese concert bands to Australia. After more than 40 years, we continue to recognise the legacy of the late Maestro Joseph Darmanin and the late Fr Darmania who, with the first committee under the leadership of Eric Rizzo, realised the vision of establishing a Maltese band in Sydney. NSW Australia.





## MALTESE IN NEW YORK - WELCOME FR. ANTHONY SALIBA

Congratulations to Fr. Anthony Saliba who was incardinated during the Chrism Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral (Officially becoming a priest in the Diocese of Rockville Centre). The Celebrant was Bishop John O. Barres. Fr. Anthony Saliba is the Associate Pastor at St Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Parish in Massapequa, New York. Fr. Anthony was originally from the country of Malta but has served at St. Raphael's Parish in East Meadow for the past 5 years.

The Maltese Center is fortunate to have Fr. Anthony as a chaplain to provide religious services to our community. Our chaplain has celebrated special masses, memorial services, blessings, religious events and confessions here at Maltese center. The members of the Maltese community are very grateful for the time that Fr. Anthony Saliba offers at the Maltese Center.

May God continue to bless him in his ministry.

## MAGAZINE - L-HAJJA F'GHAWDEX *LIFE IN* GOZO



**Francesco Pio Attard**

Life in Gozo is a magazine that has been delivering a Gozitan voice in print since 1945, that is after the Second World War.

This magazine was founded by Father Akkursju Xerri during the time of bishop Đužepi Pace at the initiative of the Diocese of Gozo.

The editor of the magazine, Francesco Pio Attard said on the program '**Gozo Jitkellem**', on radio station 103, that this shows the interest that the Church has not only in what is religious but also in the advancement of Gozitan society.

For the first 20 years, the magazine started to come out in the form of a journal but then, when its editor was Bishop Nikol Cauchi, it started to come out in the form of a magazine that is still like this today. Bishop Cauchi had a great interest in printing and gave a new face to this magazine which has over 600 subscribers, most of them Gozitans.

The editor appealed to those who love Gozo to subscribe to this magazine and also those Gozitans overseas who wish to maintain direct contact with Gozo. In the magazine there are not only religious aspects but also current affairs articles about the island of Gozo, with Attard describing it as "an encyclopedia that is compiled every month".

The articles in the magazines deal with sport, culture, art, history, politics and are written by established authors by inviting opinion leaders and experts to give them the material "in connection with Gozo".

The April magazine, among several articles, includes an article about butterflies in Gozo by an Irish scholar and another about a rare nautical map of Kemmuna.

One can subscribe by sending a message on the Facebook page, Life in Gozo

# Unlikely friendship sees Paul Schembri Jr help transform accessibility in the cane industry

ABC Landline By [Ashleigh Bagshaw](#) and [Angel Parsons](#)



Paul Schembri Jr and friend Shaun Wells enjoy the challenge of modifying machinery together. *(triple j Hack: Angel Parsons)*

It started with a frank but friendly conversation between strangers at the local pub.

Paul Schembri Jr was asked a question that was to-the-point and, in a way, changed his life.

"So, you're on a bike ... what sort of idiot are you?"

Paul had recently modified his dirt bike so he could ride it for the first time in years – the same bike that, at age 16, left him with paraplegia

and unable to walk.

With the help of family and friends, Paul Schembri Jr modified his dirt bike to be able to ride it again.

After seeing a video of Paul's bike on Facebook, Shaun Wells recognised him at the pub and had a lot of questions. "[Shaun] just came over and said ... 'How'd you do this?' so we started talking and that's where it all started," Paul said. Ten years later, the pair are friends and colleagues who've designed what's believed to be a first for accessibility in the sugar cane industry. But more importantly, they've discovered a shared passion in proving people wrong.

## Harvesting against the odds

Farming has always been in Paul's blood. With a childhood spent in the rolling cane fields surrounding Mackay in north Queensland, Paul has had a lifelong love affair with sugar cane.

"Just like any normal farm boy ... I just loved the land and loved machinery," Paul said.

Cane farming has run in his family for a century, with his great-grandfather setting up the family farm at Farleigh in the 1920s. Paul dreamed of following in the footsteps of his father, Paul Schembri Sr, who has been a prominent sugar industry advocate.

