



# Maltese eNewsletter

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Journal for the Maltese Diaspora



## MULTICULTURAL MALTA

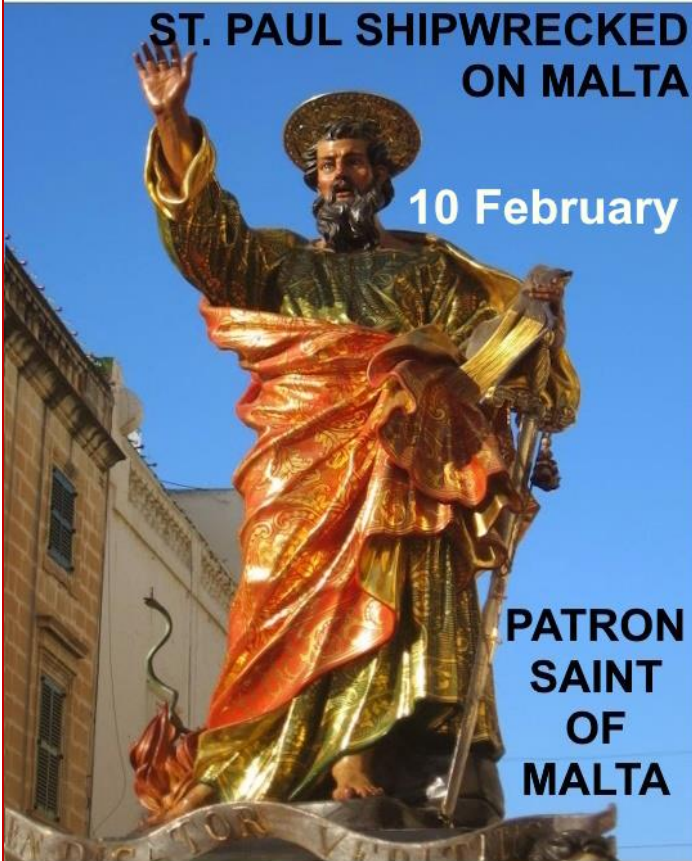
MALTA



GHADA  
U TIBQA  
TAL-MALTIN

ST. PAUL SHIPWRECKED  
ON MALTA

10 February



PATRON  
SAINT  
OF  
MALTA

MALTESE  
CITIZENS  
ARE IN EVERY  
CORNER OF THE  
WORLD

BROKEN HILL - NSW



Jasmine and Ludwig  
in NSW  
March

Cringila and Wentworthville



AUSSIERS  
IN  
MALTA

PHOTO - KAPPA VISION FACEBOOK





# IS MALTA A MULTICULTURAL COUNTRY?



Malta is a multicultural country, with a diverse population made up of people from all over the world. This makes it an excellent place for international students to study, as they can experience different cultures and make new friends from all over the world. The country is also known for its hospitality, making it easy for international students to adapt to a new environment.

Malta's official languages are Maltese and English. Both languages are widely spoken throughout the country. Many Maltese people are bilingual or even trilingual, speaking Italian or another European language. Such linguistic diversity adds to the country's multicultural character, creating a rich tapestry of cultures and identities.

Malta's multicultural environment is also reflected in its cuisine, music, art, and festivals. Maltese cuisine is a blend of Mediterranean, Italian, and Arabic influences, with dishes such as pastizzi, and rabbit stew. The country's music scene is also diverse, featuring traditional Maltese folk music, as well as modern pop and rock music from local and international artists. Malta also hosts a range of cultural festivals throughout the year, including the Malta International Arts Festival, the Malta Jazz Festival, and the Valletta Film Festival, among others.

## Job Opportunities

Malta is an excellent place for students to work while studying. The country's economy is growing rapidly, and there are plenty of job opportunities available for students. The government also offers a post-study work visa, which allows international students to work in Malta for up to two years after completing their studies.

Malta has a growing economy and is known for having a diverse range of job opportunities. Some

of the major industries in Malta include iGaming, financial services, tourism, manufacturing, medicine, law, and IT.

Tourism is another important industry in Malta, and there are plenty of job opportunities in hotels, restaurants, and other tourism-related businesses. These jobs include hotel staff, tour guides, and customer service representatives. International students with a higher education degree or young persons who wants to pursue it at Maltese universities have the option of working in the Tourism

industry. It helps students to get a new working experience and create a foundation for a future career.

Other industries in Malta, such as Manufacturing and Healthcare, also offer job opportunities. Malta has a growing economy with a diverse range of job opportunities, making it an attractive destination for those seeking employment opportunities in a variety of fields.

Higher education in Malta is an excellent opportunity for students who want to study in a multicultural environment, enjoy a beautiful climate and scenery, and access affordable education. The country's work-life balance is an attractive factor, making it a great place for students to study and live. The country's high-quality education, combined with its low cost of living and job opportunities, make it an excellent choice for students from all over the world.

By Myra McKinney

**Are there Asians in Malta?** Yes, there is a significant Asian population in Malta. Asians from various countries, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and China, are living in Malta.

**Who are the most immigrants in Malta?** A third of foreigners in Malta are EU citizens. A further seven per cent are from other European countries that are not EU member states. Italians are the most prevalent foreign nationality at 12 per cent, followed by British residents at just over nine per cent.

**Why are there so many Nepalese in Malta?** Over the past years, the number of Nepalese workers who have come to Malta for employment purposes has increased. Their community in Malta has grown, as has that of nationals from other countries, such as India and The Philippines.

**What ethnic groups are in Malta?** Malta's population is composed almost entirely of ethnic Maltese, who are descendants of ancient Carthaginians, Phoenicians, Italians, and other Mediterranean peoples.

**What percentage of Malta is white?** Malta's population is almost 90% Caucasian.

**What Inside Asian Stores In Malta I What to Expect while Food shopping In Malta I**

Unfortunately, there is no information provided about the inside of Asian stores in Malta or what to expect while food shopping in Malta.

**Are there Muslims in Malta?** Yes, the Muslim population in Malta has grown in recent years. The 2021 census found that there are 17,454 Muslims in Malta, mainly foreigners, totaling 3.9% of the population. Of these, 1,746 are Maltese citizens.

**How many Chinese are in Malta?** There are 608 Chinese residents in Malta, according to the available data.

**How many Filipino are in Malta?** here are around 13,000 Filipinos living in Malta.

**Is Malta a multicultural country?** Yes, Malta is considered a multicultural country. It has become increasingly diverse over the years due to the influx of immigrants from various countries.

**Is there inbreeding in Malta?** While there is evidence of inbreeding in Malta's ancient history, no current information is available on the prevalence of inbreeding in the country.

**How many Asians live in Malta?** The exact number of Asians living in Malta is not provided in the available data. However, the Asian population in Malta is significant.

