

Maltese eNewsletter



Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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Valletta's Pjazza Tritoni to be transformed into Santa's City this Christmas

**MALTESE
EMIGRATION
MATTERS**



Between 1948 -80
Thousands left
the Maltese
Islands

75th Anniversary of the assisted-passage
agreement between Malta and Australia



**GRANDMOTHER
OF THE YEAR
2023
MARY ROSE
ATTARD**

CHRISTMAS 2023

MOSTA SQUARE

MILIED 2023





Caravaggio's violent exploits led him to Malta, where he would seek absolution from The Knights of St. John.

Despite his artistic success, Caravaggio's personal life was marked by a series of tumultuous events. He was known for his fiery temper, involvement in brawls, and various legal troubles. In 1606, he was involved in a fatal altercation, leading to his escape from Rome and a life of exile and constant movement across various Italian cities.

Throughout his life, Caravaggio produced a considerable body of work, ranging from religious and mythological scenes to portraits and still life **paintings**. His art had a profound impact on the artists of his time and beyond, and his style laid the foundation for the Baroque movement in art.

Early Life Caravaggio's short and intense life seems thoroughly entwined with his art; physicality, passion, the contrast of light and dark; all are terms that could arguably describe the painter as much as the **paintings**. Notoriously aggressive, his behaviour was often overlooked by the authorities due to the high influence of his patrons, but when he killed a man in 1606 a price on his head caused him to flee Rome for Naples and then Malta to seek protection and amnesty with the Knights of St. John.

Knights of St. John The Knights of St. John, also known as the Knights of St. Malta, were the last surviving outpost of the network of military religious orders that evolved in the time of the crusades. After being driven out of Rhodes by the Ottoman Empire in 1522, the Knights of St. John retrenched in Malta and increased their fortifications on the island. Caravaggio, known for walking Rome with a sword at his side, saw the potential for absolution from these knights who had dedicated their lives to God by serving him as soldiers.

Early Impressions The Grand Master of the Order, Alof de Wignacourt, was evidently impressed by the arrival

of the precocious artist, who at the time was most famous painter in Rome. He admitted him to the service and commissioned The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (1608) as an altarpiece. This **painting** was amongst the largest Caravaggio would ever paint, with life-size figures inhabiting the huge space of the canvas. It is also the only **painting** Caravaggio ever signed – in this case, done with the red blood pouring from St John's severed neck and signed F. Michelangelo. The F is for Fra, brother, signifying is new religious affiliation. Like the Knights whose order he now belonged to, it was as if the sword had finally brought him closer to God.

Short stint in the religious order

His attempt at spiritual devotion to a quieter life within a religious order did not last, and he was imprisoned just a few months later, following a violent brawl with other knights. Remarkably, he managed to escape from the castle and leave the island unnoticed. He was expelled from the Order in absentia but left the Knights of Malta with some of his most important **paintings**, including the huge The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (1608), and the Portrait of Alof de Wignacourt with his Page (c. 1607-1608). The **paintings** no longer travel, and for those wanting to see them face to face, a journey to Malta is the only way.

Judith Beheading Holofernes is a painting of the biblical episode by Caravaggio, painted in c. 1598 in which the widow Judith stayed with the Assyrian general Holofernes in his tent after a banquet then decapitated him after he passed out drunk. The painting was discovered in 1950. *Book of Judith*



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

Press Release 12/2023

Subject: Schedule of Pension Payment Dates 2024

The High Commission of Malta would like to inform the public of the 2024 pension payment dates under the Maltese Social Security Act.

This information is also published on the following links:

- Department of Social Security website:

<https://mysocialsecurity.gov.mt/Views/PaymentSchedules.aspx>;

- High Commission of Malta Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaltaHighCommissionCanberra>

Retired Retirement, Increased Retirement, Reduced National Minimum Two-Thirds Pension	Widow	Invalidity Invalidity, National Minimum & Increased National Minimum Pension
6 January 2024	13 January 2024	20 January 2024
3 February 2024	10 February 2024	17 February 2024
2 March 2024	9 March 2024	16 March 2024
30 March 2024	6 April 2024	13 April 2024
27 April 2024	4 May 2024	11 May 2024
25 May 2024	1 June 2024	8 June 2024
22 June 2024	29 July 2024	6 July 2024
20 July 2024	27 July 2024	3 August 2024
17 August 2024	24 August 2024	31 August 2024
14 September 2024	21 September 2024	28 September 2024
12 October 2024	19 October 2024	26 October 2024
9 November 2024	16 November 2024	23 November 2024
7 December 2024	14 December 2024	21 December 2024

For further information and clarification, please contact our offices on:

High Commission of Malta	Consulate General Sydney	Consulate General Melbourne
highcomission.canberra@gov.mt	maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt	maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt
02 6290 1724	02 9262 9500	03 9670 8427

KM Malta Airlines, operating as the new Air Malta, gets AOC and prepares for inaugural flight in March 2024

André Orban



-Air Malta Airbus A320neo

KM Malta Airlines, the new national carrier of Malta, has reached a significant milestone in its journey toward full operation. Recently granted its air operator certificate (AOC) and air operator licence by Malta's Civil Aviation Directorate, the airline is on track for its inaugural flight scheduled on March 31, 2024.

The summer schedule, spanning from March 31 to October 26, is set to encompass 17 airports across 15 cities, with an impressive 8,546 scheduled flights and 1,430,000 seats on offer. With a vision to enhance

connectivity between Malta and Europe, the airline aims to serve as a pivotal link between the capital cities and major airport hubs, establishing partnerships with other carriers for seamless travel.

Operating a fleet of eight Airbus A320neo aircraft in a two-class configuration, including a flexible Business Class cabin with up to 36 seats, KM Malta Airlines is primed to offer a quality travel experience. Additionally, the airline is in the midst of an extensive recruitment drive, looking to hire around 375 employees, including captains and first officers.

Despite a slight delay in the booking system launch, set for December 4, the airline is focused on ensuring a successful takeoff and aims to contribute significantly to Malta's economic growth and sustainable aviation practices.

Migrant workers make up a third of Malta's labour force, up 23% in ten years



1 in every three workers in Malta is a foreigner.

The percentage of migrant workers amid the 300,000-strong workforce increased from 10% in 2013 to almost 33% by mid-2023.

Non-Maltese make up over a third of the total labour force on the island, the employment agency JobsPlus says in its annual report. The employment agency put the overall percentage

of foreign workers in the labour market at 30% as of September last year. This reflects the extent of the government's policy to import non-Maltese nationals to make up for gaps in the local labour supply. *Employment of foreign nationals increased drastically*- Jobsplus. By the end of 2021, the number of employed foreign nationals across all sectors amounted to 77,825, JobsPlus says on its website. "Since the joining of the Maltese Islands in the European Union, employment of foreign nationals increased drastically," the agency says in a section titled 'Foreign Nationals Employment Trends'.

According to the data, by mid-2023, the government and Maltese businesses employed more than 100,000 foreign citizens, comprising 37,000 from the EEA and more than 67,000 third-country nationals (TCNs).

