



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor- Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Est - 2013

Adelaide - Australia



DESALINATION PLANT BUILT IN SLIEMA MALTA IN 1881

NICKY GAUCI



JIENA NITKELLEM
BIL-MALTI



PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE MALTESE LANGUAGE

When you're in a new place, embracing local customs is always wise. A recent survey revealed that 85% of Maltese believe it's important for foreigners living in Malta to learn the Maltese language. At the very least, having a grasp of the basics helps in communication.

This isn't surprising given Malta's transformation over the past decade into a more cosmopolitan society, with a significant rise in the foreign population. Many of these individuals engage daily with locals in various settings like restaurants, shops, and hospitals.

Understanding the Maltese language can significantly enhance their ability to integrate into our

community. While it's true that many manage to communicate in English, learning Maltese demonstrates a genuine effort to become part of the society they now call home. For those coming from parts of Europe and Asia, Maltese may seem quite challenging.

However, it tends to be less daunting for individuals from North Africa and the Middle East. The Maltese tongue is a unique blend, primarily rooted in Semitic languages but infused with influences from various others over centuries of occupation and, more recently, through globalization. It's encouraging to



see that the government is taking initiatives to help foreigners communicate more effectively.

There's a new skills card requirement for employees that ensures they have basic English proficiency. It would be beneficial if, alongside their work permits, these individuals were also offered opportunities to learn Maltese. That said, protecting the Maltese language should also be a priority for its native speakers. It's disheartening to witness many Maltese struggle to communicate clearly.

This concern is amplified in media, where presenters frequently mishandle the language on air. It's crucial for those in broadcasting to possess a solid grasp of Maltese, as it can be quite jarring to hear local words misused or replaced with poorly adapted foreign terms. Languages continually evolve, and Maltese is no exception. While it's important for foreigners in Malta to make an effort to learn the language, it's equally vital for those born and raised in Malta to actively work towards preserving it.

There are significant public infrastructure pressures and concerns in Malta related to the high number of foreign workers, including strains on housing, roads, sewage, electricity, and healthcare, as well as issues with integration, waste management, and the increasing cost of living. While the influx of foreign workers is driven by labour shortages in sectors like construction and hospitality, this has also led to exploitative agencies, vulnerable foreign workers, and a rise in the number of localities where foreigners outnumber Maltese residents.



Press Release :

Showcases Global Leadership Expertise on the World Stage

(Sydney, Australia) Oct 2, 2025

Jacob Galea, a second-generation Maltese living in Australia, has built an extraordinary international career as a Global Leadership Strategist. Now he is bringing his work to a new level, advising not only business leaders and family offices, but also speaking to the

future of nations and the importance of human leadership capital in global competitiveness.

Galea's story is one that will resonate with the Maltese community. From humble beginnings on the factory floor, he rose to become a trusted advisor to senior executives, entrepreneurs, dynastic families, and high-level institutions worldwide. He has been featured on major media platforms and is increasingly recognized for his message that leadership and human potential are the most valuable assets for any organization or country.

"Malta has always been part of who I am," Galea says. "The values and resilience I carry come directly from my heritage. It is important to me that the Maltese community knows that our influence can be felt far beyond these shores ... in boardrooms, in institutions, and on the international stage. In his work, Galea reframes leadership as "human infrastructure capital" the capacity of leaders and teams to drive sustainable growth, innovation, and legacy. He has advised global corporations, mentored high-performing executives, and developed programs that strengthen leadership cultures across industries and sectors. Looking ahead, Galea is exploring ways to connect more closely with Malta, including through high-level leadership retreats. Gozo, with its natural beauty and strong cultural identity, is one of the locations he sees as ideal for gathering senior leaders in settings that inspire clarity, creativity, and long-term vision.

His positioning now extends into the diplomatic and governmental sphere. Galea is focused on the idea that nations, not just companies, must measure and invest in leadership as a strategic resource. This is a message he believes Malta can play a role in advancing globally showing how a small but influential country can have a voice in shaping the conversation about human capital on the world stage.

For Maltese media, Galea's story offers both a source of national pride and a compelling narrative about how Maltese talent abroad continues to make an impact internationally. It is also an invitation to connect Malta more closely with his future work, in advisory, in retreats, and in government-level dialogue.

Media Contact: Tracy Lamourie Founder, Managing Director, Senior Publicist, LAMOURIE MEDIA "Global Award Winning PR - Toronto, Hollywood, the EU & Beyond"

North American East Coast *Toronto : 289-788-5881 *Europe / Mediterranean 356 99496527

Email : lamouriePR@gmail.com

MALTESE DRIVER CELEBRATES STRONG FINISH TO MINI CHALLENGE UK



The Mini Challenge UK Championship has come to a close, marking the end of an incredible season for Maltese driver Nicky Gauci. Competing through a scholarship he won earlier this year, Gauci made his mark on one of Britain's most competitive racing series.

In early 2025, Gauci was the only Maltese participant among 50 drivers competing for a UK motor racing scholarship. His victory earned him a fully funded season in the Mini Challenge UK, which runs as part of the British Touring Car Championship weekends.

Over the course of the season, Gauci proudly flew the Maltese flag at circuits including Donington Park, Snetterton, Oulton Park, Croft, Knockhill, Silverstone and Brands Hatch GP.

The year concluded with an impressive record of seven podium finishes, including one race win. "We gave a great show last weekend and it felt amazing to see Malta recognised so often on the live stream," Gauci said.

