

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



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AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL BY AND FOR THE MALTESE
LIVING ABROAD

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

CARMEN-filmed in Malta
to be screened at the
Maltese Community
Centre in Parkville
VICTORIA

Friday 6th December
at 7:00pm.
The film is in English



COUNCIL FOR
MALTESE LIVING
ABROAD



JOURNAL FOR
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COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THE HON IAN BORG ADDRESSES THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

"We firmly believe that the strength of Malta's global presence lies in the bonds we maintain with our citizens abroad, which is why the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad is pivotal in its contribution to our country."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to continue strengthening this Council when he was delivering the opening address of its 16th Annual Meeting, which was held on Wednesday and Thursday, at Palazzo Spinola, St Julian's.

The Annual Meeting brought together council members representing Maltese diasporas from different countries, to discuss the future direction of the Council and the global Maltese diaspora. While he commended the contributions of all past and present members of the Council, the Deputy Prime Minister encouraged them to continue working together to support Maltese communities across the world. "Together, we can ensure that the interests of the international Maltese community are well represented, well served, and ever evolving," he said.

Minister Borg noted that in the past year, international challenges such as the climate crisis, geopolitical conflicts and worldwide supply chain disruptions have led to significant shifts in global mobility. Technological advancements and evolving economies are also reshaping movements and interactions across borders.

"These shifts are not just challenges but also opportunities for our diaspora, which continues to integrate and excel in all corners of the globe. The Maltese people have always been known for their resilience, adaptability, and strong sense of identity, and this remains true today. The importance of connectivity, especially in the face of the global challenges the world is facing presently, can never be overstated," the Deputy Prime Minister affirmed.

He praised Malta's active role in international diplomacy, citing its involvement in the United Nations Security Council and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as examples of the country's growing influence. He stressed that the Maltese diaspora plays an essential part in Malta's global presence and future development.

Reflecting on recent initiatives, the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned the success of the Consul-on-the-Move programme, the joint information session between the Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad and Xjenza Malta, aimed at fostering collaboration among Maltese researchers living abroad, as well as the Maltese Citizenship Award initiative, now in its second year. One crucial item discussed in this year's annual meeting is the legislative amendments to the Council for Maltese Living Abroad Act, which are currently in the final reviewing stages. These amendments are aimed at strengthening the representation of Maltese communities living abroad.

The agenda for this year's meeting also included discussions with Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, as well as Xjenza Malta, amongst others. The Council for Maltese Living Abroad has 15 members, including representatives from Australia, the United States, the European Union, Canada, and the United Kingdom.



THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA - COURTESY CALL WITH THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

President of Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono received a courtesy call from the members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established by means of Act XX of 2011 following the Emigration Conventions that were organised in 1969, 2000 and 2010 which conventions recommended the establishment of a Council composed of representatives of Maltese communities and others with the aim of promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad.

Act XX of 2011 was amended by Act XXIV of 2024 which passed into law on the 12th of July 2024, and put into effect amendments necessary to take care of the evolving situation.

The Council is composed of 15 members, and it is chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (ex-officio). Ten of the members are appointed from amongst Maltese nationals who are members of Maltese communities living abroad and they are appointed, for a term of three years, by the Prime Minister.

Another five members who have special knowledge and experience of the needs and interests of Maltese living abroad, are appointed by the Prime Minister for a term of three years, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad convenes once a year in Malta and its members convene in Malta for this annual meeting.

This meeting is characterised by discussions, proposals, recommendations, and decisions which serve as a basis for action by various ministries, department and other entities in order that the aims for which the Council was set up are achieved.

This Council also provides the opportunity to councillors to submit proposals, all throughout the year, present grievances and issues related to the people they represent.

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

We wish the Council for Maltese Living Abroad a successful meeting in Malta and may the Maltese International Community benefit from the discussions and resolutions of the meeting. The Journal for Maltese Living Abroad keeps on work hand in hand with the Council and assists the CMLA in keeping the communities around the world connected. FLS





**MEET & GREET ON SUNDAY
3 NOVEMBER AT 11:30AM
WITH THE NEW CONSUL GENERAL
NEW YORK**

MS. DENISE DEMICOLI

**The Maltese Center would like to invite the Maltese
community for a meet & greet with the
New Consul General in New York**

All are welcome.

Ms Denise Demicoli, Counsellor within the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta, is currently appointed as Consul General for Malta in New York, since 14 October 2024. Ms Demicoli previously served as Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Deputy High Commissioner at the High Commission of Malta to Australia & New Zealand, and for a brief stint as Acting Consul General of Malta in Sydney. She joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 2016 where she worked within the Directorate General for Political Affairs in the lead up to Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Having served as a diplomat and consul in countries with the highest presence of Maltese Living Abroad, Ms Demicoli's professional and personal objective is to assist Maltese and Gozitans with accurate and effective consular assistance, as well as furthering Malta's strategic foreign policy objectives encompassing academic, cultural and trade/commercial promotion. Throughout her career, Ms Demicoli aims to safeguard the interests and well-being of Maltese Living Abroad through dialogue, listening and close collaboration with community groups and members.

Academically, Ms Demicoli has conducted interdisciplinary post-graduate research on contemporary diplomacy and intercultural dialogue through the perspectives of media and communications and critical theory, and in the field of contemporary diplomacy. Through her research and life experience, Ms Demicoli believes in the value of keeping alive histories of Maltese who sought a bright future for themselves and their families in foreign lands while also looking towards the future from where we stand.

During her postings covering consular jurisdictions across Canada, Australia and New Zealand, Ms Demicoli has gathered a considerable experience in consular services and matters. The highlight of this work experience was the contact with Maltese from all walks of life.

As Consul General in New York, Ms Demicoli looks forward to meeting several Maltese and Gozitans from across the United States, particularly from the States of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Consul General Office will be based in the same building as Malta's Permanent Representation for the UN but will form part of the Embassy team in DC. The address will be:

244 East 48th Street New York, N.Y. 10017



Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

High Commission for the Republic of Malta

Visit in Perth, 12-16 October 2024

The High Commissioner of Malta, H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg, visited Perth with other Heads of Missions (HoMs) of the European Union on 12-16 October 2024. The objective of this trip was *to consolidate on the progress of the CRM MOU with Western Australian counterparts in the sectors of Mining & Trade, as well as Investment, Industry, Tourism and Higher Education.*



On **Sunday**, the Visit Programme commenced with a trip to the Croatian Wine Festival at the Nikola Estate Swan Valley where HoMs engaged with the Croatian and European community in WA.

In a separate activity outside of the official programme, the High Commissioner visited the Maltese Association of Western Australia (M.A.W.A.), where he was greeted by newly appointed Honorary Consul of Malta for Western Australia, Mr Charles Sultana, as well as the committee and members of M.A.W.A.

Monday started with a tour of the Rio Tinto facility at the Perth Domestic Airport hosted by Mr. Richard Cohen, Rio Tinto MD Rail, Port and Core. Discussions were around how the EU can be beneficial in such areas as AI and new technology in mining operations. The HoMs also met with Ms. Sinead Kaufman, Chief Executive Minerals of Rio Tinto to provide insight in Rio Tinto strategy, specifically mineral strategy with focus on Europe and the EU-Australia relationship.

The HoMs were later hosted to lunch by the Speaker of Parliament, Michelle Roberts and the President of the Legislative Assembly, Alanna Clohesy.

A tour of the PerthUSAsia Centre at the University of WA hosted by CEO, Professor Gordon Flake followed. It was an opportunity to engage with the UWA on Horizon Europe, Indopacific Security and EU-US-AUS relations, the MOU and the benefits of furthering EU-WA ties.

