



Bishop Charles Gauci of Darwin - Apology page 2

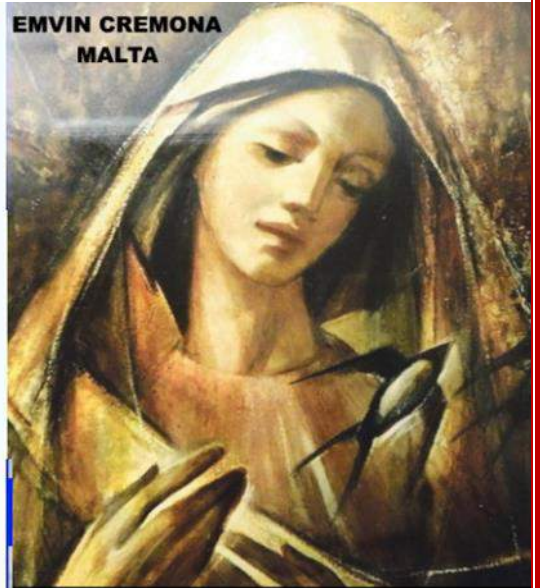


Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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**EMVIN CREMONA
MALTA**



**MADONNA TAL-EMIGRANTI
MADONNA OF THE EMIGRANTS**



EMIRATES has announced it will resume services to Malta via Larnaca, Cyprus, from 14 July 2021

The untold story of the Maltese Revolution



"BLOOD ON THE CROWN"

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Aboriginal survivors reach settlement with Church, Commonwealth



cathnew.com

Survivors of Aboriginal forced removal policies have signed a deal for compensation and apology 40 years after suffering sexual and physical abuse at the Garden Point Catholic Church mission on Melville Island, north of Darwin. Source: *ABC News*.

"I'm happy, and I'm sad for the people who have gone already ... we had a minute's silence for them ... but it's been very tiring fighting for this for three years," said Maxine Kunde, the leader of a group of 42 survivors that took civil

Mgr Charles Gauci - Bishop of Darwin

action against the church and Commonwealth in the Northern Territory Supreme Court.



Maxine Kunde (ABC News/Tiffany Parker)

At age six, Ms Kunde, along with her brothers and sisters, was forcibly taken from her mother under the then-federal government's policy of removing children of mixed descent from their parents.

Garden Point survivors, many of whom travelled to Darwin from all over Australia, agreed yesterday to settle the case, and received an informal apology from representatives of the

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in a private session. Ms Kunde said members of the group were looking forward to getting a formal public apology which they had been told would be delivered in a few weeks' time.

Darwin Bishop Charles Gauci said on behalf of the diocese he apologised to those who were abused at Garden Point.

"I am profoundly sad that hurt was done to you while you were under the care of the Church. This hurt should never have happened," he said. "We cannot undo the wrongs of the past but I hope we can now walk together on a journey of healing."



1 July – 154th Birthday of Canada

Canada Day (French: *Fête du Canada*) is the national day of Canada. A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of July 1, 1867, the effective date of the *Constitution Act, 1867* (then called the *British North America Act, 1867*), which united the three separate colonies of the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a single Dominion within the British Empire called Canada. Originally called Dominion

Day (French: *Le Jour de la Confédération*), the holiday was renamed in 1982, the year in which the Canadian Constitution was patriated by the Canada Act 1982. Canada Day celebrations take place throughout the country, as well as in various locations around the world, attended by Canadians living abroad.

We wish all our Maltese-Canadians a very happy and exciting CANADA DAY

THE FIFTH VOLUME OF 'KELMA TA' HABIB' THE BOOK OF HOMILIES AND SPEECHES BY ARCHBISHOP CHARLES SCICLUNA



A society built on the value of life, the promotion of the common good, and reciprocal respect and forgiveness, are some of the themes that Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna reflects upon in the fifth volume of 'Kelma ta' Habib'.

This publication includes the homilies and speeches delivered by the Archbishop in his fifth year as Archbishop of Malta. This edition of 'Kelma ta' Habib' also includes the Archbishop's speech during the open dialogue on racism held at the University of Malta following the murder of Lassana Cisse, his speech during the transfer of the Church property (known as

Adelaide Cini Institute) to Hospice Malta for the setting up of St Michael's Hospice which will provide palliative care services, and his message to engaged couples and those who were united in the sacrament of marriage.

Through his profound words, grounded in the Gospel, the Archbishop invites each person to spread the Good News in society for the good of mankind. This 500-page publication includes 50 pages of photographs taken during celebrations held in various parishes and other activities.

The front cover features Ġorġ Agius, also known as Ġorġ tal-Mużew, praying with the Archbishop during the television programme Xarabank. 'Kelma ta' Habib' also includes an analytical index that allows readers to easily find the Archbishop's teaching on a particular subject, and QR codes through which readers may watch the videos of the homilies on YouTube through their smartphone. This book is published by the Communications Office of the Archdiocese of Malta and is sponsored by APS Bank plc. The fifth edition of 'Kelma ta' Habib' is being sold at €12 and may be purchased from The Archbishop's Curia in Floriana or online on church.mt/kelmatahabib.



MALTESE LANGUAGE BOOK FOR ITALIANS

La Lingua Maltese, a grammar of the Maltese language for Italians has just been published in e-book form, on the occasion of the Italian National Day, by Bonomo Editore of Bologna.

The authors of this grammar are [Prof. Giulio Soravia](#), of the University of Bologna, and [Prof. Arnold Cassola](#) of the University of Malta.

Apart from explaining the different components of the morphology of the Maltese language in a way which is quite easy to absorb, the publication also gives a short history of the Maltese language, including its affinity with Arabic.

A few examples of Maltese literary texts with their Italian translation and a 35 page Maltese-Italian glossary complete this grammar of the Maltese language, which forms part of the series *Le Lingue incatenate*, by Bonomo Editore.

The e-book can be obtained from the [Bonomo Editore website](#).



VILLA FRANCIA AT LIJA - OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

VILLA FRANCIA, initially named as **Palazzo Francia**, then named as **Villa Preziosi**, and officially known as **Palazzo Francia** and **Francia**

Estate, is an 18th-century [palace](#) in [Lija](#), Malta. The palace was built circa 1757,^[1] by Francesco Preziosi, with [baroque](#) architecture that gave a sense of pride and power to noble people at the time. The first ambitious owner became bankrupt^[4] with the expenses of the palace, to make it an outstanding building and incomparable with others, and because of this he was pressured to sell his possession by the [Order of St. John](#) to pay his accumulated debts.

The street where the palace is found is named after the initial name of the palace, as Preziosi Street. The palace was bought by the Francia family and later passed to the [Government of Malta](#). It is currently the official residence of the [Prime Minister of Malta](#). The building should not be confused with formerly named Palazzo Francia, today [Palazzo Ferreria](#).

DESCRIPTION The main gate of the residence. The palace has two floors with a one front garden and other back gardens. The villa is situated in the northern part of [Lija](#). The palace was inspired by [Villa Palagonia](#), at [Bagheria](#) in [Sicily](#).

HISTORY The building of Villa Francia was initially a one-storey building used as a hunting lodge when most of Lija was undeveloped. People living in the countryside feared attacks from the Ottoman Empire. When these attacks stopped Lija became a village on the demand for noble people and later for modern buildings. The place may no longer be used as a hunting site.

PALAZZO/VILLA PREZIOSI [The palace is believed to be completed in the late eighteenth century. Additional construction such as the upper storey was added in the late 18th century. Other internal and external works took place in the mid-twentieth century to be used as a residence villa. At first it was called Villa Preziosi. At one point during the British period the building was the residence of Dr. Waugh. He was also buried within the grounds of the estate.