'Christmas in the Capital' VALLETTA 2023



Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Owen Bonnici together with Valletta Cultural Agency Chairperson Jason Micallef announced details on 'Christmas in the Capital', a programme of festive events taking place in Valletta from the 25th of November till the 31st of December 2023.

Minister Owen Bonnici described this programme as an opportunity for Maltese and Gozitan families to visit the Capital City during the Christmas period.

"Our Capital City is the perfect place for celebrations like these. This event builds on our commitment to celebrate culture in its various genres and to continue supporting artists," said Minister Bonnici, emphasizing that the Government is committed to further enhancing cultural activities in the Capital City and various locations in our country.

Valletta Cultural Agency Chairman Jason Micallef said that given the ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world, they have incorporated activities promoting peace and serenity into the Christmas Programme. One such feature is the traditional Baby Jesus procession, a cherished and meaningful tradition for many Maltese people.

Mr Micallef further stated that over a month VCA has planned 29 events and activities in the Capital City. The programme includes stilt walkers, musical choirs and concerts by famous bands and singers including The Travellers, Michela, Ira Losco, Gianluca Bezzina, Centrestage Children's Choir, Sean & Veronique, RIONA, Opening Doors, EnKor, Malta School of

Music, Kor Malta, Choral and Orchestral Society Maria Bambina and others. He also announced that the National New Year's Eve Celebrations will once again take place in the heart of the capital at St George's Square. The entrance will once again be free of charge.

The VCA Head of Programming and Production, Jessica Muscat said that on the 25th of November, the Christmas lights in Valletta's main streets and a Christmas tree will be switched on while a traditional Christmas crib will be inaugurated near the entrance to St John's Co-Cathedral. The spectacular projections in St George's Square will start from the 4th of December. Throughout the Christmas period, Christmas music will also be playing in Republic Street.

Other highlights found in this year's Christmas programme include children's workshops at the Valletta Design Cluster, street animators and pop-up events by Dancel Dance Studio.

Visit the Valletta Cultural Agency website vca.gov.mt and Facebook page for more information. #MaltaDaily

Malta is a beautiful place to visit during Christmas. According to Girl in Malta, the country transforms into a winter wonderland during Christmas, and it's like nothing you've ever seen. The weather is mild, with temperatures ranging between 12°C to 18°C (that's 54°F to 64°F) in December. Valletta, the capital of Malta, is a must-visit destination during Christmas. The city puts on a sequined holiday sweater with twinkling lights and cobblestone streets dressed to the nines. St. John's Co-Cathedral is a must-visit place, where the decorations are next-level, and Midnight Mass is like a front-row ticket to Maltese Christmas traditions. Valletta Fairyland is another attraction that you should not miss. It's like stepping into a cute fairytale with Christmas markets, puppet shows, fairground rides, ice skating, face painting, mulled wine, live music, and more. Gozo is another place to visit during Christmas. Here, "Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem" transports you straight into the nativity story of Christmas. You can also visit the Christmas villages at Verdala Palace, where you can shop, munch on delicious Christmas treats, play games, and even snag personalized festive

decor¹. GuideMeMalta.com lists some of the Maltese Christmas traditions that you'll love. One of them is the decorative street lights on every road and roundabout to almost each and every home. Street decorations usually involve bright blinking lights depicting Christmas trees and such. Some locations now opt for a classier design and softer glow, but the traditional look is as loud as possible². LovinMalta.com has a list of seven localities across Malta and Gozo who have taken up the yearly tradition of letting their towns and villages sparkle in the Christmas spirit. The list includes Birgu, Cospicua, Floriana, Mdina, Mosta, Sliema, and Valletta³. VisitMalta.com provides information about how Christmas is celebrated in Malta and Gozo. Nativity scenes, displays of cribs, carol

services, and other events are organized in each locality. The season is celebrated to its fullest on the Maltese Islands, with the active participation of many.



An Epic New Year's Eve Bash in Valletta! By Mariam Grima

countdown to 2024 is on, and we've got some exciting news for you!

The Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts, and Local Government Owen Bonnici, in collaboration with Valletta Cultural Agency (VCA), chaired by Jason Micallef, is thrilled to announce the details of the much-anticipated New Year's Eve celebration in Valletta!

"Now that we are just a few weeks away from the end of the year, preparations in Valletta are in full swing to ensure a spectacular close to 2023 and usher in the new year with grand celebrations." Minister Bonnici said.

He highlighted the magnitude of the upcoming event, describing it as the largest national gathering during Christmas festivities. "The anticipation is high, with the participation of over 50,000 attendees expected to create a , let's bid farewell to the current year and usher in the new one with warmth and celebration," concluded Mr. Micallef.

Hosting the event will be none other than Ron, Taryn Mamo Cefai, and Keane Cutajar. The night kicks off with the sensational Lara and the Jukeboys band. But wait, there's more! Special Guests for the night include The Palace String Orchestra, led by the talented Ryan Abela, along with a fantastic lineup of Malta's finest artists, including AIDAN, Drakard, Klinsmann, Jasmine, Megan May, Sarah Bonnici, and the special guest star, Emma Muscat.

Just before the countdown begins, our hosts, alongside DJ Koroma & DJ Miggy, will keep the

vibrant atmosphere and high-level performances from various distinguished local artists, undoubtedly marking the perfect conclusion to the year 2023," concluded Minister Bonnici.

"Once again, Valletta will be the heart of the largest free New Year's Eve celebration on the island. We invite everyone to join us in the Capital City on New Year's Eve and immerse themselves in the joyful atmosphere filled with music and merriment." Jason Micallef, VCA Chairperson, added.

"Attendees are encouraged to partake in the festivities, relishing a delightful ambiance filled with joy and music. Together

energy soaring in Valletta. They'll be treating the crowd both in person and those watching live on local TV stations to an electrifying mash-up set of the best dance anthems, together with stage special effects and fireworks to welcome the New Year in style.

The National New Year's Eve Celebration is brought to you by G7 Events, with the support of a Partnership Agreement with VCA within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts, and Local Government, and the contribution of the Malta Tourism Authority.

For more information, visit the website vca.gov.mt and follow VCA on [Facebook](#).



THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA IN MELBOURNE

The Consul General Gioconda Schembri had the pleasure of meeting Ms Harriet Chard, a student from the University of Melbourne who will be studying at the University of Malta, as part of the study abroad and exchange programme agreement between the two Universities.

[Affarijiet Barranin University of Malta High Commission of Malta in Australia](#)



Maltese Australian Gold Coast Association

Queensland, Australia

Good afternoon to all Members, for all those Members and Friends who attended the MAGC 2023 Christmas Party yesterday, I would like to express the Committee's sincere thankyou.

The weather was kind to us. Sun was shining, humidity and a slight breeze.

