



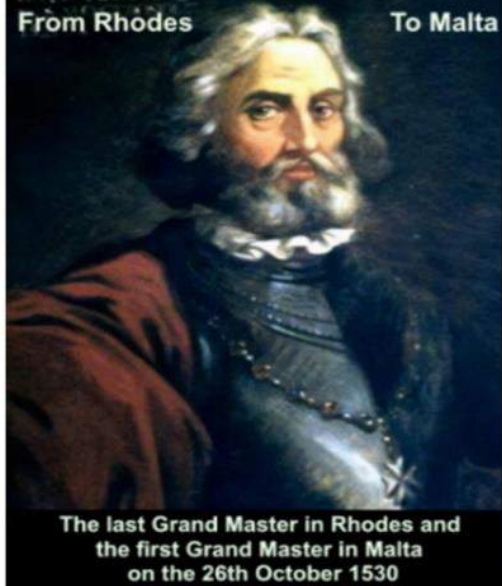
# Maltese e-Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor  
Frank Scicluna OAM MQR  
Adelaide-Australia  
Contact  
maltesejournal@gmail.com



Philippe Villiers de l' Isle-Adam  
From Rhodes To Malta



The last Grand Master in Rhodes and  
the first Grand Master in Malta  
on the 26th October 1530

## MALTESE IN MACKAY- QUEENSLAND

### Maltese meeting corner set to see monument

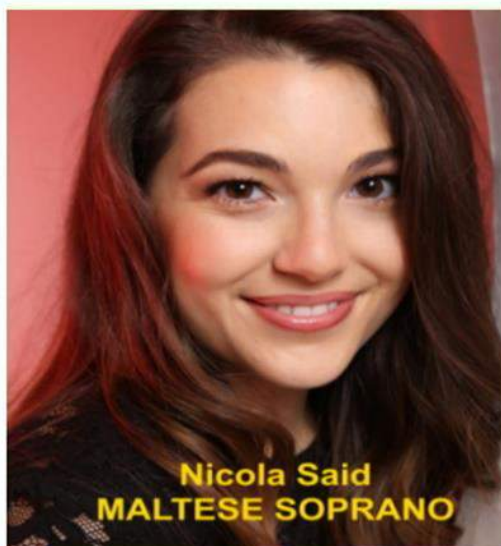


Percy Zammit, Sam Bezzina and John Vassallo  
were three people regularly seen on Rockman's Corner,  
also known as the Maltese Corner



Frank & Jane  
GRIMA

MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Nicola Said  
MALTESE SOPRANO



CARMEL  
BARETTA

## Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee



1952



2022



THE JOURNAL THAT BRINGS MALTESE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



## Villiers de l'Isle Adam Rhodes to Malta

An important figure for the history of Rhodes was a man called Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam. Born in the year 1464, he became the 44th Grand Master of The Knights of Saint John In Rhodes in the year 1521.

He would be the last Grand Master on the island, later becoming the first Grand Master in Malta on the 26th October 1530.

### The 1522 Siege of Rhodes

As did Pierre d'Aubusson in the 1480 Siege Of Rhodes, Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam also had to face the strength of The Ottoman Empire in the 1522 Siege Of Rhodes.

This time, Rhodes was up against the fury of The Sultan Suleiman and his army.

Villiers de l'Isle Adam, being Commander of the Knights during this 1522 Siege, was confronted with over a 100,000 Ottoman Soldiers. They arrived in force and the siege lasted for 6 months.

Against 100,000 men, it was always going to be a difficult task. He had only 600 of his Knights and 4500 soldiers. It was simply not enough to resist Suleiman and his forces. Being unable to repel the opposition after a long battle, he and his order were forced to surrender. They were offered a path out, and they left the island of Rhodes for Crete, on New Year's Day in 1523.

### Post Battle

Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam- Courtesy of Vortbot (Wikimedia Commons)

After the siege had come to a close, Villiers de l'Isle Adam and his Knights Order went on to relocate in different places over the next years.

First, they landed in Messina (Sicily, Italy), then onto Viterbo (Lazio) and to Nice in France.

It was not until the 26th October 1530 that they landed in Malta with their ship. This ship was called the Santa Anna and was obtained from Nice in France. This vessel was constructed in the 16th century and was considered somewhat state of the art during that time. Malta had been granted to The Knights Order by

### Roman Emporor Charles V.

From here, The Order set up base and they reestablished themselves as The Maltese Knights, for which they are still known today.

### Villiers de l'Isle Adam and His Knights In Malta

The Knights settled in an area called Birgu (also known as Citta Vittoriosa) in the South East of Malta.

This city was also equipped with the fortress, which goes by the name Fort Saint Angelo. The Knights used this as settlement when they arrived and slowly they built their accommodation for the different Langues. They constructed their empire once more. They had their protective fortress, their palace, their accommodation, their hospital and their overall foundations in place again!

At first, The Knights were not too happy with Malta. They saw it as a desolate land. After saying that, the location of Malta was considered a very strategic location. Situated in the middle of The Mediterranean, it served as a great advantage point between the east and the west. They soon went on to transform Malta into a powerful operation.

### The Grand Masters Later Years

Despite all this, Villiers de l'Isle Adam and many of his knights dreamed of recapturing the island of Rhodes again in the future. They longed to have their home back! Chris Towers

This was never to be though, and Villiers de l'Isle Adam passed away on the 21st August 1534 and he was buried inside the grounds of Fort Saint Angelo.

Long after his death, in the year 1565, The Ottoman Empire struck again. This time they wanted to capture Malta. The Knights were able to repel these attacks and this went on to be known as 'The Great Siege Of Malta'.

After only a few days, The Ottoman Empire retreated. It was after The Great Siege that The Knights order decided to make Malta their permanent residence.



## Soprano Nicola Said leads Malta Opera's hope to nurture homegrown talent



Malta has a completely renewed cohort of talented opera singers following important international professional opera careers. Malta Opera hosted a masterclass for young singers before its official launch.

Malta Opera launched with a gala concert on 5 May at the Casino Maltese in Valletta.

With a rich and diverse programme organised by soprano and founder Nicola Said and featuring 15 established Maltese opera singers who were joined by young and emerging singers, the ballroom was packed with VIP guests, friends and families.

Established performers included Francesca Aquilina, Albert Buttigieg, Louis Andrew Cassar, Graziella Debattista, Clare Ghigo, Joseph Lia, Nicola Said, Ken Scicluna, Cliff Zammit Stevens, Nadia Vella, Charles Vincenti and Gillian Zammit. Emerging singers (also in alphabetical order) participating were Michaela Agius, Mariette Borg, Mariah Costa, Maria Grazia Grech, Madeleine Gruppeta, Gabrielle Portelli and Nicole Vassallo.

The pianist was Maria-Elena Farrugia. Compère for the evening was Joseph Chetcuti, while Albert George Storace prepared the programme notes.

The programme covered a broad repertoire of music by well-loved international composers Handel, Mozart, Léhar, Donizetti, Gounod, Gilbert and Sullivan, Bernstein, Verdi, Puccini, Sorozábal and Maltese composer Camilleri.

“Opera has always held a special place in our hearts, our culture and society. And although today it competes with popular musical genres and entertainment, our love for opera has certainly not dimmed. In our case, it gave birth to a dream – Malta Opera,” said Said.

Malta Opera is a unique, professional collaborative initiative bringing together Maltese singers, experienced and professional management, artistic production, and internationally-renowned conductors with long standing connections with Malta.

Shortly before the launch, Malta Opera held a Masterclass at the Malta Society of Arts in Valletta – “The German System: What’s Your Fach?” – during which eight talented singers shone for three days under the coaching of international masters, Conductor Ben Woodward and Director Detlef Sölter.