PALAZZO/VILLA FRANCIA Commemorative plaque at the front entrance wall in the memory of [Ugo Pasquale Mifsud](#) who died at the Villa. The palace was named as Villa Francia by the Francia family. Former [Prime Minister of Malta](#) Sir [Ugo Pasquale Mifsud](#) and his wife (ne Francia) lived at the palace between September 1924 and August 1927, and between June 1932 and November 1933. Some documents of Ugo Pasquale Mifsud are displayed at the building.

William "Bill" Nathaniel Fenton was adopted by his step-father John Baptist Francia (1893-1974) in 1971, soon after the adoption law passed. The now legal father stated in his will that the adopted son is to inherit all his fortune, and if he has no children the Catholic Church in Malta was to inherit everything. As per agreement between the State of Malta and the Local Church, the property passed to the government, even though the Francia kept using it. Fenton and Francia were actually in a romantic same-sex relationship. The two organised LGBT parties at the villa, in the 1960s, when homosexuality was illegal.

GARDENS The estate has always been historically known for its beautiful large gardens.^[10] The large landscape of the gardens of the palace has gave it the name of Francia Estate. Maps show that approximately 90% of the property consist of the gardens.^[3] The large gardens are divided into two areas; the prominent one is located at the front of the palace and the vast larger gardens at the back. In the back garden of the palace a [nymphaeum](#) and a large reservoir could be found until day. A small set aside

building was built as a headquarters for the maids and workers at the villa. The palace has some unique Maltese architectural features such as sculptures, a remissa and horse stables. In the garden, a coach room, a water mill and 10 fountains can be found. It has a magnificent belvedere surrounded by two hectares of land overlooking [Mosta](#).

MODERN Plaque at the main entrance wall uncovered after the villa passed to the Maltese government On 27 February 1987^[5] Villa Francia was donated to the [Maltese government](#) by the Francia family^[6] namely by William Francia who had a same-sex relationship and had no children.^[11] A million euro have been invested for the preservation and restoration of Villa Francia by the government partially from EU funds.^[14] The palace today serves as the residence of the [Prime Minister of Malta](#) where general activities take place. The palace became more notable when Monsignor [Charles Scicluna](#) was elected as Bishop of Malta and he was welcomed to the building by Prime Minister [Joseph Muscat](#).^[15] The restoration of the entire estate is aimed to bring about regional development by opening it for the public and become a tourist attraction.

HERITAGE The [Malta Environment and Planning Authority](#) (MEPA) has scheduled Villa Francia as grade 1 national monument. It is also listed on the [National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands](#).

Masterpieces to grace MUŻA for years to come

Loaned works of art go up on display at Valletta art museum



Photo: Jason Borg, DOI

vast influence exercised by Raffaello, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci.

“It is our great fortune today that some of these works are being presented at MUŻA, not just for us to appreciate their beauty but also to understand the major role of culture in the development of every nation,” Herrera said.

The minister congratulated Heritage Malta for successfully bringing these masterpieces to Malta and reiterated his ministry’s commitment to further support the agency’s efforts and similar future initiatives.

Admission to the exhibition will be free to Heritage Malta members, children who are Heritage Malta student passport holders and seniors who are Heritage Malta passport holders. Up to two adults accompanying children or seniors will be admitted for €3 each. All others pay €10.

MUŻA’s opening hours are as follows: all week except Tuesday - 10am to 4.30pm. On June 12 and 13, the hours are being extended to 10pm and 8pm respectively. The admission fee during the extended hours will be €5. Children aged up to 12 years will be admitted free of charge.

This exhibition is being supported by Visit Malta; the arts and finance ministries, and the University of Malta’s Department of Art and Art History.
Times of Malta

Thirteen Old Master paintings from an international private collection have been loaned on a long-term basis to MUŻA, the Malta National Community Art Museum.

The works include paintings by renowned artists such as Peter Paul Rubens and François Boucher and others attributed to Leonardo da Vinci and Giovanni Bellini, among others.

Until the end of October, the artworks, ranging from the late 15th to the mid-18th centuries, will be displayed together in an exhibition “Masterpieces at MUŻA”. They will then be integrated into MUŻA’s display for five years, which can possibly be extended to 10, Arts Minister José Herrera said on Friday as he inaugurated the exhibition.

The exhibition is a celebration of the harmonious idiom of the High Renaissance typified by the



Mgr Walter Michael Ebejer passes away

Monique Agius

Mgr Walter Michael Ebejer, 91, who was appointed by Pope Paul VI as the first Bishop of União da Vitória in Brazil,

passed away on Friday.

His missionary work was saluted by Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna, Bishop Anton Teuma, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi.

Born in 1929 in Dingli, Mgr Ebejer was the oldest Maltese bishop. He joined the Dominican Order and pursued his studies at St Thomas Aquinas College in Rabat.

Mgr Ebejer, whose brother was the noted Maltese author and playwright Francis Ebejer, then continued with his education in the UK.

On January 24, 1954, Ebejer was ordained priest of the Dominican Order at the age of 24.

In 1956 he graduated in philosophy and theology from St Thomas Aquinas College in Rabat and

later, in 1973, he graduated and acquired his licence from the Angelicum in Rome.

In 1957 Ebejer went to Brazil as missionary in the state of Goiás. From 1961 until 1969 he did pastoral work in north of Parana. Later he was appointed lecturer at the Pontifical Catholic University of Parana and at the Studium Theologicum Catholic University. He also became the parish priest at Matinhos. He served in this post until 1976.

In 1976 Pope Paul VI appointed Ebejer as the first bishop of the Diocese of União da Vitória. On 6 March 1977 he was consecrated bishop by Archbishop Carmine Rocco, the then Apostolic Nuncio to Brazil. After 30 years heading the diocese he retired at the age of 77, in January 2007.

He then stayed in União da Vitória as a Bishop Emeritus.

Mgr Ebejer was hospitalised on Thursday after his health deteriorated. He passed away a day later.

WHAT DID NAPOLEON REALLY WANT FOR MALTA?

The capitulation of the Order of Malta was signed on board l'Orient. The first article stated that all the Order's properties (including St. John's) and its treasures became state property of the French republic. Now here are but a few of the official orders Napoleon subsequently issued to the newly formed government commission.

-The government commission is composed of the following citizens:

Bosredon-Ransijat: President

Vincent Caruana: Secretary to the bishop

Charles Asto: Maltese merchant

Paolo Ciantar: Maltese merchant

Jean-Francois Dorell: Current deputy

Grongo: Magistrate from Gozo

Benedetto Schembri: Magistrate

Cannon Don Saverio Caruana: Artisan from Mdina

Christophe Frendo: Notary

- All the inhabitants of Malta are equal in right. They are distinguished only by their talent, their merit, their patriotism, and their loyalty to the French republic.

-Fifteen primary schools will be created in Malta and Gozo. The pupils will be taught reading and writing in French, basic arithmetic, navigation, and the moral principles of the French constitution.

-The government commission will designate sixty Maltese youths from the richest families. They will be sent to Paris to study in the colleges of the republic.

-Public education will be paid from existing assets. If that does not suffice, we will use the funds generated by the sale of suppressed convents.

-All priests and nuns that are not from Malta or Gozo, must leave the island. Any clerical vacancy created by the present order will be filled by Maltese given that it is unjust that foreigners should reap the benefits of this country.

-Slavery, shameful to the human species, is abolished.

