

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

THE ONLY JOURNAL FOR MALTESE
LIVING ABROAD

Editor - Frank Scicluna OAM
Contact - maltesejournal@gmail.com

1955 Maltese Community in Adelaide GEORGE CROSS SOCCER TEAM



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Back Row: J. Darmenia, F. Micallef, R. Flores, J. Mangion, T. Cremona
Front Row: F. Seal, J. Micallef, P. Parnis, R. Buhagiar, L. Monsigneur, T. Micallef



Hon Jing Lee
Independent
Member of
Parliament
South
Australia



Caravaggio in Malta



The difference
between
refugees,
asylum seekers
and
immigrants



The Honourable Jing Lee MLC

INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr Frank Scicluna OAM
maltesejournal@gmail.com

17 March 2025



Dear Frank,

Congratulations!

Governor's Multicultural Awards 2024

Congratulations on being nominated as a **finalist for the Senior Volunteer Award**, announced at a ceremony held at Government House on Wednesday 5 March 2025!

As your representative in the South Australian Parliament and Independent Member of the Legislative Council, I am deeply committed to advocating for our diverse local communities and supporting those who contribute to a more inclusive and culturally enriched society.

It is truly inspiring to see dedicated individuals like yourself recognised for exceptional contributions to multiculturalism and community engagement through the prestigious **Governor's Multicultural Awards**. Administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet through Multicultural Affairs, these awards are presented by **Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia**, on the advice of an independent judging panel.

Your dedication to preserving Maltese culture and promoting multicultural education in South Australia is truly commendable. As headmaster of the Maltese Language School of Adelaide for 16 years, you played a pivotal role in language preservation. In 1993, you became the first president of the Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations, fostering cohesion among 1,400 language schools. Your contributions were honoured with the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2008.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions to our multicultural community, and I wish you continued success in all your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

The Honourable Jing Lee MLC
Independent Member of the Legislative Council





Servizz.gov is the agency bringing all government services together. It is a bridge between the Public Service of Malta and the

general public, making government services more accessible.

Servizz.gov makes life easier and saves time. It does away with citizens having to travel to offices in Valletta and elsewhere. Over the years, the services offered by Servizz.gov have continued to increase, and therefore, Servizz.gov has now expanded its operation, and runs 25 hubs around Malta. Servizz.gov is also accessible via Freephone 153, email servizz@gov.mt, as well as via the website www.servizz.gov.mt and social media.

How can Servizz.gov help?

- Request information on Government services
- Raise an application or request a service
- Schedule appointments with Servizz.gov experts
- Report problems and make complaints
- Make suggestions about Government services

Who may use Servizz.gov?

Everyone. It's useful for anyone wanting help; either through face-to-face communication, over the phone, through the Internet or maltapps.



USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

www.foreign.gov.mt/

General Consular Affairs

In recent years, there was a considerable increase in the number of Maltese nationals travelling abroad for business or leisure. While this is a positive sign, it has also brought about a new set of challenges and a significant increase in requests for consular assistance, the majority of which could be easily avoided if travellers are properly guided about what to do prior to travel.

The Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad

The Directorate assists all Maltese travellers who find themselves in distress whilst abroad. In such situations, the Directorate acts as the main point of contact between the individual who is abroad and his/her family in Malta, to facilitate any possible support and ensure that all services rendered are provided in the best possible manner and in a timely order.

Who to contact in case of emergency

The Ministry provides emergency consular assistance 24 hours a day including weekends and public holidays. If you are abroad and need help, you can call the Maltese Embassy, the High Commission or the Consulate in the country you are visiting, when present, or the Ministry in Valletta. After office hours, the Ministry operates through a Duty Officer who takes note of your request and, if possible, assists immediately. When immediate assistance is not possible, your request will be referred for action to the officers in charge at the Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad Directorate. You can access addresses and telephone numbers of Missions abroad online by clicking on **Find Representation on the same website above** and select the country of which you require Malta's diplomatic contacts.



HIGH COMMISSION
OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

The High Commission of Malta in Canberra and Consulates General of Malta in Sydney & Melbourne would like to invite expressions of interests (EOI) to fill the vacant posts of member of the Regional Councils for Maltese Living Abroad in Australia.

The three (3) Regional Councils for Maltese Living Abroad in Australia have the following no. of vacant posts:

New South Wales – seven (7) posts

Victoria – seven (7) posts

Rest of Australia (South Australia, Sunshine Coast, QLD & North Queensland) – 4 posts

A Regional Council for Maltese Living Abroad is composed of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) member and 7 or 4 regional members, who will assist the Member of the CMLA to achieve its aim to promote and protect the interests and rights of the Maltese in Australia.

Candidates must be a Maltese citizen who have the interest of the Maltese Community at heart and a resident of the region represented.

Further information about the work of the COMLA may be found at <https://malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/council-for-maltese-living-abroad>.

Please send your expressions of interest (cover letter) and a Curriculum Vitae by COB 2/4/2025 to: maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt, maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt or highcommission.canberra@gov.mt.

ACCIDENTALLY, I CAME ACROSS THIS LETTER ON FACEBOOK

This letter was published in the Facebook page of the High Commission of Malta in Australia on 27 March 2025. It is of utmost importance, and it affects all Maltese living in Australia including the six States (NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania) and the two Territories – Australian Capital City (ACT) and Northern Territory (NT)

To be fair and transparent to all, I believe, that such a notification should have been sent to all Maltese Community Councils, associations, media (The Maltese Journals) and agencies in Australia so that all those who are interested to participate in such a project may apply.

I realise that this is not an official journal, but our Maltese eNewsletter is received and read by thousands of Maltese all over Australia and it is the only journal that reaches every State and Federal Australian Governments, Maltese Associations, clubs and individuals on regular basis. The Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) in our correspondence insisted that they collaborate with the Maltese Journal.

Working Together Matters



Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller - OSJ (Malta)



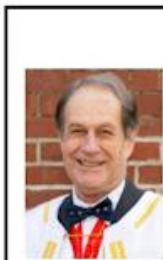
Chevalier Richard Trigg CJSJ
Deputy Grand Prior



HE Bailiff David Wilckens
OSJ
Grand Prior of Australia



Chevalier Graeme Gatley KJSJ
Grand Priory Chancellor



Chevalier Peter Robertson
KJSJ
Prior of South Australia



Dame Janet Synot
OAM CJSJ
Prior of Victoria



Chevalier Edward
Gauden OAM KJSJ
Prior of Tasmania



HE Bailiff Sydney JP Borg
OSJ
Prior of New South Wales

The Grand Priory of Australasia is part of the ancient Order of chivalry, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller (OSJ Malta), an ecumenical Christian Order with a focus on charity. The Knights and Dames of the Order are dedicated to preserving the Christian faith and for service to humanity.

Established in 1048 AD by the Blessed Brother Gerard at the time of the Crusades, the Order began as a hospice for pilgrims and the local population and served people of all faiths. The best intelligence places the original hospital near the present-day Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

The OSJ remains among the oldest chivalric and religious organizations in the world. The Order's motto: *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For Faith, For Service to Humanity) serves as a member's moral compass and is upheld by all OSJ members while they strive to serve the sick, poor, and the needy worldwide to the best of their ability.

