



## **MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

**Journal of Maltese Living Abroad**

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR



**PRIME MINISTER  
CALLS  
GENERAL ELECTION**

**FOR 26 MARCH 2022**

### **MALTA**

**Kburija li Maltija  
Andiamo a Torino**

**Out of Sight**

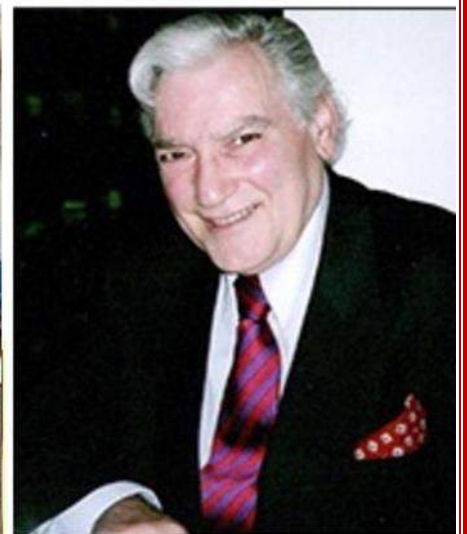
**EMMA MUSCAT**

**Representing Malta**

**EUROvision**  
**SONG CONTEST**



**MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
OF VICTORIA TO PARTICIPATE  
IN MOOMBA**



**BEN SOLER OAM**



**Nicholas Vella RIP**  
**Huntington Beach Police Officer**



**HARMONY WEEK**

**australia 15 - 21 March 2022**



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA DR. GEORGE VELLA

#### Office of the President

A general election is always an important event in the life of a democratic country.

It is the moment when citizens are asked to choose who they wish to lead their country, and also to choose which policies they would like to see implemented by those elected.

A democratic country is not considered as such, just because it holds free elections every few years. However, elections are an essential part of the functioning of democracy.

That is why such an exercise must be considered as a very important moment in the life of a democratic country.

Now that the date for our country's general election has been announced, I feel that in addition to fulfilling my duties as President, I also feel obliged to remind all those involved in this general election of their duties, as well as the consequences that the people may face, if this exercise is not given the importance it deserves.

My first appeal goes to the candidates who decide to present themselves to be chosen as the leaders of our people. I urge them to be honest, sincere, and transparent in their commitments and to place citizens' interest first and foremost. I remind them that they should consider themselves primarily as those offering a service to the rest of the community with the aim of achieving the highest level of common good. I also urge them to clearly state their goals and the means they intend to employ to achieve them. They should be unequivocal in order not to give rise to any surprises or misinterpretation in their implementation later on.

The people deserve the highest respect for their intelligence and for the trust they bestow on who will represent their interests in the running of our country.

I feel, in particular, that I should also recommend moderation and respect in the language used during the election campaign. In order to make

arguments and explain differences between different opinions, one does not need to use defamatory words and insults, not least unnecessary accusations, especially if based on unfounded allegations.

The people are weary of listening to attacks and words of division. Our country needs unity and mutual respect. We may disagree, but it is important to show respect for each other. Our criticism must not be destructive in nature, but ideally made to offer better alternatives.

I call on the regulatory authorities in our country, as we are approaching this sensitive and delicate time, to carry out their duties scrupulously, carefully, impartially, and with all the responsibilities that come with the regulatory function they are entrusted with.

Above all, I appeal to all citizens who will be called upon to do their duty and choose who they believe should be entrusted to lead our country in the coming years.

This choice must be made following serious reflection. This choice is not about personal interests, but rather about creating the greatest prosperity possible, for the benefit and wellbeing of the largest possible number of citizens.

This choice must prioritise the common good, not sectoral or personal interests.

I would like that these thoughts, advice, and wishes be taken as a sincere expression of my anticipation and hope for a country that is happier, more united, and more stable.

Our country deserves nothing less. I conclude by hoping that in a most mature way we will go through the recently announced election and that in a most democratic manner, we will come to the best choice on who will be leading our country for the next five years



## **RESTORATION OF MALTA'S “AUSTRALIA HALL”**



First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their interest and support in Australia Hall, Malta. It is with this support that we do hope to see the hall brought back into the community and as a memorial to those Anzacs and Maltese who endured so much in that historical event so long ago.

Our initial plan is to produce a history of Australia Hall, through research, and through modern archaeological and architectural recording techniques (laser scanning, photogrammetry, and detailed recording). From this information it is hoped that the physical restoration can take place, but irrespective of that outcome, at least a detailed history that can be shared digitally to every part of the globe, and to all those who the building means so much. No matter where in the world you are, you will be able to learn, experience, and reflect on the history of the hall.

As Australia Hall was instrumental in providing a venue of activity for recovering service personnel, we plan to have Veterans of modern conflicts participate in this activity to assist in their own recovery and hopefully lead them to further education and employment. While this will likely be an Australian/New Zealand contingent we would welcome interest from Maltese Veterans.

We are now gathering interest and support from members of the Australian government. Fingers are crossed.

Should this all go well, and with the current owner's permission, we hope that the partnership may continue with the physical restoration, where Veterans will be able to participate in the restoration activities utilising the skills developed during their service, as well as learning new skills.

I would like to point out that we are fully and well aware of the political controversy surrounding the building. Although that part of the history cannot be avoided, we hope that the restoration will keep that controversy firmly in the past. Our hope is to rise above the politics and work positively and collaboratively with the current owners, and interested parties, with the sole purpose to seeing Australia Hall remain as an unquestionable significant landmark in the historical landscape of Malta.

We respectfully ask, therefore, with regards to this Facebook page that the political intrigue remain a historical element, and that all support and comments contribute to a positive outcome, and we focus on Australia Hall's service to the Anzacs and Maltese current and future generations.

Thank you once again for your support and please keep the interest growing. Again, we welcome any stories and memories that people may have of their time at the hall. Post them here, or email them through to [australiahallmalta@gmail.com](mailto:australiahallmalta@gmail.com).

**RESTORATION OF AUSTRALIA HALL  
MALTA PROJECT – (RAHMP) Team.**

**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER  
JOIN OUR APPEAL TO SAVE THIS ANZAC  
ICON. WRITE TO US IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO SEE THIS BUILDING  
PRESERVED FOR FUTURE  
GENERATIONS.  
HUNDREDS OF READERS DID.**



### AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW IN MALTA

[\*Australian High Commission, Malta et Ambassade d'Australie en Tunisie\*](#)

A little-known gem of Australian history in Malta! A fascinating visit to the Australian Bungalow. The 100-year-old timber house, with a corrugated iron roof & classic Aussie verandah, was sent over in the 1920s as a flat-pack to assist Maltese moving to Australia to build in wood instead of stone.

Din l-Art Helwa (National Trust of Malta), with the generous support of the @Melita Foundation, is moving the bungalow to Ta' Qali & restoring it to share its history of migration to Australia with the community. Contact Din L-Art Helwa to find out more or support this important project.

### A LETTER FROM A WOUNDED AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER 1916

Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania, Tuesday 4 January 1916, p. 2 MALTA.

A wounded Australian officer [ed note - unknown] leaving Malta writes as follows; — This dear little Island has stretched out the hand of help to our wounded, sick and dying Australians. We went to Gallipoli and entered in the great struggle. Our poor fellows "fallen by the wayside" were sent to Malta, which enacted truly the role of "the good Samaritan." The people here by their goodness, hospitality, cordiality and warm heartedness have stirred our hearts to the depths. Catholic Malta invited our curious and sympathetic attention. Our Australians noted the kindness continued for a period and on a scale that surprised us (and we pride ourselves on Australian hospitality). Then also the almost total absence of serious crime and immorality coupled with the universal public manifestation of religion by all ranks gave us material for deep thought. What Catholic can visit Malta without being benefitted in soul by contact with its splendid people? If the doing of good deeds means the storing up of eternal treasure then indeed Malta is a community of spiritual millionaires.

### AN EXCERPT FROM KITCHENER'S ARMY by Edgar Wallace, published in 1915.

"In Egypt the Empires met. Lithe and active Indian troops, sinewy Australians, those pink and white Territorial boys—now growing hard of thew and mahogany of face under cloudless skies—these, with a sprinkling of regular troops which had been left for the purpose, began to make hard the way of the invader. It is not my purpose in this publication to describe the first great Turkish attack and the disastrous consequences which attended our enemy on that occasion. It is sufficient to say that the Territorial proved himself upon that field to be a first-class fighting man worthy of his high calling.