**Why are there so many Filipino in Malta?** Filipinos are attracted to Malta for employment opportunities. They are often employed as personal care workers, nannies, domestic cleaners, butlers, and housekeepers.

**Why do Brits move to Malta?** British citizens are attracted to Malta due to its secure economy, pleasant climate, and beautiful Mediterranean views. The ease of travel and the absence of visa requirements have also made it convenient for Brits to move to Malta.

**Does Malta have a lot of refugees?** Malta is considered one of the countries with a relatively high number of refugees per capita. According to a UNHCR report, Malta ranked 10th in terms of the number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants.

**Is Malta immigrant friendly?** Yes, Malta is known for being immigrant-friendly. It offers a high quality of life, a relatively low cost of living, and a welcoming atmosphere for immigrants.

**How many Nigerians are in Malta?** The Nigerian community in Malta estimates that there are around 2,000 people of Nigerian descent living in the country.

**Is Malta a friendly country?** Yes, Malta is considered a friendly country. It has a welcoming population and offers a relaxed and convenient lifestyle for residents and visitors alike.

**Is Malta a friendly place?** Yes, Malta is known for its friendliness. The Maltese population is generally welcoming and accommodating to visitors and residents.

**How religious is Malta?** Roman Catholicism is the official religion of Malta. While the majority of the population is nominally Catholic, the level of religious practice varies, particularly among the younger generation. Malta has also seen the rise and decline of Islam in the country.

**How common is English in Malta?**

English is widely spoken in Malta, with approximately 88% of the population speaking English fluently. English is also the written form of legal documents in Malta and is a mandatory academic subject in schools.

**Why is Malta so densely populated?**

The dense population in Malta can be attributed to various factors, including urbanization, residential developments, and a relatively small land area. The central areas of Malta, in particular, are densely populated.

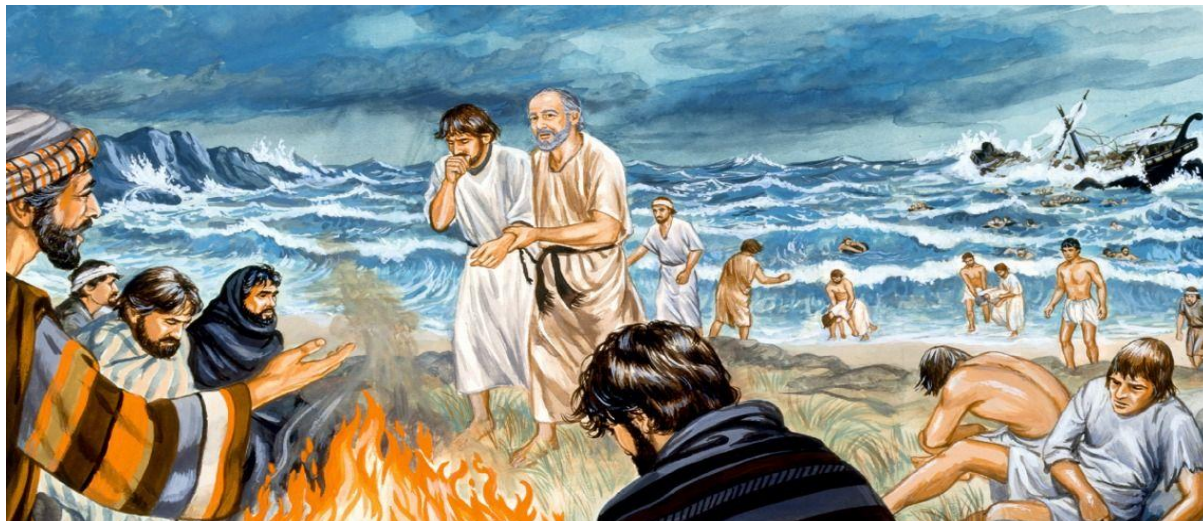
**How many Muslims are in Malta?** As of the 2021 census, there are 17,454 Muslims in Malta, accounting for 3.9% of the population. Most of them are foreigners, while a small number are Maltese citizens.

**Is Malta an ally of China?** China and Malta are partners on the international stage, sharing common goals. Both countries are committed to multilateralism, the UN-centered international system, and the international order based on international law.

**How many Indian are in Malta?** Approximately 12,000 individuals of Indian descent are estimated to be living in Malta.

**You don't have to pay for kindness  
just a THANK YOU will do**





## ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE SHIPWRECKED ON MALTA ON HIS WAY TO ROME

The 10 February is the feast day of St. Paul, celebrated in Valletta. He is the Patron Saint of the Maltese Islands. This is the day when Malta and Gozo stop in thanksgiving to the Lord for an event that turned our lives around. St Paul brought Christianity to Malta, and it has survived the Romans, the Arabs, the Normans, the Spanish, the French and the British, all of whom had their own beliefs and influences. And yet the Maltese people remained strong in their adherence to their faith.

Granted that materialism and consumerism as well as the invasion of social media have taken their toll on many countries in Europe, and Malta, though not unblemished, has withstood the waves that have driven Christianity off the agenda of so many Catholic European countries.

Many are the paintings depicting the shipwreck of Saint Paul on the shores of Malta. Quite a few churches and smaller chapels are dedicated to him and many paintings are visible in churches and Museums. While stranded in Malta for three months in 60 AD, St Paul is said to have stayed in a rock-hewn cave, which is still visible and visited by many tourists, including Pope St. John Paul II in 1990 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. An artistic statue carved of wood by Melchior Gafa is carried in procession through the streets of the capital city Valletta on the evening of February 10, thousands of Maltese faithful witness this manifestation of faith.

**Ghajn Razul Fountain**



### Ghajn Razul Fountain at St. Pauls Bay

The Ghajn Razul limestone fountain stands about 15 courses high and bears a marble plaque with a Latin inscription dated 1725 which is surmounted by the coat of arms of Grand Master Wignacourt. A niche at the top of the monument contains a small carved statue of St. Paul. The monument as it stands today dates to post 1900, however the statue of St. Paul, the plaque and coat of arms are of a much earlier date.

The origin of the Ghajn Razul fountain is lost in history however tradition holds it that when St Paul was shipwrecked on our islands he touched the rocks and water started gushing out as a spring and this immediately gave succor to those on board the shipwreck. The word Ghajn means spring while the word Razul is an Arabic first name denoting that the place could have belonged to or been found by somebody by that name.

# PM Robert Abela – This Palestinian Family Is Dying In Gaza And Desperately Needs Your Help



*By Johnathan Cilia  
Lovinmalta.com*

Prime Minister Robert Abela – if there was ever a matter of life and death where you could save a vulnerable family, it is now.

