

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE



*Frank Scicluna presenting H.E. Marie-Louis Coleiro Preca, President of Malta, a copy of the book
MALTA – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN*



ANZAC CENTENARY 1915 – 2015 **Malta and the Anzacs** **The Nurse of the Mediterranean**

Between 2014 and 2018, Australia and New Zealand are commemorating the ANZAC Centenary, marking 100 years since the nations' involvement in the First World War. The First World War was one of the most significant events of the 20th Century, claiming the lives of more than 16 million people across the globe.

Even now, 100 year on, we are all connected to the ANZAC Centenary through our own family history, the heritage of our local communities or the lasting impact it left on generations of Australians and New Zealanders.

From the Declaration of War, to the various bloody battles and surrenders, and finally to the armistice and the global impact left in its wake, every detail has been recorded in hundreds, if not thousands, of books.

The Maltese community of South Australia, through the initiative of the RSL Maltese Sub-branch has embarked in two projects, namely the publication of a commemorative book – MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN and the establishment of a plaque at the Prospect Memorial Garden SA. The book, which is edited by Mr. Frank Scicluna, the Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia, is a compelling account of Malta's involvement in World War I and the relationship with the ANZACS. The memorial was unveiled by the RSL President Brigadier Tim Hanna on Sunday 12 April 2015.

Even the little island of Malta, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, played an important and significant part during the First World War so much so that it earned the title of The Nurse of the Mediterranean.

On 25 April 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACS) commenced their campaign to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. This campaign is often considered the birth of national consciousness in both countries. It consisted of submarine incursions into the heavily mined Sea of Marmara at the entrance to the Black Sea and was the naval bombardment of the fortifications at the narrow entrance to the Sea of Marmara and the landing of troops and land warfare.

The heavy losses prompted the Allies to cease any further attempts to take the straits by naval power alone leading to the third phase. WWI was marked by large forces engaged in static trench warfare that sustained many casualties. Gallipoli was no exception. About 480,000 allied troops took part in the campaign.

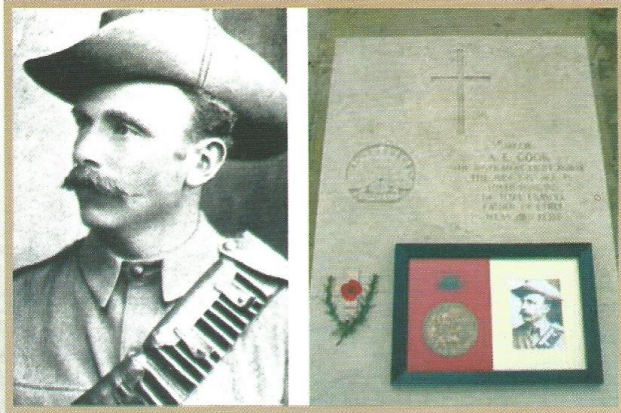
They endured nearly 290,000 casualties including 59,000 dead. Turkish casualties are estimated at 250,000 with 65,000 deaths. 2000 Anzacs were killed on the first day. One of the first to be killed was Private Charles Bonavia, a Maltese migrant who joined the Australian 11th Battalion in Perth. At least six other Maltese were killed in action serving with the Australians and a much higher number serving with British contingents.

The number of Maltese serving with the Australian is unknown although it is believed that about 22 served with the ANZACS but the exact number is not known because not all records have been preserved, of the anglicising of Maltese names, and some served under assumed names.

The British War Office did not allow the Maltese to raise their own battalion so they had no choice but to serve in other battalions. Piecing together all the information is difficult, but it has been established that 85 Maltese officers served in various fields with six receiving distinctions for bravery at Gallipoli. Some 650 Maltese served with the British navy and over 300 with Canadian and Australian Army contingents.

In January 1915, 550 men of the King's Own Malta Royal Militia volunteered for active duty in Cyprus, freeing the troops stationed there to join the Dardanelles campaign. The overall contribution of the Maltese can be gauged by the fact that nearly 70 per cent of males who were of military age were directly involved in the war.

A little known fact about the Gallipoli campaign is the Maltese Labour Corps. This consisted of 1,000 workers under the direction of Maltese officers who unloaded ships and performed other activities at Anzac Cove. Most of the provisions for the 24,000 men in Anzac Cove came from Malta, including the water that was towed in water barges. Men of the Maltese Labour Corps worked in the leeway of a hill with enemy fire landing either short or sailing overhead into the sea. Remarkably, only one was killed and two slightly wounded. One of the injured officers was Captain Henry Curmi who later was appointed Malta's Commissioner to Australia.



Major A E Cook 9th Regiment Australian Light Horse
and Memorial at the Pietà Military Cemetery, Malta

Malta was declared a military hospital base in early 1915 and within a short time was in a position to cater for 20,000 wounded ANZAC soldiers. A large number of public buildings, including schools, were converted to hospital use. In all, 27 hospitals were established. The convalescent camp at Ghajn Tuffieha, which had over 4,000 beds, was one of two tent cities catering for the wounded.

The first 600 wounded arrived in Malta in May 1915 and by March of the following year it was estimated that over 60,000 wounded had been cared for. The hospitals and convalescent camps dealt with over 135,000 sick and wounded, primarily from the campaigns in Gallipoli and Salonika. This included 20,000 ANZACS.

While the vast majority of ANZACS transported to Malta did recover and returned to Australia, New Zealand or to the European Front, for others Malta was their final resting place. The number of Australian deaths would have undoubtedly been higher but for the work of Maltese, British, Australian and New Zealand doctors who served with the Anzacs.

On 15 April 1916, the first Anzac Day was commemorated in Malta at the Pietà Cemetery, possibly the first Anzac ceremony in the world. At that time there were 107 Anzacs laid to



First commemoration of Anzac Day 1916

rest in the cemetery. The number had increased to 204 Australians and 72 New Zealanders by the end of the campaign. It increased further as the result of WWII and today about 220 Australians are buried on the island. An ANZAC memorial was erected in 2013 at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, Malta in honour of the 300 ANZACS who succumbed to their injuries after reaching Malta and lie buried on the island.

All these events are well recorded and documented in the new publication **MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**. In addition, this book demonstrates the invaluable and lasting friendship that exists between the people of Australia, New Zealand and Malta formed during the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. It is a lasting tribute to our shared wartime history. **BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE. To reserve a copy please contact: Frank Scicluna on honconsul@live.com.au or Charles Farrugia, RSL Maltese Sub-branch (South Australia) on cfarrugia@internore.on.net.**

7 JUNE IS ONE OF MALTA'S NATIONAL DAYS



Karmnu Abela (Valletta) Guzeppi Bajada (Xaghra) Marwel Attard (Sliema) Wenzu Dyer (Vittoriosa)

F'jum is-*'Sette Giugno'* niftakru fil-ġrajji
li seħhew f'dak il-jum fl-1919 meta, wara
sensiela ta' rvelli mill-Maltin, truppi
Ingliżi sparaw fuq il-folla u ħallew
erbgha mejta.