In Malta great events were going forward, in which the Territorial took his part. Malta is on the high road to the East, one of the busiest "roadways" of the world, and it gained in liveliness from the fact that the French Fleet had been invited to use Malta as their base. There was a coming and going of warships, transports, great liners, destroyers and submarines, and, we may be sure, a storing on a large scale of ammunition for the Navy, which it was the duty of the Territorial to guard. Here he must use his wits and must exercise unceasing vigilance, for Malta is cosmopolitan in character, and certain neutrals are to be found here in great strength. He had to learn the value of taciturnity and become in a way a miniature diplomatist. For the secrets which a private of the Territorials may reveal a great German General may use to his own advantage."



Give credit to  
whom credit due.

I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation on behalf of myself, my family and the nearly one million Maltese and Gozitan diaspora spread in many countries for your steadfast dedication and hard work over the past lifetime, not only the 17 years you have served as Honorary Consul of Malta, to the Government of Malta and to our community in the State of South Australia with such love, passion and dedication but to your unique service to Global Malta.

Global Malta is indebted to you and your team for your sterling service by bonding our diaspora communities everywhere. Our 'Maltese E-Newsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora' which you edit, has increased the much-needed awareness in the Maltese islands, in countries of the European Union and around the world.

Thanks to you and your newsletter, Maltese-Canadians have become aware more than ever before of the importance of learning about their compatriots around the world and you have been the key to this development and important step.

Frank, thank you so much for your service, your work as a Councillor on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad when I was Director for the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad, for your friendship and your love for our nation, Global Malta May God bless you, your family, and friends. All the best, Dr. Raymond XERRI

### **TRIQ IR-REPUBBLIKA; TRIQ SIR ADRIAN DINGLI**

Kav Joe M Attard

Nixtieq ngħid Prosit u Grazzi f'isem il-Għawdxin u f'isem tant Maltin u barranin li ta' kuljum ikunu fil-Belt Kapitali tagħna Victoria u jgħaddu bla ma biss jagħtu kas minn dawn iż-żewġ treqat prinċipali, lil dawk il-ħaddiema li ħadmu bla waqfien biex reġgħu taw wiċċ ġdid lil din il-parti ta' beltina. Kont titqalla u tkisser karozza meta tgħaddi minn hawn għax ix-xogħol li kien sar fuq dawn iż-żewġ toroq

ma kienx tajjeb biżżejjed biex jiflaħ għall-volum kbir ta' traffiku li jgħaddi kuljum minn hawnhekk u allura l-konsegwenzi kien jafhom kulħadd. Fi żmien relattivament qasir, inqala' l-wiċċ l-qadim u tqiegħed issa wieħed floku iktar f'saħħtu flimkien mas-sinjali tat-traffiku u l-membri tal-pubbliku. Żgur li l-Papa meta jżurna fi żmien qasir se jgħaddi minn hawn u l-Pope Mobile ma jkollhiex problemi għal dan il-Prelat tal-Knisja Kattolika u li issa daħal sew fiż-żmien flimkien mal-'entourage' li jgħib miegħu. Nifhem li l-ispisa ma kenitx żgħira u allura grazzi wkoll lid-Dipartiment tax-Xoghlijiet Pubbliċi li daħal għal din il-biċċa xogħol li kienet tant mixtiegħa. Jalla iktar toroq simili tmisshom din ix-xorti!

### **THE MALTESE JOURNAL AND THE MALTESE HERALD**

The Maltese Journal has taken the same role as The Maltese Herald, which was the only Maltese Newspaper in Australia. The Herald was first published in 1961 and the last issue was printed in 2011. Many Maltese, especially those in Australia had no source of information about Malta and about the activities of the Maltese associations in Australia and around the globe.

Therefore, there was a great need for a new electronic newspaper and this journal was printed for the first time in 2013 and since then it grew from strength to strength. We are convinced that the newsletter was and still is filling the void that was left by the Maltese Herald.

Then, other Maltese communities from the UK, USA and Canada requested to be included and to send them the journal for their members. They print and distribute the journal at their club. The newsletter is also achieved on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Malta).

It is difficult to estimate the number of readers of the journal but I was told that 5000 emails are sent each week. The journal is read also at the Malta Migration Museum in Valletta, Maltese-Canadian Archives in Toronto and distributed in several Maltese clubs, nursing homes, schools and libraries around Australia, Canada, UK and USA.

# NALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 413

February 2022



years old. Costumes and props will be provided.

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

~~Saturday 29th January 2022 at 11.00am~~

~~Above date changed to Saturday 12th February at Saturday 19th February 2022 at 11.00am~~ **UPDATE –**

**There will be a dress rehearsal required on the following date:**

The Moomba in house dress rehearsals will no longer be held on (~~Saturday 12th Feb~~) or on (Saturday 19th Feb) but have been re-organised to take place at the Maltese Community Centre on **Tuesday the 22nd of February** between 6 and 8pm.

It's imperative that all who want to be included in the parade attend on the night of the 22nd, if at all possible. Please inform anyone you know with intentions to partake in the dress rehearsals of this change.

**If you are interested, the important dates to remember (and must attend) are:**

Please note – Parade rehearsal date still needs to be confirmed.

## **Parade Rehearsal**

**Saturday 12 March 2022 or 13 March 2022 9 am – 5 pm**

**MOOMBA FESTIVAL Monday 14 March 2022 11.00am – 1.00pm assembly from 8.30am**

At MELBOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

As places are limited, please register your interest via email [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au) or phone [93878922](tel:93878922).

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Marlene Ebejer ~ President

## **WHAT IS MOOMBA?**

Melbourne is known to be a city that won't ever rest. This city has lots of things to offer its visitors whether you like sports, shopping, eating, or culture; Melbourne has everything for you. Yarra River offers an amazing opportunity to Melbournians every year to cheer, enjoy the festive vibe annually on the Labour Day weekend in March, in the form of the Moomba Festival. The celebration is probably the biggest free event in Australia and draws in 1,000,000 individuals every year. This major event has been organized since 1955.

In the year 2003, this event was renamed as 'Melbourne Moomba Waterfest'. This carnivalesque festival is celebrated for about four days at the city's center. It consists of a parade of floats, skateboarding, BMX competition, yoga, firework, dance performance and many more things. Even Moomba festival rides are quite famous and loved by the people.

## **MALTESE PROGRAM IN ADELAIDE ON DEMAND**



**Open website [www.5ebi.com.au](http://www.5ebi.com.au)**

**Click on RADIO ON DEMAND**

**Choose: Maltese**

As you might know I'm a radio presenter on the Maltese Radio Programs on 5EBI 103.1 FM. I have regularly met people who have told me that they would like to listen to the program, on Sunday 7.00am, or Monday at 8.00am, or even on Monday at 6.30pm, but miss out because of one reason or another. It is easily possible to listen to these programs on the Internet any time that's more convenient for you by

going to the website '5EBI Maltese Radio on Demand. RON BORG – ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA



### **HARMONY WEEK CELEBRATES AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY.**



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs

It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

*"I would love to see more Australians, those born here, refugees, migrants, anyone who calls Australia home, [to] open their doors to their neighbours. Be open and not scared of any perceived differences because, as humans, we have more similarities than differences."*

Australia is one of the most multicultural societies on earth, comprising people from every corner of the globe. We have different backgrounds, different experiences and different cultures. Yet we are one nation and we are all Australians. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Harmony Week is a celebration of our diversity. An opportunity to recognise that we are at our best when we are inclusive, respect each other and celebrate the fact that everyone can belong in our great country.

Whether virtually or in person, Linda and I have the opportunity to meet outstanding Australians each and every day. We're privileged to witness or learn about great acts of kindness and compassion.

And we see and hear about incredible examples of community spirit and selfless service.

The people doing these deeds are all different. They come from different backgrounds and have different experiences. We should celebrate that diversity – in Harmony Week and every week – and recognise that it is through both our differences and common values that we are Australian.

## **MALTA OPEN 2022 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

After having Malta Open postponed for 2 years, enthusiasm has increased amongst all competitors, coaches, and referees. Everybody is now excited and looking forward to the New Edition of the MALTA OPEN 2022. Hard work and effort by a great team for the preparation of this Event Where TRADITION Meets TECHNOLOGY! The resulting strength of SKSM in collaboration with MKA; fully supported by the WORLD Karate-Do Alliance and the WORLD Martial-Arts Allegiance!



