Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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JURASSIC WORLD 3 : PARTLY FILMED IN MALTA

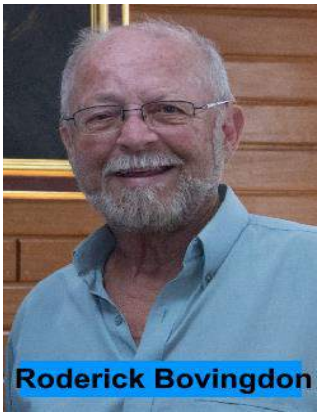
First Commemorative MALTA ANZAC Sporting Event 2023-2024

Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister of NZ

Roberta Metsola
President of EU

'The world needs more women in politics' said Metsola, as she welcomed the New Zealand leader to the European Parliament. The two world leaders have both been praised for their exceptional work in the political sphere, becoming two of the world's two most influential women.

Strengthening our unity
Insahhu l-Ghaqda Bejnietna



President's national alert

Roderick Bovingdon

It is admirable to observe the leading citizen speaking out

The President was speaking at the launch of 'L-Ilsien Malti għal Qalbi' (I cherish the Maltese language). .

It is most comforting to know that the president of the Maltese nation is 'speaking out' in defence and support of our indigenous Maltese tongue. Indeed! I have written and spoken in several live interviews on radio, the internet, as well as on Maltese television in this very same line of thinking. In fact, at times in sheer frustration and with a considerable dose of disgust, I have openly accused those Maltese speakers who choose to "bastardise" our national idiom as traitors to their own selves first and foremost, to the Maltese nation, to our national identity and beguilingly to the Maltese language itself.

Amazingly but not unnoticed by the diligent yet mostly 'silent' patriots – unlike our president – I have from time to time been accused of "unashamedly" being a purist, simply because of my lifetime effort in using 'good' Maltese parlance. With the same token however, a considerable number of keen observers (most of whom I am not acquainted with) have occasionally come out in the open in support of my consistent stance.

The subject the president has taken on is indeed so vast that one cannot tackle it exhaustively in a mere appraisal of the president's laudable public stand within the generous confines of a newspaper.

It is however most admirable to observe the leading citizen of the land, with all the weight and influence his social position intrinsically carries, speaking out in support of the good use of our national idiom while simultaneously condemning the laxity and disrespect by so many Maltese citizens towards the rich aesthetics of our ancient, historic, precious tongue.

Such a powerful public stance by our president bears the potential of a fatherly concern towards the offending segments of our Maltese society; an approach which hopefully could lead towards a long and deep self-introspection to remedy this national malady which sadly has penetrated all societal levels.

The myriad reasons leading towards this national tragic language phenomenon are mere symptoms involving historical, political, religious and umpteen other not so obvious causes from past centuries, so a thorough comprehensive national effort of reform is instantly needed.

I have openly accused those Maltese speakers who choose to 'bastardise' our national idiom as traitors- Roderick Bovingdon

Borrowing words from other language sources is in itself a healthy exercise so long as it is applied with a keen sensitivity towards the established structure of Maltese. Such exercise calls for an overall revision of our national soul; the entire nation's psyche no less.

The president's national alert is a far better mode of righting present and past language wrongs, than granting the National Council for the Maltese Language absolute power through the extreme use of legislation.

Devising whimsical rules imposed upon the very owners of our language – the Maltese people – is not only deeply disrespectful and insulting, it also has the potential to arouse the opposite response as indeed happened some decades ago when the national government tried to impose the compulsory study of Arabic in the normal schools curricula.

Several other Western countries with recognised language repertoires have similarly tried to enforce their misguided language planning modes; all ended in dismal failure and rejection by their users!

Ever the optimist in my Maltese language endeavours, I hope this renaissance call by our president finally stimulates the local authorities – be they public, Church-run establishments, private educational groups, the local business world, Maltese newspapers and publishers, all broadcasting networks, the legal fraternity, political parties and all others who have the power and influence – to reverse the current sickening and disgusting national trend towards the abyss of losing our identity!

Roderick Bovingdon is an Anglo-Maltese Australian writer, academic and promoter of Maltese culture. This article was published in the Times of Malta

13 facts about the Swiss guards

The last mercenary troops of Switzerland, the Pontifical Swiss guards, have a long-standing service to the Vatican.

Alongside their Italian soldiers stand the Vatican's Corps of Gendarmes, the Swiss soldiers are in charge of protecting the Pope. Tourists and pilgrims, who flock to Rome, see these colourful men and wonder: who really are the Swiss guards?

There are strict admission requirements to become a Swiss guard.

1. Before applying for the Pontifical Swiss guards, several strict criteria must be met. In short, each recruit must be a single male of Swiss citizenship standing at least 174 cm (5' 8 ") tall. They must be between 19 and 30 years old, and they must hold a high school degree or professional diploma.
2. **Each recruit must be a faithful Roman Catholic as endorsed by his hometown's Parish Priest.**
3. **Recruits must have completed basic military training in Switzerland in order to continue to the first five weeks of training with the guards in Rome.**
   After this training period, the Swiss soldiers are known as *Halberdiers*, owing to their halberds, the primary weapons the Swiss mercenaries used in the 14th and 15th centuries.
4. **Once sworn in, the Halberdiers and their parents get a private audience with the Pope where they receive a personal blessing.**
5. **A Swiss guard's shortest contract is 25 months.**
   Once a Halberdier starts his contract, he will attend Italian lessons if he does not already speak the language. By the end of the first year of service, the Halberdier is usually ready for guard duty at the main gates of Vatican City, dealing with everyday tourists (and often VIP guests, too!)
6. **The everyday uniform of the Swiss Guard is the blue duty uniform.**
7. **The colourful uniforms in the Medici colours of red, yellow, and blue, known as *Gala Uniforms*, were put to use only after 1910. (It is a myth that the Swiss guard uniforms were designed by Michelangelo.)**
8. **Each Gala Uniform is sown by the tailors inside the Vatican barracks - tailor-made to fit each guard. This process takes at least 30 hours per uniform!**
9. **After completing their service, all of the guards' personal uniforms are destroyed, never to be used again.**
10. **Some of the armor that are used today are originals from the 15th century. The new armour is made by specialized blacksmiths to replace ones that can no longer be renewed.**
11. **The morion helmet, worn with dyed ostrich feathers, holds the family coat of arms of Pope Julius II, the oak tree.**
12. **When a Swiss guard is standing still with the halberd and is not talking, he is on Honour Duty. This means that he should not be approached.**
13. **But when a Swiss Guard is standing with folded hands and facing the people, he is on Guard Duty. This means that he may be approached for questions, or sometimes for pictures (if you ask nicely).**

Press Launch Malta Summer Festival

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra launches Malta Summer Festival which seeks to present opera in an innovative manner.

The launch of the Malta Summer Festival, under the artistic direction of Óliver Díaz, seeks to present opera innovatively, bolstering the genre's visibility, particularly with new audiences.

The Malta Summer Festival presents a celebration of music, lights and history. The star-studded line-up led by Vittorio Grigolo takes audiences on musical journeys across some of the most significant operatic repertoires on nights dedicated to celebrating the genre.

"This program continues to demonstrate our commitment as a government to continue working for the music and culture; the main aim will remain to foster in people's lives a music appreciation", said Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts, and the Local Government Owen Bonnici. Minister Bonnici also said that this programme will see the participation of artists as well as a variety of events.

