



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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**REMEMBERING THE
140,000 MALTESE WHO
LEFT MALTA FOR AUSTRALIA
BETWEEN 1950-70**



**MULTICULTURAL
AGED CARE**

**WE THANK THE
MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
FOR SUPPORTING THE
MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSC. OF SA
AND THE JOURNAL FOR
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**

**PETER BORG
AUSTRALIA**



knights of malta merchandise - FACEBOOK

NATALIE GAUCI



**NOV. 1
2026**

SKOLA MALTIJA SYDNEY: PIONEERING THE FUTURE OF MALTESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

As **Skola Maltija Sydney** enters its 19th year of offering Maltese language and culture classes, we are pleased to announce that enrolments for 2026 are now open. Following a landmark 2025 where our student community grew to **70 enrolments**, the school continues to grow as a mature, resilient, and respected educational service.

Addressing the Gap: New High School Pilot

The primary focus for 2026 is the launch of a **NEW Fee-Free Pilot High School class**. This initiative is a high priority for both our school and community, designed specifically to meet the needs of students wishing to start or continue their study of Maltese after primary schooling.

For the past four years, the community has felt the impact of the suspension of the Maltese Higher School Certificate (HSC). We know that the middle years of schooling are a critical time when language learning often drops off, leading to language attrition. By offering an age-appropriate and accessible online program, we are dedicated to closing this gap and ensuring our youth have opportunities to remain connected to their language and cultural heritage.

Students graduating with Maltese language and literacy skills, and with an understanding of the geography, history and culture of Malta, are advantaged if they wish to apply for a Working Holiday Visa* under the new scheme for Australian youths aged 18-30.

A Vision for the Next Generation

Reflecting on the school's trajectory, 2025 Principal **Cynthia Villar** notes:

"Whilst we remain proud of our achievements, we are never satisfied as we strive for improvement and excellence. Our true legacy is measured by the lives we shape along the way. As Skola Maltija Sydney approaches its 20th anniversary, we are excited to expand our reach through new digital platforms and secondary programs, ensuring a meaningful and lasting contribution to the Maltese Australian community."

Open to All Across Australia

While our school is based in Sydney, our online delivery mode has allowed us to transcend borders. We are proud to welcome students from across Australia, currently serving learners from regional NSW and as far as northwest Tasmania. Please note that all scheduled times for online classes are in **Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)**, however all students are welcome.

Community Built on Roots

At Skola Maltija Sydney, we believe language is the heartbeat of our culture. Families choose our programs because we offer more than just a classroom; we provide a space to connect with others who share the same cultural roots and represent our heritage to the broader Australian community.

2026 Program Offerings

Skola's K-10 programs are aligned with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) [Modern Languages K-10 syllabus \(2022\)](#). We invite you to join our diverse range of classes starting the first week of February.

- **Online High School Class (Yrs 7-10):** Funded by the *Community Language Schools Grants Program* administered by the Australian Department of Home Affairs.
- **Online Primary Class (K-6):** Part of our ongoing participation in the NSW Department of Education *Online Learning Pilot Program*.
- **Face-to-Face Primary (K-6)** at Llandilo Public School supported by the NSW Community Languages Schools Program (NSW Department of Education).
- **Adult Beginners/Continuers Class Online**

Skola Maltija Sydney is a registered **Active and Creative Kids** provider, and accepts NSW Government vouchers to support families.

For more information or to enrol visit skolamaltija.org or contact us at skolamaltijasdney@yahoo.com.au



TGĦALLEM IL-MALTI

LEARN MALTESE

With Skola Maltija Sydney

K-6 PRIMARY ONLINE
Mondays during school term

K-6 PRIMARY AT LLANDILO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Wednesdays during school term

YR 7-10 HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE
Mondays during school term

ADULT BEGINNERS ONLINE
Thursdays during school term

For enrolment information email
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or contact Annemarie on 0405 126 444



FIND US ON 
SKOLA MALTIJA SYDNEY

Skola Maltija Sydney is a program of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc. Supported by the NSW Community Languages Schools Program, NSW Department of Education.

Maltese Language School of Adelaide



A LOST TREASURE

The Maltese Language School of Adelaide constituted one of the 164 South Australian Ethnic Schools. The institution conducted classes every Friday throughout the academic year at the Maltese Cultural Centre, located at 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley, from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m.

The Maltese community of South Australia has long recognized the necessity to safeguard the distinctive

language and cultural heritage of the Maltese islands—the ancestral homeland of numerous migrants residing in the region. Although the Maltese population in Adelaide is comparatively smaller than in other Australian states (approximately 5,000 individuals), the community benefits



from an educational institution dedicated to addressing the scholastic requirements of younger members and motivating second and third-generation Maltese individuals to acquire proficiency in the Maltese language alongside knowledge of Maltese and Gozitan geography, cultural traditions, heritage, artistic endeavors, musical heritage, and historical narratives.

The school was established in February 1982 and functioned as a sub-committee of the Maltese

Guild of South Australia Incorporated for an extended period. Throughout more than three decades, the school has provided instruction in Maltese language and culture to thousands of Maltese, Australian, and international students, integrating this education within the broader Australian cultural context. The Maltese School offers instruction at beginner, intermediate, and advanced proficiency levels. The current enrolment encompasses pre-school children, primary school students, secondary school students, and adult learners.

