



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

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

Malta: Who are the Ekklesia Sisters?



Ekklesia Sisters: The latest talking point in the Eurovision world

Ekklesia is a singing group formed by the following singers Sr. Michaela Paris, Sr. Magdalene Cauchi, Sr. Denise Darmanin, Sr. Rita Agius, Sr. Claudia Mallia and Sr. Monica Vella Vella. They are all part of the Ursuline Sister's St Angela Choir which is made up of 18 Sisters who together released 2 CD Albums in 2010 and 2012, GHALLIMNI NHOBOK and HUDNI F'IDEJK, the majority of the songs having been written by the Sisters themselves.. Ekklesia was formed specifically for the Sisters' entry for this year's Malta Eurovision Song Festival

Every so often we find a performer that grabs attention for reasons other than their song. We've had Lordi,

Verka Serdutchka, Buranovskiye Babushki and Conchita Wurst in recent years, and some others have tried but fallen at the national final stage. This year, Malta might just be the country to grab headlines with their artist; one of the more surprising and talked-about artists in the Maltese national final this year are a group of nuns known as Ekklesia Sisters. But who are these sisters, and why on Earth would they want to take part in Eurovision?

A quick glance at their newly-created Facebook page does not show too many surprises; the group post Bible passages and spread the message of positivity and love. But still little is made of why a group like this would want to take part in a singing competition like Eurovision. Perhaps they are taking inspiration from the previous instance of a religious group taking part – Switzerland's Takasa in 2013 made up of Salvation Army members – and aim to spread their message of love and tolerance across the continent. Judging from the reaction to Conchita Wurst's win and the bad news we are constantly exposed to the sisters might be what we need for Eurovision.

SPREAD THE WORD

From the many emails I receive regularly, it seems that this newsletter is reaching thousands of Maltese (and non-Maltese) all over the Diaspora.



Media Release No. 16-2014

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR MALTA TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO NEW ZEALAND GOVERNOR



H.E. Charles Muscat and Mrs Victoria Muscat

High Commissioner to Present his Credentials to NZ on 3rd December 2014 H.E. High Commissioner Charles Muscat accompanied by Mrs. Muscat will be in Wellington New Zealand to present his credential to H.E. Lt. Gen. The Rt. Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae Governor General of New Zealand on 3 December 2014.

A welcome reception with the Maltese Community in Wellington is also being organized by Honorary Consul, Dr. Carmen Dalli to officially receive H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, with Mrs. Muscat, as the non-

resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to New Zealand.

Malta is currently represented in New Zealand by the Honorary Consul in Wellington, Dr. Carmen Dalli and the Honorary Consul in Auckland, Ms. Patricia Thake.

The High Commissioner will also call on the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Ms. Caroline Chretien, the High Commissioner of Canada, and the Charge d'Affaires of the European Delegation, Mr. Michalis Rokas, and officials of the New Zealand Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Malta High Commission

Canberra, 25 November 2014

MALTA – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

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THIS IS A PROJECT OF THE ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

**I thank all those associations and individuals who have already
contributed to this project**

Malta International Airport welcome its four millionth passenger this year



Malta International Airport today welcomed its four millionth passenger this year, achieving this milestone in record time: more than a month earlier than last year. The figure means that the airport saw an average of more than 12,000 passengers every day, enough to fill up Wembley Stadium each week.

“This is a remarkable achievement. We have registered record growth in seven years out of the past eight. This would not have been possible without the dedicated effort of all our employees, partners and other stakeholders.

We remain focused on developing sustainable capacity and attracting visitors to our islands, whilst offering new and exciting destinations to the local market,” said Markus Klaushofer, Chief Executive Officer at Malta International Airport.

The increase in passenger traffic illustrates the efforts placed by the airport and its key stakeholders to secure better connectivity to the Maltese islands, he added.

Tourism Minister Edward Zammit Lewis commented, “we mark this occasion since it is a major milestone and the result of the hard work of all stakeholders involved, most notably Government and MIA, to consistently increase passenger traffic. Our country is developing into an even more important hub for tourism, business and other related matters. Tourism remains a major driving force for Malta’s economy,” he said, adding that 2015 would be another successful year in tourism.

