



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au Website: www.ozmalta.page4.me or ozmalta.com

KATE MIDDLETON EXPECTED IN MALTA



The Duchess of Cambridge is expected to visit Malta in connection with the 50th anniversary of Malta's Independence.

The Sunday Times of Malta was informed that Kate Middleton is expected to be the guest of honour as Malta marks its Golden Jubilee since gaining independence on September 21, 1964. The British High Commission said no decision had yet been taken.



**YOU MAY READ THE PREVIOUS MALTESE NEWSLETTERS ON
THE NEW WEBSITE OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA OZMALTA.COM**

FONDAZZJONI WIRT ARTNA The Malta Heritage trust

I came across your website which has been created to keep the ever growing Maltese and Gozitan community in Australia. It is very interesting and informative and I am sure that it has a good following.

I am the newsletter editor of the organisation called Wirt Ghawdex which is an NGO run by volunteers. We have a number of historical sites which we look after and open to the public free of charge. We also promote Gozo's culture, environment and history through a series of 'talks' whose speakers are experts in their field.

We would appreciate greatly if the consulate in Australia would add our newsletter (please see attached) to your website as we feel that we need to keep connected to our fellow Gozitans who live in Australia. We would also like to hear from them perhaps they have a good story to tell us which we can publish in our newsletter. Also, we would like them to know that if they are travelling to Gozo they are welcome to contact us and we can give them a personal tour of our sites on request.

I thank you for your time and hope to stay connected with the consulate for future participation.

Kind Regards Sandra Jackson sandra.jackson@gov.mt www.wirtartna.org/



For just EUR 30 you and your family, can join Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna and enjoy unlimited access to our main sites for a whole year.



The German-Maltese Circle was founded on the 18th October 1962 with the aim of "*promoting closer understanding between Germany and Malta in all appropriate fields of activity and relationship, excluding political activities*". From a very modest beginning with a membership of about 60 persons and with no fixed premises of its own, the German-Maltese Circle grew through the years into a leading national adult education and cultural centre housed in a beautiful palace in the middle of Valletta.

The German-Maltese Circle is an independent, non-profit making organisation which is administered by dedicated persons who freely oblige themselves to promote the Circle's ideals. To this end, the German-Maltese Circle has regularly organised various activities such as exhibitions, film shows, cultural tours, forums, lectures, seminars, concerts, choral performances by visiting German choirs, *liederabende*, social and sports events - in fact, anything which helps to make especially the Maltese public more conscious of German culture and the German way of life. Between 1987 and 2002 the German-Maltese Circle has been responsible for the Pavilion of German products and services in the Malta International Trade Fair.



A newsletter is regularly issued to help keep in touch with the Circle's members.

A very important activity of the German-Maltese Circle is the organisation of German language courses to adults and to schoolchildren. These courses which are very well attended are run under the auspices of the Goethe Institute which has granted to the Circle a Teaching Commission with Examination Licence. The Circle also offers specialised courses in German (say, for hotels or business) as well as conversation classes in German and a course for Germans to learn Maltese. Amongst the facilities offered, one finds a well-equipped book, audio, video and film library, research and reference facilities, computer-aided learning software and German TV reception via satellite. Since 1981, the German-Maltese Circle has made it possible for persons resident in Malta to sit for the examinations offered by the Goethe Institute. Full cooperation is maintained by the Circle with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Malta, the Goethe Institute, the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband and with many other German and local institutions.




It is impossible to mention the many personalities who have honoured by their presence the German-Maltese Circle, but perhaps one could mention Professor Ralph Dahrendorf, then Under-Secretary of State who having recognised the potential of our Association in the field of bi-lateral relations between the two countries, in 1971 approved the granting of regular financial assistance from the Government of the Federal Republic, Dr. Richard von Weizsacker who visited Messina Palace in 1990 as the first Federal President of a united Germany and President Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler in 2007.

Membership to the German-Maltese Circle is open to all persons over 18 years of age although persons between 14 and 18 years are accepted as Junior members. The German-Maltese Circle also offers the possibility of Corporate bodies to become members.

**To obtain further information visit the website:
<http://www.germanmaltesecircle.org/default.htm>**

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS 2014

Top 10 Populations ('000,000)

1		Facebook	1,400
2		China	1,360
3		India	1,240
4		Twitter	646
5		USA	318
6		Indonesia	247
7		Brazil	202
8		Pakistan	186
9		Nigeria	173
10		Instagram	152

Social media has taken the world by storm – Twitter now has almost 646 million active registered users, and Facebook has exceeded the population of China at 1.4 billion users. If Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook were nation-states, all three would be in the World's 10 Most Populous Countries list!

JUST WHAT HAS EVERYONE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ONLINE?

Next-generation expert **Claire Madden** recently joined Larry and Kylie on Channel 7's Morning Show to discuss this year's online trends. Here's the latest on the social media scene.

MOST SEARCHED PERSON 2013

With 5.9 billion searches per day, Google is the first place to turn to for most people when they want to find out anything, including 2013's most searched for person – Nelson Mandela. The South

African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist was the most Googled person in 2013, with his death in December last year capturing the hearts of many around the globe.

MOST POPULAR YOUTUBE VIDEO 2013

The Fox by Ylvis was the most watched YouTube video of 2013, sitting at 420 million views at the time of this blog post. Short for "What Does the Fox Say", The Fox is an electronic dance song and viral video by Norwegian comedy duo Ylvis posted on YouTube on 3 September 2013. It was actually created to fail – but it ironically and accidentally went viral, taking only 35 days to hit 100 million views, compared to 51 days by "Gangnam Style" to reach this mark.

