

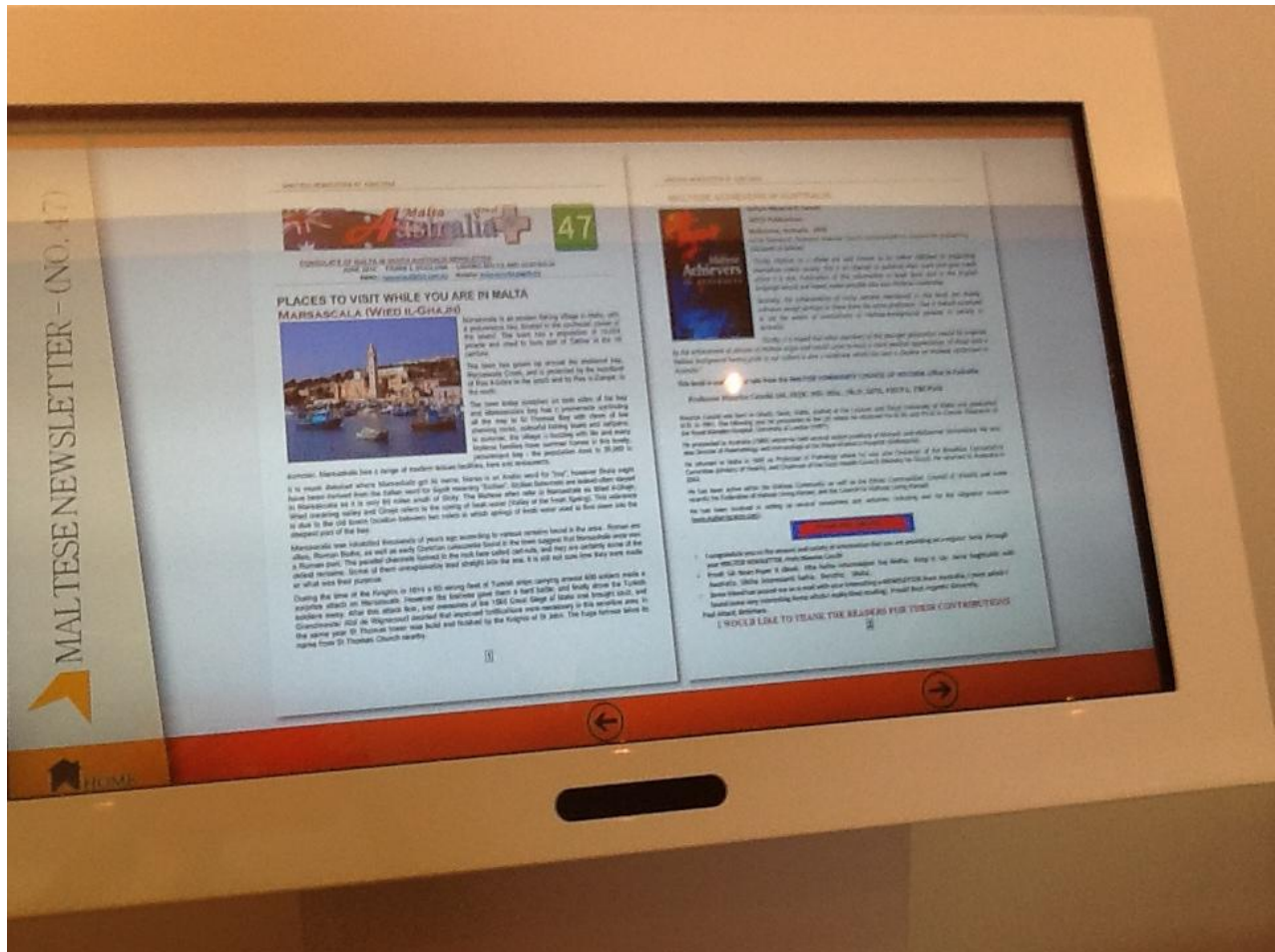


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CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au Read the Maltese Newsletters on: www.ozmalta.page4.me



**OUR NEWSLETTERS ARE PRESERVED AT THE
MIGRATION MUSEUM – VALLETTA – MALTA**





Auxiliary Bishop Charles Scicluna (left) will temporarily take over the reins of the Church in Malta if the Pope accepts Archbishop Paul Cremona's resignation. Photo: Paul Zammit Cutajar

18 October 2014

Mgr Paul Cremona to officially resign his post today

Mgr Charles Scicluna to become Administrator

It was officially announced at a press conference held at the Archbishop's Curia this morning, that the Holy Father Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of His Grace Mgr. Paul Cremona O.P. from the office of Archbishop of Malta. Archbishop Cremona resigned for health reasons.

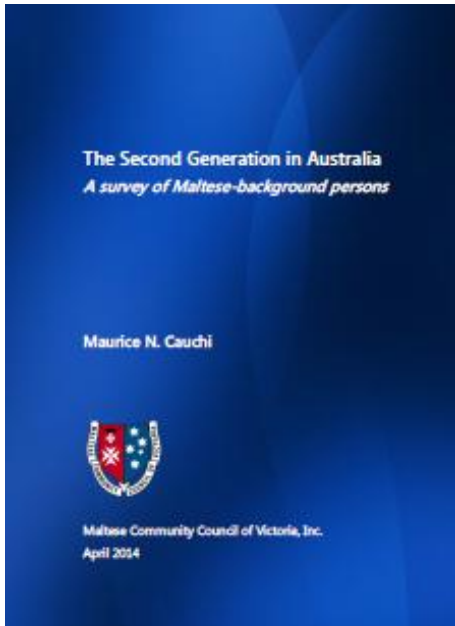
The resignation is effective as of the 18th October 2014 at noon. Mgr Cremona acquires the title of Emeritus Archbishop of Malta.

In a letter addressed to Mgr Cremona, the Holy Father thanked Archbishop Emeritus Cremona for his episcopal ministry, well known and appreciated for its human warmth and spiritual proximity to the people of God.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has nominated His Lordship Mgr Charles J. Scicluna, Titular Bishop of San Leone, as Apostolic Administrator sede vacante with the authority to govern the Archdiocese of Malta until the new Archbishop of Malta takes canonical possession of the Archdiocese.

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

Profs Maurice Cauchi



The vast majority of those who left these Islands in the troubled years following the Second World War were mainly drawn from those who had no qualifications or those who had been rendered redundant from the Dockyard and other military-related jobs. In Australia, the number of these, the first generation, is now dwindling, having reached just over 40,000.

On the other hand, the number of Maltese-background persons from the second and subsequent generations is growing at a considerable pace, now reaching over 160,000. In other words, the proportion of first generation to the total is now no more than one in five.

It is a fact that for most Maltese living in Malta, their idea of Maltese living overseas is often coloured by their acquaintance with persons of the first generation, which, of course, reflects the Maltese population as it was more than half a century ago. However, in Australia, as in Malta, there has been very significant changes, which have occurred over the years, quietly, without much fanfare, and certainly very frequently ignored by the media and the general public in Malta. So what does the typical Maltese living overseas look like these days?

