



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR



## MALTA AND GALLIPOLI WW1 The Nurse of the Mediterranean



NEW ZEALAND



MALTA



AUSTRALIA

## AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS



## WHY WAS LADY EMMA HAMILTON AWARDED THE MALTESE CROSS?



## The Diary of Anne Frank in Maltese

## MISS MALTA 2021





## It happened in November: The opening of Malta's first parliament in 1921



Joseph F. Grima

Dr (later Sir) Filippo Sceberras, the Maltese patriot who worked very hard for the attainment of Maltese autonomy in 1921. Right: Portrait of Field-Marshal Viscount Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer, Governor of Malta in 1921.

The first day of November is a date that should be remembered and cherished by every Maltese because it recalls the opening of Malta's first parliament in 1921. Previously, Maltese participation in the islands' administration had been limited to participating in a succession of Councils of Government, but the 1921 Constitution gave Malta its first autonomous government under British

rule.

In 1919, Dr Filippo Sceberras had rallied the Maltese, and representatives of every constituted body formed part of a Maltese National Assembly which had its first meeting on February 25. It was decided to request King George V to grant a form of government which would at least ensure to the people full political and administrative autonomy in matters of local interest.



***Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), who inaugurated Malta's first parliament on November 1, 1921.***

On May 20, Sceberras was informed that instructions had been imparted to the new Governor of Malta, Field-Marshal Lord Herbert Plumer, to find out, on his arrival, how far it would be possible to grant to the Maltese people a larger share in the government without prejudicing Imperial interests. The Assembly, therefore, formed a representative commission to draft a Constitution and to get in touch with the new Governor when he arrived. These proceedings were, however, cut short by the Sette Giugno (June 7)

riots when the Assembly was in session. When 'normal' conditions returned, the Assembly continued its deliberations and proposed a Constitution providing for a Senate of 12 elected members, a lower house of 22 elected people, and a Cabinet of seven ministers.

### ADVERTISING

In late August 1919, Colonial Secretary Lord Alfred Milner sent his Under-Secretary of State, Lieutenant Colonel Leo Amery, on a fact-finding and solution-finding mission to Malta, arriving on HMS Lancashire. During his stay, Amery met and discussed local affairs – both political and economic – with several people, including talks with Governor Plumer and Filippo Sceberras. In agreement with Plumer, he concluded that there was the need for a fresh start in local politics.

On November 20, 1919, the British government announced the decision to grant a new Constitution to Malta. Then, on June 12, 1920, draft Letters Patent were communicated to the Maltese. The final Letters Patent were promulgated on April 30, 1921, and came into force on the following May 6.

The new Constitution – appropriately known as the Amery-Milner Constitution – was a diarchy. It provided for a bicameral system for local affairs and a Nominated Council to look after Imperial matters – also called 'reserved matters' – which included postal censorship, currency, telegraph, nationality, public security and defence. The Maltese 'part' consisted of a Senate, a Legislative Assembly and a ministry.

The Senate had 17 members, 10 of whom represented special classes, and the others, known as 'general members', were returned by the general electorate. Voting for the Senate was through two districts covering Malta and Gozo, returning four and three members each. The 10 special members represented the clergy, the nobility, the University, the Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Union

Council, each being represented by two members. All members and voters for the Senate had to be male British subjects aged 35 or over. The Legislative Assembly consisted of 32 members elected by the electorate according to the principle of proportional representation, each voter having one transferable vote. Malta was divided into seven electoral districts, with Gozo being the eighth one. Each district was to return four elected members.



***The inauguration of Malta's first parliament by the Prince of Wales in the Hall of St Michael and St George, the Governor's Palace, Valletta, on November 1, 1921.***

*In agreement with Plumer, Amery concluded*

*that there was the need for a fresh start in local politics*

The Legislature could pass laws relating to Malta but could not interfere in Imperial matters. Such reserved matters were dealt with by the Governor, advised by a Nominated Council. All members and voters had to be male British subjects aged 21 or over who also had to have the following educational and property qualifications: the ability to read and write; received in their own right (or that of their wives) an income of £5 from immoveable property or capital annually, or paid £5 in rent annually.

Plural voting was allowed: if a voter had the right amount of income-deriving property in more than one district, he had the right to vote just as many times.

The Legislative Assembly was to choose, from among its members, a speaker and a deputy speaker. The Senate members elected a president and a vice-president. All questions in both Houses were to be determined by the majority of votes of the members present, except the speaker and the president. If there was an equality of votes, the speaker and the president had casting votes.

***Senator Joseph Howard, Malta's first prime minister (1921-3).***

The ministry was to consist of up to seven ministers, each of whom was to be a member of one of the Houses of the Legislature. They had the right to sit and speak in both Houses but could only vote in the House of which they were members. Elections to the Assembly were to be held every three years, while voting for the Senate's elected members were to be held every six years. This Constitution was suspended from 1930 to 1932, and later withdrawn after a short-lived legislature from 1932 to 1933.

The 1921 election was fought out between four parties: the Unione Politica Maltese, led by Mgr Ignazio Panzavecchia; the Constitutional Party, led by Count Gerald Strickland; the Labour Party under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel William Savona; and Dr Enrico Mizzi's Partito Democratico



Nazionalista (PDN).

These parties won 14, seven, seven and four seats respectively for the Assembly. Mizzi's PDN contested the Gozo seats only and won them all. The Unione Politica Maltese had a clear-cut majority in the Senate where the party had four elected members, together with a further six from the special members.

But Mgr Panzavecchia declined to head the government and, instead, he proposed Senator Joseph Howard, who thus has the honour of becoming Malta's first prime minister. Howard also headed the Ministry of Finance, while the other ministers in 1921 were: Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto (Justice); Mgr Francesco Ferris (Education); Prof. Carmelo Mifsud (Public health); Dr Ugo P. Mifsud (Industry, Commerce, Post, Agriculture and Fisheries); and Antonio Dalli (Public works).

Within a year, changes were made in the ministries. The first chosen speaker of the Legislative Assembly was Edgar Arrigo.

Parliament was to be inaugurated on Tuesday, November 1, 1921, by Edward, Prince of Wales, the heir to the British throne. The Prince of Wales arrived on November 1 on board the battle-cruiser HMS Renown and, after being greeted by Governor Plumer and Archbishop Dom Mauro Caruana, who both went aboard the warship. He went ashore and was accorded a tumultuous welcome throughout the route to the Governor's Palace in Valletta which housed the inauguration ceremony and, indeed, parliament itself.

A commemorative photograph of the members of Malta's first parliament taken at the Governor's Palace, Valletta.

After the prince took his place in the Hall of St Michael and St George,

where the



ceremony was to take place, Governor Plumer read the Royal Commission authorising Prince Edward to open the Maltese parliament in the king's name.

**Edward Arrigo, the first Speaker of Malta's first parliament (1921-23).**

The prince then spoke of his family's affection for Malta and about the Constitution being a valuable instrument of government which would undoubtedly lead the Maltese islands to a prosperous future.

He then declared parliament open amid fanfares in the hall together with artillery and regimental salutes outside.

The occasion ended with another ceremony: fittingly, Dr Filippo Sceberras, who had worked so hard for the attainment of Maltese autonomy, was formally knighted by Prince Edward amid the clapping and cheers of all present.

In this way, therefore, an important chapter in Malta's political and constitutional history saw its beginning. In this way, therefore, an important chapter in Malta's political and constitutional history saw its beginning.

### **ANGLU FARRUGIA – SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MALTA AND THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**



**Anglu Farrugia**  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives  
of Malta

I am a regular reader of the Maltese e-newsletter the Journal of the Maltese living abroad edited regularly by Frank Scicluna of Adelaide, Australia.

I must admit that I am a great follower of all the Maltese living abroad and also a freelance researcher on the Maltese diaspora since my teenage years.

The regular contribution of Frank for these last twenty years have always been priceless and I have always been convinced of his passion and love towards our country, Malta.

I admire the constant perseverance and total dedication of Frank in carefully and regularly issue this important if not unique in its style this newsletter to us all.

Even here in parliament together with other contributions we do follow the contents of this newsletter and sincerely hope and wish Frank to continue the good work for the benefit of all the Maltese wherever they are. Thanks again Frank.



## **GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE** **– CRINGILA NSW** **MALTESE ANZAC'S WW1 HONOUR ROLL**

The President of the Wollongong RSL sub-Branch inaugurated the ANZAC memorial, which was erected at the Centre on 17 April 2021. Members from the RSL Maltese sub-Branch also attended the ceremony.



