



69

**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER**  
**FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING THE MALTESE DIASPORA**

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## MALTESE NEWSLETTER



### The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

We wish all our readers and contributors very best wishes for the New Year of 2015. The Maltese Newsletter once again would like to thank everyone for their support and contributions throughout this last year and look forward to more of the same for 2015. We sincerely hope that you and your families all have a very happy, healthy and safe New Year ahead. The Editor



## I LOVE MY TIRAMISU

### INGREDIENTS

4 egg whites - 4 egg yolks - 150g castor sugar - 400g  
mascarpone - 200g savoiardi - 200ml extra strong  
coffee, - cooled 100g dark chocolate, grated

### METHOD

Stiffly whisk the egg whites in a grease-free bowl.

Beat the egg yolks with the sugar in another bowl until pale and fluffy and almost tripled in volume.

Gently fold in the mascarpone and then the egg whites.

Dunk the savoiardi quickly in the coffee (so as not too soak) and layer on the base of a deep rectangular serving dish.

Cover with a layer of the mascarpone cream and continue making layers until all ingredients are used.

End with a layer of mascarpone cream.

Chill in refrigerator for approx three hours and sprinkle with grated chocolate just before serving.

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## I LOVE MY IMQARET

(pronounced Im'aret, accented on a) is a traditional Maltese sweet made with pastry and a filling of dates. The word imqaret in Maltese, is the plural of maqrut (diamond shaped) and it signifies the diamond shape of the sweets - even though in many cases they are sold in a rectangular shape. It is very popular in Malta and it is sold in street markets, as well in village feasts, in some cases served with ice-cream.



During its preparation it is deep fried and it usually has a flavour coming from the addition of aniseed and bay leaf. The imqaret are prepared individually by folding the pastry, in the centre of which a quantity of filling is placed. As the pastry is long, several imqaret pieces are cut from each pastry after deep frying.

Imqaret has an Arabic origin, from the dates of the Arabic invasion of the island between 870 and the 11th century, while a similar sweet named makroudh or maqrud or makroud exists across the sea, in Tunisia, which is also popular across Algeria and Morocco with the names makrout, maqrout, mqaret.



## WHY MALTA

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### MALTA - YOUR IDEAL PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



If you are considering Malta as the ideal destination to invest in, you are not alone in your decision. With millennia of history, the country has always played a pivotal role internationally due to its location right at the heart of the Mediterranean. The more recent past, since independence in 1964, has seen the country develop its economy in an impressive way. Leveraging its well-educated labour force, good governance standards and strategic

geographic position, the country has been very successful in recent years in diversifying its production and export structure towards higher value-added sectors and creating a strong knowledge based economy.

#### So Why Malta?

- A strong national commitment to attracting foreign investment
- Over 40 years experience in foreign direct investment
- High levels of quality productivity and profitability of investment
- Highly skilled, flexible and multilingual workforce
- Availability of industrial premises at competitive costs
- Fiscal and financial incentive packages
- A modern and efficient infrastructure
- Excellent educational facilities
- English and Italian are widely spoken with a good understanding of French, German, Arabic and other languages
- High professionalism in business support services
- Support from Malta Enterprise - the first point of contact for all investors
- Economic, political and social stability
- Valued close economic and cultural ties with neighbouring countries north and south of the island
- A healthy and safe environment

<http://www.maltaenterprise.com/en/>





## Malta - Gozo Ferry since 1885

Ferry services between Malta and Gozo were in operation by 1241. The service, known in Maltese as *id-dghajsa tal-mghodija*, literally, the boat of the passage is first recorded in 1241. The name survives in a toponym at the lateen sails in Mgarr, sails that were to survive until the twentieth century. At that time, Mgarr was a shallow harbour affording anchorage to small craft only and quite exposed from the south west to the south

east winds. It did not have a breakwater but only a small jetty used by passengers to board and descend from the boats, and by the fishermen to unload their catches. The jetty is still there just below the Gleneagles bar.

While the area around the harbour was developed over the following centuries, there was little development of the Mgarr harbour itself until 1841, when a breakwater was constructed to provide more shelter to the port. This breakwater was strengthened and extended several times up to 1906. A larger breakwater was constructed between 1929 and 1935, and two more in 1969; on the completion of the latter, the area of the port was expanded to 121,400 square metres.

The first regular passenger service between Gozo and Malta was inaugurated on June 13, 1885. An official Mail service was first provided by O.F. Gollcher & Sons Ltd with the *Gleneagles*. The fare was 8 pence single and one shilling return. In the first years a levy of one penny a head was collected from each passenger landing at Gozo to pay for a Mass in the Mgarr Church for the safe arrival of the passenger. However from 1892 she made regular sailings from Malta to Syracuse once weekly with mail. The rest of the time was used in the Malta to Gozo service. The *Gleneagles* gave regular service till 1914.



Concurrent with the *Gleneagles* the Malta Steamship Company operated the *Princess Melita* for both mail and passengers. Between 1923 and 1937 the Malta Steamship Company operated two vessels, the *Wembley* which sank in 1935 and *Golly* which was sold in 1937 in Egypt. These were followed by the Gozo Mail Service

Company which was a partnership between Joseph Gasan, Giovanni Dacoutros, the Grech family known as "Gelluxa" and some ten other Gozitans with minority shareholding. This company operated the *Royal Lady* between October 1938 and May 1942 and a sailing vessel, *Franco* between May 1942 and April 1948. Both vessels were bombed by the Germans during the war. The *Royal Lady* was sunk in 1942 and *Franco* received damage in its funnel but luckily kept running till 1948.

