



# Maltese eNewsletter

JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Editor: Frank J. Scicluna

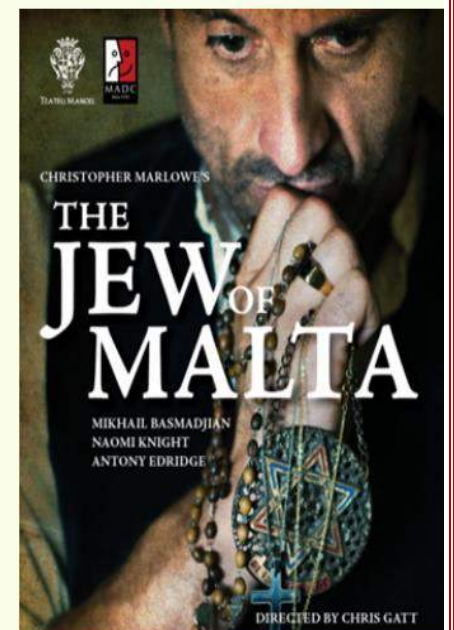
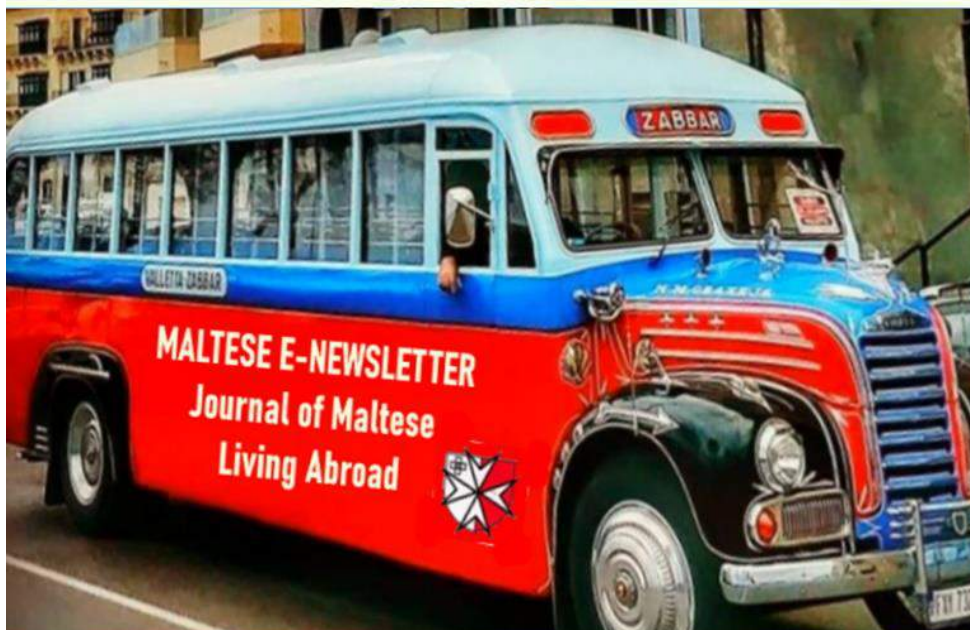
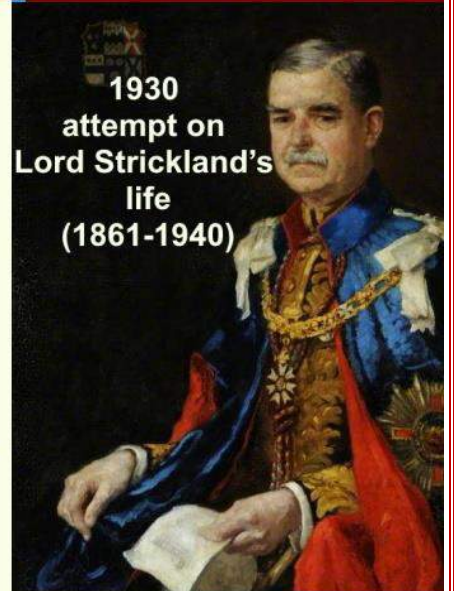


**A SPECIAL INVITATION  
TO YOUNG PEOPLE  
OF MALTESE DESCENT  
LIVING ABROAD**

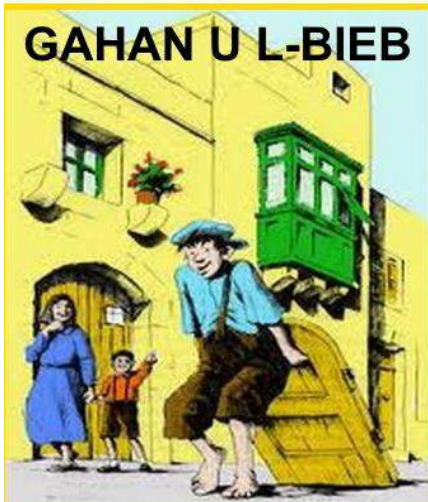
**Read page 2**



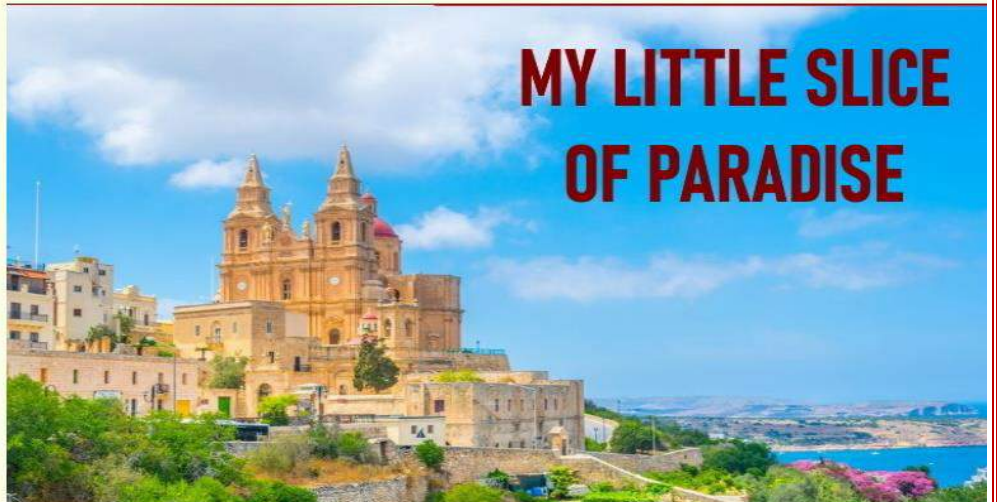
**1930  
attempt on  
Lord Strickland's  
life  
(1861-1940)**



**GAHAN U L-BIEB**

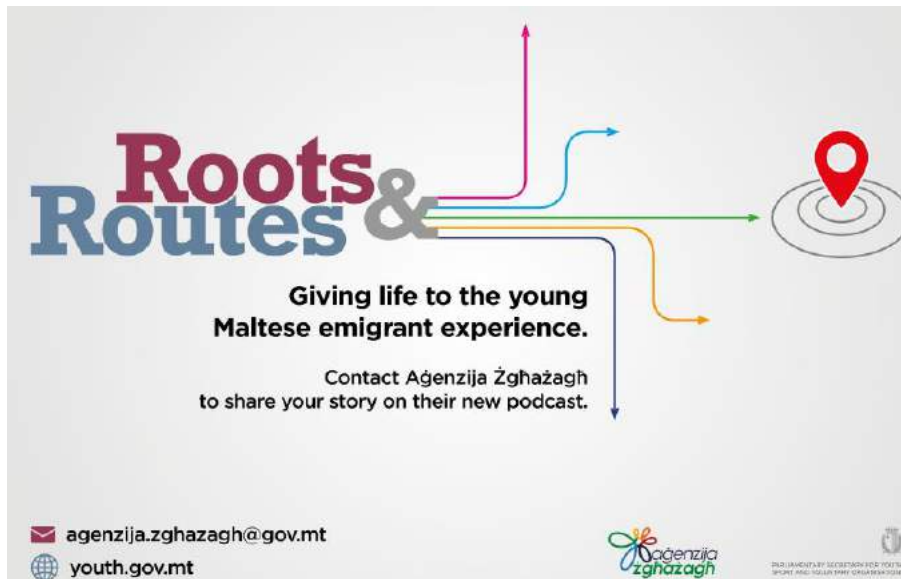


**MY LITTLE SLICE  
OF PARADISE**





## MALTESE DESCENT LIVING ABROAD



Aġenzija Żgħażaġh (University of Malta) is launching the initiative Roots & Routes to establish and enhance connections with young Maltese People living abroad. Through this project we would like to get closer to Maltese young people living

abroad. Aġenzija Żgħażaġh also aims to encourage young people living in Malta to engage with narratives of young Maltese migrants thereby encouraging a broad understanding of identity, nationality, migration and global mobility.

The project will be operated via the production of a number of recorded online conversations of a youth worker from Aġenzija Żgħażaġh with a young Maltese person living abroad, aimed at giving life to the young Maltese emigrant experience. These podcasts will be published on the Aġenzija Żgħażaġh online media.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh would like to invite the youths of Maltese heritage, readers of the Maltese e-newsletter to collaborate on this project by helping us make the initial contact with Maltese young people, aged 18-30, living abroad who may be interested in taking part in this conversation. Kindly note that we have attached visuals which may be used as part of the outreach campaign. **Maria C. Borg** Senior Youth Worker Support Youth Organisations

Triq il-Kbira San Guzepp, STA VENERA, SVR1013, Malta.

