



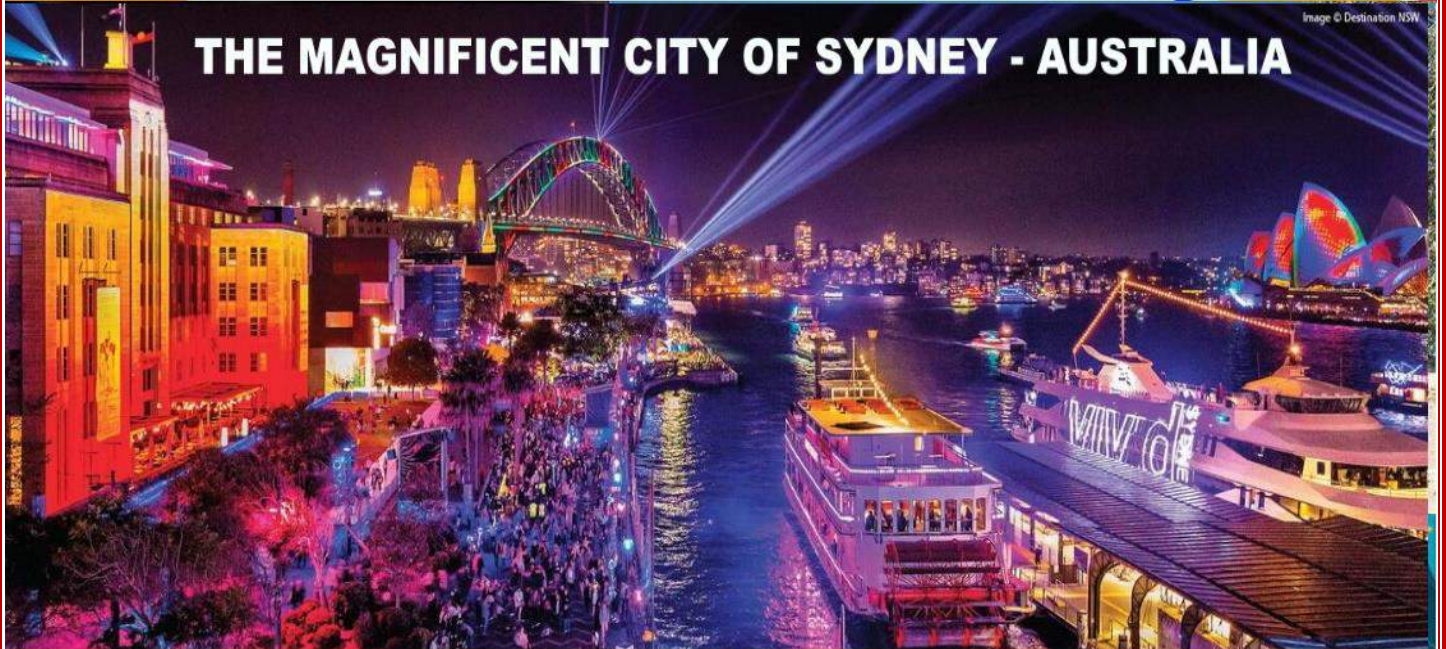
# Maltese e-Newsletter

**The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad**

Editor : Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP



## **THE MAGNIFICENT CITY OF SYDNEY - AUSTRALIA**

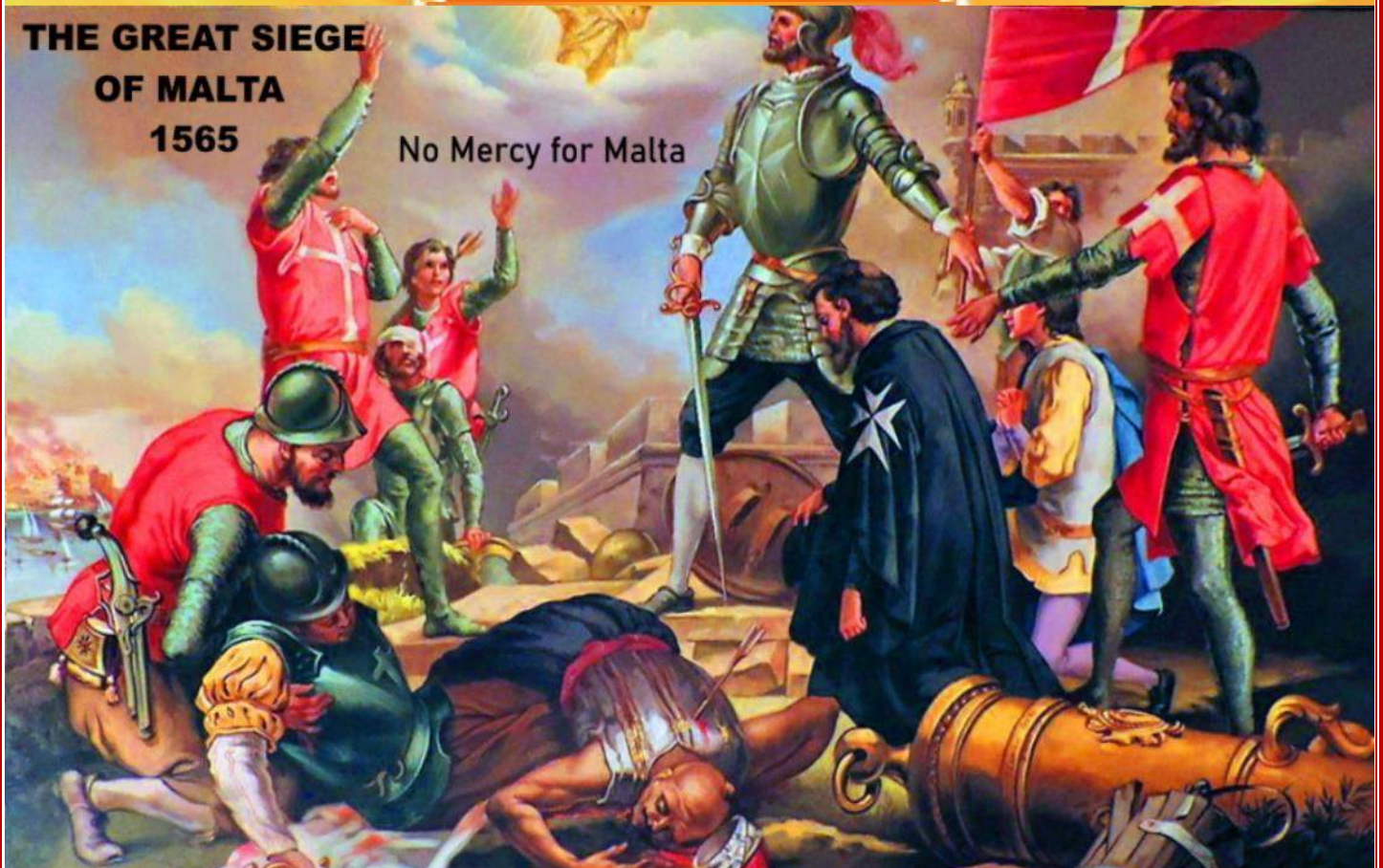


# Pride & Joy

**MALTESE JOURNAL**

**THE GREAT SIEGE  
OF MALTA  
1565**

No Mercy for Malta





## **SETTE GIUGNO – 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 7 TA' GUNJU**

The riots and lives lost during the Sette Giugno, paved the way towards liberal concessions on local affairs under a modern constitution, marking the first election in 1921 and sparking the mechanism towards Independence.

The Sette Giugno marks one of the most tragic and historically significant days in Maltese history. Before achieving Independence and becoming a democratic country in 1964, Malta was under the rule of the British Colonial Government, with little to no say in administration. As part of the aftermath of World War I, Malta was suffering from low food provisions and an increased cost of living, with greedy merchants turning great profits at the detriment of the Maltese citizens.



*Dr. Enrico Mizzi*

This crisis was met by revolt from the Maltese population, leading to the first ever meeting of the National Assembly on the 25th of February 1919. Dr Enrico Mizzi and his followers opposed the British Colonial Government, wanting to achieve full independence from British Rule. Given opposition by the other school of thought lead by Dr Filippo Sciberras, tensions began to escalate, leading to a series of strikes and attacks on shops. The police force threatened protesters, while also providing heavy guard around Castille, the then military headquarters.



Tensions sparked when the Maltese flag was defaced by the Union Jack, leading to various riots and revolts, the burning of Union Jack flags, destruction of shops, British Military offices, as well as profiteering merchants and supporters of the colonial government's houses.

The stationed soldiers were ordered not to shoot on the crowds unless directed, however, chaos erupted when a shot was heard in the distance. Almost immediately,

the soldiers began shooting, injuring fifty and claiming the lives of Manwel Attard, Ġużè Bajada and Lorenzo Dyer. As protests continued the next day, Carmelo Abela was killed by a British Marine after resisting arrest. A few days later, the event claimed the lives of Ċikku Darmanin and Toni Caruana as they succumbed to their wounds from the riot shooting.