In 1945 the British colonial government requisitioned the three masted schooner Anna from Giovanni Dacoutros in order to carry much wanted cereals and other commodities between the two islands. Unfortunately, this beautiful vessel was bombed when about to sail out of Grand Harbour and sank loaded with the precious grain at Marsa. Anna remained in the depths of Grand Harbour till after the war and the British colonial government imposed a fine of 15 Maltese pounds per day in order that the owner would remove the vessel from the bottom of the harbour. For this purpose a special crane was brought from Gibraltar as no large lifting equipment was available. It was eventually lifted out of the water about a year later and sold for firewood.

It is interesting also to note that, following the end of the war, one of the surviving vessels – the Maria Dacoutros – made a few trips to Gozo to carry grain and other commodities, It also carried mail and passengers. The Maria Dacoutros was also the very first vessel to leave Malta for Sicily following the Italian surrender. It performed this service until other ways of delivering mail were found by the British services in Malta.

Bernard Zammit operated two vessels, the King of England and Lady Strickland, which were both withdrawn from service in 1951. Between 1947 and 1950 Joseph Gasan operated the Calyso. Joseph Gasan also operated the Bancinu between 1950 and 1957 when it eventually ran aground and sank during a storm. During the same period Mr Gasan operated the Maid of Pinto, a wooden schooner which sank in 1951, and Pinu which finished its service in 1957, the same year as the Bancinu.

The Magro family operated Hanini between 1948 and 1956. They also operated for fourteen years the Queen of Peace between 1956 and 1970. The Queen of Peace was sold by the Magro family in the seventies and was used to carry cargo to North Africa until it was lost in North African waters with the loss of some Maltese. The Magro and Zammit families operated Imperial Eagle between 1958 and 1968. After laying at berth in Marsa it was scuttled off Qawra Point in 1999. In 1964 the Malta Aliscafi Ltd started operating a hydrofoil service between Grand Harbour and Mgarr Harbour. The hydrofoil in use was the Delfin. It was commonly known as L-Izgicc. The company went bankrupt in 1968 and Delfin was sold in Italy.

The Zammit family has been linked with shipping and marine related operations since the 1930's. During these years, the Zammits were appointed as one of the main suppliers to the British Forces on the Island and in their efforts to fulfil their supply commitments to the British Garrison stationed in Malta, it was felt necessary to venture into chartering of vessels to secure timely and adequate supplies in spite of the untold difficult circumstances of the time. During the early fifties, Eucharist took over his father's business and in 1957, he reorganised the business and operated under the trade name of E. Zammit & Co. It was about this time that he undertook the passenger and car ferry services between the Maltese Islands, a tender which was won against stiff competition. This service continued to be run by E. Zammit & Co. with annual tenders being won up to 1979 when the Government of the time decided to set up the Gozo Channel Co. Limited to run the service as a parastatal company. The Group retained substantial shareholding in this company till the early 1990's.

The Zammit family operated the Jylland from 1967. Karistu Zammit also operated Melitaland and Calypsoland up to 1978 and he also had the Minor Eagle which used to operate the Gozo service between 1966 and 1976. This was renamed Cominoland in 1976 and Jylland II in 1980. Gozo Channel (C 4314) was formed in 1979, to maintain, develop, and operate a sea transport service to and from Malta, Gozo and elsewhere.

The Company's first vessels to operate the route were the M/V Ghawdex (purchased in early 1979) the M/V Melitaland and M/V Mgarr (ex-Salthorn), both purchased in early 1980. Initially, these vessels performed an average of eight round trips per day.

A seasonal service to Sicily was introduced in June 1981 with the M/V Ghawdex. The Company operated up to three weekly trips to Siracuse, Catania and eventually Pozzallo and the service became very popular among

local Maltese and Gozitans wishing to spend a day or more in Sicily. The service was discontinued in 1995. On 29 April 1988 Gozo Channel started operating a new faster service by means of a hovermarine S.E.S. Calypso.

As the traffic between Malta and Gozo increased, more vessels were introduced into the service to cope with the demand, and by 1990 the Company was operating five vessels, including a fast ferry service between Mgarr, Sliema and Sa Maison, and performing an average of 27 round trips per day. In that year the Company carried 1.93 million passengers and 370,000 cars. In 1995 there were four ferries: the Mgarr (ex-Marsdiep), Cittadella II (ex-Telstrom), the Calypso and the Ghawdex. Between 1996 and 2001 the Gozo Channel replaced the hovermarine service by a high speed catamaran service between Sa Maison and Mgarr Harbour using S.E.S. Victoria Express.

In the mid 90s, the Company embarked on a very ambitious programme – the modernisation of the fleet. Plans for the construction of three ro-ro vessels at the Malta Shipbuilding were finalised. The first vessel, the M.V. Ta' Pinu, was introduced into service in March 2000, whilst the second ship, the M.V. Gaudos entered into service in February 2001. The third vessel, the M.V. Malita, was delivered in March 2002. All vessels have state of the art technology.