LEADING THE WAY ON YOUTUBE

While there are over 100 hours of YouTube uploaded every minute, the big hit from 2012 is still the most viewed YouTube video of all time, that is, Gangnam Style by Psy – now having reached over 2 billion views.

MOST POPULAR TWITTER CELEBRITIES

Social media is heavily driven by pop culture and our pop icons also have the largest followings on Twitter. Katy Perry has over 53 million followers with Justin Bieber close behind at 52 million followers. Barack Obama comes in third with 43 million Twitter followers.

MOST POPULAR HASHTAGS ON INSTAGRAM

The most popular hashtag on Instagram is #love, followed by #instagood (used to get more followers), and #me, validating that social media has made us a little self-focused!

THE BIGGEST TWEET OF 2014 SO FAR

In March this year during the Academy Awards, Ellen DeGeneres posted a selfie of herself and 11 other celebrities, which was retweeted over 1.8 million times in the first hour and shut down Twitter for more than 20 minutes! It's now been retweeted over 3.4 million times.

MOST GOOGLED PERSONS OF 2014 SO FAR

21 year old entertainer Miley Cyrus is the most searched person so far this year. Second on the list is the famous American actor and director Phillip Seymour Hoffman, who passed away in February this year. Third is American TV personality & actress Kim Kardashian who recently married to Kanye West.



THE GROUP FESTA SANTA MARIJA

SYDNEY

ARE CELEBRATING THEIR ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY 9th AUGUST 2014 .. 7.00pm

At the Balmoral centre, Balmoral Street, Blacktown.

A four course meal together with seafood, galletti .bigilla
Together with beer , wine,, softdrinks and cassata ice cream

entertainment by

JOE {AVALON} GRIMA BAND X 4

Come let's celebrate with the marches of

Our Lady Queen of Peace , Maltese band N.S.W

For more informations and tickets please

Agnes : 9626 6753 or mobile 0432 714 735

Sunday 10th August : The Festa will be celebrate at La Valette social centre
3.00pm there will be a mass with the participation of the MCA choir followed
by the procession with the statue and O.L.Q.P. band . After there will be
entertainment by the Mifsud Brothers

Hi Frank,

Hawn ghandek ritratt ta' l-istatwa taghna maghmulha minn tifel li trabba Adelaide ,Shawn Saliba. Il-genituri tieghu huma Mary u Charles Saliba u ohtu hija Stacey Saliba dik il-kantanta zaghzugha brava Maltija li ghandkom Adelaide. Inselli ghalik Greg Caruana

XAGHRA'S 'TA VERNA' FOLKLORISTIC GROUP



'Ta' Verna,' a folklore group originating from Xaghra said that its main aim is to promote Maltese folk music both in Malta and abroad. This group was formed about eight years ago and it originally started from the traditional dance of Kumittiva.

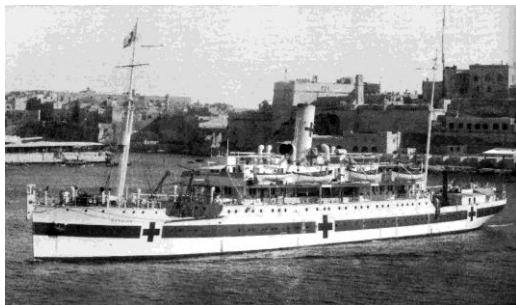
In 2012 'Ta' Verna' was invited to represent Malta in an international folk festival which took place recently, in Nitra, Slovakia.

The group, which consisted of fourteen members, included singers, another eight playing traditional instruments and four who exhibited traditional Maltese crafts, such as handmade lace wool weaving.

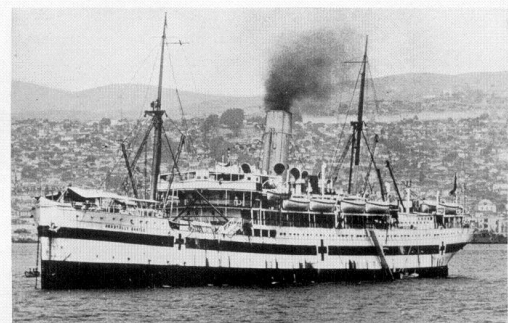
A competition was held during the festival and 'Ta' Verna achieved third place.

MILITARY SHIPS IN MALTA WORLD WAR 1

RFA Berbice 1920-1922. Malta Built Harland & Wolff 1909 for Royal Mail. Requisitioned by Admiralty 1915 as Hospital Ship.



During the Gallipoli campaign (25th April 1915 - 10 January 1916) at least 22 hospital ships and some 29 troop ships, transports and similar vessels took part in transporting casualties to Imbros, Mudros, Alexandria, Malta and elsewhere. In August-October 1915, over 50000 patients were carried to Malta, Gibraltar and the UK in hospital ships. HMHS Souden, one of the hospital ships, transported a number of wounded troops from the Dardanelle to Malta arriving on 30 May 1915. HMHS Franconia, another ambulance carrier, was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean in 1915.



