

**JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD**



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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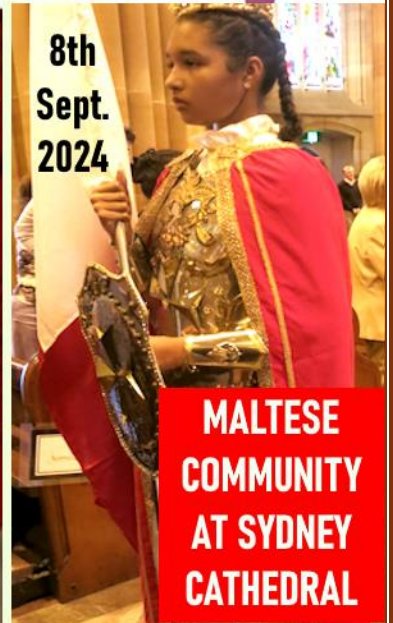
MALTA EMBASSY IN EGYPT

Tuesday 17/09/24

## MALTA CULTURE DAY

Exhibition  
Magna Żmien  
ETNIKA

8th  
Sept.  
2024



SAVE THE DATE



60<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY OF  
MALTA'S INDEPENDENCE



#MALTADAY2024

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024  
EVENING @ NIAGARA FALLS  
DETAILS T.B.C

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2024  
THANKSGIVING HOLY MASS @  
ST PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH  
MORE INFO TBC

## Malta Concert Orchestra



[artscouncilmalta.gov.mt](http://artscouncilmalta.gov.mt)

Arts Council Malta is  
the national agency  
for arts and culture  
in Malta







## KOMMUNITA MALTJA TA' VICTORIA

- Il-komunita Maltja gewwa Victoria l-Awstralja ingabret fil-Knisja ta' St. Mary's Star of the Sea gewwa West Melbourne f' 8 ta' Settembru sabie x ticelebra l-Festa tant ghaziza tal-Vitorja. Numru ta' ghaqdiet hadu sehem f'din il-festa flimkien ma ghad sabih ta' devoti. Membri tal-Ordni Sovran ta' San Gwann u l-Konslu Malti Dr. Giaconda Schembri u

mill-Maltese Community Council of Victoria kienu presenti wkoll.

L-istatwa ingarret mid-Dar Provincjali ta' Parkville u tlestiet fuq l-artal minn membri tar- Reskeon Seniors Association Group. Il-funzjoni bdiet billi tkantaw l-innijiet nazzjonali ta' Malta u tal-Awstralja. Il-quddiesa ikkoncelebrata tmexxiet minn Fr. Edwin Aguis mssp flimkien ma membri tas-Socjeta Missjunarja ta' San Pawl. Kien hemm ukoll iz-zewg Brothers Vjetnamizi li gew minn Manila u se jkunu ghal xi zmien gewwa l-Awstralja.

Wara l-quddiesa inghatat il-barka sacramentali. Il-Programm intemm bid-daqq ta innijiet religjuzi u popolari Maltin mill- Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society fil-foyer tal-knisja.



# OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

## 2024 PARISH FEAST

### SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER






**FEAST HOLY MASS** honouring Our Lady of Victories with participation by Marion Catholic Primary School choir

Rosary procession with Our Lady of Victories statue accompanied by Maltese Concert Band and singing of Ave Maria

Maltese Concert Band and chocolate wheel

Entertainment by Charlee Rose Coombes / Chocolate wheel

Performances by Marion Catholic School children / Chocolate wheel

In 1965, the Parish of Our Lady of Victories of Horsely Park, NSW Australia was put under the pastoral care of the Paulist Missionaries, a community of priests and brothers, established in Malta in 1910, with the aim of going to mission lands and of helping Maltese emigrants. The first member of this congregation to become Parish Priest at Horsley Park was Fr Claude Borg M SSP, followed by Fr Emanuel Adami, Fr Charles Borg, Fr Benedict Sant and Fr Phillip Gambin



## MALTESE COMMUNITY OF NSW - AUSTRALIA

### IL-BAMBINA – FEAST - 8 SEPT 2024



#### IL-BAMBINA - MALTA NATIONAL DAY

Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Victories.  
St Mary's Cathedral Sydney NSW 8 Sept 1924

### Maltese Archbishop Mons Giovanni Cefai MSSP came all the way from Perú to celebrate with us our traditional feast of 'IL-VITORJA'

**Report - Marie-Louise Marisa Previtera (Pictures courtesy of Patrick Bartolo)**

What a wonderful celebration of one of Malta's most popular National Days the Feast of Our Lady of Victories also known as Marija Bambina, (*Baby Mary*) Our Lady's Birthday. On Sunday, 8 September, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, was filled by the Maltese Community of Sydney, where many Associations came together proudly carrying their banners in procession, to honor Our Mother Mary, on her birthday. As the Rosary was recited by Rita O'Dwyer, the Maltese Community Choir, led by Marisa Previtera, OAM sang the verses of the Ave ta Lourdes. The Mass, was led by Archbishop Giovanni Cefai MSSP, and concelebrated with MSSP Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef, Chaplain for the Maltese Community Archdioceses of Sydney, Rev Fr John Taliana, and Rev Fr Carmelo Sciberras and Rev Fr Laurie Cauchi PP.

The homily by the Archbishop was uplifting in content and passionate in its delivery.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Fr Tarcisio Micallef, thanked the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to organise the Festa, and a special thanks was given to Antoinette Mascari for her many years of hard work and dedication in her administrative work.

