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THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER - LINKING THE MALTESE DIASPORA
WEBSITE: www.ozmalta.page4.me



The photograph includes the High Commissioner, Ms Lambert, along with the President of Malta, Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and her husband Mr Preca (in the background) and Mr George. W. Vella M.P., Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Australia Day Reception, 2 February 2015

Your Excellency, President Coleiro Preca
The Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella
The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Carmelo Abela
The Parliamentary Secretary for EU Affairs, Dr Ian Borg
Members of Parliament
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
Fellow Australians and Friends

Thank you for joining us this evening to help us celebrate our National Day. Australia Day; it is a day for all Australians, either in Australia or around the world, to celebrate our nation, but to also reflect on our history, on contemporary Australia, on our achievements as a nation and people, on our disappointments and how we can do better, on the core values of our liberal democratic society, and to reflect also on what we want for our future. This year on Australia Day we welcomed 16,000 new Australian citizens.

It is a tradition on Australia Day to honour members of the community who have stood out through their personal endeavours and experiences. The Committee for the Order of Australia announces the recipients for medals in that Order, and I am pleased to note that Mr Virgil Bugeja, from the Friends of Australia in Malta, was a recipient for his services to the community and pleased that he is with us this evening. Well done Virgil.

The National Australia Day Committee also announces the Australian of the Year, the Young Australian of the Year, the Senior Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero. This year for the first time all of the award recipients are women.

The Australian of the Year is Rosie Batty, a campaigner against family violence. Her 11 year old son Luke was killed in February last year by his father while Luke was playing at the local cricket grounds. This very public act, and Rosie's determination to give voice to victims of violence, has been an important shift in attitudes, importantly that domestic violence is not a private matter, it is an issue for society, men and women, as a whole to address.

The Young Australian is Drisana Levitzke-Gray, the fifth generation in her family to be born deaf, Drisana is dedicated to helping other deaf people and advocating their human rights. Born into a family with deaf parents, a deaf brother and a deaf extended family, Drisana cherishes her first language, Auslan – the sign language of the deaf community in Australia. She promotes the deaf community as one without borders and one of rich language, culture, history and traditions. In 2014, Drisana became the first deaf Auslan user to fulfil her civic duty as a juror. Drisana is the embodiment of the concept of 'deaf gain', not 'hearing loss', inspiring the deaf community, and encouraging others to accept diversity.

The Senior Australian is Jackie French, an author and conservationist, and a tireless advocate for children with learning difficulties. As the current national Children's Laureate, Jackie is travelling the country to promote literacy and share the transformational power of reading, creativity and story-telling in the lives of young Australians. Jackie is also a director of The Wombat Foundation that raises funds for research into the preservation of the endangered northern hairy nosed wombat.

And the Local Hero is Juliette Wright, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of GIVIT, an online portal she created to safely connect and inspire a network of givers, and to support communities by ensuring local donors give to local residents in need. In 2011, when Queensland was hit by devastating floods, GIVIT became the state government's official website for matching donors and recipients – with 1.8 million hits resulting in 33,500 goods matched in three weeks. Juliette's positive 'can do' attitude inspires others to embrace philanthropy and she has just launched GIVIT Kids, a safe online platform for children to give new or pre-loved belongings.

On Australia Day we also recognise the unique status of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The National Australia Day Council seeks to play a part in the journey of Reconciliation by helping all Australians to move forward with a better understanding of our shared past, and importantly how this affects the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today and how we can build a better future together.

Australia will continue to have an ever evolving and ever diversifying population. This helps to build a resilient society, create a strong economy, drives prosperity and builds Australia's future.

The Maltese community in Australia has been and continues to be one of the major success stories in the evolution of multicultural Australia. Over 164,000 people in Australia identify themselves as having Maltese heritage, and more than 50,000 people left the shores of Malta and Gozo from the 1950s and onwards to seek a new life for themselves and their families in Australia. The Australia-Maltese community has made its mark in the business, professional, cultural, political, academic and sporting spheres.

These strong people-to-people links have underpinned the depth and real warmth between Australia and Malta. We continue to build on the relationship, and it was very pleasing to reflect on the past year's developments in expanding links in the areas of culture, arts and education.

The visit by the delegation of young trainee teachers from the Australian Catholic University was one such example. The students told me afterwards that a highlight for them, all young women, was the opportunity to meet with you and the inspiration that gave them to pursue their careers.

In September 2014 Malta marked its 50th anniversary of independence, it was also the 50th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Australia and Malta. We were very pleased to work in close collaboration with the Argotti Botanic Gardens in Floriana and the Australian National Botanic Garden in Canberra to create an Australian plant collection to mark this anniversary. The collection will be located near to the ANZAC Memorial that was so generously funded by the community.

Our two countries have also stood together in the dark times too, Malta and the Maltese people have been there for us during the wars and social and political upheavals of the 20th century, the nursemaid of the Mediterranean and safe haven for those in need. Malta provided safe haven for the thousands of people evacuating Libya in 2011, which included a number of Australians, and again in July and August of 2014.

An important event this year will be the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign and the story of the Anzacs, the Australian and New Zealand soldiers, who fought beside so many soldiers in that terrible and costly campaign. Many of the sick and wounded were brought to Malta for care, over 55,000 troops and 2,500 officers.

We will be holding our Anzac Day ceremony in Malta on 25 April at 10 am at the Pieta Military Cemetery. To mark the occasion of the 100th anniversary we have worked in collaboration with a range of Maltese cultural and heritage organisations to create over more than two weeks a range of Anzac activities that look in particular at the impact on Malta and the Maltese people. While dates are not yet public I can confirm there will also be visits by the Young Endeavour Sailing ship, a replica of Captain Cook's ship that discovered Australia in 1788, and HMAS Anzac.

I encourage you to visit the High Commission's webpage for details and updates, events will include exhibitions, Anzac discovery trails, the program for the 25 April concert by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, and much more. I would also like to announce that the Anzac Address this year will be given by New South Wales Justice Peter Zahra, the highest ranking Justice in Australia of Maltese Heritage.

