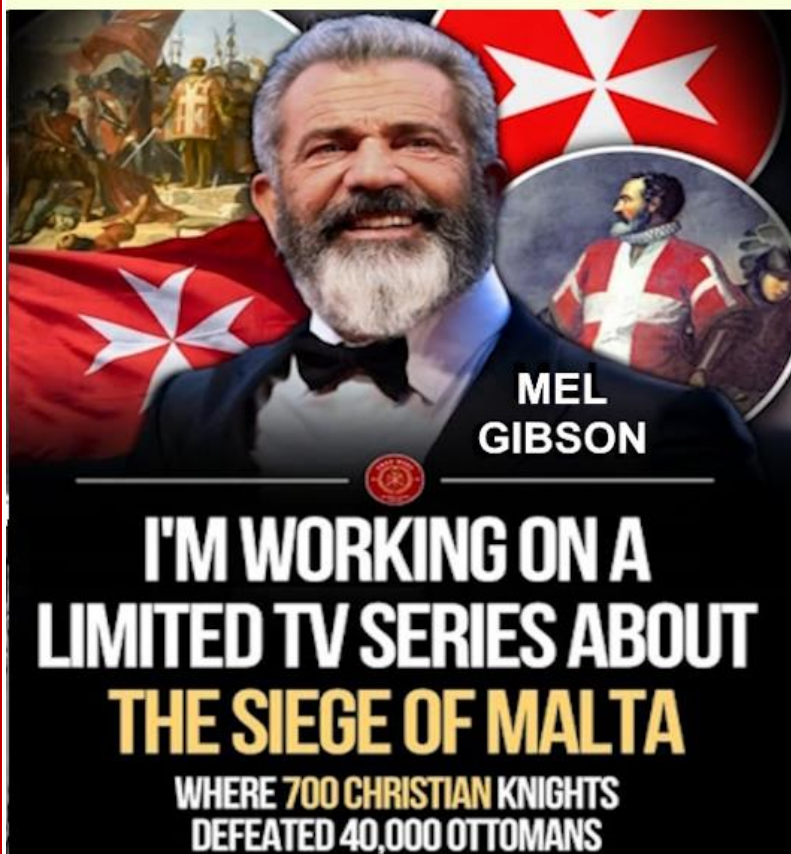




Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR

Contact - maltesejournal@gmail.com



THE HORROR ENDURED BY THE MALTESE CHILD MIGRANTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (1945 - 1954)





MEMORIAL TO THE MIGRANT CHILDREN

Plaque

This memorial is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australia Governments and is dedicated to the Maltese boys and girls who left their homeland to brave an unknown future in Western Australia. Hardships were endured, benefits were derived. These child migrants provided valuable contributions to Australian society in diverse ways as parents, workers, and citizens. Australia is better for their coming.

Photographs supplied by Graeme Saunders / Bryan Hardy. The sculpture commemorates the contribution made by British and Maltese girls and boys who left their country to find a new life in Western Australia.

The life-size bronze statue of a young boy and girl carrying all their worldly possessions in a small suitcase apiece serves as a perpetual reminder of the experiences of nearly 3,000 unaccompanied children who were shipped to Western Australia from Britain and Malta over a period spanning more than 50 years. The memorial to honour the memory, and the contribution to Western Australian society and history, of former child migrants was launched on Human Rights Day (10 December) 2004 by the West Australian Minister for Community Development, the Honourable Sheila McHale.

Between 1947 and 1953 over 3200 children migrated to Australia under approved schemes. About 100 of them were Maltese while the remainder came from the United Kingdom. Other European countries were asked if they would like to participate in the child migration scheme but declined. Over 30 homes were approved by the Commonwealth for the housing of child migrants. Most of these were run by voluntary and religious organisations. It was not government policy to provide homes specifically for migrant children; however, the government did contribute towards the capital expenditure incurred by these organisations in setting up suitable homes. Both the Commonwealth and State governments contributed towards running costs. The governments of the United Kingdom and Malta also paid maintenance for their children who had emigrated to approved institutions in Australia.

Between 1950 and 1965, 310 Maltese child migrants were sent to Australia

In 1928, in Perth, negotiations between the Maltese and Western Australian Governments continued through the 1930s, but the first Maltese child migrants did not arrive in Australia until after World War II.

Between 1950 and 1965, 259 boys and 51 girls were sent to Catholic institutions in Western Australia and South Australia. Most parents believed their children would receive a better education in Australia. Instead, many were put to work on the Christian Brothers' building projects and left to endure the same punishments and abuses as their British counterparts. Some were forced to stop using their Maltese language and never learned to read or write Maltese.

Paul Camilleri**·Why I no longer feel at home in Malta due to its changing infrastructure and values**

A couple of weeks ago, while returning home from abroad, I penned down some thoughts that I intended to share but never did. Little did I know that our country's infrastructure would eventually provide me with the perfect occasion to post them.

So here I am, in 2026, currently experiencing the 22nd consecutive hour without electricity. If ever there was a moment for these thoughts, this is it. After all, nothing puts the state of a country into perspective quite like spending almost an entire day waiting for something as basic as electricity.

HOLIDAY vs HOME

"Holiday"... A word that is music to the ears of many, myself included. Yet over the years, its meaning has changed dramatically — at least for me.

There was a time when a holiday simply meant taking a break from work, visiting another country, trying a different cuisine, doing a bit of shopping, and returning home refreshed, ready to continue with everyday life.

After completing every hike I had planned through pristine landscapes, after tasting the local cuisine, after taking hundreds of photographs to preserve those memories, after closing my suitcase and settling into the taxi on the way to the airport, my thoughts begin to take over.

One question always comes to mind:

Is Malta still my home? Can I still honestly call it "home"? My answer is NO.

I no longer feel that Malta is home.

- It has become one vast metropolitan area where money is king and respect has become almost extinct.
- The peaceful island life I once knew has disappeared beneath endless construction.
- The slower pace of life has been replaced by constant traffic, noise and chaos.
- Nature is sacrificed to satisfy developers.
- Fraudsters and criminals seem to receive preferential treatment.
- Unqualified and uneducated people are paid thousands of euros to manipulate public opinion and convince people that what is clearly wrong is somehow normal—or even right.
- Infrastructure is not coping leading to endless suffering of people (extensive and never-ending powercuts, long waiting lists at hospital, contaminated beaches due to drainage overflow and the list goes on).

- The mafia has infiltrated the highest levels of the executive and key government institutions

That reality fills me with sadness and frustration because I invested my life, my work and my earnings in a place that I now find myself wanting to escape from.

Recently, those feelings have evolved into something even deeper. The wish of not returning to Malta after every trip tells me this isn't just wanderlust.