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The Ancient Languages of the Knights of Malta

In the early 14th century, with the acquisition of Rhodes and other islands of the archipelago, the Order of St. John took on the features of a State. Governed by the Grand Master and by the Council, the Order minted its own money and maintained diplomatic relations with other States. New knights came to Rhodes from all over Europe and it was natural for them to associate with those who spoke their language and shared their traditions.

The Order's Chapter General, meeting in Montpellier in 1319, resolved to group the hospitallers according to homogenous language systems, the so-called "Langues" or Tongues. Each of these included Priors or Grand Priors, Bailiwicks and Commanderies. The Langues do not follow the pattern of national states but rather the national-linguistic identities of western Europe.

There were some exceptions to this since the Poles and Slavs came under the Langue of Germany, albeit not speaking German.

There were initially seven Langues: Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Aragon (Navarre), England (with Scotland and Ireland) and Germany. In 1462 Castille and Portugal split off from the Langue of Aragon and constituted the eighth Langue. Each Langue had its own head, or Pilier, who later on took one of the Order's high offices. Each Langue, first on Rhodes and then on Malta, possessed an "auberge" or inn, used for accommodation, for meetings and for the meals that – at least in the beginning – had to be communal.

This internal reorganization of the Knights of Saint John was more or less complete by the mid 15th century and it continued unaltered up to the end of the 19th century.

The loss of the island of Malta (1798) brought about the end of the ancient division into Langues. The Order began to reorganize itself and the national associations came into being after the Grand Magistracy was established in Rome in 1834. The Germans were the first to found an association in 1859, followed by the British in 1875 and the Italians in 1877. The Order of Malta's members are now grouped into 6 Grand Priors and 47 National Associations in the five continents, heirs to the tradition of the ancient Langues.

Auberges in Valletta

Being away from their country of origin, many Knights of the Order of St. John would probably have felt homesick without their hostels in Malta, the auberges. Each of the eight European territories that were present in the Order – the so-called langues – built its own auberge, which served as accommodation for its members but also for pilgrims and visitors from its home country. Moreover, the hostels were used for meetings, dining and other social activities.



Shortly after the Order of St. John had arrived in Malta in 1530, each langue started to erect its auberge in Birgu. The two French langues of Provence and Auvergne shared one building, so that seven hostels were built in Birgu, of which only three have survived: the Auberge de France, the Auberge d'Angleterre and the Auberge de Provence and Auvergne.

After the foundation of Valletta in 1566, the Order obviously had to "move" their auberges to the new city. Therefore, new hostels had to be constructed for all langues with the exception of the English one, which was forced to disband due to the Reformation of 1534. The Maltese architect Gerolamo Cassar was commissioned with the design of the seven auberges.

Each langue was responsible for the financing of the building, and it was supposed to build the auberge in a certain part of Valletta, namely near the section of the fortification where the langue was responsible for the defence of the new city. At the same time, the hostels had to have a central location.

The Auberge was administered by a grand gentleman knight known as the bali, also known as the Grand Conservator, who was responsible for the purchasing of food and clothing and for the provision of transport and everything necessary for both the hospitals and the troops. Life at the Auberge was, to all intents and purposes, monastic with regular holy masses to attend and offices to be said. Obedience was practiced and fasting was obligatory. Thursdays and Sundays were slightly different and the residents used to dine in the refectory, the largest room in the edifice.

Cassar's predecessor and teacher, Francesco Laparelli, had already planned to build each auberge with a piazza in front. Eventually, at least three auberges were built with an open space in front: the Auberge d'Aragon, the Auberge d'Auvergne and the Auberge de Castille. Whether any of the other auberges were situated on a piazza, is not certain but shall be discussed later on.

Unfortunately, only three of Cassar's seven auberges have survived. The German auberge was already destroyed in 1839 to make space for the Anglican Cathedral. There is almost nothing known about this auberge. The Auberge d'Auvergne and the Auberge de France were both completely destroyed by German bombs during the Second World War.

As most auberges turned out to be too small throughout the years and because they were also meant to represent some kind of status symbol of each langue, they were all later enlarged and modified. The Auberge de Castille underwent the most extreme change – it was totally rebuilt and redesigned.

Cassar was a big fan of corner rustications. He applied them on all his auberges – with the exception of the one of Castille. One can even make out a development in their design: Starting from plain alternating long and shorter quoins (Auberge d'Aragon, Auberge d'Auvergne), the rustications became more varied and innovative throughout the years (for example, the diamond shaped quoins on the Auberge d'Italie).

Actually, there is a reason why Cassar used these rustications (or, in the case of the Auberge de Castille, the panelled pilasters) on the corners of his buildings: It was an instruction from the Order to decorate all corners in the new city of Valletta. Rustications have their roots in military architecture. In the Quattrocento they came into fashion on secular buildings in Florence, from where they became more and more fashionable in Rome and the whole south of Italy. Until the baroque, they formed a typical feature of secular architecture, and from the 16th century onwards they were mainly used for decoration of corners and openings such as windows and doors.

The eight Auberges

Auberge D'Allemagne was demolished to make room for the Anglican Cathedral of St Paul.

Auberge D'Auvergne was demolished during the war and it has now been replaced by the Law Courts.

Auberge De France was also demolished during the war and it has now been replaced by the Worker's Memorial Building.

Auberge De Castille et Leon, by far the most magnificent of the eight, today houses the Office of the Prime Minister.

Auberge D'Aragon, just opposite the former Auberge D'Allemagne today houses the Ministry for Home Affairs.

Auberge D'Italie today houses the Malta Tourism Authority, having housed the Law Courts in former times.

Auberge De Provence today houses the National Museums of Archaeology

Auberge De Baviere et Angleterre today houses the main offices of the GPD, having been a Primary School in former times.



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY SOUND OF MUSIC

The Sound of Music (1965) was an exceptionally successful film in the mid-1960s - at the time of its release, it surpassed *Gone With the Wind* (1939) as the number one box office hit of all time. It was the high-point of the Hollywood musical. [In 1978, the film's status as the most successful musical was finally surpassed by *Grease* (1978).

This wholesome production from producer/director Robert Wise and 20th

Century Fox has become one of the most favorite, beloved films of moviegoers. It is a joyous, uplifting, three-hour adaptation of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's 1959 hit Broadway stage musical (that starred Mary Martin). [This was the well-known partnership's last collaboration]. The story follows a good-natured, flighty novitiate (Andrews) who is hired to care for the seven children of a militaristic, icy, widowed Austrian captain (Plummer). She ultimately wins the heart of the children - and the captain, but their lives are threatened by the encroachment of Nazis.