Talat Al Hasayna, a respected construction businessmen whose family had millions in assets, has been destroyed.

With dozens of his family killed – including his wife, children and

father – is military strikes in November, Talat is no longer living his life, but living in a tent in a desert, fearful of the next strikes.

Having come to Malta in 2019 to study English, Talat considers Malta his second home – which is why he is appealing to the Maltese government to grant him and his family refugee status, and allow them to come to Malta for “a second chance at a second chance”.

“My life story is linked to Malta, and I consider it my second home. Now, I lay here in a barren desert, having the duty to protect the remaining members of my family. My responsibility is to protect them, establish a decent life for them, so they can live in peace.”

“I am hereby asking for considering this as a humanitarian case allowing us entry in Malta as refugees. We are in danger, persecuted and not leading a decent life. We humbly ask for a chance to get a second chance to live in peace, security, and reassurance so that we can start over again and renew the broken dreams of my family and ambitions which all were lost on

that tragic night of the 22nd November.”



*Some of Talat's remaining family after that fateful night*

**Dozens of family members, wiped out in a matter of minutes**

After the bombing on the 22nd, Talat had to escape from the rubble that collapsed on him and his family. Miraculously, he

survived – but he is tormented by the thoughts of his wife and children, who were taken in the harshest manner.

Talat's daily struggle is finding food, water and electricity – but with a new lease of life in Malta, alongside a reliable business reputation a a hard-working, honest family, Robert Abela, you have the power to change this man's life, and show compassion on the world stage.



## Malta-Loaned Grand Master Vilhena and Pages Portrait Exhibited in Spain



**Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena**

Press Release [Click Here](#)

An eighteenth-century painting depicting Grand Master Vilhena with pages, sourced from the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, is currently on display in an exhibition at Spain's Museo Naval de Madrid, through a collaboration with Heritage Malta.

The exhibition, entitled 'The Mark of Jorge Juan – The Legacy of an Enlightened Scientist', marks 250 years since the death of one of the most brilliant sailors in the Spanish Navy's history, Jorge Juan de Santacilia.

The exhibition will run until the end of March 2024. For more information you can click here:

<https://armada.defensa.gob.es/ArmadaPortal/page/Portal/ArmadaEspañola/cienciaorgano/prefLang-en/01cienciamuseo-04exposiciones-01actual>

Jorge Juan's mark remained indelible in fields such as politics, economics, the army, history, nature, geography, astronomy, shipbuilding and teaching, amongst others, contributing extraordinarily to the Enlightenment thought of his time.

Through five extensive thematic units, this exhibition in the Spanish capital offers a wider, all-encompassing analysis of this outstanding figure, as never before. His connection to the Order of St John in Malta is explored in the first of these units, which narrates his journey to the island of Malta as a young boy in 1722 to join the Order, in which he rose through the ranks to become a page to the Grand Master in 1725.

Although not dated, an oil on canvas painting at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, depicting Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena with pages, was identified as a very plausible depiction of a young Jorge Juan, based on his known timeframes within the Order, eventually leading to its loan by Heritage Malta to the Museo Naval de Madrid.

This painting was executed by Maltese artist Enrico Regnaud to celebrate the Grand Master's bestowment of the Blessed Sword and Hat by Pope Benedict XIII, which were blessed in St Peter's on Christmas Eve 1724 and arrived in Malta on 3rd May 1725 amongst great celebrations.

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

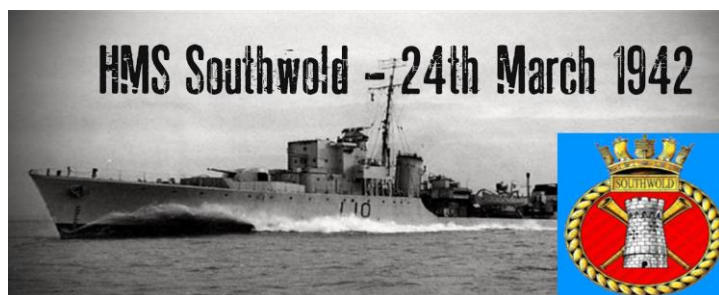
**If you would like to contribute these are the details**

**Bank: Commonwealth (Australia)**

**BSB: 065-106**

**Account: 0050 2507**

**Frank Scicluna**



HMS Southwold was a Type II British Hunt-class destroyer built for the Royal Navy during World War II. Ordered on 20 December 1939, and built by J. Samuel White and Company of East Cowes as part of the 1939 emergency program, the vessel was completed on 9 October 1941. HMS Southwold went to Scapa Flow for trials, after which she joined the Mediterranean

Fleet. On 16 November 1941, Southwold joined convoy WS12Z at the ocean escort Clyde Assembly point. The ship detached from the convoy on 14 December and made an independent passage from Mombasa to Alexandria. On 5 January 1942, she joined the 5th Destroyer Flotilla for patrol and convoy escort duties. On 12 February, she was part of the Malta Convoy MW9B, but the convoy was under a heavy air attack, so it returned to Alexandria.

On 20 March 1942, she carried out an anti-submarine sweep along a planned path for Malta relief convoy MW10, along with some other destroyers. On 21 March, she joined this same convoy and took part in the Second Battle of Sirte a day later. On the 23 March she left the convoy with HMS Beaufort to escort HMS Breconshire to Malta. On 24 March, Southwold was attempting to pass a line to Breconshire when she activated a British mine resulting in an explosion in which an officer and four ratings were killed. HMS Southwold sustained major structural damage and the engine room flooded as electrical supplies failed. She was towed by the tug Ancient but the hull split and she began to sink. The survivors were rescued by HMS Dulverton.

The Southwold wreck, which lies in two sections about 1.5 miles off Marsaskala Bay, Malta, is categorised as two separate sites (bow and stern) by UCHU. The bow is the largest section, about 40 metres in length, and lies on its starboard side at a depth of 70 metres. The stern, located about 300 metres away, is about 28 metres long and it lies upright in 72 metres of water.

## Malta's population increased 28.6% in ten years

### *Is Malta still for the Maltese?*

The National Statistics Office has provided data with the results of the intercensal benchmark revisions of population and migration statistics for the time-series 2012 to 2021.

Results show that from 2012 to 2022, the resident population of Malta grew 28.6%, from 421,464 to 542,051. The NSO said that the increase in population was "attributed primarily to the growth in the foreign population. The share of foreign nationals increased from 5.5% in 2012, to 25.3% in 2022. Fertility rate among the Maltese showed a decline, with the total fertility rate dropping from 1.43 in 2012 to 1.08 in 2022.

The NSO said that the growth in the population between 2012 and 2022 has resulted in an increase in population density. The population density for the Maltese Islands in 2012 stood at 1,337 resident population per km<sup>2</sup>, this increased to 1,721 per km<sup>2</sup> in 2022.

