



# **MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

**Journal for Maltese Living Abroad**



Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)



**REFURBISHED  
AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW  
BUILT IN MALTA IN 1920s  
TRANSFERRED TO TA' QALI**

**SIDESTREET**

**NEWS** **INTERNATIONAL**

## **Polish Student Successfully Defends Bachelor's Thesis On Maltese Language**

[SIDESTREETMALTA.COM](http://SIDESTREETMALTA.COM) Photo: Reddit



**Mr Louis Parnis from Cringila  
Australia paid a visit to  
the President of Malta  
Dr. George Vella**

**ARE YOU  
OK?**

**RU OK?**

**A CONVERSATION COULD CHANGE A LIFE**

**Our Journal is the  
Global Voice of all  
Maltese living Abroad**



**Jim Borg {right} from NSW  
with Mayor Dominic Debono**





R U OK? is a public health promotion charity that encourages people to stay connected and have conversations that can help others through difficult times in their lives.

Our work focuses on building the motivation, confidence and skills of the help-giver – the person who can have a meaningful conversation with someone who is struggling with life.

R U OK? contributes to suicide prevention efforts by encouraging people to invest more time in their personal relationships and building the capacity of informal support networks – friends, family and colleagues - to

## ARE YOU OK?

[www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)

be alert to those around them, have a conversation if they identify signs of distress or difficulty and connect someone to appropriate support, long before they're in crisis.

Got a feeling that someone you know or care about it isn't behaving as they normally would? Perhaps they seem out of sorts? More agitated or withdrawn? Or they're just not themselves. Trust that gut instinct and act on it. Learn more about the signs and when it's time to ask R U OK? here.

By starting a conversation and commenting on the changes you've noticed, you could help that family member, friend or workmate open up. If they say they are not OK, you can follow our conversation steps to show them they're supported and help them find strategies to better manage the load. If they are OK, that person will know you're someone who cares enough to ask.



The Maltese Lieutenancy The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem embarks on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Maltese Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem recently concluded a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The pilgrimage took place between 15-22 July 2023 in the sacred and historic sites of the Holy Land. The significance of this journey was further enhanced by a remarkable event that occurred just before their departure. The Order was blessed to witness the nomination of HB the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, as a Cardinal.

During the pilgrimage, the Order's Lieutenant, Roberto Buontempo, had the honor of presenting the

## ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI Locumtenentia Melitensis

18 Moonlight Ville, Triq il-Qasba, Ibrag SWQ2422 –  
MALTA.

Cardinal-elect with his first Cardinal's zucchetto at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This gesture of respect and reverence symbolized the unity and connection between the Holy See and the Maltese Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Leading the pilgrims was P. Kt. Comm. Anthony Chircop OFM, Minister Provincial and Commissary of the Holy Land. The organization and coordination of the pilgrimage were handled by Rev Can Knight Robin Camilleri and his dedicated team. Their efforts ensured that every member and their families could focus on the spiritual aspects of the journey. As the pilgrimage unfolded, the participants had the privilege of visiting some of the most revered sites in Christendom. -  
Valentina Lupo, DHS



## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND TRADE:**

**Extension agreement signed for St John's Cavalier between Malta and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

The Maltese Government and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) have signed an extension agreement for the perpetual concession of St John's Cavalier to be used as the Embassy of the same Order for a period of 20 years.

This was announced during a bilateral meeting between Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

and Trade Ian Borg, and Grand Chancellor of the SMOM Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo. During this meeting, discussions were held on the relations that have spanned around five centuries and the importance to continue supporting them.

Topics such as immigration, the Russian invasion in Ukraine, and Syria were also discussed together with the Grand Chancellor Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo.



## **Babylon Europa – The festival of cultures in Berlin**

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The Embassy of Malta in Berlin collaborated with other EU Member States' Embassies and Cultural Institutes, members of EUNIC – the EU National Institutes for Culture, to organise the 6th edition of Babylon Europa, a festival of diversity featuring extraordinary artists from 11 regions and countries in Europe.

During the event itself, held on 27 May, Malta was represented by Maltese guitarist Patryk Cutajar. Patryk has been studying music since the young age of 13 and has most recently been focusing on improving skills in jazz music and song-writing. He moved to Berlin earlier this year in order to pursue his musical journey and establish an artistic network in one of Europe's main cultural centres.

Babylon Europa is in fact an ode to Europe's cultural diversity that blurs artistic genres and geographical boundaries. This year it was organised in the margins of the Karneval der Kulturen – Carnival of Cultures, a renowned street parade that takes place on Pentecost Sunday in Kreuzberg, Berlin, and attracts tourists from all over the world.

The Embassy extends its gratitude to the EUNIC BERLIN Cluster and Büro Döring for the organisation of the programme, and most importantly to Arts Council Malta for supporting Maltese participation in the project.



## 2,000-year-old Roman house discovered during excavation in Malta

by Cassidy Delamarter, [University of South Florida](#)

The Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Malta, Angela Cervetti, visited the archaeological excavation site to meet USF students and USF IDEX staff members to learn more about the dig and their role in the international research project. Credit: Davide Tanasi

A team of researchers and six students from the University of South Florida have discovered a centuries-old house in exceptional condition during an excavation in Malta, a country located in the Mediterranean Sea. Led by Davide Tanasi, professor and director of USF's Institute for Digital Exploration (IDEx), USF students collaborated with a team of scientists from around the world on the Melite Civitas Romana Project, uncovering what life was like 2,000 years ago when Romans ruled Malta and the island was used for military staging and maritime trade.

"Not only do we have the chance to uncover amazing Roman structures, but Malta is critically understudied despite being a wealth of fantastic archaeology and history from antiquity," said Angela Costello, a USF doctoral student studying public history and [digital humanities](#). "So, by revisiting these old excavations and furthering the work with new digital methods, we are learning more and more about Roman Malta every day."

Nestled in the heart of the ancient city of Melite, the once lavishly decorated mansion, traditionally known as Roman Domus, had been covered by centuries of soil. "In use between the 1st century BCE and 2nd century CE, the Domus was elegantly decorated with mosaic floors, wall frescoes and marble decorations," Tanasi said. "During the Roman Empire, it was certainly used as a residence by a representative of the emperor or some very wealthy individual very close to the imperial court." After a summer of digging, processing and cleaning artifacts of the Roman Domus, the team discovered a portion of a previously unknown house adjacent to the domus with nearly 10-foot-tall walls, a height Tanasi says is unheard of for the Roman residential units usually found in the Mediterranean area.

This discovery, according to Tanasi, provides a better understanding of the urban fabric of ancient

Melite and the area's spatial configuration, a process that explains the human experience and behavior based on the surrounding structural environment.

On a hunt to learn more about the owner of the house and what it was like living a block away from the domus, the team is searching for clues among the findings they have so far: an exquisite interior likely decorated with terracotta floor tiles, frescoed plasters and an ancient waste disposal system full of fragmented pottery, glass vessels, animal bones and charcoal.

"It was literally the garbage disposed by whomever lived in the house," Tanasi said. "By studying this deposit, we will learn a lot about the life of who lived in the house. It is surprising how much you can learn about people from their garbage."

For Sarah Hassam, a USF ancient history graduate student, another person's trash has indeed proven to be a treasure. "The most exciting moment for me was during our third week, while cleaning pottery, a small fragment I had been scrubbing revealed the engraved letters D-A-O-I, a possible hint for somebody's name. Everyone was pumped and shared theories on the engraving. It was a very cool find," she said.