Vision

To be an Ecumenical Order, with its roots deep in Knighthood, seeking in today's society to:
 promote Christian unity, practise charity, inspire compassion,
 To unify, under the Constitution of King Peter II, Units and Orders now separated.

Mission

To undertake projects of support and comfort to those in need; acting always with compassion, humility, integrity and respect for all people as we seek to alleviate suffering.



**The Museum of the Order
of St John
St John's Gate
St John's Lane
Clerkenwell London,**

The **Museum of the Order of St John** in Clerkenwell, London, tells the story of the Venerable Order of Saint John from its roots as a pan-European Order of Hospitaller Knights founded in Jerusalem during the Crusades, to its present commitment to providing first aid and care in the community through the St John Ambulance Brigade and running an Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. The museum is a member of the London Museums of Health & Medicine.

The Museum is based in St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, LONDON a 16th-century gatehouse in London, England that once formed the entrance to the Priory of Clerkenwell. This dates back to the 11th century and was once the English headquarters of the Order of St John. From here Hospitaller Knights went out to the Holy Land and later to Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta. They served in hospitals treating pilgrims, and fought to defend Christian interests in the Holy Land and the Mediterranean. Tours take visitors to the oldest surviving part of the Medieval Priory, the Norman crypt, as well as the 16th century church above.

They then return to the Gate House, which after the Dissolution of the monasteries was put to many uses, with Shakespeare, Dr Johnson, Hogarth and Dickens all taking part in its story. The Gate was eventually bought back by the Order in the late nineteenth century, and is now beautifully decorated with heraldry, stained glass, gilding and carving to create glowing interiors, designed by John Oldrid Scott. Here visitors can see the fine furniture and painting collections.

The Museum in the Gate House tells the story of the history of the Order of St John and St John Ambulance. The Museum completed renovation in November 2010. It was supported by funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and was designed by leading architects Donald Insall Associates, who had previously written the building's Conservation Plan. Exhibition design company Metaphor undertook the internal exhibit design. This redevelopment has given the Order's internationally significant collection the context it needs, including updating interpretative techniques, bringing more of the collections out of storage, and improving conservation conditions.

Order of St John collections

The collections of artefacts from the history of the Order of St John are extremely varied, covering all aspects of the history of an Order founded in the eleventh century and operating in most European countries.

There are archaeological finds, architectural fragments and social history material relating to the Priory site; seals and numismatics, including an important collection of Crusader coins; arms and armour, mainly European plate armour but also an example of Turkish Ottoman mail; drug jars, mortars and weights from the Hospitallers' pharmacy in Malta; decorative arts (portrait medals, ceramics, glass, silver, furniture, jewellery, insignia, textiles, ecclesiastical vestments) reflecting the tastes of the European aristocrats who joined the Order and became significant patrons of the arts.

The painting collection includes religious art, particularly images of patron saint of the Order, St John the Baptist, portraits of Grand Masters, Knights and clergy, sea and landscapes, depicting naval battles and views of Malta; prints and drawings include portraits of the Knights, topographical views and maps showing the famous fortifications on their island homes, as well as prints of the

English Priory and the surrounding area of Clerkenwell. It also includes works by the oil painter Alix Jennings of the Second World War.^[2]

St John Ambulance collections

[St John Ambulance has a history spanning over 125 years and covering over 40 countries worldwide. It was founded by the British Order of St John and inspired by the medical traditions of the Hospitallers. Its story is told in a new exhibition. Equipment ranges in size from examples of early ambulance transport to a Victorian nurse's miniature first aid kit. There are training books written in numerous languages and first aid information comes in many forms, from cigarette cards to pop-up books and even on bandages.

Uniform includes ceremonial attire, a 1922 cadet uniform and A.R.P gas suit, and posters and advertisements feature uniforms of many periods. The collection of medals, trophies and decorative certificates give a real sense of members' achievements and includes one certificate made by a forger inside a prisoner-of-war camp. Banners and textiles commemorate special St John occasions.

Personal memorabilia tell what it was like to belong to the movement in different times and places. Nurse Nesbit's cartoons record the lighter moments of serving in a First World War hospital. In an album, Lyn Brown put down her reactions as one of the first people to enter the newly liberated Belsen camp in 1945.

The film archive provides a glimpse into SJA's involvement with the film industry and a huge photographic collection gives insights into individual lives and social change, as well as the changing organisation. Oral histories, particularly strong on the Second World War, also cover topics as diverse as first aid in the depression of the 1930s, setting up a division in Zanzibar in the 1950s and the work of a welfare officer in the Gulf War of 1991.

PUTTINU MARATHON IN LONDON



o: info@newsbook.com.mt

For another year, many Maltese and others participated in the marathon in aid of the work of Puttinu Cares, a foundation that supports many families as they go through cancer.

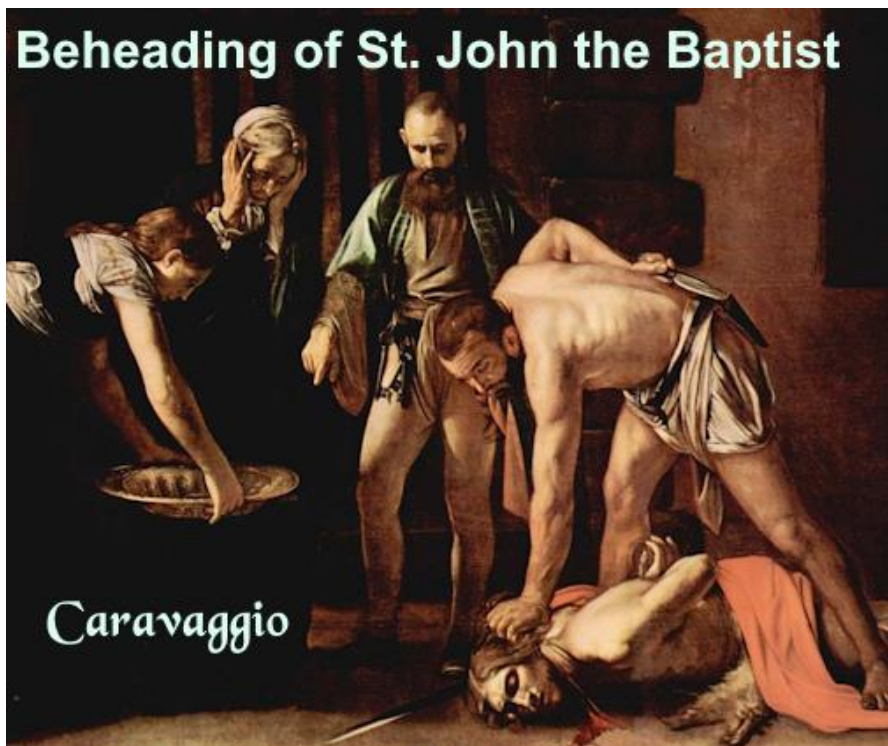
This year, among the many

participants was also Louise Camilleri who is awaiting a liver donation. Newsbook Malta was present at the marathon that left from the new Puttinu building in Farringdon and ended in Cheam Road, Sutton where many Maltese stay when they come for treatment in England.

