



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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The President of Malta Dr George Vella with the heads of the Commonwealth countries who attended the coronation of King Charles III in UK on May 6, 2023

From Restricted to Assisted Minn Ristrett ghal Assistit MALTESE MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA



Maltese Community - Mackay
Queensland - Australia
AURORA FOLK GROUP



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

Press Release 3/2023
9/5/2023

Consul-on-the-Move (COTM) visits for 2023 in Australia and New Zealand

The High Commission of Malta is pleased to announce that the visits for Consul-on-the-Move (COTM) this year will be taking place again in Australia and New Zealand.

Applicants who may wish to receive consular services during COTM, must either contact the High Commission by email on consul.canberra@gov.mt or fill in the form online by using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/uWAGgrp2JL>

Our team at the High Commission will be in contact with you to provide you with the appropriate form(s), depending on the service required. Appointments will only be scheduled once payment for the service has been confirmed.

Please note that COTM services incur a different administration fee, as per LN 221/2016 Article 2(b) 16 (a)(b). The administration fee is Euro 100 for passport applications and Euro 50 for Maltese citizenship applications. You can find more information on this fee structure at: <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/221/eng>

The tentative schedule dates and locations for the visits are as per details below. Please also note that scheduled dates and locations for the visits are subject to change based on the number of registered applications and on any unforeseen issues that may arise in the meantime.

Schedule of visits

Country	Place	Address	Dates
AUS	Brisbane	To be confirmed (TBC)	31 July till 04 August 2023
AUS	Mackay	Lanai Apartments 20, River St., Mackay	6 and 7 August 2023
AUS	Cairns	TBC	9 August 2023
AUS	Adelaide	Maltese Guild of SA, 6 Jeanes St, Beverley SA 5009	10 till 11 November 2023
AUS	Perth	Maltese Association in WA	13 till 15 November 2023
NZ	Auckland	Europe House, Auckland University of Technology	20 November 2023
NZ	Wellington	Victoria University, Murphy Building, Kelburn	22 November 2023



The tapestries of St. John's Co-Cathedral are back on display

Courtesy of
Saint John's Co-
Cathedral

Daniel Esparza
The 17th-
century
tapestries,
based on

designs made by Peter Paul Rubens, depict the Triumph of the Roman Catholic Church, scenes from the life of Christ, and the 12 Apostles.

There are plenty of outstanding tapestries kept in churches and museums of medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art. Maybe you are familiar with Girona's noted *Tapestry of Creation*, housed in the Museum of the Cathedral of Girona – a Romanesque panel of needlework from the 11th century minutely embroidered with a series of theological scenes depicting the biblical cycles of Creation and (to a certain extent) Redemption. Or perhaps you are more acquainted with Raphael's Tapestries of the Apostles, which recently returned to their original home, the Sistine Chapel (although only for a week), to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the painter's death. Pope Leo X commissioned Raphael to design the tapestries while the artist was working on St. Peter's Basilica back in 1515. Raphael's designs were sent to Brussels, where, over a period of four years, the tapestries were woven out of silk, wool, and gilded silver thread.

But chances are you don't know the remarkable set of tapestries of Malta's St. John's Co-Cathedral, in Valletta. The interior of the church is one of the finest examples of High Baroque architecture in Europe, boasting impressive painted ceilings, carved walls and numerous side altars. In fact, the church itself is considered one the world's great cathedrals.

The 17th-century tapestries, based on designs made by Peter Paul Rubens and woven in Brussels (like Raphael's) by the weaver Judocus De Vos, are back on display in the main nave of the co-cathedral from May 5 to June 24, 2023.

Dedicated to St. John the Baptist, it was built by the Order of St. John between 1572 and 1577, commissioned by Grand Master Jean de la Cassière as the Conventual Church of St. John, and designed by the noted Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar —

responsible for most of the more important buildings in the city.

Several different elements of the co-cathedral need to be highlighted. For example, it housed the famed icon of the Virgin of Philermos for centuries. In fact, a whole chapel was built to house this icon (also known as the Panagia Filevremou, Blessed Virgin of Philermos, and Black Madonna of Malta), which was brought over by the Knights of Saint John after they were expelled from Rhodes. Nowadays, the co-cathedral houses the noted Caraffa Madonna instead, which is carried in procession every year on the day of the Immaculate Conception, December 8. The co-cathedral's exceptional marbled floor is covered by nearly 400 tombstones of Knights and officers of the Order.

After an extensive restoration process that lasted 16 years, the 17th-century tapestries, based on designs made by Peter Paul Rubens and woven in Brussels (like Raphael's) by the weaver Judocus De Vos, are back on display in the main nave of the co-cathedral from May 5 to June 24, 2023. This is certainly a unique opportunity for visitors from all over the world to see these magnificent tapestries and appreciate their beauty, historical and religious significance. Their intricate design, woven from wool and pure silk, make them a true masterpiece of European art.

The last time they were displayed was during Pope St John Paul II's visit to Malta in 1990. Commissioned by Grand Master Ramón y Perellós upon his election in 1697, the set consists of 29 pieces depicting the Triumph of the Roman Catholic Church, scenes from the life of Christ, and the twelve apostles.

The last time the tapestries were displayed was during Pope St John Paul II's visit to Malta in 1990. The restoration process was quite complex. Over time, the tapestries' condition naturally deteriorated, causing several open seams and loss of the silk treads. The team of experts at De Wit Royal Manufacturers in Belgium carefully cleaned and repaired them, bringing back the original colours and designs to their former glory. The restoration process was funded by the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of this unique UNESCO World Heritage site.



H.E. George Vella
President of Malta

OPEN HOUSE

AT THE MALTESE CENTER

MEET AND GREET

The committee and the members of the Maltese Center are honored and grateful to welcome His Excellency the President of Malta and Mrs Vella together with the delegation to the Center.

SUNDAY 21ST MAY
07.00 P.M.

MALTESE CENTER NY



27-20, Malta Square,
Hoyt Ave. South,
Astoria, NY 11102
tel: (718) 728 - 9883



L-istat tan-nazzjon



Konferenza Nazzjonali

Il-Gimgha, 2 ta' Gunju 2023
Il-Palazz Verdala

Biex tattendi ibghatilna email fuq
stattanazzjon@gov.mt



GEORGE AND MIRIAM VELLA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The President of Malta
Dr. George Vella and his wife
Mrs Miriam Vella attended
Mass at the Franciscan Sisters'
residence in London. They
expressed their appreciation
for the nuns' hospitality and
dedication to Maltese patients.

F'Jum l-Omm

Matul l-ewwel jiem ta' Mejju
qed infakkru l-Jum tal-Omm
ħalluni naqbad il-pinna
biex ftit versi lilha ndomm.