Marketing slogans cried: "The Happiest Sound in All the World." Ernest Lehman's screenplay was based on the book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. That book was in turn based on Baroness Maria von Trapp's 1949 autobiography (*The von Trapp Family Singers*) about the exploits of the family of singers and their escape from the Nazis in Austria in 1938. The first film version was a German film titled *Die Trapp-Familie* (1956), with a sequel *Die Trapp-Familie in Amerika* (1958). After the 1965 film's enormous success, Fox Studios unwisely invested millions in three more, less profitable, blockbuster musicals in the late 60s - *Dr. Doolittle* (1967), *Star!* (1968), and *Hello, Dolly!* (1969).

The star of the film was the previous year's Best Actress Academy Award winner, a fresh-faced Julie Andrews in a similar role as her governess performance in *Mary Poppins* (1964). She is accompanied by her lovely singing voice, glorious, on-location travelogue views of Salzburg, Austria filmed in 70 mm, and melodic, memorable sing-along tunes, including "Maria," "The Sound of Music," "My Favorite Things," "You Are Sixteen, Going On Seventeen," "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "Do-Re-Mi," and "Edelweiss."

In fact, there was an interactive, audience-participation version imported from London in 2000 - a limited theatrical re-release of *The Sound of Music* with subtitled musical numbers to allow for sing-a-long participation. Audiences were also invited to dress up in *The Sound of Music*-inspired costumes, and to react with props (such as an artificial sprig of edelweiss) provided in a Fun Pak. ["Sing-A-Long Sound of Music" first emerged at the 1988 London Gay and Lesbian Film festival after an event organizer heard that staff at a retirement home in the Scottish town of Inverness had distributed song sheets during a video showing of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (1954) for sing-along participation. The film was screened at the festival as a sing-along and proved wildly successful.]

The sentimental, entertaining musical was nominated for ten Academy Awards, and came away with five major wins: Best Picture and Best Director (Robert Wise), Best Sound, Best Score (Irwin Kostal), and Best Film Editing (William Reynolds). Its other five nominations were for Best Actress (Julie Andrews who lost to Julie Christie in *Darling*), Best Supporting Actress (Peggy Wood), Best Color Cinematography (Ted McCord), Best Color Art Direction/Set Decoration, and Best Color Costume Design.

Updated: Maltese residents in UK eligible to vote in European Union referendum



Associated Press Monday, 25 May 2015

Citizens from most EU countries living in the UK will not get a vote in the referendum on Europe, the UK government has said.

Those eligible - the franchise - will be the same as those who can vote in a general election, rather than local or European Parliament elections.

This means Irish, Maltese and Cypriot residents in the UK will get a vote, but other EU citizens will not, the BBC reports.

Britain's prime minister outlined who will be allowed to vote in referendum on whether or not the country should remain in the European Union on Monday, opting for rules that exclude most voters from the 28-nation bloc who live in the U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron announced the parameters ahead of introducing legislation Thursday in Parliament to organize the ballot.

His plans also include a tour of European capitals to press his case that the EU needs to be reformed, hoping that the upcoming vote will focus minds that Britain is determined to enact change. Cameron plans to travel to Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Poland and Germany this week as part of his efforts to talk with all of the leaders of the EU member states before the June European Council late next month.

Under the referendum measure, the vote will be open to the same voters allowed to normally vote in British elections — rather than rules that are used for European Parliament elections. The rules would exclude for example, a French citizen working in London but not qualifying Commonwealth citizens and Republic of Ireland citizens who are eligible to vote if registered. U.K. nationals resident abroad for less than 15 years will also be able to vote.

The question is important because so many non-British EU nationals live in Britain — nearly 2.8 million. Some have argued that they should have a right to vote on something material to their future.

There would be exceptions, most notably in regard to Gibraltar, a British territory. Though situated at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula, Gibraltar resolutely wishes to remain separate from Spain, though public opinion has been staunchly pro-EU. The chief minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, praised Cameron for being "true to his word," on giving the territory's residents a chance to vote.

"As a British part of the EU, our voice will be heard as part of the franchise for this seminal exercise in democracy," he said in a statement. "We are working closely with the prime minister and his government to ensure the necessary framework for the EU referendum is in place in Gibraltar at the same time as in the U.K."



Please, include this in your great Newsletter. Paul Borg lives in Portland, Victoria Australia, which is about 100 km. from Mount Gambier SA. Paul and two friends of his, went out for a fishing trip off Port McDonald in South Australia for about 7kms out at sea. Then they travelled about 30km. east towards Victoria where they came across a school of tuna. They caught three, two were approximately 80 kg. and the one Paul hooked was 100kg. The head of the tune is being stuffed and Paul's friend who is the owner of the kaniva Hotel is going to mount it at the hotel for everyone who travels to Melbourne may have a look at it at front bar of the Kaniva Hotel.

Submitted by Alfred Borg (SA)

The Maltese Race



The original, prehistoric inhabitants of Malta probably reached the island from Sicily; the earliest recorded settlers were the Neolithic inhabitants of 5000 BC.

History shows us that the Phoenicians colonized Malta in about 800 BC. A Semitic race, they occupied the islands until their successors, the Carthaginians (same race) were ousted by the Romans in 216 BC.

The Semitic people, a Caucasian group, included the Babylonians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Amorites (ancestors of the Phoenicians), Nabateans, Arameans, Hebrews, Arabians and Abyssinians; they all at one time or another inhabited the Fertile Crescent (region forming an arc between the head of the Persian Gulf and the Southeastern Corner of the Mediterranean Sea).

The term Semitic is derived from the name of Shem, the son of Noah and ancestor of Abraham who was himself probably an Amorite and who many scholars believe lived between the years 2000 and 1900 BC. The Amorites migrated into the Fertile Crescent in about 2500 BC.

They came from the northern fringe of the Syrian Desert and they gave the famous law-giving king, Hammurabi. The component elements of this tribe were the Canaanites who occupied Western Syria and Palestine after 2500 BC and the coastal people called Phoenicians

by the Greeks.

Various tribes from the Arabian Peninsula also migrated into the Fertile Crescent over the centuries but the mass migration occurred in the 7th. Century AD under the banner of Islam in the course of which they not only entered the fertile crescent but also Egypt, N. Africa including Byzantine Carthage, Spain, Malta (869AD), Sicily etc. To many authorities the term Semitic has more linguistic than ethnological implications; they regard the Assyrio-Babylonian, Aramaic, Hebrew, Phoenician, South Arabic, Ethiopic and Arabic languages as dialects developing out of one common tongue the Ursemitisch.

Hence the similarity Maltese bears to Arabic, derived as it does from Phoenician, a Semitic language. This however does not make the Maltese, Arabs. Indeed, Phoenician together with Hebrew and Aramaic belongs to a different subdivision of the Hamito-Semitic family of languages (Northwest Semitic) than does Arabic, which with Ethiopic and Amharic belongs to the Southwest Semitic subdivision.