Puttinu Cares was founded in October 2002 and was established from a desire to provide more help for families whose children are sick with cancer. This walk took approximately 5 hours and 50 minutes and was sponsored by the new M.C. Sims which opened in Tooting a few weeks ago, where participants stopped to grab something as they crossed a little over halfway.

From there more participants continued to join. Present for the walk is special guest Joseph Vella, the person who started the walk in Malta more than twenty years ago. He travelled from Malta especially for this event. Among the participants, there were also the Maltese High Commissioner to the UK Stephen Montefort and his wife Anna Montefort.

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, a fugitive after a murder in Rome, sought refuge in Malta in 1607, where he was welcomed by the Knights of St. John and even made a Knight of Obedience, painting masterpieces like "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist" and "St. Jerome Writing".

Here's a more details of Caravaggio's time in Malta:

- **Early Childhood**

The artist was the first child of Fermo Merisi and his second wife, Lucia Aratori. He was born in the autumn of 1571, probably in the

small town of Caravaggio in the diocese of [Cremona](#), after which he would later come to be named. His [Christian name](#) of [Michelangelo](#) suggests that his exact birth date was September 29, the feast day of the Archangel [Michael](#).

- **Arrival and Initial Reception:**

Caravaggio arrived in Malta in July 1607, fleeing Rome after killing a man in a fight.

- **Knighthood and Artistic Patronage:**

The Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt welcomed Caravaggio and even sought papal permission to make him a Knight of the Order, which he became in 1608.

- **Masterpieces in St. John's Co-Cathedral:**

Caravaggio painted "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist" and "St. Jerome Writing" for the Knights of St. John, both of which are now preserved in St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

- "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist" is Caravaggio's only signed painting, with his signature hidden in a splash of blood.

- **Conflict and Expulsion:**

Caravaggio's temper and involvement in a fight with another knight led to his imprisonment and eventual expulsion from the Order.

- **Escape and Continued Troubles:**

Caravaggio escaped from prison in Malta but his troubles continued, and he was involved in a violent clash in October 1609, which resulted in a disfigured face.

- **Legacy in Malta:**

Caravaggio's short but impactful stay in Malta left behind artistic treasures that continue to attract visitors to St. John's Co-Cathedral.

The difference between refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants



Across the globe, people make the difficult decision to leave their home countries in search of better lives in FARAWAY COUNTRIES.

[National Refugee Week](#) (16 - 22 June), is an important time to celebrate the contribution refugees

make to our community, and to learn about [refugees and asylum seekers](#)' experiences and the many challenges they face coming to Australia.

The experience of a refugee or asylum seeker often includes trauma and loss. People seeking refuge do so because they are not safe and often leave their home country without warning.

Refugees and asylum seekers are forced to leave behind their homes, family members, and communities to face a difficult journey to a new country and an uncertain future.

The confusion between the terms Refugee, Asylum Seeker and immigrant adds to the challenges faced by people seeking refuge. These terms are often used interchangeably despite the significant differences.

In essence, all refugees were once asylum seekers, but not all asylum seekers are ultimately granted refugee status. Here are some other key differences:

Refugees

A refugee is a person who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Visa) which allows them to live, work, and access services in Australia. They have similar rights and protections to other permanent residents.

Asylum Seekers

An asylum seeker is someone who is seeking international protection but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined. Asylum seekers apply for protection on the grounds that returning to their home country would put them at risk of serious harm due to persecution, conflict, or violence.

Who is an Immigrant?

An immigrant is a person who is seeking better opportunities and chooses to leave their home to settle in another country. They can return home whenever they choose; however, many choose to seek permanent residency or citizenship. The important part to note is that for immigrants, it is a choice to leave their countries.



VERONICA GAUCI WRITES FROM MACKAY QUEENSLAND

On 23rd March the **Mackay Maltese Club** held a luncheon at Wests leagues club Walkerston. We had guest speaker Catherine Smith join us all the way from Gympie to share the book that she authored "Queensland Sugar King: The Zammit Legacy". This book is about Catherine's Grandparents and their migration from Malta to Australia in

the 1910's.

The books details are as follows: In this extraordinary rags to riches story, an illiterate and impoverished Maltese immigrant rises from destitution to become Queensland's 'Sugar King'. A citizen of the British Empire, Paul Zammit arrives in Australia (1912) and is caught in the crossfire of racial and political hostilities, where his Arabic-sounding dialect and swarthy complexion clash with immigration law designed to keep Australia 'British and white'.

Undertaking an epic journey on foot from Sydney, he secures a convincing reign over the sugar industry of North Queensland.

As hard-working pioneers of Bartle Frere, he and his Maltese wife, Pauline, endure crippling privations and discrimination in pursuit of acceptance and the right to belong. Raising ten talented children, the family's musical concerts benefit welfare, migrants, war-time patriotic clubs, the community and Zammit's 'eleventh child', the Roman Catholic Church. Calamitous setbacks with polio and alleged tax evasion contrast starkly with gold mining, a 10-month world tour, King George VI's coronation, and the Vatican's conferral of the first Benemerenti Medal in Queensland.

Holding firm to a vision of progress, Paul and Pauline Zammit espouse traditional Maltese values in parallel with fervent loyalty to their new homeland of Australia.

The Mackay Maltese Club highly recommends this book, it is a great insight as to what all our ancestors had to endure to make it in this country and leave behind names to honour.

If you would like to purchase a copy, please follow this website below and a book will be posted to you: <https://www.qldsugaring.com>



W272 Block A, Mtarfa Military Hospital, Malta, VAD nurses Wright, Bidden, 'KMJT', June 1917.

MALTA OPENED ITS HEARTS TO OUR ANZACS IN WW1

By [Andrew Horner](#)

Half a world away from dawn services in Australia, a small group of dignitaries will meet in Malta this Anzac Day among the neat rows of headstones at sun-baked Pieta Military Cemetery just outside Valletta – as they have since 1916 – to commemorate a moving but largely

forgotten chapter of Gallipoli sad story.

It is the story of how a tiny, ancient, impoverished and battle-scarred nation in the centre of the Mediterranean opened its arms and hearts to care for thousands of wounded, traumatised and sick young Anzacs, many of them still teenagers, who arrived aboard a flotilla of blood-soaked hospital ships from the battlefields of Gallipoli. While most of the 57,950 soldiers evacuated to Malta recovered and eventually left, some 202 Australians and 72 New Zealanders did not, and are in war cemeteries across the archipelago.

The tragedy is writ large over their graves, belonging to the sons, husbands, fathers, brothers and sweethearts who never came home. Two-

thirds of the Anzacs buried there are below the age of 26; the oldest is 46. There are five graves containing 18-year-olds, including Private Walter Reginald Burrows of the Fifth Battalion, a surveyor from Stawell, Victoria. He was wounded and died eight days later while aboard HMS Andania en route to Malta.

Equally tragic was the fate of Samuel O'Dell of the Sixth Light Horse Regiment. A carpenter from the New England township of Bingara, he enlisted on November 5, 1914 and married his sweetheart Mary days before setting sail from Sydney. He died in Malta after receiving a gunshot to the head in Gallipoli, his condition initially reported upon arrival in Malta as



Wounded Anzacs being treated in Valletta. Credit: Australian War Memorial

“gravely ill”. A little over a week later he was buried in Pieta Military Cemetery.