In addition to the excavation, IDEx's role in the project is to preserve cultural heritage through digital approaches. Findings from previous excavations are now displayed in the museum of the Roman Domus.

"We perform digital photogrammetry where we capture data using a series of photographs that are then composited to create a 3D model and terrestrial laser scanning to provide more in-depth information on the site that we can process and revisit during the year when we aren't present in the trenches," Costello said. Tanasi signed an agreement for IDEx and Heritage Malta to pursue funding to advance the 3D digitization of the Maltese archaeological and cultural heritage.

The permit to continue the excavations in the Roman Domus district was extended to 2025 and IDEx will continue the exploration of the newly discovered house next summer to learn more about the identity of its owner.

*Provided by University of South Florida*



## Maltese Living Abroad: 'I left Malta to ensure my children went to university'

Claudia Scavuzzo



*John Saliba left Malta to help his children succeed by attending university in Cape Town, South Africa. There, his own career grew in the hospitality industry, to the point that he became director of most of*

*the hotels partially owned by the company he worked for.*

In 1984, my wife and I decided to leave Malta as we were not prepared to see our children possibly being deprived of having a tertiary education. My three children attended private schools at the time.

The Verdala Hotel, where I worked, closed down. I was immediately offered a job at the Halland Hotel, which was taken over by the Tumas Group a few months after I joined. Mr. Tumas treated me with great respect and I am still grateful for the way he complemented my work. However, my desire to leave the country continued to grow.

I applied for a position with three hotels abroad, one in New Zealand, one in the USA and another in South Africa. The New Zealand one did not acknowledge receipt of my application. The New Waldorf Astoria in New York offered me a position of Front Office Manager, but with the condition that if I did not get a Green Card, my family and I would have to leave the country. The five-star Heerengracht Hotel in Cape Town offered me a position as Rooms Division Manager and the South African government offered to pay for our flights and the relocation of whatever we wanted to take with to South Africa. I accepted the South African offer.

Before leaving, my brother-in-law told me something I will never forget: "John remembers, Malta will always be your mother country, South Africa will be your adoptive country. I wish you all the very best. You are very lucky; you have experienced in 1964 the birth of our country and the day will come that you will experience the birth of your adoptive country."

My career grew tremendously in South Africa. I soon became general manager of a hotel and a couple of years later, I became the manager responsible of four hotels. A year or so later I became Regional Manager of half the Western Cape hotels within the Protea group. I ended up being a Director of most of the hotels partially owned by the company. During the time that I was with the group, the Company started with four managed hotels and ended up with 131 hotels under the Protea umbrella.

My children all made it. I brought my three children to South Africa so that they could attend the University of Cape Town (UCT). It gives me great pride and pleasure to say that the three of them made it. My eldest son, Kevin is Professor at the Medical School and Research School of Biology at the Australian National University. The University have named a laboratory "Saliba Lab". My daughter Ruth studied philosophy at UCT and later continued further studies at the Malta University. She now teaches English in Zurich. My other son also studied at UCT and became an engineer. He now is the North America Quality Manager of Baltimore Aircoil Company, a multinational, world leader in thermal transfer and ice thermal storage products.

I am proud of my decision. Bringing my family to Cape Town was a good move. My adoptive country has given my children the opportunity to be successful. Thank you South Africa. However, our greatest pride is being Maltese.

## Population in Malta edges closer to 550,000

Yes, we have been made to listen to the exaltation of population growth in that it means more labour force, bringing about more economic benefits such as expansion of tax bases and increased consumer spending at local businesses.

But more people means an increased demand for food, water, housing, energy, healthcare, transportation, and more. Not to mention that all that consumption contributes to ecological degradation, increased demographic conflicts of all sorts and a higher risk of large-scale disasters like pandemics. Mark Said



Prof. John Mamo

## MALTESE AUSTRALIAN PROFESSOR NAMED FINALIST FOR W.A. PREMIERS' 'SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR' AWARD – Prof. John Mamo

The Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute Curtin University is

thrilled to share that the Director, Professor John Mamo, is a finalist for the Premier's "Scientist of the Year" award!

John is the son of Maltese parents who lived in Adelaide before he settled in Western Australia. For 35 years, Professor Mamo has dedicated his efforts to finding new treatments for neurological and metabolic disorders. Currently leading three clinical trials targeting Alzheimer's, migraine, and Multiple Sclerosis, his work has the potential for global impact. Congratulations, Professor Mamo and to all of our fellow scientists in the running for the Premier's Science Awards

John was awarded the NHMRC Marshall and Warren Award for most innovative and potentially transformative research and in 2021, the title of 'John Curtin Distinguished Professor' for translational clinical research discoveries. John leads a team of physiologists

and vascular biologists interrogating cerebral capillary dysfunction in a range of neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's, MS and in pain disorders. John has also made major contributions deciphering the role of dietary derived lipoproteins in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease, with high-citation publications realised. John hosts substantial multidisciplinary preclinical translational research and clinical trials, including presently as Principal Investigator of an NHMRC-MRFF drug study in Alzheimer's disease (ACTRN1261000726853) amongst others. John has published ~200 peer reviewed publications and been cited more than 6300 occasions.

Read more about the awards: <https://buff.ly/44VPPBI>

The Premier's Science Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding scientific research and engagement taking place in Western Australia.

Finalists will receive a short professional video promoting their work and achievements. They will also be in the running to win in a share of the winners' prize pool of \$100,000.

### *Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities of South Australia*

#### **Attention S.A Ladies & Gents**

**You're invited to a monthly get together...**



Commencing next month (August) there will be a monthly ladies' get-together every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month (before the Maltese Mass).

**So please join us for the first session on:**

**13<sup>th</sup> August at 1pm,**

**Christ the King Parish Hall**

**456 Henley Beach Rd, Lockleys**

If you're interested please bring your craft project or playing cards or, just join us for a chat.

**We hope to see you there.**



## From Xi'an to Malta



Musicians with traditional Chinese musical instruments.

This weekend, an official delegation and a group of artists from Xi'an, one of the most famous tourist destinations in China with a long and splendid history, will be visiting Malta to promote bilateral cultural exchanges and co-host events with the China Cultural Centre in Malta which is celebrating its 20th anniversary from the official opening.

The events will kick off on Saturday evening, July 22 at 7pm with the donation ceremony of two Terracotta Warriors replicas from Xi'an Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism to Santa Luċija Local Council. This function which is taking place at the Chinese Garden of Serenity in Santa Luċija is reserved only for invited guests. The two statues will be permanently exhibited in the Exhibition Hall of the Chinese Garden of Serenity as a gift of friendship. At 8pm, the public is invited to an outdoor concert of traditional Chinese musical instruments in combination with a beautiful traditional Chinese dance performance at the main entrance of the Garden of Serenity.

On Sunday, July 23 from 5pm, an outdoor Tea Fair will be organised at Upper Melita Street, Valletta, in front of the building of the CCC. With the participation of the delegation from Xi'an, this event promises to be a delightful experience for the general public. The fair features two pitch pots dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907), together with a taste of traditional sports. Visitors will also be able to try on costumes from the Tang Dynasty on display to enjoy a closer encounter with the Chinese fashion of that era. Masters of Chinese

Chinese culture and traditions will be celebrated in Malta this weekend

### Press Release

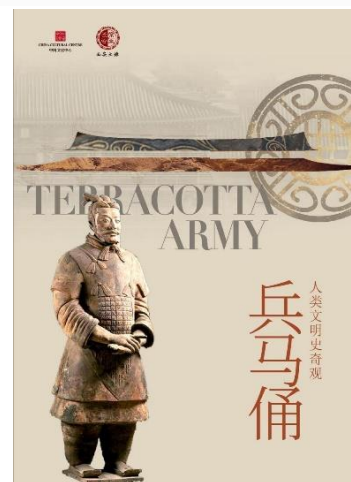
tea ceremony will also showcase the tea experience of the Tang Dynasty, where visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the rich cultural heritage of China. The public may also visit the Exhibition Hall of the CCC to indulge themselves in the Exhibition of 'Tea for Harmony - Ancient Tea with New Glamour'.

