

**Frances Adamson  
appointed  
South Australia's  
new governor,  
replacing  
Hieu Van Le**



**A FORMER VIETNAM REFUGEE  
WAS THE GOVERNOR  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
FOR SEVEN YEARS**



**Mediterranean Ceramics**  
Ta' Qali - Malta

## Maltese eNewsletter

The Journal of Maltese  
Living Abroad



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## A FORMER VIETNAM REFUGEE WAS THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR SEVEN YEARS

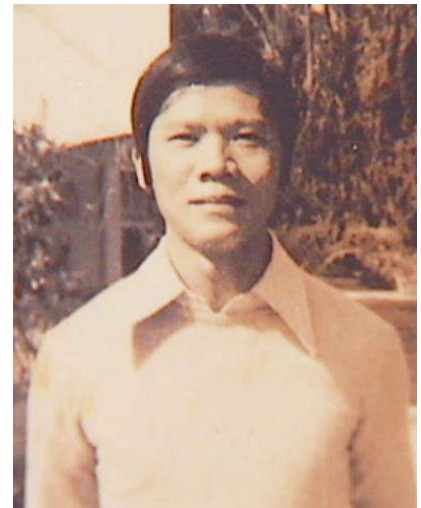


His Excellency Hieu Van Le was appointed Governor of South Australia in 2014. His term of office will end in August 2021.

It is now 44 years since Hieu Van Le and his wife Lan fled war-torn Vietnam by boat.

After a dangerous journey, they made it to the northern shores of Australia and Mr Le and his new wife were sent to Adelaide.

Hieu has so many close friends, classmates and relatives who were killed in that war, so it was ...



quite a challenge to growing up and trying to be this tough, as resilient as possible to survive," he said.

Mr Le's two brothers were in the army when the war ended with the fall of Saigon in 1975 and both were sent to re-education camps.

Amid chaos and as thousands of Vietnamese tried to flee the communists, Hieu Van Le, aged 22, and his sweetheart Lan decided to make the perilous trip in a small boat bound with hopes of reaching Australia.

"It was very dangerous and very risky, like many other refugees out there, I guess," he said.

He said they endured weeks of monsoonal downpours and storms and feared ending up in the bottom of the sea.

But finally the tiny boat made it to Australian waters and a remarkable welcome.

"Out of this curtain of mist we saw the little tinnie coming toward us, quite fast, and there were two blokes standing in it, shorts and singlets, sunhats on, white zinc cream on their noses, the fishing rod sticking up into the sky," he recalled.

"They waved at us and they come very close, very close and very fast to our boat and one of them raises the stubbie up as if proposing a toast.

"G'day, mate!" he shouted. "Welcome to Australia."



### Destiny stands up and encourages women to believe in themselves

After she managed to take Malta to the finals of the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday, the Maltese Ambassador, Destiny Chuckunyeré has continued to stress the powerful message of her song *Je Me Casse*.

During a press conference early this morning at the Ahoy arena in Rotterdam, Destiny was asked about the criticism of the last few days. It was at this point that she stood up and delivered a powerful message to continue urging women to believe in themselves, whatever criticism they may receive. This message is reflected in the lyrics of her song which she said is the story of her life and that of many others. She said that is why she feels this is everyone's song.

## Australia's top diplomat Frances Adamson has been announced as South Australia's next governor



Frances Adamson has led the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Secretary since 2016.

Prior to her appointment as Secretary, Ms Adamson was International Adviser to the Prime Minister the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.

From 2011 to 2015, Ms Adamson was Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. She served in the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong in the late 1980s during the early years of China's reform and opening. From 2001 to 2005, she was seconded as Representative to the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei.

Ms Adamson has twice served in the Australian High Commission in London, as Deputy High Commissioner from 2005 to 2008 and as Political Counsellor from 1993 to 1997.

She was Chief of Staff to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and then the Minister for Defence from 2009 to 2010.


Ms Adamson is a member of the Export Finance Australia Board, the Advisory Board of the Australian National University's National Security College, the Asia Society Australia Advisory Council and the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. Ms Adamson is a Special Adviser to the Male Champions of Change and a member of Chief Executive Women. She was

awarded a Sir James Wolfensohn Public Service Scholarship in 2015 and was made a National Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration (IPAA) in September 2019 on completion of her two-year term as President of IPAA ACT Division.

Ms Adamson has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Adelaide and was a recipient of a 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University (honoris causa) in April 2021. She joined the then Department of Foreign Affairs in 1985. She is married with four children.

**Animal migration, particularly birds, will be the subject of Heritage Malta's next webinar, to be livestreamed on Facebook and Zoom on Wednesday, 26th May, at 6.30pm.**

**John J. Borg, Heritage Malta's Senior Curator for Natural History and an ornithologist with more than 35 years' experience, will delve into this phenomenon that occurs twice a year.**



**The Beauty of Migration**

Webinar  
Registration (Free) Required  
Wednesday 26 May 2021

For more info in the following event link - <https://fb.me/e/2qMQ8npP7>



# ‘No Village Feasts’ This Summer



## Government to meet Church authorities and inform them of decision

A file photo of festa celebrations in Mellieħa. Photo: Shutterstock

The health authorities have decided that the celebration of religious feasts will not be permitted this summer for the second consecutive year due to the COVID pandemic.

The government is due to meet Church authorities to discuss the matter but will insist that, along with other mass events, village feasts are not yet viable in the present situation, sources have told *Times of Malta*.

Health Minister Chris Fearne last week already hinted this would be the case, even as he unveiled the plan to ease other COVID restrictions gradually over a number of weeks. He had said the government and the Church would be meeting “soon” for talks.

Village feasts are traditionally about a week-long, with crowded and boisterous celebrations culminating over the weekend. Summer is a busy time for festi, drawing both locals and tourists in large numbers.

They were all cancelled last year because of the pandemic although spontaneous activities were held in some localities after the government lifted the restrictions in July as the number of new infections dwindled.

However, [a single case](#) of COVID at the Santa Venera feast, held at the end of July, resulted in one

of the largest clusters of cases detected that summer.

This year, the health authorities are being more cautious and will be taking a clear stand on the matter – feasts will not be allowed. The planned meeting with the Church will only serve to formalise that position, sources said.

It is understood that liturgical ceremonies inside churches will be permitted so long as the mitigation measures outlined by the health authorities are followed.

According to the sources, although the infection rate is low and the vaccination process is better than planned, the fact that Malta has not yet reached herd immunity means a single cluster of cases could prove problematic.

“We need to also keep in mind that it’s not just about controlling infections anymore. We need to also ensure that the vaccination programme is not disrupted and we continue to inoculate at a steady pace,” one source said.

The decision comes as the government continues to insist that, as things stand, no mass events will be allowed to take place in the summer months.

Although large-scale party organisers have started selling tickets, the authorities have not yet given permission for parties and festivals to be held.

While they cannot be stopped from selling the tickets, organisers have not been given the government’s “blessing”, Fearne has said.

The only large gatherings to be allowed in the coming months are weddings, starting on June 1. Even then, guests must be seated throughout and the number of people attending capped at 100 indoors and 300 outdoors.

**THE SURVIVAL OF OUR COMMUNITIES**

**Unity is strength... when there is  
teamwork and collaboration,  
wonderful things can be  
achieved.**

**LET'S BUILD BRIDGES NOT WALLS**

## Malta Band Clubs and Band Marches

Band clubs in Malta are part and parcel of the social and cultural history of the Maltese islands and have, over the years, established themselves as an institution in the core of every town and village, aimed at spreading [Maltese culture](#) and teaching of music.

Many musicians who have gone on to make a name for themselves, locally or abroad, owe their success, in part, to the encouragement and teaching of the local band club.

The idea of forming philharmonic societies or band clubs was already brewing in the minds of a few dilettantes back in the second part of the 19th century. Small bands were formed by individuals – most of whom could not afford to buy a musical instrument of their own. Businessmen dug deep into their pockets to help those individuals who possessed the talent to learn how to play an instrument. The first band clubs were formed and the primary aim was that the musicians would perform in their village feast.

