MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

Rafel Sammut, Andrew Arrigo and Neil Agius

VICTORY KITCHEN

MISS UNIVERSE MALTA – JADE CINI

MALTESE CENTER - NEW YORK

Hon Evarist Bartolo in the Maltese Center New York

OUR FELLOW MALTESE CELEBERATE MALTA INDEPENDENCE DAY IN BRISBANE

Story Bridge in Brisbane Australia donned the Maltese colours red and white on Tuesday for Malta's Independence Day celebrations. The spectacle celebrates the Maltese expats living in the country, with many living in Brisbane and other Australian localities such as Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast uniting to celebrate the country's Independence. Photos were uploaded to Facebook by Sandra Alexandra Micallef, who thanked the Brisbane City Council for lighting up the bridge with the colors to raise awareness about the Maltese holiday.

Meet your New Miss Universe Malta Jade Cini

Representing the locality of Valletta, Jade Cini has been crowned as Miss Universe Malta. This isn't Cini's first international beauty competition after having participated in Miss Intercontinental twice before, first in Germany 2013 and second in Sri Lanka 2016. Cini will however continue to captivate judges and audiences alike as she heads to the 70th international edition of Miss Universe which will take place in Eilat, Israel on the 21st of December.

26-year-old Cini was crowned yesterday during the competition which occurred in Hilton Hotel in St Julians' and broadcasted live on TVM. Organised by Alan J. Darmanin and presented by Ben Camille, the beauty competition saw Michela Galea place in second for Mgarr and Maxine Formosa ranking third place. We wish Jade Cini the best of luck as she continues to represent Malta internationally as she has done before!

Photo credit: Photo Scopo, Miss Universe, Jade Cini.

Carmen Spiteri – Adelaide, Australia

Honorary Consul for Malta

Malta is a country that is steeped in a fascinating history to be absorbed and enjoyed. The country holds many ancient temples and tombs, fortified medieval cities, and beautiful and unique architecture spanning many centuries.

Over the years, Malta has been under the control of a range of empires and civilizations, such as the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, French, and the British. The varied and rich cultures of those civilisations have left an indelible mark on Malta, adding to its uniquiness and charm. The country voluntarily became a part of the British Empire in 1800. It remained an important asset to the British and soon became a naval and military headquarters for the British Mediterranean Fleet.

During World War I, Malta became known as the "Nurse of the Mediterranean" because, due to its location, it became a place where injured soldiers were sent to receive treatment and to recuperate.

During the Second World War, Malta was savagely and constantly bombed. This was due to the fact it was used as a listening post, as well as having a strong British Military presence. Much of the island was devastated during the raids. On the 15th of April 1942, King George VI awarded the people of Malta the highest civilian award for gallantry - the George Cross. The George Cross is proudly incorporated in the Maltese flag.

After the war ended, Malta finally achieved self-rule. In 1964, the Malta Independence Act was completed by British Parliament and a new Constitution was created. On the 21st of September 1964, Malta became an independent constitutional monarchy with full independence.

This day of independence is celebrated every year with a public holiday and various events taking place around the island.

September is a memorable month in Maltese history. In 1565 the Great Siege came to an end after what is considered one of the bloodiest siege in world history and the Ottoman empire was pushed back and left regions of the island.

September 1800 saw the surrender of the French troop that had been occupying Malta.
The activities to celebrate Malta National Day involve literary readings, music and artistic performances. A regatta is organised and hotly contested in the Grand Harbour. The Armed Forces of Malta parade on Republic Street in Valletta, reaching the co-cathedral of St John where they salute the prime minister and Maltese anthem is played. The President of Malta places a garland at the foot of the monument of the Great Siege.
September is also the month when the nativity of the Virgin Mary (Il Bambina) is celebrated with various feasts throughout the island. What a history! What a heritage!. I am proud to be Maltese

Sir Hubert Opperman

DID YOU KNOW?
Australia's first High Commissioner to Malta was Sir Hubert Opperman, or 'Oppy' has he was affectionately known. He became a household name in the 1920s and 1930s as a result of setting 101 state, national and world records in cycling. He became the public face of Malvern Star Bicycle Company.
Oppy pursued a career in politics from 1949 to his retirement in 1972 after holding several portfolios for the Liberal party. He was knighted in1968. Sir Hubert Opperman died in 1996 at the aged of 92.
His relationship to Australia Hall is unknown but it would be nice to believe he visited Australia hall in Pembroke and enjoyed a dance, or movie or two under its roof. It is certainly with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the support of our most recent High Commissioners and their efforts to maintain the vision of seeing Australia Hall revived.
At the Pieta and Addolorata cemeteries, there are 202 graves of Australians who had died in hospital between May 8, 1915, and June 27, 1916, evidently from the wounds incurred on Gallipoli"

(left) Fleet Messengers at Malta: HMS Asphodel and Ivy, 1919, Imperial War Museum. PHOTO: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM (Art.IWM ART 3109)
(Right) An Anzac Day ceremony, possibly at Addolorata Cemetery. Governor of Malta Paul Methuen is marked by a cross in the left foreground and Archbishop Maurus Caruana is in the background, also marked with a cross. C1919

We are seeking to gather interest in the potential restoration of Australia Hall, Pembroke, Malta. Built in 1915 to provide respite to ANZAC soldiers, the building suffered a catastrophic fire in 1998 and has remained subject to deterioration ever since. Please write to us showing your support: RAHMP PO Box 12, DAW PARK SA Australia 504 . Viva Malta.

Colonel Edgar J. Vella, OBE,ED,KOMR, Commanding Officers and Officers 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 10th Battalions, The King's Own Malta Regiment photographed at "C" Coy Headquarters of 10th Battalion, Savoy Hotel, Rue d'Argens, Sliema in 1943. Front Row left to right: Fr. Chaplain J. Borg, Major P.A. Briffa, Major G.C. Strickland, Major F. Cassar Torregiani, Major A. Zammit Cutajar, Major A.A. Cassar Torregiani, Lieut Col L. Bristow, Lieut Col R. Strickland, Colonel E.J. Vella, Lieut Col G.T. Curmi, Leiut Col V.G. Vella, Major G.H. Nicholls, Major J. Gatt, Major F. Tonna-Barthet, Major S. Tomney, Major V. Castillo and Captain F. Said.

KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT

The K.O.M.R. was formed as a Territorial Infantry Regiment in 1932, the latest in a series of locally raised militia units and regiments dating back to the 1800s.

Its immediate predecessor was the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia, established in 1889. The opportunity to have the name changed to a more prestigious 'King's Own' presented itself and was eagerly snapped up in 1903, when during a Royal Visit, King Edward VII referred to the RMRM as "My Regiment".

