

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP



The High Commissioner of Australia to Malta, Mr Matt Skelly, presenting credentials to the President of Malta



MALTESE-GERMAN CIRCLE

**MALTESE
DIASPORA
MATTERS**

Congratulations



OUR NEW MALTESE CITIZENS



MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
MALTA IN THE WORLD

**Adelaide
Australia**



**Frank & Jane
GRIMA**



**Francis of Assisi Home Mackay
celebrates Malta Day
September 2023**



MACKAY MALTESE CLUB INC.

Francis of Assisi Home Mackay held a Malta Day Celebration for their residents. They listened to a speech about Malta, watched Maltese dancing and had some pastizzi and cake. Looks like a lot of fun.



**FRANCIS
THE POPE OF MIGRANTS
AND REFUGEES**

FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT TO MIGRATE

Pope Francis noted that “the right to migrate, a fundamental human right, has for many become an obligation driven by dire circumstances.” He stressed that there should exist an equally essential right not to migrate, affirming the right of individuals to remain in their own lands while enjoying a life of dignity and fulfillment.

“The current global landscape is marred by suffering, conflict, and the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, forcing countless people to abandon their homes and seek refuge elsewhere,” said the Pope. He acknowledged this grim reality and called upon all individuals and nations to unite in solidarity and compassion, striving to create communities that are not only prepared but eager to welcome, support, guide, and integrate those who arrive at their doors seeking refuge and solace.

An echo from Marseille

The Holy Father noted that this appeal resonates with the recent “Rencontres Méditerranéennes” (Mediterranean Meetings) held in Marseille over the past. Pope Francis attended the concluding session of this meeting during his journey to the southern French city, from 22-23 September.

During his participation in the Rencontres Méditerranéennes, Pope Francis engaged in extensive discussions and dialogues centered around the challenges and opportunities posed by migration, particularly in the Mediterranean region. “The Mediterranean has historically been a melting pot of cultures and civilisations,” Pope Francis stressed during the conference. “In these challenging times,” Pope Francis said during his visit, “let us embrace the spirit of empathy and unity, welcoming those who seek refuge with open hearts and minds.”

Source: [vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va)

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN VICTORIA AND NSW

For the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the 21 September was not only a celebration of Independence Day but also a celebration of Maltese Citizenship s for 13 new Citizens.

The event was organized by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta.



Ms Giaconda Schembri represented the High Commission assisted by Ms Pauline Theuma from the Office of the Consulate General in Melbourne.

Madam President, Antonia Camilleri together with the Treasurer, Joseph Matina represented the Maltese community Council of Victoria for this ceremony.

The night was of great success and the delicious traditional food complimented the night. On behalf of the Executive of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, we wish all 13 new citizens the very best and trust they enjoy all the benefits that come with their new citizenship.

Regards **Joseph Matina** *Treasurer & Chairman of the Cultural Events Team*



The Consul-General of Malta in Sydney, Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, presented the Maltese Citizenship Certificate to 19 recipients during the inaugural Maltese Citizenship Award Ceremony in the state of NSW at Blacktown La Valette Social Centre, It is also appropriate to acknowledge the staff at the Consulate-General of Malta in Sydney, the Malta High Commission

in Canberra, the La Vallette Social Centre and the NSW Maltese Community Council for their assistance in making this event a successful one.

WELCOME TO THE MALTESE DIASPORA



His Excellency Mr Matt Skelly

The new Australia's High Commissioner to Malta with non-resident accreditation to Tunisia

Mr Skelly is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Director, Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section. He has previously served as Deputy Head of Mission in Madrid and First Secretary in Baghdad, and Pretoria. He has also worked as Assistant Director in the Crisis Management Section, Iraq Section and International Economic Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Director of Industry Engagement in the National Careers Institute of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

Mr Skelly holds a Bachelor of Communications and Marketing from the University of Canberra.



60 Events and 250 Artists for Notte Bianca

About Notte Bianca

Organised by Festivals Malta, Notte Bianca is one of Malta's biggest annual arts and culture festivals. For one special night, every first Saturday

of October, the Valletta cityscape lights up with a spectacular celebration of the arts that is open to the public free of charge. Valletta's streets, piazzas, churches, state palaces and museums are transformed into venues for a myriad of live performances and concerts, while many cafés and restaurants extend their opening hours. The entire city of Valletta, from City Gate to Fort St Elmo, comes alive for Notte Bianca, guaranteeing a memorable night that truly holds something for everyone.

Notte Bianca usually attracts thousands to people to the capital city. Fille Photo: Chris Sant Fournier Notte Bianca, which will this year be held on October 7, will include over 60 activities featuring more than 250 artists, the majority of whom are local, Culture Minister Owen Bonnici said on Monday.

Organised by Festivals Malta, Notte Bianca offers a diversified show of performative and visual art, with the participation of local and international artists.

"Notte Bianca represents a continuous and direct investment in the cultural sector, which is evolving, to make this platform more accessible to both our creatives and the Maltese society as a whole," Bonnici said.

Festivals Malta chair Aaron Zahra said that Notte Bianca succeeded in promoting Malta as a cultural destination by offering entertaining and educational events with artistic value.

Festivals Malta this year launched an interactive map to help people look for, and find events they were interested in. "Each year, Festivals Malta is working to not only make Notte Bianca more accessible and organised but also to continue raising the bar so that the public can enjoy our festivals in the best way possible," Zahra added.

Artistic Director Antoine Farrugia said that this year, over 60 projects categorised in seven artistic routes will feature in Notte Bianca. The main stage artists will include Aidan, Ivan Grech and Band, and the popular Italian band Le Vibrazioni.

The full programme is available on www.festivals.mt/nb

**FR. ROBERT GALEA**

Travels over 600km to celebrate 4 Masses across the diocese of Sandhurst (& beyond). This is often the reality of a regional Australian priest.

Fr Rob Galea is an ordained Catholic Priest and is currently serving in Sandhurst Diocese, Victoria, Australia after moving to Australia from Malta, his home country. He is the founder and executive director of FRG Ministry, a charity organisation that ministers to over 1,400,000 people each year across the world.

Fr Rob is an internationally acclaimed author, singer, and

MALTESE AUSTRALIAN PRIEST WITH A MISSION

songwriter with one book (*Breakthrough*), a reflective journal, and eight album releases. After being selected to sing and write the English and International versions of the official 2008, 2016, and 2019 *World Youth Day* songs, Fr Rob entered the realm of the cast of musicians having performed in some key events before an estimated single live audience of over 1,000,000 people. He has been featured in newspapers, magazines and TV shows worldwide, and was a contestant in Australia's 2015 *The X Factor*. Fr Rob's book *Breakthrough* is intended to be released as a Hollywood movie in 2025.