It's the desire to build a peaceful life. It is the need to truly enjoy the years I have, rather than constantly racing against the clock. To many people, that may sound unrealistic. To me, however, peace has become far more valuable than money.

I love Malta - or better say I love the Malta that once existed.

Deep down, I will always be an island boy. What breaks my heart is that I no longer recognise the island where I grew up - or perhaps more accurately, I no longer recognise what Malta has been turned into. Today, I feel like a stranger in the very country I once proudly called HOME

MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bringing together the Maltese Community of Perth

Our Heritage • Our Community • Our Home



MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WA

Dates for Your Diary

21st NOV
SAT

Christmas Dinner Dance

🕒 7.00 p.m.



27th Nov
FRI

Pizza Night at The Club

🕒 5.30-8.30 p.m.



5th DEC
SAT

Kids' Christmas Party

🕒 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.



12th DEC
FRI

Last Friday Night of the Year

🕒 From 5.30 p.m.



malteseassociationwa.com

1 May Holman Drive,

Bassendean WA 6054

Saturday 21st November — Christmas Dinner Dance | From 7pm
Celebrate in style with a live band and a very special surprise performance you won't want to miss!

Friday 27th November — Pizza Night at the Club

Bring the whole family along for freshly made pizzas, cold drinks at the bar and great company.

Saturday 5th December — Annual Children's Christmas Party

A magical celebration filled with festive cheer, treats and Christmas fun for the kids and grandkids!

Friday 11th December — Last Club Night of the Year (2026)

Join us for our final Friday evening before the holiday break. Raise a glass, share a meal and celebrate the end of 2026 with friends.

All events will be held at the Maltese Association of WA Club, Bassendean.

More details and booking

information will be announced soon. For now, keep these dates free, we look forward to celebrating with you!

Denise Bugeja – Secretary



OUR OWN HONORARY CONSUL OF MALTA

Mr Charles Sultana was appointed to this position in 2024, and in this role he can assist with advice regarding passports, citizenship and travel to and from Malta. He is both knowledgeable and approachable, and of course a proud member of the Maltese Association of Western Australia! You can reach Mr Sultana via email: maltaconsul-perth@gov.mt For a complete listing of Maltese Consulates in Australia, see the Department of Foreign Affairs and trade webpage: <https://protocol.dfat.gov.au/Public/Consulates/124/State>

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD VOTING IN THE LAST ELECTION



**Election Flights Cost
Nearly €3 Million for
1,530 Voters**

A report by the Electoral Commission gives the figure of almost €3 million that was taken from the taxes of the Maltese and Gozitan people so that Maltese people living abroad could come to vote during the last general election.

The company KM Malta Airlines requested the sum of €2,981,921 in connection with the flights in May after 1,530 people came to Malta for a price of just €90 as part of a special discount.

The majority of the Maltese came from London, Brussels and Amsterdam. A total of 675 passengers from London, 396 from Brussels and 134 from Amsterdam. Another 325 passengers came to Malta during

the election period to vote from other countries served by the national airline.

The total cost means that each passenger cost €1,949, with many having long called for the government to introduce a system whereby Maltese people living abroad would be able to vote at Maltese embassies.

Back in 2013 the Labour Party had promised to “facilitate” the way Maltese people in foreign countries vote in elections. Last May a judicial protest was filed by Karl Schembri against the government for limiting the means by which one can vote.

This expense requested by KM Malta Airlines is separate from the Electoral Commission’s expense, totalling €8.2 million.



HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MARIO GRECH IN MELBOURNE

The Global Centre for Catholic Leaders is hosting a public session 9am – 12pm with Cardinal Grech at the Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne on November 4. The session will be just a month out from the Melbourne synod. During the time there will be an opportunity to hear from the Cardinal, reflect through spiritual conversations on what we hear and engage with the Cardinal and the panel on questions like: is synodality here to stay? What does synodality mean for the way we lead and govern? What kind of formation do we need for synodality? How do we build co responsibility in our communities? It will be a really unique experience and

members of the confraternity are very welcome to attend. As such, I’ve attached the flyer. We would also be deeply grateful if you could share this amongst your networks. The link to book directly is here: <https://payments.nd.edu.au/CardinalMarioGrechMelbourn>



55 Years of Caring: The Inspiring Journey of Dr. Victor E. Sammut — “It-Tabib”

Emmanuel Brincat

After more than five decades of caring for patients, mentoring doctors, and serving his community, especially the Maltese, Dr. Victor E. Sammut is hanging up his stethoscope. His remarkable journey, which began in Malta in the late 1960s and flourished in the western suburbs of Melbourne, is one of perseverance,

dedication, and compassion.

Guided by the Stars Dr. Sammut graduated from medical school in Malta in 1969, where he began his first medical practice. He was also an avid amateur astronomer and was familiar with all the northern constellations, and built his own telescopes to study them at night. He and his wife built a life in Sliema, raising their growing family in a home they named Copernicus — a tribute to Nicolaus Copernicus, the Renaissance astronomer who redefined humanity’s understanding of the universe. Dr. Sammut was dedicated to making a difference, and sought to gain insight into the world, not only through telescopes, but through stethoscopes and listening to the people around him.



A NEW ORBIT: EMIGRATING TO AUSTRALIA IN 1987, Dr. Sammut and his wife made the bold decision to emigrate to Australia with their seven children. To secure a working visa, he initially came as a computer programmer, demonstrating his adaptability and resilience. But medicine was always his true calling. Requalifying to practice in Australia was no small feat, the exams were notoriously difficult. Yet, through tireless study and collaboration with classmates, his cohort achieved one of the highest pass rates. It was

another example of Dr. Sammut’s determination and his dedication to success.

COPERNICUS CLINIC: VISION MEETS DESTINY Once fully qualified, Dr. Sammut began practicing in St Albans for a year before deciding to open his own clinic. While searching for land to build both his home and a family practice, he discovered a residential block in Keilor Downs, on Copernicus Way, which remarkably already carried a permit for a medical practice. For Dr. Sammut, this coincidence felt written in the stars.

He knew instantly it was meant to be. There, he established Copernicus Clinic, continuing the legacy of the name that had long symbolized his sense of wonder and purpose. Known affectionately as “the Maltese doctor” in Melbourne’s western suburbs, Dr. Sammut cared for generations of families, many from the Maltese community. His philosophy was simple yet profound: “The best thing you can do for your patients is to really listen to them.” Just as Copernicus shifted perspectives in science, Dr. Sammut changed the way many saw their health care, reminding both patients and colleagues that medicine is not just about science, but about humanity.

EXPANDING HORIZONS Dr. Sammut was so passionate about caring for his patients and his medical profession that he was often fond of saying: “Make your job a hobby, and you will never work a day in your life” When many of his peers were retiring, Dr. Sammut was looking to the future. In November 2014, together with his son, and daughters he founded Active Medical in Caroline Springs, a modern clinic where he could pass on his philosophy of patient-centered care to a new generation of doctors.