Reception: +356 22586700 m: +356 99787234 e: [maria-carmela.borg@gov.mt](mailto:maria-carmela.borg@gov.mt) | <http://youth.gov.mt>



## Pope Francis, ex-pope Benedict get virus vaccines - Vatican

Pontiff, 84, previously spoke of importance of the jab in fight against COVID-19

WorldHeCOV9

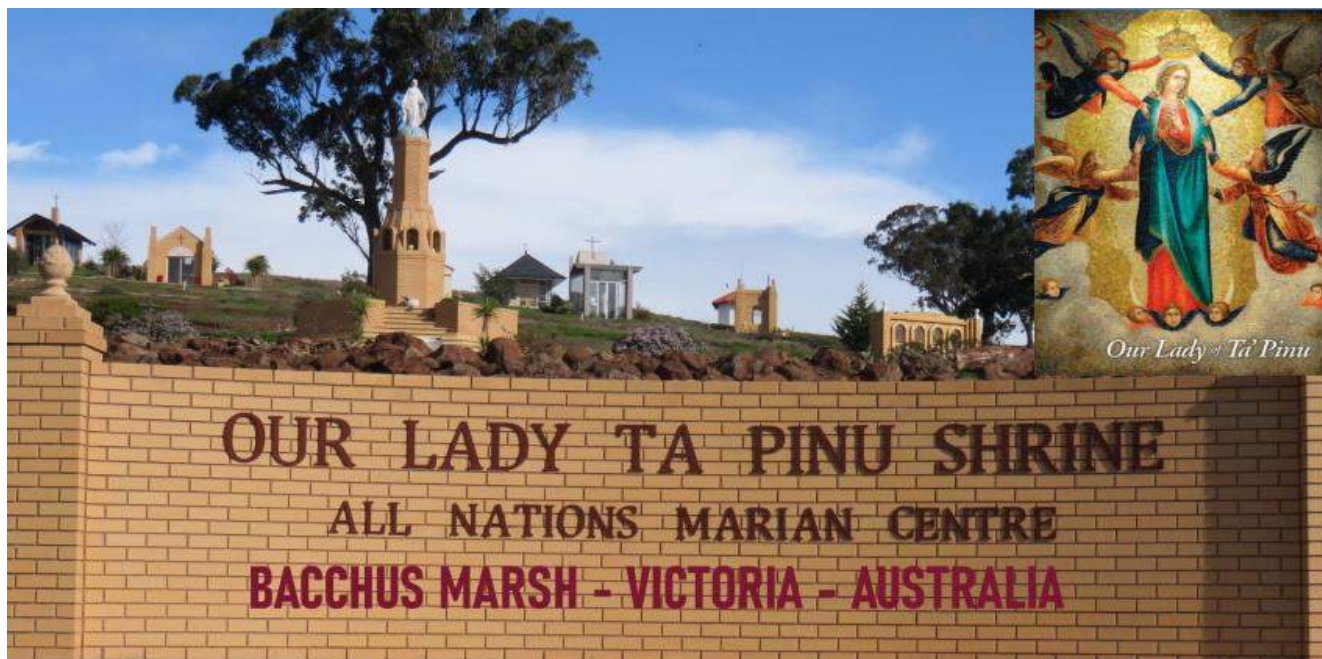
This handout picture released on February

15, 2018 by the Vatican press office shows Pope Francis (left) greeting Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. Photo: AFP/Osservatore Romano

Both Pope Francis and his predecessor, former pope Benedict XVI, have received the coronavirus vaccine, the Vatican said on Thursday.

The Argentine pontiff, 84, has previously spoken of the importance of the jab in the fight against COVID-19, which has severely curtailed his own love of being among his flock.

Under the Vatican's vaccination programme launched Wednesday, "the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to Pope Francis and the Pope Emeritus," spokesperson Matteo Bruni said. It had already been reported that Francis, 84, had received the jab on Wednesday, but officials declined to confirm the news.



After Our Lady's Call to Carmela Grima, the first foreign country that received an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu was Tunisia, where some Gozitan people emigrated in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These immigrants, besides personal devotion in their hearts, had carried to that country, an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu and installed it in one of the local Churches. To date, devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu has spread all around the world, namely India, Guatemala, Toronto, Albania, Brazil, Rome, and the latest oratory was installed at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C in 2006.

In 1957, for some reasons, this Icon from La Goulette, Tunisia was removed from Tunisia and was brought to a Church in Kensington, Melbourne.



First mass was held in Wollongong in 1991.

After remaining for some years in that Church, it was

transferred again to St. Bernadette Church, in Sunshine Victoria. In 1989, a group of devotees of Our Lady decided to have some celebrations in honour of Our Lady Ta' Pinu at St. Bernadette

Church. In 1990, this group, wishing to have an icon of Our Lady for processions, commissioned a new Icon to artist, Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi. The painting was finished early 1991 and Msgr Benedict Camilleri, then Rector of Ta Pinu Shrine in Gozo, Malta was invited to come to Australia and conduct Marian Celebrations.

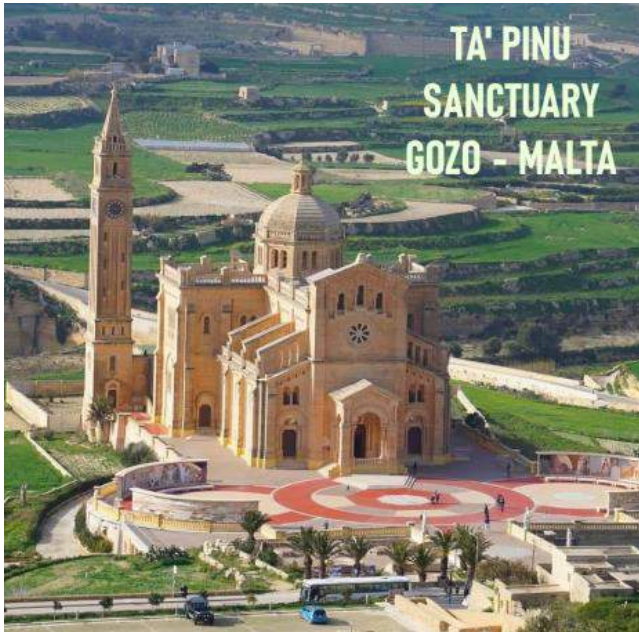
Devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu were introduced in Horsley Park and Blacktown (Sydney) and She is also venerated in the Marian Centre of Berrima (NSW)

While Msgr Benedict Camilleri was in Sydney, some friends suggested that he could build a church here in Australia dedicated to Our Lady Ta' Pinu. On his return to Melbourne, meeting the group that had invited him, he revealed this idea which they were ready to support. He then made the necessary requests to both Ecclesiastical Authorities, in Malta and in Melbourne, and began looking for a suitable place for such a devotion. After consultations, the Hill overlooking the Western Highway was selected, a loan to support the project was obtained and an application for a planning permit was lodged.

In 1992, a Low Mass was celebrated on the land. The first official Mass in the presence of a beautiful number of Pilgrims was celebrated on 27rd March 1993.

His Lordship, Archbishop Francis Thomas Little also gave permission for Mass to be said each





first Saturday of the month. This began on the 26 March 1994 and each month hundreds of people gather in front of the statue of the blessed Virgin Mary, duly built on the hillside and blessed by Bishop Nicholas Cauchi of Gozo, to pray the Rosary and attend Holy Mass.

The majestic concrete Cross overlooking the Western Freeway was erected, marking the site of the proposed church. It was blessed by His Lordship Dr. Francis Thomas Little, Archbishop of Melbourne on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 1996.

He also placed a solid brass cross which had been previously blessed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, at the foot of the cross. The growing number of pilgrims, as in earlier times, demands that a suitable church to accommodate them be built.

Accordingly, it has been decided to commence construction, by building a replica of the ancient chapel. This too will be surrounded by fields, but one day, with God's help, a beautiful church will also stand out, a sign of the Australian people's wish to honour the Mother of God.

*Our prayer is that she will grant peace and harmony to all the peoples of this great land. And that she will draw us in all into communion with Jesus, her Son and our Saviour.*

The foundation stone for this chapel was cut from the same stone in which the old chapel was built.

It was blessed by the Holy Father in Rome on 18 June 1997 and presented to His Grace Archbishop George Pell of Melbourne during his visit to Ta' Pinu on 10<sup>th</sup> July of that year. In accepting this cornerstone the Archbishop expressed his delight that the devotion the Maltese have for the blessed Virgin will have a new home in Melbourne. He looked forward to the day when the Church at Bacchus Marsh will be completed. May Our Lady guide those who are undertaking this challenging task.

*The replica of the original Chapel in Gozo Malta marking the first stage of the building of the Shrine. On 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1998, the Archbishop of Melbourne blessed and opened to the Public, the Church dedicated to Our Lady Ta Pinu.*

In 1999, the late Mgr. Joseph A. Grech, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, blessed 14 timber Crosses and erected the Way of the Cross. 43 life-size statues were brought from Vietnam and on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2000..

The Marian Centre also features 12 oratories erected by different ethnic communities which makes it an all nations church. Virgin Mary is worshiped in many different names around the globe.

The chapels **belong to** Maltese, Italian, Filipino, Hispanic, Sri Lankan, Indian, Portuguese, Slovenian, Vietnamese, Polish and Indonesian ethnic groups.

Website: <http://www.tapinu-australia.org>

Address: 15 Flanagans Drive, Merrimu, VIC 3340

The Shrine is open from 07:00 AM to 08:00 PM every day of the year (including public holiday) 7 days a week

**SFORTUNATAMENT**

**Hadd ma jghidlek ahsew  
wiccek biex tkun isbah**

**minni**

## Malta Carnival 2021 called off



### It will be celebrated virtually

File photo, Mark Zammit Cordina

Carnival activities have been called off this year because of the pandemic and social media posts claiming otherwise are fake, carnival artistic director Jason Busuttil has confirmed.

Carnival this year will be celebrated virtually and instead of the traditional floats streaming down Valletta's Republic Street, carnival activities will be broadcast on television and social media, while static

floats will be set up as installations on central roundabouts and other spots. *Static floats to be set up in roundabouts*

Busuttil warned that a fake Facebook post was making the rounds, misinforming people that festivities were set to take place in a month as usual in Valletta.