-People and their property must be fully respected and you will be friendly towards the Maltese

Signed: Bonaparte

(An Extract from: By Order of Napoleon – The Taking of Malta)

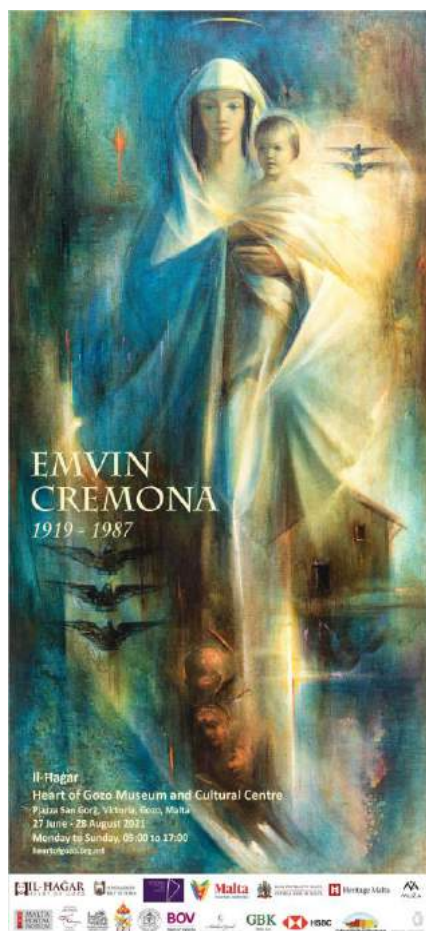
(Malta, June 18, 1798)





'Give blood and make the world a healthier place'

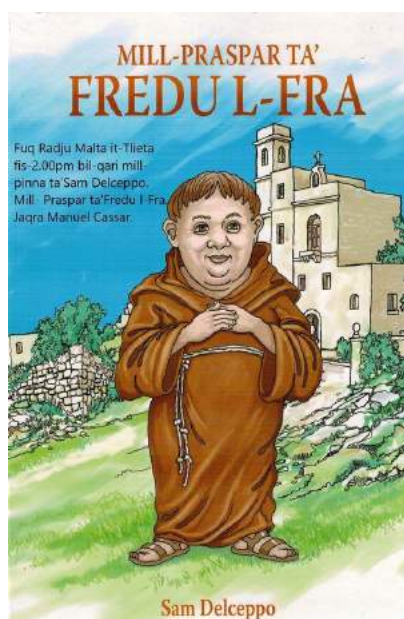
For those who wish to donate, the Gwardamangia Blood Donation Centre is open daily from 8:00am-18:00pm. On Tuesday 16 June, at Xewkija Auberge there will be a mobile blood donation unit from 1:00pm-5:00pm.



IL-HAĠAR HEART OF GOZO

**FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA VO/0762 Gozo
NGOs Association founding member Pjazza San
Ġorġ, Victoria VCT 1101 info@heartofgozo.org.mt
21557504 Media release**

Emvin Cremona on show @ Il-Haġar Il-Haġar museum (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) is honoured to offer an exceptional temporary Exhibition featuring some hundred assorted artworks by Chev Emvin Cremona (1919-87). These are well representative of the mediums and sectors this genius succeeded in excelling in. Distributed over a good part of this cultural centre are impressive examples of religious, portrait, abstract and philatelic works and designs – some of which are never on public display. Together with a range of documents, visitors will be guaranteed an in-depth experience. This important exhibition, which has received strong support from collectors and entities alike, forms part of Victoria International Arts Festival 2021 - and is accompanied with another full-colour publication in the Il-Haġar GEMS series. "Emvin Cremona" is being officially inaugurated by His Excellency President George Vella but it can be visited from 27 June to 28 August during the normal opening hours of 9am to 5pm seven days a week. There are no entrance fees



Sam Delceppo

Sam Delceppo, pensjonant, imwield Bormla, hu kittieb ta' bosta radjudrammi, sensiliet u programmi varji għar-radju kif ukoll għat-televiżjoni.



Kittieb ta' tliet rumanzi, għadd ta' novelli u xoghlijiet li ġew ippubblikati f'Malta u li nstengħu wkoll fuq stazzjon tar-radju ġewwa l-Awstralja. Awtur tas-sensiliet televiżivi *Sptar San Valentinu*, *Imbierek il-Għażż* u *Fredu l-Fra*.

Ippremjat għar-radjudrammi, teleplays u serials. Kittieb ta' għadd ġmielu ta' kummiedji għall-palk li ttellgħu f'teatru f'Malta kif ukoll f'Għawdex.

Ippubblika gabra ta' novelli fil-magazin *Antenna* u r-rumanz *Il-Qtil tat-Tabib Zammit* (Bronk Productions). Kellu rumanzi oħrajn imxandra fuq ir-radju u oħrajn li huma lesti għall-pubblikazzjoni. Fl-2015

ippubblika r-rumanz *Passjoni ta' Mħabba* (BDL Publishers).

Miżżewweġ lil Imelda née Gouder u għandhom żewġ itfal, Ruth u Simone. Peress li huwa rtirat, jiddedika hinu kwazi kollu għall-kitba letterarja, teatrali u kulturali. Jemmen li l-kittieb hu alla żgħir, għax barra li joħloq irid ikun għust mal-karattri li jikkrea, kemm tajbin kif ukoll hżiena.



From brothel to theatre: The Splendid on Strait Street

Melanie Drury

Splendid Hotel, Valletta

This Strait Street hotel originally started its life as a brothel. One night, an argument broke out between an escort and a client, and the woman in question was murdered in the upstairs bathroom. Her spirit is said to walk the empty halls of the hotel, violently hurling furniture across rooms when her soul turns restless.

What amazing stories would the walls of Strait Street in Valletta tell us? Malta's original red light district was home to bars and brothels teeming with British sailors out for a good time. There was alcohol - lots of it. And there were prostitutes - many of them. Both were in high demand. The Splendid, the Silver Horse, the White Star, the Egyptian Queen and many other notorious places have been boarded up for years, but oh, if only those walls could speak!

In the earlier part of the last century, Lower Strait Street was known as The Gut. Its colourful and neglected history has only recently been revived and honoured as an intrinsic part of Malta's heritage. Bang in the heart of the capital city, the street was then renowned for its buzzing nightlife that attracted every sailor in Malta, which ran into the thousands in the 1950s.



Former British sailors remember it as their top entertainment mecca in the Mediterranean, with bars, clubs and dance halls concentrated in a small area. Hard to imagine when experiencing Valletta's rather subdued nightlife today, which was overtaken by Paceville in St Julians.

A HUB FOR ART AND MUSIC But let's turn back time to the very beginning. The Knights had conceived of Strait Street as the artists' quarter of their new city due to its proximity to the Manoel Theatre. In line with this initial vision, in more

recent years, Strada Stretta represented a hub of Maltese popular culture from which jazz music, cabaret, bar and music-hall culture emerged on the island.

[Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit](#) is working to regenerate the neglected Strait Street and restore its artistic and cultural flavour. For those who don't know, the EU funded project is conceived as "an incubator for cultural and artistic enterprises" supported by many prominent local artists and cultural operators.

THE SPLENDID'S STORY

Which brings us to The Splendid. The venue is now being used for anything from fund-raising pop-up markets to unorthodox Shakespearean plays. It is also a space for creativity, theatre and art exhibitions by such renowned names such as Comic Con.

But this neglected Strait Street hotel began its life as a brothel. And it was no ordinary brothel - it was also the scene of a gruesome murder.