The school has also accommodated students pursuing Maltese as a component of their standard school curriculum, as well as those undertaking studies toward the South Australian Certificate of Education at Stages 1 and 2. A significant cultural dimension of Maltese heritage involves the traditional practice of folk dancing.

The original group was established shortly following the school's official inauguration. The performers comprised enthusiastic young individuals who devoted their Friday evenings to rehearsal and skill development under the guidance of an accomplished choreographer.

They presented folk dancing performances at various functions organized by the Maltese community and at other state-level events and activities. In 2007, the group ceased operations due to the unavailability of the Maltese Cultural



Centre in Beverley. Unfortunately, the facility never reopened.

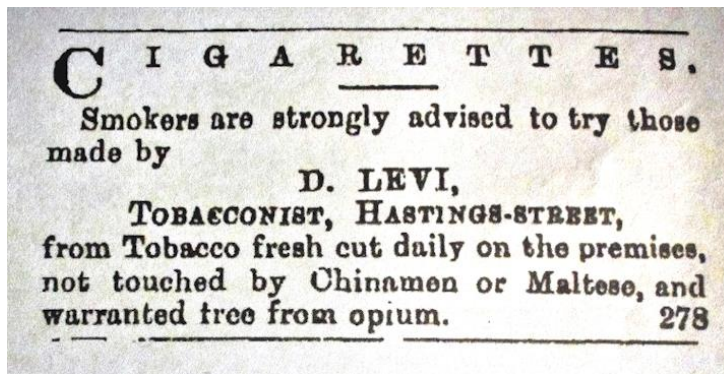


The teaching staff included Frank Scicluna as Principal, along with Mary Sgarbossa, Cettina Marsh, Nick Cutajar, Anna Farrugia, Anna Agius, Mary Bugeja, Mary Vassallo, and Marika and Josie Scicluna. Frank L Scicluna served as President of the Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia

Inc from 1991 to 1996. He also held the position of President of the Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Association for three years



It's never too late to learn
Lora Baldacchino, née Mifsud, is the eldest student
sitting for the Maltese Year 12 exam in Australia in 2013.
She attended the Maltese Language School of Adelaide
during the year to undertake the Maltese Continuers course
of the South Australian



WHEN MALTESE HAD TO CHANGE THEIR SURNAME AND OZZIES WERE TOLD NOT TO BUY CIGARTTES TOUGHED BY CHINES AND MALTESE

These phrases and historical anecdotes

capture the rampant **racial prejudice and xenophobia faced by non-Anglo immigrants** in Australia during the early 20th century, specifically targeting Maltese and Asian communities. During this era, Australia heavily enforced the **White Australia policy**. While the Maltese were British subjects, their darker Mediterranean skin tone, distinct language, and willingness to perform grueling manual work made them the target of intense social exclusion and union backlash.

The context behind these specific quotes highlights this history:

The "No Giuseppis" Signs: In the 1920s, it was common to see anti-migrant job advertisements or vacancy posters reading "*No Giuseppis wanted*" (or "*No Dagos*") outside workplaces like the Sydney wharves. "Giuseppe" was used as a derogatory blanket name for Southern European or Mediterranean migrants.

Surnames Changed to Survive: When in the late 1920s Charles (Carmelo) Farrugia came across a job vacancy poster that read 'No Giuseppis wanted' he changed his surname to Ferguson. Since Ferguson sounds nothing like a Maltese or Italian surname, he managed to secure a job at the Sydney wharf.

Charles was not the only migrant to change his name to fit in a society where prejudice against non-locals was rife. Others who changed their surnames, **Buhafigar** changed to **Stone**, **Caruana** changed to **Herd**. And the darker the skin, the harsher the derogatory labels, such as 'wog' and 'dago'.

The Maltese who travelled to Australia at the beginning of the century stood out – they spoke an unintelligible language, walked in groups with other Maltese, wore working-class clothes and walked barefoot. Pre-World War Two migrants who moved to Australia from Sliema in 1973, recalled making sure they wore a hat and carried at least one pound in their pockets when travelling to the city. Otherwise, they risked being stopped by a police officer and charged with vagrancy or homelessness.

Cigarettes untouched by "Chinamen or Maltese" This phrase stems from early Australian manufacturing and marketing propaganda that used racial purity fears to sell products.

The Anti-Asian Context: In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, white-owned factories and labor unions frequently stamped goods with labels like "*Made by White Labor Only*" or guaranteed they were "*Untouched by Chinamen*" to discourage the public from purchasing goods made by Chinese immigrants.

The Inclusion of the Maltese: As Maltese numbers grew in manual industries (such as the sugarcane fields of Queensland and urban factories), the same marketing rhetoric expanded to include them. Guaranteeing a product was untouched by "Chinamen or Maltese" was a xenophobic marketing tactic designed to appeal to Anglo-Saxon consumers by weaponising hygiene and racial anxieties.



Parliament of Malta in Valletta

The Parliament of Malta is the country's unicameral constitutional legislative body located in Valletta. The **Parliament of Malta** ([Maltese: Il-Parlament ta' Malta](#)) is the constitutional [legislative body](#) in [Malta](#), located in [Valletta](#). The [parliament](#) is [unicameral](#), with a democratically elected **House of Representatives** and the [president of Malta](#). By [constitutional](#) law, all [government ministers](#), including the [prime minister](#), must be members of the House of Representatives.