He expressed his gratitude to JamSport Racing for their support throughout the season, describing the experience as "out of this world". Gauci also thanked his sponsors, including Mediterranean Building Finishes Ltd, Visit Malta, Muscats Motors, World Pro Racing, Cynergi Health & Fitness Club, New Momentum, House of Barbers, and SportMalta. www.maltadaily.mt



IL-MITHNA TA' KOLA BI ĦSARAT ESTENSIVI WARJA L-MALTEMP



Waqt spezzjoni ta' rutina wara l-maltemp tal-aħħar jiem, il-qlugħ tal-Mithna ta' Kola f'Għawdex għelbu għal fuq il-bejt tal-mithna waqt li kienu qed jiddawru bl-idejn. F'dan l-incident, tliet haddiema ta' Heritage Malta li kienu qed iwettqu l-ispezzjoni garrbu xi ġrieħi u ttiehdu l-Isptar Ġenerali t'Għawdex għall-kura. Mill-ewwel stharrig huwa mifhum li l-injam li jzomm il-qlugħ garrab ħsarat estensivi kawża tal-elementi u l-maltemp, u dan wassal għat-tigri. It-tigri tal-qlugħ wassal ukoll għal ħsarat fis-soqfa tal-mithna. Minnufih ser jibdew ix-xogħlijiet biex tisewwa l-ħsara li saret.

TA' KOLA WINDMILL SUFFERS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE DUE TO THE RECENT STORM

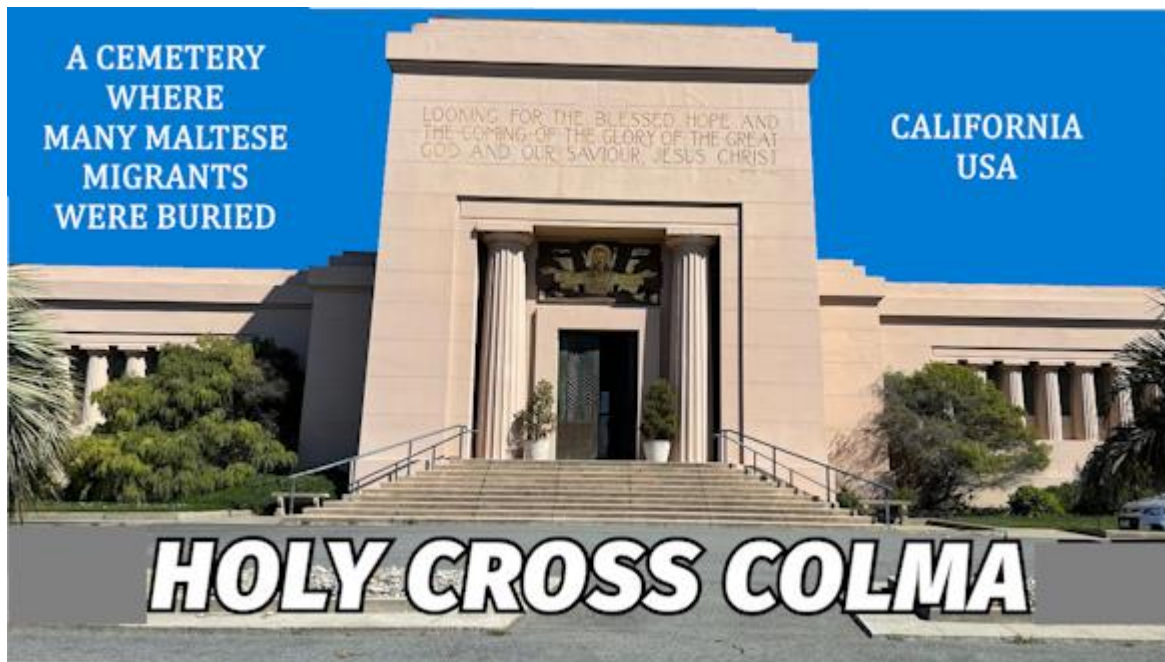
During a routine inspection following the recent storm, the sails of Ta' Kola Windmill

in Gozo collapsed onto the mill's roof while being rotated manually. Three Heritage Malta workers who were carrying out the inspection sustained injuries in the incident and were taken to Gozo General Hospital for treatment. Initial assessments indicate that the wooden structure supporting the sails suffered extensive damage from the elements and the storm, leading to the collapse. The collapse of the sails also resulted in damage to the roof of the windmill. Repair works to address the damage will commence immediately.

The Maltese Journal believes in unity, respect, inclusion and connectivity



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CITY OF SOULS - COLMA – CALIFORNIA – USA - F. AQUILINA



The Town of Colma, affectionately dubbed the "City of Souls," holds the title of the smallest city in San Mateo County, boasting a population of just over 1,509 residents, while the number of souls laid to rest is a staggering 1.5 million. Presently, Colma is home to sixteen cemeteries, including one dedicated to our furry companions. The history leading up to Colma's incorporation in 1924 traces back to the California Gold Rush, a narrative that began seventy-five years earlier. In 1849, the gold rush attracted countless fortune seekers to San Francisco, bringing with them a wave of disease that led to a high mortality rate. By the 1880s, twenty-six cemeteries in San Francisco were near capacity. As a result, cemetery owners