Celebrations will continue at 7pm with the official launch of the Lantern Festival wherein Upper Melita Street will be transformed into a mesmerising display of Chinese lanterns, radiating their colourful glow and captivating the hearts of both locals and tourists alike. This extraordinary event seamlessly blends the rich folk customs of Xi'an with art, modernity, and tradition, creating an unforgettable experience for all. The public will be transported to the ancient city of Xi'an, once the capital of ancient China, which has witnessed the rise and fall of different dynasties, leaving behind a legacy that resonates to this day.

Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an.

On Monday, July 24 at 7pm, the CCC is privileged to co-host with Xi'an Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism, the

Cultural Talk about the Protection and Inheritance of Cultural Heritage at 173 Melita Street, Valletta. The speaker, Yao Xinyuan, is a famous expert awarded by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism. He serves as the Chairman of Shaanxi Huaqing Palace Culture and Tourism Ltd. During his talk, he will feature Huaqing Palace and its ancient royal garden and the historical dance drama based on the renowned Chinese poem, the 'Song of Eternal Sorrow' from the Tang Dynasty. A Chinese tea ceremony and a performance of traditional Chinese musical instruments will also be staged by visiting artists from China.







## Walk with Christ 2023 – Sydney, Australia

On 11 June, members of the Order of Malta joined more than 10,000 Catholics in Sydney for the 2023 Walk with Christ Procession.

This annual Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Sydney exists to make a joyful public proclamation and act of

worship towards the person of Jesus Christ (as King), and to invoke His blessing upon the city.

Starting in Martin Place, Sydney Auxiliary Bishops Daniel Meagher, Richard Umbers and Terence Brady took turns bearing the monstrance along the 1.3km route to St Mary's Cathedral. The crowd was so big that as Our Lord arrived in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, the end of the tightly-packed procession was still marching past the Mint and Hyde Park Barracks.

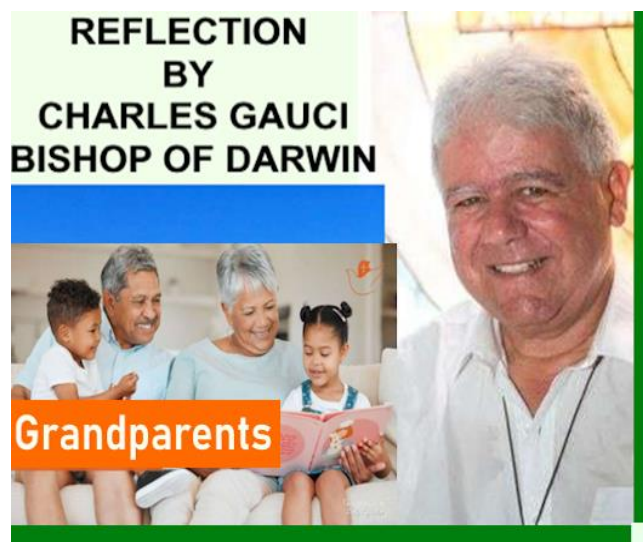
Once the procession had entered into the forecourt, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP preached a *fervorino* on silence, song and proclamation—three responses Christians can give to God's presence among us on Earth. As Order of Malta Regional Hospitaller, Steve Christie explains, "It was wonderful to see Members of the Order and volunteers acknowledging Christ publicly, along with so many other faithful Catholics. We plan to be part of – and organise – many more public professions of faith".

Last Sunday was the world day of Grandparents and the elderly. I grew up as a boy in a society that valued deeply grandparents.

There was no doubt in my mind that my grandparents were very important and very significant members of our family.

I spent a lot of time with my father's parents. Grandma died when I was five and a half years old. I remember her so very well. I can even remember her voice. I remember her giving me nurture, physical, psychological and spiritual. I was devastated when she died.

Grandpa then moved in to live with us on her death. There was no question of leaving him to live alone! My mother's parents migrated to Australia with 7 of their surviving nine children (some had died in the war as children and infants, they had 14 children in all). Mum the second eldest in the family was already married and John her brother had stayed behind in Malta (he had a scholarship to study in the UK). However, Mum's parents despite the



geographical distance were a very significant and important part of our family.

We live in a society where appreciation of the elderly sometimes takes second place in the valuing of youth. All stages of human life are equally valuable!

We are enriched as a society when we value all our members including the elderly.





## Siggiewi - Citta' Ferdinand



The ruins of the old church



**Siggiewi**, also called by its title **Città Ferdinand**, is a city and a local council in the Southern Region of Malta. It is the third largest council in Malta by surface area, after Rabat and Mellieħa respectively. It is situated on a plateau, a few kilometres away from Mdina, the ancient capital city of Malta, and 10 kilometres away from Valletta, the contemporary capital. It is the home of 8,721 inhabitants as of January 2019. Until several decades ago, all most all of the population was employed in the fields which surround the village. In 1993, the city adopted the motto *Labore et Virtute* (Work and Virtue).<sup>11</sup>

In its demographic and topographical formation, Siggiewi followed a pattern common to other villages in Malta. Before the arrival of the Order of St John in 1530, there were other thriving hamlets in the area. Little by little Ħal Xluq, Ħal Kbir, Ħal Niklusi and Ħal Qdieri were absorbed in Siggiewi and today only their secluded chapels remain.



The origins of the name Siggiewi are unknown. The name is unique and bears no resemblance to well-known words. "Siggiewi" may be a corruption of an old name. The areas around Siggiewi were inhabited since the Maltese islands were occupied by the first farmers during the Neolithic period. The Neolithic sites of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra (3600-2500 BC) are within walking distance of the village. Also within easy reach of the village are the Bronze Age settlement of Wardija ta' San Gorg, almost at the southern tail end of Dingli Cliffs, and the Bronze Age cart-ruts at ix-Xaghra ta' Ghar il-Kbir (1500-750/800 BC).

An early Phoenician tomb was located in the area, but small Phoenician/Punic cemeteries are known on the hill top of tal-Gholja and at ix-Xaghra ta' Ghar il-kbir. In numerous places, Roman pottery scatters are often encountered, suggesting that the environs of Siggiewi were also occupied during the Roman occupation of Malta and Gozo.

A series of early Christian catacombs are located close to Maghlaq valley. One of these, published in a number of sources, has been intentionally buried under a field.

Siggiewi's patron saint, Saint Nicholas of Bari, is perhaps one of the most popular saints in Byzantine hagiography. The survival of the saint's veneration may suggest that following the end of the catacomb era, some of Malta's villages may have retained old traditions that would very comfortably fall within western and eastern Christian domains. Hundreds of place names are known from various fields and locations around Siggiewi. These names are of Semitic character, but are of an unknown age having been recorded in notarial deeds only in the Late Middle Ages. Some of these places developed into hamlets. Others may have supported small communities that were never recorded. These hamlets would later dwindle in importance. The

depopulation of the Maltese rural areas during the Great Siege of 1565 hastened the end of small hamlets around Malta and Gozo. The arrival of the Order of St John in Malta in 1530, also ushered in new economic dynamics which made the new urban areas and especially the new city of Valletta more attractive than isolated villages.