The Mgarr ferry terminal was rebuilt at a cost of €9.3 million in the early 21st century. Work began in 2001 and took seven years, with the terminal opening in February 2008. The Mgarr harbour now has facilities for around 600 passengers and 200 cars. The design of the new harbour was changed during the construction process to reduce its visual impact on the surrounding landscape



*The Cirkewwa Terminal in 2014*



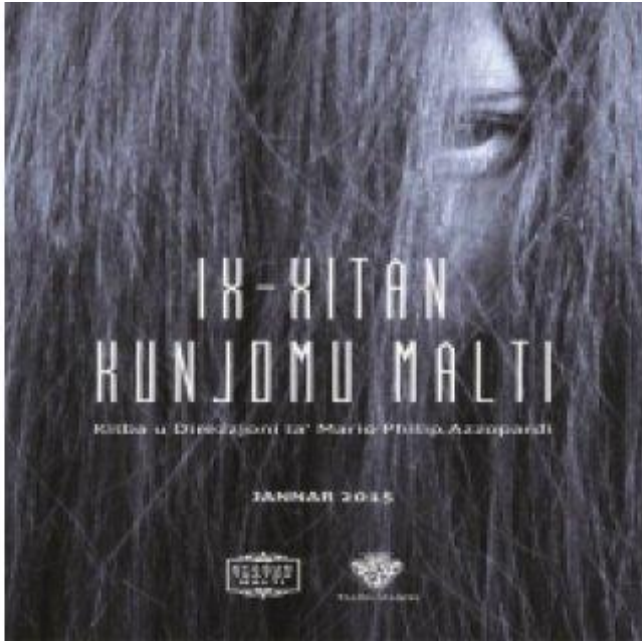
Photo - DOI - Martin Attard

The development of the Cirkewwa ferry terminal was completed in May 2013. It comprises a passenger-handling building with gangway connections to the ships for foot passengers; vehicular marshalling areas; parking and land transport facilities; access and circulation roadways; additional berthing capacity; ancillary buildings and other general enhancements. The Gozo Channel Company took over the management of the Cirkewwa Terminal on 27 May 2013. The cost of the Cirkewwa terminal was estimated at around €12,000,000, 85% of which was funded through the Cohesion Fund Cohesion Policy 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme I.





## ***Ix-Xitan Kunjomu Malti – The Devil's Surname is Maltese***



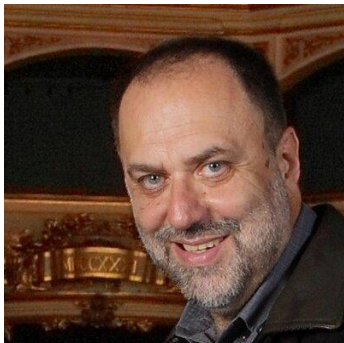
**D E T A I L S** Producer: Teatru Manoel/Mario Philip Azzopardi  
Recommended Age: 16 yrs & over  
Venue: Teatru Manoel  
Price: €25, €20, €15

**S C H E D U L E** From Saturday, 31 January 2015 till Monday, 09 February 2015 8pm

**D E S C R I P T I O N** A new and explosive play written and directed by Mario Philip Azzopardi. The Devil himself visits Malta in preparation of the antichrist who is “scheduled” to be born on the island. A hilarious show tinged with political and social satire, intended to scare the pants off the audience. John Suda plays the Devil and Ray Calleja the Exorcist.  
Performed in Maltese

### **Mario Philip Azzopardi**

I am very grateful for the 30 years I spent in Canada and North America. However, I am very happy to have this great opportunity to visit the island again through the graces of Judy Farrugia at the Manoel theatre and Lino Farrugia, who is producing the play. I am now already planning my next play *Ix-Xitan Kunjomu Malti*. This play takes the mickey out of being Maltese. I think that it is very important to laugh at oneself. The Maltese people have a tendency to take themselves too seriously. Yet, these very idiosyncrasies have given us the power to survive on an island with no natural resources and against many odds.”



When asked about the dwindling theatre attendance, Mr Azzopardi replied: “It is a pity. Art and music seem to be supported however Maltese theatre is languishing. There seems to be a culture shift. There is an absence of a giant like Francis Ebejer, who had the power to crystallise and empower Maltese theatre. I definitely do not have the audacity to say that *Sulari Fuq Strada Stretta* is the solution. The solution is made up of more than one play. I want the Maltese theatre to entertain, offend ... once more provoke discussion. We have to stop being boring, stop watching TV all the time and allow ourselves to be jolted a little out of our static compliance! This is even more so as television, nowadays, instead of an artistic venue, has become an arid cultural desert worldwide. In the same way we do not accept open sexual pornography on our screens we cannot accept intellectual

pornography.

Clearly, being born in Malta is an integral part of Mr Azzopardi's character. He explained: “It's true, living away might make me view things differently. Yes, I've lived in Los Angeles, in London, in Canada on both coasts, in the Soviet Union and in France – all of which are amazing places. When I was born in Malta I was baptised

into a culture which binds me for life. The branding is special and spurs me on. Some time ago, in an article on The Times of Malta I was described as a 'Maltese-born Canadian director'. I protested this epithet. I am not merely 'Maltese-born'. I am Maltese. I hold a Maltese passport. I am a Maltese director who happens to live in Canada. I am proud, blessed and cursed with this brand. I still speak Maltese regularly, my children if not particularly fluent, can understand the language. The blood of Mikiel Anton Vassalli to whom I related still flows in my veins. Being Maltese allows us to speak three languages – Maltese, English and Italian. We seem to be natural polyglots. In the US, bilingualism is so rare."

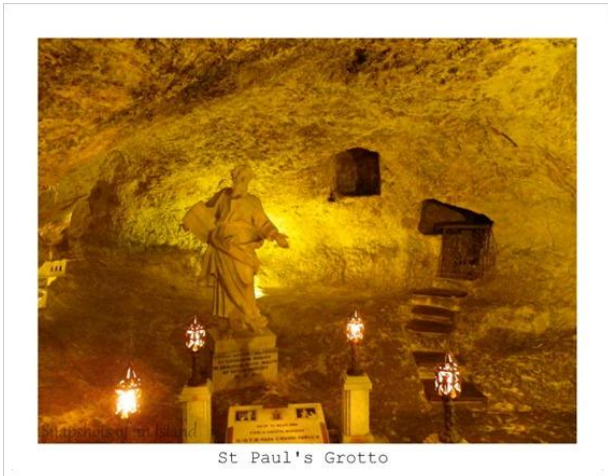
Mr Azzopardi also commented about the recent Maltese film offerings – Angli, Qerq and Bawxati, among others. "I take my hat off for these people who try to make a movie. I know how hard it is to get the funds to make a film. They should be encouraged. We should give Maltese films a chance; with time the quality will improve."