“We believe that investing in the future of opera is the key to giving opportunities to those singers who study and perform both locally and internationally. We also believe that it is important to promote the work as a multidisciplinary platform and develop a community of supporters,” Said said.

The Maltese have a deeply-rooted infatuation with opera culture. From global superstars like Oreste Kirkop and Joseph Calleja, to internationally acclaimed singers such as Miriam Gauci, Lydia Caruana and Antoinette Miggiani, they bring out the best of local talent and the Maltese communities.

Today in Malta there is a completely renewed cohort of talented opera singers following important international professional opera careers. Many other great and promising Maltese voices can be found among opera students studying at home and abroad.

“Unfortunately, such talent is not always adequately appreciated due to the lack of local opportunities. Young singers leave Malta to pursue their dreams abroad, with little hope of returning to pursue a full-time artistic career. They do however shine in highly acclaimed productions overseas productions. This is the gap that Malta Opera has set out to fill,” Said said.

"Our dream is to grow the company and have world-class opera productions that bring together Maltese talent from all over the world. We are also planning to develop exchanges with international opera singers, productions and companies. Whether it is education through masterclasses, exploring of innovative ways to bring work to life through emerging technology and media, or opportunities for through multidisciplinary concerts and opera scene productions, we want opera to be the beating heart of our communities."

Present for the launch were arts minister Owen Bonnici, Italian ambassador Fabrizio Romano, German and Spanish embassy representatives, finance ministry permanent secretary Alfred Camilleri, and soprano Lydia Caruana. (Source: Times of Malta)

## Mackay's historic 'Maltese Meeting Corner' set to see statues commemorating community constructed



ABC Tropical North

By Tobi Loftus and Tegan Philpott

Carmel Baretta has been working with her fellow Maltese residents for years to get statues commemorating the community installed in the

For years, the Rockman's Corner in the Mackay CBD was the meeting place for the region's Maltese community, where despite not being able to read or write they did deals to help fellow immigrants buy their own farms.

Former president of the Mackay Maltese Club and local

historian Carmel Baretta said the meeting place on the corner of Wood and Victoria Street was also known as the Maltese Corner.

"Maltese men gathered there a number of times a week [from the mid-20th century] and the idea of it was they met there before the banks opened and they had discussions on who had what farm for sale, who wanted to buy a farm," Mrs Baretta said.

"Most of these men couldn't read or write, but they could calculate the daily interest rate in their head. Quick as a flick."

The men would discuss the interest rates and help any community members who needed it through the banking system. "They'd go to the bank manager and say my cousin here wants to buy a farm, can you lend him the money," she said.

"If the manager ummed and ahed they'd say we're taking out money out of here and are going to the other bank. "It was a bit of blackmail, but it worked.

"Once those older farmers became established, they would loan their money at a lower rate than what the bank would give." Some of the farmers ended up forming their own bank which over years transformed into the Pioneer Permanent Building Society. The society was purchased by the Bank of Queensland in 2007. "The idea of it was to help migrants who came in to Australia," Mrs Baretta said.

"I was with my elder brother last weekend and he used to go with dad to that corner.

"He was telling me that all of these people say 'oh if it wasn't for your father or any of those other men, I would never have bought my farm'. "As [the men] got older and didn't do that sort of thing anymore, they still met there anyway. It was a meeting place."

### Immigration history to Australia

Maltese immigration to North Queensland dates back to the 1880s, but began to increase rapidly around 1944, when the Maltese were classified as 'white British subjects' under Australia's immigration policies at the time. According to the Department of Home Affairs, most of the Maltese migrants who came to Australia were semi-skilled or unskilled workers and many were poorly educated.

They emigrated to leave behind poor socio-economic conditions or in response to government schemes to decrease Malta's population.

While most emigrated to Victoria and New South Wales, a small number moved to Queensland and Mackay. They would come to Mackay to work on the cane farms, but over time the Maltese families started to buy those farms. Now, the city boasts one of the largest populations of Maltese immigrants and descendants outside of a capital city.

### Honouring Maltese history

Last week the Mackay Regional Council voted to allow Mrs Baretta and the Maltese community to place statues at Rockman's Corner. "It will be bronze statues of two men sitting side by side, with a man on the other side facing them," Mrs Baretta said.

"There will be enough room on the seats for people to sit beside them and have their photo taken.

"These statues will be life size and identical to the people in our photographs."



*The statues when built will replicate the scene seen in this photograph, except with just three of the men. (Supplied: Carmel Baretta)*

Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson said he remembered passing by that corner when he was younger.

"They were all just sitting there, these very wealthy men in terms of our cane farming community," he said. "Holding on to history, and heritage is critical for any community.

"It's that old story of how you can know where you're going to if you don't know where you've come from." Mrs Baretta is also part of the Mackay Italian Association and is working with the council on a plan to commemorate a similar impact that

community had on the city.



### This is the letter that landed Thomas, a young Maltese boy, a meeting with the Prime Minister of Malta:

*"Dear Prime Minister,*

*I am writing to you because I love the environment and I think Malta can do better. I am going to write to Bernard Grech and Miriam Dalli as well. I am only nine years old but I have a vision for Malta. It could be the most beautiful country but we are not clean or green at all. I always look out of my window and say is this the country I live in?*

*I love birds and I know so many lovely people who adore them, and they remind me over and over again about the habitats, not only bird habitats but all animals. Habitats are being destroyed because of all types of pollution and the worst are plastic pollution, gas power station exploding, hunting and shooting, burning fossil fuels and many more.*

*But most of all you should keep protected Burmarrad, Qammieh, Buskett, Chadwick Lakes, Comino, Dwejra, Tal-Wej and some other places north and south because they are a haven to many animals, especially birds.*

*You can help the environment but not spend a cent. Please help the environment because it doesn't only help nature lovers like me and animals it helps you and all your people."*





## CHAPELS IN HAZ ZEBBUG MALTA

One of the architectural jewels of the Maltese Baroque architect and sculptor Lorenzo Gafà is this fine centralised planned church with an oval dome in Ħaż-Żebbuġ, Malta. First built in 1500 by Simeone 'Xmun' Mamo, this church was rebuilt to its present-day form in 1683, with the belfry being added much later, in 1845.

**HAŻ-ZEBBUG AND THE MADONNA** Ħaż-Żebbuġ is a large and very old town. It owes its origins to three small villages, Ħal Muxi, Ħal Mula and Ħal Dwin. The people of Ħaż-Żebbuġ have always shown great devotion for Our Lady. Testament to this are the numerous statues, paintings as well as four brotherhoods dedicated to the Madonna that we find in this town. After those dedicated to the local patron saint, St. Philip, we also find that the largest number of niches in 'Città de Rohan' are dedicated to the mother of God.

**CHURCHES DEDICATED TO OUR LADY** Several churches and chapels that were built in Ħaż-Żebbuġ have been dedicated to Our

Lady under various titles. Some of them no longer exist today, but from those still present we find at least one dedicated to the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Light, Our Lady of Safe Delivery (tal-Ħlas, which today falls within Ħal Qormi) and St. Mary of Angels. And then we find this beautiful one in the Ħal Mula quarter of town. It is dedicated to the Assumption of Mary, known as Santa Marija in Maltese. This small church differs from the many others that we find in Ħaż-Żebbuġ.

**ORIGINS - A VERY OLD CHURCH** This church is one of the oldest built in Żebbuġ. It was

originally built in 1500 by the nobleman Simeone 'Xmun' Mamo. Mamo was the founder of the old and noble Mamo family. He died in 1514, leaving funds for the construction of this church, according to the notary acts of Lorenzo Bezzina of the 1st of July 1514. As a result, the church was named after him.