On the eve marking the 7th of June, wreaths are placed as a sign of remembrance and respect on the victims' monument at the Addolorata Cemetery by the National Festivities Committee.

On the day of the event, a band march is held at St George Square in front of the Sette Giugno commemorative monument. The Speaker of Representatives, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition as well as all the Members of Parliament, walk towards the monument from the Parliament building. This is followed by a speech on democracy by the Speaker, the sounding of the Last Post, one minute of silence and the sounding of the Reveille. The ceremony will then finish with a wreath laying by all the officials present and the playing of the National Anthem. A similar remembrance ceremony is held in Xagħra, Gozo as respect to one of the victims who hailed from this town.

**THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**



## **OUTDOOR OPERA EVENING IN THE CAPITAL OF MALTA**



Nico Darmanin, Alan Sciberras and Cliff Zammit Stevens will be the three tenors who fill the magnificent St. George's Square in Valletta with charm in an evening of world-famous operatic melodies, accompanied by Sofia Narmania on piano.

- **When?** Saturday 04 June 2022
- **Where?** St George's Square, Valletta
- **Cost:** Free entrance, seats are limited. Please send an email to [info@vca.gov.mt](mailto:info@vca.gov.mt) or call on

21242018 to reserve your seats.,

For more information and inquiries, please contact [info@vca.gov.mt](mailto:info@vca.gov.mt). This event is produced by Valletta Cultural Agency in collaboration with FTZ Community Foundation



**'Part of Us': Heritage Malta and its new brand identity**

<https://heritagemalta.mt/>

Heritage Malta has launched its new brand identity, which includes its new slogan 'Part of Us', a new logo inspired by Maltese stone and by the traditional local craft known as 'tberfil', as well as a completely revamped website.

The new Heritage Malta logo summarises concisely what the agency stands for. The middle empty space, forming the letter 'H', refers to the intangible heritage of the Maltese Islands. The top part of the logo symbolises the historic sites on land, while the lower part represents our underwater heritage. The logo retains its form even if rotated.

The slogan 'Part of Us' was chosen because Heritage Malta firmly believes that the cultural patrimony passed down to us, both tangible and intangible, is our collective responsibility as a nation and we must all do our part to safeguard it and to leave it to our successors in a better state than we found it. The history and culture of our country are part of all of us — Maltese families who have been living on these islands for centuries, those who have chosen Malta to be their home, and also those who visit us for a short time from all over the world.

Addressing a press conference, Heritage Malta's Chief Executive Officer, Noel Zammit, explained the concept behind the agency's new brand identity. He said that this is not simply a new look, but it marks the beginning of a new chapter in Heritage Malta's story. In this new voyage embarked on today, Heritage Malta will remain loyal to its roots and its mission while also venturing into new areas.

Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Owen Bonnici launches Heritage Malta's rebranding St. Elmo Heritage building, Valletta





## The Flags of the Grand Masters of the Order of Malta

History of the Order

*Grand Master Manuel Pinto de Fonseca (left) & Fra' Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle-Adam (right)*

- The Order of Malta's navy was the first navy of a chivalric order

It fought in the historic Battle of Lepanto

The Order's navy consisted mainly of galley ships

Every naval vessel flew the standard of the Grand Master

The Order of Malta's navy, which was primarily known as the Maltese Navy after 1530, was the first navy of a chivalric order. It was established during the Middle Ages, near the end of the 12th century.

It famously participated in the Battle of Lepanto (1571), in which a coalition of Catholic states arranged by Pope Pius V inflicted a major defeat on the fleet of the Ottoman Empire. Lepanto was also the last major battle in the Western world to be fought almost entirely between rowing vessels.

The Order's navy had a number of different types of ships over the centuries, but it consisted mainly of galleys in several sizes. There was also a royal barge that the Grand Master would use for ceremonial purposes.

The Order's ships not only flew the traditional flags of the Order, but the personal flag of its current Grand Master.

For his personal flag, it was common for a Grand Master to quarter his familial coat of arms with the state flag of the Order. Not quite sure what that looks like? Check out the two examples below.

Fra' Philippe Villier de L'Isle-Adam's family's coat of arms

### **Grand Master Philippe Villier de L'Isle-Adam**

Grand Master Fra' Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle-Adam was 44th Grand Master of the Order, serving from 1521 until 1534. His personal standard shows his family's coat of arms quartered with the white latin cross of the Order's state flag.

### **Grand Master Pinto**

Grand Master Fra' Manuel Pinto de Fonseca was elected the 68th Grand Master of the Order in 1741, and served the Order in this role until his death in 1773.

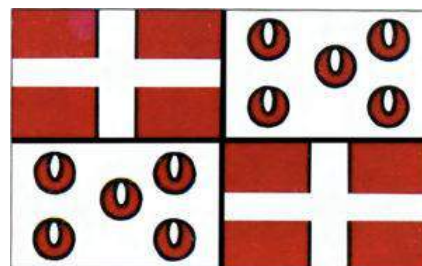
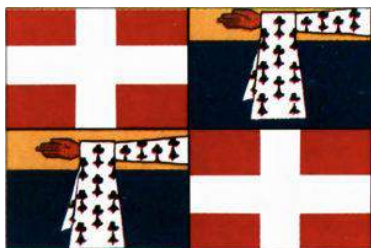
There are two versions of Grand Master Pinto's personal standard. The version pictured above was flown from his galley. It shows the coat of arms for the Pinto name (top right, bottom left) quartered with the state flag of the Order (top left, bottom right).

Another version of the personal standard of Grand Master Pinto has the Pinto family's coat of arms quartered diagonally with the state flag of the Order. This standard was also used as a maritime flag.

Coat of arms for the Pinto name quartered with the state flag of the Order

### **What happened to the Order's Navy?**

The Order of Malta has not had a navy since the French invasion of Malta in 1798, at which point the French Navy took possession of all the Order's ships.



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

**JOURNAL OF  
MALTESE  
LIVING ABROAD**

## *Il-Karnival fl-Għarb*



Nhar il-Hadd filgħodu, 22 ta' Mejju 2022, għadd sabiħ ta' Għawdxin, Maltin u nies mir-raħal tal-Viżitazzjoni kif ukoll residenti barranin, kienu preżenti fil-Pjazza ta' quddiem il-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Għarb għall-ghodwa tal-Karnival li tella' l-Kunsill Lokali tar-raħal bl-ghajnuna shiħa tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, ipprezentata mill-Kav Joe M Attard, li għalkemm ta' 76 sena għadna nsibuh attiv sew f'għadd ta' attivitajiet kulturali u edukattivi. Il-pubbliku komdu bilqegħda seta' jsegwi divertiment mill-aqwa bis-sehem ta' diversi kumpaniji Għawdxin taħt sema blu u xemx tikwi. Il-programm fetaħ bil-kumpanija ta' żfin 'Gozo Line Dancing' imwaqqfa fir-raħal minn Gienju li

tant jiehu l-affarijiet bis-serjeta' u mħabba. Wara daħal fl-enclosure il-karru trijonfali mis-Socjeta' Filarmonika Leone tal-belt Victoria 'Briju w Storbju fejn ikun – Bil-beritta Mustacċun'. L-istess Socjeta' mbagħad ipprezentat ż-żifna 'Thaddanna ferrieħa – Tal-paċi Rebbieħa'. Wara kellna żifna oħra mil-Labonsky Carnival Company 'F'Oċean Magħqudin niżfnu ferħanin' taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Gorg Zammit u korjografija ta' Kathleen Spiteri, Janet Azzopardi u Amber Buttigieg. Wara kellna żewġ kumpaniji, waħda tal-Kbar u oħra taż-Żghar ipprezentati minn Annette Portelli Said li tant intlaqgħu tajjeb. Dawn kienu 'All Stars' u 'Booty-Licious'. L-Għodwa Karnivaleska giet fi tmiemha b'kumpanija oħra, din id-darba ta' Christian Sacco mghejjun minn Danica Sultana, 'Spread your wings and let the fairy in you fly'.

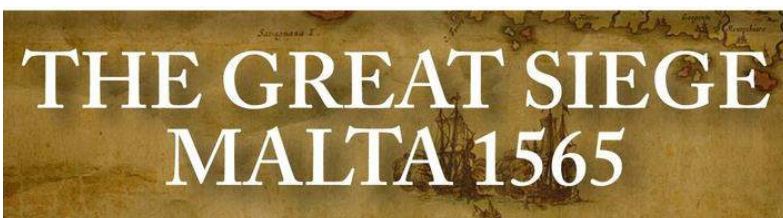
L-ghodwa għalqet kif fethet bl-Innu tal-Karnival. Prosit lill-Kunsill habrieki tal-Għarb li naħseb kien wiehed mill-ftit Kunsilli Għawdxin li hađu sehem fil-Karnival ta' Mejju. Naf li barra r-Rabat, fl-Enclosure ta' Pjazza Indipendenza, kien hemm xi haġa fix-Xagħra kif smajthom jghidu whud miż-żeffiena u bla dubju fin-Nadur kien hemm bħas-soltu Karnival spontanju tajjeb mal-wasla tad-dalma, matul il-week end.