Like many Mediterranean countries the Maltese islands were once under Arab domination. The period of Arab occupation ranged from 200 years in Malta and Gozo and 400 years in Sicily and parts of Italy while the longest occupation was 800 years in Spain. The Normans started to rule Malta in 1090. The Arabs left their mark in the place names and the language. This was to be expected since the original Maltese language derived from Phoenician was, like Arabic, a Semitic language.

Prior to the 200 years of Arab domination, Malta had been Roman (later part of the Eastern Empire) from 216B.C. to 869 AD, just short of 11 centuries. Contrary to popular belief, the Arabs, wherever they occupied were on the whole fairly benign; they did not go in for mass slaughter of their defeated foes (which is more than can be said for many 'Christian' European powers); people who refused to convert to Islam were subjected to a special tax. When the Arabs expelled the Byzantine rulers they did not put the Maltese population to the sword or in any way try to deport them from the islands. It is true that they tried to convert as many as possible to Islam; the degree of this conversion has still to be definitely ascertained.

The view that the entire Byzantine population simply deserted the islands allowing the Arabs to move in does not stand up to historical scrutiny; the islands were far too strategically important to be simply abandoned to a hostile power.

From the advent of the Normans up to 1530, Malta was part of the Kingdom of Sicily; thus from 1091 to 1530 when the Order of St. John came to Malta, the original Italic and Byzantine population from the Roman period was further reinforced by other European elements—a period of 440 years.

It also bears stating that the island of Malta under Moslem rule had a very tiny population; the population of the island grew under the Norman rule which started in 1090 AD; this was followed by a steady migration of people from Sicily and the European mainland over the ensuing centuries.

The Euro-ethnicity of the Maltese race stands out even from a cursory perusal of the island's telephone directory! In culture and tradition the Maltese are European and Christian; thus for example Heraldry, a concept totally alien to the Arab World, is deeply rooted in the Maltese islands. The Maltese can also boast of old and illustrious nobility deeply rooted in the traditions of European chivalry. It is in Europe that Malta's roots and destiny lie.

Armenians in Malta

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Armenians in Malta



Representatives of the Armenian Diaspora of Malta at Hastings Gardens

Regions with significant populations

500

Valletta, Mdina, Qrendi

Languages

Armenian, English, Maltese

Religion

Armenian Apostolic

Armenian Diaspora in Malta is a community of Armenians, living on the island of Malta. There are thousands of Armenians on Malta, but only some 400-500 identify themselves as Armenians. The rest are assimilated with the locals and they consider themselves Maltese. The surnames and documents, saved in their family archives, are indicative of their Armenian origin. The interests of the Armenian Diaspora in Malta are represented by the Armenian Community of Malta.

Ta' Liesse Church, Valletta

The relationship of Armenian Kingdom with the Order of St. John has very ancient roots and started in 1097. Order of St. John (Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta) became the land owner beginning with the year 1149. In 1163 the Order was granted with a castle around Mamestia city and two castles in Selevkia under Levon II. The Order was present in Cilicia till 1375. Many Armenian knights and ordinary citizens resettled on Malta after the collapse of Armenian Kingdom in 1375.



of the descendants of Luzinian family.



The second mass resettlement of the Armenians in Malta took place after the Armenian Genocide in 1915 in Ottoman Empire, and the third resettlement was at the end of the 1990s after the collapse of the USSR. Basic part of the migrants later moved to the countries of Continental Europe.

One of the historical examples of the presence of Armenians on Malta is the Church Ta' Liesse built by means of the funds provided by Bali d'Armenia, Fra Giacomo Chenn de Bellay, one

Chairperson of the Armenian Community of Malta Vera Boyajyan and Maltese Parliament MP David Agius

Armenian Community of Malta is a public organization based on self-administration that acts in accordance with the Constitution of Republic of Malta and current legislation of the republic. The members of the Community are Armenians and their family members (Malta residents) united on a voluntary basis. The Community operates on the territory of Malta and EU; is a legal body and has its own logo.^[1]

The Armenian Community of Malta was registered^[2] in the List of Voluntary Organisations, approved by the government, on the 10th of July 2009. The first Congress of the Armenians took place on 31 of July 2009 in Hilton Hotels. The organization management was asserted during the Congress. The Chairperson of the Community became Vera Boyajyan.

The goal of the Community is to unite the efforts of the Armenians, aimed at preservation and development of Armenian culture and language; protection rights and interests of its members; strengthening the friendship between the Armenian and Maltese people. To reach its goals the Community contributes to publishing and distributing of literature promoting the achievements of the Armenian cultural centers, organizes seminars, conferences, exhibitions, takes part in such activities itself; helps and assists the members of the Community in all the spheres of their activities within the framework of current Maltese legislation.^{[1][3]}

Superior body of the Community is Members' Assembly summoned not less than once a year. The Assembly asserts the Board of Community, determines its numerical composition and elects Chairperson. Board of Community is formed by elected members of the community. Board of Community coordinates the activities of the members of the Community; elects from its members a deputy of Chairperson; organizes preparation and holding of Assembly as well as determines the ways of realization of decisions made at Assembly.

Chairperson of Community controls the current activity of Community, represents Community in relationship with various organizations, signs agreements, letters and applications on behalf of Community, has the power to sign all financial, legal, service and other documents; controls implementation of decisions of Board of Community; has the right to summon out-of-turn Assembly and Board of Community; possesses the right of casting vote in disputes while voting in sessions of Board of Community.

Inspection commission of Community exercises control of financial and economical activities of Community. Members of Board have no right to enter in Inspection commission.^[1]

Khachqar in Valletta, Malta, installed on December 22, 2009 from Ashot and Vera Boyajyans and Armenian Community of Malta Shortly after the first Congress of Armenians on Malta Armenian Community of Malta fulfilled most of the missions formulated at the Congress.

On 22 December the unveiling of a Khachqar took place in the Hastings Gardens, near the entrance of the city of Valletta, in front of the Maltese Order residence (major residence of Malta). The Khachqar was specially made for the purpose in Armenia and delivered to Malta. Members of Maltese Parliament, the Mayor of Valletta and other high-level guests were present at the ceremony. The memorial board at the Kahchqar says:



*In token of friendship between the Maltese and Armenian people.
Armenia thanks Malta for its support to Armenians who found refuge in this island in the tragic years of 1375 and 1915*

Another achievement of the Community is the initiation of formation of friendship group Armenia-Malta in the National Assembly of Republic of Armenia,^[4] as well as the formation of similar friendship group Malta-Armenia in the Parliament of Republic of Malta. The Community management made a decision to build Armenian Church on Malta as well as to install a monument to the first Catholicos of All Armenians Gregory the Illuminator.

Armenian Community of Malta is the only organization that represents interests of Armenians on Malta and gives legal support to its members. On the 24th of June the official website of the Community was launched in three languages: English, Armenian and Russian.