"This carnival page, which even allows you to book tickets for the event, is fake. Carnival this year is not going to take the same form," he warned. Traditional carnival activities in Nadur had also been cancelled and any spontaneous gatherings of large groups in the streets would be reported to the police, mayor Edward Said told Times of Malta. Details would be issued in the coming days, he said.

Last year, an estimated 48,000 people and 15,000 cars had crossed over to Gozo to take part in the carnival festivities. [Times of Malta]

## 100 years of Saint Lucy statue



Charles Spiteri

Joseph Mizzi has just published a booklet to commemorate 100 years of the statue of Saint Lucy at the church dedicated to the saint in Santa Luċija, Gozo, and its association with the plights

of a group of emigrants to Australia at the beginning of the 20th century.

The book is based on other publications, as well as new information which the author extracted from interviews and research at various archives.

In the publication, Mizzi makes references to various works, including *The Maltese in Australia* by Barry York, newspaper articles, Fr Geoffrey Attard's vivid account of the The New Caledonia affair and Mgr Joseph Bezzina's list of donations for the statue made by emigrants based on information found at the archives of the Saint Lucy church.

The booklet also includes an updated list, with original photos found at the national archives, of the emigrants hailing from Santa Luċija, as well as a number of persons, by locality and who were on the trip to Australia, whose voyage was the basis of the entire story.

Joseph Mizzi (right) with Joseph Mercieca, sacristan at St James church, in Victoria, having a look at the booklet. Mercieca served as sacristan at St George's basilica for 36 years. Photo:

## ANTONELLA BERRY-BRINCAT

### Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon

*Dr Antonella Berry-Brincat left her home town of Marsa at the turn of the millennium to pursue a career abroad. After 20 years working as an ophthalmologist in the UK, she attests to the importance of maintaining a link to Maltese communities abroad, and the home country they left years ago.*

“There is nothing like the warm and spontaneous attitude that’s part and parcel of the Maltese people,” Dr Antonella Berry-Brincat says. “The ability for a Maltese person to stop whatever they’re doing, meet someone outside, and have a coffee at a moment’s notice, is something nearly unheard of here in the UK, where the community and the people I interact with on a daily basis are perhaps more emotionally distant. There are obviously pros and cons to this, but it’s true when they say that absence makes the heart grow fonder,” she continues.

In Dr Antonella Berry-Brincat’s case, it’s her upbringing in Marsa, and her nostalgia about her home country, that still runs profound. When asked what she misses the most about her home country, the ophthalmologist is quick to answer: her husband would definitely go for the traditional “*pastizzi*”.

**But how does she compare the Malta she left all those years ago, with the country of today?**

“Malta has indubitably changed in these past twenty years. Back when I graduated in 1997, and eventually left for the UK at the turn of the millennium, the number of opportunities available for students here in Malta, both from an academic perspective as well as the opportunity to make a career, was somewhat limited,” she says.

“Today, there is a large number of opportunities available for students here in Malta, where they are actively encouraged to advance in their respective field, study abroad, garner new skills and competences, and then import them back to Malta. Not just in the medical or ophthalmologic field, but also in other sectors as well,” she continues.

**Berry-Brincat was in Malta as one of the delegates for the tenth annual meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela.**

“We discussed several ways on how the Maltese community can remain in close contact with their country of origin. It is perhaps easier for me, who resides in the UK, than other expats and communities who lived in countries like Australia, Canada and the United States, which are not only geographically further away than the United Kingdom, but also have larger populations,” she points out.

**The advent of social media, according to Berry-Brincat, has also introduced a new element on how expats can remain in contact with Malta.**

“In light of the advent of social media and other innovative tools of communication, such opportunities can be further exploited in order to reach these people. Specifically, those Maltese expats who are left out, and do not form part of their local Maltese community abroad,” she says.

“We need to make sure that these people remain part of the Maltese diaspora, and remain in contact with their country of origin. We need to do what we can to make their lives better and to make sure that Maltese expats integrate as much as possible with the local community of the country where they reside.”

**“Nevertheless, we must never forget where we come from: our traditions and our roots make us who we are.”**

As a way to preserve such an outlook, Berry-Brincat suggests the use of social media to promote the use of the Maltese language, as well as other cultural aspects. “It’s imperative that whenever a Maltese person goes abroad, they do not forget what being Maltese actually entails. It is perhaps our obligation to teach what defines us as Maltese to our descendants, and to all of our future generations.”

*“The link never goes away, but we still need to strengthen it.”*







**Australia Day is**  
for all  
**Australians, no**  
matter where  
our personal  
stories began.  
**Reflect on being**  
Australian,  
celebrate  
contemporary  
Australia and  
recognise our  
history.

## Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

Dear Community

I write with a heavy heart that as an Executive, we have made the decision to postpone our Australia Day Maltese Festa. Due to Covid 19, the Victorian State Government has not approved the event. We did have the option of trying to reduce the numbers and the structure of the event but we thought given the very short time line it would not be possible.

The Executive look forward to inviting you to all future events as soon as we are Covid safe as we will plan an even bigger festa to bring us all together and share our Maltese culture.

Stay safe Best Regards **Marlene Ebejer President**

Live 89.3fm 2GLF-fm  
On Line 893fm.com.au  
On Demand  
<http://ondemand.893fm.com.au/01/html/sun1100.php>

**SUNDAY** Maltese Council - Sunday 11am **11AM**

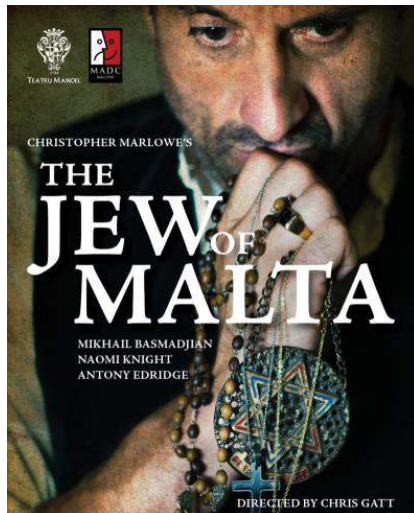
Join the Radio Team of the Maltese Community Council of NSW this Sunday on 2GLF-fm 89.3 for a program from the Maltese community in NSW, news from the Islands of Malta and other interesting topics from the Radio Team



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## February, 1592 - *The Jew of Malta*

Here's what Lord Strange's Men performed at the Rose playhouse on this day, 424 years ago... Henslowe writes: **R at the Jewe of malltuse the 26 of febrearye 1591 ... 1<sup>s</sup>**  
In modern English: **Received at *The Jew of Malta*, 26<sup>th</sup> February 1592 ... 50 shillings**

Finally, we are looking at a play that has stood the rest of time! Christopher Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta* is still occasionally performed today, so it's fun to begin with a trailer for the (now closed) RSC production of 2015, which starred Jasper Britton and was directed by Justin Audibert. It's a useful introduction to the play,

although I would disagree with the interviewed audience member who labels it "*Wolf Hall* with knobs on"; it really isn't.

*The Jew of Malta* was clearly a crowd-pleaser at the Globe in 1592: it made 50 shillings today, almost twice what *Harry of Cornwall* made yesterday, and way more than some of those plays earlier in the week which only made 15 or so shillings. No doubt this was due in part to Edward Alleyn's performance as the enjoyably villainous Barabas. But the play isn't just fun - it's a comic tragedy with a sophisticated and subversive attitude toward its subject matter.

Barabas, a Christian-hating merchant of Malta, receives in his countinghouse a party of merchants who report the arrival of several vessels laden with wealth from the East. At the same time three Jews arrive to announce an important meeting at the senate. The import of the meeting is that the Turkish masters of Malta demand tribute long overdue. The Turkish grand seignior purposely lets the payment lapse over a period of years so that the Maltese will find it impossible to raise the sum demanded. The Maltese have a choice of payment or surrender. The Christian governor of the island, attempting to collect the tribute within a month, decrees that the Jews will have to give over half of their estates or become Christians. All of the Jewish community except Barabas submits to the decree of the governor. The governor seizes all of Barabas's wealth as punishment and has the Jew's house turned into a Christian convent.

Barabas, to avoid complete ruin, purposely fails to report part of his treasure hidden in the foundation of his house. Then he persuades his daughter, Abigail, to pretend that she has converted to Christianity so that she might enter the convent and recover the treasure. Abigail dutifully enters the nunnery as a convert and subsequently throws the bags of money out of the window at night to her waiting father.

Martin Del Bosco, vice-admiral of Spain, sails into the harbor of Malta for the purpose of selling some Turkish slaves he has aboard his ship. The governor is reluctant to allow the sale because of the difficulties he is having with the grand seignior. Del Bosco, by promising military aid from Spain, persuades the governor to defy the Turks and to permit the sale.

Barabas buys one of the slaves, an Arabian named Ithamore. During the sale, Barabas fawns upon Don Lodowick, the governor's son, and Don Mathias. He invites the two young men to his house and orders Abigail, now returned from the convent, to show favor to both. In his desire for revenge, Barabas arranges with each young man, separately, to marry his daughter. He then sends forged letters to Don Lodowick and Don Mathias and provokes a duel in which the young men are killed. Meanwhile, Barabas trains his slave, Ithamore, to be his aide in his plot against the governor and the Christians of Malta.

As a result of her father's evil intentions, Abigail returns to the convent. Barabas, enraged, sends poisoned porridge to the convent as his gesture of thanks on the Eve of St. Jacques, the patron saint



of Malta. All in the convent are poisoned, and Abigail, before she dies, confesses to Friar Jacomo, disclosing to him all that Barabas did and all that he plans to do. When the Turks return to Malta to collect the tribute, the governor defies them and prepares for a siege of the island.

Meanwhile the friars, in violation of canon law, reveal the information they gained from Abigail's confession. Barabas, again threatened, pretends a desire to become a convert and promises all of his worldly wealth to the friars who will receive him into the Christian faith

The play's satirical tone, which emphasizes the way religion is used by all of the characters in a self-serving manner, means that the play's final lines, spoken by Governor Ferneze, are filled with irony: So march away, and let due praise be given Neither to Fate nor Fortune, but to Heaven. If you would like to read *The Jew of Malta*, there are plenty of modern-spelling editions available in print.