Just married: Trooper Samuel O'Dell of the 6th Light Horse Regiment left a young widow in 1915. *Credit: Australian War Memorial/Accession No.2017.1432.2.1*

Correspondence held in the Australian National Archives from Mary and O'Dell's father John, who was the proprietor of the Bingara Cordial Factory, reveal their desperate attempts to discover what had happened to him, including Mary pleading to know if he had uttered any last words. Heartbroken, she died three years later.



the bustling cafes and bars of the picturesque holiday spot St Julians Bay stands one unmissable remnant: a crumbling Australian coat of arms adorning a stone ruin known as Australia Hall. Miraculously, having survived WWII air raids, fire in 1998 and seen off plans to build a supermarket and a new Chinese embassy on the site, the building is intact, surrounded by fields of prickly pear, avenues of heavily scented pink oleanders, nondescript apartment buildings and neighbouring St Catherine's High School.

But in 1915 Australia Hall was a vastly different place, a beacon of mateship for convalescing Anzacs far from home. Some 2000 of them could be accommodated within its stately hall at any given time, playing cards, writing letters to worried family, singing by the piano and sipping cups of tea, or something stronger when the ghosts of the battlefield came to haunt them.

The fortresslike structure was hurriedly built by the royal engineers in just two months, with £2000 raised by the Australian Red Cross – around \$250,000 in today's money.



A gathering of convalescing Anzacs in Australia Hall during 1915 .Credit:Richard Ellis Archive

A gathering of convalescing Anzacs in Australia Hall during 1915. *Credit:Richard Ellis Archive*

Malta, home to the crusading Knights of St John in the 16th century, was dubbed “the nurse of the Mediterranean” during the disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

“It is an extraordinary and proud history we Maltese share with Australia and the Anzacs, but it is one I don't think is widely known across Australia ... even though it

truly deserves to be,” Maltese historian John Portelli told the *Herald* from Valletta.

The voyage across the Eastern Mediterranean in these makeshift hospital ships from the Gallipoli Peninsula to Malta was not an easy one.

It took the steam ships up to eight days to cover the 1163-kilometre journey, and newspaper clippings paint a horrific image of their arrival in Valletta's fortified Grand Harbour; unloading human cargo of wounded, many septic and barely alive young men, their motionless bodies delicately lowered on stretchers by ship cranes onto barges waiting alongside.

At the beginning of April 1915, there were 824 military hospital beds in Malta. At the end of May 1915, there were more than 6000 in 14 hospitals spread all over the island.



CATS IN MALTA ON STAMPS

On April 4, a new set of postage stamps launched by MaltaPost will celebrate the love of cats in the Maltese Islands. The collection of four stamps was painted by local artist Andrew Micallef whose realistic and characterful depictions of species have appeared on our stamps regularly for more than twenty-five years.

“While I have previously depicted cats in other stamp designs, this marks my first collection entirely dedicated to these fascinating feline creatures,” says Andrew. “For this series, I have illustrated four stamps, each featuring a different cat with a well-known Maltese landmark in the background. Notably, two of the cats showcased in the set hold personal significance, as they are beloved pets of my family members. We, as a family, have a Persian cat named Milly Jeyne, who is a 7-year-old female.”

Maltese author James Vella-Bardon to feature at Manly Writers Festival

Historical fiction writer launches fifth novel in The Sassana Stone series in Australia

[Times of Malta](#)

REFLECTION CHARLES GAUCI BISHOP OF DARWIN



Fear is a useful instinct and feeling, vital for self-preservation. It helps us move away from danger. However, fear can also become disproportionate and inhibit us from living full lives. When it becomes unbalanced or excessive, it takes away from our peace and the joy of life. It can also become a barrier to loving.

When we try to stay too safe, we lose ourselves. Loving always involves some risk. It takes courage, commitment, and ‘work’ to love. Love drives out fear. The more we remember that we are deeply loved by God, the better we can deal with fear. When we’ve been hurt, let down, or disappointed, it’s understandable that we may experience fear. Prayer and sharing our fear with someone in a safe space can help us keep a sense of proportion as we face it.

Love is bigger than anything...

Fr Rob Galea is an ordained Catholic Priest and is currently serving in Sandhurst Diocese, Victoria after moving to Australia from Malta, his home country. He is the founder and executive director of ICON Ministry, a charity organisation that ministers to over 2,000,000 people each year across the world.

Fr Rob is an internationally acclaimed author, singer, and songwriter with eight album releases and a debut book (*Breakthrough*) accompanied with a companion journal. After being selected to sing and write the English and International versions of the official 2008, 2016, and 2019 *World Youth Day* songs, Fr Rob entered the realm of the cast of musicians, having performed in some key events before an estimated single live audience of over 1,200,000 people. He has been featured in newspapers, magazines and TV shows worldwide and was a contestant in Australia's 2015 *The X Factor*.



Robert Galea
Maltese/Australian
Catholic priest

Fr Galea has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry as a speaker to students and teaching staff, as well as speaking and singing at conferences and churches around Australia and the world.

In all this, whilst greatly appreciating his gifts, he recognises that before everything he is a follower of Christ, a priest and only then, a speaker, musician and artist.

Robert Galea was born in [Malta](#) in 1981. He was raised by strict Catholic parents with two siblings. From the age of 14, he "started frequenting nightclubs in [Paceville](#), a hotspot near his home in eastern Malta, drinking, taking drugs and stealing." At 17 he began learning music. Two years later he was signed to a record label and toured Europe.

Galea entered a seminary at age 21 and, after visiting Australia, in 2006 he migrated there in the following year to continue his studies in Melbourne.^[3] In 2008, together with Bishop [Joseph Grech](#), he co-founded the Stronger Youth Program – a series of youth retreats, rallies and small groups – in the [Diocese of Sandhurst](#), Victoria, which was later expanded to Perth and South Australia. He was ordained to the priesthood on 5 November 2010 by Archbishop [Paul Cremona](#).^[5] His first parish was at St Brendan's Catholic Church, [Shepparton](#). www.frrobgalea.com/

THE START OF MIMLI Daniel Abela - Owner & Baker

A Lifetime Love Affair With Malta And It's Food



More than 50 years after his grandparents emigrated from Żejtun to the UK, Daniel Abela is keeping Maltese culinary traditions alive and wants to share them with a new audience.

The 29-year-old musician is the founder of *Mimli*, an online Maltese food retailer specialising in nostalgic sweet treats such as *figolli* (Easter sweet pastry with an almond filling) and *biskuttini tal-lewż* (almond macaroons). Inspired by his childhood and frequent visits to Malta, Abela hopes to introduce the unique flavours of Maltese cuisine to a wider public.

Why Mimli? Growing as part of a Maltese family in the UK, one of the first Maltese words we learnt while visiting family was Mimli. Word – Mimli Meaning - “I can’t eat one more

bite, I’m about to explode!” Or in other words... “I’m full”.

Meals like *bżar mimli* (stuffed peppers) and *qarabali mimli* (stuffed marrows) were a staple of life, in fact it seemed that most of our favourite Maltese dishes involved a vegetable being stuffed or a slice of meat, or piece of pastry filled... *figolli*, *bragioli*, *timpana*, *pastizzi*, *qassatat* to name a few. So when it came time to settle on a name, Mimli seemed to be the word that best distilled the many years of love and laughter that we have spent around food as a family.