began searching for new grounds for burials, ultimately selecting the southern end of Colma due to its convenient transportation links. The area was easily accessible by horse and carriage on Mission Street, with streetcars connecting San Francisco to Colma and trains stopping alongside the cemeteries. In the late 1890s, California enacted State Penal Code 297, which mandated that burials occur only in established cemeteries, whether owned by cities, counties, religious institutions, or organizations. On June 3, 1887, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese established Holy Cross, making it the first cemetery in Colma. Holy Cross Cemetery has become a notable landmark, with more deceased souls resting here than living residents. This historic site is the final resting place for many Maltese immigrants who have called Northern California home since the early 1900s. For many of us, it's a place where family members—parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends—are interred. Some might have visited these sacred grounds multiple times, recognizing it as a large, beautiful Catholic cemetery. Yet, how many have taken the time to explore its rich history? If you're among those who have wandered the grounds, you may appreciate the information shared below. But for those who haven't ventured beyond individual visits, you might find the stories interesting, as many notable Americans rest alongside our dear Maltese departed. This might even inspire you to consider a tour during your next visit for a burial.



OPERA TIME IN THE CITY!

While Gozo is still bathed in a late summer aura, manifesting magnificent September days, the calendar is already heralding the operatic season. Away from the glittering theatre evenings, autumn brings to mind the planning of cosy retreats and Christmas gateways, where countryside and nature take centre stage.

Opera Season 2025 **La Forza del Destino & Tosca**

Gozo's opera season returns in full swing in October, offering world-class performances and a uniquely Gozitan cultural experience. In exclusive interviews, Mr George Cassar of Teatru Astra and Mr Matthew Sultana of the Aurora Theatre share insights into their theatres' legacies and the inspiration behind this year's productions of **La Forza del Destino** and **Tosca**, and what makes attending opera in Gozo an unforgettable experience. Discover how these iconic theatres, a landmark on Victoria's most prominent main street, are institutions that, while based on community spirit, generate artistic excellence that captivates both local and international audiences. It's time to get hold of tickets!

EVENTS While October in Gozo is synonymous with opera, the calendar of events does not stop there. The fourth edition of **The Ewfonija Grand Operatic Concert** will be held in early October, ushering in the season before the staging of the operas **La Forza del Destino** (11th October) and **Tosca** (23rd, 25th October). Running with the operatic theme, the **Gozo Philatelic Society** will showcase a collection of stamps connected with opera and classical music at Il-Ħaġar Museum. Other exhibitions include **Art Club 2000**, which is being held at the Xewkija Windmill throughout October, and a **mosaic exhibition** by Gozitan artist Mary Portelli, which will be on display throughout October and November at Il-Ħaġar Heart of Gozo Museum. The yearly **Fjakkolata** returns to Għar Ilma and Santa Luċija on October 12th, and the **International Kite and Wind Festival** will be held in the San Dimitri area in Għarb, on 18th October. Another event of noteworthy mention is the **Aurora International Folk Festival**. Now in its 6th edition, the festival, which will be held from the 17th to the 19th of October, promises folk performances from several countries at the Citadel.



Once again, I want to thank you so much for the wonderful newsletter you produce. As always, I keep each one that you send it to so many of us who love to read about Malta. Each one is an absolute treasure with so many interesting articles and the wonderful thing about your newsletter is that everything that is printed is true. It is so good to read about so many wonderful people and the newsletter is always one of colour and amazing information about so many and also the people of Malta whether they be there in Malta or elsewhere in the world. Thank you so much for bringing the wonders of Malta to so many people. Have a wonderful day and again, thank you so much. Kind regards, Marion, Queensland – Australia

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOSEPHINE MAHONEY

Happy 93rd birthday to the talented actress Josephine Mahoney! Born in Senglea on October 6, 1932, she is the second of six children to Patrick, a tenor, and Mary. Josephine's journey in the arts began with her first role as the Madonna in a Passion play at Rediffusion.

Her television debut came in the 1960s, leading to a remarkable career filled with numerous productions. One notable series she worked on is *Id-Dar tas-Soru*, which coincided with a challenging personal moment for her; her husband Gejtu Farrugia tragically passed away in a motorcycle accident at the age of 42 during the show's filming. On the day of the accident, Josephine was set to read the news without knowledge of the tragedy.

Thankfully, Tony Parnis from the Information Department recognized the situation and promptly alerted Charles Arrigo, allowing them to shield her from the news until her sister Lina could deliver

the devastating information. Over the years, Josephine has appeared in a variety of series, including *F'Baħar Wieħed*, *Villa Sunset*, *Triq Wahda*, *Fredu l-Fra*, *Ipokriti*, *Tereža*, *Wenzu u Roži*, and *Aenigma*. In addition to these series, she has featured in productions like *Delitt Fil-Kamra tal-Banju*, *Boomerang*, *Kien Ħati?*, *Il-Bajjad*



u l-Kuluri, *Imħabba fil-Kafè*, *Il- Kerrejja*, *Is-Salib tal-Fidda*, *Gideb u Mħabba*, *It-Tfal Jigu Bil-Vapuri*, and of course *Id-Dar tas-Soru*. Her last television appearance was in the series *Nostalġija*.