Paul Bugeja, Malta Tourism Authority Chief Executive Officer, pointed out that this year’s result was reached well before it was reached last year, thanks to the cooperation among stakeholders.

“While we endeavour to increase numbers, all partners are also working towards improving the mix and seasonality to ensure a more sustainable industry. I congratulate MIA for this great success,” he added.

The airport’s results are even more impressive when compared to other European airports in its category. For the period ending September, European airports reported a growth of 6.4 per cent while the Malta International Airport registered an increase of 7.2 per cent. These accomplishments were mainly driven by the additional seat capacity together with an improvement in average seat load factor to reach an overall 79.6 per cent.

A gift was presented to Lucia Belardi from Italy, on behalf of Malta International Airport, in the presence of Malta Tourism Authority CEO, Paul Bugeja. Passenger movements are forecasted to exceed 4.2 million by end of year.

GOZO NEWS : www.gozonews.com

POPE FRANCIS URGES CONCRETE ACTION IN GLOBAL NUTRITION CHALLENGE AT UN CONFERENCE IN ROME



Pope Francis addresses the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) at FAO Headquarters in Rome. Photo: FAO/Giulio Napolitano 20 November 2014 – Pope Francis today urged leaders attending a United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO) nutrition conference in Rome to view food and nutrition and the environment as global public issues at a time when nations are more tightly linked with each other than ever before.

"When solidarity is lacking in one country, it's felt around the world," the pontiff said according to an FAO statement.

He told delegates from the 172 nations attending the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) to make sure their pledges assure food security to all citizens are put into concrete practice, saying that the right to a healthy diet was about dignity, not charitable hand-outs.

(Below) The Pope (left) is due to meet Patriarch Bartholomew I and with the Turkish President during his Turkish visit



Pope Francis in Turkey to boost faith ties

Pope Francis is in Turkey on a three-day trip aimed at promoting religious dialogue, only the fourth visit by a pope to the Muslim-majority nation. In a speech in Ankara he said such a dialogue could "deepen the understanding and appreciation of the many things which we hold in common". He also spoke about the Middle East, saying that "for too long [it has] been a theatre of fratricidal wars".

The Pope was speaking alongside Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Pope's visit comes as Islamic State insurgents have captured swathes of neighbouring Iraq and Syria.

Turkey is now home to at least 1.6 million people from Syria, most of them living close to the border. The Pope said: "Turkey, which has generously welcomed a great number of refugees, is directly affected by this tragic situation on its borders; the international community has the moral obligation to assist Turkey in taking care of these refugees."



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA

The National Archives has one of the largest archival collections in Malta, spanning from the 1530s up to the current day. It is currently working on the appraisal and cataloguing of an extensive backlog of records of post-Independence Malta. It is also preparing itself to face the challenge of managing electronic records.

The initial initiatives to set up a National Archives for Malta were taken in 1971 with the setting up of Committee on the Preservation of public records chaired by Guze' Cassar Pullicino. One year later a section housed at Casa Leone was opened up and started providing research facilities for the reading public. Initially the National Archives of Malta formed part of the Ministry for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. A few months after its opening at Casa Leone, the archives was transferred to the Palace in Valletta. The officer in charge at that time was Architect Michael Ellul.

In January 1986, a Committee was set up by the Administrative Secretary to study practices of preservation and disposal of public records. A decision was taken to set up a proper National Archives with its main office at Rabat, in a historical building which was once the Santo Spirito Hospital. Extensive structural repairs and restoration works went into the project. The Banca Giuratale, in Mdina, was also identified as a second repository to house the records of the various Courts and Tribunals of the period of the Order of St. John, the French Occupation and the Early British Period.

Late in September 1987 work commenced on the transfer of records of the Courts of Justice from the Palace in Valletta to the Banca Giuratale in Mdina. The repository was inaugurated on 28 October 1988, and opened its doors for research soon after.

The transfer of the Palace Archives to Rabat was concluded on 28 July 1989. Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, then President of Malta presided over the official opening of the National Archives on 28 May 1994. The officer in charge at that time was Mr Joe Caruana.

The first legislation regulating the National Archives was Act IV, of 1990. At that time several initiatives were taken such as the publishing of the first catalogues on CD-ROM, the inauguration of an exhibition centre; the initiation of the annual public lecture and the newsletter; the setting up of a new cataloguing unit using ISAD (G) standards; and a new computer network. A UNESCO-sponsored regional archives conference was also held in 2002.