There is indeed considerable variation among Maltese, as for any other ethnic groups, and it might well be argued that there is no such thing as a typical Maltese of the second generation. A survey carried out recently throws some light on this issue. Persons in this category are more likely to have the following characteristics:

- ❖ They are likely to be in the 40-50 age group, but a few might well be over 60 and retired by now;
- ❖ More than half of them have a tertiary qualification;
- ❖ Most would be married, often to non-Maltese, and most likely have two children, rarely more;
- ❖ The vast majority consider themselves to be Maltese-Australians, and only a small proportion consider themselves as unhyphenated 'Australian';
- ❖ About half of them are likely to be able to understand some Maltese, but very few can speak it fluently. Moreover, it is the exception to find that they speak Maltese to their children;
- ❖ They do not belong to Maltese organisations;
- ❖ They do not listen to Maltese radio or watch Maltese programs on television;
- ❖ A considerable number keep in touch with Maltese affairs, particularly through the internet;
- ❖ A considerable proportion would participate in voting in Maltese or European elections if facilities (like postal voting) was made available;
- ❖ About a third of them possess a Maltese passport, and about an equal number intend to apply for one;
- ❖ The majority have visited Malta, often on several occasions, and are impressed by what they found.

One can draw certain conclusions from these findings, assuming they represent the overall second-generation persons of Maltese background in Australia. It is clear that Maltese language maintenance has become practically impossible in spite of hard efforts by various community leaders and other bodies. The high degree of intermarriage with non-Maltese-speaking partners makes language maintenance so much more difficult.

However, there is still a relatively strong link with the mother country, as evinced by their emphasis on their Maltese ethnicity, the number having Maltese passports and their intention to apply for one if they do not, the high number of persons visiting Malta, and also, surprisingly, from their interest in Maltese and European political issues.

NINU CREMONA - MALTESE WRITER (1880 – 1972)



Anthony Cremona (May 27, 1880 - January 4, 1972) also known as **Ninu Cremona** and **Is-Sur Nin** was a Maltese writer.

He was the son of Felič and Margaret née Pace. He was born in Victoria (Rabat) Gozo. Orphaned at a very young age when his father died in 1885, he was sent to live with his uncle in Tunis where he attended the school of the Christian Brothers and later on at St Charles College.

In 1888 he returned to Malta where he continued his studies in The Seminary in Gozo. There he met with Dun Karm (Monsignor Carmelo Psaila, the Maltese national poet). In 1900 he was employed as a clerk with the government and four years later was appointed as Sanitary Inspector after having attended for a course in the Ashton School of Hygiene at the University of Liverpool. In 1928 he became the editor responsible for all the government translations and publications.

He used also to teach Maltese in evening classes while in 1936 he became a Master teaching Maltese at the Lyceum. During the years he was also an examiner of the Maltese Language at the Royal University of Malta. Regarding his character it is best if one reads the sonnet about him written by one of the poets of his time, namely Nicol Biancardi.

Ninu Cremona was one of the founders of the Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti (the Maltese Writers Society) now known as the Akkademja tal-Malti (the Maltese Academy). Throughout his life he kept the position of Vice President and was also the editor of *Il-Malti*, the Writers Society magazine. His biggest contribution to the Maltese language was the formulation of the Maltese orthography, a very important task, in which he had the help of Ġanni Vassallo. His study is still valid in modern times and could be found in the booklet *Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija* (Information about the Maltese Grammar), which was published for the first time in 1924.



He was a prolific writer. He was very fond of drama, and his best work is without any doubt *Il-Fidwa tal-Bdiewa* (The Farmers' Liberation) a play based on the classical Greek structure. He published many books (see bibliography below).

He wrote a number of biographies, but the one that tops the list and was also used by many other researchers to expand upon is without any doubt about Mikiel Anton Vassalli u Żminijietu (1937), which was translated by May Butcher, Vassalli and his times in 1940.

Among other biographies there is the one about Rużar Briffa that was published in *Il-Malti* of June 1963, the year in which the poet had died and in which he gives an interesting fact about the establishment of L-Għaqda tal-Malti (Università) which had been established by Rużar Briffa and Ġużè Bonnici in 1931.

In 1964 he received the gold medal Ġużè Muscat Azzopardi and on the June 4, 1960 was honoured by the Royal University of Malta with the degree D.Litt. Honoris Causa in Literature for his great contribution in the sphere of literature, grammar and science of the Maltese language. On September 21, 1969 he was awarded the Silver Medal of Merit by the

Confederation of Civic Councils. He spent his last few months in the small island of Gozo where he had been born. He died on Tuesday January 4, 1972 at the vulnerable age of 91 years. All the Maltese newspapers and many magazines honoured him by detailed appreciations of his works, amongst which was the specialised *Lehen il-Malti* issue number 18 in 1973.



EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR FILIPINO DIASPORA SETS UP FORMAL STRUCTURES IN MALTA

VALLETTA, MALTA – A new network of Filipinos in Europe has set up formal mechanisms in a meeting here over the weekend, less than four months after the same groups met for a diaspora conference in Rome. Representatives from 7 European countries elected the officers of the European Network of Filipino Diaspora or ENFiD and formed its constitution and bylaws in a meeting at the Dar L-Emigrant Office here in the Maltese capital Valletta.



Gene Alcantara, a UK-based immigration law practitioner was elected ENFiD chair; while Rohlee de Guzman (Netherlands) was elected vice-chair; along with Marison Rodriguez (Czech Republic) as secretary; Renee Ikdal (Norway) as treasurer; and Diomedes Eviota (Switzerland) as communications director. All compose the Board of Directors to include Monsignor Jerry Bitoon (Italy) and the appointed non-country representative, Ms. Marie Luarca-Reyes as the ENFiD Executive Director.

L-R (Top): Marison Rodriguez, ENFiD-Czech Republic, Marika Farrugia, Exec Secretary in the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations in Malta, Diomedes Eviota, ENFiD-Switzerland, Rohlee de Guzman, ENFiD-Netherlands, Renee Ikdal, ENFiD-Norway, Jennifer Icao-Calleja, ENFiD-Malta, Amelia

Alado, ENFiD-UK Adviser, and Gene Alcantara, ENFiD-UK. (Bottom) Marie Luarca-Reyes, ENFiD Executive Director, Virgilio Reyes, Philippine Ambassador to Italy, and Sebastian Micallef, Commissioner/FOIO in the Commission of Voluntary Organizations in Malta.

ENFiD said they will register as a regional voluntary organization in Malta, saying the small archipelagic nation in southern Europe is a migrant-friendly nation hosting numerous nationalities. Malta, which has a population of 419,100, is home to some 1500 Filipinos, 625 are registered according to 2011 figures from the Commission for Overseas Filipinos. The meeting was hailed as historic by Philippine Ambassador to Italy Virgilio Reyes, in his remarks before the representatives from the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Norway and host Malta. Monsignor Philip Calleja of the Office of the Migrants Commissioner also told the representatives that he was hopeful of the help that ENFiD would be able to give to migrants. The ENFiD representatives, together with other migrant groups attended the Sunday mass in Valletta to celebrate the Migrant Day. Later ENFiD officers held an orientation session with the Filipino community in Malta. ENFiD was formed after the Diaspora to Dialogue (D2D) conference in Rome last September, which had some 250 Filipino diaspora representatives from 15 European and 7 other participating countries.

OUR NEWSLETTER IS EVEN READ IN CUBA

I am Fr. Lucian Borg, an Augustinian from Malta, living and working in Cuba since these last 4 years. Before I have been 30 years in Africa, and from 2002 to 2010 Provincial of the Maltese Augustinian Province. I am extremely happy to receive the Newsletter you publish. Here in Cuba communications through Internet are getting better and access to Internet is being extended to the local population and to us residents. It is still very slow, but at least we can use it. I am dropping you these few hasty word first and foremost to congratulate you for the very interest Newsletter I receive. I really appreciate reading all its interesting articles, well written and excellently presented. Secondly, I would like to ask you to send it to me in the following email address: frlucianborg@gmail.com. Thanking you before-hand and wishing you and our Maltese communities in Australia all the best in the Lord, I am faithfully yours

Fr. Lucian Borg OSA.