Australia and Malta share a commitment to the upholding of democratic values, to human rights and equal opportunity, the rule of law, and to the promotion of peace and security. We look forward to working together with our Maltese friends and colleagues here, and in international forums such as the UN and the Commonwealth, to promote a better and safer world for our peoples and the people of other countries.

We are working with the Maltese government on its preparations for its hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, often referred to as CHOGM, which will be held later this year - ten years since Malta hosted CHOGM in 2005. Australia strongly supports Malta's objectives for moving the Commonwealth forward and looks forward to being an active participant in the meetings to be held in November this year.

It is my pleasure to conclude by thanking you all for joining me and my colleagues from the Australian High Commission and members of the Australian community to help us celebrate Australia's national day and it is my great pleasure to propose a toast to the health and well-being of Her Excellency the President of Malta, Mrs Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and of the people of Malta and Gozo. Thank you



**Fi tmiem il-Prezidenza
tal-E.T. George Abela**

Ma kontx naf illi twelidek
Hu lejliet festa hekk kbira
Ta' San Ġorġ megalomartri
Li id-dinja tħobb, tammira!

Għamlu sewwa tawk dan l-isem,
Jiena ċert l'int kburi bih;
Kulfejn tmur, dlonk gorru miegħek
U tiffhirek fis agħtih!

Il-Belt Pinto, bħal Victoria,
Kburin b'żewġ tempji mis-sbieħ
Li lil dal-Martri ta' Lydda
Iħobbuh, jgħozżuh bi shih!

Illum jien se nitfa' ħarsti
Fuq dal-Qaddis patrunk tiegħek
Biex fi tmiem dil-Prezidenza
Pass pass issa jimxi miegħek.

U flimkien ma' martek Marg'ret
Jidhol jgħammar fid-dar tagħkom
U jagħtikom għomor, saħħa,
Kif ukoll tgawdu 'l uliedkom.

F'isem dan il-poplu tagħna
Nizzikħajr mill-fond ta' qalbi
Ta' dak kollu l'għamilt magħna –
Ibqa' ċert sa nżommok f'talbi.

Il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha
Huma ħafna mkabbra bik;
Int tassew iben denn Malta –
Stima kbira għandhom għalik!

Għaliex bit-tbissima tiegħek
Inti rbaht tagħna l-qlub
U quddiem il-gwaj, in-niket,
Arak tmiel, malajr iddub.

U allura dan il-poplu
Kif maż-żmien jista' jinsik!
Mur issa strieħ fil-familja
Dan-nazzjon hu kburi bik!

Ġorġ Abela gie biex jibqa'
U daħal go qalb kulħadd –
Għal ħidmietu, irġulitu
Minn quddiemna ma jgħib qatt!

**Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Għawdex
19-03-2014**



Kangaroo on the loose in snowy Austria



Published: 11:26 am, Thursday, 29 January 2015

A kangaroo is on the loose in frigid and snowy Austria, hopping his way toward dispelling a famous slogan. 'No kangaroos in Austria' T-shirts and souvenirs have been big sellers for years in the alpine nation, since some people confuse Austria with Australia.

Anton the kangaroo bounded away from his owner several weeks ago and has been living rough ever since, disappearing into forested land every time someone tries to capture him. State-run broadcaster ORF posted a photo of the Australian marsupial on Wednesday sitting in a snowy backyard near the town of Braunau on the border with Germany. Anton

looks fit and is expected to find enough food to survive the winter.



Nostalgia - Goats in the streets of a village in Malta

CITTA' UMILISSIMA – MOST HUMBLE CITY - VALLETTA

The Victory news spread widely throughout Europe. Praise and money showered from the grateful Kings of Europe on the Grand Master and the heroic Maltese. King Philip of Spain, proclaimed the Grand Master Jean De La Valette as THE GREATEST HERO OF HIS TIME and presented Him with a sword, its handle was made of gold and encrusted with diamonds. Praise to the Order and the Maltese also came from Pope Pius IV, who promised to give attention to the ruins caused by the war.



Though the rejoicing was great in Malta, many Knights were disturbed by the devastated Island. With scarcity of food, the crumble bastions, ruins everywhere and fearing that the Turks will attack and try to capture Malta again, many Knights were planning to leave Malta. The Grand Master La Valette was very upset when he learned of this plan.

The Grand Master had grown to love Malta and made it very clear with his brethren, saying, that He was never going to leave Malta, the land in which many noble people lost their life. La Valette, insisted that a city should be built on Mount Sceberras in honor of the great Victory over the Turks. This proposal of the Grand Master La Valette was encouraged by the Kings of Europe who pumped huge sums of money for this great project. The new Pope, Pius V, sent his own architect, Francesco Laparelli to help the Knights with the building of the new city.

ARCHITECT FRANCESCO LAPARELLI

Engraving of Francesco Laparelli da Cortona (from a portrait painted in 1568) wearing the chain and medallion presented to him by Grand Master Jean de la Valette at the foundation of Valletta on 28th March 1566. [De Venuti, Filippo, Vita del Capitano Francesco Laparelli da Cortona, (Livorno, 1761)]

The Grand Master fixed the 28th. March 1566 for the laying of the foundation stone. The people of Malta flocked to the spot, tents were erected and flags were hoisted all over the sides of the peninsula. When the Grand Master Jean De La Valette arrived on the spot at 8 am, the Maltese greeted Him with loud cheers and gun salute were fired from Fort St. Angelo. Then Grand Master La Valette, went on to laying the first foundation stone of the new city, with his own hands. This great moment has sent the Maltese in loud cries of joy and gun salute were fired again.



Soon afterwards the work force of Malta was deployed on the project. In fear of another Turkish invasion, [such an invasion never materialized] priority was given to the building of the bastions and the rebuilding of Fort St. Elmo. The building of the city was going steady everyday, including Sundays. The city project was entrusted into the hands of the famous Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar, after Laparelli left the Island. The Grand Master La Valette, passed most of his time inspecting the works and chatting with the workers, this was not a common thing to do in those days, when taken into consideration that, the rank of a Grand Master was considered to that of a Sovereign. But the Grand Master loved the Maltese and the workers found his chatting an encouraging gesture.