After its first ten years of operation the management of the National Archives felt that it could fulfil its mission much better if the structures and legal framework are updated. The Maltese Parliament approved a new Archives Act (V, 2005) that came into force on 1 September 2005. This act created for the first time the post of National Archivist which is occupied by Mr Charles J. Farrugia. It also restructured the National Archives as a government entity with a distinct legal personality.

During the last eighteen years we have managed to move into three refurbished premises in Rabat, Mdina and Rabat (Gozo). Our services have improved considerably. We are now focusing on records management in government and the challenge of preserving electronic records and archives. We have worked extensively on digitization of records, which material will in the coming months be available to the reading public.

Contact Details Santo Spirito Hospital Street, Rabat RBT 12 Malta Tel: 21 459863/45007

THE LANDING OF COUNT ROGER IN MALTA 1090 A.D.

The Arabs in Sicily were divided, and Count Roger the Norman, taking advantage of the situation, invaded Sicily and the Arabs were defeated. With Sicily under the Norman Rule, Count Roger invaded Malta to secure his southern colonies from an Arab attack.



It was in the year 1090 A.D., when Count Roger landed in Malta at Migra l-ferha. Taken by surprise, the Arabs didn't offer much resistance and in no time the Maltese Islands fell under the Norman's Rule. The arrival of Count Roger in Malta

Under Count Roger, the Maltese Islands became part of the Kingdom of Sicily and were subject to the same constitution. Count Roger was fairly liberal, he allowed the Emir to retain as Governor of Malta and also let the Arabs free to exercise their laws and religion, on the condition that the Arabs acknowledge the Norman's as their masters and to pay an annual tribute.

To the Maltese, Count Roger was the paladin in shining armour, who set the Christians slaves free, restored the Christian worship and exempt the Maltese, who did not declare Mohammed as the prophet of God, from paying the obligatory tribute to the Arabs. The bishops succession, which was interrupted by the Arabs, was resumed and the new bishop was chosen. Count Roger also restored the land of the church. Christianity became again the religion of the Maltese Islands.

Legend says that the Maltese people got the Malta flag from Count Roger. Before going back to Sicily, Count Roger, cut of a strip of his own flag and rewarded it to the Maltese. Count Roger died in the year 1101 A.D., his son Roger 1 was made a King of Sicily.

THE ARAB PLOT

All inhabitants on the Maltese Islands including the Arabs were left to live free. But the Arabs, were not happy with the situation and wanted to regain their power over the Maltese. About the year 1122 A.D., there was an unusual gathering by the Arabs, who were plotting a massacre of the Maltese. A day was fixed when the Maltese would be in church saying their prayers. But this plot was discovered by a passing



by peasant girl, who was attending her flock. Back in the village, the peasant girl informed her friends and soon the Maltese made their own plans. Back on the spot, the girl's suspects had proven to be true, and the Maltese fell on the traitors with shouts of 'Kill The Dogs', many Arabs were slaughtered while the rest ran to a place called Habel il-Bahrija, but only to be surrounded by another group of Maltese.

The peasant girl who saved the Maltese from the Arab massacre.

On hearing the news of what had happened, King Roger 1 of Sicily, led the second Norman's invasion on Malta, put the Arabs leaders to death and expelled all the Arabs from the Maltese islands. King

INTERIOR OF ST. SULPICE CHURCH PARIS FRANCE



Paris

It took more than a century and six architects before the monumental St. Sulpice church was completed at the end of the 18th century. The church, located in the heart of Paris's popular 6th arrondissement, dominates a pleasant square.

Construction Construction started in 1646 at the site of a 13th century church. Twenty years later a lack of funds halted construction work. It would last until the early 18th century before construction resumed and finally in 1780 the church was mostly completed.

Interior The Saint-Sulpice church has one of the world's largest organs, built between 1776 and 1781 after a design by Jean Chalgrin, who is best known as the architect of the Arc de Triomphe. The gilded pulpit of the Saint-Sulpice was designed in 1788 by Charles de Wailly. Another highlight can be found in the Chapelle des Anges (Angel Chapel), where Eugène Delacroix created impressive wall paintings, entitled 'Jacob Wrestling with the Angel' and 'Expulsion of Heliodorus from the Temple'.

