



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

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER PAYS TRIBUTE TO ALL MIGRANTS

Migration is in many cases a tearing-apart, a violent disruption to family life and, at best, a traumatic experience. Settling in a foreign land can be a lonely, soul-destroying episode. If this is so today, it must have been even more so 40 and 50 years ago when travel was long and hazardous, facilities were primitive or non-existent and the welcome was scant.

That migrants recover well, settle tenaciously and overcome all these difficulties is a lasting tribute to them. The stories of our migrants that you read in our newsletter from time to time are a living testimony to their bravery and ingenuity. Many had to settle in primitive surroundings far from any links with the culture they left behind them, unable even to utter a few words in Maltese or express themselves in any language. They toiled in fields or unfamiliar factories. They built their houses and raised their families according to the morals and ideals they believed in. The story of these people, told by themselves in language both simple and touching, stretches from the earthy to the sublime.

These are the people who in the greying of their years sit back and reminisce. They remember their joyful youth, the shiny positive aspects or their many threatening clouds, the highlights of their lifetimes. Their children and grandchildren will read these stories and remember the love and sacrifice of those who they may not perhaps have understood.

The Maltese migrants assisted Malta in its prosperous development for these last six decades and they are still enjoying the bond with their homeland. **TO ALL MIGRANTS IN THE MALTESE DIASPORA WE SAY 'THANK YOU' AND 'WELL DONE'. MALTA WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR SACRIFICES, TEARS, TENACITY AND RESILIENCE. YOU ARE OUR HEREOS AND YOU STILL BELONG TO US AND WE LOVE YOU!!!!**



WHAT IS MULTICULTURALISM?

As defined in the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission 1980

"multiculturalism" means policies and practices that recognise and respond to the ethnic diversity of the South Australian community and have as their primary objects the creation of conditions under which all groups and members of the community may:

- live and work together harmoniously
- fully and effectively participate in, and employ their skills and talents for the benefit of, the economic, social and cultural life of the community
- maintain and give expression to their distinctive cultural heritages.



Australia is, and will remain, a culturally diverse society. Multiculturalism as outlined in national and state policies encompasses measures designed to respond to the reality of Australia's cultural diversity as well as policies and programs such as community relations, access and equity, social justice, equal opportunity and anti-racism.

The three dimensions of multicultural policy are:

- cultural identity: the right of all Australians to express and share their cultural heritage, including language and religion
- social justice: the right of all Australians to equality of treatment and opportunity, and the removal of barriers of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, gender or place of birth
- productive diversity: the need to maintain, develop and utilise effectively the skills and talents of all Australians.

MALTESE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

by Mark Caruana,

Emigration has long acted as a safety valve for the overpopulated island-fortress of Malta. Consequently, the Maltese diaspora has expanded to lands far beyond the island's Mediterranean shores.

Before Malta became an industrialised, economically viable and independent nation in the mid-1960s, it could not sustain its high level of population, due to limited land space, a high birth rate and no natural resources. Its main assets were its people – their skills, ingenuity, willingness to work hard, and thriftiness – qualities which emigrants quickly put to good use on arrival in Australia and elsewhere.

Today, many believe that Australians of Maltese birth and descent exceed the number of Maltese in the Maltese Islands themselves. The 2006 census for Maltese by ancestry in NSW stood at 61,528, of whom 49,169, or 80 per cent, reside in metropolitan Sydney. Today, among the top 30 languages spoken in NSW, Maltese ranks sixteenth. Second- and third-generation Australian Maltese are three times as numerous as the Malta-born population.

Early Maltese in Sydney The Maltese community in Sydney is a long-established one, although little documentary research on the early colonial period exists. It is believed that the first convicts with distinctively Maltese names were two former private soldiers of the Royal Regiment of Malta, named Farrugia and Spiteri, who were convicted of desertion and transported to Sydney on the *Admiral Gambier* in 1811. However, the first definite evidence of a Maltese convict where the name and nationality are mentioned, found at the archives of St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, refers to a 'Salvatore Diacono, of Maltese nationality', at Parramatta, west of Sydney, and dates back to 1821.

Within the colonial establishment, Rinaldo Sceberras was a Malta-born lieutenant in the British Army when he was sent to Sydney in 1837 with the 80th Foot Regiment. He was in charge of Wingello Stockade, some 50 miles (80 km) from Goulburn, which served as accommodation for the convicts constructing the Hume Highway, the main link between Sydney and Melbourne.

In 1882, a Maltese government official, Francesco DeCesare, on a fact-finding mission exploring subsidised migration to Australia and New Zealand, mentioned eight names in his report 'as a list of Maltese met at Sydney where they are settled since several years'.

Maltese settlement in the early twentieth century Maltese settlement in Sydney grew around two precincts, namely Woolloomooloo and Pendle Hill. Woolloomooloo tended to attract those from urban areas in Malta, who found employment on the wharves, on fishing boats and in shops and restaurants close to the city centre. In the early years, immigrants from villages in Malta and Gozo tended to gravitate to the Parramatta area, particularly around Pendle Hill, which earned the name of 'Little Malta'.

In 1916–17, 208 British subjects from Malta were refused entry to Sydney after being subjected to a dictation test in Dutch, under the terms of the Immigration Act, which allowed potential immigrants to be tested in any European language. Caught up in the conscription and White Australia controversy of the time, the passengers on the *Gange* spent time in New Caledonia and on a hulk in Berrys Bay, Sydney, before eventually being allowed into Australia. The New South Wales Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, himself Malta-born and later Prime Minister of Malta, worked behind the scenes for the men's release.