Also in attendance was H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, High Commissioner for Malta, H.E. Vitaliano Gallardo Valencia, Ambassador of Peru' to Australia and Mr Jose Alberto Ortiz Artola, Consul General of Peru in Sydney and Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General of Malta in Sydney.

After the Mass was concluded, the congregation was invited for light refreshments at De Piro House in Stanley Street.

**VIVA MARIJA BAMBINA!**



### **BAMBINA FESTA CELEBRATED AT WOLLONGONG REGION – NSW - AUSTRALIA**

The Feast of Our Lady of Victories is significant with the Maltese especially with the 1565 Siege of Malta and the end of Second World War.

The 8 September is a special date in the calendar in Malta but as immigrants arriving in Australia in the 50's, 60s and 70s it was an important event to preserve this traditional and national

feast among the Maltese migrants in Warrawong on the South Coast of NSW. So the Provincial Superior of the Maltese Franciscan Order sent Father Bonello from Malta to look after the spiritual needs of the Maltese migrants in the Illawarra region. The community rallied behind Fr Bonello commenced building a church in the area where most Maltese settled to work at the Port Kemble Steelworks. Many Maltese helped financially and manually to building what they referred to at that time as *our church*.

In the 70's Mr. Scerri donated a beautiful statue of the Our Lady Queen of Victories which was imported from overseas in memory of his wife who died tragically in an accident.

On a yearly basis the traditional feast was held in September but as the local Maltese priests were invited to attend the feast at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney which at that time it was the church where the feast was held. The feast in Warrawong was delayed by a week.

Since then many first generation Maltese passed away or found it too strenuous to travel all the way to Sydney. In Warrawong two years ago the Conventual Franciscan friars informed the Wollongong bishop that they are no longer able to continue to administer the parish any longer because of the lack of priests. The church was passed on to the diocese. At this time with great sadness no Maltese official or organization supported the local Maltese on the South Coast and the feast was no longer organised

The president, Louis Parnis, of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre Inc. was made aware of the situation since the Centre works closely with the local church and the Franciscan Sisters who established their convent in Warrawong and Port Kembla to teach in the parish school and to do other social work among the members of the Maltese community.

Louis said the 'The Madonna inspired me to start holding the feast again in her honour every year in our region'. He wrote a beautiful poem and made into a hymn which was sang during the celebration of the Mass. This is a beautiful story. Because of the love of Mr. Parnis and the Maltese community for Our Lady of Victories this year the feast of the VITORJA was again held on 8 September at St Francis Church, Warrawong, a revival of the old tradition.

The attendance in the church was exceptional and the Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev Fr. Rick Micallef, a priest who was born in this region and serving at the Wagga Wagga diocese in NSW. Many Maltese from Sydney and Canberra joined in with the locals as well and other Catholics from different nationalities. Afterwards the members of the congregation were invited to the Cringila Centre where entertainment was provided including delicious food free of charge. We must never allow our traditions to perish. Congratulations and thank you to all the committee members and volunteers and especially to Father Rick.





## Save every patch of Malta's soil, agricultural societies plead

Agricultural land is being sold for recreational uses.

A plea for every patch of Malta's agricultural land to be saved was made on Tuesday by 24 agricultural societies and the Chamber of Architects.

They explained in a statement that much agricultural

land was being sold off for recreational purposes, often parcelled in small areas for maximum profit. This was undermining Malta's agricultural production and food security, as well as changing the countryside from cultivated fields into a patchwork of barren sites, often surrounded by high walls for privacy, some taken up by parking and even the occasional 'bouncy castle' for children. They said that demand for agricultural land to be used for recreational purposes had soared, to the extent that growers were unable to buy land they needed to increase their output. The price of agricultural land was now 20 times above the EU average.

The societies said Malta imported two-thirds of the food it needed, and it, therefore, needed to safeguard what production capacity it still enjoyed.

"Every patch of soil needs to be protected and its potential to produce food needs to be realised," the societies said. The statement was signed by Agriculture Co-Operative Ltd., Breeds of Origin Conservancy, Emmanuel Delicata Winemaker, Farmers' Central Coop Society Ltd, Għaqda Bdiewa Attivi, Għaqda Produtturi tal-Għasel Malti, Għaqda Trobbija tan-Naħal u Għasel Malti, Kamra tal-Periti, Koperattiva Bdiewa Dingli, Koperattiva Bdiewa Mgarr, Koperattiva Bdiewa Qormi u Ghawdex, Koperattiva Bdiewa Rabat, Koperattiva Bdiewa San Pawl il-Baħar, Koperattiva Bdiewa Siggiewi u Ħaż-Żebbuġ, Koperattiva Bdiewa Żabbar, Koperattiva Għasel Malti Ltd., Koperattiva Maltija tal-Mogħoż u n-Nagħaġ, Koperattiva Produtturi tal-Ħalib Group Ltd., Koperattiva tat-Tadam għall-Ipproċessar Ltd., Malta Organic Agriculture Movement, Malta Youth in Agriculture Foundation, Marsovin Winery, Meridiana Wine Estates, Vitimalta, Xirka Produtturi Nagħaġ u Mogħoż.



THE BUILDING OF AN AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW IN MALTA

## HISTORICAL AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW RESTORED IN MALTA

Another important phase completed in the restoration project of the Australian Bungalow, a century-old building that is being looked after by Din l-Art Helwa, the National Trust of Malta.

The Bungalow, which was used to train Maltese emigrants before they left for Australia, was moved to the Ta' Qali National Park - a far more accessible site for the public. The photos show the delicate operation to place the roof onto the wall panels. This important part of the restoration would never have been possible without the sponsorship of the Melita Foundation.

We are still collecting money for this important part of our heritage.