The Jewish cemetery at Kalkara, Malta



Plate 1: View of the cemetery from the southwest.

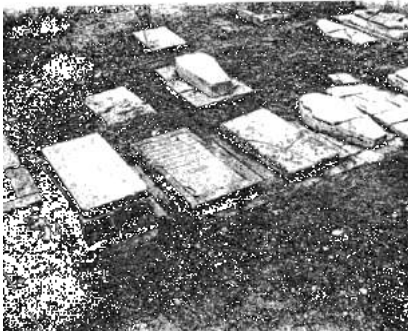


Plate 2: View of the cemetery from the southeast.

## Ic-Cimiterju Lhudi tal-Kalkara The Jewish Cemetery of Kalkara

The Kalkara cemetery is the earliest surviving Jewish burial ground in Malta. Kalkara lies in the south-east side of the Grand Harbour area. As one leaves the harbour, it is the third of four promontories, separated by creeks, opposite Valletta.

The cemetery entrance is at the bottom of Rinella Street, where the street turns to run down to the modern church of St. Joseph and its square beside Kalkara Creek. The place is about 30 feet by 40 feet, bounded by houses, and at the front by a retaining wall, the Latin inscription reads: "This cemetery was established in 1784 by the Leghorn fund for ransoming Hebrew slaves, at its own expenses, for the burial of the dead of its race."

Its elevation, some 8 feet above street level, suggests that the lie of the ground has been altered, probably in subsequent construction. The present entrance, a narrow wooden door, with steep, narrow steps at right angles to it..." Source and for complete information, see <http://www.angelfire.com/al/AttardBezzinaLawrenc> with link to the excellent Kalkara Cemetery site offering descriptions, photographs, and full documentation. [October 2000]

Chabad Jewish Center of Malta was established in 2013 (5773) by Rabbi Chaim Shalom and Mrs. Chaya Mushka Segel as emissaries of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

**Activities** The Center in Malta is part of the extensive activities of bringing the light Torah and Chassidus to every place where there are Jews through brotherly love (Ahavat Yisroel) and pleasant hospitality. Based on the verse "You should burst through to the east, to the west, to the north and to the south" The Lubavitcher Rebbe sends his emissaries all over the world – to break through new paths to the hearts of all Jews the world over and thus bring the Final Redemption along with the Beis Hamikdash – The Holy Temple.

The Chabad Jewish Center of Malta runs:

1. The Synagogue,

The minyon is mainly composed of tourists, Come and be part of us.

Shachris(morning prayers) weekdays : 7:00

Mincha and Ma'ariv(afternoon and evening prayers) at time of sunset Shachris on Shabbas in

Ta'Xbiex Synagogue : 10:00

2. ["Le'Chaim" Kosher restaurant](#). The only strictly kosher restaurant in Malta. There is a lounge area, quality food with the option of fast foods such as falafel and sandwiches, Jewish reading books and free wifi internet.

3. Kindergarten for the local Jewish community

4. An array of Torah classes for the local community and many tourists

5. Special evening gatherings for women – unique gatherings for women in honor of holidays and special times

6. Coming soon: "Family Club" – Weekly gatherings with children and parents to hear Torah stories and to learn about holidays

The Chabad House has a variety of events. The activities and services that we offer will help you to find peace for your soul and an answer to all your spiritual needs: Jewish studies, religious items and books for sale and borrowing, bar-mitzvah preparation, prayer services on Shabbas and Jewish Holidays, and guidance in the entire Jewish life.

You can also just call or come to the Chabad House. We will always try to give sympathetic ear, advise and help. We believe that the Torah and Judaism belongs to all of us. We think that it's possible to benefit from authentic Judaism without feeling pressure or felling threatened.

Therefor we are in the Jewish center – Chabad of Malta, your address for all Jewish matters.

Address: **Chabad Jewish Center** Gorg Borg Olivier 83 St Julians

## PETE BUTTIGIEG CONDEMNS CAPITOL TAKEOVER



Democrat Pete Buttigieg also signalled that President Trump's repeated claims of a 'stolen' and 'fraudulent' election lead to the eventual attack on the US Capitol building.



Words have consequences, especially the words of a president and his allies. Today those consequences include violent rioters attacking our Capitol to overthrow the American democratic process. This must end, and democracy must prevail.

12:49 PM · Jan 6, 2021



♡ 74.1K    💬 12.1K people are Tweeting about this



THE MALTESE JOURNAL  
OUR AIM IS TO KEEP THE MALTESE DIASPORA UNITED AND  
TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION,  
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES  
IN MALTA AND ABROAD





## MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

### News regulations for those travelling from and to Canada

#### 3. ARRIVECAN

All travellers are required to provide contact and quarantine information upon and after entry into Canada. This is part of Canada's efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent importation. This information is crucial to Canada's response to COVID-19. Paper forms can be incomplete or inaccurate, and can take days to process. To help provinces and territories protect their citizens, the Government of Canada is moving to a safer and faster paperless process.

Use ArriveCAN to submit your information easily and securely before your arrival in Canada. ArriveCAN is available to [download as a mobile app](#) or you can [create an account and sign in online](#).

Whether entering Canada by air, land or sea, travellers will must use ArriveCAN to:

- provide required contact information,
- answer questions about quarantine plans if travel isn't exempt from quarantine requirements,
- get an ArriveCAN confirmation receipt to show to border services officers (take a screenshot or print your confirmation if you sign in online), and
- report after your entry and complete COVID-19 symptom self-assessments (ArriveCAN does not ask for COVID-19 test results).

You must use ArriveCAN **before** you board your flight to Canada. You can use ArriveCAN up to 365 days before your flight. Additional information is available on the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) website.

Canada. You can use ArriveCAN up to 365 days before your flight. Additional information is available on the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) website.

**The Office of Protocol of Canada**

Dear Friends:

I was informed yesterday that I may have been in contact with someone who may have the Covid-19 virus. They will be getting tested today. It may take a few days to get the results.

Therefore, as a precaution I have decided to close the church, at least until the person concerned receives their test results. I will let you know how things transpire as soon as I know.

**This means, that for this weekend, all communion sessions are cancelled and there will be no live stream on Sunday.**

I know this may sadden some but it is a reminder to us that many are being affected by this virus. We keep them and each other in prayer.

Take care, stay safe and God bless.  
Fr. Ivano.

**Dear Maltese Community of Melnourne, Victoria,**

I write with a heavy heart that as an Executive, we have made the decision to postpone our Australia Day Maltese Festa. Due to Covid 19, the Victorian State Government has not approved the event. We did have the option of trying to reduce the numbers and the structure of the event but we thought given the very short time line it would not be possible. The Executive look forward to inviting you to all future events as soon as we are Covid safe as we will plan an even bigger festa to bring us all together and share our Maltese culture.

**Best Regards, Marlene Ebejer President**

## Angelo Muscat

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



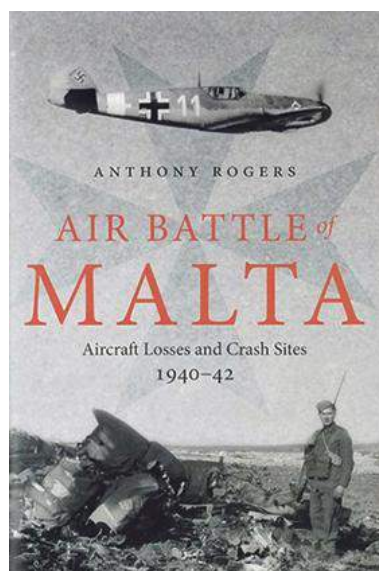
**Angelo Muscat** (24 September 1930 – 10 October 1977) was a [Maltese English](#) film and television character actor.<sup>[1]</sup> He is primarily recalled for his role as the mute butler in the 1967 TV series *The Prisoner*.

**Biography** Muscat was born in [Malta](#) to a policeman father. He was distinctly diminutive at only 4 ft 3 in (1.3 m), although both his parents and his three brothers were over 6 ft in height. Muscat initially found work as a kitchen porter and then as a stoker at an [RAF](#) base in Malta. After the death of his parents and finding himself largely alone, he moved to England where he worked in a zip-fastener factory. In 1961 Muscat joined a production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* that was to tour



the [United Kingdom](#). Moving into television, he played a Chumbley robot in the *Doctor Who* serial *Galaxy 4* (1965), played the part of a clown in the ITV series *Emergency – Ward 10* and appeared as the Queen's Servant in the BBC television adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* (1966).

Muscat appeared in the television series *The Prisoner* (1967-1968) with [Patrick McGoochan](#), appearing in 14 of the 17 episodes as the mute butler. He played an *Oompa-Loompa* in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (uncredited, 1971). He also appeared in the Beatles' *Magical Mystery Tour* (1967). During his later years, Muscat lived alone and virtually penniless in a basement flat in North London. He found it difficult to find acting work, and to supplement his income he made ornate birdcages by hand. Muscat died on 10 October 1977, aged 47 at [St Bartholomew's Hospital](#) in London. Each year, on 10 October a small group of enthusiasts dubbed the "Friends of Angelo Muscat" (FOAM) celebrate his life.



Luke Vincenti

### AIR BATTLE OF MALTA

Anthony Rogers: *Air Battle of Malta – Aircraft Losses and Crash Sites 1940-42*. 2017, *Green Hill Books*. “Those airmen died nobly for their country ... even though they be our enemies, whatever their crimes, that fact we should acknowledge.” This extract from the diary of Pilot Officer ‘Sonny’ Ormrod sets the tone for this wartime reference and anecdotal book. Making use of several official and historical documents, while referring official visits and eyewitness reports from Malta, England and Italy, the book is much more than a clinical catalogue of the more than 200 air-craft crashes on and along the coast of Malta during World War II, between 1940 and 1942. Author Anthony Rogers – himself an ex Royal Marine commando in Malta and later a photojournalist who covered numerous wars – compiles previously unpublished, personal accounts of surviving ex-military personnel and civilians.