Fr Galea has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry as a speaker to students and teaching staff, as well as speaking and singing at conferences and churches around Australia and the world.

In all this, whilst greatly appreciating his gifts, he recognises that before everything he is a follower of Christ, a priest and only then, a speaker, musician and artist.



The present and the future of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre - Cringila NSW

numbers are growing. WE would like to see more young ones to make this function more vibrant. The committee members and volunteers always make sure to make it a memorable day for the young one and they introduced them one by one to the senior's group.

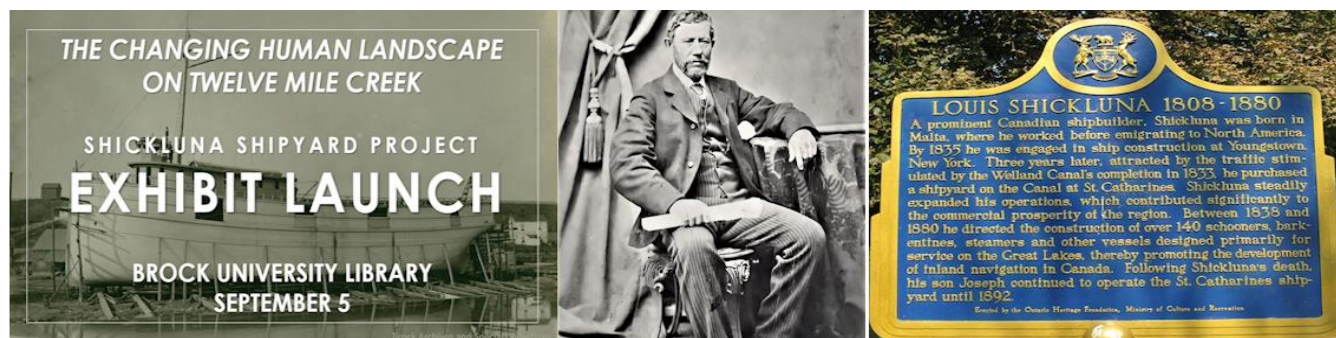
After being served '*ross l-form*' they were treated with hot sausage rolls and ice blocks, kids' favourites. Cringila Maltese community's future is looking brighter as time goes by as many young married couples showing interest in being part of this group.

Cringila Centre makes everyone welcome wholeheartedly and certainly accepts and supports any ideas that can be implemented in benefitting the wider community and make the centre more welcoming. We encourage every Maltese in Wollongong region and especially the young ones to attend the welcome and reception in honour of the Malta President of the Republic of Malta on the 19 October from 12.30pm onwards to meet Dr. George Vella and his wife Miriam. It will be an experience you will never forget.

In NSW school holidays commenced this week and as many of our young families busy working, the grandparents are lucky enough to look after them for a while and spoil them.

It is a tradition on the Monday to being the kids to the Maltese community centre in Cringila for lunch and social gathering and with the attendance of so many young people the

MALTESE IN CANADA - Louis Shickluna



Louis Shickluna, shipbuilder was born at Senglea, Malta 16 June 1808 and died at St Catharines, Ontario, Canada on 24 Apr 1880). By 1835 he was engaged in ship construction at Youngstown, NY. He later moved to St Catharines and from 1838 leased a shipyard on the Welland Canal which he purchased in 1845. His expanding operations significantly promoted inland navigation and contributed to the region's commercial prosperity. Between 1838 and 1880 he directed the construction of some 140 schooners, propellers, barkentines, barks and other vessels primarily designed for service on the Great Lakes. He was, in fact, perhaps the greatest 19th-century shipbuilder on the Great Lakes in Canada. He was an innovator and an original designer who was responsible for the unique Great Lakes snub-nosed schooner designed to make maximum use of the canal locks. He served as a councillor in St Catharines.

The Shickluna Shipyard Project is a St. Catharines based, multi-disciplinary project investigating an historic Canadian shipyard operated by Louis Shickluna and Joseph Shickluna.

Project headquarters are currently based in the Department of History at Brock University.

Research to date has been primarily supported by the Insight Development Grant program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as through contributions from collaborating institutions. Additional support and services have been generously provided by the local community.

Members of the Shickluna Shipyard team have been busy preparing the projects' inaugural exhibit. The exhibit, which is kindly hosted by the Brock University Library, will run from September 5 through October 16. It is comprised of two parts which, together, explore the evolving cultural

landscape which we refer to as the Shickluna Shipyard site. So while our project focus is on Shickluna, and over 60 years of shipbuilding that took place at the site, the exhibit recognizes the breadth of human history that has shaped this landscape over time.

The first case is in the Thistle hallway (beside the library). The Changing Human Landscape on Twelve Mile Creek is where the story begins, characterizing the sites' earliest occupants. The second case is in the library, just around the corner. Uncovering Historic Landscapes at the Shickluna Shipyard: A Multi-Component Archaeological Site explores the history of the site after 1891.

The exhibit has been supported by the Insight Development Grant program, of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Brock University Department of History. Thank you to our community volunteers James Lang, Emily Haus, Virginia Stewart and Tisha Polocko who have been contributing to the content and supporting the installation. We are particularly grateful to John Summers, Acting Director of Culture and Tourism for the City of Hamilton, for his time on exhibit design and development. John literally wrote the book on exhibits "Creating Exhibits That Engage" which may be of interest to our followers.



Divers recover US airman's remains from WWII bomber wreck near Malta

By Tom Metcalfe

The remains have been identified as those of a gunner killed when the badly damaged aircraft crashed into the sea in 1943.

Divers have recovered human remains from the wreck of an American B-24 Liberator bomber that crashed into the sea near Malta in May 1943. (Image credit: DPAA/University of Malta)

Scientific analysis by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has confirmed the remains are those of U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) Sgt. Irving R. Newman, who was 22 years old when the aircraft — a B-24 Liberator based in Libya — suffered engine trouble and was hit by anti-aircraft fire during a bombing raid over the southern tip of Italy. The bomber wreck was located in 2016 but it's taken archaeological divers from the University of Malta several years to excavate it and recover the remains.

The bomber then tried to reach Malta — an emergency landing site for Allied aircraft in trouble — but the aircraft lost power as it approached the island. Nine of the bomber's crew survived the crash landing on the water's surface. They tried to rescue Newman, who had been injured by anti-aircraft fire, but the aircraft sank after a few minutes, taking Newman with it.