Josephine has also contributed to international productions filmed in Malta, such as *A Little Beggar* and *Christopher Columbus: The Discovery*. For many years, she served as a continuity announcer with Xandir Malta, continuing her dedication to the station until 1992. In 2012, Josephine published her biographical book *O Żmien Ħelu: Il-Palk, Ir-Radju u Jien*. Her remarkable contributions were recognized in 2018 on Republic Day when she received the Republic's Medal for the Service of the Republic. Josephine is the mother of two, Jennifer and Patrick, and is a grandmother to Joanna, Roberta, and James. The editor, Frank Scicluna, and readers of the Maltese Journal wish Josephine Mahoney a wonderful birthday!



**The Maltese Journal is appreciated and valued
by over 12,000 readers in Malta, Gozo,
and many other countries worldwide.**

CELEBRATING MALTESE IDENTITY IN STRASBOURG ON NATIONAL DAY

OCTOBER 2, 2025



Everyone who has contributed to shaping Maltese identity was celebrated during an event in Strasbourg, commemorating Malta's National Day.

The evening was hosted by Malta's Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe as part of the cultural programme for Malta's Presidency, highlighting the island nation's rich heritage and its connection to Europe.

The notes of the Maltese national anthem, performed by 30 band

members who travelled from Malta to France to bring a taste of Maltese identity, marked the beginning of the National Day celebration in Strasbourg. The event was part of the cultural programme for Malta's Presidency of the Council of Europe.

At the heart of the celebration were Malta's traditional festas, brass bands, pastizzi, and bizzilla lace—all of which delighted the hundreds of international guests who attended this Maltese-themed evening. Large screens showcased footage of Maltese festa moments alongside displays of traditional artifacts, offering a glimpse into a heritage that stretches back over 400 years.

Speaking to TVMnews, Noel Camilleri, President of the National Band Clubs Association, explained the central role of the band in Maltese festas:

"The band is essential to the celebration. Bringing the elements of a Maltese symphonic band here not only showcases our capabilities but also highlights the very core of every festa in towns and villages across Malta and Gozo." Dr Noel Camilleri

Food, too, plays a defining role in shaping national identity. Chef Rodrick Attard Ghiller, lecturer at the Institute for Tourism Studies, explained how Maltese cuisine was paired with the four seasons: "For example, in winter we focus on honey-based pastries, in summer we serve cooler dishes like octopus with garlic, traditional Maltese ice cream, and for autumn and spring, we pair items like pastizzi and puddings." Rodrick Attard Ghiller

Guests also met Denise Abela, showcasing traditional bizzilla lace through her wedding dress, which she completed just three months ago:

"The lace on my wedding dress is made from Maltese bizzilla, which my mother and I worked on for over three years. We also made the veil entirely from Maltese bizzilla." Denise Abela

The activity was addressed by President Myriam Spiteri Debono and Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg among others.

**MEDITERRANEAN
CONFERENCE
CENTRE**

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**SCHOOL
of
ROCK**

THE MUSICAL

DIRECTED BY
DOROTHY BEZZINA

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY
EDWARD MIFSUD

**OCTOBER
10-11-12**

Venue: YESTERDAY'S

PRESIDENT SPITERI DEBONO ADDRESSES COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GENDER EQUALITY



The President of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, is in Strasbourg, where she addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She emphasized that democracy and human rights are never guaranteed and must be continuously protected and strengthened. She also warned against misinformation and hate speech.

At the start of the week, the President of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, arrived in

Strasbourg. Over the following days, she took part in several engagements and bilateral meetings, but the highlight of her official visit came on Wednesday morning when she addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The President stressed that democracy and human rights are never guaranteed and must always be actively protected. She reminded her audience that democracy should be experienced daily, built on trust and truth.

In connection with Malta's 60th anniversary in the Council of Europe, the President highlighted ongoing challenges such as misinformation, hate speech, and threats to the rights of women and minority groups.

She underscored the importance of protecting the rights of vulnerable groups—children, those outside the mainstream, women, and people who require a stronger voice—and emphasized that these protections are central to what democracy truly means, as democracy is the society we build together.

President Spiteri Debono also highlighted gender equality, citing parliamentary gender quotas as a concrete measure, and warned against gender-based violence.

On the international stage, she reaffirmed Malta's support for Ukraine and explained that the recognition of the Palestinian State was a step in favor of human rights and the security of peoples.

She added that Malta will continue to place the fight against all forms of discrimination at the heart of its agenda.

Shortly after addressing the Parliamentary Assembly, the President spoke at another Council of Europe event focused on women's participation in politics. She stressed that gender equality must be regarded as a pillar of democracy and noted that, despite progress, women still face structural obstacles and pressures to balance career and family life.

She emphasized the need for solidarity across generations and for men to act as allies in breaking down the invisible barriers that hold women back.



PRESIDENT URGES MALTESE COMMUNITY IN THE EMIRATES TO PROMOTE MALTESE VALUES

June 25, 2023

The final commitment of the visit of former Malta President Dr George Vella and his wife Madame Miriam Vella to the United Arab Emirates was a meeting with the Maltese diaspora in Dubai.

Dr Vella urged the community that where and whenever possible they promote the values of the country of their birth as well as to preserve the Maltese Language particularly during intercommunication.

The number of Maltese in the UAE is about 800, all employed in various sectors such as aviation, informatics, financial services, and hospitality.

Although a small number among a population that exceeds nine million, the Maltese community is very active and whole families live there, among them that of Francis Gambin which has entered its second and third generation and who explained how he experienced the UAE develop and undergo change.

Gambin explained that when his family first arrived all was sand but then development grew and grew and this began to confound him but he stayed on because of frequent visits by his grand children.