At this point I would like to express our sincere thanks to **Margaret, Victor and their family** who had a lot to do with the success of the event. There is a lot of

preparation that goes into such an event. Their efforts I am sure are greatly appreciated by all Members.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all our volunteers who assisted in the setup of the venue, food preparation and distribution and the Filipino singers who entertained us. DJ's Charlie Cassar & Joe Cefai.

Any profits that are made from the lunch payments & Raffle will be banked of course into the MAGC BOQ Account. Your committee has recently paid for further repairs to the VW Van at a cost of \$601.00 and last week the Registration which was \$876. 30. Previously we paid for Comprehensive Insurance with Budget Direct approx. \$328.00 and ongoing fuel from time to time as required.

The VW Van is an essential asset to the Association as you can appreciate. Thanks to **Michael Grima**, our regular driver. Michael does a great job in storing our picnic equipment in the right place within the VW Van. This is no mean feat believe me.

On behalf of your Committee we wish you all a **Very Happy Christmas & New Year 2024**. Stay safe on the road, keep alert and "keep your cool" whilst navigating the roads to your destinations.

Finally, it's a time to make peace with your family members and friends who you have been estranged from for one reason or another.

God bless you all, See you all in January 2024.

Kind Regards **Alex Buttigieg** Secretary, on behalf of the MAGC Committee

TAXI MARY D'Amato Records - Released 15th of May 1967



Many ask us which record sold the most in Malta... Without a doubt it was Taxi Mary. by Freddy Abela AND George Azzopardi. On the day of release D'Amato sold 751 records! That is a record (in both senses) for Malta that will never ever be matched. That week William D'Amato gave all staff a 1£ weekly increase. On the day, police had to be called in to control a large crowd outside the shop where the queue of people reached right up to St. John's Cathedral The record sold tens of thousands from Malta to Australia, USA, UK & Canada and still sells today.

The Journal of all Maltese Living Abroad



TAL-LAMPUKI HAWN

Ricerka ta' Greg Caruana
minn Sydney, Australia

Il-lampuka hi x'aktarx l-aktar ħuta popolari li jhobbu jieklu l-Maltin, l-aktar meta tkun għadha kemm inqadet, biex tissajjar friska. Din hi ħuta li ilha tingabad sekli sħaħ. Il-lampuki jidhol mill-Atlantiku għal gol-baħar Mediterran fil-bidu ta' Awwissu u dawn jinqabdu fl-ibħra Maltin l-aktar fuq in-naħa tal-Majjistral u l-Punent ta' Malta. Din tissajjar b'diversi modi, jew moqlija, jew fuq il-fwar, jew inkella mgħollija biex wara li tissajjar, biha jsiru torot tal-lampuki. Prezzha mhux għali, biss dejjem skont il-qabda.



Il-mod li tingabad din il-ħuta huwa billi s-sajjieda jhejju l-kannizzati tal-polisterin (gablów) li magħhom jitwaħħlu weraq kbar tal-palm biex dawn kollha jzommu fil-wiċċ. Fil-gzejjer Maltin, kull

sena, jinqatgħu eluf ta' weraq tal-palm. L-użu tal-weraq tal-palm beda meta fl-1972, sajjiid minn San Pawl il-baħar ipprova dan il-metodu u beda jinnota li l-ħut beda jqarreb aktar lejn il-kannizzati għaliex mal-weraq bdiet tikber il-alga u għalhekk il-lampuki, apparti d-dell, beda jsib ukoll xi ikel li jnaqqar. Is-sajjieda jitfgħu l-kannizzati tagħhom f'dawk il-postijiet allokatil lilhom mill-Awtorità tas-Sajd. Dawn, is-sajjieda jsejġulhom ċimi, riferenza għal ħabel li miegħu jiddendel il-kantun li jankra ruħu f'qiegħ il-baħar. Dawn l-allokkazzjonijiet, ikunu minn daqs 10 -15 kilometru 'l bogħod mill-kosta sa 25 mil nawtiku.

Dawn il-kanizzati jithallew waħidhom għal bejn jum jew tnejn. Imbagħad, is-sajjieda



jmorru lura bl-ingenji fuq iċ-ċimi biex isibu l-lampuki li jkunu ngabru taħt u madwar il-kanizzati. Meta jaslu fuq iċ-ċima, is-sajjieda jitfgħu x-xibka, li hi tat-tip ta' tartarun, li tiddawwar madwar il-ġliba ta' ħut li jkun ingabar taħt u madwar il-kanizzata. Is-sajjieda jneħħu l-kanizzata minn nofs u jiġbdu x-xibka biex tagħlaq madwar il-ħut waqt li din tingibed bil-winċ għal fuq il-lanċa jew il-luzzu. Dan ix-xogħol isir minn madwar erba' u tmien sajjiida, skont il-kobor tal-luzzu jew l-lanċa tas-sajd.

Illum, is-sajjieda diletanti jafu wkoll irejxu għal din il-ħuta, biss dawn għandhom bżonn permess mill-awtoritajiet biex jagħmlu hekk u jridu jzommu 'l bogħod sew minn fejn ikunu ntefgħu l-kannizzati. Proprjament, jeżistu żewġ tipi ta' lampuki, l-oħra hi l-pompano dolphin. Il-lampuka hi ħuta li tikber malajr, u fi ftit żmien kultant kapaċi tleħhaq anki żewġ metri. Bl-Ingliš, il-lampuka hi magħrufa b'diversi ismijiet, fosthom, corephene, dorado jew dolphinfish. Il-lampuki jinsabu f'bosta ibħra madwar id-dinja, fosthom, fil-Baħar Paċifiku. F'dawn in-naħat hi magħrufa l-aktar bħala, Mahi Mahi, isem mogħti min-nies tal-gzejjer tal-Ħawaii, li fil-lingwa tagħhom tisser, 'ħuta b'saħħitha'. Il-lampuka tgħix ukoll fl-Oċean Indjan. L-ikel li tiekol il-lampuka jvarja minn ħut żgħir, bħas-sardin u l-kavalli. Mal-qabda tal-lampuki spiss ikun hemm ukoll il-fanfri, u xi imsell, li bħal-lampuki jersqu lejn il-kanizzati għad-dell.

Foreigners - ambassadors of the Maltese language



Arnaud Bouvier (French teacher) Andrea Di Vita (Italian chef) Walid Nabhan (Palestinian scientist) Jessica Schulz (Swedish researcher) Veronika Sytnyk (law student) Ema and Carla (high school students)

What is common between them, apart from the fact that they are not Maltese? Most of us have probably seen them - even for a few seconds - speaking in Maltese on social media. They all chose to learn our language for various reasons, but mostly to integrate better among us, at work, and in everyday life.

The voices of these ambassadors of Maltese are part of a national campaign aimed at celebrating our language as the thing that most unites us and gives us identity and to, at the same time, raise awareness in favour of the balanced use of Maltese and English in the various areas of public life together with Maltese Sign Language, the third official language of our country.

The campaign 'I-ilsien Malti għal qalbi', launched by the Office of the President of Malta and the Maltese associations, is addressing a number of themes and started with the intention of dispelling the impression that the Maltese language belongs to the Maltese only. Our language belongs to everyone who lives in Malta, wherever they come from, but not only.