The number of clubs flourished and a sense of professionalism prevailed. After turbulent and then conciliatory circumstances, the Band Clubs Association was formed. This year the Association is celebrating its 60th anniversary, endorsing a membership of 84 band clubs across the island. According to the latest survey by the local National Statistics Office, the total number of bandsmen/women (*bandisti*) amount to over 4000, both residents and trainees, more than a quarter of whom are women.

**What's behind the band clubs** Every town and village in Malta and Gozo has its own band club, some even have two, as there are certain villages which celebrate two feasts – one dedicated to the patron saint and the other celebrating the so-called 'secondary' feast of another saint. In the past, unfortunately, an intense rivalry developed when a village had more than one club and this rivalry at times became violent as each struggled to better the



other when it came to the celebration of their saint.

Nowadays, however, this competitiveness is channelled in a more positive way, with rival band clubs leaving no stone unturned as they strive to decorate the façade of the club's premises in the most colourful and vivid way, launch new musical numbers, and create the most merry-making atmosphere possible. Marching in rows of six, wearing uniforms and proudly showing off the badge of their club, a band is normally composed of between 60 and 70 bandsmen/women playing a variety of instruments.

**What's their place in society?** The premises of most of the clubs are attractions in themselves, places to show off musical memorabilia as well as souvenirs of major achievements over the years. They offer a meeting place for members and a teaching place where young musicians are encouraged to join their colleagues in the next [village festa festivities](#). Musical programmes along the main streets of the village herald a week of festivities and celebrations and, in most instances, end with the popular "*mar ta' filghodu*" – the morning march. Feasts are practically held every Sunday between June and September and usually, more than one is celebrated during the weekends. If you happen to be flying in, go to one of the village feasts, mingle with the locals and enjoy the merrymaking provided by the band marches. Don't forget to taste the traditional Maltese nougat from one of the many stalls!





Borg.

## A SYMBOL OF HOW MALTA'S URBAN LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN VISUALLY DISFIGURED?

This disproportionately high tower rises nearly 100 metres into the sky and has a very prominent, arguably ruinous, visual impact on the surrounding streetscape. It is visible from several cities, even from very far away. It is built on a triangular-shaped plot of land fronting Gżira Road, Sliema Road, and Triq ir-Rebħa, which housed the former United Garage building, just 150 metres away from the Gżira parish church. This is the '14 East' tower in Gżira, east-central Malta. And, needless to say, its construction was at the centre of a lot of heated debate.

ABOUT From MaltaToday .com.

The Gżira project, proposed by ADMG Estates, was the first high-rise development to be approved under the PA's high-rise policy in 2015. Subsequently, the developers applied to add eight new storeys to an already approved 16-storey tower.

But the application was later amended to reduce the additional storeys to five.

The tower is now 21 storeys high, and with the addition of a communications tower added in 2018, its height is 93.2 metres.

Photo Copyright © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul

## Muslim community donates food to Fondazzjoni Sebħ



Photo provided by Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta donated food to the the Fondazzjoni Sebħ for all its residential homes.

The food was provided in collaboration with Humanity First Switzerland, an international relief and humanitarian wing of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat.

Fondazzjoni Sebħ provides residential services to children and also to female victims of violence and their children. It also provides community social work service to families living in Hamrun and Marsa. Following the donation, Imam Laiq

Ahmed Atif said that serving humanity was in itself a form of worship.

"The entire Islamic teachings can be divided into two main categories, the rights of God Almighty and the rights of one another, and we are expected to fulfil both these rights.

"The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community constantly drew the attention of mankind towards serving fellow human beings. On one occasion he said that, to fail to help a brother in their time of need or difficulty is utterly immoral and wrong. Therefore, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community always tries to show its solidarity to fellow brethren."



## Malta in Eurovision

winner with 'Not My Soul'. Later Destiny and her team were awarded a Medal for Service to the Republic, one of the highest Maltese civilian honours. She also received a recognition award from The Igbo Development Union in Malta which said that Destiny had

Malta made their Eurovision debut in 1971 but after finishing last in their first two attempts took a two year break from the competition. They returned briefly in 1975 before withdrawing again, returning in 1991 and have competed in every year since.

They have never won the competition but have made the Top 10 13 times. They have also finished in the top three four times – the only non-winning country to do so. Their best result is second place which they have achieved twice – Chiara in 2005 ('Angel') and Ira Losco in 2002 ('7th Wonder').

### 2021 Entry: Destiny – 'Je Me Casse'

18-year-old Destiny Chukunyere was born in Birkirkara, Malta, the daughter of a Nigerian footballer and Maltese mother.

From the age of 12 she began competing in various singing competitions around Europe, placing third at both Malta's Independence Song Contest (Kanzunetta Indipendenza) and the Asteriks Music Festival in North Macedonia. She later went on to represent Malta at the international grand finals of Sanremo Junior where she won the competition.

As a 13-year-old, she represented Malta at Junior Eurovision 2015 where she was also declared the

become an inspiration to all of the Nigerian community in Malta.

2017 saw 15-year-old Destiny travel to the United Kingdom where she was a semi-finalist on 'Britain's Got Talent'.

Destiny has a history with Eurovision. She appeared on stage with host Måns Zelmerlöw at the 2016 contest as the winner of the Junior contest from the previous year. She returned in 2019 where she was a backing singer for Maltese entrant Michela on her song 'Chameleon'.

Destiny was declared the winner of X Factor Malta in early 2020, which doubled as a national selection for Eurovision. She was scheduled to sing 'All of My Love' before the contest's cancellation and was internally selected in May 2020 to represent Malta again in 2021.

**The song** 'Je Me Casse' was written by Malin Christin, Amanuel Dermont, Nicklas Eklund & Pete Barringer and was mixed by Jon Hällgren. Telling the story of a woman rejecting the unwelcome advances of a man, the song is an ode to female empowerment. The French title can be translated as meaning 'to make a quick exit' and that's exactly what the woman wants to do!



If you have an interesting story to tell, send it to us and share it with others



# The Beauty and the Beast.

## VILLA PREZIOSI A PRECIOUS LOCATION

Villa Preziosi is located in one of the most desirable areas of St. Paul's Bay, enjoying unobstructed views of St. Paul's Islands, Mistra, Menqa and the Wignacourt and Qawra Towers, just to name a few. But its lavish gardens and surrounding landscape have been all choked up by a 47 luxury apartment structure. Part of its garden, which included a pond and private tennis courts, were 'eaten' up with the development, which has been there for some years already. Dr. Vella, who lives in the villa, at least saved the villa from destruction. Preziosa. A prominent eye surgeon, once lived in the villa that still carries his name.

### DEGREE OF CONSTRUCTION HAS REACH ASPHYXIATING LEVELS

A lot has been said about the amount of construction being carried out in Malta, but little has been done. Despite this, Kappa Vision feels the need to continue highlighting the asphyxiating rate at which large, high-rise eco-monsters are choking up the country's once mainly two-storey-high landscape.

### THE WIDER PICTURE: OVERPOPULATION OF A TINY ISLAND

Meanwhile, data issued by the National Statistics Office in May 2021 showed that Malta's population increased by 24 per cent over a decade to surpass half a million residents. The growth was of over 100,000 inhabitants, and most of these are foreigners



who migrated to the Maltese islands. The share of foreigners in the resident population grew from nearly five per cent at the end of 2010 to around 20 per cent by the end of 2019, according to the National Statistics Office. In 2019, resident live births only increased the population by 662 people when taking into account the number of deaths that year. Meanwhile, birthing women got older. The average age of parents giving birth increased by nearly two years since 2010, reaching 30.6 years in 2019.

### BIGGEST INCREASE WAS IN ST. PAUL'S BAY

From the Times of Malta. The number of people living in St Paul's Bay has increased dramatically over the past decade, soaring to almost 30,000 at the beginning of this year. St. Paul's Bay alone, which also includes Qawra and Bugibba, has seen its population increase by a staggering 56 percent over the last decade. The once quiet seaside resort had just 18,652 residents in 2009.

Photo Copyright © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg.