"Apart from an appetite for travel there is also a desire for more outdoor and public activities after two years of continuous restrictions. In these two years we have worked hard to assure that when our country is open in its entirety, we have a diversified cultural calendar. For this summer we have a busy entertainment calendar that will provide both tourists and Maltese the opportunity to enjoy their quality time with activities such as the Malta Summer Festival", said Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo.

In an official launch, MPO CEO Sigmund Mifsud explained the significance of this step for the orchestra and our country and remarked on the MPO's role in producing the festival, building on last year's grand finale.

"We always believed in the importance of organising a festival like this, as it offers an opportunity for networking while setting the objectives of musical growth, both for the orchestra and also for the local cultural ecology," Mr Mifsud stated.

Kicking off on 13 July and running until 21 July, the Malta Summer Festival is presented by the MPO in collaboration with the Arts Council Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority with the support of Hilton Malta, the Ministry for Gozo, and the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts, and Local Government.

All information on the festival can be found on maltaorchestra.com/malta-summer-festival/.

The use of digital platforms and interdisciplinary art forms together with edutainment projects aimed specifically at younger audiences taps the festival's mission of rending opera more accessible and engaging.

EVENTS

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS OPERA José García Gutiérrez Conductor Malta Youth Orchestra 13/07/2022 Fort St Elmo, Valletta

SONGS OF CHAMBER Amihai Grosz Viola Alma Sadé Moshonov Soprano Nadia Debono Viola Christine Zerafa Piano 14/07/2022 Malta Society of Arts, Valletta

OPERA GALA Vittorio Grigolo Tenor Marina Monzó Soprano Nicola Said Soprano Óliver Díaz Conductor Malta Philharmonic Orchestra 16/07/2022 Fort St Elmo, Valletta

AN EVENING WITH DONIZETTI Tatiana Lisnic Soprano Celso Albelo Tenor Iván López-Reynoso Conductor Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra 18/07/2022 Fort St Elmo, Valletta

SOIRÉE À CHAMBRAY Carol Garcia Mezzo Soprano José García Gutiérrez Horn Britt Arend Harp 19/07/2022 Fort Chambray, Gozo

DANCE MEETS OPERA Óliver Díaz Conductor Malta Philharmonic Orchestra 21/07/2022 Fort St Elmo, Valletta

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT - CMLA

29 June 2022

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
Malta in the World

The Maltese Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade (MFET) encourages Maltese organisations to register their details with its Ministry. In this manner the Maltese Government will have the information at hand should it want to contact a particular Organisation.

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) has a form available on its website for organisations to register. The application to be registered with the CMLA is now available through online through the MFET Maltese Living Abroad site

https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Other/Foreign-Affairs/Maltese-Communities-Abroad/WEB2098/default.aspx

Il-Ministeru Malti għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej u l-Kummerċ (MFET) iħeġġeġ lill-organizzazzjonijiet Maltin biex jirreġistraw id-dettalji tagħhom mal-Ministeru tiegħu. B'dan il-mod il-Gvern Malti jkollu l-informazzjoni f'idejħ jekk irid jikkuntattja lil xi Organizzazzjoni partikolari.

Il-Kunsill tal-Maltin li Jgħixu Barra (CMLA) għandu formola disponibbli fuq il-websajt tiegħu biex l-organizzazzjonijiet jirreġistraw. L-applikazzjoni biex tiġi rreġistrata mas-CMLA issa hija disponibbli online permezz tas-sit tal-MFET Maltese Living Abroad

https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Other/Foreign-Affairs/Maltese-Communities-Abroad/WEB2098/default.aspx

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International Association of Maltese Linguistics

GĦILM

U nifhem li min ikun fl-għaqda jgawdi u min ikun barra jibqa' jċejjaq. (Kilin, *L-Għafrid*)

The *International Association of Maltese Linguistics* (*Għaqda Internazzjonali tal-Lingwistika Maltija*) was founded on October 19 2007 during the first conference on Maltese linguistics at the University of Bremen. The conference was attended by over 50 scholars from France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malta, and the US.

Thomas Stolz (Institute of General and Applied Linguistics (IAAS)) was appointed as the first president, while Manwel Mifsud, chairman of the Kunsill tal-Malti and Professor of Maltese at the University of Malta, Bernard Comrie (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology), Beth Hume (Dept. of Linguistics, Ohio State University), Martine Vanhove (Langues et Cultures d'Afrique Noire (LLACAN)), and Ray Fabri from the University of Malta's Department of Linguistics were appointed as vice-presidents.

The association's aim is to stimulate the study of Maltese. It will strive to create other university centres of the language outside Malta. This in turn will lead to networking between scholars and researchers from many quarters.

On the pages of **GĦILM** you can find information about our publications ILSIENNA and IL-LINGWA TAGĦNA, as well as upcoming events and conferences. Furthermore, you can visit our expanding collection of resources on Maltese languages in the links section. The news section includes reminders for upcoming conferences, recent press reports and new online resources for Maltese linguistics. If you want to point us to relevant resources, conferences or workshops related to the Maltese language, please do not hesitate to send the information to ghaqda@uni-bremen.de.

During a visit to the Maltese Library, designated President Jutta Günther welcomed the Maltese ambassador to Germany, His Excellency Dr. Giovanni Xuereb. From left to right: Maike Vorholt, Julia Nintemann, Professor Jutta Günther, H.E. Dr. Giovanni Xuereb, Professor Thomas Stolz, Professor Marcus Callies, Mark Anthony Abela, Dr. Thomas Stöcker

© Matej Meza / Universität Bremen

Have You Heard of… the Maltese Library?

The GW2 building houses the world's largest collection of Maltese literature outside Malta.

Professor Thomas Stolz's trip to Malta with his wife in 1996 turned into a vacation that changed linguistic research. What was meant to be an ordinary holiday became, in retrospect, the first steps toward establishing the Malta Center and Maltese Library – one-of-a-kind facilities in the world.

The Maltese Library now contains more than 1,100 books.

© Matej Meza / Universität Bremen

In the mid-1990s, linguist Thomas Stolz travelled with his wife to Malta for a summer vacation. However, there was a sudden change to their plans. "As soon as we arrived, my wife came down with the chicken pox. She had to go into quarantine at the hotel, so I had a lot of time to read," says Stolz, professor of General and Comparative Linguistics at the University of Bremen's Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies. While looking for something to read to relieve their boredom, he found that he could understand the local newspapers thanks to his knowledge of Italian. "As a linguist, I naturally found that interesting. To delve deeper, I first bought myself a dictionary and some children's books," he says. "I started reading in Maltese throughout the vacation. I had plenty of time on my hands."

Maltese: A Little-Researched Language

Back in Bremen, Stolz was surprised to find that Maltese had hardly been researched. "There had been very little research done on this language. Until then, Maltese had only been dealt with marginally, as part of Arabic studies. Most research was conducted within Malta and rarely extended to the international research community," recalls Stolz. In the following summers, he and his wife traveled to Malta several times. The professor took the opportunity to get acquainted with the linguistics faculty at the local university and established first contacts. "I set myself the goal of bringing Maltese to the

attention of linguistics research. To do this, I brought together researchers from all over the world," says Stolz.