During the Second World War the Regiment was expanded to four battalions, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 10th, and all rendered sterling service. The infantrymen were constantly trained in fighting tactics, weapon training and anti-invasion drills, to prepare against the largest threat to Malta, *Operation Herkules*, the planned German-Italian invasion.

The main task of the 2nd Battalion, the unit represented by the 'Malta Command L.H.G', was the defence of the shores of Malta. This was carried out mainly by the manning of pill boxes, and generally one depth post and two beach posts were allocated to a platoon of 30 men. Constant patrols along the shoreline were carried out to foil any Commando-style operation the enemy might try to carry out.

The infantrymen were often called upon to speed up the unloading of vital cargoes from convoy ships, before the ships were bombed and sunk in port. So essential were the supplies that unloading would not stop, not even during air raids! Afterwards the supply dumps, where all these supplies were stored, sometimes in the open, would need guarding round the clock. The Regiment also put to good use their Vickers, Lewis and Bren machine guns to provide defence against low flying aircraft, especially those strafing the airfields.

As the few RAF fighter planes available would be scrambled to engage the enemy bombers, and since the prime targets were the airfields, the bomb craters would have to be filled in and passed over with a roller to allow the defending fighters to land again before they ran out of fuel. So this work would sometimes have to be carried out during the actual raid, running for

the slit trenches when bombs would be heard whistling down! Other jobs were the re-arming and refueling of planes, as well as the building of protective pens for the aircraft to minimize bomb shrapnel damage as much as possible.

The KOMR was frequently called upon to perform unenviable tasks such as when in January 1941, after the Germans tried to sink the 'Illustrious' in port with determined and ferocious bombing, they were sent to rescue the living and remove the dead from the devastated Cottonera area of the Grand Harbour.

As tribute to the hardships endured during the war, the KOMR contingent for the London Victory Parade was the only regiment permitted to carry its Regimental Colours. The Colours of all the other regiments were carried massed together. The Regiment was given the battle honour "Malta 1940 - 1942" and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II also granted the regiment the unique privilege of carrying the George Cross on the Regimental Colours. The Regiment was disbanded in 1972.

THE BADGE OF THE KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT

by Denis A. Darmanin

The badge worn by members of the KOMR during the Second World War consists of an annulus with the Regiment's title KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT. At centre is an eight-pointed Maltese Cross in white metal mounted on a field denoting the Maltese Colours, all within a wreath of oak leaves. At bottom is a scroll with 'MDCCC' (1800), commemorating the Maltese Light Infantry during the blockade of the French garrison of occupation, and as the first Maltese regiment raised by the British. The whole topped by a Tudor or King's Crown, denoting the British monarch of the time.

HISTORY OF THE BADGE Since 1800, when Britain administered and later took possession of the Maltese islands, a number of infantry regiments were raised such as the Maltese Light Infantry, the Royal Regiment of Malta and the Royal Malta Fencible Regiment, which all were regular regiments, as well as the short-lived Malta Militia of 1852-57. None of these regiments bore any connection with the lineage of the KOMR.

The badge knows its origin to the first infantry militia raised in Malta on a regimental strength between 1889 and 1902, the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia. Since at the time the Foreign Service (White Cork) Helmet was still part of the 'Warm Climate' uniform, a helmet plate of a different pattern was worn. The badge worn on the side cap or glengarry was very similar to the later one worn by the KOMR except for a number of differences; the Regimental title was shown shortened to ROYAL MALTA MILITIA and was on a belt or strap rather than on an annulus, the Maltese Colours within were reversed and the hatching denoting the red was to the left of the badge and not to the right as on the flag and the monarch's crown was the 'flat topped' or Imperial Crown which was made for Queen Victoria to wear on her bun when crowned Empress of India.

Following the demise of Queen Victoria in 1901, her son Albert Edward ascended on the British throne as King's Edward VII. On his first visit to Malta in 1903, and the first in Malta by a British monarch, he accepted becoming the Regiment's Patron and Colonel-in-Chief. In return he was pleased to redesignate the name of the Regiment to The King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia. A new badge was introduced, based on the former one, except that an annulus was introduced for the new title KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT OF MILITIA and the crown changed to a Tudor or King's Crown.

In 1931, since the term 'Militia' had long been dropped from use in the British Army, the Regiment was reorganised on territorial basis and renamed the King's Own Malta Regiment. Once again, the badge was also changed but remaining on the same design as the former. The annulus now bore the new name KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT and the erred Maltese Colours were corrected and placed in their proper sequence.

After the demise of King George VI in 1953, Queen Elizabeth II became the new monarch and the crown on just about every badge worn by British and Colonial regiments was changed to the St. Edward's or Queen's Crown. This change did not occur with the badge of the KOMR, however, officers of the Regiment had the King's Crown removed from their badges by local craftsmen and replaced by matching Queen's Crown. The badge remained being worn until the KOMR was disbanded in 1972. A number of versions of the 1931-1972 pattern badge were worn,

Zach Demarco, Rafel Sammut and Tony Farrugia. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

Rafel and Andrew will swim 37 km around Gozo, in aid of Victory Kitchen on Monday

Kitchen has donated almost 100,000 meals

An annual charity swim will take place on Monday to raise much-needed funds for the Victory Kitchen.

Together with the help of Happy Initiative, Rafel Sammut and Andrew Arrigo - under the guidance of record-holder Neil Agius from Wave of Change - will attempt to swim around Gozo for a continuous, unassisted, non-stop swim covering 37km in around 12 hours.

Victory Kitchen was set up with the sole intention of delivering food to the families that have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, seeking to help as many people as possible during these difficult times by providing free hot meals daily.

To date, Victory Kitchen has helped 18,954 families, by donating 96,424 meals.

"We strongly believe that no one should go to bed hungry, and we use this as our battlecry for this year's swim to try to raise enough funds to donate 120,000 meals for the next 12 months, further helping more families as well as other NGOs in providing hot meals for those that are in need," said Sammut.

"We hope this challenge can help raise more awareness about our cause and the much-needed support to help more families in need. The more donations we collect, the more meals and families we can provide for. Our dream is to reach the 100,000-meal milestone and beyond to keep helping and feeding families in need." One can help Victory Kitchen and support the cause by sending donations to BOV IBAN: MT87VALL22013000000040010942082 or via Revolut or BOV app on +356 99441950 with the tag 'Support Victory Kitchen'.

Those who wish to help further may contact Victory Kitchen through Facebook or by calling on +356 9990 6056. For more information about Victory Kitchen log on to www.victorykitchenmalta.org

The term 'victory kitchen' originates from World War II, when Victory Kitchens were set up all over Malta to feed a starving population.