**CHANGE OF DEDICATION** But it wasn't always dedicated to St. Mary. The original chapel once present here, dating to around 1500, was dedicated to Our Saviour/Transfiguration of Jesus (Maltsee: S.S. is-Salvatur). But later on, it was dedicated to the Assunta. Even Luret Vella, in his book "Storja ta' Ħaż-Żebbuġ", mentions that when Bishop Dusina came to visit Ħaż-Żebbuġ in 1575, he mentioned 23 churches in his report, including the one named Santa Marija ta' Mamo. Dusina did not find it in a very good state, and although it had an altar and pavement, it lacked doors and windows which he ordered for it to have installed within a month.

**THE PLAGUE** During the plague of 1572-1573 the church was abandoned and a new one built nearby, dedicated to St. Rocco. So much so that in 1608 the Santa Marija ta' Mamo church was about to collapse when Gianni Pisani tried to repair it, but he did not do so properly. So it was closed down upon the order of the Bishop on the 8th of December of 1658.

**REBUILT TO ITS PRESENT FORM** Then, thanks to the cleric Salvu Balzan, who started taking care of it in, was rebuilt in 1683 with the funds he left when he died. This is the church we still find present today.

The church was built on the designs of famed architect Lorenzo Gafà. Construction work lasted around two years until it was blessed on the 14th of August 1685. The church's campanile was added several years later, in 1845 on the designs of Giovanni Andrea Psaila. Damaged in WWII The Mamo chapel suffered a hit during the Second World War, but it was repaired in 1947.

**BEAUTY IN SIMPLICITY - THE CHURCH'S ARCHITECTURE** - This church is beautiful in its simplicity. It is executed on an octagonal plan. Access to it is via two low-raised steps. Unlike the other churches, this church is plain and bare from architectural embellishments. The west façade is pierced with a large rectangular door with a thin stone moulding around and is topped with a rectangular cornice. Directly above the main door is a round window with an arched pediment. Each side of the church is contained with two flat pilasters, one on either side. On the upper part of the church we find a blank entablature and a rectangular cornice jutting out. The church has a small dome on top which is not very visible from street level. The belfry was built much later, in 1845, by architect Giovanni Andrea Psaila. Its two bells, despite their small size, have a very penetrating sound. They were cast by founder Giuliano Cauchi in 1883 thanks to the generous contributions of the local people.

**INTERIOR** Although this church is small, open entering it one is sure to remain impressed by the art pieces it contains. The stone work on the cornice of the altar shows great skill and have a Baroque look to it. Inside the church there are five paintings, plus another one in the sacristy dated 1600 which was probably the second one made. This painting shows the man thought to have been the church's benefactor. The titular painting shows the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven accompanied by several angels. This painting is the work of artist Pasquale Buhagiar. Photo Copyright © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg. References: Luret Vella, "Storja ta' Haż-Żebbuġ"; - Ruth Gamil, "Il-kappella ta' Hal Muxi - Haż-Żebbuġ", SantaMarijaQrendi .com; Dun Salv Caruana.



On Saturday June 25th the Maltese Canadian Federation will be hosting the annual Imnarja - MaltaFest celebration. This year we're bringing together some of the best Maltese Canadian talent that will keep you entertained throughout the day. There will be plenty of food and this year marks the return of the beer garden! We have plenty of entertainment for the kids with bouncy castles video game trucks and balloon twisters as well as a

performance by Anna from Frozen and Spider-Man. We hope to see you all there to represent the Maltese Canadian community and bring fourth the Maltese spirit in Toronto.



**Claude de la Sengle  
(1494 – 1557)  
48th Grand Master  
of the Order of Malta**



In 1555 four galleys namely, Santa Fè, San Michele, San Filippo and San Claudio were

The fifth Grand Master of Malta elected on 11 September 1553, a French noble man, Grand Hospitaller of the Order and Ambassador at the Court of Pope Julius III. The Grand Master strengthened the fortifications around The Great Harbour and conceived the idea of building a new city on a grid plan. Land was offered at a nominal price to encourage people to live in the locality.

The King of Spain wanted to grant Mehdia to the Order and a commission was set up and recommended to turn down the offer due to lack of funds. The King of Spain ordered the Viceroy of Sicily to destroy Mehdia to avoid Arab occupation. Giovanni de Vega retaliated and prohibited the exportation of wheat to Malta to starve the inhabitants. The Palermitan engineer Vincenzo Vogo was brought over by La Sengle to assist in a program to upgrade the mills.

The GrandMaster was to face more trouble because the Prior of Capua Fra Leone Strozzi betrayed the Order and Malta. Having escaped from a prison in Sicily, Strozzi requested the command of three galleys to fight Dragut. The squadron left Malta on 19 April 1554 and instead joined forces with France, a situation that embarrassed the Order as France and Spain were at loggerheads. Consequently FraLeone Strozzi was dismissed.

capsized by a hurricane causing the death of six hundred men. The Treasury was not in a position to replace the lost warships. Immediate assistance came from Spain, the Vatican, France and the Prior of St. Giles to substitute the lost ships. La Sengle commissioned the building of a galley in Messina at his own expense.

The Prior François De Lorena son of the Duchess of Guise and nephew of the King of France made pressure on La Sengle to designate him Captain Genral of the Fleet. In 1557 five galleys commanded by De Lorena left harbour and sailed towards Rhodes to engage the Moslem Fleet. The Order was defeated and the shattered squadron returned on 17 June 1557. Witnessing this misfortune were the Grand Master and others crying in despair the loss of their beloved ones.

The Grand Master could not bear more grief and went to rest at the Boschetto. His health deteriorated and his soul reposed on **18 August 1557** at exactly two o'clock in the afternoon. Greatly missed by his subordinates and despite all these mishaps never mistreated the Maltese. La Sengle was buried in the vault of St. Angelo and his heart deposited at the Carmelite Church at Rabat. He left the enormous sum of 80,000 scudi for the Order's Treasury. [







## A taste of his own violence: Mur Ġibek... turns the tables on the war on women

Irene Chias provides an inverted rendering of the gratuitous violence of Anthony Burgess's novel, this time wielded not by Alex and his droogs, but by Lexa's *droogettes*

An uncanny prescience characterises *Mur Ġibek...*, the translation into Maltese of Irene Chias's *Eżerċizi di Sevizia e Seduzione*, originally published by Mondadori in 2013 and Premio Mondello winner the year after. Translated by Mark Vella, the novel recounts Ignazia's double life: while in the process of developing a meaningful relationship with her gynaecologist,

she embarks on a series of 'exercises' in gender role reversal, subjecting obnoxious and violent men to the savage reality of the various abuses faced by women from time immemorial.

Hence the title in Maltese, implying the admonition to imagine being in someone else's shoes: inspired by the fight against fixed stereotypes holding back women (and men), Ignazia revisits rape scenes from classic literature, ranging from the Bible to *American Psycho*, inverts the characters' sex in the process, and practices this symbolic torture on selected men who will have to pay the price for their self-indulgent chauvinism.

Much closer to home, indeed, is Ignazia's re-rendering of *A Clockwork Orange*, referenced heavily by the alleged perpetrator of the Dembska murder that shook Malta to the core on the dawn of the new year.

Chias provides an inverted rendering of the gratuitous violence of Anthony Burgess's novel, this time wielded not by Alex and his droogs, but by Lexa's *droogettes*, while also acknowledging the different versions of the work: Kubrick's classic cinematographic reading, and the English and American editions of the novel.