The Queensland Maltese crowd during a 2007 reception in Australia to meet former President Eddie Fenech Adami and his (late) wife Mary.

Photo: Lino Arrigo Azzopardi

WHY A COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD?

Why should a nation as small as ours, which has over-achieved, occasionally disown the fact we are Maltese – Rosalie Rivett -Government appointee of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad.

The former Foreign Affairs Minister Tonio Borg formally launched Il-Kunsill tal-Maltin ta' Barra – The Council for Maltese Abroad in 2011. Through the Council, the Government is reaching out to all Maltese living overseas

and trying to provide closer links between them and their homeland. Immediately this opportunity throws up a host of questions.

When I was appointed on this laudable, voluntary endeavour I asked those questions: what are we supposed to do with it, what is it for, how will it work in practice and what benefits will it bring for the island and for those who live overseas? How could we best respond positively to this cross-party initiative?

This is a very special moment, one of those occasions in life which could make a difference. First of all it needs to be said that we are proud to be Maltese, and not hesitate to proclaim as much, in a loud and clear voice wherever we live. Just to have to say this strikes non-Maltese as odd.

Why should a nation as small as ours which has over-achieved and produced distinguished international figures in the arts, sciences, jurisprudence, politics and commerce wish to downplay its heritage, even, occasionally, disown the fact that we are Maltese? And yet that is what has, sometimes, happened over the years.

It all had to do with issues of citizenship, personal rights, identity, especially that of married women, and nationality, but that is in the past. Today most have multi-layered identities, such as being Maltese, a Commonwealth citizen and a European citizen as well as in many cases, the citizenship of the host country.

There is another longer-lasting, insidious and softly spoken jealousy between some of those who have stayed in Malta to build their lives here and those who have ventured abroad to seek their fortunes, or whose personal circumstances have taken them away from their homeland.

This Council has a duty to build a bridge between Maltese wherever they live and our island community. The point of a bridge is that people, trade, skills and ideas can travel in both directions.

Our island may be small but in the great scheme of things so, too, is the world and surely it behoves those who have been successful to help others, to guide them, advise them, support them, invest in them... even if they have left Malta.

The Council has been established by act of parliament and is enshrined in the Maltese Constitution. Its purpose is to represent interests of Maltese communities abroad before Maltese authorities, to protect and cherish the national identity, to promote our heritage and culture in all its richness. That does not mean that we are trapped in a time warp of pastizzi and bigilla, our heritage goes so far beyond Żeppi and Grezz.

There is a major difference between culture and folklore, yet there is room for both. It is sometimes these aspects, different perspectives and perceptions, that alienate some members of the diaspora as they feel that some of their compatriots may not have moved with the times. There is occasionally a tendency still to act, and indeed maintain standards, as they did one or two generations ago.

It is such a pity that, occasionally, we denigrate ourselves by harking back to old times and age-old customs such as trying to reproduce a Maltese village festa of 100 years ago in other major cities abroad without modern adjustments. The formula just doesn't always fit and can jar with some more progressive Maltin ta' Barra.

Our traditional dance, music, costumes, customs and language are important but we should not give the impression that that is all Malta has to offer. Malta is a growing nation, a flourishing commercial and financial centre attracting businesses from all over the world and we have influence.

We have played strategic roles in international affairs, negotiations and conflicts and we have shown our ability to navigate skilfully in hostile diplomatic waters. We have much to be proud of and now we have a chance to pool our talents and capitalise on them.

The establishment of this Council is a bold undertaking. Like all modern nations, the government of Malta is reaching out to its diaspora as it realises that engagement with all Maltese is mutually beneficial.

However, the Council will be stillborn unless we all realise that this could be a vehicle to help all Maltese achieve even greater heights. Council members are open to suggestions and for the venture to succeed there has to be dialogue. Although the Council is an instrument of Foreign Affairs it exists for the benefit of all; it does not issue decrees, pass laws or give instructions.

The following are a few suggestions as to what it could do, there will be others:

Communication – we live in a world of instantaneous and continuous communication so let's make better use of the internet and broadcasting systems to reach out to one another to interact and to keep ourselves informed of what small and great endeavours we are undertaking in Malta or overseas.

This flow of information will keep the world up to date about our modern country and its people. To varying degrees this does happen within some overseas communities.

Networking – it should be possible for anyone travelling anywhere in the world to be able to find out if there is a fellow Maltese in a city. Council members represent various regions where many Maltese already live and their role can include the facility to provide the right connections and make appropriate introductions.

A voluntary register of names and contact details might be the only chance of finding an attentive ear in foreign parts to help a project to succeed.

By complimenting, not transgressing, the work of our embassies and High Commissions, the Council can facilitate all manner of private and corporate initiatives, exhibitions and educational gatherings, conferences and concerts.

Investment – I see this as selling Malta in all its facets (business, finance, tourism, education and the arts) to the world.

I also see it as a vehicle for selling the entrepreneurial drive of Maltese as they build their lives and international businesses. We live in a tough economic environment – why not work with fellow countrymen and women? If you have been blessed with success then sprinkle some of that magic dust on our students at university or give a helping hand to young, budding entrepreneurs should they call out of the blue and ask for advice.

Your voice – above all the Council is the Maltese (abroad) voice before Government regardless of how far away from Malta one might live. We are specifically tasked with making sure opinions are heard on all aspects of new legislation as it may affect members' interests.

But, and it is a big but, if you don't talk to members of Council, write to them, e-mail them, then they cannot speak up on your behalf. In due time all these lines of communication will be open. There are, and will be, specific websites to promote what members and the Council are achieving together.

Last, but not least, the young – the population of Malta is quite youthful. They are the masters and mistresses of new technology, new ways of communicating, new trends and styles. I would urge them to be the main drivers of the Council, helping to set its course and agenda. We can and should celebrate our history, for it is only by understanding the past, and learning from it, that we can forge an even brighter and better future.

In summary, the Council has been established for all Maltese, to celebrate the lives they are living today, the achievements of the past, and the ambitions for what is yet to come. Because of Malta's geo-strategic location countless visitors and invaders have landed on our shores.

We have absorbed their influences, adopted some of their ways; they have had an impact on our culture, on our language and over the centuries created a glorious heritage but throughout we have remained Maltese.

I believe we are a richer nation because of the wealth of influences and by understanding and rejoicing in our history we can build wider and deeper personal, cultural and commercial relations wherever we find ourselves.

L-ILSIEN MALTI

Ma kontx naqbad il-pinna biex nikteb fuq dan is-suggett kieku ma rajtx li sal-lum ghad hawn hafna fehmiel imghawga dwar il-htiega tat-tagħlim tal-Malti. U qatt ma ktibt fuq hekk ghaliex jidhirli li mhux ta' min ifakkar f'dak iz-zmien ta' ghajb kbir ghalina l-Maltin li kellna naraw f'Malta glieda kbira ta' fehmiel bejn il-Maltin stess fuq il-jedd ta' l-ilsien Malti. M'iniex ngħid ghan-nuqqas ta' ftehim fuq xi rqaqat fl-ortografija, imma qieghed ngħid li jmissna nhammru wiccna meta niftakru li, sa flit tas-snin ilu, il-Malti kien għadu mitkellem biss fit-toroq u mwarrab għal kollox mill-qrati u mill-iskejjel. U la kien magħruf il-Malti safi u lanqas dak li mhux safi.