WE Support all the Maltese societies Around the world

Hon Evarist Bartolo Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

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EVARIST BARTOLO VISITS MALTESE IN USA

Nitkellem ma' nies miz-Zejtun, Mellieha, Xaghra, Xewkija u Nadur fic-Centru tal-Maltin fi New York ippruvajt nifhem ahjar xi tfisser thalli art twelidek u tibda hajja gdida f'art differenti hafna u ferm akbar minn tieghek. Anki meta ccaqlaq pjanta minn qasrija ghal ohra tiehu z-zmien biex tiehu s-sahha ghax tkun caqalqet l-gheruq taghha.

Stmat li matul is-snin emigraw terz tal-Maltin ghax ma kellhomx xoghol Malta u sa ftit ilu kellna 70 elf Malti fl-Istati Uniti, mill-inqas 20 elf fi New York. Il-Maltin rabbew isem ta' nies biezla u bil-ghaqal. Qalli wiehed: minn kull dollaru li konna naqilghu konna nonfqu 20 centezmu u nfaddlu 80. Ghal kull xoghol wiehed, konna naghmlu tnejn tlieta.

L-istorja tal-emigranti hija parti shiha mill-istorja taghna wkoll izda ghadna ma napprezzawhiex bizzejjed. Sahha u sliem. Evarist Bartolo

Talking to people from Zejtun, Mellieha, Xaghra, Xewkija and Nadur at the Maltese Center in New York recently I tried to understand better what it means to leave the country where you were born u start a new life in a new place which is so different and much bigger than Malta. Even when you transplant a seedling from one pot to another because you have disturbed the roots of the plant and it takes time to flouish.

It is estimated that in the last centuries a third of the Maltese population emigrated to other countries because they could not find employment in Malta and it is believed that we had 70,000 Maltese in the United States and more than 20,000 in New York.

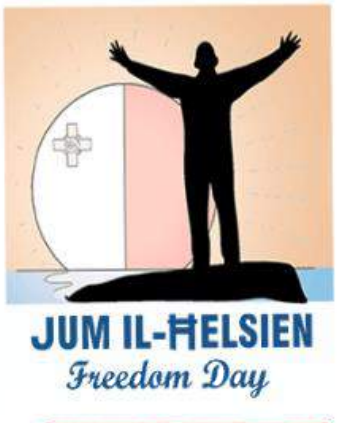
The Maltese in the US are considered as very loyal and productive people. Someone at the center told me 'From every dollar that we used to earn we spent 20 cents and saved 80c.' We also used to have more than one job..

***The History of Emigration is an integral part of the history of Malta but unfortunately, we are still not appreciating this fact*. Regards – Evarist Bartolo**

5 NATIONAL DAYS OF MALTA

MARCH 31 - FREEDOM DAY

Freedom Day is the anniversary of the withdrawal of the British troops and the Royal Navy from Malta in 1979. On taking power in 1971, Dom Mintoff as Prime Minister of Malta, expressed his desire to re-negotiate the agreement Malta had with the United Kingdom. Following several discussions, a new agreement was signed and on the 31 March 1979 the British Defence Treaty came to an end and the last remaining British Forces left Malta. The main events of the activities that generally commemorate this historic event take place at the Freedom Day Monument at Vittoriosa, whereby prominent dignitaries present flowers which are ceremoniously laid at the foot of the monument. In the afternoon the traditional competitive regatta is hosted at the Grand Harbour.



JUNE 7 - SETTE GIUGNO

The Sette Giugno Anniversary commemorates the events which occurred on the 7th of June 1919 when, following a series of riots by the Maltese population, the British troops fired into the crowd, killing civilians. This happened in the aftermath of World War I, when the cost of living had increased dramatically and the Maltese colonial government failed to provide an adequate supply of basic food provisions for the people. Political developments that were steaming at the time were also a fundamental contributor to the spirit of unrest which eventually led to the uprising. Malta traditionally commemorates the event at St. George's Square in Valletta by a ceremony where wreaths are laid over the Sette Giugno monument.

SEPTEMBER 8 - VICTORY DAY

Victory Day is a national holiday that is commemorated on September 8th in remembrance of the victories in the Sieges of Malta: the Great Siege of Malta 1565, Siege of Valletta by the French Blockade 1800 and Siege of Malta during the Second World War 1943. To mark the event, the President places a symbolic garland to commemorate the victims of the World War at the foot of the monument named the Fallen of the Great Siege, consisting of three bronze figures symbolizing Faith, Fortitude, and Civilization in Valletta.

This day also coincides with the commemoration of the birth of the Virgin Mary, better known as the Nativity of Mary. It is locally known as il-Vitorja (the Victory) and il-

Bambina (the Baby). The traditional regatta featuring boat races in the Grand Harbour is held on Victory Day.

SEPTEMBER 21 - INDEPENDENCE DAY

Malta gained its political Independence from Britain on the 21st of September 1964. On the night of the 20-21st September, the Maltese flag was raised at Independence Arena, Floriana, amidst the cheers of the large crowd present. Malta had become an independent nation.

The Independence Monument represents Malta liberating herself from shackles of the past while holding onto the national flag

DECEMBER 13 - Republic Day

The annual day of remembrance began in 1974, when Malta no longer called Queen Elizabeth their head of state and instead elected a President as a republic. In their own native tongue they call this day the 'Jum ir-Repubblika'

After successfully negotiating for independence from the British Empire in 1964, Malta evolved into a Commonwealth realm, with the British monarch remaining as head of state. It was actually as a result of the Malta Labour Party victory of 1971 that the status quo changed once again. The Labour Party started pushing the concept of turning Malta into a republic with its own president. After Republic Day saw the constitution drastically altered on December 13, 1974, Malta made its last change of status into a republic in the Commonwealth of Nations. Sir Anthony Mamo began his term as the very first ever President of Malta.

These National Days in Malta are observed as public holidays and it is by law that the National Flag of Malta is flown on public building on such days

I THANK ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THIS JOURNAL

I THANK THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION TOWARD THE PRODUCTION OF THIS JOURNAL WHICH I HAVE BEEN PUBLISHING FOR 8 YEARS VOLUNTARILY.
If you wish to send a donation here are the details
Commonwealth Bank (Aust) BSB:065106 ACC. NO.: 0050 2597
NAME: Frank Scicluna

AFM band to perform during Gaulitana festival

Justin Gatt | Public Affairs Office

'GauLive', the final phase of the 14th edition of Gaulitana: A Festival of Music, continues on Friday 24 September with a rather unusual event: a concert by the Armed Forces of Malta Band.

The AFM will thus be finally presenting a full-scale concert at the festival – after all previous attempts had to be unfortunately put off due to the pandemic. The 40-piece band will be under the direction of its bandmaster, Captain Jonathan Borg.

Typical of the AFM, a highly varied repertoire is being presented, also very much suitable for an end-of-summer open-air concert. Works by renowned contemporary wind band composers such as David Shaffer, James Swearingen and Jacob de Haan, will alternate with some British folk-inspired works including Ralph Vaughan Williams's famous Folk Song Suite. Some works will also feature some of the AFM soloists. A tribute to Beethoven, and hence the classics, will also be offered with the finale movement from his epic 5th symphony.