IN MEMORY OF THE MALTESE ANZACS

### WORLD WAR 1

1914 - 1918

#### AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

AGIUS ALBERT	MOSTA	1401	FARRUGIA WILLIAM WALTER	MAITLAND, NSW	2632
AQUILINA CARMELO	NAXXAR	1052	FERRES JOSEPH	VALLETTA	36
ATTARD EMANUEL	GOZO, QALA	4991	GALEA JOHN	SLEIMA	4123
ATTARD PAUL	ZZITUN	3592	GAUCI FRANK	NAXXAR	1659
ATTARD VINCENT	QORMI	3005	GAUCI JOE	ATTARD	7590
AZZOPARDI ANTHONY	MELLIEHA	7352	HENRY HUGH	SLEIMA	38346
BALDACCCHINO GEORGE	SIGGIWI	7599	MATTEI CHARLES	VALLETTA	MD
BARTOLO CHARLES	MELLIEHA	6402	MICHAEL PAUL	MOSTA	1393
BARTOLO FRANCESCO	MELLIEHA	825	MICHAEL SAVATORE	BIRKIRKARA	3876
BARUN JOSEPH	VITTORIOSA	227	MIFSUD JOSEPH	GHARGHUR	1382
BECK WALDEMAR	MSIDA	6969	MIRUZZI ANTHONY	VALLETTA	373
BELLIA FRANCIS	FLORIANA	7209	PACE JOSEPH	VALLETTA	646
BONAVIA CHARLES	SLEIMA	137	PALMER JOSEPH	MSIDA	4262
BORG LORENZO	VALLETTA	2130	PALMER VINCENT	MSIDA	1106
BROWN FRANK	VALLETTA	31803	RIZZO ANTONIO THOMAS	MELBOURNE, VIC	5084
BUSITTIN BASIL CHARLES	AYR, QLD	3260	RIZZO CHARLES	SINGLEA	7543
CAMILLERI ANDREW	MSIDA	7212	SCHIMBRI CHARLES	NAXXAR	4617
CAMILLERI BENEDETTO	RABAT	2145	SCHIMBRI FIDEL	NAXXAR	1178 / 85821
CAMILLERI PAOLO	NAXXAR	4753	SCIBERRAS JOHN	COSPICUA	2868
CASTALDI ELIGIO	SLEIMA	3615	SCOTT JOSEPH	VALLETTA	94
DALLI JOHN	VALLETTA	1823	VASSALO CARMELO	ATTARD	2267
DARMANIN GIUSEPPE	COSPICUA	6730	WEST ALFRED	COSPICUA	3517
DEBONO ANDREW	BIRKIRKARA	2160	XUEREB ANTHONY	ATTARD	1055
DEBONO PAUL	BIRKIRKARA	4695	ZAMMIT MICHAEL	MOSTA	1645

#### NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

CAMILLERI CHARLES	MOSTA	57364
CREMONA LOUIS	GOZO, RABAT	55923
MALLIA CHARLES	SENGLEA	10 / 3343
PILLLOW JOHN RICHARD	SLEIMA	15 / 74
VELLA FRANK VICTOR	INVERCARGILL, NZ	33930

† SUPREME SACRIFICE

### LEST WE FORGET

MALTESE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, NSW SUB BRANCH  
RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



Louis Parnis, President of the community centre, designed it in collaboration with the RSL archives and was assisted by Frank Scicluna – The Editor of the Maltese Journal for Maltese living abroad..

Recently, the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon Andrew Gee MP, approved a grant for the installation of two flagpoles at the Maltese Centre near the Anzac memorial under *Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program*.

With the surrounding gardens completed and the

flagpoles installed the monument will be ready for next ANZAC Day 2022.

On Monday 15 November the High Commissioner Mario Farrugia Borg attended the Centre in Cringila with Lawrence Buhagiar NSW Consul-general. The High Commissioner laid a wreath at the monument of remembrance. The monument is registered with New South Wales War Memorials/This attachment will open the MALTESE ANZACS FIRST WORLD WAR HONOUR ROLL.:

<https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/memorials/maltese-anzacs-first-world-war-honour-roll>

### MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB

*Presents its annual*

## Craft Show

Maltese Crafts & Merchandise  
**Food~Pastizzi~Bake Sale**

November 28th, 2021

11:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M

MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB

5221 OAKMAN BLVD, DEARBORN

Support small businesses

& Support MACC

The memorial is the first of its kind in the area and is expected to attract local visitors, as well as those from further away. It is intended annual Anzac Day services will be held on the site

**We have reached a milestone  
400 editions  
of a magazine  
specifically for  
Maltese living abroad**

EMIGRATION  
HISTORY**The Pastoral Ministry of the Maltese Priest in Australia**  
by Fr. Noel Bianco MSSP

*This write-up was written in the name of the Maltese Chaplains belonging to the Missionary Society of Saint Paul as well as other Maltese priests. The following are the official chaplains of the Maltese between Melbourne and Sydney – Fr. Tarcisio Micallef, Fr. Edwin Agius, Fr. Lonnie Borg and myself, Fr. Noel Bianco; however, there are others who offer their service in the Maltese community.*

*The article was first published by Malta Missjunarja (Frar 2021), is being published here by their permission. Gratitude to Gillian Laspina who translated the text to English.*



In the year 1913, Fr. William Bonnett, a priest who worked tirelessly amongst the Maltese living in Sydney, wrote to Mons. Joseph De Piro, who had just established the Missionary Society of St. Paul in 1910 and was also secretary to Archbishop Mauro Caruana. In his letter Fr. Bonnett asked Mons. De Piro whether he could send priests from the Society to offer pastoral care to the Maltese living in Sydney since they were facing a very challenging situation. They needed to be cared for not only where the Sacraments were concerned but also on a social and cultural level in order to help them maintain their identity. Back in those days, organised crime and prostitution associated with criminality were commonplace in Sydney and many Maltese used to live in the inner city which was not far

off from all this activity. Mons. De Piro replied to Fr. Bonnett informing him that it was impossible for him to comply with his request since the Society was still in its initial stages and hence there were no priests he could spare. He however asked Fr Bonnett to pray that the Society would one day actually be in a position to send missionaries to Australia too.

With God's providence this possibility became a reality when in 1948, after the war, Fr. Wistin Grech mssp was sent to spiritually assist a shipful of emigrants on their journey to Australia. He was to permanently remain in Australia as a chaplain for the Maltese living there. It was Minister Johnny Cole who had suggested to Mons. Michael Gonzi to send a priest from the Missionary Society of St. Paul to accompany the first post war emigrants. He was aware of the fact that the Society's Rule included a clause which stated the possibility of ministry amongst emigrants whilst primarily focusing on the Ad Gentes mission. This mission amongst emigrants is as important as any other mission within the Church but it is underestimated and misunderstood by many who do not appreciate the work it involves. One must keep in mind that the nature of this particular mission changes with time. As a matter of fact, the ministry carried out in the Mission's initial stages was very different to that being carried out now but it is still the same people who are benefitting from it.

During the Mission's early days, the Maltese priest would act as a father to many young people who emigrated to Australia in search of employment or to start a family. He would take this role on a spiritual, human, material and practical level. The priests and brothers of the Society, together with diocesan priests and priests from other religious orders, often served as the social worker we know today. For instance, Fr. Joe Pantalleresco, who is 92 years old and whose present ministry is that of interceding for us, active members, in prayer was one of the first missionaries to arrive in Melbourne. He was substantially helped by the Salesians through Fr. Joseph Ciantar, whose work involved travelling with his 'lambretta' seeking out employment for men, mainly youth, soon after their arrival to Australia. These men would also live in our house for the first few days following their long voyage from Malta. The majority of those who emigrated to Australia, especially after the war, were unmarried young people whose aim was to find employment and start a family after settling down. Some returned to



Malta to marry a Maltese and return as a couple, others brought their families they had left behind whilst others remained in Malta. Sacramental ministry was very strong in the first years. Many married and had their children baptised here.