So many special and formative memories - the summers I’d spent learning to swim at Mellieħa Bay while eating my own weight in pastizzi *tal-irkotta* (or cheesecakes as I called them then). The nights we were allowed to stay up late, snacking on a huge bag of *patatina classica* while watching a sea of festa-fireworks light up the sky from our balcony, of course washing the whole experience down with a cold *kinnie*. The ferry ride to Gozo, looking up at a crowd of cousins, their huge gold hoops dangling down at me (it was the early 2000s), on our way to a glorious day at Ramla Bay,

devouring hot slices of Gozitan *ftira* and chunks of juicy watermelon in between panicked dashes over hot sand, from the deck chairs to the sea and back again.

The idea to start Mimli was not a recent one - at the age of 8, I designed my own Maltese chain restaurant. Deciding the unique beauty of the *Qassata* would rival the sausage roll any day. The iconic shape of *Qassatat* reminded me of volcanos as a child, I planned out all the different flavours we would sell, convinced that as soon as the British public found out about Maltese food they would be as excited as I was, and make it a part of the culinary zeitgeist.

Years later, with a couple years of experience as a designer under my belt I decided to begin designing my dream Maltese food business, one unapologetically focused on Malta and it’s food, giving it the reverence it deserves.

It is my intention to grow the list of delicious treats we offer at Mimli, and continue to obsess over our food, what it’s given us and where it can reach in the future, but for now we hope you order from us and feel the love we have for Maltese food in every bite!



A FORGOTTEN MEMORIAL

MARY ALICE WALSH

The church of St. Mary Magdalene in Merchants Street, Valletta, Malta, has been vacated to be cleaned and returned to the Archdiocese of Malta.

Other to the exquisite and elaborate sculpture that adorns the apse and doorways, just within the church's main door by the right hand corner is a small marble slab that not many would have noticed or known about.

It has been estimated that some 135,000 British, Australian, New Zealanders and allied casualties were brought to or passed through Malta during the First World War.

Due to the shortage of doctors and nurses on the island, various local doctors, nurses, gave

invaluable service and stretcher-bearers were the first to assist the military.

A number of these nurses and volunteers died while serving in Malta during the war. Towards the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, the church St. Mary Magdalene in Valletta was used by Roman Catholic soldiers stationed at nearby Fort St Elmo and Royal Marines and their families from the Camerata Barracks just across the narrow St. Nicholas Street.

An unexpected discovery concerns one of the volunteer nurses Mary Alice Walshe who was stationed in Malta during the First World War. Although very little could be found about her locally, the amazing discovery consists of a commemorative marble plaque dedicated to her. The plaque shows two central figures, a soldier wearing a khaki uniform and Foreign Service Helmet who is having his hands bandaged by a longhaired female in biblical robes, possibly Mary Magdalene.

Above her head is the badge of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) Reserve. At bottom is a scroll with the legend; *whatsoever you shall do to one of these, shall be done for me* (Matthew 25:40), which is slightly painted over. Above is a dedication which although also painted over, some of the text is legible; *to the memory of Mary a. Walshe q.a.i.n.s.r. died at Malta 19 VIII 1915*, flanked on each end by a shield, possibly that of St. George of England.

The sculptor was C. di Paolo. Her age is not known but Staff Nurse Walshe is recorded as having died at the Nurses Hospital in *Strada Maggiore*, Floriana, from a disease that she had contracted, possibly from one of the patients that she was attending. She was buried at the *Santa Maria Addolorata* Cemetery, at Paola. The plaque was erected as her grave was located in the 'public' section of the cemetery and these graves have been cleaned and reused.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100504/books/a-forgotten-memorial.305806>

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Our communities around the world are shrinking rapidly. It is time to learn our lesson to work together and support each other instead of building walls and



AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES (AMCS)



It was one of those special days at AMCS that reminded us why we do what we do. Our team came together to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week in our beautiful Millennium House Community Centre — a space filled with colour, laughter, shared stories, and connection. We began with a warm welcome from our CEO, [Maryanne Tadic](#), and continued with an engaging panel discussion inspired by this year's theme: Embrace the Journey-Shape the Future. Our panellists shared personal stories about their cultural heritage, the journey that brought them here, and how they stay grounded in their roots while building a future in Australia. It was moving, inspiring, and truly meaningful.

With 75% of our staff speaking more than one language, representing 51 countries of birth, this celebration was a beautiful reflection of the diversity we live and breathe every day — in both our workplace and the services we provide.

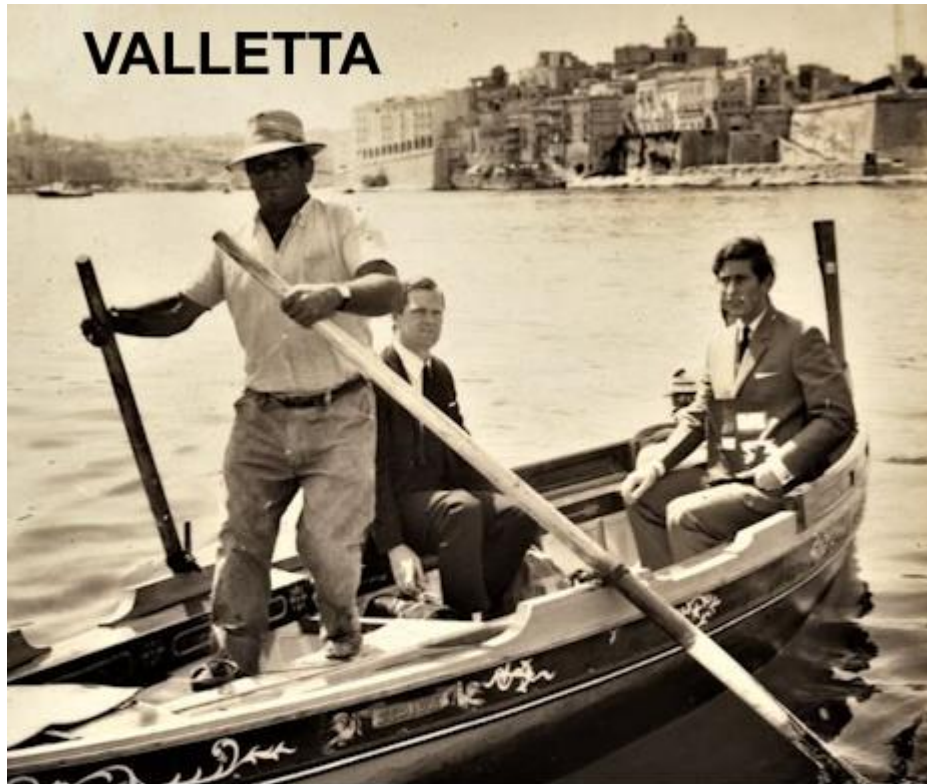
Then came the food, the music, the dancing – all from different cultures and traditions – and every moment felt like a celebration of who we are.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION

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 Keep the Maltese e-Newsletter alive

VALLETTA



Prince Charles, now King Charles III on a Maltese Dghajsa

KING CHARLES III AND HIS TIME IN MALTA

Malta always felt like a second home to the King.