L-Omm hi l-aqwa krejatura
li teżisti fil-ħolqien –
jekk induru d-dinja kollha
bħalha żgur ma nsibu mkien.

Hija l-Omm li tagħti l-ħajja
u fid-dinja ġġib l-ulied
u sakemm tarahom jikbru
għiduli minn xiex għaddiet.

Matul l-erbgħa w għoxrin siegħa
illi fiha l-ġurnata
l-omm araha dejjem sejra
u ma għandha l-ebda btala!

Ma tistrieħx u għajn ma tagħlaq
qabel tara 'l kulħadd f'soddu;
sa ma tasal id-dwal titfi
trid tara li kollox f'postu.

Ħafna drabi tibqa' nieqsa
biex tara 'l uliedha hienja;
tbatl l-ġuħ, tmekkek u tnajjar,
ma tiqafx bħal ħmar tas-sienja.

U min jaf kemm il-lejl tishar
ħdejn l-ulied ma jifilħux;
fuqhom tqiegħed l-għata ħoxna
sabiex dawn żgur ma jikshux.

U meta l-ulied jitilqu
ħalli jibnu l-bejta tagħhom,
mill-ġdid tiegħu ħsieb uliedhom
lilhom tbennen u tfissidhom!

Ma nwarribux lil dawk anzjani
li mgħobbija illum bis-snin,
inżuruhom, inħobbuhom,
minn tagħna ntuhom ftit ħin.

Ejjew issa l-ħarsa nitfgħu
fuq l-Omm l'għandna ġewwa s-Sema
nitolbuha għalina tidhol
tixxuttalna dlonk kull demgħa.

U kif meta kienet fostna
lil Binha ħarset mill-hemm,
tifrex fuqna l-mantar tagħha
fejn kull qalb issib il-kenn.

Kav Joe M Attard

Victoria Għawdex



Many Australians follow the Mother's Day traditions that stem from observances in countries such as [the US](#),

Canada, [the UK](#) and many other countries.. The Mother's Day date in Australia is the same as the date observed in the United States, which is the second Sunday of May each year. However, it is an Australian who is credited with having started the tradition of giving gifts on Mother's Day: Janet Heyden, a resident of Leichhardt Sydney, started a campaign in 1924 to collect gifts for lonely aged mothers.

Flowers, chocolates, and cards are popular gifts to symbolize one's love and appreciation for their mother or mother figure. The carnation is a type of flower that is particularly symbolic of Mother's Day for some people. Its importance as a Mother's Day symbol is linked to Anna Jarvis, who is believed to have sent white carnations for a Mother's Day service in West Virginia, US, on May 10, 1908.

*Beautiful Words
to Remember Mom*
"A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go."

Organisations announce national environment protest for Saturday 27 May



Eight organisations have announced a national protest to take place later this month which will demand urgent environmental and planning reform. The protest titled 'Xebbajtuna! Bidla fl-Ambjent u l-Ippjanar ISSA!' will be held on Saturday 27 May 2023, starting from the Triton Fountain at 10.30am.

"We are living in a state of emergency which threatens our personal and environmental well-being due to the reckless rates of construction on our islands," organisations said.

They spoke of how no space is free from greed: "tall and dreary blocks of flats in urban centres, commercial buildings, villas and swimming pools in the middle of the countryside, towers in congested areas, construction encroachment on the island of Gozo, and an assault on the natural reserve of Comino."

They said that the people of Malta and Gozo "are bearing the grave consequences of environmental devastation. Widespread environmental destruction is resulting in physical and mental health problems, in frustrated children who have nowhere to roam and a growing desire among young people to leave the country."

"We are in this mess for one clear reason. Behind this wave of environmental destruction lies a web of politicians and developers who have created a

system that serves the profit of the few instead of the common good," they said.

In this national protest, the organisations said that they will demand the following immediate actions:

1. to change planning policies - such as those allowing buildings on ODZ, the height and intensity of buildings, the height of hotels, and the scheduling of sites of historic interest and value - in order to stop the wave of construction that does not respect context, heritage, natural environment, farmers and residents;

2. to radically reform all institutions responsible for the environment, planning and lands, so that they start functioning in a serious and transparent manner and independently from politicians and businesses;

3. to build an economic model that seeks a better quality of life for everyone instead of endless economic growth based on the profits of the few.

The NGOs said that besides urging the general public to participate, the organisations are also inviting groups around Malta and Gozo, both formal and informal, to endorse the protest by sending an email on info@xebbajtuna.org or filling in the online form on the website www.xebbajtuna.org.

Groups can include non-governmental organisations as well as residents, students, workers and farmers: all non-partisan groups whose aims are in line with the demands of the protest are invited to join.

The organisations launching the protest are: Moviment Graffiti, Friends of the Earth Malta, Fliemkien għal Ambjent Aħjar, Din l-Art Hejwa, Nature Trust Malta-FEE, Ghawdix, BirdLife Malta and Ramblers' Association Malta. (Source: The Malta Independent)

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Readers of the Maltese Journal
in Malta and Gozo
love to read about their fellow
Maltese around the world.
The Maltese living abroad
love to read about Malta and Gozo

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The best
Maltese Journal
in Australia

Jim Borg - NSW
+ thousands of other readers



What will become of abandoned 18th Century Żebbuġ chapel?

Jurgen Balzan -Miguela Xuereb.

Growing opposition to plans to turn the historic property Villa Buleben in Żebbuġ into a hotel has seen the locality's mayor call on government to purchase the land and turn it into a public garden which can be enjoyed by all.

However, the 18th century Villa Buleben – popularly known as “tal-Baruni” among locals – is not the only historic building under threat, with the adjacent Chapel of the Our Lady of the Abandoned in urgent need of restoration.

Despite being granted Grade 1 protection, the chapel is in a complete state of abandon and Żebbuġ mayor Mark Camilleri told Newsbook.com.mt that since the chapel was purchased alongside the villa, the property owners are responsible the building's restoration and upkeep.

The chapel was built in 1758 in the Baroque style and includes large Ionic pillars and previously housed the remains of St Innocent.

“The owners are proposing to restore the chapel as part of their plans for the hotel”, the mayor explained.



Indeed, the revised plans by the developer included the chapel for the first time. However, the new plans which were submitted following a public outcry suggest that the compromise largely boils down to a little more greenery.

Newsbook.com.mt also spoke to a resident who attended the Thursday's protest and explained how she has fond memories of the area and the chapel. She pointed out that she does not wish to see the area taken over by speculators and be completely lost.

Following Thursday's protest, this newsroom toured the chapel and could notice how the exterior and interior of the chapel have deteriorated over time, graffiti have been painted on some walls and a fence that overlooks the valley.

MMG Concert Band of Victoria



It is our 5th year anniversary!

Where did the time go!! Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our journey and helped us get to where we are today!!