Postwar migration from Malta The peak of Maltese migration to Australia in the post-WWII era occurred in the mid-1950s and 1960s. The first postwar ship to reunite families who had been unable to return to Australia from Malta due to the outbreak of World War II was the *Rangatiki*, which arrived in February 1946. Carrying 64 Maltese passengers, it was a troopship not yet converted for carrying migrant families.

Two years later, in May 1948, an Assisted Passage Agreement was signed between the governments of Australia and Malta, which extended the benefit of subsidised travel costs to thousands of Maltese.

Later settlement took place in different parts of metropolitan Sydney, and Maltese are to be found in all municipalities, shires and cities of metropolitan Sydney. Today, the majority reside in western Sydney, where four local government areas (Blacktown, Holroyd, Parramatta and Baulkham Hills) contain one out of every four of the Maltese-by-ancestry. The present trend of Maltese distribution in Sydney shows a decline in inner city areas, with a growing presence in outer areas of Sydney, such as Penrith, the Hawkesbury region, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly.

A similar pattern is revealed in the Illawarra region, where the Maltese are moving out of the City of Wollongong to suburbs in the Shellharbour, Shoalhaven and Kiama local government areas. One new phenomenon of Maltese distribution is their move to areas attractive to retirees, such as the Central Coast. For example, the number of Malta-born people in Gosford/Wyong in 1976 stood at 121; this had grown to 612 in 2006.

The Maltese community Today, there are a number of Maltese associations in Sydney, which cater for the recreational, sporting, religious, cultural and social needs of their members. A number are linked to the Maltese Community Council of NSW, an umbrella body which coordinates the activities of affiliated associations and acts as the community's advocate with the Maltese and Australian governments. The Maltese Community Council of NSW holds a number of functions of national or community significance.

Some pioneer Maltese associations in Sydney which were very active in the immediate postwar years include the Phoenician Club of Australia, which ceased to exist in 1998 but which, for many years, was the first and only Maltese licensed club in Sydney, and the Maltese Guild of Australia (NSW) founded in 1953 and now defunct: its focus was the inner suburbs of Sydney.

Being predominantly Catholic, the Maltese community has many members who are active in parish work, scripture teaching and charitable activities. The Capuchins, Carmelites, Dominicans and Salesians were among the early religious orders to service Maltese migrants. These were followed in postwar years by the Missionary Society of St Paul, Franciscan Conventual, a number of diocesan priests (particularly Father William Bonett in NSW) the Dominican Sisters of Malta, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the Augustinian Sisters and the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Maltese community had a national, weekly bilingual newspaper, *The Maltese Herald*, founded in 1961 and based at Merrylands, which provided the community with local and overseas news, and disseminates social and welfare information within the Maltese community.

DIRECTORATE FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

DIRETTORAT GHAL-MALTIN LI JGHIXU BARRA MINN MALTA

Dr Raymond C. Xerri, B.A.(Hons.)(USA), E.U.Sch.(E.U.Law)(FRG), D.D.S., M.A.(Dip.St.)(Malta),
PhD (Australia) Director / **Id-Direttur**

Address/**Indirizz** Ministry for Foreign Affairs/ **Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin**

Palazzo Parisio Merchants Street/Triq il-Merkanti

Valletta VLT 1171/ Il-Belt Valletta VLT 1171

Contact us on /Ikkuntattjana fuq:

Telephone/Telefon: 2204 2208/ 2204 2264/ 21558838

Fax: 22042387 Mobile/Mowbajl: 79401216

E-mail: malteselivingabroad.mfa@gov.mt; raymond.c.xerri@gov.mt

‘WE’LL TURN MALTA INTO THE NEXT SINGAPORE OR DUBAI’

Prime Minister says Malta the next big things in the Mediterranean will happen in Malta - government committed to turning island into educational hub



Joseph Muscat at the launch of the London School of Commerce college (Photo: Ray Attard)

Consider those global models of economically mighty city-states, minus the outrageous police state laws and underpaid migrant labour: Prime Minister Joseph Muscat today vowed to make his country “the next Singapore or Dubai” at the opening of the London School of

Commerce’s new higher education college in Floriana.

“We believe that the next big things in the area will happen in Malta,” Muscat said, whose government is also actively attracting the global rich to become citizens of Malta. In a brief address, Muscat said that he intends to turn Malta into a “buzzing centre of academic excellence in Europe” which he said will not only offer new opportunities to Maltese students but attract talent from all over the world. “My government is committed to strengthen Malta’s reputation as an educational hub, and needs to be done to improve the country’s attractiveness to foster a cross-fertilization of ideas.”

Offering the largest MBA programme in Europe, the LSC predominantly hosts international students and local corporate students. Its Floriana college has a capacity to host up to 750 students, which LSC aims to reach by next year. The college will be receiving its first students in July and the Malta campus will be one of the many the school has around the world, including India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Education minister Evarist Bartolo was also present.

Describing the opening of the college as a “happy occasion”, Lord John Tomlinson, who heads the LSC advisory committee, said the school was grateful for the “incredible cooperation we had from all authorities, including the Prime Minister himself and the education minister. without their cooperation this could not have been transformed from an idea a year ago into reality today.”

Xemxija Roman road to Manikata and Golden Bay



Xemxija end of Roman road from Manikata (Golden Bay)

The Roman road with its well defined kerb goes up from St Pauls Bay over the rolling hill top of Xemxija and meets up with another Roman road from Manikata (Golden Bay). The Roman road leading up over Xemxija hill is part of the path route for the Xemxija Heritage Trail and goes past the apiaries. The punic tombs and neolithic tombs/tanks (or energy structures) are found a short walk away from it.