The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson and Mrs. Darrilyn Dawson hosted a reception for the visiting European Heads of Missions at the Government House in the late afternoon of Monday.

The day concluded with the Heads of Missions attending the European Australian Business Council's (EABC) Industry Dinner where they had the opportunity to engage with Western Australian industry through the EABC.

On **Tuesday** morning, the Heads of Missions were hosted to a breakfast by the Premier of Western Australia, Mr. Roger Cook.

Following was a series of meetings, starting with the Minister for Mines & Petroleum, Ports & Roads, Mr. David Michaels, then a meeting with the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and a one (1) hour briefing on WA Investment & Trade and finally with the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Mr. Reece Whitby, to discuss the CRM MoU and deepening ties between EU & WA and what shape that could take through the avenues of the MoU and the FTA.

The visit in Perth concluded with lunch hosted by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with focus on the WA Space Industry to discuss increasing engagement and opportunities with Australia in the WA technology and space industry and the role the MoU can play in the development of the industry. It was altogether an exhilarating experience worth the distance travelled.

A TRULY GREAT FRIEND OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS



Terry L. Bencini (centre) in a photo with her family.

TERRY L. BENCINI

passed on to Eternal Life at the age of 94 on 26th October 2024.

Terry L. Bencini, the singer, comedienne and actress, retired from the stage in 1993. Terry performed at renowned local theatres, singing alongside Hollywood star Oreste Kirkop. She entertained also the Maltese community in

Australia. Her popularity on Rediffusion sound system and on stage in earlier years, was always welcomed by all her followers.

It is well known that Terry won many singing competitions and awards, including the Best Singer Trophy at the first Malta Song Festival. One of her most loved songs, Madonnina Omm Ġesù, was played on local radio stations. She also performed on RAI radio and TV in the early 1960s. An Italian maestro named Masceroni once told her ‘*You sing with your heart and mind*’. He encouraged her to pursue her career in Italy.. He wanted her to start a TV programme but Terry is said to have declined that offer.

Bencini was also a popular broadcaster and spent 14 years with Radju Muskettieri – a multi-programme comedy radio production for Rediffusion, the scripts of which were written by Charles Clews and which also saw her participation with well-known fellow actors Johnny Catania, Armando Urso and Gemma Portelli. Terry L. Bencini’s family, have fond recollections of their mother on stage.



Terry was, an exceptionally great friend of “The Association of Lyceum Past Students “ Her willingness to assist the ALPS choir soon brought her to join a sizeable number of men and women who after the winding up of the U3E choir, had spontaneously joined the ALPS choir under the direction of Maestro Joseph Fenech. As the years rolled by, Terry and her husband Maurice Lubrano, often joined in the many ALPS -functions. Always at the forefront whenever the

association organised short week-end breaks to commemorate a special occasion like, Valentine’s night, a reunion or a Yuletide get together. It was ever so nice to have Terry Bencini on board on such occasions. Since her retirement from stage, she had more time to accompany her husband Maurice , who was an ambassador, to several countries, including Russia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Terry L. Bencini was called “Mamma, Nanna and Buza, by her children and grandchildren. A devout Catholic, Terry L. Bencini was always setting a good example with her gentle tender words. “*La vita è bella*, .

May our dear departed friend Terry, - REST IN PEACE – Amen.

GEORGE STAGNO NAVARRA - THE ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS ALPS - MALTA



CatholicOutlook

DOWN MEMORY LANE

A PROUD TRADITION OF MALTESE CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA

By Jordan Grantham, 19 December 2017

Jean de Valette, Grand Master of the Order of Malta, gives thanks to God after victory in the Great Siege. Painting: Levee du Siege de Malte, Lariviere (Public Domain)

The Maltese people are proud Catholics, bearing the noble heritage of their island's Catholic history – where St Paul the Apostle was shipwrecked and the Knights of Malta saved Christendom from the entire Ottoman Turkish fleet.

The [Maltese Chaplaincy in the Diocese of Parramatta](#) is led by Fr Noel Bianco MSSP, out of the La Valette Social Centre, Blacktown.

“The Maltese are passionate about the faith because they have been catechised well,” Fr Noel said. “I am very proud of the Maltese Community especially in the Parramatta Diocese. I believe that our community would be one of the oldest ethnic communities,” Fr Noel said.

Maltese began immigrating to Australia in the 1870s with an increase after the Second World War. From 1948 onwards, one fifth of the population of Malta departed for countries like Canada, America, England and a great number came to Australia, particularly Sydney and Melbourne. Almost 100,000 Australians claim Maltese heritage, compared to Malta's population of 450,000. [Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes](#) is traditionally one of the Maltese hotspots in Australia.

“Maltese Catholicism is based on a serious catechesis that had been available for the Maltese faithful on a daily basis for the last 110 years. I refer to the excellent work of the Society of Christian Doctrine founded by St George Preca,” Fr Noel said. “The contribution of this group to Australian Catholicism is enormous, because the Maltese brought this heritage with them. 35% of the catechists that graduated last year for the [CCD programme](#) were Maltese,” he said.

“I find that the prayerfulness of the Maltese is exemplary. They are always early for church. Wherever I go here in Sydney and in Melbourne I find Maltese involved in the parish life and give their contribution to the parish.”

The Chaplaincy is based on at the [La Valette Social Centre](#) at 175 Walters Road, Blacktown. Fr Paul Baron OFM Cap helped found the centre in the 1970s. “He got around him a group of Maltese people in a Committee and started to work with him 50 years ago,” Fr Noel said.

The impressive centre comprises a Chapel, presbytery, meeting rooms, hall and popular restaurant and has even been visited by the [Maltese President](#) in 2016.

The centre features Sunday and Weekday liturgies in Maltese and English.

Two groups meet regularly in the chaplaincy – the Emanuel Charismatic Maltese Prayer Group and the Neo-Catechumenal Way of Blacktown (Maltese Chaplaincy).

Ongoing activities at the La Valette Social Centre include activities for the elderly and the Maltese Australian Youth Group.

The Chaplaincy celebrates important Feast Days in Maltese culture, including:

- Feast of St Paul's arrival in Malta, St. George Preca in May, St. Peter and St Paul, The Assumption
 - Memorial Mass for the Maltese buried at Pinegrove Cemetery on the first Sunday in November
- Pillars of the community include Antoinette Caruana, the President of our La Valette Social Centre and her husband Mark. Frank Zammit is also known for his literary skills.

Mark is “very interested in gathering the personal stories of people, so people can contact him to continue the Maltese oral history,” Fr Noel said.

The La Valette Social Centre helps to preserve the living traditions of Maltese Catholicism and knowledge of their incredible history.

Maltese Catholicism

The confluence of unique historical factors led to the importance of Maltese Catholicism in Australia. During WWII, Malta was the nearest British dominion to Axis Italy and was bombed within hours of Mussolini’s declaration of war on 10 June 1940.

Malta’s membership in the former British Empire led to its heavy bombardment during WWII and the subsequent opportunity of migration to Australia.

Malta’s strategic importance was the reason for being a British Naval base. This strategic importance was a crucial element for the survival of the Christian West during the 1565 Great Siege, when five hundred Knights of Malta and the Maltese held off the entire Ottoman fleet.

The Maltese Catholic community continues its venerable custom of defending and advancing the faith, now in Australia through evangelisation, catechesis and service.

“In any new movement in the church you will find Maltese and they are leaders. Of this I am intensely proud,” Fr Noel said.