Burgess's original was in fact divided in three sections comprising seven chapters each, a total of 21, the age of maturity, as the British author remarked. While the novel actually does redeem the protagonist by the last chapter, Kubrick chose to ignore this, even due to the fact that the American version closed at the twentieth chapter. After having finished the screenplay, he had read the missing part, and was amazed at this conclusion which he deemed was added by Burgess in order to allay the publisher's fears.

Back home, Horizons have chosen to undertake the publication of this third novel by Irene Chias, now resident in Malta, through financing by the National Book Council's Malta Book Fund.

A novel whose themes are both timely and timeless, in the sense that the historically subaltern state of women through history has been recently coming to the fore through the *#metoo* movement, but also in the local context through the frequent stories of one too many women succumbing to their violent and murderous partners. Well before the actual rise of *#metoo* in 2017, this novel in fact raised the issue of the perception of sexual violence against women. The fact that violence against women is accepted and 'normalised' becomes blatant as soon as the author turns the narrative tables, and portrays a male victim of this gender violence, and therefore extremely different reactions and opinions towards this violence arise in the reader.

***Mur Ġibek...Eżerċizzji ta' tortura u seduzzjoni* is available in all major bookshops, and was launched on the 25th March (5pm.) during Kampus Kotba: The 2022 Campus Book Festival in a debate with the author, lawyer and women's rights activist Dr Lara Dimitrijevic, and book blogger Robert Pisani.**



Join the Radio Team of the Maltese Community Council of NSW this Sunday on 2GLF-fm 89.3 at 11:00am for a program from the Maltese community in NSW, news and events from the Islands of Malta and other interesting topics  
Join Marthese Caruana Maltese Voices at 10 o'clock

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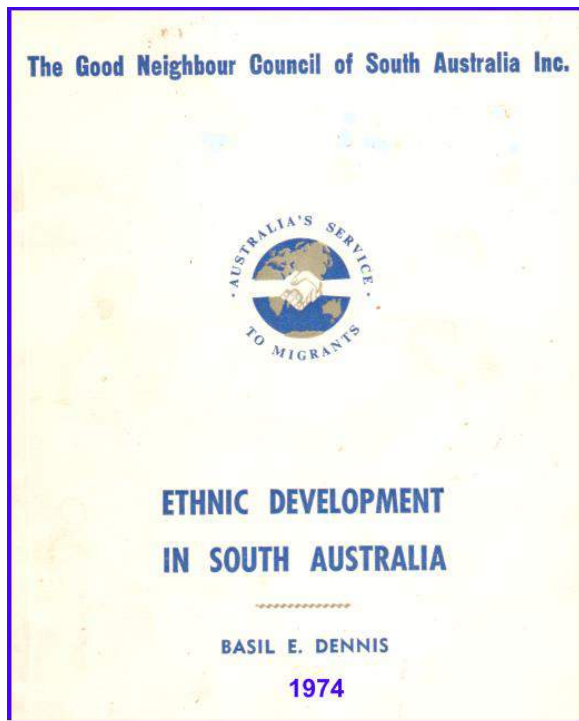
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## From the book **THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**published in 1974**



THE MALTESE ISLANDS are situated between Europe (of which continent they form a part) and Africa in a strategic position near the mid-Mediterranean Narrows, about 35 miles south of eastern Sicily and approximately 180 miles from both the Italian mainland and Libya. The group is a parliamentary state and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Malta itself is 95 square miles.

The rolling, hilly contours of the island have been terraced so that shallow soil is held together by rubble walls. The overall effect presents a strangely etched appearance.

Population of the island in 1971 was estimated to be 322,070.

Malta has very few natural resources. There are no important minerals and even soil and water are restricted in supply.

After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the living standard of the Maltese became increasingly dependent on British defence expenditure. In recent years about

half of Malta's income has been derived from the British dockyards and naval base at Valetta, and the Royal Air Force base at Luqa. The people of Malta are among the purest descendants of the Phoenicians, although their language is more closely related to Arabic dialects of North Africa, especially to that spoken in Tunis. Although scattered remains of alleged Phoenician origin have disappeared, Greek inscriptions, coins and works of art have since been found.

In A.D. 60 the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked in the bay which now bears his name and it was he who converted the island to Christianity.

For many centuries, Arab and European countries have dominated Malta. In 1799, in answer to an appeal for help to the British to assist in driving Napoleon from the island, Lord Nelson landed, hoisted the British flag and later the French surrendered. In 1814 Malta was granted British citizenship. Malta sought independence from Britain and this was achieved on the 21st September, 1964.

Following World War II there was a big influx of Maltese into South Australia. They settled quickly into the large industrial areas and some in market garden areas. Little difficulty was experienced with integration and they are represented in most sections of industry and commerce.

During the late 1940's, the Malta Community Society of South Australia was formed and about 1952 it was incorporated and became known as the Maltese Guild of Australia (S.A.) Inc. With the increase in the number of Maltese arriving in South Australia, the Guild has become very active! in providing a diversified program of activities for members, and encourages mutual assistance. Culture is promoted through the Maltese Dance Group and displays of handcraft which includes lace for which Malta is famous, weaving in traditional designs, views of Malta and art work.

The Guild supports its members in times of need, whether it be financial, spiritual or moral, it also assists with accommodation in cases of emergency. Its members make themselves available as interpreters when needed.

Miss Malta and Miss Charity Quests are conducted each year to raise funds for the purchase of land on which the future Maltese Community Memorial Hall may be built. When this ambitious project



has been accomplished, a wider range of activities will be provided by the Guild.

Maltese people are kept up to date with local news and items of interest from Malta through the *Maltese Guild Newsletter* which is published monthly.

Other Maltese organizations include the Malta United Soccer Club, the Maltese Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. and the South Australian Maltese Yuth Club.

There are two major celebrations held by the Maltese people. Firstly, National Day which commemorates 8th September, 1565, when the inter-national Order of Knights of St. John turned Malta into a Christian fortress against the Turks and by withstanding the Great Siege, checked the conquests of Sultan Suleiman. Secondly, Independence Day when, on 21st September 1964, Malta became an independent monarchy within the Commonwealth.

The Maltese community is represented on the Good Neighbour Council, its members being actively associated with branches and committees.



## BLACK SORROWS' SAINT GEORGES ROAD

Friday, 15 Jul 2022, 7:00PM VENUE Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide

PRICES **Adult**\$59.00 **Concession** \$49.00

Australian music legend Joe Camilleri celebrates his milestone 50th studio album along with beloved hits from The Black Sorrows. Opening with Adelaide Guitar Festival favourite Lecia Louise, this concert offers a nod to the past while embracing the future of Australian rock and blues.

The Black Sorrows are one of Australia's most prolific and enduringly popular bands renowned for their high-energy live shows, musicianship, and infectious, roots-soaked blues rock. They have sold more than two million albums to date and won an ARIA Award for Best Group.

ARIA Hall of Famer and self-confessed rock 'n' roll lifer Joe Camilleri has been at the forefront of Australian music for decades as a front man and prolific songwriter.

Lecia Louise embraces her musical diversity with accomplished virtuosity, from rock to blues to

alternative pop and jazz, not only as a guitarist, but also as a multi-instrumentalist and singer.

**Joseph Camilleri** is a Maltese Australian singer-songwriter and musician. Camilleri has recorded as a solo artist and as a member of Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons and The Black Sorrows. Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons' highest-charting single was "Hit & Run" from June 1979, which peaked with "Taxi Mary" peaked at No. 11 in September 1982. Camilleri was inducted into the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Hall of Fame in 2007. The Black Sorrows' *Saint Georges Road* (2021) represented Camilleri's 50th career release.

Joe Camilleri was born the third of ten children in Malta in 1948. The family migrated to Australia when he was two. Camilleri grew up in Port Melbourne and listened to rock music on the radio. His mother called him Zep and he became known as Jo Zep.



## MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**On May 23, 2022 the Maltese Senior Citizens Association has hit a milestone as the club celebrated its 39th year since its foundation**

**Story by Godwin Gauci**



It all started back in nineteen eighty-three (1983) when the elderly Maltese people here in South Australia were being left out from several functions and clubs they decided to established a group of their and formed a committee under the name of **The Maltese Senior Citizens Association Incorporated**. The club who is managed by the President, Mr. Frank Grima and his committee is open to its members and friends at the Kilburn Progressive Hall every Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Those who attend enjoy each other's company and friendship, participating in games and conversation, having a cuppa and some wholesome Pastizzis in the mornings and delicious bread rolls made by the committee and volunteers for lunch.



There are over one hundred active members which enjoy the many events like bus trips to a scenic destination held throughout the year, and an average of two to three functions per month, which includes Australia Day, Mother's Day, Anniversary Luncheon, Christmas in July, the A.G.M., the Christmas luncheon and Break-up Party, and a few smaller functions throughout the year.

This is the Kilburn Progressive Hall where the members celebrated their 39th Anniversary of the founding of their group. A delicious roast meal and cake with ice-cream for dessert were served. Live Entertained was given by The Godfather Band

The hall was prepared and decorated by the committee members and volunteers. In this photo there are themembers of the Committee members and some of the volunteers celebrating the organisers of the special function.

From left Meggie Scicluna, Alice Fabri, Doris and John Mangion, the President Mr. Frank Grima and wife Jane, Mary Borg and Eddie Camilleri.

Frank is cutting the birthday cake which was beautifully decorated and donated



by Mr. Victor Mansueto, an active member of the society and the Maltese community of Adelaide.





**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MALTESE SENIORS ASSOCIATION - ADELAIDE SA**  
 (From left) Mary Borg, Doris Mangion, Jessie Mallia, Charlie Mifsud, Jane Grima, Rachael Mercieca, Doris Seychell, Alice Fabri, Mary Busuttil, Eddie Camilleri and John Mangion. (Front) Frank Grima, Kiki and Gamal (from MAC)

certificates to the volunteers at the Progressive Hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022. He thanked them for giving their generous time for the benefit of the other members of the association and the community...

Another Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Frank Grima, the President of MCSA from Mr Frank Scicluna, the Editor of the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad for his kind support to the journal.



A printed copy of the Maltese eNewsletter may be collected from the Hall on Friday  
**PS: We urge other associations from Adelaide to publicise their functions on this journal which is the only Maltese journal in South Australia and we have so many readers from our beautiful state. It's free and it works. Our community is getting smaller, and we should help each other and UNITE to survive. Editor**



**YOU MAY STILL  
 APPLY  
 TO  
 RECEIVE  
 THIS  
 CERTIFICATE  
 OF  
 APPRECIATION  
 TO KEEP IT  
 AS A  
 MOMENTUM**

## Stories of the dead at Mtarfa cemetery

**Commonwealth war graves global awareness week comes to Malta for first time**

**Giulia Magri – Times of Malta**

In 1956, a young man in Suez thought he had struck it lucky when his friend gave him an air ticket, which he had won in a raffle, to travel back to the UK where the man's mother was quite ill.

But A. Smith was killed, along with 49 others, when the Scottish plane Avro York crashed in fields outside Żurrieq, near the Blue Grotto, after a stopover in Malta. With him were 12 Royal Air Force personnel who had won their tickets in a "lucky draw" at their station near the Suez Canal.

They too perished in one of Malta's worst air disasters and their bodies were buried in the Mtarfa military cemetery.



***Two of the 50 men and women who were killed in the crash of the Avro York in 1956, one of Malta's worst air disasters***

And this is just one of the many stories that will be recounted for the rest of the week during free tours of the cemetery as part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's annual global awareness week, taking place in Malta for the first time.

The event is aimed at encouraging people to discover the heritage of the world wars on their doorstep.

Starting today, three dedicated volunteers – Lino Camilleri, Jean Attard and Elaine Zerafa – will tell stories

about the ordinary people buried in Mtarfa who "gave their today for our tomorrow". - 6:36

***Volunteers Lino Camilleri and Elaine Zerafa. Credit: Karl Andrew Micallef***

The commission is responsible for the commemoration of nearly 1.7 million members of the Commonwealth forces.

The graves of these men and women are to be found in 153 countries and regions while the commission also takes care of nearly 4,000 non-war graves.

***An endless stream of stories***

'War Graves Week' events will be held in the UK, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and, for the first time ever, in Malta at the Mtarfa cemetery. The cemetery can provide an



endless stream of stories.

Some of them date back to World War I when Malta earned the title 'Nurse of the Mediterranean', providing medical treatment to over 130,000 servicemen from the fighting in Gallipoli, Salonika and the Middle East.

Years later, the island would play a different role, becoming an island fortress, besieged by German and Italian forces and becoming one of the most heavily bombed places on earth in World War II.

Many of the military personnel who died during both wars are buried at military cemeteries such as the one in Mtarfa.

Located just a four-minute drive from the former Mtarfa military hospital, the cemetery is tucked away in a quiet side street and is a harmoniously peaceful place, with the silence only broken by birds chirping in the trees surrounding the graveyard. One of the first burials dates back to the 1800s.

Robert Fenton was a drummer in the Lancaster regiment. He was just 16.



"We think he died from an illness but it's hard to say as we have no access to medical records," Zerafa said yesterday. Some of the headstones have visible bomb damage because the graveyard lay so close to then RAF airfield in Ta' Qali.

"Aircraft would fly over Mtarfa and Mdina, strafing on the way to the airfield and this is the damage left."

Among the many others buried in Mtarfa are six members of then British prime minister Winston Churchill's delegation, who were killed in a plane crash while on the way to the historical 1945 Yalta Conference, in Crimea, on February 1, 1945.

The plane circled Lampedusa for over an hour before it crashed in the sea around that tiny island and it is recorded there was some confusion about whether they were in Malta or not.

Sometimes, the cemetery is at the centre of a special trip to Malta.

"Every day, we meet new people and hear new stories about the people buried here," Zerafa told Times of Malta.



**Robert Fenton, 16, is one of the earliest burials at the military cemetery. Photo: Mtarfa Military Cemetery**

"Just last week, an 80-year-old woman came to visit the grave of her sister who died at just eight weeks old. We sat her down and took photos of her next to her sister's grave and she was accompanied by her own daughter, who got to hear stories of her family and meet her aunt."

Sometimes, people come to the cemetery with picnic blankets, to sit by the side of their loved ones' tombstones, sometimes for hours.

Mtarfa holds the body of one colonel, Hugh Alexander Pollock. He died in 1971.

"While his headstone reads 'in loving memory of his wife Ida', Pollock was the [first husband](#) of the famous British children's author Enid Blyton. We all grew up reading her stories," Camilleri said.

The volunteers highlighted the importance of the younger generations learning and understanding the importance of the stories from Mtarfa.

"These people sacrificed so much, their lives, for the freedom we get to experience today. Their stories should not be forgotten or taken for granted," Camilleri added.

Visitors are fascinated by the site

"When people come here to take a peak, when our volunteers start speaking to them and telling them the stories, they end up staying for an hour or two," Country Supervisor for Malta with the Commonwealth

War Graves Commission, Mark Fitzgerald said. Fitzgerald was awarded an Honorary MBE for his service to the Commonwealth War Graves.

While he started working for the CWGC back in 1993 as a gardener at the Pieta Military Cemetery, his connections to the Commission date back another two generations. Both his own grandfather and father worked for the CWGC, and it only felt fitting for Fitzgerald to continue their legacy.