Several buildings in Siggiewi date back to knight Hospitaller rule, including the Armoury. Siggiewi itself reflects these new concerns. Its growth may have been at the expense of neighbouring hamlets. But market agglomeration around Siggiewi, a promontory which stands between two important valleys and is therefore defensible, also encouraged geo-demographic changes.

On 30 December 1797, after a formal request by Don Salvatore Curso, on behalf of his parishioners, Grand Master Ferdinand Von Hompesch instituted the village as a city calling it after his name, "Città Ferdinand".

The ruins of the former parish church, dedicated to St Nicholas of Bari are still visible today. Lately, great restoration works have been carried out and retrieved its old glory. The baroque parish church, dedicated to the same saint, was erected by the villagers who raised the necessary funds between the years 1676 to 1693. It was designed by the Maltese architect, Lorenzo Gafà but underwent some changes throughout the years. The portico and naves were added by Professor Nicola Żammit in the latter half of the 19th century.

The titular painting in the church is by the artist Mattia Preti, 'Il calabrese', who was also responsible for the painting on the vault of St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. The wooden statue which is carried in procession in the city feast day (the last Sunday of June) was sculptured by Pietro Felici in 1736.

Fours years earlier, in 1732, the same sculptor had produced the stone statue which still stands in the centre of the square. On its pedestal there is a prayer in Latin which implores the saint to bless the fields which the faithful laboriously till.



***Dominic Debono, Mayor of Siggiewi  
and Jim Borg from NSW***

## **JIM BORG FROM NSW VISITS SIGGIEWI HIS PLACE OF BIRTH**

Jim Borg, who migrated to Australia 60 years ago, met the Mayor of Siggiewi – Dominic Debono – during his vacation in Malta. Jim was born and bred in Fawwara among a few families in the limits of Siggiewi and currently is visiting Malta for a few weeks. Mr. Debono commended Jim for his love and passion for his homeland Malta and especially for the town of Siggiewi. Jim said that he is very proud that he can call Malta home together with Australia. Jim is also the founder and coordinator of the Friends of "Dar tal-Providenza" which is also situated in Siggiewi.

Dominic Grech has been the mayor of Siggiewi since July 2020.

He has served as member of the local council since April 2015 as part of two legislatures. On 25 May 2019 he was elected councillor from the Labour party, when Kurtsein Sant became mayor, but on 21 July 2020 replaced him in this position.

Since January 2020 he also serves as Private Secretary at the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning of Malta.

He is also a member of the administrative board of the Labour Party and the Chairperson of Fondazzjoni IDEAT, a local progressive foundation. Grech is also a political blogger and radio presenter.

Dominic Grech was born and lives in Siggiewi. He studied law at the University of Malta

Thank you Frank. I am amazed how you manage to get so much of the local news and represent it in such detail through your journal. Keep up the good work. You are a means of keeping the Maltese living abroad, so very close, remembering from their past and at the same time reminiscing about things they have known from their childhood. Best regards George Stagno Navarra - MALTA





Dr George Vella , President of Malta met with Mr Louis Parnis the President of the Maltese Club on the South Coast of New South Wales, Australia. During the meeting, they discussed the invaluable work and services provided by the Club to the Maltese community in Australia, and the president praised their continued efforts in sustaining an active connection with their Maltese heritage and identity.

**WE ARE  
PROUD OF  
OUR  
MALTESE  
ACHIEVERS  
LIVING  
ABROAD  
The  
Maltese  
Journal**

## **1920s Australian-Style Bungalow In Malta**

### **DIN I-ART HELWA**

The Melita Foundation is supporting the Australian Bungalow's relocation and restoration by Din I-Art Helwa. The bungalow was constructed as a timber building model and training centre to help prepare Maltese emigrants in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for their new life in Australia.

This is one of the last remaining structures of this style sent by the British government to all Commonwealth countries, yet not many Maltese people know about it.

The restoration of the 100-year-old Australian Bungalow is the first project funded by The Melita Foundation. The bungalow was constructed as a building model so as to prepare Maltese emigrants in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for their new life in Australia. The idea was to dismantle and rebuild the bungalow so as to teach eventual migrants how to construct a home in timber.

The Melita Foundation, which focuses on the development of digital skills and creativity in Malta and the conservation of Malta's heritage and environment, will be supporting the funding of the relocation and restoration of The Australian Bungalow by Din I-Art Helwa and its painstaking work to save this former training centre which is unique in Malta.

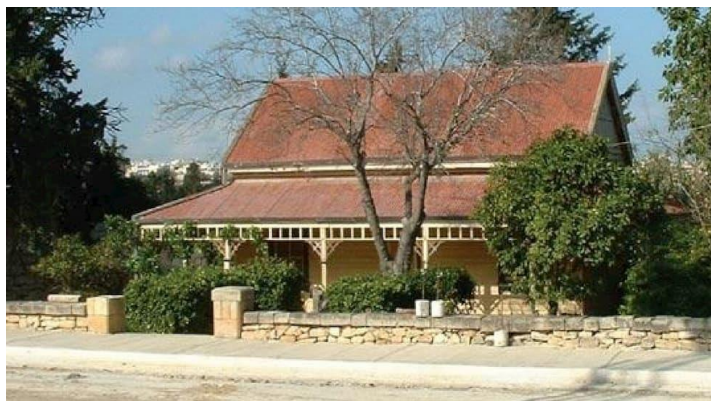
"In today's world preparing young people for the future requires the development of digital skills, but 100 years ago, preparing for a future in a different continent required knowing how to build timber homes. Those Maltese who moved to Australia would have found this skill very useful. The idea of upskilling and preparing for whatever the future holds is universal and timeless wisdom, and when this is done in a way that safeguards our heritage and environment, it fits perfectly with The Melita Foundation's core philosophy" explained Mireille Muscat, Melita Foundation board member.

The Australian Bungalow is the only surviving example of similar units sent to Europe. According to Dr. Ray Bondin, a renowned expert on World Heritage, it has potential for a transboundary nomination with Australia because it is a piece of Australian heritage in Malta.

Maltese migration to Australia increased after 1944 while the peak period occurred in the 1950s and 1960s. The majority of citizens, or "white British subjects" as they were referred to, left the island due to poor socio-economic conditions or in response to government schemes intended to slash the country's population.

Migrants were offered assisted migrant passage to Australia.

Most Maltese who arrived in Australia at the time were semi-skilled or unskilled workers, with a large amount being poorly educated, therefore these training programs were somewhat necessary for a smoother transition of migrants into the continent.



*“Ejja, ha nfissirlek dal-kliem jittikak fl-irqad u l-jum griż ifframmentat.”  
L-Inventarju tal-Kamra l-Kahla*

## Leanne Ellul - Director of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival

*Photo by Giola Cassar*

Leanne Ellul was born on Friday the thirteen of October 1989. Maybe that's why her favorite day of week is Friday. When she was one, during her *quċċija*, she chose a radio. Ever since then, she never stopped talking. She loves coffee more than water and pizza more than salad. She annoys her dog Ċensu too much, and when he is up for a walk they go without thinking about it twice.