Several of those who arrived in the 1940's have now passed away or are elderly. The latter require special attention and obviously have a right to it. Many of them continued to practise their faith, others have not and in this respect, most often their families follow similar lifestyles. More often than not, due to a lack of educational opportunities available in Malta at the time, children of Maltese emigrants did not have high levels of schooling, possibly resulting in insufficient appreciation of the Maltese religious and cultural heritage. They thus struggled to identify with the beauty of our culture. Today their children are taking an interest in all that is Maltese since their identity is essential to them. They are also being offered the possibility of possessing a Maltese and Australian passport and many of them choose to seize this opportunity, not only because it gives them access to Europe but also because it allows them to become familiar with their roots, reaffirming their identity and enhancing their self-esteem. Indirectly, religious and faith aspects are also impacted since if they feel they are Maltese, they also feel religious or at least Catholic. All these factors give the Maltese passport much more profound and meaningful attributes.

Today, the work of a chaplain for Maltese emigrants is much more associated with presence and the administration of Sacraments. We are facing emerging challenges. Today, the priest's presence is very much appreciated in difficult times as he offers a listening ear and accompanies individuals at various particular stages of their lives. We leave our houses in Melbourne and Sydney to evangelise and serve our Maltese brothers and sisters. For instance, we celebrate 6 masses in Maltese every week in Melbourne and visit a different parish every Saturday, hence reaching out to 5 different parishes in all. We travel from one parish to another celebrating the Eucharist, presiding over baptisms,

wedding ceremonies and funerals whilst also delivering Lenten Spiritual Exercises and participating in main feasts held in some villages. Some of our groups also visit various families with a statue of Our Lady to encourage the recitation of the prayer of the Holy Rosary in the family. When working with emigrants it is not a question of language as some may imagine. We are frequently faced with questions from Maltese people asking, "Is it possible that these people cannot speak English after living in Australia for so many years?" or "Their children are now Australian." Although there is some truth in this perception, it does not give the whole picture. The grandchildren of those who came to Australia are trying to establish their identity and it is remarkable to note that they feel very much at ease with a Maltese priest, especially during marriage preparation and the baptism of their children or funerals of elderly relatives. Even though the apostolate has changed throughout the years, the presence of the Maltese priest is still very relevant and as priests we believe that we are much more acknowledged here than in Malta. We make use of our Maltese identity as bait to catch fish for God's Kingdom through evangelisation.

The Ministry of Home Visitation is central to the Australian Church tradition and whereas in Malta home blessings are carried out once a year, here in Australia we spend many of our evenings visiting Maltese families in order to get to know them, bless their homes and accompany them by listening to their problems and offering advice. These visits bear much fruit and are crucial for us to build relationships and better understand the beauty and hardships of Maltese families in Australia. This Ministry means a lot to us. Even though our visits have a more spiritual than social dimension, needless to say, we are invariably offered something to eat when visiting and quite often this has an impact on our weight. However, at the end of the day, home visits are highly appreciated – after all that is what Jesus used to do. He gave a lot of importance to table fellowship and He gave us the Eucharist so that He would remain with us until the end of time! In this way we carry the Church to our brothers and sisters who might not frequent the Church

**WE SALUTE AND THANK  
ALL THE MALTESE  
PRIESTS AND  
RELIGIOUS WHO  
ASSISTED THE MALTESE  
MIGRANTS ALL OVER  
THE WORLD  
THROUGHOUT THE  
CENTURIES**



## MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Read, loved, shared and respected  
by Maltese living in Malta  
and all over the globe



**Journal of Maltese Living Abroad**

[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)

The editor and readers of the Maltese Journal congratulate the  
**GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE - CRINGILA NSW**  
for the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the club

**MALTESE IN SOUTH AFRICA** Frank, I received your Journal yesterday. Let me respond immediately to your introductory mail by stating under no circumstances are you spending too much time producing this Journal. For us in South Africa, with a reduced Maltese contingent, it is the only link we have with Malta and the Maltese people worldwide. It is always good to see how the various communities are operating. Please carry on the good work. The Maltese in Australia must be proud of you and the contents in the journals. Keep it up and may God Bless you for your endeavours.  
Best regards Ronald Andrews – South Africa



**John Calleja**

## **MALTESE AUSTRALIAN PERSONALITY JOHN CALLEJA – ADELAIDE MALTA AND THE ANZAC LEGEND**

John bemoans the fact that not many Australians know of

the important role that Malta played in caring for wounded and ill ANZACS during WW1. John's plans are to hold a commemorative event in Malta on Anzac Day (after the Covid-19 pandemic) to spread the word about Malta's history.

Here is a letter sent to him by Mr Matt Anderson PSM Director of the Australian War Memorial on 2 Nov. 2021

Thank you for your email dated 28 September 2021 regarding ANZAC Day in Malta, your correspondence has been forwarded to the Australian War Memorial for response. Your work is helping to bring a wider appreciation of the role that Malta and the Maltese played in supporting Australia, particularly during the Gallipoli campaign



**Charles Bonavia**

of the First World War. All too few people today appreciate the enduring connections between Australia and Malta. Over 430 Australians are buried or commemorated in Malta from both the First and Second World Wars.

Two hundred and five are remembered on the Malta Memorial and the remaining 229 are buried in five different cemeteries on the island. The largest number, 170, lie in the Pieta Military Cemetery. The embodiment of this bond is, perhaps, Private Charles Emanuel Bonavia, a Maltese-Australian



who died during the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

(Should you wish to

learn more about his service, Private Bonavia's background can be found at Attachment A.) Private Bonavia was commemorated at the Australian War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony on 28 December, 2019

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWyQfblusls>).

These ceremonies provide loved ones with the opportunity to lay a wreath in the Memorial's Commemorative Area and hear the story of their friend or relative read by a serving, uniformed member of the Australian Defence Force. Further information regarding these ceremonies can be found on the Memorial's website:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony>.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra has many photographs, archival records and objects relating to Malta, mainly relating to the Second World War and those Australians who flew with the air force in the defence of the island against Axis forces. One such collection relates to Squadron Leader Adrian "Tim" Goldsmith, RAAF. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal while serving with No. 126 Squadron, Royal Air Force, on Malta in 1942. Goldsmith's uniforms, medals, including an unofficial "Cross of Malta", are on permanent display in the Second World War galleries. I trust this information assures you of the Australian War Memorial's endeavours to share the stories of the relationship between Australia and the Maltese community.



# Strait Street: A Walk through History

loyalty Malta



Valletta's Strait Street is easily the most famous street in Malta. Known as *Strada Stretta* in Maltese, the street was the pinnacle of nightlife amongst American and British military men and Maltese frequenters between the 19th and mid-20th century.

Strait Street represents a fascinating period of time in Malta's history – one in which people of different nationalities

and classes intermingled together in a social context. This was a new kind of multiculturalism, one that was different from previous centuries of simply being dominated by power after power. This was more integrated, more inclusive. Strait Street became a hub in which English, Italian, and Maltese could co-exist. Certainly, this level of interaction with soldiers meant that many more Maltese learnt the English language – from barmen to the Maltese ladies who pined after the foreign sailors.



Strait Street also became a notable platform for live music, especially jazz. As more and more musicians learnt to emulate the songs from records brought from the USA, the stronger the grooving sounds of piano, drums, bass, and saxophone permeated from the street's many venues.

The fun was hardly innocent, as one might imagine. Indeed, Strait Street's reputation stems from its sheer contrast to the Catholic Malta that encased it,

with its drunkenness, rowdiness, prostitution, and even cross-dressing being the nightly routine. It's no wonder that the street was known as the 'The Gut' amongst its English visitors. Thankfully, the secrets of the street have not been buried at sea. Strait Street is the result of the need to create optimism in an era haunted by war, and it has been documented as an iconic part of Malta's history. A number of books have been written about it, and a TV show called *Strada Stretta* is was run weekly on Maltese television.

Does Strait Street exist today? Yes, and it's just as vibrant as it ever was! Nowadays the popular area still hosts bars, live music, and even festivals. We're pretty sure that there's less debauchery, though.

HOWEVER, strict regulations have been laid down, mainly that all forms of revival must strictly adhere to the street as it used to be, the same names for the bars and clubs, the same decorations and even street advertisements have to reflect the adverts used in the 1950s. I hastily add that prostitution is NOT included in the revival plans.

Strait Street may yet return to the glorious days of the straight and narrow



## The Scout Association of Malta

Community  
services/non-profits  
Founded in 1908,  
The Scout Association of  
Malta has always



maintained a high and respectable scouting

tradition. Its leaders and members are committed to further the ideals of Scouting in line with those as traditionally established by the Founder, Lord Baden Powell and as further developed by the World Scout Movement. The Association is a forward looking organisation that enjoys great respect both locally and internationally.

