



Maltese eNewsletter

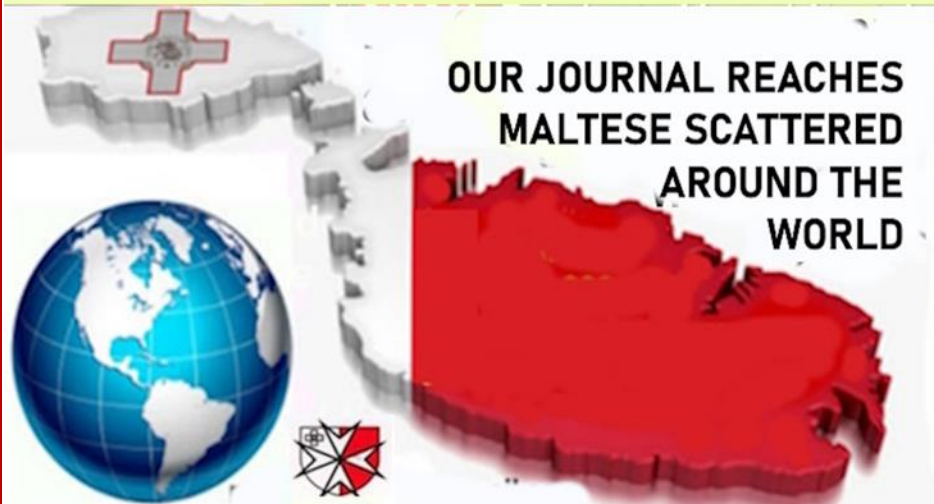
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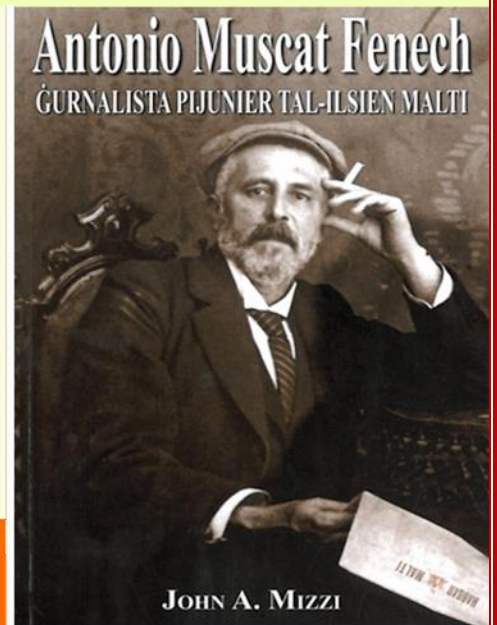
**THE RAREST DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT
IN THE WORLD**



MaltaCAN - Malta Children's Associations Network



**LINKING MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
MATTERS**



Knights of Malta passports the rarest travel documents in the world

NZ Herald

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta issues possibly the rarest diplomatic passport in the world. Photo / Levi Ventura; Unplash

Interpol issues black books to agents for official travel and the UN Secretariat has eye-catching sky blue and cherry pink passports for officials and agents of the United Nations Specialised Agencies. There are only around 35,000 people who are eligible for UN laissez-passer documents.

Even rarer still are the passports of Vatican City. 800 people reside in the Vatican and, in theory, could hold these dark green travel documents with the Papal cross keys of the Holy See. Although in 2014 'El Papa' Pope Francis eschewed the offer of a Papal passport - opting to keep his Argentine travel document, instead.

There is still one even rarer travel book and its blood red cover is hardly subtle.

The sovereign its own passport. Although it has fewer than 500 diplomatic passports in circulation, making it the world's rarest passport.

The Pope declined the option to get a Vatican Passport. Photo / AP

Despite the spiritual home being in Malta since 1099, the Knights were evicted by Napoleon in 1798 and today they are headquartered in Rome, across the Tiber from the Vatican.

The Knightly passports are blood red, with "Ordre Souverain Militaire de Malte" in gold under the distinctive Maltese Cross.

There is definitely no mistaking it for an actual Maltese Passport which are European Union



burgundy. Although with a population of only around 500,000 is also an unusual passport.

The Order has appointed around 13,500 members as knights, dames and chaplains. It also issues stamps, coins and licence plates, despite having no roads, banks or country to speak of.

Sailing boats on Senglea marina in Grand Bay, Valetta, Malta

The Order began issuing laissez-passer documents in the 1300s to allow their errant knights to traverse the globe and collect alms. They took their modern form after the Second World War, although the passports are reserved for diplomats only.

"The Order grants passports to members of their government for the duration of their mandate," the Valletta-based Daniel de Petri Testaferrata told CNN.

The books of 44 pages are normally valid for just four years, making them among the shortest lived passports. Apart from the passport of the Grand Masters' which have a 10 year validity.

As Maltese president of the Order, Petri Testaferrata he is only one of about 100 members of the Order actually based in the Maltese islands.



MALTESE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO AUSTRALIA VISITS 'Din L-Art Helwa' PROJECT



H.E. the Maltese High Commissioner to Australia Mario Farrugia Borg used his current trip to Malta to schedule a visit to the ongoing Din I-Art Helwa project to restore the Australian Bungalow.

This century-old structure was sent to various Commonwealth countries to help familiarise emigrants with the way of life in Australia – as well as with building methods used.

"I was delighted yesterday to be invited by Din I-Art Helwa to visit the Australian Bungalow project in Ta' Qali. The bungalow was sent from Australia in the 1920s to give prospective migrants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their future environment in

Australia and to learn about timber construction methods.

"Over time, it was unfortunately left to deteriorate but it is now thankfully being meticulously restored, ensuring we do not lose such an important artefact of Malta and Australia's common heritage. Looking forward to visit again in the future, hopefully a completed project by my next visit home!" the High Commissioner posted on social media after his visit.



Malta's High Commissioner to Australia Mario Farrugia Borg was shown round the site by project leader Joseph Philip Farrugia, head contractor Chillis Chilli and Din I-Art Helwa executive president Alex Torpiano. Photo: Din I-Art Helwa.

He was shown around Ta' Qali by the project leader and volunteer Joseph Philip Farrugia, DLH executive president Alex Torpiano, and the head of the main contractor Chillis Chilli, Alan Debattista. They also visited one of the subcontractors entrusted by Chillis Chilli with part of the restoration.

While there, the High Commissioner pointed out a piece of wood crowning the roof, which raised considerable interest:

"His comment about the traditional carved straight wooden staff over the centre of the pitched roof was valuable. We'll look into it further for future reference in our literature about the building," Mr Farrugia promised.

The High Commissioner's interest will no doubt help the NGO to spread the word about the project in Australia. Mr Torpiano commented: "The work on the restoration of the Australian Bungalow is but the physical part of

Din I-Art Helwa's ambition for this artefact. The other is to collate and present the story of their emigration of Maltese and Gozitans to Australia, and we are grateful for offer of assistance of the High Commission of Malta in Australia to bring us into contact with our community over there." The project is being sponsored by the Melita Foundation and involved a thorough analysis of the structure – which was at the time in Ghammieri. Although some parts could be saved, others required restoration or replacement.

The Bungalow will shortly be re-assembled at Ta' Qali, where it will be more accessible to the public. Completion of this project is expected in just a few weeks. It will be used to raise awareness about this important part of the islands' history, and to pay tribute to the Maltese community in Australia.

Want to help with this project? We are crowdfunding! <https://simplygiving.mt/projects/>

Vanessa Macdonald



After two years of research and creative thinking, designer Jonn Galea has completed his objective of designing modern heraldry for the 100 most common Maltese surnames –one hundred surnames, representing over 75% of the population of the Maltese islands, and are now available on his website Kunjom.com.

This professionally designed website is a project by designer Galea which aims to explore the traditional heraldry of Maltese surnames through a modern illustrative lens.

Despite there being nearly 20,000 different surnames in use in Malta, over 75% of the population (that's about 400 000 people!) share the same 100 surnames. It is for this reason that the project's goal is to eventually depict the 100 most common Maltese surnames in Malta and Gozo.

