# THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

# MALTESE NEWSLETTER

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE



# SPECIAL EDITION 4<sup>™</sup> CONVENTION OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

The Convention for Maltese Living Abroad

commenced in Malta on the 20 April 2015. It opened with a mass celebrated by Gozo Bishop Mario Grech at the

Russian Chapel in San Anton Palace on Monday April 12, 2015. This was followed by a reception at the palace grounds, hosted by the President of Malta H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca who welcomed the convention participants.

Here is the President's speech



It is with pleasure that I welcome you all to the Russian Chapel at San Anton Palace, for the opening of this year's Convention for Maltese Living Abroad. I extend a warm welcome to you as Maltese and Gozitans, who, in actual fact, live far from home, but still call Malta and Gozo your home and your country. I wish you all a pleasant stay in Malta, and hope that your re-union with your families and loved ones, is especially meaningful, and that you will have the opportunity to re-establish the bonds between you. I will now revert to our mother tongue, our beautiful language that identifies us as a nation, wherever we are in the world, and that I hope you still embrace our language and pass it on to your children.

II-preżenza tagħkom hawn hija prova ċara ta' kemm aħna I-Maltin irnexxhielna nimirħu lil hinn minn pajjiżna, u nilħqu I-aspirazzjonijiet tagħna, inkunu fejn inkunu. Fil-fatt, il-Maltin u Għawdxin ħutna jinsabu f'kull rokna tad-dinja.

Jien konvint li din il-preżenza qawwija madwar id-dinja hija xi ħaġa li nistgħu nibnu fuqha, u li tista' tiżviluppa aktar, għal ġid tal-komunità sħiħa Maltija, irrispettivament ta' fejn tinsab. Wara kollox, bħala komunità waħda, aħna marbutin flimkien b'kultura u I-valuri komuni, u li għandha twassalna biex nikkontribwixxu għal ġid ta' xulxin. Minn meta ħadt il-ġurament ta' President ta' Malta, sostnejt li rrid, matul il-proċess tal-Presidenza tiegħi, naħseb fil-Maltin u I-Għawdxin ħutna, li huma mxerrdin mal-erbat irjieħ tad-dinja.

Irrid insaħħaħ il-kuntatt magħhom. Irrid li flimkien inkabbru l-għarfien tagħkom l-ulied ta' dan il-ģens. Irrid nurikom li għalija, intom parti minna. Irrid ngħinkom biex tibqgħu tgħożżu l-identità Maltija.

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Ix-xewqa tiegħi hija li kull minn minnkom jixtieq li jipparteċipa b'xi mod fil-ħajja ta' pajjizna, isib l-opportunità li jagħmel dan fil-Presidenza. Fil-Presidenza, waqqaft il-Fondazzjoni għall-Ġid tas-Soċjetà, li għandha l-għan li tagħmel riċerka relevanti, xierqa u f'waqtha, għaż-żminijiet soċjali tal-lum, u timpenja ruħha mas-soċjetà għall-promozzjoni tal-paċi u l-għaqda fost il-poplu tagħna, u kull min jinsab fostna.

Minbarra dan, il-Malta Community Chest Fund, fi ftit ġranet oħra, ukoll ser issir fondazzjoni, bil-għan li tkompli tqassam ʻil fuq minn 3.5 miljun ewro kull sena, biex tipprovdi appoġġ finanzjarju għall-kura ta' nies Maltin li jkunu għaddejjin mill-marda kiefra tal-kanċer, jew mard terminali ieħor.

Din I-għajnuna tista' tingħata biss permezz tal-ģenerożità tal-Maltin u I-Għawdxin kollha, jgħixu fejn jgħixu. Jien ninkoraġġixxi lil kull minn jista' joffri I-għajnuna tiegħu, kemm finanzjarja kif ukoll, b'kull mod ieħor, biex jagħmel dan minn qalbu. Jien nemmen li, fid-dinja tal-lum, ħafna nies, inkluż iż-żgħażagħ, huma aktar motivati u għandhom sens ta' partecipazzjoni u entużjażmu kbir, biex jagħtu mill-ħin tagħhom, għall-ġid ta' ħaddieħor.

Fl-aħħar, iżda mhux I-anqas, jiena kburija bil-fatt li jien il-President tal-Maltin u I-Għawdxin kollha, u għaldaqstant, il-President tagħkom ukoll. Flimkien irridu niċċelebraw dak kollu li hu Malti, dak li jagħmilna poplu, ġens magħqud u li dejjem fittex il-paċi, lest li juri solidarjetà ma' kull min ikollu bżonn, u fl-istess ħin, poplu ferrieħi u lest li jilqa' lil kulħadd. Nirringrazzjakom minn qalbi talli ġejtu u qed tipparteċipaw bis-sħiħ f'din il-konvenzjoni. Nawguralkom suċċess f'din il-konferenza, u li tkompu d-djalogu li tibdew hawn għal ġid tal-Maltin u I-Għawdxin kolla. Nawguralkom li tkomplu żżuru lil pajjiżkom kull meta tistgħu. Dejjem ser issibu minn jilqgħakom.

#### Maltese Diaspora Monument Competition

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is planning to organise the 4th Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad in Malta during early April 2015. It is the intention of the Organising Committee of this Convention to involve to the fullest not only the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) who represents all Maltese Abroad, but the thousands of Maltese living around the world themselves.

With this purpose in mind, the Organising Committee within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is launching an international Maltese Diaspora Monument Competition open for all Maltese nationals living abroad. Free-standing monument design(s) should be original work(s), artists may apply individually or as a group, each applicant or group may submit up to three maquettes and the monument should epitomise the spirit of Malta's Diaspora and the Greater Malta concept. The maximum dimensions of the proposed monument would be 50cm long, 30cm inward and 70cm high. Artists, who might have submitted logo and memento pieces to the previous competition, may also participate in this competition and submission(s) if appropriate can be the same for both competitions.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will consider works using only the following materials: limestone, sandstone, granite, marble, ceramic, glass, wood, copper, brass and papier mâché. The final decision of selecting the maquette and the location where the monument will be placed is exclusively that of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The maquettes will become the property of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, without any prejudice if this work will be commissioned or not. The name of the artist(s) will be indicated on or next to the monument once installed and all participants will receive a certificate of participation.

All participating maquettes are to be forwarded to the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy, Malta Permanent Representation or Consulate. The final work will be chosen by an independent judge in Malta.

Works must be submitted at the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy or Malta Permanent Representation by Friday, 30 June 2014 at noon. Maquettes received after this date and time would not be considered.