We have a passionate group of musicians, a talented and dedicated Conductor, 18 students in our Music School with 7 progressing through to big band, establishment of our junior band, a huge thank you to our music teachers - educating and inspiring our next generation of musicians and we wouldn't be able to do what we do without

the committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes for MMG.

Thanks to our helpers for helping with refreshments, taking photos and videos, looking after children and so much more! We have had a year filled with Maltese, Italian and Indian feast celebrations, performances at Soccer games, community event all sharing our passion MUSIC.

This year is an exciting year with our upcoming Event - Celebration of Maltese Music! Contact us to purchase tickets. We would like to thank all our supporters. With your help, we continue to preserve the Maltese culture through music for future generations. We can't wait for what's next at MMG and are excited about taking you on the journey with us in the attempt to preserve our much-loved music and Maltese culture here in Victoria.

CONGRATULATIONS from the editor and the readers of the Maltese Journal

Restoration work was

inaugurated on the Parish Church of Żurrieq - a project carried out with an investment of €81,000 of which 80% were European funds and 20% were covered by the parish.

The project was inaugurated by the Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea Curmi and by the Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds Chris Bonett, in the presence of the Archpriest Rev. Daniel Cardona and the Administrative Secretary of the Archdiocese Michael Pace Ross.

The project, which lasted about ten months, consisted of the restoration of the dome from the outside, including the lantern and the wooden apertures. The external lighting system has also been changed to a more modern system which is intended to make the characteristics of the Church dedicated to Saint Catherine stand out more.

The Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi thanked all those who worked and gave their contribution so that this restoration project could be carried out. "The Church in Malta has the commitment to cherish and fully protect its patrimony. Do this in fairness to our ancestors who left this legacy with love for the Church, working for the good of Maltese society today, as well as for future generations so that they can enjoy what is beautiful and precious," said the Auxiliary Bishop.

The Administrative Secretary of the Archdiocese of Malta also thanked the previous Archpriest Rev. Karm Mercieca for his commitment in the initial phase of the



project, the architect Daniel Darmanin, as well as the Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds and the EMCS consultants without whom the project would not have been possible.

Parliamentary Secretary Chris Bonett said that through the European Fund for Regional Development there is an investment of four million euros to be used by the Archdiocese of Malta to carry out restoration projects on 33 churches in Malta with the aim of carrying out conservation, protection and promotion of the ecclesiastical cultural heritage.

"This is another investment carried out with European funds through which he helped the Parish of Żurrieq carry out this project so that we can continue to restore our cultural heritage," said Dr Bonett.

Żurrieq is one of the ten parishes that already existed in 1436. The church that is there today was built between 1634 and 1659 based on a design by Matteo Saliba and was consecrated by Bishop Alpheran de Bussan in 1731.

CHAPEL OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ŻURRIEQ



Like an attractive sister that is routinely upstaged by her beautiful sister, the chapel dedicated to St. John the Evangelist in Żurrieq is often a footnote to the day of those visiting the Chapel dedicated to the Annunciation – better known as the Hal Millieri chapel – its

more historically laden neighbour that stands just a few steps away. In a way this is understandable. The Hal Millieri chapel has claim to greater historical and artistic values so it is only natural that most of those who make the trip do so to with the stated aim of giving it a visit.

Yet, often, that focus stops people from appreciating the beauty that lies elsewhere. Indeed, the narrow path that leads to the Hal Millieri chapel from Żurrieq first takes you past that dedicated to Saint John the Evangelist and when this comes into view, surrounded as it is almost exclusively by countryside, is a quasi-magical experience if you bother to take it in.

According to the information rich kappelliemaltin.com the present chapel was rebuilt in 1640, replacing a previous one that dated back to 1481 but which had been deconsecrated by Monsignor Pietro Dusina in 1575.

Even so, this too fell into disrepair until a local priest, Dun Gakbu Gauci arranged for his nephew Frangisku Gauci to restore it in 1822. This became something of a family tradition because in the twentieth century Dun Guzepp Gauci employed Frangisku Gauci's son to further extend the structure. This work was completed by 1961 and the chapel was blessed by Bishop Gaetano Pace Forno.

In front of the chapel there is a cross on a stone column, a reminder of yet another chapel that had neighboured that of St John the Evangelist (indeed, the two chapels shared the same parvis) and which had been dedicated to Saint Michael Archangel. That chapel had been deconsecrated in 1667 by Bishop Buenos and, in time, had been torn down.

Indeed this whole area seems to be a nod to the past. One of the most striking features of the chapel of Saint John Evangelist is the elevated parvis that lies in front of it. This, it transpires, was the parvis of the Zurrieq parish church before it was replaced by a bigger one.

Confirmation that our ancestors applied recycling even before the term was coined (and most probably appreciated its importance far more than we do).



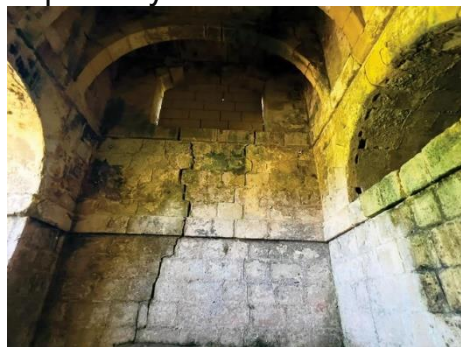
There Are 426,720 Vehicles on The Maltese Roads

The National Statistics Office recently released information stating that there are a massive 426,720 vehicles on Maltese roads as of March 2023.

Among them, passenger cars account for 74.5%, goods-carrying vehicles make up 12.4%, and motorcycles, e-bikes, PA-bikes, special purpose vehicles, e-kick scooters, agricultural vehicles and/or minibuses account for 12.3%. The net average increase of licensed motor vehicles during the quarter was 20 per day.

During the period reviewed, 4,704 newly licensed motor vehicles were put on the road, and 64.6% of them were passenger cars. As of March 2023, 58.6% of the motor vehicles had petrol powered engines, while diesel powered motor vehicles made up 36.5% of the total, and electric and plug-in hybrid motor vehicles accounted for 2.9% of the stock.

Compared to the previous quarter, there were increases of 43.5%, 15.4%, and 10.6% in combined (diesel-LPG), plug-in hybrid (diesel-electric), and plug-in hybrid (petrol-electric) motor vehicles, respectively.



Plan to restore crumbling Mdina wash house blocked due to ownership

The council received approval to restore it, only to find out it is in private hands Daniel Ellul

The wash house is one of several across Malta and Gozo that were used for centuries. Photo: Jonatan Borg

Plans to restore a historic wash house outside Mdina have hit a stumbling block after the local council realised the Grade 1 scheduled

structure is privately owned. Eight years ago, the Mdina local council successfully applied to have the wash house, called Ghajn Hammam, restored under the assumption that it was government property.