Why was the Roman road built in along the Ridge and not on the valley floor? The long straight Roman road and a great walking route from Golden Bay (Manikata) to Xemxija was built into the side of Bajda Ridge overlooking Mistra Valley and Mizieb Valley. Mizieb Valley is one or perhaps the last and least

undeveloped valley in Malta.

For centuries the area around Ghajn Tuffieha has been inhabited by busy people trying to make the best out of the fertile lands of the place, irrigated by an abundant supply of fresh water all year round. Some landmarks testify to the human activity in the whereabouts of the rural hamlet of Manikata. Cart ruts cut across the rock surface in various places. One particular line of ruts emerges from under Il-Mizieb woodland, heads towards Manikata parish church, reappears across the parish square and continues towards the cliffs over Mejjies Bay. Roman archaeological remains are found on both sides of Ghajn Tuffieha valley. On the right hand side of the road which from Mgarr leads towards Ghajn Tuffieha bay, one finds Il-Gnien ta' Ghajn Tuffieha (GhajnTuffieha Gardens).

The remains of a Roman Villa with baths and mosaics, lying in ruins, are a sad reminder of happier days. On the other side of Ghajn Tuffieha, along the ridge that leads from Manikata to Xemxija Bay, one finds numerous tombs. Some of them are in a very good state of conservation. Others are found inside natural caves and have been enlarged along the centuries to serve as storing spaces for troglodyte inhabitants. Others still have been mutilated and obliterated due to interventions on the cliff face in order to make space for levelled fields.

The Agricultural District of Ghajn Tuffieha and its rural village Manikata | letsgodine.com A local man and farmer suggested that the Roman road built high up on the Bajda Ridge between Manikata and Xemxija would have been used for transporting goods and people between the different sides of the island and Roman villas, depending on which way the wind was blowing at sea. The wind direction would have made it difficult or easier for Roman galleys to land at the bays at either end. Safe harbour for the Roman galleys visiting Malta to trade would also be another factor. Ask St Paul if you get to heaven about safe harbours and landings on Malta during Roman times.

There were large Roman Villas and roman industrial buildings in the areas, the Xemxija apiaries are a perfect example. But to build a Roman road between Golden Bay and St Pauls Bay would have meant it was important enough, with enough traffic to justify it.

So why was it built into the Bajda Ridge and not on the valley floor of Pwales Valley? If you are unloading and loading goods and then transporting them between Golden Bay and St Pauls Bay the easiest option is to build a straight Roman road between these 2 places.

The building stands at the conjunction of Roman roads. One leads up from the shore to the plateau and runs beside the villa to the east. Beside this road as it climbs the ridge there is an ancient apiary, likely part of the estate belonging to the villa. In antiquity Malta was famed for its honey, which was a major export. Beyond the villa to the north the road joins another Roman road, this one typically straight, which can be traced for a long distance along the northern edge of the Bajda Ridge from Mistra in the east (north of Xemxija) to Manikata in the west.

History and Exegesis: New Testament Essays in Honor of Dr. E. Earle Ellis on His Eightieth Birthday By Sang-Won Son | google books

Instead the Roman road is on the other side of Bajda Ridge, the other side from the 2 bays. Also at the Xemxija end it goes over and down the rolling hill top and steep side of Xemxija. It makes no real sense unless **the valleys below them were either much wetter or flooded due to higher sea levels**. Sea levels rise and fall very quickly, it has nothing to do with the myth of Global Warming. The world has had Ice Ages and mini ice ages and warm periods and its to do with the sun in an Electric Universe, not humans. Also, if you are a christian then the bible and the account of the shipwreck of Saint Paul on the island of Malta gives a clue to higher sea levels during Roman times.

REMINISCING THE PAST

▪ THE THIRD MEETING OF THE MALTESE CONSULAR CORPS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND 2005

The third meeting of the Maltese Consular Corps in Australia and New Zealand took place in Sydney from 9th to 12th June 2005.



Standing: Dr Anthony Sciberras, Dr Carmen Dalli, Ms Angele Azzopardi, Ms Patricia Thake, Mr Frank Scicluna, **Seated:** Dr Clemente Zammit, Dr Ivan Fsadni, Ms Joanna Pisani

The meeting was chaired by the High Commissioner Dr Ivan Fsadni and attended by Dr Clemente Zammit, Consul General in Melbourne; Miss Joanna Pisani, Consul General in Sydney; Dr Anthony Sciberras, Honorary Consul in Perth; Ms Patricia Thake, Honorary Consul in Auckland; Dr Carmen Dalli, Honorary Consul in Wellington and Mr Frank Scicluna, Honorary Consul in Adelaide. The duties of secretary were carried out by Deputy High Commissioner Mrs Angele Azzopardi. Mr Victor Borg, Honorary Consul in Melbourne, Mr Mario Sammut, Honorary Vice-Consul in Morwell, and Mr John Farrugia, Honorary Vice-Consul in Adelaide, were excused from attending the meeting because they had other professional engagements.

Dr. Fsudni accepts a report from Mark Caruana.

The principal theme of this year's meeting was the cultural aspect of the responsibilities of the Maltese Consular Corps. Apart from an internal discussion on this subject, Mr Mark Caruana, a distinguished author and researcher on Maltese migration, was invited to give a presentation on "The History of Maltese Migration to Australia and New Zealand and its implications on the duties of the Maltese Consular Corps in these two countries".