MALTESE SURNAMENES

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 BORG | 21 CALLEJA | 41 AZZOPARDI | 61 BONELLO | 81 CILIA | 101 PULLICINO |
| 2 VELLA | 22 PORTELLI | 42 PSAILA | 62 FORMOSA | 82 CURMI | 102 AXISA |
| 3 FARRUGIA | 23 GATT | 43 VASSALLO | 63 CASHA | 83 TEUMA | 103 GAFA |
| 4 CAMILLERI | 24 GRIMA | 44 ZAHRA | 64 CIANTAR | 84 GRISTI | 104 BAJADA |
| 5 ZAMMIT | 25 BUGEJA | 45 SALIBA | 65 ZERAFI | 85 BALZAN | 105 PULIS |
| 6 GRECH | 26 MALLIA | 46 CACHIA | 66 TONNA | 86 AZZOPARDI | 106 ABDILLA |
| 7 GALEA | 27 MIZZI | 47 AZZOPARD | 67 DALLI | 87 DINGLI | 107 GRECH / GREG |
| 8 CARUANA | 28 BUSUTTIL | 48 MAGRO | 68 CHETCUTI | 88 SAYD | 108 FITENI |
| 9 AGIUS | 29 SAMMUT | 49 MANGION | 69 FRENDU | 89 CAMENZULI | 109 GERADA |
| 10 CASSAR | 30 ABELA | 50 BARBARA | 70 DARMANIN | 90 PARNIS | 110 CASSIA |
| 11 ATTARD | 31 GAUCI | 51 MAMO | 71 BONAVIA | 91 CUMBO | 111 RIZZO |
| 12 MICALLEF | 32 FALZON | 52 BARTOLO | 72 TANTI | 92 CREMONA | 112 CORDINA |
| 13 MIFSUD | 33 XERRI | 53 BEZZINA | 73 CALLUS | 93 ABEJER | 113 DELIA |
| 14 SPITERI | 34 XICLUNA | 54 XUEREB | 74 SANT | 94 CATANIA | 114 CIAPPARA |
| 15 PACE | 35 BUTTIGIEG | 55 ZARB | 75 FELICI | 95 CARDONA | 115 COLEIRO |
| 16 MUSCAT | 36 CAUCHI | 56 CUTAJAR | 76 DE BRINCAT | 96 CUSCHIERI | 116 SULTANA |
| 17 BONNICI | 37 AQUILINA | 57 BUHAGIAR | 77 BRIFFA | 97 CINI | 117 BIGENI |
| 18 FENECH | 38 ELLUL | 58 DIMECH | 78 CHIRCOP | 98 GALDES | 118 STIVALA |
| 19 SCHEMBRI | 39 TABONE | 59 MERECIECA | 79 PISANO | 99 SACCO | 119 SOLTANA |
| 20 DEBONO | 40 XIBERRAS | 60 BALDACCHINO | 80 SEICHEL | 100 REFALO | 120 XIRIHA |

Each surname has its own tale, and given that there are about 20,000 of them in Malta there are lots of stories to go about. What is certain is that our surnames are very indicative of our country’s multicultural history.

“There is no surname more Maltese than any other,” said linguist Mario Cassar. “It really jars sometimes that the most racist of people have a surname that would take them back to the roots of the culture they are racist about,” Dr Cassar said.

There are over 29,00 surnames. The top 10 are: Borg, Camilleri, Vella, Farrugia, Zammit, Galea, Micallef, Grech, Attard, Spiteri and Azzopardi. And 25 per cent of the population – 99,516 – own just these 10 surnames. A total of 178,018 people – 44 per cent – have surnames which make it to the top 25 list. But here is the stunning news: 76 per cent of the population – 307,886 people – share the same 100 surnames. “This means that three-quarters of the whole population carry the top 100 surnames, while the remaining 23.98 per cent – 97,076 people – share the remaining 12,210 surnames,” Dr Cassar said.

This, he said, probably shows a degree of inbreeding. “That is why we suffer from a lot of chronic illnesses – such as diabetes.” Gozo – due to its smaller size – gives a clearer picture of this idiosyncrasy. One typical Gozitan surname seems to be Rapa but the surname Xuereb is predominate in Ghajnsielem, Mintoff in Ghasri, Debrincat in Munxar, Grima in San Lawrenz, Sultana in Xagħra and Cini in Żebbuġ. “If you meet a Gozitan with Buttigieg as a surname you can almost be certain that he’d be from Qala,” Dr Cassar said.

There are also some peculiar trends in Malta, such as the strong showings of Abela in Żejtun, Aquilina in Ghargħur, Bugeja in Marsaxlokk, Magro in Qrendi, Dalli in Gudja, and Busuttil in Safi. Other less marked, but equally clear concentrations are manifest in the cases of Carabott in Marsaxlokk, Sacco in Kirkop, Bezzina in Ghargħur, Abdilla in Safi, and Manduca in Mdina. Penza, for example, is an overwhelmingly Luqa surname.

Dr Cassar explained that Maltese surnames may easily be divided into three surname groups: Semitic (Arabic and Hebrew), Romance (mainly Italian, Sicilian, Spanish and French), and English (as well as Scottish, Irish and Welsh). Today one also has to factor in other European and international family names which accumulated through recent ethnic intermarriages.

The number of Semitic surnames is only around 50, but despite this low number, most of us have an Arabic surname. “Each one of these Semitic surnames is borne by a significant aggregate of families, whereas many of the more modern Romance and European surnames are less numerous,” he said. Surnames have reached the island over many centuries in complicated historical and linguistic conditions, and because Malta has always been a place for coexistence of various ethnic groups. And they always developed in parallel with the language.

After the Norman invasion, the indigenous Muslim population, although subjected to Christian rule, still kept its cultural and linguistic heritage.

The expulsion of the Muslims in the 13th century, and that of the Jews in the 15th century, however, brought about the final rupture of the powerful cultural ties which had bound Malta to the North African Arabo-Berber world.

“Since then, barring latter-day English influence, the dominant cultural driving force in Malta has come from Sicily, Italy and other European, mainly Mediterranean, countries,” Dr Cassar said.

By the late middle ages, the majority of typical Maltese surnames were already well established – not only such obviously Semitic ones such as Abdilla, Agius, Asciak, Bajada, Bugeja, Buhagiar, Borg, Busuttil, Buttigieg, Caruana, Cassar, Chetcuti, Ebejer, Farrugia, Fenech, Micallef, Mifsud, Saliba, Zerafa and Zammit, but many others which are clearly of European extraction (mainly Sicilian, Italian, Spanish, and Greek) like Azzopardi, Baldacchino, Portelli, Brincat, Bonnici, Cachia, Cardona, Cilia, Dalli, Darmanin, Debono, Formosa, Gatt, Galea, Grima, Aquilina, Mallia, Pace, Falzon and Vella. Probably, the oldest documented surnames in Malta are Grech, Calleja, Falzon, Attard, and Lentini. Grech and Calleja go back to the 13th century Angevin times.

Internationally-renowned tenor Joseph Calleja probably got his surname from a Greek derivation and not from Spain – as is most commonly believed.

“The names Martinus and Leo Calleya appear locally in 1277, before the Spanish ruled Malta, so that is why it is more plausible for Calleja to have originated in Greece,” Dr Cassar said.

Surnames are conventionally divided into four broad categories according to their original source: those derived from personal names, those from place names, those from occupational names, and those from nicknames. Behind each one there is particular significance.

The Prime Minister's surname – Muscat – is Italian or French and dates back to the late Middle Ages. Its origin may refer to a grower of muscat grapes, or a producer or merchant of muscatel, a strong sweet wine made from the muscat grape grown in the Loire Valley. But it can also mean 'fly' from the Italian mosca or the Jewish 'nutmeg'.

Busuttil is probably a derivative of the medieval Maltese surname Busittin – meaning master of 60 men. "He could have been the leader of 60 militiamen assigned to guard the local coasts against piratical attacks," said Dr Cassar. The custom of surname-giving, even in Malta, was mainly motivated by the emergence of new administrative practices inherent in the medieval feudal system. As societies became more complex, and taxes started being collected, a more refined system of names developed to distinguish one individual from another reliably and unambiguously.