Beautifully unique, Maltese surnames reflect the history and heritage of the islands. Each one indicates its origin and, as a whole, they hark back to all the different cultures that occupied the archipelago. All the while emphasising Malta's long-renowned strategic position between Africa and Europe. This makes Maltese surnames the perfect set of snapshots of the country and its people.

Galea said "My initial goal nearly a decade ago was to create a set of illustrations as prints. If the stars aligned, I'd have loved to exhibit the work and maybe even collate them into a book."

"The more research I conducted, the more I realised just how little information about

Celebrating a Century: 100th Coat of Arms added to the website kunjom.com

Maltese surnames there is out there and I often struggled to get hold of references for my work. With this in mind, my vision for this endeavour started to shift. The 100 milestone would remain, but the new goal was to create an accessible online platform for anyone who wants to find out more about Maltese surnames. That's how the current incarnation of kunjom.com was born".

He wrote in his website "Going digital is all well and good, but print remained my first love. I still wanted to maintain an avenue to create printed versions. and the idea of selling prints emerged as a way of helping with the upkeep of the website, with any surplus income being donated to charity".

Galea has also been selling prints of the coats of arms he creates, with all the proceeds donated to charity.

The beautifully-designed prints of the surnames have proven very popular, resulting in €1,000 being donated across three different charities (Foodbank Lifeline Foundation, Fondazzjoni Sebħ, and The Richmond Foundation respectively) last year. Visit Galea's website and Facebook page and find out how you can acquire a print for your family. www.kunjom.com

and www.facebook.com/kunjomijiet



MALTA

A Childhood Under Siege



LINDA PEEK

MALTA

A Childhood Under Siege

LINDA PEEK

"Air raid warning, air raid warning. Shut your doors and windows." The Rediffusion blared out in English and then in Maltese, at 6:55am on the morning of 11 June 1940.

This was the first of many times we would hear that warning. The day our lives changed.

Margaret Staples was nine years old at the beginning of 1939 when her father was posted to the British colony of Malta with the Royal Engineers. Swimming every day, with blue skies and balmy weather; Margaret and her siblings thought they were in paradise. Everything changed when the Second World War broke out. Hitler wanted to take control of Malta for its strategic position, right in the middle of the Mediterranean. To this end, the Axis powers dropped more bombs on this tiny island than anywhere else on the planet. When that didn't work, they decided to sink all the supply ships going to the island and force capitulation through starvation.

This is Margaret's story of survival, told by her daughter Linda.

Gripping, endearing, moving, enlightening, this is a story that should be read by anyone with an interest in Malta, or indeed in

the pieces of the mosaic of the Second World War.

& mdash; Noah Charney, Best-Selling Author and Pulitzer Finalist

Take this lovely, haunting story of war and family as a nudge to preserve the story of your own family, before it disappears into the ether. & mdash; Remar Sutton, Washington Post syndicated columnist and author

I have just finished reading your book Malta A Childhood Under Siege. Loved every minute and what a story. I was born in Malta and emigrated to Australia with my family when I was 14 years old, arriving in Sydney in 1964. I remember my grandparents and parents telling stories about the hardships the Maltese population suffered during WWII. The one about the convoy arriving on the Holy Day of 15th of August 1942 was my favourite as a young boy and you wrote about in the book. Thank for telling the world what that little rock and its people endured because of one single madman. & mdash; Reno G.

I have just finished reading Linda Peek's extraordinary book. I couldn't put it down. Not only is it written in an immensely readable way, but she had such a story to tell. And it all meant so much more to me, since every single place in Malta she mentioned is vividly familiar and dear. That, together with my own parents' stories and the historical events which I already knew, made 'A Childhood Under Siege' as fascinating as watching an old black and white film slowly being transformed into full colour.

& mdash; Anna Maria Weldon



ABOUT THE AUTHOR - Linda Peek is a writer, blogger and businesswoman. Born in the United Kingdom, she has been involved in international diplomacy through her husband's work as an Australian diplomat. Linda has lived in Switzerland, Israel, Malaysia, South Africa, Chile, France and Denmark, with postings in Canberra, Australia in between. While living in Chile, she was Food Editor for an English newspaper, writing a popular weekly column called "The Good Life." She was a member of the Circle of Gastronomic Writers of Chile and a food judge. She runs her own business, which handles imports and exports of food ingredients. Since 2011 she has been writing about food in her weekly blog Café Cat. She currently lives in Canberra, Australia.



MALTA CHILDHOOD UNDER SIEGE

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Muse (Canberra)

Malta The Miller Group

South Africa Takealot.com

SOME PHOTOS FROM THE BOOK

(Top left) Hilda Mary in Limerick 1920 aged 26. (Top right) The Staples Five as teenagers in Gillingham Kent, 1946 (Bottom) Daphne's wedding, Fallingbostel 1955. Back row from left to right: Pat, Auntie Molly, Margaret, Frank Winner, Daphne, Joan, Hilda Mary and Sam. Front row: Ed and Linda. Sam was 55 but looks older



Sister Bernadette Mintoff

Sister Bernadette Mintoff was born in Cospicua, Bormla on 11 March 1929 and her parents named her Marija Assunta. She joined The Cloistered Nuns of the Monastery of St Ursula in Valletta on 9 June 1946,

She made Simple Profession on June 24, 1947, and Solemn Profession in July 10, 1950.

She died at the tender age of 39 on 31 January 1969.

St. Bernadette was the sister of the late Prime Minister of Malta, Dom Mintoff and Fr Dionisius Mintoff ofm

Sr Bernadette spent all her life at St. Ursula monastery in Valletta.

The Monastery of St Ursula in Valletta, Malta was founded by Grand Master Verdalle in 1582, in the Grand Master's Palace in Birgu, which had been left vacant since the Order established itself in Valletta. In 1595 the monastery was transferred to Valletta. The nuns were equal in rank to the chaplain brothers of the Order, observed the rules of the cloister, and were under the Grandmaster's jurisdiction. In their religious

Sr. Bernadette Mintoff OSJ died 55 years ago.

solemn profession the nuns vow to observe the Rule of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, following the practice established at their foundation, which continues uninterrupted up to the present day. A monastery for the nuns of our Order was first established in Vittoriosa (Birgu) by Grand Master Verdala in 1582 and eventually moved to Valletta in 1595.

The nuns never leave the sanctuary of the convent apart from serious medical purposes. They live exclusively from donations by the outside world, with the Maltese community supplying them with their daily food requirements.

Cloistered nuns have no personal possessions and lead a simple and humble life. Each one has their own room and spend most of their time in contemplation.

Many hours of the day are dedicated to prayer, which is not solely confined to a chapel. Each nun evokes a strong sense of spirituality, that emphasises a personal inner journey that is full of dedication and serenity.

Although, strictly speaking, no longer "belonging" to the Order, the present nuns still feel very much linked for historical reasons with the Grand Master and the Knights and Dames of the Order. They wear the white enamelled Maltese Cross on their religious habit and carry the embroidered stole of profession of the Sovereign Order's Knights of Justice during the ceremony of their profession of vows.

**IF WE WORK
TOGETHER**



**WE WILL
ACHIEVE MORE**



Jien illum minn daw'l-kolonna
Xtaqt li nuri l-ferh tiegħi
Għax gurnal ġewwa l-Awstralja
Qiegħed jagħlaq għadd ta' ġmiegħi

Mindu twieled sabiex jgħaqqad
Tant Maltin w Għawdxin flimkien
Illi issa 'l bogħod minn arthom
Go 'downunder' ilhom żmien!

Dal-gurnal hekk popolari
F'Novembru jagħlaq il-mija
Mindu d-dawl ra l-ewwel darba
B'sagrifiċċju u tbatija.

Dan il-'Maltese Diaspora'
Hu mżewwaq waħda sew;
Haqqhom Prosit lil dawk kollha
Illi lilu darba bdew!

B'mod speċjali 'l Frank Scicluna
Illi jwassaluli d-dar
Permezz tat-teknoloġija –
Jistennewh il-kbar u ż-żgħar.

Għax kif taqbad lilu taqra
Tkun taf x'inhu għaddej bogħod
U bl-eċċitament li jaqbdek
Kemm kemm ma thossokx tirtogħod!