"I remember just following Dad around like a little shadow," he said.

After building Lego tractors since he was six, it was no surprise when Paul started a diesel fitting apprenticeship at 16. But that year a tragic dirt bike accident turned his life upside down.

"I just went for a ride with my cousins," Paul said. "I remember being probably 10 meters away from the corner [where the accident happened] and I don't remember anything after that.

"I woke up 10 days later in intensive care down in Brisbane. That's the first memory I have."

Paul Schembri Jr underwent five months of rehabilitation in hospital after a spinal cord injury.

It was a gruelling five-month recovery process in hospital, 1,000 kilometres away from home, although Paul's mum Sally Schembri was never far away.

"Life as I knew it had changed," he said. "The biggest battle I had was mentally."

But Mrs Schembri said Paul's resilience never failed to impress her.



Paul told her one day he was "like a V8" and would fire up.

"And he did. We got home, and he fired — and he hasn't stopped since," Mrs Schembri said.

Advocate and stalwart of the cane industry, Paul Schembri Sr is incredibly proud of his son's career.

Father Paul Schembri — who was with industry lobby group Canegrowers for 39 years including nine as chairperson — said watching his son's recovery has taught him a lot.

"I thought he would not have a future as a farmer," Mr Schembri said.

"As a parent [I] terribly, terribly underestimated [him].

"[But] that was the mistake I made."



### An industry first

With the help of his family, friends and community, Paul modified tractors and his dirt bike to be able to operate them with his upper body. Paul's family have held onto news clippings from his accident and throughout his recovery.

This led to his unlikely friendship with Shaun, who also had a farming background.

"I asked Paul about his accident ... there was nothing he wouldn't talk about, and it went from there," Shaun said. They started experimenting with designs and ideas to help Paul pursue farming.

"Every idea he had, he'd come to me. Anything he wants to design, we'll just keep having a crack [at]," Shaun said. "Everyone else was saying, 'Oh no, you can't do that', or, 'How are you going to do that?'" Their response to the doubters? "Hold my beer and watch me," Paul said. Paul and Shaun modified this harvester together, fitting it with a lift to improve its accessibility.

### Accessibility in agriculture

Eventually, they modified machinery that allowed Paul to work in the fields carting cane, but operating the harvester was his ultimate aim. It was a goal they finally achieved in 2021.

Last year brought another huge innovation – they fitted out the harvester with a hydraulic lift system. It helps Paul get into the cab independently. "You're basically like anyone else up there," he said.

"I didn't feel restricted or limited. I felt like I could operate just as good as anyone else."

Once Paul gets into the harvester, he can operate it "just as good as anyone else".

Today, Paul and Shaun have a contract harvesting business. They aren't aware of other modifications like theirs in the cane industry, and say each step of the way has felt like "the great unknown".

They hope their machinery modifications show the possibility of improving accessibility in agriculture.

"Achieving what we've achieved with the harvester has proved we can do a lot of things that people say you can't," Shaun said. Industry veteran Mr Schembri Snr agreed.

"I think, to be truthful, it's always the case that agriculture could be doing more and that every industry could be doing more," he said.



## “Wasal iż-żmien li l-ilsien Malti jithaddem tajjeb” – Il-President George Vella

Il-President ta' Malta George

Matul il-konferenza saru preżentazzjonijiet dwar il-psikologija tal-komunikazzjoni; il-lingwa, l-aċċessibbiltà, u l-inkluzjoni; il-Malti f'Malta u l-amministrazzjoni pubblika; il-Malti fl-Unjoni Ewropea u għajnuniet lingwistiċi diġitali; u l-lingwa tas-saħħa u s-saħħa tal-lingwa.

Il-konferenza kient indirizzata ukoll mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni Clifton Grima, il-Ministru Owen Bonnici, id-Deputat Speaker David Agius, u l-Kelliema tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Kultura u l-Arti Julie Zahra. Din il-konferenza hija parti mill-kampanja nazzjonali 'L-ilsien Malti għal qalbi' li qed issir b'kollaborazzjoni bejn l-Uffiċċju tal-President u seba' għaqdiet tal-Malti b'risq il-lingwa Maltija.