Lil dawk li donnhom ma fehmux il-jedd u l-htiega ta' l-ilsien Malti, lil dawk li, kieku kien min għalihom, il-Malti għadu kif kien, imwarrab minn daru; lil dawk kollha ngħidilhom iharsu tejn il-hajja tal-poplu tagħna. U nistaqsihom: Min jahti ta' dan in-nuqqas kbir ta' edukazzjoni fost il-poplu Malti?

Min jahti ta' dan il-liven baxx fil-kultura u f'kull tagħlim mehtieg mill-poplu tagħna? Ikunu tassew boloh u bla għaqal jekk huma jwiegbu li dawn in-nuqqasijiet hekk kbar u li ilhom zmien twil fil-poplu tagħna, huma l-htija tal-qawmien u ta' l-indhil ta' l-ilsien Malti li għadu kemm beda jieh u r-ruh fi zmienna. U ma tridx għerf wisq biex tifhem x'kienet il-htija li l-poplu tagħna baqa minn dejjem mizmum hekk.

Il-kwistjoni ta' l-ilsien Malt hi marbuta ma' l-istorja ta' Malta. Il-gzejjer tagħna kienu minn dejjem taht il-hakma tal-barranin li ma kienx jaqblilhom li jghinu l-izvilupp ta' l-ilsien Malti ghax kienu jafu tajjeb li l-ilsien tal-pajjiz mahkum jgib mieghu qawmien nazzjonali u jnissel fil-qlub mahkuma u mjassra sentiment kbir ta' patrijottizmu. F'din il-qagħda l-poplu tagħna kien jahseb u jtkellem kif riduh il-barranin. L-ilsien tagħna qatt ma kien magħruf bħala kien ufficcjali, la mill-Gvern Civili u lanqas mill-awtoritajiet tal-knisja. Issa, saħansitra, sar wiehed mill-ilsna ewlenin tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Għandna nkunu kburi li Malta, għira daqs tikka fil-Mediterran, għandha ilsien tagħha.