Maltese is still alive among various communities of Maltese living in England, Australia, the United States, Canada, Brussels and Luxembourg, among others. In addition, the Maltese language and literature are taught overseas: at the Maltese Centre in Bremen, Germany; in Inalco, the institute of

oriental languages and cultures in France; and in other groups of Maltese emigrants.

Over the years, there has been a good number of foreign scholars who have shown interest in our language and who, thanks to the curiosity it instilled in them, studied it and recognized the richness in its mixing. Since the time of the Knights we find Hieronymus Megiser (German), Jean-François de Vion Thezan (French), Philip Skippon (English), and Francesc de Sentmenat-Torrelles (Catalan). At the beginning of the English rule there were also Heinrich Gesenius (German), John Hookham Frere (English), James Somerville (Scottish), George Percy Badger (English), and Christoph Friedrich Schlenz (German).

During the twentieth century we find Hans Stumme, Theodor Nöldeke and Bertha Kössler-Ilg (Germans); Nahum Slouschz (Russian), Edmund Sutcliffe (English), Charles Louis Dessoulavy (English-Swiss), May Butcher (English), Giuseppe Maria Barbera (Sicilian), Yukio Isigaki (Japanese), Ahmed Talāt Sulaimān (Arabic), Benedikt Isserlin (German), Geoffrey Hull (Australian), Martine Vanhove (French), Svetislav L. Stojanovic (Serbian), and Thomas Stolz (German). These are just a few, as we give an idea, because the list goes on and on. To learn Maltese, Jessica Schulz, one of the ambassadors who took part in this campaign, used grammar books to better understand how the language works. Practiced pronunciation in a high voice by listening and reading dialogues and stories. While she was in Scotland learning Maltese, she spent a lot of time listening to the language on radio and television, mostly in children's programs.

Once a week she would attend an online lesson, and from lesson to lesson she would study new words and expressions, build basic sentences, and practice spontaneous conversation. Like Jessica there are others who have made Maltese their own too, studied it seriously, and today we appreciate them not only as ambassadors of the language but also of Maltese literature.

I remember this Nelson Mandela's quote "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."



L-GHAQDA KITTIEBA TAL-MALTI FL-1938

1 ~ Nikol Biancardi 2 ~ R. Mifsud Bonnici 3 ~ A.V. Vassallo 4 ~ John F. Marks
 5 ~ Ġużè Bonnici 6 ~ Ninu Cremona 7 ~ T. Borg 8 ~ Geo. J. Ransley
 9 ~ Patri Henry Born 10 ~ Franġisk Saver Caruana 11 ~ Ivo Muscat Azzopardi
 12 ~ Dun Karm 13 ~ Ant. G. Said 14 ~ Rużar Briffa 15 ~ Ġużè Galea
 16 ~ Ġorġ Pisani 17 ~ Ġużè Chetcuti 18 ~ E.B. Vella 19 ~ Kelinu Vella Haber
 20 ~ Karmenu Vassallo



GHAQDA TAL-KITTIEBA MALTIN - MELBOURNE -AWSTRALJA 1953

WARA; Manwel Nicholas Borg, Guzi Abela, Joe Briffa, Charlie Vella, Joe Scerri, Karmenu Borg. NOFS: Manwel Cassar, Father Lawrence Dimech, Josephine Cassar Carmela Nicholas Borg, QUDDIEM: Danny Cassar u Doris u Monica Briffa

DAWN KIENU UHUD MILL-KOLONNI TAL-ILSIEN MALTI



Matt Skelly was appointed Australia's new HC to Malta in August 2023

His Excellency Matt Skelly is the new Australia's High Commissioner to Malta, replacing the outgoing HC

Jenny Cartmill, who served in Malta since 2020. Mr Skelly will also be accredited to Tunisia.

Announcing Mr Kelly's appointment, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, described Mr Skelly as a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, most recently Director of the Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section. He served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission in Spain, Iraq, and South Africa.

Minister Penny Wong said that Australia and Malta enjoy close ties anchored by solid people-to-people links and their shared membership of

the Commonwealth. Australia's Maltese diaspora community is the largest in the world and continues to make a valuable contribution to Australian society and our bilateral relationship. She said, "Australia and Malta have shared values, including a long-standing commitment to promoting international peace and the rule of law, maritime security and the strength of multilateral institutions.

The Minister added that Australia welcomes Malta's membership of the UN Security Council for the 2023-24 term and looks forward to continuing to work with Malta and other members of the European Union as it looks to conclude a comprehensive and ambitious Australia-EU Trade Agreement which will expand trade and investment opportunities between our countries.



**OUR JOURNAL
SUPPORTS ALL
MALTESE
INDIVIDUALS,
ASSOCIATIONS,
AGENCIES AND CLUBS
ALL OVER THE WORLD**



**The Maltese Journal
is a gift to the
MALTESE DIASPORA**

George Frendo



Zeza tal-Flagship 2023 Teatru Manoel , Old Theatre Street, Valletta

teatrumanoel.mt

This local classic comedy, written by Mikielang Borg, early in the last century, is based in Balzunetta, where the famous Żeża used to work as a barmaid. Outgoing, lively and cheeky Żeża was not only the British sailors' favourite entertainer, but was very well loved amongst the Maltese from all social classes. Trouble looms when aristocrats are caught in saucy adventures. What happens when Zeza pretends to be the wife of the aristocrat Dr Anakleto?

To top it all Anakleto's uncle arrives from Tunis and is mesmerized by the beauty and liveliness of Żeża. Borg's original script has been adapted into this new version by Joe Gatt with also a list of new songs which will be played live by the orchestra and sung by the actors. A show not to be missed!



Bethlehem F'Għajnsielem Live Crib

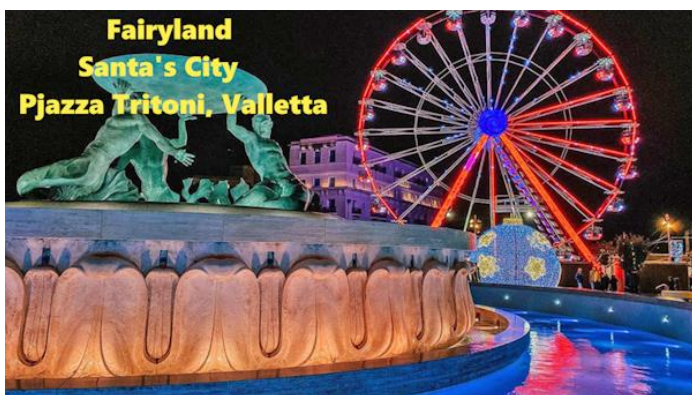


20,000 square metre (sqm) of fields on a stretch of land known as Ta' Passi, comes to life during the month of December with about 150 actors taking visitors back in time to Judea of 2000 years ago. The atmosphere will simply be unique... horses turn mills, villagers go about their jobs, shepherds inhabit caves, animals roam in enclosed spaces and a poor unknown couple tend their newly-born in a grotto...