But if you have a coat of arms, beware: it does not necessarily depict the true meaning of the surname. "There is no strong heraldic tradition in Malta. It was fashionable in the 19th century to commission someone to make you one – most of them were devised in an arbitrary fashion," Dr Cassa warned.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION 150TH ANNIVERSARY – MALTAPOST STAMP ISSUE by [Gozo News](#)



The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is marking its 150th anniversary. This is an agency of the United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations and facilitates a uniform worldwide postal system.

It comprises 192 member states, including Malta and is headquartered in Switzerland.

The UPU's theme for its 150th year of operation – 150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations – recognises its past accomplishments and reinforces its commitment to serve all peoples for the decades to come.

MaltaPost said that it is commemorating the UPU 150th anniversary by issuing a special stamp, carrying a denomination of €1.91, in celebration of the organisation's rich past and promising future.

This special stamp will be issued in a sheet of 10, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

The sheets measure 115mm x 182mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process.

The issue consists of 100,000 stamps of €1.91 each.

The new stamp will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo from Thursday, the 31st of October.



CHEV. JOE BAJADA JIRBAH IL-PREMJU GHALL-ANZJANITÀ SPORTIVA 2024

Chev. Joe Bajada, is-Segretarju Ġenerali Għawdxi tal-Federazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċiklizmu kien rebaħ il-Ġimgħa li għadda l-Premju għall-Anzjanità Sportiva 2024

(Premju Anzjanità Sportiva '24) organizzat mill-Ministeru għas-Saħħa u Anzjanità Attiva.

Matul din is-sena Joseph Bajada baqa' joffri s-servizzi tiegħu b'mod volontarju biex jippromwovi jorganizza l-isport tač-ċiklizmu f'Malta u Għawdex. Sa mill-2016 huwa jokkupa l-kariga ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Federazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċiklizmu. Matul kull sena ikunu organizzati diversi Kampjonati u Kompetizzjoniet oħra f'dan l-isport fosthom Kategoriji għal Masters (60+). Bil-hegħga tiegħu twaqqfu wkoll f'dawn l-aħħar snin 3 klubbs tač-ċiklizmu f'Għawdex. Din il-ħidma lokali ta' Bajada kienet rikonoxxuta wkoll internazzjonalment fejn ilu għal xi snin jokkupa karigi internazzjonali u dan meta fl-2017 kien elett bħala UCI Voting Delegate (wieħed minn 45 mid-dinja kollha), kariga għal 4 snin fejn imbagħad reġa kien gie elett fl-istess pożizzjoni fl-2021. Ukoll fl-2021 hu kien innominat bħala Membru fil-Kummissjoni ta' Solidarjeta' għal Pajjiži ż-Żgħar u daww Emarginati tal-UCI.

Bajada reġa kien ikkonfermat f'din l-istess Kummissjoni fl-2021. Fl-istess sena, huwa kien maħtur President ta' Kummissjoni ġdida, dik ta' Solidarjeta' għal Pajjiži ż-Żgħar Ewropej fi hdan il-UEC. Dan kollu wassal biex diversi korsijiet marbuta ma mač-ċiklizmu setgħu jsiru f'pajjiżna għall-ewwel darba bil-partecipazzjoni anke ta' anzjani.

Wieħed irid jikkonsidra wkoll li biex Bajada jwettaq din il-ħidma kollha tiegħu jehtieg li jwettaq sagrificcji personali peress li joqgħod Għawdex u għal daqstant dejjem jkollu jaqsam lejn Malta anke fis-siġhat bikrin ta' filgħodu biex ikunu jistgħu jsiru t-tigrijiet li dejjem jinżammu għal habta tas-7.30am biex tkun evitata l-kongestjoni tat-traffiku fit-toroq tagħna.

B'karriera sportiva ta' iktar minn 50 sena fejn Bajada ta s-servizzi tiegħu bħala Referee tal-football, Match Inspector, Direttur ta' Tournaments Internazzjonali, Amministratur, Membru f'diversi Bordijiet Sportivi u anke Kummissarju Elettorali tal-MFA. Għadu jipprattika l-karriera ta' ġurnalista sportiv fejn ippublika diversi kotba dwar il-Football Għawdxi, l-Istorja ta' diversi klubbs Għawdxin, kif ukoll Annwali tal-Għaqda Kittieba Sport.

Chev. Bajada rringrazzja lill-familja kollha tiegħu għall-appoġġ kontinwu tagħhom u lil Mary Rose Saliba għan-nomina. Qal li l-akbar ħajr imur lill-Mulej Ġesù li għoġbu billi jagħtih is-saħħa kollha biex ikompli bil-ħidma sportiva volontarja tiegħi kollha, kemm lokalment kif ukoll internazzjonali. Fl-aħħar nett jifraħ lill-Ministeru għas-Saħħa u Anzjanità Attiva għas-serata sabiħa u lir-rebbieħa u n-nominati l-oħra kollha.

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

The Annunciation

The Itinerary of Hope through Iconography



Coordinator: Valerio Ballotta, GBK Malta

15 November 2024 - 12 January 2025

IL-ĦAĠAR | HEART OF GOZO MUSEUM

St George's Square, Victoria, Gozo, Malta | Monday to Sunday, 09:00 to 17:00

The Annunciation: The Itinerary of Hope through Iconography

Il-Mużew Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo fil-belt Victoria, Għawdex, ser jiftaħ il-bibien tiegħu għall-wirja temporanja ġdida ta' importanza kbira għall-gżejjer Maltin bl-isem *The Annunciation: The Itinerary of Hope through Iconography*. Valerio Ballotta, il-fundatur ta' GKB (Malta) Ltd, ser ikun jikkoordina din il-wirja li tinkludi numru ta' xogħolijiet artističi dwar il-miraklu u l-misteru tal-Lunzjata. Din il-wirja ser tiġbor flimkien artisti Ewropej magħrufin bejn il-perjodu Gotiku tard u l-epoka Barokka.

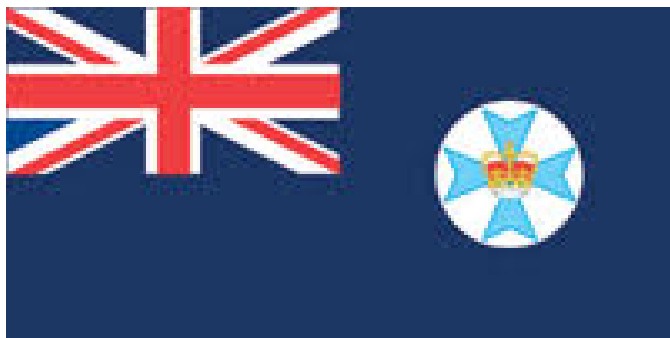
Fost dawn l-artisti nsibu lil Albrecht Dürer, Michael Wolgemut, Lucas Cranach, Crispin van de Broeke, Maarten van Heemskerck, Nicolas Beatrixet, Federico Barocci, Cornelis Cort, Adrian Collaert, Jacques Callot, Sebastien Bordon, Alessandro Mochetti, Pietro Liberi, Giuseppe Bossi, u Maestro Del

Dado. Ħafna minn dawn ix-xogħolijiet ser jġu esebiti għall-ewwel darba fil-gżejjer tagħna.

Din il-wirja ser tiġi inawgurata nhar il-Ġimgha 15 ta' Novembru 2024, fis-7:30pm u tibqa' miftuħa sat-12 ta' Jannar 2025. Il-ħinijiet ta' ftuħ tal-Mużew huma bejn id-9:00am u l-5:00pm, mit-Tnejn sal Ħadd (inklużi festi pubbliċi). Il-Mużew ikun magħluq fil-ġurnata tal-Milied u tal-Ewwel tas-Sena. Dħul huwa b'xejn.