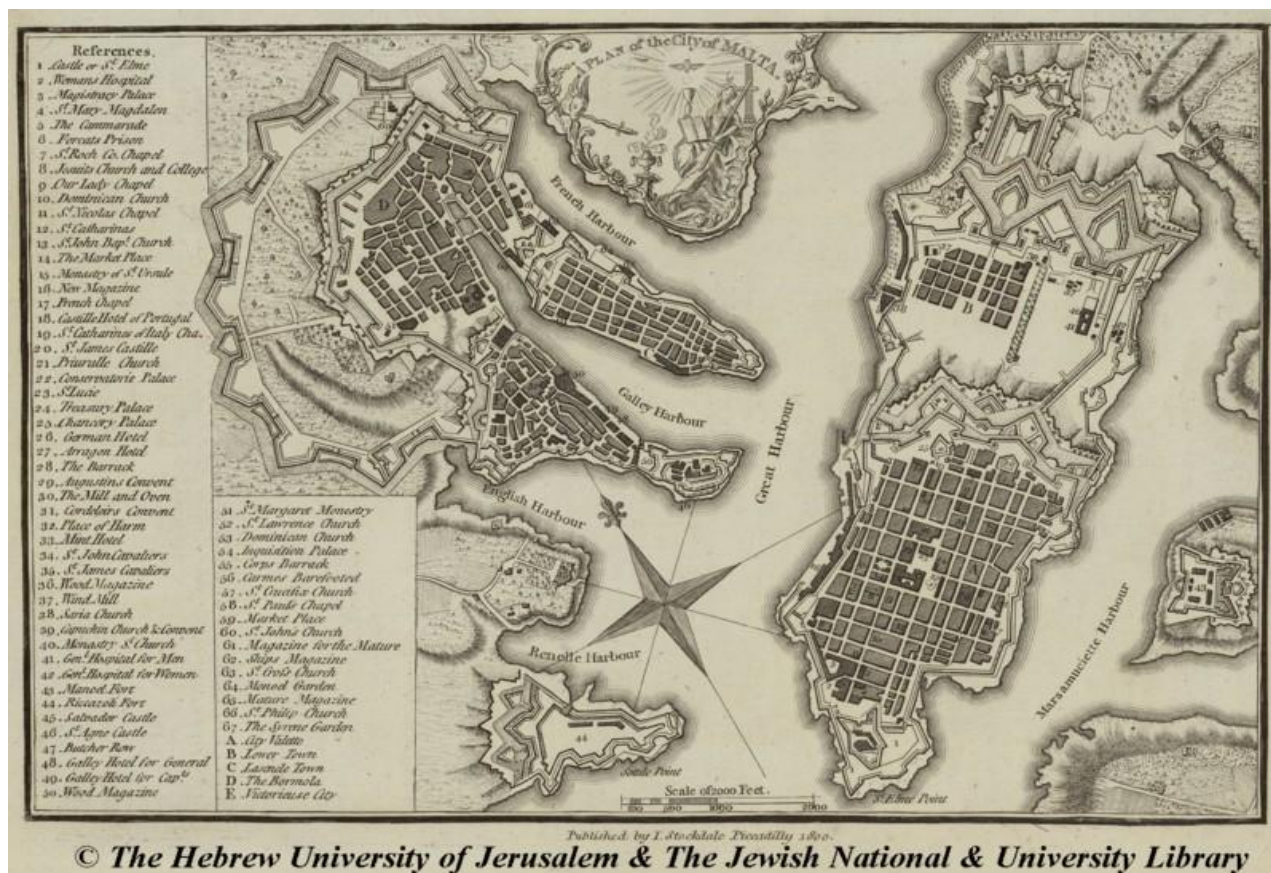
COAT OF ARMS OF MALTA AND GOZO



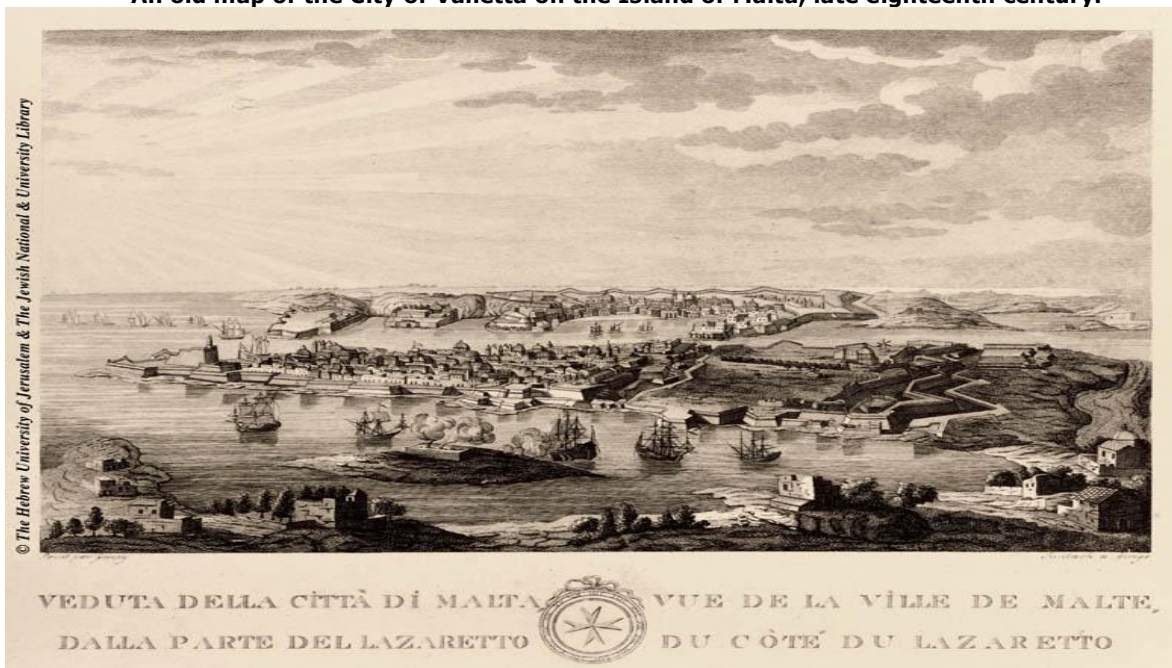
The Maltese Coat-of-Arms consists of a shield showing a heraldic representation of the National Flag of Malta; above the shield there is a mural crown in gold with sally port and eight turrets (five only being visible), representing the fortifications of Malta and denoting a City State; around the shield there is a wreath of two branches, the dexter of olive, the sinister a palm, symbols of peace and traditionally associated with Malta, all in their proper colors, tied at the base with a white ribbon, backed with red and upon which are written the words "Repubblika ta' Malta" in capital letters.

The official coat-of-arms of Gozo is a field divided horizontally: the upper two thirds silver; the lower Gozo Coat of Arms one third made up of six parallel wavy horizontal bands alternately silver and black, the top one silver, the bottom one black. Upon the upper part, three slightly pointed hills in black, the centre hill higher and in front of the other two hills. Above the shield is a mural coronet with five eschaugettes and a sally-port in gold. Simultaneously with this emblem, Gozo earned its popular nickname the Island of the Three Hills probably derived from the hilly view when observed from mainland Malta.





An old map of the City of Valletta on the Island of Malta, late eighteenth century.



early 18 century, Joseph Goupy, View of the city of Malta from Lazzarett, Manoel Island

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MALTESE COINAGE

Throughout Malta's chequered history, the coinage used was mostly that of the ruling power of the central Mediterranean Sea at the time. From the early classical times Greek coins were circulating.

Malta followed the fortress of Sicily and was ruled successively by Swabians (1194-1266), Auevines (1266-1282), Aragonese (1283-1479) and Castilinas (1479-1530). Between 870 and 1530 no coins were minted in Malta and throughout this period the Maltese were using the currency if there foreign rulers current at the time in Sicily.

The Knight Of St John throughout the rule in Malta from 1530 to 1798, minted and circulated a number of their own coins. During the French occupation from 1798 to 1800 a number of silver coins of 30 and 15 Tari pieces as well as gold and silver ingots were struck. The minting of coins was, however, suspended after the Maltese rose against the French.

At the time of the British Protectorate, which was followed by the grant of the Maltese islands to Great Britain as a colony in 1814, the circulating currency was mainly Sicilian, Spanish, American, and French. Steps for the regularization of the monetary system were taken into 1825, and, on the 24th June of that year British silver and copper coins became legal tender. British gold sovereigns and half sovereigns were introduced a year later. A copper coin called the British Grain (1/3 farthing) was minted in England for exclusive use in Malta. This

coin, meant to replace the so called Malta Grain which had later which had been minted by the order, continued to be struck until 1913. British Copper coins were declared the sole legal tender in October 1857 and remained until 1972, in spite of the fact that Malta gained Independence within the British Commonwealth in 1964.

In May 1972, the Malta Currency came into being and concurrently the currency system was changed into a decimal one. The Malta pound was divided into 100 cents, and 1 cent into 10 mils. Eight distinctive coins in Base metal were issued. In November of the same year, the first series of the Malta Numismatic Gold and Silver sets were issued. These coins and those of subsequent issues are legal tender.

On the 13th December 1974, a new Constitution was approved in Parliament and Malta was proclaimed a Republic within the Commonwealth. Following this event, a new emblem was adopted. However, 2000 Gold and Silver sets of the 1975 (fourth series) issue had already been minted. This limited number was released by the Government mint, but subsequent 1975 Malta Coins, although identical in the obverse, bore the new Emblem on there reverse side.

Malta coins ceased to be legal tender. The official introduction date to the Euro happened in January 2008 thus ending the era of Malta Coins being struck and used. A special 2006 Malta coins set has been issued which was the last official BU set.





MARJELENA – INT MIN INT?

Marjelena's sorrows are not so different from her joys, and that which happened in the past seems to haunt her till this very day. Although she has been abused in different ways in the past, her suffering now does not differ. But had happened to Marjelena? And who is she? What does she do?

Marjelena is the first play penned by Leanne Ellul to be staged. It is being directed by Josette Ciappara and produced by the Bakkanti Troupe, the latter being the actors of the play, namely Alison Abela, Louise Fenech, Gilbert Formosa, Mandy Mifsud, Olivia-Ann Marmarà, David Scicluna Guisti and Aldo Zammit.

The play will be held between 21-23 November and 28-30 November at 8pm at Pjazza Teatru Rjal (green room). Tickets can be bought from www.activemalta.com. The €15 ticket includes a glass of wine. This play is endorsed by the Arts Council Malta.

The event on Facebook is to be found here: www.facebook.com/events/507761845993228.

Playwright's bio note - Leanne Ellul (1989-) writes poetry, prose and plays. She is also the cowriter of a new series of textbooks together with Clare Azzopardi. For the past three years she taught Maltese at secondary level and now she is pursuing her studies at an MA level. Some of her works have been translated to English, French and Chinese. In 2013 she won Premju Francis Ebejer for the best Maltese script, which is to be staged early next year. Leanne has recently been chosen together with other four Maltese writers for a European project in China. She is the Public Relations Officer of the Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, and in 2013, together with Kit Azzopardi, she started working on the cultural initiative KUL.

Director's bio note - Josette Ciappara was amongst the first group of students to graduate from MTADA in 1978. She went on to study at the Conservatoire Supérieur d'Art Dramatique in Paris and the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Amongst her many roles she played the leading roles in *Phaedre*, *Antigone*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Good Person of Szechwan*. She has directed for both theatre and television - her latest work being *Il-Kennies tal-Genna* at Pjazza Teatru Rjal. She formed part of the Drama Unit and acted and directed various TIE programmes. She was also Principal of the Drama Centre for 5 years.

Actor's bio note - Bakkanti Troupe was founded in summer of 2001 and it is made up of seven members, namely Alison Abela, Gilbert Formosa, Louise Fenech, Mandy Mifsud, Olivia Ann Pace Marmarà, David Scicluna Giusti and Aldo Zammit. The idea was born in 2008 at Palazzoulo in Sicily where a number of the group members were taking part in the Greeg tragedy, *The Bacchae*, an inspiration to the group's name. As a group they continued to nurture the ideas of each and everyone one of them, and above all, their friendship. The Bakkanti work on local productions in Maltese, mostly on original scripts and in spaces which are not considered as theatres. Their aim is to put high quality plays that are accessible to everybody and not only to those who are into theatre. In these last few years they took part in several productions, two of which are *Plautus Strait* and *Meta Toħlom Strada Stretta (When Strait Street Dreams)*.