Queen Elizabeth had a very special relationship with Malta, and together with her husband Prince Philip, she lived here between 1949-1951 when she was still a princess. He was stationed on the island as a naval officer in the Mediterranean Fleet. Here they spent some of their happiest times of their lives.

But Queen Elizabeth was not the only monarch to have a special relationship with Malta. Her son, King Charles has visited the islands many

times. King Charles' first visit to Malta was during the Royal Commonwealth Tour of 1954 where he could be seen with Princess Anne before reuniting with their parents.

Here, he also visited the Marsa Ground to watch a Polo match and even went on a picnic by the sea with Lord Mountbatten and his wife Edwina. The King was a regular visitor to our islands and adored the country very much.

One of his most notable trips was when he visited Malta for a few days in 1969 together with his sister. He even was spotted going round on Maltese waters in a speed boat during this visit.

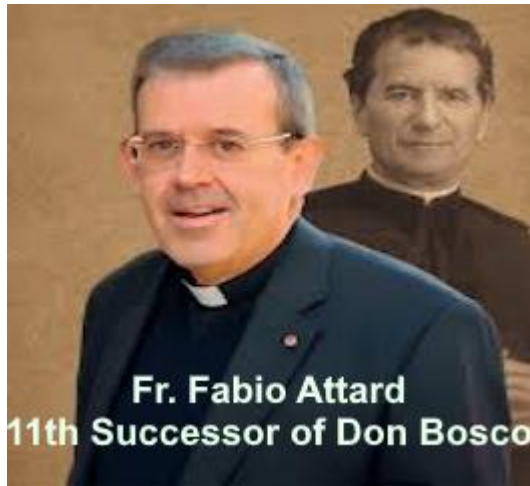
He visited again in November 1969 to attend the celebrations of the 200-year anniversary since the University of Malta was founded.

He said on several occasions that always look forward to visit Malta as it always feels like he's returning to his other home.

King Charles, together with Queen Elizabeth visited the islands once again in 2015 where he spoke about the importance of a sustainable future at the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting.

His Majesty's next visit was less than two years after as he graced the Maltese islands again in October 2017 to attend the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the awarding of the George Cross.

**I SUPPORT AND HELP EVERY MALTESE ASSOCIATION IN
AUSTRALIA AND ALL OVER THE WORLD WITHOUT EXCEPTION**



**Lill-kuġin tiegħi Fabio –
il-11-il Suċċessur ta’
San Gwann Bosco**

Kif nista’ ma nħossnix kburi
Illi għandi dal-kuġin -
Sależjan mill-aktar gwappi
Persunaġġ tassew ġenwin.

Ta’ Don Bosco l-Ordni haddan
Hekk kif tfarfar, sar zaġġżuġ
Dejjem fuq fomm u tbissima
Hekk kif tkellmu, tieġu r-ruħ!

Għad-dell tal-Bażilka trabba
Lil ta’ Lidda ħabb bi sħiħ;
Bla dubju missieru għallmu
B’dar-Tribun jaġġmel ir-riħ.

Iżda Fabio ‘l qalbu mela
Bil-qaddis minn ta’ Torin,
Fuq il-passi tiegħu mexa
Ta’ ħajtu tah kollu l-ħin.

Għal xi żmien għadda l-ħin jgħallem
U jsawwar lill-erwieħ
Biex lil dal-qaddis taż-żgħażaġ
Huma jħobbu dlonk qatigh!

Wara żmien id-dirigenti
Mad-dinja baġtuh idur
Sabiex jgħin liċ-ċentri tagħhom
U jsawru l-futur!

Dawn il-jiem issa qalulna
Lil Fabio għamluh Maġġur
Biex jilbes żarbun Don Bosco
U għollewh mal-ogħla sur

Biex imexxi lil dan l-Ordni
Li mifrux mad-dinja kollha;
Kien hemm żmien anke ġo Għawdex
Kien daħal ġo qalb il-folla.

Għażiż Fabio nawguralek
Eluf huma l-ulied tiegħek;
Dmirek hu tiġborhom kollha
Imgħannqin iżzommhom miegħek.

Żgur Marija Awżiljatriċi
Se tkun qegħda tieġu ħsiebek;
Lejha ersaq xħin tkun tħossok
Tara l-gwaj mhux bogħod minn biebek.

Mal-Għawdxin u l-Maltin kollha
Se nwiegħdek it-talb minn tiegħi
Sib xi ħin li tinfes fostna
U titkellem xi ffit miegħi.

Għaliex jien jiemi magħduda
Taf tiġi u ma ssibnix;
Biex ma jkollok qatt il-piena
Tixref s’hawn; ma taranix!

Kav Joe M Attard
Prim kuġin

!

**IT IS AMAZING HOW POPULAR THIS JOURNAL IS AMONG
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD AND IN MALTA AND GOZO**

J. Bonello



FRIENDS OF VALLETTA

City of Chichester - Valletta Capital of Malta



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

FRIENDSHIP LINK



The Council has a friendship link with Valletta in Malta. Like twinning links, the idea is to promote good relations and visits between the two cities. The formal signing of this link took place in Valletta in 2010 and was signed by Councillor Michael Woolley, then Mayor of Chichester and Councillor Alexiei Dingli, then

Mayor of Valletta.

TWINNINGS The City Council was responsible for the establishment of a twinning link between Chichester and Chartres, France in 1959 and Ravenna, Italy in 1996. The ethos of twinning is to promote friendly relations and to respect each others' history, traditions and customs. Twinning activities are promoted by the City Council together with the Friends of Chartres and Friends of Ravenna associations.

Many long standing friendships have grown up over the years as a result of the twinning links. In 2000 Chichester City Council were awarded the Plaque of Honour by the Council of Europe in recognition of the City's efforts to propagate the idea of European unity. The City Council was also awarded the Flag of Honour in 1994 and the European Diploma in 1993.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES The purpose of the Friends of Valletta is to establish links with the citizens of said city and to join like-minded people in aiding that goal. We aim to meet bi-monthly when a varied programme of lectures, talks or events draw on local and national speakers covering a range of Maltese

history and culture, including music, art and architecture. We hold an annual dinner with a mediterranean menu and join with the Friends of Chartres and Friends of Ravenna in holding an event as part of the Festival of Chichester held in June/July.

Friends newsletter ... MELITA The name Melita comes from the Greek and Latin name for Malta, which we thought appropriate.

The newsletter is produced twice a year and despatched spring and autumn.

JOIN US ...

Friends of Valletta offer you the opportunity to find out more about Malta and its rich culture and visit the country with like-minded people. New members of all ages are always welcome. For further information or to join immediately, please contact our membership secretary whose name and contact details can be found on the "Contact Us" page

AND FOR VISITORS TO CHICHESTER

Friends of Valletta recommend you try [Chichester City Tours](#) which for £5 will provide a walking tour of the City Centre. There are free tours of the [Cathedral](#) at 11:15 and 14:30 most days and free city guidebooks at Reception in the [Council House](#).

[https:// friendsofvalletta.weebly.com](https://friendsofvalletta.weebly.com)

MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

Friends please listen to my story
That oppressed me for so long
As my heart yearns for two countries
I feel to both I do belong.