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The Maltese National Regatta is a rowing boat race held bi-annually on 31 March Freedom Day to commemorate the withdrawal of the British troops and the Royal Navy from Malta and on 8 September Victory Day respectively



**The Maltese Community Council of  
Victoria**



Is inviting you to a Maltese Movie Night

**Broken Hearts**

**Where:** Maltese Community Council of  
Victoria  
477 Royal Parade Parkville 3052

**When:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Cost:** Free Attendance

*Come join us for an evening at the Movies*

*Drinks and pastizzi will be available  
For sale*

*Bookings must be made via [mccv.org.au](http://mccv.org.au)*

*For further information please contact the  
MCCV on 9387 8922.*

## QLUB IMWEGGGHA (BROKEN HEARTS)

A Drama, Mystery, Romance Feature  
in Maltese with English subtitles

An emotional story of a man who  
rediscovers love after his wife  
suddenly and mysteriously leaves  
him. The plot further develops an  
intriguing insight into their separate  
lives leaving viewers at the edge of  
their seat until the very end.

Written, Produced and Directed  
by Charles Meli



**MALTESE COMMUNITIES LIVING ABROAD**  
**IF WE WANT TO SURVIVE – UNITE**  
**AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER**

## THE MISTRA GATE ST PAULS BAY



This ornate gateway in the limits of St. Paul's Bay is over 250 years old. It underwent major restorations twice after deteriorating greatly over time. But have you ever wondered what it was built for? Read on...

**WHAT WAS IT BUILT FOR?** Known as the Mistra Gate, this gateway was the principal entrance to a huge estate set up in 1607 by the Grand Master of the time, Alof de Wignacourt. It was built in order to collect money for the ransom of Christian slaves in Muslim territories, through a foundation known as the 'Monte di Redenzione degli Schiavi' (which translates to: a

foundation for the redemption of slaves) said to have been inspired by a Lenten sermon preached by Father Rafel Camilleri, a Capuchin monk.

**LOCATION** The gate is located in Mistra, St. Paul's Bay, right by the side of the main arterial road that leads from Xemxija to Mellieħa, and close to the Mistra Bridge.

**ARCHITECTURE** Built in Baroque architectural style in 1760, when Malta was under the rule of the Knights, with Manuel Pinto da Fonseca as Grand Master, the top of the gate is decorated with the coats of arms of Grand Master Pinto, the Monte di Redenzione, Balì Claudius de Montagne de Lafeuliere and Balì Carlo Maria Olgiati. The latter two coats of arms were so badly deteriorated that they could only be identified from old photographs.

The Monte di Redenzione foundation's coat of arms consists of three hills surmounted by the letter "R" for Redenzione (redemption).

**AN ENTRANCE TO A LARGE ESTATE** The gate was the entrance to a large estate belonging to the Monte di Redenzione degli Schiavi. This estate had been bequeathed to this foundation by the noble woman Caterina Vitale in 1619.

**AN IMPORTANT DONATION** The wealth of this donation was significant in that it allowed the Monte di Redenzione foundation to have much more money for the payment of the ransoms. Before Vitale's donation the Monte di Redenzione could not collect enough money to redeem many Christian slaves.

**SELMUN WAS ALSO PART OF THIS ESTATE** Within her huge property was the territory of the Fego di Salamone – or ta Salamuni – today known as Selmun. Selmun Palace was later built on it. This territory, and its surrounding lands, was also left to the Monte di Redenzione for the ransom of slaves, and these lands were accessible through the Mistra Gate.

**HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKED TO PAY FOR THE RANSOM OF SLAVES** From Din l-Art Helwa.

The nominated head of the foundation Monte di Redenzione was the Grand Master, who appointed four officials annually from the different Langues of the Order to administer it. They, in turn, appointed other representatives who acted as collectors in various towns and villages. Procurators also dealt with claims for ransom.

The officials met in the sacristy of St. John's Cathedral every second Sunday of the month to deliberate the merits of various claims for ransom, and to examine any news on the whereabouts and location of the slaves.



At that time, a slave was redeemable against the payment of about 70 scudi for a secular person, rising to 200 scudi for a captured knight. The resultant list was then submitted to the Grand Master who had to extract names for redemption.

**THE FARMHOUSE** A farmhouse which was also part of the estate is located close to the gate. In addition, a marker indicating the limits of the property belonging to the Monte di Redenzione can also be found nearby.

**GOVERNMENT PROPERTY** The estate became government property in 1798, when the funds of the Monte di Redenzione were transferred to the state during the French occupation of Malta. Today, the gate is scheduled as a Grade 1 national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. The nearby farmhouse and property marker are scheduled as Grade 2.

**RESTORATIONS** The gate was extensively restored in 1937 and again in the 1990s. In 1937, the gate was restored by the Public Works Department and the Museums Department. Throughout this restoration, the gate was completely rebuilt, and a new timber door was affixed. Thereafter, the gate deteriorated greatly throughout the 20th century. In 1995 and 1996, students from the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Malta surveyed the gate. Since the gate's façade was inclined outwards, it was decided to dismantle and rebuild the gate. The door was replaced once again, and new wooden beams were installed.

This restoration was carried out by the NGO Din l-Art Helwa and was sponsored by the Corinthia Group of Companies. It was completed in 1998.

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## BROAD BEANS – IL-FUL

Jean-Paul Borg

You might have noticed the vibrant-coloured green legume at the grocers and vegetable stalls across the Maltese islands.

As the winter ends and spring begins, broad beans (Maltese: ful; singular: fula) abund across the land at this time of year and is used to savour some still very popular dishes in local kitchens.

**POPULAR FUL DISHES** Apart from the nutritious bean soup, known as 'kusksu bil-ful', and the popular bean dip 'bigilla', there was also the soppa tal-armla - that 'explosive' (never mind the

'afters!'), hearty soup enriched with seasonal vegetables and of course the mighty green 'ful' beans. The earthy flavour of ful is great when combined with ricotta in pies, too!

**FUL FACTS** From airmalta .com. - The broad bean grows in pods of 8 to 10 beans. - The species, whose scientific name is 'Vicia faba', was introduced in Malta around 1492, and spread rapidly. Its flowers are white or black and they blossom between February and May. - Despite their small size, broad beans are incredibly healthy, with a high amount of vitamins, minerals, fiber and protein. - Ful have been scientifically proven to aid in digestion, lower cholesterol levels, boost the immune system and improve heart health.

Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg

## THE WEJTER TOWER OF BIRKIRKARA

Built by the Knights hundreds of years ago, this tower was once the landmark of this area of Birkirkara, with open spaces all around it. The Wejter Tower dates back to 1710 when Grand Master Ramon Perellos y Roccaful commissioned its construction on the advice of Chevalier d'Argens. It stood alone in the fields and although it is not big or high, it guarded the road from Msida towards Birkirkara.

Today, Wejter Tower is engulfed by modern buildings in Dun Filippu Borgia Street.

**THE AREA TODAY** The first thing one notices from this photo is the complete lack of respect given to adequate buffer zones to protect the visual landscape of this historic building. The area around the tower is completely surrounded by modern buildings.

The area where the tower is found was known as Ghassiewi, meaning 'guarded place'. Till the late 20th century the community of this area of B'kara was known as tal-Wejter after this tower, and the valley nearby was known as the tal-Wejter Valley.

**ILLEGALLY DEMOLISHED IN THE 1960S** Part of the tower was illegally demolished in 1968, but it was later rebuilt. The Società Dun Filippu Borgia saved it from being completely demolished. Today, it is intact but lies in a rather dilapidated state, and this has led to fears that it might quickly deteriorate and collapse.

**PRIVATE AND FOR SALE!** The building is privately owned, and it is currently for sale. It was scheduled as a Grade 2 national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in 2012.

**WHY THE KNIGHTS BUILT IT** From Wikipedia. The tower was built to watch over the inland areas in the surrounding region of Birkirkara and to bridge the site of the Birkirkara Tower and Floriana. From this tower, any approaching danger could be spotted at enough distance to sound the alarm of the village.

The project took place on the recommendations by Captain Foulet and Commander D'Argens, who were French knights of the Order of St. John. Together with this fortified tower, the tower of Għar il-Ġobon was also constructed in the vicinity.