A LEGACY THAT SHINES ON After 36 years of medical practice in Australia, and over 55 years of caring as a doctor — Dr. Sammut officially retired in 2025, at the age of 80. Though he is no longer registered as a Medical practitioner, he remains a guiding presence for those who seek his wisdom or simply enjoy hearing some of his stories under a starlit sky. From Copernicus in Malta to Copernicus Way in Melbourne, Dr. Sammut has led a journey of service, dedication and exploring new bounds, with parallels to the astronomer he admired: exploring new worlds and challenging expectations. His legacy will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of his patients, colleagues, and family for many years to come.

SBS invites audiences and communities to help shape the future of its language services
SBS is inviting people across Australia to help shape the future of its language services, with public consultation on the draft Selection Criteria for the SBS Language Services Review 2026/27 now open until Friday 13 November 2026. The Review is conducted every five years in line with the national Census, helping ensure SBS’s language services continue to reflect and meet the needs of Australia’s rapidly changing and increasingly diverse society. This comprehensive process gives



audiences, communities and organisations an opportunity to have their say and provide feedback.

The draft Selection Criteria set out how SBS proposes to assess community needs when determining which languages to service – focusing on large and high needs language groups, as well as those with particular social cohesion needs. Factors include community size, English-language proficiency, recency of arrival to Australia, experiences of racial discrimination and humanitarian needs.

Special Broadcasting Service

14 Herbert Street, Artarmon, Cammerayagal Country, NSW 2064 Australia [sbs.com.au](https://www.sbs.com.au)

The Review will also assess how content will be scheduled and delivered across radio, podcasting, digital TV and online platforms to meet changing audience consumption habits. SBS Acting Director of Audio and Language Content, Pamela Cook, said the five-yearly Review is vital to ensuring SBS continues to deliver meaningful and accessible services for multilingual Australians.

“For more than 50 years, SBS has delivered trusted multilingual media services for communities across Australia. Through locally produced news, information and original storytelling in more than 60 languages, we help people understand the issues shaping their lives, connect with their communities and participate fully in Australian life. This content reflects the experiences, needs and perspectives of Australia’s diverse communities.

“As Australia’s population continues to change, we need to regularly review and evolve our language offering to ensure our services remain relevant and responsive to community needs. This includes balancing the needs of large and established language communities with those of emerging and high-needs communities.

“Community feedback is an important part of the SBS Language Services Review. We encourage people across Australia to review the draft Selection Criteria and share their views on how SBS should assess the nation’s multilingual media needs into the future.”

SBS currently produces original, locally relevant audio content in more than 60 languages. The final Selection Criteria will be published in May 2027, ahead of the release of the 2026 Australian Census data. The criteria will then be applied to the Census data alongside other considerations, with revised SBS language services to be introduced from December 2027. Public consultation is open from Monday 5 October to Friday 13 November 2026. To read the draft Selection Criteria, view an Easy English guide and provide feedback, visit sbs.com.au/languageservicesreview.



THE GRAND PRIORY OF ENGLAND - ORDER OF MALTA UNITED KINGDOM

governs spiritual matters and religious life, while the [British Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta \(BASMOM\)](#) manages charitable and hospitaller works in the United Kingdom.

Structure and Leadership

Grand Priory of England: Established in 1144 and restored in 1993, it oversees the governance, spiritual formation, and religious activities (such as pilgrimages to Lourdes and Walsingham) of members in Britain. Fra' Richard Berkley-Matthews serves as Procurator (appointed June 2026).

British Association (BASMOM): Founded in 1875, it leads the Order's physical and social outreach in the

UK. [1, 2]

Headquarters & Church: The Priory’s offices and Chapter Room are located at **23 Golden Square, London W1F 9JP**, with religious activities centered at the adjoining church of **Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street**.

Key Activities in the UK

Care for the Elderly: The Order cooperates with the Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT) to operate over 60 residential and care homes (housing around 3,500 residents), making it a major provider of specialized dementia and Alzheimer’s care.

Assistance & Transport: Runs community projects including soup kitchens, tea parties, and the "Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey" service providing assisted transport for disabled individuals in Scotland and the Northern Marches.

Volunteers: Supported by auxiliary groups like the Order of Malta Volunteers in England and the Companions of the Order.



Congratulations on 40 years!

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MALTA

 **Rosary Home**
Aged Care

**138, Odessa Avenue,
Keilor Downs 3038 Victoria,**

It all started in 1982, when Sr Virginia Ellul op the newly elected Superior General, assigned Sr Theresita Bianco op to Melbourne, to see what were the possibilities of the

Dominican Sisters' apostolate in this State to be altered from teaching to aged care. Providence had it that in a short time the land was purchased, plans were drawn up and in 10 months' time, a 36-bed hostel was built.

Things moved very quickly under the leadership of Sr Theresita and on Sunday, 28th September 1986, Bishop Joseph O'Connell blessed the hostel and officially declared Rosary Home open for the first 36 residents.

Rosary Home became a home away from home for elderly residents from various cultural background, language and creed. Sisters attend to the care needs of the elderly with great love and compassion.

Forty years is much more than a number. It represents four decades of dedication, compassion, friendship and service to residents and their families. It represents countless lives touched, many stories shared, and a community that has grown and remained strong through the years.

We acknowledge with great gratitude the Sisters, whose devotion, vision, faith and commitment have been at the heart of Rosary Home from the very beginning.

The Sisters established this home with more than a desire to provide accommodation and care. They created a place where older people could feel safe, respected, valued and at home.

For 40 years, Rosary Home has been built on something much greater than simply providing a place to live. In 40 years, the buildings have changed, the gardens have grown, and countless residents, staff and volunteers have walked through these doors.

Over the past 40 years, many Sisters have given their time, energy and hearts to this community. Their presence has provided not only practical support, but also spiritual guidance, comfort and friendship to residents, families and staff.

The Sisters who began and nurtured this work brought with them such a wonderful spirit of service. Today, we remember and give thanks for the many Sisters who have served here over the years and for the faith, compassion and dedication they have brought to Rosary Home. Happy 40th anniversary, and congratulations to everyone who has helped make this home what it is today.

HIGH COMMISSION OF MALTA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



VISIT OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

For the first time yesterday, the UK regional committee of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) were invited to the Malta High Commission in London to a day of informative briefings.

Prof Stehpen Montfort, the Malta High Commission in the United Kingdom welcomed the UK regional committee of CMLA, led by the UK representative on CMLA. He thanked them for their dedication and service to Malta in the UK.