He recalled spending his childhood at the military cemetery, which he described to be his "playground" growing up. "Cemeteries can be seen as a bit boring, but when people come into our site, they end up staying hours. It's amazing how interested they would be, and they would want to know more and more about the stories and Malta's history."

For more information on the 'War Graves week' tours visit: <https://www.cwgc.org/our-war-graves-your-history/war-graves-week/war-graves-week-2022-event-list/>



**Mark Fitzgerald**



**WE THANK ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS  
FOR MAKING OUR JOURNAL NUMBER 1.  
BRINGING THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES CLOSER  
Together we defeat the COVID-19**



**SEND US YOUR  
STORY  
BE PART OF THE  
HISTORY**



## Maltese-Canadian Museum Toronto



### Maltese-Canadian Museum Toronto

The museum/archives is located in the upper hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church in the West Toronto Junction.



During Covid-restrictions, out volunteers at the Museum have been busy

sorting, cataloguing, cleaning, and ordering all the different exhibits. Now, it is time to open again for the public. The first public event is going to be: "A Junction Retrospective" –

A photographic exposé of Junction streetscapes and buildings. Photographed by E. Mifsud. From June 11 to July 3. Open after weekend Masses, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am – 12.00

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### Malta Polo Club



Founded in 1868, the Malta Polo Club is the second oldest club in the world behind the Calcutta Polo Club of India, founded only six years previously. However, Malta wins the European title as the oldest club and

is even older than the famous Hurlingham Polo Association in England.

Polo was first introduced in Malta through the efforts of British Army officers stationed on the island and by officers who were either on their way to, or returning home from, India.

The Cavalry regiments, together with the officers in the Royal Navy's Mediterranean fleet, were the first teams to play on the island. One of the many famous past presidents of the Malta Polo Club was Prince Louis von Battenberg, who served in Malta in the Royal Navy. His son, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was also a keen supporter of the sport and, later, also became president of the Malta Polo Club.

It was the Earl who introduced several Maltese players to the game of polo and personally taught the game to many who were interested in this novel sport. It was during this period that the Maltese Cats team was formed.

'The Maltese Cats' were a very strong team who regularly played against the Royal Navy and British Army teams, winning the Cawnpore Cup for seven consecutive seasons. The Cawnpore Cup is still, decades later, the most prestigious match – this year, it was won by Team Cono Sur in one of the most thrilling matches seen at the club this season.

Several members of the British royal family have played polo in Malta too, with Edward VIII – while he was still the Prince of Wales – the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles among them. King Alfonso of Spain was also a famous player at the Malta Polo Club and, in 1928, presented the club with the King of Spain Cup, which is still played for annually. [maltaolocub.com/history/](http://maltaolocub.com/history/)



## HISTORY OF OPERA IN MALTA AND GOZO



**Tonio  
Portuguese**

The program The History of Opera in Malta on Campus fm every Tuesday at 3pm is dedicated to opera in Gozo with a conversation with Mro Colin Attard, about the career, the musicians in family and the

various works he has directed, information about singers, the best moments, and the challenges of picking up productions of the highest quality. Includes Te Deum from the opera Tosca from the Aurora Opera House, Tuesday 7th June at 3pm, rehearsal: Sunday 12th June at 9.30am. Production and Presentation: Tonio Portuguese

The history of opera in Malta continues to expand on the contribution of Mro Colin Attard to the growth of opera production in our country both at the Aurora Opera House in Victoria and through the Gaultitana Festival. which he leads. Mro Attard gives information on the plan to possibly stage an opera at the Aurora Theater in October after a three-year absence, with the planned majestic opera Aida by Giuseppe Verdi, in the hope that the situation of the health would allow. The program closes with the finale of Giacomo Puccini's opera Turandot. It will be broadcast on Tuesday 14 June at 3pm, rehearsal: Sunday 19 June at 9.30am. Production and Presentation: Tonio Portuguese

Gozo's important contribution to the History of Opera will continue to be appreciated in the program on Tuesday 21 June at 3pm in conversation with Mro Dr John Galea, director

of the Astra Theater in Victoria. explains how to nurture in a family of musicians and specialized academic studies to be Head of the Department of Music at the University for many years. Mro Galea also composed "Greetings" with verses by the late Prof Oliver Friggieri which will be broadcast in this program. Rehearsal: Sunday 26 June at 9.30am. Production and Presentation: Tonio Portuguese

The latest program in the History of Opera in Malta series continues to expand on the extraordinary contribution that Gozo has made to the preservation and development of opera. Mro Dr John Galea talks about the Mediterranean Festival, his Field Magic project with cultural initiatives, and his conduct of the Chorus Urbanus. It anticipates the preparations for the opera Carmen by Georges Bizet which is being planned for the Astra Theater in October 2022. The program closes with the aria Una furtiva lagrima from the opera L'Elisir d'amore by Gaetano Donizetti from Promise tenor Cliff Zammit Stevens. Broadcast on Tuesday 28 June at 3pm

Rehearsal: Sunday 3 July at 9.30am

Production and Presentation: Tonio Portuguese

This concludes 26 research programs with the involvement of musicologists, critics, scholars on the evolution of music, particularly operatic, sacred, symphonic, classical, baroque, band and Maltese composers over the centuries and famous singers, various productions at the Royal Theater, Aurora and Astra, and the present challenges. Campus fm has thus acquired a wealth of historical, researched information that is very relevant to opera and music scholars.

## Two intrepid Maltese pilots

### Chris



Two AFM pilot trainees embarked on a gruelling three day journey, that saw them flying in a single-engine Cessna 172 from Malta up to Venice and back. The arduous task required some excellent planning. Rick Dimech as

well Clayton Gomez Blanco rose up to the occasion and left no stone unturned to make sure they accomplish the mission on time.

The two pilots that flew to Venice and back in a Cessna 172 are Clayton Gomez Blanco (right) and Rick Dimech (left).

The two pilots have shown above average skills completing four legs during the first day in some gruelling heat while sharing PIC tasks. Rick flew the first leg out of Malta straight to Scalea where they stopped for fuel. After leaving Scalea, Clayton took over as PIC and they headed towards Ancona, where they encountered some serious turbulence due to mountain waves, with a strata of low clouds over the coast. The third leg on the first day saw them flying the trustworthy Cessna C172 registered I-ACMX, from Ancona to Fano where the above average pilots stopped for lunch. The last leg on their first day of this epic journey took the two intrepid pilots from Fano to

the majestic Lido di Venezia. When speaking to MAviO News both commented on the breathtaking views they experienced when overflying the Lido. After landing at LIPV, the two were now ready to head to the hotel for a well-earned rest after sharing a day's flying that took them all the way up to North Italy.

Some of the stunning views Clayton Gomez Blanco and Rick Dimech experienced while overflying Venice. The second day, started with Clayton Gomez Blanco at the controls, They headed towards one of the most picturesque airports in Italy – Marina di Campo on the island of Elba. They flew at FL75 all the way and although there was the possibility of thunderstorms and showers the weather proved to be fine, even though as Clayton explained to us the approach into Elba was somewhat challenging due to the southerly winds and the terrain around the airport.

The second leg of Day 2, saw Rick Dimech taking the controls from Marina di Campo direct to Scalea. With visibility decreasing and the forming of multiple CBs the two pilots were forced to fly low over the sea. They took the VFR route that kept them out of the busy area around Fiumicino. Once they were getting close to Naples, the weather improved and both flightcrew were able to feast their eyes on the islands of Ischia and Capri. They finally arrived in Scalea, where they had planned to refuel and spend the night. The third and last day of their trip, saw Rick Dimech taking the controls and flying the Cessna 172 from Scalea to Malta through some well-known VFR waypoints that included Tropea, Vizzini and Ragusa. Weather was fine, however once getting closer to the Gozitan coastline, the pair experienced some strong headwinds which exceeded 25 knots. As a result this greatly reduced their groundspeed while they nimbled slowly towards the Comino Tower before making their final stop at LMML.