Taqra fuq Letteratura,
Fuq anzjani, sport u mwiet,
Fuq x'għaddej, x'gara,
il-ġejjieni, 'Current news', aħbarijiet.

U l-Istorja ma hix nieqsa
Li teħodna fil-passat
Li stampata tibqa' f'qalbna
Fejn postha jinsab ankrat!

Iż-żewġt lingwi Ingliż u Malti
Hawn jinsabu miżżewġin
Sabiex lilhom inti komdu
Tiggustahom ma' xulxin.

Minn qiegħ qalbi 'l dil-gazzetta
Nawguralha għomor twil
Sabiex tibqa' ħierġa dejjem
B'rieda soda tal-ħadid!

Kav Joe M Attard Rabat Għawdex



A new Provincial for the Carmelite Order in Malta

During the first session of the Provincial Chapter of the Maltese Carmelite Province, Father Charles Mallia O. Carm. was elected as the new Provincial for the next three years. Father Maurice Abela., Father Martin Schembri, Father Alexander Scerri and Father Ivan Scicluna were chosen as Provincial Councillors. In the Maltese Carmelite Province, Father Charles Mallia served as Councillor Provincial, Rector of St. Elias College, and Prior of the communities in Santa Venera and Balluta, St. Julians

He has been serving for the last 13 years as the Archbishop's Delegate for the Christian Education. The Superior General of the Carmelites, Fr Miceal O'Neill thanked the former Provincial Superior Father Joe Saliba who, together with his council, led the Maltese Carmelite Province for the last six years. We congratulate Fr. Charles.

Carnival returning to Malta this February! Here's all you need to know about Carnival 2024



Carnival will be organised in Zurrieq for the very first time this year.

Emma Galea

Having been celebrated for hundreds of years, Carnival in Malta is back and better than ever!

This year carnival will be taking place from the 9th to the 13th February, right before Lent starts as tradition dictates.

In 2024, Malta's carnival will see the participation of 23 different companies. They will be showcasing different carnival floats, dances and epic costumes. This number is quite an impressive one as it has not been reached since the 1980s!

This carnival will be in memory of Pawlu Curmi 'il-Pampalun', the father of Maltese carnival who unfortunately passed away last year. In fact, an exhibition in his honour, 'Pawlu Curmi 'Il-Pampalun': Il-Bniedem u l-Legġenda' will be held at Valletta's Spazju Kreattiv.

Apart from carnival floats and dances in Valletta, this year's carnival will see many other activities. This includes street theatre, a tradition that dates back to the Knights of St John. The street theatre is written by Cikku l-Poplu and will be produced and directed by Joseph Galea. If you wish to attend you can find it at *Triq l-Ordinanza* and it is completely free.

The traditional game of *il-Qarcilla* will also be organised.

Similar to what was done last year, carnival will also take place in Hamrun on top of the usual Valletta and Floriana. For the first time this year a carnival spectacle will be put up in Zurrieq as well.

After 25 years, we will see the participation of a traditional Maltese marching band, first in Hamrun on the 4th February and the again in Valletta on the 10th, 11th and 12th February.

For more information on this year's carnival in Malta and the full programme of events, [click here](#). If you plan on attending carnival on the sister island of Gozo, here's your full guide.

Time to Celebrate! Here's your 2024 guide to Carnival in Gozo this coming February

There no better place to celebrate carnival than in Gozo!

GuideMeMalta.com

Are you already looking for one reason to visit the island of Gozo in 2024? Carnival comes very early this year, and it might be the ideal time to plan a fun weekend and a colourful getaway in Gozo.

Xewkija Carnival - Photo by Tonio Schembri

And topping that up is that St. Valentine's Day, the 14th of February, will be right at the end of the Carnival celebrations resulting in a variety of Valentines events.

As there's no time to lose, it is vital to get to the basics and book your accommodation today!

You can opt to stay in an idyllic country farmhouse in one of the luxurious hotels or in stylish boutique hotels.

Be they in the centre of Victoria, at the village core or at the outskirts, there is no doubt that Gozo's boutique hotels leave nothing to be desired for a comfortable and stylish holiday.

Once the accommodation has been handled, it's essential to get to know the Gozo Carnival Events happening from the 9th to the 13th of February.

Here's what you can expect out of the five days of regional carnival in Gozo:

1. Family fun

If you're after a family-friendly carnival, you'll be glad to discover that the Gozo carnival is about colourful parades exhibiting flamboyant floats, dancers and performers. Gozo's main parade is held through the main street in Victoria and ends in Independence Square, where each carnival company will perform a dance or put on some performance. Whilst all the children's dance companies, the adult dance companies, the hilarious dance troupes, the grotesque masks and the triumphal floats will all be present at the Victoria parade, some of the Gozitan villages will also hold carnival street parties and smaller parades. Some villages are also associated with typical dances like the Kukkanja. Traditional brass bands participating will ditch their usual smart uniforms and wear colourful costumes as dictated by the festive Carnival spirit.

2. Dance Companies

Carnival in Gozo is not complete without the dance companies! Check out the dance companies that compete with each other with choreographed dances and elaborate costumes coordinated to their dance theme. Whether the inspiration is the mythical world or harks of folk, fairy fantasies, or far-flung ultra-galactic kingdoms, the 'whimsical' takes over and the costume designers always wow with a unified visual impact where flowers, feathers, frills, and fringes rule the day along with sequins and glitter.

3. Comedic acts

The hilarious troupes will often come onto the scene with a comical act. Like the dance companies, they too will have their costumes, but their performances are usually focused on jokes, exaggerated movements, skits or playful interactions with the spectators.

4. The spontaneous Nadur carnival

The village of Nadur, synonymous with the after-sunset carnival, is home to the spontaneous carnival, where the freedom of expression has merged with satire and parody, often presenting a unique, daring, possibly irreverent and even macabre spectacle of revellers who throng the streets. The bizarre costumes sometimes resemble a social commentary and reflect the international and local political scene. The energetic vibe of this carnival is like no other, as revellers interact with each other and passersby, fusing an eclectic atmosphere. Don't expect any choreographed dances at Nadur and many of the acts are grotesque routines by a small group and antics by a one-man show.



FotoFocus

5. A delicious sugary treat

Finally, don't forget to get a slice of the Prinjolata, Gozo's typical Carnival cake. This dome-shaped cake has a rich taste and is covered with cream, glace cherries, nuts, candied fruits and colourful sprinkles. Traditionally, the prinjolata was the last sweet indulgence before Lent when people fasted and restrained from sweets until Easter.

While traditionally, the carnival ending heralded the sombre and solemn period of Lent, this year, Gozo will celebrate Valentine's Day from the 14th to the 18th of February, meaning there's

more reason to celebrate. Musical concerts, an artisanal market at Villa Rundle Gardens (which will be decorated for the season), a Drive-In Movie Night, a Retro Cinema evening, a musical literary evening, and an activity at Ta' Dbiegi Crafts & Artisanal Village are all part of the Valentines events that you can enjoy with your loved ones in Gozo during this season in Gozo.