NAZZARENE ZERAFI FROM BRISBANE - QUEENSLAND

Għażiż Frank, Bhas-soltu, qrajt b'interess kbir l-aħhar ħarġa ta' The Maltese E-Newsletter t'Ottubru u laqatni ħafna l-artiklu dwar is-'Salib ta' Malta' f'paġna 14/15.



Ta' min ifakkar ukoll li is-'Salib ta' Malta' jidher ukoll bi prominenza fuq il-bandiera ta' l-istat ta' Queensland li qed nibgħatlek deskrizzjoni qasira dwarha hawn taħt.

Queensland - The badge was selected by Governor William Cairns and was officially adopted on 29 November 1876. It consists of a

blue Maltese Cross bearing a Crown in the centre. The drawing of the badge has changed over time - new crowns in 1901 and 1953, the size and shape of the cross enlarged and the shade of blue changed from the original dark blue. There is no contemporary explanation of the design but it is evident from the other designs considered that the badge was intended to represent the vice-regal authority of the Governor or to represent Queen Victoria for whom the colony had been named.



PRESENTING KARTOLINI MILL-KANADA

a new collaboration which will be taking Magna Żmien to Toronto

Over the past few years, Magna Żmien’s Team has been meeting up with members of the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto to discuss ways to preserve the narratives of the Maltese-Canadian Community. This project, which will have its first site visit this November, will include training sessions on digitisation with the museum’s cohort of volunteers, site visits with stakeholders, as well as a public programme which will invite members of the Maltese-Canadian Community to participate in talks and workshops. Full Programme Out Soon This project is done in collaboration with the [Maltese-Canadian Museum](#) in Toronto. This project is supported by the Maltese High Commission in Ottawa and the [Arts Council Malta](#) International Exchanges Fund.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

We welcome the last of the Executive Member - the youngest Executive on the MCCV - Jessica Galea

Jessica is a first-generation Australian-Maltese, both her sides of the family originating from the east of Malta (Zabar) and calling Australia home in the 1970s.

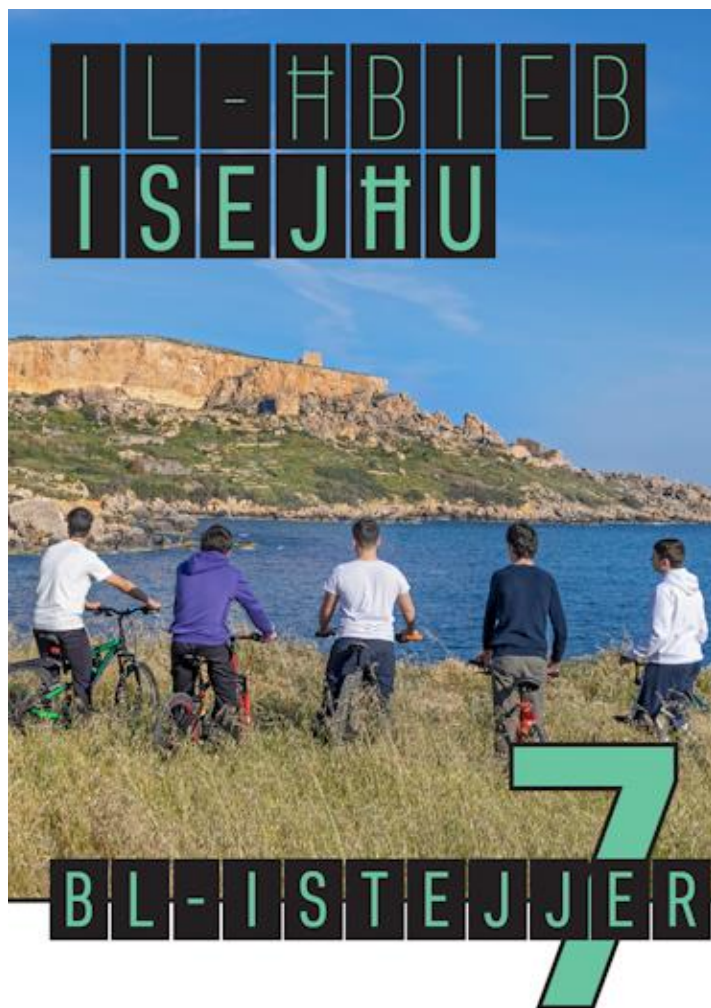
Being a new member to the MCCV and the youngest, Jessica brings more than a decade worth of experience working across Australia and the US in the creative and commercial film industry as a Creative Producer and Director.

She also teaches yoga in her off-time and is studying to be a Shadow Work Facilitator and Psychotherapist. She is interested in everything creative and psychological; art and design, event organising, community connection, and body/mind somatic and therapeutic work.



MALTESE AND VIETNAMESE – JOINT VENTURE IN MELBOURNE

The Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Dr. Gioconda Schembri in conjunction with the executive and volunteers of the Maltese Community Council hosted a multicultural event uniting the two communities Maltese and Vietnamese. The celebration encompassed our collective past, cultural practices, language, cuisine, crafts, and musical talents, courtesy of the MMG Junior Concert Band of Victoria. Sincere appreciation goes to Mary Noonan, Rita Attard, President Antonia Camilleri, Evelyn and Sarah Ellis, Joseph Matina, and Consul General Gioconda Schembri.



IL-ĦBIEB ISEJĦU BL-ISTEJJER – IS-SEBA KTIEB

Kav Joe M Attard Rabat - Ghawdex

Mill-Qasam tas-Subien (Museum) tan-Nadur għadu kemm ġie ppubblikat is-Seba' ktieb 'Il-Ħbieb IsejĦu bl-Istejjer' iddedikat lil tliet benefatturi tal-Museum Salvu Buttigieg li serva bħala Superjur tal-Ewwel Qasam, Manwel Sultana li kien il-Promotur ewlieni fil-kisba tal-art li fuqha nbena l-Qasam il-ġdid, u l-Arċipriet Mons Mikel Portelli li għadda lis-soċji u l-membri din l-art imsemmija. Ħajr lis-Sur Carmel Cachia ex għalliem tal-Malti li ħa ħsieb il-qari tal-provi u lill-fotografu Martin Attard għar-ritratt tal-qoxra.

Il-fuljett 'Il-Ħbieb IsejĦu' li minnu issa għandna seba' volumi f'idejna, kien twieled fil-Museum tan-Nadur f'Ottubru tal-1966 bil-għan li jwassal kull xahar messagġ reliġjuż mhux biss liż-żgħażaġh fir-raħal ta' San Pietru Pawl, iżda wkoll lil dawk li ħallew xtutna u qed jaħdmu fl-Istati Uniti,

l-Awstralja, il-Kanada u pajjiżi oħra. Jintbagħat ukoll lil dawk il-ħbieb, bħali, li minkejja mgħadhomx żgħażaġh, xorta jixtiequ jzommu rabta mal-fuljett li jfakkarhom f'żgħhożithom. Il-fuljett jista' jinqara wkoll minn fuq l-internet fuq issuu.com.

