



# Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna

OAM MQR JP

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



**FESTA**

**TIME**



**The 3 Coaches**

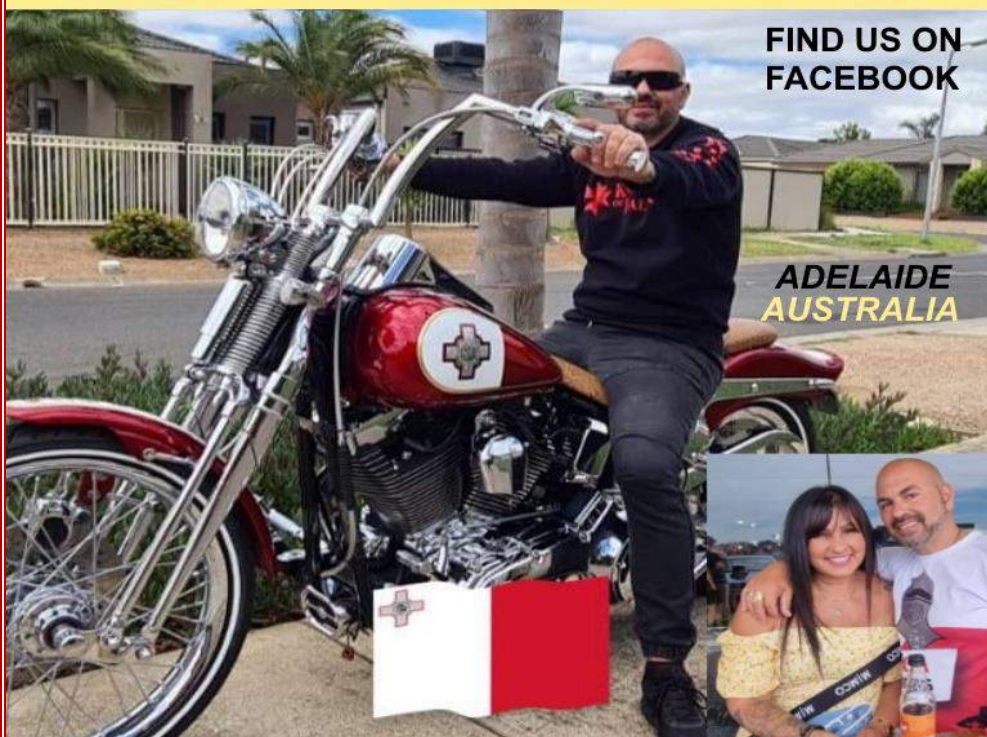
**the Voice KIDS**

Owen Leuellen



**Destiny Chukunyere**

Gianluca Bezzina



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## Voluntary Registration of Maltese Nationals of Value Living Abroad Form V

### TO THE READERS OF THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade is launching the voluntary "Person of Value" Form (Form V) which will serve as a living database to help incentivise interaction between Maltese abroad and local Government entities. Besides being exemplary migrants, many Maltese living abroad have made a name for themselves in different spheres and managed to also distinguish themselves and be catalysts of change to the benefit and well-being of others.

Cultivating the concept of Global Malta is also thinking in terms of added value performance in a plethora of sectors such as entrepreneurship, business and trade, art and sports, sectoral outreach, professional backgrounds, diplomatic experience, and high skills amongst other.

Form V is intended for Maltese citizens and Maltese descendants living abroad to enhance engagement

Int Malti jew Maltija li tgħix barra u tixtieq tikkontribwixxi lejn pajjiżek? Idhol hawn sabiex tirreġistra

- <https://foreign.gov.mt/formv>

Are you a Maltese living abroad and would like to contribute to your country? Click on this link to register

- <https://foreign.gov.mt/formv> Link to promotional video of the V Form:

<https://we.tl/t-fJTNOWdpYf> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XPDBa-G3ek>

**Joseph A Xerri** Secretary, Council for Maltese Living Abroad e.mail: [sec.cmla@gov.mt](mailto:sec.cmla@gov.mt)



Miriam Gauci master class at Gaulitana

### Gaulitana: A Festival of Music

A series of vocal master classes by Maltese internationally renowned soprano Miriam Gauci return to *Gaulitana: A Festival of Music*, after a forced absence of two years. Indeed, this will actually be re-kicking the festival's *GauLearn* educational programme.