The regional committee, representing UK regions including Wales, Scotland, the Midlands and the South East listened to presentations on Malta's foreign policy by [Affarijiet Barranin](#) Political Officer [Thomas Attard](#); the cultural initiatives undertaken in the UK by [Arts Council Malta](#) cultural representative [Marta Vella](#); trade and investment opportunities as highlighted by Trade Malta CEO [Tania Brown](#) and Malta Enterprise representative Peter Meli; and finally an overview of the consular services and processes as presented by HCL Consular officer [Krešimir Hegeduš](#). The High Commissioner expressed his pleasure at establishing this channel of communication with the regional committee and looks forward to receiving outputs in the year ahead.



Grand Hospitaller Visits Malta's Volunteer Services and Emergency Response Initiatives



During his visit to Malta, the Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Josef D. Blotz, met with the leadership, members and volunteers of the Maltese Association, expressing his gratitude for their commitment to the Order's humanitarian mission and learning more about the Association's ongoing activities in the fields of social assistance and emergency response. At the Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre, the Grand Hospitaller visited the volunteer service provided by the Maltese Association, which offers assistance to cancer patients and their

families. He witnessed the work carried out at the centre and the personal attention given to those undergoing treatment, reflecting the importance of human support alongside medical care.

The programme also included a visit to Malta's correctional facilities, where he met volunteers engaged in prison outreach activities. The visit highlighted the Order's longstanding efforts to accompany people facing marginalisation and social exclusion, helping to preserve dignity and provide support to inmates and their families.

Particular attention was devoted to the Maltese Association's Search and Rescue Unit. Following a briefing on its activities and future developments, the Grand Hospitaller attended a practical demonstration of its capabilities in search and rescue operations, first aid and emergency response. The exercise underscored the high level of professionalism required to serve the community.



-----**New Maltese Microbrewery Opens With Beers Inspired By Local Flavours & Traditions**
FROM PRICKLY PEARS TO GOZO SEA SALT, A NEWLY OPENED MICROBREWERY IS PUTTING A MALTESE TWIST ON CRAFT BEER.

Takali Brewing Co. started from an obsession for craft beer and grew into a dream — to bring

authentic, locally-crafted beer to Malta's tables. We're building the dream beer location in Ta' Qali, and we're inviting you to be part of it from day one.

A new microbrewery has officially opened in Malta, bringing together local ingredients, creative recipes and a fresh approach to beer production.

With the capacity to produce up to 7,000 litres of beer every month, the brewery aims to celebrate Malta's identity through flavours inspired by the island's fruits, traditions and everyday life.

Among its more unusual creations are a lager brewed with Gozo sea salt and lime, a prickly pear sour and a strawberry gelato sour inspired by familiar, nostalgic flavours.

The brewery also plans to produce more traditional beers, including lagers, pale ales, IPAs and New England IPAs, while regularly experimenting with new recipes.

Rather than focusing on mass distribution, the team wants visitors to enjoy their beer as fresh as possible, directly at the brewery, with a short journey from tank to glass.

A select number of other establishments will also be supplied, initially focusing on draught beer.

Even the brewery's colourful beer characters have a distinctly Maltese identity, inspired by the familiar personalities and everyday characters found in village squares across the islands.

“For us, this brewery is a chance to express our love for Malta through beer: its people, its ingredients and the memories we share,” the team explained.

“Above all, we want to create something that Malta can be proud of.”

The project aims to combine creativity, local culture and craft brewing while offering beer lovers something different from the usual selection.

Would you try a prickly pear or strawberry gelato beer?

Crafts Village Ta' Qali, Malta · beer@takali.mt

#MaltaDaily

Gateway to Malta



gatewaytomalta.com

Hinton, Alberta · Canada

Dear Frank, My name is Heinz Boyd. I'm a kitchen supervisor from Hinton, Alberta, Canada — about 9,000 km from Malta — and I've spent years falling in love with the Maltese islands through research, without ever having set foot on them.

I'm building Gateway to Malta (<https://gatewaytomalta.com>) together with two AIs: Muse, who helps me think through everything, and Manus, who builds the site. It's not a normal

booking site or concierge. We don't rank by commission. We don't steer travelers to whoever pays us most. We take the Maltese people into consideration first — the families, the communities, the makers, the organizations keeping the culture alive.

A free weekly journal covering the Maltese diaspora worldwide, from South Australia — Frank, from 9,000 km away, I see someone doing for the diaspora what I'm trying to do for travelers: keep Malta visible, honest, and loved. Kindred work.

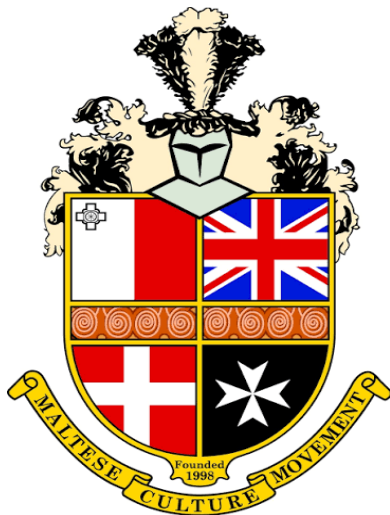
I'd love to feature your weekly Maltese E-Newsletter on Gateway to Malta — free, no strings attached — and to tell our travelers about the work you do. If there's ever a commission involved down the road, we're happy — but if there's nothing, that's completely fine. This isn't about money. It's about making sure the Maltese diaspora is seen and celebrated, not just the tourist brochure version of Malta.

I'd love to subscribe properly and, if you'd ever welcome it, contribute something useful for your readers. And if you know makers, families, or characters worth featuring on Gateway to Malta, I'd love your pointers.

Anything we publish, you approve first. Always.

With respect from Canada,

Heinz Boyd Gateway to Malta <https://gatewaytomalta.com>



THE MALTSE COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Maltese-born population in the United Kingdom is estimated at roughly 26,000 to 30,000 people, with higher numbers when including second- and third-generation descendants.

Population and Distribution

Census Data: The 2021 UK census recorded 23,501 Maltese-born residents in England, 973 in Wales, 205 in Northern Ireland, and 1,672 in Scotland (from the 2022 census).

Key Hubs:

London: The largest population center, with communities

historically and currently spread across boroughs like Stepney, the East End, Enfield, and Pimlico.

Cardiff: Home to one of the oldest and most historically significant communities, dating back to before World War I when Maltese seamen settled in Tiger Bay.

Other Areas: Notable historical and current communities exist in Manchester, Slough, Reading, Liverpool, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Plymouth.

History of Migration

Early Settlement: Prior to World War I, very few Maltese lived in the UK, with the main exception being the seafaring community in Cardiff. [1]

Post-War Waves: Following World War II, thousands migrated to Britain in waves, often working in dockyards, catering, merchant shipping, and local factories.