But Mdina mayor Peter Sant Manduca said the council has since found out that it is in private hands.

Other similar structures across Malta and Gozo, known as *ghajn tal-hasselin*, have been repaired.

The arched structure, on the steep road opposite Mdina's western gate, dates back to the 17th century when Malta was ruled by the Knights of St John, and has the highest level of protection granted by the Planning Authority.

Deep cracks in the wall of the historic wash house outside Mdina.

It served as a wash house for the populations of Rabat and Mdina for centuries.

But the building has been in bad shape for decades. In 2002, *Alternattiva Demokratika* called for the site's restoration, and *Times of Malta* wrote about the building's poor state [13 years ago](#).

Documents submitted to the Planning Authority in 2014 described the building as being in a “bad state of repair, with several cracks along the walls and roofs”.

It continued: “The wash house has a flow of natural spring water and a drainage system. However, it seems that the outflow drain is blocked, and thus, this is causing the spring water to seep into the ground and weakening the foundations”.



As a result, deep cracks in the walls have developed, the document said.

Times of Malta visited the derelict site last Friday and found the building as it was described nine years ago, with graffiti now also sprayed on a wall.

The government can step in to save the building by issuing a conservation order.

The arched wash house was due to be restored – until the local council realised it was privately owned. Photo: Jonathan Borg

Asked if it would take this step, a spokesperson for the culture ministry said conservation orders are issued “as a last resort when a property of patrimonial value is in dire risk of grave disrepair or collapse”. The Superintendence for Cultural Heritage operates independently of the ministry and has the power to decide on particular sites, it added.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage said it is inquiring into the ownership of the property “prior to deciding on any further action necessary”.

Għajn Hammam is one of a handful of wash houses still left in Malta and Gozo.

One wash house, in Msida, is currently being restored under the local council’s restoration scheme, with works set to be completed in June.

At a site visit to Msida, Culture Minister Owen Bonnici highlighted the importance of preserving historic structures like the Msida wash house and stressed the importance of investing in the preservation of Malta’s historic patrimonies.

Cruise passengers reach 72,000 in first quarter



21 cruise liners called at Malta during the period

A cruiseliner docked in Malta. Photo: Michael Derrer Fuchs, Shutterstock

Total cruise passenger traffic during the first quarter of 2023 amounted to 71,986, according to the National Office of Statistics.

The NSO said there were 21 cruise liner calls in this year's first quarter, two fewer than in the same quarter in 2022.

Transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 68,562. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 3,428 passengers - 2,332 more than in 2022.

Passengers from EU states comprised 72.6% of total traffic. The major markets were Italy, accounting for 24.1% of total passengers, followed by Germany, with 18.4%.

The total number of passengers from non-EU countries stood at 19,744, of whom 32.1% came from the United Kingdom and 13.9% came from the United States.

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 53.2% of the total.

The largest share of passengers fell within the 40-59 age bracket (34.1%) and were followed by those aged between 60 and 79 years (22.5%)



Augustinian Sisters

Servants of Jesus and Mary

Sr Lorraine Testa (asjm)

After nine years at VMCH (Villa Maria Catholic Homes) Sr Lorraine Testa has retired from official work to pursue work within her Congregation:

Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary.

Sr Lorraine leaves an extensive work history behind: Education – teacher, School Principal, Chaplaincy-Royal Children's Hospital, School Chaplaincy and to end her working career, Pastoral Care in the Aged Care Sector. In addition, Sr Lorraine facilitated workshops in Adult faith development and was a sessional lecturer for Diploma of Pastoral Care for the Aged.

When asked what made her take another step in her life journey, Sr Lorraine replied that her Congregation

has entrusted her to care and manage the mission in the Philippines which made full time work at VMCH difficult to continue as this new position requires her to travel from Australia to the Philippines every three months.

What now for Sr Lorraine? In addition to her Congregational work she is open to continue Adult faith education for any Parish that may be looking for workshops etc. however has a speciality and passion for educating those who need to know more about Ageing and Dementia. Hopefully, she continued, there are some parishes out there who would see the benefit of helping families come to terms with the challenges ageing brings not only on a physical level but also the faith journey this time of life calls each to.

Maltese dancer Elisa Cassar gets offered job at Disneyland Paris

During a recent interview on TVAM, local Maltese dancer Elisa Cassar revealed that she got offered a job at Disneyland Paris in France and will start this exciting new job this coming May.



From competing in international competitions such as YAGP (Youth America Grand Prix) and GDO (Global Dance Open) and attending several courses, both internationally and locally, Cassar's next step will see her performing at the world renowned theme park.

The audition was around 7 hours long, but Cassar managed to get the gig and despite going up against dancers from all over the world, including Brazil, Bali and Greece.

Receiving a direct phone call to get the contract details down, Cassar said how she had to overcome a lot of obstacles to achieve her dream.

She opened up about how she had to miss a lot of social activities, in the process losing a lot of friends, and even being discouraged by some individuals. All this whilst juggling her studies to eventually become a

physiotherapist.

Well done Elisa and we wish you a good luck on your journey!

Birgu's Vittoriosana Saint Lawrence local marching band performs in front of Pope Francis at the Vatican



The sixth international tour of the Saint Lawrence Band Club of Vittoriosa, took the band and its fans to Rome where it was busy with services in various places linked to the life of the patron saint and even to St. Peter's Square at the Vatican .

On the last Wednesday of April, amid blue skies and wonderful weather, the general audience of Pope Francis had a Maltese twist.

The band in St. Peter's Square came from musicians of the St. Lawrence band club which was part of a contingent of 120 people who took part in a tour in Rome. The band welcomed Pope Francis with various hymns and popular marches of its repertoire.

After the general audience, the Committee of the Musical Society together with the band, the Archpriest Canon Carmelo Busuttil and Mayor John Boxall took a commemorative photo with Pope Francis. This private moment also served as an occasion for Archpriest Busuttil to present €6,000 to the Pope to buy a medical instrument for eye testing. This will be used in a clinic founded

by the Pope where doctors take care of the lives of the poor.

On the eve of the audience with the Pope, the Maltese contingent took part in Lawrence International Day which brings together communities whose patron saint is Saint Lawrence. The Birgu band club performed a musical program in the square in front of the Basilica of San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura. Among the engagements in Rome, the band played marches in the place where Saint Lawrence was martyred and in Amesano. TVM NEWS

**Can migrants ever overcome
the sense of grief that comes
with the loss of their homeland?**

**Jistgħu qatt il-migranti jgħelbu
s-sens ta' niket li jgħib miegħu
t-telf ta' art twelidhom?**



From the History of Maltese Emigration

From Malta to Melbourne

Patrick Ferry



The Malta-Australia Migration Agreement was signed on 31 May 1948. Amongst the first Maltese to arrive in Australia under the agreement was a young shipwright, Anthony Grima.