H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP GRANTULLY CASTLE
Off Salonika, 1915

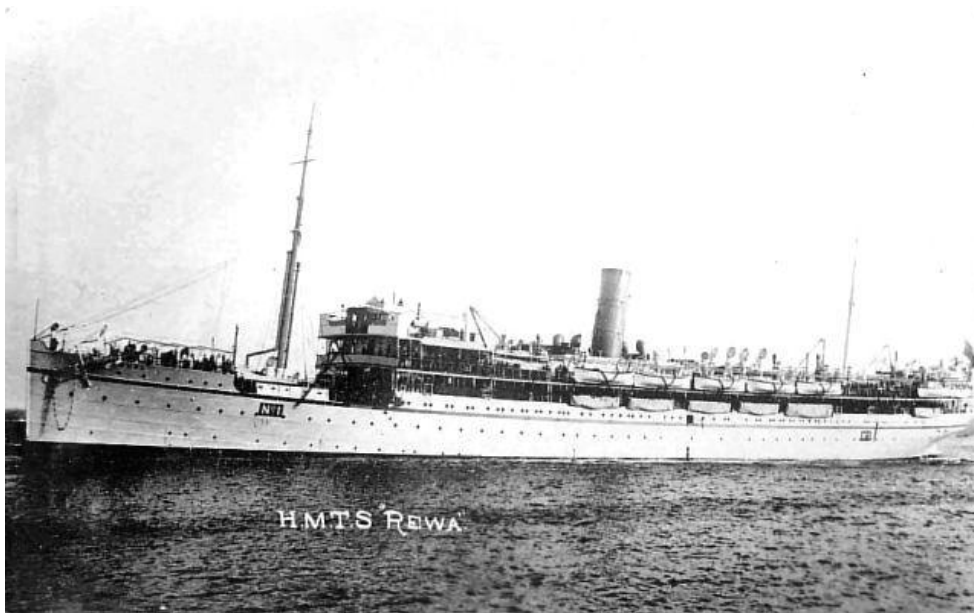
The British Hospital Ship "**Grantully Castle**", commissioned 1st May 1915 at Malta as a hospital ship with 552 beds, left Alexandria the same day for Salonika and travelled EMPTY! Many of the survivors were treated on board the "*Grantully Castle*" at Salonika. After this calamity all medical units were transported by hospital ship and this practice continued during the Second World War.



HMHS GOORKHA

The SS Goorkha was owned by Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co Ltd. She was built in 1897 by Harland & Wolff at Belfast with a tonnage of 6287grt, a length of 430ft, a beam of 52ft 2in and a service speed of 12.5 knots. She was part of the convoy from Capetown carrying the British Garrison, with their families, 27th August 1914, and on 20th October 1914 she was commissioned as a hospital ship with 408 beds. HMHS

Goorkha was mined on the 10th October 1917 off Malta. There were 362 survivors on board, including 17 nursing sisters. The vessel was cleared within 35 minutes and there were no casualties. She was subsequently towed into the Malta Harbour where on 18th October she was decommissioned and returned to the company for repairs and resumption of commercial services. She was laid up at Netley, Southampton Water in 1926 and eventually broken up by Thomas Ward in 1928



**HMTS Rewa
torpedoed
January 1918.**

This 7,267 ton ship built for the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1906, and converted to a Hospital ship, having sailed from Malta. was carrying 279 cot and walking wounded cases from Greece. She

was in the Bristol Channel, when on the 4th. of January 1918, Wilhelm Werner in his U-55, lined her up, and soon sank her with his torpedoes. Two crewmen died, and the ship was very lucky to get away with such light casualties.



RFA Maine passing Tigne, Malta in the 1920s.

RFA Maine (1902), was purchased in 1920 and served in the Mediterranean Fleet, on the China Station, and was based at Alexandria, Egypt, during World War II. She was decommissioned in 1947, and broken up.

SOURCE: MALTA: THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

AUTHOR : FRANK L SCICLUNA OAM ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA 2014

MALTA CUT GERMANY TO SIZE IN 1975

Malta before the match against West Germany on February 25, 1979. Standing (from left): C. Sciberras, J. Holland, G. Xuereb, N. Buttigieg, E. Spiteri Gonzi, D. Buckingham, E. Farrugia. Squatting: V. Magro, E. Farrugia, R. Xuereb, G. Xuereb.



Despite all the difficulties Maltese football was facing at the time, 1978-79 was a good season for the national team. During that campaign, Malta obtained two noteworthy results on the international scene.

Under the guidance of ex-international goalkeeper Victor Scerri, Malta held mighty West Germany to a goalless draw at the Gżira stadium and then, a month later, only lost 1-2 to Turkey in Izmir. In this match, Ernest Spiteri Gonzi scored Malta's first goal away from home in 17 years.

The match against West Germany will always be remembered for the great performance of our players. Showing an impressive will to fight against the odds, Malta refused to be intimidated by the big names in the German team. The Maltese played the game of their lives to earn a remarkable 0-0 draw.

After the match, scenes of joy were witnessed as some 10,000 fans sang their way out of the stadium. It was so good to be Maltese that day. For once, there were only cheers, applause and fervent, passionate support for the national team.

The huge crowd that turned up for the match, despite a bus strike and the chill of a February afternoon, was rewarded with a superb display of football.

In the first half, the Maltese played skilfully and had two great scoring chances. In the second, Germany threw everyone in attack, but Malta did not budge an inch. At one time, the mouse even threatened the lion when Valletta winger Vincent 'Maxi' Magro tested goalkeeper Sepp Maier with a curling free-kick.

That day, the Maltese went to the stadium to see the stars of Germany. But, it was not Bonhoff, Rummenigge, Muller or Fischer who caught the eye, but a certain 19-year-old from Tarxien with the name of Ġużi Xuereb.

At first, Xuereb was marked by Cullman but he tormented the Cologne midfielder and Jupp Derwall assigned Bonhoff to shadow the Malta midfielder. But even this tough German defender could not stop Xuereb that day. The Hibs' darling was still able to display most of the artistic numbers in his repertoire to push his fighting companions forward.