The book focuses on the aircraft that was destroyed on Maltese territory and, through these personal accounts and other documents, Rogers manages to make sense of inconsistent stories and conflicting reports in an engaging manner.



**Lehen il-Malti għadd 40***sejha għall-kitbiet*

poeżiji (massimu 30 vers)  
 novelli (2,500 kelma jew inqas)  
 kitbiet akkademiċi (3,500  
 kelma jew inqas)  
 traduzzjonijiet

Ibghat sa 3 kitbiet originali fuq  
 sottomissjonijiet@gmail.com  
 sal-31 ta' Jannar, 2021

The book splits the war into a number of time periods, giving the book not only a methodical, but also a highly-readable character. Considerably aiding the reader, it includes general maps of Malta and Gozo, stating individual sites referred to within the chapters, as well as glossaries of all locations and airmen involved, making it a veritable reference document.

Through these accounts, Rogers succeeds in giving an unbiased, poignant, tragic – but also humorous – account of events during air battles over Malta. The author puts his personal experience to excellent use with vivid, accurate descriptions.

Thus, we get detailed explanations of the events leading up to and following, the destruction of the aircraft belonging to the main protagonists. In each case, Rogers explains what led to this turn of events, showing us how everything that took place during the war, on the ground and during battle.

Rogers puts us in the seats of the doomed aircraft, together with the airmen who fought in them, allowing us to see through the eyes of those who witnessed with jubilation or shock at the destruction of aircrafts of their friends or foe. The relief at the escape and survival of its crews; and the sorrow at the demise of their fellow airmen, friends, countrymen or enemies in the sky... through Rogers's words, we feel all this and more.

On the ground, we're even given a glimpse of the idiosyncrasies of the local Maltese population, the oft commended bravery in incredibly trying times shining through, leading to Malta being awarded the George Cross.

We find references to the humorous quirks, the misunderstandings and reactions which feel all too familiar even today – such as the poor British airman surviving the obliteration of his plane, then parachuting to the ground, only to have coffee or bowls of water flung in his face.

We also see a dark, sinister side of people that is much too barbaric and shameful, even under the premise of war, for most to dare recount in person – anecdotes that are, however, brought to light in this book.

Following each crash, Rogers finds out what became of those who survived – with some retiring from the war due to injury, to others taking to the skies to continue the fight, often only to be mentioned later in yet another dramatic crash. Some perished and the author is able to piece together some small fragments of information in order to shed some light on those who went missing in action and whose precise fate still remains unknown.

**GHAQDA TAL-MALTI TAL-UNIVERSITA'**

Għezież, Nittama li tinsabu tajbin. Qed niktbilkom biex ngħarrafkom bis-sejha għall-kitbiet għar-rivista tal-Għaqda tal-Malti, *Lehen il-Malti*, għadd 40. Is-sejha tagħlaq fil-31 ta' Jannar 2021. Aktar dettalji fl-istqarrija mehmuża u [fl-attività fuq Facebook](#). Tiddejqux tikkuntattjawna għal aktar tagħrif jew għal intervista.

Tislijiet, Sephora Francalanza *Uffiċjal għar-Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi*  
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## FOLKLORE OF MALTA

GAHAN AND THE DOOR (Gahan u l-Bieb)

One day, Ġaħan was still asleep when his mother was going out to church. She woke him up and told him: “Ġaħan, I’m going to church, if you go out remember to pull the door behind you.” Ġaħan went back to sleep. Later, he woke up and decided to go out. Just before leaving, he remembered his mother’s words to “pull the door behind” him.

He quickly unhinged the door from its place, tied a rope around it, and carried it all the way to church. When his mother saw him and her door in the middle of the street, her shouts could be heard from kilometres away.

### The odd couple in the village, with very contrasting personalities – WENZU U ROZI

. Wenzu enjoys having a drink at the local wine-shop "ta Kurun", Rozi waits for him, baton in hand, to check if he is drunk by the redness of his nose. Occasionally, Zolli, Rozi’s sister, comes for a few days at their house. Wenzu is afraid of her more than Rozi.



This was the first story that was ever written about the characters Wenzu u Rozi. One night, Wenzu came in late from his daily visit "Ta' Kurun tal-Inbid", the local wine bar. Rozi was already in bed, and Wenzu, being almost drunk and very tired, just got into bed beside her, clothes and all. Rozi immediately scolded him: “Don’t you even close the door behind you, you drunk fool.” Wenzu replied: “Go and close it yourself, I’m too tired.” Rozi: “But you came in last, close it, I don’t sleep with the door open.” Wenzu: “But I do, it’s not my problem.” After some time arguing, Wenzu came up with a bright idea: “Let’s do a bet. Whoever speaks first, will be the one who has to go and close the door.”

Rozi agreed. For Wenzu, this was an excellent way to just go to sleep. Rozi couldn’t sleep, knowing the door was still open. But she was determined not to lose a bet with her husband. After a few minutes, she heard some steps outside. The steps stopped in front of her door, and she heard someone coming in right up to their bed. “Wenzu, Rozi, your door is open”. It was the local chemist. Neither Wenzu, who was already asleep, nor Rozi, made a sound. The chemist tried to shake them and wake them up but they did not budge. “Oh my God”, he said, “they’re dead.”

He quickly went to bring the parish priest and doctor. The priest started to perform the last rites on Wenzu, but as soon as he touched his feet, Wenzu woke up shouting “Stop stop you’re tickling me!” Rozi sat up: “You talked, you drunkard. Now go and close the door.” The chemist, the priest and the doctor, were left speechless.



## Would You Let a Robot Take Over Your Kitchen?

A Maltese Chef created recipes for the machine.



- A game-changing step into the future of cooking at home and in restaurants, Moley brings you the world's first fully robotic kitchen.

The Moley Robotic Kitchen allows you to save time, free up your day from routine cooking, plan and adapt your menu according to different diets and lifestyles, enjoy international cuisine anytime, control calories and get cooking tips and recipes from chefs around the world. Not only does the robot cook complete meals, it tells you when ingredients need replacing, suggests dishes based on the items you have in stock, learns what you like and even cleans up surfaces after itself. <https://moley.com/>

The world's first robotic kitchen was showcased at CES 2021 (Consumer Electronics Show), one of the world's premier consumer technology shows. Created by British technology company, Moley Robotics, the system features a dexterous robot integrated into a luxury kitchen, that prepares freshly-cooked meals at the touch of a button.

The Moley kitchen is the product of six years research and development by an international team of 100 engineers, product and luxury interior designers and three award-winning chefs.

The system features a dexterous robot integrated into a luxury kitchen, that prepares freshly-cooked meals at the touch of a button.

At the heart of the new technology are two robotic arms featuring fully-articulated 'hands', developed in collaboration with world-leading German robotic company SCHUNK, Moley's exclusive hand partner. The product of 11 exhaustive development cycles they reliably reproduce the movements of human hands. This means the robot kitchen can retrieve ingredients from the smart fridge, adjust hob temperature, use the sink to fill pans and pour, mix and plate up just as a human cook would. The robot even cleans up after itself - without complaint!

The Moley Robotics system does not cook like a machine – it captures human skills in motion

Tim and fellow chefs Nicole Pisani and Andrew Clarke have created 30 dishes to showcase the systems' capabilities at the launch, with new recipes added every month. Ultimately, Moley customers will be able to select from a digital menu with over 5000 choices, as well having the option to record their own family-favorite dishes using Moley's innovative recipe-creator software tool.



Nicole Pisani, a Maltese chef based in London and hails from Zebbug, is one of 10 chefs designing meals for Moley Robotics, Nicole was approached by James Taylor, the head chef for Moley Robotics to put together the recipes together with other professional chefs. She said: "I learned from James how to cook like a robot. The recipe had to be prepared and weighed very precisely before we started to cook."

Pisani sees some connection with her work for the luxury robot and her role as the co-founder and executive chef for UK school meals charity, Chefs in School. She was named as one of Britain's 50 most inspirational individuals for providing vulnerable children and their families with healthy meals during the pandemic.

She said that the recipes she worked on with the robotic kitchen are simple, healthy and unique.

## 1930 attempt on Lord Strickland's life



**Eddie Attard**

*Lord Strickland (centre) and members of his government, including Sir Augustus Bartolo (first from left) at an official function. (Reproduced from Strickland House, Book One: 1921-1935, by Victor Aquilina, published by Allied Publications, 2010).*

During the 1930 general election campaign, Malta's Prime Minister, Lord Strickland, was at loggerheads with the ecclesiastical authorities. On May 1 the Archbishop of Malta, Dom Maurus Caruana, and the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Michael Gonzi, issued a joint pastoral letter declaring that it would be a mortal sin to vote for Strickland and his candidates, and for those who support him or his party. On April 17 the Governor, General Sir John Du Cane, had dissolved the Legislative Assembly.

*While Strickland was walking along the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired. The shots had gone astray. He took the matter calmly and went inside to read his morning paper- Eddie Attard*

On Friday, May 23, Lord Strickland went to the Auberge d'Auvergne in Kingsway, Valletta, which then housed the law courts, to attend a sitting of the Court of Appeal, which was hearing a case about the electoral law. While Strickland was walking along one of the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired, allegedly at Strickland.

The shots had gone astray. The bullets hit a wall and the ceiling and had remained lodged there. Strickland took the matter calmly and went inside the courtroom to read his morning paper.

Police Sergeant Duminku Depares and Constables Giuliano Caruana and George Vella, who were near Lord Strickland, intervened, and

the gunman, 43-year-old Ġanni Miller, was apprehended and disarmed.