The subject that seemed to attract most interest concerned the **use and teaching of the Maltese language in Australia and New Zealand.** From the discussion in depth on this subject it became clear that there was a need to widen the debate so as to include all those involved in this field in all the states and territories where the Maltese lived. With this objective in mind, the High Commissioner, acting on the advice of participants at the meeting, decided to organize, in the first half of 2006, **a special conference** on the subject. In preparation for this conference the High Commissioner commissioned a **study** to serve as a discussion paper for the conference. The study will be conducted by two honorary members of the Consular Corps who are most knowledgeable on the subject – Mr Frank Scicluna, teacher and, for the last twenty years, Principal of the Maltese Language School of Adelaide and who also served as President of the Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations; and Dr Carmen Dalli, a graduate in education and the teaching of Maltese from the University of Malta, who subsequently specialised in education at universities in Bristol and Wellington, and who currently occupies the position of Director of the Institute for Early Childhood Studies at Victoria University of Wellington.

Apart from discussions on cultural and commercial matters, the Consular Corps meeting discussed other subjects of importance to the Maltese communities in Australia and New Zealand. Included were improvements in the delivery of services to the community in areas such as the issuing of passports, visas, dual citizenship and the payment of pensions. At this year's meeting, participants were offered specialised advice in the use of methods aimed at increasing the efficiency and efficacy of their consular services. Towards this end, presentations were given by Ms Graziella Thake, founder and managing director of Insinc Global Programs.

SHANE DELIA



At just 32 years of age, Shane is one of Melbourne's most innovative chefs. Opening his much awarded first restaurant Maha in February 2008, Shane has excited diners with his fresh Mediterranean approach to Middle Eastern cuisine.

Shane prides himself on his original culinary style that stems from the eclectic influences that have surrounded him both personally and professionally.

Growing up in a large Maltese family, food was more than just a meal; it was a chance for the whole family to gather around and enjoy a meal and each other's company. This shared dining experience is something that Shane has mastered in his venues. By the age of 21, Shane was appointed sous chef of Eleonore's at Chateau Yering in the Yarra Valley. In February 2003 Shane was promoted to executive chef at Eleonore's becoming Australia's youngest executive chef of a 5 star property in Australia.

His love for food and family is at the centre of what makes Maha extraordinary. Blending his classical training and his passion for honest, fresh and innovative Middle Eastern cuisine, Shane's "maha cooking" is captivating. Shane's rise in the culinary world continued with the opening of his second restaurant in Melbourne, St Katherine's with business partner George Calombaris.

St Katherine's embraces a contemporary sharing style menu, with a melding of Maltese, Modern Greek, Turkish and Middle Eastern cultures and food. Defined by its custom-made Turkish coal-fuelled grill and a wood fired oven, St Katherine's is the place where the long time friends are bringing together their family histories, cultures and cuisines. In addition to his restaurants, Shane has regularly appeared on TV show Ready Steady Cook and brings his unique culinary techniques and creativity with food, along with his cheeky nature and quick wit.

Visit [Shane Delia's website](#) for more information

Excellent life-saving service by John Ridgway

Emergency Response and Rescue Corps teams are dedicated to the essential service they offer.



I was visiting Malta from Australia. On September 20, I suffered a heart attack at the Blue Lagoon, in Comino. I had no awareness that I had a heart problem and without the Emergency Response and Rescue Corps this would have been one of the worst possible locations to have a heart attack. Instead, it probably turned out to be one of the best locations.

A young woman from the rescue corps took immediate steps to deal with my pain and ensured a supply of oxygen to minimize damage to my heart muscle. She also arranged for others to contact my wife, who was unaware of my situation, and arranged emergency transport to Gozo Hospital.

The existence of the station on Comino, the skills of the crew on duty that day and the availability of essential equipment, such as oxygen, stretcher and a very fast boat to transport serious cases such as mine for expert medical treatment in Gozo are the only reasons that I am alive.

I suffered very little damage to my heart muscle due to the rapid treatment and response.

I cannot speak highly enough of the team on duty at Comino on that day. I am so very grateful to them for their dedication to this essential service. I would like to share my deepest admiration for the way in which they dealt with my situation.

Unfortunately, I do not even know the name of the young woman and the others who helped me that day. However, if they are reading this letter, I would like to let them know that I am a 54-year-old Australian who will live to 55 and more because of their help.

I will also be making a donation in aid of the excellent service they provide, so obviously needed by visitors to this beautiful part of the world.

'TRAFFIC IS NO PERCEPTION' - TRANSPORT MALTA CEO SAYS MEASURES NEEDED TO REDUCE AMOUNT OF CARS

Malta needs to implement measures for a sustainable reduction in the number of cars on the road, Transport Malta chairman and CEO James Piscopo says in an opinion piece in The Sunday Times of Malta.



"That Malta's roads are congested is no perception but an uncomfortable reality we are living," he says.

He said that Transport Malta has been working on a multi-modal National Transport Strategy that will also include a computer simulation model which, for the first time, will enable it to test the impact of different policies and plans from a traffic management, social,

environmental and safety perspective. A public consultation will be held by the end of the year.

Transport Malta is also implementing a state-of-the-art Intelligent Traffic Management System whereby real time cameras will be installed in traffic sensitive spots across the road network. The introduction of parking hubs is actively being studied. A stronger emphasis on underutilised other modes of transport, such as maritime ferry links, is also needed. He lists road projects being handled by Transport Malta but says a reduction in the number of cars is also needed.