A Maltese touch will be added through a Charles Camilleri march. The concert, starting at 20.00hrs, is being held at the Ministry for Gozo's Courtyard, Victoria and will be in full compliance with health protocols required for such enclosed areas. Entrance is free, but reservations are required on bookings.gaulitana@gmail.com.

Further information available on the Facebook page Gaulitana: A Festival of Music and the website. *Gaulitana: A Festival of Music is principally supported by the Gozo Cultural Support Programme of Arts Council Malta and the Ministry for Gozo.*

Buskett Vaulted Grotto to be restored

Environment ministry announces €323,000 works

Photo: Clodagh O'Neill/DOI.

The historic Vaulted Grotto in Buskett will be restored by Ambjent Malta in a project expected to cost €323,000, the environment ministry announced on Saturday.

The structure, which dates back to the Order of St John, will be consolidated and preserved while damage sustained over the years will be repaired.

Parts of the Grotto will be mapped electronically to retain the structure's feature elements.

Works will include the exposure of the vault right above the grotto and measures to avoid further deterioration, as well as structural pinning of vertical elements to enhance the structure's stability. Ancillary works include restoration of the masonry fabric and Grotto fountain.

Buskett has Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) status and serves as an important concentration point for birds of prey, many of which are of international importance.

VILLAGE BISCUITS - BISKUTTINI TAR-RAHAL

Wonderful psychedelic biscuits traditionally served at Christenings. Village biscuits are a wonderful little treat. The mixture is quite wet so you may need to use a little flour when forming into balls
Author: amaltesemouthful (Marlene Zammit)

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggs separated
- 400 grams light brown sugar
- 550 grams flour
- Zest of 1 lemon and 1 orange
- 3 tablespoons lightly crushed aniseeds
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1 large teaspoon baking powder
- Extra flour when rolling
- For the royal icing:
- 300 grams sifted icing sugar
- ½ lemon juiced
- 1 egg white
- food colouring

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 230oC
2. Beat the egg whites with an electric mixer until stiff.
3. Slowly add in the sugar and continue to beat.
4. Mix in the egg yolks
5. Beat everything else with the mixer except for the flour.
6. Using a baking spoon add in the flour and mix well.
7. On a baking tray lined with baking paper, place balls of the mixture. You may need to use a little flour on your hands when forming the balls as the dough is quite soft. Make sure to leave a little room next to each biscuit too as they do rise and spread.
8. Cook for about 15 minutes or until golden brown.
9. Allow to cool and then make the royal icing by mixing the royal icing ingredients and some food colouring.
10. Using a piping bag make swirls of icing on top of the biscuits.
11. Allow the icing to set and then serve!

CANADA 2021 – MALTA INDEPENDENCE DAY

57th Anniversary of Malta's Independence - 1 of 3 exhibitions at St Paul The Apostle Hall - 'Portraits of Prominent Maltese'

As part of the events to commemorate the 57th Anniversary of Malta's Independence, the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada organised 3 exibitions about Malta. The first one is entitled, 'Portraits of Prominent Maltese' at the lower hall of the St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Church, organised in conjuction with the National Archives of Malta.

This exhibition of 64 photographic portriats of Presidents and Prime Ministers of Malta, judges, authors, actors, people in sports, artists, comedians and other categories. All the portraits are photographed by renowned Maltese photographer, Tony S. Mangion.

Following the Solemn Mass, the General public gradually moved to the lower hall whereafter Fr Giovann Tabone MSSP said a prayer, the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri inaugurated this exhibition. Many people attended and appreciated the exhibition, all in compliance with city, provincial and federal laws related to social distancing. The exhibition was open for an entire week and was visited by many Maltese Canadians and Canadians alike.

All those present left the exhibition with a bag of traditional Maltese food items.

Another celebration of Malta's Independence was, the traditional Solemn Mass at St Paul the Apostle Maltese Canadian Church.

The solemn Mass was celebrated by Fr Giovann Tabone, MSSP and saw a packed church in accordance with the COVID 19 city, provincial and federal rules and regulations. The Mass commenced with a procession of members of the Maltese Canadian Federation, the Melita S.C., the Malta Band Club and a number of associations carrying their respective flags/banners.

The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri presented a bouquet of flowers which was placed on the altar. The Mass was accompanied by the St Paul's Choir and photography was provided by Ryan Zammit RJZTV.com

AN AUSTRALIAN/MALTESEMONUMENT&MALTA'S CHEQUERED HISTORY & LEADERS ORESTE AQUILINA

After three years of hard work, my book has been published. The Covid-19 has not been helpful nor has my Advanced Macular Degeneration!

My Book is Over 500 pages with some 225,000 words and many colour photos of important events and people. The book is a mine of information and is a must read for second and third generation Maltese/Australians particularly those attending Maltese language classes and the general public.

This is a limited edition, and an invitation is being extended to a small number of people whom I have included in the book in some form or other, either as a result of interactions during my involvement in the 20 associations I have worked with since the late sixties, or through some personal anecdotes. The book is a frank and honest look reliving my personal memoirs of community work - a 30 years-plus review. This includes a detailed timeline related to the inception and completion of the Australian Maltese Bicentennial Commemorative Memorial at Civic Park, Pendle Hill, N.S.W. I was appointed on a voluntary basis by the Maltese Community Council of N.S.W. as Chairman of the sub-Committee which was formed to build this Memorial to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Australian Nation.

Some of the chapters I wrote in the book cover aspects of Maltese-Australian Associations and the Maltese community in Australia, and include: Maltese Australian memorial for the aged (MAMA), the Maltese Community Council of NSW, United Council of Immigrants (UCI) and the Maltese Language Classes, the Good Neighbour Council & the Ethnic Community Council, Maltese RSL sub-branch and ANZAC day march, the Cittadini (citizens) group, Saint Nicholas Festa committee, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Band now The Maltese Festival Band, the Association of Lyceum Past Students, La Valette Social Centre, "Castel Felice" re-union, my subtitling work with SBS TV and radio broadcasting, and the various choirs in which I took part as a tenor 1. World Festival Choir, Beethoven Society, Macquarie University Singers, Philharmonia and Manly Warringah Choir.

The history section includes a chronology of events in Maltese History and covers the rule and legacy of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, the French occupation, Malta under British rule, the outbreak of World War I, Australia Hall at Pembroke in Malta, Malta during WWII, Pearl Harbour and Darwin bombing and the Malta Convoys.