Open to all singers, and with passive participation also permitted, afternoon and evening sessions are being held from Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th August, 2022 at the MAVC Gozo Visual and Performing Arts School, Xewkija.

Milica Lawrence will be the repetiteur in residence.

A public concert at the Ministry for Gozo's Hall, Victoria, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 20.00hrs will bring the master class to an end. Entrance for the concert is free.

The brochure with the full details is available

on: [https://issuu.com/gaulitanafestival/docs/m\\_gauci\\_vocal\\_master\\_class\\_-\\_brochure\\_6\\_1\\_1](https://issuu.com/gaulitanafestival/docs/m_gauci_vocal_master_class_-_brochure_6_1_1)

whereas the application, receivable by the 21st July, is available

on: <https://gaulitanafestival.wufoo.com/forms/re27fkk0u053wx/>

For more info email [gaulitanafestival@gmail.com](mailto:gaulitanafestival@gmail.com)

*Gaulitana: A Festival of Music*, currently in its hybrid 15<sup>th</sup> edition, is an awardee of the European Festivals Association's EFFE label and principally supported by the Investment in Cultural Organisations – Gozo of Arts Council Malta and the Ministry for Gozo.

**GEORGE CROSS ISLAND ASSOCIATION - UK****MALTA GC 80TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE****SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022, 11 AM****ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER &****MALTA GEORGE CROSS MEMORIAL, LONDON**

On 80th anniversary of the arrival in Malta's Grand Harbour of the first survivors of Operation Pedestal, the George Cross Island Association will gather in London for its 15th annual Memorial Service at All Hallows by the Tower, followed by a wreath-laying at the nearby Malta George Cross Memorial.

Invited guests include the His Excellency the High Commissioner for Malta and the former High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Malta, Mr. Stuart Gill and his wife. GCIA members can then opt for lunch at Brasserie Blanc, Southbank (cost £35 per head). Once again transport to the lunch venue will be courtesy of the London Taxi Drivers

Benevolent Association for War Disabled.

We hope that many will take this opportunity to mark 80th anniversary of the siege of Malta. For more details and to book email [info@georgecrossisland.org.uk](mailto:info@georgecrossisland.org.uk)

**MALTA GEORGE CROSS 80TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM MEMORIAL SERVICE SAT. 17 SEPTEMBER 2022, 11 AM**

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the people of Malta, the George Cross Island Association will gather on 17 September at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire for a special memorial service.

GCIA and guests will be joined in a parade to the GCIA memorial by The Corps of Drums (affiliated to the Grenadier Guards), Standard bearers from The Royal British Legion, Royal Naval Association and Royal Air Forces Association, accompanied by cadets. Invited guests include the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and His Excellency the High Commissioner for Malta. Rev Stella Greenwood will officiate. The formal ceremony, with bugler, will follow at the memorial. An optional three-course lunch will be available, cost £25 per head. For details email [info@georgecrossisland.org.uk](mailto:info@georgecrossisland.org.uk)

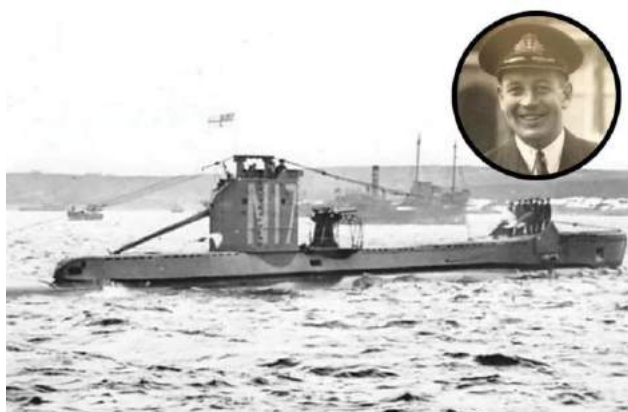
**Consul on the Move**

**The Consul on the Move program will be visiting Adelaide on Monday 3 October and Tuesday 4 October 2022 at the Maltese Cultural Centre, 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley. This program will enable the collection of biometric data for anyone requiring a new Maltese passport or the renewal of one. Should you require this service please contact the High Commission in Canberra on (02) 6290 1426 to book your appointment. It is essential that you have an appointment for this service.**

**Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 0401136673.**

**Carmen Spiteri Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia**

## Wreck off Malta is the submarine HMS URGE sunk in 1942



HMS Urge. Inset: Lieutenant-Commander Edward P Tomkinson. Photo: Francis Dickenson

Underwater footage captured by divers finally proves that the wreck of a World War II British submarine located off the coast of Malta two years ago is the HMS Urge – putting to rest decades of speculation that the vessel sank in Libyan waters. The footage shows the ghostly outline of the word ‘Urge’ etched into the side of the sunken submarine that is now covered in colonies of soft and hard corals, known as gorgonians.

“We already knew this was the wreck of Urge, but to see the letters so clearly gives important further clarity. The commitment of the University of Malta team to this work means a lot to the families of those lost on HMS Urge,” said Francis Dickinson, the grandson of HMS Urge’s captain, Lieutenant-Commander Edward P Tomkinson.

Divers also captured the area where the submarine was hit by the mine that sunk it 79 years ago.

“The damage was where it was expected to be: on the starboard waterline. The blast penetrated both layers of the submarine which means water went inside. This means that any organic material – like fabric and human remains – would have only been preserved if covered in silt,” explained Prof. Timmy Gambin from the University’s Department of Classics and Archaeology.

The state of the inside of the submarine will remain unknown, however, as Gambin explains the wreck is a war grave that is not to be disturbed.

*The footage came with the unexpected benefit of managing to capture the name of the submarine*

The identity of the wreck has now been proven without a doubt. Two weeks ago, divers headed underwater to record the site in a joint collaboration between the University of Malta,

Heritage Malta and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

“The divers were within metres of the wreck but they were operating under strict: ‘look, don’t touch’. This is a sea grave that is to be respected. The footage came with the unexpected and added benefit of managing to capture the name of the submarine, finally proving once and for all that this was in fact the Urge,” said Gambin.

“When we found it in 2019 there was no doubt in my mind, but some people continued to question it, and this caused anguish to the families. Now that has been settled once and for all.”

But why is this still important – eight decades later?

Gambin is clear: “If we forget these parts of history, then the efforts of these young men would have been in vain. They participated in an epic battle that was World War II and sacrificed their young lives.”

The footage will now be shared as part of the virtual Underwater Museum and the site will be granted legal protection as an area of archaeological importance at sea.

A memorial ceremony, originally planned for April last year, will be held in April 2022 to coincide with the 80th anniversary of its sinking.

**The HMS Urge story** The story goes back to 1941 when it was built thanks to the townspeople of Bridgend’s efforts during a National Warship Week, where cities and towns across the UK raised money to fund the building of ships and weapons, The Telegraph reported. The HMS Urge cost £300,000 in 1941 - more than €13m today.

The people of Bridgend “adopted” the submarine and its crew after it was completed and regularly sent them parcels of food and luxuries – until it vanished without trace in April 1942.

Back then, Malta was being heavily bombed by Nazi Germany and its Italian allies. As a result, the 10th Submarine Flotilla, known as the Fighting 10th, were ordered to leave Malta and set up base in Alexandria. On April 27, 1942, HMS Urge left Malta but failed to arrive in Alexandria on May 6 and was reported overdue.

The submarine was carrying a crew of 32 as well as 11 other naval personnel and a journalist. Aboard was Lieutenant-Commander Edward P Tomkinson, whose daughter Bridget Dickinson was a baby at the time.

Decades later, her son, Francis Dickinson, formed part of the team involved in the search for the HMS



Urge that was finally found in the summer of 2019. It was discovered standing upright at a depth of 108 metres with her deck gun facing forward a couple of miles out from Grand Harbour.

