



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad



Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Contact - maltesejournal@gmail.com

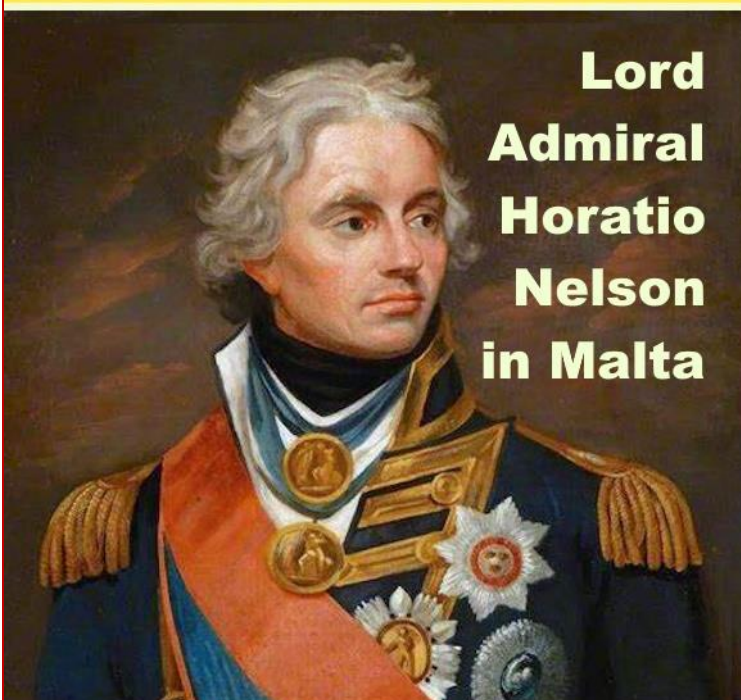


Antonia Zammit
Australian Dancer



SA Gov. prints the Journal and distribute it to seniors

LIVING AS MUSLIM IN MALTA



**Lord
Admiral
Horatio
Nelson
in Malta**



TOP 30 FRANCHISE
EXECUTIVE
**PROUD OF OUR
ACHIEVERS**

ANTHONY GRIMA
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
THE ALLSTARS ACADEMY



T.S.S. NEA HELLAS ENTERING THE GRAND HARBOUR VALLETTA - MALTA



**THE HISTORY OF
MALTESE EMIGRATION
IS AN IMPORTANT
PART OF THE HISTORY
OF MALTA**

troops and other passengers who needed to get back home and was dubbed the "Nelly Wallace," by the men she carried into war.

After the war, in 1947, she was returned to her Greek owner and served as Greece's flagship. Her original route was Piraeus to

New York, with stops in Genoa and Lisbon, and eventually adding, Naples, Malta, and Halifax, and other cities.

The Greek journal "Naftika Chronika" (*Nautical Chronicles*) wrote that the ship had restaurants and

Grand Old Lady 'Nea Hellas'

This ship was born in Glasgow, Scotland, carried allied troops across the Atlantic and around the world, carried immigrants from the Old World to the New World, and after four decades of service, met an uneventful end halfway across the globe. But to the thousands of individuals that sailed this graceful lady of the sea, she will always be remembered as the *Nea Hellas*.

She was built in 1921 in Glasgow by Fairfield Co, LTD, for the Anchor Line, which was founded in 1856. She was originally named *Tuscania* and weighed 16,991 gross tons, and could hold 267-1st class, 377-2nd class, and 1,818-3rd class passengers and 200-crew.

The ship was a state-of-the-art engineering, and the 578.4 foot long and 70.3-foot wide ship, with one funnel and two masts, and the six steam turbines and twin screws enabled her to reach sixteen knots. On April 19, 1939, she was sold to the Greek Line, formerly known as General Steam Navigation Company of Greece, owned by the Goulandris Brothers, renamed *T.S.S. (Turbine Steam Ship) Nea Hellas (New Greece)*, and refitted to carry 200-cabin, 400-tourists, and 500-3rd class passengers. As the first ship to sail for Greek Line, she departed Piraeus on her maiden voyage on May 19, 1939. The New York Herald Tribune reported on her arrival and the many parties held for New York's social elites, diplomats, and businessmen. However, after about fourteen Atlantic crossings, war broke out in Europe, and she was placed under the allied command and put into service as a troop transport. For seven years, the ship sailed the world carrying



4 November 1950

**Maltese migrants leaving Malta to settle in New York, Detroit and
Canada on the Greek Ship - NEA HELLAS**

halls, good furnishings, and it was "nicely decorated." During her life, she carried over 800,000 Greek and other European immigrants to Canada and the United States, some fleeing the Nazis, others leaving behind post-war poverty in Europe, but most to be with families that had previously traveled to the New World, or simply to start a new life.

**SHAHZADA DAWOOD**

Billionaire aboard missing Titan submarine is a Maltese citizen

Shahzada Dawood became a Maltese citizen in 2016, records indicate.

Shazada Dawood was among five people aboard the submersible Titan when it went missing. His teenage son was

citizenship through naturalization, marriage or investment schemes.

Sources with knowledge of Malta's citizenship procedures, however, told *Times of Malta* that Dawood obtained a Maltese passport through the Individual Investor Programme, which provides wealthy investors with a path to EU citizenship.

Born in Pakistan but educated in the US and UK, Dawood lives in London with his wife and two children.

Five people were aboard the Titan at the time of its disappearance: Dawood and his son, British billionaire explorer Hamish Harding, former French navy diver Paul-Henry Nargeolet and Stockton Rush, the CEO of OceanGate, the company behind the expedition.

Rescuers are dropping sonar buoys in an effort to detect any activity underwater and have directed a remote-controlled vehicle equipped with cameras to the area where the Titan lost communication. Planes are flying over the remote area in the hope of detecting the missing vessel.

OceanGate charges people \$250,000 each for a chance to explore the Titanic shipwreck using its "experimental" submersible. Passengers first undertake a 595km journey aboard a ship to the wreck site, then do an eight-hour dive aboard the Titan to visit the Titanic.

The Titan is a small vehicle, measuring just 6.7 metres long, 2.8 metres wide and 2.5 metres high. While it is equipped with a toilet and heated walls, there are no luxuries aboard. The submersible is operated using a modified video game controller and OceanGate has previously admitted that it is built using "off-the-shelf technology".

STOP PRESS

The five people aboard a missing submersible died in what appears to have been a "catastrophic implosion," a US coast guard official says, bringing a grim end to the massive international search for the vessel that was lost during a voyage to the Titanic.

also aboard.

A billionaire who is among five people aboard a missing submersible vessel is a Maltese citizen.

Shahzada Dawood obtained Maltese citizenship in 2016, publicly available documents show. Records indicate that he became a Maltese citizen at the same time as his parents Hussain and Kulsum Dawood, with other members of his family following suit the following year.

A public profile of Dawood on the UK's Companies House register also lists him as a Maltese national.

Dawood, 48, comes from one of Pakistan's wealthiest families and serves as the vice-chairman of Engro Corporation, a conglomerate founded and chaired by



his father, Hussain. He also does work for a number of philanthropic organisations, including the space exploration-focused SETI Institute and Prince's Trust International.

He and his 19-year-old son Suleman were aboard a small submersible vessel, the Titan, that was exploring the Titanic shipwreck when it went missing off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, on Sunday.

How did Dawood become a Maltese citizen?