Id-Direzzjoni tal-fuljett minn dejjem fehmet li l-paġni tal-fuljett mensili tagħha 'Il-Ħbieb IsejĦu' jkollu appell ikbar jekk fihom jitfgħu stejjer u grajjiet meħuda minn sorsi differenti. Għalhekk jagħmlu ħilithom biex kull xahar ikollhom numru ta' stejjer fuq kull sugġett. Stejjer veri u legġendi. Stejjer reliġjużi jew storiċi. Ħrejref jew parabboli. U minnhom il-qarrej jista' jikseb tagħlima jew talinqas tbissima. U dan huwa kollu minnu għax kif nirċievi l-fuljett ta' kull xahar ma nitilqux minn idejja qabel naqrah kollu. Grazzi lil dawn il-ħbieb li jitfgħu tant enerġija f'din il-pubblikazzjoni li ta' kull tant tingabar fi ktieb bħal fil-kas tagħna issa – is-Seba' Volum, grazzi wkoll għal-Librerija Preca. Il-għaliex kif ikollhom f'idejhom mal-500 storja, idommuhom fi ktieb. Ninsab ċert li din id-darba wkoll ħafna se jkunu dawk li jiksbu din il-kopja u b'hekk fuq l-ixkafef tagħhom tal-librerija se jkollhom din il-ġabra kollha – seba' volumi, kif għandi jien!

Grazzi u Prosit lill-Qasam tas-Subien fin-Nadur li għal darba oħra qed iżomm mal-qarrejja dan l-appuntament ta' darba kultant li jkun mistenni ferm għax jipprovdi qari tajjeb u varjat lil nes ta' kull eta bil-mod kif inhu pprezentat u b'varjeta kbira ta' sugġetti li jolqtu l-gosti ta' kulhadd

Dan il-ktieb li jista' jkun ta' għajjnuna kbira lill-katekisti u għalliema u lil dawk kollha li jkollhom kuntatt mal-istudenti jista' jinkiseba mil-Librerija Preca jew mill-Qasam tas-Subien tal-Museum Nadur u jiswa biss 10 ewro. Ħu ħsieb li ma tmurx tfittxu u ma ssibux.



The first committee



Roger Borg

First President



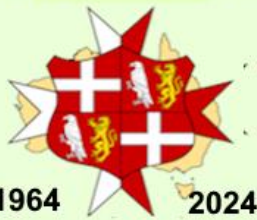
Father Paul Baron

La Valette Social Centre

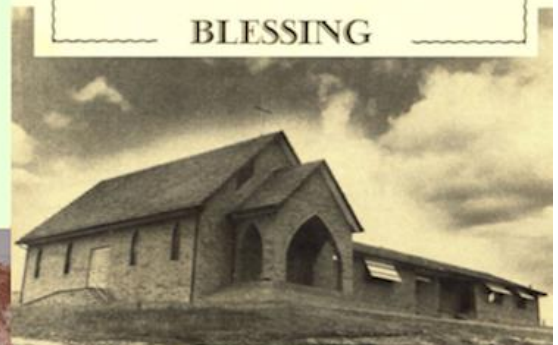
OFFICIAL OPENING
AND
BLESSING



60th ANNIVERSARY



1964 2024



“La Valette Social Centre”

Lot 10A Walters Road, Blacktown. N.S.W.

Sunday, 26th November, 1978

LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE BLACKTOWN NSW AUSTRALIA

Established in 1964 and located in the heart of Blacktown City, La Valette Social Centre is one of the longest standing organisations in the Maltese community in Australia.

As a poker machine-free club, La Valette has a strong commitment to community. We pride ourselves on providing social, cultural, recreational and welfare support to the Maltese and wider communities across Sydney.

The club is run by a volunteer committee that's elected annually by its members. So we encourage you to come be a part of it. Bring your family and friends, enjoy some good food and a drink and get involved in what's happening.



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
THE EDITOR, STAFF, CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS
WISH THE LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE OF BLACKTOWN
A MEMORABLE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT
AND MANY OTHER SUCCESSES IN FUTURE

Żebbuġ's 18th-century Villa Buleben to open to the public for the first time

Mayor hopes palazzo is purchased by the state, garden opened to the public



Chapel and exterior of the villa. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

Villa Buleben, one of Żebbuġ's most storied landmarks, will welcome the public for the first time this weekend.

Known locally as Tal-Baruni, the 18th-century palazzo has long been shrouded in mystery. Its grand gardens, intricate irrigation systems, and chapel have been hidden behind closed doors for centuries.

Inside the Villa Photo: Perry Estate Agents Malta

The palazzo and its grounds will be open on October 26 and 27 (Saturday and Sunday) from 9am to 5pm. Entry is free. The Żebbuġ local council organised the opening in collaboration with the property's owner Neville Agius.

Żebbuġ mayor Steve Zammit Lupi told *Times of Malta* the open day would hopefully persuade the state to purchase it. "This is a property with significant historical and cultural value not only to the local community but also nationally and should be enjoyed by the people."

He wishes to see the villa's gardens permanently opened to the public, similar to San Anton Gardens in Attard and Romeo Romano Gardens in Santa Venera, with the palazzo serving as a cultural hub.

Theatre in the property. Photo: Perry Estate Agents Malta

The palazzo - once the residence of Baron Gaetano Azzopardi, who served in the Order of St John's infirmary - retained many of its original features, including a private theatre on the ground floor. Despite its age, the building has been well-preserved, with much of its architectural charm intact.

A Grade 2 listing protects the palazzo. However, the property also features the Chapel of Our Lady of Forsaken Souls, which enjoys the highest level of protection - Grade 1. A Planning Authority [application](#) to convert the palazzo into a 32-room boutique hotel is currently pending.

The local council objected to the application.

Zammit Lupi emphasised the deep-rooted connection between the community and the villa despite many having never stepped foot in it.

"The palace is engrained in our (Żebbuġ residents) collective memory. There is a lot of nostalgia surrounding it, and we are proud of it," he added.

With guided tours sold out, walk-ins are encouraged, and visitors are advised to arrive on foot as parking space near the property is limited.

**OUR JOURNAL IS FREE, NON-POLITICAL,
BILINGUAL AND INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION
BY AND FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD. WE
APPRECIATE AND ACCEPT MATERIAL SENT TO
US FROM ALL ORGANISATIONS OR
INDIVIDUAL.
WE RESPECT AND LOVE EVERYONE**

**WE ACHIEVE
MORE WHEN
AND
IF WE WORK
TOGETHER**





HINDUS IN MALTA CELEBRATE KRISHNA'S BIRTH

The Hindu community in Malta celebrated Krishna Janmashtami, the annual festival that marks the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu.

While Janmashtami festival was celebrated on 26 August around the world, the Hindu Association of Malta gathered at the Orpheum Theatre in Gżira on 1 September. Over 500 devotees attended the event which involved, cultural programmes and

religious performances. The President of Hindu Association of Malta, Subhas Roy and the committee successfully organized the celebration which was attended by second secretary High Commission of India to Malta Sanjeev Goel and former Msida Local Council, Margaret Baldacchino Cefai. Devotees originating from Malta, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and many other countries joyfully participated in the event. Many members of the Indian diaspora presented beautiful cultural performances, including short plays, songs and dances. At the end, as is the tradition in Hinduism, all the devotees were served free Prashad and dinner.

Who is Krishna?

In certain Hindu texts, such as the Gita Govinda, Krishna has been identified as supreme God and the source of all avatars. The meaning of the Sanskrit word Janmashtami can be understood by splitting it into the two words, "Janma" and "Ashtami." The word "Janma" means birth and the word "Ashtami" means eight; thus, Krishna Janmashtami is the celebration of Krishna's birth on the eighth day of the dark fortnight (Krishna Paksha) in the month of Shravana (August–September).

CONSTANTLY I RECEIVE EMIALS FROM MALTESE ELDERLY WHO FIND COMFORT AND CONNECTIVITY WHEN READING THIS JOURNAL IN THE HOMES OR AGED CARE FACILITIES. IT EASIES THEIR LONILINESS AND BRING BACK HAPPY MEMORIES.