The Scout Association of Malta is a member of the [World Organisation of the Scout Movement](#) as well as a member of the [European Scout Region](#).

### Rediscover adventure!

Whether you are completely new to Scouting or you were a Scout yourself, you will probably enjoy sharing your child's Scouting experience. Scouting is a great way for families to participate in new adventures and activities together – why not encourage older siblings, grandparents or other relatives to get involved as well?

Many parents become trained Leaders, but there are also plenty of other ways that parents can get involved or contribute to the Group without committing to a uniformed Leadership role. Parents can help by:

- Showing interest and encouragement
- Providing transport
- Helping to fundraise for the Group
- Volunteering for duties such as Scout Hall set up or clean up
- Joining the Group Committee and/or assisting with administration
- Helping with DIY jobs or gardening at the Scout Hall
- Organising a Group excursion to your workplace
- Offering your unique talents and skills for a Group theme night

Don't be afraid to offer your practical support



### Ambassador of Malta to Portugal hosts a working lunch to continue the discussions initiated during the EUMED 9 Head of Governments Summit

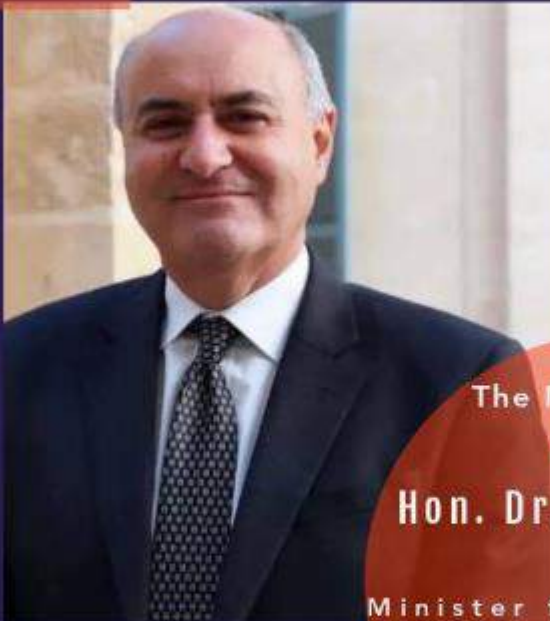
Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Nov 02, 2021

On Friday 29th October 2021, the Ambassador of Malta to Portugal H.E. John Camilleri hosted a working lunch to continue the discussions initiated during the

EUMED 9 Head of Governments Summit held in September 2021 in Athens. The main host for this working lunch was the Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias and the Ambassadors in attendance were those of Greece, France, Spain, Croatia and Slovenia. The topics which were discussed included Climate Change, the Fit for 55 package, migration, Covid-19, energy prices and the Southern Neighbourhood.



THE MALTESE CENTER, ASTORIA, NEW YORK CITY USA  
 @themaltesecenter **MEET & GREET**



Friday  
 November 12th  
 7pm

The Maltese Center  
 Welcomes

**Hon. Dr. JOSE HERRERA**  
 & delegation

Minister for the National  
 Heritage, the Arts and  
 Local Government



Kindly RSVP

[www.themaltesecenter.com](http://www.themaltesecenter.com)

Please join us tonight at 7pm for our annual All Souls Memorial Mass celebrated by Fr. Anthony Saliba. The mass is a time to join together in remembrance of those who passed. A time to reflect on memories and to celebrate the lives of those we love. A memorial table will be available for you to display photos of your loved ones. The upper hall

concession will be open serving drinks, snacks, and pasta. Mass will be celebrated in the lower hall.

It happened in November: The completion of the Victoria Lines in MALTA  
 Malta's unique example of late 19th century British military defensive strategy

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/it-happened-in-november-the-completion-of-the-victoria-lines.912711?fbclid=IwAR2k13MwZL0vqk5wuvAOGDkdUKCgXT3tHF3zCyWvw6858k8LtF6KKaKblvc>

**THE VICTORIA LINES**  
 CONSTRUCTED DURING THE ADMINISTRATION  
 OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
 GENERAL SIR ARTHUR LYON FREMANTLE  
 WERE SO NAMED  
 TO COMMEMORATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE  
 OF HER MAJESTY  
 1897





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Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7EVENTSNEWS>

## Interested participants for the Moomba Festival 2022 IN Melbourne. Victoria

Moomba is fast approaching, and we are calling for interested participants to join the MCCV's representation in this event. It will involve approximately a 4km slow walk dressed in Maltese costume celebrating our culture and why we are proud to be Maltese. All participants must be over 10 years old. Costumes and props will be provided.

There will be dress rehearsals required on the following dates:

Saturday 29th January 2022 at 11.00am

Saturday 19th February 2022 at 11.00am

If you are interested, the important dates to remember (and must attend) are: Parade rehearsal date still needs to be confirmed.

### 2021 CHRISTMAS IN AID OF PROVIDENCE HOUSE MALTA



**Id-Dar tal-Providenza**

Homes of Persons with Disabilities

Organised By The Friends Of Providence House NSW.

Id-Dar Tal-Providenza Looks After About 130 Residents With Very Special Needs On A 24/7 Basis And Requires Around 8 Million \$Aus. Annually To Function Properly And It Has Been Quite A Battle To Make Ends Meet Lately. Covid-19 Hasn't Helped. So Please Help

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Name: The Friends Of Providence House NSW

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Please Supply Contact Details For Acknowledgement No

Fees Apply !

Contact Jim Borg 0418 825 591



## State funeral as former Victorian governor Sir James Gobbo dies aged 90



Former President of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta and first Regent of the Australian Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception.

*Paul Fitzgerald*

*synthetic polymer paint on canvas (frame: 113.5 cm x 88.0 cm)*

Sir James – “Giacomo” as he was christened - was born in Carlton’s Royal Women’s Hospital in 1931 to Italian parents Antonio and Regina Gobbo (nee Tosetto). Antonio, who hailed from Cittadella in the Veneto region of Northern Italy, traversed the globe to Australia in 1927; his wife following with their oldest son Flavio aboard the steamship *Regina d’Italia* not long after.

Sir James was Governor of Victoria, Lieutenant Governor of Victoria and Victorian Supreme Court judge and gained a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford in 1951. He left Oxford with a BA, an MA and a rowing blue, and after returning to Australia in 1957 he lectured at the University of Melbourne for five years. He practised as a barrister through the 1960s and was appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of Victoria in

1978 and was knighted in 1982. Through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s he served on a great many boards and foundations, particularly to do with health and community welfare. After he retired from the bench in 1994 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Victoria; he became Governor of Victoria in 1997, becoming the first person of Italian heritage appointed to a state governorship. He served as the Chairman of the Council of the National Library of Australia, of the National Advisory Commission on Ageing and of the Council for the Order of Australia.

Among his many honours were the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy, and the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory, the latter one of the highest honours the Vatican confers. The State Funeral of Sir James will take place next Tuesday at 3pm AEDT.

Due to COVIDSafe requirements, there are capacity limitations and therefore the State Funeral Service is by invitation only but will be livestreamed at [www.vic.gov.au/sir-james-gobbo](http://www.vic.gov.au/sir-james-gobbo). An online condolence form will also be available to submit condolences until 5:00pm Friday 19 November 2021. State Funeral Service for the Honourable Sir James Gobbo AC CVO QC on Tuesday 16 November 2021 -3pm AEDT WATCH THE LIVESTREAM



### CHRISTINE GAUCI

A bronze monument has been built, dedicated to Christine Gauci, a soldier in the army who lost her life tragically while diving at Mgarr ix-Xini last year. It was placed in front of the house where Christine used to live in Rabat, Gozo. Mary Gauci, Christine's mother, has decided to transform the home into a shelter, Dar Christine, which offers therapy to those who are victims of

domestic violence and abuse. TVM News.

N.B. In the last edition we published photo which, according to one of our readers was not that of Ms Gauci. The article and photos were sent to us by one of our correspondent. We apologise if we caused any inconvenience.

## 18th century meringue recipe in Heritage Malta's cookalong

The Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa will come alive once again on November 18 with a Heritage Malta cookalong session.

The session will be focusing on eggs in 17th and 18th century Malta and will include a 1748 meringue recipe. Recognised as a power food, eggs and egg-based dishes were included in several period cookery books. This product caught the attention of leading European chefs whose imagination highlights the versatility of this basic food.