Ellul teaches Maltese to youths at the post secondary college, Junior College. She loves to guide youths in their first attempts at writing. She also lectures creative writing at the University of Malta.

She writes both poetry and prose. In the past she has written for theatre and still writes both textbooks and readers for children. Her literary works appeared online and in newspapers, journals and anthologies. She has also translated a number of works to Maltese. In the past she has also written TV scripts and still gives workshops to children and adults alike.

Ellul won first place in the national competition for theatre writing, Premju Francis Ebejer, and her play *Ma Rridx Immur* was staged at Teatru Manoel - Malta's National Theatre. She won the Novel for Youths Prize 2014 with her novel *Gramma*, a book that broke all records for Merlin Publishers. In 2015 Ellul was enlisted in the [Commonwealth Young Achievers Book](#) and in 2016 she won the special prize for the [Best Emerging Author](#) by the National Book Council. Her first collection of poems is entitled *L-Inventarju tal-Kamra l-Kahla* [*The Inventory of the Blue Room*]. Ellul is part of a number of entities that have the Maltese language and culture at heart, namely [Inizjamed](#) and [HELA](#).



xtaqt li kont merkurju binds together 61 poets from around the globe, 24 Maltese translators, 25 years of Inizjamed, and 17 years of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival.

Its title, *xtaqt li kont merkurju*, is the first line of one of the poems featured in the anthology, and was chosen because mercury's flexible and transformative nature as a metal liquid represents the flexibility needed in the literary translation process and its transformative potential. As Adrian Grima writes in the anthology's introduction, it is not only the original text which is "created anew, but also the language it is translated into".

In order to celebrate this anthology, which was published in 2022 during the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival of the same year, Inizjamed is having a poetry reading on Thursday 27th July (20:00) at Cuvre Port, Birgu – the place which birthed the Festival.

Readings will be held in Maltese and there will be both music and a glass of wine. Amongst the reader of the event there will be Keith Borg, Leanne Ellul, Antoine Cassar, Jean Paul Borg, John P. Portelli, Rita Saliba, Simone Inganez, Ken Scicluna and the editors of the anthology dedicated to Maria Grech Ganado: Kit Azzopardi, Claudia Gauci and Justine Somerville. Noah Fabri will be playing music during the event.

Entrance is free. This event is being supported by the Birgu Local Council.

This event is also being held in the run up for the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival 2023 being held between the 21st and 27th of August. For more information visit [www.inizjamed.org](http://www.inizjamed.org) or th





**MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**  
Malta in the World

The latest report of the CMLA is now available at :

<https://malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/council-for-maltese-living-abroad/published-council-reports/>

**Published Council Reports - MLA**

Published council reports as per Article 7 of Chapter 515

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[malteselivingabroad.gov.mt](https://malteselivingabroad.gov.mt)

These are the members of the Council are Chairperson Hon Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Secretary Joseph

Xerri, Brandon Azzopardi CAN -Antonella Berry-Brincat UK - Edwidge Borg AUS Georgina Bugeja DUB - Emmanuel Camilleri AUS - Claudia Caruana USA - Josann Cutajar - Alexander Grima - Nadim Kanawati ALEXAND-Denis Muniglia TUNISIA- Mona Nicholas USA- Marie-Louise Previtera AUS - Mario M Sammut AUS - Susan Schembri CAN- John Vassallo AUS

	<p><b>Is-Sriep</b> REGĠĦU SARU <b>Velenużi</b> A Vipers' Pit</p>	<p><b>IS-SRIEP REGĠĦU</b> <b>SARU VELENUŻI</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Sunday 6 August 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time</td> <td>5pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Location</td> <td>Village Cinemas Sunshine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cost</td> <td>\$25 per person (BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contact info</td> <td>Amie Cardona 0404 894 576</td> </tr> </table> <p>MALTESE MOVIE WITH ENGLISH SUBTTILES MA15+</p>	Date	Sunday 6 August 2023	Time	5pm	Location	Village Cinemas Sunshine	Cost	\$25 per person (BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL)	Contact info	Amie Cardona 0404 894 576
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<p><b>MALTESE MOVIE NIGHT</b> <b>MMG Concert Band of Victoria - Australia</b></p>												

Set in 1984 and 2012, *Is-Sriep Regġġu Saru Velenużi* (A Vipers' Pit) treads the line between political thriller and family drama as it takes a hard look at the decades-old relationships between big business and politics in Malta, a combination that can lead to deadly consequences.

At its centre is a fictional assassination attempt on the life of former prime minister Dom Mintoff, and the impact the conspiracy has on an inter-generational web of characters.

The film was funded through a collaboration between the National Book Council (Malta), Shadeena Entertainment Ltd (Malta) and Splash Screen Entertainment (Cyprus). Spearheaded by Shadeena Entertainment's Martin Bonnici, the project was the winner of the inaugural NBC Film Adaptation Fund in 2019.

The production brought together over 50 talented artists and technicians from Malta with the support of a number of Cypriot talents. With a budget of approximately €250,000, the film had to make its way through the pandemic, shooting under strict conditions in the summer of 2020 with remote post-production work throughout the Autumn and Winter seasons.

Martin Bonnici, producer, director and cinematographer of the film adds, "No debut feature film is easy, but restrictions placed on the production due to the ongoing pandemic did make things more daunting at times. However, thanks to the support of the National Book Council (Malta), our dedicated and talented team and also supporters like Neriku Catering and MaltaBrew, we managed to put together a product we are extremely proud of." The adaptation process kicked off in 2017 with Teodor Reljić and Bonnici working to turn the novel into a story fit for the screen..

More information may be obtained from the [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

*This content was supplied by Shadeena Entertainment Ltd*

## THE MALTESE TENORS

We present to you a short biography of tenors from Malta listed below in order of date of birth.



### **Icilio Calleja (1882-1941)**

The number of tenors throughout the first half of the twentieth century considered great exponents of the role of Otello ever since Francesco Tamagno premiered Giuseppe Verdi's opera in 1887 at La Scala, can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Without a doubt, one of them was Icilio Calleja, who became the second tenor after Tamagno to sing this demanding role at the same opera house. In Italy, one critic dubbed him the Napoleon of tenors – Il Napoleone dei

tenori.



### **Paul Asciak (1923-2015)**

Paul Asciak was born in Valletta, Malta on January 28, 1923. His talent showed early enough and he spent years of singing in the famed St James Choir, Valletta. He sung with the very finest singers of the past century, from Maria Callas, Joan Sutherland to Piero Cappuccilli and Giulio Neri. A triumphant and long career marked by glowing reviews, which are featured richly in his biography.



### **Oreste Kirkop (1923-1998)**

Malta's Oreste Kirkop, the island's singing ambassador of the Fifties, achieved international fame as a tenor and actor, the latter activity spent in Hollywood, where he starred in the popular film *The Vagabond King*. He was principal tenor of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the period 1954-1958. He took part in the first telecast ever of Verdi's *Rigoletto* in 1958.

00:00

02:30



### **Joseph Calleja (1978)**

The only contemporary singer in this special, Joseph Calleja made his debut at the very tender age of 19, after years of tutelage by another tenor in our special: Paul Asciak. His artful phrasing and radiant lyric tenor voice are praised by both reviewers and audience members. The voice is marked by a distinctively bright shine that very much reminds of his native Malta. Almost two decades into in his professional career, Calleja is a prolific performer and international star who continues to be in great demand at top venues around the world.