[news.mavio.org/2022/05/27/two-intrepid-maltese-pilots/?fbclid=IwAR0nA3RBsGzcTvLGGTCeEfxFvarxXD1T2OPYrcddm5WW4P597smdzZH8iew](https://news.mavio.org/2022/05/27/two-intrepid-maltese-pilots/?fbclid=IwAR0nA3RBsGzcTvLGGTCeEfxFvarxXD1T2OPYrcddm5WW4P597smdzZH8iew)





## MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB 30 May 2022 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND LUNCH

After a 2 year hiatus due to Covid, Dearborn hosted its 96th Memorial Day Parade. The MACC was so happy to be back and

participate in the parade with our float to honor U.S. veterans. The crowds lined Michigan Ave. by the thousands and were as enthusiastic as we were. The weather was perfect. Afterwards, we all gathered at the club for a complimentary lunch provided by the club and donated dishes from some of our members.

Thank you Rena Xuereb for the cookies, Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci for the fruit salad, Theresa Cutajar for the potato salad, Margaret Muscat-Purdy for the pasta salad and Rita Vella-Cruz for the baked beans. It was all simply delicious. Big shout out to Margaret & Mark Purdy for the use of their truck and trailer for the float, and to Margaret for shopping for all the decorations.

We had a blast decorating the float. As usual thank you to the organizers and kitchen crew for setting up & cooking the burgers, hot dogs and all the fixins. Big thanks to our President Brian Vella. He was not able to ride the float as he was overseeing everything back at the club to make sure everything was ready for our return. What a great way to kick off the summer! Click on the facebook link below to view pictures and videos.

## Kinnie Spritz back to headline Malta's summer



Photo : Kinnie Spritz Simonds Farsons Cisk plc

After a phenomenal launch at the start of last summer, Kinnie Spritz is back to headline Malta's summer once again. A 4% ABV alcoholic aperitivo, Kinnie Spritz offers a whole new aperitivo experience that delighted both Kinnie and non-Kinnie drinkers last summer.

**Blended with a unique mix of natural bitters and botanicals and Italian sparkling white wine from the Veneto region,** Kinnie Spritz is a 'ready-to-drink' light alcoholic aperitivo that aims to add sparkle to the summer season.

Whether alfresco, at home, out at a bar or by the pool,

Kinnie Spritz should always be enjoyed poured into a glass goblet, with ice and a slice of orange to fully garnish the fresh aromas, flavour and experience.

**Relaunching with its popular promotional offer, a Kinnie Spritz branded goblet glass will be given to consumers with every 4-pack purchased.**

*content supplied by Simonds Farsons Cisk plc*



## Melbourne Documentary Film Festival

Cats of Malta has its **first festival selection!** The family-friendly documentary has officially been selected to screen as part of Melbourne Documentary Film Festival.

Those in Melbourne can watch on the big screen at

**Federation Square on the 25th of July at 6.30pm.**

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Those in Melbourne can watch on the big screen at

**Federation Square on the 25th of July at 6.30pm.**

It's free. **SAVE THE DATE!** This is really exciting for Cats of Malta as it means that our self-distribution plan is now in full swing. We Hope to see all the Melbourne locals at Fed Square as Cats of Malta sends Melbourne a big meow from Malta.

Let's spread the word! More info about Cats of Malta: [www.catsofmaltafilm.com](http://www.catsofmaltafilm.com)

Those in Melbourne can watch on the big screen at **Federation Square on the 25th of July at 6.30pm.** It's free. **Editor: Ivan Malekin & Producer and Director: Sarah Jayne**



### Strengthening friendships

**Christian Launer, President German-Maltese Association in Germany**

In 1991, one year after the reunification of Germany, the Deutsch-Maltesische Gesellschaft (DMG) was founded in Germany to promote Maltese-German relations and to strengthen friendship between the two countries through cultural and social activities.

The DMG is a voluntary organization, not political and not denominational.

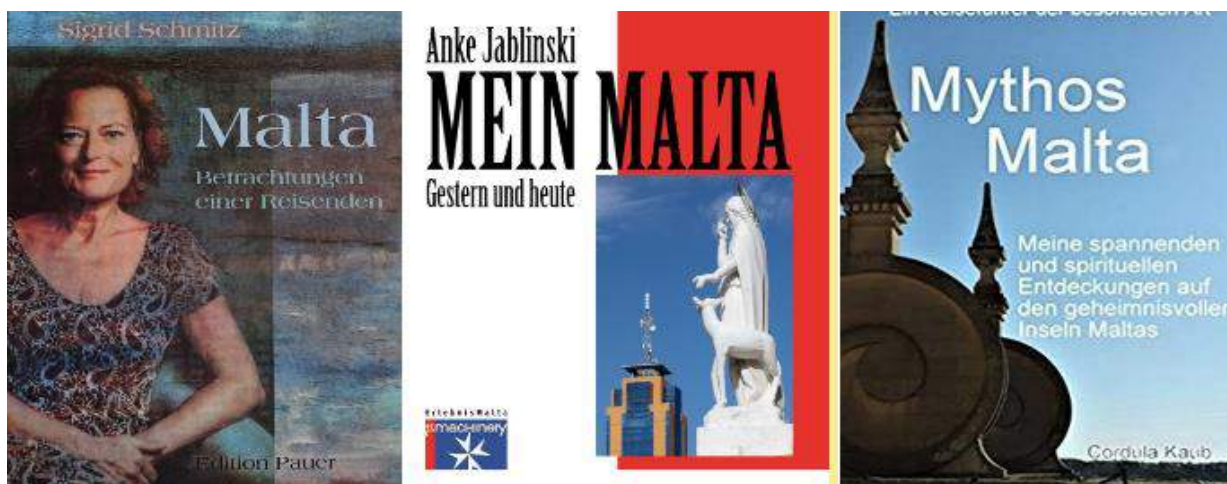
The aim of the DMG is to promote youth work and youth exchanges. The German schools are supported by information about Malta and by partial financing of school trips to Malta.

A number of Maltese artists presented their work in Germany with the support of DMG. DMG presents Malta at local festivals in Germany.

Membership trips are organised every year, also to Malta and East Germany. There a city guide, a French teacher, who explained the peaceful demonstrations before reunification in the church of Meiningen and was very happy to visit Western Europe – this was impossible before the reunification. These activities, important events or the latest developments in Malta are published in the quarterly DMG newsletter.







## BOOKS ABOUT MALTA FROM GERMANY

### My Malta – yesterday and today

by Anke Jablinski (Paperback)

"My Malta – Yesterday and Today" by author, painter and Malta (Online) shop owner Anke Jablinski, who has travelled to Malta & Gozo sixty times since 1987 and learned "Malti" (the Maltese language) after exploring the islands on excessive walking tours. The book is ideal for lovers of the island state and first brings the reader closer to the Malta of the 1980s and 1990s. Revised, updated and footnoted in 2016 (and in the same year received a letter of recommendation from the Ambassador of Malta, Dr Albert Friggieri).

### Myth of Malta – by Cordula Kaub

Millennia-old temples, mysterious "cart tracks", hidden cave churches, spiritual places in nature... The present book not only tells the cultural history of Malta, but also takes the reader to certain places of power in Malta and Gozo. In addition, it contains instructions for special meditations as well as insider tips for a successful, individual holiday in Malta and Gozo

### Malta – by Sigrid Schmitz

She seeks distance from the stress of everyday life in Berlin, peace, relaxation in nature ... and finds Malta! This is the beginning of a journey through different times: Malta's mysterious early history thousands of years ago, the experiences and experiences on the island in 1994, memories of its own past and Berlin's present in 2020 are interwoven into a dense network.