Malta Open 2022 will be divided into the LIVE Section, where competitors, coaches, and Referees meet physically on the Tatami, while at the same time, another ongoing Section will involve the participation of online competitors in Real Time, Live Streamed!

LIVE Championships together with REAL Time LIVE Streamed Championships on both days. **Be the FIRST to form part of this HISTORY!** When Registrations are Open, it will be announced on all social media and website [sksmalta.org](http://sksmalta.org).



### **PROUD OF OUR AGHIEVERS**

### **YOU MADE MALTA AND THE MALTESE PROUD**

**IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT  
OUR JOURNAL SEND A SMALL  
DONATION – EMAIL ME FOR  
DETAILS – THANK YOU.-  
[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)**



### PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK - MR BENEDICT SOLER OAM



Mr. Soler lives at East Keilor in Victoria, Australia. On Australia Day 26 January 2022 Ben was honoured by the Queen and Federal Australian

Government with the prestigious award of ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL(OAM) for his service to the Maltese community in Australia.

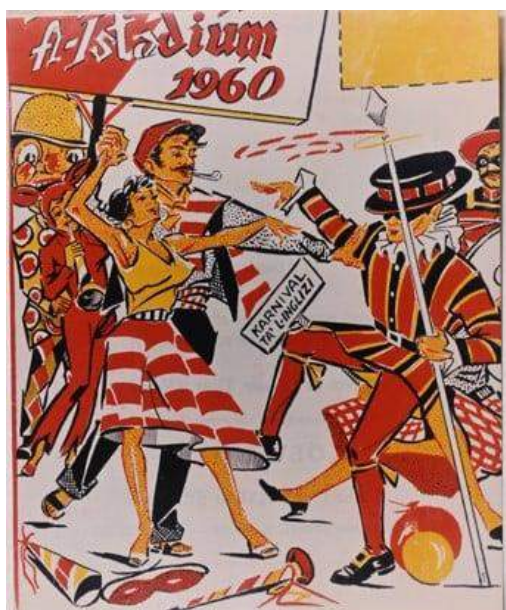
Mr Benny Soler was the only Malta-born honoured on Australia Day 2022.

Benedict was born in Vittoriosa Malta in 1939. He left Malta for Australia in 1951. He is a proud Australian-Maltese who spent most of his life involved heavily with the Maltese community in Victoria. In 1994 he was the president and the designer of the Friends of Malta Committee and he assisted in the building of the "Shelter of Peace" in 1994.

Mr Soler was the delegate representing the Maltese Australian Association within the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. He was also a committee member of the Maltese Cultural Festival and the Song Festival. He has been a member of the Maltese Historical Association since 1987 and Serving Brother of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, since 1981.

Benny was also a committee member and social organiser of the Maltese Literature Group, 1980-2004. He is the founding President of the Maltese Music Guild, 1984-1986.

Mr Soler was involved with the 9th Richmond Scout Group, the 8th Richmond Air Scouts Group and the 17th Melbourne/1st Malta Rover Scout. The editor of the Maltese Journal, the staff and the readers congratulate Ben for his many achievements and wish him many more years of a healthy and peaceful life. We also sincerely thank him for giving so much to his fellow Maltese.



### KURZITAJIET

Fiona Vella

GHANDEK DAN IL-FULJETT LI HAREĠ FIL-KARNIVAL TAL-1960 MILL-PARTIT LABURISTA? Informazzjoni: FI-1960, il-Partit Laburista, bi sfida għall-awtoritajiet Ingliżi, organizza l-avveniment bl-isem Il-Karnival tal-Maltese ġewwa l-Empire Football Stadium, il-Gżira. In-nies attendew bi ħgarhom. Għal dan l-avveniment, hareġ fuljett bil-Programm tal-Karnival. Din hi parti mill-qoxra tiegħu u qed infittex il-QOXRA SHIHA.

**WIEHED MILL-QARREJJA BAGHTILNA DIN L-ISTORJA SABIHA. INTI GHANDEK STORJA?**





attending dancing lessons after the Christmas period to prepare their dances for Carnival.

Carnival festivities usually include prolific late-night street parties, masquerade balls, colourful parades with large floats and marching bands, spirited costumed revellers, music and lots of delicious food

Carnival in Malta is an epic event, held across the island with the main parade taking pride of place in Valetta. Pack your costumes and get ready to party. As they say in Malta, “Viva Viva I-Karnival!”

Carnival is one of the oldest historical festivals in Malta spanning the last five centuries; dating back to the Knights’ of St John’s occupancy in Malta.

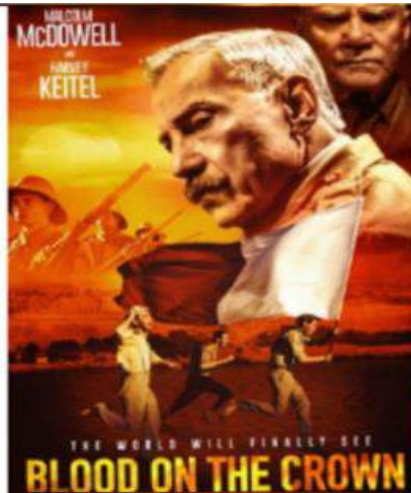
Malta’s Carnival features distinct floats, masks and choreographed dances, developed from traditions passed down through history. Carnival festivities last a full five days, with rival celebrations taking place both in Valletta and Floriana. This rivalry has brought on innovative celebrations including finely decorated horses and carriages and amazing fireworks displays.

**MALTA CARNIVAL TRADITIONS** As years have passed other Carnival traditions have followed suit, including Carnival floats pulled by mules, the Qarçilla, a fake satiric wedding which still takes place today, and the Kukkanja in St George’s Square Valletta, a game still popular in Gozo where participants need to climb a greasy pole while avoiding obstacles. The folk dance il-Maltija is also very popular during the festivities, with most locals

and drink. Anyone can dress up, wear a mask (not a Covid one) and let loose! The Malta Carnival is simple merriment, spontaneity, and downright silliness. The carnival spirit in Malta is something to behold! Carnival celebrations take place in towns and villages all over the island, however the main celebrations that place are in the capital city of Valetta on the island of Malta.

**MALTA CARNIVAL PARADES** The mainstay of Maltese Carnival is the incredible epic, giant carnival floats and the main parades! The local carnival groups spend a whole year in secrecy preparing for the four days of events to participate and compete in the Carnival parade. Float building in Malta is an art form that is passed down from generation to generation through the family’s. Float builders take great pride and enthusiasm in their work. The main parades take place in Floriana and Valletta.

**CARNIVAL IN NADUR** Another key carnival celebration takes place in the village of Nadur on the island of Gozo. Carnival in Nadur, a small village in Gozo, is one of the main places to be for carnival during the weekend. Its celebrations are quite different to Nadur. The Nadur celebrations are not organised by any committee, instead it is a big spontaneous street party!



### THREE MALTESE FILMS: CATS OF MALTA, LUZZU AND BLOOD ON THE CROWN IN MELBOURNE

The Maltese Film

**Festival** coming to you in April – and it's FREE! Get online now and book your tickets. An event not to be missed.

Located at the

**BOWERY Theatre 33 Princess Street, St Albans** On the 24th April 2022 Bookings are now available here:

<https://creativebrimbank.com.au/maltese-film?date=2022-04-24>

Three Maltese Film Screenings presented by the Maltese Community:

#### **CATS OF MALTA, LUZZU AND BLOOD ON THE CROWN**

Any warnings or ratings for the films – Both productions will be enjoyed by children and families.

#### **Sessions:**

**Cats of Malta** 12pm to 1pm Cats of Malta is a documentary that celebrates Malta's cat culture through art, folklore and unconditional love.

**Luzzu** 2pm – 3.30pm A hardworking Maltese fisherman is faced with a choice: repair his fishing boat or put the fish population at risk. Luzzu casts Maltese fishermen bringing realism to this story.

**BLOOD ON THE CROWN** 4.30pm – 6pm

In the final days of the First World War, during Malta's revolution for independence, two British officers are tasked with quelling the riots resulting in a cover up.

Supported by Brimbank City Council through the Community Grants Program and the Bowery Theatre and the Consulate General of The Republic of Malta





**Frequently asked questions****What is a qarcilla?**

The qarcilla is also known as the wandering farce was first introduced into carnival back in 1760. Essentially a man dressed as a notary read out a marriage contract in rhyming verse full of witticisms, some that could be described as obscene, to a groom and bride.