Emmanuel Farrugia played a blinder and, together with Ray Xuereb, built up a defensive barrier which no German could penetrate.

In the second half, West Germany had the wind behind them. They took the initiative but John Holland and Farrugia erased the threat offered by the two dreaded Schalke raiders, Fischer and Abramczik.

Goalkeeper Charlie Sciberras was excellent. He made two great saves in crucial moments that kept Malta in the game.

Norman Buttigieg, playing in the delicate role of libero, rarely put a foot wrong, and was a constant inspiration to his colleagues. Every Maltese player was a hero, but it is Xuereb's magic that still lingers in my memory.

LOCAL DIALECTS ARE STILL A LIVING LANGUAGE



Scholars of the 1970s had predicted that Maltese and Gozitan dialects would die out by the following generation but nearly half a century later they are thriving, according to a University project.

In the past those who did not speak standard Maltese were referred to as speaking bl-ikreh (in an ugly manner) but today dialects are held in high esteem

The project, rolled out last year, includes a one-stop-shop website with all the research carried out on Maltese and Gozitan dialects, including sound clips collected by Professor Ġużè Aquilina and University of Leeds scholar Benedikt Isserlin in the 1960s.

The website, www.um.edu.mt/card, archives dissertations, theses, books and papers to serve as a base for more research on the regional variations of Maltese.

In the past, those who did not speak standard Maltese were referred to as speaking bl-ikreh (in an ugly manner) or even bil-pastaż (rudely), but today dialects are seen as part of our heritage.

They started attracting scholarly attention in the late 18th century when Ġan Frangisk Agius De Soldanis distinguished between the language used in the villages and in the city, and suggested differences between eastern and western dialects.

Mikiel Anton Vassalli also identified five dialect regions: the cities, Gozo, the upper villages, the lower villages and the central villages.

In the 1960s Prof. Aquilina and Prof. Isserlin carried out a survey on dialects in 61 localities. Sound clips will be uploaded on the website.

On the site, which is a “work in progress”, people will be able to click on a locality and hear a short piece of audio in dialect. When clicking on Żebbuġ, for example, they will hear a man talking about the salt pans.

Researchers are also urging anyone who has audio of someone speaking in dialect to e-mail alexandra.vella@um.edu.mt

Hi Frank. I thought your entry on the Zejtun dialect was intriguing, although there is still a surviving but dying Gharb dialect which is even more distinct. Yesterday evening I was thrilled to attend a son et lumiere at San Ġirgor, Zejtun, mainly about the Turkish razzia of 1614. This was carried out entirely in the Zejtun dialect, which your newsletter writes about, including the ghana pieces. Most enjoyable and spectacular. The local council and all involved deserve a pat on the back. Some 800 people attended. Best regards, Profs Henry Frendo



Human language technology at the Institute of Linguistics

The BSc programme in Human Language Technology (HLT) offered by the Institute of Linguistics is an innovative program for talented and focused students who wish to excel in developing advanced information and communication technology (ICT) dedicated to the treatment of human language.

How can a computer be taught to play jeopardy? What does it take for Google Translate to be able to translate Chinese texts into Maltese? How can Gmail or Outlook be made to write emails automatically?

These are all examples of HLT applications, the development of which requires not only technical innovation, but also deep knowledge and intelligent treatment of human languages. You can read more about the various applications [here](#).

HLT students will learn about the intricacies of human language, and how these can be made accessible to computers. They will also be introduced to computational tools, and learn the programming skills necessary to design such intelligent systems.

"Combining linguistics and computers to build systems that many people take for granted nowadays intrigued me and led me to choosing a BSc in HLT." Samiro Bartolo, 1st-year BSc student

BSc course requirements

[General university entry requirements](#) hold for the course.

The programme is aimed at students with a Science background (including IT and Mathematics), as well as students who have a background in Arts subjects. However, all students are expected to take an interest in computer programming and work to develop their skills in this area.

"Programming is the biggest challenge... but once you get to know how it works it gets very interesting to try to develop a program of your own." Nicholas Schembri, 1st-year BSc student

Employment opportunities

HLT is an area of growing importance in research and production both in academic and in commercial sectors. The course provides students with the basic skills required in the sector, including programming, problem solving, project management, as well as knowledge of ICT, linguistics and language applications, which should allow them to seek opportunities of employment in the ICT sector, the language sector and in academia.

The course also offers placements, in which students spend periods of time in real work environments and carry out project work. These are intended to help students identify potential careers, as well as train them on real-world tasks.

"This experience served to give me a clearer idea of how things operate within an ICT company, with a linguistic edge to the software." Marco Distefano, 2nd-year BSc student, about his placement

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AUSTRALIA - PEOPLE, CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE



Australia is a product of a unique blend of established traditions and new influences. The country's original inhabitants, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, are the custodians of one of the world's oldest continuing cultural traditions. They have been living in Australia for at least 40 000 years and possibly up to 60 000 years.

The rest of Australia's people are migrants or descendants of migrants who have arrived in Australia from about 200 countries since Great Britain established the first European settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788.

In 1945, Australia's population was around 7 million people and was mainly Anglo-Celtic. Since then, more than 6.5 million migrants, including 675 000 refugees, have settled in Australia, significantly broadening its social and cultural profile.

Today Australia has a population of nearly 23 million people. At 2009, about 25.6 per cent of the estimated resident population comprised those born overseas.

Australian Bureau of Statistics projections from the 2006 census of the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suggest an Indigenous population of 575,552 people at 30 June 2011.