The Great Organ The church's organ (1781) is one of the world's largest, with 6,588 pipes, and has been played by musicians like Marcel Dupré and Charles-Mari Widor. St-Sulpice is still known for its music today, and frequent concerts are held here. The organ was constructed by Aristide Cavaille-Coll, the case was designed by

Chalgrin, and the statues were made by Clodion.

The Church The building is impressive, and with a length of 119 meters and a width of 57 meters (390 x 187 ft) it is the second largest church in Paris after the Notre-Dame. The imposing front façade was built after a 1732 Baroque design by Giovanni Servandoni. It is defined by two large colonnades with Doric and Ionic columns.

The colonnades are flanked by two asymmetrical towers, possibly a result of the long construction period. The south tower, which was never completed, is 5 meters smaller than the north tower and has a slightly different design.

Servandoni's plan also included a large ornamented pediment and tower cupolas, but these were never implemented.

€1bn bridge for Gozo would take four years'

Artist's impression of how the €1bn Gozo bridge link would look.



A bridge linking Malta and Gozo will cost some €1 billion (including taxes) and take four years to complete, according to a feasibility study by China Communications Construction Company.

The study is proposing to complete the project by 2020 with a design life of 100 years.

It presents the government with four alternative routes with just one cutting across Comino. The company is recommending Option D, which has a length of 8.8km with a traffic capacity of a single two-lane carriageway and two

motorcycle lanes.

In this option the alignment begins at the southeast of Gozo, crosses the channel off the east of Comino, where the water depth is shallow, lands at the north tip of Malta and then connects to Marfa Road via local roads.

In this option there will be no encroachment on Comino, the water is relatively shallow (deepest 29m); it is far from the ferry route and the seaplane landing areas; the construction cost is relatively low; and it has superior aesthetics.

The disadvantages are that the navigation channel is skewed to the bridge; a larger navigation span is required; its alignment passes the marine protection zone; and it slightly encroaches on the submerged pipelines area. The study lists several investment models. The first is for the government to foot the bill and for CCCC to undertake the project design and construction.

Another option is for CCCC to finance and construct the bridge with the government liable for the total cost "together with a reasonable return". The third option is for CCCC to finance the entire project and collect tolls from road users. A contentious proposal if the government cannot afford to fund the bridge's repurchase or compensation is to pay CCCC by giving it "land of equivalent value" – for primary or secondary development.



Do you know that in Ireland they produce Green Coke for St. Patrick's Day?

WIRJA TA' SKULTURA MINN SHAWN SALIBA TALENT MOSTI

L-GHAQDA FILANTROPIKA TALENT MOSTI bi pjaċir ipprezentat wirja ta' skultura minn Shawn Saliba fiċ-Ċentru ta' Kultura Nazzjonali fir-Razzett tal-Markiz Mallia Tabone, Triq Wied il-Għasel, il-Mosta bejn il-5 u t-18 ta' Ottubru 2014.



Shawn Saliba, Skultur żgħażuġ Mosti, tweled fil-25 ta' Lulju 1986. Minn eta' żgħira kellu ġibda lejn ix-xogħol ta' l-Arti speċjament l-Arti Sagra, kemm pittura kif ukoll skultura. Ta' 19-il-sena beda l-istudju tiegħu ġewwa l-Iskola tal-Arti, l-Belt Valletta. Beda jistudja il-mudellatura fit-tafal taħt il-mibki s-Sur Joseph Casha, ix-xogħol tal-forom taħt id-direzzjoni tas-Sur Emanuel Cardona u l-istorja ta' l-Arti mas-Sur Christian Attard. Aktar il-quddiem għamel esperjenza mas-Sur Joseph Chetchuti, ġewwa l-Funderija Artistika f'Hal Luqa fejn tgħalliem it-teknika tal-bronż u għen fuq diversi monumenti, fosthom Santa Marija u San Ġuzepp, xogħol l-iskultur Malti Ċensu Apap, li jinsabu iżejnu iz-zuntier tal-knisja Rotunda tal-Mosta, kif ukoll dak tal-isptar Mater Dei xogħol tal-iskultur Chris Ebejer. Għal madwar tlett snin, Shawn Saliba ħadem mal-kumpanija *Laga Silversmiths* ġewwa Hal Luqa fejn tgħalliem it-teknika tax-xogħol tal-Fidda.