The NSO noted that these estimates supersede the previous estimates for this series.







**Meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in Gozo, Malta**



## **A good start to the New Year for the Gozo Delegation of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem**

**By Chev. Joe Bajada PRO**

Following the great success of last year, members of the Gozo Delegation of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, repeated the activity to exchange Wishes for the New Year. This took place on Sunday 21 January 2024 with a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Chapel of O.L. of Lourdes in Ġhajnsielem. Mass was celebrated by Mgr. Chev. Dr. Joseph Zammit assisted by the Prior of the same Delegation, Comm. Fr. John Muscat. The Lieutenant H.E. Amb. Roberto Buontempo, attended the event together with his family.

At the end of the Mass, all those present, including Knights, Dames, and Prostulants, together with their families, attended a formal lunch at the Grand Hotel where they exchanged greetings for the New Year. During this activity, a couple of interventions were made to mark the occasion, where the Delegate for Gozo, Comm. Euchar Mizzi thanked those present for their participation and thanked the Lord for a successful 2023 and augured and prayed to God that 2024 will be another successful year. Comm. Mizzi continued by congratulating His Excellency Roberto Buontempo, as everyone knows how tirelessly he works throughout the year, both locally and Internationally where in the five years he has been in charge, the Maltese Lieutenancy has made great advances.

For the Gozitans, 2023 was a very special year in which for the first time in the history of the Maltese Lieutenancy, the statutory establishment of the Delegation took place. This was granted from Rome with the seal of the Grand Master Cardinal Filoni and of the Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone. Comm. Mizzi mentioned that the Gozitan Delegation, which is now formed of 17 members and three Postulants, has taken part in several events during the last year. Another positive aspect is that several members from the Delegation were appointed on commissions of the same Order, as well as that others were given promotions under the regulations and practices of the Order.

In his response Ambassador Buontempo, apart from expressing his great satisfaction for the work being carried out by the Delegation, reiterated that he has always done everything possible to give Gozo its importance and that today, thanks to the standing of the Order in Malta, we count Cardinal Mario Grech, as our own member, forming part of the Gozo Delegation. Both the establishment of the Gozo Delegation and the induction of Cardinal Grech as a member, came to fruition following a lot of work spread over two years. For Lieutenant Buontempo this has always been a dream and now, thanks also to the exceptional collaboration of the Grand Prior, Archbishop Charles Scicluna, it all came to be. He thanked everyone, in particular the Delegate and the Prior who with their experience worked hard within the Council to make this happen. He expressed his great satisfaction that the Order is constantly growing with many people of quality, approaching the Order to express interest in knowing more about its mission.



Buontempo appealed to members to come forward with names of prospective postulants of quality because the Order is always in need of members and this reflects on how last year, the Maltese Lieutenancy, sent nearly €40,000 to Rome, intended to sustain the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Concluding, he announced that for the Jubilee Year of 2025, both the vigil and investiture will be held in Gozo. This news was met with great applause from all those present. Soon after, the Gozo Delegate Comm. Euchar Mizzi, presented H.E. Lieutenant Buontempo with a very beautiful silver icon representing Our Lady of Ta' Pinu, on behalf of all the members.

## MALTESE COMMUNITY IN FAIRFIELD, NSW

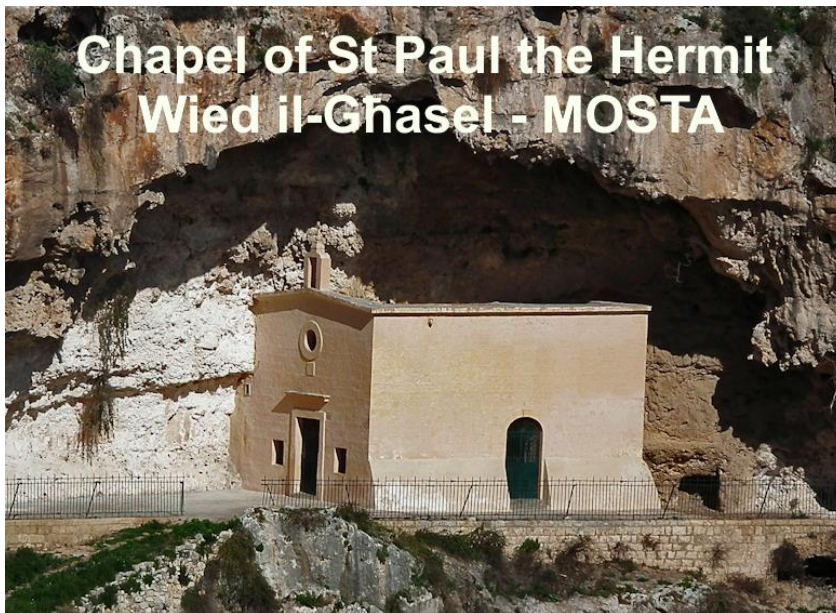


The first Maltese person to come to Australia arrived as a convict in 1810, and the first free settler stepped ashore in 1838. After World War I, the Maltese community flourished, particularly in Sydney's western suburbs where settlers established market gardens and small farms. In 1948, the Australian Government set up an assisted immigration scheme with Malta, the first with a country other than Britain, which extended the benefit of subsidised travel costs to more than 63,000 Maltese. Since the early 1980s the Malta-born population in Australia has been declining and ageing. Nevertheless, the community in Australia has become the largest Maltese community outside of Malta. By the turn of the century (2001), there were 46,998 Malta-born persons in Australia, of whom 18,422 or 39.2% lived in NSW. Horsley Park

Public School has significance to the Maltese community as a place where the Maltese language, culture, history and traditions are taught at various levels.



**NIBZU ghal-Islien Malti,  
il-kultura Maltija,  
il-fidi taghna.  
il-valuri u dak kollu  
li hu Malti ghax ghad  
jigi zmien meta nqumu  
u nsibu li tlfna  
KOLLOX**



*One of the most beautiful churches in Malta is undoubtedly the chapel of St Paul's Hermit in Wied il-Għasel, Mosta. Although a simple chapel, its position, built inside a cave in this valley, makes it unique in Malta. This church offers us a truly picturesque scene.*

#### THE LEGEND

An old legend narrates how Corrado, a saintly hermit, lived in Wied il-Għasel. He admonished the shepherds living nearby and entreated them to change their ways and lead a good life.

Fed up with his exhortations, the shepherds threw stones at him to make him go away. Corrado escaped but was followed by the shepherds all the way to the seashore.