"I am, of course, very aware that this is a hot potato but it is useless beating about the bush. Car taxes generate some €100 million in government revenue, the car industry employs hundreds of people, while increasing the cost of operating a car is socially sensitive. Car ownership in Malta has doubled in 10 years, the modal share of car trips increased from 70 per cent to 75 per cent and the average car occupancy rate has remained very low at 1.25 persons per vehicle.

I thank the hundreds of readers from all over the world who sent me an acknowledgement on the receipt of the MALTESE NEWSLETTER.

If you have missed any newsletter you may read it at

www.ozmalta.page4.me

I love it

SINGAPORE AND MALTA

Malta for all its faults and governance imperfections is still a proper, thriving democracy - TIMES OF MALTA September 24, 2014 by Martin Scicluna

Malta and Singapore have been sovereign, independent States within the Commonwealth for 50 years. In Singapore's case, this occurred after a slightly rocky start when it briefly formed part of newly independent Malaysia in 1963 before irreconcilable differences caused it to break away and establish itself on its own in 1965.



As both Malta and Singapore celebrate five decades of independence, I have found myself mentally comparing the two nations since the historical background and circumstances of their British imperial history had such strong similarities. British sovereignty over Singapore was established in 1824, at roughly the same time that British interest in Malta as a naval base was stirring. Both became in their own way vital naval bases for the British Empire and both on independence had major naval

dockyard facilities in place.

But after this, the story of the two states diverges. Stanley Clews describes in an excellent personal memoir Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew's visit to Malta in 1967. In his autobiography, Lee Kwan Yew says, "I was astounded. The Suez Canal was closed as a result of the Arab-Israeli six-day war... The dockyard was closed with dock workers on full pay playing waterpolo!... I was shaken by their aid dependence, banking on continuing charity from the British... This nurtured a sense of dependency, not a spirit of self-reliance".

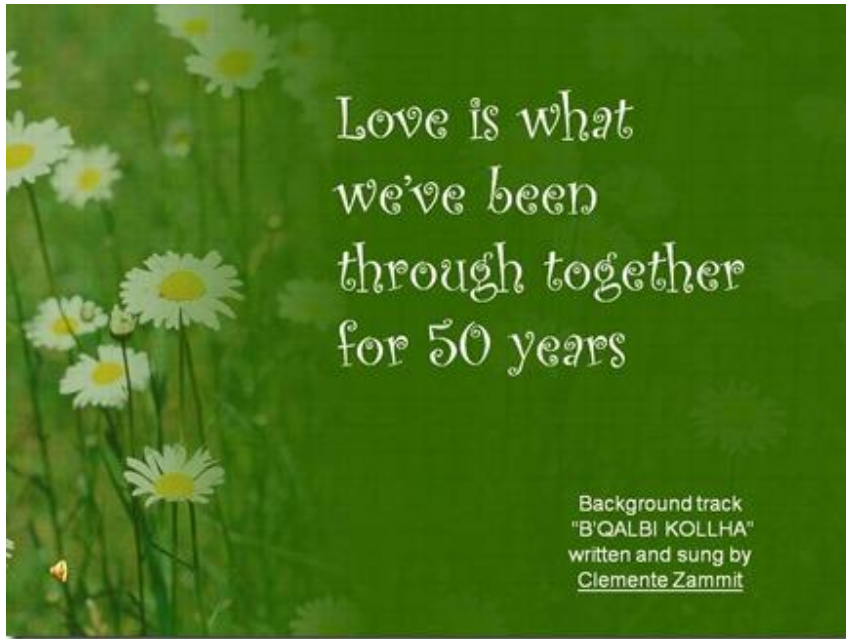
He told Clews personally, who was present at a working breakfast with Lee Kwan Yew during the visit, that when Singapore took over the Admiralty Dockyard he would not sign any agreement which retained workers on its books if there was no work for them. And this indeed is what happened. When he returned to Singapore the Dockyard there was commercialised. All the workers were discharged, except those needed for commercial purposes.

The rise of Singapore since Lee Kwan Yew became its Prime Minister at independence (he is still today at 90 years "Minister-mentor" to the Prime Minister, his son) is one of the great success stories of the past 50 years. An island city-state that was once an impoverished swamp is now a dynamic hub of the global economy and a technological giant. Singaporeans enjoy higher living standards and better schools and hospitals than Malta, but also, more remarkably, than their former colonial masters in the United Kingdom. And it has been done by a public sector that is proportionately half the size of America's.

The Singaporean state is not only an efficient nanny state, but also extremely bossy. No country works harder at perfecting the skills of its civil servants, nor follows such a blatantly elitist model. It spots talented youngsters early, luring them with scholarships, then spends a fortune on training. Those who reach the top are richly rewarded. Those who falter along the way are thrown overboard.

Meritocracy – a much abused word in Malta now, as we have seen in the last 18 months – reigns all the way through the system. Teachers need to qualify in the top third of their class (as they do in Finland and South Korea, which also shine brightly in the world education rankings). Testing throughout the education system is ubiquitous. The present Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Yoong, thinks the west's mistake has been "to set up all-you-can-eat welfare states. Because everything at the buffet is free, everybody stuffs their face". Singapore's approach, by contrast, is for the government to provide people with a good start in life, and then encourage them to fend for themselves. In Malta, and the west more generally, the welfare state is based on social assistance.