The American bomber suffered engine trouble during a raid over occupied southern Italy in May 1943. It was then damaged by anti-aircraft fire and the crew hoped to make an emergency landing at Malta. (Image credit: DPAA/University of Malta)

The wreck now lies about a mile (1.6 kilometers) off Malta's southernmost point, about 190 feet (58 meters) beneath the water's surface. Although the first dives to the wreck were made in 2018, Newman's remains were not recovered until this June, Timmy Gambin, a maritime archaeologist at the University of Malta who led the dive recovery team, told Live Science.

Nine of the bomber crew survived a crash landing on the surface of the sea near Malta, but another was trapped when the aircraft sank a few minutes later. (Image credit: DPAA/University of Malta)

The University of Malta's maritime archaeology research program started looking for the submerged bomber wreck in 2015, following reports that the aircraft had crashed there in 1943. The team located the wreck in 2016 using side-scan sonar, which creates an image of the seafloor. It was then mapped with sonar on an autonomous



underwater vehicle, and photogrammetric images were used to create a detailed 3D model.

The site is deep for scuba divers, so the recovery team maximized their time by using breathing gases with more helium and oxygen than normal and "rebreather" technology — equipment that absorbs carbon dioxide and recycles other gases. But even with these measures they were limited to working just 45 minutes a day on the wreck, and the excavation to recover Newman's remains took two months of diving — one in 2022 and another in 2023, Gambin said.

Newman had been a gunner on the bomber, and the excavation of his remains was "very challenging because of the ragged edges and the unstable nature of the site," he said.

American bomber

More B-24 Liberators were produced than any other bomber in World War II. More than 18,000 had been built by the end of the war.

The divers also recovered a 50-millimeter machine gun and other artifacts, but "the main aim of the project was to locate and recover the missing airman," Gambin said.

During World War II, more B-24 Liberators were manufactured than any other American bomber — more than 18,000 by the war's end. The first was produced in 1941, and they were used extensively in bombing raids over Europe. Many B-24s were given nicknames — Hollywood actor Jimmy Stewart piloted one dubbed "Male Call" — but the Liberator that crashed near Malta doesn't seem to have had a moniker.

Malta's waters are strewn with shipwrecks of every kind and from every age, but the B-24 Liberator wreck stands out.

"To have a USAAF bomber in Maltese waters is very unusual because these never flew out of Malta's airfields," Gambin said. "However, we are very glad that we did find it and contributed to providing closure for Sergeant Newman's family."

QORMI RESIDENTS COMMEMORATE THE 170TH BIRTHDAY OF CHEV. ĠUŻÈ MUSCAT-AZZOPARDI



Guize Muscat
Azzopardi



The Gozitan folkloristic group, "Ta' Verna"



Doris Zammit
Organiser

On Tuesday, 12th September 2023, at 7pm, the Qormi Local Council held a Musical-Literary soiree, under the patronage of His Excellency, George Vella, the President of Malta, to commemorate the 170th birthday of Chev. Ġużè Muscat-Azzopardi.

Who was Ġużè Muscat-Azzopardi?

Chev. Ġużè Muscat-Azzopardi was born in Qormi on the 1st September, 1853. He was a writer, a poet, a critic and a politician. He first started writing in Italian and then he changed to writing in Maltese. He was the first President of the Għaqda tal-Kittieba Maltin (Union of Maltese Writers). He was instrumental in urging our national poet Dun Karm Psaila, the poet Anastasio Cuschieri and Ninu Cremona to write in Maltese.

On the 18th August, 1920, during the 10th session of the National Assembly Commission, as the representative of journalists he proposed the use of the Maltese language to those who could not express themselves in English or Italian. This proposal was accepted.

After his death he was recognised as the Father of Maltese Literature. Many were those who, after his death, praised his works, among them Dun Karm Psaila, who, in his eulogy dedicated to Muscat Azzopardi, referred to him as a "poet" and declared that he was a very good writer of Maltese. After his death he was proclaimed "Missier il-Letteratura Maltija".

A Musical Literary Soiree

The programme which was presented by Marica Cassar, included a feature named "Il-Vjaġġ ta' Hajtu" (His Life's Journey), written and produced by Doris Zammit, a Councillor in the same Qormi Local Council, as well as the participation of the Gozitan folkloristic group, "Ta' Verna". There were also readings from the literary works of our compatriot Ġużè Muscat Azzopardi by Duncan Ciappara. As a fitting gesture, the soiree was held in Misraħ il-Kittieba (Writer's Square), Qormi. The soiree was well received by the audience present.



SHE WANTS TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE PASTIZZI IN NEW YORK

After the death of Leli who used to make and sell pastries in New York, an

appeal is now being made for someone to teach the new owners of the Leli's Bakery shop. This shop is well known in Astoria in New York and not only has pastries but also honey cakes. The shop is quite a well-known one that opens every day from Monday to Sunday at 7am and stays open until 9pm with the exception of Friday and Saturday when it stays open until 10pm.

Marianne Sciberras who nowadays lives in New York saluted Leli's memory and appealed for help so that the pastizzi tradition stays alive in New York.



The destruction of Sikka Bajda

By Mark Gatt and Raniero Borg

Sikka Bajda is situated 3km off St Paul's Islands and

extends towards the Malta- Comino channel. Its shallower parts are approximately 4.5 kilometres long x 1.5 kilometres wide. Sikka, meaning reef, is more of a plateau ranging from 26 metres deep in its southeastern side to as shallow as 12 metres in the northwestern end. This reef is larger than Qawra and St Paul's Bay put together.

We started diving on Sikka Bajda some forty years ago, soon after obtaining our divers' licence. It used to be a breeding ground for all sorts of marine life. We have been diving this reef constantly, in every season of the year, for all these years. Over the years, we have seen the causes and effects of the deterioration of marine life on this natural breeding ground and we hope to offer some practical solutions to remedy this environmental disaster.

In our opinion, there are four major human activities which are destroying marine life on this reef. We are listing them in their order of destruction, starting by the most damaging to possibly the least damaging activity. Video footage shows the destruction from this selfish human activity.

OCTOPUS TRAPS

In our early diving days, fishermen from St Paul's Bay and Mellieħa Bay would come out in their small boats and they would drop a line of about 10 octopus traps tied to one another. A Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) tied at each end would indicate their location. They would return the following day to retrieve their traps and take them back with them.

The situation right now is tragically quite different. At first sight one would think that these are no longer used because there are no SMBs bobbing on the surface. There are lines of 50 traps or more encircling the reef. The use of modern technology - depth finders and Global Positioning System (GPS) - allows the fishermen to drop the traps at the far ends of the reef, where the seabed starts to drop down to deeper

waters. These areas are usually more abundant in marine life, more than the flat plateau.