FR TARCISIO MICALLEF MSSP – THE ONLY CHAPLAIN FOR THE CATHOLIC MALTESE COMMUNITY IN NSW

Fr. Micallef, 84, is the only priest serving the Maltese community as a chaplain in Sydney, NSW. at the MSSP Mons Depiro's House in East Sydney,

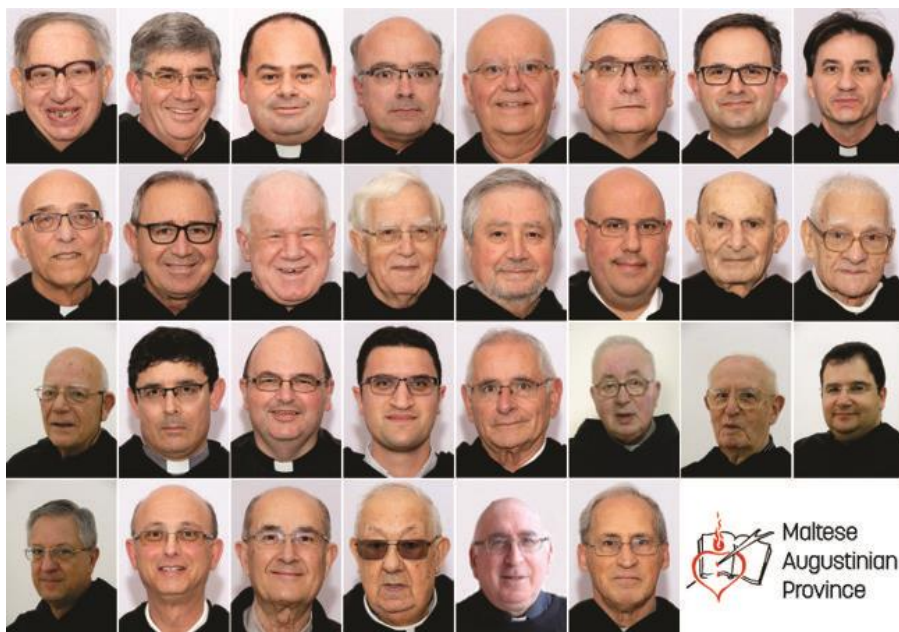
Fr Micallef was ordained A PRIEST in Malta on 11th March 1967 and arrived to serve in Australia on the 26th of January 1978. He initially served the Maltese community in Perth for two years before his transfer to Melbourne where he served a period of 18 years. He was recalled from Perth Western Australia, following the tragic death of Fr. George Xerri on 4 August 1980 and again when Fr Honoratus Galea passed away on 30 April 1982. On 23rd March 1998 he was transferred to serve the Maltese community

in Sydney. Fr Micallef has served three terms as the Provincial of the MSSP in Australia.

The members of the Maltese community thank Fr. Micallef for his spiritual leadership and assistance throughout these years. He is known in the community as a patient and gentle person, compassionate and understanding. He has an unflappable character and always dealt with challenges that came his way from time to time in a calm and confident manner.

Fr. Micallef was also responsible for the construction of the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville, Victoria with the assistance of a building committee from the Executive of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria.

The missionary society, founded in 1910 by Mgr Giuseppe DePiro, has established several houses not only in Australia but in other parts of the world such as Peru, Pakistan, Canada and the Philippines.



The Maltese Augustinian Province

The presence of the Augustinian Religious in Malta goes beyond six hundred years. For many years the friars lived and worked in the convent in Rabat, Malta, the one in Valletta and that in Victoria, Gozo where they established three communities. Meanwhile, as was the case with other religious orders in Malta, they formed part of other provinces and, in the case of the Augustinians, they appertained to the Sicilian Province.

At around the second half of the eighteenth century, various attempts were made to render the Augustinians in Malta no longer dependent on Sicily. In 1801 the English Commissioner advised the local Bishop and the Religious Orders that the English Crown no longer recognised foreign superiors. This made the Maltese friars more inclined to gain autonomy even because it was feared that religious supervision could be at risk.

In fact, a few years later, Pope Pius VII accepted an appeal that the three Maltese convents become an autonomous Province.

It was by a decree dated 14 September 1817 that Fra. Septimus Rotelli, the Order's Vicar General, established the Malta Augustinian Province with the title of the Province of St. Mark.

Over the years, the work of the Maltese brothers continued unabated, both in Malta as well as beyond our shores in missionary countries. Today the Maltese Augustinians have six Religious Communities: that of St. Mark at Rabat, Malta; of St. Augustine at the Gozitan capital, Victoria; of the St. Augustine Parish at Malta's capital, Valletta; that dedicated to the Mother of Good Counsel, Paceville, St. Julians; that dedicated to St. Nicholas from Tolentino at Hal-Tarxien and that at St. Augustine College, Tal-Pieta'. Apart from at their conventual churches, the brothers also render religious services to the communities of St. Rita's Chapel, St. Julians; at tal-Baħrija (limits of Rabat, Malta); at the Chapel dedicated to St. Anthony Abbot at the gardens of the Verdala Palace, Burkett and at the Chapel of the Augustinian Sisters following a Contemplative Life at the capital, Valletta.

For more than one hundred and seventy years the Augustinians have been active in the educational field through the St. Augustinian College, nowadays with two *Campuses* at Marsa and at Tal-Pieta'. Mention should also be made of the significant and very noble work done at the Millennium Chapel, Paceville, St. Julians; in the area of Pastoral Culture; at the Augustinian Institute; at the Secretariat for Augustinian Missions; in the formation of the laity and in accompanying youths. Apart from this, three religious are also giving service away from Malta; in Cuba; Palermo and rendering service to the Order in Rome.

• St. Agustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary

The Augustinian Sisters first came to Malta in 1894 at the request of Bishop Pietro Pace; they established their first home at Qormi and later on, in 1928, they opened another home at Mosta. Other homes then followed: in 1937 at Gżira, in 1946 at Għajnsielem, in 1950 at Birkirkara, and in 1940 a novitiate at Rabat. The Maltese Augustinian sisters are also established in Australia, the United States, England, Brazil, Zaire, India and the Philippines.

HISTORY IMMORTALIZED IN CITY CENTRE

Maltese Corner Will Honor the Cultural Importance of Maltese Migrants In Mackay



The Maltese Corner Fundraising Group Inc reached a milestone last week with the signing of a contract to begin construction of three statues to be located in the Mackay CBD.

The group had previously gained approval from Mackay Regional Council to construct the monuments at the corner of Victoria and Wood Streets which is colloquially known as the "Maltese Corner".

The statues are based upon a 1994 photograph taken by Joe Caruana from J & J Photography, of a group of Maltese men who variously, for many years, used to meet at the corner to talk and often do business.

There is currently a plaque at the corner which reproduces the photo and Mackay Regional Council has recognised the corner as an important historical site which it includes in the Mackay Heritage Discovery Trails.

"Maltese migration swelled in Mackay in the post-war era, attracted by the abundant agricultural opportunities. This corner was a social and cultural meeting spot for many Maltese men, gathering on Tuesdays and Thursdays to talk and await the opening of the banks".

The idea for the statues was conceived several years ago during an informal meeting between local Maltese historian and author, Carmel Baretta and Council officers. Since then, the concept has gained popular support

which culminated in a petition that was presented to a Council meeting in May 2021, at which it received unanimous support from Councillors.