**ARCHITECTURE** The tower has a square structure and consists of three rooms on three



floors surrounded by a high parapet wall and moulded string course separating the floors. The third floor was added after the tower was partially dismantled and rebuilt. Each façade of the tower originally had box machicolations. The entrance to the tower is through an arched doorway built in the medieval style.

**WEJTER?** The Wejter Tower (Maltese: Torri tal-Wejter) is also known locally as it-Torri tal-Mishun (English: Boiling Water Tower), a reference to its machicolations which are known as galleriji tal-mishun in Maltese. The word Wejter here is a toponym and it is the diminutive of the Maltese word 'watar', which means 'gut', but here it is used as a narrow passage or gorge. In such places, one could probably find an essential commodity - water - although in the local climate this may not have been found all year round. Photo Copyright © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg. For all my latest photos, please visit and like Kappa Vision on Facebook and kappavision\_gram on Instagram. When sharing, DO NOT repost, but FEEL FREE to share directly from Kappa Vision.



## Places of worship beneath our feet: discover the underground world of Rabat



In the Late Medieval period, cave churches started to appear around the Maltese Islands, specifically in Rabat. Rabat's strategic distance from Mdina made it the perfect spot to bury the deceased, since, at the time, burials could only take place outside the city walls. Dr Charlene Vella, from the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Malta, shares her knowledge on the underground world of Rabat.

The Late Medieval cave churches in Rabat were largely recut from catacombs and served as burial grounds as well as worship areas for the early Christians in Malta, Dr Vella explains. "The local cave churches are very likely a repercussion of the presence of Greek-rite Basilian monks on the



Maltese islands in the Late Middle Ages, whose presence in Malta was to re-Christianise locals following the long Muslim occupation." Such examples are seen in the Abbatija tad-Dejr and St Agatha Cave Complex - both of which feature interesting depictions and engravings.

*Toni Cassar Dowling*

Dr Vella explains that the caves also have a symbolic reference to the birthplace of Christ, "that

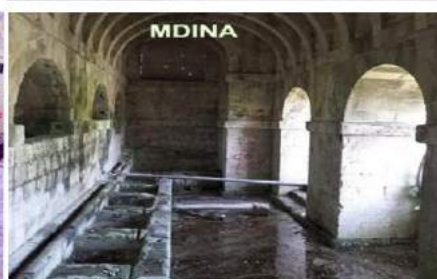
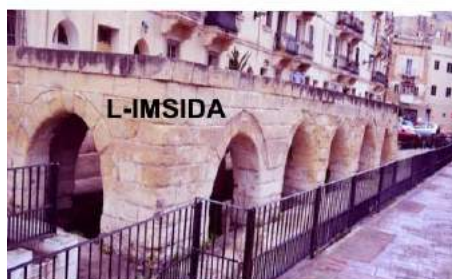
was seen as a prefiguration of the Entombment and Resurrection."

Dr Vella explains that, when it comes to stylistic influences in the Rabat cave churches, saintly figures often adorn the churches, although a variety of styles is visible: "they can display Byzantine characteristics blended with Western ideologies, but others were also executed in the Renaissance period." St Agatha's cave church features 13 depictions of Agatha, highlighting the believers' reverence towards the saint.

Although most saints can not be identified with great ease, the symbols associated with each figure help art historians to name the saints and highlight their attributes, and sometimes, Latin names are painted onto the cave walls, making things a whole lot easier. Authorship is something of a mystery when it comes to cave paintings however - Dr Vella explains that "the early sixteenth century paintings in St Agatha's cave church were probably entrusted to a Sicilian/Messinese artist, while others were executed by Basilian painter-monks themselves to aid in worship. There was no one dominant artist." Other localities in Malta also feature a number of cave churches, such as the Sanctuary of the Virgin in Mellieha; Dr Vella's favourite cave church on the island featuring an intriguing titular altarpiece and a recently restored Late Medieval Virgin and Child painting. Her top cave church in Rabat is St Agatha's - its apse mural serves as a key focus point for Dr Vella due to her research in Messinese Renaissance artists with a connection to the Maltese islands. Sadly, the restoration that has recently taken place at St Agatha's cave church proves to have impaired future studies, due to the "virtual repainting of the paintings than restoration of the original paintings."

*Written by* Kristina Cassar Dowling

A local writer in love with the Maltese islands, Kristina is a hunter for all things cultural both in Malta and outside its shores. A curious foodie, music fanatic, art lover and keen traveller with an open mind and a passion for writing.



## What a nostalgic hit

Caroline Curmi

Back when Maltese households didn't have water and electricity supplies, matriarchs used to carry their washing to communal springs where they'd wash their clothes while catching up with the gossip of the day. Referred to in Maltese by the literal translation *L-Ghajn tal-Hasselin*, most of the sites have now been relegated to tourist attractions. However, their charm prevails and washer springs continue to be a well of nostalgia for locals and a source of allure for visitors. Below are six Maltese springs which were used on the daily by housewives.

**FONTANA, GOZO** One of the most famous washer springs on the islands, this site makes the list of Gozitan must-sees. The irrigation system used is a very old one, yet the spring remains functional to this day. Driving

### NOSTALGIA - 6 SPRINGS - MALTESE HOUSEWIVES USED TO WASH THEIR CLOTHES DECADES AGO

past on your way to or from Xlendi, you can still sometimes spot an old lady or two with their blue plastic basins, furiously handwashing their garments in a serene setting.

**DINGLI** A slippery flight of stairs between Diar il-Bniet and Sta. Domenica Church will lead you down to this natural spring. Situated right across a valley, the spring provided a near-constant supply of fresh water to nearby communities.

**MARSAXLOKK** While the area has been preserved, the spring's overhead wooden structure has been removed. However, the community has chosen to commemorate its original purpose with a beautiful statue of a man clambering out of the spring with two wicker baskets and heading towards two young children with fish at their feet, linking the spring with the village's fishing history. What a cute touch!

**MSIDA** In plain sight of most, its unfortunate placing in the middle of traffic central means it's often overlooked. Constructed in 1705, the spring lay abandoned for a long time resulting in a health hazard for residents due to drainage overflows and resultant stagnant waters. Efforts have been made to restore it and remove potential risks.

**MDINA** Located near Mdina's western gate, this spring has been abandoned for a long time, and a call was issued in 2010 warning of its potential collapse. Erected in the 17th century during the time of the knights, the constant water supply resulted in the erosion of its foundation. It is not known whether the spring was restored as part of the 2015 project by the Mdina Local Council to bring the Casino Maltese adjacent to it back to its former glory.

**GHAJNSIELEM, GOZO** Commissioned in 1710, the spring enjoyed immense popularity in the 18th and 19th century. Due to its later abandonment, the spring fell into a pitiful state and was removed in the '50s to make way for a square. Although most of the original Ghajn tal-Hasselin is no longer, a replica of it – with the inclusion of some original features – was inaugurated in 2015.

Do you remember any of these in use? [www.guidememalta.com](http://www.guidememalta.com)



## MALTA: THE ISLAND NATION THAT DEFIED THE FUHRER

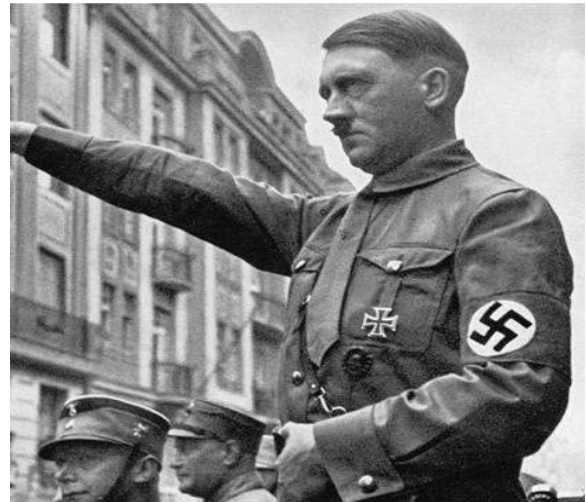
The George Cross remains one of the highest military honors that can be given in the United Kingdom. Second only to the Victoria Cross, it was created in 1940 at the height of the German blitz on London a manner to recognize the great civilian courage it took to endure those dark days. It is a high honor for an individual to receive the George Cross and an even more fascinating award when you consider it was given to an entire island nation at once. For this is the story of the people of Malta, the island nation that defied the Fuhrer.