# Maltese living abroad gather to share ideas, aspirations and concerns



Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Over 100 participants from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States are attending the fourth Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad, which will come to end Thursday.

The first convention was held in the late 1960s. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the convention should not serve as nostalgia for the past, but rather a vision for the future.

He said that migration today has changed. In the past, it was a one way ticket, where as today, some Maltese emigrate more than once or decide to return home after a few years.

He urged representatives of different entities across the world to unite, adding that convergence allows for better management of resources. Minister for Foreign Affairs George Vella said that the event serves as a focal point for Maltese living at all ends of the world to share their aspirations, concerns and ideas. This consultation process will allow for assistance projects to be planned and implemented.

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad, launched in 2012, surveils the standards of those living abroad, allowing for collaboration between them and authorities in their home of origin.

Mr Vella said that the government its doing its utmost to ensure that capabilities of those living abroad are used to the fullest. Maltese living abroad can serve as a powerful advert for Malta, triggering tourism and investment, he said.

He added that one can't forget the 700 Maltese missionaries spread across the world, who are putting their lives in danger for the safety of others.

Leader of the Opposition Simon Busuttil said that every Maltese family living abroad serves as an embassy for all that is Maltese. He said authorities should assist elderly citizens living abroad to communicate using their national language. For the past ten years, the Council for the Maltese Language has strived to protect the national language, and citizens living abroad do their utmost to promote the language.

Dr Busuttil said that the acquiring of Maltese passport has today become highly liberal who have the best interest for their country of origin. There are still however difficulties that some face, and these need to be sorted out.

He noted that between 2004 and 2020, Malta would have benefitted €2.5 billion of funds from the European Union and these allow for infrastructural as well as cultural projects. Maltese living abroad should also benefit from such funds, he said. Secondary school students will also be participating in the convention.

During our visit to Malta we attended and participated in the Convention and the Council meeting for Maltese Living Abroad.

We had the opportunity to meet again our relatives and friends who were so welcoming, friendly and generous and showed us the many beautiful and historical places in Malta and Gozo. It never amazes us that such small islands Malta and Gozo are so rich in history, culture, architecture and folklore. Make sure that you include MALTA in your next trip to Europe – you will be glad you did. Frank Scicluna

# The Archbishop addresses the participants of the Convention for Maltese living abroad



Stephen Deguara / Tuesday 28 April 2015

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna addressed those who attended the Convention for Maltese living abroad, at Dar I-Emigrant, Valletta.

**The Archbishop's Message** May I start by saying a big thank you. First of all as I owe so much to Canada, the land in which I was born and where I was baptised. My *papà* was one of those eleven thousand who went to Canada in 1953. He came back to find a lady, and he found *mamà*. They went back to Canada in 1958, but they decided to return just over a year after. They did not leave the baby behind, so I was brought to Malta in April 1960, at eleven months.

Our presence here at Dar tal-Emigranti in this extraordinary space, which is not only about memory but also about heritage, reminds us about the need to remember to be able to share - sharing and teaching the history of emigration to our young generations, as you have been doing. This is an important aspect of the formation of future generations because this memory will help the present as well as the future.

We Maltese in particular need to remember the history of our emigration because now we have become a hosting nation. This reminds me of the word of Scripture: "Be kind to the pilgrim, remember that once you were a pilgrim yourself". May I add to this, 'Be kind to the immigrant, remember you were once an immigrant'.

We Maltese have been blessed with the, not so easy process of finding new countries, and indeed I think we have made a very good name for us. I do not want to canonise every person who went away because I do not think this is a process of canonisation; we are not going to proclaim every person a saint, as we also had people who have been refused reentering into Australia.



Frank Scicluna presenting the commemorative book MALTA THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN to Fr. Vella at the Migration Museum – Valletta, Malta

As Mgr Philip Calleja, Fr Alfred Vella and Charles Busuttil said earlier, we need to preserve the memory. So I would like young people for example, to make it a point to go and pester our senior citizens abroad, to capture five minutes on video about their story, and send it to this museum for record. We need to tell stories, we need to listen to them, we need to be able to share our experiences. We may not have this heritage in ten years time.

Certainly it will be lost within 25 years, but the mission of this place is to teach Maltese people, especially the young, what so many thousands of Maltese went through to find a new home. My prayer is that this sort of formation will help us be a new home to those who need one, to those who need safety, who need a haven, even if it is for a few months or a few years.

May God bless your efforts to come here, especially those

who travelled long distances. I have been to many places, either as an anonymous priest or as an anonymous monsignor, doing work which I could not talk about, having, at times, a few days of holidays at the side. But now I know I need to return to your country as the Archbishop, as I would like to meet the diaspora, as the shepherd of a very large community.

You mentioned the need of pastoral care. This is a challenge as we try to find out ways of ministering to so many communities on the Island and also in Europe. Fr Vella regularly goes abroad to minister, but I understand that a fresh presence may be very beneficial. I would like you also to pray, that the Catholic church in your countries may be blessed with vocations from your own communities, because this is indeed a very special blessing.

I did go back to Canada in 1999, when I turned 40. I wanted to go with my parents, as I wanted them to show me the house where we used to live, I wanted to see the hospital, and I wanted to say mass in the Church where I was baptised. I was very lucky, because after I celebrated mass, I met the Maltese priest, Fr Vella, who had baptised me 40 years before. I went in to meet him and say thank you. He was going to celebrate his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and he said "thank you, I have baptised lots of people, two of them became priests, Scicluna and Fr Jimmy Zammit, a Franciscan". Back in March this year, during my Solemn Installation, I visited the Franciscan church on my way to the Mdina Cathedral, and I was given the birth certificate from St Paul's in Canada.

Our presence here today is important, not only for what we receive during such Conventions, and I'm sure that the Government is always interested in organising Conventions to see what they can reap from such an extraordinary wealth, but it is also very important for us to have you with us to realise that we are not talking about film heritage, but we are talking about living people, which I hope will go on through the generations. May I end by recommending a special prayer for the Egyptians who in 1956 were expelled from Egypt. This experience helps us realise that we also have dark moments in the history of our experience. We should not forget those as well. We should not forget for example, that part of the Australian experience was also sad. When we tell our history, we need to be able to share the light and the darkness because that is the source of true wisdom. Thank you.

### President of Malta meets visiting Australian Navy crew



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca received crew members of the Royal Australian Navy Vessel HMAS Anzac led by Commander Belinda Green, Commanding Officer of HMAS Anzac which is in Malta on a courtesy call. Australian High Commissioner H.E. Jane Lambert is also in attendance.