GIROLAMO CASSAR

The Grand Master Jean De La Valette, was not destined to see the completion of the new city.

In late July 1568, the 74 year old Grand Master La Valette, fell very ill and after three weeks of fever, on the 21st. August 1568, He passed away after reigning over the Order for eleven years, leaving behind Him a reputation of a Great Soldier and Statesman. The Grand Master was buried in the church of Our Lady of the Victory, in Valletta. The City of Valletta was Named after the courageous Grand Master La Valette.



Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

Serving the Maltese community in Victoria, Australia since 1958

<http://www.mccv.org.au>

Virgil Bugeja awarded Order of Australia Medal

02 Feb 2015



Mr Virgil Bugeja of St Julians, Malta was among those who were awarded the Order of Australia Medal announced in the Australia Day Honours List on 26 January. His award was in recognition for service to international relations through the Friends of Australia Association in Malta.

Mr Bugeja is Secretary General of Friends of Australia Association (Malta), a position he has held since 2001. The Friends of Australia Association is devoted to fostering connections between the Maltese in Australia and those living in Malta. It facilitates the High Commission's work in promoting Australian interests in Malta.



In 2004 Mr Bugeja was involved in the Social Security Agreement in Malta, 2004 and has worked closely with Centrelink regarding pensions and payments for Australian residents living in Malta. He acts as advisor for Australian pensioners living in Malta and assists with the preparation of documents for Australian senior citizens living in Malta.

Virgil Bugeja is second from left with the other Friends of Australia Association (Malta) FOAA committee members (from left Sandra Taliana, Chev. Tony Cutajar, Myriam Pavia, Joe Pavia and Albert Camilleri on the

occasion of the presentation of the Australian medal to Chev. Cutajar in August 2012.

About Lou Drofenik

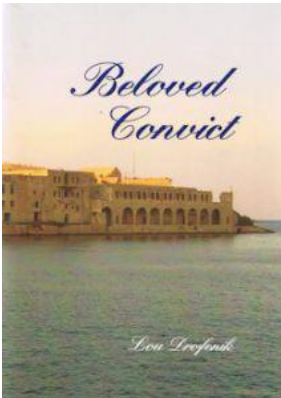


Lou was born in Birkirkara (née Zammit), the eldest of eight children and for a time taught at Siggiewi Primary school. She migrated to Australia in 1962. She obtained her B.Ed, M.Ed and Ph.D from La Trobe University in Melbourne. Since then, she has been an educator in the Catholic Primary School System and has held various positions of responsibility. Lou is one of the most prolific of Maltese-Australian writers in Australia at the moment. She wrote her first novel *Birds of Passage* in 2005, and since then she has written *In Search of Carmen Caruana* (2007)^[1], *Of Cloves and Bitter Almonds* (2008), and *Cast the Long Shadow* (2010).

In her writing we see her depicting the state of Maltese women going back to the beginning of the 20th century. This was in marked contrast to their new life in Australia.

What stands out in her writing is her ability to portray the more liberating atmosphere in Australia compared to that in Malta. She describes life in Malta as patriarchal and antiquated.

The liberating effect of migration is indeed a major aspect of her work. Her characters seem to breathe fresh air as soon as they leave the relative safety and comfort of their family to tackle the unknown in a foreign land.



She is particularly moved by evidence of women leading a second-class existence in their homeland as a result of the conditions imposed by males in power. This existence was often aided and abetted by the women themselves who felt that this was their lot in life. Any deviation was neither tolerated by society nor by the Church which emphasized that a woman's role was to be an obedient wife and an exemplary mother.

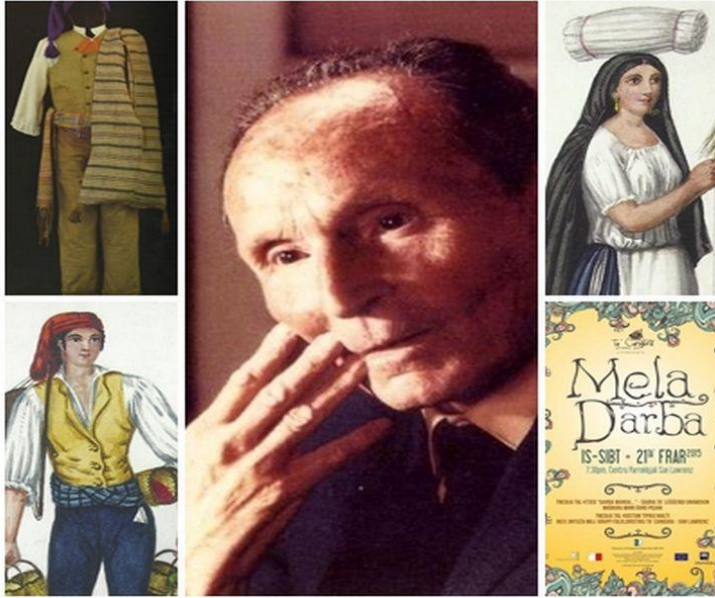
Because they could not change society in Malta, Drofenik's characters prefer to leave their country of origin and start afresh. They therefore appear 'progressive', 'free', and are better able to escape the conditions that condemned their mothers to a position of social and economic inferiority. As Drofenik herself tells us: "From the moment I arrived in Australia I knew that I was in a place where I had a hand in forming my future. In this country I would own myself. Have a new identity, an identity which I myself would forge, unshackled by whose daughter or niece or grand-daughter I was. Here I would be me. No one would ask me ever again 'What does your father do?'"

Other issues tackled in Drofenik's novels deal with women's rights over their own bodies, evinced in episodes dealing with female sexuality and its repercussions on husbands, boyfriends and fathers. ^[i]

Drofenik's most recent novel, *Beloved Convict*, is based on the true story of a Maltese national sent to the penal Colony of NSW for the term of fourteen years. As such, it can be considered to be a historical novel, although it is woven into an intriguing and complex narrative which brings history to life as no textbook can.

One cannot but be impressed with the in-depth research that the author has undertaken which resulted in tracing Salvatore Diacono's movements from the moment of his indictment in Malta, to his life in Australia as a convict and later as a freed man.