**Kav Joe M Attard**

*emarjos@hotmail.com*

## This Week in History:

Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Listen



[www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/nightlife/twih-malta/13893672](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/nightlife/twih-malta/13893672)

On Nightlife with Suzanne Hill

Malta's central Mediterranean location meant that throughout history it's been prized by those seeking to control the surrounding waters. The Romans, the Sicilians, the French and the British all held it before the country's independence in 1964.

In the 1500s, it was occupied by the "Knights of St. John", also known as the "Knights Hospitaller", a religious order, essentially like other monks or nuns, formally subject to the Pope. They were also fierce and effective fighters and conducted seaborne attacks on ships of the other dominant European power of the time, the Ottoman Empire. In response, "Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent", the Ottoman ruler, ordered the invasion of Malta in October 1564.

What followed was a four month period between the 18th of May and September 1565, known as The Great Siege of Malta, where 40,000 Turks were arrayed against the Knights' 9,000, including not only the Knights but also many ordinary Maltese citizens bearing arms.

Suzanne Hill spoke with Professor Marcus Bull, a professor of Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of North Carolina who is currently writing a new history of the Great Siege of Malta.



**Malta Cycling Federation****National Road Race Championship 2022****Etienne Bonello and Danica Bonello Spiteri (Team Greens) win in San Martin**

Team Greens had another successful day when in the first race of the Road Championship organized by the Malta Cycling Federation, which was held in San Martin, their cyclists Etienne Bonello and his wife Danica Bonello Spiteri emerged victorious in the main categories in the first of a series of three races linked to the Road Championship.

Etienne Bonello won the Elite Category when he finished first in a final sprint after 7 laps over a distance of 61.6km in one hour, 46 minutes, and 25.91 seconds. He was followed

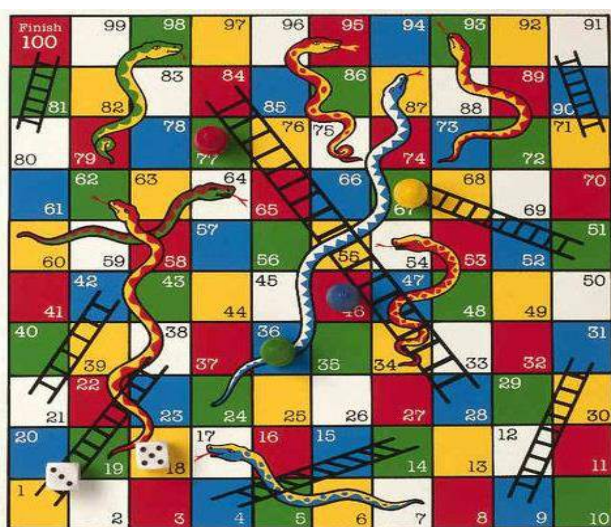
in second and third place respectively by reigning champion Pierre Borg of Mosta AF Sign Studio (1:46:28.17) and John Camilleri of B'Kara St Joseph (1:46:28.48). In the Women's category, we had a dominance by the Team Greens cyclists where the winner was Danica Bonello Spiteri (Team Greens) who finished her fifth lap in one hour, 23 minutes, and 54.46 seconds. She was followed by Juleanne Vassallo (1:24:11.24) and Diane Muscat (1: 30: 38.93).

Justin Gauci of Mosta AF Sign Studio won the Master 40+ Category when he finished first in his fifth lap in a time of one hour, 21 minutes, and 4.88 seconds. Ivan Zammit of B'Kara St Joseph finished second (1:21:13.13) and Nicholas Schembri of Team Greens (1: 21: 40.15) came in third. The Masters Over 50 category was won by Mario Attard of Team Greens in one hour, 21 minutes, and 8.77 seconds. He was followed by Steve Andrew Bell of The Cyclist (1:23:41.22) and Joseph Micallef of Team Greens (1:24:45.23) respectively.

The Under 23 category was dominated by Luke Borg of The Cyclist when he completed his 7 laps ahead in one hour, 46 minutes, and 25.91 seconds. He was followed by two B'Kara St Joseph debutants, Sean Michael Darmanin (2:00:45.93) and Julian James Axiaq (2:14:34.58) respectively. Gozo CC's Darren Sultana won the Junior Category after completing his 7 laps in one hour, 57 minutes, and 04.04.91 seconds, while Agones Sfc' Kai Azzopardi won the Under 16 Category when he finished his three laps in 47 minutes and 34.07 seconds.

At the end of these races, the medal awards were given by John Zammit and Joe Bajada, President and Secretary-General respectively of the Malta Cycling Federation.

The next race will be the second of the Time Trail Championship at the Żebbuġ Bypass on Sunday 12 June 2022



Remember when we used to play  
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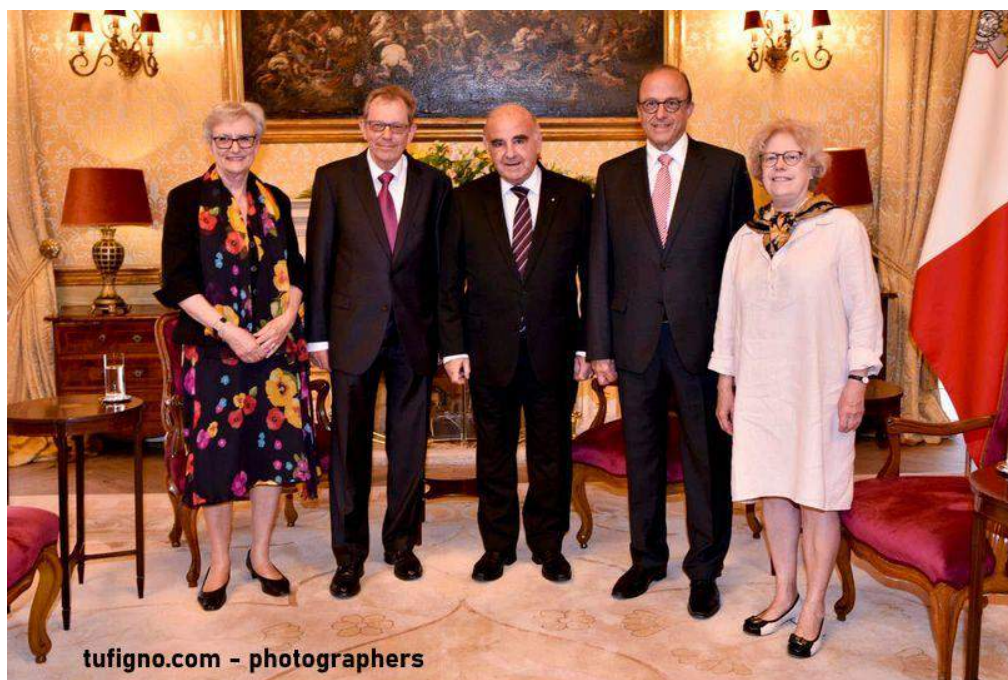




### **ELISSA GOLBERG, CANADA'S NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALTA**

H.E. Elissa Golberg presented her credentials to President George William Vella marking the start of her tenure as High Commissioner to Malta.

The President and the High-Commissioner thereafter discussed the historical ties and excellent relations based on a shared commitment to democratic values that bind Canada and Malta, and the increasing international cooperation, including UN, OSCE and Commonwealth and other agencies.



tufigno.com - photographers

### **PRESIDENT OF THE MALTESE- GERMAN ASSOCIATION**

His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta had the pleasure to meet Mr Christian Launer and his wife Mrs Bettina Launer, who just marked their 40th visit to Malta. The Launer's are German citizens who have had an active interest in Malta's history and culture since their very first visit to our islands. They have, in

fact, studied and produced various publications regarding Malta's history, and Mr Launer is serving as President of the Maltese-German Association, which is based in Adenau. Former Ambassador to Germany Albert Friggieri and Mrs Catherine Friggieri were also present for this courtesy call.

Press Release By The Office Of The Principal Permanent Secretary

## **Mario Cutajar to retire as Head of the Public Service at the end of May**



"A

loyal, well-read and cultured man focused on how to implement what he wants to achieve" - Prime Minister Robert Abela

Principal Permanent Secretary Mario Cutajar announced that he will be retiring from his position as Head of the Public Service at the end of this month. The announcement was made during a speech at the final conference held as part of Public Service Week 2022. Addressing the same conference, Prime Minister Robert Abela described Mario Cutajar as a loyal, well-read, and cultured man focused on what he wants to achieve and on how to implement it.

Mr Cutajar explained that he had informed the Prime Minister last September that he had reached pensionable age and wished to retire. They agreed that Mr Cutajar would wait until the end of that legislature and help the new Government get in place. Mr Cutajar said that it is now the right moment to leave office—at the beginning of a new legislature, and therefore a new government programme, and at the start of the implementation of the new Public Service strategy.

Mr Cutajar will be ending a 46-year career in the Public Service, during which he worked in various government departments and parastatal bodies. For a number of years he also represented Public Service employees within the General Workers' Union.