There, he spread his cloak on the water and, crossing the channel, arrived at Gozo. He passed the rest of his life in Qala on the spot where today stands the chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

In the face of these extraordinary events, the shepherds repented. To make up for their bad deeds, they decided to erect a chapel in the cave where Corrado used to live. They dedicated the chapel to St. Paul the Hermit of Egypt.

#### THE CHAPEL

The present chapel was built in 1656, replacing an older one existing on the same spot. The main altar is dedicated to St Paul the Hermit. On the left, a cave has been turned into a small inner chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Graces. Water seeps through the rocks of the chapel of Our Lady, and falls into three water basins hewn in the rock. It then overflows into a water system nearby.

Several grandmasters of the Order of St John used to procure water from the chapel for its pure taste. Grandmaster Manuel Pinto, was a benefactor

of the chapel. When the Maltese Bishop Baldassere Gagliares visited the chapel of St. Paul, he found that people from all over the island venerated it.

The feasts of St Paul the Hermit and of Our Lady of Graces, used to be celebrated in the chapel.

After the Great Plague of 1676 Reverend Ortensio Bennini, organist at St John's Conventual Church in Valletta began to celebrate a mass with music accompaniment, on the 15th of January, feast of St. Paul the Hermit.

In 1920, Bishop Dom Maurus Caruana chose Reverend Karm Gauci from Mosta as rector of the chapel.

Father Karm, erected a new altar to

Our Lady of Graces in white marble and built a new parvis surrounded by an iron railing and gate. The floor of the chapel was also paved with new tiles. The tiles were carried one tile at a time by the children attending doctrine lessons. Father Karm also constructed a footpath across the valley, so as to facilitate access to the church for a Mass on Wednesdays and prayers on Sundays.

During construction works at Fort Mosta, debris was thrown into the valley and covered the footpath, making it difficult for people to reach the chapel.

Until the early 1970s nobody took care of the church anymore. In 1972 paintings and ornaments were moved to Mosta Parish Church for safety. To make matters worse, a boulder detached itself from the ceiling of the cave and destroyed part of the parvis. In the 1980s this boulder was removed and iron doors were fixed.

Unfortunately, yet another piece of rock fell on the chapel's roof, and pierced it. Work on the chapel stopped to a standstill. In 1992, a group of volunteers from Mosta restored the chapel, and on the 12th of September 1993, feast of Our Lady of Graces the chapel was opened once again for public worship. Two original paintings, Our Lady of Graces and St Paul the Hermit were moved to the Mosta Rotunda, and were replaced by the copies now found in the chapel.

This is one of the few cave churches still existent in Malta, and the only one dedicated to St Paul the hermit.

**IMAGINE IF WE ALL HELP  
AND SUPPORT THIS JOURNAL**





## MALTESE PEOPLE ARE IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD

### MALTESE AT BROKEN HILL NSW - AUSTRALIA

**Broken Hill** is an isolated mining city in the far west of outback New South Wales, Australia. The "BH" is the world's largest mining company, BHP Billiton, refers to "Broken Hill" and its early operations in the city. Broken Hill is located near the border with South Australia on the crossing of the Barrier Highway and the Silver City Highway, in the Barrier Range. It is 315 m (1,033 ft) above sea level, with a hot desert climate. The closest major city is Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, which is more than 500 km to the southwest. Broken Hill has been referred to as "The Silver City", the "Oasis of the West", and the "Capital of the Outback"

Although over 1,100 km (684 mi) west of Sydney and surrounded by semi-desert, the town has prominent park and garden displays and offers a number of attractions such as the Living Desert Sculptures.

From Afghan cameleers to Filipino bookkeepers and Maltese miners, this is the story of Broken Hill's non-English speaking migrants; people who arrived in a harsh and alien outback mining town and chose to call it home.

It was really difficult in Malta. I had an uncle who had migrated to Broken Hill fifty years previously. He was really happy, so when I was seventeen I decided to leave Malta and join him in Broken Hill. *Rosina (Rose) Micallef*

Dad had a house ready for us in Crystal Street. There were two or three houses with one big yard. No fences between us and we were all Maltese. *Emily Tonna*

We chose Broken Hill because there was work available in the mines; we brought our families out to join us and helped them become part of the Broken Hill community.

We had the Maltese Club. It was next door to where the Duke of Cornwall is now. The Club was for Maltese only. We used to gamble at baccarat. *Paul Sultana*

We travelled by ship or aeroplane to reach this country. Often the trip was long and uncomfortable. We were apprehensive about the new life that awaited us.

I realised I didn't want to leave here. My home may not be as beautiful as other homes but to me it is beautiful. *Dina*



***Charlie said that when they left Malta, they had so much bad weather between Malta and France, they almost drowned three times...***

*Spagnol* Ten of us left school together; a few decided to go to Australia and we were like sheep; we followed one another. *Paul Sultana*

We left Malta on the "Orsova" on the 22nd of May, 1961. The trip out wasn't very easy or pleasant. The first few days were really sad, because we left our family. It was an English ship so we couldn't talk to anybody because we didn't know the language. *Marija Zammit*

I can remember my grandmother dressed in black, waving her hanky at us. Many arrived and knew no-one. We were apprehensive, lonely and confused in a land about which we knew so little. Some were greeted by family and friends. We shared tears, laughter and a wonderful sense of relief that we had finally arrived. We experienced language difficulties, isolation and loneliness. We shared extreme weather conditions with our neighbours. Dust storms water restrictions were part of life. **Life was not easy for the early Maltese migrants in Australia**

**HOW CAN WE PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?  
WE NEED A MIGRATION MUSEUM**

## Broken Hill City Council honours Gauci sisters with bus shelter

Josh Mercer and [Andrew Schmidt](#)



Inspecting the shelter are (back, from left) Tim Gauci and Tom Kennedy with (front, from left) Tina-Marie Biasio, Roslyn Gauci and Barbara Gauci. (ABC Broken Hill: Josh Mercer)

The Gauci sisters, Roslyn and Barbara, are at Jubilee Oval to cheer every time their beloved West Robins play.

And everyone knows them. That's why their Broken Hill community has supported the creation of a bus shelter in their name on Gypsum Street. It comes after 50 years of the sisters braving the

elements as they waited for their bus. Broken Hill City Council Mayor Tom Kennedy joined the Gauci's family and friends to officially open the new bus stop.