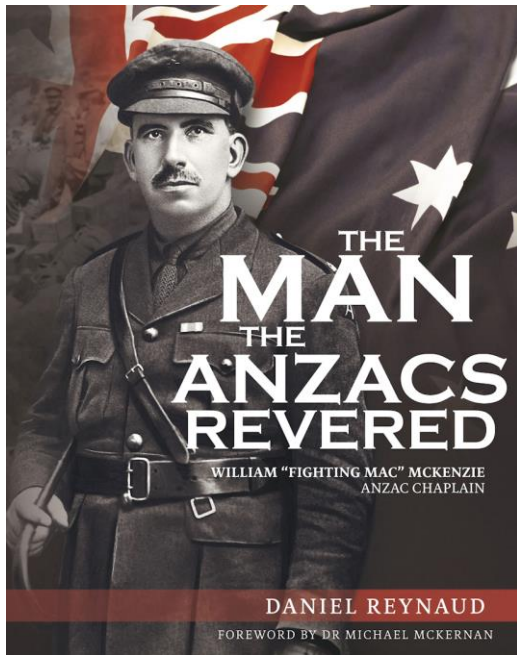


### **Nico Darmanin**

Acclaimed Maltese tenor Nico Darmanin has made his debut with top UK opera house Glyndebourne following another recent performance at London's Royal Opera House. Nico has taken on the roles of Gastone and Alfredo and joined the Glyndebourne company on its ongoing 2018 tour of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Two other Maltese tenors are Alan Sciberras and Cliff Zammit Stevens





## THE MAN THE ANZACS REVERED

[www.hopebooks.com.au/](http://www.hopebooks.com.au/)

He was a beacon of hope in the atrocious conditions of Gallipoli and the Western Front. He was once one of the most famous of the Anzacs but do you know his name?

This story will leave you truly inspired. How could a man have such strong courage and faith in such horrendous conditions? How could someone so tirelessly serve others, putting their own life constantly in harms way? How do we honour the men and woman who have made such huge sacrifices for the generations that followed?

This is the legendary true story of William McKenzie, whose tireless work as a Salvation Army Chaplain among the Anzacs in World War I earned him the nickname 'Fighting Mac'.

For decades after the war, he attracted crowds of adoring soldiers and their grateful families almost everywhere he went. His post-war fame rivalled that of Australia's wartime prime minister William Hughes.

What makes McKenzie's reputation incredible is that he embodied almost everything that the typical digger loved to hate. He railed

against booze, brothels, betting and bad language, and ran frequent evangelistic campaigns for the Anzacs.

*At Gallipoli he conducted burial services under shell fire. At the Battle of Lone Pine he followed the charge carrying just a spade. In Cairo before the Gallipoli landings, he dragged men out of brothels and put them on a tram back to camp.*

His normal routine was arduous, given that he worked all day, then often conducted burials for several hours at night. A typical day's work was usually around 18 hours. Sometimes he got no sleep because the funerals lasted until dawn.

Where ever he could, he lent a helping hand, carrying one end of a stretcher, lugging the awkward but precious water tins tainted with the taste of their former contents of kerosene or petrol up to the trenches, or bringing other supplies on his way to the front.

He held evening services for the men and often held meetings in the modest shelter of gullies behind the front lines. He distributed letter-writing materials and soldier comforts, chased up those who had not written home and wrote hundreds of letters himself, usually to the families of men in his unit, especially those killed or wounded.

Later while fighting the Germans in France he recorded in a letter about his experiences of a mystical nature:

"I had buried seven of these fallen heroes (all Sussex men) when my guardian angel said "Get away from here quickly." I obeyed instantly, and had got away twenty-five yards in a slanting direction from the enemy's fire when a big shell landed right on the spot where I had been standing minutes before. I only got a shower of dirt.

At all times of great danger I am quietly conscious of this guardian angel's presence while engaged on such work. I cannot see him, nor can I tell who or what he is like, but I hear his voice sometimes saying – "Do not go there," "Get in here", "lie down in that shell hole," "Be careful", "You are quite safe," "Wait five minutes here," and suchlike messages. I could give at least six instances within the past week where a prompt attention to his instructions has saved me from those big shells I now know that if I pay heed and obey God, I will continue unharmed until my work is finished, so if I fall on the field you will know the reason."

### Returning from the war a celebrity

When he returned from the war and arrived in Sydney, he received a celebrity welcome. "It was said that his feet never touched the ground from the time he returned me met him at the train till he landed on the town hall platform, where he was given – according to the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* "a welcome such as few are privileged to receive."

Hundreds of ex-servicemen came to meet him, as did family members of other servicemen, often travelling hundreds of kilometres and clutching a letter from McKenzie concerning the fate of a loved one.



## The making of the 'Ġrajjet Gaudos' TV series

**The series included dark chronicles of murder, infanticide, diabolic possession and sudden disappearances**

**THE SUNDAY TIMES OF MALTA**

George Camilleri

The TV series *Ġrajjet Gaudos*, recently broadcast on TVMnews+, was not just another local production for the silver screen. It was a major project that brought numerous historians, archivists, researchers, writers, actors and film-makers together in a collective effort to unearth and present to the public a coherent interpretation of certain episodes in the often veiled, misunderstood and caricatured social history of Gozo over the last centuries.

In its recruitment of some 180 local actors to represent the characters that populated the thirteen episodes of the series, *Ġrajjet Gaudos* represented a major artistic enterprise that immersed participants and audiences in a number of singular

events that may have shocked village communities in the past.

In the process, the series created a fresh interest in exploring the mores of our forefathers, ultimately helping us achieve a fuller understanding of who we are and where we came from.

Supported by robust evidence obtained from court records, parish archives and other sources, the series brought to our screens instances where forces of passion, greed and piety brought out the best or the worst of the protagonists.

Series created a fresh interest in our forefathers.

The series included dark chronicles of murder, infanticide, diabolic possession and sudden disappearances, as well as milder tales featuring marriage by proxy, extra-marital pregnancies, forced marriages and the proverbial village idiot.

The plague that came to Gozo in the early 19th century as well as the predicament of a tragic hero in the catastrophe of 1551 were also featured in the series.

Such episodes recreate the social mentality and the unwritten ethical codes of the communities in which they occurred, phenomena which are notoriously hard to recapture due to the onset of social change across time.

Artistic director George Mizzi ensured that the right actors were chosen for the right parts and picked locations across the island that depicted as faithfully as possible the settings of the various dramas that unfolded in each episode.

One should indeed commend the whole team for bringing to life in such an artistic fashion staid court records and other documentation.

Revisiting social history is indeed a subject of perennial interest to audiences and a rich field of drama and culture. One therefore looks forward to an extension of *Ġrajjet Gaudos* and more light on the facts and foibles of our forefathers.

In a remarkable achievement, a Polish student at the Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń, Poland, successfully defended their bachelor's thesis on the Maltese language.

The student, who specialized in applied linguistics with a focus on French and Arabic, delved into the fascinating topic of loanwords in the Maltese language and their function.

Expressing immense pride in their accomplishment, the student shared their excitement on Reddit's r/malta community, stating, "Today I officially became a bachelor of applied linguistics at Nicolaus Copernicus University!"

My thesis was about loanwords in the Maltese language and their function.

I'm so proud of myself and wanted to share it with you!!"

The study of languages is a bridge that connects people and cultures, and this achievement serves as a testament to the power of curiosity and academic pursuit.

The student's exploration of the Maltese language highlights the significance of linguistic diversity and enriches the global understanding of language evolution.