Foundation of the Maltese Library as Part of the Malta Centre In 2007, Stolz founded the International Association of Maltese Linguistics in Bremen. This laid the groundwork for establishing the Malta Centre in 2012 as a cooperation between the Universities of Malta and Bremen. An important part of this is the Maltese Library, which includes publications in Maltese released since 2000. The team in Bremen works with a major mail-order bookseller in Malta, which sends an annual list of all new publications. On this basis, about 30 to 60 new books are ordered each year. The books are first cataloged at the State and University Library before being sorted in the GW2 building's library and recorded in the online catalog. "Currently, we have 1,126 books in our collection," says Julia Nintemann, the research assistant responsible for the organization of the Malta Center.

Bremen as a Center of Maltese Language Research The development of the Malta Centre has provided impetus to the study of the Maltese language. About 100 to 150 people worldwide are now researching this topic; they can work on the collection on-site in Bremen and network with others. The center regularly offers language courses for private individuals and for professional purposes, while students can spend a semester in Malta through the Erasmus program. Research in Bremen is also making progress, as Maike Vorholt is investigating the Maltese preposition system as part of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation – DFG) project titled "Präpositionen und ihre Grammatik im Maltesischen" (Prepositions and Their Grammar in Maltese). The aim of the project is to determine the total number of Maltese prepositions and to describe them comprehensively in terms of their phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties.

Professor Thomas Stolz shows Maltese Ambassador Dr. Giovanni Xuereb some publications from the library. © Matej Meza / Universität Bremen

Cooperation Extended until 2027 At the end of May, the Malta Center received a visit from Malta's ambassador to Germany, Dr. Giovanni Xuereb, and Honorary Consul General Dr. Thomas Stöcker. Their visit coincided with the extension of the cooperation between the Universities of Malta and Bremen. "This visit was a great honour for us. We are delighted that our research is also of great importance for Malta," says Stolz. "Thanks to the Malta Centre, the study of the Maltese language is no longer a niche topic but has a permanent place in linguistics."

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Published in Adelaide Australia
for readers from all over the world

Share Your STORY
If you have a story to tell send it to us and share it with our readers

The First Commemorative Malta Anzac Sporting Event

MPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL Maltese Living Abroad, communities, clubs , business and locals – Here is an Opportunity to be involved in the First ANZAC sport in Malta 2023 and Red Cross …please read below: John Calleja – Malta ANZAC / malta.anzacs@gmail.com

Finally, the First ANZAC sports in Malta is officially scheduled on ANZAC DAY 2023 – U18 Rowing Regatta between Australia, New Zealand and Malta with the support of Malta University Rowing Club, Malta Sports and Tourism…. See website https://anzacregatta.com

The purpose of this event is summarised by the Hon Blair Boyer MP - Minister for Education in South Australia [my home state] sums up the importance of the event …."It certainly be a wonderful experience for the students involved and be an opportunity to educate other young people in our schools about the role Malta played in supporting Australian service during World War 1 & 2 …and commend Malta ANZAC in aiming to develop student understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Australia – Malta relationship during those challenging times …."

Maltese Living Abroad and Locals can play an important role support ANZAC sports in Malta by purchasing "as shown below" this beautifully designed limited edition Commemorative pin badge that can also be worn during ANZAC week.

The Story behind the badge:

· Butterfly with open wings – sign of recovery [representing the 58,000 Wounded ANZACs returning home];

· Red Cross logo on the butterfly – Red Cross played a vital role in Malta and the logo formed part of Nurse Uniforms.

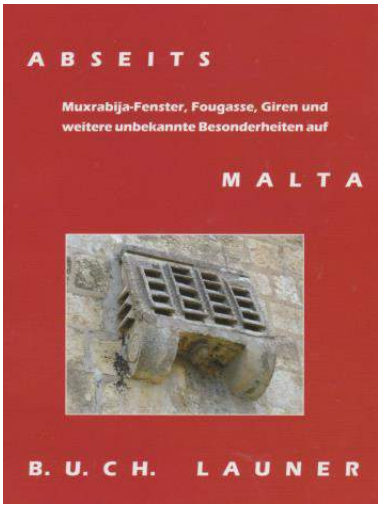
· Australian Coat of Arms – is located above the entrance of the Australian Hall at Pembroke. The Australian Hall is the only building left today to remind us ANZACs were in Europe and Malta.

· Colours Red and White Butterfly – Represents Malta's Flag colours [Malta was also known as the Nurse Island of the Mediterranean 1914- 1918];

· Coastal Rowing Boat – First ANZAC sport involving male and female U18 representing their country.

This Special limited edition Badge Cost: AUD $5.00 + postage with part proceeds will go to Red Cross. Place orders through your Maltese Clubs or direct to malta.anzacs@gmail.com / Mob: 0414932481

Abseits - Away from Malta" by Bettina and Christian Launer



I would like to thank Bettina and Christian Launer from Germany for sending me their publication – ABSEITS.
This book is about sights that the visitor to the Maltese Islands usually passes by because no relevant travel guide writes about them. The Fougasse, the Muxrabija window, Giren, Qannic and many of the Maltese gems beyond the mainstream are presented in this 144 pages with a number of images and pictures in colour. Even the most accomplished traveller to Malta will be happy to read about Malta's extraordinary pages.

Mr Christian Launer and his wife Mrs Bettina Launer, who just marked their 40th visit to Malta paid a courtesy visit to the President of Malta Dr George Vella in May 2022

The Launers are frequent visitors to the Maltese Islands and their intrinsic love and interest of the Maltese culture is very pronounced. Christian Launer is the President of the Deutsch-Maltesische Gesellschaft - 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 Germany.
The association's activities, important events and the latest developments in Malta are published in the quarterly DMG newsletter

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THE MALTESE GUILD OF SA INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
To be held on Sunday 31st July 2022
At 2:00 pm

Following the meeting and election, please join us for light refreshments.
We look forward to your attendance.

Margaret Abela - Secretary

Maltese Feasts – the islands' most visual cultural festivities

www.culturemalta.org

Religious feasts or 'festas' are an important part of Maltese culture and tradition held throughout the year across both Malta and Gozo. Festas are both religious and profane, being organized by the local parish together with local band clubs, and are an iconic part of the Maltese summer with church ceremonies, massive firework displays, processions with marching bands and great revelry.

Each festa typically has the same structure. Five days of festivities revolving around the patron saint of each parish build up to the weekend feast itself. In addition to elaborate church ceremonies, band marches are an integral part of the celebration as bands performing festa favourites, many composed by local maestros, march through the streets followed by crowds.

Devotional church services include nine-day novenas to the saint, asking for blessings and protection. The ceremonial highlight of any festa is the carrying of the statue of the parish saint. Festa devotees bid for the privilege of hoisting the statue out of the church and onto a prominent place in the village square, paying big money for the honour and privilege of carrying the statue. All monies raised go to a charity or to defer some of the expenses incurred in the celebration of the Festa.

The crowd-pullers are however the fireworks displays, the culmination of the evening lighting up the night sky to the sound of 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the crowd. Malta is well known for its pyrotechnic ability, showcased at the village feast where villages vie with each other for the most colourful and noisiest fireworks.

Food stalls line the streets serving everything from candy floss and hot dogs to traditional fare – healthy eating is not a feature of the village feast. Try some *mqaret* – sinfully delicious deep fried date cakes. Another local treat is nougat sold from traditional dark wooden stalls with antique weighing scales to serve the sugary treat.

Lively and colourful, festi are a much-awaited occasion in the village's social and religious calendar of great community importance. In Malta and Gozo, the village church is the pride of each villager. Inside the church, a bevy of activity takes place. Walls are hung with red damask, the silverware is brought out and polished and the crystal chandeliers are cleaned to a sparkle. The statue of the parish patron saint which occupies a niche in the church is decorated and displayed.