Eggs were also used as a means to differentiate social class, especially since the majority could afford to consume eggs on a daily basis. Apart from the traditional boiling, frying and poaching, culinary knowledge about the use of either the yolk or the white of the egg allowed for improved tastes and textures of many products, including the pan de Spagna and the meringue, HM said.

It said that the kitchen complex at the Inquisitor's Palace is probably Malta's best-documented early modern kitchen. Research into numerous 17th and 18th century inventories reveal an impressive facility, fully equipped to store and cook a myriad of ingredients, including eggs.

The criminal proceedings of the tribunal of the inquisition also shed light on the consumption of eggs in early modern Malta.

In 1637 Inquisitor Fabio Chigi left no stones unturned when three friends were reported for eating eggs on lean days.

Following public humiliation in Vittoriosa, they were, in a matter of days, found guilty of committing similar offences, costing them two years of forced rowing on the galleys of the Knights.

The cookalong session is being held in conjunction with Taste History and its multidisciplinary team of food historians, chefs and curators who have, in the past years, seen Heritage Malta present unique historic culinary experiences.

Food historian Noel Buttigieg will explore this fascinating theme, while Taste History chef Malcolm Baldacchino will be conducting an exclusive historic cookalong demonstration of egg meringue from 1748. This event will take place in the newly refurbished Cardinals' Hall on the top floor of the Inquisitor's Palace and will start at 7pm. Tickets, at €12 per person and €10 for Heritage Malta members, are available from all Heritage Malta museums and sites, and also [online](#). All attendees will be given a complimentary copy of the Heritage Malta publication 'MUŻA – The National Community Art Museum'.



### [Faculty of Education - University of Malta](#)

#### Teaching Maltese to Australian residents

Ms Edwidge Borg, President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools of Australia, would like Dr Jacqueline Żammit to provide study-units in Maltese as a foreign language at various levels (CEFR Levels

A1, A2, B1, B2). The Federation's goal is to coordinate the work being done to enhance the Maltese language and culture in Australia. Maltese students and teachers residing in Australia are eager to enroll in the online Maltese language classes, which are conducted by Dr. Żammit at the University of Malta, Faculty of Education. According to Ms. Borg, this would be the first time that Malta will offer Maltese Language courses to the Maltese Diaspora following years of pleading with the Maltese Government when schools in Australia were unable to recruit Maltese Language teachers. Consequently, it would be the first time that the Australian Maltese Community will have the opportunity to receive a Maltese qualification in the Maltese language.



## Maltese (Her)story! Here Are Some of the Fascinating Women That Shaped Malta's History

Sam Vassallo

History, they say, is written by the victorious. It is also majorly written by men. When it comes to the vibrant characters that shaped Malta, there are a number of women who, while are often sidelined, deserve a spotlight for their fascinating tales and achievements. Lovin Malta's fortnight series on Maltese Herstory is giving a platform to these intriguing, historical characters. Here are seven women you should (but probably don't) know about.



### **MARIA DEDOMENICI** – Malta's first established female painter.

Whether you're a local or floating tourist – you're bound to come across the ornate paintings of the Baroque master Mattia Preti. And while he is rightly put on a pedestal in Maltese art history, a closer look at his bottega reveals another jewel – Maria De Dominici – sculptor, tertiary nun and the first established female painter recorded in Malta.



### **CATERINA VITALE** – a rich, 16th-century slave-owning she-chemist.

When the Knight's pharmacist died in 1590 and the Inquisitor's director of courts passed away in 1760 their posts were both filled by women.

Born a year after the Great Siege, and brought up in Valletta, Caterina Vitale married the Neapolitan Ettore Vitale, chief pharmacist to the Order of St John.

Following his death, the 27-year-old took over his pharmacy, providing medicines to the Sacra Infermeria, making her probably the first female chemist on record in Malta.

This "incredible woman" is one of the lesser-known females (except among scholars) who left their mark on Maltese history, joining prominent figures such as newspaper proprietor Mabel Strickland and the island's first female president Agatha Barbara.

### **AGATHA BARBARA** – a socialist force and Malta's first female MP and president

Malta is currently debating a bill to address its depressingly low rates of women in political power. It's almost unbelievable that some forty years ago, this little infant Republic had its own female Head of State – a force that smashed political ceilings for women everywhere.

Her name was Agatha Barbara, the first woman President, Parliamentarian, Minister and even interim Prime Minister in Malta.





**EMMA HAMILTON** – an avant-garde artist and first woman to receive the Maltese cross.

Lady Hamilton was at one point the most famous Briton in the world. Her rich life story is a tale akin to today's coming of age movies, a true Cinderella of the late 18th Century. From a poor daughter of a blacksmith, she turned into a muse, a ground-

breaking artist in her own right, a political influencer and the first dame to receive the Maltese cross.



**MABEL STRICKLAND** – a beacon of hope of Malta's free press.

A mention of a certain Mabel Strickland is going to conjure up a number of visions: perhaps as the founder of the Times of Malta, maybe the figure behind a booming, defiant voice raised high against Mintoofian politics or even a member of one of the most influential families on the island. One thing is unequivocal – Strickland was a 20th-century woman of reckonings – her mark still echoes today.



**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE** – the world's first nurse.

Florence Nightingale is a 20th-century icon whose name has a familiar ring to Maltese. But how much do you know about the revolutionary woman? As with all the women in Maltese herstory, the tale of Nightingale is one of broken boundaries, strife and courage. This is the life of an aristocratic-born woman, who gave up wealth, marriage and comfort to heal the masses and also the reason we know to wash our hands to fight diseases.

**COSMANA NAVARRA** – Malta's first female patron of the arts.



When it comes to the finest 17th-century art, Malta is an island gem like no other. The Knights of St. John brought their penchant for Baroque art to the islands, certain patrons of art also Patrons like Cosmana Navarra, Malta's first female patron of the arts and certainly one of the island's most prolific.

Patrons like Cosmana Navarra, Malta's first female patron of the arts

and certainly one of the island's most prolific



**.MARY ELLUL** Mary Ellul was a lady born in 1905 with superhero strength! During World War II she was the ONLY woman working as an Air Raid Warden. What does it mean exactly? They would for example help people to go down to the public shelters and after each attack, they would get out of the shelter and rescue people trapped under the rubble of the demolished buildings. And that's exactly what she was doing. She was a true wartime hero.





## The Story of Emma's Maltese Cross

by Lily Style, published in the The 1805 Club's Kedge Anchor magazine, autumn 2019

That Emma Hamilton was the first English woman to be awarded the Maltese cross for her valour in aiding the blockaded Maltese islanders may be old news

to many readers. However, existing biographies are vague on detail, and pinning down the precise dates at which key events took place has been challenging. Here then is a succinct account of events; their immediate background and what the award meant to Emma.

On the left the: pointillist style copy of Schmidt's 1800 portrait of Emma wearing her Maltese cross, Lily Style 2019, using a digital stylus

### The Story of Emma's Maltese Cross

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While the Neapolitan court remained safely holed up on Sicily, the population of the smaller island of Malta, one-hundred-and-twenty miles distant, had been caught under the ever-expanding republican yoke. The Maltese had initially welcomed the French, who landed in June seventeen-ninety-eight and overthrew the Knights Hospitaller of Order of St John of Jerusalem, who had held tyranny over the island for two-hundred-and-fifty-years. The victorious republicans had delighted the local populace by abolishing the feudal system, slavery, nobility and inquisition. This happy state was, however, short-lived, as the deeply religious Maltese were incensed when the French began to loot their

churches. Approximately ten thousand irate islanders harried the occupying French into the fortified capital of Valetta. The French, now safe behind the city's impenetrable walls, tucked into the island's well-stocked corn silos and settled down for a siege. The ranks of frustrated Maltese were boosted by a squadron of Portuguese ships under the command of Domingos Xavier de Lima, who arrived in September.

The British were keen also to see off the French. Malta was of key strategic advantage as it enabled the possessor to attack Italy, Egypt and the Levant. British ships, veterans of the Battle of the Nile, quickly joined forces with the Portuguese to prevent French ships bringing supplies to their army besieged in Valetta. Nelson's close friend Captain Alexander Ball, commanding HMS Alexander, was ordered to take command of the blockade in October 1798. An unfortunate effect of the sustained British and Portuguese blockade was that the native islanders, trapped outside Valetta, were being starved of food, while the French helped themselves to the capital's grain silos. Their situation had become critical by January 1799.