My book covers a large amount of information on Maltese politics both past and present, including the conflict between archbishop Sir Michael Gonzi and Dominic Mintoff, Malta gains Independence, Malta Republic, Freedom Day (Jum il-Ħelsien), the European Union and Eurozone,

Election of the Labour Government In 2013, Leaders of The Nationalist Party Opposition, sale of 3 Public Hospitals (St Luke's, Karen Grech and Gozo General) and the Egrant Inquiry. Daphne Caruana Galizia's brutal murder and Inquiries that followed are discussed in detail along with the monthly vigils at the Great Siege Monument.

My book also discusses the Stealers of Human Life and of the Economy - the natural disasters that have affected Australia, and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world. The book concludes with some consideration of Malta's Future – The Constitution and proposed changes, and Malta's security under the Constitution. Appendices and an index of names mentioned in the book are included along with an addendum giving a translation of the recommendations by the three Judges in the Daphne Caruana Galizia case.

The cost for the soft cover book is $45 per copy. Please add $14 per book to cover the cost of postage in Australia. To order the book, please complete and forward the Order Form below to me.

Thank you for your support. Yours Sincerely, Oreste Aquilina

PS. Please note the correct ANZ account No.

ANZ account: Oreste L. Aquilina 012349 153324727.

as it was incorrectly given on page 12 of the E Newsletter No. 390 of September 2021

Warriewood NSW 2102

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BOOK PLEASE EMAIL:
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AMOUNT OF $59 TO COVER THE COST OF THE BOOK OF $45 PLUS POSTAGE WITHIN AUSTRALIA OF $14. PLEASE ADVISE NAME, ADDRESS, AND MOBILE NUMBER BY EMAIL;
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PLEASE SEND YOUR ORDER TO THE AUTHOR WITH DELIVERY DETAILS TO POST OFFICE BOX 1767, WARRIEWOOD SQUARE, WARRIEWOOD N.S.W. 2102

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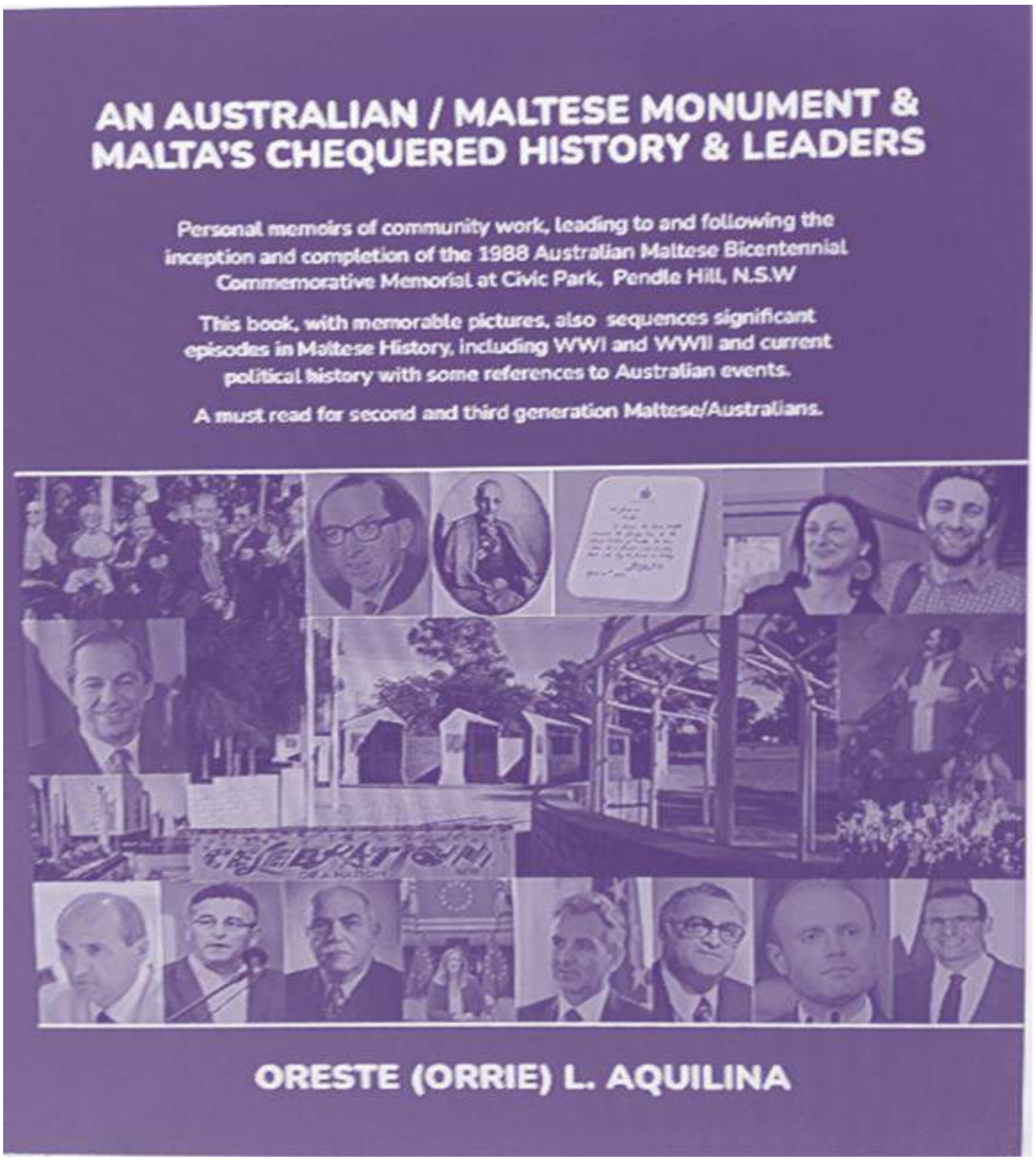
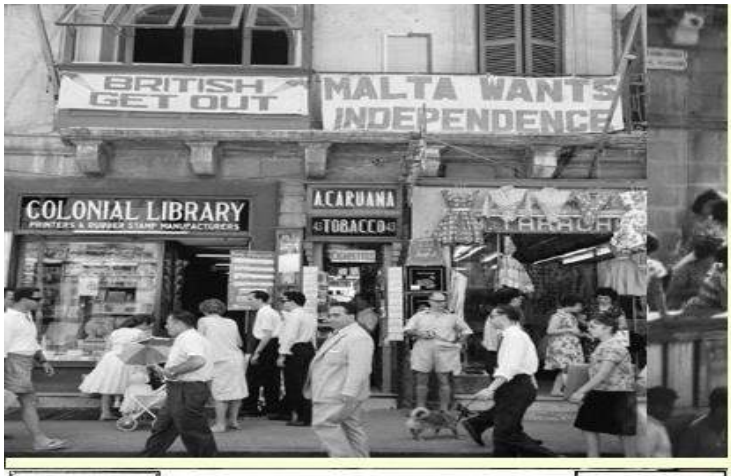
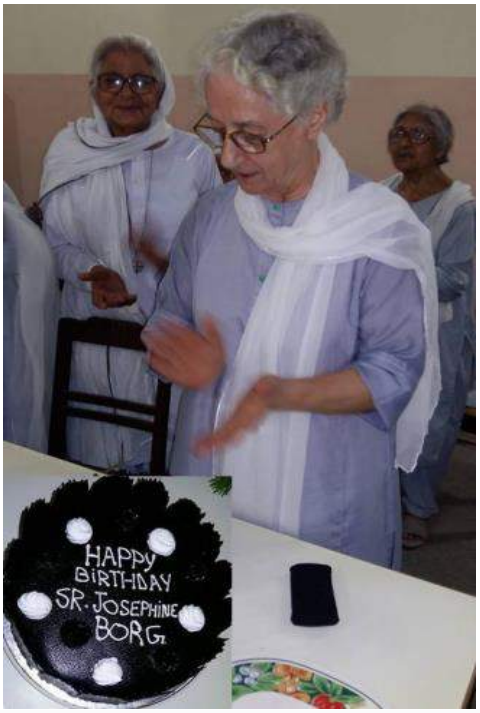