Flags are flown from rooftops and statues are placed all around the village, banners are hung out, and coloured lights are strung across roads. It is really the most beautiful time to visit a village, when everything comes alive with celebrations.

Festa frenzy reaches every home; front rooms are scrubbed and polished, entire homes often get a new lick of paint. The neighbours will be out in full force and relatives who have moved to other villages and even emigrated overseas descend upon the village, getting together with their friends and extended family, the proud housekeeper ensures that her home appears perfect.

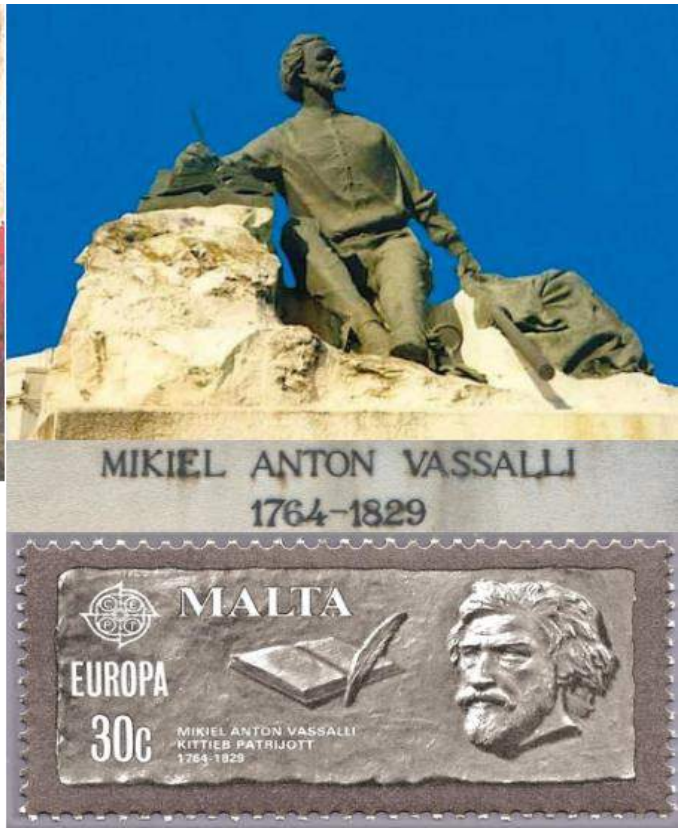
The importance of festas in village life seems to be increasing rather than diminishing with time, becoming epic celebrations that everyone visiting Malta needs to experience at least once. It's so easy to get caught up in the atmosphere and with all the young people in their festival t-shirts and the dancing and drinking it can be easy to forget that these are religious celebrations.

A detailed program of each local feast is usually found on the relevant village parish and band club websites. Local tour operators often arrange evening festa excursions specially to coincide with the feast of the Assumption or simply 'Santa Marija' on the 15th August. Another favourite is Our Lady of Victories held on the 8th September, celebrating the defeat of the Turks at the end of the Great Siege of 1565 which also coincides with the end of Blitz in Malta and with the feast of the Birth of the Madonna. The highlight of this great day is the Regatta (boat race) held in the Grand Harbour. Both are great times to visit Malta if you can take the summer's heat!

Enjoy the experience and do not be alarmed if you are woken up by loud bangs – Malta is not at war, it's only festa petards being let off for your entertainment!

THE FRIENDS OF 'PROVIDENCE HOUSE' IN NSW HELP ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA

The Friends Of Providence House NSW made their Annual Presentation to Fr Martin, Director of Id-Dar Tal-Providenza Malta. Fr Frank Buhagiar did the honours on Saturday 2nd of July 2022 during a live televised segment. He is currently visiting Malta from Australia.
The Friends of Providence House NSW was formed in 2012 and officially launched by Fr Martin himself in October 2013 at a Special Function at Wentworthville Leagues Club Sydney while on a sponsored visit to Australia.
George Vella of Breakaway Travel Blacktown NSW has been our major spons
We raise funds through functions, tours, raffles and donations.
The Friends Of Providence House NSW is formed as follows ;
Jim Borg - Co- Ordinator Marisa Previtera-Secretary Miriam Friggieri - Treasurer
Thank you all for your support . We can be contacted on : Email - foph@bigpond.com
Mob : 0418825591



THE FATHER OF THE MALTESE LANGUAGE,

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mikiel Anton Vassalli was born in Żebbuġ in 1764 to a peasant family, and lost his father at the age of two. In 1785, at the age of 21, he started studies of oriental languages in the Sapienza University of Rome. Vassalli had three children, though he was not married.

Maltese Language

Maltese grammars and dictionaries had already been written before the century, but all of them have long since been lost. It is for this reason that the honour of being the author of the first grammar goes to Canon Giovanni Pietro Francesco Agius de Soldanis for his *Della lingua púnica presentemente usata da Maltesi in Roma* (1750).[3] It was only in the 1790s that Vassalli, alone among Maltese nationalists, took an interest in purifying the language of Italianisms and reviving it as a national language.

During the nineties Vassalli published three substantial works about the Maltese language, which set the study of the Maltese language for the first time on solid and scientific foundations. These works were: *L-Alfabett Malti* (1790), *Lill-Malti li qiegħed jaqra* - *Ktieb il-Kliem Malti* (1796) - a Maltese-Latin-Italian dictionary. - *il-Mylsen* (1791) - a Maltese grammar in Latin.

The introduction to the dictionary has a strong social and political flavour which makes it very clear that Vassalli's primary aim was not the Maltese language in itself, but the civil and moral education of the Maltese people which he believed could only be attained through their native language. One can easily point out Vassalli's Discorso Preliminare as second only to the Constitution of the Republic in that it is a beautiful and precious document for the Maltese Nation to whom it was dedicated with the words: "Alla Nazione Maltese", a phrase which in those days could only be the fruits of a very fertile imagination. With the help of John Hookham Frere, Vassalli began to teach at the University of Malta as the first Professor of the Maltese language.

Vassalli's call was above everything else a political one favouring the education of the Maltese masses and the development of Maltese potential in all possible areas and the accessibility to the realms of wisdom and law so that the Maltese nation could arrive at a full consciousness of itself, its duties and identify itself as a nation in its own right. This is therefore a movement in favour of democratic power. The Maltese language was to be the primary instrument for this process.

Vassalli was the first to study Maltese scientifically and according to its Semitic roots. He proposed it as an alternative to foreign languages which up to that time had always been employed in all areas involving intellect and culture. Thus for the first time the Maltese language appeared as an instrument for popular education and made a claim for power. It was inevitable that Vassalli's revolutionary call would have many obstacles to overcome in the process of its realization. Politics Mikiel Anton Vassalli was expelled from Malta a number of times during his life due to his political beliefs. He lived during one of the most turbulent periods of Maltese history: the final years of the Hospitaller rule, the two years of Napoleonic government (1798–1800), and the first years of British rule from 1800. For a time he was suspected to have been the author of the Francophile publication,

Recherches Historiques et Politiques sur Malte (Paris, 1798), however, this was later attributed to the Maltese lawyer, Onorato Bres.[5] Besides the social disorder that was an outcome of political upheaval, there was also a deeply felt division between the social classes: the privileged class on one hand and on the other the vast majority.