It is not known whether Dawood and his family have any meaningful connection with Malta. Citizenship lists published every year by the government do not make any distinction between those who obtain

Don't miss out! Get the Maltese Journal delivered to your inbox

Growing up Muslim in Malta. But people still ask 'where are you really from?' Dr. Ibtisam Sadegh



Ibtisam Sadegh reflects on belonging and identity as a Maltese Muslim, 'halfies' and 'oxymoron' identities

Ibtisam Sadegh is responsible for the quantitative and qualitative data-collection in Malta. She is a lawyer and assistant lecturer in the Civil Law Department at the University of Malta. For

her Doctor of laws (LL.D.) at the University of Malta, she conducted a comparative research between the Ecclesiastical Tribunals in Malta and Sharia Councils, Muslim Arbitration Tribunal and the Beth Din in England and Wales. She is also a PhD researcher in the ERC project "Problematizing 'Muslim Marriages': Ambiguities and Contestations"; hosted at the University of Amsterdam. She is currently writing an ethnographic dissertation on the celebration and problematization of interfaith couples in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Her research interests include mixed marriages, religious identities, minority communities and intersecting normativities.

March 2019,

I grew up in Iklin; playing passju and noli with neighbours back in the 90s, when children were at liberty to play safely in the village' side streets. Some of my fondest childhood memories include my parents taking me to village activities. Every lejja sajjija, flower and clean-up Iklin event, we were there. My parents had purchased a small patch of land in the Lija suburb of Iklin in the mid-80s, when the neighbourhood was merely a rural area. They constructed the very first few streets and built up a terraced house that my two brothers and I would eventually call 'home'.

So, 'Ikliniza' is my reply to any Maltese who asks, 'Where are you from?'

Around my early teens I realised I was, bizarrely, the oldest Ikliniza I knew. All my friends residing in the village oddly identified with the neighbouring villages. I learnt that we Maltese tend to identify with the parish where our christening is celebrated. But before the parish of Iklin was formed, Sunday Mass was hosted in a small garage, just a few streets away from my home and so residents baptised their new-

borns in adjacent villages, and they accordingly identified as coming from there.

I was never baptised. Since my childhood memories and roots are deeply founded in Iklin, I never once doubted Iklin as my village, home and regional identity. Even now, despite having left my parents' nest, Iklin is where I am from.

'I am Maltese, but...'

It took quite some time before I (accidentally) learned that within the village, my family was known as – 'tal-Libjan' – of the Libyan. The descriptive term forthrightly referenced to all members of the family by my father's nationality.

In the 70s, my mother – from Birkirkara – joined Libyan Arab Airlines based in Tripoli, Libya, as an air hostess. She met my dad through some mutual Maltese friends. Their interfaith relationship withstood the distance, time and existing hurdles and a decade after their first meeting they celebrated a Muslim and civil marriage in Malta and proudly acquired land in Iklin, where they agreed to live and raise their children as Muslim.

This meant that my brothers were both circumcised, my parents never cooked pork, and alcohol – even cigarettes for that matter – was in principle prohibited at home. It meant that in Ramadan, we fasted from sunrise to sunset, while at Christmas and Easter we ate like there was no tomorrow at organised family dinners. We celebrated and grieved besides our Christian families and friends in church weddings and funerals. And we travelled to Libya during summer school recess to visit our Libyan relatives and participate in their festivities.

Identifying as 'Muslim' also meant that we were exempted from sitting for 'Religion' exams in school; I nevertheless always participated in class, eagerly learned about Christianity and joined my classmates in the occasional school Masses. And on Saturday afternoons, we regularly went to the mosque to learn about Islam and socialise with other Maltese Muslims. Despite my mothers' conversion to Islam prior to marriage, my parents cultivated a discourse of shared values and monotheistic affinity. My brothers and I were taught that there are more similarities than differences between Islam and Christianity, that there is only one God and that it's the same God, in both religions.

Unlike my father or Muslim women with hijab, at first sight I "pass" as the ideal Maltese candidate; until, of course, I reveal my Arabic name when introducing myself in person or in written correspondence in English

'I am Maltese,' I assert to those who cynically question or glare the instant I pronounce my Arabic name or refuse to drink an alcoholic beverage. 'But, my father is Libyan and my mother is Maltese,' I add, when the sceptical or the curious refuse my answers, take guesses at my roots or demand further clarification. The response to this reply could range from polite silence and acceptance, to the friendly, 'I have a Libyan/Muslim friend,' or the most certainly absurd, 'I can see it in your eyes!'

Unlike my father or Muslim women with hijab, at first sight I "pass" as the ideal Maltese candidate; until, of course, I reveal my Arabic name when introducing myself in person or in written correspondence in English (where I sign off with my name without the possibility to further elucidate and fight my case).

I grew up seeing my migrant father being bluntly discriminated against, treated as if he were an outsider and a parasite siphoning off Maltese society and this despite his having lived here for over three decades, his fluency in the Maltese language (although with an obvious Arabic accent), Maltese citizenship, wife and kids.

Perhaps consequent to my parents' recognition that my father will always be treated as a 'guest' who should be utterly servile and grateful to the fellow Maltese for mere tolerance of his presence, my siblings and I were raised with the principle of publicly avoiding any discussions involving politics or religion, fearing prejudice in our regard. We were continually told to act with kindness, get a solid education, ignore unwarranted remarks and always avoid trouble or political and religious activism.

I thus learned from a young age the necessity to continuously navigate my Muslim background, manoeuvre my identity and emphasize my Maltese-ness. Such daily strategies include me explaining the meaning behind my given name; at times even de-Arabisising it by abbreviating it to 'lbt' or writing inquiring emails in formal Maltese – all in attempt to be recognised and treated as equally Maltese.

The coming-out as a 'halfie' Maltese at every new encounter and the shocked reactions towards my seeming 'oxymoron' identity of a Maltese Muslim (yep, not all Maltese are Roman Catholics!) is tedious, tiresome and annoyingly repetitive at its best. When my strategies fail to impress, the response and impact varies from undermining me as a lower category of

Maltese – half-westerner, half-barbaric – to different treatment and possibly, raw undisguised bigotry on



nightmarish occasions.

Being Muslim and Maltese ... in Malta

Those who, like me, do not easily fit into the rigid rhetoric of 'Malta is a Roman Catholic Country' challenge the dominant understanding of the 'Maltese' by their mere existence.

Hostile slurs such as 'If you don't like it, go back to your country' allow (and deserve) no further debate; and of course, they beg the sarcastic question 'to where?' when addressed to people like me.

I feel it is long due to acknowledge that the Maltese constitution, proclaiming that Malta is a Roman Catholic country, must be amended to reflect the fresh, existing diversity of religions and cultural identities. Maltese identity stems from – and is continually reinvented by – a mixture of ethno-religious backgrounds.

As of yesterday, we should take pride in all Maltese history, rather than distancing ourselves from our Islamic and Arab heritage in a desperate attempt to prove our European-ness. In no way does one contradict the other; likewise Maltese identity does not exclude other backgrounds.

Let's learn from Ceutans' discourse of 'convivencia' and allow a healthy discussion on religious and national identity. Let's appreciate our similarities and differences:

'I am Maltese, and European, and Muslim, and... more.' No buts, only ands!

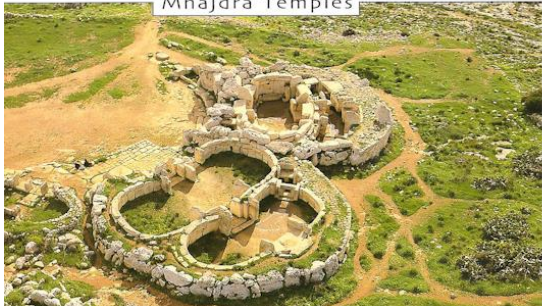
Ibtisam Sadeqh is a PhD researcher at the University of Amsterdam where she is writing an ethnographic dissertation on interfaith couples in Ceuta. She previously read law at the University of Malta. This article originally appeared in IslesOfTheLeft.org

Spring and Autumn Equinoxes and the Summer and Winter Solstices.

www.heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/summer-solstice-2/



Mnajdra Temples



At Equinox, on the 21st March and the 23rd September, the rising sun shines directly through the main doorway along the central axis and illuminates the central apse. On the winter solstice, the 22nd December, the first rays of the sun hit the edge of a

The temples of Hagar Qim and Mnejdra are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, inscribed as part of 'The Megalithic Temples of Malta' in the World Heritage List.