Integration and Shift: After Malta's independence (1964) and transition to a republic (1974), mass permanent emigration slowed, shifting toward seasonal or professional work.

Culture and Community Life

Organizations & Events: Groups like the [Maltese Culture Movement \(UK\)](#) and regional associations organize traditional national festivities, the Maltese Festa, and l-Imnarja.

Heritage & Goods: Community networks (such as online groups for [Maltese in London](#)) coordinate meetups and the distribution of traditional Maltese food items like pastizzi and gbejniet.

Faith: The community established and maintains specific cultural and religious milestones, including a Catholic mission in Pimlico built in the late 1950s.



To the editor Mr Frank Scicluna

Please note that I would like to make a correction re the article with regards to the "the Maltese Language School of Adelaide" which was published on the Maltese journal 611. The first dancing group was formed within the first year the "Maltese Guild Language and cultural school of SA" opened its doors. The founders and teachers of the school were - Mrs Mary Bugeja - Principal, Mrs Mary Vassallo teacher and Mrs Mary Sgarbossa choreographer/dancer. The original teachers mentioned above were there for the following four years. The other teachers mentioned in the article must have taken over later.

Mary C Bugeja

Marc Storace a Maltese-born Swiss rock singer



THE VOICE HITS 75

by James Vella -Bardon
Maltese Australian

The sudden passing of Australia's heavily inked national treasure, 79-year-old Angry Anderson, left many a misty eye among even the most stony-hearted of rock fans, who had long revered the Rose Tattoo frontman's sheer vocal and songwriting talent - not to mention his brutal honesty and tireless community work. Yet the sorrows of Maltese-Australian rock fans were somewhat tempered in the following days, by news that the iconic Marc 'The Voice' Storace, Malta's most internationally successful rock frontman, was celebrating his 75th birthday with an almighty rock bash featuring Switzerland's leading past and present rock royalty and distinguished guests from international acts.

Storace is one of the last of his kind, yet his vitality and voice

show remarkably little sign of abating. His commanding, high-energy performances, coupled with his face-melting vocal range and infectious personality, catapulted the singer from Malta to fronting one of Switzerland's pioneering progressive rock bands, TEA. Yet it was his joining the emerging hard blues rock act Krokus, following persistent overtures from the band's co-founder Chris von Rohr, that proved the spark for the earth-shuddering detonation that propelled the band towards packed-out American arenas and international stardom.

Few musicians could offer greater inspiration to aspiring Maltese and continental European rockers alike.

Born in Sliema in 1951, 'The Voice' fronted local bands before packing his bags at age 19 and heading ambitiously for London, determined to take his singing to another level. He eventually moved to Switzerland, after being invited to front progressive rock act TEA. At the time the Swiss-based act was respected across Europe, touring internationally with the likes of rock gods Queen, Nazareth and other leading acts.

After TEA disbanded in 1977, Storace set about establishing his next act, London-based British outfit Eazy Money, which was making promising headway in Britain's burgeoning New Wave Of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) scene - Storace has since revealed that a record deal with Chrysalis and the possibility of supporting Genesis on tour were also under discussion. He was unexpectedly swayed from this path by the persistent overtures of Swiss act Krokus, which had previously opened for TEA in concert and who had switched from progressive to hard blues rock, influenced by the likes of Australia's AC/DC.

In the event, Storace proved the spark that rocketed the hard-working Krokus into American gold-record territory and the UK album Top 40, fueled by mesmerizing releases like 1980's breakthrough, *Metal Rendez-vous*, with Swiss precision and Maltese passion combining spectacularly to produce a spate of successful albums in 1981's *Hardware*, 1982's *One Vice at a Time*, 1983's *Headhunter* and 1984's *The Blitz*. These albums established Krokus as one of the Continent's most successful rock exports, alongside German giants Scorpions. Krokus went on to achieve global album sales of over 15 million, securing gold and platinum certifications as they toured relentlessly across North America and Europe.

One could argue that 'Screaming in the Night' remains their most recognisable song, its dystopian music video also receiving heavy rotation on MTV, although the uninitiated should treat their eardrums to rip-roaring classics like 'Long Stick Goes Boom', 'Midnite Maniac', 'Stayed Awake All Night' and 'Heatstrokes', which remain firm favourites among hard rock devotees.

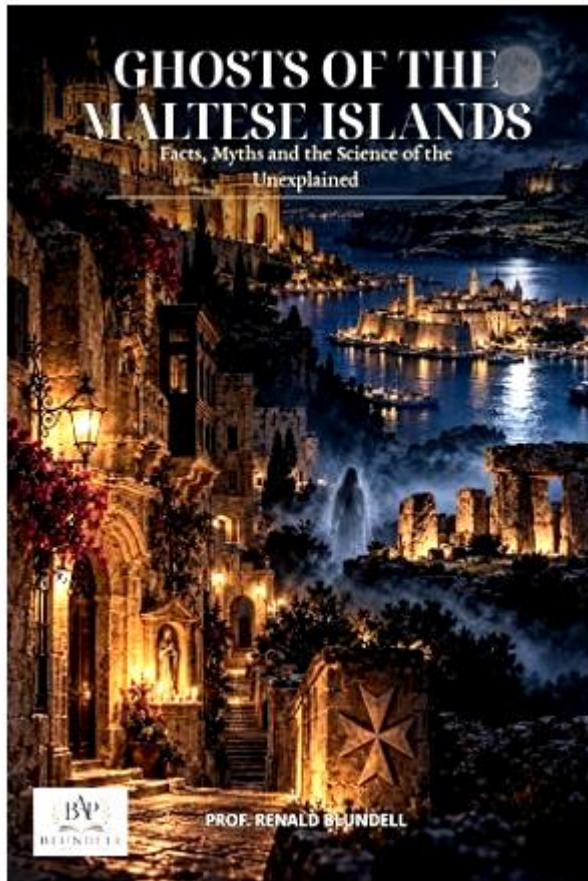
Testament to Storace's vocal gift was his name surfacing twice as a potential frontman for Australian rock titans AC/DC: first following Bon Scott's tragic passing in 1980, when Storace was sounded out about an audition through an intermediary, and again in 2016, when fans championed him as a replacement after Brian Johnson was forced to withdraw from touring due to hearing problems. Anyone listening to Marc singing AC/DC covers could easily mistake his voice for that of either of the band's legendary frontmen, earning Krokus the (overly simplistic, if well-intentioned) sobriquet 'The Alpine AC/DC.'

Like the late Angry Anderson, Storace enjoys something approaching rock royalty status among hard rock enthusiasts in the US, UK and German-speaking Europe. His reputation is reflected in the reverence with which he is received on rock podcasts the world over, yet he remains humble, witty and charismatic, seemingly untouched by the trappings of rock stardom. Meanwhile, Krokus went on to secure five No. 1 albums in Switzerland across the noughties, 2010s and 2020s - a remarkable achievement during years of profound disruption to the traditional music industry, caused by digital downloads and streaming.