L-għaqdiet involuti f'din il-kampanja nazzjonali huma l-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti, id-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta, l-Akkademja tal-Malti, l-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, l-Għaqda tal-Għalliema tal-Malti, Inizjamed, u l-Għaqda tal-Qarrejja tal-Provi tal-Malti. Source-NEWSBOOK.COM

Vella qal li wasal iż-żmien li mill-kliem ngħaddu għall-fatti u jibda jitwettagħ dak kollu meħtieġ biex inħaddmu l-ilsien Malti tajjeb. Il-President ta' Malta għamel dan l-appell meta kien qed jindirizza l-konferenza “L-Ilsien Malti għal Qalbi – Konferenza dwar l-użu ta' l-Isienna fostna”.

Fl-istess konferenza l-President ta' Malta tkellem dwar il-vantaġġi kbar li jgħib miegħu l-bilingwizmu u appella biex kulhadd juża l-Ingliš u l-Malti fil-hin opportun u b'mod korrett. Il-President appella ukoll lill-media biex tagħraf tuża Malti tajjeb biex filwaqt li l-lingwa tibqa' ħajja u tkompli tigi żviluppata, ma tinbidilx bla kontroll.

Il-konferenza kient indirizzata ukoll mis-Sur Kit Azzopardi, f'isem l-għaqdiet tal-Malti, li spjega kif din il-konferenza saret bil-għan li tinforma u thegħeġ lil min tassew jista' jagħmel id-differenza.



## ABOUT THE ORIGINAL MALTESE PASTIZZI CO. MELBOURNE - AUSTRALIA

The Original Maltese Pastizzi Company is a proud family-owned business.

The Original Maltese Pastizzi Company produces traditional, handmade, Maltese Pastizzi, using the finest ingredients. Our difference is our recipes and creative processes which have been passed down over 5 generations. We also produce the finest Ravioli, Qassatat, Biscuits and Sweets.

Oscar & Melissa were captivated by the small factory manufacturing handmade Pastizzi back in 2014. However, the

story of "The Original Maltese Pastizzi Company" began when the business was founded by the Portelli family in 2005. Charlie & Jane Portelli began something wonderful that Melissa & Oscar have built into the famous ORIGINAL PASTIZZI brand of gourmet excellence.

Oscar & Melissa, together with the team @The Original Maltese Pastizzi Company are passionate about all Maltese Cuisine, keeping traditional but also creating some new and exciting variations. Over the last 8 years the company has grown from manufacturing pastizzi, to now including a wide range of Maltese foods and Imported specialty groceries.

They continue to work on growing their reputation for quality gourmet food. The retail outlet is a Maltese haven well known to many, promoting the Maltese culture here in Melbourne.

With a daily production of pastizzi, Oscar & Melissa have grown the stockist locations to ensure customers can enjoy their products and find them close to home, at many locations all over Melbourne Metro & Rural areas.

*The Original Maltese Pastizzi Company has a retail outlet open to the public 6 days a week (Sunday closed). Serving Hot pastizzi, Coffees and sweets and offering outdoor seating to start your shopping experience with tradition.*

WHERE TO FIND US Phone: (03) 9364 7527 Email: [originalmaltesepastizzico@gmail.com](mailto:originalmaltesepastizzico@gmail.com)

Address : 19A & 19B Suffolk Rd Sunshine North, VIC 3020 or Facebook

Shop Hours : Mon-Fri: 7am – 4pm, Sat: 7am – 2pm, Sun : Closed

## INHERITANCE ARE YOU THE ONE?



I am writing this email as I need some help from your end. My daughter's in-laws are looking for members of the family over an inheritance issue. There is property to be sold in Malta and the Australian relatives stand to inherit from the sale. However, there has been no contact for a long number of years.