[See all results for this question](#)

**When is Carnival 2022 in Malta?**

In 2022 Malta Carnival will be from 25th of February until 1st of March. What is carnival in Malta? During the month of February, the small archipelago of Malta, will be hosting an event called Il-Karnival Ta' Malta, which is one of the oldest and greatest celebrations in Europe.

**Who wrote the first qarcilla?**

The first Qarcilla was written by the poet Felice Demarco. Today the qarcilla is performed by a number of actors. On Sunday evening they wander the streets of Valletta, and perform a re-enactment of a wedding ceremony.  
[www.carnivaland.net/malta-carnival/](http://www.carnivaland.net/malta-carnival/)

**Qarcilla 2022**

[www.kreattivita.org/event/il-qarcilla](http://www.kreattivita.org/event/il-qarcilla)

**25 Frar 2022 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Is-Sibt 26 ta' Frar 2022, 8pm Il-Ħadd 27 ta' Frar 2022, 7pm**

**Teatru ta' Spazju Kreattiv  
Kavallier ta' San Ġakbu, Pjazza  
Kastillj Valletta, Malta**

**In-Nutar Ġużi Loffreda ma jaqta' qalbu minn  
xejn. Kienet sena oħra ta' taqtiġh il-qalb, iżda l-  
ħajja ma tistax tieqaf. Mhux talli, talli ddeċieda li  
jħabrek iżjed, u l-kuntratti sar jagħmilhom tlieta**

**tlieta. Il-klijent jinqeda, u hu jithallas ta' tlieta fil-  
ħin ta' wieħed! Kulħadd kuntent!**

Iżd' huma kuntenti? Benji-K, il-preżentatur-mudell-influwenzer u t-tfajla tiegħu l-kantanta Krista-lina, huma henjin flimkien? U r-Reverendu Johnny Bendu vera jemmen li, praise the Lord, Mattea Grech għandha tkun martu? U Daren Callus u Wendy Thermos huma vera maħbubin jew sempliċiment magħqudin flimkien biss sakemm hemm xi protesta għaddejja?

Imnalla hemm il-Perit Frankie Concrete u t-Tabib JP Zammit, it-tnejn kandidati fuq l-istess distrett, jgħinuhom jagħmlu l-għażliet tajbin. Ovvjament, sakemm ma jfixkilx kollox l-Ispettur tas-Saħħa, is-Sur Klin de Chanteclair! Iżda fi kliem l-illustri Nutar Loffreda:

**Evviva l-Qarcilla Evviva dal-kuntratt**



**Għax f'dan it-taħwid kollu Hi biss li ma tmut  
qatt!**

**CAST** Nutar Ġużi Loffreda – Matthew Balzan;  
Tabib Dr. J.P. Zammit – Patrick Tanti  
Perit Frankie Concrete – Fabio Mifsud; Spettur Klin  
De Chanteclair – Sandro Vella  
Benji-K – Karl Schembri; Krista-Lina – Rachel  
Micallef

Rev. Johnny Bendu – Nathaniel Galea; Mattea  
Grech – Maria Galea Farrugia  
Darren Callus – Ryan Galea; Wendy Termos –  
Stephanie Sacco

**MUŻIČISTI** Albert Garzia (Accordion) Kim  
Mercieca (Saxophone) Matthew Vella  
(Percussion)

**CREW** Kitba – Ċikku l-Poplu Produzzjoni u  
Direzzjoni – Joseph Galea  
Assistenti tal-produzzjoni – Svetlana Camilleri  
Arrangamenti Mużikali – Albert Garzia Kostumi –  
Louie Noir / Marika Zarb Irtokk – Make up by Dea  
/ Deandra Bugeja  
Stage Manager/props – Michael Carol Bartolo  
Disinn tad-dawl – Fabio Mifsud

*Il-Qarcilla hija parti mill-Karnival ta' Malta 2022, organizzat minn Festivals Malta.*

### Association set up to safeguard traditional Maltese boats



By [Alvin Vassallo](#) December 23, 2020

were used traditionally and returned back to sea. So instead of having boats as a static display, you are seeing something live and being used as it should be."

The Association was formed after a number boat owners expressed this idea on social media, even if it has to buy the boats to restore them. In fact, the first *Firilla* has just been brought over from Gozo.

"This has become a very rare boat in Malta, although it greatly resembles the *Luzzu*. This *firilla* requires a lot of maintenance and the Association brought it from Gozo last week to start working on it to restore it back to its original state."

Since these boats are rarely used any more, the Association is working to obtain precise information about them.

"We speak with the elderly, with fishermen, and former seamen to get ideas on how to put these boats together, we also study a lot of old photos and painting which shows these sailboats."

Mr Demicoli appealed to all those who might have a similar boat to join the Association through their FB page to obtain more information so that these boats can be enjoyed by future generations in order not to lose this tradition which has given character to the Maltese people.

Maltese boats are part of a tradition which an Association which has just been set up is trying to safeguard so that they are not lost forever. The Association of Traditional Maltese Boats is researching every sea vessel to carry out the restoration required in order for them to sail once again.

*Il-luzzu, il-Firilla, il-Fregatina, il-Kajjik, id-Dgħajsa tal-Latini, l-Ixprunara, il-Gig, il-Barkun* and *id-Dgħajsa tal-Pass* are all currently under the watchful eyes of the Association because it wants these boats to start being used again out at sea. These boats require continuous maintenance because they are made of wood. The President of the Association, Noel Demicoli said, "to achieve this aim, the association is finding boats which require restoration and buying them, equipping them with sails as they



## CANDLES

## MADE IN MALTA

### The People of Malta - facebook

"People have started to appreciate things made by hand and products that are Maltese. Made in Malta. These candles are entirely made here..from the design till the end. My father, mother and myself are perfectionists and

through teamwork and in unison between us [NemNem Candle](#) was born.

I was brought up in the tourist industry, specifically that of souvenirs. Although I studied and graduated in economics and went to work elsewhere, I still came back here because I believe in this sector and I can contribute more and be closer to people. My family have been in this industry for a large number of years and during COvid-19, like many others, we suffered because sales stalled. And that is why



we took the opportunity to sit and discuss and come up with new ideas. We came up with this innovation; Nem Nem - decorative candles which are both artisanal and scented. All the work is done here, from the design up to the final product. It is a relatively long process that involves a number of people. It entails time and the love of the worker. We also wanted a Maltese name, a candle flickers



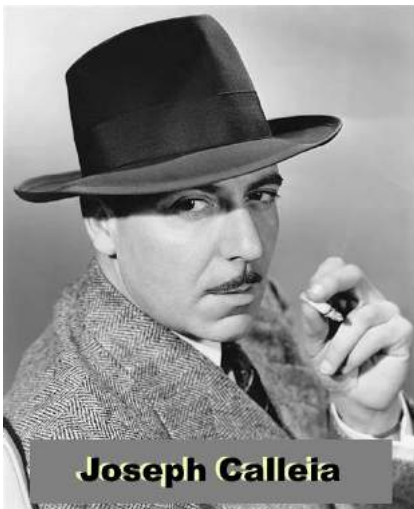
(tnemnem) and hence the name Nem Nem.

There are two types of candles, the "pillar candles" whose beauty lies in the effect that the fire has when they are lit and the design is revealed. Then there are the "jar candles" which are more scented and once purchased the client can then buy refills to re-use the container. The design is tied to Maltese objects, particularly the Maltese cross.

Handmade products are distinct from mass-produced ones. When we started this new product we were in direct contact with people who appreciate it and acknowledge its genuinity. It means a lot to us to see our product being appreciated. It would have been easier for us to send

the design abroad and have it done there but we wanted it to be all made in Malta with every product having a Maltese touch. Its value is increased. We do not only look at how many candles we have sold, but how many clients have come back to show their appreciation by either purchasing again themselves or recommending us to others. To me this is a passion that has turned into a profession."

Alessia, [NemNem Candle](https://www.facebook.com/nemnencandlemalta) [www.facebook.com/nemnencandlemalta](https://www.facebook.com/nemnencandlemalta)



**Joseph Calleia**

## Malta's Hollywood actor (1897-1975)

Joseph Calleia retired in his beloved Malta after having starred in 59 films.

Born at Saqqajja Square, Rabat, Malta, to Pasquale and Eleonore Calleja, he was educated at St Julian's and St Aloysius colleges in Malta. He organised a harmonica band of boys which earned him enough money to leave Malta in 1914, at age 17, to begin his career touring and singing in the capitals of war-ravaged Europe with a harmonica band, appearing in the cafés and music halls of many war-torn and weary capital cities. He later

went to New York as a singer and then turned to drama.