I am writing to you to ask you to please put forward to the Honorable Minister that we are very disappointed & some of us even disgusted at having been totally ignored when the dates were set for the Convention in Malta in 2015. In view of the fact that 2015 is the 100th. Anniversary of the Anzacs Gallipoli Campaign, and so here in Australia there are going to be great commemorations. We as members of The Maltese Sub-Branch of the R.S.L.of Australia are expected & obliged to participate in, and so we are unable to attend the Convention in Malta. The selection of this particular date has effectively locked us out from attending. We have written to the Authorities (as have others) in Malta about this, but so far our plight has been in vain. Its worth noting the big part that our beloved Malta played in W.W.1. as well as noting that there were over 40 Maltese-Australians that went to Gallipoli..Some died there. All we ask is that we Maltese-Australians should not be ignored & forgotten especially when such plans are made which affect us.

Charles N. Mifsud J.P. President, Maltese Sub-Branch of the R.S.L.of Australia.

President of The Maltese Cultural Association of N.S.W

NEW ZEALAND - MAORI CULTURE



The **Maori** are the indigenous people of New Zealand. They are Polynesian and make up 15 percent of the country's population. Te Reo Maori is their native language which is related to Tahitian and Hawaiian. It is believed that the Maori migrated from somewhere in Polynesia in canoes around the 9th century to 13th century AD.

The traditional Maori welcome is called a **Powhiri**, this involves a **Hongi** which is a greeting that involves pressing noses as opposed to a kiss. This is the sharing of the breath of life, considered to have come directly from the gods.

Dutch navigator Abel Tasman was the first European to encounter the Maori. Four members of his crew were killed in a bloody encounter in 1642. In 1769 British explorer James Cook established friendly relations with some Maori. By 1800, visits by European ships to New Zealand were frequent which eventually led to disease which inflicted a heavy toll on the Maori.

A greater threat were wars including the Musket Wars which raged between 1807–1842. These wars included about 500 battles where Maori tribes fought each other resulting in heavy tolls on each tribe including the [Mori](#) of the Chatham Islands. After the Musket Wars there was a period of relative peace until 1845 when the New Zealand Wars broke out over land disputes which lasted till 1872. These wars were initially fought between British troops and Māori warriors followed by a New Zealand government military force, including local militia, rifle volunteer groups, and Forest Rangers. After these wars and disease, the Maori population dropped to a low of about 100,000 persons.

In 1840 representatives of Britain and Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi. This treaty established British rule of New Zealand and granted the Maori, British citizenship, while also recognising Maori land rights. Today, some of the treaty's provisions are disputed, and there is an ongoing effort from the New Zealand Government to recompense Maori for land that was illegally confiscated. The present Maori population is around 600,000 and they live in all parts of New Zealand, but predominately in the North Island where the climate is warmer.



HONEY FROM MALTA'S AMAZING BEES by Jim Tanfield In Editor's blog,



Honey is one of Malta's most treasured products and I'm lucky enough to be given the opportunity to meet its master, Arnold Grech. Arnold is one of those producers whose single-minded passion is completely infectious and, like truffle hunters and deep-sea fishermen, requires a deep understanding of the miracles of nature, love and respect for the environment and an apparent sixth sense on their craft. I'm about to have revealed to me some extraordinary facts about the manufacture of honey and to have an almost religious epiphany delivered to me by Arnold on its incredible, astounding winged-producer, the honeybee; as well as to try the best honey I've ever tasted.

We are in sweltering heat next to an ancient red fort atop the highest point in Mellieha, a popular resort at the northern end of the main island of Malta. Arnold pulls up in his car – smartly dressed and charming, the norm for a Mediterranean man of good age. It's a hot day, however, not as hot as the height of summer when Arnold tells me it reached 52 Celsius (125 Fahrenheit)! This meeting is particularly relevant to my culinary tour of the islands as the name Malta means 'honey' translated from its earliest Roman title.

The odd bee lands on us as Arnold starts to wax lyrical about his beloved insect: "Don't worry about them," he says, "they're just finding out whether you're friendly or not so don't make any sudden movements with your arms." I resist the urge to take a swipe and we're not even near the beehives yet. Arnold's beekeeping qualifications are endless and he's toured the world with residencies in many universities teaching and researching bees. He has kept bees for 64 years and is, therefore, the perfect guide. Not only that but he is President of the Malta Beekeepers Association.

Bees follow seasons and each month during the 11-month honey-making year in Malta, the bees get their nectar from one flower giving each month's honey a distinctly different flavour. The nectar calendar is as follows:

October/November – Carob December – Asphodel January – Borage February – Red Clover

March – White Mustard April – Orange Blossom May/June – Wild Thyme July/August – Eucalyptus

Other astonishing facts about the bee imparted by Arnold:

- the queen is 'created' by bees, as one larva in the hive is fed a special diet, different to any other larva, and this alters the larva's DNA and it becomes the queen
- antiseptic, to prevent a certain percentage of cells in the hive becoming infected, is gathered by workers from the bark of certain trees
- once a worker has found a source of nectar, it returns to the hive, points its behind in the direction of the source and waggles it at a certain frequency to let the workers know how far away it is. This is called waggle dance.

All these feats and many more performed by an animal with a brain the size of a sesame seed! Arnold then unlocks the gate to the hives and we enter. Now can I just say that it really is quite an unnerving experience and not recommended to go anywhere near an 'apiary' wearing baggy shorts and a T-shirt. Arnold assured me it was okay "as long as they don't swarm!" – I put on my protective face net.

The noise of 220 colonies of bees in close proximity is quite overwhelming, it's all you can hear. Arnold shows me inside the hives, first blowing smoke into them; this apparently imitates a fire in the hive and the bees gorge themselves on their honey to save it, making them listless and less likely to swarm or sting. Apparently an average person would need 1,100 stings from a honeybee before death: scant assurance as there were potentially 11-million of them within 25 metres. Imagine that number making a beeline up my baggy shorts! The bees Arnold shows me are unique to Malta – *Apis Mellifera Ruttneri* – and according to Arnold, make the best honey... it was now time to judge for myself.

Honey is used in lots of Maltese dishes, I tried it in a deep-fried dish using Maltese goat cheese with wild thyme honey. It's big business here and Arnold produces and sells a lot of the stuff. He personally loves it on red potatoes and simple roast fish dishes.

I go for the orange blossom flavour, as you recall harvested by these industrious insects in April. It's so light, refreshing and sweet but with the subtle zing of citrus; absolutely divine and by far the best honey I've ever tasted. Also, did you know that honey is the only foodstuff containing all the necessary nutrients a human needs to not only survive but to develop both physically and mentally. It really is Maltese gold!

SPAGETTI BIZ-ZALZA TAL-QARNIT (SPAGHETTI WITH OCTOPUS SAUCE)



Spagetti biz-zalza tal-Qarnit (Spaghetti with Octopus Sauce) is a traditional Maltese recipe for a classic dish of spaghetti paste served with octopus and a tomato-based sauce with peas, onions, olives, red wine and herbs. The full recipe is presented here and I hope you enjoy this classic Maltese version of: Spaghetti with Octopus Sauce (Spagetti biz-zalza tal-Qarnit).