The story goes that one night, an escort and her client had an argument, but she never lived to tell of it. Her life was taken. The victim was found stabbed to death in the bathroom of a room on the first floor. Naturally annoyed by this incident, the woman's restless spirit is said to roam the empty hallways of the hotel and hurl furniture violently across the rooms!

A mysterious shadow often sits in Box One at the Manoel Theatre, blowing plumes of smoke. Further afield, the MCC - Malta's largest theatre which was once the Knights' hospital - is also a well-known haunt. Back in the '90s, Elizavetta Zolina, then director of the Russian Cultural Centre, told *The Times* about the mysterious banquet sounds in the house at night, keeping even the neighbours awake!



Bormla, one of The Three Cities

Cospicua (also known as **Bormla**) is a double-fortified city located on the East side in the Grand Harbour of Malta, opposite Valletta. Cospicua is flanked by **Senglea** (Isla) on the West and **Vittoriosa** (Birgu) on the East, making up the Cottonera region, also known as **The Three Cities**. Cospicua is the largest of the three, with a population of 5,642 (Nov 2005). Cospicua was declared a city in 1722 by Grandmaster Marc Antonio Zondadari.

Cospicua was already inhabited during **megalithic times**. In fact, three megalithic structures and a number of tools and flints were found together. It was the latest city to be fortified, with the bastions built by the Knights. During the times of the **Phoenicians**, the city served as a shelter for their ships. Graves from this era were found in different areas of the town. During the Carthaginian and Roman occupation, the harbour facilities were enhanced, and the Dockyard Creek started to be used as well. In 1776, the Knights of St. John constructed a **dockyard**, which played an important role in the history of Cospicua. The British made extensive use of the dockyard, particularly during the First and Second World War. With Malta's independence, the dockyard became one of the most economic controversies of the island, and it is only recently that plans for privatisation moved forward.

Like any other town in Malta, Cospicua has a religious patron, in this case the Immaculate Conception or the Virgin Mary. The residents' devotion can be seen in the Parish church dedicated to Her and in the annual feast held on the 8th of December. Cospicua is also known for the statues used in the Good Friday procession, and for the artistic displays of the 'Last Supper'.

The Parish Church of Immaculate Conception: This 17th century church is a monumental building in Cospicua, famous for its miraculous withstanding of the Second World War Bombings.



City walls and Fortifications: The Cottonera Lines are evidence of the historic times Cospicua passed through.

The War Memorial: This monument is located in front of the Parish Church of Cospicua. It was created by Michael Camilleri Cauchi in 1994 as part of the commemorations of the 50th anniversary from the pilgrimage held at the end of the Second World War, when the statue of the Immaculate Conception was returned to Cospicua. This monument represents **triumph over the war**; Cospicua was badly damaged apart from the parish church that

remained intact.



Local streets and alleys: Quaint alleys surrounded with traditional Maltese houses provide a **romantic and peaceful atmosphere**. **St.Helen's Gate** (also known as Vilhena Gate) forming part of the Santa Margherita lines **Bir Mula**

Heritage: an **ethnography, social history, anthropology museum** and cultural venue

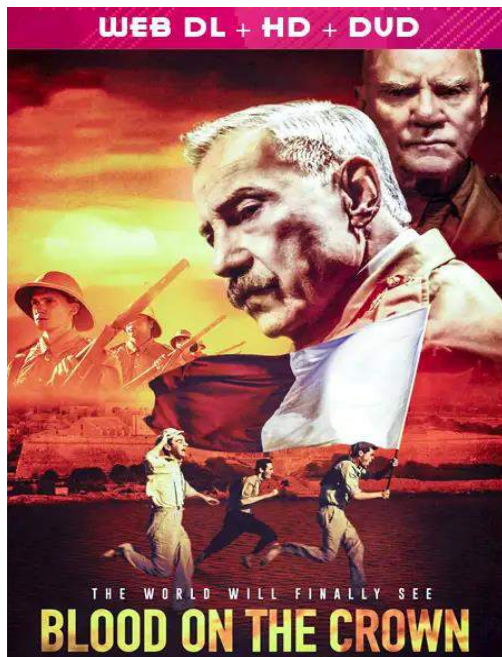
The history of Dock No 1 dates back to 1848. It was first used for servicing ships in the Mediterranean. It was constructed by the British.

In 2014 the Dock restoration was completed. The two sides of the promenade are now linked by a 40-metre steel bridge. It is now a recreational area. The project includes green areas, fountains, street furniture and decorative lighting.

The untold story of the Maltese Revolution

“Blood on the Crown”

by Linda Hohnholz, eTN editor



The Maltese film production, “Blood On The Crown” (formerly “Just Noise,”) starring Harvey Keitel (“Reservoir Dogs,” “Pulp Fiction”) and Malcolm McDowell (“A Clockwork Orange,” “Mozart In The Jungle”) is now streaming on Amazon Prime, iTunes, Hoopla, InDemand, AT&T, DirecTV and Google Play. Blood On The Crown presents the concealed account of how Maltese citizens fought for their independence against England in 1919.

Over 115 Maltese citizens, mostly teenagers, were blamed for the violence and sentenced to life in jail.

This film is Malta’s long-aed triumph to share with the world how a small Mediterranean island took on the British Empire.

The true story of resilience and honor that has been covered up for nearly 100 years, heavily supported by the Arts Council of Malta, was distributed by Los Angeles-based Electronic Entertainment.

Based on actual events, “Blood On The Crown” presents the concealed account of how Maltese citizens fought for their independence against England in 1919. Immediately following the end of World War I, in a

plea for their country’s independence, Maltese people from all different walks of life, united to lead an uprising against the British. The Army was sent to quell the riots. Blood flowed when unarmed protestors were brutally killed by the British army. Due to its cover up by the British government in the years following, the revolution is not documented and not widely known. The large number of casualties was an embarrassment to the British army. Over 115 Maltese citizens, mostly teenagers, were blamed for the violence and sentenced to life in jail. “**Blood On The Crown**” is Malta’s long-awaited triumph to share with the world how a small Mediterranean island took on the British Empire.

“**Blood On The Crown**” is produced and written by Jean-Pierre Magro (“Bulgarian Rhapsody”), produced by Pedja Miletic, Aaron Briffa and directed by Davide Ferrario (“After Midnight,” “We All Fall Down”). Mario A. Azzopardi, Roland Joffe, Konstantin Ishkhanov, Albert Marshall, Shayne Putzlocher serve as Executive Producers. Music is composed by Alexey Shor.

Producer Aaron Briffa said, “We are immensely proud to tell how a small island nation rose to defy the most powerful empire in the world. This David versus Goliath story has been mostly buried until now.”

When screenwriter Jean Pierre Magro was asked where the Malta source material came from he noted “the British Colonial office did try to cover their tracks and eliminate any photographic evidence, I believe only 3 or 4 pictures survived. However, there were two reports that served as source material and various books written by Maltese historians over the years.”

Commenting further, producer Pedja Miletic noted that he was “extremely pleased that this project was embraced by so many great actors who were invaluable in helping the film become a reality.” He added that the director, Davide Ferrario, framed the narrative with such beauty. Miletic further made note that “the music of Alexei Shor was sublime in rendering the perfect mood.”



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MALTESE CROSS EXPERIMENT ON ELECTRONS

Evidence for particle nature of electrons



As Eric Scerri www.ericscerri.com argues in his 2020 book on the periodic table of the chemical elements, the turn of the twentieth century was marked by three momentous scientific discoveries, all of which were to have a profound influence on the development of physics and chemistry.