Ġewwa lis-studju tiegħu fil-Mosta, Shawn beda jaħdem fuq diversi statwi, kemm xogħol f'minjatura kif ukoll xogħol ta' statwi *lifesize* maħduma fil-kartapesta.

Minbarra diversi xogħolijiet li jinsabu fid-djar Maltin, insibu xogħol ieħor kemm fi knejjes u kappelel u anke barra minn xtutna. Fost oħrajn insibu tlett statwi proċesjonali maħduma fil-kartapesta, li Shawn ħadem lill-emigranti Maltin ġewwa Sydney fl-Awstralja. Dawn huma, statwa ta' Santa Marija, oħra ta' Kristu Irxox u oħra ta' San Ġorġ Preca.

Ahna nawguraw lil Shawn li jkompli fil-professjoni u l-vokazzjoni tiegħu u jkollu iktar successi f'isem l-arti Maltija.

Nifirhu wkoll lill-genituri tiegħu, Mary u Charlie, u l-familja tiegħu li jgħixu f'Adelaide, South Australia.

MINN FOMM SHAWN SALIBA STESS

In-nannu u omni jgħidu illi l-bużnannu tiegħi kien jaħdem l-istatwi għan-niċeċ. Jigifieri jidher li l-iskultura tigri daqsxejn fil-vini tal-familja tiegħi. Omni tħobb ħafna l-pittura u d-diżinn u lili kienet tħajjarni ħafna biex nagħmel xi ħaġa sa minn meta kont żgħir. Kultant kont immur magħha għall-lezzjonijiet tal-pittura fl-Iskola tal-Arti u minn hemm komplejt tteggigt għal din it-triq. Fil-fatt inpingi nħobb ħafna imma fl-istess ħin kont inħoss ġibda partikolari lejn l-iskultura. Niftakar li meta kont żgħir, kont sib mezz kif inħoll il-pasturi l-antiki biex nagħmel oħrajn godda. Dak iż-żmien omni kellha ħabiba li kienet taħdem fix-xogħol tat-tafal u tgħidx kemm kont niffittaha biex tgħallimni. Imma hi kienet tgħidli “la tikber, jekk tibqa’ miġbud lejn l-iskultura, mur fl-Iskola tal-Arti għax hemm qegħdin il-veru għalliema”. U meta kbirt hekk għamilt.



Tant kont deċiż li naqbad din il-linja illi tlaqt mill-Awstralja, fejn il-familja tiegħi kienet marret toqgħod u ergajt lura Malta waħdi biex inkun nista’ nitharreg f’dan ix-xogħol. Qalbi marbuta wisq ma’ pajjiżi u mal-arti li tidwi minn kull rokna tiegħu.

Barra minn hekk, jien diletant tal-knejjes. Meta kont Malta, kont ngħaddi s-sajf kollu narma d-dar tagħna, il-knisja tal-Mosta u nieħu ħsieb kappella. L-Awstralja hemm differenza kbira. Il-Maltin tal-Awstralja ma jarmawx u ma jiċcelebrawx bħalna. Kelli nieħu deċiżjoni iebsa imma importanti f’ħajti. Fuq kollox ridt ukoll nagħzel fuq liema tip ta’ arti kont ser nintefa’. Il-pittura toghgobni ħafna għax il-kulur inħobbu wisq. Finalment iddeċidejt li nispeċjalizza fuq l-iskultura u b’hekk bdejt nitharreg f’dan il-qasam.

NOSTALGIA - Two majestic horses pulled a gold leaf-adorned carriage with four angels, one at each corner, that carried the deceased decades ago. Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi





Žgħażaġħ together with the Għaqda tal-Malti and Fondazzjoni AWL would like to invite you for the final event of TAĦŻIŻ 2014 and the launch of the publication *TAĦŻIŻ2*.

TAĦŻIŻ is an empowerment programme by Aġenzija Žgħażaġħ that focuses on creative writing through three residential seminars and two public events. This programme is open to youths between 18 and 30 years of age.