Many of the people who have come to Australia since 1945 were motivated by a commitment to family, or a desire to escape poverty, war or persecution. The first waves of migrants and refugees came mostly from Europe. Subsequent waves have come from the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East and Africa.

Migrants have enriched almost every aspect of Australian life, from business to the arts, from cooking to comedy and from science to sport. They, in turn, have adapted to Australia's tolerant, informal and broadly egalitarian society.

Shared values

The defining feature of today's Australia is not only the cultural diversity of its people, but the extent to which they are united by an overriding and unifying commitment to Australia.

Within the framework of Australia's laws, all Australians have the right to express their culture and beliefs and to participate freely in Australia's national life.

At the same time, everyone is expected to uphold the principles and shared values that support Australia's way of life. These include:

- respect for equal worth, dignity and freedom of the individual
- freedom of speech and association
- freedom of religion and a secular government
- support for parliamentary democracy and the rule of law
- equality under the law
- equality of men and women
- equality of opportunity
- peacefulness
- a spirit of egalitarianism that embraces tolerance, mutual respect, and compassion for those in need. Australia also holds firmly to the belief that no one should be disadvantaged on the basis of their country of birth, cultural heritage, language, gender or religious belief.

An egalitarian society

In most practical ways, Australia is an egalitarian society. This does not mean that everyone is the same or that everybody has equal wealth or property.

But it does mean that there are no formal or entrenched class distinctions in Australian society, as there are in some other countries. It also means that with hard work and commitment, people without high-level connections or influential patrons can realise their ambitions.

The unemployment rate is relatively low (in December 2007 it was 4.3 per cent) and the gross per capita income is around \$39 000. All people are equal under the law in Australia and all Australians have the right to be respected and treated in a fair manner.

Language

All people in Australia are encouraged to learn English, which is the national language and an important unifying element of Australian society.

However, languages other than English are also valued. In fact, more than 15 per cent of Australians speak languages other than English at home.

The most commonly spoken languages after English are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin. Australians speak more than 200 languages, including Indigenous Australian languages.

Australian English

While English is Australia's national language, there are certain words and expressions that have become regarded as uniquely Australian through common usage. Some of them might seem strange to non-Australians.

The use of these colloquial or slang words, often coupled with an Australian sense of humour that is characterised by irony and irreverence, can sometimes cause confusion for international visitors. There are a number of books on Australian colloquialisms and slang, including the *Macquarie Book of Slang*.

Religious worship

Australia is a predominantly Christian country, with around 64 per cent of all Australians identifying as Christians. However, most other major religious faiths are also practised, reflecting Australia's culturally diverse society.

Australia's earliest religions or spiritual beliefs date back to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have inhabited Australia for between 40 000 and 60 000 years. Indigenous Australians have their own unique religious traditions and spiritual values.

Australia has no official state religion and people are free to practise any religion they choose, as long as they obey the law. Australians are also free not to have a religion.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
MALTESE DIASPORA**
PROMOTING THE HISTORY
CULTURE AND HERITAGE
OF MALTA
honconsul@live.com.au
OZMALTA.COM



A CHARACTER SPECIFIC TO GOZO

It is true that the existence of a water divide between the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino may act as a natural hindrance to economic overspill. For sure it is a huge inconvenience for workers and students from Gozo having to travel weekly, some even daily, to Malta. Yet it is definitely the most important, if not the single, factor that allows the smaller islands to retain their distinct, **individual character**.

The ferry crossing – as inconvenient as it is and as harsh it can be during the winter months – is actually what allows Gozo and Comino to remain what they are ... easily distinguishable from the overbuilt and overpopulated Malta.



The beauty of Gozo lies not only in its luscious countryside and quaint old houses, but also in its typically slower-paced lifestyle. And this is more possible owing to the water divide. Here are some photographs that depict the character that **is** GOZO.

The **dghajsa** (pron'd: *daa-y-saah*), the traditional wooden boat of the Maltese Islands, is commonly found in Marsalforn and Xlendi bays as well as at Dwejra (and Qawra), where boat-trips from the 'inland sea' to the magnificent cliffs outside may be enjoyed.

As the old 'summer houses' are quickly giving way to new edifices, sadly, the Gozitan **wooden balcony** (in a variety of colours and interesting shapes) is becoming less and less common.



The wooden balconies one finds in Malta are typically of the 'closed' type, while those that characterize Gozo are mostly 'open'; a simple railing with wooden ballustrades. In certain parts, especially in Rabat, we also find balconies that combine the closed and open structure as may be seen in our Gallery.

But the true gem that crowns the old architecture of Gozo has to be the traditional, ornate **stone balcony**

Luckily, one still finds these features in the older parts of certain villages; the most prominent of which is the village of Għarb. The stone balcony typically has rounded sides and often displays crafted symbols, yet even the simplest

of them is a spectacle.



But the thing that characterizes most what is typically 'Gozo' has to be its people, because **people** create culture and traditions, people tell stories, use language that has different accents and dialects.

As life on the Island is generally slow, Guzepp, a retired man living in the small village of Santa Luċija, enjoyed spending time telling us about the past in general. He usually whiles his day toying with odd jobs in his old carpenter's workshop, maybe making or fixing a handle for a farm tool. Whatever it is he makes, he reuses anything from nails to bits of metal and wood. This culture of conservation is what the world needs.

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TRADITIONAL AND MODERN FESTIVITIES IN MALTA



The Maltese Islands have a number of religious festivities and cultural events that take place every year. Feast days are the life of the Islands and some holy days are actually national holidays, such as the feast of **Santa Marija** in mid-August. Others, such as the harvest festival of **Mnarja** at the end of June, are steeped in folklore. However, the most important events to all villages are their individual **festas**, honouring their parish patron saint.