It was a time of great turmoil when Europe was beset with revolutionary ideas which would come to a head with the French Revolution having as its ideals liberty and power to the people. As any other active and intelligent youth would, Vassalli closely followed all the developments that were taking place and absorbed the social ideas, besides doing very well in his academic studies.

After studies in Italy, Vassalli returned to Malta and to a new phase of political involvement. We can picture this young man bursting with revolutionary ideas, returning to Malta and witnessing the disorder of the final years of the Hospitallers, overwhelmed by financial problems, by divisions running deeply within it and, worst of all, by the backwardness. Shocked by the precarious situation Malta was to be found in, and particularly his fellow Maltese, Vassalli listed some suggestions for the Grandmaster of the Order. Amongst other things he asked:

- That the Order would stop all fighting with the Moslems, an activity which was out of step with the times
- That Maltese harbours would be open for commerce with all countries
- That the Order would introduce a branch for Maltese wishing to become knights.

These suggestions were aimed at improving the financial condition of the country on one hand, and on the other of adjusting injustices by which native Maltese were deprived of any right to make their voices heard and to develop intellectually.

The suggestions made by this presumptuous youth did not go down well at all with the Order and Vassalli was left with no other option but to enter into league with the Jacobites in the hope that the Maltese Islands would be taken away from the Order. However, the plot was uncovered and Mikiel Anton was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was later released after the arrival of the French Empire which released all political prisoners. Many were of the opinion that Vassalli was a scholar, a thinker and a dreamer and that therefore he was not cut out for the intricacies of political life. Whatever one's opinion might be, the fact remains that his political involvement was a bitter experience that brought him disgrace, suspicion, prison sentences and escapes. Finally this benefactor of the Maltese people was exiled for twenty years from his beloved country. This was a dark period spent in France and Spain until, in 1820, aged 56, poor, in bad health and, deprived of the best years of his life, he was allowed to return. Philosophically, Vassalli felt himself to be part of 'the century of light' and the 'Republic of Letters'. He shared with the illuminists of his age a passion for intellectual enlightenment and learning, a broad base for formal education, and a longing for a social and political system more in line with egalitarian and fraternal principles. On the other hand, his philosophy does not show any pronounced aversion towards religion or the Catholic Church.

Vassalli came in contact with the doctrines of the 'Age of Enlightenment' while studying in Rome, Italy, between 1785 and 1795. He seems to have avidly read the major works of the encyclopaedists, and ventured to envisage their teachings in some concrete political form. Barely a year after terminating his studies in Rome, in 1796 Vassalli published an open letter, called *Alla Nazione Maltese* (To the Maltese Nation), as an introduction to his Maltese-Latin-Italian dictionary in which he exposed, perhaps for the first time, his philosophical and political views. The book also included a *Discorso Preliminare* (An Opening Word) in which he outlined his prospective reorganisation of Maltese society.

It was political and social change that Vassalli sought. Translating and applying the philosophical doctrines of the illuminists to the context of Malta, he advocated a wide social reform aimed at the establishment of a Maltese republic based on a broad educational system centred upon the concept of Maltese cultural identity.

Though philosophically Vassalli might not be considered to be too much of an original thinker – for he drew almost all of his basic concepts and ideas from Contempo French encyclopaedists and illuminists – nonetheless his freedom of thought and his understanding of how philosophy could be socially and politically viable might be indeed regarded as significant. Most certainly, he is probably to be respected and studied as one of the first Maltese philosophers who, apart of John Nicholas Muscat, carried philosophy into novel ambits of thought and action. Vassalli died in 1829 and, having been refused burial by the Catholic Church, he was buried in the Msida Bastion Historic Garden, a Protestant cemetery mainly used by the British.[6]There is a statue of Vassalli in his

town of birth, Żebbuġ. His grave is to be found in the Msida Bastion Historic Garden, a restored early 19th-century Protestant cemetery in Floriana that is maintained by the national trust Din l-Art Ħelwa.
In literature Frans Sammut wrote *Il-Ħolma Maltija* (The Maltese Dream) a novel which revolves around Vassalli's life. The novel was acclaimed by *The Times* as the best literary work ever written in Maltese. The novel has been published in an esperantist translation in New York and described by English writer Marjorie Boulton as "a colossal work". The novel's main thesis had been proposed by Sammut in an issue of the *Journal of Maltese Studies* dedicated to Vassalli, namely that Freemasonry played an important part in the patriot's life.[8] Sammut has also republished Vassalli's book on Maltese proverbs in a Maltese translation of the original Italian.
Ġużè Aquilina's novel, *Taħt Tliet Saltniet* ("Under Three Rules"), explores Vassalli's life when the Maltese Islands were ruled by the Order of Saint John, followed by the French and lastly by the British. Vassalli's political figure is also celebrated in a number of poems: *Lil Mikiel Anton Vassalli* ("To Mikiel Anton Vassalli") is the common title of poems by Dun Karm Psaila, Ġorġ Pisani and Ninu Cremona. Ružar Briffa mentions Vassalli in the poem *Jum ir-Rebħ* (Victory Day).
Singer-songwriter Manwel Mifsud pays homage to him in his Maltese song *Vassalli*. A Maltese rock opera by Paul Abela (music) and Raymond Mahoney (lyrics) named *Bastilja* (Bastille) recounts the effects of the French Revolution on the Maltese Islands during those times. Mikiel Anton Vassalli is one of the main characters, calling on the Maltese to follow their French comrades to fight for freedom.

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THE ZOL-IN-ZOL MURDER 1832

Malta witnessed the first killing of a prostitute in April 1832: Grazzja Grech, known as Zol-in-Zol, was found dead in her Senglea home.

Prostitution was not illegal at the time, although over the years certain restrictions had been introduced dictating where prostitutes could live. They were forbidden from occupying the ground floor but allowed to live in maisonettes on the first floor.

Grazzja's absence had aroused the suspicions of her neighbours. After their knocks at her door went unanswered, one of them peeked through a window to see her lying on the floor in a pool of blood that oozed from her slit throat.

Grazzja was known to host a number of men at her home and many hailed from localities outside Senglea. Among these men, there were two youths in particular who were often seen in her company.

The night before the victim was found dead, the pair had been spotted buying bread, cheese and a bottle of rum from a Senglea shop.

Their appearance was described to the police, who identified the two as 18-year-old Giovanni Fedele from Sliema and 21-year-old Pawlu Laus from Valletta.

Both goldsmiths, they had known the victim for a while. Grazzja was rumoured to have declared the two as her favourite clients, and they had even presented her with a gold ring they had forged themselves.

It was this ring which was found to have sparked the crime of passion, because the youths had got to know that Grazzja had given it to a fishmonger.

It was this ring which was found to have sparked the crime of passion, because the youths had got to know that Grazzja had given it to a fishmonger

On the day of the crime, Giovanni and Pawlu, armed with a penknife, paid a visit to Grazzja. As Pawlu held her down, Giovanni slit her throat. A month later they were sentenced to death in a trial by jury. Despite a plea by governor Sir Patrick Ponsomby to mitigate the sentence, they were hanged. Giovanni was the youngest man in Malta to receive the death penalty.

Yet the tragedy continued to unfold. Giovanni's mother, who knew of her son's waywardness, had often warned him that he would one day end up on the gallows. Pawlu's father, who kept hoping until the end that the sentence would be changed, committed suicide. The final victim in this case appears to have been the fishmonger, who received a savage beating and later died of his injuries

The **Domvs Romana** allows visitors to take a glimpse at the private life and habits of an ancient Roman aristocrat. Very little was recovered of the noble Roman town house (domvs) itself, however the intricate mosaics which survived for centuries, as well as the artefacts found within the remains, are testimony enough to the original richness of this dwelling.