During the seminars, the participants work on various intensive and focused tasks, both individually as well as together. The sessions are led by professionals whose name is not new to the field, and the participants also have time to work with the coordinators to refine their writing skills. Emphasis is put on the process so that the participants grow in a holistic way.



On the 29th of November you'll have the chance to meet the six participants of this year's edition, read their writings in a newspaper and watch poetry videos inspired by them. Food and drinks are provided and all is free of charge.

Date: Saturday, 29 ta' November

Place: Villa Psajgon, Ħad-Dingli

Time: 18:00-20:00

For more information visit www.facebook.com/events/1573481856197040.

EASTERSPIRIT EASTER SPIRIT VIDEOS

Advent Videos for Maltese in Australia. Videos bil-Malti / Ingliz għall-4 Hdud tal-Avvent - 2 minuti kull wieħed

Videos bil-Malti/Ingliz għall-4 Hdud tal-Avvent - 2 minuti kull wieħed

Maltese in Australia may be interested in using this material in Maltese or English for the Sundays of Advent 2014, which starts next Sunday. It would be great if you could forward this email to some organisations.

Thank you. Peace,

Dr Tony Macelli

St Jeanne Antide Foundation, Malta

A marvellous transformation is taking place. Am I ready? Am I simple? Am I humble? Am I interfering with it? I give birth to, and become, a little child through whom I can relate to everything. But I need to keep watch.

Upbeat Christian inspiration for deeper folks...

4 brief 2-minute spiritual Videos In **English** or **Maltese**

One for each of the 4 Sundays of Advent 2014: 30 Nov; 7, 14, 21 December

Parish, church, associations, prayer-groups, adult religious education classes, discussion groups, retreats, or personal use. Gratis.

Production: EasterSpirit

In consultation with Balzan parish priest, Malta

View the videos by opening these websites:

<http://www.easterspirit.com/VideosAllSeries.htm>

or here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TonyImagine>

Prickly Pear Trees (Sigar tal-Bajtar tax-Xewk) - Farmhouses used to be surrounded



by prickly pear trees (bajtar tax-xewk) from all sides as these trees serve as a very good and solid fence against intruders and good shelter to the farmhouses during strong winds which prevail in Malta. During the hot summer months, they also offer some of the farm animals some shade from the scourging sun. These trees produce a lot of delicious, fruit, and their over-abundant, succulent, large leaves could also be fed to animals such as goats, sheep, horses, donkeys, rabbits, and others. The farmer needed only to cut these thorny, succulent leaves early in the morning when their thorns are soft after the morning dew and slice them into small pieces to be fed to the animals. The fact that these trees needed no

attention at all, not even water in summer, was very important at a time when Malta depended solely on underground wells and reservoirs.

The Carob Tree (Il-Ħarruba)



- Next to every farmhouse one was sure to find at least one carob tree as this enormous tree was very important to shelter the farmhouse during the winter storms and to provide shade during the summer heat. Like the prickly pear, the carob tree is an evergreen perennial tree, requiring no care at all, not even a drop of water in summer and offers abundant large carob pods which are edible to animals and humans.

A sweet, delicious carob extract (ġulepp tal-ħarrub) was also made out of these carob pods. Very importantly, the carob tree was a very good provider of firewood for the stone stove (kenur).

FARMHOUSES IN MALTA



It is a great pity that today the number of such farmhouses has dwindled. Decades ago, probably at the time when their village parish church was being erected, farmers had already started to build their village houses. These new houses were architecturally very similar to the farmhouses and while most rooms on the ground floor were used as pens, those on the first storey were only used by members of the family. Many of these early village houses which once surrounded the parish churches forming narrow, winding crooked streets and lanes, have today disappeared, some to make way for wider roads

and others to permit the creation of new village squares, while others were upgraded or reconstructed. The mortal blow, however, came with 'World War II' when Malta's infrastructure was transformed overnight due to urgent defense action. After the war, the restructuring process played havoc with the Maltese farming community. Many farmers emigrated to Australia and Canada while others found alternative work with the armed services or in the construction business.

In 1964 Malta gained its Independence and the island witnessed what was called 'a building boom'. Since then this boom continued building up momentum, causing the demolition of many 'outdated' homes and farmhouses which were considered too primitive for modern living.