Donations can be made here: [Donation | Din l-Art Helwa - National](https://dinlarthelwa.org)

[Trust of Malta \(dinlarthelwa.org\)](https://dinlarthelwa.org) Many thanks! We will keep you updated with the progress in this journal. **Vanessa Macdonald**



## MALTA'S GROWING APPEAL TO AUSSIE TOURISTS

According to the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA), the number of Australian visitors has been steadily increasing year on year, with 2023 marking a significant milestone as over 52,000 Australians set foot on Maltese soil. This figure surpasses pre-

pandemic levels, signalling a robust recovery in tourism from this part of the world. The trend is expected to continue, with projections indicating even higher numbers for the coming year. So, what's driving this surge in interest from the Australian market? A spokesperson for the MTA shed some light on the matter, highlighting that, while many Australians travel to Malta to reconnect with family, there's also a growing fascination with the island's rich cultural heritage and Mediterranean lifestyle. These elements, coupled with Malta's idyllic scenery and historic sites, offer a unique allure that resonates strongly with Australian travellers.

The increase in Australian visitors is no accident; it's the result of strategic efforts by the MTA to raise Malta's profile in Australia. In collaboration with Emirates Airlines, Visit Malta — a branch of the MTA — launched targeted promotional campaigns in major Australian cities like Sydney and Melbourne. These campaigns, which have utilised a mix of social media outreach and traditional advertising, aim to spark curiosity and drive interest in Malta as a must-visit destination for Australians. The Journal

### Australian tourists visiting Malta

2019	49,807
2020 (pandemic year)	2,806
2021 (pandemic year)	1,341
2022 (pandemic transitional year)	19,986
2023	52,216



### ORDER OF MALTA

*"This poor man cried,  
and the Lord heard him"*



  
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## **ETHIOPIAN RESIDENTS FACE DEPORTATION FROM MALTA AFTER NEARLY TWO DECADES**

Ethiopian community members in Malta are facing deportation after living and working legally in the country for up to 19 years. Authorities have begun arresting dozens of Ethiopian residents at their workplaces and transferring them to detention facilities.

"I was 16 when I came to Malta by boat in 2005. I was an unaccompanied minor. I don't know Ethiopia. Malta is my home," said one community member who fears arrest. He added, "We have worked, paid our taxes and not caused trouble. Now we are being treated like criminals."

Approximately 100 Ethiopians have been told they must leave Malta, according to another long-term resident. He stated, "We are all confused. Some have been here for 15, 16, 17 and even 19 years. We have children. Malta is our home. We are integrated."

The Maltese Home Affairs Ministry explained that individuals arriving irregularly who do not qualify for international protection are offered voluntary return. It stated, "The Ethiopian nationals you are referring to have been detained in order to safeguard their return to Ethiopia, following positive signals from the Ethiopian authorities related to cooperation on the safe readmission of their own nationals."

Church entities in Malta are asking the authorities to immediately release Ethiopian nationals who have been informed that they will be repatriated. According to the Migrants' Commission, the Justice and Peace Commission and JRS Malta, these Ethiopians have been living and working legally in Malta for years.

In a joint statement, these three Church entities appealed to MPs, especially the Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs, to discuss these actions, and for a solution that respects the rights of persons and protects them to be found with civil society organisations.

The Migrants Commission, the Justice and Peace Commission, and JRS Malta, said that the arrest of Ethiopians to be deported is unjust and cruel, and appealed to the Government to release them and regularise their position.

They went on to say that these Ethiopians are targeted, on the pretext that they came to Malta to seek asylum, which was not granted. They pointed out that most of them spent years living and working in Malta with the knowledge and permit of the authorities, and they became part of the Community, paying their taxes and social security contributions.

Church entities said that such decisions create fear and discrimination and weaken the fundamental framework of local communities.





## MALTA YEARS AGO, NIFTAKAR MALTA META

Fr. Leonard Testa

Hija verita' li kulhadd jammetti li nghaddu l-ewwel nofs tal-hajja noholmu u nippjanaw x'ser nghanlu u nahdmu lejl u nhar biex intejbu l-qaghda tal-hajja talfamilja. In-nofs l-iehor tal-hajja nghadduh billi

noqghodu niftakru jew nfakkru dawk il-memorji li ghaddejna minnhom. Niftakar tal-moghoz li wara nofs nhar kien jghaddi bil-merhla mit-toroq tar-ralhal ghal maqjel li kellhu mad-dar. Il-ghajta tieghu li' hawn tal-halib' flimkien mad-daqq tal-gnigel u qnieqen mdendla m'ghonq il-bhejjem kont tinduna li qieghed fil-qrib mir-rieha tal-bhejjem. In-nisa kienu johorgu bil-bott jew flixkun fejn irraghaj kien jahleb fih .. illum il-moghoz ghebu ghal kollox mill-irhula hlief dawk li f'tarfhom ghad baqa' xi bicca ghalqa jew razzett.