Thank you from Sister Josephine Borg - Pakistan

With a heart full of gratitude, I thank our dear benefactors and readers who send donations to the Mission Fund based in Mosta. Their donations are of great relief and joy to our dear poor people and strength for us to continue our work in the Third World countries.

Last July, I received a generous donation of €2,500 from the Mission Fund, Mosta. A sum, of €2,000 will help Abid, who is waiting to be ordained deacon. He completed his studies at the major seminary and presently he is helping the parish priest in a very poor village. With the remaining funds, we will help poor children to buy schoolbooks and pay their school fees.

Schools were reopened and running well but, from September 6, these were closed again as COVID-19 cases spiked.

So I kindly appeal to all Maltese and Gozitans to continue sending donations and used stamps to the Mission Fund, Eureka Court, Block A, Flat 6, Main Street, Mosta MST1018.

Donations may be made online or by direct bank transfer to one of the following accounts:

BOV: IBAN NO. MT70VALL22013000000016300798022;
APS: IBAN NO. MT67APSB77079005231820000820762;
BNF: IBAN NO. MT94BNIF145020000000087963101;
Lombard: IBAN NO, MT65LBMA05000000000001440822115.

More information may be accessed from www.missionfund.org.mt.

With renewed gratitude and promise of our prayers for our dear benefactors, living and dead. God bless you all. *Sister Josephine Borg – Renala Khurd, Pakistan*

MICHAEL SPITERI - Kilin

The former Education Minister Evarist Bartolo unveiled a bust of Michael Spiteri, popularly known as Kilin, outside Rabat primary school on May 26, 2016..

Kilin was born in Rabat, on August 20, 1917. He studied at Rabat Primary School and later at the Lyceum. He worked as a Customs officer from 1934 to 1941 and later at other government departments until he retired in 1975.

He was devoted to his wife Josephine and worked hard to raise a family of seven children: Victor, the eldest, and six daughters – Maria, Dora, Anna, Cecilia, and twins, myself and Agatha. He had 17 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

Kilin's favourite book was Tinsiex Publius, Tinsiex, a novel based on St Paul's three-month stay in Malta. His English translation, The Island was called Melite, was launched on the same day of the unveiling.

Kilin was a simple man who loved his family, the Maltese language, and always worked hard to preserve our island's culture. He was also very religious and a man of sound morals, always defending all that makes us Maltese.

He was also fluent in English, Italian, French and Spanish. Spanish was his favourite foreign language. He taught it and was also a very good interpreter. He loved playing chess, adored classical music, and photography was also one of his hobbies.

He loved nature and was one of the first to raise awareness regarding the need to safeguard the environement through his writings, as can clearly be seen in two of his books comprising a collection of small essays: Tlikki Tlikki ma' Wenzu (1972) and later Hawn Aħna Wenz (1991).

Besides being a writer my father also loved painting with watercolours. He loved to paint nature scenery and chapels. In fact, his first books featured some of his own sketches of small churches and chapels. These included Kappelli u Knejjes Zgħar (1967), Nistqarr (1968); Djar is-Sultana (1969). Later, in 1990, he published A Maltese Mosaic and Wayside Chapels of Malta and Gozo (1990-2000); both books are full of his own sketches of small chapels.

Bl-Irġulija u bl-Onesta, a novel he wrote in 1973, won the Rothmans Prize for Literature. He wrote and pubished three other novels: L-Għafrid (1975), Tmint Ijiem fid-Dragonara (1984) and Tapit Imsaħħar (1995). One of his best publications was Għajnejn Kalanġ (2001), which features short stories. He later translated it into English and published it as Angelo's Eyes (2003).

His most popular book is Fuq l-Għajn ta' San Bastjan (1973) in which Kilin describes episodes of his childhood days through his eyes as a young boy living in Rabat.

This was later followed by two sequels: Wara l-Għajn ta' San Bastjan (1994) and Iż-Żmien isajjar il-Bajtar (1996). These three books may be considered as Kilin's autobiography till his early married life.

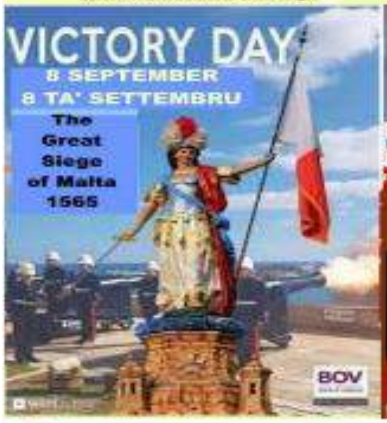
Burdati and Burdati 71 are books of Kilin's prose and poems. L-Istejjer ta' Joe u Marija is an anthology of his writings for young children originally published in the magazine Sagħtar.

Kilin's favourite book was Tinsiex Publius, Tinsiex, a novel based on St Paul's three-month stay in Malta. His last work was an English translation of the book. In fact, he made a great effort to complete the translation but due to his deteriorating health, his daughter Cecilia Testa had to finish the last two chapters after his death.

The book, called The Island was called Melite, was published by Midsea Books.

It features a foreword by Trevor Zahra. The Good Causes Funds kindly agreed to offer a €1,000 sponsorship for the book. The rest was funded by my family and an anonymous sponsor.

All proceeds from the sale of the book went to Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Siġġiewi. It was launched on the same day of the unveiling of the bust, which was blessed by Fr Martin Micallef, director of the home.



PREVIOUS JOURNALS.

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

The Roman Villa in Rabat Malta.

The Roman Villa located outside the Mdina fortifications, on the periphery of the town of **Rabat** the ruins of a Roman townhouse more popularly known as the Roman Villa. The location

has been renamed as the Domvs Romana, two Latin words meaning Roam townhouse.