So is there any hope for a Maltese film industry? Mr Azzopardi said: "From my experience with Maltese Falcon Productions, I know that road is long and winding. Maltese Falcon Productions was 14 years of heartbreak that went sour due to the lack of understanding from the political sector. There needs to be a dedicated group of people who understand the concept and internationality of the business and adapts it to suit a Maltese reality. I tried and failed, maybe because I did not live here. I honestly believe there is great potential, and I am not talking here about the film service industry. That is essential. It brings money into the country and is a multi-faceted opportunity. If however we want to have control and shape the film made here then one enters into a totally different sphere of thinking, planning and understanding. I know it is possible, we should not be disheartened."

## St Paul's Grotto at Rabat, Malta

In around 60AD, a ship bound for Rome left Judea. On the way, it encountered a storm and was shipwrecked. There is nothing remarkable about the story so far – shipwrecks were surely a common occurrence in the Mediterranean in those days. On that ill-fated ship were two men - humble men; prisoners of Rome. But these men were no ordinary prisoners. One of them was Paul of Tarsus, the apostle of the Gentiles. The other man was Luke – the author of the Gospel of St Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. And the island they were shipwrecked on was Malta.

*"When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all". Acts 28: 1-2*



In the town of Rabat, just outside what in Roman times would have been the city walls, is a small cave, or grotto, situated underneath a church that was built in the 16th century. According to tradition, this was the cave where Paul was kept prisoner during his 3 month stay on the island.

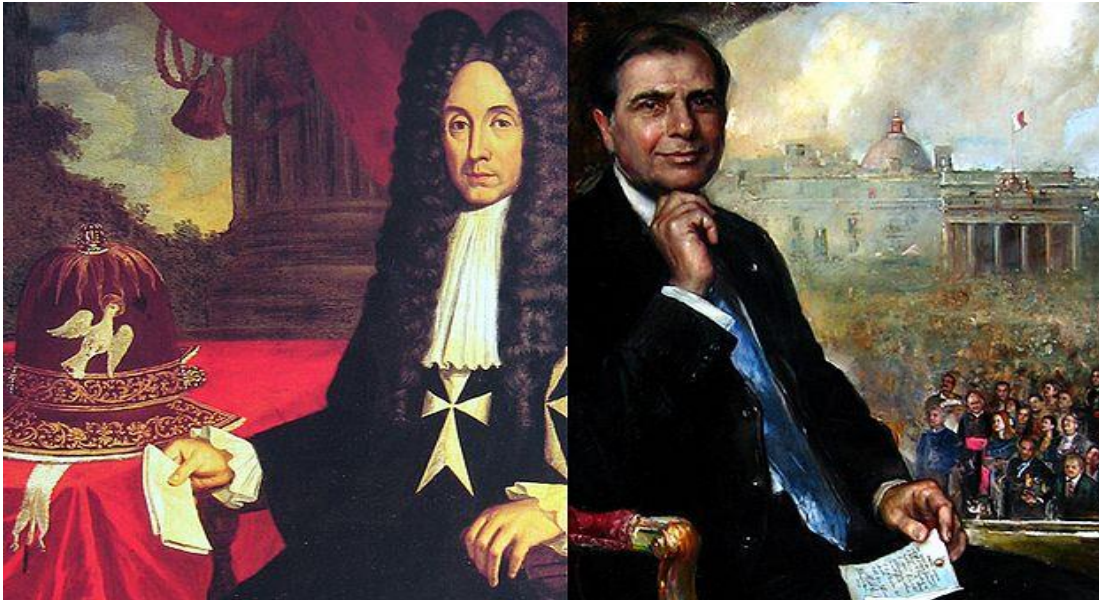
This has never been historically verified, but, since for almost 2000 years this piece of information has been passed down from one generation to the next, it is now mostly accepted as a fact. Naturally, a cave that housed such an illustrious visitor is bound to spark some legends. In ages past, it was thought that the stone of the grotto could heal snake bites. Another legend attributed other miraculous



properties to the stone: no matter how much of it was quarried, it grew back and the size of the cave always remained the same. Legends apart, this small grotto is revered by many as the most sacred place on the island.

Paul was the first person to preach the gospel on this island and is probably the most important visitor to have ended up on our shores. He is one of Malta's patron saints and his feast, a national holiday, is celebrated annually on February 10th.

## Portraits at the Palace – by Bernadine Scicluna



Portraits are not just paintings; they speak volumes about the sitter, the culture and values of the time. For this reason, *Flimkien ghal Ambjent Ahjar*, invited Bernadine Scicluna, Curator at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta, to present a talk on the portraits at the Presidential Palace in Valletta.

Ms. Scicluna brought portraits of grand masters, royalty and

presidents to life as she interprets the body language of the sitters and explains what the props, costumes and settings tell viewers about the sitter and his times. Ms Scicluna also discussed how the physical space in which they hang contributes to the portraits of the Presidential Palace, formerly the Governors' Palace and previously the Grand Masters' Palace.