MALTESE FOR FOREIGNERS: TWO NEW BOOKS AND AUDIO CD



After publishing the Maltese/English book series entitled *Maltese for Foreigners*, Charles Daniel Saliba recently completed two new books, *More Words in Maltese* and *Further Words & Expressions in Maltese*, to supplement this series. *More Words in Maltese* is a bilingual book in Maltese and English that teaches basic Maltese vocabulary and phrases encountered in daily life. *Further Words & Expressions in Maltese* is a bilingual book that covers practical intermediate and specialised vocabulary, together with idioms and proverbs. In both books, each lesson contains visual and pronunciation aids, with the English equivalent for each word or expression. Designed in full colour, both books include exercises and activities to teach vocabulary and phrases in a cyclical manner while

sharpening the students' speaking, reading, writing and listening skills. Saliba has also updated the accompanying CD, with the audio files linked to the books' content, so learners can listen to native Maltese speakers reading the text and performing the dialogues. Saliba recently obtained his PhD from the University of Sheffield (UK), where he specialised in teaching Maltese as a foreign language and was sponsored by the *Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Grant*. For more information about each book, please visit www.charlesdanielsaliba.com

CONTACT: Charles Daniel (maltesecourses@yahoo.com)



PASSIONATE ABOUT MY ARTWORK

My Name is ANTHONY FARRUGIA, I am 47 years old married with two children. My inclination especially in miniature clay statue making started since an early age of my life. I was all the time playing with plasticine, sketching and designing all types of designs starting from mural decorations to feast banners and so on. I cannot say that I academically studied art in an art school or academy but through all my life thanks to the organization that catered for the Feast of Saint Lawrence in Vittoriosa, my birth place, I was always in touch and close with various works of art and with people involved in various artistic field, like painters, gilders, statue makers and restorers and so on. This life style certainly encourage the fact that I always felt in my blood an artistic orientation.

As I started making miniature statues, soon I was commissioned to do various religious clay statues which in Malta are very popular. I feel very satisfied when I know that people have collections of my works which are specifically identified by my initials (AF) marked in the soft clay before it dries.

I have participated in various potter/clay exhibitions in Malta and even put up my own at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa in November 2002. Unfortunately I never found time to put up another personal exhibition as I am very busy working on private orders, a solo exhibitions is a one year work and time is a problem. At present I am working on a group of crib figures with Maltese costumes, as I was commissions to do for an exhibition that shall take place next December in Austria for which my figures will represent Malta.

**ANTHONY FARRUGIA**

Flag maker, banner decorator, miniature statue maker and restorer.

Tel : 2146 4212

Mobile : 7999 3119

e-mail

anthonyfarrugia10@gmail.com

<http://www.claywork.co.nr/>

MALTA EMIGRANTS COMMISSION - Fr Alfred Vella



Secretariat for Emigration and Tourism

In 1950 Malta Catholic Action established an Emigrants' Commission to serve as a link between migrants and their families here in Malta. In 1958 the Commission became a Diocesan Commission in contact with the Supreme Council for Emigration in Rome, and the president of the Maltese Commission, Mgr Philip Calleja, became Director in Malta for all emigration activities. When Tourism came to Malta, the Church established a Catholic Tourist Council and later on parish centres for English, Italian, French and German speaking communities as well as Hotel Chaplains. Meanwhile the Apostleship of the Sea was given new life and the Apostleship of Aviation was established; a commission to keep in contact with Maltese priests abroad was also established.

As many visitors to Malta are not Catholics the Commission became interested in ecumenical activities and in inter-religious dialogue, and a Catholic Enquiry Centre was founded. When displaced persons started seeking refuge in Malta the Commission took over their problems and changed its name to Commission of Emigrants and Refugees. All these activities were brought together in one Secretariat in 1970; this Secretariat was reconfirmed according to the directives of the Pastoral Plan 1986-1991 by a decree of the 3rd December 1986; a second decree, dated 16th December 1988, gave the Secretariat its present structure.

The Migrants and Tourism Secretariat is affiliated with the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People, Rome and the International Catholic Migration Commission (I.C.M.C.) Geneva.

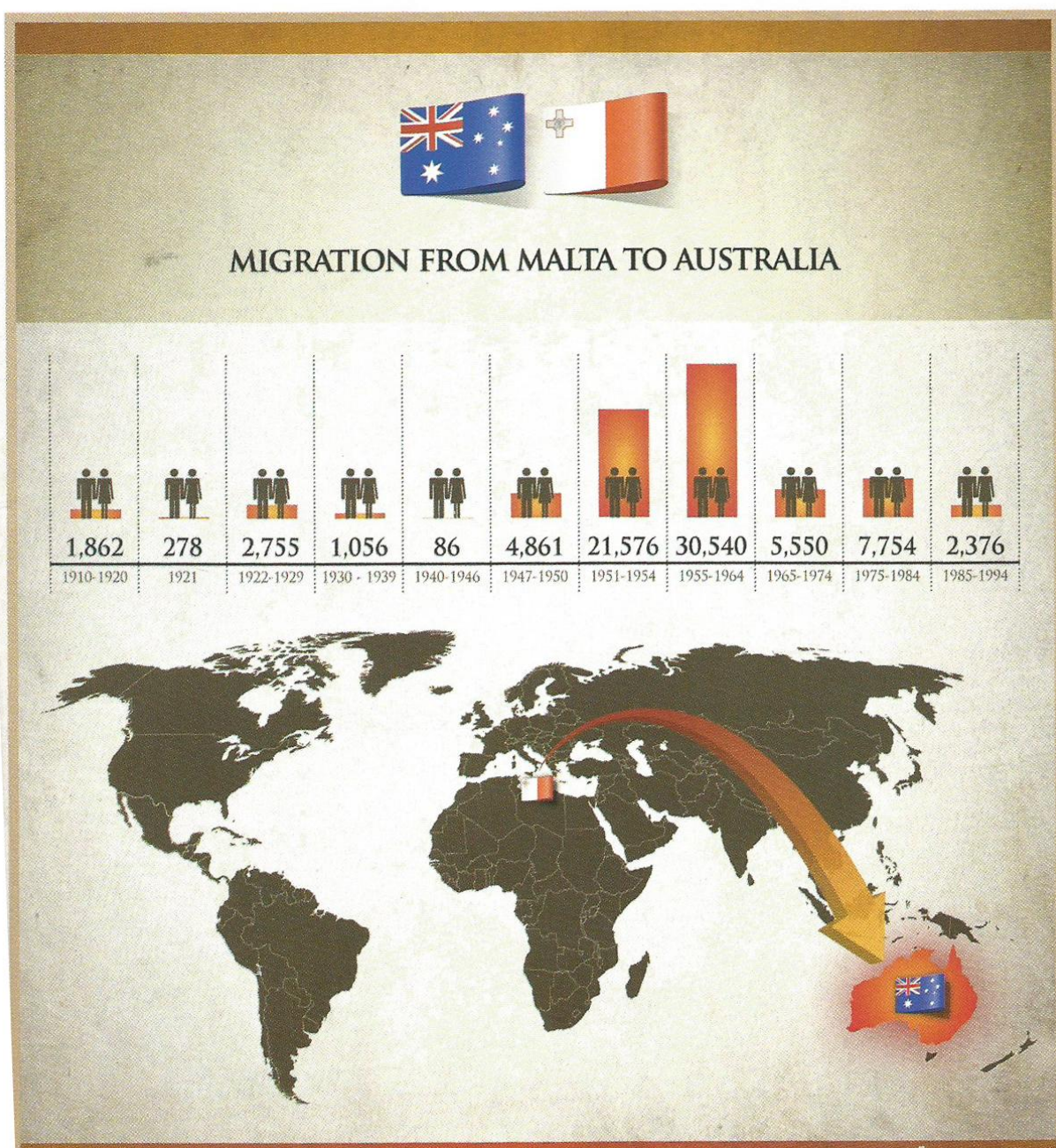
Address Dar I-Emigrant, Valletta VLT 1062