This is not a classic Malta travel guide. Instead, the author tells her own personal story, inspired by her experiences on Malta and the neighboring islands of Gozo and Comino in the spring of 1994. They are associative reflections through different times, linking Maltese with personal, historical with current.

It describes urban landscapes, experiences of nature and human encounters, and it notes thoughts on Maltese history, literature and paintings, on the Roman Catholic religion, on the understanding of the role of women, on the topics of goddess, matriarchal cultures, Mary – and on Jesus as an eroticizing man. Sigrid Schmitz takes her readers on this journey in her very special, refreshingly open way, which eventually becomes a journey of discovery to herself

#### OUR JOURNAL IS INTERNATIONAL

**We receive correspondence from Malta, Gozo, Australia, Canada, United States, Europe (France, Germany, Brussels and Spain) United Kingdom, Japan, India and Brazil and several other countries**

## A VIBRANT COMMUNITY CENTRE IN WOLLONGONG



The Cringila Community Centre is recognised as a progressive Centre catering for the whole of the community in the region. Recently after finishing the extensions Mr. Louis Parnis the President of seventeen years managed to receive a grant provided by the Community Partners Program run by Bluescope and Win Network to purchase a new seating for the

lounge area facing the Steelworks Plant.

The War Memorial also provided a grant, under the Salute Program, to assist the Centre to buy and install an aluminium bench placed outside facing the memorials.

On Saturday 4 June at the Centre the committee held a Maltese Festa function where those attending celebrated their town or village feast. This is a unique event never held before and those who attended made flags for this joyous occasion.

Mr. Louis Parnis wanted to create more volunteering positions and recently partnered with the Illawarra Mushrooms to commence a Mushroom farm in a room underneath the premises. You are most welcome to visit the Centre and enjoy the numerous benefits available to everyone.



## FROM THE MALTA ARCHIVES

### [Bernadette Bennie Blanco USA](#)

God is so good! Today was like Christmas because I was gifted by a special friend who located this picture of my father, Giuzeppi Gomez Blanco, from the Malta archives I had never set eyes on it before. It's very special to me and makes me miss him and everything from the past. He did a lot of wonderful things that I appreciate more now than ever. I'm remembering how there were 6 girls and we had to take turns using the hair dryer with the vent and bonnet, so he went out and bought us a beautiful salon hair dryer chair. Or that we all had a free account at Foxy's party store in Corktown and, without complaint, would pick up the tab for us just so that we would never give a thought to stealing. The mound of ironing for a family of 9 and good 'ol Jessie's point system; laundry steam press. Or when he had a heart attack and could no longer do the grass, and I was happy to do it but not physically equipped to pull the cord to get the engine started, so a brand new key-start mower delivered the next day. In Maltese, we call that "coomdita" and I spelled in phonetically = conveniences. Laughing when he tried to say "I brought both boats to the shop," when it came out "I bot bot bots." All I can say is thank you to my friend for resurrecting such good memories,



**MALTESE CENTER NY**

27-20, Malta Square,  
Hoyt Ave. South,  
Astoria, NY 11102

tel: (718) 728 - 9883

Saturday June 18th | 7pm

## **FJJA NICCELEBRAW!**

LET'S CELEBRATE

*Food - Drinks - Music*



ADVANCE TICKETS:  
125 MEMBERS & SPOUSES  
130 NON-MEMBERS  
FREE CHILDREN 12 & UNDER  
WALK-IN NO RSVP  
\$35 ALL ADULTS

RSVP by June 16th at  
[www.themaltesecenter.com](http://www.themaltesecenter.com)

L-IMNARJA is one of the oldest feasts celebrated in Malta and Gozo. The Feast commemorates two important Saints in Maltese religious lore, St. Peter and St. Paul. The word luminarja is derived from the Latin word Luminare – to light up.

Xewkija in Gozo, is the only village which since olden days commemorates with pride the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on a Sunday nearer to or after 24th June. Many consider this the first popular feast of the festive season in Gozo. It is the only parish in the Maltese Islands that has St John as its patron saint.

**Saturday June 18th**

**7:00 pm**

Festa BBQ Night

Celebrating L-Imnarja & San Gwann

**Pre-purchase tickets online** or from a committee member

\$25 Members & Spouses - online ticket \$30 Non-Members - online ticket

\$35 Everyone - no rsvp - purchase at the door Free for Children Under 12



Statue of St. George, made by Shawn Saliba from Mosta especially for the children's feast at Qormi-



### **Maltese Food has landed in Japan PASTIZZI, FTAJJAR AND CISK**

**A food truck has opened in Japan with Maltese food! The food truck, called 'Arrow', is offering with multiple products like pastizzi, ftajjar & Cisk. 'Arrow' is situated in Yokohama, one of Japan's biggest cities. Every Maltese person should be proud that our local food is traveling overseas**

**Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Incorporated**

(Inc. No. A1737) A.B.N. 66 736475 892

**477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia****MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF  
VICTORIA INC.**LEARN MALTESE FOR PLEASURE, WORK OR TRAVEL.  
JOIN OUR BEGINNER ADULT CLASSES.Embrace the Maltese Culture through the  
Maltese language**MCCV Adult registrations are now  
open for  
Virtual online Semester 2, 2022****Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced  
Maltese Language Classes starting  
July, 2022 on Monday, Wednesday &  
Thursdays****For information & enrolment contact:  
<https://mccv.org.au/services/language/>****Tel: 03 9387 8922 or 0466 079 814 AH****Telephone (03) 9387 8922****Facsimile (03) 9387 8309****Internet Website: <http://www.mccv.org.au>****Email Address: [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au)****AVVIŻ GHALL-KOMUNITA'**

Il-Kunsill Malti ta' Victoria jixtieq javża li fethu r-registrazzjoni għall-klassijiet tal-lingwa Maltija għall-adulti. Dawn il-klassijiet qed issiru online virtwali permezz taż-ZOOM.

Il-klassijiet jibdwu 'Lulju u huma miżmuma filghaxija bejn is-sitta u s-sebgha u nofs.

Biex tirreġistra għall-klassijiet mur fuq is-sit elettroniku tal-MCCV u kklikkja fuq il-paġna ta'S-Servizzi u ssib informazzjoni dwar il-klassijiet u formola ta' registrazzjoni elettronika. [www.mccv.org.au/services/language/](http://www.mccv.org.au/services/language/)

Għal kull tagħrif iehor ċemplu 9387 8922 **waqt il-hin ta' x-xogħol** jew fuq 0466 079 814 **fil-ghaxija** jew ibagħtu imejl fuq [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au)

**Edwidge Borg** **Koordinatur Klassijiet tal-Malti**  
**Kunsill tal-Komunità Maltija ta' Victoria Inc.**  
**0466 079 814 4 ta' Ġunju 2022**

**Special Olympics gold medal winner****Maria Pia Saliba visits Gozo Minister**

On Tuesday, Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri welcomed local athlete Maria Pia Saliba, who won a gold medal in the 50m backstroke competition during this year's Special Olympics Malta Invitational Games.

The Gozo Minister said that on behalf of the Gozitan people, he presented Maria Pia with a memorial of this achievement, "which is an honour not only for our island but for our country."

This is not the first time that Maria Pia has honoured the islands on an international level, having also won gold medals [in Cyprus](#), and [Abu Dhabi](#)

Minister Camilleri said, "congratulations from the bottom of our hearts You made us proud."

GOZO NEWS

**We are proud of all Maltese Achievers**