Spanning the centuries, the talk took in works by Antoine Favray, Jean Baptiste Van Loo, Antoine Francois Callet, Gaetano Calleja, Pietro Paolo Caruana, Edward Caruana Dingli, Ray Pitre', Esprit Barthet, Madeleine Gera and ties in with FAA's Patrimonio art exhibition, which featuring some of the most eminent names of the Maltese art scene of the past and present including Giuseppe Arcidiacono, Carmelo Mangion, Joseph Bellia, Esprit Barthet and Emvin Cremona.

The exhibition is open until the 7th of December 2012 and proceeds go towards the restoration of a unique four-panel painting depicting The Virgin of Mercy and Saints from the Medieval period, ensuring that this work of art will be enjoyed by future generations. The exhibition was held at the Italian Cultural Institute in St. George's Square, Valletta, a cultural monument itself, built in 1602.

Besides lecturing history of art at the former Conservation Institute at Bighi at the Institute for Maltese Studies, University of Malta, Ms. Scicluna was awarded the First Prize by the National Book Council for her research for the book she co-authored "Watercolours of Malta by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff at the National Library of Malta."



## Maris Zammit

Born 6th January 1952 into a very artistic family Maris Zammit is one of six children. She spent most of her childhood and youth in Sliema. She loved motorsport and participated in Hillclimbs, Motor Rallies, Offroading and other forms of motorsport for 18 years till sometime in 1999 just before she took up art.

One day she was in Gozo and had nothing to do where usually she would go up for a race. This time around she was given a box of children's watercolours with a " Miss Piggy " on the cover and a paint book and decided to copy a picture of a Maltese Dghajsa which was on the wall. It turned out pretty good seeing it was her very first effort. From then on, there was no turning back . She bought books and magazines and started copying almost everything she saw.

Maris decided she wanted to explore and expand her artistic self ,so she decided to go for art tuition under Harry Alden and later with Anton Calleja.

She was encouraged to have her first exhibition. This was held at the Artisan centre at Bay Street where 15 watercolour paintings were exhibited. The exhibition was named "Tal-Franka" (a kind of Maltese stone) and was fairly successful, being given some very fair comments by the scores of people who viewed them.

### MARSAXLOKK – MALTA by Detlev Nitschke



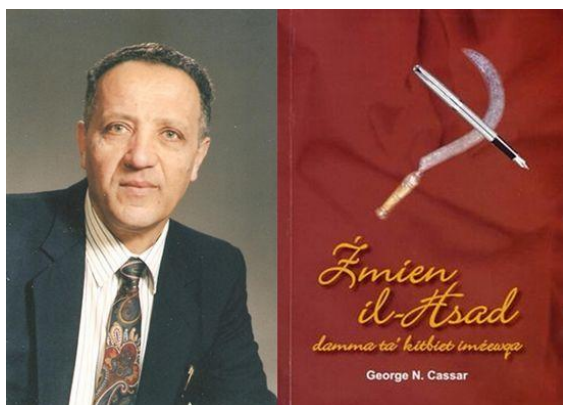


## Christmas shopping with the Missus - waiting!!!! –looks familiar?



Submitted by Paul Farrugia

## Gozitan author publishes anthology of Maltese works



Recently George N. Cassar has published an anthology of his Maltese works *Zmien il-Hsad*. Hundreds of Gozitans remember Mr Cassar as a teacher of Maltese at the Gozo Lyceum. During the last ten years of his career with the Education Department he was head of the Ninu Cremona Complex and later of the Post Secondary Schools M.A.Refalo.

The book appeals to a wide readership. There is a variety of subjects and each essay is roughly two pages long. The style is clear and direct in idiomatic Maltese often in a light vein and sprinkled with colourful anecdotes from every day life with its light and dark sides as well as incidents that are a personal experience of the author.

Cassar's style of writing resembles Kilin's in *Klikki Klikki ma' Wenzu*. Other essays deal with common social ills and a whole chapter is dedicated to "Six open letters to my nephew" which are a sort of guideline to young people embarking on life's journey. The last item in the book is an extremely interesting study in English about the historically ignored sojourn of the French in Gozo.

The book is available from all leading book shops priced at €5.00.



## Surnames in Malta 100 surnames cover 75% of the population

"Malta has a wealth of surnames, some traced to every part of the world. Yet three quarters of the population shares the same 100 surnames.

The 2011 census recorded a total of 19,104 surnames. The top 10 are: Borg, Camilleri, Vella, Farrugia, Zammit, Galea, Micallef, Grech, Attard, Spiteri and Azzopardi. A quarter of the population – 99,516 – own just these 10 surnames. A total of 178,018 people – 44 per cent – have surnames which make it to the top 25 list.

And 75 per cent of the population – 307,886 people – share the same 100 surnames said linguist Mario Cassar. This, he said, probably shows a degree of inbreeding.

Gozo – due to its smaller size – gives a clearer picture of this idiosyncrasy. One typical Gozitan surname seems to be Rapa but the surname Xuereb is predominate in Ghajnsielem, Mintoff in Ghasri, Debrincat in Munxar, Grima in San Lawrenz, Sultana in Xaghra and Cini in Żebbuġ. "If you meet a Gozitan with Buttigieg as a surname you can almost be certain that he'd be from Qala," Dr Cassar said.

There are also some peculiar trends in Malta, such as the strong showings of Abela in Żejtun, Aquilina in Gharghur, Bugeja in Marsaxlokk, Magro in Qrendi, Dalli in Gudja, and Busuttil in Safi. Other less marked, but equally clear concentrations are manifest in the cases of Carabott in Marsaxlokk, Sacco in Kirkop, Bezzina in Gharghur, Vella in Mellieha, Abdilla in Safi, and Manduca in Mdina. Penza, for example, is an overwhelmingly Luqa surname.