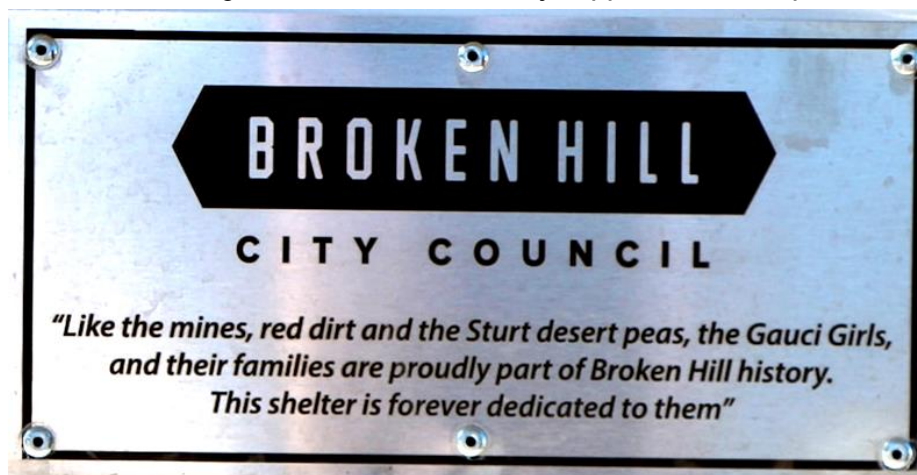
"It's been pushed for quite a while, but Wayne Pavlich from the bus company said how good and great it would be to get that," Cr Kennedy said. "They come out and wait for the bus in all kinds of weather."

Family pride

The project took 18 months due to delays with supplies.

Cr Kennedy said he was happy to finally get it finished for the sisters to have somewhere to sit.

The sisters were grateful for the community support and were proud the shelter was dedicated to them.



"My sister Roslyn, myself, and our family, especially Vince, would like to thank Wayne Pavlich, Tom Kennedy, and the Broken Hill City Council for getting this bus shelter," Barbara said.

"If it wasn't for them, we would never have got it, and we really appreciate it."

A plaque at the shelter acknowledges the family's legacy. (ABC Broken Hill: Josh Mercer)

The unveiling of the bus stop

coincided with the one-year anniversary of the death of Patricia Gauci. "We know our sister Pat will be up there looking down on us and saying well done girls, you got it at last," Barbara said.

Cr Kennedy said he was grateful the council could recognise the sisters.

"I'm just so thankful that we can honour people that contribute to the community, I think there should be a lot more of this," he said. "To honour them while they're still alive, instead of doing it after they've passed away because, you know you can see how proud they are."



## Malta's population increases by 28% (by foreigners) in 10 years

The population of Malta grew from 421,464 in 2012 to 542,051 in 2022. This equates to a 28.6 per cent growth in the population over the period, the NSO said in a statement Friday.

### Population

The resident population of Malta grew from 421,464 in 2012 to 542,051 in 2022. This equates to a 28.6 per cent growth in the population over the period. The increase in the population size was attributed primarily to the growth in the foreign population. While the Maltese population only grew by 1.7 per cent from 398,099 to 404,675, the foreign population grew five-fold, rising from 23,365 in 2012 to 137,376 in 2022.

### Migration

Between 2012 and 2022 Malta experienced a total net migration (immigrants less emigrants) of 117,259 persons. The largest share of net migrants was seen in 2022, at 21,798, followed closely by 2019, with 21,225 net migrants. On the other hand, 2020 had the smallest net migration over the period, at 947 net migrants. The share of the foreign population increased from 5.5 per cent in 2012, to 25.3 per cent in 2022. In 2022, 69 per cent of the foreign population were non-EU citizens, while the remaining 31 per cent were EU citizens. It is important to note that as of 2020, the non-EU group includes citizens of the United Kingdom.

### Geographical distribution

The Northern Harbour district remained the district with the greatest resident population. In 2022, 31.1 per cent of the total population were residents of this district. On the other hand, Gozo and Comino remained the district with the smallest resident population, with only 7.4 per cent of the total population resident in this district in 2022.

Mdina remained the locality with the smallest population in 2022, with only 202 residents. While in 2012 Birkirkara was the locality with the largest population at 21,676 residents, in 2022 San Pawl il-Baħar overtook Birkirkara as the locality with the largest population at 35,419 residents, with the population in this locality more than doubling when compared to 2012. The share of resident foreigners increased within all localities when comparing 2022 to 2012. L-Imsida was the locality with the greatest share of foreign residents in 2022, equal to 59.1 per cent of the resident population in this locality. This was followed by San Pawl il-Baħar at 58.1 per cent. On the other hand, Ħad-Dingli was the locality with the lowest share of foreigners at 2.7 per cent of the resident population.

The growth in the population between 2012 and 2022 has resulted in an increase in population density. The population density for the Maltese Islands in 2012 stood at 1,337 resident population per km<sup>2</sup>, this increased to 1,721 per km<sup>2</sup> in 2022. At the district level, the Northern Harbour district was the most densely populated district in 2022, at 7,019 resident population per km<sup>2</sup>. Conversely, Gozo and Comino was the least densely populated district at 585 resident population per km<sup>2</sup>. When considering individual localities, Għasri remained the least densely populated locality in Malta and Gozo, with a population density of 103 resident population per km<sup>2</sup> in 2022. While in 2012 Senglea was the most densely populated locality, at 16,424 resident population per km<sup>2</sup>, in 2022 Tas-Sliema became the most densely populated locality at 16,287 resident population per km<sup>2</sup>.

**SHARE YOUR STORY WITH OTHER READERS - SEND IT TO US**



## Perugina Malta

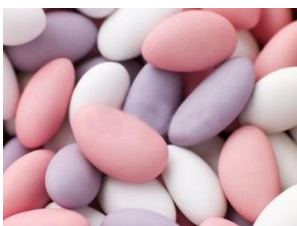
Carnival is just around the corner so check out this fun and delicious Prinjolata recipe! Let us know what you think

### Ingredients:

- 300g Lady Fingers or Plain Sponge Cake
- 1 Can (397g) **Nestlé Carnation Condensed Milk** (ħalib magħqud)
- 40g Roasted Almonds
- 40g Roasted Hazelnuts
- 50g Glazed Cherries
- 40g Roasted Pinenuts
- 40g Chocolate Chips
- 1 Orange Zest
- 1 Lemon Zest
- 3tbsp Whiskey
- 150g Perlini
- 1 Can **Nestlé Sterilised Cream** (refrigerated)
- 2tbsp Icing Sugar
- 1/4tsp Vanilla Essence
- 20g Melted **Perugina GranBlocco Dark 50%**

### Method:

1. In a large bowl, crumble the ladyfingers or sponge cake into small pieces.
2. Roughly chop the hazelnuts and almonds and add them to the bowl.
3. Add the pinenuts and halved cherries. Leave some of these aside for decoration.
4. Add the chocolate chips, orange, and lemon zest.
5. Lightly mix everything together.
6. Add the whiskey and the **Nestlé Carnation Condensed Milk** and mix everything well until you get a sticky dough-like texture.
7. Get a small bowl with a rounded bottom and cover it with cling film.
8. Transfer the mixture and press it gently in the bowl.
9. Using a small glass, create a cavity in the center.
10. Refrigerate for at least an hour.
11. In the meantime, mix together the chilled **Nestlé Sterilised Cream**, icing sugar, and vanilla essence.
12. Get the prinjolata mixture from the fridge, remove the glass and fill the hole with perlini.
13. Gently flip onto your serving plate and cover with the cream.
14. Decorate with halved cherries, pinenuts and drizzle the **Perugina GranBlocco Dark 50%**.
15. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving.