### The Island Fortress of Malta

Granted, Malta was not its own sovereign state at the time, but the people of Malta certainly comprised a nation by any definition. Malta has long been at the crossroads of history given its unique position in the Mediterranean and has been the target of heroes and despots alike. Only 122 square miles in size, this small piece of real estate would prove to play a role disproportionate to its size in the course of human events.

Unfortunately for this particular generation, that significance put them squarely in the sights of Adolf Hitler. Since June of 1940, the island nation would find itself under almost constant attack from both German and Italian Air Forces. Resupply and reinforcement from the air was understandably difficult and German U-boats wreaked havoc on attempts to resupply by sea.

While the people of Malta endured these early years of war with grit and fortitude, their most harrowing season would come in 1942. Starting in January and going on through July, it was reported that there was only one 24 hour period where bombs did not fall on Malta. Dreaming of an invasion, Hitler ordered the island to be "neutralized" at all costs. Hitler planned to starve the people of the island while simultaneously pounding them with death from above. And while these heavy costs were paid in full by the people of Malta, they did not relent.



Service personnel and civilians clear up debris on a heavily bomb-damaged street in Valletta, Malta on 1 May 1942

### Life Underground

The people of Malta spent so much time underground in shelters, ancient catacombs, and bunkers that disease began to run rife through the community. Digging in became a way of life as the German onslaught persisted. Food became desperately short and one survivor recounted that transportation became a major problem because all the horses had been eaten. When you consider the size of the island, it is not hard to imagine that literally every square mile of the island was touched in some way by the terror of the Luftwaffe. The people of Malta had every reason to relent and give up, but history would prove them not so easy to break.

King George awarded the George Cross to the people of Malta at the height of the siege in April of 1942. He stated that it was "to bear witness to a heroism and a devotion that will long be famous in history." The resistance of the people of Malta was not just a feel good story about endurance, but a military feat of immense strategic significance. Had the Axis powers taken Malta it would have significantly altered the tactical landscape of the Mediterranean and prove to be a costly invasion for the Allies to take it back.

**On the Offensive**

With the Germans starting to take heavy losses in North Africa, attention diverted away from Malta and the siege effectively ended by November of 1942. From this point forward, Malta would play a heavy offensive role. From the strategic island location halfway between North Africa and Italy, the Royal Air Force began to pound Axis naval forces and shipping. After all, it only seems fair that the Axis forces in North Africa feel the pain of hunger as their much-needed supplies from Europe were sent to the bottom of the Mediterranean.

Spitfire Vc(trop) in North Africa. The Spitfire arrived in Malta in March 1942, providing the island with the RAF's main frontline fighter. By May of 1943, Air Forces launching from Malta had sunk 230 Axis ships in just 164 days

which would prove to be the highest Allied sinking rate of the entire war. The last German air raid on Malta took place on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1943 in which would be the 3,340<sup>th</sup> attack since June of 1940. Malta would go on to provide strategic air cover to forces massing for the invasion of Sicily. And with the fall of Italy, war would finally take place from a distance for the people of this tiny island nation who just a short timer earlier were on the brink of starvation.

**The George Cross**

If you ever wonder what the George Cross means to the people of Malta, you need but look at their flag for an answer. For in the top left corner of the flag, you see the George Cross itself. To have had that honor awarded during the height of the siege gave the people of Malta a source of pride and the reminder that the world was watching their fortitude. It let them know that although they are surrounded by the enemy, they are not forgotten

## Marchi, Bonanni second in Pirin Artistic Swimming Tournament



The Malta national team enjoyed a positive start at the 1st International Artistic Swimming "Pirin" currently being held in Blagoevgrad in Bulgaria.

The Malta selection, under the guidance of national coach Michelle Hubner and her assistant Hannah Preca, is formed by Thea Blake, Davida Bonanno (captain), Tara Bonnici Peresso, Ana Culic, Elisa Marie Friggieri, Katarina Galea Curmi, Ana Grech, Thea Grima Buttigieg, Valentina Marchi, Kelly Ann Sargent, Nicole Tomic Felice and Hannah Xuereb.

On the first day of competition, Davida Bonanno and Valentina Marchi enjoyed a fine start in the Duet Free after compiling a score of 67.566 points that puts them in second place in the standings.



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**Maltese eNewsletter**





# Mediterranean ceramics



In 2008, David and Brian Grima decided to combine over 20 years worth of experience in the earthenware and ceramics industry, and set up Mediterranean Ceramics. Their ceramics studio, which is based in Malta, strives to bring together various international artists and ceramists. The studio holds close to heart the skills and spirit of Maltese and Mediterranean craftsmanship. This passion has driven Mediterranean Ceramics to establish itself as a brand of excellence and a leading player in the international scene in a short span of time.



Mediterranean Ceramics offers a number of custom-designed, hand-painted volcanic stone kitchen counters. Volcanic stone is impervious, making it impossible for any liquid to pass through and for bacteria to grow. This ensures top-notch hygiene levels. Being made out of volcanic stone, these counters are naturally apt to withstand high temperatures, and they are also scratch proof, highly resistant to chipping and cracking. This makes our kitchen counters ideal for food preparation. The finish applied by Mediterranean Ceramics also ensures any custom design will not fade due to UV from the sun or aggressive stain removers. This makes our volcanic stone counters ideal

for both indoor as well as outdoor kitchens. In fact, due to these properties, we have had requests for volcanic stone to be used for things like shop counters, outdoor bar counters as well as bathroom countertops, benches and stools.

The volcanic stone table tops offered by Mediterranean Ceramics are produced locally by Maltese craftsmen. They come adorned with custom, hand-made designs. This artisan touch is inspired by the Mediterranean lifestyle, imbuing in each design a unique sense of authenticity. The qualities which make volcanic stone ideal for kitchen counters also make it ideal for table tops. The finish Mediterranean Ceramics applies ensures the table tops are able to withstand high temperatures and that any liquid dropped would be easy to clean. The volcanic top makes these tables scratch, stain and frost proof, making them ideal for outdoor use. Time has showed us our hand-made, intricately designed table tops will stand up well to the challenge posed by the harsh UV rays radiated by the scorching Mediterranean sun. You can rest assured of the quality.

Mediterranean Ceramics produce a wide array of earthenware and ceramic products such as decorative ceramics, house names and signage, household ceramics as well as murals. Decorative ceramics include customised, hand-painted bottle tops and plates, as well as intricate religious plaques. We also offer custom house names, numbers and signage design, all crafted to give your house an authentic Mediterranean touch. Mediterranean Ceramics is also well-known for its table-top work. Its prized work having been gifted by the Maltese government to a number of international leaders such as the President of Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and many others. Mediterranean Ceramics also offers mural design as part of its services. You can be sure our artisan touch will come through, providing you with intricately-designed murals, able to withstand the test of time.



## IL-GUDJA – MALTA WIRT, STORJA U KULTURA

Meta l-Ingliżi ħadu uffiċjalment f'idejhom it-tmexxija ta' Malta bħala kolonja fis-sena 1813 huma sabu li kien hawn livell ta' injoranza kbira. In-nobbli, professjonisti u l-kjeriċi kellhom livell ta' edukazzjoni tajba iżda l-kumplement tal-popolazzjoni kienet illiterata. Għaldaqstant l-

ingliżi bdew il-proċess biex ta' l-anqas kull persuna f'Malta jkollha livell bażiku ta' edukazzjoni. Biex jagħmlu dan huma bdew jifflu diversi skejjel għal-tfal infantili kif ukoll skejjel primarji.

Tajjeb li wieħed isemmi li l-Universita' kif wkoll il-Lyceum li t-tnejn kienu jinstabu fil-belt Valletta kienu esklussivament għas-subien.