The news of the assassination attempt caused an enormous commotion and quickly spread throughout Valletta. In a matter of minutes a crowd rushed to the law courts and when it was learned that Strickland was unhurt a section of the crowd began shouting "Long live Strickland and down with Mizzi", referring to Nerik Mizzi, the co-leader of the Nationalist Party and Strickland's political opponent.

However, when Dr Mizzi heard what had happened he sent Strickland a message of sympathy, strongly condemning the attempt. As a gesture of goodwill, Strickland, accompanied by his daughter Mabel, visited the Nationalist Party printing press in South Street to thank Dr Mizzi personally. Strickland received many messages of support, foremost among them those from King George V and Archbishop Caruana and Bishop Gonzi.

Ironically, about three years earlier, Miller, who at that time was serving a 15-year prison sentence for inciting soldiers to lay down their arms during the 1919 riots, had petitioned the Governor for an amnesty. The prison sentence was reduced, and when Strickland came to power in 1927 Miller was released from prison. Meanwhile, some weeks prior to the assassination attempt, Miller was accused of threatening Dr John Bugeja and Tancred Borg of the Constitutional Party. These events led the court to appoint Professor Edgar Ferro and two other doctors to draw up a report about Miller's mental health; the court experts reported that Miller was of sound mind.

When on May 27, 1930, Magistrate E. Bartoli started hearing evidence about the assassination attempt, the prosecution, led by Superintendent Alfred Borg, who had been with Strickland at the time of the shooting, and legal procurator Augusto German requested the court to continue hearing the evidence behind closed doors on the grounds that the attempt was part of a conspiracy.

Legal procurator Bertu Mizzi objected, but the court upheld the prosecution's request. Dr Mizzi was assisting defence counsel Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, popularly known as Il-Gross, who was not present in court when the magistrate gave his ruling.



Soon after Miller's attempt on Lord Strickland, it was alleged that Police Inspector Carol Saliba had produced a paid informant, Toni Bugeja, from Marsaxlokk, to make a sworn statement to the effect that some time before the assassination attempt, he (Bugeja) had been encouraged by Dr Mifsud Bonnici to try to kill Lord Strickland. The affidavit was sworn on June 17, 1930, but Inspector Saliba denied the allegation that he had in any way incited Bugeja. Dr Mifsud Bonnici also denied the allegation in his regard.

Miller's trial by jury opened on November 18, 1930 and Giuseppe Mifsud, a witness for the prosecution, testified that the accused used to grumble against Strickland because he had lost his licence as a lotto receiver during Strickland's administration. Another witness testified that the accused was promised a job at the Central Hospital and blamed Strickland when he did not get it.

Moreover, Borg testified that some hours before the assassination attempt Miller had told him that Strickland's life was in danger. It also transpired that Miller had purchased the gun and 25 rounds of ammunition one or two days before the assassination attempt.

The defence argued that the accused had not aimed at Strickland and that the experts appointed by the court had confirmed that the gun was pointed upwards when it was fired.

By eight votes to one the jurors found Miller guilty of attempted homicide; he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. A few days after the assassination attempt, the May 28 edition of *Il Progress*, the organ of the Constitutional Party, reported that five months before the attempt on Strickland's life, some had started conspiring against Strickland after a certain individual, referred to as Mr X, had returned to Malta from Egypt.

*Il Progress* alleged that Mr X had met a person who ran a grocery shop in St Ursula Street, and persuaded him to kill Lord Strickland and his deputy, Sir Augustus Bartolo, the education minister.

It was also alleged that Mr X promised the grocer that if caught after the murders he would be sent to the mental hospital and eventually released when the Nationalist Party returned to power. The Nationalist Party denied the allegations and challenged the editor of *Il Progress* to divulge the

names of Mr X and the grocer, but the names were never revealed.

Three years after Strickland's assassination attempt, Inspector Saliba's name was once again mentioned when the Police Commissioner informed the then Nationalist Minister of Police that he was holding a special inquiry as he had received information that during the previous Strickland administration Inspector Saliba had offered to murder Lord Strickland, when on or about June 1, 1930, he broached this idea to legal procurator Bertu Mizzi, at the time a Nationalist member of the Legislative Assembly.

When disciplinary proceedings were instituted against Inspector, Mizzi testified that Saliba had approached him and hinted that he could arrange to eliminate Strickland for £20.

*The jury found Miller guilty of attempted homicide; he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.* Eddie Attard Mizzi described Saliba as an opportunist who tried to be on good terms with the political party in power in order to achieve his ambitions.

Saliba flatly denied ever making such a statement to his accuser and produced a large number of witnesses to put Mizzi in a bad light. In his report the Police Commissioner concluded that Saliba had actually made the statement but "it was nothing more than a piece of bluff".

The findings of the inquiry were submitted to Governor Sir David Campbell, who five months later informed the commissioner that, after careful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that the charge against Inspector Saliba was not proven and it should be dismissed.

The Governor also directed that Saliba should be given a serious warning which should be noted in his record of service. Strickland's assassination attempt had also been mentioned at the time in the House of Lords.

During question time on November 7, 1934, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Earl Plymouth, said there was no proof that the attempt was part of a conspiracy to eliminate Lord Strickland. Asked about the special remission of 15 years from Miller's 1919 prison sentence, Earl Plymouth replied that the Governor of Malta had acted on the recommendation on the Maltese minister responsible.



## Take A Look At How Maltese Pastizzi Have Made Their Way To Scotland!

Michela Muscat <https://bay.com.mt/>

A fellow local, Victoria Guglielmini, is the face behind the importation of our beloved, local pastizzi to the town of Greenlaw in Scotland...and they've made quite



the success among the Scottish!

In a chat she had with us here at Bay, she explained, ***'I always used to get pastizzi from Malta when I visit and during last year's lockdown, I decided to buy the shop in front of my house and turn it into a tearoom, we called it Amaretto... We opened back in October, which is when we started importing local pastizzi, Kinnie, and even Twistees'***.

Victoria went on to explain that she moved to Scotland back in 2001 and that besides importing Maltese goods, she also bakes. However, due to the recent lockdown, they are currently operating on a take-away basis only. Obviously, we addressed the elephant in the room and asked her how the Scottish reacted to our infamous pastizzi! She explained, ***'they went crazy over them! I was surprised the Scottish would love them so much, especially since I initially got them for the Maltese people living in Scotland like me, but they knew it was a Maltese delicacy and they wanted to try. They fell in love with them'***.

Most of her clients have also visited Malta in the past, and of course, Victoria chose to import the pastizzi from none other than the pastizzi king himself, Ta' Serkin.

This understandably led us to the big question – *which flavour do the Scottish prefer?* Turns out, the Scottish prefer pea over ricotta, which I guess makes sense, given their love for mushy peas...

Some Maltese people residing in Scotland have even gone down to Amaretto from different parts of the country for a nostalgic taste of home! Oh, and despite being in a foreign country, the shop insists on calling them pastizzi. As the owner explained, ***'if you know how to say it, then say it, and if you don't, then you have to try'***. We're glad the Scottish love pastizzi as much as we do! What country do you think they'll land next?

## Nannu's Pastizzi Maltese Cuisine - Canada

6981 Millcreek Dr, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6B8 Canada



Since visiting Malta several times, I have sought out authentic Maltese food and this is the place!! Today I had octopus in a brown sauce with olives, peas and onions over a big helping of spaghetti. The octopus chunks were tender and generous. The pastizzi are filled with either ricotta or meat in a pastry that is a cross between phyllo and puff pastry. Delicious! You can buy frozen pastizzi as well as fresh dough when it is available. The parents are in the kitchen gently stretching the dough in a circle and filling it with a ricotta mixture. Their ricotta filled ravioli are also delicious and made fresh! Kinney, which is the national soft drink of Malta, may be an acquired taste (it was for me) but once I was hooked I have to have them on hand at home.

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g154996-d6904979-r621626082-Nannu\\_s\\_Pastizzi\\_Maltese\\_Cuisine\\_Baked\\_Goods-Mississauga\\_Ontario.html#](https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g154996-d6904979-r621626082-Nannu_s_Pastizzi_Maltese_Cuisine_Baked_Goods-Mississauga_Ontario.html#)



## MALTESE PASTIZZI

### (Curried Pea and Ricotta Stuffed Pastries)

Maltese Pastizzi are their signature golden pastries that are loved all over the country. They are a puff pastry that are stuffed with cheese or a curried pea mash. They are enjoyed at any time of day and found on nearly every corner. Some say pastizzi is one of those foods that simply says Malta. They are often enjoyed with friends and cup of coffee or tea. We loved this little golden nuggets. I especially loved the one made with the curried mashed split peas, however both were delicious. After all it's hard to go wrong with puff pastry stuffed with just about anything. You can make them one or both ways it is your choice.

Prep Time 45 minutes Cook Time 20 minutes

#### Ingredients

- Ricotta filling
- 1 cup ricotta light or full fat
- 1 egg lightly beaten
- 1/4 chopped fresh parsley
- 1 handful parmesan cheese
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 4 sheets puff pastry
- Curried Pea filling:
- 3/4 cup dried split peas
- 1 small onion
- 1 tsp mild curry powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 sheets 750g puff pastry



#### Instructions

1. For the Ricotta filling:
2. Mix all ingredients in a bowl (except the puff pastry) and set aside until ready to use.
3. For the Curried Pea filling:
4. Rinse the peas well, picking through and discarding any irregular bits. Bring the peas and plenty of water (fill about 2" above the peas) to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 35 minutes until the peas are very tender. Meanwhile, saute the onion until very soft, but not browned. Strain the peas to remove most of the excess liquid (not all). Mix in the onions, curry powder, salt and pepper.
5. Putting it all together
6. Preheat oven to 350F.
7. Thaw puff pastry (or, thaw before starting, depending on your preferred brand's instructions). Cut 3" circles using an overturned glass or biscuit cutter.
8. Fill each circle with a small teaspoon of the ricotta or pea mixture. Fold one side of the circle into the middle, then the other, folding over at the top to seal. Then, pinch each end to seal, and if desired, twist once. Don't worry too much about how they look when the pastry is still raw. The puffiness will hide any imperfections. You do want to make sure they are secure however or they might puff open.
9. Place the pastizzi on a lined baking sheet, and bake 20 minutes until the dough is puffed and golden. Cool on a wire rack and serve immediately. Or, reheat later in a 180C / 350F oven for 5 minutes.