I have some basic info and I was wondering if you could guide me as to how we can somehow get info re these people. Originally, in the early 60s, Liberato (known as Bill) Galea emigrated to Australia, settling down in Adelaide. I have no details of his

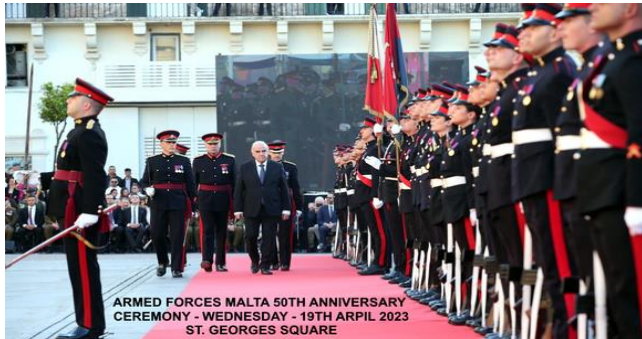
wives but from the first marriage Matthew Galea was born in Adelaide in December 1966, followed by his sister Angela. From a second marriage, possibly in the 90s, a son, Michael, was born. Bill worked in a foundry (he was in the mining industry) while in Adelaide. Somewhere along the way, he moved to Sydney. I know there are many Maltese clubs in all Australian cities and the Maltese communities are very tightly knit so I was wondering if you could guide me as to how we should go about sourcing the background to the family, with a view to the surviving members receiving their fair share of monies made out of property sale. If you can help, please write to me – Frank Scicluna [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)





## THE VOICE OF OUR READERS

Dear friends in far away Australia, Having just



received and read the latest publication of **Maltese E-Newsletter / Special Edition** including ANZAC commemoration, I wish to share with you a photo that have recently been sent to me by **The Kings Own Malta Regiment Association (K.O.M.R.A.)** and in which association, I am also a member. In my younger days I was a soldier in the K.O.M.R., territorials of Malta and I still carry many happy memories of those years that have instilled in me and many other, the army discipline. It is a bit long but worth seeing. The Armed forces of Malta are doing a great job. Sincere best regards and thanks again to Frank Scicluna for giving such prominence to events that are taking place in our homeland. George Stagno Navarra

Congratulations! Frank, you never cease to amaze me with high quality or journalism you produce and provide u, the lucky readers. On behalf of the many us us who enjoy reading the journal a very healthful THANKS. Fond regards Vincent Camilleri

Ghaziz Frank, Nittama li tinsabu tajbin. Prosit tassew tal-Maltese e-Newsletter li gentilment tibghatli, il-veru napprezzaha l-aktar meta jkollha taghrif stoeiku dwar Malta. Grazzi u tisljiet, Lina Brockdorff

Frank I want to thank you from the bottom of my Heart for the journal. I will be meeting a group of elderly Maltese men next week. I will make sure they know about the journal. My real name is RINALDO GHEITI. My grandmother was a Debono from Zabbar and grandfather Gheiti from Zabbar to. I arrived in Australia in 1951 6 years old and lived in Brisbane until 17 and then to Sydney 1969. I am a practicing architect and have won housing awards and recently the Australian institute of Architects offered me an honorary for

my contribution to Aust architecture. I am compiling some of my works for them. The process was interrupted with 9 month of cancer treatment. Thank God I have survived. I hope to come to Malta when I am well enough. I designed a large 20 storey building for Vietnam but when China took over it was dispatched. I intend to show the Design to Aust-Malta Embassy. I shall send you a copy too. King REGARDS Rinaldo Gheiti

Hello, hello! Grazzi hafna, dear Frank! Appreciate your journal a lot! Many thanks and best regards, Anke Jablinski from Berlin Germany

Dear Frank Thank you once again for your excellent Maltese Journal and all of your effort to produce it, It's a pleasure to receive it every time . Many thanks and regards. Charles Zammit

Dear Frank, I hope you and the family are all well. I always look forward to your magazine as it is very interesting and makes me feel nearer to our communities worldwide, especially as I have family members in various countries. Dolores Cristina

Your journal for Maltese living abroad fills a gap which connects us who left the island decades ago and still love the history and culture of our homeland. I have been receiving your journal for these last 6 years and I kept them all archived on my computer. Yours is the only electronic overseas journal I read and share because its very informative and non-political. Victor Ellul – Brisbane

Dear Mr Scicluna,

Thank you very much for sending the Maltese Journal for our archives here at the Migrants Commission. I download and read every issue. This issue, 471, about the ANZACs, was particularly interesting. And the country is preparing to celebrate the momentous event. Somehow, it seem to have missed issue #470. Thank you so very much for a splendid journal. Cindy Billard Migrants Commission Valletta.