Religious holidays, such as **Christmas** and **Easter**, are highly celebrated, with the traditional festivities that go along with them. As families tend to be quite close-knit, the holidays are a time to strengthen the sense of community as well as reinforce family bonds. Church services play a large role during this time of year and during the **Holy Week** of Easter, many flock to the churches in great numbers for the 'seven visits', the visit of seven churches, to pay homage to the Altars of Repose.

The festive commemorations are also a time of food, drink and merriment which brings out the Mediterranean roots of the locals. Families prepare large **Christmas** and

Easter lunches; giving thanks for all that they have with their relatives. During these festas the streets are lined with carts, selling a wide assortment of different **foods** as well as the more traditional sweets and delicacies.

Introduced relatively recently, cultural events such as the **Malta Fireworks Festival**, the **Malta Arts Festival**, **Notte Bianca**, the **Malta Jazz Festival** and **Mediterranea** in Gozo are becoming traditions in their own right.

GHANAFEST

Ghanafest is a three-day manifestation of Maltese folk singing (known as *Għana* in Maltese) which takes place



every year in June. The festival is a wonderful event for the whole family, complemented by traditional Maltese food and the marvellous surroundings of the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana.

GHANAFEST offers a unique opportunity to experience the different styles of *ghana*. Besides Maltese folk music, the festival presents a programme of local musicians and ensembles.

Maltese folk singing has various genres e.g. '*Għana tal-Fatt*', whereby the singer recounts a story in verses that relate to a tragic past event. Another genre is '*Għana spirtu pront*': two singers hit out at each other with sharp and witty retorts as one sings out and the other responds with spontaneously thought out

lyrics; and '*Għana fl-gholi*' wherein the stanzas are sung in an extremely high note /pitch remotely similar to a flamenco folk song - this singing is also known as *ala Bormliża*.

A variety of foreign folk singers and musicians hailing from various countries in the Mediterranean also participate in this festival. Throughout the three days of the festival, there will also be a series of crafts demonstrations on various stands.

Malta Council for Culture and the Arts

Casa Scaglia, 16, Triq Mikiel Anton Vassalli, Valletta, Malta

Tel: 356 2339 7000

Email: info@maltaculture.com

Website: www.maltaculture.com

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER FOR KLABB HUTTAF MEMBERS



Young BirdLife Klabb Huttaf members yesterday evening took to the sea for a wildlife encounter with one of Malta's most enigmatic birds, the scopoli's shearwater.

The scopoli's shearwater, known as Ċiefa, is the largest of Malta's shearwater species. During the breeding season these birds raft in batches of 500 to 1,000 on the sea. As darkness falls they begin to leave the water and fly to their burrows in the cliffs to take turns in incubating their egg or to feed their growing chicks. Setting out just before sunset, the group

watched the shearwaters gather in "rafts" on the sea and after dark heading back to their nests in the cliffs.



CHARLIE ZAMMIT 1940-2014

minn Paul Vella

Hadna l-aħbar tal-mewt ta' Charlie Zammit "lż-Żiffa" nhar il-Ġimgħa, 16 ta' Mejju, li ħakmet lil ħafna bħal sajetta fil-bnazzi, minħabba li l-ġimgħa ta' qabel kien ippreżenta l-programm Malti flimkien ma' Raymond u Marie Louise Anastasi u oħrajn, fosthom martu, Carmen.

Charlie tweled l-Imsida fl-4 ta' Novembru, 1940 u ta' 18 emigra lejn l-Awstralja fuq *Strathnaver*. Fl-1956 huwa zzewweg il Carmen, nee` Borg, mill-Marsa.

Charlie kien jaħdem bħalal agent tal-ivjaġġar. Imma l-aktar li kien magħruf hu fix-xogħol tiegħu fost il-Komunità Maltija. Huwa kien xandar ta' programmi Maltin fuq

Stereo 974 FM, fejn qabel l-istazzjon kien 3WRB. Minn fuq dan l-istazzjon hu kienu jieħu sehem fiż-żewġ programmi, l-Erbgħa u l-Ħamis, "Maltese Magazine" u "Merħba", rispettivament. Huwa għamel żmien ukoll fuq ir-Radju Komunitarju 3ZZZ.

Barra r-radju, Charlie kien magħruf ħafna bħala kantant u attur tal-palk, fejn għamel żmien miżgħira tal-Maltese Performing Arts fejn ha sehem f'ħafna produzzjonijiet, forsi waħda mill-iktar li niftakru kienet "Il-Ħanut ta' Dwinu" flimkien mall-mibki u qatt minsi, Edwin Baldacchino, li kien ħalliena eżatt sena ilu. Din il-produzzjoni kienet xogħol ta' Manuel Casha. Charlie ħadem f'ħafna produzzjonijiet oħra ma' din il-kumpanija teatrali.

Charlie kien kantant ta' kanzunetti Maltin u forsi l-aktar popolari kienu "Id-Destin" (mill-"Il-Ħanut ta' Dwinu"), "Il-Ladru" u "Unforgettable", dwett mall-kantanta żagħżugħa Maltija minn Melbourne, Irene Attard.

Charlie ħadem ma' ħafna għaqdiet Maltin fosthom l-Għaqda ta' Ħal Tarxien li ffit ilu ċelebraw il-festa ta' Marija Annunzjata f'Melbourne. Huwa kien ukoll il-President tal-Janannie Recreation Club għal persuni b'diżabilità b'assoċjazzjoni mall-Migrant Resource Centre ta' North Altona.