It has been a long journey with every edition offering new attractions to strengthen the reproduction of the greatest story ever told – The Story of Nativity.

Bethlehem F'Għajnsielem Live Crib

Bethlehem f'Għajnsielem, the event that has enchanted thousands of visitors over the past three years. The nativity village is situated adjacent to the Għajnsielem main square, on the island of Gozo, just 5 minutes by walk from Mgarr Harbour. Appropriately called "Bethlehem f'Għajnsielem", this life-size crib, constructed on



Fairyland - Santa's City Pjazza Tritoni, Valletta fairylandmalta.com

The highly anticipated and annual 'Fairyland-Santa's City' is returning once again and will see Pjazza Tritoni in Valletta turn into a Christmas haven for the upcoming festive season.

It will open for the first time on the 8th of December, which is a public holiday here in Malta and will stay open daily until the 7th of

January 2024. The iconic wheel is set to grace Valletta's skyline yet again and you can also visit the Ice-Skating Rink together with the stalls at the Christmas themed artisan market. Santa Claus and his elves will be there to entertain kids all day long and deliver all kinds of special gifts. Additionally, live bands, singers and an entertainment stage will be set up for visitors to enjoy.

From Malta to Melbourne - NNA

TONY GRIMA

by Patrick Ferry



Did you know that migration from Malta was once heavily restricted because the Maltese were seen as a threat to 'white Australia'?

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

A teenage apprentice

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

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

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

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

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

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

Culture shock

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

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

Every cloud has a silver lining

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

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

Egalitarian spirit

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

Overcoming the tyranny of distance

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

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

Tony passed away in November 2000, aged 75.

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



The apostle Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter.

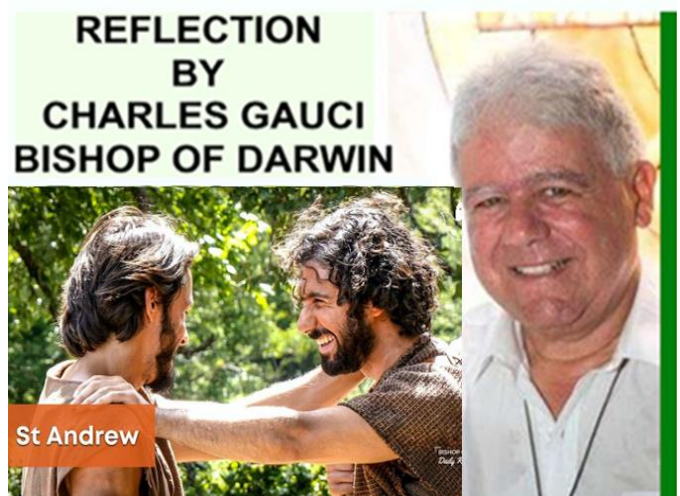
St. Andrew was the one who introduced Simon (Peter) to Jesus. As Christians, we are all called to be living reminders of Jesus to others.

Jesus expressed His desire for all to be saved. In Jesus, God reaches out to all, desiring all to be fully alive.

The more we treat others as God treats us and the more we model our lives on the Gospel the more we can facilitate an encounter with Jesus for others. People like Gandhi, although a Hindu himself, lamented what a better world we would have if Christians truly lived the teachings of Jesus. The more we act out of love for others and let go of our ego, the more transparent we become as sacraments of Jesus.

We can resonate with the words of John the Baptist: 'I must decrease so that he may increase'.

Like Andrew and John, we are called and commissioned to introduce others to Jesus.



FROM JOHN BASSON OF MALTA NET FM

Congratulations on this Maltese e-Newsletter which is full of information and traditional articles. President George Vella was right to praise it.

I would like to inform you that at the beginning of October I started to present a one-hour program on NET FM called: "The Character of the Week". I invite characters from all areas of Maltese life where we get to know them more closely both personally and also from a career point of view. I insert passages and voices from the past. In the middle of the program they choose a favorite piece of music.

In Australia, these programs will begin to be broadcasted by Mr. Emmanuel Brincat on the station 98.9 North West FM in Melbourne and many Maltese who listen to

him around the world have written to me.

This program is full of research and surprises. To follow it, you can go to: netondemand.mt/series/147 and you can enter the FACEBOOK page: personaggetnetfm Greetings,

John Basson – MALTA



www.joannemizzi.com

Joanne Mizzi Art - Facebook



Open for artwork viewings.
Monday to Saturday - by Appointment,

Get in touch:
M. +356 79760725
W. www.mizzijoanne.com





Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter & St Paul



Dear Chevalier Frank Scicluna,

Greetings. Congratulations on your milestone of the E-Newsletter Chevalier [Frank Scicluna](#). Thank you for your dedication and great work. I always look forward to receive it, very informative.

Thank you for including me in the poster. I passed the E-Newsletter to my Personal Secretary Chevalier Grand Chancellor Joseph Coleiro. Best regards. **Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli Grand Master**

Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter & St Paul

Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - Nadur, Gozo. Malta



The Vella/Grech family has given permission to the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul to use the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for religious functions.

The aim is to take part in important religious celebrations like Christmas, Easter and the Solemnity of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Confraternity is forever grateful to the Family owners of the church for granting permission to use it.

'I have the pleasure to inform you that it is all good to start using the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for your functions. I have spoken to both the family and the permission of the bishop of Gozo and the clergy of Nadur'.

The church was built by Dun Guzepp Vella Ta' Karanja

The Church was born of an idea of Dun Ġużepp Vella. In the beginning he wanted to build a church Knijša with the money raised from the people. But when he saw the difficulties due to poverty at that time he decided to resort to family money which was then known for trading wine. From then on the Church was not only built with family money, but also on some land purchased by the family of Dun Guzepp. The purpose of this Church was to create a centre of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

On the 4th may 1902 the foundation stone of the Church was blessed and laid by the then Bishop of Gozo. Mgr. John Marija Camilleri OESA. But the founder, Fr Joseph Vella, was not lucky enough to see

this opera finished. He died abruptly on 17 June 1906. A journal at the time wrote that "the island has lost one of its best priests".

Fr Joseph was born in Nadur on the 16th November 1854 and was ordained a priest on the 15th June 1878. He was known as a good and generous man and above all he was very spiritual and holy.

After Dun Guzepp's death his younger brother Ġanni Vella continued the opera started by his older brother. He not only saw the end of the Church building but also took care to cover the costs.

After the building was finished, after which the Church was endowed with all that is necessary for the devotion, it was blessed and consecrated on the 22nd May 1910 by the Bishop of Gozo L-E.T. Mgr. John Marija Camilleri OESA. Since then, solemn adoration, daily masses and other moments of prayer and worship have been taken place in the Church.

On the 21st of January 1911, by decree of the Bishop of Gozo, the Via Sacra was established.