The three discoveries were made by J.J. Thomson in Cambridge England (the electron), Roentgen in Germany (X-rays) and Becquerel in Paris, France (radioactivity).

As Scerri reports, "The remarkable thing, to my Maltese mind, is that two out of three of these discoveries were intimately connected with the Maltese Cross". Scerri is a professor of chemistry and philosophy of science who grew up in London and now teaches at UCLA in Los Angeles. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Scerri

He is also the author of many popular books on chemistry and physics as well as the history and philosophy of science and travels the world speaking on these subjects.

J.J. Thomson directed a beam of what were initially known as cathode rays across an evacuated glass tube towards the end of the tube. In front of the beam Thomson placed a metallic Maltese Cross with the result that a sharp image of this shape was observed on the glass surface of the tube as shown in the image below.

The fact that the beam formed a sharp image supported the idea that these rays, later dubbed electrons, consisted of particles rather than waves as some scientists of the period believed. The electron is of course one of the three fundamental particles that exists in the atoms of any element. It was the first of these particles to be discovered and to have its properties documented. The other two particles in the atom, as every school pupil learns, are protons and neutrons.

A few years later, Becquerel made what turned out to be an even more far-reaching discovery, that of the phenomenon of radioactivity. This is the spontaneous decomposition of the atoms of certain elements such as uranium. These are elements with unstable nuclei. In most cases only certain isotopes of such elements are unstable for reasons best left to another occasion. The result of such decomposition, or radioactive decay as it is better known, is that new elements are formed and radioactive particles such as α , β or γ particles are emitted.

Once again, and perhaps coincidentally, the Maltese Cross featured prominently in Becquerel's epoch-making discovery as explained in greater detail below. As can be faintly seen in the image that still exists, radioactivity has caused a blackening of the photographic plate but did not penetrate the Maltese Cross, which is why its outline can be seen against the dark background.

One important example of radioactive decay is the case of uranium-235. When struck by a neutron this isotope breaks up into atoms of barium and krypton while also releasing three neutrons and some energy. Each of these three neutrons can then collide with further atoms of ^{235}U to initiate a chain reaction in which a huge amount of energy can be quickly generated. If the reaction is left to its own devices it forms the basis of an atomic weapon such as the bombs that were dropped on Japan to end

We do better when we work together

The lovely side of St. Paul's Bay, Malta.



What is arguably one of the most quaint and picturesque streets of present-day St. Paul's Bay somewhat ironically carries the name of Our Lady Of Sorrows. But this corner of Triq id-Duluri has - so far at least - escaped the devastation of the large-scale development going on all around it.

THE STREET SHRINE

Niċċa tad-Duluri (Marija Addolorata) li tinsab f'kantuniera ta' Triq id-Duluri, San Pawl il-Baħar.

The heart-broken Madonna is beautifully portrayed in the colourful statue housed within a niche high up in the street corner. Beneath it, a plaque outlines the number of days of indulgence (100) granted to all those who stop by to recite a Hail Mary or a short prayer. Such decrees of indulgence were customary many years ago, and one can still find them on plaques under several niches around Malta and Gozo.. The statue is dated 29 August, 1919.

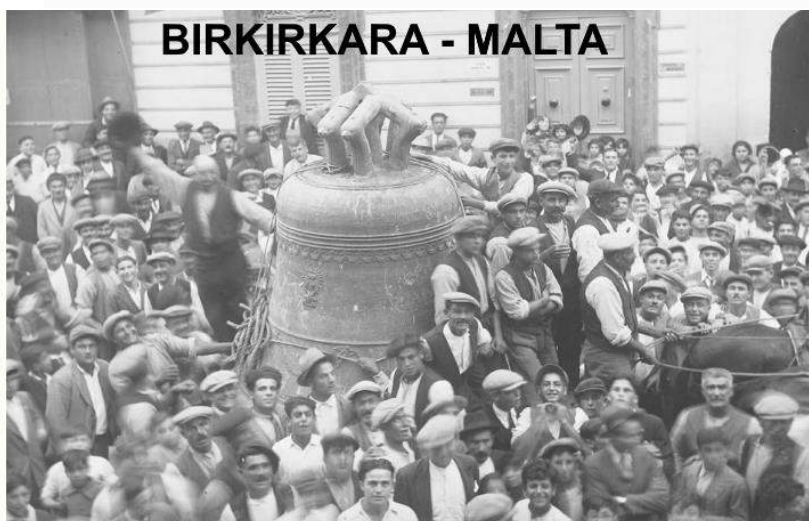
Adding to the charm are the bright red apertures of this house. A bit further down this same street is a former war shelter.



Bell-ringing to war: archives to have new look and sound –

New website “Memorja” will be an oral, sound and visual archive

Sarah Carabott timesofmalta.com



Crowds enthusiastically gather in Birkirkara to welcome Giuliano Cauchi's largest bell in May 1901. The bell was lowered in 1932 prior to the installation of the present large bell by Prospero Barigozzi of Milan. Photos provided by Memorja, National Archives of Malta

Every year, parishioners and new residents across several villages clash over whether bell-ringing should continue for tradition's sake.

Every year, parishioners and new residents across several villages clash over whether bell-ringing should continue for tradition's sake. Just last month the Żebbuġ archpriest had to intervene in a squabble on social media over bell-ringing on the feast day, while earlier this year Qormi parishioners started a petition to ensure the church clock bells are not silenced.

Attempts to stop bell-ringing are

not new, with history books showing that even the British failed to silence them when they ruled the island.

And soon, people will also be able to listen to bell sounds, from every church on the island, by logging onto a website being developed by the National Archives of Malta to be launched later this year.

Aptly called *Memorja*, the website will be an oral, sound and visual archive, and a main repository of the Maltese national and public memory.

It will host hundreds of recollections dating back to the 1920s, with footage of interviewees talking about various subjects – from shipbuilding to migration and World War II events to herbal medicine.

A team of archivists has been working on the project for nearly five years, interviewing people and documenting photos, footage and artefacts linked to the interviews.

Project administrator James Baldacchino told Times of Malta the team is racing against time to document people's recollections before they die.

“We interviewed people who sadly passed away before we could launch the website. Most people are in their 90s, and we even interviewed a 100-year-old man.

“We'd meet them several times to ‘dip’ into their memory and record anecdotes and first-hand accounts for posterity. Often they illustrate their experiences with photos and journals that younger generations might discard if they do not know the background story.”

People have also contacted the archives to contribute to the project.

Team racing against time to document people's recollections

One of them was Rayden Mizzi from Żabbar, who in 2008 started recording every bell in Malta. His collection, which has been donated to Memorja, has over 1,000 recordings of bells chiming in various feasts, seasons and other events throughout the year.

The recordings will be uploaded on the website, accompanied by interviews that the archivists held with bell-ringers and sacristans who provide an overview of this often-neglected language.

Bell-ringing is deeply rooted in Maltese history.

Social and economic history professor John Chircop explained that bell-ringing is an ancient practice found in the southern Mediterranean, both in Catholic and Orthodox Greek cultures. It is spread in many parts of southern Europe, including Italy, Spain and Greece.

THE LIFE OF A BELL-RINGER Chircop is collaborating with Memorja as an academic expert on public memory.

Historically, it was a means of telling time and calling people to mass, while it also had superstitious connotations linked to driving away bad or evil spirits. However, bell-ringing was also an important mode of communication within towns and between villages.

Additionally, it was also used to assemble people for a particular religious, political and cultural events. Royal commemorations and birthdays were celebrated with bell-ringing as much as local village rituals, he explained.