The neolithic inhabitants of the Maltese islands had no advanced technology no metal tools no writing yet they built the oldest free-standing stone buildings of such complexity in the world. The temples of Mnejdra and Hagar Qim were first excavated in 1839/40. The impressively large stone blocks (the highest of Hagar Qim is 5.20 meters high, the heaviest weighs nearly 20 tons) make it difficult to imagine that they were actually erected by humans, and so the temples at first were believed to have been built by giants. A radiocarbon analysis in 1960 dated the oldest at 3600 BC. Although much is unknown about the purpose of the temples, one function seems to be sure:

The calendar.

In prehistory the predicting of seasons was essential for the survival of agricultural societies. The South Temple at Mnejdra is aligned in such a way that it marks the position of sunrise on the first day of each season; the

megalith to the right of the central axis. The same effect can be seen on the corresponding megalith on the left hand side of the central axis on the day of the summer solstice, the 22nd June.

Close by is a doorway, which is also illuminated on the day of the summer solstice. It is the motive of a very well known design today: the backside of the Maltese 1, 2 and 5 cent coins.

At Hagar Qim one of the chambers has an elliptical hole in the wall, known as the "oracle hole".

It is hewn out in alignment with the Summer Solstice sunrise. On 22nd June the sunrays pass through this hole and project a disc of light on a stone slab inside the chamber. As the sun rises higher, the shape changes and the light travels around the chamber.

The sites are open for visitors almost every day of the year. For opening times please check the website of Heritage Malta. On the days of Equinox and the Solstices special events are offered where a limited amount of visitors can witness the sunrise in the temples (Early booking required)

I AM SURPRISED AND SAD TO HEAR THAT SOMEONE TRIED TO STOP YOU FROM PROVIDING THIS WONDERFUL JOURNAL TO THE THOUSANDS OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRODUCE THIS IMPORTANT MAGAZINE FOR US. WE LOVE IT AND PROUD TO SHARE WITH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. M. Cauchi

The Consul General Chirelle Ellul Sciberras had the pleasure today to welcome 4 students from Victoria University who will be studying at the University of Malta, as part of the study abroad and exchange programme agreement.



**Maltese
eNewsletter**

Read, Enjoy
and Share

BACK AT THE DOMUS ROMANA

They're back! The incredible group of archaeologists and volunteers from Australia, Malta, US & UK working again with [Heritage Malta](#) at Domvs Romana in Rabat. MALTA

Making important discoveries that increase our understanding of Malta's multilayered past. Open for visits - a must-see!

We look forward to know more about your discoveries And experiences.



An absolute delight today to welcome at the High Commission Councillor Antoinette Tony Briffa JP, Mayor of Hobsons Bay City Council in Victoria. It is always a pleasure to meet Australians of Maltese origin who have been successful in their respective fields in Australia, and Mayor Briffa surely does Malta proud!



234,402 of Australians were born in Malta or have Maltese ancestry and 26,555 Australians speak Maltese at home.





Pope Francis names Cardinal Gianfranco Ghirlanda as patron of the Order of Malta

By Courtney Mares

priest without being first a bishop. Ghirlanda was given the Jesuit Church of the Gesù as his titular church.

The Italian cardinal and canon lawyer is the former rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, having served on its faculty since 1975.

The Jesuit priest spent 10 years as a judge on Vatican City's Court of Appeal, from 1993 to 2003. He was dean of the Gregorian's faculty of canon law from 1995 to 2004 and the rector of the university from 2004 to 2010.

In 2014, Ghirlanda was named a pontifical adviser to the Legionaries of Christ amid its reform following the revelations of scandals involving its founder, Marcial Maciel, who was removed from public ministry by Pope Benedict XVI.

Ghirlanda later served as the pontifical delegate for the lay association "Memores Domini," linked to Communion and Liberation during its reform in 2020.

The announcement of Ghirlanda's appointment came immediately after Pope Francis met with the Order of Malta's new grand master on June 19.

In May, the Order of Malta elected **Fra' John Dunlap** as prince and its 81st grand master. Dunlap is Canadian and the first professed knight from the Americas to lead the sovereign state and religious order in its 975-year-old history.

The Order of Malta said that the grand master's audience with the pope "offered the opportunity to review the most important commitments, starting with aid for refugees and displaced persons, increasingly at the centre of the Order of Malta's humanitarian programs."

"From the Ukraine to disasters in the Mediterranean Sea ... Fra' John Dunlap illustrated the main activities and initiatives of the Order of Malta's Relief and Volunteer Corps, Associations and Grand Priories, present in 120 countries with a network of 95,000 volunteers and 52,000 doctors, nurses, and emergency response experts."

Pope Francis on Monday appointed Cardinal Gianfranco Ghirlanda, SJ, to succeed Cardinal Raymond Burke as the patron of the Order of Malta.

The Vatican announced June 19 that the 80-year-old Jesuit cardinal will take on the role as the "Cardinalis Patronus," the papal representative to the sovereign order responsible for promoting the spiritual interests of the order and its 13,500 members.

Ghirlanda has already played an active role in the Order of Malta's reform. He was part of the team that drafted the order's new constitution and **spoke with the pope at length** about the process, along with Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, the most recent special delegate to the order. The **Sovereign Military Order of Malta** is both a lay religious order of the Catholic Church and a sovereign state subject to international law. In 2017, Pope Francis ordered reforms of both the order's religious life and its constitution. He approved the order's new constitutional charter and regulations last year.

Burke, a 74-year-old American cardinal, had served as the Order of Malta's cardinal patron since 2014. However, when then-Archbishop Angelo Becciu was appointed in 2017 as the pope's special delegate to oversee the order's reform, he effectively supplanted the role of the order's cardinal patron, with Burke remaining in the post only nominally.

Pope Francis made Ghirlanda a cardinal in 2022, one of the few men to be given a red hat as a

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF SHARE IT WITH OTHERS – SEND IT TO US

ON 4 MAY 1800
LORD HORATIO NELSON VISITED
THIS BUILDING AND ITS CATACOMBS.
HE WAS WELCOMED BY THE RECTOR
AND THE RESIDING CHAPLAINS OF THE
KNIGHTS OF MALTA



LORD ADMIRAL HORATION NELSON

Admiral Lord Nelson was born on 29 September 1758 in Burnham Thorpe, England. He is famous for the Battle of Trafalgar. The British naval hero Admiral Lord Nelson lost his life, serving "God, King and Country" IN October 1805..

To mark this anniversary, Heritage Malta has organised an exhibition of various period paintings, engravings, newspapers, documents and other artefacts pertaining to Heritage Malta collections, the Presidential Palace, the National Library of

Malta and private collections, documents and illustrations of this historic period. When in Malta Lord Nelson visited the St. Paul's Grotto in Rabat.

The exhibition, at the St Angelo Hall of the Malta Maritime Museum, traces and highlights the events leading to the British takeover of Malta in 1814.

Horatio Nelson was a key figure in the eventful years of the siege, blockade and subsequent possession of Malta by England. He was one of the main masterminds behind the British takeover of Malta after the treaty of Amiens of 1802.

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY PARISH 3224 DUNDAS STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M6P

**IMNARJA IN CANADA**
on Saturday June 24,
at Runnymede Park on Ryding Avenue
TORONTO
MALTA FEST



The annual Imnarja Festival is going to be held on Saturday June 24, at Runnymede Park (Runnymede Rd. Ryding Ave.), between 2:00 pm and 10:00 pm. A celebration of Malteseness!! This is the traditional Maltese festival celebrating the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Music and singing, food - plenty of it! - and games for the youngest ones ... and for the not-so-young! Be sure to visit the St. Paul's Kitchen booth

for some delicious Maltese dishes and baked goods! This is by far the largest Malta Fest in Canada, and North America, which has been organised yearly in #Toronto (with the exception of 2020/1) for over three decades. Hope to see you all at Mnarja Malta Fest 2023!