He became Head of the Public Service in 2013, in the very first appointment made upon the change of government. The Public Service went through major transformations during his tenure at its helm. This renewal has been expounded in the textbook *Public Service Reforms in a Small Island State: The Case of Malta*. The last major task completed by Mr Cutajar as Head of the Public Service was the design and preparation of the five-year holistic strategy 'Achieving a Service of Excellence', the implementation of which was initiated during Public Service Week 2022.

Announcing his retirement in a speech which was received with a standing ovation by the public officers present, Mr Cutajar thanked the two Prime Ministers who appointed him for their trust in him. He said that it was a privilege for him to contribute in transforming the Public Service from one which was an electoral issue to one which has gained the trust of most people and which satisfies the vast majority of its clients.

"It has been a privilege for me to work with many others to break away from the mentality that anything goes for the Public Service; to ensure that nowadays people get a better service, not having to visit several offices in order to be served; to make the Public Service a leader in many areas of the society we live in. Looking back at what we have achieved together, it really holds true that never before in



the history of the Public Service were so many changes carried out in such a short time," said Mr Cutajar.

Listing some of these changes, Mr Cutajar mentioned the grouping of government services under one roof in one-stop-shops across the island as well as in a single website; the delivery of an efficient service via telephone and even through a callback system; the setting up of the Institute for the Public Services; putting accountability into practice through annual publications on the implementation of Budget measures and the recommendations of institutions of scrutiny; the signing of the first general collective agreement of its kind; and a new law on Public Administration.

"I am leaving this position satisfied that together we have managed to change the Public Service. I am leaving this position happy with the successes we have achieved together. I am leaving this position fully convinced that the Public Service is better than I found it. I am leaving this position confident that we have achieved enough for our successors to do more than we did. Together we've reached our goals!" concluded Mr Cutajar.

Prime Minister Robert Abela thanked Mario Cutajar warmly for his work. He said that in him he has always found a man who gives honest advice—a loyal, well-read, and cultured man who is a pleasure to discuss ideas with and whom one enjoys working with, as he is always focused on what he wants to achieve and how to implement it.

### **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER AND THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia welcomed Mr Mario Cutajar for his last visit before retiring as Principal Permanent Secretary at the end of this month. The Head of the Public Service introduced Mr Tony Sultana, who will be taking over this post from 1st June 2022.

Mr Cutajar and Mr Sultana congratulated Mr Farrugia on his third consecutive term as Speaker of the House of

Representatives. Mr Cutajar presented to Mr Farrugia the book entitled 'Public Service Reforms in a Small Island State - The Case of Malta', which documents all the progress made by the Public Service in the last seven years. The Speaker was also presented with a set of commemorative stamps issued on the occasion of the Public Service Week 2022.

For his part, Speaker Farrugia thanked Mr Cutajar for his work as Head of the Public Service and for the support that the Office of the Speaker always found for the Parliamentary Service to further strengthen its autonomous role. He augured Mr Tony Sultana in his new role, a post that brings with it so much responsibility and that it could be so beneficial to the Maltese people. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presented them with the book entitled '1921 Self-Government in Malta', which his Office commissioned on the centenary of the Maltese Parliament.

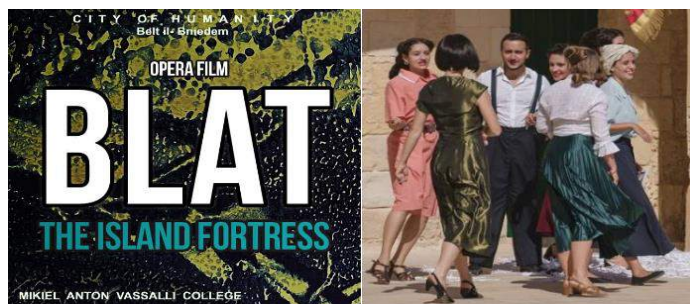


Photo: DOI - Omar Camilleri



## BLAT – The Island Fortress – new Opera- Film in Maltese

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)



BLAT – The Island Fortress, is an Opera-Film which was executively produced by Mikiel Anton Vassalli College (M.A.V. College), the national network of specialised schools for Visual and Performing Arts Education in Malta and Gozo.

This first ever Opera-Film in Maltese is based mainly in Valletta during World War II.

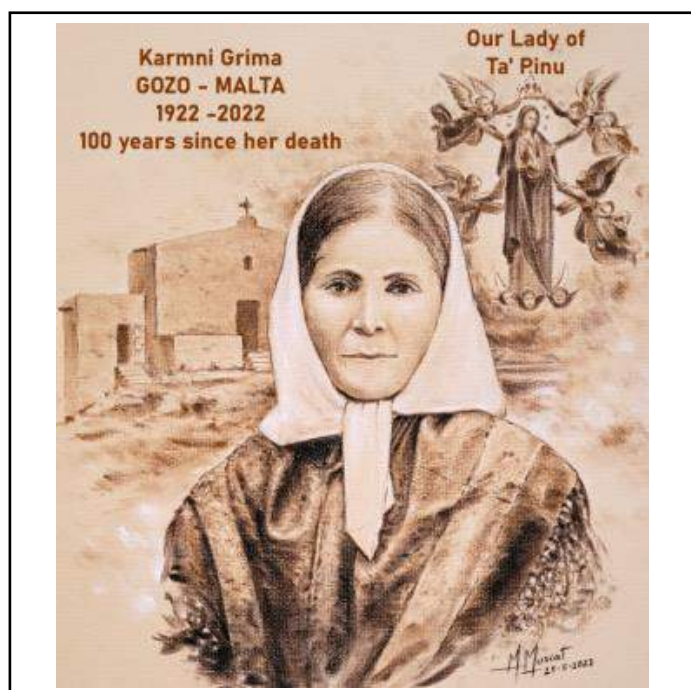
It is March 1940, most of Europe is embroiled in the war between the Allied and the Axis but so far Malta has been spared the brunt of this war.

Madeleine, a middle class girl from Valletta is in love with Marco a devoted Italian fascist and this creates problems with Madeleine's father as the latter is a staunch Imperialist. Meanwhile Kelinu, a dockyard worker is also enchanted by Madeleine, but as Bessy, his Strait Street barmaid friend, warns him, he does not share the same social class.

### About Mikiel Anton Vassalli College

<http://mikielantonvassallicollege.gov.mt>

The college named after the **father of the Maltese language**, the **Mikiel Anton Vassalli College** was established on the **19<sup>th</sup> November 2018** with a specific focus to improve and coordinate the visual and performing art education in Malta and Gozo. Our vision is for these specialised schools to gain the status of an academic cluster with the focus on the quality of teaching and learning in the **visual and performing arts**. As a college, we strive to create the synergy between these specialised schools. Moreover, we instill in our learners especially the young generation, this awareness of the economics of culture and creative industries in Malta, especially when one considers that they contribute to 6.4% to the Maltese GDP. Introduction to the Mikiel Anton Vassalli College You are invited to have a look and get in touch with the schools within the Mikiel Anton Vassalli College and explore what takes place here and how **over 4,000 registered learners** are benefiting from such work. While thanking the administration of each school and the **over 150 dedicated and enthusiastic teachers**.



**THIS SPACE COULD  
BE YOURS.  
SEND US YOUR  
STORY**



# The Tragedy of Hondoq ir-Rummien in 1948



tragedy that struck a nation

*Lest we forget*

*Jillian Mallia*

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 1948, 75 years ago, the day started off normally, with ferry trips from Gozo to Malta and back working like clockwork. But no one knew the tragedy that was awaiting the island that day.

The Gozo ferry MV Bancinu took on the 1.15pm trip, taking passengers from the Mgarr Harbour in Gozo to Marfa in Malta. But, considering the fact that a strong south-westerly wind was blowing, the ferry made its way to St Paul's Bay rather than Marfa.

In an extensive 2012 [article](#), details of a tragedy that would take place later that day were

relived. The 4.30pm trip leaving from Marfa was cancelled because the MV Bancinu took about 75 minutes to get from Mgarr to St Paul's Bay and back. It also took a longer time for the passengers to disembark, since it didn't moor properly to the quay.

People boarding the bus from Valletta to Marfa to catch the cancelled 4.30pm were informed, and one passenger called up the manager of Marfa-Mgarr Transport, Mariano Xuereb, who said he was willing to provide a *luzzu* (fishing boat) for these passengers.

As the day progressed, Xuereb changed his mind about sending the *luzzu*, so instead, other arrangements were made. Karmnu Grima and Salvu Refalo agreed to do the trip and headed to Marfa, only to find quite a large amount of people waiting: 24 men and one woman, definitely more than they were expecting. The men insisted on making two trips to the island, but the passengers protested, possibly frustrated by the waiting time, and all boarded the small boat.