# "Interess mill-emigranti filwirt kulturali Malti"

#### 18:38 | 23.04.2015

Fost it-tieni u t-tielet ģenerazzjoni ta' Maltin li jgħixu barra minn xtutna hemm interess f'dak kollu li huwa Malti għaliex ħafna huma dawk li juru interess fil-kultura lokali u jfittxu li jżommu kuntatt f'dak li jiġri lokalment.

Dan qalu I-Ministru tal-Affarjiet Barranin, George Vella, flgħeluq mir-raba' konvenzjoni tal-Maltin li jgħixu barra li saret bejn I-20 u t-23 ta' April u li laqqgħet diversi pateċipanti li ġejjin mid-dinja kollha sabiex jiddiskutu diversi temi, fosthom lidentita' Maltija. II-Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin saħaq li liskop ta' din il-konvenzjoni kien li ġġib flimkien lill-Maltin li huma mxerdin igħixu u jaħdmu madwar id-dinja kollha. Il-

partecipanti ġew minn diversi pajjiżi fosthom I-Awstralja, il-Belġju, Franza, I-Italja, il-Ġrdan, I-Istati Uniti u I-Emirati Għarab Magħquda.

Il-programm tal-konvenzjoni nfetaħ mill-President tar-Repubblika, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, fil-Palazz ta' San Anton. Saru wkoll qari ta' papers u diskussjonijiet fuq diversi suġġetti fosthom I-identita' Maltija u I-mod ta' kif jgħixu I-Maltin barra minn pajjiżhom. Hawnhekk Vella faħħar il-valur u I-livell tal-papers ippreżentati u saħaq li se jingħata widen għall-kritika li saret u li ssir il-ħidma meħtieġa biex tkun imtejba s-sitwazzjoni.

Huwa spjega kif il-Ministeru tiegħu qed jaħdem biex tkompli titqajjem kuxjenza dwar x'wieħed għandu jifhem bl-emigrazzjoni. Hawnhekk irrefera għal żewġ inizjattivi li daħlu fis-seħħ fl-iskejjel tal-primarja, li jinkludu produzzjonijiet teatrali li jgħinu lil dak li jkun biex jifhem aħjar xi tfisser l-emigrazzjoni u biex ifakkru f'meta l-Maltin kellhom jitilqu mill-pajjiż. L-inizjattiva l-oħra kienet tinkludi esebizzjoni ta' arti fejn it-tfal kienu mħeġġa jesprimu l-idea tagħhom ta' xi tfisser l-emigrazzjoni permezz tal-arti.

II-Ministru qal li ħafna mid-diskussjonijiet saru dwar il-komunita' Maltija li tgħix fl-Awstralja, mhux biss minħabba n-numru kbir ta' Maltin li jgħixu hemm iżda wkoll minħabba l-interess li komplew juru lejn pajjiżna. L-ewwel konvenzjoni saret fl-1969. Wara din saret oħra fl-2000 u l-2010. F'din tal-aħħar sar ftehim biex tibda titlaqqa' kull ħames snin.

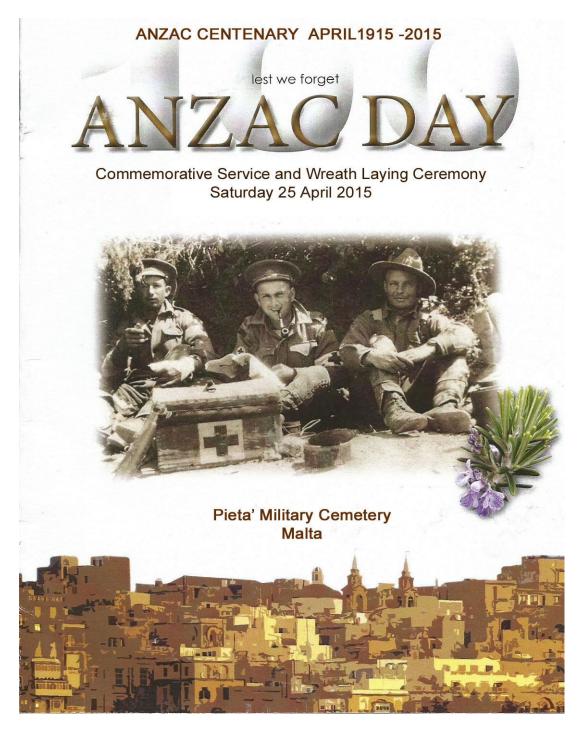


# Chairman calls on Maltese living abroad to take part in V18

Valletta 2018 Chairman Jason Micallef has urged Maltese living abroad to actively participate in projects being organised by the Valletta 2018 Foundation in preparation for the European Capital of Culture year.

Addressing the Convention for Maltese Living abroad, Jason Micallef said that over the past year, the Foundation, together with its partners, has worked tirelessly to transform the centre of Valletta into an exciting and attractive hub in which one can live and work. Highlighting the importance of culture and the arts, Jason Micallef emphasised that Valletta 2018 presents an opportunity to celebrate Valletta and the island's history with a focus on the contemporary.

Besides economic regeneration, one of the main aims of Valletta 2018 is making culture accessible to all. Audience participation is crucial to this and Maltese living abroad too are part of the journey. Jason Micallef urged the conference participants to encourage other Maltese living abroad to participate in Valletta 2018 projects along with them and share the unique experience being moulded.



#### MALTA – NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

(Picture above) The first field dressing station of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF. It was a natural hole in Monash Gully and many early wounded were treated there. The man on the right is Corporal R. Bates who later became the Reverend R Bates of Brisbane. The other two were original stretcher-bearers with the 7th Battalion *(Donor Captain H.A. Barker)* 

H.E. Ms Jane Lambert - High Commissioner for Malta

Ms. Jill Camilleri – Honorary Consul for New Zealand

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# **25 April 2015**

Wreaths were laid at the Pieta Military Cemetery today in a commemorative ceremony marking 100 years since the Anzac landings in Gallipoli. Apart from some 800 Maltese volunteers who supported the Gallipoli campaign,

# Centenary of Anzac Day Commemorated at Pieta Military Cemetery



numerous sick and wounded men were evacuated to Malta for medical treatment during the campaign. By the end of war, some 55,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers had been treated in Malta and 237 remain buried here. Speaking at the ceremony, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca said: "Every year, we gather to commemorate ANZAC Day, as we show our respect to the men and women who lost their lives on the shores of Gallipoli.