Antonella Sciberras recounted she went to the Emirates 30 months ago because of her employment in property based in Dubai where there are great opportunities for developers that are known worldwide. Dubai offers opportunities to purchase properties and invest.

Others achieved success to enable them to expand their operations to Malta. Toufic Kreidieh is the owner of a number of retail outlets in the Emirates as well as in Malta. He is regarded as an influential person in the commercial sector as well as on social media with millions of followers of TikTok. "I've been living here for the past 32 years, I'm a proud Maltese citizen and we invested seven years ago in Malta, very active, and you know, always consider ourselves in service of our beloved country Malta wherever we go", he said.

In his address President Vella said the diversity in the UAE is vast because 200 different nationalities from around the world are there and he urged the Maltese community to promote their country of birth with their colleagues to gain worldwide respect.

Dr Vella added that although the Maltese Language is rarely used in places of work, he appealed to the Maltese community not to put their mother tongue aside particularly in their intercommunications and in particular with their children. He augured that on their return to Malta they share their experience and skills acquired over the years away from the country's shores.

This was the final official function for HE the President and his wife Madame Miriam Vella with about 100 people who were present.

NALTESE IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Some 200 Maltese nationals live in Ireland. The Maltese community in Ireland is a growing population, primarily focused on cultural preservation and community support through organizations like the Maltese in Ireland Facebook group and the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA). Members include students, IT professionals, and others who contribute to bilateral relations by sharing their culture and maintaining their language. The Maltese government, represented by the

Embassy of Malta in Ireland, actively engages with the community, recognizing their role as ambassadors for Malta and providing support for their interests abroad.

Community and Engagement

- **Social Media:** The "Maltese in Ireland" Facebook group serves as a central hub for community members to connect, share advice, and organize events.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Community members, like those who met with Maltese President Dr. Vella in 2023, are actively working to preserve Maltese culture and language in Ireland.
- **Support for Expatriates:** The community offers assistance to new arrivals, addressing common challenges such as the high cost of living and housing shortages in Ireland.

Government and Embassy Support

- **The Embassy of Malta:** The Embassy in Dublin plays a crucial role in supporting and promoting social and cultural events for the Maltese community in Ireland.
- **Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA):** This council represents and protects the rights and interests of Maltese nationals living outside Malta, and its members, including Irish community representatives, meet annually.

Bilateral Relations

- **Cultural Ties:** Both Ireland and Malta, as island nations, share a rich history, cultural heritage, and common values, which creates a strong foundation for their relationship.
- **Ambassadorial Role:** Maltese citizens residing in Ireland are seen as valuable contributors to bilateral relations and are encouraged to act as ambassadors for their homeland.

Challenges and Opportunities

- **High Cost of Living:** A significant challenge for Maltese residents in Ireland is the high cost of living, particularly for housing and entertainment.
- **Cultural Integration:** While there is a welcoming environment, new Maltese residents often face the challenge of adjusting to the Irish climate and rural living, especially if they are not accustomed to a lack of sunshine.

GRAND HOSPITALLER IN WASHINGTON DC TO MEETS HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Oct. 1, 2025 - The Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Josef Blotz, participated in the Federal Association's Annual investiture activities and celebrations over the past weekend in Washington DC. This was an opportunity to meet the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation during the reception hosted by Ambassador Michele and Mr. Jim Bowe.



The event honoured the visit of the Grand Hospitaller, and brought together local board members of the Foundation, Federal Association Officers and donors, providing an update on the Foundation's recent work.

The Foundation exists since 1997 to support the inspirational work of the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem, located just 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ. This Order of Malta Catholic teaching hospital is a state-of-the-art maternity and neonatal critical care centre serving women, infants, and children throughout the Holy Land. The Hospital stands as a beacon of hope for poor and at-risk families in the Bethlehem region, nearby desert villages and refugee camps.

Since his election earlier this year, the Grand Hospitaller has made three visits to the Holy Family Hospital, recognizing it as the Order's Crown Jewel. At the event, he outlined achievements and the ongoing plans to ensure best practices and quality care for mothers and babies in Bethlehem. Describing his visits to Palestine and Israel, he focused on both the past and present works of the Order in the region and emphasized the collaborative project with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which provides food, supplies, and healthcare in Gaza City. This project has been a lifeline for both the Christian community and its Muslim neighbours in the surrounding area. Ambassador Bowe noted that, in recent years, to meet fundraising goals eight associations from around the world, including Australia, Malta, Britain, Hong Kong, Spain, and the Federal, Western, and American Associations, have united with the Foundation to bring life, peace, and hope under challenging economic and political conditions. Together, the Order of Malta members work just 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ to bring hope to the families of Bethlehem.

Since 2012, the Foundation has sent over \$28,000,000 to the hospital for operations, equipment, construction, and special projects and has consistently increased its fundraising goals, enabling better care for the families of Bethlehem.

Ambassador Bowe assured guests that, once circumstances allow it, the Foundation will organize a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to return to the land where the Order was founded and to the very Birthplace of Hope. This pilgrimage will serve as an opportunity for members of the Order to pray and serve in community and most importantly to thank the staff of the hospital for their dedication and sacrifice in remaining in Bethlehem despite the current emigrations. They stay to serve and to continue the work among the voiceless and forgotten.