Minkejja r-realta fejn is-soċjeta Maltija kienet waħda ddominata mil-irġiel u xogħol in-nisa kien li jieħdu ħsieb l-ulied, meta wieħed janalizza l-istatistiċi edukattivi ta' nofs is-seklu dsatax, jinnota li l-popolazzjoni femminili fl-iskejjel kienet akbar min dik maskili. Eżempju, fis-sena 1861, f'Malta u Għawdex b'kolloxx kien hawn 6024 il-student (mil-iskejjel infantili sa l-Universita') min dawn 3264 kienu nisa u 2760 kienu rġiel. Dan juri biċ-ċar li l-idea li l-mara kienet moħħa biss fl-affarijiet tad-dar u l-kċina hija nkorreta dan għaliex minkejja li kienet taf li l-Universita' u l-Lyceum kienu biss għal-irġiel xorta waħda n-nisa kienu jattendu bi ħgarom għal-edukazzjoni primarja u xi ffit anki għas-sekondarja. Iżda wieħed għandu jzomm quddiem għajnejh ukoll il-fatt li l-popolazzjoni femminili f'Malta kienet akbar min dik maskili.

L-ewwel referenza għal-popolazzjoni ta' studenti fl-iskola primarja tal-Gudja taħt ħakma ingliża nsibuha fid-dokumenti tas-sena 1860. L-iskola primarja tal-Gudja kienet tagħmel parti mis-seba' distrett flimkien ma dawk taż-Zejtun, Zabbar u Ħal Tarxien. Fil-primarja tal-Gudja kienu jattendu 144 il-student. 87 il-tifla u 57 il-tifel fi żmien meta l-Gudja kellha popolazzjoni ta' 950 il-persuna. Dawn in-numri baqaw stabbli sa madwar is-sena 1875 fejn imbgħad aktar ma beda jgħaddi ż-żmien jidher li l-entuzjażmu tal-ġenituri li jibgħatu lil uliedhom għal-edukazzjoni beda jgħaddi u minkejja li l-popolazzjoni ta' Malta kienet dejjem qedha tikber, l-attendanza fl-iskejjel kienet dejjem qedha tonqos. Dan għaliex il-ġenituri li ħafna minnhom kienu ta' bla skola u ma jafux x'inhu l-valur tal-edukazzjoni bdew jiddeċidu li jzommu l-bniet id-dar biex jghinu l-ommijiet u jitgħalmu il-ħajja ta' mara tad-dar u s-subien jibgħatuhom għax-xogħol mal-missier. Fil-fatt fis-sena 1885 fil-Gudja kien hawn biss 69 il-student (39 il-tifel u 30 il-tifla) meta l-popolazzjoni tal-Gudja kienet kibret għal waħda ta' 1086 il-persuna. Dan in-nuqqas fl-attendanza kiber tant li fis-sena 1946 l-attendanza fl-iskejjel primarji saret bħala waħda obligatorja.

Riċerka ta' Andrea Gatt

(Ritratt mhux meħud Malta)





## Do you know anyone who would benefit from this?

### Prof Stephen Gatt

The Order of Malta (SMOM) is organising and sponsoring the Asia Pacific Youth Camp 2021 for young persons with disabilities from 19-24 September at the Gold Coast Performance

Centre in Queensland.

This prestigious activity, the SMOM Annual Handicapped Youth Camp, has been a great success in Europe for over 30 years. In the last 8 years, the Order of Malta has extended the Disabled Youth Camps to the Asia Pacific and the camps in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines have been a great success.

The 2021 Asia Pacific Youth Camp has fallen to Australia. Normally, each of the participating countries would send about five disabled participants. our 'guests'. This year, with COVID border closures in place and international travel curtailed, the participants will come mostly from within Australia and New Zealand. The silver lining is that, with international travel suspended, the costs of sponsoring air travel to Brisbane by local organisations and communities from across ASia - Thailand, Singapore, China, etc. has been dramatically reduced. This gives local disabled youth a golden opportunity to access a much coveted, fully sponsored activity at minimal cost to the guest, the carer and the volunteer.

I have volunteered to be the Camp doctor at this Youth Camp at the Gold Coast Performance Centre and I am very keen that our community get maximal benefit from this camp. If you know anyone who is mentally or physically challenged and who would enjoy a week of pure fun, can you please let me know so that I can send you the application pack. Get in touch on 02 9663 2675 or 0411 606 211 or <[gattsp@gmail.com](mailto:gattsp@gmail.com)>.and ask for Prof. Stephen Gatt. Alternatively, access this link <<https://form.jotform.com/Orderofmalta/2021CAMPEOI>> to obtain and complete the Expression of Interest Form

These camps are made up of 50 disabled guests aged 18-35, their 50 carers and 50 volunteers. Some of the volunteers will come from within the Order of Malta volunteer groups, VOTO (Volunteers of the Order) and VOOM (Volunteers of the Order of Malta). There are over 110,000 registered, accredited volunteers of the Order of Malta worldwide. In non-COVID years, some 20-30 volunteers would come from our overseas Order of Malta organisations and would accompany their own contingent of guests; this year, we are looking for a small number of young, able bodied, fun-loving, cheerful 18-50 year old volunteers from outside the Order of Malta to join us on the Gold Coast.

The emphasis at the camp is fun. The Youth Camp programme includes visits to Gold Coast theme parks, sporting and cultural activities, live performances, competitions, parties, music, dance and indoor and outdoor activities all tailored to the capacities and capabilities of our guests to deliver a once-in-a-lifetime experience and many thrills for our disabled youth from across the country.

The Order of Malta will be providing, for all guests, carers and volunteers, free of charge:

- group transfers to/from Brisbane Airport and Brisbane CBD to /from the Gold Coast Performance Centre
- accommodation for five nights    •all meals for the full six-days    •all activities and entry fees to theme parks and other activity venues

While there has already been heavy sponsorship to the Order of Malta for this Disabled Youth Camp, this is a horrendously expensive exercise especially because of the highly specialised venues, the entertainment and the specialist equipment which need to be

accessed. Consequently, apart from the need to sponsor the individual guests and their carer to get them to/from Brisbane, money needs to be raised to support the overall activity itself. If you or your organisation can help by way of sponsorship, please get in touch (above) and I will direct you to the organisers within the Order of Malta in Brisbane.

I suspect that there is going to be a first-come-first-served rush of applicants, so if you know someone who would benefit, if you are interested in joining us or if you are in contact with organisations who help and support these young people, please reach out to these individuals and, if they are interested, lock them into the system by completing their EOI.

I have little doubt that this initiative will be a resounding success and will bring much joy to those less fortunate in our community. I am very proud that the Order of Malta has undertaken this brave initiative. <https://form.jotform.com/Orderofmalta/2021CAMPEOI>



### The Australian Association

The Australian Association, formed in 1974, currently has in excess of 300 members and aspirant members across every State and Territory of Australia. We also have ongoing and strong links with the Order's National Associations throughout the Asia Pacific Region including in Singapore and the Philippines and with members of the Order in New Zealand, Hong Kong SAR, Thailand and Korea. The Order of Malta is committed to serving Our Lords the Poor and Sick worldwide and has done so for over 900 years. [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au). This website shares with you the history, mission and current activities of the Order of Malta in Australia, and provides links to the work of the Order world-wide.



## HONEY IN MALTESE HISTORY

By Nathan Abela Posted May 18, 2021 In TasteHistory

Apiaries of Punic origin, topographic names of our northern settlements, the writings of various Arabic geographers, late medieval documents, and Grand Tour travellers' accounts, are just few indicators pointing towards Malta's immemorial association to honey – the golden-amber coloured nectar of the Gods and nature's natural sweetener.

Honey will be the subject of our next Inquisitor's Historic cookalong webinar being held together with TasteHistory on May 27th, 2021, at 7 pm. For more information and to register, click the following link –

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UjBwCdASBCZTIIPmf9cSA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UjBwCdASBCZTIIPmf9cSA)

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## ORDER OF MALTA – AUSTRALIA

### Australian Association's President visits Darwin operations



At the beginning of May, the President of the Australian Association, the Hon. James Douglas, KHD visited the Order of Malta's operations in the Northern Territory. As part of this visit, he presented our Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Bishop Charles Victor Emmanuel Gauci with his cross as a Chaplain of the Order.

The President also participated in the Eucharist celebration on the feast day of St Catherine of Siena where we also offered mass on the anniversary of the death of our now deceased Grand Master Fra Giacomo on the anniversary of his death. This was celebrated by our Chaplain Fr Malcolm.