Sailing to Comino went by without incident, but once the boat passed the small island, the sea became rougher. They were advised to head to Hondoq ir-Rummien creek instead of Mgarr, which is an inlet close to the port. It was reported that the passengers, however, insisted on Mgarr, despite the rough waves. As the small boat approached the port, it could no longer withstand the pounding waves, and capsized near Il-Golf tac-Cawl just after 8pm. The youngest member aboard, Karmnu Attard, managed to make it to shore and call to inform the Mgarr police of the tragedy.

The aftermath

In a statement, Karmnu said that water was getting into the boat and when big waves struck, the passengers panicked, and the boat capsized. They were just 50m away from the shore.

It was all-hands-on-deck from there, with several constables, locals and the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force pitching in. Thankfully, Michael Buttigieg from Nadur, Pawlu Zammit from Xaghra and Cikku Gauci had also managed to swim safely to shore.

In the inquiry, technical expert Giuseppe Caruana stated that the safety load had been exceeded, saying not more than 13 passengers should have been on that boat. In the days that followed, the corpses of the remaining passengers were recovered from the sea, some even found off Fomm ir-Rih in Malta, six days after the tragedy.

Remembering those who passed away

Those who tragically lost their lives were: Duminku Attard. Karmnu Azzopardi, Mikiel Azzopardi, Rita Buttigieg, Salvu Buttigieg, Manwel Camilleri, Gorg Curmi, Guzeppi Dingli, Guzeppi Gatt, Gorg Galea, Karmnu Grima, Ganni Mercieca, Wistin Magro, Grezzju Magro, Cikku Portelli, Salvu Refalo, Baskal Sammut, Karmnu Spiteri, Manwel Sultana, Manwel Vella, Pawlu Vella, Guzeppi Scicluna and Manwel Zammit.



## Catherine Boffa and Hanna Heo

Catherine Boffa of Baulkham Hills (Sydney, Australia) and her partner Hana Heo won Silver in the 2022 Australian Gymnastics Championships, held on the Gold Coast in May. Catie and Hana competed in Level 8 Women's Acrobatic gymnastics, incorporating Balance, Dynamic and Combined routines. They achieved their best score of the season in the Combined routine.

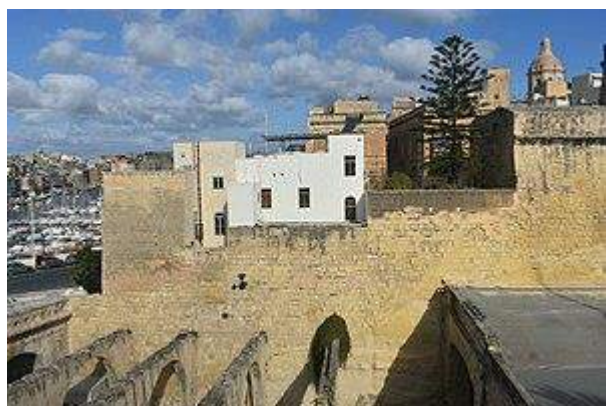
This follows their Gold in 2021, where they competed in Level 7. Catie and Hana train at Sydney Hills Gymnastics.

**Catie is a great, grand niece of Dr Sir Paul Boffa**

The Sydney Hills Gymnastics Club was established in Castle Hill, near Sydney, in 2012 by Director and Head Coach Vassili Trofimov. Vassili, an Australian Gymnastics accredited coach, has more than 25 year experience. His goal is to create a professional and safe environment where children of all ages can keep fit, make friends and have fun in a state-of-the-art facility. This community minded endeavour also allow him to reach some of Australia's best untapped talent and to train the best gymnasts in the country. Sydney Hills Gymnastics Club offers programs for both boys and girls from the age of 2 months to 18 year. Programs include Recreational: KinderGym, Gym Fun, Gym Skills, Tumbling Gym, Womens Artistic and TeenGym.

Club also specialises in competitive programs : Men's Artist Gymnastics (MAG) with responsibilities from training and development of gymnasts of the state level right through to the National Squad. Sports ACROBATICS where we have aspirations to develop gymnasts of the state level and right through to the National Squad.

Throughout the year, Sydney Hills Gymnastics provides school based programs designed for kindergarten and primary school kids. Thousands of children have already participated in these programs over the years. Please see our Programs section for further information. We also offer a dedicated gym facility for rent to community members. If you are looking for the perfect place to hold a one-of-a-kind birthday party, consider Sydney Hills Gymnastics. In addition to the dedicated gym facility, we also offer a function room and kitchen area as well as a bouncy castles where your kids can have fun in a high-energy environment.



## 1806 Birgu "polverista" explosion

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

### *The site of the magazine*

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, the main gunpowder magazine in Birgu was located in a [casemate](#) within the city walls, close to the *Porta Marina*. This was an improvised measure: a casemate was not intended to be used as a gunpowder magazine, but such practice was common at the time. Gunpowder was also stored in casemates at other locations such as [Fort St. Angelo](#), [Fort Ricasoli](#), and [Mdina](#). The 1806 magazine was located close to civilian housing, and

residents had complained about the dangers before the explosion. Preparations had been made to move to alternative sites but nothing had been done; the storerooms that were meant to store gunpowder were being used as barracks or military hospitals. The 1806 explosion was not the first time that a gunpowder disaster occurred in Malta. On 12 September 1634, a gunpowder factory in Valletta [blew up](#), killing 22 people and causing severe damage to the [Church of the Jesuits](#) and the nearby college.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1662, gunpowder that was stored in an [echaugette](#) on one of Valletta's [counterguards](#) exploded after being hit by lightning, but there were no casualties.



**Explosion** In July 1806, British forces in Malta were preparing artillery shells for shipment to Sicily. Ammunition stocks there were depleted due to the [siege of Gaeta](#) by the French. On 18 July, a working party of 13 men commanded by garrison gunner [Bombardier](#) Anderson were preparing a consignment of shells from Birgu magazine,<sup>[3]</sup> which was filled at full capacity with 370 barrels containing 40,000 lb (18,000 kg) of gunpowder, as well as 1,600 shells and grenades.<sup>[6]</sup> Anderson was using a metal chisel to remove the fuse from live shells, which was contrary to instructions, and this resulted in sparks which caused a massive explosion at 06:15.

Anderson and the working party were killed instantly, as were three British soldiers of the [39th \(Dorset\) Regiment of Foot](#) and 23 Maltese soldiers of the [2nd Provincial Battalion](#). Between 150 and 200 civilians in Birgu were also killed, and approximately 100 others were injured by falling debris. The explosion frightened the inhabitants of Birgu, and it was also heard in the nearby cities of [Senglea](#) and [Cospicua](#), as well as in the surrounding villages.

The magazine was located within the city's fortifications, and a section of the walls "went up in the air" and a large breach.<sup>[10]</sup> The city gate at the Porta Marina, a small bastion, and part of a curtain wall were all destroyed and were never rebuilt.<sup>[11][12]</sup> Parts of the Navy Store Houses were also damaged or destroyed during the explosion.<sup>[3]</sup> Birgu's cityscape was also altered by the explosion, since a large number of houses were destroyed or damaged by the explosion itself and by the rocks which fell from the bastions.<sup>[10]</sup> Four hundred ninety-three people reported property losses due to the explosion.

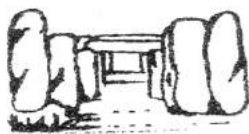
Many Maltese people were angered at the loss of lives caused by negligence on behalf of the military. Commissioner [Alexander Ball](#) reported that: "those Maltese who had already become disaffected with Government, fanned the embers and fermented great agitation by magnifying the casualties and working up the weakness and credibility of the lower ranks."

*Triq il-Vittmi tal-Porvlista*, with similar magazines built in the same period still intact or partially intact. Victims and their families were paid partial compensation, and Ball set up a committee overseeing distribution. He also urged the government to pay full compensation. This was initially denied, but eventually poorer classes received a compensation equivalent to two-thirds of their property which had been destroyed while those of the upper classes received half of the value of their property. In 1811, £18,066.5s.10d<sup>[a]</sup> was evenly distributed among those who had claimed damages.<sup>[3]</sup> A wine merchant named Woodhouse lost a large amount of wine and the government provided him with extensive storehouses at the former [Slaves' Prison](#) in Valletta as a compensation. The initial total estimated damage for rebuilding was estimated at £35,000.

The affected area became known as *I-Imġarrat* (Maltese for "the destroyed"). A street close to where the explosion occurred is now known as *Triq il-Vittmi tal-Porvlista* (Maltese for "Polverista Victims Street"). The Vitt Historical and Cultural Society installed a plaque at the St. Lawrence Cemetery on the 200th anniversary of the disaster in 2006, where most of the victims were buried.

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### THE MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NSW



will receive applications for the position of a Choir Director of its choir of under 20 choristers. The MCA Choir was established in 1989 and is the only Maltese choir in NSW. The successful applicant must be able to read music and be fluent in the Maltese and English languages. This

is a paid position. For further information, applicants are to contact the President, Charles N Mifsud, on 0421 662 298 and email a CV to [cnmifsud@gmail.com](mailto:cnmifsud@gmail.com)

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I look forward to receiving this journal which is a special gift to all Maltese living abroad. I keep all the editions on my USB. My family and friends, especially the young ones, are very keen to read it every week. A unique publication. (Mary Gauci)

## **EARTH GARDEN FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE AFTER TWO YEAR ABSENCE**

Earth Garden Festival returns on June 3, 4, and 5 to a new area in Ta' Qali, the Picnic Area, bringing the ultimate festival experience to Malta with three days of local and international music acts and an eclectic taste of world culture, food and artisanal experiences shared with like-minded people.