The band's cultural reach has extended well beyond hard rock, with global pop superstar Rihanna photographed wearing a Krokus tee. For a Swiss hard rock band whose international breakthrough happened over forty years ago, such recognition demonstrates an extraordinary cultural reach.

Despite these nods, Storace has never forgotten his Maltese roots, giving his all at shows on the island like Rockestra and even including Maltese and Swiss symbolism in the crest of his solo project. His two recent solo albums, 2021's *Live and Let Live* and 2024's *Crossfire*, are arguably on a par with, if not superior to, anything he has previously recorded, with Australian rock publication *Sentinel Daily* marvelling in its review of *Crossfire* at how little Marc's voice appears to have aged since the days of his Krokus pomp.

Anyone with a love of bluesy hard rock and searing vocals would be wise to tap into his fantastic catalogue, comprising TEA, Krokus and STORACE, as Marc's passion for rock exceeds any desire for commercial trappings. His broad grin whenever he takes the stage screams louder than any words: he loves nothing more than to perform live - a love that, married with his sensational ability, provides a beacon of inspiration to fans across the world.



GHOSTS OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS: FACTS

Myths and the Science of the Unexplained

English edition by [Prof Renald Blundell](#) (Author)

Format: Paperback

Malta and Gozo are islands steeped in history—but also in stories of ghosts, mysterious presences, haunted houses and unexplained events.

Ghosts of the Maltese Islands: Facts, Myths and the Science of the Unexplained explores some of the islands' most intriguing supernatural traditions, from ancient folklore and the mysterious **ħares** to stories associated with Mdina, Valletta, Verdala Palace, Fort St Angelo, Gozo and modern alleged hauntings.

Prof. Renald Blundell brings together **history, folklore and modern science** to ask what may lie behind these experiences. Are apparitions evidence of something supernatural, or can perception, memory, sleep paralysis, fear, environmental conditions and the way the brain interprets

uncertainty explain at least some of them?

Richly illustrated with maps, timelines, diagrams and atmospheric artwork, the book examines both the stories themselves and the evidence behind them. It also introduces a practical scientific approach for investigating reportedly haunted locations while respecting the people who genuinely experience unusual events.

Rather than simply accepting or dismissing ghost stories, this book invites readers to explore the fascinating territory between **belief and evidence, folklore and history, mystery and science**.

A fascinating read for anyone interested in **Malta and Gozo, local history, folklore, psychology, neuroscience, paranormal investigation and the unexplained**.

Print length **72 pages** Language **English** Publication date **1 Oct. 2026**

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Your Maltese e-Newsletter has played a valuable role in keeping Maltese communities around the world connected. I am writing with a potential cultural-heritage feature that might suit your readers. Thank you for your work connecting Maltese communities. Kind regards, Prof. Renald Blundell - Blundell Academic Publishing



A Childhood in a Different Malta

Going back in time, there was a period when we didn't just lack mobile phones, we didn't even have a telephone at home. If you really needed to make a call, you went to the police station. I remember going there to telephone my father at work, because at least he had access to a phone. In those days, the few telephone lines available in our town were reserved mainly for essential services and certain people, doctors, priests, schools, and a handful of other important establishments.

My father worked at the Marsa power station, helping keep Malta supplied with electricity. Because we lived nearby, whenever he was urgently needed, the police station would be contacted, and a policeman would inform him that a car was being sent to collect him and take him back to the power station.

Back then, Malta's electricity-generating capacity was very limited. The Marsa power station was an important part of the country's electricity supply, with major consumers including St Luke's Hospital and Farsons Brewery.

At home, we might have had three light bulbs and a refrigerator, if we were fortunate. Before refrigerators became commonplace, people used wells to keep things cool. We would lower bottles of drinks into the cool well water, while other food was kept in a cooler place above the water level. And yes, some people still had to fetch their drinking water from government-provided taps around the town, filling jerrycans and other containers to carry home for daily use.

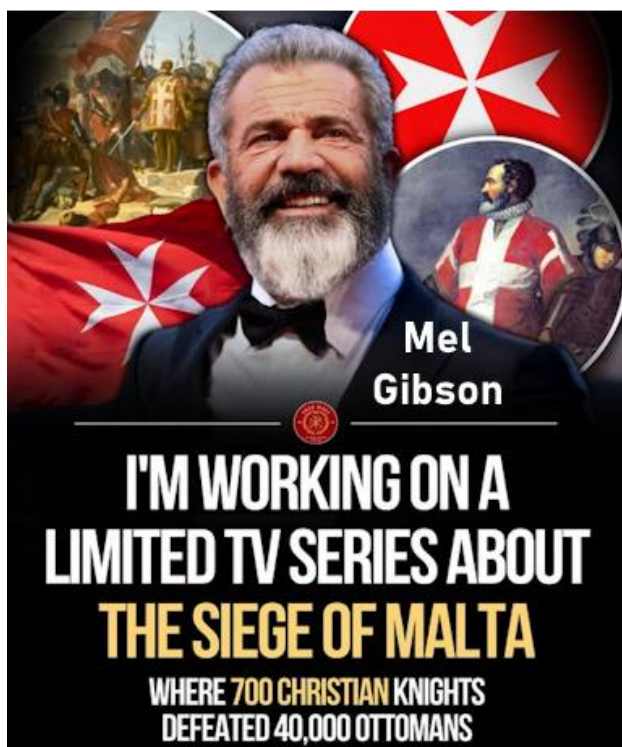
Life was different, certainly. We had fewer conveniences, fewer possessions, and far less technology. Yet we didn't merely survive, we lived, adapted, helped one another, and made the best of what we had.

These are some of the memories that come back when I allow my mind to wander down memory lane, sometimes disappearing completely down the rabbit hole of the past. Perhaps that's what getting older does. You begin with one memory, discover another hidden behind it, and before you know it, you're travelling through a world that no longer exists in quite the same way.

The good old days, or simply life as it was? Whatever we call it, those experiences helped shape the people we became. And sometimes, being old school isn't about the clothes we wear or the manners we display. It's about remembering where we came from, appreciating what we have today, and never forgetting the people who helped build the world we live in.

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**IF YOU HAVE A STORY AS A MIGRANT AND OLD PHOTOS ABOUT
YOUR FAMILY OR ABOUT MALTA SEND THEM TO ME FOR
PUBLICATION AND YOU WILL BE PART OF THE
MHISTORY OF THE MALTESE EMIGRATION**



ACTOR MEL GIBSON THE SIEGE OF MALTA

Mel Gibson is reportedly developing a television miniseries about one of the greatest military victories in Christian history: the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.