***Pictured: Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Bishop Charles Gauci with Australian Association President, The Hon. James Douglas KHD.***

Tour of the National Critical Care and Trauma Centre with Professor Len Notaras AM

During the visit, the President also met with the Director of the National Critical Care and Trauma Centre, Professor Len Notaras AM, who recently donated



urgently needed medical supplies to our [medical clinic in Dili](#).

The President and Mrs Douglas were provided with a tour of the facility, after which they presented Professor Notaras with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Order of Malta Australia for his generous assistance.

The President and Regional Hospitaller, Sean Parnell, had the opportunity to assist the Order of Malta's delivery of hygiene packs to the homeless around the Darwin.

The President sat and talked with Simeon from Groote Eylandt and Bobby and Anita from Ngukurr during the distribution. They were most appreciative of their packages and thanked him profusely for taking the time to sit with them and talk about the work of the Order.

"It was a great experience to meet so many people from the indigenous communities of the NT in the company of such a good guide, our regional hospitaller, Sean Parnell. His long career as a police officer in the Territory has given him so much understanding of and regard for the different communities and individuals there. It was also just such a pleasant thing to do, sitting in a shady spot and having a yarn with the locals who were all enjoying themselves. Unforgettable."

## ***We are proud of our Maltese Achievers***



## L-Imnarja 2021 għewwa La Valette Social Centre



**L-Imnarja**  
ser tigi  
organizzata għewwa  
ċ-Ċentru Malti La Valette  
175 Walters Road,  
Blacktown  
il-Hadd 27 ta' Ġunju 2021  
\*\* Mill-10.00am il-quddiem \*\*



**Ikun hemm daqq addattat  
ghall-okkażjoni  
u  
Ghana ma'  
Saver Bonanno  
u shabu.**



Ser ikun hemm ukoll  
Jumping Castle u  
FREE "Popcorn" għat-tfal,



kif ukoll  
program mużikali mill-Banda  
Maltese Concert Band NSW



**Mil-kċina issibu ikel  
Malti, nkludi Ravjul  
u Pastizzi  
u l-Bar ikun miftuh  
b'xorb Malti.**



Ikun hemm wirjiet ta' haxix, frott, tjur u artiġjanat.  
Kull min irid jesibixxi għandu jagħmel kuntatt ma' Ċentru fuq  
9622 5847 mill-aktar fis jew iċempel lil

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Lisa Curry



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KIDS-12 YEARS & OLDER ONLY

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Strictly**

**\*NO BYO DRINKS\***

DATE: SATURDAY  
22<sup>ND</sup> May 2021

TIME: 7pm Sharp til Late  
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

**QUIZWHIZ**

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TO SHARE  
WITH YOUR TABLE*

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BASSENDEAN, WA

COST: \$10 EACH

**\*PRIZES & RAFFLES\*  
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## JIMMY FENECH

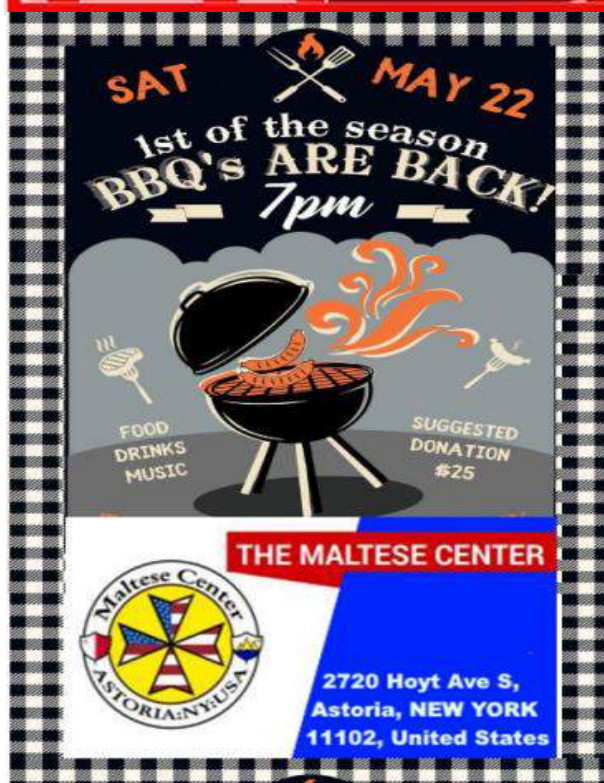
Jimmy is one of our euphonium musicians at MMG Concert Band of Victoria. He can also play the trumpet and percussion.

Jimmy has been playing music for 26 years, first starting in the Malta Gozo Concert Band, being taught by his Father Spiro.

Jimmy enjoys playing music as he is able to enjoy performing music with his Father and Sister, who also both play at MMG.

Currently, his son is learning the trumpet in our Music School. He looks forward to the moment he joins the band, to be able to perform music with him.

Jimmy enjoys MMG as is a welcoming band and a friendly atmosphere. He enjoys performing traditional marches but loves the test of playing new and challenging pieces of music.



### Maltese Centre fundraiser to build disable toilet drawn 5th June 2021

sell or buy a book of 20 and go into 2nd draw to win \$50.00



#### 1st Prize

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in 10 seat super  
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Stir & Shake  
www.stirshake.com.au  
0414743063

#### 2nd Prize

Booking fee waived  
(valued at \$350.00)



#### 3rd Prize

\$100.00 voucher



#### 4th Prize

\$100.00 voucher

plus many more prizes on the night

\$ 2 e a c h t i c k e t

## LIJA COUNCIL strongly objects to development that will alter area's character

Kevin Schembri Orland

The Lija local council has 'strongly objected' to a proposed development in the locality, which would see the construction of 65 residential units, comprising of maisonettes, apartments and penthouses as well as 163 garages.

The site is located at St Joseph Farm, which faces two roads, Triq il-Mithna and Triq Depiro-Gourgion, right on the edge of the development zone. The application includes the proposed demolition of existing structures and uprooting of existing vegetation, excavation of 3 basement private parking levels and the construction of 163 garages, 17 maisonettes at level 0, 18 apartments at level 1, 18 apartments at level 2 and overlying 12 penthouses. The application was filed after a Planning Control Application had been approved. The proposal has seen many objections filed by members of the public.

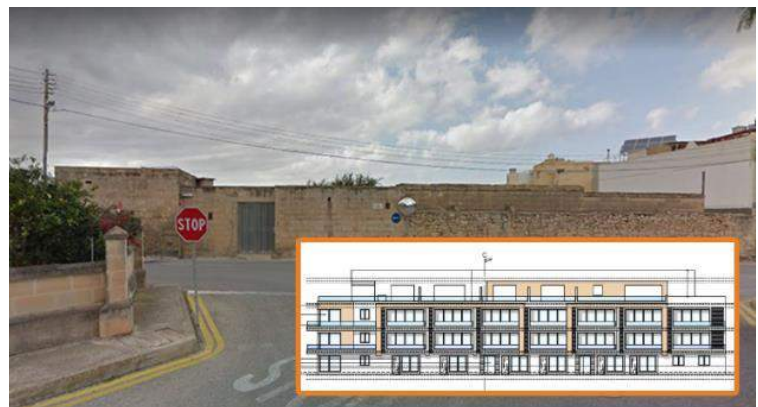
The council said that the proposed development will serve to "significantly alter" the character and integrity of this area on the edge of the Lija Development Zone.

The council highlights that the density of the development, the intensification of traffic activity in the area, and the visual amenity impacts are considered to be inappropriate.

"The proposed development is not in compliance with the policy objectives for urban / rural fringe areas." It also highlighted that the proposal goes against certain policy objectives of the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) 2015.

It said that, if the proposed development is approved, it will create a precedent for development of a similar nature, with wider implications for the context, character and integrity of the Lija urban / rural fringe, and with the potential to jeopardise the policy direction and objectives for such areas.

"Whilst the development is residential in nature, the prevailing character of the townscape in this area is single-storey and two-storey detached and semi-detached villas (along Triq il-Mithna) and two-storey townhouses (on Triq Depiro Gourgion). The proposed apartment development of the scale envisaged will introduce to this area a form of



development that bears little relationship to the existing townscape context," the council said.