The Earth Garden Festival features music from Funk, House, Disco, Dub, Reggae, Techno & Acid, Psychedelic, as well as electronic music

Earth Garden Festival 2022

National Park, Ta' Qali

[www.earthgarden.com.mt](http://www.earthgarden.com.mt)

[info@earthgarden.com.mt](mailto:info@earthgarden.com.mt)

+356 7994 8529

Malta's largest alternative festival!

A homegrown festival with an international reputation for an outstanding line up, overall high standards, pumping dance floors, hugs, fun & sun!

Furthermore, Earth Garden is a local pioneer in implementing new methods of waste management and for spreading public awareness on environmental matters, followed by other festivals in Malta as a leading example.

Set in the centre of the Mediterranean, this great little festival is held annually at the National Park since 2007 and nowadays attracts around 25,000 true music lovers over 4 days for a musical journey worth travelling to.

The festival offers 6 music stages (including a very well organised jamming area) involving over 100 acts and over 200 musicians from around the World delivering a unique fusion of World Music, Ska, Funk, Blues, Reggae, Alternative Rock, Dub, Hip-Hop, Psychedelic Trance, Techno, Acid, House and more!

It's not all about music at Earth Garden...Well, almost.

The festival has a large naturally shaded campsite with shower facilities, pre-pitched tents and glamping options, one of the best International Food Courts on the island, a colourful Ethnic market, Healing fields, and also a Fun Park for the young ones and the young at heart.




The popular festival returns this summer, marking its fifteenth anniversary with over 100 artists, five music areas, camping and more

The picnic area will host up to 1,500 campers, with more than 25,000 festival-goers expected overall.

"In its 15-year anniversary, the festival continues to offer festival-goers a fusion of world music that spans multiple genres and incorporates the most unlikely performers," organisers said.

There will also be a wide range of music from ska to blues, reggae, alternative rock, psychedelic trance, techno, acid, house, gypsy, and more.



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GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PERMANENT SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



## Bank hold-up that shocked Malta 50 years ago



**Joseph Spiteri, 18, was shot point blank at Barclays Bank in Mġarr**

Published in the [Times of Malta](#)

The hold-up murder victim being taken away in a police hearse. (Times of Malta)

A bank clerk was shot dead in a botched hold-up which saw both tragedy and heroism, on this day 50 years ago. The dramatic episode unfolded in May 1972 at the Mġarr agency of Barclays Bank when three hooded men, one of them armed with a gun,

barged into the office as staff were preparing for business.

The robbers cut phone lines and ordered the staff to hand them cash.

*Times of Malta* reported at the time that the staff offered no resistance. But one of the robbers suddenly shot Joseph Spiteri at point-blank range with a sawn-off shotgun. The 18-year-old from Zejtun was hit in the chest and fell to the floor.

The thieves then made for cash they saw in a drawer- the equivalent of €2,800.

At that point, a male customer walked into the bank. Realising what was happening, he grabbed the man with the shotgun and managed to wrest it off him. The customer, known as *Neriku tal-pastizzi* then dashed off with the gun into the bank's toilet.

The robbers grabbed a few hundred pounds and fled in a Ford Escort getaway car. It was later found burnt in Burmarrad. A neighbour raised the alarm by calling the police from a neighbouring bakery but it was too late to save Joseph Spiteri, who died on the scene.

Governor-General Sir Anthony Mamo was among those who sent messages of sympathy to the Spiteri family. "The terrible news of the tragic death of your son Joseph, killed in the prime of life while performing his duties at his place of work shocked us and filled our hearts with sorrow," Sir Anthony wrote, also on behalf of Lady Mamo.

Four men were taken to court a few days after the case. Two, Thomas Moran and Emanuel Zammit, pleaded guilty to armed robbery and were jailed for 18 years after the charge of murder against them was dropped.

Frank Frendo was convicted by a jury of armed robbery and manslaughter for having pulled the trigger and killing Spiteri. He was sentenced to nine years imprisonment with hard labour. John Gatt was found guilty of participating in the robbery and jailed for eight years.

The jury found that Frendo was guilty of armed robbery and involuntary homicide because his firearm had gone off through his negligent and imprudent handling, causing death.

The judge remarked that Frendo was a lucky young man. He explained that whereas the penalty of life imprisonment had been established for the crime of theft qualified with the aggravating circumstances of willful homicide, no section of the law had provided for any penalty in respect of theft aggravated by manslaughter. Moreover, the court was unable to penalise the accused for two separate offenses with which he had not been charged in different counts of the bill of indictment.

At least two other men are known to have died in botched bank robberies in Malta.

Police Constable Roger Debattista, a father of two, was shot dead while on security duties at a Bank of Valletta branch in Qormi in 2001. Messenger Alphonse Ferriggi was killed while depositing a bag of documents - which robbers thought contained cash - at Bank of Valletta in San Ġwann in September 2000.

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**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**







## **IL-BEGIGGA**

**An ancient custom in Vittoriosa at Easter**  
[Vittoriosa Historical and Cultural Society](#)

“Begigga” is one of the many sweet and ancient traditions that we have in Vittoriosa. In the past, the Good Friday procession was accompanied with the mournful playing of the flute and the drums with their melancholy playing. But with the proclamation of Christ's resurrection from the dead, through the

playing of Glory, the drum and other musical instruments were played merrily to convey the news that Christ had risen. This led to the creation of the expression: "Vittoriosa, with glory comes the drum". At the sound of the drum one could see the children gathering from every corner and as they walked behind the drum they sang and danced.

But one wonders why this drum beat is called “tal-Begigga” or “Bagigga”. According to George Pace, it all started today in the 1930s, when a group of children sang and shouted as usual. In no time, they saw a police officer confiscating a goat from a man because it was without a muzzle. This man was nicknamed 'Bagigga' or 'Begigga'. George, was playing the flute together with a drum. In light of this event, at a certain point, Salvu Cardona began to sing:

***“Haduhielu lill-Begigga haduhielu”.***

***(They took the Begigga away)***

This was in reference to the confiscating goat. The children enjoyed the singing and started repeating this rhyme repeatedly. In the following years, this verse ‘Tal-Begigga’ continued to be sung. Over time, its origins seem to be remembered by no one. Later Ausonio Bugeja known as "Is-Sonu". joined the group of musicians by playing the bagpipe.

It seems that even after the war this tradition passed to Toni Spiteri known as "Patni". Toni used to borrow a drum from the St. Lawrence Band Club, then known as the Duke of Edinburgh. He and his children and other young people used to fill streets of Vittoriosa to spread the news that Christ had been resurrected. Charlie Boxall took over the job in the 1970s, after Toni Spiteri fell ill and died in 1977. Charlie Boxall borrowed the drum from his uncle Ġużè Ancilleri.

The Begigga would come out twice. It was first held on Saturday night at the end of Mass and on Sunday afternoon after the entry of the Resurrection. Until the early 1990's, the Begigga organization remained in the hands of Charles Boxall. When he stopped due to other commitments, several efforts were made to continue this tradition. Due to the difficulty of obtaining a drum, for some time, this custom almost came to naught, until a few years ago, there was a resurgence.

Unfortunately, not everyone appreciated the effort

In the year 2020, in the coronavirus situation, the initiative was taken to make Begigga a difference. The drum was loaded onto a truck and, instead of being accompanied by a group of children, a number of cars followed with sounds of horn. They encourage people to go out the windows and the galleries to knock and make all sorts of noises, whatever comes their way.

[www.facebook.com/cittavittoriosa/posts/10158656699105732](https://www.facebook.com/cittavittoriosa/posts/10158656699105732)



Comino is a tiny island in the center of the Mediterranean, only 3.5 square kilometers, between its sister islands Gozo and Malta. Now nearly uninhabited (only a family of 3 live on the island), but once had a small population of farmers during the Roman Times. In fact one can still find an abandoned building which once held a small school in the form of an all-age class for their children (opened in 1948), a small hospital to provide a quarantine station for people returning to Malta from plague-stricken ports, a shop and a pub. There is also a chapel (builtin 1618) and police station.

Comino, being isolated and having many caves and cliffs was an ideal place for pirates during the Middle ages, which they used as a base to raid passing by ships. In 1416, the St Mary's Tower was built to protect the island from the pirates, Turkish and smugglers. It also served as a communication media between the islands. The tower has also served as a prison for those who committed minor crimes.

In later years, the Knights of Malta used Comino as a hunting ground for wild boars and hares. Comino has been a popular location for film making. It has appeared in movies like Troy, Swept Away and mostly featured in The count of Monte Cristo.