The feature film LUZZU by Maltese American filmmaker Alex Camilleri. It will premiere on January 29th and the second screening will be on January 31st

## AT THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL



LUZZU Jesmark, a Maltese fisherman, contends with a newfound leak in his wooden *luzzu* boat. Barely getting by, he sees his livelihood—and a family tradition from generations before him—imperiled by diminishing harvests, a ruthless fishing industry, and a stagnating ecosystem. Desperate to provide for his wife and their newborn son, whose growth impediment requires treatment, Jesmark gradually slips into an illicit black-market fishing operation.

Although Malta makes the occasional movie appearance, *Luzzu* is one of its first truly local films.

This is a poignant, humanistic portrait of an eclipsing way of life, its authenticity stemming from the years filmmaker Alex Camilleri spent befriending Maltese fishermen, who then became his cast. Camilleri's neorealist approach finds the quiet power of small moments and the underlying intensity of ordinary people



pushed into untenable positions. Yet it still belongs firmly to today—a reflection on sustainable ecosystems and the consequences of climate change for these fishermen. You feel their struggle, the loss of an identity tied to tradition, and a love for the sea and these colorful boats with their wood-carved faces.

## MEET THE ART IST ALEX CAMILLERI

Maltese American filmmaker Alex Camilleri has directed award-winning shorts and edited celebrated films such as *Keep the Change* (Best Narrative Feature, 2017 Tribeca Film Festival). He's worked closely with acclaimed filmmaker Ramin Bahrani over the past decade. Bahrani produced Camilleri's debut feature, *Luzzu*. *Luzzu* is one of the very first Maltese films and stars nonactors as the leads. Camilleri is currently preparing his sophomore feature, also set in Malta.



## Film Festival award with the story of Kużra, murdered in Naxxar in mysterious circumstances 150 years ago – LARA AZZOPARDI

Keith Demicoli

A film about a crime which had taken place in Naxxar in the mid-19th century in mysterious circumstances has just won an award for its producer and director Lara Azzopardi in a film festival in Germany.

The film with a psychological narrative investigates various ambiguous aspects of the case, including shortcomings in the investigation and court proceedings.

150 years ago an 18-year-old girl, Duminka Galea known as 'Kużra' had been murdered in mysterious circumstances in the limits of Naxxar after having been the victim of domestic violence.

"The story totally fascinated me, because of the fact that it was the first recorded incident in the history of Malta involving a rape which eventually ended in murder."



Inspired by this crime which had started being researched by Eddie Attard in his book 'Delitti f'Malta', two years ago Lara Azzopardi presented a short film in the form of a docudrama as part of her Masters in film studies at the University of Malta. The film has a psychological and reflexive narrative because of the numerous unclear points throughout the investigative and judicial process, including the fact that Court proceedings were only in Italian with the accused not understanding anything, and other shortcomings in forensic testing.



"I concluded my documentary with the fact that the sentence decreed that Ċikku had been the person who had killed Duminka, but how certain are we in view of the many ambiguities created by Society in those particular times? Case in point, blood tests – if animal blood is presented, it would have been the same, as no tests were available to verify the accuracy."

In this film, which will be screened on TVM in the coming weeks, Lara Azzopardi takes into consideration cultural and sexual aspects of Maltese society in the 19th century, and poses an important question.

"Who knows whether Ċikku was actually *not* the murderer?"

The film has already been screened in film festivals in Hollywood, Canada, Italy, Scotland and Malta, and in recent days was given an award as the Best Student Film in the German film festival.



## MEMOIRS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA! SUCCESS STORY OF A MALTESE ARCHITECT – Guze D'Amato

Joseph Damato (also known as Guze D'Amato) is known as one of the leading architects of the first half of the 20th Century in Malta. He drew plans of a number of churches including the one in Kalkara, Xewkija, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta and Paola.

He was also an architect of many schools and hospitals, especially St. Catherine Hospital in



Attard. However very few people know he was part of the Maltese community in Tunisia in his early stages of his life. He was born in Sfax on 12 December 1886 to a Maltese immigrant family who arrived in Tunisia around 1850.

After studying architecture in Tunis, he moved permanently to Malta. During 1920s, he helped many Maltese seek work in Tunisia and Algeria and to ensure they have good work conditions. He died on 26 May 1963 in Attard, Malta.



## Tunisians and Maltese speak the same language



Tunisia has long been described as the Arab portal to the Western world, Malta has long been described as a Western country with an Eastern pinch. Both countries have different degrees of cultural admixture, but it turns out the two Mediterranean countries are not just neighbors, they speak the same language. It is imperative to note that, affirming that two nations speak the same language, does not imply that their vernaculars are identical, most, if not all languages, are essentially heterogeneous.

Some languages even have mutually unintelligible dialects. But the central premise of this article goes deeper: We are intending to affirm that Tunisians and Maltese speak the same language,

although they are not identical, and the average Tunisian will have a hard time understanding everything the average Maltese says and vice versa. However, Maltese is likely the closest vernacular to Tunisian, and Tunisian is also certainly the closest spoken language to Maltese.

Let's start with the history of Maltese, we will make it brief since its history only gives a glimpse of the commonalities between the two languages. Formally and historically, the Maltese language is a dialect of Tunisian Arabic, its "grand-child" to be precise. Maltese descends directly from Siculo-Arabic, which also descends directly from Tunisian Arabic, which was used in the Emirate of Sicily between 831 and 1091. For this reason, Maltese is classified as a Semitic language, although it is written in the Latin script, since the language, that is, the Siculo-Arabic variant of Tunisian, was Latinized following the Norman invasion of Malta and the re-Christianisation of the country.

Despite the divergence of Maltese from its Tunisian origins, any Tunisian taking a trip to Malta and any Maltese taking a trip to Tunisia today would be astonished by the numerous similarities.

Note that the listed words below might be written differently because Maltese has an organized writing system whereas Tunisian is a spoken vernacular and not a written language, therefore it has an archaic writing system that varies individually. The words cited below, however, are all pronounced similarly, their meaning in English is also listed

It is argued that Tunisian and Maltese are mutually intelligible, meaning that a Tunisian and a Maltese are able to understand each other, although, evidently, no Tunisian is able to understand everything a Maltese says and no Maltese is able to understand everything a Tunisian says. A study conducted by Slavomír Čěplö, Ján Bátor, Adam Benkato, Jiří Milička, Christophe Pereira and Petr Zemánek, entitled "Mutual intelligibility of spoken Maltese, Libyan Arabic, and Tunisian Arabic functionally tested: A pilot study" found that there is between 30% and 40% of mutual intelligibility between Maltese and Tunisian, which is higher than the mutual intelligibility between Tunisian and most other dialects of Arabic. The same study also found that speakers of Tunisian are able to understand about two-thirds of what is being said to them in Maltese. This mutual intelligibility is likely higher than estimated due to Italian loan-words into Tunisian that are also heavily found in Maltese since Italian also exercises a large influence on the Maltese language lexically.

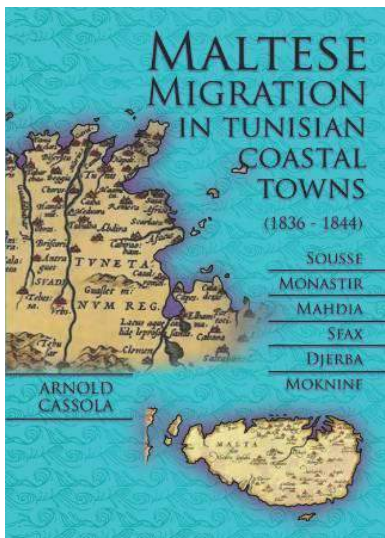
The similarities and shared linguistic elements go beyond the vocabulary but also include the grammar and even proverbs. This linguistic convergence between Tunisia and Malta does not only reveal and highlight the Arab-Islamic history of Malta or the era where the country was conquered and inhabited by Tunisians but also reveals that Tunisia is bounded by its geography no matter how far away it might be



carried by its official cultural narrative. The mutual intelligibility between Tunisian and Maltese is not only due to the Tunisian linguistic influence in Maltese, but also due to the Italian influence in Tunisian. It is essentially a reminder that one of the closest countries to us is just by our borders, a few hundreds of miles away, despite the dominant cultural narratives that implies that they are an “other” to be feared or to be rejected.

A database of mutual intelligibility between Tunisian and Maltese has been set up on the internet. More than 1300 shared words have been found that are pronounced identically, excluding words that are related to each other but are pronounced differently or have slightly different meanings, which constitute elements of this shared linguistic heritage but were not counted. This goldmine of shared vocabulary, proverbs, grammar rules, as well as the very history of the Maltese language, the formal designation of Maltese as a standardized descendant of Siculo-Arabic, have one major implication: Tunisians and Maltese speak the same language. For sociopolitical reasons, however, the Tunisian vernacular is formally considered as a dialect of Arabic, whereas Maltese, despite descending from the Tunisian variant of Arabic, gained its linguistic “independence” and is, therefore, not designated as such.

## Prof. Cassola writes a book on Maltese migrants in Tunisia in 19th Century



*Maltese Migration in Tunisian Coastal Towns (1836-1844)* is the new book by University academic from the Department of Maltese, [Prof. Arnold Cassola](#), just published by *Morrone Editore*.

As from around 1830 onwards, thousands of Maltese migrated to our neighbouring North African Regency, in particular to Tunis and its surroundings and to the various coastal towns.