MULTICULTURAL AND MULTIETHNIC AUSTRALIA

This iconic Australian song was written in 1987 by Bruce Woodley a member of The Seekers and Dobe Newton a member of The Bushwackers band.

I Am Australian (Lyrics)

I came from the dream-time, from the dusty red soil plains
I am the ancient heart, the keeper of the flame.
I stood upon the rocky shore, I watched the tall ships come.
For forty thousand years I've been the first Australian.

*We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We share a dream and sing with one voice:
I am, you are, we are Australian*

I came upon the prison ship, bowed down by iron chains.
I cleared the land, endured the lash and waited for the rains.
I'm a settler, I'm a farmer's wife on a dry and barren run
A convict then a free man, I became Australian.

We are one, but we are many

I'm the daughter of a digger who sought the mother lode
The girl became a woman on the long and dusty road
I'm a child of the depression, I saw the good times come
I'm a bushy, I'm a battler, I am Australian

We are one, but we are many

I'm a teller of stories, I'm a singer of songs
I am Albert Namatjira, I paint the ghostly gums
I am Clancy on his horse, I'm Ned Kelly on the run
I'm the one who waltzed Matilda, I am Australian

We are one, but we are many

I'm the hot wind from the desert, I'm the black soil of the plains
I'm the mountains and the valleys, I'm the drought and flooding rains
I am the rock, I am the sky, the rivers when they run
The spirit of this great land, I am Australian

We are one, but we are many

We are one .. We are many .. We are Australian!

See the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOIPCmFG2pc

First Maltese Mayor in Australia 1918-2009



Pioneer with a deep love for his homeland

Loreto York, the first Maltese mayor in Australia who was renowned for his sense of humour and irreverent wit.

Born as Loreto Meilak in Sliema in 1918, Mr York, who played a pioneering role in local government in Melbourne and was the first non-Anglo, non-Celt to sit on the Brunswick Council.

In an interview recorded for the Australian National Library in 1989, Mr York spoke frankly about the obstacles placed in the way of newcomers within his party, the Australian Labour Party.

Yet, he was indispensable to them. Multilingual - Maltese, Italian, English, Arabic and smatterings of French, German and Greek - charismatic and endowed with great energy, he could directly communicate with migrants who did not feel comfortable speaking English.

He also played an important role in the Storemen & Packers' Union, especially its 1970s campaign for equal pay for women in the cosmetics manufacturing industry.

Born into a family of 11, his merchant seaman father, Salvatore Meilak, was away at sea for long periods which made life for his mother very hard. Mr York only had four years of schooling but eventually obtained an apprenticeship as a ladies' hairdresser at a Sliema salon, which catered for the wives of the British Admiralty.

He was a handsome and charming man with a bevy of girlfriends well into his 80s. As a young apprentice hairdresser, he was noticed by Mrs Vanderbilt, wife of one of the world's wealthiest men who was vacationing in Malta.

She had asked his employer whether she could take the young apprentice to Europe with her as her gigolo. Nothing came of the offer but Mr York's charms contributed to a highly interesting life, including an affair with an Egyptian princess during the war. Stationed in London after the war, he changed his name from Meilak to York as he felt a foreign name in London stood in his way of personal advancement.

In 1947, he married Olive Turner, an English photographic assistant, and their son Barry was born three years before they emigrated as "£10" migrants in 1954. Expecting Melbourne to be a smaller version of London, Mr York was bitterly disappointed with what he saw as its backwardness, intolerance and racism.

As mayor of Brunswick, he reversed the official protocol at the annual mayoral ball to allow the aboriginal leader, Pastor Doug Nicholls and his wife, to enter the Town Hall first, as head of the official guests, instead of the state Governor and MPs.

He never fully embraced Australia and always thought of himself as Maltese - heaven help anybody who ever said a word against his motherland in his presence. He was a working class intellectual who thought deeply about life. He was spiritual but not religious. One of the songs he requested for his funeral, John Lennon's Imagine, appealed to him for the lines about having "no religion" and "no countries".

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST



- Remember to spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.
- Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.
- Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

- Remember, to say, 'I love you' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it.
- A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.
- Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again.
- Give time to love, give time to speak!
- And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

And always remember, life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by those moments that take our breath away.

SEE YOU AGAIN SAHHA