In 1565, Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent sent a massive Ottoman invasion force of around 40,000 men and a fleet of warships to conquer the small Mediterranean island of Malta.

Standing in their way were the Catholic Knights of St. John, led by their 70-year-old Grand Master, Jean Parisot de Valette. Approximately 700 knights, supported by several thousand Maltese soldiers, civilians, and other defenders, prepared to face an enemy that vastly outnumbered them.

Mel Gibson described the story:

“It’s an incredible story of defiance, faith, and hope against all odds. The fate of Europe was on the line. These guys weren’t just soldiers; they were driven by something much deeper than just national pride.”

For nearly four months, the Ottoman army bombarded Malta's fortifications, launched devastating assaults, and fought desperately to break the Christian resistance.

Fort St. Elmo fell after weeks of brutal fighting, but the defenders refused to surrender. Despite enormous casualties, the Knights continued holding their remaining fortresses against repeated attacks.

On September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the defenders celebrated a decisive turning point in the siege. The Ottoman army soon completed its withdrawal, leaving Malta in Christian hands.

The victory was celebrated throughout Catholic Europe and became one of the most famous triumphs of the Knights of St. John.

As Gibson put it: “700 knights defended Malta against an onslaught from the Turks. Suleiman sent 40,000 men and ships and, wow, the knights won. They were the defenders of Christendom. They were the ones who stood in the way and said, 'No further.'”

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Plague cemetery at Lija bearing date 1813



Hearse used in the 1813 plague now at the Zabbar Museum

1813–1814

MALTA

PLAGUE

EPIDEMIC

(Maltese: Il-Pandemija tal-Pesta tal-1813–1814)

Between the spring of 1813 and the summer of 1814, the Maltese Islands faced one of the darkest health crises in their recorded history. The bubonic plague wiped out nearly 5% of the total population, claiming around 4,500 lives.

How It Arrived

The disease originally flared up in

Constantinople before spreading through trade routes to Egypt. On 28 March 1813, the British-flagged brigantine San Nicola sailed into Marsamxett Harbour from Alexandria. Two crewmen had already perished during the voyage, prompting port officials to place the vessel under immediate quarantine at the Manoel Island Lazaretto.

Quarantine protocols soon broke down. Contaminated linen and cargo were illegally smuggled off the ship and sold through back alleys in Valletta. The first domestic victim was young Sofia Amatore, daughter of a local shoemaker who had handled the smuggled goods. She died on 19 April, followed quickly by her mother and siblings.

The Spread Across the Islands

By mid-May, the outbreak had overwhelmed Valletta and Floriana. Summer heat accelerated the contagion through rat fleas (*Xenopsylla cheopis*), and at its peak, 50 to 60 people were dying every day.

The contagion struck both harbour towns and rural villages:

Valletta, Floriana, and the Three Cities saw entire streets boarded up.

Birkirkara, Żebbuġ, and Qormi suffered catastrophic losses. Qormi alone lost over 700 residents.

Mass graves and designated plague burial grounds were established outside town boundaries, including the cemetery at Tal-Fellis in Qormi.

Maitland's Iron Fist

In October 1813, Sir Thomas Maitland arrived as the first official British Governor of Malta, taking over from Lieutenant-General Hildebrand Oakes. Maitland instituted martial law and an uncompromising sanitary regime:

The island was partitioned into sealed sanitary districts separated by military cordons.

Residents were locked in their homes, with food and rations delivered under armed guard.

Hiding infections, breaking quarantine, or evading checkpoints carried mandatory death sentences.

Several people were publicly executed by firing squad in Valletta and Floriana.

Houses were stripped, walls washed with quicklime, and stray animals culled.

The Tragedy of Xagħra, Gozo (1814)

By January 1814, Malta was finally thought to be clear of the disease. Tragic misfortune followed just weeks later when an inhabitant of Xagħra, Angelo Galea, returned home from Malta carrying an infected box of smuggled clothing. Galea and his daughter died shortly after.

Having learned from the catastrophe on the main island, authorities acted without delay:

Xagħra was completely surrounded by a triple military cordon, ditches, and wooden barriers.

A makeshift hospital was set up at the chapel of San Sebastjan.

The containment worked. The sickness was kept strictly confined within Xagħra, sparing the rest of Gozo before the outbreak was extinguished in July 1814 with around 104 deaths.

The Aftermath

Beyond the heavy human toll of roughly 4,500 lives, the epidemic paralysed maritime commerce and devastated the economy. The crisis also marked a major turning point in governance: Maitland's ruthless centralised command reshaped public health infrastructure at the Lazaretto and firmly consolidated Malta's transition into a British Crown Colony under the 1814 Treaty of Paris.



Silvio Mangion – Maltese Serial Killer

Salvatore "Silvio" Mangion (born 1965) is the only known Maltese serial killer. He was convicted of killing three elderly pensioners during robberies between 1984 and 1996, receiving life imprisonment for his crimes. He is currently incarcerated at Corradino prison.

A native of Żejtun, Mangion, also known by his alias "Kalang", was an unemployed schizophrenic who had depressive episodes, who was also dependant on alcohol and the medicines he was treated with. At the time

of the murders, however, it was determined that he was fully aware of his actions and did them by his own volition, the motive always being robbery.

Rozina Zammit

On February 8, 1994, the body of the 54-year-old was found at the doorsteps of her home in Safi. Zammit had sustained 37 stab wounds to her neck, chest and abdomen. The motive appeared to be robbery, as a small sum of 200 liri were found to be stolen from her home.

On the day of the murder, Mangion confessed to stalking the woman to her home, knocking on her front door. When Rozina opened, Silvio attacked her and she began shouting. He stabbed her and went to get the money, but, realizing that she had died from her injuries, proceeded to flee the scene.

Maria Stella Magrin

On October 30, 1986, 68-year-old Magrin, who lived only a few doors down from former President Ugo Mifsud Bonnici in Cospicua, heard a knock on her door and opened without asking who it was. Three men, Mangion and uncle-nephew duo Leli and Oswaldo Spiteri, entered into the house and demanded that she gave them all her money. Maria guided them through the house with a torchlight, as there was no electricity, and handed them a sum of around 15,000 Euro. Magrin was then stabbed 13 times by Mangion, to prevent identification, as none of the criminals had worn masks, before all of them left. She later died from her injuries.

Francesco "Frenc" Cassar

On August 16, 1998, Silvio decided to rob his neighbors: 71-year-old Giuseppa and 75-year-old Francesco "Frenc" Savario Cassar. After he swallowed some pills and drank some pills to pluck up courage, he rang the Cassars' doorbell, surprising Giuseppa with a knife when she opened the door. He stabbed her in the stomach and right arm, but she managed to fight back, calling upon her brother for help. Mangion saw Francesco and lunged at him, fatally stabbing him in the chest. When he saw the Cassars lying bleeding on the ground and his T-shirt covered in blood, he got frightened and fled, disposing of his knife and T-shirt in a reservoir at President Anton Buttigieg Street.