Over the years, the Vella family has continued to take care of it, not only that the Mission of the Church continues, but has done its utmost to endow the Church with sacred objects and works of art. It is worth mentioning the organ inaugurated on the 14th June 1914 and the decoration and painting of the dome and roof of the Church by professor Francesco Saverio Sciortino and the painter Joseph Briffa. These works were inaugurated and blessed by the Bishop of Gozo, H.E. Mgr. Guzeppi Pace on the 3rd June 1956.

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren still care for the financial aspect of this Church, while the spiritual aspect is entrusted to a rector nominated by the diocesan Bishop in agreement with the Vella and Grech families.

Natus Est Vobis Hodie Salvator

Għal darb'oħra qed infakkru din il-ġrajja tal-Milied
li tinsab fil-fond imnaqqa sew fl-irhula kemm fl-ibliet.

Għax twelid il-Bambin ċkejken ġie biex jifdi lil kulhadd –
u li xi hadd baqa' barra żgur illi ma nstema' qatt!

L-ewwel li hassewhom hienja ir-ragħajja kienu ta' Betlem
li għalkemm il-ġenb mogħtija waslu hemmhekk ċeklem ċeklem,

u dlonk niżlu għarkupptejhom jaduraw hienja t-tarbija
illi f'hin qasir imliethom bl-akbar ferħ u armonija.

Tgerbu 'l fuq minn elfejn sena mindu seħħet din il-ġrajja,
izda min qatt jista' jiċhad illi m'għadhiex fostna ħajja!

Mhux biss, izda bil-ferħ timla, kif Diċembru jersaq qrib,
għonja, fqar, żgħażaġh, anzjani u kull fejn bniedem issib!

L-Aħbar tajba l-aṅgli tawna li ttajru mas-smewwiet;
kantaw hienja, geġwigija, li l-paċi kienet ġiet!

Issa rridu nagħtu sehemna biex dil-paċi ssaltan
f'qalbna; nitolbuh lil Ġesù ċkejken biex bla dubju jisma' talbna.

Għaddew, taru tmien mitt sena mindu t'Assisi l-Fqajjar
go Greccio bena l-Presepju biex lilna sal-lum iħajjar

u l-grotta wkoll nibnu fid-djar tagħna mzejnin
għal daż-żmien għażiż tas-sena sabiex nilqgħu lill-Bambin.

Ma nfallux il-Purċissjoni illi toħroġ bil-Bambin,
illi Dun Gorġ ried u xtaqha bis-sehem ta' tant tfal ċkejknin.

U għal darba mqajma nibqgħu għall-Quddiesa tal-Milied
illi f'nofs ta' lejl titqaddes – niesna għaliha dejjem ġiet!

Sabi bi spellizza bajda jirrakkonta x'gara fl-għar,
kif Tarbija ċkejka twieldet għan-nifs shun ta' baqra u ħmar,

u lid-dinja ferrħet, għaxxqet u paxxiet kollha l-ġnus
u għagġbet lil tant poeti li fissan f'għadd ta' vrus!

Jien ukoll ningħaqad magħhom biex insellem dit-Tarbija
li tnessini gwaj u dwejjaj, timla 'l qalbi bit-tgawdija.

O Bambin ċkejken ta' Betlem, idhol għammar fid-djar tagħna!
Kif nistgħu ngħaddu mingħajrek? Ibqa' dlonk għal dejjem magħna!

Il-Kav. Joe M. Attard Il-Belt
Victoria, Għawdex Milied 2023



A CHRISTMAS TREAT

It's that time of the year when people cherish the magic of Christmas. And the season would not be the same without the good things to create or buy, including traditional, seasonal produce that spices up the season. Treacle Rings or 'Qaqħaq tal-Għasel', are among the favourite Christmas fare. The pastry rings, which have a soft filling of black treacle, orange peel, honey and a variety spices were in olden days known as 'Qaqħaq tal-Qastanija', possibly implying the use of chestnuts. Here is an authentic recipe:

The Pastry: For the pastry, you will need:

- 500gr plain flour
- 200gr unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- Some water

Rub the butter into the flour and then add the sugar and egg yolk. Mix well and knead, adding water if need be. Leave the pastry to rest until you're ready to start preparing the rings.

The Filling: For the filling, you will need:

- 400gr treacle
- 200gr caster sugar
- 2 cups water
- 150gr semolina
- A tablespoon of each of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves
- A tablespoon of orange blossoms water
- A tablespoon of cocoa powder
- Orange and lemon zest and juice
- Some anisette

Method

Take all the ingredients with the exception of the semolina, put them in a pot and slowly bring them to boil. Let the mixture simmer and whilst stirring add the semolina until you have a thick mixture. Let the mixture cool down completely before tackling the rings.

Preparing the Rings: Take the pastry and after rolling it out, cut it out into strips. Keep in mind that the length of the strips will determine the circumference of the rings. Place the filling in the centre of the strips and roll over the pastry to create rope-like shapes. Create rings and then use a knife to make slits at regular intervals. Bake the rings in a moderately hot oven until the rings are looking lightly golden in colour.

Once the rings are baked, you can enjoy them with tea or coffee or even with a glass of wine at dinner. And finally keep in mind that they also make lovely homemade gifts, so why not give them a festive packaging and share them with friends and family!

On the other hand, if you're too rushed to get into the baking mood, or you can't be bothered to source the ingredients then simply visit your favourite bakery or confectionery and bite into the sweetness! Christmas Treat, 'Qaqħaq tal-Għasel'



THE 2023 AGM OF THE GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE, CRINGILA, NSW 4 NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The George Cross Falcons Community Centre Inc. held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 30 November 2023 at the Community Centre, Cringila, NSW. The members of the association who attended the meeting endorsed and commended the continuous works that has been accomplished during the year and the sterling work done by the president, committee members and volunteers to embellish the Centre and to provide the members with the weekly luncheon and several other activities that happened in the club during the year.

The President Mr. Louis Parnis gave this meeting a great importance by asking the family of Joe Magro Senior to attend the meeting.

Mr Magro is a resident at Marco Polo in Unanderra. Mr. Joe Magro and he was nominated for President Life Member in 2007. Mr. Magro was given the honour to present the certificates to 4 new Life members of the association, a prestige award bestowed on them for their services to the club and their fellow members of the association. At the meeting was present Mr. John Sammut accountant, while Marianne Saliba was the Returning Officer. At the meeting it was evident that the association returned a good profit for 2022-2023 and on track to support the wider Community of NSW. Afterwards all attendees were served with food and drinks.



Annette Micallef



Vince Grech



Michelle Parnis



Mary Borg

COMMITTEE ELECTED FOR 2023-2024:

President: Louis Parnis (Manager of the Men's Shed) **Vice-President:** Dean Shaw **Secretary:** Elizabeth Walker (Public Officer) **Treasurer:** Mary Borg

Committee Members: Adam Scozzafava, John Borg, Michelle Parnis, Mary Gallagher, Anne Scozzafava and Charlie Saliba



Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) Fourth Annual National Campaign

For more recognition That Children need Both Parents - Mary Gauci President

Between 1st and 17th December, Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) will be organizing the fourth Annual National Campaign for more recognition that *Children need Both Parents*.