It is an example of fine Roman architecture which succeeded to survive so much a long time and now what has been left has now been preserved, we can get a glimpse of what it was at the time living in a luxury residence of a noble Roman family.

It is very popular with tourists and ideal to visit as it can be combined to your **Mdina** and Rabat visit. Take a glimpse at the original floor mosaics, marble statues and personal ornaments.

It provides an exclusive western Mediterranean experience to a few of the oldest mosaic decorations of the period in relation to those found in Sicily.

The extraordinary mosaic floors that are still in a very good state which compare a lot to those in Sicily.

The Domvs Romana site will give you an insight of how the Romans of a wealthy upper-class house used to live on this island when they ruled in Malta. You will be able to see their style of life, the things they used for their fashion, cooking, education and to entertain themselves. A set of marble statues portraying the Emperor Claudius who ruled over Rome between AD 41 and AD 54 and his family.

Pieces of size marble statues were found here presumably pertaining to persons of his family. This gives us a great insight that the owner of this villa must have been a public figure.

Facts About The Roman Villa

While conducting landscaping works during 1881, by accident workers stumbled across the ruins of an old building. The authorities decided to conduct further excavations through the local well known archaeologists where they discovered mosaics, coins, amphorae and other ancient household items.

It is believed that the original villa dates back to the start of the 1st century BC and was used until the 2nd century AD.

In order to protect the mosaics a peristyle was constructed around and the two adjacent mosaics which was part of what we see today. A peristyle is a porch with continuous formation of rows of

columns surrounding the perimeter of building or a courtyard.
Excellent collection of preserved mosaic pavements which dates back to the first century BC. They were produced by well talented craftsmen with extremely fine techniques. They stand among the oldest and best compositions from the western Mediterranean.
It was officially opened to the public in February 1882. It is one of the very first to be opened to the public. Various improvements were added to the museum and to create more space to exhibit the findings and material collected.
Here you also find the biggest collection of antiquities of the Roman era found on the islands. Some of the remaining marble pieces scattered around the streets of Mdina were collected and brought here.
During the 11th century the Arabs conquered the islands from the Byzantines the villa was in ruins and the area around this ruin where a Muslim cemetery was established. This was evidenced by the findings of tombstones with Arabic inscriptions and other related article od Islamic origin.
Although small it is very interesting to visit to get the glimpse of what it was like to live in this type of villa of a wealthy Roam family during the time when they ruled over Malta.
Location. It can be imagined how beautiful it was to have a villa at the tip of this hill with probably no buildings around and neither the **Mdina** fortifications as we know them today.
Have you ever wondered how they used to live? Get a glimpse of how life was for an aristocratic Roman family was like.
Here at the Domvs Romana in Rabat you have the opportunity how a wealthy Roman family used to live, their daily life, their entertainment, cooking their food and then your imagination being within their own home so many years after.
The display apart from showing you the history it also takes you back through the various aspects of a Roman family life. A dressed up female statue, bath accessories, glassware, carved bone hairpins, a baby rattle, unguentaria, containers for balsamic oils and perfumes, rython (drinking vessel), and other articles.

THE SOLEMN FEAST OF ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA IN ADELAIDE – S.A

12-13-14 NOVEMBER 2021

CELEBRATED AT ST. BRIGID'S PARISH CHURCH, LE HUNTE STREET, KILBURN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

After the restrictions of the dreaded Covid 19, our beloved **St.Catherine Feast** is back to normal, thank God! Here is the program for this year's feast:

Friday 12th November 2021 from 7:00pm

A Tribute to St. Catherine guided by Fr. Raj Selva at the Parish Church.
Readings & Floral Tributes by the Maltese Community. Eucharistic Benediction with the Maltese Community Festivities Group. Choir under the direction of Sister. Bonnie Attard and organist Robert Coombe. Everyone is invited for a social gathering in the Church Hall afterwards

Saturday 13th November from 6:30pm to12:00am **Annual Feast Gala Ball** At the SICILIA SOCIAL CLUB: 45a O.G. Road KLEMZIG **Dinner: -** 5-Course Meal **Drinks:** - Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks included **Live Entertainment** - **"Jump 'n' Jive"**

Sunday 14th November 2021 - Liturgical Function

2:00 pm Solemn Mass - Concelebrated by Fr. Raj Selva and Fr. Alfred Farrugia, with participation by the choir of the M.C.F.G. under the direction of Sister Bonnie Attard and organist Robert Coombe. Immediately after the Mass **Eucharistic Benediction**.

3:15 pm Procession - with the artistic statue of St. Catherine accompanied by the "Maltese Queen of Victories Band", and representatives of the Maltese Associations accompanying with their respective Banners.

Social Program in the Parish Hall, with - DJ, Martin Pace & Musical Concerts by the "Maltese Queen of Victories Band". Conclusion of the feast.

Post supplied by Ron Borg

Australia Hall

From Mr Paolo Ferrelli

I WORK in Pembroke and every day I drive past the building which was an ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) hospital built during World War I for wounded and sick soldiers fighting in the Gallipoli beach-head of 1915.

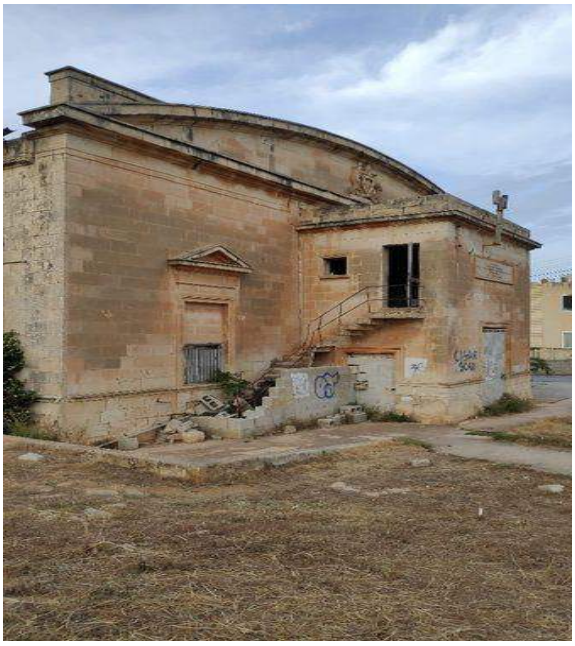
This historical building is being left to deteriorate and is strewn with rubbish. Apart from being an eyesore, it causes discomfort and peril to the students who attend the schools in the vicinity. Drug addicts find it an ideal place for drug assimilating.

As this is a former military building, it could be a good idea to involve the Armed Forces of Malta which happen to have an Engineer Squadron a few paces away.

Seeing the exceptional bond that ties Malta to Australia due to the huge influx of Maltese immigrants and also that such a building should be used in a more advantageous manner (a tourist attraction, open space for a family park?), I appeal to the authorities to consider restructuring this building.