The find was meant to put to rest a false claim made back in 2015 that the submarine wreck was found off the Libyan coast. But even after the find, some insisted that the wreck found in Malta was not the HMS Urge.

This had an emotional weight on the families of the crew since, if the submarine was really found off Libya, it would have meant that the commanding officer and his men disobeyed orders as they were not to deviate from the course.

In an interview with Times of Malta soon after the find in 2019, Dickinson spoke about the importance of the find. He was present when the wreck was found – years after listening to his grandmother tell him about his grandfather's role in Malta's war story as the captain of a submarine-based on the island during the Second World War. "It was the experience of a lifetime to be above the wreck and watch live colour images of such a special submarine lying upright on the seabed... She was true to her orders and undaunted to the last," he had said. (Source: Time of Malta)



We have some more exciting new we wanted to share — our second festival announcement.

Cats of Malta will be sending New York a big meow from Malta later this year as the family-friendly doco **has been selected for NY Cat Film Festival!**

A special 20 minute version Cats of Malta is screening as part of the 5th Annual NY Cat Film Festival in **New York City on Sunday October 23rd at the Village East by Angelika theatre.**

We love NY and we love cats, so **spread the**

**world to your friends, family and felines in the Big Apple — Cats of Malta is coming.** If you are in New York or close too, we hope you can make it down. It's been a few years since we visited NY, so **we are hoping to make the trip down from Croatia.**

**Cats of Malta was also mentioned in the wonderful article about cats around the world, which we think you will enjoy reading : Outlook Magazine**

There will be more more festival news to come shortly!

**REMINDER!** If you are in Melbourne, the **FREE Melbourne Documentary Film Festival screening on July 25th, 6.30pm Fed Square Melbourne** is creeping up, so keep an eye out on the website for links to both festivals there — **[www.CatsofMaltaFilm.com](http://www.CatsofMaltaFilm.com)**

There is also a Facebook event for the Melbourne screening, so you can invite friends:

**Melbourne screening** Until we can share further news,

Stay purrrfect, **SARAH JAYNE AND IVAN MALEKIN**



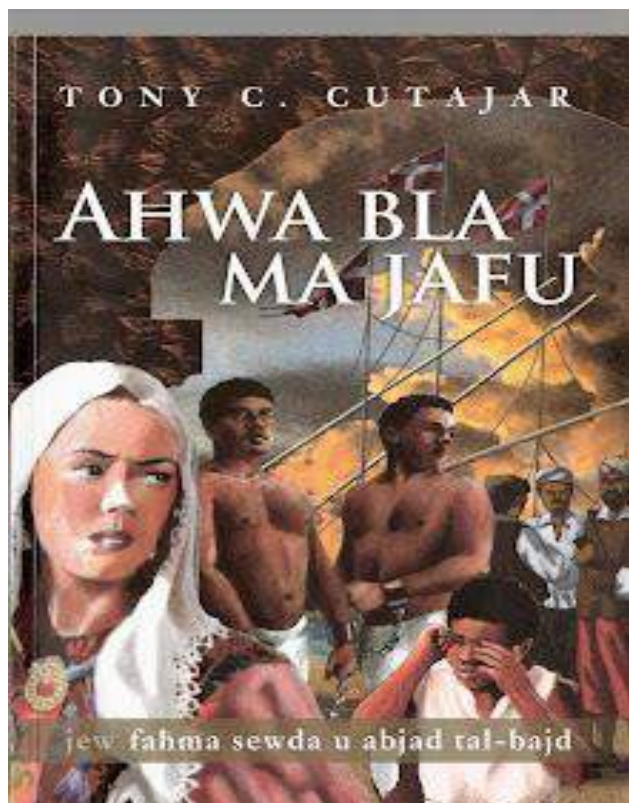
## IL-GIRNA MALTESE STONE HUT

Nothing typifies the Maltese countryside more than the ubiquitous dry-stone wall that wind their way all over the land dividing the hot, dry soil into tiny parcels, from which the farmer ekes out an existence (*Il-hajt tas-sejjieh*). There, in the middle of it in the countryside of the western and northwestern part of the island lies the "girna", the Maltese stone hut.