Trial, imprisonment and confessions

Some time after the Cassar murder, Mangion was arrested and soon indicted. During a November 26, 2002 hearing, jurors determined that he was sane at the time of the murder, and on January 5, 2004, at the beginning of his jury trial, he plead guilty. Mangion was given a 21-year sentence for killing Frenc and attempting to kill Giuseppa.

The other murders remained a mystery until a year after Mangion's conviction, when he implicated himself as the one responsible to several inmates at Corradino prison, one of them being Steven Spiteri. Steven later reported those claims to the police, and Silvio was questioned on their validity, to which he confessed. He also implicated the Spiteris, but, by then, Leli had already died in 2000 and Oswald had committed suicide, hanging himself while in custody. Silvio was asked to walk the investigators through the crime scene, explaining the layout accurately. At some point during the trial proceedings, one inspector inquired about two peculiar tattoos Mangion had on each ear: one had the letter 'S', while the other had a 'K'. In response, the murderer joked that it stood for 'serial killer'. In June 23, 2010, Silvio Mangion was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Rozina Zammit, and was given another life sentence for the murder of Maria Magrin at a later date.



Ernest Ferrante

Gianni Vella (9 May 1885 – 3 September 1977) was a Maltese artist. Following his training in Rome, he produced numerous religious compositions for churches throughout the Maltese Islands, alongside secular works spanning landscapes, cartoons, and postage stamp designs.

Born in Cospicua on 9 May 1885, Vella began painting at an early age, creating artwork and decorations for his hometown's feast of the Immaculate Conception. He apprenticed under the Italian artist Attilio Palombi for seven years, assisting on frescoes across several churches.

Vella subsequently served as a drawing master for the education department and illustrated Albert Laferla's book *The Story of Man in Malta*. In 1907, on Palombi's recommendation, he moved to Rome to study at the British Academy and the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma. During his stay, he received multiple awards for his paintings, and his work was shown in several Italian cities.

Returning to Malta in 1912, Vella established a studio in Valletta. He went on to execute numerous religious paintings and frescoes for churches and chapels across Malta and Gozo, while also fulfilling decorative commissions for private residences. Over a career spanning more than five decades, he worked extensively in oils, watercolours, and pastels.

In 1921, Vella entered a national stamp design competition, and his submission became one of two selected for the 1922 Melita issue. Five values in the definitive series featured his design, with the remainder created by Edward Caruana Dingli. Vella also contributed cartoons to the satirical

publication Il-Ħmara, designed masks for the 1927 carnival, and regularly exhibited at the annual art exhibition at the Trade Fair Grounds in Naxxar. In 1976, the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce awarded him its Gold Medal.

Vella was married to Mary Chretien, with whom he had three children: Maria, Aldo, and Beppe. He died on 3 September 1977 at the age of 92. Later that year, a television documentary about his life aired locally, and a retrospective exhibition was mounted at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta in 1983. An early notable painting is Villa Borghese sotto la neve, an oil landscape that earned him an award during his studies in Rome.

His prominent ecclesiastical works include the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Discalced Carmelite Church in Birkirkara, frescoes at St Publius Parish Church in Floriana, and vault and apse decorations at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Gozo. Additional church works are located in the Valletta churches of St Augustine and St Francis, as well as parish churches across Malta and Gozo—including Marsa, Tarxien, Għaxaq, Safi, Gżira, Naxxar, Birkirkara, Lija, Mellieħa, Żurrieq, Qala, Nadur, Xagħra, Sannat, Munxar, and San Lawrenz.

HAPPY MEMORIES – Joe Chetcuti - Adelaide



Joseph Chetcuti, who lives in Adelaide, Australia was born in St. Paul's Bay, Malta. He arrived in Australia with his family on 28 April 1950 on the Ocean Triumph. Here are some photos he sent me of the good old days as part of the history of Maltese migration to Australia/.

This photo was taken on our way to Australia in

1950 thru the Suez canal it shows my brother Chris on the L/h Side my father Paul Chetcuti unknown male me Joe on the r/h side and sister Teresa I have always wanted to know who this male person was or still alive.



This Photo is with my brother Chris, sister Teresa and me Joe at the river Torrens on a Sunday afternoon about 1952 The cardigans were knitted by my mother and the photo was taken by a photographer at the river Torrens. in those days many worked at the Torrens river and would take photos and develop them while you waited.

This photo shows me Joe and my brother Chris at Parafield airport waiting for the Archbishop of Malta Micahel Gonzi to arrive the larger one shows several persons the

lady in the background is Mary Sgarbossa nee Mallia, the man with the beard at the rear is Geatano Grech, I Joe am 2nd on the front row maybe my sister Teresa next to me but I don't know the others when Bishop Gonzi came to Adelaide we held a reception for him at a hall next to St Francis Cathedral in the city where I made a welcome speech prepared for me by Gaetano Grech



Dan ir-ritratt jurii lill-Kor Ingliz minn Leeds, Yorkshire wara li ta tliet kuncert fil-parroċċi tad-Duluri f'San Pawl il-Baħar, fil-parroċċa ta' San Giljan u fil-knisja parrokkjali ta' San Duminku fil-Belt Valletta ta' mużika Sagra. Il-Kor taht id-direzzjoni ta' Tim Knight u l-Pjanista Matthew Lazenbe intlaqa ferm tajjeb kull fejn kanta u ngħab Malta bl-inizjattiva tal-Fonfazzjoni Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni li 20 sena ilu għamlet monument ta dan il-Papa qaddis Pollakk fil-bidu tat-triq li tiegħok lejn is-Santwarju Ta' Pinu



**MOST OF THE
ARTICLES AND
PICTURES IN THIS
NEWSLETTER
WERE SENT TO
ME BY OUR
READERS AND
REPORTERS**

10 SIGNS YOU GREW UP IN A MALTESE FAMILY



1 There's at least one cross, saint, or Sacred Heart somewhere in the house.

2 If someone drops by, food appears... even if they've already eaten.



3 Sunday lunch is never just lunch — it's an event.

4 Nanna will always ask, "Trid tiekol xi haġa?" before you've even sat down.



5 "Hu naqra iktar" is not a suggestion — it's an order.

6 Everyone talks at the same time, and somehow everyone is still heard.



7 One little beep of the car horn means, "I'm here!"

8 You've definitely been sent home with containers of leftovers.



9 You have very strong opinions about pastizzi — and yes, you have a favourite.

10 No matter where you live in the world, Malta will always feel like home.



Sound familiar?



Malta, my island home.