Ball, deeply moved by their plight, dug into his own pockets to finance aid, but they were in need of more than he could provide. The Maltese, desperate for supplies, petitioned King Ferdinand, who had reclaimed Sicily's historic sovereignty over Malta, but he did not reply, and ignored even Nelson's petitions on the islanders' behalf. They next resorted to sending deputies to Sicily to request aid in person. Ball wrote to Emma on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, "...We are anxiously waiting for the Maltese deputies from Palermo. The inhabitants are critically situated ; but, I hope, all will end well. Good news from you will determine it..." According to Emma, "the deputies have been lodged at my house; I have been their Ambassadress," and (Pettigrew 1849) "in a few hours I sent off three ships, laden with corn, and got £7,000. from the Queen, and gave 500 ounces of my own to relieve them." Cargo travel across the war-torn Mediterranean was painfully slow, and these supplies did not reach the famished Maltese until April.

Emma, having grown up poor, likely knew first-hand what severe hunger felt like. Ball –arguably the starving Maltese's other key empathic benefactor– had also experienced the trauma of impoverishment in his youth. Despite having been born to the landed gentry, his family were plunged into poverty following his father's defeat in a series legal battles. He died intestate in seventeen-sixty-three when Ball was five or six-years-old.

Emma's role in supplying the starving Maltese has been contested by critics through the ages. John Cordy Jeaffresson, for example, writing in the late eighteen-eighties, opines:

"I have no doubt that the story of the [money she donated], which Pettigrew with such simple credulity accepted for truth on her 'she says' was either one of those egregious exaggerations or one of those mere fictions, of which Lady Hamilton was so often guilty in her later time, when talking about her services to ungrateful England."

Others, such as Sugden (2014), credit Nelson instead: "...the Maltese petitioned Ferdinand for relief. When no one responded, Nelson personally appealed on 2 February and within twenty-four hours obtained a promise of six thousand 'salms' of corn..."

Sugden, however, goes on to quote Ball, writing to Nelson in January 1800, "I am convinced that but for [the Hamilton's] influence with their Sicilian Majesties and his ministers the poor Maltese would have been starved, and my head would have been sacrificed in their moment of despair." Tsar Paul of Russia certainly believed Emma had played an important role. Forty-four-years-old with chivalric ideals, by April 1799 he had been Emperor of Russia for two years, and Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller for six months. He wrote to Emma in French on 21<sup>st</sup> December of that year:

Having learned with particular satisfaction the active part that you have taken in maintaining tranquility and good order among the inhabitants of Malta, we have kindly given you a proof of our benevolence by decorating you with the small Cross of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which you will find attached. Upon this we pray to God Milady Hamilton, that he may keep you in his holy and worthy guard.

While Emma was awarded the small cross of the Order, Ball was awarded the grand cross, thus endowing them as Dame and Knight of Malta respectively. Ball referred to Emma as his sister from then on. She had not previously held a title in her own right. The title of Lady was attached to her husband's surname, making her Emma, Lady Hamilton (not Lady Emma Hamilton, as some, such as David Austin Roses have mis-titled her).

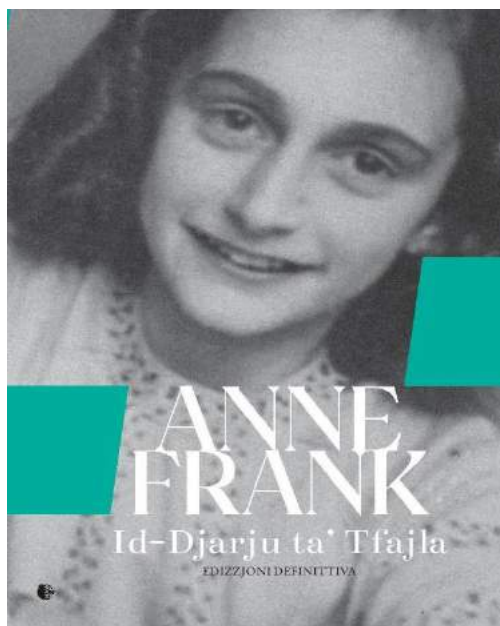
She wrote to her former paramour Charles Greville from Palermo on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1800, "I have had a letter from the Emperor of Russia, with the Cross of Malta... Ball has it also, but I am the first Englishwoman that ever had it. Sir W is pleased, so I am happy." Her Maltese cross is described as 'fine enamelled' by biographer Flora Fraser, and, in her own words, as, 'gold' which "the Q--n [Maria Carolina] is having the order set in diamonds for me."

Conscious that her cross, and the title of Dame it bestowed, was off no worth in England if King George III did not grant her permission to wear it, she confided to Greville, "William has sent his Imperial Majesty's letter to Lord Grenville, to get me permission to wear it... If the King will give me leave to wear it abroad, it is of use to me." She went on to note, "We are coming home [...]. We have sworn to be back in six months."

The Hamiltons and Nelson set forth on their homeward journey overland across Europe to England on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1800. Every town they passed through was thronged with cheering crowds. Humbly-born Dame Emma Hamilton was at the peak success. It was during their triumphal homebound trek that the only portrait of her wearing her Maltese cross was produced. The artwork, a copy of which illustrates this essay, was painted by Johann Heinrich Schmidt in Dresden.

Emma's reception in England was distinctly frosty. Queen Charlotte refused to accept her, and her husband George III did not grant her permission to wear the Maltese cross. Emma's rank of Dame of Malta was not, however, forgotten. Nelson hung Schmidt's portrait pride of place in his cabin aboard Victory. Further, the College of Arms awarded Emma her own arms on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1806, one year after Nelson's death at Trafalgar. The design is of three lions rampant surmounted by the cross of Malta.





## English-Maltese The Story of the Diary of Anne Frank L-Istorja tad-Djarju ta' Anne Frank

*The Diary of a Young Girl* is one of the most acclaimed works of the 20th century. Written by Anne Frank from 1942 to 1944, the diary reveals the humanity of those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis during their occupation of the Netherlands. The diary was preserved by Anne's friend, Miep Gies, and shared for publication by her father, Otto Frank, after the war.

Anne wrote about her experiences regarding anger, love, puberty, and fear as she and her family hid from an occupying force that wished to see her and her Jewish counterparts' dead. Tight quarters, limited food, and the inability to go outside took an emotional toll on Anne and her fellow residents. This led to tensions that reflected the raging war taking place outside of their hiding place.

### Anne Frank: Id-Djarju ta' Tfalja

Mary Rose Mifsud

€18.95-€16.95 –Price includes VAT, excludes delivery Free local delivery  
[www.faraxabooks.com/product/id-djarju-ta-anne-frank](http://www.faraxabooks.com/product/id-djarju-ta-anne-frank)

Dan *Id-Djarju ta' Tfalja* jew kif inhu iżjed magħruf, *Id-Djarju ta' Anne Frank*, hu maqlub għall-Malti mill-verżjoni ingliża ta' Susan Massotty minn Mary Rose Mifsud. Dan il-ktieb jinkludi it-test innifsu tad-*Djarju ta' Anne Frank* kif ġie editjat minn Otto Frank u Mirjam Pressler u ppreżentat fl-edizzjoni definittiva li ħarġet fl-2007, fl-okkażjoni tas-sittin anniversarju tal-ewwel publikazzjoni tiegħu fl-1947.

Din l-edizzjoni tad-*Djarju* tiftaħ b'*Daħla* mill-Professor Oliver Friggieri li fiha jirrifletti fuq l-importanza storika tad-*Djarju* u l-valur morali tiegħu, kif ukoll jagħti ħarsa kritika fil-qosor lejn din it-traduzzjoni. Issegwi Nota tat-Traduttriċi li fiha Mifsud tiddekrivi l-proċess li użat fit-traduzzjoni tagħha u tispjega għaliex wasletgħal ċerti għażliet lingwistiċi, xi kultant saħansitra b'paragun ma' traduzzjonijiet f'isna oħra.

Dan il-ktieb jinkludi wkoll il-*Kelmtejn Qabel* u l-*Kelmtejn Wara* ta' Massotty nfisha. Isegwu noti dettaljati dwar il-personaġġi u l-postijiet imsemmija

fil-test originali, kif ukoll dwar xi avvenimenti storiċi u xi kliem importanti biex jinftehem sew dak li kitbet Anne. Dawn in-noti huma mmirati għall-qarrejja Maltin li jridu japprofondixxul-għarfien tat-test u jkattru l-pjaċir li jieħdu mill-qari tiegħu. Għal din ir-raġuni n-noti jinkludu informazzjoni dwar x'għara minn nies u l-postijiet anki wara li jieqaf id-*Djarju*. Mifsud għamlet ħilitha biex testendi din l-informazzjoni sakemm il-ktieb tagħha mar għall-istampar. Uħud min-noti jagħtu wkoll l-opportunità lill-qarrejja, jipparagunaw dak li ssemmi Anne Frank ma' x'kien qed jiġri f'Malta fl-istess żmien.