Did anyone ever dare stop the bells ringing?

“British residents during colonial rule in Malta did try to restrict or control church bell-ringing – but this was many times resisted by villagers.



“They were bothered by the unregulated ‘noise’ which seemed to never stop, leaving them tired and apprehensive of what was going on. Most of them saw in this daily practice an expression of a supposedly ‘uncivilised’, unregulated behaviour of the ‘natives’.

“Local bell-ringing left an incisive impact on British residents in Malta and Gozo – most of whom narrated passing through such experiences – and negatively commenting on this tradition,” Chircop said.

Those interested in this project can register online on www.memorja.com ahead of the launch of the website.

Mellieħa parishioners during the transportation of the biggest bell in 1925.

MALTESE MIGRANTS IN LAMPEDUSA

Lampedusa and Malta often feature in the same news headline when migrants crossing from North Africa to Europe are rescued and taken in by either island.

But the link between the two dates back at least a couple of centuries.

The Italian island hosted a Maltese colony at the beginning of the 1800s when Maltese farmers settled there with their families and got involved in agricultural and pastoral activities.

The number of Maltese settlers started decreasing along the years, until in 1843 almost all of the Maltese were expelled when Lampedusa was colonised by the Bourbons.

Today, two families with Maltese surnames survive on Lampedusa: the de Battista and Caruana families. Irene Sestili, from the National Archives, managed to interview one of the ancestors of the de Battista family. But migration between the two islands did not stop there. Several Lampedusan fishermen and sailors travelled to Malta between 1950 and the 1980s, to sell fish here, repair ships or shelter from bad weather.

According to Sestili's interviews, Lampedusans perceived Malta as a rich island from where they purchased coffee, sugar, chocolate, tobacco, cigarettes and soap. They also had several tales to tell about Malta, including anecdotes at the Marsaxlokk and Valletta fishmarkets... and the notorious Strait Street. And just like the Maltese had settled in Lampedusa, some stayed on in Malta, including one man who was saved by Marsaxlokk fishermen.



How to survive (and thrive) in village life in Malta



by **Amanda Holmes**

Village life and prams seem to go together faces of Malta - just a stone's throw away from each other

Malta is a city surrounded by water. This is a phrase you hear time and again, whether as a local or visiting the islands. It's used in both positive and negative ways. Let's start with some facts, and then see

what Malta, the city state, not just the island state means.

Certainly, Malta is urban and has a heavy population density for its 316km square size: it has around 1,200 people per square kilometer (3,000 per square mile). It is the EU's most densely-populated country. Which means you're up pretty up close and personal to your neighbours; and all the more so in peak summer, when there's huge people pressure on beaches and in bars. We take a look at what the cheek-by-jowl nature of Malta means.

You can find a lot going on outside your door without having to travel far. For instance, there's a vibrant, city-style arts, music, clubbing, and cultural scene within around a 15 minute car journey for most people. You can be as rural as Malta can get, and then be in the 'Golden Mile' of St Julian's entertainment and nightlife hub within half an hour of deciding to go out for the night. The beach is only around 15 minutes away too!

You're likely to meet someone you know, even if you go out alone. Whether you go to an event, the beach or shopping, it's almost impossible to do so without meeting someone who at least has a passing knowledge of who you are. This can have negative aspects too of course, as you might have wished for some time out in peace, or to go somewhere surreptitiously/incognito. In most cities, you wouldn't often bump into someone you know, but Malta is village life writ large living next door to trappings of a city – five-star hotels, upscale restaurants, swish yacht marinas and so on.

The juxtaposition of new and old, the beautiful and the ugly. As our photo shows, these pairs sit side by side, literally, in Malta. If you embellish your house or flat, you really do have to look very closely at 'location, location, location' as you may easily have a car scrapyard just over the wall, as above. When holidaying in larger countries, you can usually cherry pick the picturesque/historic bits to see, avoiding ugly industrial areas; in Malta you can't. As tiny islands, confined by their watery barrier, there's no hiding the ugly bits from most people's view. As a country, it has to have its complement of mess – the industrial zones, power station and urban sprawl – all fairly near to the parts that are postcard pretty. But Malta is beginning to revamp the ugly: until relatively recently, a man-made mountain of rubbish featured all too prominently as a blot on the landscape. Thanks to EU funds, it's being turned into a natural park!

Love thy neighbour takes on a new meaning in Malta. We doubt you'll always love them when you're this close in space. A friend of mine suffers summer with her neighbours watching TV in their back yard – yes, they carry it out, blasting out noise, as it's too hot inside the house to watch in comfort. Conversely, neighbours can and do watch out for each other in a positive ways as well, especially in villages. **You can see the main historical sites and beauty spots on a day trip** (as cruise liner passengers do). Nowhere is really far from anywhere, which means short-stay visitors can pack it in. Send us your experiences after visiting Malta for the first time..



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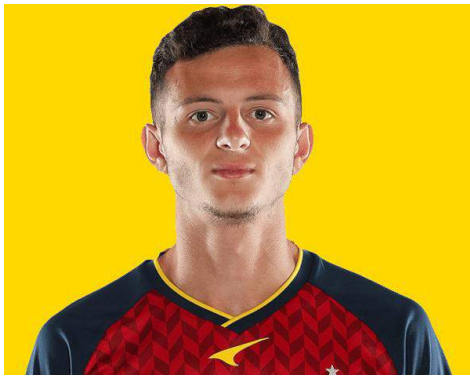


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**MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN ACHIEVER**

One of the most talented players LOUIS D'ARRIGO – ADELAIDE UNITED

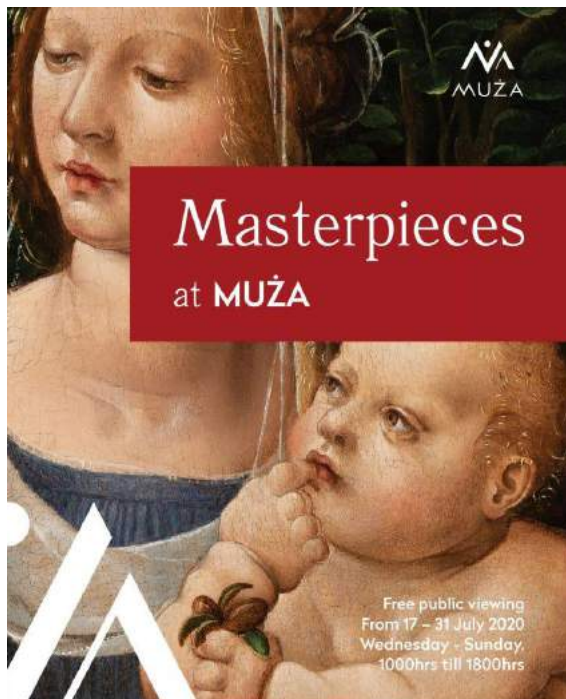
One of the most talented players within the Club's youth ranks, Louis D'Arrigo was one of the revelations of the 2019/20 season. The holding midfielder has previously won the Foxtel Y-League Player of the Year following a standout 2017/18 campaign and since continued his assured display

in the local National Premier League. The 19-year-old made his debut in March 2019 as a late substitute, but it was not until the subsequent season where D'Arrigo made the

rather seamless adjustment. He was named the Hyundai A-League Rising Star for United after amassing 21 league matches.

Louis' 'nannu' worked as Adelaide City's kit man for love

Adelaide United rising star Louis D'Arrigo's tight knit family connection to the game includes his grandfather who played for Malta United in South Australia.