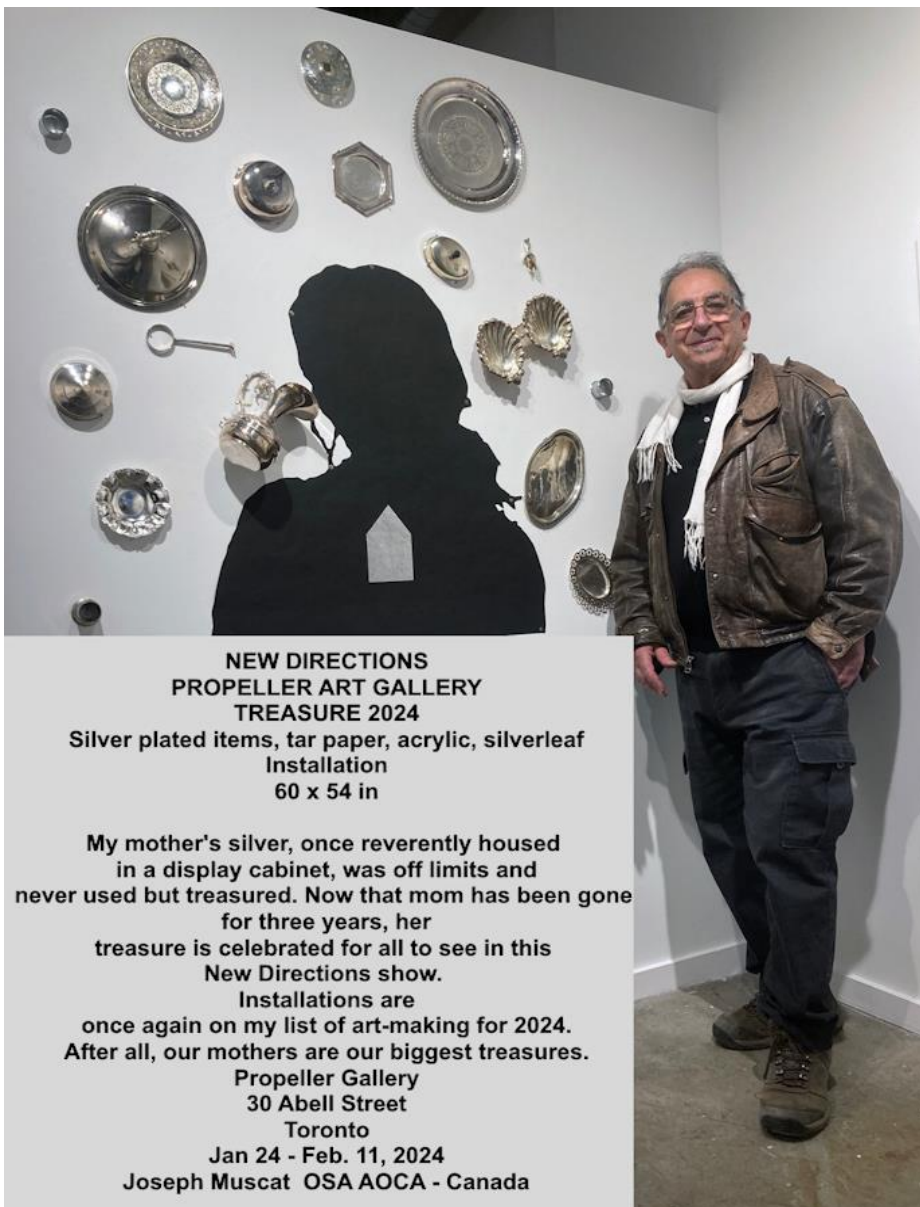
The Maltese Corner Fundraising Group Inc was formed in August 2021 with the primary goal of raising the funds to complete the project. The group has been busy with many fundraising activities over the past twelve months and has received generous donations from many local families and businesses. They were also grateful to receive a \$15,000 contribution through "Activate My Place!" which is a placemaking grant program co-ordinated by Mackay Regional Council.

The contract with local artist Kay Paton was officially signed off at the committee's Christmas Spectacular which was held at the Mackay Turf Club on Saturday 26th November.

Kay Paton has been commissioned to undertake the work from her Nebo foundry and workshop. Kay's previous works include the Moranbah Miner's Memorial and numerous bronzes to commemorate the lives of loved ones, special events and milestones in our history. They also feature in the Nebo Museum and Stockman's Hall of Fame.

Sculpting is expected to commence in January 2023 and the three statues are due for completion by April 2024. Whilst the commissioning of the work is a major milestone, the final vision for the projects also includes informational plaques and lighting at the corner, which will keep the committee busy with fundraising in the New Year.

Joseph Muscat OSA AOCA



**NEW DIRECTIONS
PROPELLER ART GALLERY
TREASURE 2024**

Silver plated items, tar paper, acrylic, silverleaf
Installation
60 x 54 in

My mother's silver, once reverently housed
in a display cabinet, was off limits and
never used but treasured. Now that mom has been gone
for three years, her
treasure is celebrated for all to see in this
New Directions show.
Installations are
once again on my list of art-making for 2024.
After all, our mothers are our biggest treasures.
Propeller Gallery
30 Abell Street
Toronto
Jan 24 - Feb. 11, 2024
Joseph Muscat OSA AOCA - Canada



Heritage Malta seeks to provide its various audiences with an enhanced experience during visits to our various sites and museums. From prehistoric caves to subterranean passageways, geology to ethnography, from the management of **seven** World Heritage Sites to industrial and underwater heritage, there is no interest we do not cater for.





The Garden was the main protestant cemetery or burial place in Malta from about 1806; 528 persons are known to have been buried there, but the total number would be somewhat greater. There are no records specific to the Garden of Rest, and there are a number of unidentified graves. The Garden was more or less full by 1856, when Ta' Braxia Cemetery was opened, but there were interments at Msida Bastion until at least 1886.

The principal occupants of the cemetery are British military and naval personnel and their families, British officials and businessmen. Some are the ancestors of families still in Malta to this day.

The visitor will note that many of the graves are of children. Of the 375 ages that are known, 175 were 20 and under, and of these 67 were less than a year old. Mortality during the period was very high.

As a comparison, the Malta Census of 1851 records life expectancy for Maltese men as 25 years, and for women, 26 years. The Garden of Rest lies in the Msida Bastion, which is so called because it overlooks Msida across the Harbour.

It was originally the Bastion of St. Philip, part of the outer defence works of Valletta commissioned by Grand Master Antoine de Paule in 1635; we remember the Italian architect involved, Floriani, in the name of the district 'Floriana'

This beautiful garden was the main Protestant cemetery in Malta for approximately half a century during early British Rule, until 1856. The burials are mostly of British servicemen, officials and businessmen and their families, some of whose descendants still live in Malta today, as well as some Maltese.

The most famous Maltese buried here was Mikiel Anton Vassalli, known as the father of the Maltese language, who died on 12 January 1829. The monuments which have survived are predominantly in the neoclassical style, and Din l-Art Ħelwa was awarded the Silver Medal by Europa Nostra in 2002 for its restoration. It is located on St Philip's Bastion in Floriana, further down from the Grand Hotel Excelsior.

The large open grassy spaces of this garden lend themselves well to outdoor events. Film festivals, poetry readings, artisan markets and receptions have proved very successful, due to the elegant and unique setting, coupled with breathtaking views of Pieta' and Marsamxett Creeks.



MaltaCAN - Malta Children's Associations Network

14-il organizzazzjoni volontarja li jaħdmu għall-ġid tat-tfal

Mary Gauci President Happy Parenting – Malta For Happier Children



MaltaCAN's statement on inclusion:

INCLUSION:

NOT JUST A BUZZWORD...

...but a fundamental value that shapes our society.

Together, let's champion inclusion and create a world where every child can participate fully in all aspects of life.

Fourteen organisations working with children have united under one umbrella network to serve as a united voice for children and to ensure their rights are enshrined in the law



In-netwerk MaltaCAN gie stabbilit biex jippromwovi, irawwem u jappoggja d-drittijiet tat-tfal u l-mekkanizmi ta' parteċipazzjoni tat-tfal f'Malta. Ix-xogħol ta' dan in-netwerk imorru id f'id mal-Konvenzjoni tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti dwar id-Drittijiet tat-Tfal (UNCRC). MaltaCAN jaħdem biex jipprotegi id-drittijiet fundamentali tat-tfal billi joħloq spazji siguri fejn it-tfal jikkellmu u jiġu mismugħa. In-Netwerk ifittex li jqajjem kuxjenza, u jinfluwenza l-politika billi joħloq gruppi ta' ħidma nkarigati li jirreagixxu u jippromwovu suġġetti u kwistjonijiet relatati mad-drittijiet tat-tfal u l-parteċipazzjoni tagħhom.

MaltaCAN (Malta Children's Associations Network) hija organizzazzjoni volontarja magħmula minn 14-il organizzazzjoni indipendenti, mwaqqfa mill-E.T. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca fl-2019 bl-għan li iġġib flimkien l-organizzazzjonijiet kollha li, b'modi differenti, jaħdmu mat-tfal u għat-tfal biex isservi bħala vuċi b'saħħitha għat-tfal. MaltaCAN hi mmexxija minn Karen Buttigieg li hi chairperson, Laura Marie Mercieca hi segretarja eżekuttiva u l-viċi chairperson l-E.T. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

L-organizzazzjonijiet l-oħra huma:

- *The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society
- *Fondazzjoni Sebh
- *Malta Church Schools Fund
- *Malta Dyslexia Association
- *Malta Girl Guides
- MGRM
- *Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movements
- *National Foster Care Association Malta
- *Early Childhood Development Association Malta
- *Salesians of Don Bosco
- *Malta Trust Foundation
- *National Parents Society of Parents with Disability
- *Malta Play Therapists
- *Happy Parenting Malta (For Happier Children)

L-għan ta' MaltaCAN hi li tinholq kollaborazzjoni. L-appell tal-MaltaCAN hi biex aktar organizzazzjonijiet jingħaqdu man-Netzwerk biex ilkoll flimkien ikunu vuċi f'saħħitha biex jiddefendu u jirrakkomandaw dak kollu li jista' jkun ta' għid għat-tfal. Għad hemm bżonn iktar rappreżentanza minn organizzazzjonijiet li jaħdmu għas-saħħa mentali tat-tfal, jew minn organizzazzjonijiet li jaħdmu ma' tfal li emigraw, fost oħrajn. Meta jiltaqgħu bejniethom, l-għaqdiet ikollhom l-opportunità wkoll jagħrfu aktar id-diversi aspetti differenti u oħrajn komuni u l-ħidma intensiva li ssir b'risq it-tfal.