It reiterated that the location of the site on the interface of the Development Zone and the Outside Development Zone areas. "In this context, the appropriate approach to development on this site would be to 'transition' between the urban and rural in respect of density and intensification of use, and in respect of the scale, massing and height of the built form."

Delving deeper into its concerns regarding traffic, the council said that notwithstanding an over-provision of parking spaces per unit, the impacts on the local road network from the increase in traffic moving into and out of this area will be "considerably detrimental on environmental and residential amenity of a wide area. The approach to and from the site in all directions necessitates vehicles negotiating narrow carriageways, including rural roads and routes through the UCA. There is the need for a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) to properly assess the scale of the impact on the road network. Nevertheless, the movement of traffic generated as a result of this development will have an impact on pedestrian safety, air quality, and the noise climate along the approach routes."

The council was not alone in its concerns. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH) said: "Given the location, any development application proposed on this site should adopt an adequate transitional solution between the rural area in ODZ and the schemed area within the development zone. The SCH therefore recommends a more sensitive treatment in volumes as well as in design, in order to mitigate the impact of such development onto the surrounding landscape."





## Sr Marcellina Tabone gave her life to mission work in Pakistan

*Sister Marcellina's portrait at the Gozo Cathedral. Photo: Charles Spiteri*

On August 15, 1880, Dun Ġużepp Diacono, a humble but bright priest from Victoria and a group of pious youths that he had guided spiritually for various years, gathered in a house that he called Casa di Carità.

They were to become the nucleus of the future Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus. Soon afterwards, the direction of the group was taken over by Margherita De Brincat, a holy youth from Kerċem who is rightly considered, along with Dun Ġużepp, the co-founders of the congregation.

Madre Margherita and her fellow sisters dedicated their life to the instruction of the poor, including the teaching of lace-making and weaving to earn a living. Throughout its 140 years, the congregation has gone through innumerable ups and downs. Certainly, one of the saddest occurrences is the assassination of Sister Marcellina Tabone who was a missionary in Mirkurphas, Pakistan.

Antoinette, as she was christened at baptism, was the daughter of Ġanni Tabone, one of the best-known bakers of Victoria, and Ġużeppa.

Marcellina joined the Franciscan Congregation in 1967 and from the following year she opted to work as a missionary in Pakistan. Through benefactors from Malta and Gozo, the sisters had built a school for the very poor boys and girls in the region as well as a clinic for people who did not know what was health care.

In 1971, the Pakistani government took over the school and clinic without giving compensation to the sisters. They continued to work there among enormous difficulties. The school was returned to the sisters in a dilapidated condition in 1995.

On June 28, 1997, an hour past midnight, an armed burglar who had knowledge of the premises, entered the convent and fired at Sister Marcellina, who was then superior of the mission. She died on her way to hospital.

## WHAT DO MALTESE LIVING ABROAD WANT

- **A MALTESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE TO PROMOTE AND FOSTER THE MALTESE LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AROUND THE WORLD**
- **RESTORATION OF AUSTRALIA HALL BUILT BY AND FOR THE ANZACS AT PRMBROKE**
- **AN ACCREDITED MALTESE LANGUAGE COURSE ONLINE FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS**
- **INCLUSION OF HISTORY OF MALTESE MIGRATION IN MALTA'S SCHOOLS' CURRICULUM**
- **APPRECIATION. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD WHO ARE EXCELLEING IN ARTS, MUSIC, MEDICINE, LAW, MEDIA AND BUSINESS**
- **DO YOU KNOW THERE ARE OVER A MILLION MALTESE LIVING ABROAD!!!!**





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#### **AQUARIUS from 10th January till 18th February**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Aquarius in Taurus: Your communications sector is very active, and there can be times when you're busy with distractions. It's a great time to gather your facts, although there will be times when you could feel a little harried. Alternatives lead you to rethink old problems and concerns, particularly regarding close relationships with loved ones. This is a time when you find it easier than usual to step outside of your comfort zone, and as you do, you boost your confidence. Namaste



#### **PISCES from 19th January till 20th March**

This is the horoscope guidance for the horoscope zodiac sign of Pisces in Taurus: You might work from or on the home with more enthusiasm, or you're bringing in new ways to enjoy entertainment on the home front and finding creative ways to interact with the people closest to you. It's a fortunate time for friendships, communications, work, health, and group connections. Your ideas, advice, or guidance might stand out as particularly unique and perhaps in demand. Namaste



#### **ARIES from 21st March till 19th April**

This is the horoscope guidance for the horoscope zodiac sign of Aries in Taurus: You are magnetic when it comes to sharing ideas, reaching out, and communicating. Your ideas are original and progressive, and they excite and motivate you. Managing your expectations is important, and you might need to go over a small hump, due to plans that fail to materialize, but take a cue to fill your life more fully and seek out a better balance. Namaste



#### **TAURUS from 20th April till 20th May**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Taurus in Taurus: It's a time for collecting your thoughts, digesting recent experiences, and reorienting yourself. You could be dealing with things behind the scenes, and events can get closure on various matters. You could feel the reason to defend yourself, your values, and the respect you deserve. This is an important time for you to look back and review, process, and digest recent events and take action on improving your attention to healing and rest. Namaste



#### **GEMINI from 21st May till 20th June**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Gemini in Taurus: You can expect more invites or communications from people in your networks. Long term plans look exciting now. Still challenges may very well motivate you to become more self-reliant, which can be something you need at this time in your life as it would help if you had more time to yourself to stay connected with people you care about, you also need to set some boundaries, time for looking within for past and important clues. Namaste



#### **CANCER from 21st June till 22nd July**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Cancer in Taurus: As the zodiac of Taurus progresses, you become increasingly interested in fulfilling happiness goals and less focused on performance your deeper relationships, look for opportunities to express yourself from behind the scenes. This is a time for pivotal discoveries of your feelings for someone or particular projects in your life. Namaste



#### **LEO from 23rd July till 22nd August**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Leo in Taurus: Transits encourage you to bring more of the world into your personal life. You could be enjoying new interests or thinking about your plans in a big picture way, reinforced. You are more likely to make happy connections through activities that take you outside of the routine or onto unfamiliar ground. There may be some form of recognition for your accomplishments and incentives, benefits that can figure strongly.



#### **VIRGO from 23rd August till 22nd September**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Virgo in Taurus: You are ready and willing to perform, more ambitious than usual, as friends may recognize you as a pioneer, or you're connecting with your initiative and pioneering qualities. You can be drawn to details and excited about finding solutions to problems. Personally, transits tend to pull you up and out of yourself, and you can be more willing to take on a challenge in your self-belief. Namaste



#### **LIBRA from 23rd September till 22nd October**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Libra in Taurus: Good energy is with you for bringing more excitement, pride, and fun to your interactions. You tend to put forward a solid effort when it comes to relating in positive, rewarding ways, you assert yourself in becoming, healthy ways, and others tend to admire your increasing confidence and verve. It's a great period for getting things done and clearing the path for new beginnings. Namaste



#### **SCORPIO from 23rd October till 21st November**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Scorpio in Taurus: It's a great time to use common sense in these areas and improve your daily routines, it's time for launching new self-care programs and work project events and tend to point you in the direction of taking better care of yourself. You might come to realize that you're holding onto behaviours that no longer serve you, it's a good time to motivate you to improve your daily affairs. Namaste



#### **SAGITTARIUS from 22nd Nov till 21st Dec**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Sagittarius in Taurus: There is a strong focus on your creative, developments or interruptions to lead you to new thinking of directions with your work or routines. This is a time when your psychic radar is working overtime, and you can have an epiphany about your true feelings on a matter or instincts about a project aim to combat a desire in the present, and communicative that can interfere with very real needs for rest and reflection. Namaste



#### **CAPRICORN from 22nd Dec till 19th Jan**

This is the horoscope guidance for the zodiac sign of Capricorn in Taurus: There's a strong focus on your home and family life, as well paying extra attention to your work. You want to take advantage of increased self-motivation to get things done, there can be simmering tension as your personal goals can sometimes clash quite dramatically with your attention to your domestic world. Ambition increases in comfortable ways, you need to put ideas into motion or take action on important matters to overcome obstacles. Namaste