Between 1921 and 1933 the Parliament was [bicameral](#), consisting of a [Senate](#) (*Senat*) as well as a Legislative Assembly (*Assemblea Leġislattiva*).

Istructure and Location

- **Chamber:** Unicameral House of Representatives consisting of 79 seats in the 15th Legislature following the May 2026 general election.
- **Building:** Parliament House (*Dar il-Parlament*), a purpose-built modern stone building designed by architect Renzo Piano located at Freedom Square in Valletta.
- **Leadership:** Headed by the President of Malta (Myriam Spiteri Debono), Speaker Carmelo Abela, and Prime Minister Robert Abela.

Key Details

- **Political Breakdown:** Comprises 42 seats held by the Labour Party (Government) and 37 seats held by the Nationalist Party (Opposition).
- **Schedule:** Typically meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. during active session periods.
- **Official Website:** More information, schedules, and documents are available on the Official Parliament of Malta Website.



MYTHS AND LEGENDS

The Blue Lady, a headless bride and the vanishing cat: Maltese ghostly folklore for Halloween night

Malta is famous not only for its beautiful landscapes and rich history but also for its chilling collection of haunted sites. Each location has its own ghost stories and folklore, making Halloween the perfect time to explore the eerie figures lurking in the dark streets of Malta and Gozo.

THE BLUE LADY AT VERDALA PALACE

One of the most known ghost stories in Malta begins with a young woman full of hope that one day she will find love. However, all hope went out the window when she was pushed into a political marriage by her uncle, Grand Master De Rohan. She refused to marry him. Enraged by the rejection, the suitor locked her in a room at Verdala Palace.

Being so desperate to escape, she decided to go through her window but ended up falling to her death in her blue dress. Since then, her soul is said to be roaming the palace.

Many visitors have recalled seeing her reflection in mirrors or seeing her standing on the edge of the palace balconies, in her blue dress.

THE HEADLESS BRIDE AT MDINA

The tale of Katrina starts when she was attacked by a knight. As she fought for her life, she eventually killed him. When word spread around, Katrina was sentenced to death for the crime. Katrina was to be beheaded, but she was granted one final wish before death – she chose to marry her one true love. Soon after her wedding, she was beheaded. Now, she is seen roaming the streets in her bridal gown or wearing the traditional Maltese ghonnella, standing at the end of the dark streets and beckoning people to follow her before walking straight into a wall.

THE HITCHHIKING GIRL ON T'ALLA W'OMMU HILL

Driving at night on the road from Salina to Naxxar can lead to a spooky encounter with a hitchhiking girl. Many people say they've seen a teenage girl stumbling along the side of the road, trying to get drivers to stop, as if she needs help.

There are two possible endings to this story: If you stop for her, she suddenly disappears; but if you keep going, you might see her sitting quietly in the back seat, staring at you. This ghostly girl is said to be the spirit of someone who was killed in a hit-and-run accident on that road.

THE GREY LADY AT FORT ST ANGELO

Fort St Angelo in Birgu was originally known as Castrum Maris in the medieval period. It later became the Knights of St John's headquarters during the Great Siege of 1565.

The legend of the Grey Lady began in the Siculo-Norman period. She was a young woman who had a secret affair with Captain de Nava, the fort's first governor. Upset about being treated as less important than de Nava's wife, she protested. To hide their relationship, de Nava ordered his guards to send her away, but they killed her and hid her body in the dungeons. De Nava had the guards executed in anger.

FORT ST ANGELO

Sightings of the Grey Lady date back to the early 1900s, with reports varying widely. Children described her as a beautiful but sad lady, while others said she was aggressive and threw furniture. Some believe a Maltese woman exorcised her, leading to her disappearance, but stories also say she appeared during World War II to save soldiers from bombings. Since then, no one has seen her again.

THE VANISHING CAT AT THE GRANDMASTER'S PALACE

Valletta is famous for its paranormal activity and many haunted buildings, with the Grandmaster's Palace being a key location for ghost stories. Originally made up of several buildings, the Palace has a long history and is known for strange sightings and sounds reported by guests who stay overnight. One well-known story is about an English lady who heard animals fighting in a nearby room during her stay. Each time she checked, she found nothing unusual. One day, she saw a large cat jump out of a window, but nearby workers said they didn't see any cat at all. This has led some to believe the cat might have been a ghost.

VILLA SANS SOUCI, MARSAXLOKK

Villa Sans Souci in Marsaxlokk is known for its paranormal activity and eerie atmosphere. This long-abandoned mansion has become a hotspot for ghostly encounters, with many visitors reporting strange noises coming from inside the villa. Those who have dared to enter often describe a constant feeling of dread and paranoia that seems to follow them throughout the building.

Villa Sans Souci in Marsaxlokk is said to give the chills to whoever ventures inside

People who trespass into the villa frequently struggle to take clear photographs, suggesting an unsettling presence within. The combination of weird sounds and an stuffy atmosphere contributes to its reputation as one of Malta's haunted locations.

The Black Knight of Manoel Island

Manoel Island became an isolation hospital during the Black Death outbreak in 1592, leading to many ghost stories. One of the most famous is about a Black Knight who haunts the island.