In the early stages of his career, Joseph Calleja was initially asked by his father to take on his mother's maiden surname, 'Spurin', but later changed it from 'Calleja' to 'Calleia' to keep his Maltese surname and also to ease its pronunciation in the English-speaking world.

Joseph Calleia initiated his career on Broadway 1926 in the Stage Play, 'Broadway', written by Phillip Dunning and George Abbott (Broadhurst Theatre). His first movie was in 'My Sin' and in the same year he took part in the movie 'His Woman', both made in 1931. Calleia also wrote the Screenplay of the film 'Robin Hood of El Dorado' (1936).

Some of Calleia's films were also never shown in Malta as they were completely banned locally, which was yet another reason for the lack of popularity in Malta. This was due, amongst other

reasons, for his taking the role of a Catholic priest in the film, 'Full Confession', and also for acting alongside the sexiest and most glamorous women film stars of the 1930s. The influence of the Catholic Church on censorship was at its peak at the time and the fact that a Maltese was a star in Hollywood was alone considered a sin. Hollywood was dubbed as the sin capital of the world by the Catholic Church. In one film, Calleia appears kissing May West, considered as the sex bomb of the time.

The house where Calleia spent his last retirement years between 1963 and 1975 still stands in Mrabat Street, Sliema. The house is styled as Joel. 'Jo' for Joseph and 'El' for Eleonore, his wife (nee' Vassallo 1929-1968). Interestingly his residence was the first in Malta to have an intercom, air conditioning and an elevator.

Calleia's main attribute as a highly sought after actor was his versatility. In a single year he acted in three films. He was also a guest on two television series - 'Have Guns Will Travel' and 'Zorro'. He was in great demand as a character actor, having a tough guy image. He could act as a priest as well as a family father figure. He acted as the father of Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin and also acted alongside famous Italian tenor Mario Lanza as his music teacher. His tanned complexion made him suitable for Mexican-style movies, such as the 'Alamo', in which Calleia starred alongside John Wayne, who was responsible for hand-picking all the other actors.

Other trivia on Joseph Calleia reveal that In the film, 'Tough Guy', Calleia was the first person to sing in Maltese on the big screen in 1938 where he sang a couple of bars of a popular Maltese folkloristic song and way back at the height of the Malta Blitz during the Second World War, Joseph Calleia visited Malta as a member of the United States Organizations USO to entertain the troops. On his uniform next to US ensign there was the noticeable Maltese 8-pointed cross. He was indeed proud to be Maltese. President

Calleia was posthumously honoured by the Malta postal authority with a set of two commemorative stamps issued in his memory in 1997. In October 2005, a monument consisting of a bust of Calleia was erected in front of the house where he was born. The bust was made gratis by sculptor Anton Agius on the initiative of then 15-year-old, Eman Bonnici.





**MONS. JOSEPH AGIUS - 60 SENA MISSJONI FIL-BRAZIL*****Mons. José Agius u wahda mill-knejjes li huwa bena f' Rolândia. Iddedikata lil San Pawl Appostlu ta' Malta. Ghalekk is salib ta' Malta mal-faccata***

F' Dicembru tas-sena l-oħra, 2021, għalaqt 60 sena bħala missjunarju fil-Brazil. Kont wasalt hawn fit-18 ta' Dicembru tal- 1961, wara stedina tal-ewwel Isqof ta' Djocesi għida fl-Istat tal – Paraná, in-naha t'isfel tal-Brazil. L'isem tal-Isqof kien Dom Geraldo Fernandes, li kien nizzel Malta min Ruma, dment it-thejjija tal-Koncilju Vatikan it-Tieni. F'dakk l-istess zmien, il-Papa Gwanni 23 kien għamel appell favur l-Amerika Latina għax "dan hu Kontinent kattoliku li qed jitlef il-fidi minhabba n-nuqqas ta' sacerdoti".

L-ewwel 4 snin għaddejthom nistudja t-teologija u nidhol f'kuntatt mal-kultura braziljana fis-Seminarju Magguri ta' Curitiba, belt kapitali tal-Istat tal-Paraná. Ma kienx hafif ninsa l-kultura religjuża u d-drawwiet ta' Malta biex nidra stil għid ta' hajja! Kien ifarragni l-hsieb li anki missieri u zijiet kienu għaddew min din l-esperjenza meta telqu minn Malta u siefru lejn l-Awstralja jfittxu hajja aħjar. Kelli l-vantagg li hafna minn shabi seminaristi kienu wlied jew nepputijiet ta' taljani, germanizi u polonizi li kienu emigraw lejn il-Brazil xi mitt sena qabel, meta l-Ewropa kienet għaddejja minn qagħda kiefra.

Wara 6 xhur mill-Ordinazzjoni Sacerdotali li grat fl-4 ta' Lulju tal-1965, l-Isqof Dom Geraldo Fernandes hatarni kappillan fil-Municipju ta' Rolândia, fejn għadni nghanmar sal-lum. Kien zmien sabih hafna: zmien ta' tibdil u tigidid fil-liturgija, fil-katekezi u fl-istrutturi tal-parrocca, li gab mieghu il-Koncilju Vatikan it-Tieni. Il-parrocca bdiet tissejjah "Komunità ta' Fidi, Mhabba u Kult". Allura, hassejt il-htiega li niffirma u nghanqqad il-Komunità billi nindieghes fl-oqsma kollha tal-hajja soċjali tat-territorju parrokkjali halli nkun nista nifhem u nghan fil-bzonnijiet kollha li jinqalghu. Fhimt li Komunità magħquda thoss u ssolvi l-problemi tagħha. U, meta jigri dan, il-Komunità stess tistinka biex, bil-mezzi tagħha, tirrorra kull htiega. Kekk, jekk il-

Komunità hasset il-bzonn ta' skola, jien nohloq u nrawwam kumitat biex l-iskola timbena.

Haga oħra li ntbaht biha kien il-fatt li kelli ninnza l-istil ta' hajja u d-drawwiet li kelli Malta biex nilbes l-istil tal-Brazil. Anzi, billi l-Brazil hu pajjiz ta' qisien kontinentali, nilbes l-istil tan-naha t'isfel tal-Pajjiz u nghan il-hajja tan-nies ta' hawn. Ma noqghodx nitkaza kif jghixu jew kif joqghodu dawn jew dawk in-nies, kif jghamlu xi whud li jigu mil-Ewropa, izda naccetta l-kultura tan-nies tal-post. Għaraft minn kmieni li din hi l-hajja tal-missjunarju: tkun xhud ta' Kristu quddiem dawk li tghix magħhom.

Dan il-Municipju ta' Rolândia kien iffurmat min bdiewa zghar fit-tkabbir tal-kaffé, tar-ross, tal-fazola u tal-qamh ir-rum. Mhux dejjem kienu jsibu, individwalment, suq tajjeb għal-ghelejjel tar-raba tagħhom. Ghalekk heggigt grupp ta' bdiewa biex jiffurmaw kooperattiva u hajjart bdiewa oħrajn biex jissiehu u, anki, jibghatu l-uliedhom jistudjaw l-agronomija, skond it-tagħlim soċjali tal-Knisja. Fl-istess zmien, grupp ta' imigranti germanizi li ma kienux jaqblu mal-pulitika ta' zmien it-tieni Gwerra Dinjija fil-Germanja, kienu gew hawn xi 25 sena qabli, hassew il-bzonn li jwaqqfu sptar biex jattendi, b'xejn, lil haddiema tar-raba tagħhom u haddiema fqar oħrajn. Stiednuni ninghaqqad magħhom fil-kumitat centrali tagħhom u talbuni nagħti isem lil l-isptar. Tajt l-isem ta' "Sptar San Rafiel", isem bibliku li jfisser "Alla jfejjaq".

Kappillan ta' qabli, it-taljan Dun Carlo Bonetta kien bena skola parrokkjali bl-isem ta' "Santo Antonio", immexxija mis-Sorijiet Frangiskani tal-Qalb ta' Gesù ta' Malta fl-1957. Matul mis-snin, din l-iskola kibret u giet hafna l-quddiem taht it-tregija għaqlija ta' dawn is-sorijiet missjunarji maltin. Meta hin bla waqt mietet id-direttura tal-Kulleġ Santo Antonio, Sor Isabel Dangiò,

fl-2008, biex dan il-Kulleġg kattoġiku ma jagħlaqx il-bibien għaqqadt grupp ckejken ta' nies interessati li titkompla l-edukazzjoni umana u nistranija li tingħata fih u flimkien mas-Superjura Provioncjali Sor Madalena Cheron, morna Curitiba, il-Belt kapitali tal-Istat tal-Paraná biex niddiskutu l-possibilitá ta' shubija mal-Grupp Edukazzjonali Frangiskan "Bom Jesus" li jmessi skejjel kbar f' hames Stati tal-Brazil. It-talba tagħna giet accettata bis-sahha tal-intervent tal-habib tiegħi Kardinal Dom Geraldo Majella Agnelo, li dak iz-zmien kien ukoll il-president tal- Konferenza Nazzjonali tal-Isqfijiet tal-Brazil.