They are not using SMBs to mark the ends of their lines because a GPS can bring them to the exact location and with a grappling hook they can easily pull up their lines. These traps are being left constantly on the seabed and never removed! When the fisherman decides to go to check his catch, he locates part of the line and retrieves what is in the traps, dropping the same traps back onto the seabed in the exact same location. Many traps are missed and some are not checked in a very long time. We often come across abandoned traps that haven't been visited in months. But they continue to entrap fish in them! And not just octopus. Weaker fish, dying from starvation due to their entrapment, lure other fish into the traps. The only species benefitting from this selfish activity is the Busufu (Bearded Fireworm - *Hermodice carunculata*). These worms can enter and exit the traps at will and they feed on the dying and dead fish inside. No wonder their numbers have exploded. See video www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E5gpynilz0 The Fishery Regulations specify that the use of nassi tal-qarnit (octopus traps) "is permitted without any licence at all times and in all localities."

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The law has to be updated and needs to specify that,

- i. Only licensed full-time and part-time fishermen can use the octopus traps.
- ii. A maximum number of traps, not exceeding fifteen traps, can be tied together in a single line.
- iii. An SMB at each end of the line to indicate their location, with the fisherman's registration number on each SMB. The fisherman has to place a card tied to the SMB indicating the date he last visited the traps.
- iv. The traps have to be retrieved and relocated. They cannot remain in the same location indefinitely.
- v. Any abandoned or inactive traps (without bait in them and without an SMB) can be reported to ERA who will send divers to inspect and to confiscate such traps.



German-Maltese Circle



8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MALTESE LINGUISTICS IN BREMEN

From 18–20 September 2023, linguists from nine countries met at the University of Bremen to discuss current issues in Maltese linguistics. The conference of the International Association for Maltese Linguistics (L-Għaqda Internazzjonali tal-Lingwistika Maltija, GHILM) was jointly organised by both branches of the Malta Centre (Bremen and

Malta). This year's theme was "The next century of Maltese linguistics"

The conference is the largest conference on Maltese linguistics and brings together researchers worldwide who work on the Maltese language.

watchtowers were used by military or naval authorities.

CUTE MALTESE WORDS

Chucky Bartolo

PUPA/PUPU - The Maltese version of *doll*, usually used when calling or encouraging children. "Ejja pupa, l-aħħar ftiit" - any adult trying to convince a little girl to finish her broccoli/homework.

HANINI - "Darling" No, not the spreadable cheese or a boat. Hanini is usually reserved for beings of great cuteness (i.e. all animals and some babies). "Hanini! Irrid wieħed bħalu!" - any human watching a video of a baby sloth.

TEŻOR - "Treasure" Although this term of endearment hasn't been widely used since the knights roamed freely through our streets (in the flesh, not spectral form), calling anyone a treasure is an endearing thing indeed.

QALBI - "My Heart" Although it lacks any sense when translated literally, 'my heart' is one of Malta's most common (and sweetest) terms of endearment used for children, friends and significant others. **Things get dark when...** It's used following a deep sigh. Nothing spells disappointment quite like a condescending look and a short 'qalbi...'

DUDU/DUDA - "Worm" Although at face value calling someone a worm may not seem like the sweetest of terms, but it's probably one of those that developed out of the I-love-you-so-much-it's-cool-if-we-insult-each-other school of thought.

SABIH/SABIHA - 'Hello beautiful' - not much room for offence here, right? Wrong. **Things get dark when** 'Eh' is tacked on the end, then it's suddenly 'sabiħ eh!' and morphs into one of the most sarcastic phrases ever. Also if you're called a *sabiħ/a* in traffic, the other driver you just cut off is in no way exchanging pleasantries.

Other common terms are: **XBIN u SIEHBI** – "mate"

IMHOBBOK – I love you **SAHHA** - cheers! Bye, health. **IZZEWIGNI** – "Marry me"



PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Minister Ian Borg addresses the 15th Annual Meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad



"The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad continues to be instrumental in acquiring knowledge and better understanding of how the Maltese diaspora sees our country from abroad, and to further communicate our vision of foreign policy." Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg stated this while addressing the 15th Annual Meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad.

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Council, established by law, is being held between the 11th and 12th of September 2023 at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade in Palazzo Spinola, St Julian's.

During his opening speech, Minister Ian Borg met with the council members and thanked them for their contributions. He acknowledged that for many members of the Council, this year's meeting will be their last as members, and therefore urged these members to share their experiences, particularly regarding the Council's goals.

Minister Borg emphasised the impressive integration of Maltese diaspora worldwide and the importance of fostering adaptation in younger generations.



"The demographics and dynamics of Maltese mobility is changing at a rapid pace, mostly driven by globalisation, technological progress, and environmental concerns. These factors are expected to affect migration and priorities in the future. Hence, our country needs to remain active to ensure better outcomes that enhance our country's reputation," said Minister Ian Borg. Minister Borg also mentioned various initiatives and events, including the launch of a new High Commission in Ottawa, Canada, and the organisation of a Virtual Forum for Young Maltese Living Abroad. He outlined plans to present a Bill which will formalise the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, a crucial step for the Council's future development and operation.

The agenda for this year's meeting also includes discussions on connectivity and its importance, with contributions from both Council members and other stakeholders.

This Council has 15 members, including representatives from Australia, the United States, Canada, Belgium, the United Kingdom, France, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.



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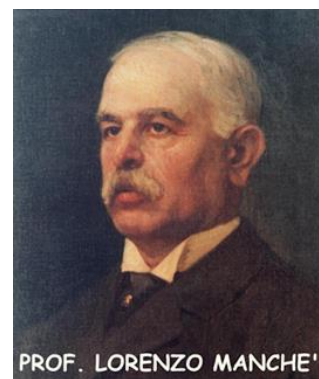
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Lorenzo Manché and his son Charles Driven by compassion

Written by Louis Borg Manché and Edwin Borg Manché



PROF. LORENZO MANCHE'

This book narrates the remarkable life stories of Professor Lorenzo Manché and his son Dr Charles Manché. Regarded as the founder of Ophthalmology in Malta, Lorenzo was the inaugural chair of Ophthalmology at the Malta University. Charles also became an ophthalmologist and was the driving force behind the Ophthalmic Institute of Malta where thousands of paupers, suffering from trachoma and other eye diseases, were treated for free.

Step into a world long forgotten, when Malta was beset with colonial arrogance, total reliance on the British fleet's presence for livelihood, widespread poverty and grossly inadequate public healthcare.

Experience the inspirational journey of Lorenzo Manché, a pioneer in the field of ophthalmology in Malta and his son Charles who follows in his footsteps as an ophthalmologist. Their journey unfolds against the backdrop of a Maltese society grappling with social, economic and political challenges.