96% of persons living in Malta understand English, 90.4% understand Maltese – Malta Skills Survey

Semira Abbas Shalan

The most common language understood by persons living in the

country is English (96%), followed by Maltese (90.4%) and Italian (62%), the Malta Skills Survey showed.

Launched by the National Statistics Office, a new dedicated survey on skills in Malta was conducted, sampling 130,000 individuals aged between 15 and 64 years, living in private households.

The sample included Maltese citizens residing in Malta, and non-Maltese citizens were only included if they had lived in Malta for at least five years prior to the survey.

The survey identified the array of skills among the population of working age in Malta and Gozo, to identify any skills gap, as well as assist policy makers and researchers to better understand what business interests can be brought to the country.

The survey's results when measuring the level of proficiency in languages showed that advanced reading and writing skills in Maltese, (71.4% and 59.1% respectively) was much lower compared to listening (83.3%) and speaking (81.3%) ability of the language.

Additionally, an advanced level of proficiency in both Maltese and English was more common in females compared to males, in all four language areas.

More than 60% of those who understood English reported advanced proficiency in listening (70.5%), reading (68.4%), speaking (63.2%) and writing (61.6%), the survey results showed.

Level of proficiency decreased with age, with younger persons more likely to report an advanced level of knowledge in one of the four areas, when compared to older respondents.

The skills covered in the survey were grouped into eight categories, with the most common skills categories being computing (78.5%), communication and collaboration (70.6%) and assistance and care (65.6%).

Over three fourths of the total target population reported having basic computer skills (76.8%).





HEAD OF FUTSAL AT FOOTBALL VICTORIA, ANTHONY GRIMA

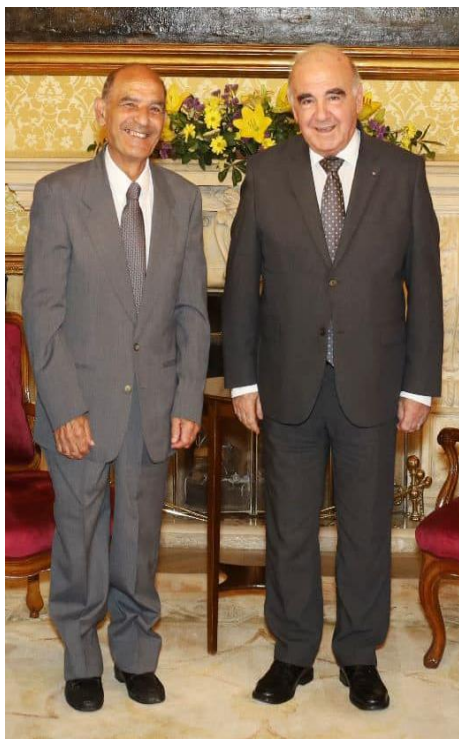
Having been voted #8 in the Top 30 Franchise Executives in 2023, Anthony has been employed in various senior executive roles including Chief Operating Officer, franchising, and Sports Business roles including in commercial and sponsorship, media, events management, sales, talented player development, elite team management and Futsal (Indoor 5-a-side football).

Currently Chief Operating Officer at The AllStars Academy (TAA), Anthony was recently employed as Head of Commercial at Football Victoria (FV) and was responsible for the strategic management of FV's sustainability

activities and oversees sponsor, licensing and partner activation at all relevant FV events/programs including FV's Community in Business network and formerly also the Melbourne Victory W-League program.

Anthony was also intrinsically responsible for maximising the profile of FV and ensuring the implementation of a master brand and marketing strategy and overseeing the delivery of all FV media and communications. Anthony was previously Team Manager of the Melbourne Victory National Youth League program and has been FV's representative for major football events held in Victoria including the 2015 AFC Asian Cup Australia, 2015 & 2016 International Championship Cup tournaments, the Real Madrid World of Football Premiere, the FIFA Ferenc Puskas Award Tour and Statue unveiling and Socceroos and Matildas matches held in Victoria.

In 2018, Anthony represented Australia as a journalist at the Football For Friendship international children's social program in Moscow, Russia, ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.



FRANK ZAMMIT AUTHOR AND POET - A MALTESE AUSTRALIAN ACHIEVER

His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta, had the pleasure to welcome Mr Frank Zammit and members of his family at Sant'Anton Palace on their visit to Malta recently.

During their meeting, they discussed Mr Zammit's work towards promoting Maltese literature in Australia.

Mr Zammit also presented the president with a copy of several literary works that he published abroad. Dr. Vella thanked him for encouraging the Maltese living abroad to continue reading in and speaking in Maltese.

Frank was born in January 1944 in Victoria Gozo but lived in Marsa. He migrated to Australia in 1965. He dedicated most of his life in Australia promoting the Maltese language and culture. He published several books including *Bejn Zewg Gziriet, Il-Ballata tal-Maltin ta' New Caledonia, Quddiesa bil- Ghana Malti, Self and Beyond*, .

He founded the *Ghaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' NSW* in 1988. He was awarded the Cultural Prize in 2000. Frank is a life member of the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown, NSW with the title of *Poet of the Migrants* in 2006.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW IN MALTA TO BE RESTORED



This work brings this part of Maltese-Australian history back to life. The Australian bungalow represents a very Australian architectural style, suited to the climate and environment.

This Australian bungalow is thought to be the last remaining example of similar structures sent to all Commonwealth countries and is unique for Malta.

Din l-Art Helwa started restoration work on the Australian Bungalow in L-Ghammieri, a delicate project which is expected to take at least 12 months.

They were dispatched in 'kit form' to all Commonwealth countries – but there is only one in Malta. It was sent here from Australia in the 1920s to give prospective migrants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their future environment and to learn timber construction methods.

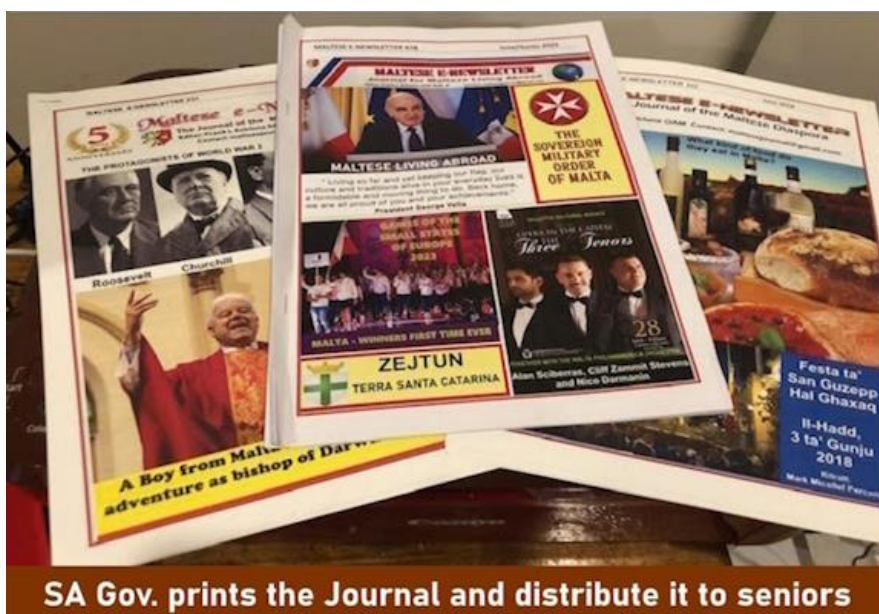
The Bungalow was made of deal, a kind of softwood timber, with corrugated iron sheeting used for the roof. It was re-assembled at the private Bugeja Technical Institute (Istituto Tecnico Bugeja) in Hamrun. By June 1929, 137 trainees had passed through the training centre, 39 of whom went to Australia.