Some members of this organization tell their story. There are many who are hurt by what they consider to be the injustice of having a lack of access to their children, and by the maintenance they have to fork out, sometimes excessive, even when they are in the middle of financial problems. Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) acknowledges the fact that things seem to be moving in matters of shared parenting. But a lot remains to be done, among which are changes in Family Law and court procedures. Proposals for improving Family Law

The principal aim of these proposals is to eliminate any impairment to the bond between children and their parents; quite the opposite, the aim is to sustain this bond. The process should not be a burden for any of the parties concerned, but a source of knowledge that enables the parents to reflect on each step they make, so that the best interest of children truly takes priority.

1. An agency or entity should be set up to advise the family before its members resort to court proceedings. This agency should be manned by family specialists so that:
 - a) It offers a genuine out-of-court mediation service,
 - b) Where children are involved, it examines the particular family and tries to balance the time allotted to the father and to the mother according to the exigencies of that Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) VO/1819 HappyParentingMalta.com Dar Christine Bougainvillea Complex, Wistin Camilleri Street, Victoria, Gozo VCT 2080 +356-99565730 / +356-77603330 particular family.
- The basic principle should be that the two parents contribute equally to the care of their children and their maintenance. This basic principle could then be adjusted according to the exigencies of that family, in such a way that it best secures the stability of having two parents.
- c) Maintenance should be calculated and established according to the needs of the family.
 - d) From time to time, adjustments to the conditions of the custody of children should be made.
 - e) There should be an enforcement section which ensures that decisions taken by the Family Court are followed.
 - f) There should be monitoring to prevent Parental Alienation or, if it exists, to provide therapy.

2.The Family Court should be composed of a Judge trained (before his/her appointment) in Family Court matters, assisted by two other experts in the field. Court notifications should be delivered electronically. The Family Court should function as a Court of Revision of decisions taken by the previously mentioned agency.

3.Article 338 LL on access to children and I-Article 338 Z on maintenance in Criminal Law should be abrogated. The reform should take place to ensure that these laws conform to the European Convention on Human Rights. For example, in cases of the lack of access, the party concerned should be compensated by being awarded quality time with children. In the case of maintenance, this should be structured in such a way that it makes sense to all the family. Detention should be removed, both that applying to access as well as that applying to maintenance. Enforcement should be conducted by civil means through the Agency or the Family Court. The police and criminal law should have nothing to do with the family.

THE GRANDMOTHER OF THE YEAR 2023
MARY ROSE ATTARD FROM BIRKIRKARA
ACTIVE MEMBER OF HAPPY PARENTING –
MARY GAUCI PRESIDENT
HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA

UPBRINGING - When Mary Rose was little, she dreamed of being a dancer and a model. But due to the circumstances she went through, this dream could not come true.

Marriage - Mary Rose married Frans Attard and they had 3 children. The first one of them died at birth. Then she had Alan and Roderik who are 33 and 32 years old. Mental Health Mary Rose went through a lot of suffering sometimes she suffered from depression. She believes that we should take mental health and not stop, or close ourselves off, but strive to feel better again so that we can continue in life. What bothered her was that she felt that she was getting older and that her life would be wasted without fulfilling her dreams.

DANCE - At the age of 40 she started dancing and at 45 she graduated as a dance instructor and continued dancing until she was 50 years old. "I was very happy with what I was doing and that I reached where I wanted."

VOLUNTEERING - She did and will do volunteer work tomorrow which gives her a lot of satisfaction. Among others she is an active member of Happy Parenting - Malta. Help wherever you can and when you can.

ANOTHER DREAM - When she realized she had another dream to fulfill, she started taking part in the fashion contest with Gaffiero Productions and won several titles, including: first place Mrs Valentine 2020, second place Mrs Christmas; and best Christmas Costume - a costume she



had made herself; she was one of the 10 finalists of Mrs Malta. Difficulties in the Family

Mary Rose had to stop suddenly from fulfilling her dreams because the family needed her. It was a tough situation even financially and she had to work 7 days a week.

COURAGE AND PRAYER - Mary Rose did not give up. She prayed a lot to God and Our Lady and she started to feel better. She started preparing to take part in one of the biggest contests here in Malta *the grandma of the year 2023* organized by Gaffiero Productions. Mary Rose is grandmother of 3: twins Amy and Jake; and baby Elyse. Mary Rose started eating healthier food and used to go for walks to lose weight and she succeeded. The biggest challenge was finding the time to go for a walk since she works long hours.

CONCLUSION - Although she went through hardship, today Mary Rose is happy that she tried hard and succeeded. Mary Rose appreciates her team who believed in her and Happy Parenting who was great support for her and her family in a moment of heartbreak. Mary Rose intends to continue helping and conveying positive and encouraging messages for the stronger family.



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty of Education

Department of Arts,
Open Communities
& Adult Education

UNESCO Chair in Global Adult Education



**MASTER OF ARTS
IN ADULT
EDUCATION
2 Years PART-
TIME Online
(course work and
Research)**

Master of Arts in Adult Education

4 Semesters (2024–2026) | Part-time Online Course

Starting February 2024

YEAR 1 | 2 SEMESTERS

STUDY UNIT A Theoretical Foundations and Issues in Adult Education 5 ECTS

STUDY UNIT B Research Methods in Adult Education 5 ECTS

YEAR 2 | 2 SEMESTERS

Dissertation 80 ECTS

ELIGIBILITY:

Graduates with additional qualification or certified experience of practice in Adult Education.

Commencing February 2024 is a 2-year part time Master of Arts in Adult Education at the University of Malta in by distance.

Its in English and other students are both local Maltese and other countries including UK. I have already had a zoom meeting, so the time commitment is 10 to 12 hours a week. No exams,

various tasks in first year, the research dissertation (of your choice with UoM supervision) in the second year. It's a brilliant opportunity for other Maltese Australians, because the cost is very low.

Many may not know, but Malta produces very high standard academics in the field of adult education, one of them Professor Peter Mayo is multi published author and globally esteemed academic, presenting and teaching all over Europe and all over the world.

The fees are extremely modest; under \$1300 a semester (4 semesters) if you have a Maltese or other EU citizenship. Literally a quarter of the cost of the cheapest in an Australian university.

I know; I've been researching them for about 2 years. Masters courses in Education in Australia are minimum \$20,000 and (that's from James Cook University in Queensland, and heavily Commonwealth subsidised), most are \$60,000.

The attached is more information.

And I would be happy to field phone calls about it.

Year 1, course units, but lectures will be recorded, so I won't have to get up in the middle of the night.

Year 2, dissertation, so a research project.

If you are a formal teacher or informal one, this might extend your career.

As a Maltese Australian, for me, it's the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition.

It's being offered as part of the UNESCO Chair in Adult Education, Professor Mayo is the Chair.

If you want to talk to me, DM me and we can talk on the phone or messenger.

Then or you can go directly to Associate Professor Maria Brown at the faculty email.