This book relates the story of movement along the Mediterranean, sailing to various ports, studying overseas, criss-crossing between Malta and Italy, and eventually, having the main character transported to Australia in 1820 as a convict.



GEORGE PISANI – POET

The Ta' Cangura – San Lawrenz Folk Group, has announced that on Saturday, the 21st of February, it will be launching its second publication in a span of six months.

Following last October's publication of the booklet "Dawra Durella u loghob iehor ma Wenzu u Xmejxa," outlining the way in which traditional Maltese games were played, the group is once again availing itself of EU funds to publish a booklet that brings together unpublished legends compiled by George Pisani.

This publication was made possible thanks to the help and cooperation of Notary Paul George Pisani, the author's son. On the same occasion, the group will also be presenting a new traditional Maltese costume, to be used by its dancers and those of the traditional Carnival dance better known as "il-Kummettiva."

This active folk group within the small community of San Lawrenz, Gozo, has recently launched various new initiatives that breathe new life not only to various traditional aspects of Gozitan tradition, but also to particular elements of this village's unique identity.

The locality of San Lawrenz, in the westernmost part of the island, is not only endowed with particular areas of natural beauty like Dwejra Bay, but also by typical aspects that distinguish it from other rural villages in Malta and Gozo.

Notably amongst these is "il-Kummettiva," a traditional Carnival dance re-introduced in the village last October after an absence of decades. Through the assistance of EU funds provided under the LEADER programme and the professional research of Claire Bonavia, Ta' Cangura – San Lawrenz Folk Group specially designed the typical Maltese costume to be worn for this, and other occasions.

The launching soiree of these two initiatives will be held on Saturday, the 21st of February, starting at 7.30pm at the San Lawrenz Parish Hall, and will be animated by Marica Mizzi.

A major part of this project is co-financed by the European Union through the LEADER Project, a programme for Sustainable Rural Development in Malta, 2007 – 2013. These funds are made possible through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, 80% of which is financed by the EU and 20% by the Maltese Government.

Other information and further details about the programme may be found on www.sanlawrenz.org or www.facebook.com/dawradurellafolkfest or by sending an email to ta_cangura@mail.com

THE GREAT BATTLE OF LEPANTO 1571



After the defeat of St. Clement, The Grand Master Pietro Del Monte sent other galleys to join the Christian coalition fleet which was on expedition to defend Cyprus.

The Christian fleet consisted of 212 galleys, with 1,817 guns and manned by 28,000 fighting troops, under the Chief Commander Don Juan de Austria.

DON JUAN DE AUSTRIA The Turkish fleet consisted of 278 galleys, with 755 guns and 37,000 fighting troops commanded by Kaptan Ali Pasha.

KAPTAN ALI PASHA



It was the 7th. of October 1571, when the Christian and the Turkish fleets met in the Gulf of Lepanto. The battle started when the Turks set out to attack two Christian galleys which they mistook to be merchant supply galleys. As the Turks drew near, the two Christian galleys opened fire and said to have sunk 70 Turkish galleys and this surprised attack had also disrupted the Turks formations and plans. A ferocious battle broke out and such was its fury, that this battle is recorded in history to be one of the most bloodiest and decisive battles fought at sea.

The Battle of Lepanto, H. Letter, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich/London.

Formation of fleets just before contact.



The Battle of Lepanto - Artist JUAN LUNA

At the end of the five-hour battle, the Victory was that of the Christians, but both sides had great losses. The Christian army lost 7,500 men but freed 10,000 Christian galley slaves. The Christians also lost 17 galleys among them, the flagship of the Maltese Knights which was captured by Ali Pasha but had to cut the tow on the Maltese flagship to get away. When Ali Pasha arrived at Constantinople, he presented the Maltese flag to his Sultan Selim II who from his side bestowed upon him the honorary title of Kilic and became known as Kilic Ali Pasha.



The Turkish army lost 32,000 men and 187 galleys.

For the Christians this victory meant an encouraged hope for the downfall of the Turks, their enemies. For Malta this Victory meant a hope that no great Turkish army could launch an attack on the Island.

In just a few months but with great effort the Ottoman Empire managed to rebuilt its navy, but still the Turkish did lost their supremacy in the Mediterranean and so they did avoid major confrontation with Christians galleys.



MALTA – DIK IT-TIKKA F'NOFS IL-BAHAR MEDITERRAN
A SPECK OF DUST IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



What about the Maltese diaspora?

Greater Malta, or the Maltese diaspora, is not a term often used. It is somewhat of a contentious term. Although the term diaspora has been with us since time immemorial, the phenomenon has not yet been given the time of day in political debate. The concept of Greater Malta was very much on the agenda at the Conventions for Maltese Abroad held Malta. But like most of the issues raised at conventions, the subject was never taken seriously by the Maltese authorities.

The government and the people of Malta should embrace the concept of a Greater Malta to include Maltese residing overseas. The government of Malta should develop legislation, policies and programs to affirm the Greater Malta concept and all the subsequent legislation should be compliant with this concept.

How appropriate would it be if persons of Maltese descent dispersed around the world are given equal opportunities to fill vacancies in Malta that usually go to foreigners.

When we speak of the diaspora we refer to any people or ethnic population forced or induced to leave their traditional ethnic homelands; being dispersed throughout other parts of the world, and ensuing developments in their dispersal and culture. The term fits the Maltese Islands like a glove. So many hundreds of thousands have left our small islands to seek new horizons across the sea, mostly in Australia. History is replete with diaspora-like events.

The same applies to Malta as our country can be both a contributor and a beneficiary of the globalisation process. We are very much aware of the enormous contribution Malta has made to Australia by providing that continent with a ready-trained army of healthy, educated and skilled workers.

In turn, migrants provided the safety valve for the economic revival of the Maltese Islands but, most importantly, the same work force that migrated between 1954 and 1997 repatriated millions of liri to Malta, a significant form of foreign aid, when Malta really needed financial help.

The future is a world without boundaries. Nationalistic pride will be needed to preserve the identity and history of Malta. The concept of a Greater Malta will give us back the sons and daughters of Maltese citizens scattered around the world as a result of wave after wave of migration.