THE STORY BEHIND “PRISON STREET” IN NAXXAR

“Prison Street” in Naxxar takes its name from a remarkable eighteenth-century prison, one that stood out as an exception to the norm of its time.

Unlike most prisons, which were located within the walled cities such as Valletta and the Three Cities, this particular prison was established in a rural village setting, making it unique in Malta’s



penal history.

Even more unusual was its structure. Rather than cells or large communal halls, it consisted of several adjoining houses.

Those who ended up here were rarely hardened criminals. In fact, many were ordinary townspeople who had been condemned for relatively minor offences, most commonly unpaid debts.

Instead of being locked away behind heavy iron bars, these individuals were subjected

to a type of house arrest, serving their sentences while still living alongside their families.

This approach reflected a more domestic, almost community-oriented form of punishment, very different from the stricter incarceration systems elsewhere in Europe at the time.

Prisons in eighteenth-century Malta were often overcrowded and harsh, with conditions that reflected both the island’s limited resources and the punitive attitudes of the era.

The Naxxar prison, however, reveals another side to this history; one that blended discipline with a degree of humanity, allowing families to remain together during difficult times.

Today, at the end of Prison Street, a small niche with a statue of the Assumption still overlooks the road, quietly preserving the memory of this unusual chapter in Malta’s social and architectural heritage.

#MaltaDaily Photo Credit: DOI Alan Saliba

MALTESE TRADITIONS REVIVED ACROSS

7 LOCALITIES

Half Way Through ‘Minn Pjazza Għal Pjazza’ Events

Malta’s village squares have always been the beating heart of community life; places where families gather, traditions are passed down, and culture thrives. This year, this spirit is being reimagined through “Minn Pjazza Għal Pjazza”, a unique initiative



that brings local traditions, creativity, and community engagement to life across 15 localities in Malta and Gozo. The series runs from June until December 2025 and showcases the diversity of Maltese culture through music, theatre, food, storytelling, and interactive experiences. With NGOs, bands, scouts, and cultural organisations all playing their part, the project highlights how tradition and innovation can meet in the heart of the community.

The Journey So Far The first half of the programme has already brought unforgettable experiences to seven localities:

- **Ħal Għargħur (28 June)** – Għeruq u Kenn: Explored the town's historical roots with music, dance, and theatre in WWII shelters, alongside workshops on traditional crafts.
- **Ir-Rabat (12 July)** – Nilagħbu bil-Kbir: Families became part of a Live Cultural Game Show inspired by Maltese history and local characters.
- **Il-Gżira (25 July)** – Minn Raħal Kwiet Għal Qalb Urbana: A deep dive into the locality's transformation from quiet village to bustling urban centre, with workshops, photography, and sea-inspired activities.
- **Marsaskala (2 August)** – Iljieli Ramlin: Revived the once-popular seaside gatherings of St. Thomas Bay, blending nostalgia with continuity, and included għana performances.
- **Il-Qrendi (23 August)** – Mixja maż-Żmien: Focused on local legends and the town's unique identity, with special emphasis on the world-renowned temples of **Haġar Qim**.
- **L-Imtarfa (29 August)** – Mar-Ritmu tal-Arloġġ: An event in the newly inaugurated square, featuring traditional games, drumming, music, and dance.
- **Il-Birgu (6 September)** – Inġeddu l-Istorja!: A feast of traditions where the main highlight saw the museum's historical artifacts come to life, complemented by the involvement of residents, volunteers, and foreigners living in the city.

What's Still to Come With seven events down, the journey continues across Malta and Gozo with another eight unique cultural experiences:

- **Tal-Pietà (27 September)** – Fejn Tnisslet il-Qalb: Highlighting the birth of many Maltese citizens at St. Luke's Hospital, the birth of broadcasting at PBS, and the birth of the Maltese Eurovision Song Contest. The event will include health-related activities, a concert with Eurovision singers who represented Malta, and PBS-related showcases.
- **Mosta (3 October)**: A night dedicated to jazz, honouring Mosta's own pioneer Charles 'City' Gatt.
- **Il-Kalkara (12 October)**: Traditional games return to the regenerated square, alongside music and band participation.
- **Senglea (18 October)**: Residents become 'living books,' sharing personal stories across historic sites including the Dockyard and Gardjola.
- **Ta' Kerċem, Gozo (24 October)**: An astronomy-inspired event exploring the connection between sky and earth, with stargazing, awareness on light pollution, and astrophotography.
- **Ħal Qormi (8 November)**: A cultural journey around San Martin's feast with reenactments and historic storytelling.
- **San Lawrenz, Gozo (15 November)**: Blending past and present through ceramic installations, creating an open-air museum at the Belvedere Colle Umberto.
- **Iż-Żejtun (12 December)**: Closing the series with a celebration spread across three squares, focusing on Żejtun's roots through nicknames, dialOURect, Maltese lace, street theatre, and open-air art.

A Living Celebration of Culture

By December, 15 communities will have hosted thousands of residents and visitors, proving that Malta's village squares are still vibrant stages for creativity and tradition.

Minn Pjazza Għal Pjazza is more than just a series of events, it is a living celebration of Maltese identity, carried square by square, community by community. #MaltaDaily

**This project is organised by Kultura and Gvern Lokali in collaboration with Local Councils, led by Creative Director Daniel Cauchi.*



FESTA IKEL MALTI 2025

Join us for the third edition of the Maltese Food Festival on Sunday, 12th October, between 10:00 and 17:00 at Pitkalija, Ta' Qali. This festival is a celebration of our farmers, ranchers,

fishermen and producers who, with their hard work, provide us with the best fresh produce throughout the year. Let's celebrate their work and dedication, while enjoying Maltese food, local produce and culinary experiences that bring with them the true taste of Malta. The whole family is invited for a fun-filled day. See you there!