Around 1930, the Bungalow was transferred to the experimental farm in Ghammieri, where it was used as a lecture room by the Agricultural Services and Rural Development Division Department.

The building fell into disrepair and its plight was first highlighted by the Australian High Commission during the mid-1980s. In early 2002, International Council On Monuments And Sights (ICOMOS) Australia made contact with ICOMOS Malta, but it was not until 2018 that Din l-Art Helwa confirmed that it would be taking over the restoration of the site.

It was finally granted guardianship of the site in 2022, for a 20-year period. The painstaking restoration work involves dismantling the Bungalow, restoring and replacing any missing elements, and reassembling them.

The plans are to relocate the Bungalow to the Ta' Qali Family Park where the government identified a site more easily accessible to the public. Work on the new location will be starting shortly. The work is being sponsored by the Melita Foundation and the Good Causes Fund, however, more considerable funds are required to complete the project.



SA Gov. prints the Journal and distribute it to seniors

OUR JOURNAL

is archived at
The libraries in Malta
and Gozo
Websites of the
Malta Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Maltese Community Council of Vic
www.ozmalta.com
Malta Migration Museum
Maltese-Canadian Museum
at schools, clubs in Australia
Canada and United States
Aged Care Facilities
and the SA Government
prints the e-newsletter
and distribute it to all
maltese seniors citizens

Young Australian dancer set to Perform in front of Pope Francis and millions of Catholics



By Mary Brazil
and Catholic Outlook
A young Western Sydney Catholic will have the opportunity to express her two biggest loves – dance and faith – at one of the world's biggest stages.

19-year-old Antonia Zammit from St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens, has been

selected to be part of "Ensemble23" – a group of volunteer artists and performers that will be a central part of the upcoming World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

Joining over 40 people from around the world, Antonia will travel to Lisbon for six weeks of intense rehearsals ahead of World Youth Day Week, where she will perform in front of Pope Francis and millions of young Catholics during the Welcome Ceremony, the Way of the Cross and the Night Vigil.

Speaking to *Catholic Outlook* after receiving the news, Antonia explained that it hadn't quite sunk in that she was going to World Youth Day. "For as long as I remember, both dance and my faith have been two important aspects of my life," she said.

"I was interested in attending World Youth Day as a pilgrim with the Diocese of Parramatta, but I wasn't 100% sure. On Mother's Day, I saw an ad pop up online calling for dancers and performers and I asked my mum whether I should apply, and she said there's no harm in applying and to just go for it. "It probably won't settle in until I've hopped on the plane." Antonia has been dancing since she was five years old at her local studio and has learnt Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Contemporary dance styles. Growing up in the Catholic faith,

Antonia and her family have been hugely involved in the parish, which she described as her "second home and my second family". "It's a chance to mix two big parts of my life," she said.

"I think there's a connection between faith and dance because you're able to tell stories and express emotions through dance and maybe inspire somebody else through those movements. "I wanted to share my gifts and passions through my faith with others at such an important event in another part of the world. "This opportunity will allow me to experience new things whilst creating amazing memories with like-minded people from various parts of the world doing something we love." Antonia's mother, Helen – a Regional Coordinator in the Diocese's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and one of the Diocese's World Youth Day group leaders – was extremely proud of her daughter taking this leap of faith.

"Antonia's normally an anxious person, so this was a huge thing for her to go out of her way and apply for it. It's a huge achievement for her to put herself out there.

"I'm so happy to be travelling to World Youth Day for my own faith journey, but it's special that we'll be able to experience some of it together.

"This experience is going to be so special for my faith and I hope she gets that same inspiration and she's filled with the same spirit."

The Diocese of Parramatta will be sending 170 pilgrims from across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains to World Youth Day in Lisbon, including 71 parish young adults, 48 students, 15 young teachers, 21 small group leaders from both parishes and schools and four chaplains.

Over 22 days and across four countries, young people will walk in the footsteps of saints who changed the course of history in a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience.

By Mark Reidy



Order of Malta LA Location Participates at the Los Angeles Archdiocese Eucharistic Revival Celebration

At the *LA Catholics Eucharistic Revival* on March 25, 2023, the *Archdiocese of Los Angeles* hosted a six-mile procession, beginning with the celebration of Mass at the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel at the Chapel of the Annunciation and ending at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Temple City, then returning to the mission for the Benediction. More than a thousand of Los Angeles' faithful marched with Archbishop Jose Gomez.



The Eucharistic Revival is a movement of Catholics across the U.S., healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – and sent out on mission “for the life of the world.” It aims to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Eucharist.

Members and volunteers from the LA Location distributed free sunscreen and water to participants, and water to participants, and the Order of Malta Mobile Ministries van was on hand to provide first aid if needed. “It was a privilege to support the Archdiocese and the LA Catholics Eucharistic Revival,” said Vince Farhat, KM, LA Location Hospitaller.

Order of Malta Mobile Ministries van was on hand to provide first aid if needed. “It was a privilege to support the Archdiocese and the LA Catholics Eucharistic Revival,” said Vince Farhat, KM, LA Location Hospitaller.

Bishop Nikol Cauchi's bust in Rabat, Gozo Gardens

By Mario Micallef TVM NEWS



Gozitans who have given a contribution to the nation over the years in various sectors and who brought honour to their country are being commemorated in the gardens of the Villa Rundle in Rabat, Gozo. This is being done through a series of busts that jointly highlight the works of these personalities who made a name for themselves in the island's history. The latest personality to be commemorated is Monsignor Nikol Cauchi.

Villa Rundle, also referred to

by many Gozitans as The Mall, now includes another bust in the

series commemorating Gozitan personalities. A bust commemorating the seventh Bishop of the Gozo Diocese was inaugurated in recent days. This was done on the initiative of the Gozo Ministry, and artist Manuel Farrugia, who was commissioned for the work, prepared the design before it was executed in bronze at the Domus Dei Foundry in Rome.

It is not easy to create an image for representation as a portrait, as everyone knows this personality. Meaning that the image has to properly reflect the character. It is interesting to note that when I was working on it, initially in clay, I would contact people who knew him and had worked closely with him, and this helped me to get a better idea of the man. In one particular instance, a visitor to my studio had told me I had managed to capture Bishop Cauchi's smile, as he had been literally a man of the people, a man of great humility.” Manuel Farrugia

In the presence of students from Għarb primary, Għarb being Bishop Cauchi's birthplace, the inauguration ceremony included contributions by persons who had been well acquainted with the bishop, among them his brother Canon Achille Cauchi, as well as Monsignor Renato Borg, a prelate who was the bishop's private secretary for many years.

Gozo's ninth bishop, Anton Teuma, who was rector at the Seminary during bishop Cauchi's tenure of office, described him as a man of wisdom and a holy priest who gave evidence of a person who truly loved, particularly through charitable works.

Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri said that besides honouring the memory of Bishop Nikol Cauchi, this bust should inspire the younger generation to get to know more about this personality, who was an inspiration for society through the works he carried out in his lifetime without courting publicity.

Other personalities commemorated at the Villa Rundle include Canon Gann Piet Frangisk Agius de Soldanis; Laurent Ropa, a poet from Xagħra who lived in France; and Professor Joseph Vella, composer of music.



MALTESE COMMUNITY IN DUBAI

The president encourages them not to abandon Maltese language

As their last engagement of the Official Visit to the United Arab Emirates, President George Vella and Mrs Miriam Vella met the Maltese diaspora in Dubai.

The President encouraged the Maltese community to ensure that at their workplace, during their free time and in the way they behave around other people, they convey not only their values as individuals, but also those of Malta as their homeland.