Ingredients:

1kg prepared octopus, sliced into even-sized pieces 225g onions, sliced 170g peas 225g tomatoes, blanched, peeled and chopped 115g black olives, pitted and sliced 250ml red wine 675g spaghetti 90g tomato purée 4 strips of lemon zest, finely shredded 1 tbsp mint, shredded 1 tsp dried oregano, crumbled 2 tsp thyme, chopped salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste olive oil

Method:

Add about 60ml oil and 60ml water to a pan. When hot stir in the octopus and fry for 5 minutes then stir in the tomato purée and the herbs. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook for 20 minutes. Strain the octopus (reserve the liquid) and set aside to keep warm. Add oil to a pan and use to fry the onions for 5 minutes then stir in the tomato, olives and lemon zest. Cook for 3 minutes then add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a simmer then add the octopus liquid and cook for 15 minutes. In the meantime, add the pasta to a pan of lightly-salted water and cook for about 8 minutes, or until al dente. Drain the pasta, combine with the sauce then arrange in a bowl, top with the octopus pieces and serve.

MALTESE PEPPERED CHEESELETS (IL-GBEJNA TAL-BZAR)



Ingredients:

- 1 pint of milk
- 2 teaspoons rennet
- A pinch of salt

Method:

Put the milk in a saucepan and heat to 98° or until it reaches body temperature. Stir in while heating. Remove from the fire and add the rennet and the salt. Cover and leave strictly alone for 1 hour. Now spoon the mixture into 2 baskets and put these in a colander. There may be too much milk for the two baskets; you may have to wait until some moisture is lost. After about 6 hours they should be fairly set. Take one basket at a time, turn the cheese into the palm of one hand; now transfer it to the other hand and replace it in the basket. This serves to turn the cheese upside down. Put the baskets in a soup plate or pie dish and leave it to set until the next day. Remember to empty out the liquid which oozes out. Sprinkle the cheeses with rough salt and freshly ground black pepper and eat with toasted Malta bread.

PRINCE WILLIAM AND HARRY'S TRIBUTE TO DIANA

The brothers have paid tribute to their late mum Diana's anti-bullying charity.



Prince William and **Prince Harry** have spoken out about their late mother, **Princess Diana's** anti-bullying charity event set up in her name as it reached its 15th anniversary.

The 32-year-old Duke of Cambridge and his younger brother, 30, released a joint foreword for a book celebrating the organisation's 'proud' achievements.

The Diana Award, which aims to tackle bullying and social exclusion, was set up two years after the late princess's death in 1999. The Princes said: "We believe, when encouraged and supported, that young people have the ability to change society for the better. We know that

our mother - in whose memory this award was established - felt the same and would be proud of its achievements to date." The Diana award also runs training, mentoring and anti-bullying ambassador programs. The awards are presented to young people who have had an impact on the lives of others.

GRANDPARENTS DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD IN GOZO ORGANISED BY NANNIET MALTA



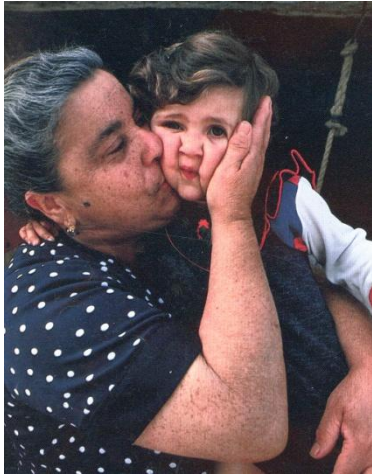
The Minister for Gozo, Dr Anton Refalo and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, Dr Justyne Caruana, on Sunday attended an event organised by the Gozo Branch of Nanniet Malta, held at the at Villa Rundle Gardens, in Victoria.

One of the objectives of this Society – Nanniet Malta – was the creation of the celebration of Grandparents Day, in order to raise awareness on a national level, of the respect and recognition that grandparents deserve, and to ensure that grandchildren continue to cherish their

relationship with grandparents throughout their lives. Another purpose of this day is to place more emphasis on the older generation, by strengthening solidarity between all generations, and young people are encouraged to honour and thank Grandparents for the knowledge, love and values that they share with their families.

The Gozo Branch organised a marathon of family activities by Gozitan talent, which took place through the day, under the direction of George Mizzi. This included craft stands and displays to name but a few. On Sunday evening a 'Musical Cultural Evening,' was held in the gardens which was attended by a large crowd as well as guest personalities.

The Minister expressed his pleasure in attending this event and reiterated that when a person achieves a long life, it is always with the grace of God; especially if they keep healthy and they are able to enjoy the fruits of a fulfilled life, particularly in the company of friends and family during the latter phases of their life.



Dr Refalo went on to say that he was pleased that MEPA has now issued the necessary permits to demolish part of the St Joseph Home in Ghajnsielem, and to construct a new old people's home, where older people can enjoy their twilight years in an environment equipped with the best modern facilities available. The Home has most recently been used as a youth hostel

Parliamentary Secretary for the Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, Dr Justyne Caruana, said that she was very pleased to be celebrating Grandparents Day for the first time in Malta and Gozo, and that due to a Government motion passed through Parliament Grandparents Day will continue to be celebrated on the second Sunday of October of each coming year.

Dr Caruana said that the role of Grandfather and Grandmother is vitally important and is an extremely valuable contribution to society as a whole. Grandparents often help their children by caring for grandchildren when their parents are not able to, or when they have to go to work, therefore, acting as mother and father for the second time whilst assisting their own children in childrearing.

SEASONAL FOOD IN TURKEY - YENI DÜNYA / MALTESE PLUM (NASPLI)

This little yellow fruit is known as **Yeni Dünya** (New World) or **Malta Eriği** (Maltese Plum) in Turkey. The only



way to describe the taste is maybe a bit like an apricot and they're about the same size as a small plum. We didn't buy any on Tuesday because if you look at the photo, a couple of them are still a bit green.

These little yeni dünya taste best when they're lovely and soft and ripe - just at the point when they're on the market looking a bit battered and bruised - that'll probably be in the next week or so. They probably don't enjoy being handled and loaded onto display stands very much but trust us, they taste better than they look.

We've always just accepted that these fruits are called Maltese Plum or Yeni Dünya and we've always wondered if they're known in other countries by a different name - and today, research has been carried out. If you know your fruits and you recognise the fruit in this photo, you might know it as **Loquat** (Naspli) and apparently, they originate from **Southwest China**.

I am from Malta currently living in the USA and today happened to be talking to a Turkish Friend and asked me if i know about the Maltese Plum, could not get which fruit he was talking about until i looked it up and found out it is a fruit that in Malta we call it Naspli, when i was growing up everybody had one of these trees in their garden, they taste great when they are yellow, soft and ripe. Never knew that they where known as the Maltese Plum!! J.B.



THE MALTESE FALCON

The Maltese Falcon is a 1941 Warner Bros. film noir based on the novel of the same name by Dashiell Hammett.

Directed by John Huston, the film stars Humphrey Bogart as private investigator Sam Spade and Mary Astor as his *femme fatale* client. Gladys George, Peter Lorre, and Sydney Greenstreet co-star, with Greenstreet appearing in his film debut. *The Maltese Falcon* was Huston's directorial debut and was nominated for three Academy Awards. The story follows a San Francisco private detective and his dealings with three unscrupulous adventurers, all of whom are competing to obtain a jewel-encrusted falcon statuette.

The film premiered on October 3, 1941, in New York City, and was selected for inclusion in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry in 1989.