Fis-sezzjoni *Fatti*,

*Kontroversji, Aġġornamenti* Mifsud tirrakkonta bosta episodji mill-ġrajja tad-*Djarju* minn meta ġie ppubblikat għall-ewwel darba fl-1947 sal-lum. Din it-traduzzjoni tinkludi wkoll numru ta' ritratti tan-nies li jissemew fid-*Djarju*, kif ukoll *Bibliografija* estensiva li għanda thajjar lill-qarrejja jkomplu jwessgħu t-tagħrif tagħhom dwar l-Olokawst u avvenimenti storiċi oħra.



### THE NEW MISS MALTA

The Miss Malta organization hosted the grand finale for the title of Miss Malta 2021 on 7th November, 2021 where delegates from all over the country competed to win the national crown and an opportunity to represent the country at the international level. **Kimberly Pelham** who represented St. Julian's was crowned as Miss Malta 2021.

She succeeded the reigning queen **Hannah Giacchino** to the title.

Kimberly is a mental health

*The beautiful night also saw the crowning of four other national queens, i.e., Miss Republic of Malta 2021, Miss Tourism of Malta 2021, Miss Grand Malta 2021, and Miss Top Model Malta 2021 at the same event.*

advocate and uses her social media handles to spread awareness about the same. Talking about her journey in the pageant world, the 25-year-old wrote, "A pageant, I have learnt, teaches you things about yourself you never knew. It pushes you to become a better version of yourself and pushes you out of your comfort zone. A beauty pageant I have learnt, teaches you that beauty is within and from within you shine"

"You learn confidence, you learn that you are good enough and that everyone is wearing an invisible crown. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Leaving your comfort zone is the best thing you can do and believe you are enough," she further added.

Kimberly Pelham is not new to the world of pageantry; she won the crown of Miss Saint Julian's 2020. She also represented Saint Julian's while competing at Miss Universe Malta 2019.

he beautiful night also saw the crowning of four other national queens, i.e., Miss Republic of Malta 2021, Miss Tourism of Malta 2021, Miss Grand Malta 2021, and Miss Top Model Malta 2021 at the same event. <https://www.angelopedia.com/news/Miss-Malta-2021-Winner-Kimberly-Pelham-Miss-Tourism-Malta-2021-Miss-Grand-Malta-2021/54093>



**This Maltese Journal is archived at the MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - Valletta  
Maltese-Canadian Museum - Toronto, several schools and libraries**

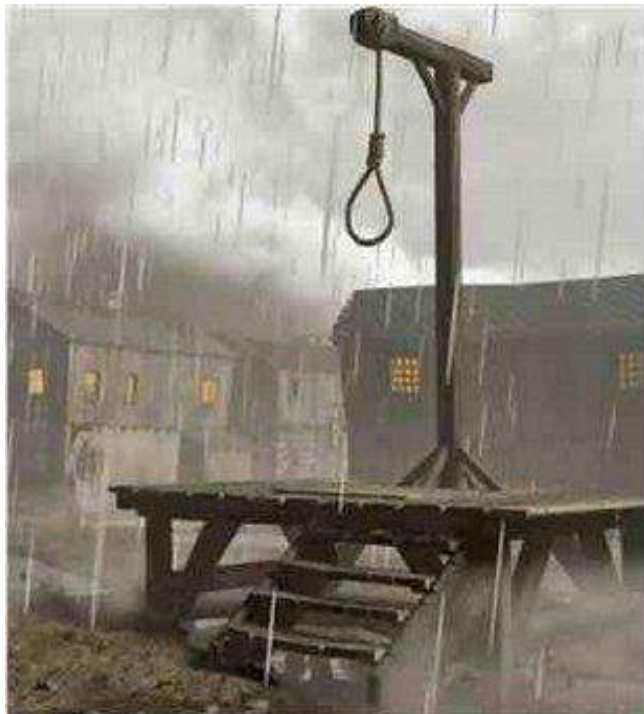
**websites; ozmalta.com., Maltese Community Council of Victoria**

**Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Maltese Clubs in Australia, NZ, UK and USA  
Aged Care Facilities and FACEBOOK. Subscribe now- [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)**



## THE CASE OF NINU “XKORA” TONI AZZOPARDI

[Denise Formosa](#)



Ninu Xkora, Toni Azzopardi, has become a legend and part of our Maltese folklore. This man was hanged as he had killed his daughter's lover, a thirty year old man who was seducing Xkora's fifteen year old daughter.

Did this father have no right to defend his daughter from this pedophile? Was he given a fair trial, when the whole courtroom spoke Italian, as was customary in those days, and he did not understand what was being said against him? Was he given a decent burial?

All these questions arise when we speak about this man who was unjustly treated by eighteenth century society.

The story starts when Ninu, grieved by his wife's death and the death of 4 of his offspring, used to drink and play cards only to end up in considerable debt with Joseph Camenzuli – who eventually became his daughter's lover. He used to refuse to go home and eat with his 2 remaining daughters

and found refuge in Camenzuli's inn, drinking and spending money uncontrollably.

One night, Stella his daughter, came to tell her father that their maid had supper laid on the table, and that everyone was waiting for his arrival. He shouted at Stella to go home and that he was not returning home, before he finished playing cards with his mates.

Before leaving, Joseph told Stella if she would like to come and see him in the coming days at his inn, so that they could chat and get to know each other better. Stella immediately fell in love with Joseph and a love story between the two soon ensued.

Ninu was not at all happy when he learnt about this and forbade the two from speaking to each other again. Unfortunately, they did not pay attention to his words, and this brought a catastrophe...

One morning, exactly on the 6th December 1907, as Joseph was opening his inn, preparing for a day's work, Ninu rushed towards him and struck him 14 times with a dagger in his chest. When the magistrate heard the case, Ninu's verdict was that he was to be hanged. His burial took place a few hours after his death and many are of the belief that he was buried alive.

Legend has it that Ninu's spirit still haunts the Prison Cemetery as a lady relates the story when she went to place some oil so as to light a lantern on his tomb and found the cemetery to be closed. No sooner had she turned around to start walking home, a man called her and asked if she needed anything. The lady told the man that she wanted to place some oil in a lantern to light Ninu's tomb. The man offered that he would do this himself and took the oil from the lady's hands and thanked her heartily.

When the lady related the story to two guards who were there in the following days, she was shown a photo and asked if she recognized the man in the picture. She did not hesitate to utter that the man in the photo was the same man who had taken the oil and offered to place it on Ninu's grave. The guards then gave her the shocking news, that the man was no-one else except Ninu Xkora himself!



## OLD FRIENDS MEET AGAIN Consul General to Canada Raymond Xerri on a visit to Gozo

During his recent visit to Gozo, Raymond C. Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada, took time to seek out old acquaintances on the island. Among others, he met Saviour Grech, president of the Gozo NGOs Association. Being himself a former president of the association, there was no better place where to meet up than the association's workstation at the NGO centre in Xewkija. Issues discussed included the

state of volunteerism in Gozo, as well as the challenges that the association and its more than 100 members are currently facing, especially within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Xerri proposed that the association should try to reach out to organisations active within the Gozitan diaspora spread out in countries such as Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Grech briefed Xerri on the current work of the association, which also includes the finalisation of a rebranding project. The process is being financed through assistance provided by the Gozo Ministry's NGOs assistance scheme. The rebranding also includes a new logo and the setting up of a website.

**This Saturday, 13 November 2021  
at  
La Valette Social Centre**



Visit to the Centre by  
**H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg**  
Malta High Commissioner in Canberra  
accompanied by  
**Mr Lawrence Buhagiar**  
Consul General in Sydney  
and their respective families.  
Opportunity for everyone  
to meet and greet.

**Kitchen  
And  
Bar  
open  
from  
5.00pm**



**CHEF'S LOUNGE**

THE REAL FOOD

**MASS in the Hall at 5.30pm (limit 160)**



**NEXT ISSUE  
400<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**





### Cats of Malta Limited Preview Screenings at Local Cinemas

Are you ready for Malta's first cat movie?