Telephone +356 2122 2644, +356 2124 0255, +356 2123 2545

Website www.mecmalta.com

Maltese - Australian Relations

MIGRATION FROM MALTA
TO AUSTRALIA



US President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits Malta on December 8, 1943

Roosevelt inspecting the Royal Malta Artillery contingent.

A copy of the illuminated scroll presented by the US President to the "people and defenders of Malta", expressing the American people's admiration for Malta's contribution to democracy, which is at the National War Museum. The scroll was dated December 7, 1943, to mark the second anniversary of the US's entry into World War II. The original scroll is held at the National Library, Valletta.

The third important visit by a wartime leader in Malta in 1943 was by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who arrived in Malta on December 8. His Douglas C 54 aircraft, escorted by 20 Lightning P-38s and Supermarine Spitfires, landed at Luqa airfield at 9.30am.

He was met by the island's leading civil and service dignitaries, as well as by a number of American personalities, including General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Carl Andrew Spaatz, General Walter Bedell Smith and Rear-Admiral Wilson Brown and Rear-Admiral Ross Macintire.

On leaving the aircraft, the President and Governor Lort Gort boarded the Willys Jeep 'Husky' presented in July by General Eisenhower to Sir Keith Park, and took the salute as the Royal Malta Artillery band played the American national anthem. After inspecting the guard of honour provided by the three services (Army, Air Force and Navy), President Roosevelt addressed the gathering.

With him he had a scroll, with a citation from the President speaking on behalf of the people of the US, about their admiration for Malta's contribution to democracy. After he read it to the gathering, the President handed over the case containing the illuminated scroll to his son-in-law, Major John Boettiger, who presented it to Governor Lord Gort.

He toured Marsa, Paola, Żabbar, St Peter's, Ricasoli, Kalkara, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua and the dockyard. Following the Governor's address of appreciation, Roosevelt, while on his way back to his aircraft, expressed a desire to visit the harbour area. He was transferred to the Governor's car and toured Marsa, Paola, Żabbar, St Peter's, Ricasoli, Kalkara, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua and the dockyard, after which he left Malta at 1pm.

Meanwhile, by early October 1943, the Allies were in control of southern Italy, and the Allied armies stood facing the Volturno Line, the first of a series of prepared defensive lines running across Italy from which the Germans chose to fight delaying actions, giving ground slowly and buying time to complete their preparation of the Winter Line, their strongest defensive line south of Rome.

On October 13, Italy declared war on Germany, and the Allies were joined by Italian fighting and support troops. Meanwhile, in the north, the Germans and Benito Mussolini organised Italian units to continue fighting the Allies. During November, the US 5th Army struggled to make progress towards the Gustav Line, never quite making it to Monte Cassino or the Garigliano River. On the east side, the British 8th Army broke through the Trigno River line and advanced on the Germans' new positions on the Sangro River.

British and New Zealand troops launched an assault on November 22, 1944, against the Sangro River line. By December 1, the German line was broken. The US 5th Army finally reached the Garigliano River in December 1943, but was still short of Cassino and the Rapido River. In the west, the Canadians took the town of Ortona after an epic 29-day struggle against the German Fallschirmjäger defending it. Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery returned to Britain to prepare for the Normandy invasion and was replaced as 8th Army commander by General Oliver Leese. As winter settled in, further offensives became difficult. *Relevant artefacts and information may be viewed at Heritage Malta's National War Museum in Valletta.*





MALTA RUGBY LEAGUE

Hi, my son, James Redman- the second from left grandson of Gerry and Mary Tonna of 10 Saunders Street, Walkerston QLD ph:07 49592919) represented Malta against Lebanon early this month. Confirmation of him playing in the team is on the Malta rugby league website. James was born in Mackay QLD and is now residing in Townsville QLD. He was part of the NYC

Cowboys last year and is now Captain of one of the A Grade teams in Townsville.

James was one of two Australians chosen to play in the next Malta game against Belgium in England next month.

As you can appreciate it, it is a very expensive exercise especially having to fly from Townsville. Therefore he is selling raffle tickets to help fund the trip. If anyone is willing to buy tickets please email myself and I can give them my bank details and scan them their tickets to them.

Your support would be very much appreciated. Thanking you Carmen Redman
Email: carmen_redman@bigpond.com.au



Rugby League is a rather new full-contact team sport to the Maltese Islands, with the first game played at Marsa in 2005 by a largely Australian-Maltese touring team from the East-coast of Australia. The Maltese team opened with a successful 36-6 victory over England Lionhearts and featured one local Maltese player, Robert Bonavia. Played with an oval-shaped ball by two teams of thirteen on a rectangular grass field, it is one of two codes of Rugby Football, the other is Rugby Union.

Rugby Union's first steps on the Maltese Islands date back to the mid 1900's when the first club (Overseas Rugby Club) was established in 1946. Malta's national Rugby Union team is now ranked in the 40's.

Rugby League is played by teams across Malta and also the sister island of Gozo has it's own representation after the Malta Rugby League (MRL) introduced Gozo RL as a foundation club in 2011.