### PERLINI – SUGAR COATED ALMONDS

Perlini are typical sweets made for Carnival. They are sugar coated almonds in all variations of pastel colours. During old carnival days, perlini used to be thrown gracefully from atop the carnival floats to the pleasure of all, especially kids. Perlini are also popular during weddings, christening and other celebrations.



Poster found in a Church in France... (translated):



"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."

Join the family



We invite you to send us your personal comments as a reader of this journal

### THE MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NSW

incommemoration of Malta's Freedom Day  
proudly presents TWO of Malta's  
most popular vocalists

**LUDWIG GALEA & JESMINE ABLELA**

Sunday 3 March 2024 at 1pm



TOGETHER  
IN  
CONCERT



Including a stage play by the Cittadini Cultural and Theatrical Group

**TICKETS ONLY \$30**

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AT WENTY LEAGUES CLUB

50 SMITH STREET WENTWORTHVILLE NSW

Children under 12 accompanied by their parents are FREE

### CONCERT OF THE YEAR DIRECT FROM MALTA

to Cringila NSW on Saturday 2 March 2024 from 2pm.

Jasmine Singing top songs with our Favourite  
Ludwig Galea.

Limited Tickets Only \$25.00 Includes Free  
Mario's Pastizzi, Tea & Coffee!!!



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## New Year 2024 Resolution

[www.visualnonvisualnetwork.org](http://www.visualnonvisualnetwork.org)

### V.O Visual Non-Visual 2024 Agenda

The attached business cards have a particular agenda for 2024.

Our names are only printed in the Braille alphabet order.

This aims to highlight visuals with the reality of how difficult it would be for them to communicate with the Braille alphabet order.

Therefore, visuals can understand non-visuals and jointly reach out to our country's decision-makers to understand how difficult it is for blind persons to communicate daily independently with the surrounding environment.

We also appeal to the general public to join us visually impaired to challenge the status quo and stand for our legitimate rights and call on top visual policymakers to understand the urgent "one-stop shop policy" when it comes to the Maltese Blind Community matters.

This will enable us, blind members of the Maltese Society, to continue seeking new protocol standards and balance towards the red tape, the necessary measures to secure blind persons' independent lifestyle.

Meanwhile, we indeed express gratitude and high respect for all that has been successfully achieved in Malta over the years to better the visual non-visual perspective.

Moreover, we publicly appeal to our country decision-makers to stand and mark 2024 with the "One-Stop Shop Policy for the Maltese Blind Community" instead of "One Size Fits All."

Best wishes.

Bridget Micallef Local & Global Secretary

## THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER - JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA



### CROSSING OVER

One last step in Malta, one first step in Australia,  
two steps that changed me from an emigrant to immigrant,  
as I took the plunge and crossed the Rubicon of an unchartered destiny.  
Can a migrant change his identity the way he changes his nationality?  
This is the question that seeks an answer.

### MINN NAHA GHAL OHRA

L-ahhar pass f'Malta, l-ewwel pass fl-Awstralja,  
zewg passi li bidluni minn emigrant ghal immigrant,  
xhin qtajta li mmur 'il hinn mir-Rubikon ta' dad-destin.  
Jista l-immigrant jibdel l-identita' l-istess kif jista jibiddel in-nazzjonalita'?  
Din hija l-mistoqsija li tfittex it-twegiba.

(The late) Manwel Nicholas Borg - Victoria - Australia





## From Cobar to Colorado: Aussie/Maltese Tom Palmer's rise to global mining CEO

*He led a foreign raid on the nation's top gold miner. But Tom Palmer is also the Cobar kid who wants Newmont to be the top gold pick for Australian investors. Peter Kerr*

The Gladstone heat wasn't the only thing making Newmont chief Tom Palmer sweat back in 1997.

Commissioning of an expensive new potline inside the Boyne aluminium smelter wasn't going to plan, and the big boss was riding Palmer and the rest of the smelter team hard.

Barely 30 years old and with a new baby at home, those difficult days at Boyne made it clear to Palmer that having family connections in the industry might not always be an advantage. "Dad, as the CEO, was there

every weekend because the potline was really struggling to be commissioned," he recalled of his late father, Terry, an industry titan who was chief executive of the smelter owner Comalco. Newmont's Tom Palmer grew up in Cobar.

"It was nice to be in the same organisation as your dad, but when you've got that close connection in a business that was in trouble, it was too close."

Back in those days, it would have been hard for the young Palmer to find a job in the Australian resources sector that wasn't close to a blood relative. No family has populated the leadership ranks of Australia's biggest mines quite as consistently as the Palmer and Gauci clans of Broken Hill. Aside from running Comalco – the aluminium assets that now sit within Rio Tinto – Palmer's father, Terry, was also a managing director of the Hamersley iron ore mines that have been Australia's biggest earning business over the past two decades.

Terry's brother, Tony Palmer, helped develop the Olympic Dam and Nickel West assets that now reside within BHP. Tony was chief executive of Normandy Mining when it owned Kalgoorlie's Superpit, and as chief executive of Newcrest Mining he fostered development of the Cadia and Telfer gold mines.

A maternal uncle, George Gauci, was the first general manager of the Argyle Diamond mine and helped build the Bougainville copper mine.

, Tom's mum was Gauci, and they are related to us and they are cousins with Sister Bartolomea Gauci who last week celebrate 100 years in Gozo.

**EU Cities Mission Pilot Cities Programme**

3 MULTI-CITY PILOT ACTIVITIES

- KLAGENFURT GOZO VILNIUS
- KOŠICE & BRATISLAVA
- PÉCS & MISKOLC

19 INDIVIDUAL CITY PILOT ACTIVITIES

- AARHUS, BUCHAREST, COPENHAGEN, EILAT, ESPOO, GÄVLE, HELSINGBORG, IOANNINA, LAPPEENRANTA, LISBON, LUND, LYON, MARSEILLE, OSLO, PORTO, RIGA, STOCKHOLM, TRONDHEIM, ZAGREB

Funded by the European Union

## Gozo selected to join 28 others in Pilot Cities Programme [GOZO NEWS](#)

Gozo, together with 28 other cities, has been selected to join the Pilot Cities Programme, which is funded by the European Union. Gozo, through the Gozo Regional Development Authority, will be participating in a multi-city pilot activity along with the Austrian city of Klagenfurt and the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, which project bears the name – Climate Funding 4 Cities.