The remains of this residence were accidentally discovered in 1881. Soon after the first excavation, a building was constructed around these findings to protect the uncovered mosaics. This was the the first structure in the Maltese Islands to have been purposely built to protect and house an archaeological site and collection.

Most of the Roman artefacts and antiquities, including the few remaining marble pieces scattered in the streets of **Mdina**, were transferred to this museum which was officially opened to the public in February 1882. Later on, the museum continued to serve as a repository for all the Roman artefacts found around the Island.

Throughout the years, the museum went through various renovations which included the addition of a facade with a triangular pediment and a large rectangular display room. The museum was closed during World War II and was afterwards used as a small centre for restoration. Eventually, it was re-opened to the public in 1945.

The Victorian-style displays were also modernized along time. Apart from showing the complex history of the site, the current museum display is in fact designed to take the visitor through the various aspects of a Roman family and household, with aspects ranging from the actual division of roles in a Roman family, to fashion, education, entertainment, food and drink.

heritagemalta.mtA highlight at this museum is the only set of marble statues portraying the **Emperor Claudius** and his family that can be seen in a private house. During the Roman empire, such artworks were normally found in pu heritagemalta.mtblic spaces. – HERITAGE MALTA

Intercontinental Archaeology- Melite Civitas Romana Project

A wonderful night and very honoured to have been invited with Andrew and our Australian team members, David and some of our Maltese team to the Australian High Commissioner's residence for a BBQ dinner. Jenny (Her Excellency) as a wonderful host and her house staff were lovely. Great conversation and a real interest in our project and the team. Thank you Andrew for organising this. Rob Brown

Melite Civitas Romana in 3D: Virtualization Project of the Archaeological Park and Museum of the Domus Romana of Rabat, Malta

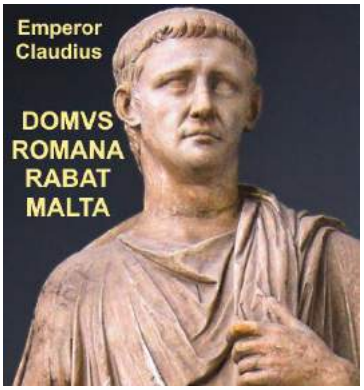
Davide Tanasi, Stephan Hassam, Kaitlyn Kingsland, Paolo Trapani, Matthew King and Denise Calì From the journal Open Archaeology https://doi.org/10.1515/opar-2020-0126

The archaeological site of the Domus Romana in Rabat, Malta was excavated almost 100 years ago yielding artefacts from the various phases of the site. The Melite Civitas Romana project was designed to investigate the *domus*, which may have been the home of a Roman Senator, and its many phases of use. Pending planned archaeological excavations designed to investigate the various phases of the site, a team from the Institute for Digital Exploration from the University of South Florida carried out a digitization campaign in the summer of 2019 using terrestrial laser scanning and aerial digital photogrammetry to document the current state of the site to provide a baseline of documentation and plan the coming excavations. In parallel, structured light scanning and photogrammetry were used to digitize 128 artefacts in the museum of the Domus Romana to aid in off-site research and create a virtual museum platform for global dissemination.

The work of Intercontinental Archaeology and our project at the Domvs Romana - Rabat Flinders Archaeology and History Society · June 2022

Among a team of about 60, four Flinders archaeologists are currently in Malta participating in the Melite Civitas Romana Project run by Intercontinental Archaeology. The project is investigating the temporal, spatial and cultural extent of the Roman occupation in Malta, specifically at the Domus Romana (the ruins of a Roman townhouse situated outside the walls of the old capital, Mdina). From Flinders, Andrew Wilkinson is a project director, Tess Devlin is a trench supervisor, and Mitchell Lunnay and Cate Sexton are volunteering on the trowels! The 2022 season (13 June - 1 July) is the first time this site has been excavated in 100 years, and the team are planning many more to come! This experience is a fantastic way to meet archaeologists from around the world while skyrocketing your fieldwork and artefact ID skills - plus, you'll be contributing to our understanding of the history of the Mediterranean. Check out the project's FaceBook page for details and more updates.

Tiberius Claudius Caesar Drusus



Claudius was a famous Leader from Rome, who lived between 10 BC and 54 AC.
Tiberius **Claudius** was Roman emperor from 24 January 41 to 54. He was of the Julio-Claudian dynasty and was the son of Drusus and Antonia the Younger. He was born in Lugdunum in Gaul, and was the first Roman emperor born outside Italy. As a young man, he was sickly, and limped and had bad hearing, and as a result of this he was excluded from the family and from official duties, until he shared the post of consul with his nephew Caligula from 37 **Claudius** infirmity he probably saved the purges that took place both under Tiberius and Caligula, when his potential enemies did not regard him as a threat. That he survived these, made possible that he was proclaimed emperor of Pretorian Garden after Caligula had been executed, at a time he was the last surviving adult male members of his family.
Despite the lack of experience, **Claudius** proved to be an able and efficient administrator. He was also an ambitious builder who had built many new roads, aqueducts and canals throughout the empire. During his reign of **Claudius** conquered Thrace, Noricum, Pamphylia, Lycia, and Judea, and under him were the Roman expansion into Britain commenced. He was personally concerned with the law, presented by the indices of lawsuits, and issued up to twenty edicts for the day. However, he was regarded as vulnerable throughout his reign, and especially of the Roman aristocracy. **Claudius** was constantly forced to forcibly consolidate his position, which resulted in death pto many of the senators. These were incidents that damaged his reputation among ancient historians, although historians in recent times have reversed some of the picture. After his death in 54 he was followed by his adopted son, Nero.

Intercontinental Archaeology
Melite Civitas Romana Project

In the heat of Maltese summer, the Australian team kept on working at the Domus Romana - June-July 2022

Giuseppe Calì
(1846 – 1930)

was a Maltese painter of Italian descent. Born in Valletta, Calì was baptised at the Dominican Parish Church of Porto Salvo, one of the seven offsprings of the artist and musician Raffaele Calì, set designer at the Royal Theatre,[] and of mezzosoprano Giovanna Padiglione. His parents, who were from Naples, had moved to British Malta in 1840.

At age 19, in 1865, thanks to the generosity of the merchant William Stephen Eynaud, Calì moved to Naples to further his artistic formation at the Accademia di Belle Arti, where he studied under neoclassicist Giuseppe Mancinelli (1812-1875). Rather than following Mancinelli's style, the young Calì was attracted by the anti-academic Domenico Morelli (1826-1901), a follower of the Verismo movement. In Naples, Calì also grew closer to Romanticism and to the Italian Risorgimento. He made return to Valletta two years later, in 1867, summoned by his terrified parents who were told that their son planned to join Garibaldi in his latest attempt to overthrow the Papal States.

His first major work, *The Death of Dragut* from 1867, is still deemed a masterpiece; it was purchased by the government and placed on permanent display in the armory of the Grandmaster's Palace, Valletta - then later at the Museum of Fine Arts, today's MUŻA. The influences of both Mancinelli and Morelli are visible in the *Death of Dragut* and in other works of his early period.