Billi l-belt bdiet tikber u tizviluppa, hassejt il-bzonn li nqassam it-territorju f' setturi kemm fil-periferija kif ukoll madwar l-ghelieqi. Hekk waqqaft 16 komunitajiet fil-periferija u 6 mifruxin qalb l-ghelieqi tar-raba, kollha kemm huma bil-kumitati u l-líders tagħhom. Kull komunitá għandha Ministri tat-tqarbin u tal-morda, Katekisti, laqgħat ta' studju bibliku, zjajar lil familji foqra tal-post, etc. Kull komunitá tipprova ssolvi l-problemi li jinqalghu u jgħamlu kuntatti mal-Gvern Municipali biex jitolbu l-ghajnuna mehiega. Bil-ghajnuna ta' dawn il-komunitajiet u anki ta' membri ta' għaqdiet soċjali (Rotary, Lions, Vicentini) tal-belt, hloqt

diversi progetti soċjali għat-tfal u zghazagh li gejjin min ambjent ta' faqar, ta' droga u ta' serq. Sa qabel il-pandemija, konna nigbru madwar 1.300 (elf u tliet mija) tfal u zghazagh u l-familji tagħhom f' dawn il-progetti. Issa, li l-pandemija qed tmajna, ergajna bdejna nahdmu fuq dawn il-progetti.

Bis-sahha ta' dawn il-komunitajiet, bnejt 4 knejjes sbieh li hejjejt u diga nhatru parrocci. Bnejt ukoll 8 swali komunitarji mferxin fil-periferija madwar il-belt li fihom isiru laqgħat tal-kumuniutá, katekezi u celebrazzjoniniet religjuzi. Ta' dan ix-xogħol kollu, illum qed nigbor il-frott. Il-mexxejja civili tal-belt kollha trabbew miegħi, tant li l-Arcisqof Dom Orlando Brandes, biex jiccajta, dejjem jgħidli li jien qisni s-Sindku ta' Rolândia. U bhala rikonoxximent, il-Gvernatur tal-Istat tal-Paraná tagħni t-titlu ta' "Cittadin Onorarju Tal-Paraná" fl-2019. Hafna mit-tobba, avukati, mħalfin, nies tan-negozju u tal-industrija, li dejjem għint sa minn mindu kienu zghar, illum jistmawni bħalli kieku tal-familja tagħhom. Nista ntenni bla tlaqliq li kollox għamilt bi spirtu missjunarju għal imhabba ta' Alla u l-gid tal-erwieh. U bħal San Pawl nistqarr: "Bil-grazzja ta' Alla jien li jien, u l-grazzja tiegħu miegħi ma kenitx fieragh" (1Korintin 15,10)

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### THE FERRETTI BATTERY IN BIRŻEBBUĠA



**ARCHITECTURE & ARTILLERY**  
Ferretti Battery was built on the designs of engineer Burlemach to defend St. George's Bay. It is one of a series of coastal fortifications constructed by the Knights of the Order of St. John between 1715-1716 to defend the shores of the Maltese islands.

The battery originally consisted of a semi-circular gun battery platform, partly ringed by a parapet containing eight embrasures. Its gorge was occupied by two block-houses linked together by a V-shaped redan, all of which were pierced by musketry loopholes. The redan also contains the main entrance, which was

surmounted by three coats of arms, now defaced. The battery was originally surrounded by a shallow rock hewn ditch.

In 1770 it was equipped with four guns, which were increased to six in 1785, even though it could take up a maximum of eight guns.

The battery was decommissioned sometime in the 19th century, and was later converted into a summer residence and a boat-house. This led to heavy alterations to its architecture. The parapet with its embrasures was essentially demolished, while the outer ditch was converted into a moat filled with seawater. A high boundary wall was built around the entire battery.

#### RECENT TIMES AND PRESENT DAY USE

In the early 2000s it was used for meetings and activities of the Birżebbuġa Scout Group.

Today, the battery is used as a restaurant that operates within its old walls and the structure itself is in a fair state of preservation. The original structure and local masonry of this historic fort were restored and most of the original features were retained. Some of the missing embrasures have been rebuilt. All of these were complemented with the use of steel and glass structures together with a large patio and outdoor setting for al fresco dining.

The popular eatery serves Mediterranean cuisine. It has retained the original Ferretti name.

The Knights of St. John placed special attention on the southern tip of Malta. At the time, they had embarked on a mission which saw them construct a substantial chain of defense fortifications all across the Maltese islands' shores. Special attention was placed on the area of Birżebbuġa known as il-Qajjenza, where they built this semi-circular coastal battery, called the Ferretti Battery, together with the aforementioned six other batteries close by.

#### SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FORTIFICATIONS

But nearby, they also erected the St. Lucian Tower, two DeRedin towers, four redoubts and three entrenchments! As one can deduce from the substantial amount of defence fortifications the Knights placed in this corner of Malta, protection against Corsair attacks invading the island from its south side was of utmost importance.

Qajjenza is found in-between the coastal towns of Birżebbuġa and Marsaxlokk. It today forms part of Birżebbuġa.

The battery was named after the Knight Francesco Maria Ferretti who donated 917 scudi for its construction. That's around 200 Euros in today's money! An inscription present above the main doorway commemorates the Knight Ferretti.

Ferretti Battery was built during the reign of Grand Master Pinto and it is also sometimes referred to as the Qajjenza Battery.

**YOUR STORY IS OF A GREAT INTEREST TO US. WE LOVE TO READ IT**

## **ACTOR JOSEPH VASSALLO**



*IMDb Mini Biography By: [Veronika Delia](#)*

Joseph Vassallo, is the firstborn of four children. At the tender age of 13, upon visiting his father on the set of *The Midnight Express*, where the elder Vassallo was working as an extra, Joseph became interested in acting.

This led to him enrolling at the prestigious Teatro Manoel. Upon his departure from college, Joseph worked in a 5 Star Hotel for a brief while then left the country to go live in Switzerland, Paris, London, New York, and Los Angeles. Vassallo cruised around the world on-board Cunard luxurious liner QE2, where he worked as a Chef De Rang. Joseph is multi-lingual and is fluent in English, Italian, Maltese and conversant in Swiss German and Spanish. In the 1980s, Vassallo moved to New York City to pursue taking acting classes and the theatre. In 1987/88, Vassallo settled in Los Angeles and continued to pursue an acting career. There, he trained at the Stella Adler Academy and the Joanne Baron / D.W. Brown Studio. Joseph landed a spot at The Actors Studio in Hollywood as an observer under the supervision of the legendary Shelley Winters. Between New York and Los Angeles, Vassallo appeared in about eighteen stage plays, including *A Hatful of Rain*, *A View from the Bridge*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Othello*. In the early 1990s, Vassallo appeared for the first time on television in a commercial for the cruise line Royal Caribbean. Since then, Vassallo has appeared in over 100 national television commercials, two of which, for Twix, won the Gold Award at the New York Film Festival and embarked on a Six-Year Campaign, for the brand, "Romano Macaroni Grill". In 1994, Vassallo appeared in the movie "Blankman", with terrific director Mike Binder and opposite hilarious Damon Wayans, Jason Alexander and Jon Pulito. This was followed by roles in "The 4th Tenor" opposite the funny Rodney Dangerfield, "Just

Married" with great director Shawn Levy, opposite Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy, and the drama feature "My Brother Jack". In 2004, Vassallo re-teamed with Damon Wayans for "Behind the Smile" where Joseph played opposite, Marlon Wayans. In 2009, Joseph worked with director Rick Famuyiwa and co-starred opposite Academy Award Winner Forest Whitaker and comedian Carlos Mencia in the comedy motion picture, "Our Family Wedding". Vassallo's television credits include guest appearances on Award-Winning Shows such as "Diagnosis Murder", "The West Wing", "Alias", "Damon", and recurring guest roles on "My Wife and Kids".