Huwa għamel ħafna xogħol komunitarju meta kien jiġi mistoqsi minnu.

Tislima lil Noè Bonnici — 'kien qisu enċiklopedija'

Noè Bonnici (1932-2014)



Minn Paul Vella Nhar it-Tlieta, 10 ta' Ġunju 2014, tħabbret il-mewt ta' Noè Bonnici, minn Altona, fl-età ta' 82 sena. Noè twieled Marsaxlokk. Min kien Noè Bonnici? Ħafna kienu jafuh minn fuq programmi tar-radju Maltin f'Melbourne. Oħrajn jafuh ukoll minn programmi tar-radju 3AW speċjalment fis-sieġat bikrin ta' filgħodu, għal madwar l-4 jew il-5 ta' filgħodu.

Snin ilu, Noè kienet tagħtu puplesija li fost l-affarijiet li baqa' jsofri bihom kaġun ta' hekk, kien li kważ tilef id-dawl t'għajnejh għal kollox. Imma kif dejjem ngħidu: "Alla jieħodlok ħaġa u jagħtik oħra".... Għax il-memorja tiegħu kienet xi ħaġa fenomenali.

L-ewwel darba li smajt b'Noè kien xi 25 sena ilu. Meta kont għadni naħdem bħala typesetter mal-*Leader Newspapers* go Blackburn, is-Sibt konna naħdmu l-overtime u konna nibdew fis-6 ta' filgħodu u malli kont inqum kont nisma' r-radju (3AW) u dejjem kienet tkun hemm din il-persuna fil-programm talkback u ħafna drabi kien jikkellem fuq il-vapuri.

Kont ngħid bejni u bejn ruħi: "Dan żgur Malti minħabba l-aċċent". U hekk kien.

Aktar tard, meta bdejt inxandar fuq programmi Maltin fuq ir-Radju Komunitarju 3ZZZ, sirt naf lil Noè aktar mill-qrib u anki kien jiktbli xi nformazzjoni interessanti u anki ġie li rrekordajt miegħu, speċjalment fuq vapuri li kienu jġibu l-emigranti Maltin fl-Awstralja.

Barra minn hekk, meta kont nispiċċa l-programm ta' nhar ta' Ġimgħa fuq 3ZZZ, dejjem kien iċempel u jgħidli kemm kien ħa gost b'xi ħaġa jew oħra. Ġie li kien jikkoreġini għal xi ħaġa li kont qrajt fil-programm u jien dejjem kont ngħidli li napprezza dan għax kont naf li din dejjem kienet kiritika kostruttiva. Kont ngħidli li jekk ma jgħidlix x'kien hemm ħażin, kont ċert li l-ġimgħa ta' wara kont nagħmel l-istess żball u li jien dejjem kont nieħu gost u lest li nisma' mingħandu jew mingħand ħaddieħor dwar affarijiet li jistgħu jirrangaw.

Dejjem kien jgħidli fuq l-ammont ta' kotba li kellu speċjalment meta jiġi għal vapuri jew il-mużika klassika li tant kien iħobb. U xi ngħidu għal ħafna ismijiet ta' toroq Maltin u għal min ġew imsemmija, jew statwi tal-knejjes u barra u pitturi fil-knejjes Maltin!



SPOT GERMAN IN MALTA

Group picture with the winners of the prizes 1-4, H.E.s DDr Petra Schneebauer, Austrian Ambassador to Malta, and Dr Hubert Ziegler, German Ambassador to Malta, as well as Alfred Scalpello, Lecturer at Junior College and the University of Malta, Prof. Mario Vassallo, Head of Department of German, Dr Ralf Heimrath, DAAD-Lecturer at the University of Malta, Arthur Ciantar, President of the German-Maltese Circle, Dr Albert Friggieri, Senior Lecturer at the Department of German and representative of ProMinent, who sponsored the first prize, and members of the Department of German, which organised the competition "Spot German in Malta".

The Department of German at the University of Malta opened an exhibition of selected contributions to the competition "Spot German in Malta" in the foyer of the Sir Temi Zammit Hall at the University of Malta, Msida Campus.

The competition was launched last January in collaboration with the German-Maltese Circle and the German Academic Exchange Service and was supported by the German Embassy in Malta, ProMinent, the Goethe-Institute, BDL and Merlin Library.

The idea of spotting German in Malta appealed to many young students of German and other members of the public: "Through this competition I realised that upon looking closely we have a variety of German things and aspects in Malta", one of the participants commented. The competition was designed to highlight exactly such pleasures of intercultural encounters and language learning. From January to April more than 100 photo contributions were sent in and the Facebook-Group "German in Malta", where the pictures were posted, grew to over 2,000 members.

At the opening of the exhibition by Prof. Mario Vassallo, head of the Department of German, the winners were awarded prizes by Hubert Ziegler, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, by Petra Schneebauer, Austrian Ambassador to Malta, by Arthur Ciantar, president of the German-Maltese Circle, and by DR Ralf Heimrath of the German Academic Exchange Service. The attractive prizes included an iPad mini, an iPod as well as picture books and German DVDs.

"It is a great pleasure to see this variety of discoveries by the many participants," Professor Vassallo emphasised. Some participants arranged creative collages, including their own drawings, displayed together with German art products. Others spotted German road signs and house names, showing that there are, for instance, several roads in Malta named after German scholars who researched Maltese history and culture. One of the participants even managed a photo with his dog acting as model reading a German magazine.