Witness their profound compassion as they embark on a noble philanthropic project, the Ophthalmic Institute of Malta, an instinctive response to a public health crisis, combatting the devastating spread of trachoma with free treatment to destitute patients afflicted by the life-changing disease, offering a beacon of hope to those most in need and epitomising the true essence of their profession.

Engage with Lorenzo's persuasive arguments as he extends his influence far beyond medicine, becoming a prominent figure in national discourse - fearlessly advocating for Maltese language preservation, proposing solutions to the emigration crisis, promoting skilled trades and agriculture,

standing up for farmers and fishermen and backing the push for self-government.

Discover the daunting challenges that test the limits of Lorenzo's determination and resilience as he spearheads the efforts to erect Christ the King monument by the famous Maltese sculptor Antonio Sciortino, commemorating the International Eucharistic Congress held in Malta in 1913.

Enter the tumultuous realm of Maltese politics in colonial times as Lorenzo enters politics in retirement and navigates the political landscape, driven solely by the common good, his love for his fellow citizens, and a burning desire to make a valuable contribution.

For Melitensia and medical history enthusiasts, this biography is a must-read. It goes beyond the ordinary with previously unpublished sources and materials - private correspondence, official documents, photographs and illustrations.

The book consists of 400 pages lavishly illustrated with 80 pages of photos and documents. The portrait drawing of Lorenzo Manché on the front cover is by Alex Manché, Cardiothoracic surgeon.

It is available at BDL San Gwann and leading book-sellers.

"This book certainly immerses the reader in a bygone world whose noble principles we aspire to, and whose enduring goals we strive to emulate in our everyday lives" - Alex Manché, Cardiothoracic surgeon.



Ritratt © Caroline Camenzuli

St Dimitri Church and Legend at Gharb - Gozo

There are several legends related to the chapel. The most popular legend says that the pirates stole Zgugina's son. Zgugina went to the chapel and prayed San Dimitri to get her son back. San Dimitri leaped from the portrait with his white horse and rode to the pirate ship over water. He fought the pirates and returned her son safely.

Another related legend says that the original San Dimitri chapel was close to the cliffs. One day in a big earthquake the chapel fell in one piece to the sea. The legend specifies that a candle is alight day and night in this underwater chapel. Also the legend mentions that the chapel bell still chimes on special religious days.




Explore more *stories*

TRADITIONS, RICHNESS, & COLOUR!
The sheer magnetism of Maltese culture is apparent everywhere you go, making it almost impossible not to be drawn in.

<https://www.visitmalta.com/>

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IMAGINE
A NEW WORLD TO DISCOVER



THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

malteselivingabroad.mfet@gov.mt
 **VIRTUAL YOUTH FORUM**
www.malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/

Save the Date

DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2023

TIME: 6 PM

2nd Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND TRADE



MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
STAY IN THE KNOW

INVITATION

The Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad is back for the second time. Join us on Friday 27 October at 6pm CET for a unique opportunity for Maltese youths both in Malta and Beyond to connect and discuss issues of common concern to youth all across the globe. Save the date! More information and registration details to come in the coming weeks!

The Journal of all Maltese Living Abroad



The Great Wall of Malta

Fortifications, bastions, cavaliers, curtains, ravelins – so many names in Malta for stone walls. Here, Leslie Vella points his camera and his attention at a wall less often mentioned in guide-books but that's historically and geographically fascinating all the same. A wall you can walk as well! Victoria Lines at Bingemma.

The major British fortification in Malta is the one known as the **Victoria Lines** which spans a 12 km stretch between Madliena/Bahar ic-Caghaq to the East and Kuncizzjoni/Fomm ir-Rih to the West. This fortified system consists of four forts, a number of gun batteries and an unbroken infantry line which connects them together to form a continuous defence which stretches from east coast to west coast and effectively cuts Malta into a northern and a southern half.

Why the wall? - When the British arrived in Malta in 1800 their major task was to afford as much protection as was possible to the Grand Harbour area, particularly in view of the great technological advances made by artillery which could launch shells from a far greater distance than was the norm when the Knights built the complex fortifications around Valletta and the Three Cities.

Their major preoccupation was with the exposed sandy beaches in the north of Malta which were then seen as a strategic nuisance rather than the tourism and leisure asset they are today. Their fear was that an enemy landing in the undefended north of Malta could establish an artillery line which could inflict major damage on the harbour installations.

Where's the wall - After considering many options they finally decided to capitalise on a natural fault line which neatly cuts Malta into two parts at the place of its maximum width and to construct a fortified line thereby protecting the populated south from the undeveloped and exposed north. We still travel up and down this fault via various major roads in Malta such as the Bahar ic-Caghaq Coast Road between Splash and Fun and White Rocks, it-Telgha ta' Alla w Ommu in Naxxar and Targa Gap Road outside Mosta among others.

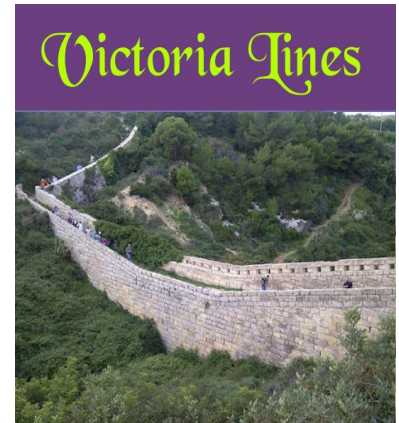
What is the wall - This defensive system was built and developed over a 29-year period between 1870 and 1899 and was originally called the North West Front. It was eventually re-christened the Victoria Lines in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. The Victoria Lines consist of four forts (Pembroke, Madliena, Mosta and Bingemma) together with an unbroken low-walled infantry line linking Forts Madliena, Mosta and Bingemma along the course of the fault. The wall is a relatively unimpressive two-metre high affair in most places, but its main objective was to

enable defending soldiers to fire down on the enemy below from their protected vantage point in the ridge around 150 metres above.

Why the wall is important to us today - To the

military history aficionado, the Victoria Lines provide yet another dimension to Malta's millennial history as a strategically located island. They are a logical extension of the defensive works developed by the Knights and shows the extent of what lengths those who valued Malta's location were ready to go to, to defend it from falling into enemy hands. It is a major, military architecture undertaking built before the advent of heavy machinery and still stands relatively unscathed today, more than one hundred years after it was completed.