A teenage apprentice

One of six children, Anthony (Tony) Grima left school aged 14. Tony won an apprenticeship at His Majesty's Naval Dockyard. The British Mediterranean fleet was based in Malta and the dockyard was the islands' major employer. Apprenticeships there were highly sought after.

Tony learned his trade during the War. There was a lot of work. Tony remembered 40 or 50 shipwrights alone would repair a bombed or torpedoed ship.

Tony completed his apprenticeship in 1946 and continued as a 'journeyman shipwright'.

However, the work was beginning to dry up. Sensing what might be coming, Tony began making plans to migrate to Australia. Tony already had an aunt living at Yallourn North in Victoria. In late 1947, he applied for a British passport and undertook a pre-migration medical examination.

Tony was retrenched in early July 1948. Fortunately, he had already been accepted under the new Malta-Australia Migration Agreement. This meant he only had to pay £10 for his passage.

On 15 July 1948, Tony departed for Australia on the *Asturias*. He was part of the second group of assisted migrants leaving under the Agreement. Some of Tony's family and friends farewelled him at the quay. However,

his mother was too distraught to do so.

Culture shock

Tony arrived in Melbourne on 10 August 1948 – his 23th birthday. The inland coal mining town of Yallourn North subsequently proved to be quite a culture shock. Tony wondered 'what the hell have I done?'

Moving to Melbourne, Tony found work as a shipwright on the Melbourne waterfront. He initially lived in a West Melbourne boarding house. During his time there, Tony discovered Australian Rules Football. He became a lifelong supporter of North Melbourne, which played at the nearby Arden St oval.



Every cloud has a silver lining

In April 1950, Tony was seriously injured at work and hospitalised for nearly a year. Later, he won £3,000 in compensation. He used part for a house deposit and some for a trip back to Malta in 1953.

In Malta, Tony's experiences were written up in the national press to encourage others to migrate to Australia. According to Tony, Australia was the 'best place in the world for the emigrant'.



Egalitarian spirit One of the things Tony liked most about Australia was its egalitarian spirit. His favourite example of this was down at the pub: the person having a beer next to him could be a lawyer, office worker or labourer. Tony felt Australia's egalitarianism set it apart from other countries like England. Tony was an active trade unionist for decades.

Overcoming the tyranny of distance What Tony missed most about Malta was his family. One inventive way they overcame the 'tyranny of distance' was through tape recordings. Relatives would record their news – big and small – and post it to Tony. He loved hearing their voices, even though sometimes his relatives would tearfully ask 'when are you coming back?'

Tony never went back to Malta after 1953. However, in the 1960s two of his children spent several months there with their grandparents and other relatives. Tony passed away in November 2000, aged 75.

The assistance of Tony's daughter Theresa Grima and Joseph Matina of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. is gratefully acknowledged.



75th anniversary of the Malta-Australia Migration Agreement



Maltese Community
Council of Victoria



National Archives
of Australia



FROM THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION



On 31 May 1948, Australia signed an assisted-migration-passage agreement with Malta. Amongst the first Maltese to arrive in Australia under the agreement was a young shipwright, Anthony (Tony) Grima.

Image: Tony (third from the left) farewelled by family in Malta.

WHO IS THE MALTESE/AMERICAN INSPECTOR – FRANK FALZON?



Falzon's (L) cases included (R): Moscone-Milk assassinations, Night Stalker, Zebra Murders, Zodiac Killer. Photos: Shutterstock, Wikimedia Commons

Having investigated over 300 cases in San Francisco, including high-profile murders, Frank Falzon has several impressive achievements under his belt, but he is the proudest when he talks about his Maltese connection.

From hunting down the Night Stalker and the Zodiac Killer to

getting a confession out of Dan White for the killing of Mayor George Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk, retired detective Falzon recalls an exciting 28-year career in the police. "But the biggest part of my life remains my father: Frank Tabone Falzon. My dad was everything to me," Falzon, now 80, tells *Times of Malta*.

Frank Senior, from Cospicua, had migrated to Detroit, US, with two of his brothers, Charlie and Lawrence, after the economic crash of World War 1. He moved to San Francisco where he met Catherine Bridget Fox, of Irish heritage, at the church of St Paul's Shipwreck in San Francisco.

The community of the area where Frank, and my three siblings, were raised in, was predominantly Maltese.

His father's friends were all Maltese: Frank remembers stopping in front of the display window of a shop selling TVs, to watch whatever was being broadcast on this new device, and all the Maltese people would gather around his dad. "My dad was a celebrity: he was a championship soccer player for the Maltese club and eventually the San Francisco athletic club."

"My dad and I were inseparable – we did everything together and my Maltese connection lives deep inside my heart."

Frank Senior died of melanoma when

his son was just eight years old. The bond between the two was so tight that his family broke the news after some days as they feared the little boy could not be able to handle the news. After his father's death, there was a point when the young boy would tell his peers he was Italian, to avoid being quizzed about his nationality.

"I don't do that anymore, I am very proud to be a Maltese citizen and I have dual citizenship: Maltese and American, and I have since also visited my father's hometown of Cospicua. Malta"

Falzon's Maltese connection features in a book he has published, called *San Francisco Homicide Inspector 5 Henry 7*.

More information on Frank Falzon, his career and family background, including family photos, read <https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/watchmaltese-american-inspector-caught-killersliving.977009>, which article appeared in the Times of Malta, Sunday, August 28th, 2022.



(Photo left) L to R back: Uncle Lawrence, Frank Sr, Catherine, sister Patricia, sister Jean. L to R front Frank Jr, brother Richard.

(Photo above) Frank with his two sons. L to R: Dan (retired FBI agent) and Dave (SFPD Captain). Photo provided by Frank Falzon

The Book

Iconic San Francisco Homicide Inspector Frank Falzon's Dramatic New Memoir Relives the Violent 70s and 80s

NEWS PROVIDED BY [Duffy Jennings Communications](#)

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, August 9, 2022 /[EINPresswire.com](#)/ -- [Frank Falzon](#), who investigated more than 300 murder cases during his 22-year career as a San Francisco police homicide inspector, has published a true crime memoir of his experiences during the violent 1970s and 1980s, an era one national crime historian calls "the golden age of serial murder."

"San Francisco Homicide Inspector 5-Henry-7" is Falzon's unvarnished, intensely personal tale of an extraordinary and prolific career.

"Frank Falzon is the quintessential San Francisco cop ... smart, tough, and loyal, with a heart of gold," says former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos. "He confronted and solved crimes during the most challenging times in San Francisco history. His real-life story easily eclipses the myth of Dirty Harry." "Frank Falzon is an icon, an SFPD legend," says Jim Bloom, a former aide to San Francisco Mayor (now U.S. Senator) Dianne Feinstein. "He got all the big cases. He is to San Francisco what Frank Serpico and Eddie Egan are to New York."