B'QALBI KOLLHA BY DR. CLEMENTE ZAMMIT



Play video on
Youtube.com
Composed
and sung by
Clemente
Zammit, and
set to music
by Vince Pulo,
B'QALBI
KOLLHA
extols the
beauty of a
all-embracing
love that
never dies.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYuYBcEf7dQ>



- History of Maltese Migration included in the school curriculum
- Establishment of a Maltese Culture Institute to promote the Maltese language and culture
- A data base register of all the Maltese associations overseas and prominent people



to the Maltese Living Abroad 2014

- a website for CMLA for dissemination of information and networking among Maltese citizens living outside Malta and Gozo
- facilitation of biometric passports to all Maltese citizens wherever they live to avoid hardships

who made a good name to the Maltese Islands

- trade links and educational exchanges between Malta and the countries where Maltese are living ETC...ETC. WE KEEP YOU POSTED OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.... In the meantime keep your fingers crossed.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD FATHER FELIC BUTTIGIEG

As the church commemorates two saints Peter and Paul which are the pillars of the Christian faith, the Augustinian community celebrated another important event. Patri Felič Buttigieg, the prior at the Augustinian Monastery in Victoria Gozo, celebrates the 50th anniversary of priesthood. It is indeed a blessing to have people who dedicate their lives to God and its followers. Patri Felič through these fifty years, did his best to give good advices and examples with his modest life. As H. E. Mgr. Mario Grech said in the homily, Patri Felič tried to live like the 'good man' of the gospel, always with the aim of helping mankind find the Lord who continuously gives us infinite love. The thanksgiving mass started at 6pm at St. Augustine's Church in Victoria. The church was packed with relatives, friends and neighbours who are close to Patri Felič.

Many priests and friars attended too, some even crossed over from Malta. He was assisted by the actual Provencial Friar Emanuel Borg Bonello and by the previous Provencial Fr. Luciano Borg who travelled from Cuba for the occasion. Schola Cantorum Jubilate is closely associated with the Prior and the Gozitan Augustinian Community and was requested to animate the High Mass. They performed 'Missa de Agnelis' with SATB alteration by Terenzio Zardini and other hymns and motets. For the introit, the choir performed 'Sacerdos in Aeternum' with the 'Dixit Dominum'. Gabrieli's 'Allelulia' followed. During the offereings, the choir performed 'Ave Verum Corpus' (Mozart) and during the communion, Bass Albert Buttigieg who happen also to be the nephew of Patri Felič, interpreted the 'Our Father'. The other eucharistic hymn was the 'Panis Angelicus' which was performed by the choir's soprano Marouska Attard accompanied by the choristers. At the end of the mass Fr. Felič had his hands kissed by the congregation as sign of respect towards the consecrated hands which are allowed to touch the Lord. During this symbolic gesture, the choir performed Rutter's 'The Lord Bless you and keep you'. Organist Joseph Camilleri continued playing the organ till the very end, interpreting special sacred pieces on the organ. A reception followed in the Monastery's gardens. The choir donated an icon of the Blessed Virgin with the child to Patri Felič on this special occasion. *Ad Multos Annos Parti Felic.*

HEALTH CARE IN MALTA, Excellent public and private health care in Malta



Malta has been providing public funded healthcare for a very long time and building hospitals were among the first projects to be undertaken by the Knights of St John when they first arrived to Malta in the 16th century. Today, Malta has a very good healthcare system and people can choose between public and private sector.

According to a report compiled by the World Health Organization in 2000 Malta ranked number five for the best health systems, which is an excellent position, especially if compared to the United States (37th), Sweden (23rd), United Kingdom (18th) and Spain (7th). The primary hospital in Malta is the Mater Dei Hospital which opened in 2007 and is one of the largest medical buildings in Europe. Patients are admitted to Mater Dei Hospital either through the emergency department or through a referral by their doctor.

Public health care in Malta The public healthcare in Malta is funded from taxation and covers almost any treatment, including hospitalisation, prescriptions, pregnancy and childbirth, surgeries and rehabilitation.

The Government delivers primary healthcare through 8 Health Centres spread over the Maltese Islands, with seven centres in Malta and one in Gozo. Besides general practitioners and nursing services, all Health Centres in Malta also offer a wide range of preventive, curative and rehabilitative services such as Antenatal and Postnatal clinics, Well Baby clinics, Gynae clinics, Diabetes clinics, Ophthalmic clinics, Psychiatric clinics, Podology (Podiatric) clinics, Physiotherapy, and Speech therapy and Language Pathology clinic. People have to seek medical help in the health centre in their town. Secondary care and tertiary care are provided from several different public hospitals.

Private health care in Malta Lately, many residents choose private health care insurance which has led to an increase of private health care clinics and hospitals in Malta. People using private health care pay each time they go to see a doctor, however most doctors working privately are also employed as general practitioners by the state in hospitals and health care centres. The Ministry of Health, Elderly and Community Care oversees the health service in Malta, public and private.

An increasing number of local residents take out private healthcare insurance and some choose to use private GP and Consultants' services on a 'pay as you go' scheme. Large employers often contract private doctors to tend the needs of their employees. Most state employed GPs also work in private practice, which is considered more lucrative and prestigious.

Almost every pharmacy across Malta and Gozo offer the services of a General practitioner between certain hours. However, some pharmacies offer specialized doctors and there is no need to make an appointment as the doctor works on drop in basis. To be attended by a doctor in the pharmacy cost around 10 euros and is considered as private health care. It is always best to call before to check the exact consultation hours and if there's the need for an appointment.