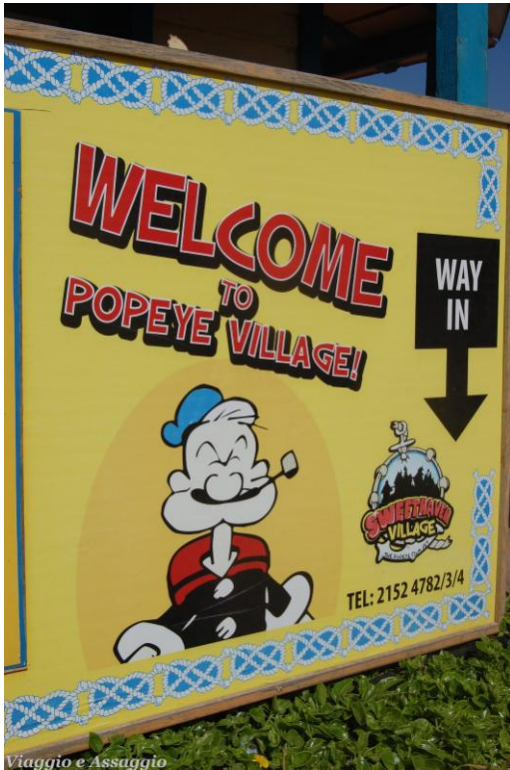
The 13-man code is faster, yet simpler to understand for spectators, exciting and spectacular to watch and concentrates on the core rugby skills that are catch, pass, tackle and kick. At the professional level, Rugby League is played by skillful and powerful athletes with the sport demanding that players show determination, sporting ingenuity and courage.

Rugby league is most prominent across the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and France where the sport is played professionally, however it is played throughout Europe, Africa, the USA, the West Indies and across Asia. Throughout Europe, Rugby League is also played in the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Norway, Scotland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Wales.

The Maltese Heritage U17's **Maltese Herita**A video of best wishes from senior Maltese rugby league players going out to the Maltese Heritage Rugby League can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnXN_pDqVS4&feature=player_embedded.

Invest In Malta

A Mediterranean hub with global connections and access to European, North African and Middle Eastern markets, Malta remains a relatively low-cost base offering the highest standards of service, security and trust. Since joining the European Union in 2004 and the Eurozone four years later, Malta has successfully placed itself on the map for investors wishing to set up their operations in Malta. Malta's competitive positioning together with a politically stable environment, an Englishspeaking workforce that is specialized and professional and a regulator that is firm yet flexible, practical and accessible make Malta a jurisdiction of choice for investors wishing to set up shop on the island. Malta is at the very front rank of world financial centres. In 2010 the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index ranked Malta 11th out of 139 countries for its financial market development and 10th for the soundness of its banking system, three notches up from the previous year.



Popeye Village Malta

has grown from its days as a Film Set of the 1980 Musical Production 'Popeye' into one of the major tourist attractions on the Maltese Islands filled with a number of colorful fun activities for all young and young at heart. Open all year round we guarantee an enjoyable visit to all of our guests.

Once you walk into this captivating, over 30 year old village, you will be greeted and Popeye the sailor and his friends, who will be your hosts and entertain you all through out your visit. The whole family can be part of a unique filming experience with the animation crew and giving you the opportunity to see yourself on the big screen.

One can enjoy a number of other attractions including the ever so popular Santa's toy town; a unique attraction of its sort in Malta where you can get a glimpse of Santa's elves preparing toys for the festive season, boat rides, water trampolines, sun bathing decks, beach lido, silver smith demonstrations, food outlets and a winery offering free wine tasting. Children can have a blast in Malta's largest jump around found at the upper part of the complex.

This fun atmosphere is ideal for your kid's parties and for school outings. With lots of educational and creative games, your kids will have a great time learning and making new friends in the company of Popeye and the gang.

Popeye Village grandiosely celebrates yearly activities with a bang as it is highly decorated and themed according to the season. Meet Rickey the rabbit during Easter, be spooked during Halloween and amuse yourself during carnival.

Organizing event from a BBQ to a costumed fancy dress gathering, a day of fun or team building activity, our menus and catering outlets are ideal for that something different to make your event a success. And for that couple looking for a unique wedding venue by the sea – Popeye Village is the ideal location for them.

Make sure that you will be part of this enjoyable experience – and visit Popeye Village.

POPEYE VILLAGE AMUSEMENT PARK

Amusement Park

Film set from the 1980 musical 'Popeye', now a theme park village with boat rides & food outlets.

Address: Triq Tal-Prajjet, Il-Mellieħa, Malta

Phone: +356 2152 4782



News FOR Seniors



Ahna nistgħu ngħinuk tikklejmja pensjoni minn pajjiż ieħor

Id-Department of Human Services jista' jgħinek tikklejmja pensjoni minn hafna pajjiżi-anki jekk m'intix tircievi l-ebda pagament jew benefiċċju Awstraljan.

Int ma thallas xejn ahna nistgħu:

- nibgħatu l-formoli tal-klejm għal xi pajjiżi, jew ninfurmawk kif tiksibhom
- ngħinuk timla l-formoli
- nipprovdu uffċjali bilingwali u/jew interpreti biex ikellmuk bil-lingwa li tippreferi int
- nikkupjaw u niċċertifikaw id-dokumenti neċessarji u oriġinali kollha
- nivverifikaw l-identità tiegħek
- nivverifikaw ir-residenza Awstraljana tiegħek
- nibgħatu l-klejm tiegħek lill-pajjiżi li magħhom l-Awstralja għandha ftehim tas-sigurtà soċjali.

Jekk qed tircievi l-Age Pension Awstraljana u għext jew hdimt barra l-Awstralja, int obligat legalment tikklejmja kwalunkwe pensjoni li mhix Awstraljana li int tista' tkun intitolata għaliha. Int trid tghidilna wkoll dwar kwalunkwe pagamenti ta' pensjoni minn barra jew dhul li qed tircievi waqt li tkun qed tircievi l-pensjoni jew benefiċċju Awstraljan.

L-Awstralja għandha ftehimiet internazzjonali dwar is-sigurtà soċjali ma' numru ta' pajjiżi, u hekk jagħmluha aktar faċli tikklejmja l-pensjoni minn daww il-pajjiżi. Dawn huma: l-Awstrija, il-Belġju, il-Kanada, iċ-Cili, il-Kroazja, Ċipru, ir-Repubblika Ċeka, id-Danimarka, il-Fillandja, il-Ġermanja, il-Greċja, l-Ungerija, l-Irlanda, l-Italja, il-Ġappun, ir-Repubblika tal-Korea, il-Latvja, ir-Repubblika Jugoslava ta' Qabel tal-Maċedonja, Malta, l-Olanda, New Zealand, in-Norveġja, il-Polonja, il-Portugall, ir-Repubblika Slovakka, is-Slovenja, Spanja, l-Isvizzera u l-Istati Uniti tal-Amerka.

Probabbli tista' tikklejmja wkoll il-pensjoni minn pajjiżi li magħhom l-Awstralja m'għandhiex ftehim dwar is-sigurtà soċjali. Ahna nistgħu ngħinuk rigward il-proċess tal-ikklejmjar u ahna nistgħu nipprovdu dan is-servizz bla ħlas.