Workers have reported seeing a ghostly figure in black armor standing on the fortification walls, watching over them. This knight has been seen patrolling the abandoned buildings for hundreds of years and is believed to be linked to a disturbed crypt of a long-dead knight.

MANOEL ISLAND

During renovations after World War II, workers spotted this knight, resembling Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena, who built the fort. His appearances reportedly stopped when the damaged crypt was restored and masses were held there. However, he returned in 1980 after the crypt was vandalised again, raising questions about his connection to the disturbances and his desire to protect it.

2013 - 2026

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MARIA CAREY IN MALTA IN DECEMBER

Tickets for Mariah Carey's concert in Malta go on sale NOW. The international singer will perform at the MFCC in Ta' Qali on December 8th.

The seated concert is expected to feature some of Carey's most popular Christmas songs, including the hit "All I Want for Christmas Is You."

Mariah Carey has sold over 200 million albums worldwide and achieved international success throughout her career with hits such as "Hero," "Without You," "Fantasy," "We Belong Together," and "Always Be My Baby."

The singer has become particularly associated with

Christmas thanks to "All I Want for Christmas Is You," released in 1994, which remains one of the most popular songs of the festive season.

The concert on December 8th will offer the Maltese public the opportunity to hear Carey perform some of her songs live during an evening specially curated for the Christmas season. Tickets can be purchased AT

www.maltashows.com/mariah-carey-2026/

Reflection
by
Bishop Gharles
Gauci
Dawrin

WAKING
UP



Jesus said, 'Stay awake, for you do not know the hour.'

We wait for a better time to do something. We can tend to put things off.

We can spend time on what is not truly life-giving, on what can become a substitute for real treasure.

We can rationalise things to excuse

ourselves from doing what is for the greater good and settle instead for more immediate gratification. Healthy spirituality is about truth and the greater good. 'Now is the time of salvation', the moment of grace.

Contemplation is about being truly present to the moment.

We learn to listen to the Holy Spirit. We let the kindly light of God lead us through the darkness of confusion and falsehood.



IL-MUŻEW MALTI TA' MORWELL

Minn Joseph Matina - Melbourne

Fil-qalba ta' Morwell, eluf ta' kilometri 'l bogħod minn xtutna, hemm rokna għażiża fejn Malta għadha tgħix, tiegħu n-nifs u tħabbat f'qalbna. Bejn dawn il-ħitan jingabru stejjer, ritratti u tifikiriet prezzjużi—frammenti

minn ruhna u minn wirtna, miżmuma b'imħabba biex la ż-żmien u lanqas id-distanza ma jhalluhom jintilfu.

Fost l-ghodod tal-imghoddi u t-tifikiriet imħarsa b'tant għożża, donnu għadna nisimghu l-ilhna ta' missirijietna ġejjin minn fuq il-baħar, minn daww il-gzejjer li qatt ma telqu tassew minn qalbhom. Kull oġġett jirrakkonta storja ta' kuraġġ, saġrificcju u tama—l-istorja ta' nies li qasmu l-ibhra b'għajnejhom lejn futur ġdid, iżda b'Malta dejjem magħhom, moħbija fil-fond ta' ruhhom. Il-Mużew Malti huwa ferm aktar minn gabra ta' tifikiriet; huwa qalb ħajja u pont bejn żewġ artijiet—bejn il-Mediterran li jibqa' jsejhlina u l-Awstralja li fethet dirgħajha u laqgħetna. Hawnhekk, il-ġenerazzjonijiet jiltaqgħu, l-istejjer jgħaddu minn qalb għal oħra, u l-għeruq komuni tagħna jibqgħu b'saħħithom, biex l-identità Maltija tkompli tidli f'kull min jidhol.

Hawnhekk, il-passat jiltaqa' mal-preżent f'tgħanniqa mimlija mħabba, u l-memorji li tant ngħożžu jsiru rigal sagru għall-ġenerazzjonijiet li għad iridu jiġu.

B'kburija u tenerezza, il-mużew jiddi bħal fanal fid-dlam, ifakkar lil ulied Malta, ikunu fejn ikunu, li l-għeruq tagħhom jibqgħu jsejhlhom u li d-dar tibqa' dejjem tgħix f'qalbhom.

Minn qalbna, niringrazzjaw lil Mario Sammut, President tal għada

tal orginazzjoni u daww kollha li, b'dedikazzjoni, saġrificcju u mħabba bla qies, taw il-ħin, is-saħħa u parti minnhom

infushom biex din il-holma setgħet issir realtà.

Il-hidma tagħkom ma bnietx biss mużew; holqot dar għall-memorji tagħna, kenn għall-wirt tagħna, u wirt ħaj li se jkompli jmiss il-qalb u jqabbad il-fjamma tal-imħabba lejn Malta għal ħafna snin oħra.

Grazzi, Mużew Malti ta' Morwell, talli tħares dan il-wirt b'tant għożża u dedikazzjoni. Int m'intix sempliċement bini mimli tifikiriet; int dar 'il bogħod mid-dar, tgħanniqa għal kull min iħoss in-nostalgija ta' Malta, u xhieda ħajja li, tkun kemm tkun kbira d-distanza, qalb Maltija tibqa' dejjem marbuta ma' art twelidha.