Birgufest 2025 returns on the 10th and 11th of October, bringing culture, music, and heritage to the historic city of Birgu. On Saturday evening, Birgu's charming

streets will be transformed into a breathtaking spectacle, illuminated by thousands of candles. This magical tradition creates an unforgettable atmosphere that has become the highlight of the festival.

Across the two days, visitors can enjoy live music, cultural performances, historical re-enactments, art exhibitions, and activities for all ages. Local museums, churches, and historical sites will also open their doors, offering a unique opportunity to experience Birgu's timeless heritage. Food stalls, artisan markets, and traditional delicacies will complement the event, making Birgufest not just a cultural celebration, but also a community experience. Organised by the Kunsill Lokali Birgu with the support of local partners, Birgufest is one of Malta's most anticipated cultural festivals – a true celebration of history, tradition, and community spirit.

Dates: Friday 10th & Saturday 11th October 2025 Location: Birgu (Vittoriosa), Malta

OUR READERS IN MALTA AND GOZO ARE EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR RELATIVES LIVING ABROAD. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN HOW WE DILIGENTLY WORK TO PRESERVE THE MALTESE CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND LANGUAGE BEYOND OUR SHORES.



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DOOR KNOCKERS THE MALTESE LOVE 'IL-HABBATA TAL-BIEB' FAST DISAPPEARING

To say that the Maltese love their habbata would be an

understatement. Rightly so, because a proper Maltese door cannot be complete without one of Malta's most iconic features. Over time the habbata (plural: habbatiet) evolved from having a more practical purpose to becoming a decorative feature of a traditional Malta house entrance. Once a symbol of status, they today remain a showcase of the skill and pride that the Maltese took into crafting small house details like the habbata into various faces, themes and maritime motifs to greet visitors into their house. When you think of it, this attention to detail to even the smallest bits of the house highly contrasts with today's mentality.

Bieb ta' barra Malti ma jistax ikun komplut mingħajr habbata. U bir-raġun. Maż-żmien l-użu tagħhom evolva minn wieħed aktar prattiku għal ieħor ta' dekorazzjoni. Darba il-habbata kienet tirrifletti l-livell tas-sidien ta' dik id-dar, 'status symbol' kif jgħidu, iktar ma tkun kbira u sabiha u iktar sinjura tkun il-familja li tgħix fiha. Illum il-habbata tibqa popolari ferm. Forsi qedha wkoll hemm biex tfakkarna fil-ħila tal-Maltin li kienu jaħdmuha b'daqsekk attenzjoni għad-dettall għal anke l-iċken parti tad-dar. X'differenza mid-djar tal-lum.

**WHEN YOU FINISH READING THIS JOURNAL PLEASE PASS IT ON
TO OTHERS
AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SUBSCRIBE**

A SMALL DONATION WILL HELP TO KEEP THIS JOURNAL ALIVE

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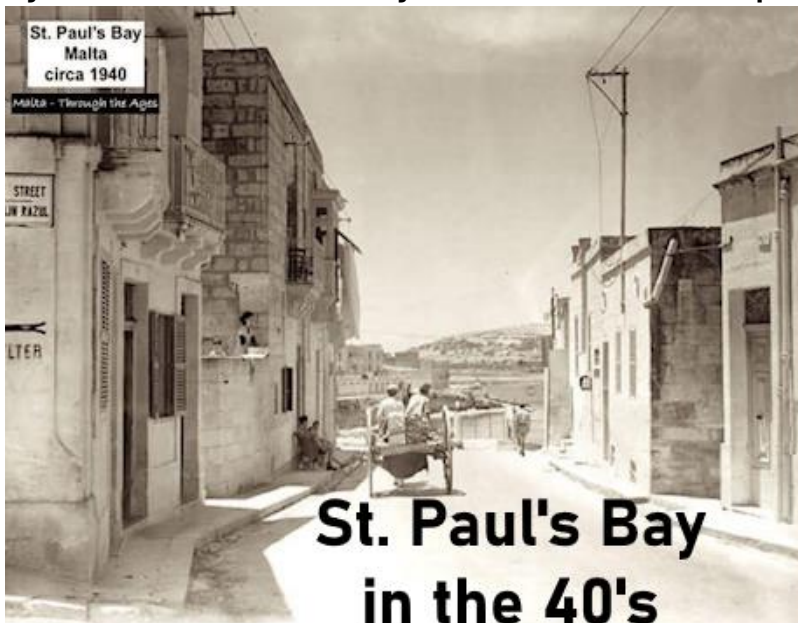
BSB - 065106

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Back when all the neighbours were family and friends, sitting on a bench while the children played outside was how many Maltese and Gozitans spent their summer evenings.



**St. Paul's Bay
in the 40's**



Newport Maltese Association And Seniors Group

Annual Dinner Dance

As you are aware that the Annual Dinner Dance of the Newport Maltese Seniors is being held at 6.00pm Sunday, 12th October.

The dance will be held at Ferraro Receptions, 14 ONSLOW Avenue,

Campbellfield. Prices for members are \$55 and \$65 for non Members.