*It is a truth universally acknowledged, that we spend the first half of our life dreaming about the future and the second half reminiscing the past memories. I was just eleven years old when I left the republic of Malta. One of the things that stuck to my mind was the goat herder leading the goat herd through the winding streets of my home village as he would be returning back from his grazing to his home and lock up the goats in the lower part of his house. One could hear his cry announcing his immediate coming, though his cry was not necessary as one could hear the bleating of the goats, and their smell preceded both. The women would come out from behind the cane curtains with a tin mug or jug in which the goat herder would graciously milk the goat and fill it according to your needs. It would still be warm with its own unique taste. With the advent of pasteurized milk and the convenience and safety in which it is bought, the goat herder is rarely seen today other than in those rural villages or at the end of a village still surrounded by open fields.*

**Thanks for your donation**

**WE NEED HELP TO CONTINUE PRODUCING THE MALTESE JOURNAL**

My bank details are Bank Commonwealth (Australia)  
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Name - Frank Scicluna





## **SEPTEMBER MUSIC: CLASSICAL, SOUL, AND FILM SCORES AT MANOEL AND TEATRU RJAL**

Maestro Joe Brown

### **Award-winning Trio Incendio at Teatru Manoel**

On September 13, the Malta Concert Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Joe Brown will be sure to entertain its audience in MCO Soul, Rhythm 'n' Blues. The Malta Concert Orchestra, together with singers Olivia Lewis, Mike Spiteri and Christian Arding, will be performing such genre standards as Soul Man in America, Sweet Soul Music, Stand By Me, and Dancing in the Street among others. The final summer concert for the Malta Concert Orchestra will be held on September 27 at Pjazza Teatru Rjal and will be dedicated to Music from the Movies. From the big screen to Pjazza Teatru Rjal, the Malta Concert Orchestra together with Edward Ellul, Talitha Dimech and Victorio Gauci will be performing some of the most iconic movie scores, interpreted live under the direction of Maestro Joe Brown.

On Wednesday 18 September, [Teatru Manoel](#) welcomes the award-winning concert trio [Trio Incendio](#) from Prague for an evening of enchanting chamber music performed by young, talented musicians, in celebration of the year of Czech Music 2024.

Founded in 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic, by the musicians themselves, Trio Incendio features pianist Karolína Františová, violinist Filip Zaykov and cellist Vilém Petras. The concert trio quickly established itself as one of the most distinctive young European ensembles, performing in some of the finest European venues like the Wigmore Hall in London, Philharmonie Berlin and Rudolfinum in Prague. The young trio is recognized for its sense of delicacy and style in works of classicism, a warmth of sound in their interpretation of romantic pieces, as well as a captivating approach to contemporary music.

During the concert at Teatru Manoel, they will perform a selection of compositions from the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Lasting roughly an hour, the programme includes Bohuslav Martinů's *Trio No. 3 in C, H.332*, Franz Liszt's *Tristia for Piano Trio, S. 378c (after La Valée d'Obermann)*, and Antonín Dvořák's *Trio Nr. 2 g-Moll, Op. 26*.

These compositions feature highly dramatic scores, punctuated by romantic elements and a sense of grandeur. Featuring both allegro and andante tempos, the music presented on the night is not only sure to please lovers of classical and chamber music, but would also provide an impressive introduction to the genre for curious listeners.

Children over the age of 6 are welcome to attend the concert and experience this magical genre of live music for perhaps the first time.

Trio Incendio has won several international competitions such as the Joseph Haydn Competition in Vienna, Joseph Joachim Competition in Weimar, Gianni Bergamo Classic Music Award in Lugano, Coop Music Awards in Cremona, Concorso Musicale "Marcello Pontillo" in Firenze, and the Bohuslav Martinů Competition in Prague, where they also gained the Special Prize for the best interpretation of work by Martinů. The trio participates regularly in the International Summer Academy in Reichenau organised by the University of Music in Vienna. At the Academy, they were awarded various prizes for the best interpretation of Czech contemporary music as well as the Chamber Music Prize for the best ensemble of the Academy and the Audience Award.

## BIRZEBBUGA'S BAKERY & CONFECTIONERY BIDS FAREWELL AFTER 40 YEARS



**Back in 1984, Arthur Micallef, founder of Arthur & Sons Bakery, envisioned opening a business, that would keep his three sons close together.**

*Brothers Charles, Simon, and Mark, have been the driving force behind the bakery. After four decades of serving the community, Birzebbuga's beloved Arthur & Sons Bakery & Confectionery is closing its doors.*

Brothers Charles, Simon, and Mark, who have been the driving force behind the bakery, shared the bittersweet news on social media, expressing their gratitude and reflecting on the legacy of their father, who founded the business.

After 40 years of dedicated service to their customers, they decided that it is time for a new chapter in their life.. They will always be grateful for the years we shared with our loyal customers, many of whom remember us opening the bakery. They would like to sincerely thank you for believing in our products and in our service.' They explained that with their children now grown and pursuing their own paths, the time had come to say goodbye.

Charles, Simon, and Mark wrote on their Facebook page- 'Thanks to our Dad's vision, for the past 40 years we have worked at the bakery and raised our 3 families together. Now that all our children have grown up and have chosen a different path, we have decided that it is time to say goodbye'.

The news was met with heartfelt messages from the community, with many expressing gratitude for the bakery's years of dedicated service and contributions to local organisations. Residents acknowledged the bakery's place in Birzebbuga's history, with some finding it difficult to put their emotions into words, while others wished the brothers a peaceful and restful future.

We will always be grateful for the years we shared with our loyal customers, many of whom remember us opening the bakery. We would like to sincerely thank you for believing in our products and in our service. Thank you to all those who worked closely with us throughout the years and to our loyal employees, you will always be a part of our journey.

Most of all, thank you to the founder of Arthur & Sons Bakery, our Dad Arthur Micallef. Back in 1984 he envisioned opening a business, that would keep us, his 3 sons Charles, Simon, and Mark close to each other.

At Arthur and Sons Bakery & Confectionery, we worked together fulfilling our Dad's dream, we worked tirelessly together honouring and upholding his legacy.

Thanks to our Dad's vision, for the past 40 years we have worked at the bakery and raised our 3 families together. Now that all our children have grown up and have chosen a different path, we have decided that it is time to say goodbye. Once again, we thank you all.