BONNIE & THE BOYZ! BAND

'60s-90s Classic Hits from Past to Present'
soft rock & more...

THE CUMBY

(Glanville, South Australia)

FRI 22 NOV 2024 - FREE ENTRY

7.30pm - 10.30pm

with

BONNIE LEE GALEA - voice * MICHAEL RIGBY

- guitar & bv's * QUINTON DUNNE - bass & bv's STEVE TODD - drums & percussion

Facebook Event Link:- <https://www.facebook.com/share/JGAYZZD6WrwCY5G1/>



TRAGEDY AT HONDOQ IR-RUMMIEN

76 years ago, on Saturday 30 October 30, 1948, a luzzu carrying 25 passengers and 2 crew members capsized in a storm near Hondoq ir-Rummien in Gozo



TALK BY VICTOR VELLA

ON THE OCCASION OF LA VALETTE 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Ladies and gentlemen. it must have been something in the air or could be a gentle or an ill wind to stir the waters whether in the Mediterranean or in the Pacific. 1964 yes ...it was a very good year. Malta achieved its independence and that's why we are all here to celebrate the birth of La Valette Social and Religious Centre. was born. in 1964

No there were in fact no physical foundations. There were only human foundations a group of 12 to people headed by a young friar who started something and it is still standing to-day after all these years. It started under the grand long title of Maltese Community: Western Suburbs of Sydney to-day after all these years you may reduce it and modernise it to MCWS. The name as we shall see later did change : the mission or purpose hasn't . It was and still is to look after the Maltese migrants mainly new arrivals living in the area. The verb....to look after has a plethora...ie. a few meanings: Most probably deep down and in the spiritual mind and heart of Fr. Paul Baron, the spiritual purpose was first and foremost. But with that came the spread to the social side of life.

Life for the migrant then was far different from the one which welcomes him or her now in many ways. The migrant had to fend for himself: There was The Good neighbour organisation which welcomed the newcomers but was mostly centred on the English speakers. The migrant was left to fend for himself or even more so for herself as the husband was out in the market garden or the factory and the wife was left at home on her own minding the children. The only contact with the Australian community was if one attended a church service, Even the clubs were out of reach as they strictly adhered then to their name: RSL /Returned Services League. It was these situations and conditions which Fr. Baron and a number of other Priests of other nationalities come face to face, and in many cases instigated associations like the one we are celebrating its birth to-day.

Money is always a problem . However from the small profits of excursions to the Snowy Mountains and occasional groups to Malta....the whole project starting to grow and take root. This together with the members generosity and courage ...the sponsors...and trustees resulted in the acquisition of 5 acres on Kildare Road Blacktown and the disused chicken farm gave the M Com Western Sub sorry the MCWS a solid foundation. And the weather board house became the hub of activity and offered an abode for Fr. Paul. It was in 1969 that a few months after our arrival in Australia I moved from Toongabbie with my family to take up house in Blacktown and during one wintry afternoon there was a sharp knock on the door and my one year old eager to have visitors rushed to the door to find as she shouted: there is a strange man at the door...It was Fr Paul who I do not know how discovered I was living there ...and that I started my own involvement with the Maltese com. and started my Aus/ Maltese 12 years stint as its secretary. I felt at home at my first meeting of the committee... which consisted of fathers and sons, and nephews with half the committee usual absent, a lot of vices I'd better explained vice. I used vice in the sense that we had . everywhere... a vice for the president and a vice secretary and a vice treasurer and in some cases a vice to the vice ... and as you can imagine passing of resolutions was a problem as in many cases after a long debate,,, one of us would be happy to discover that there is /was no quorum. So the next meeting we had to rescind the passed resolution and submit another one only to discover... and the same pattern follows.....Honestly there were some members of the committee I have never met or seen at a meeting..... or perhaps I've seen him or them in a photo taking part in an Anzac Day March brandishing the Maltese flag. They were the pains and adjustment of pioneers. In the meantime new and younger faces started to appear on the committee . Just to mention one here present mark Caruana and Carmen Bajjada who

under the baton of Joseph Sammut managed to bring in important changes. Changes such as the changing the name from to La Valette Religious and Social club and more important the reduction and streamlining of the members of the committee. It was more a family group rather than a formal committee. There was a certain clear purpose and activities started to happen..activities such as BBQ on the grounds of our club which were well attended. The highlights were the annual Debutantes Ball very ably prepared and directed by ..Vicki Vella and the Annual Maltese National Ball commemorating the Great Siege of Malta. Having Mayors or members of parliament ...just to mention the Minister John Aquilina Bishop Clency as special visitors. All helped to put the Maltese community on the Australian Map.

We came from little Malta but we had grand plans. The plans had to be put aside to the relief of half the committee as we could see that the plans looked great on paper but full of doubts in practice... re money and the feasibility of running an ethnic institution of that size. However, the grand plans came to much use as they played a major part in presenting our case in the court process which followed. Thanks to the courage of the long-serving President Joe Sammut who unfortunately there is no monument or even a room dedicated to him and the support of the members of the committee we decided to fight the resumption in court. We prepared the case under the direction of Barrister Wilcox and won the case mainly on the fact that we had the plans and were on the verge to proceed with the building of the Club. What is the most ground breaking aspect of all this was that a small committee of a migrant community had the courage to challenge a government ordinance and to win the case. But the whole process was still beset by many doubts. I don't think we had enough money to pay even the Barrister if we happen to lose the case. Perhaps we as Maltese were still imbued with the courage and fortitude of W.w.2 and the Great siege of M. As Maltese we still believed in prayer and fasting: we surely believed in our rights and in our courage to proceed. As we did.

With the result came elation all round. Yes there was the money the first solid amount which the La Valette Committee felt jingling in their coffers. There was the added benefit of the official and legal recognition of a committee of a migrant community by the government of NSW.

Yes we had the money but no roof over our head. I can still see Fr. Paul and Joe Sammut and I trudging up this hill where we now stand or sit and feel the mud under our feet as we .trudged round the farm having a look at this site all covered with a thriving crop of potatoes. .I was sorry.....The deal was done , plans for a chapel and presbytery were quickly prepared and the building started and was completed by one of the committee members ..Michael Camilleri ... whom you will see in the next session

The ownership and the building of the chapel and presbytery were the second major hurdle of la Valette Social and religious centre. so we did manage to have a roof over our heads. From that point the activities increased , activities such as the Christmas Midnight mass which an Australian/or an imported Maltese donkey fitted well in the celebration. Over the years other activities followed such as the establishment of a choir under the baton of Victor Florida.... as well as the establishment of a Ladies Auxiliary Committee under the presidency of Mary Cauchi They became so strong that we managed to organise the catering of various activities such as the National annual ball held every year in September. We still lacked a hall or a decent meeting place. The chapel served the religious purpose. However we needed something more social and as we as Maltese believe in the policy of pari passu... we planned and built a club house with a hall to follow during the presidency of Gejtu Pace. Both were used for various activities social and religious. Through various governments grants we were able to cater for the Maltese community at large with talks and discussions and information mornings at the centre which were well attended.

In the meantime the annual general meetings became more formal and well attended ; there came a change of management especially after the resignation of the the long lasting President, Joe Sammut. I have to say that what we as a community have achieved during these 60 years was the fruit of the courage and the initiative of of these two leaders :Joe Sammut and Fr. Paul Baron. The two were dedicated leaders who from nothing and not much support they managed to appeal to the Maltese community to face the future with courage and with a lot of foresight and dedication to the community. The smaller and the younger committee helped as in the meantime younger faces such as Mark Caruana and Carmen

Bajjada mixed well with Thomas Galea , and the Builder Mike Camilleri and ...who overall made a great team who offered their selfless contribution and work and money to build what you see to-day. I was amazed at the way the weekly meetings developed into fruitful discussions with such beneficial results. After Joe Sammut came Antoinette Caruana and Gejtu Pace who continued in the physical growth and the number of members which brings us to the present incumbent Geof.