"The 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Australian soldiers in Gallipoli, is a reminder to us all, of the suffering that is brought about by wars, injustices and persecutions of people around the world. "Malta, then, also played an important role, as the nurse of the Mediterranean, caring for the hurt and wounded, and as the burial place of so many men and women who lost their lives. "Malta now has a new role, that of being a centre for peace and dialogue among peoples, so that its strategic position in the Mediterranean, can serve as a beacon for World Peace.

"In remembering the horrors of war, let us all strive to work for peace for all nations, be compassionate towards all people, understand each other and celebrate our differences, so that we may all live together in harmony." Dignitaries and military veterans laid wreaths at the Pieta Military Cemetery today in a commemorative ceremony marking 100 years since the Anzac landings in Gallipoli.

"While it is important not to lose focus of the futility of war and the often flawed decisions that sent them to their deaths, today we honour the courage of the young men who died so that the light of freedom and liberty might continue to shine," said Judge Peter Zahra from New South Wales, Australia. Apart from some 800 Maltese volunteers who supported the Gallipoli campaign, numerous sick and wounded men were evacuated to Malta for medical treatment during the campaign. By the end of war, some 55,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers had been treated in Malta and 237 remain buried here.

"They did not return home to follow their dreams, but Malta has become their home. Malta showed them kindness and they have become sons of Malta," said Judge Zahra. The ceremony was attended by President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Foreign Minister George Vella, Speaker of the House Anglu Farrugia and members of the international diplomatic corps.

Following the ceremony, Mrs Coleiro Preca unveiled two information panels on the cemetery and those buried within, installed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

## Stamps commemorating WW1 Centenary

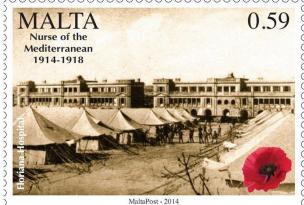
## Malta, Nurse of the Mediterranean



MaltaPost is to issue a set of 3 stamps depicting military hospitals that were instrumental in saving the lives of tens of thousands of sick and wounded that were brought to and cared for in Malta during World War I.During that war a total of 27 hospitals and camps were set-up across Malta and Gozo so as to accommodate thousands of wounded Allied servicemen.

The first group of 600 casualties arrived from Gallipoli on 4th of May 1915. Initially, numerous wounded men were disembarked on the quayside by Valletta's ancient Sacra Infermeria hospital. They were then moved on to other hospitals around the Island. This

activity earned Malta the title: 'Nurse of the Mediterranean.'



) MaltaPost - 2014 (

The stamps carry a face value of  $\in 0.10$  and  $\in 0.59$  and  $\in 2.00$  and portray the images of Bighi Hospital, Floriana Hospital and HMHS Rewa respectively. The stamps have been designed by Paul Psaila and will be issued in sheets of 10 stamps.

Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.), while the sheets measures 119mm x 186mm. The Malta stamps bear the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 240,000 of the  $\in$ 0.10 stamp, 300,000 of the  $\in$ 0.59 and 72,000 of the  $\in$ 2.00.



This Philatelic Issue is available for sale from from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo: online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com.

# Maltese living abroad can still be Maltese Maurice Cauchi



From time to time, since 1969, it was considered important to organise conventions with the aim of bringing together members of the Maltese community from abroad, to give them the opportunity of highlighting issues, problems, ideas and even make suggestions for improvement of relations between them and the home country.

Since then, Conventions for Maltese Living Abroad have been organised in 2000 and 2010, and we are now approaching the latest convention to be held this month, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There was a time when it was assumed that once Maltese left the island, they were no longer interested and certainly never encouraged to come back. They were expected to assimilate as quickly as possible and forget their roots and their background. In fact, of course, this was pure fantasy which was most unlikely to happen.

Now, more than half a century after the original waves – one might even say a tsunami of migrants – left Malta in the 1950s and 1960s, the realities of the situation have become more clear.

Quite a considerable proportion of young Maltese, while born and bred in Australia, still have a very soft spot for Malta

A recent survey being carried out by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria shows that none of the original migrants have changed in any fundamental way from Maltese of the same background who have never left Malta. They still have the same basic culture, eat mostly the same food, congregate with other fellow Maltese, keep their religious and other habits and in practically all respects are Maltese.

Even more unexpected is the finding from another survey relating to the second generation, which indicates that quite a considerable proportion of young Maltese, while born and bred in Australia, still have a very soft spot for Malta, which they visit often, enjoying the friendship of their cousins. Most of them may have lost fluency in Maltese, but many of them keep in touch with what is happening in Malta through the now ubiquitous availability of internet, with ipods, ipads and other instantly available sources of information.

This may come as a surprise to those Maltese who never left the islands. They find it difficult to understand how, after all this time Maltese abroad can still be Maltese.

On the other hand, it is worth keeping in mind that Maltese of the first generation now constitute only about one fourth of all those who have a right to consider themselves Maltese citizens. As in Malta, the new generation is quite distinct from the old, with much better education, often having a tertiary education, and being more appreciative of the technical and social advancements associated with a modern society. It is important to distinguish between the two categories when one speaks of Maltese living abroad. They have a lot in common, but also a lot that is different.

There have been several issues which have been raised in previous conventions and which need to be kept in mind. These include issues relating to the rapidly ageing population, loss of language and culture, issues relating specifically to youth and communications with Malta.

Conventions like took place last month at the Conference Centre, Valletta, are meant to bridge this gap. It allows participants to discuss issues prevalent within the communities they come from. They might even make recommendations for those in authority to examine and hopefully follow through.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs should be congratulated for ensuring that such conventions are held at relatively shorter intervals of five years, in contrast to the much longer intervals between conventions in previous years.

Maurice Cauchi is a former president of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Australia.

All newsletters are at www.ozmalta.page4.me

#### Malta's Role in Gallipoli – one family's ANZAC Narrative

ASSOC PROFESSOR STEPHEN GATT, OAM, MOM, N.S.W. SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



One of the most important events on the annual Australian and New Zealand calendars is ANZAC day on 25<sup>th</sup> April, a public holiday in the Australian States and Territories. The entire nation turns out to the commemorative Dawn Services; poignant reminders of the horrors of Gallipoli and Flanders - the Somme, Menin Gate, Poiziers, Paschendale, Ypres in Flanders where Australians were deployed (and slaughtered). 2015 is 100 years since the landings in Anzac Cove in Gallipoli, Dardanelles.