Malta is an island country in the Southern part of Europe located in the Mediterranean sea, whereas Croatia is a country located at the crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe

on the Adriatic Sea. Today in this article, we will discuss the **comparison between Malta and Croatia** regarding various aspects.

#### **Is Malta bigger than Croatia?**

The total area of **Malta** is **316 sq km**, and the total area of **Croatia** is **56,594 sq km**. Malta is smaller than Croatia **by 56,278 sq km**. Malta is around **179.1** times smaller than Croatia.

**Area of Malta:** 122 sq mi ( 316 km<sup>2</sup> )

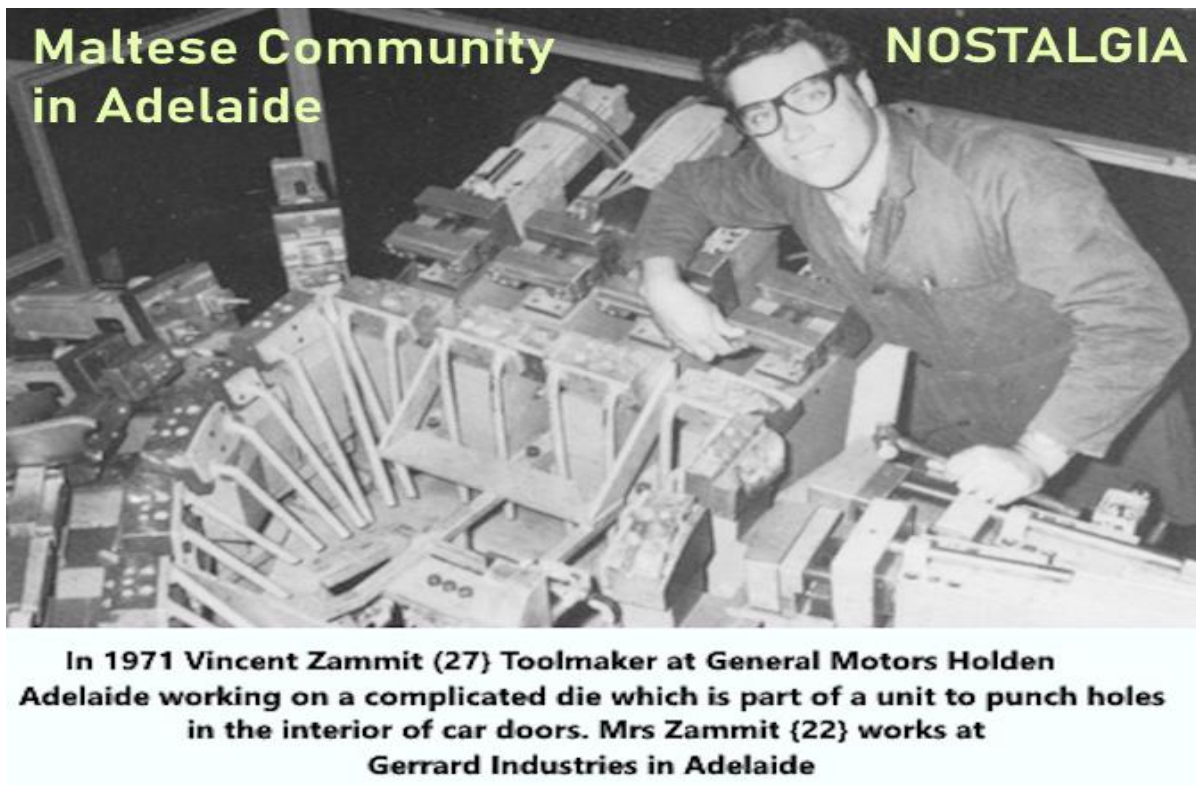
**Area of Croatia:** 21,851 sq mi ( 56,594 km<sup>2</sup> )

**Population** According to the data from Worldometer, the total population of **Malta** is estimated to be around 530 000. Based on the Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data, the current population of **Croatia** as of 5th July 2021, is estimated to be around **4,080,242**.

#### **Here is some more data comparison between Malta and Croatia.**

The capital city of Malta is **Valletta**, and the capital city of Croatia is **Zagreb**.

**Official Languages** Malta: Maltese, English Croatia: Croatian



## Humour in Malta

Humour is about the funny stuff! Jokes, limericks, one-liners with a Maltese or Gozitan slant have become familiar over time with the likes of Fra Mudest, Gaħan, Wenzu u Rozi that have become amongst the most popular icons in Maltese wit and humour. The Manoel Theatre opened in 1732 to a season of French classics. Today, it offers a full calendar ranging from comedy to classics, in both English and Maltese, and by both local and international actors and performers.

Pietro Paolo Castagna wrote two popular plays **L-ahhar tas Sena** (1850) (The end of the year) and **Il Cungres tas Sefturi** (1859) (The Servant's Congress). During the 1850s, P. P. Castagna founded a dramatic company named 'Il-Campagna Filodrammatica Vittoriosa' whose members were mostly students. The actors that emerged from this company were to be amongst the leading actors of the period. Pietro Paolo Castagna (1827-1907) was a playwright, educationist, dramatist and histoRIAN and he dedicated a signed self-portrait in pencil to his 'Dear philodramatist friend, Pietro Paolo Ellul'. He was a prominent figure and author of a history book on Malta **Lis Storja ta Malta bil gzejer tahha**, (The History of Malta and its Islands).

**L Ahhar tas Sena** is analogous in content in that it describes how a wealthy baron is caught red-handed



L to R: Freddie Underwood (1923-1970); Nosi Ghirlando (1908-1964); Charles Clews (1919-2009); Victor Galdes; Armando Urso (1918-1976); Johnny Catania 1925-1991); Mike Cassar; Terry L Bencini (1930- ) and Victor Aquilina.

Radju Muskettieri was a multi-programme comedy radio production for Rediffusion starting in 1948 and into the early 1970s.

in fraudulent activity but his power, influence and contacts help him to get away scot-free.

The late Charles Clews was a protagonist of stand-up comedy in Malta and formed part of The Stage Commandos, a group with a repertoire of sketches, plays and musicals. In 1996 he was awarded the Midalja għall-

Qadi tar-Repubblika. He always insisted that his words and nuances were "clean" and was proud of it, punchlining with tonality, body language and timing as opposed to coarseness and double entendre. Charles Clews (when a shipyard employee) during the Second World War formed a theatrical group to entertain the workers and keep morale up. After the war, the group went outside the yard and The Stage Commandos became hugely popular and successful, filling the village halls to capacity almost every weekend. Many names that are still icons of Maltese Teatrin are Guza Caruana, Johnny Catania, Freddy Underwood, Nossie Ghirlando, Dante Gatt and others. Many a time these performed at the old Radio City. A list of satirical/comical newspapers was provided to me by Mr Noel Fenech, son of the late Mr Alfred Fenech and former President of the Malta Hobbies Society with the oldest newspaper in the list being Don Chisciotte (1892). The following list, by no means exhaustive shows in chronological order some of the most popular satirical newspapers throughout Maltese history:

**Children had their own joke-packed magazine – Le Avventure di Giaħan-**

**Don Chisciotte Foglietto Uморistico, Sabato 3 Settembre 1892 - Giaħan, 1906, -**

**In-Nahla - Folju Politicu u Varju, 1909; Il-Hmar - L-euuel Sena, 1917. – Il Hmara - It-Tielet Sena, 1930. Doctor Brombos, 1938. – Ic-Cajtier Folju Uморistiku Indipendenti, Marzu 1949.**

**Il-Gannett - Folju Uморistku Pulitku u Varju, No. 102, 25 ta Gunju 1 Il-Jocker - Folju Uморistiku ta' kull Hmistax, l-ewwel sena, 1959.**

**In-Niggieza 1970s. Ix-Xewka 1970s.**



# Traditional Maltese Bigilla and Galletti



**BIGILLA** Bigilla is a traditional Maltese slightly spicy dip, made from mashed dried broad beans (*ful ta' Ġirba*), olive oil, salt and chili flakes. It's really similar to *ful Medames* which is really popular in Middle Eastern cuisine. It is probable that bigilla has actually the same origin of *ful Medames*, as the Maltese islands were under Arabic leadership for several centuries. This dip can be served cold or slightly warm. It's the perfect addition to a cheese and cold cuts platter, as it is also great as a spread on some warm bread. Another way which I love eating it, is by serving it as a pasta sauce by diluting it slightly with some pasta water.