If you wish to book please do so as soon as possible as we have to give final numbers at the beginning of the next week.

Also, if you have already booked please make sure you pay by the end of this week. You can do this through our bank account and if you do not have details

Please contact Gwen Busuttil on 9333 3693.

We look forward to seeing you there for another enjoyable evening – Toni Scicluna



VIVIENNE KOST MALTESE BROADCASTER

50 YEARS OF MALTESE BROADCASTING ON SBS.

The Maltese Journal congratulates SBS RADIO on the 50th anniversary of Maltese broadcasting on SBS. We honour Vivienne Kost, a trailblazer in the industry and one of the inaugural broadcasters and presenters on Radio 3EA. Vivienne began her broadcasting adventure as the host of the Youth Programme and later took on additional responsibilities with the Children's Programme and the Women's Programme. She concluded her remarkable journey at SBS with the role of Marketing Manager. Well done!!!



Malta Cycling Federation
BMX Indoor Skatepark
Triq Martin Luther King
Pembroke PBK 1121
Malta



PRESS RELEASE

October 5, 2025

Ref: Mourning at the Malta Cycling Federation – Death of Jon Miles, Former National Coach

The **Malta Cycling Federation** announces with great sadness the passing of **Jon Miles**, former national coach, who died on Friday at the age of 87 following a short terminal illness. The Federation is in deep mourning for a man who made an immense contribution to the development of cycling in Malta, particularly in the women's sector.

Jon Miles was a passionate advocate for the sport and collaborated closely with the Malta Cycling Federation and the **Tour of Malta Organising Committee** for many years. Through his women's cycling club, **VC Bedford**, he established a strong and enduring relationship with the Federation, regularly bringing British teams to participate in the Tour of Malta and fostering international exchange.

As coach of the Maltese national team, Miles led the squad during the **2001 Games of the Small States of Europe** in San Marino. His involvement in Maltese cycling extended far beyond his coaching years—he remained deeply interested and supportive of local developments until the very end. Jon also extended opportunities to Maltese cyclists, both men and women, to compete in races across England, opening doors to valuable international experience.

On behalf of the entire Maltese cycling community, we express our heartfelt gratitude to Jon Miles for his dedication, vision, and the inspiration he provided to countless athletes over the years.

The Malta Cycling Federation extends its **sincere condolences** to the family and loved ones of Jon Miles during this difficult time.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation. With sporting regards,

Joe Bajada Secretary General Malta Cycling Federation



BISHOP OF GOZO IN VICTORIA

Bishop Anton Teuma of Gozo celebrated the Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Kealba. The Mass drew a large crowd, and the bishop shared an engaging sermon that resonated with attendees. After the service, many appreciated the chance to meet him and take photos together. In the afternoon, Bishop Teuma visited the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, where he engaged with members of the Maltese Literature Group. He then visited the Missionaries of St. Pauls Society (MSSP) Provincial House in Parkville. It was truly a beautiful and memorable day.

Fr. Lonnie Borg mssp



Members of the La Valette committee, Maltese Respite Services, patrons and the wider Maltese community gathered at La Valette Social Centre today 2nd October 2025 were pleased to welcome the Gozo Bishop Anton Teuma to the Maltese Centre - Blacktown NSW.

Ivan Cauchi - La Valette Facebook



BISHOP OF GOZO ANTON TEUMA AT GREYSTANES, NSW



Fl-ewwel mument taż-żjara tal-Isqof ta' Ghawdex Anton Teuma fl-Awstralja, il-Hadd 28 Settembru 2025 huwa mexxa Konċelebrazzjoni Solenni fil-Parroċċa ta' Marija Sultana tal-Paċi fi Greystanes, Sydney, fejn il-komunità Maltija iċċelebrat s-60 anniversarju mill-Festa tal-Bambina. F'din l-okkażjoni, l-Isqof poġġa kuruna fuq ras l-istatwa tal-Madonna, li wara saret purċissjoni biha mat-toroq tal-madwar. Hu kellu wkoll l-opportunità li jiltaqa' ma' bosta emigranti Ghawdxin, speċjalment mill-istess raħal tiegħu tax-Xaghra.

THE MALTESE AND GOZITANS HAVE A STRONG PASSION FOR KEEPING UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT THEIR FELLOW MALTESE LIVING OVERSEAS.



Saint Catherine's Society of South Australia Inc.
Here is the list of new committee members from last Sunday's AGM -
President - Bernadette Buhagiar
Secretary - Ted Camilleri Treasurer - Jimmy Fenech
Public Officer - Debbie Cosford Councillor - Antony Jackson
Councillor - Deane Cosford

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA



What an incredible weekend. A truly uplifting day celebrating International Youth Fellowship Day. Both Isaac and Rebekah (Organisers) did a phenomenal job in organizing this event.

It was a privilege to be involved with the IYF and the various ethnic groups again, and to have the opportunity to meet new friends.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria has been involved for two years, and we were honoured this year with the visit of the Consul General of the Republic of Malta in Melbourne, Gioconda Schembri.

The President Madam Antonia Camilleri, Vice President Andrew

Gatt and Treasurer Joseph Matina were in attendance.

Some of the people that visited our stall included the Mayor of Brimbank, Cr Kim Thien Truong, directors from the Australian Vietnamese women association and many others.

The MMG Band Played some great marches and were applauded for their excellent performance.