Thank you very much Sir. for your good wishes and all the work that you do to provide us with a great newsletter. Wishing you and all your loved ones a very happy and safe Easter. Henry Berry

# Musical 'The Band's Visit' to premiere in Malta this May

- Press Release



The Revamp MT production of the 10-time Tony Award-winning musical gears towards its local premiere

'The Band's Visit' is a portrait of one night in a small Israeli desert town. Photos: Elisa von Brockdorff

A critically acclaimed, multi-award-winning musical is soon set to set stage at the Manoel Theatre for its Malta premiere.

This new production of *The Band's Visit* from Revamp MT will offer theatregoers a uniquely different musical theatre experience from May 6.

Touted as a "remarkable and boundlessly compassionate and humanistic piece of theatre" by *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Band's Visit* opened in 2016 to critical acclaim and a twice-extended sell-out run.

It twice broke the all-time box office record a year later when it opened on Broadway, with *The New York Times* calling the production "one of the most ravishing musicals you will ever be seduced by... a Broadway rarity seldom found these days outside of the canon of Stephen Sondheim: an honest-to-God musical for grown-ups."

*The Band's Visit* has won 10 Tony Awards – including Best Musical and a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album. In fact, it remains one of only four musicals in Broadway history to win the unofficial 'Big Six' Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book, Best Score, Best Actor in a Musical, Best Actress in a Musical, and Best Direction of a Musical. Based on Eran Kolirin's 2007 film of the same name, *The Band's Visit* is a portrait of one night in a

small Israeli desert town. It tells the story of an Egyptian police band, scheduled to perform in Israel but lost due to an error in pronunciation. *The Band's Visit* has won 10 Tony Awards – including Best Musical and a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album

The group of lost Arab musicians and their provincial Israeli hosts move tentatively towards each other, through breaking bread together, sharing secrets, suffering and – most profound of all – their mutual love of music, whether traditional Middle Eastern ballads or American jazz and Chet Baker.

For the Malta premiere, Charles Sammut, Dorothy Bezzina, Raphael Pace, Sean Borg and Jamie Busuttill Griffin lead a top cast of local performers, bringing to life the musical's sophisticated, non-traditional score by Tony and Drama Desk Award-winner David Yazbek, and the book by Itamar Moses – Tony, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Lortel, and Outer Critics Circle award-winner.

It is based on Eran Kolirin's 2007 film of the same name.

To achieve the authentic dialects of the story, the cast is working with esteemed dialect coach Roy Horovitz, from the Israeli National Theatre.

And, in another departure from the typical musical experience, *The Band's Visit* also features live actor-musicians on stage, including George Curmi (Pusé), Simon Abdilla Joslin, Godfrey Mifsud, Mark Alan Spiteri Stafrace and Michael Camilleri, playing various instruments such as the violin, violoncello, clarinet, saxophone, percussion and oud.

*The Revamp MT production of The Band's Visit will run for two weekends from May 6-14 at the Manoel Theatre. This production was made possible by arrangement with Music Theatre International, with the support of Arts Council Malta and with the generous sponsorship of official partner, JMV Group. Tickets are available online from [teatrumanoel.mt](http://teatrumanoel.mt), via e-mail to [bookings@teatrumanoel.mt](mailto:bookings@teatrumanoel.mt), or by telephone on 2124 6389. For further information visit [revamp.mt](http://revamp.mt) or [facebook.com/revampmt](https://facebook.com/revampmt).*





## FLORIANA

### Triumphal Arch of St. Publius expected to be completed soon

**A crowdfunding campaign on Zaar hopes to raise €40,000 to rebuild the iconic landmark, four years after an arson attack burnt the St. Publius Triumphal Arch to the ground**

A unique structure and key part of Malta's architectural heritage may yet rise again, with the help of the community via a crowdfunding campaign on local platform, Zaar.

The recently launched Reconstructing the Triumphal Arch – Floriana campaign hopes to raise the funds required to rebuild the 120-year-old St Publius Triumphal Arch in Floriana, a much-loved piece of Maltese architecture lost to an arson attack in April 2019.