"5-Henry-7" was Falzon's individual radio call sign in the department. The number 5 designated the Inspectors Bureau, Henry was phonetic for the H in Homicide, and he was inspector number 7 in the detail. The book highlights the highly decorated inspector's most intriguing and high-profile cases and how the backstory of his youth, his father's death at a young age, and early years as a patrolman shaped his career on the force. In San Francisco Homicide Inspector 5-Henry-7, Falzon describes how he and his partner were the first to identify the Night Stalker serial killer by his full name in 1985, resulting in the capture of Richard Ramirez within 48 hours. Ramirez had murdered, raped, tortured, and terrorized dozens of people in Southern California and San Francisco for months.

Falzon also recounts his highly publicized role as the lead inspector in the shocking November 1978 assassinations of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in their City Hall offices by former city supervisor and former cop Dan White. Falzon's relationship with White went all the way back to their childhood.

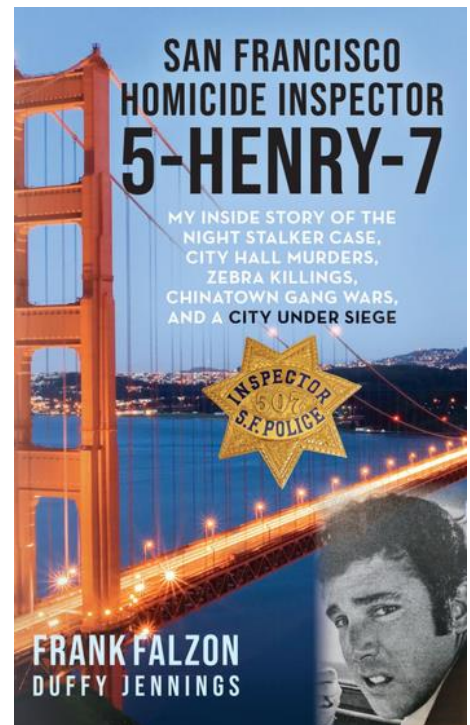
Falzon also writes about his investigation of such cases as the so-called Zebra murders of random white victims by extremist Black Muslims; Chol Soo Lee and the Chinatown gang murder that inspired the acclaimed Hollywood film True Believer; the execution-style killing of prison reformer Popeye Jackson by underground radicals; a savage Potrero Hill home invasion; and a streetcorner shootout with an armed robber.

Coming out of the Summer of Love and the heyday of the Haight-Ashbury flower power scene in the late 1960s, San Francisco mutated over the next two decades into a city under siege by serial killers, radical underground extremists, antiestablishment groups, gangs, and drug wars. The rise in violence brought a spike in murders that put unprecedented pressure on the San Francisco Police Department and its storied homicide squad. Inspector Frank Falzon represents the best of those elite detectives.

Falzon was featured in the popular 2021 Netflix documentary, Night Stalker: The Hunt for a Serial Killer has been depicted in movies, plays, and video games, and has been featured internationally in numerous documentaries, media interviews, magazine articles, and books.

Falzon's co-author is Duffy Jennings, an author and prize-winning former San Francisco Chronicle crime reporter from the same era. Jennings's by-line appeared on more than 500 Chronicle articles and he covered many of the same murder cases in the book.

The book is available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Google, Apple Books, and other online retailers and in local bookstores. Autographed copies are available on both.



THE COURAGE AND FAITH OF MRS HENRIETTA CHEVALIER (SCERRI)



Mrs Henrietta Chevalier (nee Scerri) from Malta lived in Rome during World War 2. She was a young widow at the time with six daughters and two sons, one of which was imprisoned as soon as Italy entered the war due to being a British subject. Her other son, Paul was a clerical officer with the Swiss Legation so his diplomatic papers protected his freedom. Even though she lived in a small third floor apartment in Rome she played a huge role in the Organisation throughout the war in providing shelter for escapees.

Mrs Chevalier showed tremendous courage as she constantly took these risks, which if found out would have resulted in execution for her family.

At one point in time she had four British soldiers staying with her and when asked by the Major about the risks her comment was: *"They are absolutely grand, these boys. They are just like my own children. It is all so marvellous"*

Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who was the driving force behind the **Rome Escape Organisation** warned everyone lodging with her that in the event of any danger, her safety and that of her family had to come first. Her apartment was used as a depot for food and supplies, which was risky as the movement of black bags could easily arouse suspicion.

Eventually the **Gestapo** suspected the Chevalier household and had it watched around the clock as well as conducting a number of raids but each time the lodgers managed to escape on time due to a system of tip offs. The daughter **Gemma**, had a

very narrow escape on one occasion while buying supplies, which she kept from her mother. Despite the close escapes and the warnings, she always wanted the lodgers back.

Mrs Chevalier, who also had some nursing experience used to venture out and provide medical assistance to various escapees around the city with **Milko Scofic**, a Yugoslavian.

Mrs Chevalier made everyone feel welcome: *"at Christmas she served brandy instead of tea, Christmas gifts were exchanged among the family and the three British lodgers"*

Eventually it was felt that Mrs Chevalier and her family due to the close scrutiny should be evacuated and one by one they left and were brought to a farm on the outskirts of the city.

John Furman a senior British Officer and one of the main operators of the Rome Escape Organisation recalls of Mrs Chevalier: *"What can be said of this incredible woman, who I guessed to be in her early forties? I would not call her brave for it seemed to be she had no conception of fear. Her kindness and generosity were unparalleled, her maternal spirit and compassion boundless"* Mrs Henrietta Chevalier was awarded a **British Empire Medal**.

here is a garden in Malta dedicated to my grandmother Henrietta Chevalier. She was a Maltese woman who with great bravery hid escaped prisoners of war from the Germans in Rome.

The garden is located in the Aviation Museum in Malta and was unveiled in November 2012 with a gun salute from the Maltese Army.