Dr Cassar explained that Maltese surnames may easily be divided into three surname groups: Semitic (Arabic and Hebrew), Romance (mainly Italian, Sicilian, Spanish and French), and English (as well as Scottish, Irish and Welsh), with the development of surnames having mirrored Malta's history.

The number of Semitic surnames is only around 50, but despite this low number, most of us have an Arabic surname. "Each one of these Semitic surnames is borne by a significant aggregate of families, whereas many of the more modern Romance and European surnames are less numerous," he said.

## The ten most common surnames in Malta

According to census from the National Statistics office in Malta, the ten most common surnames in Malta (all islands) are as follows:

| Rank | %   | #      | Surname                   |
|------|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| 1    | 3.3 | 13,169 | <a href="#">Borg</a>      |
| 2    | 3.1 | 12,643 | <a href="#">Camilleri</a> |
| 3    | 2.9 | 11,785 | <a href="#">Vella</a>     |
| 4    | 2.9 | 11,549 | <a href="#">Farrugia</a>  |
| 5    | 2.3 | 9,424  | <a href="#">Zammit</a>    |
| 6    | 2.1 | 8,519  | <a href="#">Galea</a>     |
| 7    | 2.1 | 8,356  | <a href="#">Micallef</a>  |
| 8    | 1.9 | 7,828  | <a href="#">Grech</a>     |
| 9    | 1.8 | 7,340  | <a href="#">Attard</a>    |
| 10   | 1.8 | 7,233  | <a href="#">Spiteri</a>   |

The ten most common surnames in Malta accounts for around 24.2 percent of the total population of Malta (all islands). Isolated for the island of Malta, the top five positions for most common surname for Malta remains the same as for all the islands grouped together.

## **The five most common surnames on the island of Gozo**

On the island of Gozo, the five most common surnames are as follows:

| Rank | %   | #     | Surname                   |
|------|-----|-------|---------------------------|
| 1    | 4.8 | 1,491 | <a href="#">Vella</a>     |
| 2    | 4.3 | 1,338 | <a href="#">Attard</a>    |
| 3    | 3.8 | 1,187 | <a href="#">Camilleri</a> |
| 4    | 3.7 | 1,146 | <a href="#">Grech</a>     |
| 5    | 3.1 | 966   | <a href="#">Portelli</a>  |

The five most common surnames in Gozo accounts for 19.7 percent of the total population of the island of Gozo.



**MALTESE DANCERS**



## YOUTUBE.COM

Greetings to all our friends, We made a list of the Youtube videos we made in which we either used a Maltese song or music or we used photos of Malta and Gozo. You have few links below.

**SAHHA MALTA - JOE GRECH**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9DdA1qBXUk>

**AN ISLAND OF DREAMS (GOZO) - ROSABELLE PAVIA**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKUmtANeCeE>

**NEW CUOREY - ID-DGHAJSA TAL-LATINI**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtsS2Dod04o>

**GREENFIELDS - MEDLEY MALTESE SONGS**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDDZS\\_IYmg8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDDZS_IYmg8)

**VIVA MALTA - FREDDIE PORTELLI**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQeV\\_S0Nupw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQeV_S0Nupw)

**PROMO VIDEO FOR "NISGA" - PICS OF MALTA**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E35oCYsh9Q>

**L-GHANJA TAS-SJJIEDA - MARY ROSE MALLIA**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd3NYZKTDGM>

**NIFTAKAR F'MALTA - VINCE BEZZINA**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rShhozFnaHc>

**ONGI ONGI ONGELLA - OLD MALTESE SONG**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TEALj03hc>

**TONY CAMILLERI, FRANK O'NEILL - MEDLEY 3 MALTESE SONGS**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wqWIsBf4S0>

**VIVA T-TEWMIN - FREDDIE PORTELLI**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5fK79g3lrc>

**FILGHODU KMIENI - RALPH DOUGAL**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fh68kgUv98g>

**FILGHODU KMIENI - ENZO GUSMAN**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNdbaubaJAHQ>

**KORDI MILL-GIRNA - MANUEL CASHA - VALLETTA**

Received this compilation of Maltese videos and songs and thought it would be worthwhile sharing with you and the readers of the MALTESE NEWSLETTER. Fred Aquilina

**T**here are more Maltese outside the Maltese Islands than there are citizens residing in the country itself. This remarkable fact is one of the many elements which make Malta truly unique. The Maltese outside Malta are either emigrants or descendents of emigrants. The countries which have most traditionally hosted the Maltese diaspora are Australia, Canada, the U.S.A., and Britain. Nevertheless there are Maltese living in virtually every country around the world.





## **ROYAL PARTNERS: LUCY BALL and BOB HOPE**

Whenever the kings and queens of comedy are discussed, the names Bob Hope and Lucille Ball are among the first to be mentioned. How fortunate the world has been the past sixty-some years to have experienced the talents of these two comedic giants--often in the same show. The duo made four motion pictures together; she appeared on over a dozen of his television programs, including his third TV special ever, in September, 1950; he appeared on four of hers, five if

you count the 1976 *CBS Salutes Lucy* retrospective. Together they guest-starred on countless musical, comedy, variety, talk and award shows.

**This is a tribute to a man who DID make a difference.**

**ON TURNING 70- 'I still chase women, but only downhill.'**

**ON TURNING 80 - 'That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing.'**

**ON TURNING 90 - 'You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.'**

**ON TURNING 100 - 'I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.'**

**ON PRESIDENTS 'I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six.'**

**ON WHY HE CHOSE SHOWBIZ FOR A CAREER... - 'When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, Congratulations, you have an eight pound ham.'**

**ON HIS FAMILY'S EARLY POVERTY - 'Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, our mother threw on another brother.'**

**ON HIS SIX BROTHERS - 'That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom.'**

**ON HIS EARLY FAILURES**

**'I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me.'**

## History of the Malta Wheelchair Dance Sport Association



Wheelchair dancing was started in Malta in 1999. In other parts of the world it has been practiced for over 20 years. The Association was formed in Malta in 2001. The aims are to teach people in wheelchairs to dance in a similar format to non-disabled people. For competitive purposes there are two forms

- 1) Combi where one partner is in a wheelchair and one is non-disabled.
- 2) Duo where two are in wheelchairs.