The "girna", is a single room erected to meet the needs of farmers and herdsman. It has a double wall built of undressed stones,

which are left unplastered. Internally, its ceiling is shaped like a dome, while the external wall is usually circular, although it can be square or rectangular or, in rare instances, oval-shaped. Its convex-shaped roof is covered with fragments of rotten rock and stone and sometimes with sand and lime, and rarely, with ground pottery (deffun).

## Ahwa bla ma jafu ta'



*Ahwa bla ma jafu* hu r-rumanz ġdid ta' Tony C. Cutajar li jtul mal-mitt paġna, u li huwa indirizzat l-aktar lill-qarrejja żgħażaġħ. Fih l-awtur jgħaqqad is-siewi mad-divertiment biex b'hekk min jaqrah ikun qed jieħu gost u fl-istess ħin jitgħallem xi haġa utli, anki jekk indirettament.

**Il-parti storika**

Bħala perijodu storiku r-rakkont huwa bbażat fi żmien meta Malta kienet taħt l-Ordni ta' San Ġwann u ċentru kummerċjali importanti f'nofs il-Mediterran. Insibu partijiet deskrittivi marbutin mal-isfond storiku tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann, ir-rwol importanti li kellhom l-ilsiera f'kull qasam tas-soċjetà Maltija, ix-xogħol iebes fir-raba' matul is-sena, il-ħajja fuq galera tal-Ordni u l-bqija.

**Il-parti mistħajla** - Fuq l-isfond storiku Tony C. Cutajar iqiegħed l-istorja mqallba tal-iskjav Tork Andrea u l-iskjava Rosa. Andrea hu ta' lewn iswed u xi ftit jirrappreżenta lil dawk kollha ta' lewn iswed li aħna l-Maltin ma nħarsux lejhom b'rispett anki fil-preżent minħabba għadd ta' preġudizzji li għadhom jaħkmuna sal-lum. Cutajar jiddedika wkoll numru ta' paġni lill-konġura tal-iskjavi f'Malta li kienet se sseħħ fis-seklu 18. Il-persunaġġi – li

## Tony C. Cutajar (2009)

bosta minnhom huma żgħażaġħ - huma varji: min krudil u qalbu ħażina, u min ġeneruż u mimli mħabba.

**Stil ta' kitba** - Apparti din it-taħlita bejn l-element storiku u dak mistħajjel, Cutajar jalternat n-narrazzjoni mad-deskrizzjoni. Jithaddem id-diskors dirett, u avvenimenti familjari jithalltu ma' oħrajn nazzjonali, iż-żgħar (l-ilsir Andrea u l-ilsira Tereża) mal-kbar (l-Inkwiżitur). Bil-mod il-mod il-ħafna trufijiet jew rakkonti żgħar ġor-rakkont ewlieni jibdwew jidhlu f'xulxin biex ir-rumanz isir haġa waħda u unika. Hemm imbagħad ċerta twist fir-rakkont meta l-maħbubin isibu li fil-fatt huma aħwa u minn hemm 'il quddiem l-għan ta' ħajjithom isir dak li jsibu lil ommhom.

**L-aspett soċjali** - Apparti l-preġudizzju razzjali li jeżisti f'xi wħud mill-Maltin, Cutajar ifakkarna li Maltin u Torok, jew Insara u Mislem, ma kinux dejjem għedewwa, imma kien jeżisti wkoll rispett bejn iż-żewġ razez, anki jekk naħa kienu s-sidien u l-oħra lsiera. Cutajar jirreferi għal nuqqas ieħor tal-Maltin ta' kull żmien: l-ilsien laxk u d-dagħa. Hemm imbagħad bħal messaġġ dirett liż-żgħażaġħ tal-lum: "Meta tisker ma jkollokx kontroll fuqek innifsek u ssir bħall-annimal."