Outsiders wonder why, to Australians, Gallipoli is of so much significance, especially given that this battle, following great loss of life and unspeakable horror, was a tragic loss

followed by an ignominious evacuation and not a victory. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2001, six Australian states (Western Australia joined the Federation three weeks later) formed the Commonwealth of Australia as a constitutional monarchy with ability to govern in its own right, to vote and to determine its own destiny. While Federation brought much joy, jubilation and feasting there was not widespread *esprit* across the fledgling nation. The Gallipoli Campaign changed all that. The troops were fighting as a single country; this glue held the fabric of Australian society together thenceforth. A nation was born in the teeth of defeat.

The battles in Turkey have special significance to the Maltese because this is where the phrase 'nurse of the Mediterranean' comes from. The injured from the Gallipoli and Palestinian Campaigns, as were those from the Crimean War and the Egyptian Campaign, were cared for in Malta (mostly at the Cottonera Hospital, now, St. Edward's College, and at Mtarfa Hospital) and in Gozo (at Fort Chambrai).

The tattered, maimed and injured remnants of the divisions of soldiers and nurses who returned to Australia were hailed as heroes. There was much rejoicing that the War had been won but even more for the performances of the Australian fighters of WWI who were all volunteers – farmers, butchers, pastoralists, shop keepers, stockmen. The ticker-tape parades went on for weeks and have been repeated with vigour every year. Such episodes as the ghastly trench warfare of the Western Front and the successful attacks of the Australian Light Horse in the Battle of Beersheba in the Southern Palestine Offensive of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force have become etched in history and in the memory of every Australian

These soldiers have never been forgotten. Retired Servicemen's Leagues (RSLs) sprung up in every Australian town and urban suburb and money was collected by the Legions for the establishment of relief organisations for the widows and orphans. 'Lest we Forget' became the country's catchcry and the veterans of this and, subsequently, other wars, march every year in parades to honour the survivors of the wars and for remembrance of the fallen. ANZAC Day became a national holiday; a day of reflection and reminiscence. The veterans (many more than eighty and some more than a hundred, years old) still march (or are pushed in their wheelchairs), resplendent in their military medals and regalia, every year behind the battle standards, flags and bands of their regiments. Every town's pride and joy is the Monument to those who fell in every war since 1915. The war memorial sits in the centre of every hamlet and at which, annually, wreaths are laid and bugles blown.

Coincidence, reminiscence, destiny and memory often come together in surprising little parcels. This is an essentially Maltese story which runs across three generations.

The dawn of ANZAC Day 2012 found me, quite by surprise, at ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli, Turkey. I had woken up in Istanbul on the preceding Monday, the Turkish Children's Day Public Holiday, in Turkey, wondering why, given that I was located only 6 hours' drive from Gelibolu, as it is known by the Turks, I was not going to Dawn Service. I realised that on the Wednesday – ANZAC Day - I had no conference workshops to supervise, no lectures or tutorials to give and no other assignments at NWAC III, an Anaesthesia World Congress. Why was I not making a serious attempt to join the Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove?

This surprise realisation suddenly grew into a mini-obsession, so that, by lunchtime, I had called the Australian Embassy in Ankara (only to get a pre-recorded Children's Day public holiday message) and the Consulate General in Istanbul, which, because of the Public Holiday, transferred my call automatically to the Duty-Ambassador in Canberra (at

03.30am). After a most cordial exchange and my apologies for a rude and inappropriate early morning awakening, I was graciously reassured that the Australian Government was delighted that I could make it and that I would be one of its Official Guests. I was advised that the Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, His Excellency George Cardinal Pell and a slew of other dignitaries from the military, religious orders, federal and state parliaments and the diplomatic corps - Australian, New Zealander and Turkish - would be in this official party at the ANZAC Cove Commemorative Site and at Lone Pine and (NZ) Chunuk Bair Services. Nowadays, Cardinal Pell is at the Vatican charged with the task of cleaning up the Vatican's finances and banking and investment practices. Julia Gillard, the first female Prime Minister of Australia, stood down after loss of leadership during a 'palace revolt' within the party room of her own party.

There was only one proviso to my little ANZAC Cove excursion; lockdown was planned for 03.00am so I had to be there well before that time to complete the security preliminaries. My taxi left the Istanbul Hilton Hotel at 7pm for the 5+ hour drive. Few would be aware of the present day logistical nightmare that was the April 25 Gallipoli 2012 97<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Service. With several thousand visitors to contend with and a programme - of military bands, choirs, speeches, readings, soliloquies, snippets of film and sound recording, essay recitations, messages, hymns, reminiscences, dirges, wreath laying, anthems, prayers for peace, ode of remembrance, catafalque military exercise, last post and reveille, which by now had spanned almost 22 hours - the advance planning must have been almost equal to that of the original ANZAC Landings in 1915. In 2012, it was the Kiwis' turn to host the dawn service and the Maori Karanga Call to Gathering immediately preceding the Dawn Service was truly spectacular. Some of the recreations and reminiscences of segments of the carnage that was Gallipoli, the last Gentleman's War, were truly heart-rending. Those memories will be with me till the end of my days.

The ceremonies of remembrance at these memorial services were not only unique; they were profoundly spiritual. The symbols of mourning and respect were heartfelt. The Last Post and Two Minute Silence were truly uncanny. You could hear a pin drop. In truth, I had a fair few reasons to be in Gallipoli.

I had been through the Dardanelles Channel once before as a 14-year old on the school ship Devonia, a recycled



WWII troop carrier, on a school cruise with the St. Aloysius College boys. On that occasion and under some unintentional impulse, I felt compelled to wake up before dawn to watch that beautiful and fated coast drift past on an overcast, grey still day as memories and impressions from the family's history stories came flooding across my consciousness. I knew that my grandfather had served here and lived to tell his tale.

My grandfather, Captain Joseph Edward Agius, (picture) was commissioned in the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia (KOMRM). He served in the Dardanelles; not with the Australian and New Zealand Army but with the British Expeditionary Force. He also served in Egypt and Italy and was Mentioned in a Despatch of General F.R. Earl of Cavan of 1918 for '...gallantry and distinguished services in the field...' with '...high appreciation from his Majesty the King'. By then, he was a Lieutenant.

While in Italy, he was Officer Commanding of the Labour Corps in Taranto. By 1918, he had arrived in Rome before his return to Malta.

There were five Maltese officers of the KOMRM who volunteered to serve in the Dardanelles Campaign in 1915. These were Capt. FM Stivala (previously, of the Mounted

Infantry of the Transvaal) and Lieuts. PA Micallef Enyaud, AG Dandria, JE Agius (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, KOMRM) and CA Muscat. Their Farewell Dinner before proceeding to the Front was at Fort Manoel. These officers were allocated to the Sherwood Foresters and the Royal Norfolks. A few years before, my grandfather had been plucked summarily from his medical and surgical studies at the Royal University of Malta.