In 2005 he was hired to work as a writing consultant on the ABC hit television series "My Wife and Kids". From 2007-2009 Vassallo graduated Film School in Los Angeles and in addition worked as Vice President at "Way Out TV" a TV and Film Production Studio, alongside Studio President and CEO, Damon Wayans in Santa Monica California where Vassallo also Wrote, Produced and Directed multiple projects. The experience gave Joseph a better understanding of how the entire film making process works. Thereafter, Joseph dabbled in technology and worked as Chief Operating Officer (COO) at AKABE5, a utility and game applications curator, in Santa Monica, California. Joseph can be seen on several films and TV shows in the US and around the world and premiering on April 7th, 2017 Joseph Vassallo is proud to portray the legendary race car driver and Ferrari creator, "ENZO FERRARI" at the Ferrari Land, in PortAventura World, Barcellona - Spain. Recently, Joseph had the opportunity to work as a recurring Guest Star on a mini-series for Netflix and continues to work on a slate of Feature Films and Television projects in development.

*- IMDb Mini Biography By: [Veronika D. Mendoza](#)*



February 2022

### **NICHOLAS VELLA, CALIFORNIAN POLICE OFFICER, KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH**



**Police Officer Nicholas Vella**, believed to be of Maltese descent and **who died when his police chopper crash into a Newport beach, has been pictured as colleagues pay respect to the "dedicated" officer.**

Huntington Beach police chief Eric Parra led tributes, saying he died "doing what he loved doing".

The crash took place on February 19, 2022 around 6.30pm when Vella and his co-pilot were responding to a 'disturbance fight call' in Newport Beach. His co-pilot was rushed to trauma center according to New York Post.

"The city of Huntington Beach, the residents of Huntington Beach, the Huntington Beach

Police Department and the law enforcement community have lost an officer that was truly dedicated to his job," Parra said as he fought back tears.

Vella, 44, was killed when his police chopper crashed while on a "disturbance fight call" over Newport Beach, California. The crash occurred just after 6:30pm local time near the Lido Peninsula. Vella - a 14-year veteran of the department - and a second officer were rescued from the wreckage and rushed to hospital in a critical condition.

Officials have not yet released the name of the second officer, or said which one was piloting the aircraft. Mourning his tragic death, an emotional HBPD Chief Eric Parra noted, "The city of Huntington Beach, the residents of Huntington Beach, the Huntington Beach Police Department, and the law enforcement community have lost an officer that was truly dedicated to his job. He was doing what he loved doing." The cause of the crash has not yet been determined.



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### FAWWARA – PART OF SIGGIEWI



This photo was taken in Fawwara. The hamlet of Fawwara is a stretch of land historically renowned for supplying generous amounts of water to a beautiful, picturesque valley. It derives its name from the many abundant springs we find in the area. In ancient Arabic, its meaning is “water source”.

Fawwara is located close to the coast, on the outskirts of the towns of Siggiewi and Dingli, with a clear view of the small island of Filfla just off the coast. It is an ideal place for countryside walks and cycling.

#### A VAST HISTORY

This area is also known for its vast history, dating as far back as the pre-historic ages. At Fawwara one can find caves in the cliffs which are believed to be one of the most important and strategic points for settlements, mainly because of its good quality spring water source.

Much later, Fawwara played another crucial part in Malta's history when aqueducts were built supplying the southern part of the island. Some of these aqueducts are still present today.

Fawwara was also an area famous during the period the Arabs controlled Malta in the 13th century. Stories told describe the death of many Christian women under the Commander Ali Sid. Commander Ali Sid was one of the last Arab commanders that the Normans had left

### MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

[www.facebook.com/kappavision](https://www.facebook.com/kappavision)

in command after they took over the Maltese islands.

#### MORE RECENT TIMES - CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Back in the day, Fawwara, which forms part of the Siggiewi parish, had a good number of families who had many children, all living in farm houses besides their farms. Thus, although the population of the hamlet was small and cut off from the more urban areas, it was felt there was a need for the children and even the older people to be given proper education. The Church, which had already been fulfilling the spiritual needs of the people of Fawwara at the Lunzjata and Mount Carmel churches present here, was also providing religious doctrine to the children through its priests.

But in around 1945-46, these also started teaching adults in evening classes at the Lunzjata church, which is the first church you encounter as you enter Fawwara.

Then, in 1946, the first primary school opened at the same church, and school attendance became obligatory for children up to the age of 14.

Later on, in 1954, a new school was built a short distance further down the road from the Lunzjata church. The school remained open for 14 years and closed its doors on November 4th of 1968. The reason for this was that the amount of children living in Fawwara had reduced to an extent that their hardly were any left to attend the classes at the school. All the teachers were subsequently transferred to the Siggiewi primary school.

#### THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

In the background of this photo the dome of the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is visible. The church is one of two small churches found in this area of Fawwara.



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SPAZJU KREATTIV

### Spazju Kreattiv

#### GB - About Katel Delia -



Although she was born in France, Katel Delia (Katelia) is deeply attached to her Maltese origins, and has been living and working between Malta and Paris since 2016.

Her artistic practice focuses on the creation of installations which combine photography, sculpture and writing. Katel is interested in exploring traces of the past which in turn reflect into the present, and is also keen to investigate perception of spaces.



TILES OF MALTA  
MADUM TA' MALTA

**TRAVEL ADVICE FOR UKRAINE**

In view of the fact that commercial flights are still operating, potential Maltese in Ukraine are being advised to take the first available flight back to Malta.

Meanwhile, the advice of the Maltese Government in connection with travel to Ukraine is that this should be avoided.





## **THE LAST FARMER OF “WIED IL-GHASEL” (Honey Valley)**



The singers are Sammy Bartolo (deceased) and the New Quari band, verses by Alfred Sant. This valley is very picturesque, with its various slopes having their own individual names. The valley, which starts at Fiddien, joins Wied il-Qlejgha (or as it is otherwise known as Chadwick Lakes), and leads to the St. Paul's Shipwreck Chapel, which was rebuilt in 1690 in an architectural style. Then I come to the chapel of HOPE (with its legend of the young virgin from Mosta who while feeding the sheep, and saw some Furbans coming. When the Furbans arrived they saw the entry of the cave she was hiding in, guarded by a huge cobweb, and walked away.

There is also the Chapel of St. Paul the Hermit. This too has a very delightful legend of when the people of Mosta hassled this hermit who then fled on his mantle and flew to Gozo. This chapel is under the Mosta fortress which was used for monitoring by the British services and is now being used by the police to train their dogs. Here we also find a bridge that was originally made of iron, built by the British services, in 1896, which took 27 years to complete. In 1980 it was replaced by a limestone one, which at least removed the old eye-sore that was ruining the surrounding environment. Naturally, this leads to below the saltines of Naxxar. Here we also find the chapel of St. Catherine which stands on the side of the hill 't'Alla w ommu', and it was built in 1607. In fact this is not the original chapel, as it was preceded by another that was built in 1659.

Here the valley continues and breaks under Hal Ghargur and the Salina is seen at a distance of about 15 kilometers. Of course its most beautiful part is without a doubt where it is the deepest, next to the northwest of Mosta. And from here it was nicknamed "Wied il-Ghasel (Honey Valley)". Alfred C. Sant in the beautiful verses he wrote for this song, says 'bhal eremit maqtugh minn nies qalb is-sigâr u l-gholliq immur sabiex naqla l-ghejxien' (that like a hermit away from people among the trees and fields he goes to earn his living). And continues by 'spicċaw l-ulied, jahdmu fl-ibliet' and 'l-aħħar bidwi f' Wied il-Ghasel hu jien' (the children now working in the cities, and the last farmer in Wied il-Ghasel is me).

Until about 50 years ago, this valley was full of life, with farmers working their farm to the full, It was all fertile land, and these farmers as zealous as they were to earn their daily bread, through nature, they had always been subject to the seasons, where they endured both the good and bad seasons. Just like in this song, the author-singer wrote 'staġun xott, kemm bghata l-frott' (dry season, the fruit was lacking); where the farmer would have been behind the plow and with the fences and the plowshares, while plowing the fertile soil. As our Alfred Sant says in the song 'Wara l-moħriet naħdem fis-skiet' (behind the plow working in silence) referring to the farmer named in the song.

But nowadays these fields are no longer cultivated and are abandoned, since the same farmers' children did not continue the same trade, moving on to work in the towns instead.