## **ORDER OF MALTA**

The 39th International Summer Camp for disabled young people was warmly hosted by Switzerland and Liechtenstein from August 11 to 18.

The event brought together 514 participants from around the world, who gathered in the Swiss canton of Wallis to share an extraordinary experience of unity and solidarity.

"In the brief time I have been here, I have already been enveloped by the infectious joy and the bright spirits of the young participants and volunteers" said the Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap.

Address of the Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap at the [Order of Malta International Camp - 2024](#) "My dear friends, Today, I am overjoyed to be standing among you as we mark the beginning of the 39th International Summer Camp, surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of majestic mountains and stunning views.

500 of you have journeyed from near and far to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, coming together to be a part of this cherished tradition of the Order of Malta.

In the brief time I have been here, I have already been enveloped by the infectious joy and the bright spirits of the young participants and volunteers"



### **REFLECTION BY CHARLES GAUCI BISHOP OF DARWIN**



### **THE GRACE WITHIN**

True Christianity is not about rules and regulations. It is about relationships and it is about love.

A true encounter with Jesus brings about a transformation within. Many fall into the trap of minimising this relationship by equating it to just moral rules and rituals.

Ritual celebrations are important and help us in our Faith and life journey. Moral codes are also good and necessary when they are

motivated by the love of God and neighbour.

However, they can become focused on externals while we forget what is at the heart of it all.

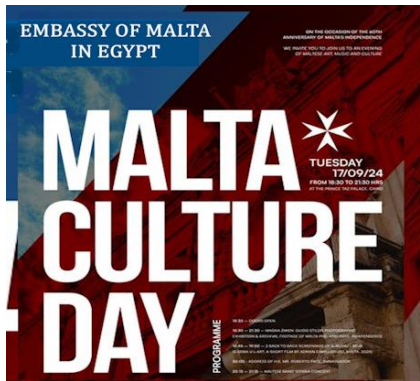
Jesus knew about the ego and that is why he warned us about making a show of piety and rituals and even prayer and our good deeds.

Our motivation is a loving response to the one who loves us first. It is God's Grace that enables us not to be trapped in our human frailty.

The Grace of God within that enables us to live in God and God lives in us.

This Grace, this reality, underpins our motivation and energies in all our encounters.

## A CELEBRATION OF MALTESE CULTURE IN EGYPT TO COMMEMORATE 60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE



Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Aug 26, 2024

As part of the celebrations in connection with the 60th Anniversary of Malta's Independence, a celebration of Maltese art, music and culture will be held at the historic Prince

Taz Palace in Cairo. Organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Cairo with the support of Investia, Marmonil, Methode Electronics, the Malta Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, this event will take place on the 17th September 2024.

The programme includes an exhibition featuring 22 photographs by Maltese amateur photographer Guido Stilon. This exhibition was curated by Magna Żmien, a grassroots project dedicated to preserving and digitising Maltese analogue memories with a particular focus on the 20th century. The exhibition showcases a series of stills that were scanned and digitally restored by Magna Żmien archivists, and forms part of their archive that became popular during Valletta's tenure as the European Capital of Culture in 2018.

This event also features a screening of a short film directed by Maltese anthropologist Adrian Camilleri that includes content from the same archive. Bejn is-Sema u l-Art, which was originally commissioned by the Ritmu Roots Festival and produced by Festivals Malta, reflects upon the life and legacy of one of the island's most prominent folk singers: Frans Baldacchino known as 'il-Budaj'. The film shows previously unreleased footage of the għannej (folk singer), reflecting upon Malta's indigenous music heritage post-Independence.

The programme's highlight will be a performance by one of Malta's most renowned bands, \*etnika. Founded in 2000, the band has followed a trail of fascinating archival and field research, unearthing and rescuing long forgotten instruments, local melodies and genres from the verge of extinction. Having toured extensively whilst representing Malta, they performed internationally in over 15 countries and prestigious venues in Europe and North Africa, including the Montreux Jazz festival. Their current performance is an arrangement of songs from their last album combined with their latest production the Arrow of Time (2022).

During this event, the public is invited to experience the vibrance of Maltese culture and have a glimpse of the changing fabric of Maltese society, taking place in the 1950s and 1960s during Malta's journey to independence. More information is available on the official pages of the Embassy of Malta in Cairo on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).

**WE THANK THE MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE (MAC) OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR PRINTING THE MALTESE JOURNAL AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO THE MALTESE SENIORS EVERY FRIDAY AT THE LUNCHEON. Come and join us at 49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn from 10am till 3.30pm. We also welcome seniors citizens from other nationalities**