Inspired by this lively participation, the members of the Department of German designed a brochure presenting a selection of the photographs and detailing institutions for German in Malta. Members of different entities, such as the German-Maltese Circle, the Junior College and Secondary Schools, contributed short texts giving information on possibilities of learning and studying German in Malta, applying for scholarships for language courses and studying abroad. The publication of this brochure was made possible through the support of the EU Commission Representation in Malta, Playmobil and Hotset.

The broad interest in and support for this initiative makes it clear that there is a large variety of Maltese-German connections, and that

What People are Saying

- Thanks for publishing one of my articles. j C Camilleri
- Thanks for keeping the Maltese in Malta and abroad linked. Your Newsletter is doing a lot of good to many, pleased to receive it. Alfred Gatt
- Prosit tassew ghal harga ohra informattiva u interessanti. Dejjem tieghek; Paul Attard, Birkirkara. Il-Maltese Newsletter 49 hija nteressanti kollha kemm hi, imma l-aktar li gibditli l-attenzjoni kienet dik il-parti bir-ritratti dwar dak il-film li ser isir Malta "The Three Lucias". J'alla jirnexxilhom u jkunilhom ta' success! Tislijiet Lina
- Grazzi ħafna tal-Maltese Newsletter 49 Leanne Ellul!
- Yeah keep us in the loop for what is happening in your neck of the woods. Regards Ramon Mizzi
- Thanks for the newsletter. Very interesting to read M. BELL
- Thanks a lot Very interesting reading and I admire how you keep going along keeping the community alive. Keep it up and if you ever need anything just don't hesitate to contact me anytime. Best regards and keep it up!! J. Pirotta
- Tiziana got the news letter you send her she was so happy .I think she showed it to all Malta .When we talk on the phone she didn't stop talking about it. I look forward for the newsletter. I am Maltese but I lived in London and then my family want back to Malta in 1960's and I started working and I met my husband and we got marred and came to Australia in 1971. So I love reading your newsletter because I know more where I come from .things you said in the newsletter that I did not know anything about Malta. Yes, my father and mother talk a lot about Malta .And I go there every 2 or 3 years apart. My sister's are still in Malta and so is my brother. So thank
- Thank you Frank for keep sending me the newsletter I hope you get my Email. I hope to see you again Henry
- Thank you very much indeed for your Newsletter. Much appreciated. Eric Bonanno.
- Hi Frank I have just returned home from a 6 weeks holiday to Malta & Holland & Norway. As soon as I opened the Laptop, I found your E- letter / Magazine. As usual, it is brilliant and makes for good and interesting reading. Proset habib & please keep up the good work . Tislijiet u Xewqat Sbieh...Grazzi u Sahha. Charles N. Mifsud
- Grazzi talli dejjem iżżommna aġġornati bil-ħargiet ta' din ir-rivista. Saħħiet, Dorianne Bonello
- Thanks for the newsletter. Always glad to receive news from Australia. Keep well, Dolores Cristina.
- Thanking you for sending me the Newsletter of the Maltese Diaspora via email which I appreciate very much. This is the first time I received such a newsletter (issue No: 49) which I found extremely interesting and informative, I hope that you keep sending me the consecutive newsletters in the future. Best regards, Dr. Victor Chircop-Sullivan

A LITTLE HUMOUR TO ADD TO YOUR DAY!!!



Special Package for Businessmen

An Airline introduced a special package for Business men. Buy your ticket, get your wife's ticket free. After great success, the company sent letters to all the wives asking how was the trip. All of them gave the same reply..."What trip?"

New SIM to Surprise Her Husband

Woman buys a new Sim Card. Puts it in her phone and decides to surprise her husband who is seated on the couch in the living room. She goes to the kitchen, calls her husband with the new number:

"Hello Darling." The husband responds in a low tone: "Let me call you back later Honey, my wife is in the kitchen".

Cool Message by a Wife

Dear Mother-in-law, "Don't teach me how to handle my children, I'm living with one of yours & he needs a lot of improvement."

Throwing Knives at Wife's Picture

Husband was throwing knives at his wife's picture. All the knives were missing the target! Suddenly he received a call from her "Hi, what are you doing?" His honest reply, "MISSING YOU."

Habit of Talking in Sleep

A lady to doctor: My husband has a habit of talking in his sleep! What should I give him to cure it? Dr: "Give him an opportunity to speak when he is awake".



CHATTING

ON

FACEBOOK

"hi, honey, I am 20 year old female from Gozo..... and you?"



SCAFFOLDING COMES DOWN AS CASTILLE RESTORATION IS COMPLETED

avascrash 9 or Html5 to view this video.

Restoration work on the façades of the **Auberge de Castille** has finally been completed, five years after the first scaffolding went up.

The project involving the cleaning and repair of the intricate stonework, started in Merchants' Street and continued along the main façade and then the St Paul Street side - which needed most work because it was more exposed to the sun, sea salt and power station emissions.

The last of the scaffolding and hoarding has now been removed. The project was handled by the Restoration Unit of the Infrastructure Ministry. The Auberge de Castille has been used as the Office of the Prime minister since the early 1970s.

Originally built as a single floor building to house knights from Castille, it was given its flamboyant Baroque style when it was remodelled in the eighteenth century. It was seen as an expression of power and prestige, exalting Grand Master Pinto, whose symbol, the crescent moon, is displayed throughout the building. A bust of the Grand Master is seen above the main door.

Over time, the sculptured stonework started to crumble and the façades were blackened with grime. The building was also hit by a bomb in the second world war, although the façades were not demolished.



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