*Cats of Malta* celebrates Malta's cat culture while highlighting the Maltese community spirit. Produced by Nexus Production Group and sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority and Borg Cardona & Co., *Cats of Malta* is having its first preview screening at Eden Cinemas on November 25th

November, 9pm.

Director and producer Sarah Jayne Portelli reflects, "I've always felt a connection to Malta and its locals, but what surprised me was the unavoidable presence of stray cats. Curious why there were so many strays, who looks after them and how cats influence Maltese culture, I chatted with locals and the cat community to ask these questions and many more."

A big part of Malta's cat culture is the island's stray cat population, and the people who — through volunteering, art and folklore — show the cats unconditional love and support. The filmmakers visited popular colonies, cat cafes and sanctuaries, talked to artists, and sourced stories from locals and business owners about their favourite felines. They compiled all the heartfelt stories into a fun, family-friendly documentary that will make audiences feel a rainbow of emotions.

The Malta Tourism Authority, who has played a big role in bringing recognition to Malta as a cat-loving-island, has come on board as a sponsor of the film. Local pet food company Borg Cardona & Co., who are already supporters of Malta's cat community and animal NGO's, joins them. As part of Borg Cardona's sponsorship, they will hand out cat food vouchers at the Eden Cinemas screening to the feeders featured in *Cats of Malta* to help them look after their cat colonies.

*Cats of Malta* stars Maltese artist Matthew Pandolfino, creator of the giant cat sculpture overlooking Independence Garden, actor and feeder Polly March, former Two Buoys restaurant owner Michelle Deguara and feeder Saviour Gilson, Spinola Bay's Cat Village matriarch Roza Zammit Salinos, Animal Guardian's Cat Cafe volunteers Karmen Coleiro and Caroline Borg, plus Malta's youngest cat feeder, Isaac Muscat.

Not to mention a lot of adorable cats.

The first preview screening at Eden Cinemas on November 25th, followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers, is part of a limited run of special preview screenings exclusive to Malta. Two encore preview screenings follow at Spazju Kreattiv on November 27th and December 3rd, before the film is submitted to festivals and officially released by Nexus Production Group worldwide in 2022.

Nexus Production Group is run by prolific Australian filmmaking duo Ivan Malekin and Sarah Jayne Portelli. Ivan served as producer and editor on *Cats of Malta*, while Sarah Jayne is the producer and director. Individually, the filmmakers each have fifteen years of experience producing, writing and directing short and feature-length independent films in Europe and Australia, including *Daughter* (2016), *Friends, Foes & Fireworks* (2018), and Maltese feature films *In Corpore* (2020) and *Machination* (2021). Since 2017 Ivan and Sarah Jayne have called Malta home.

**Preview Screenings** 9pm, Screening + Q&A

Thursday November 25th @ Eden Cinemas Tickets are now on sale [here](#)

5:30pm, Encore Screening Saturday November 27th @ Spazju Kreattiv

Tickets are now on sale [here](#) 9pm, Encore Screening

Friday December 3rd @ Spazju Kreattiv Tickets are now on sale [here](#)

**Contact Email:** Sarah Jayne & Ivan Malekin [nexusproductiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:nexusproductiongroup@gmail.com)

**Phone/WhatsApp:** Sarah Jayne Portelli +356 99322412

**Website** [www.CatsofMaltaFilm.com](http://www.CatsofMaltaFilm.com)



## MELITA SOCCER CLUB ONTARIO

**Address: 3336 Dundas St W, Toronto, ON M6P 2A4, Canada**

On Saturday October 30 we, the members of the Melita Soccer Club, had a Halloween Dinner party Fun was had by all who attended.

Menu was prepared by Patricia Vodovec Xerri and her husband Art. We had: garden salad, penne pasta, chicken parmigan,

roasted potatoes and veggies.

The cake was made by Mary and Tony Tanti's daughter Stephanie Fidler.

We had a costume competition: 1st prize was the ghoul - Sharon Dalli, 2nd prize to the Spanish lady zombie - Monica Fenech and 3rd prize was the pirate - Jesmond Galea. Thanks

**Mary Ann Piscopo**  
Secretary



Our upcoming functions are:  
**Lamb dinner** - Saturday November 13

**Memorial service** - Friday November 19

**Bus to Casino Rama** - Saturday November 27

**Christmas dinner party** - Saturday December 11

**New Year's Eve dinner party** - Friday December 31

**Annual meeting and election** - January 16

Contact Melita Soccer Club at 416 763 5317 Mary Ann Piscopo at 647 290 4856 for more information.



### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

### ST. NICHOLAS FEAST

Good Shepherd Parish

130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW  
(opposite Shopping Centre)



**3.30pm**

**4.30pm**

**5.30pm**

**8.00pm**

**Festa Mass in English**  
Principal Celebrant: Fr. Vincv Dcosta

**Procession**

Maltese Concert Band will play Religious Marches

**Food for Sale:**

BBQ, Pastizzi, Hobz biz-zejt, Kinnie, Soft drinks, & other Maltese Food

**Entertainment:**

**Maltese Concert Band Programme**


The Choir will sing Christmas Carols.

A Spinning Wheel with lots of prizes.

A jumping Castle will be available for the children.

**Santa Claus Arrives:**

Lollies and goodies given to all children

**For more information call: -**  
**President:** Emmanuel Vella on - 0405 677 064 or  
**Public Relations Officer:** Stella Vella on: - 0414 188 226

**Come along and bring your family & Friends with You**





## Happy Parenting – Malta

Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) is a community-based organization which has as its main goal the wellbeing of those children who find themselves being alienated from one of their parents and the improvement of the parent-child relationships.

The organisation aims to achieve its goal through collective activities towards the benefit of both the children and their

parents, amongst others, by focusing on family-orientated measures benefiting the community as a whole.

**Our Mission is** to strengthen and promote the family bond as the basic building block of society as a whole, by recognising the vital role that both parents play in the life and upbringing of their children.

Children need the love, affection and involvement of both their parents and no one parent should be allowed to alienate, arbitrarily, the other parent from the life of their child. In this sense the Organisation will strive to create a level playing field between parents and to foster a culture of mutual respect between parents. Where a child is being alienated from their parent, the Organisation pledges to take all the necessary measures within the parameters of the law, to protect, uphold and safeguard the rights of any alienated parent.

The Organisation also acknowledges the important role that grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren. Children should thus have access to their grandparents and vice-versa, thereby affirming, once again, the paramount importance of strengthening, upholding and protecting, the family bond of every child.

If you are looking for support... If you are looking to contribute...

Just have a question? There is no time like the present:

### Get in touch

'Mar', 8 December Street Victoria, VCT 2072 Gozo

Send us email at [info@happyparentingmalta.com](mailto:info@happyparentingmalta.com)




**The Maltese e-Newsletter - the Journal of Maltese Living Abroad has reached a remarkable milestone – the 400<sup>th</sup> edition.**

**I invite you to send me a message which I will publish on the SPECIAL**

**EDITION next week. I will appreciate if you indicate the country you are living in. I have managed to reach Maltese living in several countries around the globe. Please, help me to continue producing this much needed link for Maltese living overseas and in Malta and Gozo. Send your message to [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)**







**PAULJON13**  
ASTROLOGIST, AUTHOR & PSYCHIC

## Your Horoscope in Libra Zodiac

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER TILL FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> October**

**Full Moon - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
**New Moon - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

[www.pauljon13.com](http://www.pauljon13.com)



**AQUARIUS** from 20<sup>th</sup> January till 18<sup>th</sup> February

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



**PISCES** from 19<sup>th</sup> January till 18<sup>th</sup> March

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



**ARIES** from 21<sup>st</sup> March till 19<sup>th</sup> April

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



**TAURUS** from 20<sup>th</sup> April till 20<sup>th</sup> May

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



**GEMINI** from 21<sup>st</sup> May till 20<sup>th</sup> June

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



**CANCER** from 21<sup>st</sup> June till 22<sup>nd</sup> July

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



**LEO** from 23<sup>rd</sup> July till 22<sup>nd</sup> August

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



**VIRGO** from 23<sup>rd</sup> August till 22<sup>nd</sup> September

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



**LIBRA** from 23<sup>rd</sup> September till 22<sup>nd</sup> October

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



**SCORPIO** from 23<sup>rd</sup> October till 21<sup>st</sup> November

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



**SAGITTARIUS** from 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov till 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

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



**CAPRICORN** from 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec till 19<sup>th</sup> Jan

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