Anne Parnis – A token of appreciation



Anne was born in Sliema and was educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart. She has had a colourful life, having lived much of her early married life with her husband, Roger, in Nigeria. In 1978, they migrated firstly to South Australia and then to NSW, following which they spent two years in Papua New Guinea and then settled in Adelaide in the late eighties. Together with her sister Helen, they first published their book *Recipes from Malta*, which was later followed by *The Food and Cookery of Malta*. Both these books were written under their maiden name of Caruana Galizia. It is justified for all Maltese, and not only those living in

Australia, to feel proud of these achievements by persons of Maltese origin. They will undeniably leave a mark on the increasing corpus of literature which in many cases owes its origin to influences first experienced in Malta. In other instances, the Maltese connection is more tenuous, a feature one will expect to become more and more evident with subsequent generations of Maltese-Australian writers.

Rain, rain, don't go away' in new Catch the Drop project



Young students of the Qrendi Primary School – St Benedict College proudly stand beneath the new water tanks in their school.

Collecting rainwater and reusing it in the school's facilities is now possible using the three 1,000 litre water tanks which have been funded by HSBC Malta's Water Programme – Catch the Drop.

During a special assembly featuring water songs and poems, all school students also received a funnel and a plastic bottle to take

home and replicate the concept. The school's water conservation proposal has been selected by the HSBC Water Programme - Catch the Drop as one of the 21 winning entries of the last scholastic cycle.

The winning entries for the School Outreach Programme (individual students) and Community Outreach Programme (schools, local councils) will be announced by end of March 2015.



TATTOOING IN MALTA

It is, without a doubt, a momentous occasion; a milestone event that up until a few years ago, many would have thought impossible to ever happen on an island with a relatively insular mindset. And yet it has, the first edition of the Malta Tattoo Expo was held in Malta last year.

It featured not only local and international tattoo artists, but also live music, re-enactments and more. It's no secret that tattoos are an acquired taste, but there are reasons to admire this ancient art even if you're not quite into getting inked yourself.

MISS MALTA UNITED AND MISS PERSONALITY

The Malta United Soccer Club organised for the first time a Grand Ball in 1973 during which the Miss Malta United and Miss Personality were chosen. The function was held at the Greek Hall, Port Adelaide and was attended by over 600 guests. Miss Malta United was crowned by the then Premier of South Australia Hon Don Dunstan.



Miss Personality J. Zammit and Miss Malta United Doris Desira (Photo: J Darnenia)

TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND - ZURRIEQ, MALTA



A group of Maltese/South Australians, supporters of the Zurrieq Carmelite Society, donated an Australian flag and the South Australian 'Piping Shrike' to the Queen of Victories Band of Zurrieq in 1983. Mr Daniel Caruana was appointed the official representative of the Zurrieq Carmelite Society in South Australia. The photo shows the flag and the emblem. From left to right: J. Schembri, A. Abdilla, Father E. Zammit OFM (chaplain), D. Caruana (organiser) Z. Caruana, T. Camilleri, E. Camilleri, C. Caruana, J. Briffa and T. Abdilla.

FILM STAR – TENUR MALTI - Oreste Kirkop

Oreste Kirkop was born in Hamrun (Malta) in 1923. He was the 5th child of a family of 10 kids. He



started to realise his singing capabilities while singing in the shelters during war time. Afterwards he started learning from Maltese tenor Nicolo Baldachino. Oreste made his operatic debut in 1945 as Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. He continued singing opera with visiting Italian companies and appeared in concert with Tito Gobbi and Maria Caniglia. In 1948, he met Maltese baritone Joseph Satariano who encouraged him to start an opera career in the UK.

In 1950, he moved to the United Kingdom and sang principal tenor roles with the Carl Rosa Opera Company, later with Sadler's Wells (1952) singing Turiddu, Mario Cavaradossi, and Rodolfo in *Luisa Miller*. He appeared on BBC TV as Canio in *Pagliacci*.

In 1954, Kirkop made his Covent Garden debut as the Duke in *Rigoletto* and later as Rodolfo in *La bohème*. A contract with Paramount Pictures led to the leading role of François Villon in the 1956 film version of *The*

Vagabond King.



Bust of Oreste Kirkop in Hamrun, Malta.

He sang opera at Las Vegas and the Hollywood Bowl and appeared on NBC TV in pioneering productions of *Madame Butterfly*, *La traviata* and *Rigoletto*.

In 1958, he returned to Covent Garden and retired in 1960. He got married in Malta on 15 August 1963 to his wife Therese and had two daughters, Anita and Susan. After getting married, he retired completely from singing at the young age of 37. His retirement was mainly due

to heart problems after being told by doctors that he might die on stage if he continued his singing career after the age of 40. Oreste Kirkop died aged 74 on 10 May 1998.



THE SPIRIT
LIVES
2014 - 2018

Hospitals and Convalescent Camps MALTA – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

To cater for the over 135,000 sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns there were numerous hospitals and convalescent Camps throughout Malta and Gozo. The Australian and New Zealanders soldiers were treated in various hospitals and Convalescent Camps. Listed below are but a few of the many Hospitals and Convalescent Camp that were on Malta to treat the sick and wounded.

Station Hospital is now known as the [Mediterranean Conference Centre](#) located at Mediterranean St, Il-Belt Valletta. Tours are conducted through this Centre by the Malta Experience.

Lazzaretto Hospital on Manoel Island can still be viewed from any of the tour boats conducting the harbour cruises from Sliema.

Bavière Hospital was situated in the Auberge de Bavière. The Auberge de Bavière has an ancient and honourable history, having been the headquarters of the Anglo-Bavarian Knights of St. John located at San Bastjan, Valletta. It now houses the main offices of the GPD, including the Director General's Office, the Finance & Administration Directorate, The Estate Management Directorate, the Land Directorate and the Joint Office Directorate.

St Elmo Hospital was previously a government school that was converted in to a hospital. St. Elmo specialised as a surgical hospital. The hospital was located at Fort St Elmo at the north end of the Grand Harbour. It was well ventilated and overlooked the breakwater.