After the Grand War, he was appointed Adjutant of the Malta Police (1931), Superintendent of Police (1934) and, in 1939, during the Abyssinian Crisis, as Director of Prisons. He died unexpectedly, with his boots on, just outside HM Prisons at Rahal Gdid. My mother used to tell the tale that, when she was a child, her postal address was 'HM Prisons, Cottonera'. By now (1939), he held the rank of Captain.

For me, there is another Maltese connection with ANZAC. My father-in-law, Joseph Dingli (1904-1971), went to Australia on the 'Ormonde' in the latter half of the 1920s. In NSW, my home state, he held a teaching position at

Camden Grammar School in Narellan where he taught English and French. When he returned to Malta in the 1930s, he became Hon. Sec. of the ANZAC Day Committee for well over 15 years. Annually, he laid a wreath at the War Memorial – usually with The Hon Mabel Strickland and Mr. AH Sapienza. This activity was of great pride to Dad (-in-Law) Dingli.

Just under1 million people died in the Great War. Above 2 million were injured. Even today, the number of dead and injured and the extent of the carnage remain unbelievable.

Malta had another important role to play in this clash of titans. As the Gallipoli offensive was taking place the Ottomans, the mortal enemies of the Maltese for over 200 years, were wreaking havoc on the Armenians. Over 1.5 million Christian Armenians were relocated, stripped of their belongings and sent, under appalling conditions to uninhabitable places. In this genocide, 800,000 died 'slowly' of starvation and exposure to the chilling elements during the deportation forced marches of whole families, including defenceless children, the elderly, the frail and the infirm, across a desolate wilderness. The systematic 'ethnic cleansing' of Armenian indigenous Christians, especially in Anatolia, (Antalya), included many atrocities including torture, beatings, cruelty and mass killings. The Armenian's properties were expropriated, their goods seized and confiscated and they were then exposed to unspeakable horror. This was the Armenians' 'holocaust'.

Thousands of British (including Maltese and Allied Countries') Expeditionary Force Prisoners of War also suffered gross brutality at the hands of the Ottoman Turks – neglect, starvation, floggings, maltreatment and malnutrition – and many were killed.

After Armistice Day, in early 1919, 60 war criminals and 70 political detainees were brought to Malta from Turkey to face an Allied War Tribunal, similar to the Nuremburg trials in WWII, for trial. They were in Malta for two years. Even though every repatriated British POW had been interviewed by the armistice committees in Egypt such that the evidence was impenetrable and conclusive, these war criminals, guilty of one of the world's greatest acts of inhumanity, never came to trial and walked free. There were many reasons for this; what is important to us is that Malta was, once again, embroiled in a saga of worldwide significance.

To commemorate 100 years since the Gallipoli Landings, the whole of 2015 has seen film footage, archival material and documentaries practically daily on the TV channels, especially The History Channel and recordings, music and vocal programming on radio across Australia. The newspapers have been full of ANZAC stories for many weeks. This year, Saturday, April 25 will be a very special day indeed.

Locally, there will be many commemorative and remembrance services over the next two weeks. Australian Plants and Trees are on show at the ANZAC Memorial in Argotti Gardens. The ANZAC stained glass at St. Andrew's Scots Church will be worth a visit. The full-rigged training 'Tall Ship' Young Endeavour, a replica of Captain Cook's ship on which he discovered Terra Australis, will return to Grand Harbour and the ANZAC (Cottonera) Hospital (now, St. Edwards College) will be open for a visit. Of course, there will be wreath laying at the War Memorial and a Service at the Military Cemetery in Pieta.

The ANZAC's Dardanelles & Gallipoli involvement in 'the War to end all Wars', in which Malta played a part, was pivotal to the establishment of a new nation – Australia.

May the veterans of the Dardanelles Campaign rest in peace and may the ANZACs be remembered forever.



#### WHY PEOPLE MOVE TO MALTA Written by <u>Alex Grech</u>



# **Tourists or the new locals?** Hard to tell these days.

It seems to be the most obvious thing for an island that has in its past functioned as a colony and has lived off tourism for the last half century, that people from across the world wash up here. To their surprise, many stay far longer than they intended. However, in the past five years or so, there seems to be a far greater influx of people who are choosing to move here for work and play. EU statistics out earlier this month showed that Malta's population rise in the past year was mainly attributable to migrants (of various kinds).

We're now 414,000 people in all. So, we've taken a stab at an anthropological view of the new Malta tribes, in no particular order:

- 1. **Returned Maltese migrants.** Nothing new in this. The Maltese have been emigrating since the 1950s, and some trickle back when they hit their silver years. The older ones tend to be the most patriotic. Someone in category 6 below once told me: 'You guys always seem to have a quiet alarm bell, when you are living away from Malta. It's mumbling 'Go back home.' It just gets louder the older one gets'. This is changing, of course, as many Maltese now choose to go and live in EU member states.
- 2. Online gaming company executives. Malta saw a niche in the online gaming sector a few years ago and set up EU-endorsed legislation that enables online gaming companies to operate from this country on a pan-European basis. This has led to a veritable influx of senior and middle-management types mainly Brits and Swedes that took up residence in Malta without much knowledge of what was waiting for them. Many tend to congregate around Portomaso until they find their feet. Some are more intrepid though and are braving old farmhouses in village cores, probably seeing their stay as an adventure/or kind of extended holiday.
- **3. Tax-mitigators.** People with access to bright accountants looking for a more tax-efficient way of protecting their earnings, levering on Malta's double taxation agreements with several countries. If you're a lone professional, you can elect to get your world-wide income taxed here if that income is generated elsewhere, and you choose to be resident in Malta.
- 4. Heritage lovers. What you get in Malta is world-class heritage, from pre-history to British colonial rule. We've found a few museum and arty luvvie types that fell for what they saw and stayed.
- 5. Divers. They live to dive so the move is for pure quality of diving life. They boast to friends back in their homelands that diving is just 15 minutes from their work place. We still think that Malta has some of the best diving around. Sailors too have moved here for similar sport-lifestyle reasons.
- 6. Bankers. Same as 7 above, except that one Maltese bank lingers on.
- 7. Hotel & Catering staff. The five-star hotels ship them in to run the show, speak to customers in their native language. Always seem to be uncannily sun-tanned. One popular beach bar is manned entirely by foreign staff.
- 8. Timeshare touts. Mainly British, London boys or 'from somewhere up north.' You can spot them a mile away because they look friendly at 8.30 in the morning and give chase when some innocent old dears decide to have a leisurely walk before the heat sets in.
- **9. Dancers and 'entertainers'.** Usually permanently based in Paceville, but with some spillage in Bugibba and Qawra. Often from Eastern Europe.
- 10. British and German retirees. They come for the sea and that flat in Bugibba or a farmhouse in Gharb, Gozo.
- 11. Love birds. Again, a fairly universal tribe who pack up on impulse to join their better half. They either go native and get crinkly skin or miss everything cosmopolitan, orderly and green, and start planning an exit route soon after their arrival. May take a lifetime to actually crystallise their departure. Married life, kids at schools and so on makes their departure almost impossible. They are nostalgic for life back home, but would never really return there.
- 12. Refugees and 'illegal' migrants. Their arrival has become one of the most most divisive topics on the island, but was inevitable once Malta joined the EU. Sadly, their plight tends to bring out the worst in a lot of people, and the best in a mere handful.