### **Blue Lagoon**

Comino does not have many things to offer due to its size, but its main attraction, Blue Lagoon, makes up for not only Comino itself but for the whole Maltese Islands.

Blue Lagoon is a sheltered inlet, between Comino and Cominotto, with glistening aquamarine shallow waters with a sandy waterbed, making it a natural pool. Here you can find by far the cleanest sea in Malta due to the current that pass daily through the inlet. It's ideal to spend the day there relaxing, swimming, snorkelling and also scuba diving (in an area behind Cominotto). The beaches here are tiny and its charm can be easily lost in the crowds.

It is estimated that in peak season of July/August Comino gets 4000-5000 visitors daily.

Best time to visit would be May and September, during the week preferably. If you want to avoid the crowds all together it is quite impossible unless you sleep on the island and get there as early as before 8.30am. At Blue lagoon you can find public toilets, water sports as well as deckchairs



## Embassy of Malta in Dublin celebrates Europe Day

Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: May 12, 2022



On May 9 Dr Josianne Farrugia, Chargais d'affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Malta in Dublin, accompanied Hon Anne Rabbitte, Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and at the Department of Health, visiting schools in Galway as part of Europe Day celebrations, coinciding with 50th Anniversary of Ireland signing the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities.

Minister Rabbitte thanked the schools for their efforts in raising interest in and knowledge of the EU, referred to similarities in the Maltese and Irish education system, and spoke about the importance of looking at other EU Member States' national policies. As an example, she mentioned the Malta National Autism Strategy 2021-2030 which is being used as a model by Ireland.

Dr Farrugia highlighted the need to respect diversity, and the importance of learning EU languages, both ones' own as well as others. She also spoke about aspects of Malta's culture and traditions.

The Minister and Chargais d'affaires a.i. fielded questions from students on various subjects, including the current conflict in Europe and welcoming new friends from Ukraine in their classroom.



The Malta High Commission in Canberra is delighted to have teamed up with the Maltese Australian Association of Canberra and Queanbeyan to set up a stand at the European Multicultural Festival organised by the Alliance Française de Canberra today. A very well attended even and an excellent opportunity to show case our beautiful islands



The Tunnara Museum is located in Mellieha Bay. It is found in a Battery that was built by the Knights of Malta in 1716 as a coastal fortification. During the Second World War a Beach Post was added

on the water edge and a searchlight room built next to it by the British Forces. After the war the Battery was passed back to the Tunnara owners.

This unique Museum revives the story of the Battery through different eras and with its collection of original artifacts used for the mattanza during bygone centuries. It revives the history of the Tunnara and the story of our forefathers who toiled and worked hard to trap the Bluefin Tuna in the Bay. The museum is set to reopen after a €500,000 restoration. Part of the museum has been transformed into an interactive interpretation centre from where visitors can see how tuna used to be fished in the past. Structural damage was repaired and embellishment works were carried out in the surrounding area for the zone to become more attractive to tourists. Some 80 per cent of the project was paid for through EU funds.

It was inaugurated by the parliamentary secretaries for EU funds and local government Chris Bonett and Alison Zerafa Civelli and Mellieha mayor Dario Vella.



## **Greens election success marks a change in Australian politics**

REBECCA GALDIES, a Greens candidate, is an Australian of Maltese and British background who received over 5% increase in her voting on the May 2022 Federal election. This outstanding result is very encouraging since the Adelaide seat is normally a safe Labour seat.

"There were definitely a bunch of folks that thought getting to 20% in Adelaide, South Australia at this election would be impossible, and I've resisted

posting anything for a few days because I suspected it would go down after postals were counted but this is the lowest it's been since Saturday. Maybe it will go further down but I am so incredibly proud of all the people that contributed to the Greens campaign in Adelaide and still so proud to have been selected to be the candidate. I know it's a few years away, but I'm pretty keen to give it another shot. Rebecca said. WELL DONE, REBECCA and we wish you every success in the future.





NEWSPAPER POST

## LURA FIT-TOROQ

I-pandemja ta' Coronavirus (COVID-19) li laqat u harbat lid-dinja f'dawn l-aħbar sentajn u nofs, halliet konsagrazzjoni kienet fuq il-wieġi individwali kif ukoll komunitarja. Merhabba f'ha kienet wkoll inbiddu l-haja soċjali tagħha. Fost l-oħrajn, b'raja nida għal għas-sħaba ta' s'ulem, ma sarx f'akti parokkjali li taw jiffrimaw parti mill-haja tagħha li Multin.

Peress li f-festa ta' San Publu ta-Furjana tiffah l-istagun tal-festi, dan li-sentiment ta' liberazzjoni nhekk sawwek wicli f'ostna l-Furjana!

Wara li ghai sentajt konna mibahidin mli istawta ta'  
Sen Publu ft taroq Furjanit, raga' wadal k-mumant li  
narigghu ngawduh, lha nappa minni dik li festa  
mibahida: tal-2019, ft jam wara li sahh latti infami li  
fh inqad b'n-nar li Ark Trigonali, Jalla l-hadd l-ta'  
Maju 2022. li temp jippermati.

Infeggu illi Furjanet kollha, huma fuq huma, bla  
 jgħidni għali kure jgħidni kollha li jgħidni li jgħidni  
 – primarjament tothom u Porellat li r'ha  
 festa lghodju – u għali purgazzjoni b'lek  
 nakkumponju li wera mawtata li jgħidni  
 tagħna San Publu li taroq ta' b'eltra.  
 Din is-sena wkoll se jgħidni li Festival  
 Nazjonal tar-Nar ta' An li i Kusall Lokali  
 jgħidni ta' Fuq li Fosos lejta li festa  
 t'eltra.

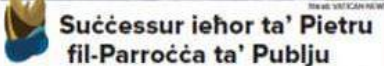
**IL-FESTA T-TAJBA  
LILL-FURJANIZI!  
KOLLHA!**

ARA PAĖNI 3, 26 U 27

**BIEX MA NINSEW QATT!**

**F**orsi meta f'dawn il-jum ta' festa rizzu ripetutament il-tempi maestuz  
vodka ta' li protettur ta' bejtna. Sen Publiq, id' aunu daww il-jifkru li  
BO sasu ul parti sower minnu kienat iggarfat fil-qilla tal-bumarda  
mert tal-għadu matul il-Twint Gwarrs Dinjia. Iliex il-gamarzi joni attenti ta'  
Furgenzi ma sinna qat din il-pagna kienet fil-istorja tal-Furgenzi, qad  
nippubblikaw fin-nofs ta' din il-harga, supplement ta' 20 pagna dwer  
il-Furgenzi il-gwerra.

ARA SUPPLEMENT FIL-PAGNE MINN 5 SA 24



**K**wazi kahir bi-azati qabel ma se ikun iccelebrata l-festa parrokkjali bi-Furjana, wassal l-Malta u l-Godzja Tiegħra l-Papa Frangisku ghali jzara ta' ftit akkar minn 32 siegħa t'għajna. U jzara laqnet il-quccata tiegħra l-ghada b'quddiesha fi Piazza San Publu li biem propju ta' Fuq il-Fosgi li-Furjana, b'li sgnali baxx qabel imtorma lejli l-Vatikan. Sfortunatament minhabba saħħtu ma setax jagħmei dñali-Papa ta' qabju Benedittu XVI li b'2010 kien dahal fi-knisja ta' San Publu b'lex liex u b'libes sagħgi ghali-quddiesha.

**ARA AKTAR TAGHRIF U RITHATTI FPAQNA 25**

This supplement, which contains many photographs and a comprehensive article regarding the tragedy of WWII written by Publio Agius, former Mayor of Floriana. In his article Agius reveals among other facts that one of the pilots of the German planes that had bombed the Floriana Parish Church several years later had visited the same church as a tourist.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the Floriana Granaries**

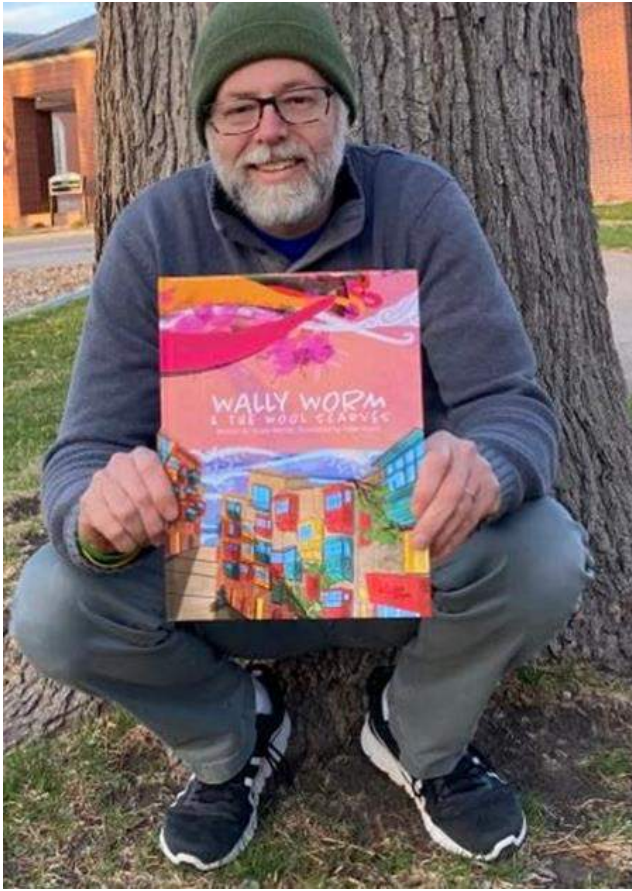




## American Author Published Malta-Based Book

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

The American author William Martin recently published a book based in Malta which helps to address certain issues with body image among children.