"My appeal to you is to do your utmost to ensure that the name of Malta continues to be mentioned with the greatest respect both with your representatives and colleagues as well as with your friends from around the world", said President Vella.

An estimated 800 Maltese nationals live in the United Arab Emirates. The President remarked that as the numbers of Maltese nationals in the United Arab Emirates started to increase, the trend of emigration from Malta began to change. The reasons and circumstances that led them here are very different from those that forced hundreds to seek a better life, especially after the First and Second World Wars. "Many of you have found very attractive professional opportunities in modern and dynamic fields such as aviation, administration, information technology, financial services and hospitality, to name just a few. One can say that you are also a young community and so we are used to associating a certain energy and motivation to your presence in this country", added the President.

In his address, the President encouraged the Maltese community in the United Arab Emirates not to abandon the Maltese language, especially when communicating with their children, even though they rarely use it at work. He also expressed his wish that some of the Maltese nationals in United Arab Emirates, if not all, will eventually return to Malta where the people of Malta and Gozo will be able to enjoy the experiences and professionalism they have acquired throughout these years away from our shores.



My Very Dear Frank,

hope you and your Beloved Family are doing well. I never stop to thank you for the news I always receive from you which I always pass to our members of the community. So i do not benefit alone from you but the other members of the community as well. They are always

interesting. I still remember we had two of the Mateese Augustinians in Australia before the Second World War. They were in there in the 30's. Their names are Fr.Simplicianus Gatt osa from Zabbar and Fr. Michael Mizzi from Xaghara, Gozo. they used to tell us especially about they way of travelling at that time and the way of living. Thank you again and God. Fr March Cauchi osa

Thanks Frank for this edition. You asked for our comments regarding this and for that matter, all the previous editions. for me there' only one word that epitomise all your work and that of all your staff, FABULOUS.

As always happens, when things are going in the right direction and the venture gathers success, GHIRA (jealousy) crops up and as we say in Maltese, JAGHMLULEK IL-BSATEN FIR-ROTI. The good thing though is, that once you know that what you're doing is the right thing, you stick to your guns and forge ahead. So well done for all your endeavours, of course it hurts but in the end you reap the fruits of your determination. Freddie Tonna

Thank you so much, for the interesting news in the Maltese Journal. It certainly has some great history. It is always a pleasure to read. Thank you. Linda Eysers.

The Pastoral Ministry of the Maltese Priest in Australia

By Fr Noel Bianco MSSP



This write up was written in the name of the Maltese Chaplains belonging to the Missionary Society of Saint Paul as well as other Maltese priests. The following are the official chaplains of the Maltese between Melbourne and Sydney – Fr. Tarcisio Micallef, Fr. Edwin Agius, Fr. Lonnie Borg and myself, Fr. Noel Bianco; however, there are others who offer their service in the Maltese community. The article was first published by Malta Missjunarja (Frar 2021), is being published here by their permission. Gratitude to Gillian Laspina who translated the text to English.

Over the years over 200 Maltese priests have served in Australia, some of whom were the sons of Maltese migrants born on the continent.

In the year 1913, Fr. William Bonnett, a priest who worked tirelessly amongst the Maltese living in Sydney, wrote to Mons. Joseph De Piro, who had just established the Missionary Society of St. Paul in 1910 and was also secretary to Archbishop Mauro Caruana. In his letter Fr. Bonnett asked Mons. De Piro whether he could send priests from the Society to offer pastoral care to the Maltese living in Sydney since they were facing a very challenging situation. They needed to be cared for not only where the Sacraments were concerned but also on a social and cultural level in order to help them maintain their identity. Back in those days, organised crime and prostitution associated with criminality were commonplace in Sydney and many Maltese used to live in the inner city which was not far off from all this activity. Mons. De Piro replied to Fr. Bonnett informing him that it was impossible for him to comply with his request since the Society was still in its initial stages and hence there were no priests he could spare. He however asked Fr Bonnett to pray that the Society would one day actually be in a position to send missionaries to Australia too.

With God's providence this possibility became a reality when in 1948, after the war, Fr. Wistin Grech mssp was sent to spiritually assist a shipful of emigrants on their journey to Australia. He was to permanently remain in Australia as a chaplain for the Maltese living there. It was Minister Johnny Cole who had suggested to Mons. Michael Gonzi to send a priest from the Missionary Society of St. Paul to accompany the first post war emigrants. He was aware of the fact that the Society's Rule included a clause which stated the possibility of ministry amongst emigrants whilst primarily focusing on the Ad Gentes mission. This mission amongst emigrants is as important as any other mission within the Church but it is underestimated and misunderstood by many who do not appreciate the work it involves. One must keep in mind that the nature of this particular mission changes with time. As a matter of fact, the ministry carried out in the Mission's initial stages was very different to that being carried out now but it is still the same people who are benefitting from it.

During the Mission's early days, the Maltese priest would act as a father to many young people who emigrated to Australia in search of employment or to start a family. He would take this role on a spiritual, human, material and practical level. The priests and brothers of the Society, together with diocesan priests and priests from other religious orders, often served as the social worker we know today. For instance, Fr. Joe Pantalleresco, who is 92 years old and whose present ministry is that of interceding for us, active members, in prayer was one of the first missionaries to arrive in Melbourne. He was substantially helped by the Salesians through Fr. Joseph Ciantar, whose work involved travelling with his 'lambretta' seeking out employment for men, mainly youth, soon after their arrival to Australia. These men would also live in our house for the first few days following their long voyage from Malta.

The majority of those who emigrated to Australia, especially after the war, were unmarried young people whose aim was to find employment and start a family after settling down. Some returned to Malta to marry a Maltese and return as a couple, others brought their families they had left behind whilst others remained in Malta. Sacramental ministry was very strong in the first years. Many married and had their children baptised here.



Several of those who arrived in the 1940's have now passed away or are elderly. The latter require special attention and obviously have a right to it. Many of them continued to practise their faith, others have not and in this respect, most often their families follow similar lifestyles. More often than not, due to a lack of educational opportunities available in Malta at the time, children of Maltese emigrants did not have high levels of schooling, possibly resulting in insufficient appreciation of the Maltese religious and cultural heritage. They thus struggled to identify with the beauty of our culture. Today their children are taking an interest in all that is Maltese since their identity is essential to them. They are also being offered the possibility of possessing a Maltese and Australian passport and many of them choose to seize this opportunity, not only because it gives them access to Europe but also because it allows them to become familiar with their roots, reaffirming their identity and enhancing their self-esteem. Indirectly, religious and faith aspects are also impacted since if they feel they are Maltese, they also feel religious or at least Catholic. All these factors give the Maltese passport much more profound and meaningful attributes.

Today, the work of a chaplain for Maltese emigrants is much more associated with presence and the administration of Sacraments. We are facing emerging challenges. Today, the priest's presence is very much appreciated in difficult times as he offers a listening ear and accompanies individuals at various particular stages of their lives. We leave our houses in Melbourne and Sydney to evangelise and serve our Maltese brothers and sisters. For instance, we celebrate 6 masses in Maltese every week in Melbourne and visit a different parish every Saturday, hence reaching out to 5 different parishes in all. We travel from one parish to another celebrating the Eucharist, presiding over baptisms, wedding ceremonies and funerals whilst also delivering Lenten Spiritual Exercises and participating in main feasts held in some villages. Some of our groups also visit various families with

a statue of Our Lady to encourage the recitation of the prayer of the Holy Rosary in the family.