Fort Chambray Hospital Gozo served as an excellent Convalescent Depot (camp) during the First World War, relieving the crowded camps on Malta.

Mtarfa Hospital was commissioned in 1912. It was used during World War I to hold many of injured Australian and New Zealand troops from the Gallipoli landings. It was expanded enormously during the Second World War. In the 1950s it was renamed the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital, after the doctor who discovered the root cause of Malta fever or Brucellosis. It has since been converted to a state secondary school, named after Sir Temi Zammit, part of St Nicholas College.

Cottonera Hospital is now [St Edward's College](#) providing an excellent all round education, including an IB 6th Form, to its students and also very proud of its heritage as the Cottonera Hospital. Visit the beautiful grounds of St Edward's College and get a feel of what it may have been like as an Australian or New Zealand soldier to have been a patient at the World War I, Cottonera Hospital. St Edward's College have also set up a permanent display of the history of the College when it was known as the Cottonera Hospital.

Għajn Tuffieħa Camp Hospital. Għajn Tuffieħa, situated 10 miles directly west of Valletta in a charming valley near the sea, with hills on either side. Għajn Tuffieħa had already been used as a camp in peace time, partly by the army and partly by the navy, being in great request as a summer holiday resort both by officers and men.

Australia Hall. The area around Pembroke had a number of convalescent camps such as All Saints, St Pauls, and Spinola Camp. Australia Hall was built after the sum of £2,000 (pounds) was raised through donations by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross, at the time, to provide a place of amusement and social activities. Australia Hall was used for shows for the Forces between the wars and also during the Second World War. ~

Reserve your copy of the 'limited edition' commemorative book MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. Email to Frank Address: honconsul@live.com.au

Human Rights Medal finalist Dr John Falzon: 'I take my orders from the people'



Dr John Falzon,* nothing is more constructive or rewarding than his direct involvement in community advocacy for disadvantaged Australians.

"I take my orders from the people and when the people give me the feedback that I'm doing my duty then that is a matter for great satisfaction."

Dr Falzon, the chief executive of the St Vincent de Paul Society, says that recognising the need for social justice advocacy has been part of who he is for as long as he can remember.

As the son of a Maltese working class migrant family raised in Blacktown, the outer Western suburbs of Sydney, he was exposed to "the struggle of ordinary people to be able to live

with dignity and fight injustice" from a young age.

This early experience led Dr Falzon to sociology, theology and politics. These areas of study, he says, help him "analyse the structural causes of poverty and inequality" and aide his efforts to increase public awareness of social equity through his media presence and works in print.

Nevertheless, Dr Falzon believes that advocating for the rights of disadvantaged Australians begins and ends with hands-on community involvement and practical work.

"The greatest source of education for me has come from the people who are forced to live on the margins. I've been very lucky in my life to be entrusted with their stories and to listen to them and learn from them."

Acting on behalf of more than 60,000 members and volunteers, Dr Falzon is committed to the development of social policy "from below", arguing that constructive change needs to be firmly grounded in and never stray from the lived reality of injustice.

"That's really the only way that any of us who stand in solidarity with those who suffer injustice can participate meaningfully in that massive and beautiful progressive movement for social justice."

The positive community response to his personal involvement and practical advocacy motivates Dr Falzon to continue his work in human rights.

"The thing that deeply moves me and stirs my heart is when people who are experiencing exclusion and marginalisation tell me that what I'm saying and what I'm doing resonates with the reality of their lives.

"No greater reward could I ask for than for when the people that I am trying to stand in solidarity with tell me that my solidarity with them means something to them."

Dr Falzon believes that the Australian community has a long way to go in human rights issues. He is particularly concerned about the "brutalising" impact of colonisation upon Indigenous Australians, as well as injustices faced by asylum seekers, people living with disabilities, social and ethnic minorities, and those experiencing unemployment and homelessness.

For Dr Falzon, the feeling of personal responsibility in fighting against social inequality is constant and broad-ranging. "All of these forms of the denial of human rights are, for me, of the same cloth. You can't only care about one thing."



New Westminster College Press Release

**His Excellency Dr. George Cassar, LLD, Ambassador of Malta to Egypt,
appointed Distinguished Fellow of New Westminster College**



His Excellency Dr. George Cassar, BA, LLD, DFNWC
Ambassador of Malta to Egypt

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA. The Office of the President of New Westminster College announced today that His Excellency Dr. George Cassar, LLD, Ambassador of Malta, has been appointed as a Distinguished Fellow of New Westminster College.

Ambassador Dr. Cassar has a distinguished record of ethical leadership. He is a lawyer of over 40 years standing and has served as the Ambassador of Malta to the Arab Republic of Egypt since October 2012. He concurrently serves as nonresident Ambassador to Sudan and Ethiopia.

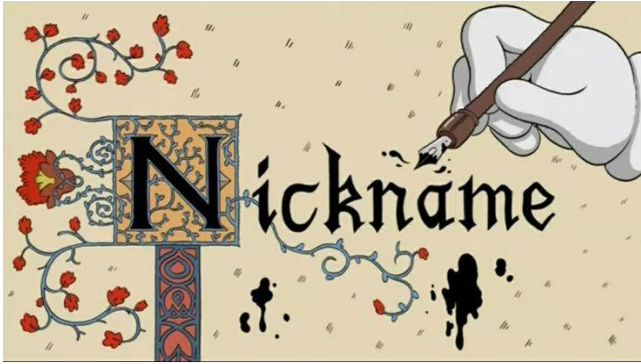
Ambassador Dr. Cassar earned a B.A. in English and Economics in 1970 and a LL.D in Law in 1973, both from Malta University. He subsequently was admitted to the Maltese Bar in 1974. In 1978, he earned a Diploma

in Air and Space Law from the University of London. His language proficiency includes, Maltese, English, Italian and Arabic.

“Ambassador Cassar is a seasoned lawyer and well respected around the world for his expertise in international relations and diplomatic affairs,” said Professor Robert Goodwin III, President of New Westminster College. “The Board of Governors and I welcome Ambassador Cassar and look forward to working with him to expand the delivery of our education programs globally.”