MALTA - THROUGH THE AGES

MALTESE COMMUNITY IN CANADA

Ernest Ferrante

The earliest Maltese presence in Canada dates back to the mid-to-late 19th century, when small, undocumented groups of labourers found work in emerging urban hubs such as Winnipeg and Toronto. Organised migration efforts began to take shape in the early 20th century, though not without institutional resistance. In 1910, the Malta Emigration Committee attempted to direct workers toward British Columbia. However, Canadian immigration officials favoured migrants of Anglo-Saxon heritage, viewing prospective Mediterranean arrivals as

less desirable candidates for settlement.

Despite these barriers, migration accelerated sharply just prior to the First World War. Between January and July of 1913, approximately 500 Maltese arrived in Canadian ports, drawn primarily by opportunities in railway expansion, mining, and industrial manufacturing. By 1914, distinct communities had emerged in Toronto, Windsor, Winnipeg, and Vancouver.

To navigate isolation, language barriers, and a harsh climate, Maltese settlers quickly established formal and informal mutual-aid associations. These groups served as cultural lifelines, coordinating social gatherings, helping newly arrived immigrants secure employment and housing, and preserving community ties. In Toronto, the neighbourhood surrounding Dundas Street West and the Junction area gradually evolved into the country's primary Maltese enclave, eventually known as "Little Malta."

Although the outbreak of the First World War and subsequent economic slumps temporarily paused transatlantic movement, these early 20th-century hubs laid the social framework for the much larger wave of post-World War II Maltese immigration to Canada

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MALTA - Through the ages

Ernest

Ferrante · September 20 at 2:06 PM ·

A glimpse into turn-of-the-century Malta, where big families were the heart and soul of island life.

Back in those days, households like this were the norm, filled with life, shared laughter, and deep-

rooted traditions. Pictured here in a sunlit limestone courtyard are proud parents surrounded by their eleven children, all dressed in their Sunday best.

Notice the father and elder sons in their sharp three-piece suits with pocket watch chains, and the mother cradling the youngest baby on her lap. The daughters wear beautiful Edwardian gowns adorned with sprawling white lace collars—a classic showcase of fine Maltese bizzilla—while the younger children sit out front on a traditional striped woven mat in crisp white. Framed by potted palms and stone walls, it's a wonderful reminder of our heritage, family unity, and a cherished era gone by.

GOGO FOUNDATION- SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Five years. 150 women. And a community that continues to believe in what is possible.

This week we had the privilege of celebrating five years of GOGO Foundation's Inclusive Work Program at Government House, surrounded by the women who have been part of our journey and the many people who have supported them along the way. We are incredibly grateful to Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, for welcoming us into her home, Government House, and for her patronage of GOGO Foundation. It was so special to celebrate this milestone with her, our supporters and the women who are at the heart of everything we do. Over five years, 150 women have graduated from the Inclusive Work Program. But 150 is more than a number. Behind every number is a woman who has faced barriers, taken a step forward and trusted us to walk alongside her. What we have learnt is simple: Women don't need to be rescued. They need support, opportunity and people who believe in them. And there is an important role for those of us who have influence, access and the ability to open doors.

Real change happens when people who have the ability to create opportunities use that influence to make those opportunities accessible to women who may not otherwise have had them. That is what partnership looks like. It's not doing things for women, it's creating the conditions, connections and opportunities for women to do things for themselves. We work with women, not around them, creating a safe place for connection, family and belonging, while supporting women to build their confidence, skills and pathways forward. The mentors, facilitators, employers, funders, partners, families and community around these women become their cheerleaders.

Their investment isn't about what these women can give back. It's about seeing them achieve, be safe and thrive. To everyone who has been part of the GOGO journey over the past five years, And to the 150 women who have trusted us to walk beside you ...this milestone belongs to you

Captains ġodda tar-Royal Malta Golf Club**Charles Camenzuli**

Tim Cleasby u Maria Camilleri Sandu huma l-captains il-ġodda tar-Royal Malta Golf Club.

Dan wara li r-Royal Malta Golf Club organizza ċ-ċerimonja tradizzjonali tal-Captains' Drive-In, li matulha Tim Cleasby u Maria Camilleri Sandu bdew uffiċjalment il-kariga tagħhom bħala Club Captain u Lady Captain rispettivament għall-istaġun 2026/27.

Fil-preżenza tal-membri, familjari u ħbieb, iż-żewġ captains wettqu l-ewwel drives tagħhom biex jimmarkaw il-bidu tal-ħidma tagħhom.

Iċ-ċerimonja saret wara l-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tar-Royal Malta Golf Club li matulha ċ-Chairman Paul Stoner ippreżenta l-viżjoni tal-klabb għall-ħames snin li ġejjin, fosthom titjib fil-clubhouse, investiment f'makkinarju modern u aktar żvilupp tal-korsa. Matul il-laqgħa, Susan Wibrew, Andrea Hamilton Hill u Kim Borg ingħataw rikonoxximent bħala membri onorarji għall-kontribut tagħhom lill-klabb.



Il-Knisja tal-Herba – Birkirkara

Hawn ha nibdew b'leggenda li hi marbuta mal-knisja tal-Herba, li tinsab f'Birkirkara.