## RENEWAL OF COMMON PASSAGES

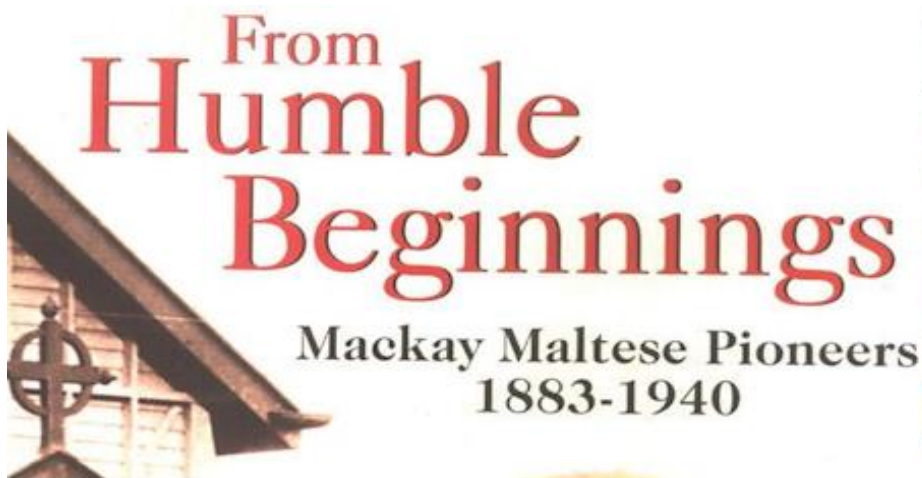
24/25 OCTOBER 2024

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA – CITY CAMPUS

State of the Arts – The National Symposium of Malta will return next October with its third edition. As we look back and reflect critically on what has been achieved in past editions, we like to renew our common paths by adopting a hands-on approach that revolves around solutions. The aim is to create a safe space that can reshape individual and collective efforts, and lead to a stronger artistic and cultural sector. The State of the Arts Symposium is back in October. As we look back at and critically engage with what

has been achieved in the past editions, we would like to renew our common pathways adopting a hands-on and solution-oriented approach. We aim to co-create a safe space that can reshape individual and collective efforts, leading to a more thriving artistic and cultural sector.

Symposium is free | The Symposium is free of charge



Carmel Baretta

## MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

Dear MHA Members and Friends

This month's presentation by the Maltese Historical Association will be held on **Tuesday 17 September 2024**, starting at 7.20pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Our presenter this month is Carmel Barretta. The title of her presentation is '**The Journey to Publication - Maltese Settlement in Mackay**'. Mrs. Baretta has undertaken research on the history of Maltese settlement in that geographical area of Queensland. Please see attachment for more details.

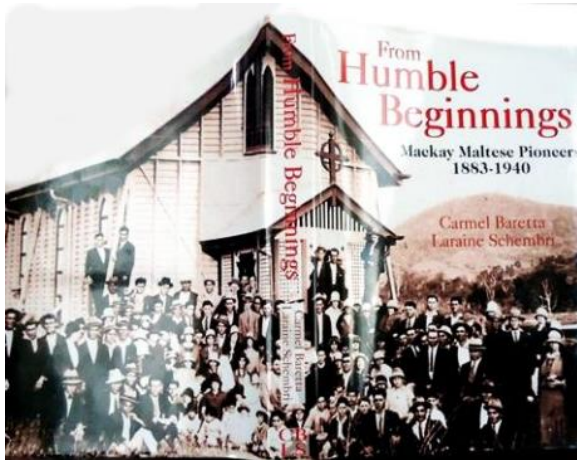
In 2001, she and co-author Laraine Schembri published the book, '**From Humble Beginnings**'. This provides an extensive history of the challenges faced by Maltese settlers in Mackay. The book was launched at the time of publication, during one of our meetings. The link below allows you to join the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85104694597?pwd=NrVp65tZohNOTKgoMXi4trLEUJAcKK.1>

Meeting ID: 851 0469 4597 Passcode: 329413

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS



The history of officially organised Maltese migration to Australia, contrary to what has repeatedly been reported by some historical accounts...

Roderick Bovingdon

The history of officially organised Maltese migration to Australia dates back to 1882.

**Carmel Baretta and Laraine Schembri: From Humble Beginnings: Mackay Maltese Pioneers 1883-1940, 520 pp.**

The history of officially organised Maltese migration to Australia, contrary to what has repeatedly been reported by some historical accounts published so far, dates back to 1882, not 1883; the date erroneously given by historians of Maltese settlement in Australia.

It was Francesco De Cesare, commissioner from the Malta government, who, in his experimental journey to the antipodes in search of a suitable future home for prospective Maltese migrants, arrived in Brisbane, Australia, on the September 11, 1882, with the first group of eight officially sponsored young men. This was the undisputed first officially organised Maltese group of migrants to land on Australian soil.

In 1883 there followed the much publicised arrival of the *Nuddea* at the north Queensland port of Townsville. This venture was a direct result of De Cesare's good work upon which he reported in his official reports to Malta's then Imperial administration.

The most well-known passenger on this trip of 1883 was the pioneer Joseph Busuttill (later becoming Busuttin) from Żejtun. His story is documented in the well researched account written by his granddaughter Valda Busuttin Winsor (*Island That We Knew – The Story of Brampton Island and the Pioneer Busuttin Family*, Valda Busuttin Winsor, 1982).

Prior to organised migration from Malta, a not inconsiderable number of Maltese ended up in Australia, some voluntarily as free settlers, a small unknown quantity of others remained here after jumping ship either as stowaways or after becoming disillusioned with their marine life as sailors engaged with the various merchant navies which called intermittently at remote northwestern Australian coastal inlets.

There were also a number of Maltese convicts; some were transported directly from Valletta while others were shipped out from Britain.

Many years after this prolonged and often sad saga, in 2001 co-authors Carmel Baretta and Laraine Schembri, both of Mackay vintage, bequeathed to posterity the excellent compilation of the Maltese of Mackay entitled *From Humble Beginnings: Mackay Maltese Pioneers 1883-1940*.

This tenderly and sensitively put together account of the principal Maltese families of north Queensland comprises the most detailed biographical anthology to date of one of the earliest groups of free settler Maltese migrant families.

The fine biographical details given of 182 families, all of whom settled in the north Queensland district of Mackay and surrounds, are a treasure trove of Maltese settlement history; an invaluable asset to the entire Maltese nation.

Interspersed with copious photographs, the clear images of the protagonists are supplanted with such detail as the traditional family nicknames each brought along with them from Malta. A few of these nicknames were also a product of the local Australian social ambience.