You must enrol by end of January 2024. You can enrol in January 2024, but a late fee will apply.

RHONDA BALZAN BASTOW rbalzanbastow@gmail.com

**I thank all those who sent a small donation towards the
production of this journal**

If you would like to contribute these are the details

Bank: Commonwealth (Australia)

BSB: 065-106

Account: 0050 2507

Beloved environmental mascot *Xummiemu* is back as part of €5.2m campaign [Daniel Tihn](#)

Popular in the 1990s, the hedgehog is the face of a new educational campaign

Putting safety first, a redesigned Xummiemu is the face of a new educational project. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

Malta's favourite environmental mascot *Xummiemu* is making a comeback as part of a €5.2m campaign to clean up the streets.

The beloved local hedgehog, well known to adults raised in the 1990s, helped teach children how to safeguard the local environment. He would usually appear in cartoon form but also visited schools and had his own club called *Klabb Xummiemu*, which used to issue magazines and birthday cards. Decades on, a revitalised *Xummiemu* will be the face of the multimillion-euro campaign 'Keeping It Clean Together' revealed by Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo on Thursday.

Back in the day: Xummiemu was a popular mascot in 1980s/90s Malta. Photo: Nostalgia Malta/Facebook. It will focus on maintenance in residential areas, such as cleaning culverts, maintaining water taps, paving and street furniture, replacing light bulbs, painting of road



lines, sweeping and cutting of wild grass and street washing.

"First impressions are important," Bartolo said. "It is useless dreaming of having the nicest hotels, shops, restaurants, bays and shore if our country is ruled by the disobedience of some."

"While education on this subject will intensify in the coming months, we will also see that necessary enforcement is done for those who decide to be abusive," Bartolo said.

"Keeping it Clean Together" is led by the Division for Cleaning and Maintenance in collaboration with the Public Works Department, Tourism Zones Regeneration Agency, Infrastructure Malta, Transport Malta, Water Services Corporation and Enemalta. TIMES OF MALTA



**LET'S PULL THE ROPE
IN THE SAME DIRECTION**

**Let's work together as
Maltese living abroad
instead of building
walls between us
and obstruct the
progress of others**

**If you have a
story to tell**

**Share it with
others.**

Send it to us



FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA
Piazza San Ġorġ, Victoria GOZO
info@heartofgozo.org.mt
Media release
Christmas month @ IL-HAĠAR

Il-Haġar Museum and Community Cultural Centre in Victoria's Piazza San Ġorġ has prepared a most impressive agenda of events throughout this season. Il-HAĠAR, open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm, does not have any entrance fee.

- Lectures by Mgr Dr Edgar Vella (The Baroque Neapolitan Crib 11am on 2 December) and Prof Maria Frendo (Medicinal Snow – 7.30pm on 22 December).
- Art exhibition of Nativity Splendours curated by Joseph Calleja all around the different levels. Additional attractions are the Milied f'Għawdex philatelic showcase and the Piranesi and Klinger etchings.
- Presepi and Pasturi (artisanal nativity scenes and statuettes).
- Lunchtime Concerts at 11.30am: Visual & Performing Arts School Ensemble (9 December), Brass Tubes Ensemble (16 December) and Laudate Pueri Choir (23 December).
- Hands-on Workshop for children at 11.30am on 27 December, for which registration is essential on events@heartofgozo.org.mt.

The busy programme comes to a climax with the Pranzu tal-Ħbieb – traditional fundraising Lunch – at the Basilica Annex on Sunday 7 January at 12.30pm.

**Maltese Senior Citizens
 Association of
 South Australia Inc.**



For members
Friday 15 December 2023
from 10.00 am

Register
Frank: 0431 068 642
John: 0433 188 799
Eddie: 0411 261 831

RE-OPENING DAY IN 2024
FRIDAY 12 JANUARY



Australia Hall in Malta. Erected in 1916 to entertain sick and wounded Anzacs from the Gallipoli campaign.

From Gallipoli to Malta: A Medical, Social and Cultural History of the Anzacs

Was your Anzac ancestor evacuated to Malta from Gallipoli in 1915?
 Or, did your ancestor work at a hospital in Malta treating Anzacs?

I am completing research for a PhD thesis on the Anzac experience in Malta during the First World War.

There were thousands of Anzacs evacuated to Malta from Gallipoli and hundreds of nurses, doctors and hospital staff who treated them.

If your ancestor had experience of the hospital base in Malta and you are interested in sharing his/her story, please contact:

Diana Sillato
 PhD Student
 University of Newcastle, NSW 2308
 Phone: +61 0408 240 769
 Email: diana.sillato@uon.edu.au

Il-Karozza tal-lum hi l-MINI

KAROZZA ZGHIRA B'FATTURI TA' KAROZZI KBAR
U HYDROLASTIC SUSPENSION



PREZZIJET IMNAQQSIN

BMC MINI SALOON	£560
BMC MINI DE LUXE	£580
BMC MINI SUPER	£650

- AKTAR MINN 45 MIL BIL-GALLUN
- AKTAR SPAZJU
- ROAD-HOLDING AHJAR
- MAKNA LA GENBHA



BMC MINI
TRAVELLER minn £670

PROVI B'XEJN KULL HIN TAL-GURNATA
MINGHAJR OBBLIGAZZJONI BIEX TIXTRI

MIZZI'S — MSIDA
MIZZI'S — Th e Motorist Mecca



You have to be a good driver



Nostalgia

Maltese American Community Club. 5221 Oakman Boulevard, Dearborn, Michigan USA

2024 *Happy New Year*

New Years Eve Party **OPEN BAR!**

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2023
DOORS OPEN 7:00 PM
DINNER 8:00 PM
DANCE PARTY 9 PM
ADVANCE TICKETS: \$80
CALL 313-846-7077
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
THE CLUB FRIDAY NIGHTS

WITH LIVE MUSIC BY
PACKIN' HEAT
BAND



CHRISTMAS DINNER
with Santa

Saturday
Dec. 9th 5:00pm
Dinner 6:30pm
5-6pm Kids Crafts, Games and Activities

Adult \$20
Kids 12 and under \$10
Kids FREE (Under 4)

For tickets call the club (313) 846-7077
 Tickets must be purchased by December 1st

Please provide a present from Santa for any child you are bringing to the Christmas Party.

MMG Concert Band of Victoria
JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS
Carols

BYO FOOD AND DRINK
WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023
START FROM 7.30 PM
POLISH HALL - 6 HELENE ST, ARDEER

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL
 AMIE 0404 894 576

Victoria - Australia



MALTESE CENTER
 Malta Square
 27-20 Hoyt Ave South
 ASTORIA - NEW YORK
 (718) 728 9883

New Year's Eve Party

8:00 pm, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
at The Maltese Center lower hall

\$90 Adults
Under 12 Free *cash bar Free champagne to toast the New Year

RSVP BY DEC 26TH. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM
 LIMITED SEATING. TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.
 PLEASE CONTACT 917-807-2874 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR FOR BOOKING