My motherland is Malta
Faraway across the sea
But I sought a new horizon
And A Australia appealed to me.

So I won't stay as a stranger
Her cultures and mine we shared
Both in happiness and sorrow
My cry, my song was heard.

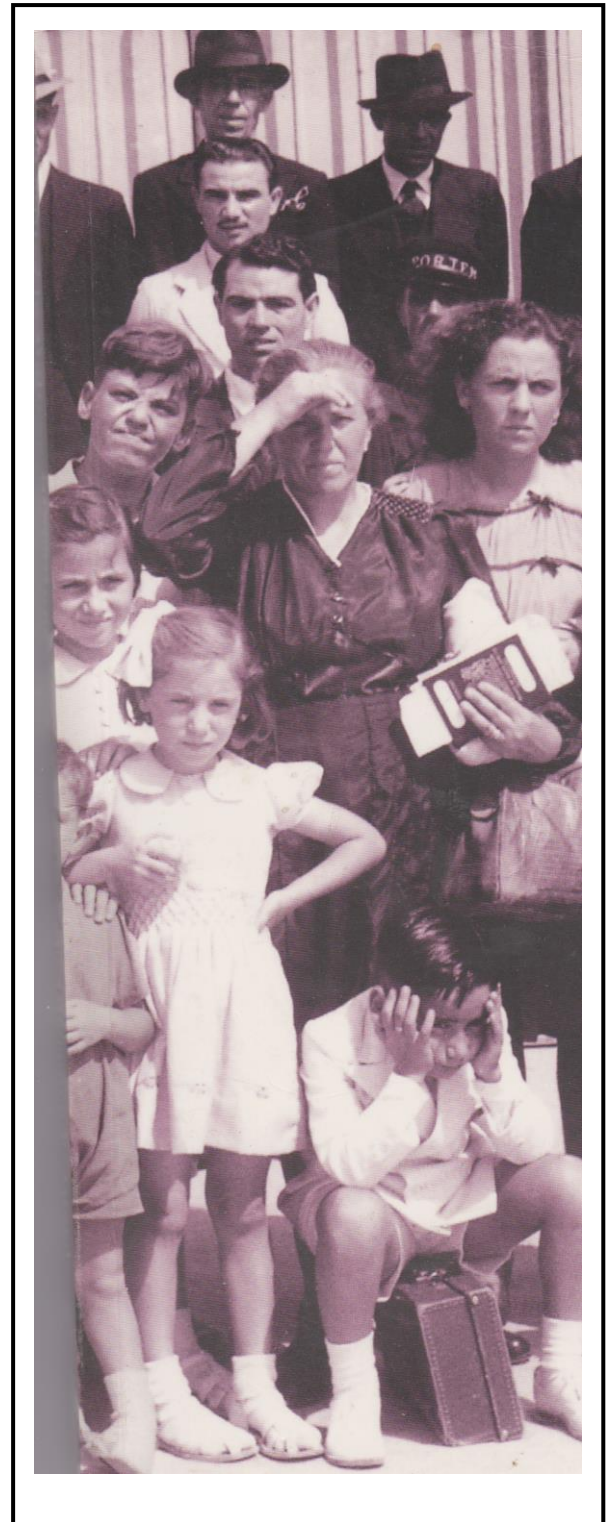
My people helped to build this nation
With this challenge they felt bound
Looking back at how we started
This what makes us feel so proud.

Amongst the early Maltese settlers
There were seventy who came forth
On a sailing ship long journeyed
To cut cane in Queensland's north.

Here they flourished, more ships followed
Re-uniting hearts so dear
They rejoiced but oh what sadness
Malta had this loss to bear.

Here we are a century later
Sharing proudly this same land
Though we didn't know the future
Yet we faced it hand-in-hand.

How I wish my dearly loved ones
Were with me, this joy to share
And with one voice as one nation
Sing: "Advance Australia Fair".
Joe Galea.





STUFFED MARROWS



STUFFED OLIVES



STUFFED ARTICHOKEs



STUFFED TOMATOES



STUFFED CALAMARI



STUFFED EGGPLANTS

MALTESE LOVE STUFFED FOOD!!!

WHO IS GO-JO, THE POP SENSATION REPRESENTING AUSTRALIA AT EUROVISION THIS YEAR?



Australia has scored five top ten finishes in the annual Eurovision Song Contest.

Go-Jo will represent Australia in Basel, Switzerland, at this year's Eurovision.

Twenty-nine-year-old pop star **Marty Zambotto**, better known as Go-Jo, has been revealed as Australia's entry for Eurovision this year. Representing Australia, which is participating in the contest for the 10th time,

Go-Jo will perform his newest single, **Milkshake Man**. [Switzerland's Nemo won last year's contest](#), which means the land-locked, mountainous European nation is hosting 37 entrant countries at this year's event.

Who is Go-Jo? Go-Jo is the solo project of 29-year-old Marty Zambotto. He was raised in a rural town just outside of Manjimup in the south-west region of Western Australia and now lives in Sydney. His first guitar was a gift from Toyworld courtesy of his mother. Amassing over 1.4 million cross-platform followers and touring across Europe, the United States and Southeast Asia, Go-Jo has established himself as a global pop star. His hit single Mrs Hollywood received over 60 million digital streams and one billion views. Speaking about his selection for Eurovision 2025, Zambotto said it was "an absolute dream come true to represent such a beautiful and diverse nation". "I've never been more excited to share my art and vision with the incredible Eurovision fans around the world."

How long has Australia competed in Eurovision? This year marks the 10-year anniversary of Australia participating in the Eurovision Song Contest. Despite Eurovision having started in 1956, Australia was only first included in 2014, when Darwin-born singer Jessica Mauboy made a guest appearance. Australia officially joined the contest in 2015 with Guy Sebastian performing his song Tonight Again.

How well has Australia done in the Eurovision Song Contest? Dami Im won her semi-final in 2016's contest in Stockholm and finished second in the contest proper, losing out to Ukraine's Jamala. Im is among five top ten finishes, including Sebastian, Isaiah, Kate Miller-Heidke and Voyager. Last year's entrants Electric Fields failed to make it beyond the semi-final.

How can I watch Eurovision 2025? The 69th Eurovision Song Contest will be held from the 13-17 May and will be broadcast on SBS and SBS On Demand. Details will be available at sbs.com.au/Eurovision.



EUROVISION SONG FESTIVAL 2025 BASEL - SWITZERLAND

The Grand Final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 will take place in St. Jakobshalle, Basel, on Saturday 17 May with Semi-Finals on Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 May, after it was selected by Host Broadcaster SRG SSR and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to host the 69th edition of the Contest.

After a competitive selection process that saw a number of potential Host Cities narrow down to Basel and

Geneva, Switzerland's third-most-populous city won out, and will host the 69th Eurovision Song Contest. The bid process examined facilities at the venue, local infrastructure and the ability to accommodate thousands of visiting delegations, crew, fans and journalists from around the world, amongst other criteria.

There will be 37 Participants. We'll have 37 public service broadcasters taking part at Basel 2025. RTCG of Montenegro return to the competition after last competing in 2022. And 36 of the 37 countries that took part at Malmö 2024 will be participating once again in May 2025.