A wooden structure designed by Giorgio Cassar and inaugurated in April 1899, the Arch – built to commemorate St Publius, the saint who welcomed St Paul to Malta after he was shipwrecked – was one of the oldest and largest street decorations in Malta and an important part of the annual celebrations of the Feast of St Publius in Floriana.

While the nation rebuilt after the heavy losses of World War II, including Floriana's parish church, the Arch's 79 pieces went into storage in the church crypt. It was only in 1997 that a team of enthusiasts restored it to its former glory, with the Arch inaugurated once again during the St Publius feast in 1999, on its 100th anniversary.

"Few could have imagined that 20 years on, on 27 April 2019, the structure would be targeted and vandalised to the point that it was completely destroyed and turned into ashes due to an arson attack," says parish priest and crowdfunding campaign owner, Fr Charles Cini. "The sense of loss was widespread, not just in Floriana, but across the nation. The general consensus was that this



immaculate structure should be rebuilt. Donations started flowing in, but following an in-depth analysis, it was quantified that the Floriana community needed €140,000 to complete the project."

"Therefore, what we are doing is eagerly waiting for its completion, said Fr. Charles Cini. The whole project will cost €140,000. The project is now two thirds of its completion. The last third part of the project remains, the upper part of the arch. As with any other project, finance is needed. This is a very massive project, we are talking about a structure of almost 4 floors and the last piece remains which costs €40,000.

However, while the parish church secured funds from Government entities to reach this goal, the combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine means that further financial assistance is now required to cover the skyrocketing costs of raw materials, he goes on. "By crowdfunding on Zaar, we hope that the generosity of the community can help us raise the remaining €40,000 we need."



**I THANK THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION  
TOWARD THE PRODUCTION OF THIS JOURNAL WHICH  
I HAVE BEEN PUBLISHING FOR 8 YEARS VOLUNTARILY.**  
If you wish to send a donation here are the details  
**Commonwealth Bank (Aust) BSB:065106 ACC. NO.: 0050 2597  
NAME: Frank Scicluna**



Jim Borg

## UNITING MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MALTESE ENTERTAINING ORGANISATION (MEO) NEW SOUTH WALES

By Jim Borg - Sydney

The following is a bit of recollection from myself with regards to the MEO. Please be advised that I cannot supply dates and exact facts, but I try to be as specific as possible.

In the early 1960's there were quite a large number of Maltese migrants living in the Leichhardt and Balmain area. Most of us used to congregate around the Parish of St Fiacres in Leichhardt where Fr Publius Cassar was part of the Franciscan Religious Order. He was looking after the Maltese Community.

At the time, a Mr Manwel Agius nicknamed "Arloggi" formed a group of young Maltese to practice and perform Maltese Folkloric dances. A short time later a group of us decided to go a step further and form a Cultural Theatrical Group. Most of us had had some acting experience in Malta.

The Group was formed in 1964 under the Patronage of Fr Publius Cassar.

To my recollection (as no minutes are available), the first committee was as follows:

Charlie Grech - President

Lolly Frendo - Seretary/Theatrical Director

Treasurer / Youth Dance Director

Manwel Agius - Treasurer / Youth

Vince Simiana – Member – Sound Engineer

Jim Borg - Member / Youth Dance Group

Joe Borg - Member / Youth Dance Group

Member / Sound Engineer

Saviour Attard Member / Prompter (Suggeritur)

I do apologise if some of the facts are not 100% accurate or if I left someone out.

Fund raising was done by way of family outings such as the ones at Clifton Gardens on the shores of Sydney Harbour, Dinner Dances and of course Stage Theatrical Plays. At the time we also engaged the services of the 'Sheratons Band' later known as "The Mifsud Brothers".

The first stage performance was a mixture of Drama and Comedy at the St Brendan's Parish Hall in Annandale. The hall was jam packed

and we had to turn people away. After that, both the Youth Dancing Group and the Theatrical Group performed at various locations such as Blacktown Civic Centre and Canberra. The Dancing Group was also featured on the ABC TV in 1965.