The Authority explained that through this project, sustainable climate funding will be explored, along with climate awareness measures.

It added that Gozo will in particular be emphasising climate change awareness, the modal shift and sustainable mobility among school children and the general public, "in order to instill and enhance climate-friendly behaviour."



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## BORMLA DOWN UNDER G'Day, mate

A good thing if you're an Australian tourist in Malta is that no matter where you go, you are bound to find people with relatives living in Australia. As a matter of fact, practically every Maltese family has relatives living in Australia, whether distant or close. Try asking anyone you meet and you'll get immediate confirmation of this. It's a great conversation starter too!

### GOD BLESS AUSTRALIA

Another thing you will find in Malta is houses with references to Australia - a country to which many Maltese migrated to in the past.

These references include house names, Aussie flags, kangaroos and even emblems with clear indications to Oz.

Together with the other main countries of the New World - Canada and the United States - Australia was involved in the phenomenon that saw a good amount of Maltese people emigrate to a foreign land in the early 20th century as a result of the collapse of a construction boom, and again after World War II, when the birth rate increased significantly.

Some of these migrants have returned to their native land, usually in their old age, and the houses with these references to Australia, Canada and the US usually belong to them.

**THE AUSSIE STORE**  
You will also find stores like the 'Aussie Store' in Oratory Street, Bormla (pictured). Another Aussie Store used to be found in Qormi. Wonder if they sell Aussie products too?

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For all my latest photos, please visit and like Kappa Vision on Facebook and [kappavision\\_gram](#) on Instagram. — in [Cospicua, Malta](#).

**Malta Band Club Mississauga**  
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21 FEBRUARY 2024  
TIME: 12:00 NOON  
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AT 416 873 6013 AND CLUB AT 905 890  
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## Features of traditional Maltese Houses

*Malta has a long history of architecture, but along with the grandiose buildings, there were also the functional living spaces built for people, from the older farmhouses to the quainter 19th and early 20th century townhouses.*

*Malta has a long history of architecture, but along with the grandiose buildings, there were also the functional living spaces built for people, from the older farmhouses to the quainter 19th and early 20th century townhouses.*

*There are a lot of peculiar features to Maltese houses, including the Arab influences that continue to make a mark on our buildings today. Here are some of the features to look out for next time you're out and about!*



### Patterned Tiles

Ever wondered where Maltese patterned tiles come from? Well, while they are enjoying a comeback today, cement tiles were popular back all over the place back the 1800s. Spain, Greece, Morocco, France, Italy and others have their own style of patterned tiles, and are likely to have originated from a mosaic style of tiling from the Ottomans. Not only were they in vogue in places where the Ottomans have left their mark, but were also moved on to the rest of Europe during the height of Orientalism (the European fascination with the 'exotic' lands of the East).

Maltese tiles are likely to have been introduced from Spain, and is a relatively young feature of Maltese

architecture at 300 years old.



### Wells – Bir

The Knights of St. John were always excellent administrators, and one of the laws they implemented was that **all houses were to have a well to ensure water supply**. While farmhouses always had wells and reservoirs, the law made sure that new houses being built, like in Valletta and the Three Cities, would have a well. Many examples can be found around the island, with some wells being situated in basements, kitchens and tiny courtyards of city houses. This has stayed on as a tradition until today, where townhouses, terraced houses, villas and even maisonettes would have a well built to collect rain water.

### Muxrabija

Maltese balconies are almost a national symbol, but did you know that they originate in the Arab *mushrabiya*? The *muxrabija* (literally 'peephole'), is a small box on the house facade from where **women could look out without being seen, due to their being confined to the house**. In Malta the *muxrabija* was replaced by the Maltese balcony, a cross between a European balcony and the *muxrabija* itself, that had the **same function of 'peeping', as well as airing the house**. Some *mushrabiya* can still be found around, like in Triq Santu Rokku, Birkirkara and Triq Doni, Rabat.



### Fish knockers

It is a common misconception that the fishy doorknobs are 'dolphins'; they are fish and they date back to an old Arab tradition. As we well know, Arabs have lived on Malta for a long time before the Knights of St. John, and some customs have lived on.

The fish knocker originates from a custom that saw the placing of fish in front of the door, either by the door jamb or hung; the fish signified good luck usually after a wedding or birthing.

### Farmhouses

For this, put yourself in the shoes of the local farming community of 1400s Malta. Raids by brigands and Ottoman Turks are common, your cattle and crops are your livelihood, and you only travel by donkey and cart.

This is the reason farmhouses have small doors, slit windows and high walls—they are in fact for security against attack. Roofs would have had a couple of dogs that kept guard and acted as security alarms, and the walls were built thick in two layers (*tad-dobblu*) with earth filling in between.



### The balconies of Malta

are thought to be inspired by the Arab *mashrabiya*, which is a piece of architecture found in many Islamic homes that allows a woman to look outside without being seen by passers-by in the street. For this reason, the *mashrabiya* is often a small room tucked onto the end of the house, where it also serves to create a cross-breeze through the house and aids in airing out a home. Maltese balconies, or *gallarija*, project from upper levels of buildings and are fully enclosed in wood and glass.

Like the eastern *mashrabiya*, *gallarijas* also provide

cross-ventilation and a way for people to see out while staying unseen, making these balconies a unique union of Eastern and Western architecture.







On Sunday the 21st of January 2024, the Maltese Welfare NSW Inc joined in the #Maltese Heritage Day organised by the Maltese Community Council of NSW. Present were other groups and Associations under the umbrella of the MCC of NSW, exhibitors showing their collection of Maltese arts and crafts, there was Bizzilla, Ganutel, Agricultural equipment, a display of dolls in traditional Maltese costumes. The Maltese Concert Band NSW Inc. and the MCC Choir, Charlie Muscat and Charlie Camilleri together with Victor Il-Bukkett kept us entertained throughout the day. It was a great day for the whole family with jumping castle, facepainting, hairbraiding for the kids and plenty of traditional Maltese food for everyone. There was also the popular Carshow with a huge number of cars on show.

We, the Maltese Welfare NSW Inc., had a huge interest by the attendees regarding the welfare services available in NSW especially for the elderly.

For more information on how to access these services, contact Lawrence Gatt on 0404462344. The event was held at the Hamrun Maltese Club Marsden Park NSW





**They don't build them  
like this anymore**



**OUR  
ASSOCIATIONS  
OF MALTESE  
LIVING  
ABROAD  
ARE FAST  
DISAPPEARING  
IT IS TIME  
TO UNITE  
AND WORK  
TOGETHER**

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