Tissejjah hekk ghax skont kif jghidu, l-knisja nbiet f'ambjent imharbat. Din il-knisja tinsab tefgha ta gebla l-bogħod mill-bazilika/knisja parrokkjali ta Santa Liena. Din inbniet fl-1644. Ma din il-

knisja nsibu din il-leggenda li tghid hekk. Kien hemm ragel li kellu dizabilita' serja, tant li ma kienx jimxi sew fuq saqajh. Dan bilfors kellu jigi mghejjun bil-krozzi. Jum fost l-ohrajn kien għaddej minn hdejn il-Knisja tal-Herba, li tinsab gewwa Birkikara u sema l-qanpiena tal-Knisja jdoqq. F'dak il-hin għaddielu hsieb minn mohhu biex jidhol gewwa u jagħmel vista quddien it-titular.

Meta għamel hekk, huwa nduna li kien qiegħed izomm fuq saqajh bla ma kien jiza l-krozzi. Dan malajr beda jimxi normali u bil-ferh, beda jghajjat kemm jiflah li kien sar miraklu. Ma din il-leggenda nsibu leggenda ohra fejn tghid li wieħed ragel matul il-lejl kien dahal fil-Knisja tal-Madonna tal-Herba sabiex jagħmel serqa mid-deheb li kellha l-istatwa. Hekk kif mess l-ewwel gojjel b'idejh, idejh wahlulu mal-gojjel, tant li ma setax jiccaqlaq minn fejn kien.

F'daqqa wahda bdiet idoqq wahedha l-qanpiena tal-Knisja, matul il-lejl. Ma dan l-alarm, diversi nies malli jaraw x'kien gara, ghaliex ma kinitx haga normali li ddoqq il-qanpiena matul il-lejl. Hekk kif dahlu l-knisja, sabu lil dan il-halliel imwahhal max-xbieha tal-Madonna.

The cart itself is a marvel of balance and resourceful organisation. Known locally as a travelling general store, it carried household essentials directly to people's doorsteps long before modern supermarkets existed. Stacked high on the wooden cart are handmade brooms (*xkupilji*), feathered and synthetic dusters (*imwieses* or *dusters tal-rix*), galvanised washbasins and buckets, wooden chairs, plastic tubs, and artificial decorative flowers. The vivid green spoked wooden wheels and the custom feed bag hanging beneath the harness reflect the daily, hardworking nature of village trades.

THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF 'TAL HERBA'



A pilgrimage to a Marian shrine and site of miracles and many graces granted by Our Lady. In the heart of the old village of Birkirkara, right behind the Basilica of St. Helen, there is a small church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It was originally built in the midst of rocks, rubble and ruins; and in time, it acquired the name of *Madonna Tal-Herba*.

History of *Madonna Tal-Herba*

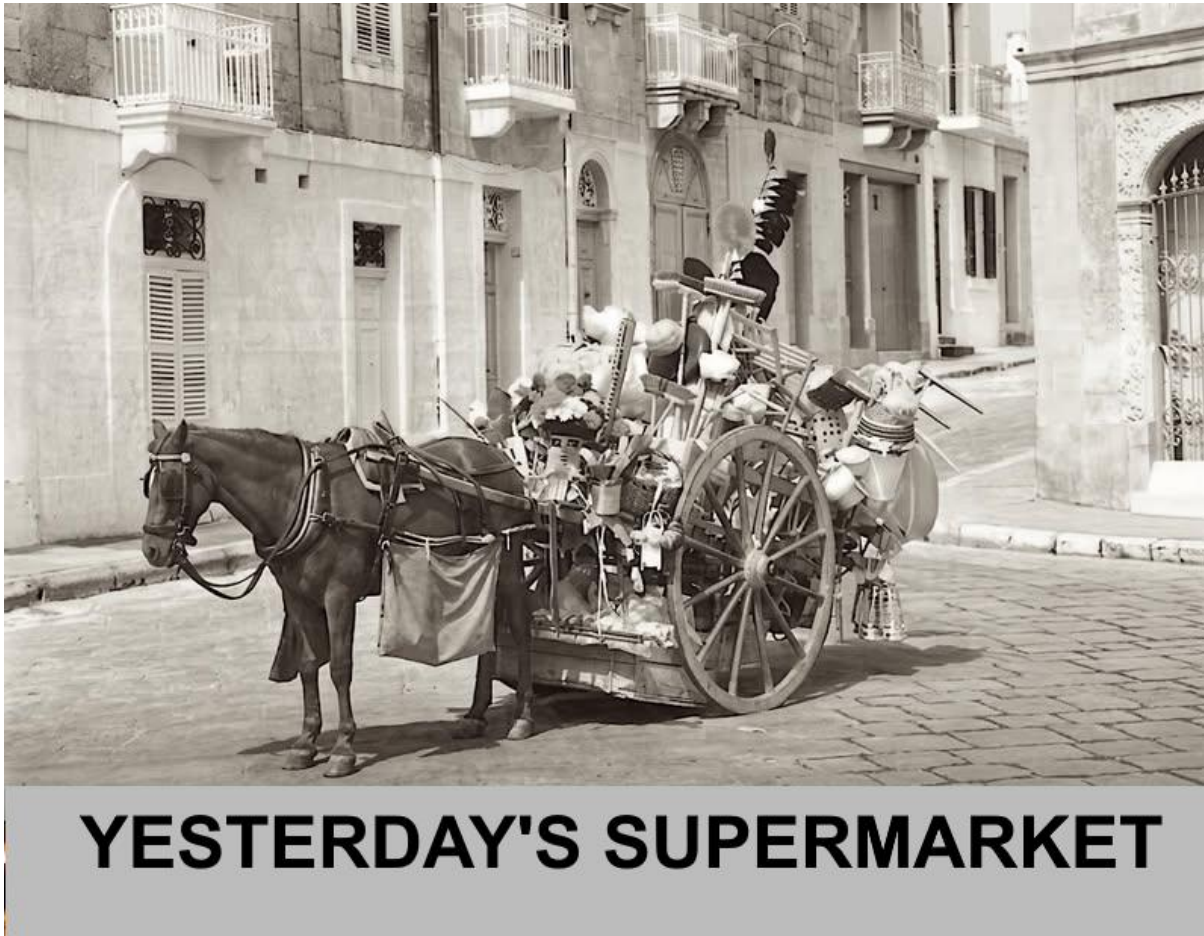
At first it was practically unknown, but the Virgin Mary chose it as her own, from among many other majestic and more beautiful churches. **Holy Mary wanted to show the power and mercy of her heart.** A torrent of graces showered the devoted Christians who prayed to the Blessed