As the young ones, including myself got married and other Maltese migrants started moving to various outer suburbs, it became very difficult to continue and to my recollection the MEO stopped functioning around 1967.

Most of the members were later absorbed into the various new associations that were being formed in various localities of Sydney.

I am so pleased and proud to have been a part of the first Maltese Cultural and Entertaining Group in NSW Australia.

I currently hold the position of Co-ordinator of The Friends of Providence House, NSW the "Official Ambassador of 'Id-Dar Tal-Providenza, Malta





## CYCLING - NATIONAL TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 FIRST RACE

Joe Bajada

*Great start from Aidan Buttigieg and Marie Claire Aquilina*

Aidan Buttigieg of the new Gozitan club, D Sports Lab, and Marie Claire Aquilina of Team Greens started with a bang in the first race of the National Time Trial Championship. The two championships organized by the Maltese Cycling Federation, this year are being held again with three races per championship. In sunny weather, Aidan Buttigieg on his return from Australia finished first in the Elite Category, while Marie Claire Aquilina won the Category reserved for Women', which races were held on Sunday 23 April 2023 at the Coastroad, Salina over a distance of 20 km over four laps.

Aidan Buttigieg finished first in the Elite when he finished his race in a time of 27:04.23, an advantage of 02:73.30 over Etienne Cutajar of Team Greens (29:21.53). Clive Bugeja of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC finished in third place. (29:40.35). The Women's race resulted in one dominated by Team Greens cyclists, with reigning champion Marie Claire Aquilina finishing in front in a time of 33:46.30 with a lead of 1:40:30 over Juleanne Vassallo (35:26: 60). Their teammate Michelle Vella Wood finished third (35:28:22).

Jacob Schembri of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC won the Under 23 Category in a time of 29:12:00. Luke Borg of The Cyclist finished in second place with a time of 30:35:04. Isaac Spiteri of The Cyclist finished in third position in a time of (33:45:92). Kristina Spiteri of The Cyclist won the Under 23 Feminine Category in a time of 36:52:82. Her partner Veronique Pace Axiaq finished in second place in a time of 40:57:00.

The Masters 40+ Category resulted in one dominated by Team Greens cyclists, with Luis Joaquin Rojas Guzman winning in a time of 29:30:32. Two other Team Greens cyclists, Nicholas Schembri (31:09:46) and Gordon Howe (32:33:45) followed respectively.

Kevin Muscat of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC for his part won the Masters 50+ Category in a time of 31:33:02. He was followed by Enrico Bradamante of Agones SFC (35:12:61).

Gozo CC's Matthew Galea won the Junior Category (41:02:18), while Shamrock Stars' Zia Fuji won the on Sunday 7 May 2023.

*(Photos credit to Alexandra Madeley)*



Girls' Under 16 Category when she completed both laps in a time of 19:28:16. Liam Daly of Shamrock Stars won the Under 14 Category when he did his lap of 5km in a time of 08:58:16. After him came two cyclists from Mosta AF Sign Studio CC, Ethan Grech (09:31:11) and Samwel Attaed (09:58:63).

The Under 12 Boys Category saw three Shamrock Stars cyclists in the first places, with Neil Cassar winning in a time of 08:55:89. After him came his friends Kai Debono (09:16:57) and Julian Bugeja (09:33:29), while Nina Debono of Shamrock Stars won the Under 12 Girls Category (09:14:29), followed by Katie Ann Vella Wood of Team Greens (09:47:55) and Amy St John of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC (10:28:12).

At the end of this race, the medals were awarded by John Zammit and Joe Bajada, President and Secretary General respectively of the Maltese Cycling Federation. The next race will be the first of the Road Championship in San Martin, San Paul il Baħar



## PM announces the setting up of a Youth Advisory Forum



Prime Minister Robert Abela announced the setting up of the forum a few weeks ago. The forum's intention is that the Government keeps a regular dialogue with youths on laws, strategies and plans of national importance.

In a message, Prime Minister Robert Abela stated that young people shall be at the heart of the decision-making table.

He led a cabinet meeting at MCAST to focus on issues pertaining to young people. During the meeting, young people from various organisations and sectors expressed their opinions on current affairs. Some spoke of the importance of species indigenous to Malta that need protection, adding that more enforcement is needed to curb the public's negligence towards the environment.

Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażaġh Secretary General, Michaela Vassallo, spoke on the importance of young people having various skills, and insisted that the one size fits all need to be scrapped, so that students with disabilities are not left to fall behind.

The Cabinet Office has announced that, as from today 26 April, it has started to receive applications from young persons aged between 16 and 35 years, to form part of the Youth Advisory Forum.

"We are taking this initiative, a first in our country, because we believe in direct involvement of young people in the country's administration."

The Forum will be composed of nine young people chosen by a selection board composed by public officials and a representative of the National Youth Council (KNŻ).

The appointed members of the Youth Advisory Forum can express their views in regular meetings with the Prime Minister, who will be chairing the meeting. KNŻ will express its own positions and of its member organisations in the forum meetings through a member nominated by the council.

One can serve as a Forum member for an 18-month period with the opportunity to serve only for another term. Young people interested to serve on the Youth Advisory Forum can apply online through [www.primeminister.gov.mt](http://www.primeminister.gov.mt).



ORDER OF MALTA  
AUSTRALIA

## ELECTION OF A NEW GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

**Profs Stephen Gatt**

The Council Complete of State has been convened for 3 May 2023. It is tasked to elect the next Grand Master, the first after the promulgation of the new Constitutional Charter and Code. The convocation



was made by letter – jointly signed by Fra' John T. Dunlap, Lieutenant of the Grand Master, and by Cardinal Silvano M. Tomasi c.s., Special Delegate of the Holy Father – specifying that the Council Complete will be preceded, on 2 May, by the meeting of the Chapter of the Professed.

According to Article 32 of the Constitution of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the only task of the Council Complete of State is to elect the Grand Master or, alternatively, a Lieutenant of the Grand Master (with the same powers as the Grand Master, but who remains in office for a maximum of one year). The Council Complete has no other functions.

The Chapter of the Professed will meet in the Magistral Villa, Rome on 2 May. It will draw up, on the basis of a secret ballot, the binding list of three candidates for the election of the Grand Master to be presented to the Council Complete of State the following day. Just under 100 participants with voting rights will take part, including Australian Association President, The Hon James Douglas representing the Asia Pacific Associations and Prof. David Kissane in his capacity as Regent of the Sub priory. An absolute majority of the votes of those present is required to elect the Grand Master.

As stated in Article 13 of the new Constitution, 'the Grand Master is elected for a period of ten years or until his eighty-fifth birth day (...) by the Council Complete of State. The person elected must be a

Professed Knight of Solemn Vows. For Professed Knights over fifty years of age and members of the Order for at least ten years, three years of Solemn Vows are sufficient. If under fifty years of age, the Professed Knight must have at least ten years of Solemn Vows. At the end of his tenure, the Grand Master may be reconfirmed once for another ten-year term. The nobility requirements of the previous Constitution are no longer necessary.

The person elected to the office of Grand Master shall communicate the Holy Father of his election "in a letter written in his own hand". After receiving the Holy Father's confirmation, the new Grand Master – the 81st in the Order of Malta's 900-year history – will take the oath in the hands of the Cardinal Special Delegate in the Church of Santa Maria in Aventino, thus taking office.

According to Article 12 of the Constitution, the Grand Master is the head of the Order and he is entitled to sovereign prerogatives and honours as well as the title of Most Eminent Highness. He must devote himself entirely to the growth of the Order's works and serve as an example of true Christian life to all Members (Art. 106 of the Code).

The Grand Master, together with the Sovereign Council, is responsible for issuing legislative measures not provided for in the Constitutional Charter, promulgating government acts and ratifying international agreements. He administers, through the Receiver of the Common Treasure, the Order's assets and convenes the Chapter of the Professed and the Chapter General.

The States with which the Sovereign Military Order of Malta maintains diplomatic relations grant the Grand Master the prerogatives, immunities and honours due to Heads of State.

The Grand Master resides in the Order's seat, the Magistral Palace in Rome.

Yours sincerely Office of Communications

**IF YOU ENJOYED READING  
THIS JOURNAL PASS IT ON TO  
YOUR RELATIVES AND  
FRIENDS**