Għal aktar tagħrif dwar kif tikklejmja pensjoni minn pajjiż ieħor, żur humanservices.gov.au/international jew ċempel **131 673** jew **131 202** għal għajnuna u tagħrif f'lingwa barra l-Ingliz.

CAHDA: It-tagħrif li hemm f'din il-pubblikazzjoni jipprovdi tagħrif ġenerali dwar il-pagamenti u s-servizzi li hemm f'Novembru 2014. Jekk trid aktar tagħrif dettaljat int għandek tikkuntattja ċ-ċentru tas-servizz lokali tiegħek jew ċempel **131 202**.



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

RT010MAL1410

Charles Calleja writes

GEORGE CROSS MAKES US PROUD



I write this letter in memory of my parents, friends and other Maltese nationals who experienced World War II between 1940 and 1945.

I am 84 years old and still remember what we Maltese went through during my boyhood years of nine to 14. We did not have enough to eat, so my parents, God bless them, went without food for days themselves so my sister and I could nourish ourselves.

They had to pay well in order to buy flour, which we ate as pancakes.

My friends and I used to go to Iklin to gather carob fruit to satisfy our hunger. We also ate tomatoes and raw potatoes.

We were always in fear of having our house bombed as some friends indeed had.

We had the back wall of our garden bombed and were always afraid of possible burglars.

My father had to stay guard while the rest of the family went down to the bomb shelter where we stayed for days and nights.

We lost a friend in a bombing raid on a Mosta shelter. Others died as did numerous Maltese servicemen. We had friends who lost their houses and all their belongings.

Yes, indeed, all Maltese living through those terrible years deserved the George Cross.

This could have been just stored in a box somewhere where no one could see it. However, more important it was displayed on Malta's national flag for all the peoples of the world to see and remember the gallant Maltese people living between 1940 and 1945. Much, much more important still, it makes these Maltese people, including me, very proud indeed.

So, let no one dare take the George Cross away from our glorious flag.

No one has the right.

In Memory of Historian Godfrey Wettinger



Historian Godfrey Wettinger, who together with Fr Mikiel Fsadni discovered Malta's oldest piece of literature, *Il-Kantilena*, in September 1966, died, aged 85.

Born in Mosta, Prof. Wettinger was a founding member and past editor of *Melita Historica*, and past president of the Malta Historical Society.

He was nominated member of the National Order of Merit in 1996.

Education Minister Evarist Bartolo paid tribute to Mr Wettinger on his Facebook page this morning.

His publications include *The Jews of Malta in the late Middle Ages*, *Slavery in the Maltese Islands*, *Placenames of the Maltese Islands* and *The Arabs in Malta*.

His major publication is the transcription of the University 11 manuscripts at the National Library which was published as *Acta Juratorum et Consilii Civitatis et Insulae Maltae*.

In a statement, the government expressed condolences.

The university said on its website, it mourned the loss of Prof. Wettinger, a senior fellow who dedicated his entire life to scholarship.

"He was a formidable intellectual and exemplary academic, responsible for many seminal publications, and tutor to many

generations of students."



MODEL MAKER WHO ENSURES OUR BUSES LEGACY LIVES ON

For the past 36 years retired bus driver Ninu Bugeja has devoted hours every day creating 43 detailed handmade model buses.

Photos: Jason Borg

A fully-fledged public transport museum may be still merely a dream, but in a quiet street in Tarxien, one retired bus driver has set about creating the next best thing.

"This is my life," says 65-year-old Ninu Bugeja, surrounded by 43 detailed handmade models showcasing

the entire colourful history of Malta's buses.

For the past 36 years, Mr Bugeja has devoted hours every day to creating his models, which range from an 1856 Omnibus to an Arriva-era King Long, taking in the many beloved and grumbled-about green and orange specimens in between.

Mr Bugeja builds his models, some as big as four feet in length, entirely from scratch over some eight months, constructing everything from the seats to the wheels out of hard cardboard.

Each one is a perfectly accurate representation of an existing bus at a specific moment in its history, from its seats and registration plate to the colour and the route, many reflecting a time when buses were painted in different colours according to the route they served. Moreover, as Mr Bugeja himself worked as a bus driver for 20 years, many of the models carry the added significance of having actually belonged to friends and relatives over the years.

I'm still in love with them. Don't bother showing me a new Mercedes

"I use a book for research but I can remember all the details by heart," he smiles.

Mr Bugeja also proudly displays a model of the bus he once called his own – bought for him by his father, with whom he had previously worked selling bread from a cart in Qormi (a model of it is now a small appendix to his bus collection).

If you love Maltese food – you will love this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmRR7FTuj3w>



"In-nies iħobbuni. Naf immur man-nies. Nitkellem bil-Ingliż, bil-Malti, bit-Taljan, bil-Franċiż u anki ftit bil-Ġermaniż.

Min irid jagħtini jagħtini, min ma jridx ma jagħtinix."

Ċikku l-parker f'Wied Iz-Zurrieg

Maltese-Australian Women's Association A.G.M. 2014-15

Il-Maltese-Australian Women's Association ser jorganizzaw l-45 AGM, Laqgħa Generali Annwali, nhar l-Erbgħa 24 ta' Gunju, f'De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney.

Fl-10.30am tibda l-quddiesa mill-kapillan tal-ghaqda Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP, fejn qabel ikun hemm il-qrar u jingħad ir-Ruzarju.

- **Din il-quddiesa ser tkun offruta għas-sufragu tas-Sur Alfred Fenech OAM f'għeluq l-ewwel anniversarju li mar jingħaqad mal-Mulej.**

Wara kikkra kafe`/te` tibda l-ghaqda. Ikun l-elezzjoni għal kumittat gdid fejn il-membri jivvutaw.

Wara jkun lunch. Jekk jogobkom cemplu biex tibukkjaw minhabba l-ikel.

Cemplu lil Joyce Nagy 9718 2795 jew lil Colleen Cassar 9718 3868

Grazzi hafna lil kull min appoga din l-ghaqda mat-tul l-45 sena mil-fundazzjoni mis-Sinjura Josephine Zammit MBE.

Antoinette Mascari - Segretarja

The Maltese Australian Women's Association is organizing its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 24 June at De Piro House, Stanley Street, Sydney.

At 10.30, the chaplain of the association, Father Tarcisio Micallef MSSP, will celebrate Holy Mass and confessions will be heard prior to Mass.

- **Mass will be offered for Mr. Alfred Fenech OAM in remembrance of the first anniversary of his death.**

After a cuppa tea or coffee, the meeting will commence. There will be an election of a new committee.

Lunch will be held after the AGM. Please ring Joyce Nagy on 9718 2795 or Colleen Cassar on 9718 3868 to book for lunch.

We would like to thank all those who supported our association during these last 45 years. The association was founded by Mrs. Josephine Zammit MBE.

Antoinette Mascari - Secretary

That's all, Folks

Dak kollu għal issa, Hbieb