L-ET Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca serviet bħala President ta' Malta mill-2014 sal-2019. Hi l-fundatriċi u l-president tal-Malta Foundation for the wellbeing of society, Malta Trust Foundation; u l-president tal-Emanuele Cancer Research Foundation. Hi ukoll il-president ta' Eurochild li hi pjattaforma ewropea li taħdem għal għid tat-tfal. L-ET Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca hija ukoll president tal-fundazzjoni Nazareth u tal- *Mediterranean Children's Movement*.

Bl-għajjnuna tal-kollaborazzjoni tal-organizzazzjonijiet ta' MaltaCAN, in-netwerk timmira li tkun spazju ta' amplifikazzjoni tal-vuċijiet tat-tfal. Dan mhuwiex biss kapriċċ imma dritt tat-tfal. Il-Konvenzjoni tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti dwar id-Drittijiet tat-Tfal (UNCRC) tgħaqqad il-54 dritt tat-tfal f'dokument wieħed. Artiklu 12 jisħaq fuq l-importanza tal-partecipazzjoni tat-tfal dwar aspetti li jinvolvu lilhom u d-dmir tal-adulti li jieqfu jisimgħu dak li jgħidu t-tfal. Il-partecipazzjoni tat-tfal għandha tkun priorità'. It-tfal m'humiex il-futur, iżda huma t-tfal tal-preżent.

Karen Buttigieg hija l-eks president tal-Malta Girl Guides, viċi president tas-Socjeta' Nazzjonali tal-Ġenituri għall-Persuni b'Diżabilità, lettur fil-Bioloġija kemm fil-junior college kif ukoll fl-Università ta' Malta kif ukoll qed tagħmel riċerka dwar l-edukazzjoni inklussiva u trasformattiva. Karen tishaq fuq edukazzjoni nklussiva u li t-tfal kollha għandhom dritt għal edukazzjoni ta' kwalità. Mhux ġust li xi tfal ma jmorrux skola għax ġew imkeċċija jew m'hemmx arrangamenti għalihom. L-esperjenza personali tagħha bħala ġenitur ta' tifel b'diżabilità tgħin fil-fehma u l-impenn tagħha lejn l-inkluzjoni sħiħa.

Laura Marie Mercieca, is-segretarja ta' MaltaCAN, taħdem ukoll mal-Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (MFWS) fuq il-proġett RIGHTS. L-esperjenza tagħha bħala ex-membri tal-Kunsill tat-tfal fi hdan l-MFWS tgħin fil-ħidma tagħha lejn il-kawża ta' MaltaCAN. Laura tishaq fuq l-importanza tal-partecipazzjoni tat-tfal fl-livelli differenti tas-socjeta' u taħdem bi sħiħ li t-tfal jesperjenzaw l-istess spazji siguri li hi esperjenzat minn eta' żgħira.

Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) trodd ħajr lil MaltaCAN għax xogħol siwi u professjonali b'risq it-tfal, kif ukoll għal għajjnuna u s-sostenn li tagħti lilna l-organizzazzjonijiet fi hdana.

A PHONE CALL TO HEAVEN – THE JOKE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from

wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K., thank you,' said the American. He then travelled all across America, Europe, England, Japan, New Zealand ..

In every church he saw the same looking golden telephone, with the same '\$US10,000 per call' sign under it. The American decided to travel to Australia to see if Australians had the same phone. He arrived at Newcastle in Australia and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same looking golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read, '40 cents per call.'

The American was surprised, so he asked the priest about the sign. 'Father, I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in all of them, the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?' The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Australia now, son – This is Heaven, so it's a local call'

South to North.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs, when he noticed a golden telephone with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'. The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by, what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way. Next stop was in Atlanta .

There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same sign under it. He



Left: the great grandniece of Trooper Martin and Dr. Norman Briffa, heart surgeon. Right: Trooper Martin By Lord Ashcroft

WW1 TROOPER WHO REWROTE HISTORY BOOKS

Historians always assumed soldiers of the Great War did not undergo heart surgery - new research shows they were wrong.

It is a tale of First World War bravery and innovative surgery that has emerged nearly a century later after a chance encounter between strangers.

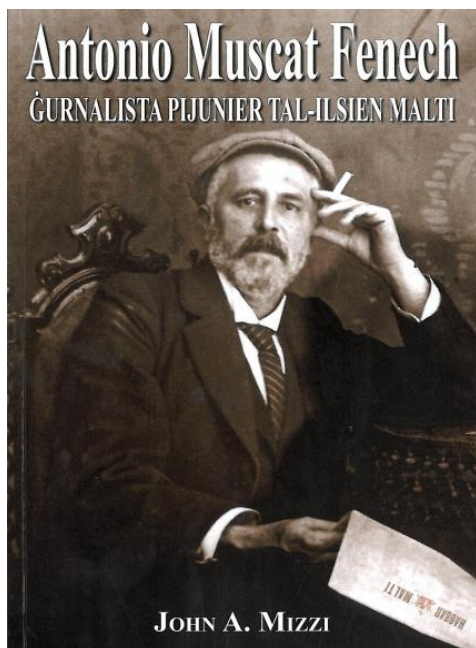
Norman Briffa, a consultant cardiac surgeon, was asked to give a talk in September 2011 to the patrons of a Sheffield theatre company. After he had finished his History Of Surgery lecture, audience member, Sheila Hobson, questioned his assertion that wounded soldiers had not had heart surgery until the Second World War.

Although she had no medical training, Mrs Hobson insisted it had long been known within her family that her great uncle, Trooper Robert Martin, had undergone and survived major heart surgery during the First World War after being wounded. Mr Briffa told Mrs Hobson that he "respectfully doubted" her claims but, because of her insistence and his interest, he asked her to supply details so that he could investigate. She said that her great uncle, Trooper Robert Martin, had undergone and survived major heart surgery during the First World War after being wounded. Sure enough, after extensive inquiries, he managed to unearth documents written at the

time that proved that Mrs Hobson's claims were accurate and, in her words, medical history "will have to be rewritten".

Meanwhile, Mr Briffa was so touched by his discoveries about Trooper Martin that he has paid his respects to the heart patient he never knew by visiting his overseas grave. Robert Hugh Martin was shot in the chest during the Salonika Campaign, in what is now Thessalonika, Greece on November 14, 1917 – his 21st birthday.

He was transferred to Malta then known as the Nurse of the Mediterranean. Treatment was limited at the time and underwent complex heart surgery in early 1918, after medical experts concluded that without such treatment he would die. Although the operation was successful, Trooper Martin contracted an infection that claimed his life. He died on March 14, 1918, still aged 21. Mr Briffa said the amazing efforts of the heroic British army surgeons in treating heart injuries were largely forgotten. "Trooper Martin died only because antibiotics had not yet been invented. Now I feel sure similar efforts took place in other theatres of the Great War and that there were long-term survivors."