IN MEMORY OF THE MALTESE ANZACS

WORLD WAR 1

1914 - 1918

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

AGIUS ALBERT	MOSTA	1401	FARRUGIA WILLIAM WALTER	MAITLAND, NSW	2632
AQUILINA CARMELO	NAXXAR	1052	FERRES JOSEPH	VALLETTA	36
ATTARD EMANUEL	GOZO, QALA	4991	GALEA JOHN	SLIEMA	4123
ATTARD PAUL	ZEJTUN	3592	GAUCI FRANK	NAXXAR	1659
ATTARD VINCENT	QORMI	3005	GAUCI JOE	ATTARD	7590
AZZOPARDI ANTHONY	MELLIEHA	7352	HENRY HUGH	SLIEMA	38346
BALDACCHINO GEORGE	SIGGIEWI	7599	MATTEI CHARLES	VALLETTA	MD
BARTOLO CHARLES	MELLIEHA	6402	MICALLEF PAUL	MOSTA	1393
† BARTOLO FRANCESCO	MELLIEHA	823	MICALLEF SALVATORE	BIRKIRKARA	3876
BARUN JOSEPH	VITTORIOSA	227	MIFSUD JOSEPH	GHARGHUR	1382
† BECK WALDEMAR	MSIDA	6969	MIRUZZI ANTHONY	VALLETTA	373
† BELLIA FRANCIS	FLORIANA	7209	PACE JOSEPH	VALLETTA	646
† BONAVIA CHARLES	SLIEMA	157	PALMIER JOSEPH	MSIDA	4262
BORG LORENZO	VALLETTA	2130	PALMIER VINCENT	MSIDA	1106
† BROWN FRANK	VALLETTA	31803	† RIZZO ANTONIO THOMAS	MELBOURNE, VIC	5084
BUSUTTIN BASIL CHARLES	AYR, QLD	3260	RIZZO CHARLES	SENGLEA	7543
CAMILLERI ANDREW	MQABBA	7212	SCHEMBRI CHARLES	NAXXAR	4617
† CAMILLERI BENEDETTO	RABAT	2145	SCHEMBRI FIDELE	NAXXAR	1178 / 85821
CAMILLERI PAOLO	NAXXAR	4753	SCIBERRAS JOHN	COSPICUA	2868
CASTALDI ELIGIO	SLIEMA	3615	SCOTT JOSEPH	VALLETTA	94
DALLI JOHN	VALLETTA	1823	VASSALLO CARMELO	ATTARD	2267
DARMANIN GIUSEPPE	COSPICUA	6730	WEST ALFRED	COSPICUA	3517
DEBONO ANDREW	BIRKIRKARA	2160	XUEREB ANTHONY	ATTARD	1055
DEBONO PAUL	BIRKIRKARA	4695	ZAMMIT MICHAEL	MOSTA	1645



NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

CAMILLERI CHARLES	MOSTA	57364
CREMONA LOUIS	GOZO, RABAT	55923
MALLIA CHARLES	SENGLEA	10 / 3343
PILLOW JOHN RICHARD	SLIEMA	15 / 74
VELLA FRANK VICTOR	INVERCARGILL, NZ	35930

† SUPREME SACRIFICE

LEST WE FORGET

MALTESE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, NSW SUB BRANCH
RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

MALTESE ANZACS WW1 HONOUR ROLL AT CRINGILA, NSW

The memorial is an aluminum plaque, attached to a limestone-block pillar. The plaque is inscribed with an honour roll of servicemen from the First World War, who were of Maltese descent. The roll is divided into two sections, for those who served in the Australian Imperial Force or the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Each name is accompanied by their service number and their city or town of birth, in either Malta or Australia.

The plaque also contains three photographs of veterans, one of which includes a name. It is of Private Waldemar Beck, service number 6969, and is dated 23 December 1916. On this same day, Beck sailed for Devonport in England from Fremantle in Western Australia, on board HMAT A35 *Berrima*. He died of wounds in France on 6 July 1918.

The memorial stands on a paved area, under a covered awning, in the garden of the

George Cross Falcons Community Centre in Cringila, NSW, near Wollongong. It is positioned alongside two other pillars, which have interpretative plaques attached. It was designed by Louis Parnis, President of the community centre. He collaborated with the RSL archives and was assisted by South Australian historian Frank Scicluna OAM and the former Honorary Consul of Malta in South Australia..

The memorial was dedicated on 17 April 2021, by the President of the Wollongong RSL sub-Branch. Members from the Maltese Ex-Servicemen's Association RSL sub-Branch also attended the ceremony.

The memorial is the first of its kind in the area and it attracts local visitors, as well as those from further away. It is intended annual Anzac Day services will be held on the site. There are three other memorials in this popular and beautiful Maltese community Centre.

LIBRARY AT THE MALTESE CENTRE – PARKVILLE, VICTORIA

In October 2001, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Library at the Maltese Centre in Parkville was refurbished with funds kindly donated to the MCCV by the Newport Maltese Association. The MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg, officially re-opened the library and Mgr Joseph Grech, Bishop of Sandhurst, blessed it. The re-fitting included new shelving, floor tiling, blinds, light fittings, glass book cases, table, chairs and desk. Originally opened in early 1985, the library now houses thousands of books and is considered to be one of the largest collections of Maltese publications in the southern hemisphere. At present 6,575 books and manuscripts are listed on the Library's Computer database.

Except for rare books and reference books, all books and tapes may be borrowed. All books, videotapes, and radio cassettes have been entered on the MCCV computer. To borrow books one needs to obtain a membership card, which serves as Proof of Identity. A borrower must produce a valid Driver's Licence, or similar proof of identity, to obtain a membership card. Books may be borrowed for a period of 4 weeks. Where an extension is required, one may obtain an extension by phoning the Maltese Centre. If the books are not returned on time, a fine is imposed on the borrower for the late return. As at the end of January 2010, the library has a total of 70 members who have access to all the reading material now available in the library.

Opening Hours The MCCV library is open from 9.00 am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday. The contact phone number for the library is +61 3 9387 8922.

Books on Wheels The MCCV is looking for volunteers to distribute books, videos and other reading material to our elderly people who are unable to travel to the Library at Parkville. Those interested may contact Paul Lia at the Centre during office hours on +61 3 9387 8922.

Library Book Categories Books in the library are categorised under the following main headings:

ART AUSTRALIA BIOGRAPHIES CHILDREN (Maltese) CHILDREN (English) CHILDREN (Stories)
Cookery Books Dictionaries Old Maltese Stories Maltese Authors Maltese Stories Migrants Geography
History (Malta) History (General) Literature (Maltese) Maltese Albums Migration Newspapers Periodicals
Poetry Prose Reference Books Religion Stories (Fiction-Non-Fiction) And Statistics

Maltese Community Council of Victoria – 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, VIC, 3052 Monday to Thursday till 3.00pm Phone 03 9387 8309



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The Maltese Community Council of Victoria in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia together with members of the Maltese community celebrated the 75th anniversary since Malta and Australia signed the Assisted Passage Agreement in 1948



Anthony Grima

One of the top 30 Franchise Executives



Some exciting news! I'm extremely honoured to be named as one of the Top 10 Franchise Executives in Australia for 2023!

The Top 30 Franchise Executives report recognises and celebrates the top performers in the franchise industry and I'm humbled to rank #8 among such an inspiring group of high-performing individuals across the country.