Although this dip might be a bit time consuming to make, it's for sure worth all the waiting time during its preparation process.

## **MALTESE BIGILLA (DRIED BROAD BEAN DIP)**

A savoury spicy dried broad bean dip.

Beans soak 1 day

Total Time 1 d 2 hrs 10 mins

Servings: 4

### **INGREDIENTS**

dried fava beans *1 cup*

750 ml water *2 cups*

30 ml olive oil *2 tbsp*

1 tsp salt

3 large garlic cloves

1 tsp chili flakes

1/2 tbsp parsley *chopped*

To garnish

1 tbsp parsley *chopped*

1 chili pepper

1/2 tsp chili flakes

olive oil *drizzle*

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Start by soaking the dried fava beans from a day before you plan to cook the bigilla. In a large bowl place the dried beans and cover with water. Let it sit for a day whilst checking if more water is needed.

The next day, rinse the beans and add the beans to a large pot with the water. Bring the beans to a boil. While it is boiling, you'll notice some foam on the surface. Remove the foam with a slotted spoon.

Cover and let it simmer for about an hour. Check the beans if they need more water. Let it cook for another 30 minutes and check for doneness. If the beans are still a bit hard let them cook for another 30 minutes.

Once the beans are cooked, remove the excess water. Do not discard the water in which the beans cooked in for now. Add the beans to a food processor.

Together with the beans, add two tbsps of the water in which the beans were cooked in, olive oil, salt, garlic, chili flakes and parsley. Pulse together until all the beans are broken and you have a thick paste. Add more water if the consistency is too thick.

To serve, simply place the dip into a bowl and top with parsley, chili flakes and a diced chili pepper. Finally drizzle a good quality olive oil on top. Serve with warm bread or galletti.



**GALLETTI**

Galletti can easily be found next to dips, or included to a platter, Maltese or not. Also, these little water crackers are definitely a great snack! Nowadays, these galletti have even evolved to different flavours such as sun-dried tomatoes, salt and pepper, rosemary and even ones flavoured with the traditional Maltese cheese, ġbenjiet tal-bżar (peppered cheeselets). They're all really good. However, one of my favourite ways of eating them is just smothering some butter on the plain ones. Optionally, I used to add some Maltese cheeselets on the side.

You may even serve them with the bigilla dip

**GALLETTI (MALTESE WATER CRACKERS)**

Maltese typical light and crispy water biscuit crackers.

Prep Time 20 mins

Cook Time 20 mins

Resting Time 1 hr

Total Time 1 hr 40 mins

Course: Appetizer, Snack

Cuisine: Maltese, Mediterranean

Keyword: Galletti, Maltese

Servings: 150 pieces

**INGREDIENTS**

400 g plain flour

100 g semolina

200 ml water *lukewarm*

30 g butter *melted*

1 tsp salt

1 tsp sugar

7 g dry active yeast *1 sachet*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

In a small bowl mix the lukewarm water, yeast and sugar. Let the mixture foam for about 15 minutes.

Combine all the dry ingredients together; flour, semolina, and salt. Once mixed together add the melted butter and the activated yeast and mix together.

Knead the dough for some minutes, until you get a smooth soft dough.

Place the dough in a bowl, cover and let it rest for an hour.

Preheat the oven to 180°C or 350°F. Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Set aside.

If you have a pasta machine you can use it, or else a normal rolling pin can do the job. Divide the dough into about 8 pieces as it's best to work in small batches. Roll the dough to about 2mm thick.

With a narrow glass or a small cookie cutter cut the galletti and place them on the baking tray. With a toothpick or fork, make five holes in the middle of each galletta. This will help the dough not to fill with air and puff up while cooking.

Cook for about 15 to 20 minutes, until they get a golden colour. Let them cool. You might need to cook all the dough in several batches as this will depend on your oven and baking trays.

They can be enjoyed immediately or later. If stored in an air tight container these galletti can last for about a week as they'll keep their crunchiness.



**Our Journal is the Global Voice  
of all Maltese Living Abroad**

**Maltese  
Diaspora**





I am writing from Canada, I am second generation Maltese, I enjoy reading your Maltese Journal. I am 58 years old. My Father immigrated to Canada in 1951. He recently passed, December 14-2022. He wanted to go to Malta one more time but his health prevented him from going. He went for holidays, any chance he could. He was the oldest of ten, Australia opened their doors, his mother, a widow took her other nine children to Melbourne. He went to visit them when he was 65. Have not seen his family in 50 years.. Australia. He went to visit them when he was 65. Have not seen his family in 50 years.. N.Attard – Canada

Cycled to the shop to buy a bottle of gin, but then I thought, what if I fall off my bike and the bottle gets broken? So cleverly, I drank it all outside the shop. Good thing I did too, I fell off my bike seven times on my way home

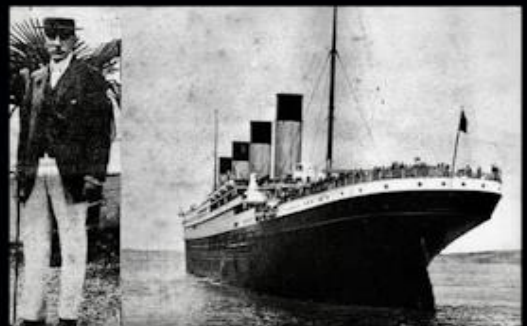


Me Laughing at the new Facebook Like Button Sound 😂



If memory serves me right, this was the first smart phone 😊

**GET SMART**



A man survived the sinking of a ship in 1871 leaving him traumatized afterward. Some forty years later he was finally able to overcome his fears and sail again...only to die on the Titanic.

**Life goes by fast.  
Enjoy it**

## Maltese Voices Sydney

Listen to this popular Maltese program



Sunday 10am



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**If you would like to help these are the bank details -**

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**BSB: 065-106**  
**ACC. NO: 0050 2597**

These issues have been discussed and promoted on the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad for several several years.

- The restoration of the Australia Hall built at Pembroke in 1915
- The restoration of the Australian Bungalow
- The teaching of Maltese Emigration in schools
- The facilitation of obtaining Maltese citizenship and passport by Maltese living abroad
- The acquisition of Identity Card, Kartanzjan etc to all Maltese citizens visiting Malta
- The recognition and keeping records of the many Maltese achievers who made a good name for Malta in their respective field
- The preservation the Maltese History of Maltese Migration
- The impact of planning laws on Maltese Living Abroad
- Methods to enhance the relationship between the Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the Maltese Citizens, Associations and clubs operating abroad