# **GET TO KNOW AND LOVE AUSTRALIA**



Australia, nicknamed the "Land Down Under,", is a country, an island and a continent. It is the world's smallest continent and the sixth-largest country. It is located in the Southern Hemisphere, between the Indian Ocean and the Southern Pacific Ocean.. This continent-country-island has an area of 2,966,368 square miles (7,682,300 square kilometers).

#### Capital of Australia: Canberra

**Population**: Australia has a population about 22 million people. Most of Australia's population lives on the fertile plains of the eastern and southeastern coasts. The interior of Australia (called the Outback) is dry with many deserts.

**Government and Economy**: The Commonwealth of Australia is a democracy (leaders are elected by the adult population) but it recognizes the monarch of Great Britain as sovereign (the Queen of England has the title "Chief of State" and performs ceremonial duties). Australia has a strong, modern economy. Its monetary unit is the Australian dollar.

Largest Cities: Sydney is the largest city in Australia; it has over 3,935,000 people. Other large cities include Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Newcastle.

The Great Barrier Reef:Off the eastern coast of Queensland is the Great Barrier Reef, the largest

coral reef on Earth. This warm, clear, shallow ocean habitat is over 1,000 miles long, and is home to many animals and plants, including corals, sea anemones, sea stars, fish (including sharks), sea slugs, giant clams, seaweed, and many other organisms.

The Tallest Mountain: Australia's tallest peak is Mount Kosciuszko, which is 7,310 feet (2,228 m) tall. Mount Kosciuszko is located in southeastern Australia, near Canberra, in the Great Dividing Range.

The Lowest Point: Lake Eyre is Australia's lowest point. It is 53 feet (16 m) below sea level. Lake Eyre is located in South \_\_\_\_\_\_ Australia.



**The Largest Body of Water**: Lake Eyre is Australia's largest body of water - it is a salt water lake that covers over 3,430 square miles (8,884-9,500 square kilometes), although it is generally dry. Lake Eyre is located in South Australia.

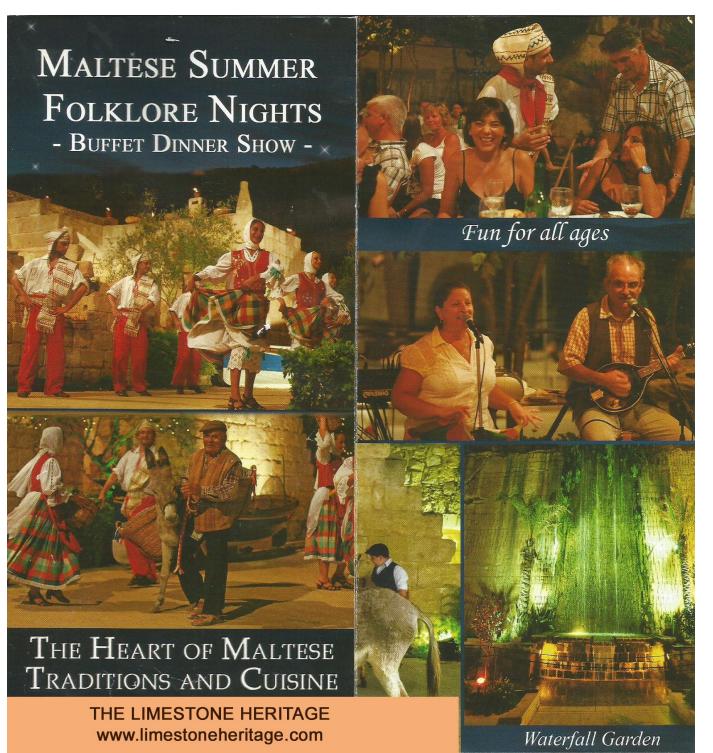
**The Longest River**: Australia's longest river is the Murray-Darling River, in New South Wales, which flows for 2,911 miles (4,685 km) into the Indian Ocean.

**The Largest Island (other than Australia itself)**: Tasmania, located off the southeastern coast of mainland Australia, covers 26,383 square miles (68,332 square kilometers). Tasmania's tallest peak is Mt. Ossa, which is 5,305 feet (1,617 m) above sea level.

**Rainforest**: The eastern coast of Australia is covered by lush tropical rainforests. The Great Dividing Range, a mountain range that runs north-south along Australia's eastern coast, causes a lot of rain to fall of the east coast (and blocks rain from the interior of the continent).

**Desert**: The interior of Australia is covered largely by scrub and desert, called the Outback. The Great Dividing Range, a mountain range that runs north-south along Australia's eastern coast, blocks rain from the interior of the continent.

Largest Monolith: The world's largest monolith, Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) is located in central Australia, in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Uluru is a sacred aboriginal site and a world-famous landmark. It is 348 m tall and is made of sandstone.



Delight all your senses with a trio of food, wine and song. Enjoy a fabulous buffet dinner – a selection of Malta's best food delicacies while enjoying live folklore entertainment under the night stars. A collaboration of all the best elements from Maltese culture and traditions. A MOST MEMORABLE MALTESE NIGHT OUT

THE LIMESTONE HERITAGE PARK AND GARDENS

MONS M AZZOPRADIU STREET, SIGGIEWI MALTA

#### Victoria International Arts Festival 18th edition gets underway in June



The much awaited 18th Edition of the Victoria International Arts Festival will take place between the 10th of June and the 13th of July.

The Festival is the longest-running artistic activity on the Maltese islands, spanning five weeks of uninterrupted, high-powered musical activity, with no fewer than 33 concerts.

The Festival occurs at a period which heralds the summer months, and brings to Gozo over 600 musicians and their accompanists to spend time on the island.