“I look forward to the future when I may be able to advance the interests of New Westminster College in our area of the world, the Mediterranean, particularly North Africa, especially once peace is restored in prosperous Libya,” said Ambassador Dr. George Cassar. “I look forward also to be of assistance in the other countries where I serve as non resident Ambassador, Sudan and Ethiopia, the latter interested in many ambitious educational programmes.”

As a Distinguished Fellow of New Westminster College, Ambassador Dr. George Cassar is dedicated to supporting the highest standards of academic excellence and is committed to the advancement of New Westminster College and its Global Network of Fellows.



Laqmijiet ta' xi rħula

http://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=3

Il-laqam huwa haġa mill-aktar komuni f'kull soċjetà, kemm dawk l-imsejja żviluppati, kif ukoll f'dawk li mhumix meqjusa bħala tali. L-artiklu li ġej ma jiddiskutiex il-laqam in ġenerali imma jiffoka fuq it-tradizzjoni antika ta' laqmijiet mogħtija lill-irħula Maltin u lil min jgħamarhom. Qed jitnizzlu wkoll l-aktar tifsiriet komuni l-għaliex ir-raħal

partikolari għandu dak il-laqam.

L-Islahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=4

Tal-Isla huma magħrufa bħala **Ta' Ċaċu**. Jingħad li għandhom dan il-laqam għax huma nies li jhobbu jiftahru u kellhom id-drawwa li meta issajru xi tjur, kienu jittfghu r-riz wara il-bieb biex kulhadd ikun jaf.

Il-Birguhttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=5

Lin-nies tal-belt tal-Birgu jgħidulhom **tat-Tokba**. Din hija l-kelma Maltija "toqba", biss tingħad bil-"k" minflok bil-"q" minħabba d-drawwa li għandhom in-nies tal-Birgu, bħan-nies ta' xi rħula oħra li jliissnu l-"q" bil-hoss ta' "k". Jingħad li t-Tokba hija referenza għal-post fejn imorru jgħumu n-nies tal-Birgu. Oħrajn jgħidu li t-Tokba hija referenza għal bieb ċkejken li hemm fis-sur u li jissejjah b'dan l-isem.

Bormlahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=6

Il-laqam tan-nies ta' Bormla huwa **"Ta' baħarhom"** jew **"Ta' baħar iċ-ċwieċ"**. Dan jingħad minħabba li l-baħar tagħhom ġie meħud kollu mit-[tarzna](#). Dan il-laqam illum ma jregix għax it-tarzna f'Bormla giet zarmata.

Ir-Rabathttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=7

Rabti kibx. Hekk jissejhu r-Rabtin. Kibx hija kelma oħra Maltija għal muntun. Jista' jkun li b'dan il-laqam iridu jfissru li r-Rabtin huma nies ta' rashom iebsa. Filfatt teżisti l-idjoma li tgħid *Rabti u Żebbuġi jagħmlu Lhudi* (Il-Lhud huma meqjusa bħala nies ta' rashom iebsa u li jagħmlu li jfettlilhom u għall-flus.)

Il-Furjanahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=8

Tal-kaghka u **tal-Irish**. Tal-kaghka ġej minn *traffic island* żgħira li hemm waqtli tal-Irish ġej mir-rabta li hemm bejn il-Furjana u hafna Irlandiżi li kienu jgħixu hemm u mill-gear tal-futbol li jilbsu [Floriana FC](#) aħdar u abjad li ġie mgħoti lit-tim fl-1905 mill-*Royal Irish Fusiliers*.

Hal

Għargħurhttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=9

Fil-passat dan ir-raħal kien jiġi msejjah pajjiż it-tewm, peress li hafna tewm kien jiġi prodott u mnixxef f'dan ir-raħal. L-Għargħurin ta' dari kienu magħrufin illi jisirqu t-tewm ta'xulxin, illi kien ikun fuq il-bjut biex jinxef. Dan kien jinsteraq billi kienu jdendlu qattus minn denbu ma' lasta u jresquh lejn tarf bejt. Il-qattus kien jibda jipprova jaqbad mal-bejt u b'hekk kien iwaqqa' fl-art it-tewm li kien ikun hemm fuq il-bejt.

Partijiet minn hal Għargħur li illum jagħmlu parti mis-Swieqi kienu jissejhu pajjiż il-baqar. Dan minħabba li kien hemm hafna rżiezet tal-baqar fl-inħawi.

L-Għargħurin, fil-passat, kienu magħrufin ukoll bħala tas-sikkina fost in-nies l-oħra tan-naħa ta' fuq ta' Malta. Dan minħabba illi hafna rġiel minn dan ir-raħal kienu jgħorru sikkina jew mus magħhom, fil-waqt illi n-nisa kienu jzommu fuqhom tip ta'arma msejjha dies, illi kienet forma ta' virga kemxejn hoxxa ġejja għall-ponta miz-żewġ naħat. L-Għargħurin kellhom ukoll il-fama ta' nies horox, u dan seta' wassal iktar biex jinholoq dan il-laqam.

Il-Hamrunhttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_taq%27_Malta&action=edit§ion=10

Il-Hamruniżi huma magħrufa bħala **tas-sikkina** minhabba li huma meqjusa bħala nies gellidin.

Tas-Sliemahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_tas-Sliema&action=edit§ion=11

Tax-Xelin u **Tal-pepè** huma żewġ laqmijiet tas-Slimizi. L-ewwel wiehed ġej mill-fatt li meta tas-Sliema kienet taht l-Ingliżi, dawn kienu jharsu l-isfel lejn il-Maltin kollha inkluzi is-Slimizi, u biex juru superjorita, kienu jistidnuwhom imorru l-knisja u hemm kienu jghatuhom "hobza u xelin" biex jitrejqu. It-tieni wiehed ġej mill-fatt li n-nies ta' Tas-Sliema kienu meqjusa bħala ta' klassi għolja u li jhobbu jitfgħu hafna kliem bl-Ingliż. B'hekk b'pepè jkunu jridu juru ċertu snobbizmu. Hemm min jgħid li l-kelma pepè ġejja mill-fatt li s-Slimizi kienu jsejju lil missierhom papà b'ċertu tgħawwiġ tal-ilsien minflok *missier*, *pà* jew *tà* kif kienu jsejjhulu n-nies t'irhula oħra. B'hekk hađu l-laġam tal-papà li bit-tgħawwiġ tal-ilsien inbidel f'pepè.