**Heritage Malta**

This feature is about the 'Mother and Child' theme, one of the five sections making up the "Masterpieces at MUŻA" exhibition open till end October 2021 at the Camerone, MUŻA, Valletta.

Showcasing four oil-and-tempera panel paintings dating to the late 15th and early 16th centuries, this part of the exhibition promises to be a joy to all aficionados of religious Italian High Renaissance Art.

Want to know more?

Visit www.muza.mt for more info on the paintings, available merchandise and a few other surprises!

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MUŻA

A window on the Maltese Character



The 'Ghonella' died out long ago. But not so other Maltese customs and habits.

When I moved to Sweden, I attended a lecture by a sociologist specialised in Swedish culture who gave some tips on how to better interact with and understand the inhabitants of my Scandinavian host country. The guy explained, for example, how a Swede finishes his sentences before another contributes to the conversation; a far cry from the Mediterranean style of having three people talk at the same time (hopefully on the same subject) within the same conversation! Though no sociologist myself, I've attempted a list of certain common characteristics which I dare to say are Maltese.

Talking is shouting When many Maltese people talk, they tend to be rather loud. Years back, I used to work as a group leader for Scandinavian kids learning English in Malta. On several occasions, these kids mistook a friendly conversation between two locals as a fight! I suppose the loud tone of voice, the vivid hand gestures and the occasional physical contact gave that impression. When in a conversation with a Maltese person who just doesn't stop blabbering, it might be a good idea to interrupt them if you have something to say. They might actually be waiting for you to share the speaking duties! The average Maltese conversationalist won't pause that often, so you need to create your own opening most times (unless you're given an easy entry by being asked a question). Yes – we're loud... but it's all rather harmless (most of the time)!

Us and them I get the feeling that Maltese people have a predisposition towards creating an 'us and them' scenario. Whether it's the rivalry created by politics, football or even affection for a particular village festa or affiliation to a specific band club, the Maltese do tend to get rather clannish. The outcome of this 'tribalism' ranges

by Andrew Borg Cardona

from fun teasing and competition (such as with healthy football rivalries) to scenarios which are much less fun. Political and even festa or band club rivalries have tended to get way out of hand in the past. Nowadays, there's also a sentiment of 'us and them' creeping in with relation to the presence of certain foreigners on the island.

Rules are there to be broken. Many Maltese people seem to have a strange relationship with rules, sometimes closing an eye – or even two – in the process. This is positive when a person is given precedence over a rule in the name of common sense. It is less positive when people ignore rules and get away with it for their own selfish needs. Politicians tend to be major culprits on this last point. When driving, Maltese people tend to break the rules – though the extent of this ranges from person to person: some commit minor infractions, but others put lives at risk through their selfishness.

Families tend to be close to each other. This is no doubt helped by the geographical proximity we share with each other. In recent years, the family bonds seem to be somewhat weakening but you will still find families meeting up rather often – and not just immediate family but also cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents. You will also find that there are less than the classical 'six degrees of separation' between people around here ... many times just one degree suffices! This obviously has its advantages and disadvantages.

Wholly Roman Catholics? According to the CIA World Factbook (no less), 98% of the Maltese population are Catholics. But while the Church still has a strong political influence on the country (we still have no divorce or abortion, for example), it has much less of an influence on people's daily lives than before. And I get the impression that Church attendance among younger generations is declining. While older generations may still get scandalised by certain discussions and behaviours, the younger generations of Maltese are much less likely to do so. Nevertheless, they too are probably still somewhat more closed minded than their northern European counterparts.

In the end... When you build a strong friendship with a Maltese person, it's a friendship for life! So, despite the defects (and which culture doesn't have any?) it's worth making the effort to see through the differences and embrace what is positive in the Maltese



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Traditional Maltese “QOFFA” could be facing extinction



John Mifsud is one of the last surviving people who can make a traditional Maltese qoffa
Photo: Mark Zammit Cordina

The traditional Maltese qoffa (WICKER BASKET) risks extinction unless something is done to revive interest in the dying trade, according to 81-year-old John Mifsud who has been weaving cane shopping baskets since he was six.

“Apart from me there are just a few old men – I’d say two or three at most – who still make the Maltese qoffa. When we die, it’ll be the end,” Mr Mifsud says, standing in his Hamrun shop surrounded by a variety of wicker baskets, hats and hasiri (cane curtains).

“People who learn how to work with cane, nowadays, don’t learn how to make the qoffa. It’s a lot of hard work. You have to hold the cane between your toes and bend over – so you are always working with your head down – and weave the cane with your hands. So your hands are touching your toes,” he says as she demonstrates the manoeuvre with surprising agility. He then straightens up slowly and explains that it takes him about three hours of that to make a typical Maltese qoffa.

The Maltese qoffa, he explains, can be distinguished from other cane shopping baskets because it is made of local, yellowish cane and has a few lawyers of darker strands. He learnt the trade, which has been in his family for generations, from his father when he was six. Although he has three sons, only one of them does cane work – but not the qoffa.

Mr Mifsud recalls a time when there was a type of wicker basket for everything.

Apart from the qoffa, which served as a shopping bag, there were special baskets to carry strawberries, for bingo, the ones farmers used for vegetables and those used to keep ferrets for the purpose of rabbit hunting.

“When the bikini came to Malta I couldn’t keep up with the workload,” he chuckles. “Their mothers did not let them wear the bikini. So they used to put it in the qoffa and put a towel over it. They’d wear it later.”

The qoffa took a strong blow when plastic shopping bags took over, he says, adding that he did not believe there was hope of the qoffa ever returning.

This was due to two factors: people no longer use cane shopping baskets and, secondly, those who want a traditional qoffa are not willing to pay €20 since they compare the price to cheaper imports from China. And, he says, the same applies to other types of cane baskets and ornaments made by local tradesmen.

“A basket used for hampers means half a day of work but the Chinese imports are sold for €3 each. I just cannot compete with those prices,” he says.

“It upsets me when I see people willing to pay lots of money for the chocolates and wines inside the hamper but they don’t appreciate the basket,” he says as he massages his sore, swollen hands.

Those who still appreciate the qoffa are a dying breed and mainly consist of elderly women who never changed their ways.

“It’s funny when they come to me and complain that the bottom of their qoffa gave way after 20 years. I ask them if their fridge or washing machine lasted as long,” he says.

Holding on to history

Danielle Borg Cardona uses a qoffa when she goes grocery shopping.

Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi

Whenever Danielle Borg Cardona goes grocery shopping she never forgets to take her qoffa which she describes as an environmentally-friendly, sturdy bag that also allows her to hold on to a Maltese tradition.