When working with emigrants it is not a question of language as some may imagine. We are frequently faced with questions from Maltese people asking, "Is it possible that these people cannot speak English after living in Australia for so many years?" or "Their children are now Australian." Although there is some truth in this perception, it does not give the whole picture. The grandchildren of those who came to Australia are trying to establish their identity and it is remarkable to note that they feel very much at ease with a Maltese priest, especially during marriage preparation and the baptism of their children or funerals of elderly relatives. Even though the apostolate has changed throughout the years, the presence of the Maltese priest is still very relevant and as priests we believe that we are much more acknowledged here than in Malta. We make use of our Maltese identity as bait to catch fish for God's Kingdom through evangelisation. The Ministry of Home Visitation is central to the Australian Church tradition and whereas in Malta home blessings are carried out once a year, here in Australia we spend many of our evenings visiting Maltese families in order to get to know them, bless their homes and accompany them by listening to their problems and offering advice.

These visits bear much fruit and are crucial for us to build relationships and better understand the beauty and hardships of Maltese families in Australia. This Ministry means a lot to us. Even though our visits have a more spiritual than social dimension we are invariably offered something to eat when visiting and quite often this has an impact on our weight. However, at the end of the day, home visits are highly appreciated – after all that is what Jesus used to do. He gave a lot of importance to table fellowship and He gave us the Eucharist so that He would remain with us until the end of time! In this way we carry the Church to our brothers and sisters who might not frequent the Church much.

"IL-VITORJA" 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

THE TRADITIONAL FEAST OF "IL-VITORJA"
ORGANISED BY FR TARCISIO MICALLEF
ANNUALLY AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL IN
SYDNEY, WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON
SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2023.

LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE, WILL BE
ORGANISING THE USUAL BUSES TO ST MARY'S
CATHEDRAL AND FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE
GIVEN IN DUE COURSE

‘My Blood Bleeds Red And White’: Australian-Maltese Boxer Wants Island’s Support For World Title Fight

By Pawlu Caruana www.lovinmalta.com

Australian-Maltese middleweight boxer Michael Zerafa is preparing for a huge World Boxing Association world title fight in August.

Though his knockout power has shocked the boxing world before, this upcoming bout will be the biggest of his career so far. “The upcoming fight in New York is at Barclays Centre in August. I’ll be fighting for the WBA world title against either Danny Garcia or Erislandy Lara, two of the biggest names in the middleweight division” said Zerafa, in conversation with Lovin Malta.

Zerafa’s impressive record stands at 31 wins and just four losses – with 19 of his wins coming by knockout. Garcia currently has 21 KOs in 37 wins and three losses, while Lara has a record of 29 wins and 3 losses, with 17 KOs.

Zerafa’s last fight, against Issac Hardman, went just two rounds, before Zerafa’s onslaught compelled the referee to end the fight by technical knockout.

What is widely acknowledged to be his most incredible win, though, came against then World Boxing Organisation Welterweight Champion, Jeff Horn in 2019.

“I entered the ring labelled as the underdog. I unleashed a barrage of blows, overwhelming Horn and stopping him in the ninth round.”

“I left the boxing world in awe and solidified my position as a true force to be reckoned with.”

“Over the years, I’ve held the Victorian super-welterweight and Commonwealth super-welterweight titles. Nowadays, I am a household name and have earned the reputation of being a fearless and exciting orthodox fighter, one backed by strong family values of integrity, honesty, respect for others and of course, the importance of putting in a hard day’s work.”

Despite his lofty achievements, and those which have yet to come, Zerafa started where every fighter does, at the bottom.

“I was born and raised in Melbourne by my Maltese migrant parents, and my story is one of hard knocks, big risks, and global success.” “From a young age I developed a passion for boxing and



started out training in a makeshift gym. I had nothing but a bag and four chairs to outline a ring, but I dedicated myself to honing my craft.”

“At eighteen I was in the ring for my first professional bout against Peter Makrypodis.”

“It took only 87 seconds to chalk up my debut win, with a round one KO. I never looked back.”

Still, every fight presents new challenges, and past wins can’t be assumed as guarantees of future success. We asked Zerafa how he’s feeling as he heads into training camp for August’s world title bout.

“I always knew it was inevitable. In Australia, they refer to my story as similar to Saint Paul’s. I’ve had a lot of adversity I’ve had to overcome and the analogy is very similar. I have been known as a villain in the sport but now slowly everyone’s opinions have started to change. I have dreamed of this moment for 23 years – and I have worked really hard for it.”

“I fight not just for myself, but for my family and my country. Although we live in Australia, my blood bleeds red and white and I want to do this for my Maltese heritage and for all the Maltese people.” Although his parents hailing from Gozo, Zerafa hasn’t actually been to Malta yet. He plans for that to change. “I have yet to be back to Malta, but plan on making it the first place I visit with my belt when I win the world title.” “It’ll mean a lot more to me. I want to make a change and move to Malta, all I need is the Maltese backing.”

Zerafa is confident about the upcoming bout, but still wants all the support he can get as he ramps up to fight-night.

“Whilst our country is small on the map, I want our statements to be louder than anywhere else. We may be overlooked, but we are born and bred differently.” “I want the whole of Malta to back me as I go to war.”

Baritone Charles Buttigieg in concert in Gozo



On Saturday 1 July, the quaint Santa Lucija Square in Gozo will host internationally-acclaimed baritone Charles Buttigieg, together with The X-Factor Malta 2019 winner Michela Pace, Sopranos Nicola Said and Marouska Attard and the SCJ Children's Choir, for an evening of opera and musical theatre classics, all under the musical direction of Mark Gauci.

Charles Buttigieg began his musical journey at the tender age of 11 when he joined the Chorus Urbanus under the guidance of Mro Dr. John Galea, and continued his studies under the tutelage of the distinguished Maltese Soprano Ms. Juliette Bisazza. Now 24, Charles' dedication and talent led to scholarships from the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation, performances with top names in opera, and two Encouragement Awards from the Metropolitan Opera in 2021 and 2022.

In 2017, Charles was selected by Mr. Jack Livigni to perform *La Bohème* at Teatro Eschillo in Gela and Agrigento. Subsequently, he had the privilege of attending Ms. Dolora Zajick's Institute for Young Dramatic Voices, supported by the Foundation. Later that same year, he was chosen to join the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he refined his skills under the guidance of Mezzo Soprano Ms. Patricia McCaffrey, graduating with honours earlier this year.

Charles' talents have been recognized internationally, earning him an invitation to a

private concert in the presence of distinguished personalities, including Metropolitan Chairman Ms. Ann Ziff, Soprano Ms. Renee Fleming, and Mezzo Soprano Ms. Dolora Zajick. He performed at the Curtis Institute of Music's Philadelphia Perelman Theatre in 2018, delivering exceptional performances as Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, Mr. Fogg in *Sweeney Todd*, and Spirit in *Dido and Aeneas*.

In November 2019, Charles achieved another milestone by debuting as Figaro in *Barber of Seville* at the Opera Philadelphia, Kimmel Centre, accompanied by the Curtis Symphony Orchestra. His international leading role in this production at the age of 20 showcased his immense talent and promising future in the world of opera. In 2021, he had the honour of performing alongside the legendary Soprano Diana Damrau in a concert with the Maltese Philharmonic Orchestra. The following year, he shared the stage with Tenor Joseph Calleja at the Opera Naples in Florida. Since then, he has continued to astound audiences with his powerful performances, portraying Morales in *Carmen* at the Teatro Astra in Gozo and as Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette* at Opera Naples, Florida, and in the first edition of *Charles Buttigieg in Concert*. In keeping with tradition, this year's edition of the concert is sure to leave audiences enthralled. The repertoire features diverse iconic opera pieces from *Carmen*, *Rigoletto* and more, as well as beloved musical theatre classics - a selection that is at times nostalgic and consistently expertly conveyed.

Do not miss this unforgettable musical experience, surrounded by the idyllic ambience characteristic of Santa Lucija Square in Gozo. Admission is free, but seats are limited. Reserve yours today at <https://www.showshappening.com/CB-in-Concert/Reservation>

Charles Buttigieg in Concert is being organised in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Directorate, Ministry for Gozo.