**Tematika** - Tema ewlenija hija d-destin u dak li jerfa' għal kull individwu. Hemm min mill-ħażin jgħaddi għal sitwazzjoni aħjar, u min viċi-versa, bħal fil-każ ta' Andrea u Rosa. U dan hu parti mill-istil narrattiv ta' Cutajar biex jintroduci dejjem aspetti ġodda fir-rakkont tiegħu u ma jraqqad qatt ir-ritmu tan-narrazzjoni. Hemm ukoll l-importanza tal-libertà għall-bniedem li hu skjav. Hu rumanz ta' valuri pożittivi bħall-familja, l-altruwiżmu, l-imħabba u l-ħbiberija.

Ma setax jonqos li rumanz immirat għaż-żgħażaġħ ma jtkellimx dwar xewqat, ħolm u mħabba. Xi mkien matul ir-rumanz kollu hemm bħal lehen msaħħar li jfakkar lill-qarrej li fost il-ġnus għandhom isaltu l-paċi, il-ħbiberija u l-fratellanza, u mhux il-firda u l-gwerra.

Aħwa bla ma jafu ta' Tony C. Cutajar huwa rumanz bi tmiem hieni, bħalma jixraq lill-qarrejja żgħażaġħ.

**Patrick Sammut**





## Next Mission: Impossible film, with Tom Cruise, to be shot in Malta

**More than 200 extras are expected to be recruited**

Tom Cruise and actress Hayley Atwell are pictured during the filming of *Mission Impossible: Lybra* in 2020 in Rome. Photo: AFP

Parts of the next *Mission: Impossible* spy film will be shot in Malta next year, sources close to the

film industry have told Times of Malta. The eighth instalment of the film, so-far codenamed *Scorpio*, will once again feature Hollywood star Tom Cruise in the lead role.

It will be the first time Cruise, 60, will shoot a film in Malta.

The shoot is expected to last around a month and will see the island play the backdrop to parts of the film. Malta is also expected to double up as South America, industry sources said. Between 200 and 300 film extras are expected to be recruited. The Malta shoot was originally scheduled for October but the process has been delayed.

The film will be directed by Christopher McQuarrie, who won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for the classic film *The Usual Suspects*. Renowned actors Simon Pegg and Ving Rhames are among the names slated for the Malta shoot.

The seventh instalment of the series titled *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part 1* is slated for release in summer 2023.

McQuarrie has previously teased the theme that will run through the next two instalments in the series, revealing that both *Mission: Impossible 7* and *Mission: Impossible 8* will bring Ethan Hunt's story to an end. Cruise helped revive the film franchise in 1996 when he starred in the first *Mission: Impossible* film as Ethan Hunt, a member of a fictional spy agency. Cruise is currently riding on the massive success of *Top Gun: Maverick*.

It is the biggest film to hit Malta after *Jurassic World: Dominion*, which featured a showdown in the streets of Valletta.



**[www.apsbank.com.mt/aps-summer-festival-2022](http://www.apsbank.com.mt/aps-summer-festival-2022)**

We are excited to bring to you the third edition of the **APS Summer Festival**! Under the artistic direction of Annalisa Schembri and in celebration of diversity and the magic of live entertainment, the Festival presents a line-up of acts and performances by headline artists. This year's APS Summer Festival will be held **between 20 and 31 July 2022** at the **University of Malta main campus** in Msida.

**Festival audience 16+.** Under 16 to be accompanied by an adult.

**Early bird tickets at €15 via promo code: **EARLYAPS****

**Normal ticket at €20**

**ARCHIVED****More stories of Maltese Migrants****BACKWARD STEP TO GO FORWARD**

We are Maltese from Egypt. My name is Rosa and I am eighty years old. My husband is Ersilio. We have been in Australia for forty-four years. I have six children and am a grandmother of thirteen. We came from Egypt by ship in 1947 - my husband, myself and two children - a boy aged two and a girl aged one. I was also seven months pregnant.

We had been married for four years. In Egypt, my husband had been in the Air Force. We were going to have to be transferred to a small village far from Alexandria where we lived. We did not want to go there so we applied to emigrate to Australia - thinking we could always go back if we did not like it. For that reason, we needed to keep our money that we had brought with us untouched so that we would have the means to go back if we wanted to.

Our family in Egypt told us that the Arabs were expelling the British so we thought if we had to live abroad, we would live in Australia.