The Maltese Falcon was considered to be one of the greatest films ever made by Roger Ebert and was cited by *Panorama du Film Noir Américain* as the first major film noir.



Okay, so what exactly is this Black Bird, or Maltese Falcon?

In 1539 the Knight Templars of Malta, paid tribute to Charles V of Spain, by sending him a Golden Falcon encrusted from beak to claw with rarest jewels—but pirates seized the galley carrying this priceless token and the fate of the Maltese Falcon remains a mystery to this day – Introductory text appearing after the film's opening credits

'THE PRIESTS' TO PERFORM TWO CONCERTS IN MALTA FOR CHRISTMAS



The three renowned tenors known as 'The.Priests' will give two concerts in Malta, on the 29th and 30th of November 2014, at the Catholic Institute in Floriana, organised by the Church in Malta.

Following on from the success of last year's concert. the Catholic priests from Ireland, Fr Martin O'Hagan, Fr Eugene O'Hagan and Fr David Delargy, will this time perform in a Christmas concert with the participation of Maltese soprano Gillian Zammit and the children's choir

The concert will be under the direction of Cathal Synnott, who is musical director of 'The Priests,' while The orchestra will be formed by nine Maltese musicians. The repertoire for this

concert includes traditional Christmas music, and Maltese songs among others.

The Irish trio have been singing together since they boarded in the 1970s as students of St MacNissi's College in Ireland. After signing a deal with SonyBMG in 2008, the priests recorded their debut album, with the unusual honour of having been allowed to record in St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican.

The album 'The Priests,' which follows the name of this trio, has been released worldwide in over 30 countries and to-date has sold more than 1 million copies in Ireland alone. They also recorded two other albums, 'Harmony' and 'Noel,' which have also been successful and claimed several awards.

'The Priests' have given concerts in other countries such as England, Italy and the United States. The group's concert schedule does not follow the usual band format, as they willingly emphasize that their priestly ministry and pastoral work in their respective parishes will always remain a priority. Their message through music and song is intended to go beyond religion and culture, and aims to deliver peace and hope to the world.

Tickets for the 'The Priests Christmas Concert,' can be purchased from the booking office of the Catholic Institute or from the website www.istitutkattoliku.com. This concert is being held in aid of the Shepherd's Fund to assist in the needs of priests, including the sick and elderly. This concert has been made possible thanks to the Grand Hotel Excelsior, APS Bank, Velprint Ltd, Digital Magic, Outlook Coop, Papillon Caterers and Nexo Lighting Technology.

MALTA AND THE ANZAC CONNECTION



ANZAC Day is commemorated on the anniversary of the fateful pre-dawn landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey, on 25 April 1915. The battle by Allied soldiers to capture and hold the Gallipoli Peninsula was one of the hardest fought, but ultimately futile, campaigns of the First World War. As the troops landed on the beaches of the Peninsula, they were cut down by sustained and concentrated machine-gun fire.

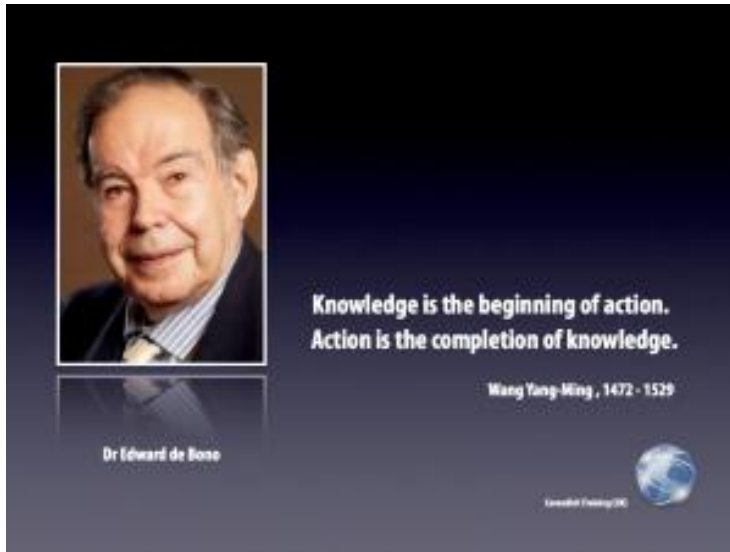
In the nine-month campaign that was to follow, both sides would suffer a disastrous loss of life. Of the 51,472 members of the Australian Imperial Forces — from a total Australian population of just five million — to serve at Gallipoli, 8,141 were killed during the campaign. As many as 66,000 Turkish lives are believed to have been lost.

This heavy toll of dead and wounded carved deeply into the psyche of the of Australia and New and since the first anniversary of the 25 April has been observed in both countries of solemn remembrance. The significance of Day has only over the years as remembers those who have laid down their lives in the many conflicts in which have served since the Gallipoli campaign.

Recognizing the association stretching back to the Gallipoli campaign between the AN ZACs and Malta, the Australian High Commission has, for many years, observed ANZAC Day with a Commemoration at Pieta Military Cemetery, one of five cemeteries in Malta in which ANZAC troops are buried.

Shared duty has long brought the two nations together. There were six Maltese members of the 7th Australian Brigade which earned fame for its part in the Gallipoli landing. History remembers Malta as the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean', with 57,950 of those wounded in the Dardanelles campaign, including several thousand ANZACs, evacuated to Malta for treatment. For some the island was also to become their final resting place - there are 229 Australian and 79 New Zealand war graves in Malta.

100 years after that first ANZAC Day (1915-2015), there are no longer any living survivors of the Gallipoli campaign, but the legacy and traditions forged on those forbidding shores are an ever present memorial to those who served, suffered, and sacrificed their tomorrow for our today.



DR. EDWARD DE BONO - BIOGRAPHY

Edward de Bono is a Maltese physician, author, inventor and consultant. He originated the term lateral thinking, wrote the book Six Thinking Hats and is a proponent of the teaching of thinking as a subject in schools. Born: May 19, 1933 (age 81), Malta

Education: Christ Church, Oxford, University of Oxford, University of Malta, University of Cambridge
Parents: Josephine Burns de Bono, Joseph Edward de Bono

Edward de Bono was born in Malta. He attended St Edward's College, Malta, during World War II and then the University of Malta where he qualified in

medicine. He proceeded, as a Rhodes Scholar, to Christ Church, Oxford, where he gained an honours degree in psychology and physiology and then a D.Phil in medicine. He also holds a Ph.D from Cambridge and an MD from the University of Malta. He has held appointments at the universities of Oxford, London, Cambridge and Harvard.

Dr Edward de Bono is one of the very few people in history who can be said to have had a major impact on the way we think. In many ways he could be said to be the best known thinker internationally.

He has written numerous books with translations into 34 languages (all the major languages plus Hebrew, Arabic, Bahasa, Urdu, Slovene, Turkish etc). He has been invited to lecture in 52 countries around the world.

In the University of Buenos Aires five faculties use his books as required reading. In Venezuela, by law, all school children must spend an hour a week on his programmes. In Singapore 102 secondary schools use his work. In Malaysia the senior science schools have been using his work for ten years. In the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland and the UK there are thousands of schools using Dr de Bono's programmes for the teaching of thinking. At the International Thinking Meeting in Boston (1992) He was given an award as a key pioneer in the direct teaching of thinking in schools.

In 1988 he was awarded the first Capire prize in Madrid for a significant contribution to humankind. What is unique about Dr de Bono is the response to his work across an unusually wide spectrum.