*Dances are:* Latin American - Cha Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive. Standard - Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot and quickstep.

There are two categories of disability which are classified by trained classifiers.

There are different levels starting as a beginner and ending at championship level. Apart from the above there are line dances and solo dances which can be used socially. In Malta I try to keep this in line with non-disabled line dances etc., so that integration is at a maximum

**BENEFITS** - For the wheelchair user the main benefits are that they can actually express the feeling of dance that is elusive and has nothing to do with the legs but is more within the person. Through the wheelchair and use of arms and other parts of the body movement is made in the same way as non-disabled. Like non-disabled dancers not all are good, but the most important part is participation especially on a social level.

Wheelchair dancing is a sport and art that integrates fully therefore the non-disabled person gets to know the wheelchair user as a person rather than as somebody with a disability. The misconception that some disabled persons are also with limited mental abilities is quickly dispelled thus educating many people. After all there is not one person born who does not have some sort of disability, e.g. shyness. Wheelchair dancing also teaches the w/c dancer &/or helper, how to use their wheelchair better. Often by seeing other dances do more with their wheelchair it encourages them to become more independent and try new moves. Not unlike non-disabled dancers trying to copy their peers.

**PIPPA ROBERTS** - Started dancing at the age of three after having polio. Performed in shows and television programmes in England and abroad. Worked as a professional choreographer until moving to Malta on her marriage to a Maltese.



A qualified teacher in Ballet, Tap, Stage, Ballroom, Latin American and Wheelchair Dance. Whilst always interested in charity shows and helping disabled, wheelchair dancing allows her to use both her teaching and choreographic abilities in the medium she enjoys most. Also the satisfaction of seeing people of all ages and nationalities in wheelchairs mix and dance with non-disabled people socially as well as competitively is something that cannot be measured. The friends made through wheelchair dance have enhanced her life.

For more information - <http://www.maltawda.com/>



**Montekristo Estates, Hal Farrug Road, L/o Siggiewi –  
Malta**

**Malta Nights Extravaganza** is fun and entertaining. A most enjoyable evening filled with song, dance and non-stop action, this is surely Malta's one-of-a-kind attraction. For over two hours, MKIC's talented cast of dancers and entertainers excite and amuse audiences.

Patrons will get a glimpse of Malta thru' the ages, as this tiny but significant island journeys from the prehistoric to present times ... with special emphasis on one of the greatest chapters in Maltese history ... the Knights of St. John and the Great Siege of 1565; when a small garrison of the famous Knights of St. John, together with a cluster of valiant Maltese defenders, managed to defeat the mighty Ottoman Empire.

A talented cast of dancers and entertainers, dressed in rich medieval costumes, shining armour and a troupe of magnificent steeds, entertain, excite and amuse audiences during two hours of non-stop action, song and dance. Patrons will witness a colourful fusion of tribal music, folk dancing, carnival, fire dancers, knights on horseback, live battles and much more ... all highlighting Maltese culture, traditions and folk.



Built to house the staging of the live dinner show '**Malta Nights Extravaganza**' and other productions by MKIC, '**The Arena**' is an original and out-of-the-ordinary venue. It is equipped with wide-ranging theatrical light and sound systems that are used to generate extraordinary effects. The Arena lays claim to an impressive backdrop of 16th century fortifications built by master masons in real stone. With a maximum capacity of 500 sitting patrons, it is also served by its own catering facilities. All this makes 'The Arena' an ideal and original venue for symposia, conferences, product launches and other imaginative events. It is currently used every Wednesday evening, when Malta Nights Extravaganza comes alive and thrills adults and children alike!



## Argentine Tango in Malta since 1997

### Tango at El Corte 2014 – 2015



Tango in Malta owes its origin to Maestro Eric Jorissen, the director of the tango institution El Corte situated in the city of Nijmegen, 1.5hr by train away from Amsterdam in The Netherlands.

Aldo and Natalie who currently offer their teaching services with Isla del Tango owe a lot to El Corte as it has been our main tango school for our learning and our source of inspiration throughout. Maestro Jorissen still mentors the Malta Tango Community and offers 2 workshops in Malta per year.

#### New Year's Marathon December 31st 2014 – January 2nd 2015

The El Corte New Year's Marathon is the father of all Tango Marathons and has drawn a loyal group of veteran Tango marathoners since 1991.

The New Year's Marathon is non-stop dancing and socializing with an extraordinary group of Tango dancers from around the world. Free refreshments are served throughout the 31 hours, with dancers bringing party food to contribute to the 'endless' buffet.

31 Hours of dancing, socializing, eating and drinking... Is there a better way to end one year and start the next? Spend New Year 2014 – 2015 dancing tango in El Corte.

#### 21st International Week Monday July 6th – Sunday July 12th 2015

Six solid days of Tango with dancers from around the world! El Corte's International Week is an intense Tango experience with a balance of unscheduled time and workshops taught by Eric, Komala, Claartje, Stefan, and others.

To keep the international flavor, there is an initial limit of 10 people for each country of residence, so register early or you may miss your opportunity to participate.