Health care for foreigners in Malta All EU nationals on temporary visits to Malta are eligible to use the European Health Insurance Card which covers free medical treatment from government-funded hospitals and clinics during their stay. This card can be obtained for free from your home country and covers emergency and necessary treatments. The EHIC card complements insurance and does not substitute it, as it can never cover costs of travelling in case of serious ailments, injuries and deaths. We recommend that you check with your insurance what exactly is covered with your insurance policy. Make sure that you bring your EHIC Card to Malta with you.



On the other hand, EU citizens who are permanently residing in Malta are entitled to free health care from public hospitals and clinics, as long as they have the E121 Form. This needs to be applied for from your home country and once it is issued, it will be registered with the Malta Health Department Entitlement Unit, where they issue a Certificate of Entitlement for you. Further information on health care provided to EU citizens within the European Union can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/health-](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/care-for-me/mobility-in-europe)

[eu/care-for-me/mobility-in-europe](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/care-for-me/mobility-in-europe). Citizens of Australia are covered under Medicare while in Malta for six months under a reciprocal agreement between the two countries. If the required forms are not presented, or in the case of non-EU citizens, you would be required to pay the bills in full before leaving the hospital or clinic. You would be able to pay cash or with a credit card.

Please keep in mind that each country's health care system is different and what is included free of charge might be different than in your country of origin. As you seek medical treatment you will be treated by the doctor on duty at the time of your visit, it is not possible to register with a doctor of your choice



THE OLD RAILWAY STATION AT BIRKIRKARA



The greatest inventions ever to come about during the Industrial revolution was the steam engine. The first commercial steam engine appeared in 1698. Here, in Malta, this great invention took a long time to reach our shores. In fact almost two centuries passed since the introduction of the first trains. The Malta Railway was officially inaugurated on February 1883 and lasted for a period of around fifty years.

The train was lovingly known by the Maltese, as 'Il-Vapur tal-Art', meaning the land steamer. The dark green carriages were constructed out of wood and framed in steel chassis. There were only first and third class carriages. Prior to the

introduction of electricity, carriages were simply illuminated by candles. After 1900 the carriages were lit up by electricity.



Trains were expensive to run and the introduction of trams and buses adversely affected the Malta Railway. Buses soon became popular. After almost 50 years the train performed its last service on the 31st of March 1931. Unfortunately, from a total of 10 engines and about 34 passenger carriages, nothing is left to remind us of the existence of a railway system except for one surviving carriage which can be found in Għnien L-Istazzjon in Birkirkara. The carriage that is in the garden is very dark, with no windows at all. I wonder why they were constructed in this way. Was it because they were third class carriages or for safety measures? The Railway station at Birkirkara, is one of the most well preserved buildings in Malta. For a number of years, the station was used as office for the Local Council. Now it is presently being used as a childcare centre. The building is surrounded by pleasant gardens.

'NON GODE L'IMMUNITA ECCLESIASTICA'

Wayside chapels have been a feature of the Maltese landscape for at least 500 years. Their origin dates back



to the times when the Maltese Islands were much more sparsely populated, and the many small isolated farming communities found it necessary to erect their own places of worship. One of the characteristics of these chapels is the marble plaque near their entrance: NON GODE L'IMMUNITÀ ECCLESIASTICA. It was a warning to malefactors. This means that the chapel did not have the privilege of giving protection to those who had committed a crime. In the past many churches had this privilege of protecting criminals from the civil authorities. Those that did not have this privilege fixed this plaque to their facades.



In the past the church in Malta was immune from civil law jurisdiction, and this permitted malefactors to escape justice by taking refuge in a church or chapel. This meant that anybody breaking the law had the chance to flee for sanctuary into any church and hence could not be arrested by the authorities as long as one stayed inside. The crime rate in the mid-eighteenth century was quite high. Burglary, theft, deception, defrauding, brawling and fighting were the order of the day. It was not only ordinary lower class men who came into conflict with the law by stealing

cattle or by committing any other crime. In those days, even the Hospitaller Knights broke the law by brawling and fighting duels, although they were prohibited to engage in such activities. Even a respected priest, once, stole plenty of silver plates from the French Auberge!!!

Fugitives hiding for sanctuary in churches often were supplied with all necessities, such as foodstuff and clothing, by friends and relatives. Some of them were able to hide out for 30 to 40 years or even until they died!! Unbelievable!! These people must have had a strong resilience. Although the British government abolished this immunity permanently in 1828, many existing chapels did not remove the small plaque on their facades.

THE MALTESE FALDETTA “L-GHONNELLA”



The [ghonnella](#), pronounced "awe-nel-la" (pl. għonnielen, pronounced "awe-nee-lan"), sometimes referred to as a [Faldetta](#), was a form of women's head dress and shawl, or hooded cloak, unique to the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo. It was generally made of cotton or silk, and usually black or some other dark colour, although from the sixteenth century onward, noble women and women from wealthier households frequently wore white or brightly coloured għonnielen.

The għonnella covered the head, and framed but did not cover the face. The upper part of the għonnella was starched quite stiffly, and given a broad, rounded frame, formed by means of a board, cane, or whalebone. This gave the għonnella a mysterious but alluring, sail-like appearance. From a practical perspective, this broad bonnet captured much needed cooling breezes during the hot and humid Maltese summer.

On cooler days, the wearer could wrap the għonnella around her face more tightly, by making a slight adjustment. The lower part of the għonnella could be worn loosely draped around the wearer's bodice and hips, or more tightly wrapped in



MERCHANT STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

the case of inclement weather. It would typically fall to mid-calf length. While walking, the wearer would hold one or both sides of the għonnella clasped in her right hand.