Antonio Muscat Fenech

Gurnalista Pijunier tal-Ilsien Malti

Naħseb li fl-ebda pajjiż tad-dinja n-nies ma jinsew lil dawk li jkunu ħadmu għall-ġid u l-kobor ta' l-sien art twelidhom daqskemm ninsew malajr aħna. Bħalissa għandi quddiem għajnejja l-figura simpatika tal-Kavallier Muscat Fenech li ħadem b'hiltu u b'għaqlu kollu għat-tixrid tal-ilsien Malti. Dana huwa għajb għalina u jmissu għalhekk isir xi haġa biex l-isem ta' Muscat Fenech u x-xogħlijiet diversi tiegħu jkunu iktar magħrufa minn kulhadd. Jisthoqqlu jitqies fost il-pijunieri tal-Malti... F'għieħ il-ħaqq u s-sewwa ma nistgħux, u m'għandniex, ninsewhom nies kbar bħal dawn.

Wieħed mill-ewlenin ħbieb tal-Malti li ħadmu biex iwaqqfu l-ilsien Malti fuq sisien sodi b'kitba msejsa fuq regoli stabbiliti ta' ortografija u grammatika kien Ninu Muscat Fenech. Dan kien il-bidu tal-qawmien tal-ilsien tagħna, il-bidu tal-kitba bil-Malti.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



Journal for the Maltese Living Abroad

This is a bilingual, free and non-political magazine and reaches Maltese around the world. It's published in South Australia in pdf form and archived in several schools and community centres the Malta Foreign Affairs website.

The journal is sent to readers in Malta and overseas. You may receive the journal in your inbox by writing to the editor maltesejournal@gmail.com

Letters for publication in English or Maltese are appreciated.

Editor : Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese living abroad



maltesejournal@gmail.com

IMAGINE

If Malta were to reach a population of 800 000 in 15 years from now the Maltese would become a minority in their own country. This will create many problems including the possibility of losing the Maltese culture and language and the environment as many green areas will be taken up to accommodate the packed population

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

Name: Frank Scicluna

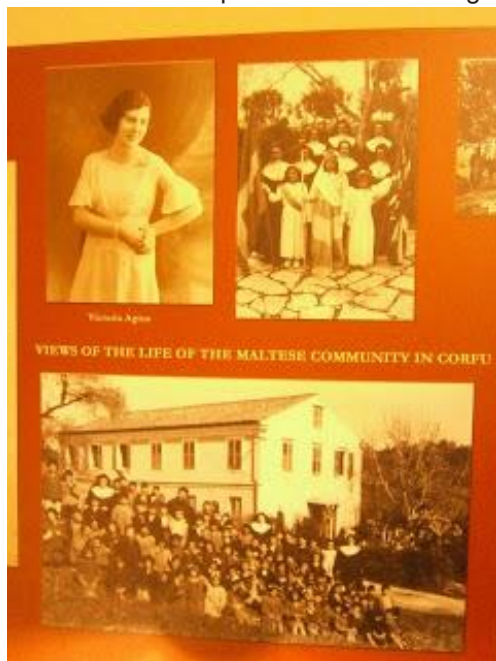


MALTESE IN CORFU

There was a very interesting exhibition in the Palace of Esplanade about the Corfiot Maltese Community. It demonstrated the history of the maltese immigrants who fled to Corfu from 1818 until 1832 invited by the then High Commissioner of the Ionian islands Thomas Maitland in order to help in the building of the Palace and other projects commissioned by the british authorities. The Palace had been built using maltese rock and the maltese people themselves by that time were famous for their building skills. Most of them lived in the neighbourhood named "Kotsela" which took its name from the island that most of maltese

immigrants came from, Gozo.

Nowadays, the Maltese community is still quite big, there are more than [3000 people](#) of Maltese origin living in Corfu. Most of them are christian catholics, they have hellenized Maltese surnames but unfortunately very few of them understand or speak the Maltese language.



Here are some photos from the exhibition which took place inside the Palace built by the Maltese immigrants almost two centuries before. The

exhibition featured rare photos from the everyday life of the maltese people as well as more than a century old documents such as music scores, certificates, books, passports etc.

Everywhere you go in Corfu one can see some shops bearing "Maltese" surnames, hotels named after Malta or bearing Maltese surnames (Hotel Maltezos and Hotel Debono are only two of many), and tourist guide books proudly stating that some of the main historical buildings on the island were built with Maltese stone by Maltese stone masons.

The new Mayor of Corfu (who was incidentally elected while on our trip on the island and maybe our influence on the electorate contributed to his success!) is of Maltese descent. His name is Sotiris Michalef (Saviour Micallef). Though we could not meet him personally at the time since he was busy after being elected, he is well aware of the new interest being shown by the Maltese in this island and my contacts in Corfu assure me that he is more than willing to further these ties. The Catholic Bishop is Iannis Spitieris (John Spiteri). In a country which is almost exclusively Orthodox in religion, the fact that Corfu has a Catholic community, most of whom are descendants of Maltese emigrants, is testimony to the vigour of the ancestral legacy.

L-ARLOGG TAL-LIRA

The techniques of water gilding and the tools used to make what is called ARLOGG TAL-LIRA, have remained unchanged for centuries. The arlogg tal-lira shine by pressing it is so called because it used to cost a gold sovereign but now even reproductions cost a fortune.

The Egyptians used water gilding techniques over 3,000 years ago, and some of the artefacts gilded by craftsmen in the time of the Pharaohs still remain in perfect condition today.

The arlogg tal-lira had two doors. The outer door was glass-framed, displaying the dial behind which was fixed the mechanism, and below which, further down was the aperture or slot showing the oscillating pendulum. The clocks measure about 51 cm by 61 cm (20 inches by 24 inches).

White deal makes up the frame of the clock, which includes two ornate parts, one on top called ornate and the bottom part called mensula.

The sanded wood is first given a layer of rabbit glue. Once this coating dries, a mixture of a finer rabbit glue and English chalk, known as whiting, is applied. When dry, the English chalk allows the clock maker to cut designs into it. Each gilder has his own secret about the 'right' mixture of rabbit glue and chalk.

About 10 coats of this mixture are applied, one every 24 hours. The coating has to be thick enough to allow the gilder to engrave designs in it. Once dry, the chalk is sanded until it is as smooth as marble.

The next step is to transfer designs by means of carbon paper. Then with a special tool, the design, half a millimetre deep, is cut into the chalk. The chalk is then coated with a mixture called red bole, consisting of animal fat, clay and rabbit's glue. Here, again, gilders have their own formula.

Six layers of red bole are applied. Once the red bole is applied, it should not be touched by hand, because the moisture and acid deposited by the touch would repel the gold leaf.

The red bole is moistened with water and the gold leaf transferred on to the clock frame by means of a dry brush. The gold leaf is burnished with a special tool having a head made of a highly polished agate stone on



coating of bole. The rest of the frame except for the gilded parts is painted with a paraffin-based paint.

The clock face and the wood are prepared by two other craftsmen.

It takes about 22 days to make one

clock. The clock's timing mechanism is imported. There are timing mechanisms that are wound up by clock work but a battery-operated mechanism is installed in the smaller version of the clocks.

The clock was copied from the niches holding statues of saints one often comes across at street corners. It would be too much work for one craftsman to carry out all these processes. In the old days, the clock-maker used to produce all the parts of the clock.

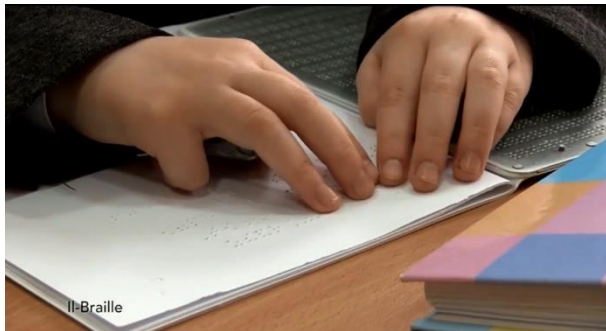
Early 19th century clocks which are extremely rare could easily fetch over 7,000 euro.

In order to check the date of manufacture of the clock, one would have to check the timing mechanism to see whether the maker engraved his initials on it.

Other details to look for are the construction and shape of the clock and the nails that were used. On the provenance of the mechanism, I consult Louis Busuttil, who is an expert in this field.



There are over 1,600 persons in Malta who are visually impaired



He was blinded in a traffic accident at the age of 15 – an event which inspired him to invent something that will make his life easier. Braille is a system of alphabet symbols and numbers, consisting of six spots that represent each letter and also music symbols.