For those who are less interested in military matters, the Victoria Lines sit atop some of Malta's highest ground, some 200 metres above sea level, and a walk along them affords excellent views of the entire northern half of the island together with Gozo and Comino. Even distant Sicily is clearly visible on crisp winter days. Another bonus associated with a walk along the Lines is that they are set along some beautiful countryside which is generally free from excessive development. Beautiful walks are possible near Gharghur, on the Dwejra Lines overlooking Mosta and Mgarr and between Bingemma and Fomm ir-Rih. Like a lot of our ancestors' major efforts aimed at protecting Malta from invasion, the Victoria Lines were never tested in war. They however remain as a legacy to times gone by when conflict around our shores was a daily reality and when war, or the prospect of war, brought economic prosperity while peace brought depression and hunger. I also value the Victoria Lines because they have probably, unwittingly, constrained development in Malta to the southern half whilst ensuring that the northern half remained relatively emptier. Having been built to resist invasion from the north to the south, their major achievement has been to suppress development from breaching their unbroken line and invading the north! For this we should be grateful as it has ensured that in spite of living on one of the most densely-populated territories on the planet we still have a beautiful, open countryside which is there for all to enjoy.





“Country needs language professionals to become teachers, to travel and work with different cultures”

David Schembri – Languages Officer, EC representation in Malta

He added that, however, this has not replaced the work of a translations which remain important especially in multi-lingual societies, such as Malta. “You need someone who is specialised not only in languages but also how they are delivered. It is not simply a question of knowing a word but how to use the correct term”

David Schembri

This year, the European Commission’s representation in Malta joined the University to present the FestaLingwi on Sunday. The activity, which is open to the public, will be held at the Old University building in Valletta from 2.00pm onwards.

“We will be celebrating the Maltese language during our feast.....our language which gives us identity, from other people and which reflects who we are and our history.

David Schembri

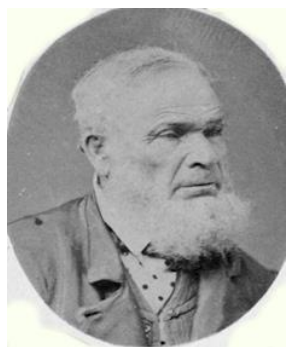
The event will consist of discussions on various subjects, lessons of the Maltese language to foreigners living in Malta, an introduction of Maltese sign language and a children’s show on Malta’s history and language. The festival will also include competitions and events on the English, French and Spanish languages and a concert by Djun group with Maltese songs and folk songs.

As Europe prepares to celebrate the European Day of Languages, the EC representation in Malta and the University of Malta will today organise the first edition of the ‘FestaLingwi’ at the Old University building in Valletta.

The European Day of Languages is celebrated each year on 26 September. “In Europe, not only in the EU, there are over 200 native languages, which are spoken apart from immigrants languages and others”.

However, in a world where artificial intelligence is now capable of making translations between languages, is there still the need for trained people in languages? David Schembri, a languages officer in the EC Representation in Malta, says that the country needs trained professionals in languages to become teachers, to travel and work with different cultures, or to work as translators. “We use artificial intelligence tools to translate big volumes of documents...from our experience the development of this technology assists us to accelerate our work”.

David Schembri



THE FIRST MALTESE FREE SETTLER IN AUSTRALIA -1839

Antonio Azzopardi was born in Żejtun, Malta to the merchant Angelo Azzopardi and his wife Euphemia Cachia and emigrated to Victoria, Australia on board the Mary Hay in 1839.

Career He was a seaman for the first few years after his arrival. He worked as a mail contractor and then a canvasser for the Melbourne Herald. Later he bought a printing press and became a printer. He died in 1881 at his residence 5 Erin Street, North Richmond.

Azzopardi is included in the photographic montage published by Thomas Foster Chuck in 1872 entitled “The Explorers and Early Colonists of Victoria”. He is number 84 in the montage and is listed as “A. Azzopardi”.



Godwin Gauci

Maltese Senior Citizens Association of S.A. Inc Frank Grima – President

Written by Godwin Gauci



the Maltese community of South Australia used to have twelve associations of which only these survived to this day namely the Maltese Guild, St. Catherine Society, The Maltese Queen of Victories Band, The Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group, the



Frank & Jane
GRIMA

Maltese Aged Care Association, the Maltese Community Radio and the Maltese Seniors Citizens Association.

The Maltese Citizens Association was formed in 1983. The members of the first committee were Frans Falzon, Andrew Coleiro, Emmanuel Grima, Joe Barbara and Paul Delia (all deceased). The aims of the association are to provide recreational, social, cultural and religious activities for its members and friends.

Frank and his wife Jane have been associated with this club and other organisations for many years and in 2002 Frank was elected treasurer of the association and in 2009 he was elected president and Jane treasurer. During his time as President, he



revived the club and without fail organised every Friday luncheon and social gathering for the members at the Progressive Community Hall, LeHunte Street, Kilburn. The seniors also participate in bus trips, and other functions including the

Malta's National Feasts, Mother's and Father's Day, Saint Mary's Feast, Christmas in July, Easter and Christmas special celebrations. Frank received several certificates of appreciation for his voluntary work from agencies including the South Australia Government.

Frank believes that the success of the club was due to his committee and volunteers and he has always gave praises and thanks to his fellow members.

Years have gone past, elderly members are passing away and younger ones are joining in and the club goes on and thriving. This year on May 25 the Association celebrated the 40th anniversary of the formation of the club with a special function.



In two thousand and thirteen (2013), the club reached a Milestone and celebrated its Anniversary on May 23rd of thirty years in existence.



Below is Mr. Frank Grima been presented with a Certificate of Service by the Hon Jennifer Rankine MP and the former Hon Consul of Malta Mr. Frank Scicluna OAM during the 30 Anniversary function.

In 2022, Frank was diagnosed with cancer and has been hospitalised and been having chemotherapy. Many members and friends of the club sent him best greetings, flowers and cards to wish him a speedy recovery. By the grace of God and the Virgin Mary Frank's health is improving and he still active and still providing sterling work for the benefit of the association's members and the Maltese community in Adelaide.

“IL-Furjana” turns 70

decades; the crowdfunding that repeatedly saved the newspaper from stopping; the nine different printing houses in which 'IL-FURJANA' was printed from the beginning until today; and a very interesting article about Lorenzo Ellul's shop which is in Floriana and which is the only one which advertised in the

first issue and which still exists today.

This special issue also contains messages from Floriana Mayor Vince Borg, the current Editor of the newspaper Stephen Tonna and the former editors who are still alive, Adrian Agius, Lawyer Dr. David Fabri and Nigel Holland, who is also the President of the Fsobians, which was re-founded some years ago.

Apart from this material linked to the 70th anniversary of the newspaper, the October special issue of 'IL-FURJANA' also contains the Page of the Floriana Local Council, three pages of current news about Floriana and its people and an article written by Jake Muscat about the local patriot Sir Filippo Sceberras on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of his death.