Prof. Mro Joseph Vella, the Festival's artistic director, has announced that this year 17 different countries will be represented, to include Malta and Gozo, with musicians coming over from nearby Sicily to far-flung South Korea and Australia. Concerts, which in the majority are of a classical nature, include soloists, duos/trios/quartets, chamber ensembles of varying combinations, big bands, choirs, and full symphony orchestras.

Both the opening concert on Wednesday, the 10th of June and the closing one on Monday, the 13th of July, will see the participation of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Joseph Vella.

Over 150 composers will be performed, to include works specifically commissioned to be premiered during the Festival.

A special feature is the inclusion of a 5-day mini-Festival of Baroque music within the larger framework.

The full programme of the Victoria International Arts Festival 2015 is available here.

The Inaugural Orchestral Concert on Wednesday, the 10th of June, will feature Pierre Louis Attard (violin)/Britt Arend (harp)/Miriam Cauchi (soprano)/Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (leader: Marcelline Agius)/Joseph Vella (conductor) – Malta/Belgium, and will be held at St George's Basilica, in Victoria, starting at 8.00pm.

The programme for the opening concert will be as follows:

Debussy (1862 – 1918) Danse sacrée et danse profane L. 103 Harp: Britt Arend

Vella (b. 1942) Ode to a Resurrected Violin op. 137 (World Premiere) Violin:Pierre Louis Attard

Dust on the Path (Song Cycle) op. 138 (Poems: Alistair Chalmers) (World Premiere)

Soprano: Miriam Cauchi

Hindemith (1895 – 1963) Mathis der Maler Angelic Concert; Entombment; The Temptation of Saint Anthony.

As per the programme, All concerts and events are free of charge. Unless otherwise indicated, they start at 8.00pm.

The concert on Friday 12th June starts at 7.30pm. The Art exhibition by Mark Sagona will be inaugurated at 8.30pm. It will run daily at II-Hagar, Heart of Gozo Museum, between Saturday 13th June till Sunday 19th July at II-Hagar, Heart of Gozo Museum, from 9.00am till 5.00pm.

The Jewellery exhibition by OPALIA will be inaugurated at 8.30pm. The exhibition will run daily at II-Hagar, Heart of Gozo Museum, between Saturday 11tj July and 19tj July from 9.00am-5.00pm.

We would like to hear from you. Your contribution, comments and feedback will be much appreciated.

The Editor

honconsul@live.com.au

#### **COMMEMORATING THE ANZAC CENTENARY -1915 – 2015**

## **New Zealand and World War 1**

The population of New Zealand responded to Britain's entry into World War One with a great deal of positive energy. Unlike South Africa where the population was split into factions oriented around being pro-British or anti-British, the population of New Zealand was almost pro-British to a person. In 1916 New Zealand adopted compulsory overseas military service. It was not a contentious issue within the nation.

At the start of World War One, New Zealand was experiencing a process of political transition. The dominance of politics by Richard Seddon, pictured, had ended and the recently created Reform Party was becoming more and more important and formed its first government in 1912 with William Ferguson Massey as Prime Minister. He remained Prime Minister for the next 13 years. In the immediate build-up to World War One, only 6





Labour politicians spoke out against the war. New Zealand promised to feed British forces and there is little doubt that some in New Zealand saw the war as a way to make large sums of money. Wool, grain and dairy produce were sold off at high prices.

There was little doubt in New Zealand that she would join the war once war was declared in August 1914. New Zealand was the first dominion to provide troops for the European cause. In 1909 compulsory military service had been introduced for all of those over 12 years of age. Throughout World War One, New Zealand "maintained a pro-British sentiment and she was considered to be more British than her Australian neighbour" Christopher Falkus). Altogether 120,000 New Zealanders saw active service. 17,000 were killed, many at Gallipoli. "Despite the smallness of her population and her distance from Europe, New Zealand's contribution to the Allied victory was far from negligible. (Falkus). If in August 1914, New Zealand was just another member of the British Empire - even with dominion status - by November 1918 she had seen a growth in identity that propelled her towards a nation state

as opposed to a colony.



# The Irresistible Hobz Biz-Zejt (BREAD WITH **OIL SNACK)**

No bread compares to the traditional Maltese loaf and I am sure that many out there agree with me. It is so wholesome and tasty and yet so plain! As in many other places, what was poor man's fare is now rich man's favour. Not that one has to be rich to acquire such food. Many Maltese still eat it as a

snack or as part of their supper. Both the stonecutter in the quarry and the farmer in the field, as well the family relaxing



unfortunately

way

by the seaside on a delicious Summer evening, all love to dig their teeth into this tasty meal. It satisfies the taste buds and fills the stomach in the simplest and most complete way. It is inexpensive and easy to prepare, but it is true that richer foods and faster food have replaced most of what today can be considered as traditional food.

In the past, the manual workers used to take lunch, which consisted of half a loaf of our excellent bread, hollowed out, filled with tomatoes, oil, olives, and anchovies, and accompanied by a glass of wine. They then wrapped it up in a cloth for freshness and then sliced it up with a penknife at the time of eating. It was very filling and practical especially for outdoor workers. This tradition is sandwich. to the more regular

When one passes in front of a bakery, the heavenly smell of baking bread evokes memories of when mum or dad used to come from work carrying with him/her freshly baked bread still crackling hot. We kids used to make a feast with a simple loaf of bread. Mum sliced the bread and we siblings were left free to prepare our Hobz biz-Zeit the way we wanted. I was usually allowed to have the round crusty part (il-genba) from which I dug out the middle and filled it up with all the stuff that I could get hold of.

The term 'Hobz tal-Malti' makes me conjure up images of this delicious snack eaten on the sand, watching the sun set, with the salty sea smell lingering on one's skin. Hobz biz-zejt somehow always tastes better eaten at the beach - did you ever realise that? So what exactly is this hobz biz-zeit? If I had to translate this term it would literally mean "Bread with oil" which up to a certain extent is true because drizzled oil is one of the basic ingredients but it has more than just that. And what goes on in this Hobz biz-Zeit?? Here is the list of ingredients:

Butter beans marinated in garlic and oil, olives, marinated vegetables, lettuce, anchovies, tuna, onion slices, peppered cheeselets (gbejniet), capers, marjoram, mint, basil, pickled onions, bigilla, sundried tomatoes, cucumber slices, artichoke hearts and even ham. Yes!! I was told that the Qormi people like having their hobz biz-zejt with ham!

We hope to see you soon! Narawkom Dalwaqt