*All participants have to take the*

- **BASIC PACKAGE for € 250**, which comprises: 30 hours of dancing – 1 practica – 3 classes – coffee & tea until 22:00hr – surprise day – warm lunch from TUE till SAT

*As a recommended add on you can buy*

- **A WORKSHOP PACKAGE for € 100**, which comprises of 5 workshops to be chosen out of 15

*For those who want to stay in El Corte, you can buy an additional*

- **SLEEPING PACKAGE for € 100**, which gives you breakfast, showers and a sleeping spot downstairs from MON night till MON morning ( week later ) you have to bring your own towel, mattress and bag

<http://isladeltango.com/>



## NEXT ISSUE WILL BE DEDICATED TO AUSTRALIA DAY 2015

### Two Maltese-language cartoons reinterpret popular fairy tales to provide more inclusive message

Tuesday, 6 January 2015

Two cartoons which reinterpret popular fairy tales to provide a more inclusive message were launched by President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca at the Verdala Palace this morning.

The Maltese-language cartoons, which reinterpret *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, were produced through a collaboration between NGO Write Deal and the National Council for the Maltese Language.

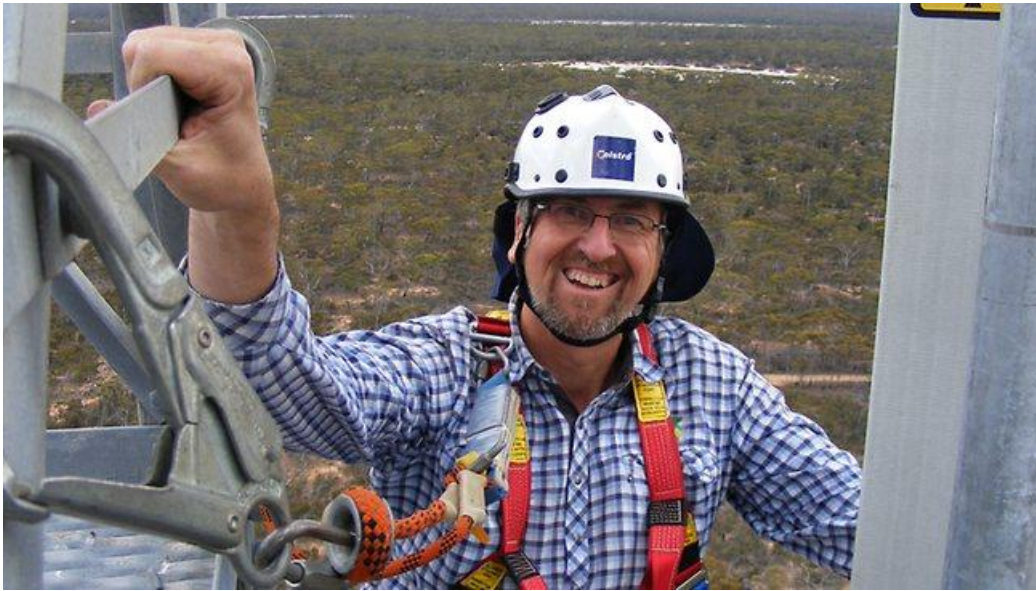


The cartoons will be distributed to every Maltese school, uploaded on the internet and shown before the start of films in cinema, and should also be provided to TV stations at a later date, project coordinator Ruth Frendo announced. The aim of the project was to reinterpret stories whose message may be discriminatory or against human rights.

The retelling of *The Emperor's New Clothes* emphasises that no one should be judged on the basis of their national or ethnic origin, while the reinterpretation of *Sleeping Beauty* seeks to emphasise gender equality, promoting the message that one's gender should not be an obstacle to achieving one's goals.

President Coleiro Preca welcomed the message told by the two cartoons, stating that it was important to strengthen such messages within Maltese society, particularly among children. Fostering the values being promoted, she said, would help strengthen Maltese society and democracy. The President also emphasised the importance of the Maltese language, as did the council's president Ray Fabri, who urged parents to use Maltese as much as possible when they are speaking with their children. The cartoons were made possible with the assistance of SOS Malta, and through the EEA Grants NGO Malta Programme.

## IN THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK



### Just a few snakes for company

[The Australian](#) TONY AQUILINA could be Australia's most remote worker. The Telstra mobile phone radio equipment installer covers almost two-thirds of Australia during his rounds, travelling thousands of kilometres through Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia.

He has worked at Giles Weather Station - 750km west of Alice Springs and 800km north of Kalgoorlie - and at Surveyor General's Corner where WA, SA and the Territory meet. "You often end up in a swag for a night or two," Aquilina says.

"I can do a couple of nights without a shower, I have a portable one but I don't use it. I take enough food to get by, I've got a portable fridge in my vehicle, I've got a portable camping stove and a frypan and a kettle."

Aquilina, 52, has worked for Telstra for 20 years and Perth is his base. He works three weeks on and one week off. His companion is his four-wheel-drive and he tows a trailer with his tools. "I've come across snakes regularly - fortunately I've never had a serious accident or serious breakdown," he says.

One night last year at a remote base station in the Kimberley, Aquilina was sleeping at ground level with only a mosquito net for protection when he heard rustling in the grass. "These two snakes came through the wire and they were really aggressive, they were hissing and rearing up," he says.

"I was a bit panicky for a while ... I didn't want to jump out of the mosquito zone because I thought they might chase me and I was barefoot. "They eventually slithered away."

Last year, Aquilina was about 100km from Warburton, 1500km northeast of Perth, when he found a group of eight Aboriginal indigenous people whose four-cylinder car had broken down. He eventually towed them to town, using a rope they fashioned from seatbelts. Three kids and a mother shared his two-seater cabin, with four others hitching a lift in the car.