Calì's art soon found wide acceptance in Malta, where he got employed in decorating private houses with landscapes and portraits. Only after 1870 Calì started to accept Church commissions. In 1881 he pained St. Jerome at the Sacro Cuor Church in Sliema, also deemed among his major works.

Calì married Perennia Pace from Senglea in 1871, with whom had 11 children. In order to sustain the family, he got employed as art teacher at the Lyceum.

As an established authority in the artistic scene in the island, Calì started to grow his own school, favouring the style of Verismo over the rampant Neo-Classicism and academicism. Among his students were his son Ramiro Raffaele Calì, Raphael Bonnici Calì, Gianni Vella and Ignatio Cefai.

He died in Valletta and was commemorated by the Republic of Malta with a series of four postage stamps in 1996, and a coin in 2004. His son Ramiro Calì was also a painter.

Giuseppe Calì was a very prolific artist, almost every major church in Malta prides itself on his work. He worked very quickly, and according to one of his grandsons he was called *ix-xitan tal-pinzell* ("devil of the brush"). His performance was enormous; during his lifetime he made more than six hundred different compositionshttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giuseppe_Cal%C3%AC - cite_note-bank-6 (according to some sources - about two thousand) consisting of an impressive variety of paintings, drawings, bozzetti, portraits and decorations of church vaults, as well as a number of sculptures and lithography. Unfortunately, many of them were lost during World War II, such as the crucifixion in the Stella Maris church in Sliema. The influence of Romanticism, which the artist became acquainted with in Naples, is evident in most of his early works, such as the painting of the altar of the parish church in Mosta, *Our Lady of the Rosary* (1870), his first work for churches after his return from Italy, and the *Saint Lawrence* (1881) and *Saint Jerome* (1882) in the *Sacro Cuor* church in Sliema. The latter is widely recognized as a masterpiece of the genre. This style is also visible in the works from 1885: *Saint Joseph with Child* for the parish church of St. Cajetan in Ħamrun and the *Martyrdom of St. Demetrius* for the parish church of Maria Bambina in Senglea. Calì has also done several works in collaboration with artist Carlo Ignazio Cortis, including for the Parish Church of St. Lawrence in Birgu and the Church of the Savior in Lija.[At the end of the 19th century, he also worked on some side paintings, such as the one for the Church of the Annunciation in Tarxien, and the painting of Saint Dominic for the Porto Salvo parish church in Valletta, where he was baptized

Maltese-Canadians Celebrate Mnarja in Toronto

The event organisers, from left: Issac Bartolo, Kirk Ceederburgh, Magdalena Falzon, Jason Mercieca, Victoria Celestini, Brandon Azzopardi and Carl Azzopardi.

Twistees, Kinnie and pastizzi on menu as man revives Mnarja festival in Canada

Mark Laurence Zammit - Times of Malta

A Canadian man who fell in love with his Maltese roots, organized an *Mnarja* festival in Toronto last week attended by hundreds of Maltese Canadians and their friends who feasted on Twistees, Kinnie, *pastizzi* and Maltese sausage..

Carl Azzopardi, 38, was born in Canada, after his parents and grandparents, who were born in Malta, emigrated there. His grandmother lived in Canada for 18 years but refused to learn English and continued to speak in Maltese.

"Maltese was the only language she knew. She did not speak English, and as a young boy, she would speak to me about Malta, Maltese, people and culture for hours, and she would always tell me, 'don't forget where you came from'," Azzopardi recalled.

"Her passion for Malta was so contagious that I fell in love with it as well. She died 16 years ago, but all that she used to tell me stuck with me and I wanted to keep it alive."

And he is sticking to his word. Over the past months, along with a committee of the Maltese Canadian Federation, Azzopardi took over one of the largest Maltese festivals in Canada – the Mnarja festival.

The festival has been on the Maltese community calendar for around 30 years but lately its popularity was dwindling due to the ageing Maltese Canadian population, most of whom are now in their 70s.

"I'm worried that we're losing most of our Maltese roots, especially the younger generation, most of whom do not even know what *Mnarja* is," he said. "So, it was necessary to bring back the children. We needed to make the event child-friendly so they will want to come back next year. That way, we can keep Malta alive in Canada for many more years to come."

The *Mnarja* Malta Fest, held on the Saturday before June 29, was a huge success. The sausage vendor alone sold over 36 kilograms of Maltese sausage in a span of five hours.

The Mnarja Malta Fest was a huge success. The sausage vendor alone sold over 36 kilograms of Maltese sausage in a span of five hours

Two Maltese authors based in Canada – Rebekah Grima and Marthese Fenech – were also invited, and other vendors sold merchandise branded with the Maltese cross.

"A lot of people who aren't even Maltese came to the event. Some of them are Portuguese, others Italian, with no Maltese roots whatsoever," Azzopardi said. "But they knew their Maltese friends were coming and they tagged along because they were curious to taste Maltese food. They wanted to be part of the Maltese feast. It was an absolute success."

Azzopardi has two young children, and he says his older son is already getting excited for the annual event. "I don't think my children know exactly what it is all about. But that's not important. Right now, the important thing is that they have fun, and eventually, they will understand everything and will hopefully want to keep it going."

It is estimated there are around 40,000 Maltese Canadians or Canadians with Maltese roots in Canada, and Maltese clubs are still fairly common there

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Order of Malta Lebanon

June 27 2022·

It is with as much joy and emotion that we share with you the statue of the Holy Mother carrying the Child Jesus, newly installed in the St. Elijah Church in Kantari, in the alcove specially dedicated to the Order of Malta.

This church hosts all our religious ceremonies, and it is only natural that after being damaged by the explosion in Beirut Port, the Order of Malta took part in the renovation of its stained glass windows.

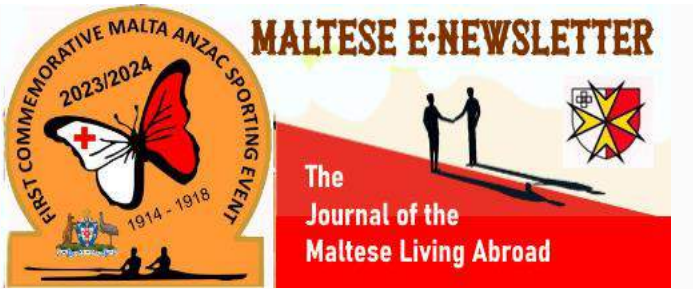
We thank our chaplain Father Antoine Assaf and our Fra' Jean-Louis Mainguy for all their efforts

900 years at the Service of the Dignity of People, 60 years at the Service of the Vulnerable Communities in Lebanon, 33 years at the heart of Ain El Remmaneh going beyond primary healthcare to provide a 360 approach to our patients.

٩٠٠ عام في خدمة الناس بكراماتهم، ٦٠ عام في خدمة الفئات الأكثر حاجة في لبنان، ٣٣ عام في قلب عين الرمانة، تتجاوز منظمة مالطا لبنان الرعاية الصحية الأولية لتقديم الأفضل لكل مرضاها. #OrderofMaltaLebanon

Order of Malta - Australia

June 29 2022 · Expressions of interest now open for the next OrderofMalta Camp for Disabled Youth in September!
The objectives of the camps are:
- Help young people overcome personal barriers
- To forge a sense of community - An opportunity to serve
If you are aged 18 - 35 and are interested in attending as either a GUEST or #VOLUNTEER please register your interest at Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.