Virgin Mary before her beloved and fervently venerated image in the tiny church of *Tal-Herba*. As to the name, or better still the nickname, "*Tal-Herba*," no one has yet come forward with unimpeachable evidence as to what the term stands for. The well-known Maltese author and educator E.B. Vella tried his best to discredit a hypothesis that the term commemorated the inglorious flight of the Ottoman Turks from Malta after they had been repulsed in the Great Siege of 1565. In Maltese there is a similar word, "*Harba*," which means flight, however, the name is clearly "*Herba*" and in Maltese this means, "ruin" or "times of trouble." On this there is wide consensus between all linguistic scholars.

We have no firm or proven date when the original Sanctuary was erected. What we do know for sure, from Mgr. Pietro Dusina's Pastoral visit, is that **in 1575 it was already a very well-known Marian shrine, enjoying great devotion**, however, it is not referred to as *Tal-Herba*. On the other hand, during a visit to the Parish of Birkirkara by the Bishop of Malta, Mgr. Baldassare Cagliares, in 1615, he referred to it as *Tal-Herba*, and also reported that it was dedicated to the Assumption of Mary (In Maltese: *Santa Marija tax-Xahar t'Awissu*).

Bishops and documents related to pastoral visits (1637, 1679, 1685, 1809), mention the church of *Tal-Herba* as dedicated to the Nativity of Our Lady — *Sub titulo Nativitatis B.M.V.* This implies that if in 1615 the church was still dedicated to the Assumption of St. Mary, and in 1637 it was dedicated to the Nativity of Our Lady, the change, if it may be so called, occurred sometime between these dates. It is also worth mentioning that in the *Status Animarum* of 1647, the sanctuary was also referred to as Our Lady of Grace or Miracles. Some hypothesize that this church was renovated in 1640, but **what is certain is that some time before 1644 another church, dedicated to the Nativity of Our Lady, was built in front of its main door, while leaving the old church intact.**

Nevertheless, after a pastoral visit in 1673, it was decided that Holy Masses could no longer be celebrated in the old church. A few years later it became the sacristy of the new church, and a hundred years after, it was demolished and rebuilt. This is one of two small chapels, adjoined to the sanctuary, which still stands today. It is nicknamed “*il-kappella iż-żgħira tal-ġenb*” — the tiny side chapel. The last structural modifications of the sanctuary, before the enlargement carried out in the 20th century, were the rebuilding of the façade and the erecting of the bell tower, both in 1797. The sanctuary was consecrated on March 23, 1785, by Bishop Mgr. Vincenzo Labini — that is, 236 years ago on the dot!



YESTERDAY'S SUPERMARKET

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Easy and Popular Orange Cookies

6 c. flour

1 1/2 c unsalted butter

1 1/2 c sugar

1/2 c Fresh orange juice

1/2 c milk

4 eggs

1/2 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

Orange rind from 2 oranges (2Tbs)

2 tsp vanilla or orange extract or grand marnier

Beat butter with sugar until fluffy. Add 3 cups flour.

Add the rest of ingredients. Mix well. Move to the bowl.

Knead adding the rest flour as needed shape cookies.

Bake 350° for 15-20 minutes



How big is Malta? Malta has a total area of approximately **316 square kilometres (122 square miles)**, which includes the main islands of Malta, Gozo, Comino, and several smaller islands. The main island of Malta covers about **245.7 square kilometres (95 square miles)** and stretches roughly 28 kilometres (17 miles) in length and 14.5 kilometres (9 miles) in width.

Eddie Camilleri requested this map of Malta.

A Little Poem For Seniors

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
And winter seems much colder.