The first settlers were involved mainly in agricultural and fishing activities. This work aims at reconstructing the number and names of the Maltese immigrants in the coastal towns of Sousse, Monastir, Mahdia, Sfax, Djerba and Moknine for the period between 1836 and 1844, through an investigation of the earliest baptism, marriage and death registers in the possession of the St Felix

Catholic Parish in Sousse.

Whilst initially the Maltese in the coastal towns of Tunisia did tend to marry amongst themselves, as time went by intermarriage between different nationalities became more the norm. As years passed and old generations gave way to new ones, it became more important to claim a Tunisian identity and this desire replaced the original nationalistic sentiment that had been the hallmark of parents or grandparents. Ultimately, the history of Maltese migration to Tunisia in the 19th century simply reflects the flows and patterns of migration anywhere and at any time in history. The book is available for purchase from all Agenda Bookshop outlets.





## Obscure tales about Mdina and Rabat recounted in Heritage Malta webinar

Gruesome tales involving Mdina and Rabat will be recounted in a webinar by Heritage Malta on **Tuesday, 26th January**.

A **virtual tour** during this **webinar** will wander down murky alleyways and dark catacombs but also inside grand palaces and beautiful churches, each with a story to tell. Stories of bloodshed that left their mark on the history of our country, or even changed its course.

Entitled “**Malta Oskura: Rabat and Mdina**”, the webinar will start at **8.30pm** and will consist of the 20-minute virtual tour followed by a question and answer session. **The tour will be in Maltese, with English subtitles.**

Participants are requested to register beforehand via this

link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RyQQecoLQEI-p5PpHJJtoQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RyQQecoLQEI-p5PpHJJtoQ)

The virtual tour will later be available to download against payment, without the question and answer session.

**Register here;**[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RyQQecoLQEI-p5PpHJJtoQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RyQQecoLQEI-p5PpHJJtoQ)

***This content was supplied by Heritage Malta***



***Tonio Portuguese to chair the Board***



### DIPARTIMENT TAL-INFORMAZZJONI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION MALTA PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTER WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

#### ***New chairperson and members in the Employment Relations Board***

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Carmelo Abela has appointed four new members who shall represent the Government within the Employment Relations Board. This consultative board brings together the Government and representatives of employers and the Unions where matters pertaining to industrial relations, conditions of work and workers are discussed. The new members are Dr Tonio Portuguese, who will serve as chairperson of the board, Dr Cory Greenland, Dr Desiree Cassar and Mr Charles Cassar. Their appointment is effective from 13th January 2021, with the rest of the board members nominated by the other partners in the board.

Minister Carmelo Abela congratulated the new members and thanked Dr Anthony Licari, Mrs. Doris Pace Grima, Mr Michael Sant and Professor Edward Zammit for their work in the board in the past years. Professor Zammit will continue contributing as a consultant to the Minister on industrial relations and jobs. In the coming weeks the board will continue discussing important matters such as the EU Directive on the Work-Life balance and how this Directive will be transposed in the laws of Malta.



## **From Bay Street St. Julian's MALTA to Bay Street Bexley NSW**

**Sean Richardson**

The first step outside my door was welcomed by a full body embrace. Another morning of heat saturated air grabbed me and clung to my back weighing me down that barely one hundred metres had been covered, before I paused at the top of Bay street. My blue t-shirt already a patchwork of dark blue sweat soaked blotches of fabric. The Maltese heat, with memories of yet another summer morning that had cracked open, revealing the temperature that had already settled into the mid-twenty degree range, on its way to another day over thirty degrees celsius.

Here at Bay Street Bexley, I was sweating in the morning for the third straight day. Just like those days on the Bay Street of St Julian's in

My hair, bathed in sweat excreted a salty stream from under a cap, where a sauna had been created, drops became a dripping liquid which trickled down my cheeks. The cap has its job - to prevent the burning sun's rays from roasting my face.

The local air lacked the smell of baked stone and concrete that mixed with the oily tar of wilting asphalt which snaked across Malta. Here, with trees and green grass breaking up the stone and concrete, the air has a neutral, bland taste of a naked plain cracker.

The closer we strolled towards Botany Bay, the larger the water grew in our sight; rows of old houses gave way to tall apartment blocks between lowset buildings dotted with cafes, restaurants, shops and vacant shops displaying for lease signs.

The rumble of cars grew into a throbbing roar as the Ferrari and a BMW Sports Tourer announced their arrival. Just like in St Julian's, they grab attention; but here the road route forces them along the beachside away from the strip of cafes. Unable to do a parade lap around the main street of Bay St of Brighton Le Sands, their noise throbbed into the

Malta, walking downhill from Swieqi to St George's Bay, we now made our way towards Brighton Le-Sands and the beach of Botany Bay. I looked at my woman, she found this temperature pleasant, welcoming the sun that soaked into her Mediterranean, olive skin.

"Did you put sunscreen on that white skin of yours?" She smiled as she nudged her brown arm against my off-white freckled skin. The hotness hung in the atmosphere, the only air movement a light swoosh from cars that zoomed across the black tar, which was steadily absorbing the summer sun. Heat bore into the surface; this strap of asphalt which linked our memories of Malta to the reality of Sydney Australia.

distance until replaced another marquee or modified low riding car makes an entrance down Bay Street.

Our coffee ready at the favourite café, we walked past the hotel and Bay Street shopping centre, the sun peaking over the buildings was tanning the olive skin of my wife. The Brighton Novotel and Bayside Plaza, would be dwarfed by the Bay Centre and Inter Continental tower that command either side of the St Julian Bay Street precinct.

The end of Bay Street finished abruptly ceding space to the soft, smooth and fine sand of Botany Bay, which caresses the soles of my feet as I walk towards to the water. The crunchy Malta sand compacted under the hundreds of bodies that squeezed into the confines of St George's Bay, was a memory that disappeared into the distance, just as the hundreds of bodies stretched out along the water's edge of Botany Bay.

Spanish and Italian voices from the beach volleyball courts weaved into the English, Arabic and Greek swirling amongst other languages. A similar cultural diversity but inferior to the battalion of cultures represented

by the swarm of English language students who descended on the summer sands of St George's Bay. The burning heat, now repelled by the refreshing dip in the gentle waves of the Bay, a welcome chill, slipped across our skin seeping into our core. The boats and jetskiers scooting along the bay foreshore told us that summer water sports are indeed a universal past-time.

Our appetite was quelled by our home-made version of Ftira. The sweet tanginess of the tuna, capers and kunserva captured in the dense bread is a refreshing lunch we improvised, to overcome the absence of a beachside kiosk to buy the real thing. The Ftira is complemented by a cold bottle of Cisk that was discovered in a local liquor store. The

beer, bearing the bright yellow label, sat firmly in my grip, an amber stained thought that was punctured and then swept away by the rising hot northerly wind, its emergence immediately escalating the heat.

The temperature rising in concert with the intimidating wind stung our eyes. Its intensity rising to a crescendo, stalled and went silent. The direction violently swung South. The bluster of a southerly from Antarctica suppressed the summer heat by ten degrees.

Retracing the trek up Bay Street the wind broke a spell of consecutive days - immediately sweeping away the memories of Malta, which would swelter for weeks under the relentless heat of a Maltese summer

## **MMG Concert Band of Victoria**



**Congratulations to Jake.**

**He joined us at rehearsal to perform with us for the very first time on a musical piece he and his teacher, Harrison were practicing during COVID lockdown via Zoom. He did fantastic and kept up with the band.**

**We can see your passion for music and your drive to be in the band sitting right next to Nannu George**

**If you have enjoyed reading this journal**

**SUPPORT AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS**







## [Malta Rugby League \(MRL\)](#)

### MALTA DAMES ARE RECRUITING FOR SYDNEY 9's

Having spent six years as head coach of Berkeley Eagles in the Illawarra Women's League and several seasons at the helm of Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs Rugby League Club's Tarsha Gale squad, Alysha Janssen (pictured) is returning to coach Malta's national women's team in 2021.

If you would like to represent your Maltese heritage on February 20th in the 32-team tournament please contact Alysha directly on the details below.

[ajanssen@nrl.com.au](mailto:ajanssen@nrl.com.au)

+61 439 006 418

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**GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**25-27 LAKE AVE CRINGILA**

**AUSTRALIA DAY MALTESE FESTA**

**Join the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and Caroline Springs George Cross Soccer Club**

To celebrate a COVID safe Australia Day Maltese Festa starting with a mass and a flag raising ceremony. Ample parking is available.

**Activities will include:** Children activities, jumping castle, sports event, market stalls, art/crafts, car show, competitions, entertainment, raffle and prizes and much much more.

So come along and join in on the fun, let's make this an event to remember!

**JANUARY 26, 2021 8AM TIL LATE**  
**CAROLINE SPRINGS GEORGE CROSS SOCCER CLUB**  
**146 CITY VISTA COURT, PLUMPTON VIC**





Inhegġigkom taslu wasla sal-[Kitchen Garden](#) fejn għadu għaddej ġmielu l-bejgħ ta' frott taċ-ċitru u prodotti oħrajn magħmulin minnu. Permezz t'hekk, mhux biss tkunu qed tgawdu minn toġhma tajba u ta' ġid għal saħħitkom, iżda wkoll tgħinu lil [The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation](#)/ Grazie.

Il-bejgħ tal-frott taċ-ċitru u għażla ta' ħlewiet magħmulin mill-istess frott għadu għaddej fil-[Kitchen Garden tal-Palazz](#)

. Permezz tas-sehem tiegħek, mhux biss tkun tista' tgawdi mit-toġhma tajba u bnina ta' dawn il-prodotti iżda wkoll tgħin lill-fondazzjoni Community Chest Fund.

Fost l-oħrajn, 2 kilos laring qed jinbiegħu għall-prezz ta' €3 biss

George Vella – President ta' Malta.

**TUNE IN**

Join me today @ 12.00 pm for an hour of Maltese music

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**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**



### MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTHAUSTRALIA

Social gathering and lunch every Tuesday at the Maltese Cultural Centre, Jeanes Street Beverley

From 10am till 3 pm