The history of La Valette as the life of a person has its ups and downs... However from a fragile beginning 60 years ago I feel the community in general had its pronounced highlights which I have mentioned. It will be amiss of me if on this occasion I will not emphasise the presentation of the very successful concert at the Opera House of NSW on the occasion of the anniversary of the official opening of the migration from Malta to Australia hosted and featuring one of the most successful Maltese stand up and radio Comedians Johnnie Catania from Canada and Charlie .Clews and featuring OL Queen of Peace Band and a number of Maltese singers . It was a successful venture initiated and carried out by the then President who added another asset to the acquisition of the land we are ow standing on. Yes it was a huge success...so much so that one of our political supporters Alan Cadman mentioned and praised the whole venture during a meeting of our Federal Parliament. Our pioneers had and still has a beneficial impact on the lives of Maltese migrants settling in Australia. We remember them with love and gratitude and with a lot of hope for the future. You may have heard the saying: you can take the migrant out of Malta but you can't take Malta out of the Maltese migrant. Thank You

INNU LA VALETTE

MUZIKA - JOE APAP KITBA - VICTOR VELLA U JOE APAP

ILLUM HU JUM SABIEH
NICCELEBRAW MAL-LA VALETTE
NGHAQDU FLIMKIEN F'DAN IL-FESTIN
KEMM MALTIN U KEMM GHAWDXIN

MIBNI FUQ IS-SWAR
U GHAMEL HWEJJEG KBAR
GHADDA MIN-NIRIEN
U HADEM BLA WAQFIEN

***B'LA VALETTE AHNA KBURIN
GHALINA JIKBER DAL-KAZIN
DEJJEM MEXA B'GHAQAL KBIR
U IKBAR GHAD ISIR*

GEWWA BLACKTOWN IC-CENTRU TAGHNA
TWIELED U KIBER TUL IS-SNIN
KULL MA MMORRU NIKBRU DEJJEM
MINN KULHADD ZGUR MAGHRUFIN

NURU B'QALBNA LIL LA VALETTE
L'AHNA KBURIN B'DAN IL-KAZIN
DAWK LI GEW MINN DIK L-ART HELWA
JEW FL-AWSTRALJA MWIELDIN.



Premjazzjoni Annwali tal-Federazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċikliżmu

by Joe Bajada

Il-Federazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċikliżmu organizzat il-Premjazzjoni Annwali tagħha fejn kienu ppremjati ċ-ċiklisti kollha li kisbu xi suċċess matul dan l-istaġun li għadu kif intemm fid-diversi kategoriji.

Kienu ppremjati ukoll it-Team Greens r-rebbieħa tal-Elite Aggregate Cup u tal-Overall Aggregate Cup. Il-prezentazzjonijiet saru mill-uffiċċjali għolja tal-istess Federazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċikliżmu, John Zammit u Daniel Borg Olivier, president u teżorier rispettivament, kif ukoll mill-Hon David Agius, Kelliemi għal-iSport minn naha tal-oppożizzjoni, kif ukoll mill-ex-president tal-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċikliżmu, Josie Lanfranco. Din is-serata kienet ipprezentata mis-segretarju ġenerali tal-Federazzjoni, Joe Bajada. Il-qofol tas-serata kienet il-prezentazzjoni lil Josie Lanfranco bħala l-ewwel persunaġġ li ddaħħal fil-Hall of Fame tal-istess Federazzjoni.

Saru diskorsi tal-okkażjoni mill-president John Zammit fejn qal kif minkejja d-diffikultajiet biex jinħarġu l-permessi relatati biex nagħmlu t-tigrijiet tagħna, rnextielna nagħmlu s-sitt tigrijiet marbuta mal-kampjonati tagħna u apparti s-success ta' uħud, l-iktar sodisfazzjon kien li ħadd ma wegġa. Huwa qal ukoll li qed nagħtu dan is-servizz biex naraw kif iċ-ċikliżmu jkompli jikber fil-livelli kollha tiegħu u dan għandu jkun is-sodisfazzjon tagħna. Għaldaqstant huwa qal prosi lil kulħadd tal-hidma tagħhom. Huwa žied jgħid li jrid jifraħ lil ħabrieġi Joe Bajada, s-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Federazzjoni li riċentament rebaħ il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Anzjanita' Sportiva 2024 organizzata mill-Ministeru għas-Saħħa u Anzjanità Attiva. Huwa qal li din is-serata hija waħda speċjali għax għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja, l-Federazzjoni ser iddaħħal l-ewwel persunaġġ fil-Hall of Fame tagħha u dan mhu ħadd għajr l-ewwel president tal-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tač-Ċikliżmu li illum jgħodd 90 sena. Zammit qal huwa tgħallem ħafna mis-Sur Lanfranco. Huwa temm id-diskors tiegħu billi rringrazzja lil klubbs u l-uffiċċjali kollha tal-koperazzjoni tagħhom matul l-istaġun kemm fit-tigrijiet tal-Federazzjoni kif ukoll waqt it-Tour ta' Malta.

Fil-messaġġ tiegħu Josie Lanfranco semma li għalih din kienet sorpriża kbira għax wara dawn is-snin kollu fil-qasam tač-ċikliżmu fejn dejjem għamel dan għall-imħabba li għandu għall-isport. Huwa filwaqt li appella lil kulħadd biex ma jaqtgħux qalbhom u jkomplu bit-taħriġ tagħhom ħalli jkomplu jgħollu l-livell u b'hekk jiggarrantixxu l-futur tač-ċikliżmu f'pajjiżna, qal ukoll li kien għadu jsuq ir-rota sa meta kellu 85 sena pero kellu jieqaf kontra qalbu minħabba li ken ser jittajjar minn karozza u ddeċieda li jieqaf biex ma jinkwetax lil familja tiegħu. Finalment huwa awgura bosta suċċessi lil kulħadd.

L-aħħar diskors sar mic-champion Nazzjonali Malti Aidan Buttigieg, li ddefenda b'suċċess ir-rebħ taž-żewġ titli fil-Kategorija tal-Elite. Huwa beda biex irringrazza lil Federazzjoni tax-xogħol kollu mhux faċli biex organizzat għal darb'oħra dawn it-tigrijiet kollha. Huwa qal li jinsab obligat ħafna lejn il-Federazzjoni li reġgħet tagħtu l-opportunita' li jkompli jtellaq f'Malta, kif ukoll radd hajr lit-team Ghawdxi D Sports Lab li kienu ta' għajnuna mill-iktar siewja fiż-żmiem kollu li qed jqatta fil-gzejjer tagħna.

Il-Hagar - Heart of Gozo

Saturday, 9 November 2024

the 60th, 50th, and 20th anniversaries of Malta's Independence, Republic and its Membership in the EU respectively.

Event starts at 11:00,



MILESTONES OF NATIONHOOD

The panel will consist of:

Introduction:

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

Panelists:

Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President Emeritus of Malta

Prof. Lino Briguglio, Economist and Academic

Prof. Joseph Pirotta, Academic and Researcher

Simone Azzopardi, Academic and Ph.D. candidate

Moderator:

Steve Mallia, former editor of The Sunday Times of Malta

Australian High Commissioner in Malta H.E. Matt Skelly was pleased to welcome students, who started on their academic journey this semester at the University of Malta. Thanks to exchange partnerships, students have the opportunity to enrich their learning in Malta. The High Commission looks forward to welcoming more students in the future. **University of Canberra** **The University of Melbourne** **Victoria University, Melbourne Australia**



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