Those who wish to obtain a copy of this special issue or any other issues of the newspaper, can call the number 79339649. The same number can also be used by those who wish to subscribe to the newspaper for only €5 in -year or else book in advance a copy of the book about Floriana that the newspaper will publish next year on the occasion of the first 300 years (1724-2024) of the city of Floriana.



The newspaper 'IL-FURJANA' is the oldest among the few local publications that still exist in the Maltese islands today. It was exactly in October 70 years ago (1953) that the first issue of this Floriana's newspaper was published. Since then, a total of 267 different issues have been published. Three or four issues are published in a year. Although sometimes there were years where less or more were published.

Originally 'IL-FURJANA' was the organ of the Floriana School Old Boys Association (FSOBA) which from the Seventies of the last century began to be called Fsobians. When this association went through a crisis, which eventually led to its dissolution and the closure of its club as well, the newspaper was handed over to a small number of volunteers who kept it alive and tried to improve it. To commemorate this prestigious anniversary, the Directorate of the newspaper decided to publish a special issue for October which is actually two issues in one.

A commemorative issue is being published with the collaboration of the Floriana Local Council. The commemorative issue contains 20 pages (instead of the 16 of the normal issue) and in the middle it contains an exact reproduction of the first issue 70 years ago, which was made up of eight pages. The October issue of 'IL-FURJANA' contains 28 pages in total.

The commemorative issue includes articles about the 10 different editors that the newspaper had, including the late but never forgotten Professor Oliver Friggieri; the various mastheads or banners that have been used throughout these seven





Located for over 85 years at the same location – 301 Pearl Street, our fourth-generation store is owned by brother and sister, Dave and Lisa Maltese.

In 1989, the existing building was built, and little improvements were made until 2016, when a major expansion was undertaken, almost doubling the square footage of the store.

Our store is now accessible, and welcoming to all.

THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Our business was started in 1931 by Dave and Lisa's grandfather, Papa John, along with their grandmother, Angelina. It was in an existing house, right at the corner of Pearl and Algoma Streets, where the parking lot is now located. There was a storefront, fruit stand and ice wagon which Papa John used to deliver ice to people's houses. The family lived above the store, then eventually bought the house next door.

The store was then run by their sons, Rocky and John, and Nina, John's wife. The second generation continued to pass on the tradition



THE STORE 301 PEARL ST, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA,

by having their children, the third generation, work at the store as well. Lisa and Dave have worked here from a very young age.

In the early days, sawdust was needed for the floor. Lisa remembers pulling a little red wagon down the street to Wanson Lumber at the age of eight, twice a day, every five days for sawdust. She continues to manage the front of the store, placing orders and stocking shelves. Her love for cooking unique foods is evident in some of the merchandise.

Dave has been butchering since he was about twelve, and continues to run the meat department, cutting meat and making sausages. He loves to share his craft by teaching courses, like sausage-making.

Those hands-on skills, work ethic and passion that Lisa and Dave have learned from their past generations are being passed on to their children, the fourth generation, who work in our store after school, weekends, summers and holidays.

Many of the staff have been here for numerous years and have grown with the store as well. As part of the Maltese family, they too are committed to delivering quality customer service, and passing on the traditions to future generations.



The journal is a highlight of my week,
It's free, friendly and non-political



J. Buttigieg

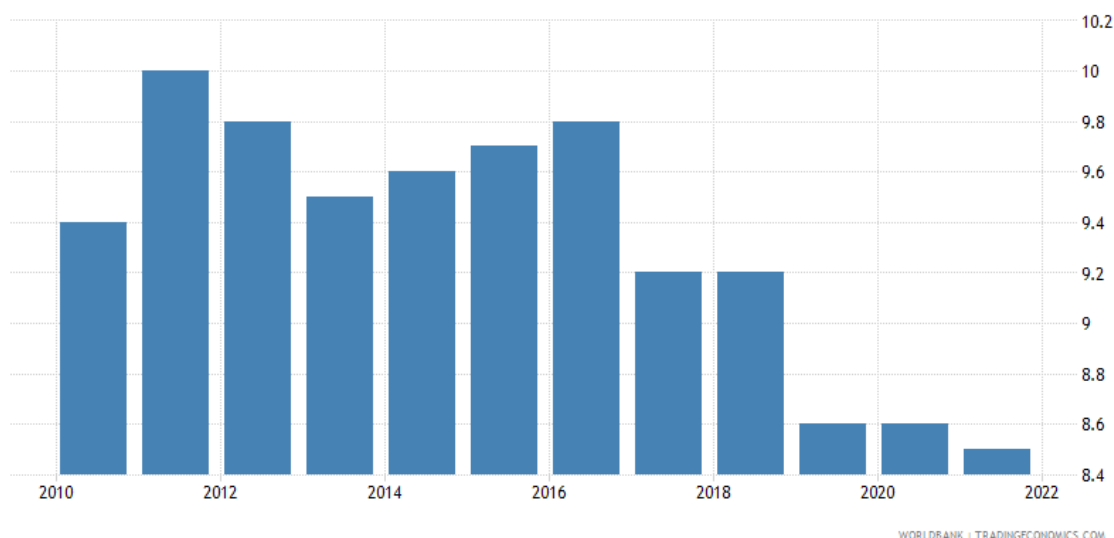
Malta's population rate going up and fertility rate going down

Chart and table of Malta population from 1950 to 2023.

- The current population of Malta in 2023 is **535,064**, a **0.33% increase** from 2022.
- The population of Malta in 2022 was **533,286**, a **1.24% increase** from 2021.
- The population of Malta in 2021 was **526,748**, a **2.21% increase** from 2020.
- The population of Malta in 2020 was **515,358**, a **2.33% increase** from 2019.

Chart and table of the Malta birth rate from 1950 to 2023.

- The current birth rate for Malta in 2023 is **9.705** births per 1000 people, a **0.26% decline** from 2022.
- The birth rate for Malta in 2022 was **9.730** births per 1000 people, a **0.26% decline** from 2021.
- The birth rate for Malta in 2021 was **9.755** births per 1000 people, a **0.27% decline** from 2020.
- The birth rate for Malta in 2020 was **9.781** births per 1000 people, a **0.25% decline** from 2019.



Crude birth rate indicates the number of live births occurring during the year, per 1,000 population estimated at midyear. Subtracting the crude death rate from the crude birth rate provides the rate of natural increase, which is equal to the rate of population change in the absence of migration.

Malta has the lowest fertility rate in Europe at 1.13 live births per woman, according to Eurostat data these are the statistics.

- This is significantly lower than the EU average of 1.53 births per woman.
- The [data](#) tracks births around Europe until 2021. In total, just over 4 million babies were born throughout the year, a slight increase over 2020.