Ross il-forn - Baked Rise (SERVES 4)

Ingredients:

300g long grain rice
 200g minced pork
 200 g minced beef
 4 rashers bacon
 200g ricotta
 4 eggs well beaten
 200g tomato pulp (you can use fresh tomatoes the taste would be even better!)
 100g Kunserva (tomato paste)
 1tsp sugar
 2 medium sized onions (chopped)
 Olive oil
 Salt and pepper
 75g parmesan cheese
 100grms Rikotta (optional)

**Method:**

In a pot, fry the onions with some olive oil till translucent, add bacon, and mince. Mix well so that meat cooks evenly, Add tomato pulp, kunserva, salt and pepper to taste and sugar. Cook sauce for about 20 mins on low heat. In a separate pot boil rice, drain and put back in empty pot, mix with cooked sauce Add $\frac{3}{4}$ of the beaten eggs with rice and sauce and mix well. Pour the rice into a greased baking dish, and pour evenly the remaining eggs on top. Bake in a hot oven until top becomes golden brown for around 30 mins.



XAGHRA

FIG FESTIVAL

IL-FESTIVAL TAT-TIN

IS-SIBT 24 TA' ĠUNJU 2023
 7PM 'IL QUDDIEM
 FIL-PJAZZA TAX-XAGHRA






MALTESE MIGRANTS 1950s
The final hug before
leaving for Australia



MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION OF SA INC
 PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY HALL
 LE HUNTE STREET, KILBURN

Christmas in July

Friday, 21 July 2023
Lunch and Entertainment by the
Godfather Band



facebook.com/VESA.RAHMP

In what has been two weeks of seemingly constant tours of Australia Hall, the overwhelming support from Australians, Maltese, English, Irish, and American has been overwhelming. Offers of assistance in every way possible are now forthcoming. 'Lest we forget our Anzac legacy. Save our heritage'.

I would like to thank everyone for their interest and support in Australia Hall, Malta. It is with this support that we do hope to see the hall brought back into the community and as a memorial to those Anzacs and Maltese who endured so much in that historical event so long ago. Our initial plan is to produce a history of Australia Hall, through research, and through modern archaeological and architectural recording techniques (laser scanning, photogrammetry, and detailed recording). From this

information it is hoped that the physical restoration can take place, but irrespective of that outcome, at least a detailed history that can be shared digitally to every part of the globe, and to all those who the building means so much. No matter where in the world you are, you will be able to learn, experience, and reflect on the history of the hall.

As Australia Hall was instrumental in providing a venue of activity for recovering service personnel, we plan to have Veterans of modern conflicts participate in this activity to assist in their own recovery and hopefully lead them to further education and employment. While this will likely be an Australian/New Zealand contingent we would welcome interest from Maltese Veterans. We are now gathering interest and support from members of the Australian government. Fingers are crossed.

Should this all go well, and with the current owner's permission, we hope that the partnership may continue with the physical restoration, where Veterans will be able to participate in the restoration activities utilising the skills developed during their service, as well as learning new skills.

Our hope is to rise above the politics and work positively and collaboratively with the current owners, and interested parties, with the sole purpose to seeing Australia Hall remain as an unquestionable significant landmark in the historical landscape of Malta.

Thank you once again for your support and please keep the interest growing. Again, we welcome any stories and memories that people may have of their time at the hall. RAHMP Team.



**AHNA
IL-MALTIN
TA' BARRA
INHOBBU
L-ILSIEN
MALTI U
NIXTIEQU
NGHADDUH
LILL-
ULIEDNA**

GOZO meaning “joy” in castilian is the name the Aragonese gave this island, they possessed it in 1282. The idea of joy and pleasure is also conveyed by its Latin motto “Fertilis ab undis caput iffero – a fruitful land raising its head from the sea”. We know that the Phoenicians, when it was theirs in 700Bc, called it “Gwl” or Gaulos, meaning a round ship, possibly in reference to the island’s shape from a distance, a name the Romans kept



when they, in turn took it over in 218AD. The Arabs, who came to rule this precious piece of land a thousand years ago, and who strongly influenced its Semitic language, left behind the name that has stuck in the vernacular: Ghawdex (pronounced Aw-desh). Gozo is the second largest island of the Maltese Archipelago that consists of three islands known as Gozo, comino and mainland Malta. Millions of years ago the Maltese island were the elevated regions on a mass of land extending southwards from nearby Sicily. This continental shelf was submerged when the sea level rose during the interglacial leaving those land tips exposed in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea. Roughly circular in shape, 14km by 7km in area, Gozo is hilly and from the south-west to the north-west, the coast is entirely surrounded by cliffs. The hills of Gozo are curiously rounded and flat-topped, the result of hard rock lying on top of softer rock. The highest point on the island rising 190 metres above sea level is Ta' Dbiegi hill on the outskirts of the village of San Lawrenz. The southern part of the island facing Malta, is low lying, but it rises near the coast and forms the vertical cliffs of Ta' Cenc that jut out like a bastion into the sea. Several narrow valleys cut through and dissect the plateau – the best known being Marsalforn, Xlendi and Ramla l-Hamra. Gozo is rural and beautiful, its culture and way of life rooted in fishing, and in primitive pastoral and agricultural activity. Tomatoes, potatoes, onions, melons, grapes, figs, oranges, and tangerines are the island's prime agricultural produce. Gozo though separated from mainland Malta by a 5km stretch of Mediterranean Sea is distinctly different from Malta. The soil is fertile as much blue clay is present. This means that rainwater does not sink through the ground quickly and is the reason why Gozo always looks greener for most part of the year. The language spoken on Gozo is a **distinct dialect of Maltese**¹. The Gozitan dialects are rural dialects of Maltese, and their main differentiating trait is the vowel shift of *ā* (phonologically *a*) to *o* or *u*. Maltese is a modern Arabic vernacular closely related to the western Arabic dialects, and it shows the strong influence of an earlier, later and continuing Sicilian (Latin) form of speech in its phonetics, morphology, syntax and vocabulary. Here are some examples. **GHAWDIX** The Maltese variation is *Ghawdex*, meaning Gozo in English. This word is used when mentioning Malta's sister isle and is possibly the most common variation out there.

MEJDINA This would be *tavolina* in Maltese, and 'small table' in English. The Maltese word for table is *mejda* and the Gozitans added the diminutive suffix *-ina* to it, while the Malta version is derived from the Italian word, *tavola*.

HAFSA You wouldn't want one of these little biatches on you. A *hafsa* is what we call a *ponta* in Maltese, meaning 'pimple' in English.

PINURI This is another common one that has everyone arguing over the correct pronunciation. In Maltese it's *pilloli*, referring to medicinal pills, but Gozitans seem to use *pinuri*, *pinnoli* or *pilloli* interchangeably.

HAJM In Gozo, you'll get *hajm*, in Malta you'll get *fsied*. It usually means to spoil someone with things or cuddles even! (We like the latter ... well who are we kidding - the former, too!)

COMBINI Combini actually comes from the pins used to make the traditional *bizzilla* (lace). But in another context, they refer to what we call *labar tal-inxir* (clothes pegs) in Maltese.

TRAMPI In Gozo, doing silly things is called *trampi*, while the Maltese version would be *kummiedji*. We even use *kummidjant* to describe a person who is just plain silly.

NEMUSIERA Mosquitoes and flies love to make their presence felt on the islands, especially in summer. A *nemusiera* would be a *xibka tan-nemus* in Maltese, meaning a 'mosquito curtain.'

XENXUL In Maltese we've got a couple of words that describe collectives. *Xenxul* in Gozitan or *ghanqud* in Maltese is one of them, meaning 'a bunch (of something).'

MITRAH Gozitans use the Semitic version coming from Arabic, which is *mitrah*, while the Maltese use *saqqu* to refer to a mattress