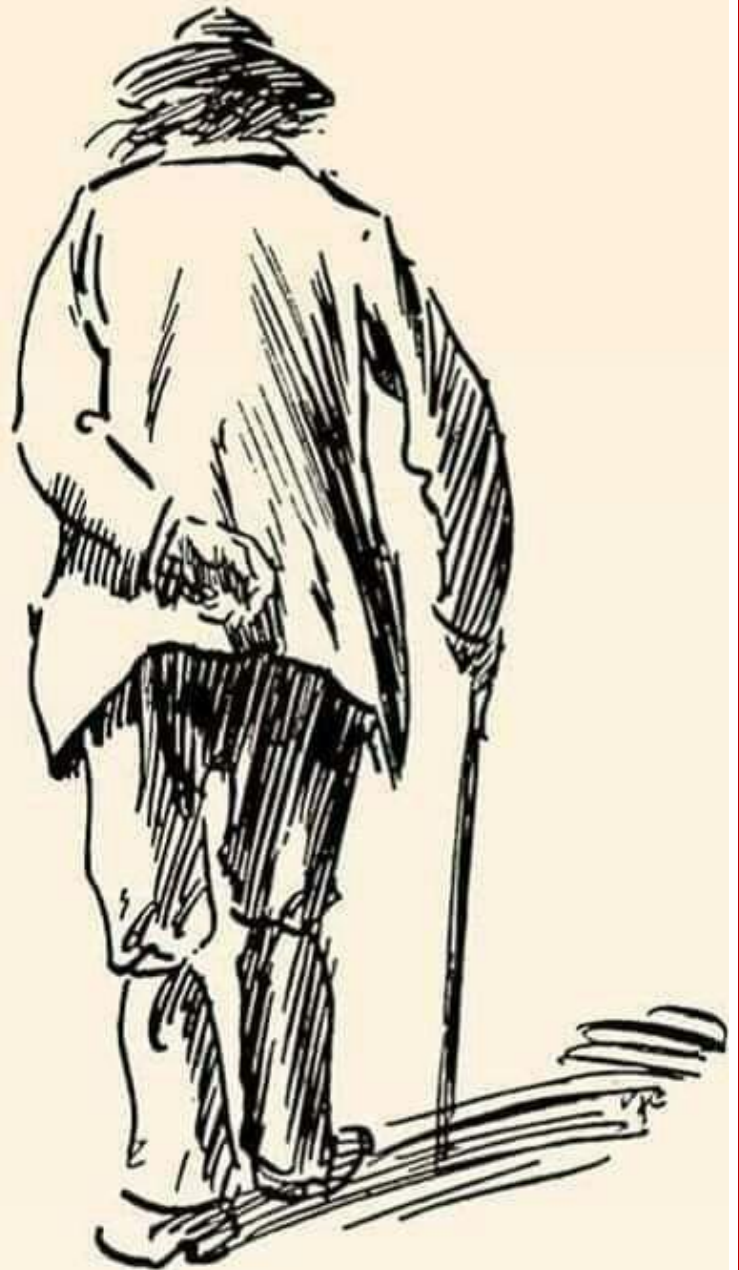
There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,
Football games and lunches..
Now we go to funeral homes
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.
We used to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get sore asses
From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...
Before you're too damned old!





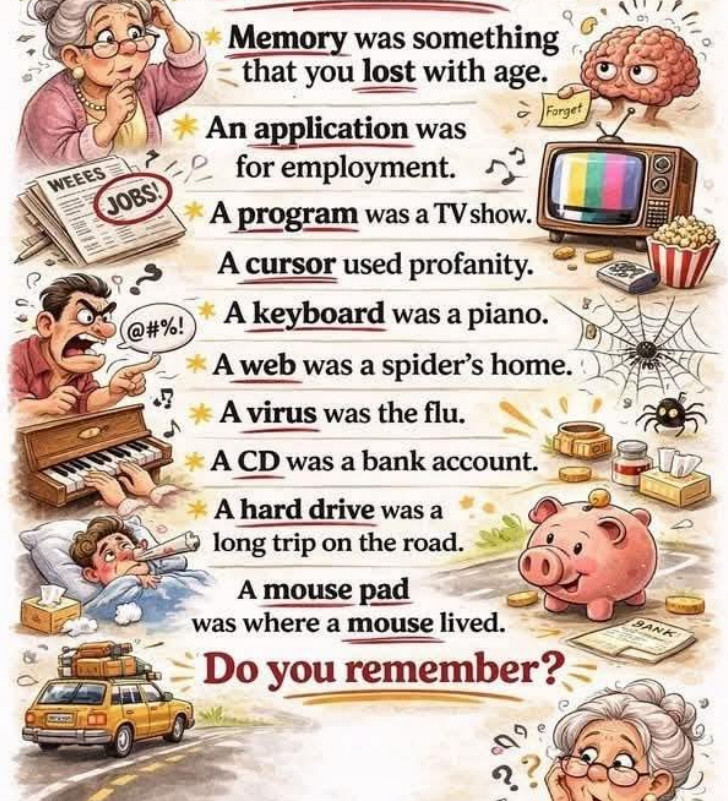
70 YEAR OLD TEXTING CODE

ATD..... At The Doctor
 BFF..... Best Friend Fell
 BTW..... Bring The Wheelchair
 BYOT..... Bring Your Own Teeth
 DWI..... Driving While Incontinent
 FWIW..... Forgot Where I Was
 GHA..... Got Heartburn Again
 ROFLACGU..... Rolling On Floor Laughing
 And Can't Get Up
 OMSG..... Oh My, Sorry Gas
 TTYL..... Talk To You Louder



Do you remember life before the computer?

Back when...



So let me get this straight, I go to the grocery store and buy:



A pound of sliced ham in a plastic bag, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins in plastic wrap, a store-made salad in a plastic tub, a plastic bottle of mustard and ketchup, but they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?