New Knights join Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St Paul

BY GOZO NEWS

*Photo from L. to R. Chevalier Prior Michael Camilleri Cauchi, the three newly appointed Chevalier – Dr Raymond C. Xerri, Chevalier Joseph Vella, Chevalier Peter Said and Chevalier Secretary Carmel Saliba.*The investiture of three new Knights with the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St Paul has taken place in Gozo.The Grand Chapter of Malta had its investiture ceremony on Tuesday, the eve of the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, at the Office of the Confraternity in Nadur. The ceremony was presided by Chevalier Prior Michael Camilleri Cauchi with the assistance of Chevalier Carmel Saliba. The candidates Dr Raymond C. Xerri, Joseph Vella and Peter Said took the oath of a Knight to serve God and His people. Certificates were presented to the new Knights.

Tennis stars Elaine Genovese and Francesca Curmi with their Silver Medals at the 2022 Oran Mediterranean Games

MEDITERRANEAN GAMES

Curmi, Genovese secure Malta's first medal at Mediterranean Games as they reach women's doubles final

Francesca Curmi (left) celebrates with Elaine Genovese in Oran.

Tennis duo Francesca Curmi and Elaine Genovese have secured Team Malta their first medal at the 2022 Mediterranean Games after they produced an astonishing fightback to reach the final of the women's doubles.

Facing top seeds Nuria Brancaccio and Aurora Zantetedeschi, of Italy, few had given a chance to the Maltese duo to proceed to the final and assure themselves of a place on the podium.

In fact, the Maltese pair found themselves behind in the semi-final when Brancaccio and Zantetedeschi took the first set of the match 6-3.

However, Curmi and Genovese refused to throw in the towel and they fought back admirably in the second set to prevail in a tight tie-break to level the match and force the decider.

Here, the Italians tried to step up their gear to try and turn the match in their favour but they had to contend with the fighting qualities of the Maltese duo.

In fact, Curmi and Genovese needed to cancel five match points in the third match before going on to upset the tournament top seeds and complete an astonishing 3-6, 7-6, 11-9 victory.

Curmi and Genovese will now proceed to the doubles final where they will be up against Spanish duo Jessica Bouas Maneiro and Guiomar Maristany Zuleta.

No doubt, the Maltese duo will step into the final with little pressure on their shoulders as they have already rewritten the history books of Maltese tennis by become the first players to win a medal at the Mediterranean Games as they are already sure of coming home with a silver medal around their neck. But the Maltese player will give it their all to complete a fairytale run in the tournament by winning the gold medal in Thursday's final. Times of Malta

Malta Summer Festival

The Malta Summer Festival presents the **Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra** in an evening celebrating the 225th birth anniversary of the great Italian opera master **Gaetano Donizetti**.

Featuring **Tatiana Lisnic** and **Celso Albelo**, two world-renowned names in the operatic scene, the concert includes some of the most loved arias from his operas Anna Bolena, Lucrezia Borgia and L'Elisir d'Amore. The orchestra takes centre stage in the interpretation of the Sinfonia from Anna Bolena and Joconde Overture by Maltese composer Nicolò Isuard. This concert is part of the Malta Summer Festival presented by the MPO in collaboration with Arts Council Malta and Malta Tourism Authority with the support of Hilton Malta and the Ministry of Gozo. Heritage Malta

TWO MALTESE MISSIONARIES DIE IN BRAZIL IN A WEEK

Jurgen Balzan newsbook.com.mt

In less than a week, the small Maltese community in Brazil has lost two missionary priests, with Fr John Caruana dying suddenly in his sleep on Tuesday.

On 3 June he celebrated his eighty-first birthday and on the 22 June he concelebrated at the Mass for the repose of another Maltese missionary priest Fr Frankie Tabone Adami who passed away aged 83.

Fr Francis Xavier Tabone Adami dedicated all his life, precisely all his adult life, to the people of God in Brazil. Tabone Adami, born in Gżira on March 18, 1939, was ordained priest on April 7, 1962, and by the end of the same year was in the diocese of Londrina, southern Brazil, to work as a missionary.

Father John Caruana arrived in Brazil in 1984 after seventeen years of pastoral work in Malta where he served in the parish of St Julian's and was active in the *Christus Rex* society. Fr John Caruana in Brazil earnestly engaged himself in pastoral work within working-class parishes afflicted with deep social problems in housing, unemployment, absence of basic labour rights, malnutrition.

He lived in poverty as his modest income as a priest was shared unbeknown to thousands of poor families in his midst. His homilies in church and his informal conversations with people in their humble homes invariably highlighted the paramount importance of being critical Christians as well as agents for change within the community. Conscience-raising in all fields was his motto and many people responded positively.

In a statement, Michael Pace said: "Perhaps John Caruana´s most notable and relentless commitment to the poor and indigent could be demonstrated in his constant and unswerving support of the Landless Peasants Movement (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra*).

"He was among the few priests who, following Medellin and Puebla, made an option in favour of the poor, always present to help peasants occupy land and ranches purposely left untilled and turn these into productive farms to feed themselves and thousands of other families. John was convinced that as a committed Christian it was his duty to give a hand against deep injustices and elitist attitudes and mentality in Brazil."

The vast western regions of the states of Paraná and São Paulo were Fr John Caruana's parish and he held that it was there that he felt bound to go to help undermine the terrible godless source of hate and bring some peace and comfort to the destitute in their quest for a better life as humans and as Christians.

"His books (in Portuguese) on the Landless Peasants Movement and on the Theology of Liberation (extracts) are worth reading and meditating upon, whilst *The Maltese Missionary Experience* is really a landmark in his love for the Missions."

During the last five years John suffered from a serious heart condition while his health continued to deteriorate hindering him from engaging himself in pastoral work as actively as he used to in earlier years.

"The faithful and the clergy of the Church in Maringá will no doubt remember him as a model of simplicity, righteousness, truth and sincerity. The Landless Peasants Movement will miss an ardent supporter. The Church in Brazil will miss a missionary. We have lost a great friend," Pace said

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Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

The Bank of Valletta has setup a Customer Service exclusively for clients living in Australia. This service can be reached at customerserviceaustralia@bov.com

Alternatively, clients may contact the Bank on Customer Service Centre Number +356 2131 2021

Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade encourages Maltese organisations to register their details with its Ministry. In this manner the Maltese Government will have the information at hand should it want to contact a particular Organisation.

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) has a form available on its website for organisations to register. The application to be registered with the CMLA is now available online through the MFET Maltese Living Abroad site https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Other/Foreign-Affairs/Maltese-Communities-Abroad/WEB2098/default.aspx

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Malta continues is back to normality after two years of pandemic-related disruption, The Isle of MTV Malta will be another opportunity to showcase the country's credentials in the entertainment sector with the return of the iconic global brand.

The past 13 Isle of MTV festivals have welcomed some of the world's biggest stars such as Lady Gaga, Snoop Dogg, David Guetta, Martin Garrix and so many more. The festival will be broadcast on MTV internationally and will showcase Malta and the festival to social and digital stations across 80 countries around the world.The festival will be followed by Isle of MTV Malta Music Week, a number of club nights and parties spanning between July 19 and July 24

MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SA

49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn, SA

Christmas in July
Friday 22nd July 2022
Luncheon – 2 Course meal and dessert
Members $17.50 Non-Members $20.00
Entertainment by
The Godfather Band
From 10 am till 3.30pm

This non-commercial electronic newsletter is the only journal produced by a team of volunteers in Adelaide, South Australia for Maltese living abroad