L-Imsidahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_L-Imsida&action=edit§ion=12

Il-Misidjani huma msejja **Tal-Hama**. Meta tinzel hafna xita l-Imsida kien (u f'xi postijiet għadu) jsofri minn għargħar. Għalhekk, mal-ilma li kien jinzel l-Imsida u jgħerreq il-post, kien jinzel hafna hama.

Birkirkarahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_Birkirkara&action=edit§ion=13

Il-Karkariżi huma magħrufa bħala **ta' sormhom ċatt**. Ma hemm ebda referenza ufficjali li tindika minfejn ġej dan il-laġam izda hafna isostnu li il-karkariżi setgħu kienu assocjati ma nies ghazzenin, li dejjem bilqegħeda.

Hal-Qormihttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_Hal-Qormi&action=edit§ion=14

Sa nofsinhar irġiel. Dan hu l-laġam marbut mal-Qriema. Hemm bosta tifsiriet għal dan. Xi wħud jgħidu li dan il-laġam ġej għax il-Qriema kienu jhobbu l-qatra wara l-ikel u għalhekk wara ma jibqgħux daqshekk f'tagħhom. Tifsira oħra hija li minhabba li Hal-Qormi huwa magħruf għall-furnara tiegħu, dawn peress li jgħaddu l-lejl jagħmlu l-hobż, wara nofsinhar kienu jmorru jistrieħu. Tifsira oħra, mhux daqshekk popolari hija li l-arloġġ tal-knisja kien waqaf fuq nofsinhar u ma baqax jaħdem u b'hekk ingħatalhom dan il-laġam.

Birzebbugahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_Birzebbuga&action=edit§ion=15

In-nies ta' Birzebbuga jsibuhom bħala **Ta' Wara l-Muntanji** għaliex ir-raħal ta' Birzebbuga jinsab fin-nofsinar nett ta' Malta f'halq il-ħuta maqtuġh minn irhula oħrajn.

Vallettahttp://mt.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ir%C4%A7ula_Valletta&action=edit§ion=16

Tal-Iljun. Il-Beltin magħrufin ta l-iljun minhabba li l-arma tal-belt kapitali, li hija mehuda mill-istemma tal-Gran Mastru La Valette. Huma ukoll magħrufin **Tal-Palestina**, għaliex huma nies gellieda u passjonali hafna, speċjalment għal Belt tagħhom.



Occupational Health & Safety Rules - repairing a wooden balcony in Valletta, Malta

Serata Letterarja f'għeluq ix-xahar mill-mewt tal-Poeta Għawdxi Dun Gorġ Mercieca



Nhar il-Ħamis 22 ta' Jannar miet fl-Isptar Ġenerali t'Għawdex Dun Gorġ Mercieca. Huwa twieled fil-Belt Victoria fis-7 ta' Settembru 1944 u f'Settembru 1962 ingħaqad mal-Kongregazzjoni Sależjana ta' Don Bosco. Beda l-istudji tiegħu tat-Teologija għand is-Salezjani ta' Catania u kompli jispēċjalizza fl-Universita' Pontificia Sależjana, Ruma.

Kien ordnat saċerdot mill-Arċisqof Gonzi fil-Kon Katidral ta' San Gwann fis-sena 1974. 11-il sena wara huwa ngħaqad mal-Kleru Djoċesan ta' Għawdex. Għadda ħajtu jgħalliem fl-iskejjel Sależjani fi Sqallija u f'Malta u kompli fl-iskejjel tal-Gvern f'Għawdex. Huwa jibqa' magħruf b'affett kbir bħala l-Poeta tal-Assunta għax din kienet il-kawża tal-ferħ tiegħu u kompli fejn kien ħalla l-poeta Marjan Ganninu Cremona,

Ta' kull sena kien jiktbilha poezija fl-okkazzjoni tal-ħruġ tagħha min-niċċa matul l-ewwel jiem ta' Awwissu. Dan l-appuntament annwali kien sagrosant għalih u mistenni mill-parruċċani kollha. Kien stabixxa ruħu bħala wieħed mill-aħjar poeti ta' żmienna u l-poeziji mirquma tiegħu jinsabu mxerrda fuq

bosta ġurnali u rivisti. L-aħħar antoloġija tiegħu kienet L-Għanja taċ-Ċinju mitbugħa fl-2006. Għal hafna snin kien id-Direttur Spiritwali tas-Socjeta filarmonika "Il Leone". Għal iktar tagħrif dwaru wiehed jista' jara l-ktieb tiegħi Profili Għawdxin stampat is-sena li għaddiet mill-Klabb Kotba Maltin.

F'għeluq ix-xahar mill-mewt tiegħu, fic-Circolo Gozitano fi Pjazza Savina Victoria, nhar il-Gimgha 20 ta' Frar 2015, fis-7pm kulhadd huwa mistieden għal Serata letterarja li sa ssir f'għieh Dun Ġorġ bis-sehem ta' diversi kittieba li kienu jafuh, fosthom John Cremona, Joe W Psaila, Charles Bezzina, Joe Camilleri, Dr Alfred Grech, Anton F. Attard, Mario Borġ, Il-Kapuċċin Patri Remiġ Galea kif ukoll Ġorġ Mercieca u Matthew Sultana li qrawlu poezija fil-Katidral fil-jum tal-funeral tiegħu. Is-sinjura Antoinette Grech ser taqra wkoll xi poeziji ta' dal-poeta li halliena fl-għomor ta' 70 sena. Għal min forsi ma kienx jafu biżżejjed, tinqara wkoll il-bijografija tiegħu. Tazza nbid għandu mnejn ma tonqosx biex tilqa' għal dal-ksieħ li qed jagħmel! **Kav Joe M Attard Kordinatur**

We would like to thank all our readers for their emails of encouragement



We thank all our friends who send newsletters, write-ups , pictures etc..

Grazzi u Sahha