As one delves into the 520 pages of sheer pure Maltese country folk tales of determination of back-breaking work, persistence in the face of incredible hardship, of unrelenting optimism despite all else and the belief in themselves, this moving historical anthology brings tears of admiration for the powerful spirit of a community come together under the harshest of conditions.

It is no wonder the descendants of these pioneering families today are not merely the worthy owners of considerable wealth but also a proud breed, and justly so, who openly boast of their noble Maltese ancestry.





The strong family ties which still persist to this day, the tender family values they still foster, the deep respect towards their forebears – all these and more – are the rock solid foundations upon which is their sound sense of community based.

This collection of individual Maltese (and Gozitan) family accounts is no mere nostalgic sentimental journey in time. The invaluable information and other leads concerning Malta's social, political, religious, demographic and economic status towards the end of the nineteenth into the early years of the twentieth century, in addition to the several individual family

genealogies, elevates this book as a unique and essential reference text for high school students as much as for tertiary and postgraduate research.

Having met a number of the protagonists during my extensive research ventures into the Maltese Australian settlement story as a whole, but more specifically in reference to individual leading personalities or of people of unusual interest, one appreciates the vastness of this unique Maltese saga.

This precious collection of pioneer family biographies of the Maltese of Mackay is in itself living evidence of the indefatigable spirit of an appreciative generation with the strongest anthropological ties to its proud ethnic Maltese roots. Such deep loyalty is graphically depicted in a number of contemporary photographs taken by descendants of the earlier folk upon their return to, or even their first ever journey to the land of their forebears. All libraries in Malta, including schools and tertiary institutions, should make it a point to purchase this essential contribution to our national Melitensia collection.



Percy Zammit, Sam Bezzina and John Vassallo were three people regularly seen on Rockman's Corner, also known as the Maltese Corner in Mackay Queensland, Australia. *(Supplied: Carmel Baretta)*

## **MIGRANTS FROM MALTA AND GOZO WORKING IN SUGAR CANE FARMS IN MACKAY QUEENSLAND 1919**



The story of our brothers and sisters who emigrated to Australia at the beginning of the 20th century has long been forgotten. It is a story of courage and heroism, the like of which is very uncommon today. It is also the story of the suffering endured by our ancestors who left our island in order to make a living thousands of miles away in Australia, from where they planned to maintain their families financially. It was on September 12, 1916 during the great war when 214 passengers left Malta

and Gozo on a ship called "Gange".

Their destination was Australia. On their arrival they became the unfortunate victims of local riots against immigration taking place at the time. The trade unions were determined to safeguard the jobs of those Australians who were engaged in fighting in the war, hence their opposition to immigration. In fighting in the war, hence their opposition to immigration.

The emigrants arrived in Freemantle on October 21, after a terrifying experience as they met terrible storms on the way, so much so that the ship almost capsized. The rioters prevented them from leaving the ship and after two days waiting, the captain decided to sail towards Melbourne. There they had to undergo a language test, but instead of conducting the test in English, those in charge conducted it in the Dutch language, which meant of course that all of them failed! This was a ploy to prevent the emigrants from disembarking. On November 5, the ship had to set sail again, this time to Sydney. By now, two months had passed since they left Malta.

But even in Sydney they were not allowed to leave the ship. A military guard was assigned to the ship to prevent passengers from going ashore. However, about 44 passengers managed to escape by jumping into the sea and swam towards the shore. Most of them were caught and found themselves in a prison cell.

The authorities were at a loss as to what to do with the Maltese emigrants. Because the ship was registered in France, a decision was taken to send it to Noumea, New Caledonia, a French Colony. The Gange left Sydney Harbour on November 12 heading towards Noumea where at last the Maltese passengers were given accommodation.

After lengthy negotiations, these emigrants found themselves on another ship, the St. Louis, on their way back to Sydney. On their arrival they were transferred on to a very old ship which was anchored at the harbour, and there they waited for three months for another ship which would bring them back to Malta. After many complaints from various people, among whom was Fr William Bonnet, the emigrants were allowed to land ashore in Sydney. This was on March 13, 1917, six months after they had left Malta. In Sydney some of them soon found work with the Lyell Mining Company while others travelled further towards Queensland where they worked in the sugar cane plantations.

Taken from the Maltese eNewsletter 48 July 2014



## RECIPE:

### MALTA'S BEST LOVED HEALTHY BEAN DIP

Bigilla is a traditional Maltese dip made with 'Ful ta ġirba' which translates to Djerba or Tic beans. These beans are small brown beans, very similar to broad beans or fava beans. This healthy bean dip recipe is one of Malta's most family loved recipes and with good reason! Apart from the fact that it's quite easy to make, the taste is so unique and flavorful. It's also very versatile. You can eat the dip with crackers or veggie sticks, spread it over a slice of Maltese bread, or use it inside Mediterranean salads. This bean dip is also the perfect appetizer since it's vegan and free from gluten, dairy, nuts and all the major allergens. You'll find bigilla served as an appetizer in most Maltese bars alongside [Arjoli Dip](#) and other Maltese snacks. You'll also find it sold in supermarkets, grocery stores and food trucks around the island.