Joseph Stafrace, chairman of the Malta Guide Dogs Foundation said: "The importance of Braille is, for example, when a blind person enters a lift and the braille assists the person to choose the floor destination; on products, like medicines."

"Braille is certainly important when viewing in the light of paving the way for accessibility and Braille certainly was one of the first inventions to get the concept of accessibility for the blind rolling," student Samuel Farrugia said.

Inclusion and Life Quality Minister, Julia Farrugia Portelli said that the Government is committed that every person in Malta and Gozo is not disadvantaged due to any form of disability, including the visually impaired. She stated that Braille is an important communication means for these persons and of great assistance for them to be less dependent on others. www.maltasocietyoftheblind.org

TVMNews

Malta joined the rest of the world to commemorate World Braille Day. In Malta, the number of visually impaired persons, registered with the Commission of the Rights of Persons with Disability, amounts to 1,663, with ages that vary from small children to elderly persons aged over 90.

In November 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared the 4th January as the World Braille Day, to commemorate the day of the 4th January 1809 when its inventor Frenchman Louis Braille was born.

In aid of
Blind Tandem Cyclists

**FUN TANDEM
BICYCLE RIDES
EVENT**

Come, have a ride and contribute with a €1
donation to help the Blind Tandem Cyclists

**07 FEB
2024** | **MAIN CAMPUS**
Pjazzetta | **START
9 AM**

Logos: VNVN, MCAST, and others.

27-20 Hoyt Ave South
Astoria, New York

**The Maltese Center
St. Paul's Mass**

Feb 17, 2024 7:00 PM

All are welcome.
Join us for
our annual St. Paul's
Mass celebrated
by
Fr. Anthony Saliba.
Complimentary
ravioli dinner
after mass.

SUPPORT OF MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ILLAWARRA, NSW



Often, I am asked how is it possible for associations to survive when purchasing of food is so expensive and bills like electricity and insurances continue to increase.

Our experience at the George Cross Falcons Centre Inc. now more known as the Cringila Centre in short was to first increase membership, attracting newer clientele and affiliate with larger groups those mostly attracting Government funding.

The Cringila Centre affiliation with the Multicultural Community Council of the Illawarra for over 45 years had help the association establish many programs including register the elderly attending on Mondays on My Age Care program. One

other important program by MCCI is providing two buses with volunteer drivers and a career to pick up and return the elderly to their homes or retirement villages.

If the association had to hire the buses without support it would certainly put pressure on finances and sadly would have to streamline other programs already in place.

Our view is not to leave the hard decisions until that time when the association membership decline, putting pressure on the committee of the day to make the hard decision to close down the association. Unfortunately it is quite common nowadays to hear of associations closing down, some closing due to decrease in membership numbers or financial pressure. It is quite sad if our Community decreased to a level where we are not able to leave a legacy for the next generation of Maltese descendants. Louis Parnis JP.



Message from the Grand Master of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

Fraternal greetings one and all.

I trust you are all well.

Thanks be to God, we started a new year. We pray

that this year will be a good one for us and for the Confraternity. I hope that you started the year well.

The Confraternity started the year with the Blessing of the Holy Father, Francis. Now the holidays are over and we start planning and working to raise money to help those who are less fortunate than us.

In February, the Supreme Council will resume with our monthly meetings to discuss the upcoming events, nominations of people who are interested in joining our Confraternity and other things that pop up from time to time.

In February, we are having our first fundraising luncheon of the year. Now we need to start working to sell some tickets for the event. This year the Grand Chapter of Melbourne have a program of 5 fundraising events with the first one on Sunday 25 February 2024 with a lunch at the Nancye Kirchner Centre, 1 Doyle St. Avondale Heights. I am sure that our members in Melbourne are keen to inform their friends about attending our enjoyable event.

As your Grand Master, I would like you to share with us any plans that you might have for your chapter. I would like you to make an effort to organize even something small. I hope that this year we see much more improvement in our Confraternity. I conclude my message by wishing you all a wonderful year.

God bless.

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli Grand Master
Seat in Melbourne. Australia,



Lest we forget: 109 years ago 16 Maltese soldiers died in a tragic dockyard accident



Many other soldiers were also wounded.

109 years ago today, 16 Maltese soldiers of the **Royal Malta Artillery** went to work at the Malta Dockyard but never returned home. On 5th October 1915, a terrible tragedy took place at the Malta Dockyard, which led to the death of 16 Maltese soldiers of the Royal Malta Artillery.

At the time, Malta was playing an important role in the ongoing Gallipoli campaign in the Dardanelles, serving as a naval base for British and French warships, as well as taking in large numbers of wounded soldiers being brought to the island in hospital ships.

In July 1915, General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, had requested the production of 10,000 hand grenades to make up for crucial deficiencies at the front, and in August, it was decided to produce a number of these weapons at the Naval Ordnance Department in H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

The external cases, made from cast iron, were manufactured at the Carlo Pace foundry in Hamrun. From here, they were transported to a laboratory set up in tents at the dockyard, where 50 volunteers from the Royal Malta Artillery filled the cases with gun

cotton and sealed them with a brass plug which had a hole in the centre, where a fuse could be inserted. On 5th October 1915, a stack of some 120 of these grenades exploded - killing 16 of the Maltese volunteers and wounding a number of others. Military and naval personnel in the vicinity provided medical assistance to the wounded, while a naval chaplain administered the last rites to the dead and dying. The wounded men were taken to the Royal Naval Hospital Bighi for treatment, while the deceased were mostly buried at the Capuccini Naval Cemetery, in Kalkara, except for two of them, who were laid to rest elsewhere. Later on, a monument was erected to their memory.

There must be thousands of Maltese expats and their descendants even more, who owe you a great debt for the Maltese journal and are obliged to you.
By any publication standard the Maltese Journal
has been ruthlessly professional in layout, material content and production.
Kind regards Prof. Sir Alfred Cuschieri

ST. NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE
PLUMPTON NSW

SAINT NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE

Sunday 17th March 2024
Good Shepherd Parish Hall
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton Sydney NSW

THE BIG FETE – FIERA TAL – FNIEK
At 1.30pm
Music & Entertainment by:

CHARLIE MUSCAT

With lots of Popular Music & Fantastic Prizes.
So come along, bring your family and friends!
There will be Drinks and Food available, including:
Pastizzi, Hobz biz-zejt, Hot Chips
FREE Ice cream for the kids

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024

Variety Night - Saturday 27th April
Imnarja (Lejla Fil-Buskett) - Sunday 7th July
Fiera - Sunday 13th October
Dinner Dance - Saturday 16th November
The Feast of St. Nicholas - Sunday 1st December

For further information please contact: -
The President – Emanuel Vella on 0405 677 064
Or
Public Relations Officer – Stella Vella on 0414 188 226

LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE

Notice of Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting of the
La Valette Social Centre
shall be held on Friday 15 March at 7.00pm
Location: 175 Walters Road, Blacktown NSW
Tel: 9622 5847

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE

The Maltese Guild opens every Tuesday
from 10am till 3.00pm at the
Maltese Cultural Centre
5 Jeanes Street, Beverley

The Maltese Senior Citizens Association
members and friends meet every Friday
from 10 am till 3.00pm at the
Community Hall 49 LeHunte Street
Kilburn
for Lunch and Social Gathering



Number of vehicles on Malta's streets
increases by 115,607 in just 10 years
Malta has an area of 316 sq. km

FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE HOUSE N.S.W.

We would like to advise that the tickets for the Festa Tal-Generozita Concert on Sunday the 25th February 2024 have been sold out, however if anyone is interested to make a donation to Providence House in Malta, you can make a deposit to the following account: Friends of Providence House N.S.W. Commonwealth Bank Greystanes NSW BSB: 062416 Account No: 10199448 Reference: Your name

By depositing your donation to the above account, you will be saving any bank transfer fees.

Any donation, big or small, would be greatly appreciated. If you have any enquiries, please contact

Jim Bora. Co-Ordinator on 0418 825 591