Wied il-Ghasel has a very ancient and beautiful history, it is said that in this valley there were beautiful fig and carob trees, and wild plants such as 'hubbejża tar-raba', capers, wild daisy, narcissus and many other crops filled the surrounding environment with fragrance. There was also parsley as well as the 'xkattapetra' (a plant that was used to crush kidney stones), and many other plants. Many wild birds some of which nested in the cracks and small caves in the rocks on each side of this valley alongside many other plants. This place was the cradle for bees that produced much of the honey in the cracks alongside the rocky crops. This still exists in this valley to this day, and thus serves as a refuge for wild birds such as Malta's national bird, the Merill, whose song enchants the surrounding environment. There used to also be owls and crows as well as wild rabbits in abundance.

But over time, under the pretext of development, these animals can be said to have been completely destroyed. The first Mosta farmers most probably lived in this valley alongside their fields and this is confirmed by the many caves and catacombs found throughout this valley. Thanks to the Mosta Council and the "Lil din l-Art Helwa" association, they will not be destroyed under the pretext of development, and when it rains in winter, one can enjoy the serenity in listening to the water running through the valley of "Wied il-Ghasel". Even on Sundays and holidays, on a nice fine day as is characteristic of the Maltese islands, you see groups of people go for walks to rest, enjoy and have fun in this display of nature in this a natural phenomenon of "Wied il-Ghasel". **RESEARCHED BY GREG CARUANA - NSW**



## NALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 413

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**Reno Piscopo**



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**Trent Buhagiar**



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## **A-League footballers fly the flag for Malta**

**By Philip Micallef**

Young star **Reno Piscopo** is one of a handful of current Maltese-Australian footballers to light up Australia's A-League competition with a series of impressive displays.

Piscopo, who will be 24 in May, was born in Melbourne of an Italian father and a Maltese mother.

The attacking midfielder plays his club football for Wellington Phoenix and has represented Australia at under-20 and under-23 levels.

He is one of Wellington's best players and is clearly reaping the rewards of having completed a big part of his apprenticeship with Italian giants Internazionale.

His technical skills did not go unnoticed in Italy and he played for the Azzurri at under-15, under-16 and under-17 level before declaring his allegiance to the country of his birth.

Observers predict that a full Socceroos cap might not be too far away if he maintains his steady progress and he stays injury-free.

Piscopo is one of four high-profile 'Maltese' footballers who are doing well in Australia's top club competition.

The others are speedy striker **Trent Buhagiar** who plays for Sydney FC, athletic goalkeeper

**Joe Gauci** who is a regular for Adelaide United and Western Sydney Wanderers' energetic defender Thomas Aquilina.

All three were born in Australia but have a clear Maltese background.

It is not the first time that the A-League has provided a platform for 'Maltese' footballers.

London-born Kevin Muscat for many years was the face of Melbourne Victory after leading the club to many honours as a defender/captain and later as coach.

Long-serving Morwell-born Central Coast Mariners midfielder **John Hutchinson** is of Maltese descent and he even played competitively for Malta from 2009.

Tough defender **Manny Muscat**, who was born in Melbourne, also represented Malta at senior level roughly at the same time as Hutchinson after making a name for himself at Wellington Phoenix.

Multi-capped Malta striker **Michael Mifsud** came to Australia with a high profile and expectations were considerable.

He joined Melbourne Heart in season 2013-14 but played only 14 league matches, scoring one goal, before he went back home.



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### **MALTESE CLARE BRINCAT SETS WORLD RECORD FOR HULA HOOPING**

Maltese hula hooper Clare Brincat has earned the Guinness World Record award for 'The Most Hula Hoops Spun Simultaneously Whilst Roller Skating.' She achieved this record after spinning 80 hoops with an additional weight of 200k whilst also skating on roller skates.

Clare announced this on her social media and said: *"I am now the Guinness World Record Holder for 'The Most Hula Hoops Spun Simultaneously Whilst Roller Skating'! What a mouthful! I basically roller skated whilst spinning 80 hoops. 80-effin-heavy-hoops!!!"*



## Pjazza Regina

Pjazza Regina is named after the namesake square and bustling meeting place in Malta's capital. The trio of Pjazza Regina white, red and rosé blends has been created to showcase a forward thinking and modern approach to winemaking. The brand also represents a determined quest for value at every price point whilst paying tribute to Malta's grand Valletta, European Capital of Culture 2018.



## MOST PROBABLY THE BEST BREAD IN THE WORLD

by Joseph C. Camilleri



The Maltese market offers a great variety of bread. Some are typically Maltese while others are "imported". The original Maltese bread comes in various forms. There is the flat ring of non-leavened dough called ftira and the qaghqa ta' l-Appostli (a large "Apostles' ring-bread"). But the most popular type of bread is the dark-brown round crusty loaf, known as hobza.

There are several reasons which explain the popularity of the hobza. This loaf is slightly sweet and has a delicious crust. Moreover, it has pure and sustaining qualities. To make it more delicious, some bakers sprinkle the top with sesame seeds.

This loaf is made from locally milled flour. As Maltese agriculture does not produce enough wheat, this important item has been imported since a very long time. At first it used to be imported from neighbouring Sicily. The Knights of St. John built underground granaries to store this important



wheat, some of which are found at Floriana (known as il-Fosos) and others at Valletta adjacent to Fort St. Elmo.

Whenever wheat was scarce on the market, a mixed flour used to be produced known as il-mahlut. This consisted of a mixture of rye and wheat.

Another type of hobza is the ftira. it is unleavened bread flat in shape with a crust peculiar taste and moist crumb. Many buy a piece of ftira besides their daily loaf and latecomers find this form of bread has been sold out.

Bread production used to be carried out in every locality. Large urban areas had a bakery or two, sometimes more. Some localities have a street named Bakery Street in memory of a former bakery, such as at Lija and Valletta. The most popular place for bread-making was Qormi. It was referred to as Casal Fornaro (the village of bakers).

It is a documented fact that before the Knights built their bakery at Valletta, their major establishments, such as the auberges, the Grand Master's Palace and hospital, were supplied with bread from Qormi. Some believe that this was due to two major reasons. Qormi was already well known as a breadmaking centre while it was the nearest large locality to Valletta, as Floriana and Marsa were still non-existent.

According to hearsay, Qormi was a place where malaria flourished as it was situated in a low lying position. The health problem was solved by the warm dry air, offered by the ovens. Qormi became one of the most healthy districts in Malta.

The Maltese do not consider a good meal complete without a piece of this crusty bread. They insist on having fresh bread and possibly still warm from the oven. This is why bakers have to start working either late at night or in the early hours of the day, to have a supply of bread ready for an early delivery.

A second bake is made at a later hour. Usually clients come and collect their bread from the bakery themselves. Bakers also prepare a third bake to supply the local market with bread for those who have their main meal late after returning from their place of work.

A word associated with bread is bukkun or kumpanacc. This was used to express the food taken in small proportions with bread. The latter word is a corruption of the Latin word Cumpanatico. The Maltese considered bread as a special grace of God. This concept made bread to be treated in a special manner. When a person had to cut the loaf, he or she would sign it with a cross before using the knife to slice it.

On the other hand if a person finds a piece of bread on the wayside, he would lift it, reverently kissed it and placed it on a wall or ledge so that it would not be trodden under another person's or animal's foot. Why? The Maltese associated bread with the Last Supper, that is when Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist.

While you are in Malta ask for a dark-brown crusty loaf. Cut thick slices. Rub the slices with tomato halves, dab them slightly with oil and vinegar, and sprinkle some salt and freshly milled pepper. Add capers, and mint and you can feast on a delicious Maltese "burger".

### Other foods and expressions

**Slices of bread "Kisra ħobż" Thick slices of salted fat ("grass tal-majjal"),**  
**Crude cheeslets ("ġbejniet"), Pieces of watermelons ("dullieh"),**  
**Maltese sausages ("zalzett tal-Malti"), Rockmelons(bettieh)**  
**Croquettes ("pulpetti") made of corned beef ("bulubif"), Snails – (Bebbux)**  
**Tomatoes paste ("kunserva"), oil ("żejt") and broad beans ("ful"),**  
**Cod with white beans ("bakkaljaw bil-fażola").- Herring ("aringa"),**  
**Anchovy ("inčova") and soppa tal-armila – (widow's soup)**  
**Sea Urchins –(Rizzi) Artichokes – (Qaqocc) Turkish Delight- (Helwa tat-Tork)**  
**Broad Beans Dip = (Bigilla) Rabbit Stew = (Stuffat tal-Fenek)**