In some Maltese villages (most notably, Żabbar and Żejtun), women wore a variant of the għonnella known as a *ċulqana*, which was typically blue, decorated with white polka dots or a white floral embroidery.

In Għargħur, the għonnella was known as *stamina*.

The colour of the għonnella was always very dark, mainly black. But there was another type of għonnella called *ċulqana*, bluish in colour with white polka dots, worn by the peasant women of Żabbar. It was dotted with small white floweret's for Żejtun womenfolk. This was not made with the same care and finesse as the għonnella.

In fact it was an outer garment worn on the head and covering three quarters of the back and sides of the body. It is said that the *ċuqlana* preceded the għonnella. In the 18th century the għonnella worn by rich or noble ladies was white and sometimes coloured.

For centuries, the għonnella was ubiquitous throughout Malta, worn by virtually all adult Maltese women. It was so popular that there were many seamstresses whose sole job was to design, cut and sew għonnielen (plural of għonnella). However, it rapidly fell into disuse in the 1940s and 1950s, following World War II. By the 1970s, it was rarely seen at all, except among the older members of the Maltese lay missionary movement, the *Societas Doctrinæ Christianæ* (M.U.S.E.U.M.). By the end of the 20th century, it had disappeared altogether.

Most Maltese women up to the 1930s and even during the Second World War days used to wear the għonnella. That headgear used to distinguish her from all other women of the world.

The għonnella covered the head and wrapped round the body from the waist upward; it did not cover the face, but with a little move hid it from curious eyes. The għonnella endowed Maltese women with a proud and pretty appearance. It became her, showed her sprightly and honoured her in people's eyes. The cover of għonnella was like a charm which bewitched and enticed men to yearn for a more revealing look at the eager face hidden behind it while the big and alluring eyes shot through the little hoop in the għonnella like the arrow of the Son of Venus. ~



Traditional Għonnella

TAS-SLIEMA

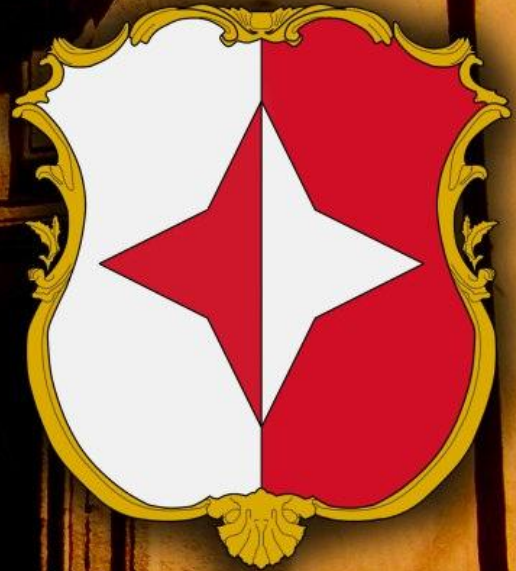
COAT OF ARMS

Sliema is at the entrance of a harbour, where a statue of Our Lady stood to greet mariners and travellers into a safe haven. This is the reason why this town bears its name, *Sliem* being the Maltese word for 'peace'.

Through the efforts of Mgr. Dr. Luigi Fernandez LL.D., the Parish Church of Stella Maris (Our Lady Star of the Sea) was the first Church to be built in Sliema. Our Lady represented the bright star leading seafarers safely into the harbour, which serves as the reason why a star (four pointed mullet) may be found on Sliema's coat of arms.

Blazon - *Per pale Argent and Gules a mullet of four points counterchanged.*

Motto - *Celer ad Oras Surgo (hastily from the coast arisen).*



araldikamalta.org

ARALDIKA
MALTA 
EST. 2012





ULURU FACTS – AYERS ROCK - Australia

Uluru is probably Australia's best-known natural landmark. The ancient monolith is pretty impressive close up and boasts intriguing statistics. Here are some **facts on Uluru**:

- **FACT:** Uluru is better known as Ayers Rock; it named by William Gosse in 1873 after Sir Henry Ayers. Uluru is the Aboriginal and official name.
- **FACT:** The rock was created over some 600 million years, and the Aborigines have been in the area for the last 10,000 years. It originally sat at the bottom of a sea, but today stands 348m above ground. One of the most startling **Uluru facts** however, is that some 2.5kms of its bulk is underground.
- **FACT:** Uluru lies west of the Simpson Desert, not far from the 'Red Centre' of Australia, about 335kms southwest of Alice Springs (as the crow flies) and 463kms by road. Contrary to popular belief, it isn't the biggest monolith in the world; Mount Augustus in Western Australia holds that title
- **FACT:** Other **Uluru Facts:** the rock is about 3.6kms long and 1.9kms wide, with a circumference of 9.4kms. The climb to the top is 1.6kms, much of which is at a steep angle, while the summit is generally flat. The surface is made up of valleys, ridges, caves and weird shapes that were created through erosion over millions of years. Surface oxidation of its iron content gives the would-be grey Uluru a striking orange-red hue.
- **FACT:** The nearby Kata Tjuta (or Olgas) are said to originate from a similar time. They are thought to have originally been one massive monolith, as opposed to the 36 separate domes they are today – one of the lesser known **Uluru facts**. They are a part of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, which was founded in 1950 as 'Ayers Rock-Mount Olga National Park', changing to its current title in 1995. The Aborigines own the land, although the Australian government currently holds a 99-year lease.

**That's all for today, folks - more interesting topics
next issue. Till then – SAHHA HBIEB**