P. FERRELLI
San Gwann.

Restoration of Australia Hall Malta Project



We are seeking to gather interest in the potential restoration of Australia Hall, Pembroke, Malta. Built in 1915 to provide respite to ANZAC soldiers, the building suffered a catastrophic fire in 1998 and has remained subject to deterioration ever since. Please write to us showing your support: RAHMP PO Box 12, DAW PARK SA Australia 5041
Australia Hall was built November 1915 with £2000 provided by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society (Research note: Red Cross has no known record). It was inaugurated on Saturday 22 January 1916 by the Governor and Commander-In-Chief, Field Marshal Lord Methuen, GCB, KCVO, CMG. (The Daily Malta Chronicle – January 28, 1916)
The building was constructed as a recreational facility for Australian and New Zealand troops evacuated to Malta while serving in the Mediterranean theatre of WWI. It was the only purpose-built recreational facility constructed on Malta during the First World War (Research note: Source required).
Did you know?
Australia's first High Commissioner to Malta was Sir Hubert Opperman, or 'Oppy' has he was affectionately known. He became a household name in the 1920s and 1930s as a result of setting 101 state, national and world records in cycling. He became the public face of Malvern Star Bicycle Company.
Oppy pursued a career in politics from 1949 to his retirement in 1972 after holding several portfolios for the Liberal party. He was knighted in1968. Sir Hubert Opperman died in 1996 at the aged of 92.
His relationship to Australia Hall is unknown but it would be nice to believe he visited Australia hall in Pembroke and enjoyed a dance, or movie or two under its roof. It is certainly with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the support of our most recent High Commissioners and their efforts to maintain the vision of seeing Australia Hall revived.

"OPPIE"

Sir Hubert Opperman – first Australian High Commissioner for Malta

Front Inscriptio Oppy

Hubert Opperman was born in Rochester. His early job as a telegraph boy encouraged his love of cycling. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s "Oppy" was the dominant figure in Australian cycling. He first won the Australian Road Cycling Championship in 1924. He won it again in 1926, 1927 and 1929. At the same time he was becoming an international star. This statue is modelled on his stunning victory at the Bol D`Or in Paris in 1928. In the same year he was highly placed in the prestigious Tours De France. His first place in the 1265 km. Paris - Brest - Paris road race of 1931was the highlight of his sporting career. That year he was voted sportsman of the year by a French newspaper. In 1991 Sir Hubert Opperman attended the centenary celebrations of the race and was honoured with the gold medal of the city of Paris.

"Oppy" retired from cycle racing in 1940. Typically, he celebrated his retirement with a twenty-four hour marathon at the Sydney velodrome, breaking one hundred and one records with the process.

After war service with the R.A.A.F. he entered Federal politics holding the Victorian seat of Corio for the Liberal Party from 1949 until 1967. During this time he served as Minister For Shipping and Transport and Minister for Immigration.

In 1967, he was appointed Australian High Commissioner for Malta, receiving the O.B.E.in 1952 and was knighted in 1968. This statue was officially unveiled by Sir Hubert Opperman on his 90th birthday, 29th May 1994.

Cufflinks worn by Sir Hubert Opperman while he was High Commissioner to Malta between 1967 and 1972 His beret and cufflinks are preserved in the National Museum of Australia

ORLANDO EMANUEL CARUANA AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOUR FOR ACTIONS DURING CIVIL WAR

Private Orlando Emanuel Caruana was a Maltese-born American soldier who fought in the American Civil War.

Born: 23 June 1844, Valletta, Malta
Died: 14 September 1917, Washington, D.C., United States
Years of service: 1861–1864
Allegiance: United States
Award: Medal of Honor
Battles and wars: Battle of New Bern, Battle of South Mountain
Service/branches: United States Army, Union Army

Service: Army Division: 51st New York Infantry
Date of Issue: November 14, 1890

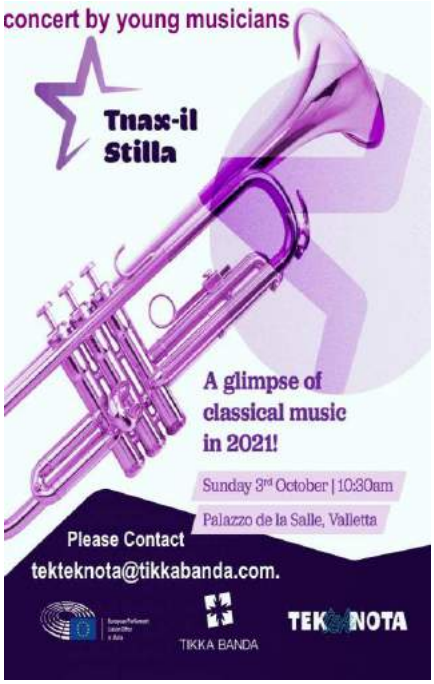
CITATION: The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Orlando Emanuel Caruana, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 14 March 1862, while serving with Company K, 51st New York Infantry, in action at New Bern, North Carolina. Private Caruana brought off the wounded color sergeant and the colors under a heavy fire of the enemy. He was one of four soldiers who volunteered to determine the position of the enemy at South Mountain, Maryland on 14 September 1862. While so engaged was fired upon and his three companions killed, but he escaped and rejoined his command in safety.

Maltese Community Council of Victoria
LETS PLAY ZOOM BINGO
MCCV Zoom Bingo back again and every week during lockdown.
Here is the link - if you need tickets email marlene.ebejer@mccv.org.au
Eyes down 2 pm Saturday-
3 games and it is free
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83333995276...
Meeting ID: 833 3399 5276
Passcode: 533498

Maltese eNewsletter
is the mouthpiece of all Maltese Living Abroad

FEBRUARY 1975: MALTA – GREECE 2-0
EURO NATIONS' CUP QUALIFIER
FIRST COMPETITIVE VICTORY.

Standing: Ritchie Aquilina who scored Malta's first goal, goalkeeper Robert Gatt who saved Malta's goal, David Azzopardi who was on his first match, Ray Xuereb, Eddie Vella and John Holland who ended the match with four stitches to his upper lip. Squatting: Edward Darmanin, George Ciantar, team captain Willie Vassallo who had been denied to join the Malta group from mid-week by his employer, Vince Magro 'Maxi' who scored the second goal and Toninu Camilleri who almost got another one.



THE SOLEMN FEAST OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF VICTORIES AT CHRIST THE KING CHURCH · LOCKLEYS · SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sunday 3rd October – 2.30PM

Celebration of Mass by Fr Alfred Farrugia.

Eucharistic Benediction after Mass.

Immediately after there will be a procession within the Church grounds during which Holy Rosary will be recited.

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band will accompany playing religious hymns and festive marches.

After in the Parish Hall, social gathering with food and drinks available at moderate prices.

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band will entertain.