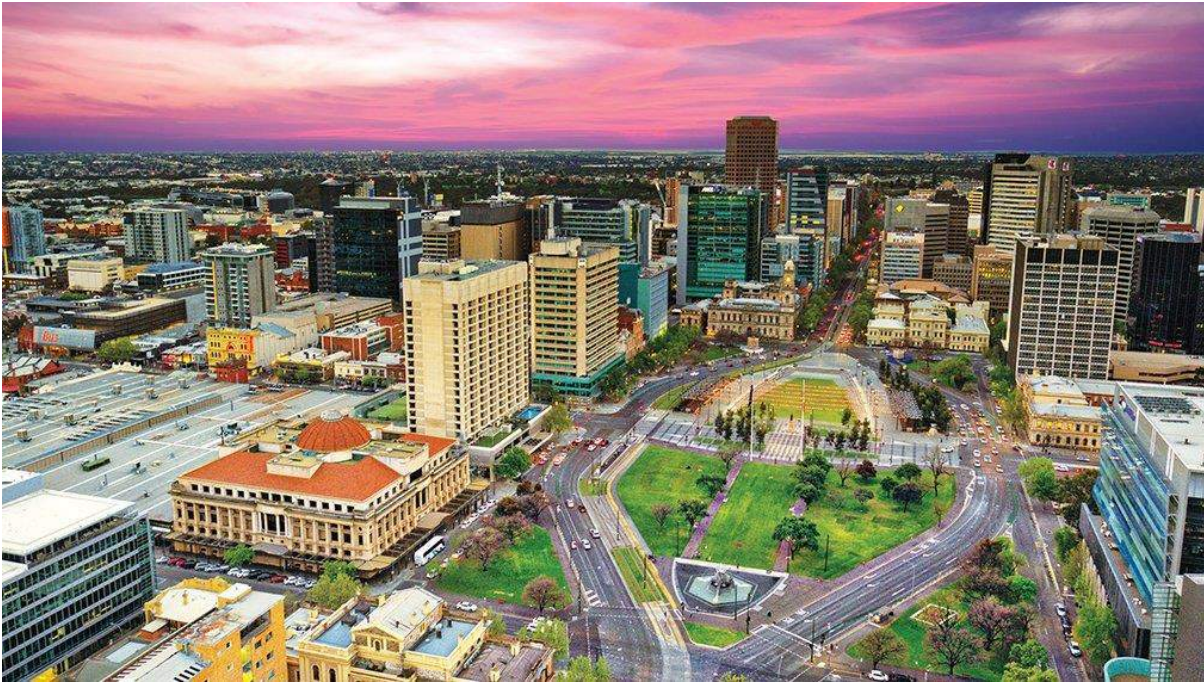


“It’s just so convenient. Nowadays, people carry a bag around with them and they are not as sturdy as the qoffa. Besides, you’d be surprised how much you can fit,” she says.

Ms Borg Cardona, 53, says she was always fascinated by wicker baskets. Over the years she built a small collection of baskets, including cane shopping baskets, which she used to decorate at home. Then she started using some of them to go shopping. “I thought: might as well. When I go shopping I put my handbag in it so I only carry one bag and, on my way home, I carry by shopping home in the qoffa instead of a plastic bag,” she says.

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This Maltese Journal supports all the Maltese Associations operating in Adelaide, - Maltese Community Council, Maltese Guild of SA, Maltese Senior Citizens of Association of SA, St Catherine Society, Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group, Maltese Aged Care Association of SA and Maltese Radio Program on EBlfm.



ADELAIDE IS ONE OF THE TOP 10 MOST LIVEABLE CITIES IN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO THE GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2021

Australia has again fared well in a list of the world's most liveable cities but the most populous state capitals of Melbourne and Sydney have plummeted down the rankings. Instead it was Adelaide that stole the show, ranking as the third most liveable city in the world for 2021.

1. Auckland, New Zealand
2. Osaka, Japan
3. **Adelaide, Australia**
4. Wellington, New Zealand
5. Tokyo, Japan
6. **Perth, Australia**
7. Zurich, Switzerland
8. Geneva, Switzerland
9. **Melbourne, Australia**
10. **Brisbane, Australia**



Every person - with his or her own skills, abilities and uniqueness - can contribute to others and bring great joy to those that fortune has not smiled upon.

— Shari Arison —



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MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

If you are having your wedding in Malta after July 5, 2021 As per the Standards and Guidance for Wedding Receptions issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for Health (Version 2.0, Effective from 7th June 2021), the following form needs to be filled in for wedding receptions being held from Monday 5th July 2021 onwards.

Form: <http://bit.ly/weddingsform2021>

More Info: <http://bit.ly/weddings-info-malta>



Stamp marks the 200th anniversary death of Napoléon Bonaparte

The 200th anniversary from the Death of Napoléon Bonaparte was commemorated by MaltaPost with the issue of a miniature sheet bearing one stamp.

The French military leader is widely recognised as one of the greatest strategists and finest commanders in history. He conquered and controlled most of Europe. In 1798 he took control of the Maltese Islands ending the 268-year-long presence of the Knights Hospitaller in Malta. The stamp within the miniature sheet measures 49mm x 40.5mm, with a comb perforation of 14.2 x 14.2 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

Maltese Senior Citizens Association of SA

July 23RD **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**
Celebration the Birth of Christ **NOEL**

Aug 6TH **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Aug 27TH to the 31ST **FIVE DAY BUS TRIP**
Bus Trip to be Advised

All Functions are subject to changes if need be due to COVID19 Restrictions

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY AUGUST 6TH 2021

It is that time again where most of the committee will step down from their position and get re-elected or a new member will join the committee to help run the club. Nomination forms will need to be filled in some twenty one days prior to the A.G.M. the positions vacant are Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Three Committee Members. If you feel you can help the club, please consider joining the committee. Forms will be issued shortly by the President.



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The Maltese Queen of Victories Band of SA
invites you, your family and friends to their
Movie Day Fundraiser

featuring the Funny, moving and heart
warming British movie

"Brassed Off"

On Sunday
the 27TH of JUNE 2021
at 12:30pm
at CHRIST THE KING PARISH
HALL LOCKLEYS



Food and Refreshments will be available for purchase
at very moderate prices

Admission:

\$5.00 MEMBERS, \$6.00 NON-MEMBERS and \$5.00 CHILDREN

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

NO WALK INS DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS

RSVP your attendance by the 20TH of JUNE 2021

Contact: LILIAN CAMILLERI 0431 772 521

KATIE CASSAR 0429 310 556

The MQVB Committee invites
you, your family and friends to
a

Movie Day Fund Raiser to be
held at the
Lockleys Parish Hall on Sunday
the 27th of June at 12.30pm
featuring the

Funny, Moving and heart
warming British Movie
"Brassed off" and one other.
Food and Refreshments will be
available for purchase at very
moderate prices
Admission strictly by booking
only, No Walk-ins due to Covid
restrictions.

\$5.00 MEMBERS,

\$6.00 NON-MEMBERS and

\$5.00 CHILDREN

Food and refreshments will be
available for purchase at very
moderate prices.

RSVP your attendance by the
20TH of JUNE 2021

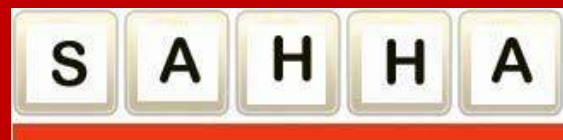
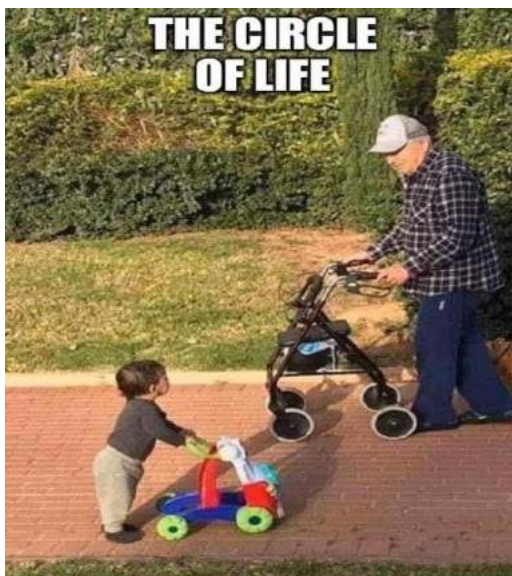
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521

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Thank you for your support
and we Look forward to seeing
all there

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