#### How to make Bigilla Maltese Bigilla Dip

A light and refreshing Maltese bean dip

Prep Time 10 minutes mins

Cook Time 30 minutes mins

Total Time 40 minutes mins

Servings 10 Servings

Calories 98 kcal

#### Equipment

- Food Processor

#### Ingredients

200 g Dried Split Fava Beans use Djerba or Tic beans if you find

- 1 Vegetable Cube optional
- 2 cloves Garlic use more if you prefer a strong garlic taste
- 2 tbsp Chopped Parsley
- 1 tbsp Chopped Basil
- 1 tsp Garlic Powder
- 2 tsp Paprika
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- squeeze Lemon Juice
- 2 tbsp Olive Oil
- Chili Flakes for topping

#### Instructions

Leave the fava beans soaked overnight or for at least 4 hours

1. Rinse the fava beans very well and bring to a boil
2. Add the vegetable cube and stir
3. Keep stirring occasionally and cook for around 30 minutes until the beans are soft
4. Meanwhile, add the garlic, herbs and spices, lemon juice, and olive oil to the bowl of your food processor and process until smooth
5. Drain the beans and transfer to a bowl
6. Add the garlic paste and mash the beans and garlic paste with a fork
7. Keep mashing and stirring until you achieve a chunky yet smooth dip consistency, like hummus
8. Top with chili flakes and serve with Galletti, crackers or veggie sticks.



## RECIPE:

### GALLETTI (MALTESE WATER CRACKERS)

Galletti can easily be found next to dips, or included to a platter, Maltese or not. Also, these little water crackers are definitely a great snack! Nowadays, these galletti have even evolved to different flavours such as sun-dried tomatoes, salt and pepper, rosemary and even ones flavoured with the traditional Maltese cheese, ġbenjiet tal-bżar (peppered cheeslets). They're all really good. However, one of my favourite ways of eating them is just smothering some butter on the plain ones. Optionally, I used to add some Maltese cheeselets (GBEJNIET) on the side. Maltese typical light and crispy water biscuit crackers.

Prep Time 20 mins

Cook Time 20 mins

Servings: 150 pieces

#### Ingredients

- 400 g plain flour
- 100 g semolina
- 200 ml water *lukewarm*
- 30 g butter *melted*
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 7 g dry active yeast *1 sachet*



#### Instructions

1. In a small bowl mix the lukewarm water, yeast and sugar. Let the mixture foam for about 15 minutes.
2. Combine all the dry ingredients together; flour, semolina, and salt. Once mixed together add the melted butter and the activated yeast and mix together.
3. Knead the dough for some minutes, until you get a smooth soft dough.
4. Place the dough in a bowl, cover and let it rest for an hour.
5. Preheat the oven to 180°C or 350°F. Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Set aside.
6. If you have a pasta machine you can use it, or else a normal rolling pin can do the job. Divide the dough into about 8 pieces as it's best to work in small batches. Roll the dough to about 2mm thick.
7. With a narrow glass or a small cookie cutter cut the galletti and place them on the baking tray. With a toothpick or fork, make five holes in the middle of each galletta. This will help the dough not to fill with air and puff up while cooking.
8. Cook for about 15 to 20 minutes, until they get a golden colour. Let them cool. You might need to cook all the dough in several batches as this will depend on your oven and baking trays.
9. They can be enjoyed immediately or later. If stored in an air tight container these galletti can last for about a week as they'll keep their crunchiness.

**I HOPE YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL IN USING THESE MALTESE TRADITION RECIPES. LET US KNOW WHICH RECIPE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JOURNAL OR SEND YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE TO US.**



# LA VALETTE 1964 2024

## AN EVENING OF RECOGNITION

Join us as we commemorate six decades  
of friendship, camaraderie, and memories

Our night includes  
Nostalgic Photo Slideshow  
Acknowledgment of past committee,  
volunteers and supporters

Live Music and Dancing  
Maltese Concert Band  
Ghana folkloric singing  
and Joe Apap

Delicious 3 Course Meal

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2024  
CELEBRATION MASS 5.00pm  
ST FRANCIS CHAPEL  
FUNCTION 7:00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)  
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175 WALTERS RD BLACKTOWN

DRESS: Formal

TICKETS:

MEMBERS \$55 • NON-MEMBERS: \$60

CHILDREN u12 \$30

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Refugees in from Smyrna Malta 100 years ago.

Baker John Cilia, his wife Kirioki and their  
children Liberata, Marcos, Mary and Francis.

They in Malta on 18 September 1922.

Two years later the family settled in Greece.  
In 1935 they were facing hardship and asked  
for assistance from Malta; the request was  
denied. Photo: The National Archives of Malta.



The National Archives of Malta

The Azzopardi family from Mellieħa, 1919. Francesco and Victoria  
neé Buttigieg and their children Carmela, Michelangelo, Giuseppe,  
Antonio and Annibale.

THE PHOTOS YOU SENT

## **The Cittadini Theatre Group & Maltese Cultural Association of NSW**



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## OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE FESTA 2024

To Grow as a Community in the Likeness of Christ

**Wednesday 25th | Thursday 26th | Friday 27th  
September 2024**  
7.30pm Rosary

**Sunday 29th September 2024**  
Please note: Carpark will be closed after 7am Sunday Mass  
& there will be no Sunday 6pm Mass.

7.00am	Parish Mass
8.30am	Parish Mass
10.30am	Parish Mass
2.00pm	Festa Mass celebrated in English After Mass procession of the Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace
3.30pm	Outside festivities begin
4.30pm	Musical Performance by Maltese Concert Band
6.00pm	Musical Performance by OLQP Primary School Band
6.45pm	Musical Performance by G-Sus
8.30pm	Fireworks Display

**Food Stalls | Amusements | Rides  
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FROM 10AM TILL 3.30PM**

**MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS OF SA**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL  
49 LeHunte Street, KILBURN  
FRIDAY 27 September 2024  
At 1.00 pm**