As the Chief Operating Officer of The AllStars Academy (TAA), I'm delighted we're on a mission to become the most reputable children's organisation in the Southern Hemisphere. We've made a difference in the lives of over one million Aussie kids through #sport and I'm excited we're expanding

to wellness, arts, gaming, education and STEM and setting kids up for success today and in the future. Thank you to the judges and organisers of this year's Top 30 Franchise Executives report event. I big thanks also to my AllStar team mates including Melissa, Kelly, Labinot, Rogan, Maria, Stephen and particularly our Founder & CEO Peter Nikolakopoulos, CFE for helping me reach for the stars, both in business and in life. I really appreciate you!

Finally, a big thanks to everyone who has supported me throughout my career - friends, family and especially my wife Domini and our boys for their love and support.

I feel like I'm only just getting started and I'm committed to leading with kindness, empathy, and compassion as I strive to make a positive impact in all aspects of my life and the lives of those around me.



NEIL
AGIUS

Photo
Jonathan Borg

Neil Agius unveils his '100-Mile-Swim' - the world's first unassisted open water sea swim

The swim will take place in June, non-assisted from Mallorca to Ibiza.

Lyndsey Grima

Former Olympian, world record holder, and ultra-endurance athlete Neil Agius has officially revealed his next challenge: the 100 Mile Swim.

It is the longest continuous, unassisted, current-neutral open water sea swim that has ever been attempted by an athlete.

'The 100 Mile Swim is not just about setting a world record', announces Neil during a LIVE event that has happened today.

'More importantly, it is about highlighting the problem of pollution and pollutants in the seas and oceans'. Neil announced his challenge at the Palma International Boat Show & Superyacht

Village, where he spoke about his motivations for taking on the project. His plan is to swim 160 kilometres, passing through Mallorca and along the west coast of Ibiza before touching down on the island's eastern side. The 100 Mile Swim is Neil's most challenging endeavour to date, and it will put his physical stamina, mental fortitude, and endurance to the test.

Neil has spent months training for the task, which is set to take place at the end of June 2023 within a small weather window. Throughout the swim, he will be supported by a group of about 25 volunteers and professionals, including medics, swim observers, navigators, skippers, crew, motivators, media, and a nutritionist.

The 100 Mile Swim is supported by sponsors such as Atlas Insurance and Visit Malta as well as the Mallorca Preservation Foundation, Neil's own non-profit organisation Wave of Change Malta, Ocibar Marinas, and the Palma International Boat Show.

The purpose of the event is to increase public awareness of the need of protecting the oceans and the fragile marine ecology.

Good luck, Neil!

Malta Film Commission Launches Mediterrane Film Festival

By [Melanie Goodfellow](#)

www.facebook.com/grechjohann



The **Malta Film Commission** is launching the first-ever **Mediterrane Film Festival**, a new annual event dedicated to celebrating film and creativity. Running from June 25-30, the festival will take place at Valletta, Malta's capital, and other locations across the country.

The festival aims to serve as a platform for Malta to continue building its film brand image worldwide and attract more film business to the islands. Prominent films shot in recent years in Malta include Ridley Scott's "Napoleon," Terrence Malick's "The Way of the Wind" and Colin Trevorrow's "Jurassic World Dominion."

The program, which will be revealed during the Cannes Film Festival, will showcase films from each of the MED9 (an alliance of nine Mediterranean and Southern European Union member states: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain) nations. Screenings will be accessible to the public, and the featured films will be in the running for various awards.



Valletta Old Town

Getty Images

The **Malta Film Commission** is launching a Mediterranean-focused film festival building on its growing position as a key international shooting location.

Bannered the **Mediterrane Film Festival**, the event will run from 25 to 30 June in the Maltese capital of Valletta and other locations across the archipelago country.

The commission said the event would take its cue from Malta's location in the Mediterranean Sea and aim to foster creative collaboration between the so-called Club Med or MED9 nations.



Newly-restored windmill in Naxxar is the only fully-functional one in Malta

Four of the sails are mounted on the windmill in Naxxar. (Photo by Alessandro Bajada)

The vanes turned on a centuries-old grain windmill in Naxxar on Saturday, affording onlookers a view not seen by generations.

The historic Tal-Għaqba windmill built in 1710 by the foundation of Grandmaster Perellos was dilapidated and at risk of collapse in 2019 when an extensive €1.5 million restoration project was launched by the locality's local council. The work on the stonework and the wooden machinery was slow and meticulous, involving substantial research and needing skills that had not been employed for many years. But the windmill, painted white and blue, is now the only functional one of its type in Malta.

Saturday was the big day as huge cotton 'sails' were slipped over four of the six vanes and the windmill started to turn with the wind. "We took it very

Grain windmill turns its vanes for the first time in generations

gradually, testing four of the vanes first," said project architect Steven Bonnici, who has been involved in the work right from the start.

"In a few days will will run the windmill with all of its sails."

The windmill is two storeys high and a wooden cap at the top turns 360 degrees so that the vanes face the wind. Putting on the sails is a difficult process.

The facade of the building shows a small crucifix recalling the day in 1816 when a man and a woman died when lightning struck the building as they were dismantling the sails.

Nearly all of the machinery was rebuilt over the past two years, mostly of oak, elm, olive and spruce as well as stone.

All are according to the original dimensions, and what remains of the old machinery which could not be reused has been put on display as part of an exhibition on the history of the mill inside the building.

The project was funded by the council, EU funds, the Department for Local Government and the Planning Authority's Development Planning Fund. The works were directed by Doric Studio architects and handled by contractors Creaid Restoration Projects and Radix (mechanism). TIMES OF MALTA



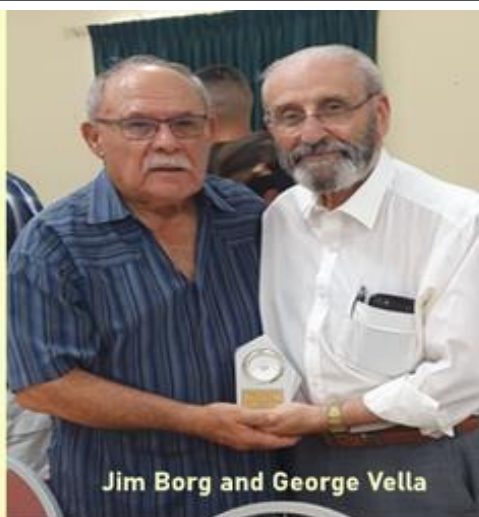
2.00pm, Saturday 3 June 2023

The Holroyd Centre

11-17 Miller St, Merrylands

This is a commemoration of significant historical Maltese events in 1919, including a speech about this historic story, and musical segments from the Maltese Concert Band

Anyone of Maltese descent or with an interest in Malta and its rich history is invited to attend



**Congratulations To My Best Friend
George Vella On Being Elected
As A Director Of Blacktown Workers Club
for The Sixth year In A Row.
A Great Gentleman and he is an asset
to the Club. Well Done And Good Luck.**

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