Malta's fertility rate has been on a downward trend since 2012, when it stood at 1.42, with particularly sharp decreases between 2017 and 2019.

On the other hand, the EU-wide fertility rate has remained steady over this period, recording only marginal changes throughout the past decade.



**This journal is not a business venture.
The editor, staff and contributors are all volunteers,
and we don't publish this newsletter for money.
Everything is free of charge even the advertisements
and articles. Our aim is solely to promote Malta
and its history and culture and
assist our Maltese communities all around the world.**



2024 SB20 European Championships in Malta

In October 2022, the SB20 Malta Association and the Royal Malta Yacht Club announced that Malta had won the bid to

host the 2024 SB20 European Championships between Sept 29 and Oct 5, 2024.

The organisers today unveiled the event logo which was designed by Nicholas Cutajar who struck a balance between tradition in the form of the Maltese Cross, and modernity - the SB20 Class is an established Class that is taking the sailing community - locally and internationally - by storm.

When it comes to sailing, there are few symbols as captivating and timeless as the Maltese cross. Its rich historical significance and elegant design make it a perfect choice for representing the adventurous spirit and nautical heritage.

Originating from the Knights of Malta, the Maltese cross holds deep historical roots. Initially used as a symbol of honour, courage, and service, it adorned the shields and banners of the knights who protected Christian pilgrims during the Crusades. Over time, the cross became synonymous with chivalry, bravery, and a dedication to the maritime world.

The logo evokes a sense of adventure, the thrill of the sea, and the enduring spirit of exploration. By carefully integrating the Maltese cross into the design and infusing it with relevant nautical elements, the logo is one that resonates with sailors and enthusiasts, representing a deep appreciation for the sport.



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More than mug shots

<https://www.naa.gov.au>

Patrick Ferry, Nicholas Hams and Kathryn Graham

Maltese migration records from 1948 to 1955 bring to light amazing photographs which are much more than passport mugshots. They convey the spirit and character of the Maltese migrants themselves. National Archives' Victoria Office is making these records accessible to all.

A 'win-win' agreement

One of Australia's first assisted migration agreements after the Second World War was with Malta. Signed in May 1948, this was a 'win-win' for both countries. Concerned that it had to 'populate or perish', Australia was seeking to rapidly increase its population. As prospective migrants, the Maltese had the advantage of already being British subjects. And importantly, they were European, which was still the key consideration under the White Australia Policy. Meanwhile, Malta was looking for migration opportunities for its people as it was seriously overpopulated and still devastated from sustained German and Italian attacks during the War.

Maltese spirit and character

The Maltese migration records being catalogued in Victoria generally consist of application forms, police clearances and health checks. Many also have photographs attached. These show the spirit and character of the Maltese migrants themselves.

There are young labourers, mechanics, farmers and clerks in their best suits, hoping to 'get ahead' in Australia through hard work. Older men – husbands and fathers – display pride at being able to give their families a better start in life. Young women are 'dressed to the nines', with fashionable hairstyles. Since their wonderful dresses were often sewn at home, these photographs not only highlight their beauty, but also their resourcefulness. Mothers and their children are immaculately dressed in their 'Sunday best', without a single hair out of place. Such images powerfully attest to the central role women played in Maltese family life. The large size of many families also points to the important role the Catholic faith played in Maltese society.

Good impressions but lingering prejudices

Most Maltese probably hoped their photographs would maximise their chances of being accepted for migration. The Maltese Government was also very conscious of the importance of migrants making a good impression. This was because Australia had not always welcomed them.

Maltese migration to Australia had been heavily restricted before the War. In the notorious 'Gange' incident of 1916, the Australian Government even used the infamous 'Dictation Test' (usually applied to exclude non-Europeans) to prevent a group of Maltese migrants from landing. To ensure that they would fail the test, it was administered in Dutch!

Pre-war hostility to Maltese migration was partially fueled by perceptions that the Maltese were 'cheap labour', thereby threatening Australian wages and living standards. Racial prejudices were also strong. Although Maltese were British subjects, they were not regarded as being of 'good British stock'. Instead, like other Southern European migrants, they were widely disparaged as 'dagoes', with nasty racialised connotations of being lazy, dirty, hot tempered, superstitious and generally inferior to migrants from the British Isles and northern Europe.

Although Australia's official attitude towards Maltese migration after the War quickly changed from restriction to assistance, racial prejudices and stereotypes were more difficult to shift. These unfortunately were part of the migration experience of many post-war Maltese migrants.

Developing the next generation of archivists

So far, the Victoria Office has added nearly 8,000 Maltese migration records from series MP80/2 and MP210/3 to RecordSearch, meaning they can now be searched for by name. There are many more still to be added.

As well as making these records more discoverable, this work is providing 'hands on' archival training to information management students undertaking placements with the National Archives as part of their university studies.



Carmela Ciappara and her seven children, who migrated to Australia in August 1953. NAA: MP210/3



Mrs Mary Spiteri migrated to Australia with her six daughters in 1954. This photograph shows her with the two youngest, Lillian and Antonietta. NAA



Maria Rosaria Borg and her children who migrated from Malta in 1954. NAA:



Luigia Magro and her eight children who arrived in Melbourne in January 1953. NAA:



Mary Cutajar migrated with her family to Melbourne in Jan 1953



Fortunato Galea, who was just 17



Lawrence Cutajar, who migrated to Australia in Jan 1953



Josephine Spiteri who migrated in 1954



Paul Grima worked as a printer after migrating



Theresa Spiteri who migrated with her mother and sisters



Mario Spiteri, a young clerk who arrived in Melbourne



Mary Ellul migrated to Australia in 1953.

HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION

**SOME
OF
THE
PIONEERS
WHO
LEFT
MALTA
AND
THEIR
FAMILIES
AND
FRIENDS
IN THE
50s
TO
SETTLE
IN A
FAR
AWAY
COUNTRY
AUSTRALIA
TO SEEK
A
BETTER
FUTURE
FOR
THEIR
FAMILIES**

Saturday, September 7, 2023
BAMBINA FESTA
IN MELBOURNE



As in every year, Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, organises the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Fathers of the Missionary Society of St Paul, in Parkville. This year this was held on Sunday, September 8, at St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne.



SPORT

Kruiven Farrugia
9-Year-Old Boy Becomes Malta's
Youngest To Run Longest Distance

He ran 6 kilometres in just 23 minutes & 20 seconds

Kruiven was given the certificate at
Dar Bjorn in Żebbuġ - Malta

Via Lovin Malta



**A TASTE
OF MALTA**
The Mackay
Maltese Club
will have an array
of tasty treats
on offer for you
to enjoy
at Global Grooves
2023
Sat 21 October,
3pm - 8pm,



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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