The book is called 'Wally Worm and the Wool Scarves' which looks at an earthworm called Wally who feels insecure about himself and tries to hide by wearing wool scarves.

William Martin announced the release of his children's book saying: "I am excited to announce the release of my children's book 'Wally Worm and the Wool Scarves.' Take a journey with Wally through the narrow streets of Malta on a journey of self discovery! Thank you Hebe Atzori for capturing the beauty and vibrant, colourful, life of this little island tucked away in the Mediterranean Sea."

The author, who lived in Malta before the pandemic, got inspired by our beautiful island to write this book. During the time he spent with students, he noticed that they became more comfortable when they observed worms in class after it rained.

I am excited to announce the release of my children's book "Wally Worm and the Wool Scarves." Take a journey with Wally through the narrow streets of Malta on a journey of self discovery!

Thank you Hebe Atzori for capturing the beauty and

vibrant, colorful, life of this little island tucked away in the Mediterranean Sea.

Books can be purchased at Amazon US

([https://www.amazon.com/.../dp/173664291X/ref=tmm\\_hrd\\_swatch\\_0...](https://www.amazon.com/.../dp/173664291X/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0...)) and Amazon UK

([https://www.amazon.co.uk/Wally-Worm-Scarves-W.../.../ref=sr\\_1\\_9...](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Wally-Worm-Scarves-W.../.../ref=sr_1_9...))

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**Jun 26, 2021, 7:00 PM – 11:59 PM**  
**The Maltese Center, 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NY, USA**

### **MALTESE IN NEW YORK, USA**

It's that beloved time of the year when we celebrate L-Imnarja and this year we will also honour the Feast of San Gwann. Those that RSVP get a reserved seat in order of receipt of your RSVP and availability. . \$25 donation

**Jun 26, 2021, 7:00 PM – 11:59 PM**

**The Maltese Center, 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NY, USA**

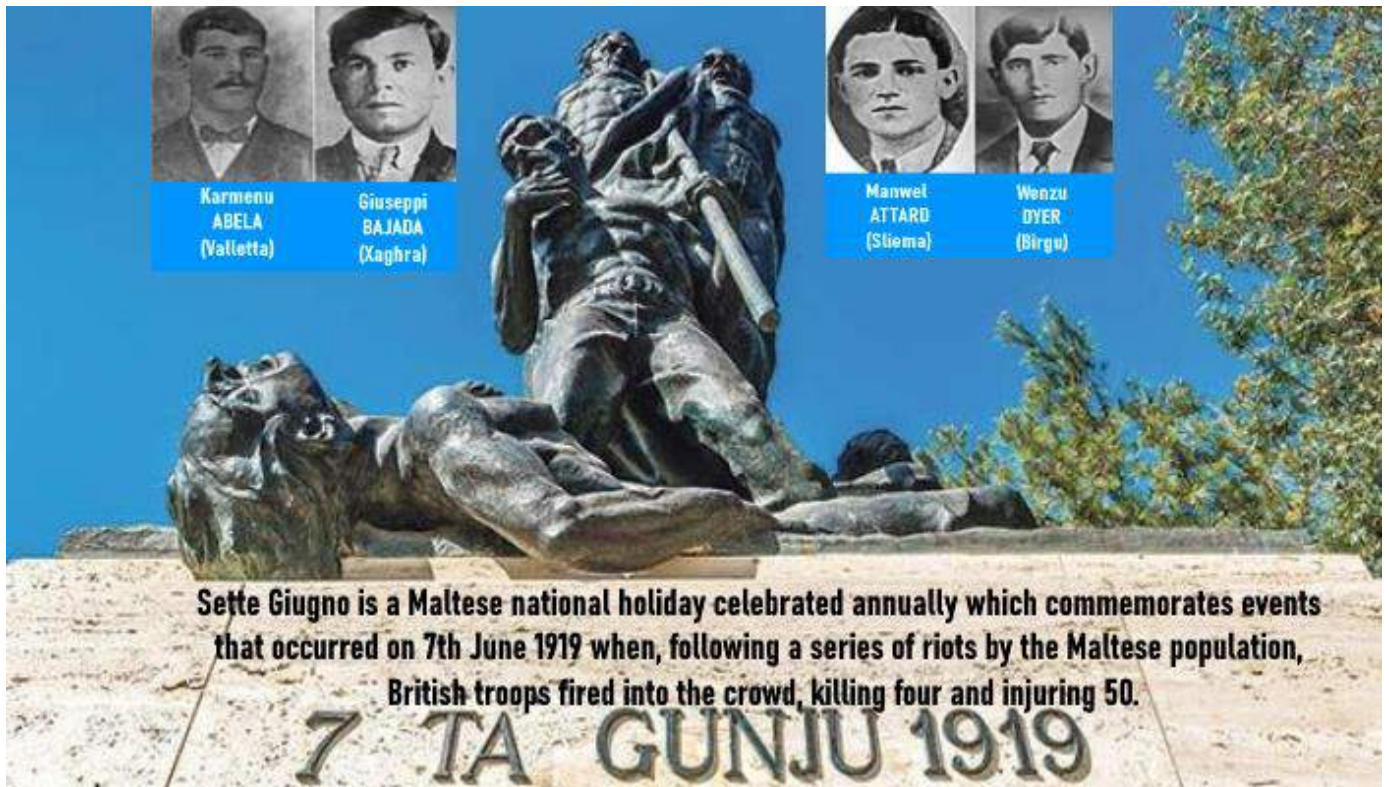




**MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW**  
**"Sette Giugno"**  
**Commemoration Ceremony**  
**to be held at the**  
**Maltese Bicentenary Monument,**  
**Civic Park, Pendle Hill, NSW**  
**on Sunday 5th June 2022 at 11:00am**



Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General for NSW ,  
visits the La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW  
to assist the members on all matters relating to Malta,  
including passports, Power of Attorney (Prokura),  
Malta Pensions and other consular matters.  
Appointments are essential. Ring the Consulate  
on 9262 9500 to book your appointment.



**Sette Giugno is a Maltese national holiday celebrated annually which commemorates events  
that occurred on 7th June 1919 when, following a series of riots by the Maltese population,  
British troops fired into the crowd, killing four and injuring 50.**

**7 TA GUNJU 1919**



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Readers in Malta and Gozo are interested  
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Maltese living abroad.

Maltese living overseas are interested in  
what is happening in their homeland.  
Connecting communities matters





## **Malta Rugby League (MRL)**

**MALTA DAMES LOOK TO FRANCE 2025**



Malta Dames enjoyed a successful International 9's tournament in January last year, but unfortunately fell victim to a COVID-outbreak and travel restrictions in June, preventing the ladies to play again for the remainder of the season.

In [Malta Rugby League \(MRL\)](#)'s commitment to the development of women's rugby league, the Dames will return to the field next month and participate in a Festival of Rugby League with several other teams at the famous Belmore Oval. An application has also been lodged with the [International Rugby League \(IRL\)](#) for the Dames to contest their first sanctioned test match for world ranking points in October vs Philippines.

Following on from our pathway activities in 2022, MRL endeavour to establish in-country competition in 2023 to ensure long-term development of the women's game on the islands.

IRL has recently revealed that interest for the next Rugby League World Cup in France (2025) received an overwhelming response.

For the first time ever, the women's competition will feature a qualification process.

All eight nations competing at RLWC2021 (now 2022) will automatically qualify leaving the rest to play through regional qualification.

IMAGE: Dames players Laura Cusumano and Chantelle Leishman launch their 2022 kit in Sydney yesterday which is proudly supplied by STINGZ and Giordano.

SAN GEJTANU SOCIETY OF VICTORIA, Australia was established in 1978 to connect all Hamrunizi in Malta and all those who live abroad to share, discuss and keep other Hamrunizi updated on events and to continue the traditions, faith and culture of the people of Hamrun, Malta

*St Gaetan Society*

44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

Celebrating our Maltese-Australian heritage 1978-2022

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 6pm-late

at

Ultima Function Centre, Keilor Park

Adults: \$75 Children (10 and Over): \$40

*Includes a live band, four course meal and drinks (beer, wine and soft drinks)*

Join us for a night of festivities, food and fun!

Call Jim 0403 743 674 for bookings and enquiries  
Rita 9331 1430



**Proud to be  
Aboriginal**



**Proud to be  
Australian**