MOUNTAIN BIKES: L-EWWEL PARTEĊIPAZZJONI GĦAWDXIJA FL-ABSA CAPE EPIC FL-AFRIKA T'ISFEL

Joe Bajada

Żewġ ċiklisti Għawdxin, Stephen Grima u Brandon Sultana, taħt l-isem tat-tim Gaudos ftit ilu ħadu sehem fil-kategorija Open fl-Absa Cape Epic 2025 minkejja l-kundizzjonijiet estremi fejn hija meqjusa bħala waħda mill-aktar tlielaq diffiċli u prestigjużi tal-mountain biking, u spiss tissejjaħ t-Tour de France tal-mountain biking. Din kienet parteċipazzjoni storika hekk kif huma l-ewwel ċiklisti Għawdxin li qatt ħadu sehem f'din it-tigrija. Kompetizzjoni mifruxa fuq tmien t'ijiem ta' mountain biking li tkopri aktar minn 700km u 16,500 metri ta' elevazzjoni. Dawn it-

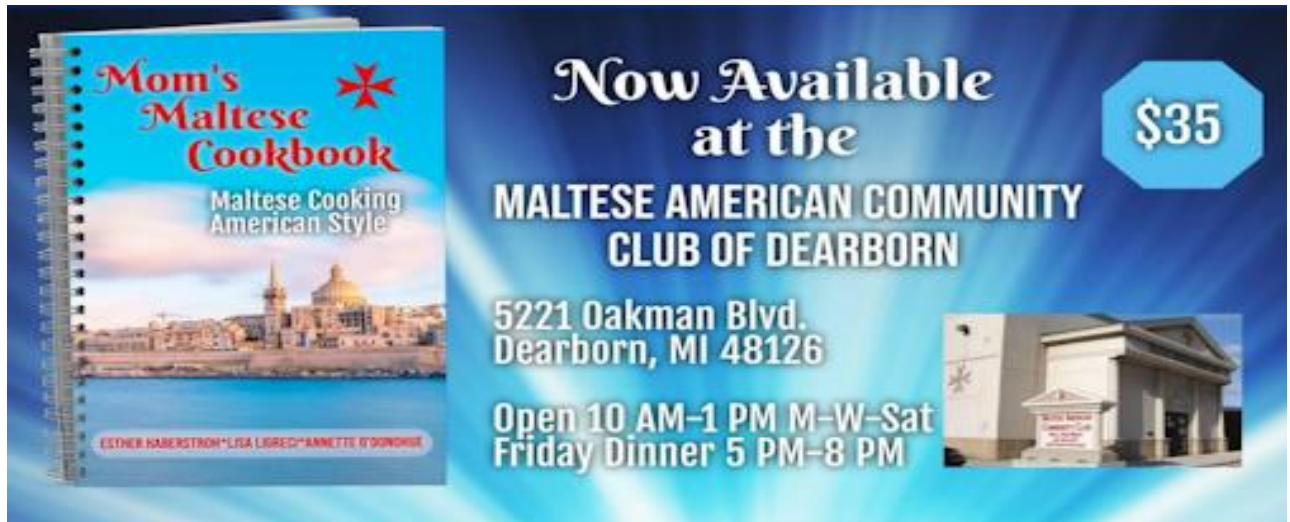
tigrijiet saru fl-Afrika t'Isfel u kienu jinkludu sfidi tekniċi, stamina fiżika estrema u kundizzjonijiet klimatiċi li huma ferm diffiċli. Il-kundizzjonijiet matul it-tlieqa ma għenu xejn lil dawn iċ-ċiklisti, hekk kif kien hemm temperatura li telgħet anke sa 51°C. L-Absa Cape Epic hija waħda mill-itqal tigrijiet fid-dinja, fejn iċ-ċiklisti jkollhom jikkumbattu ma' shana qawwiya għal distanza twila. B'kollox ħadu sehem madwar 730 tim, b'madwar 200 tim ma jlestux din it-tigrija.

Ż-żewġ ċiklisti temmew it-tmien stadji b'suċċess l-aħħar jum ta' din it-missjoni. Minbarra dan, Stephen Grima sar l-ewwel Malti li kiseb it-titlu ta' Epic Legend, u b'hekk daħal fil-Hall of Fame tal-Epic Series – serje internazzjonali li tinkludi tigrijiet oħra bħall-Andorra Epic u l-Swiss Epic. Is-sena l-oħra, Stephen imbarka għal dan il-vjaġġ inkredibbli wara li l-kowċ tiegħu, Peter Vesel, kien sfidah biex jagħmel dan. B'gimghat ta' preparazzjoni intensa, huwa ffaċċja din l-isfida monumental, speċjalment wara li gheleb injury kbira f'Settembru 2023. Huwa ta bidu għall-esperjenza tiegħu tas-Serje Epic mal-Andorra Epic, fejn hu u sieħbu Relvis Glavić mill-Kroazja spiċċaw fis-seba' post minn 59 atleta fil-kategorija Master 5 f'distanza b'6,400 metru ta' elevazzjoni fil-Pyrenees.

L-esperjenza mhix biss dwar it-tlielaq, hekk kif iċ-ċiklisti jikkampjaw kull lejl fl-irhula tat-tigrijiet, u jhaddnu stil ta' hajja komunali barra mill-grid. Huwa test veru ta' reżistenza, ħila, u reżiljenza mentali. It-timijiet kollha kienu fformati minn żewġ persuni u jibqgħu f'żewġ minuti minn xulxin il-ħin kollu. Il-format kien uniku bi ħtieġa u ħidma f'tim eċċellenti, appoġġ reċiproku, u teħid ta' deċiżjonijiet strateġiċi.

Meta tkellem magħna, Stephen Grima stqarr li din l-esperjenza ma kenitx faċli, u wieħed jirrikjedi li jkun b'saħħtu mentalment u fiżikament biex ikun jista' jagħmel it-tmien stadji kollha. Grima qalilna

li jittamaw li l-partecipazzjoni tagħhom tispira li-ċiklisti Għawdxin oħra, u bi prova li bil-preparazzjoni u l-mentalità t-tajba, anke ċiklisti minn nazzjon żgħir jistgħu jieħdu fuq xi wħud mill-aktar avvenimenti iebes ta' mountain bike hemmhekk. Matul it-8 ijiem, huma ffaċċjaw telgħat koroh, temperaturi harxa, anke xita iżda huma daħhlu b'kuraġġ u determinazzjoni qawwija għal dawn l-isfidi inkredibbli. Grima radd ħajr lill-isponsors tagħhom, S.G Woodworks Ltd; Visit Malta; Raico Ltd-kuntratturi elettriċi u mekkaniċi; Xlendi Mini Market; EthicSport u Bike2Bed għall-appoġġ inkredibbli tagħhom biex jagħmlu dan il-vjaġġ possibbli.



Mom's Maltese Cookbook
Maltese Cooking American Style
ESTHER HABERSTROM * LISA LIGRECI * ANNETTE D'ONDORIS

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**I started working on some new figolli designs...
what do you think?**

<https://www.facebook.com/Whats.Cooking.with.Manuel/>



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A Big 'Thank You' to all our readers,
contributors and supporters