In the first months, we lived in a hotel paying four and a half pounds a week. We were not happy. My husband used to go out looking for Maltese people to ask them if they know of any place we could rent. He found two rooms at the back of a fish 'n' chip shop. These rooms were very dirty and the owners were not the best.

After work my husband used to go to clean up these rooms before we started living there. We stayed there for nine months. I used to sit on my bed and cry, remembering how comfortable I was in Egypt; I came here and lost everything.

One day after Mass, an Italian friend of mine told me there was a house for rent. She also told my husband and together we went to see it. We paid fifty pounds "key money". The house was in very bad condition. Instead of glass, the windows were secured with cardboard and metal sheeting. My husband promised me that he would fix it all up and so he did and it turned out looking good. He worked very hard and by the time we left the house, it even had a hot water system. We lived there for four years.

The Housing Commission offered us a house in Braybrook and we went there. We still live in this same house – thirty years later. We had another four children besides the two we brought with us from Egypt and we are grandparents of thirteen. Our youngest son is ill and is in hospital. The others are all married, are doing well and are happy. **ROSA and ERSILIO GIALANZE**

**VICTOR MARTINELLI EMGRATING FROM MALTA TO US**

My Brother Joe found this luggage tag from our family's emigration to the United States in 1952. At that time the family consisted of my Dad Lawrence, Mom Stella, Sister Marlene and me, Victor. Here we are in a pre-departure photo.

We arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey and took a train to Dearborn, Michigan to live with my Great Aunt Cheta and Great Uncle Leli at 6026 Middlesex. The trip was described as horrible by my Mom who was seasick the whole time as I was as well. My Dad described the vessel as a "freighter". Here's what Google found for me – the real story of the ship "Nea Hellas".



## MALTA'S CHILD MIGRANTS GATHER



July 8,

2016 · News ·

MALTA'S president will be in Fremantle next week to catch up with former child migrants.

Thousands of children arrived in WA without their families after WWII; mostly from Britain, but at least 300 from the Mediterranean island nation.

A popular post-war immigration slogan was "the child, the best immigrant," because children assimilated better, had a long working life and could be housed cheaply in dormitories.



Malta was struggling with widespread poverty at the time, so the Commonwealth-approved child migration scheme was thought to offer a reprieve for families with too many children.

Subsidised by the governments of both countries, the scheme was facilitated by churches, but came under a cloud when widespread accusations of sexual abuse and neglect emerged.

• Anna Germani is looking forward to catching up with Malta's president. Ms Germani says despite the child migrant scheme's dark reputation, it provided her with a wonderful new life. Photo by Trilokesh Chanmugam

The children themselves are now often sympathetically described as "the forgotten generation" and formal apologies were issued by the governments of Britain, Australia, and Malta. Perth-based honorary consul of Malta Paul Calleja says the media has given the false impression every child migrant suffered.

Anna Germani (nee Buttigeg) says she never regretted coming to Australia, and apart from being seasick on the month-long voyage, has nothing bad to say about her experience.

Leaving Malta aged 13, Ms Germani was the only girl amongst 21 boys, and she never saw them again after they were taken into a different care home.

She was taken to St Joseph's in Wembley, where she says the Nuns were kind and helped nurture her.



Ms Germani on her first day in Australia.

"I didn't know anyone, I couldn't speak English, but it was the best choice I made," Mrs Germani says, explaining that

leaving Malta as a young girl was her own decision.

Although many children were from orphanages, others had families and were tempted down under by propaganda describing Australia as a land of milk and honey.

"In the immigration department, they had posters which said in Australia you could pick fruit from the side of the road and you could see beautiful kangaroos..." Mrs Germani said.

"Even if [the children] had a mother and father, they were coming for a better life."

Mrs Germani married young, and by the time her mother eventually joined her in Australia, she was already an independent woman.

Her sister Marie describes Mrs Germani as the family's champion, because her brave move as a child resulted in all of them living in Western Australia.

"It's all because she came here when she was 13," Marie Marshall said.

An additional plaque was added to WA's monument for British Child Migrants near the Maritime Museum in Fremantle in the late 90s, specifically recognising Malta's child migrants.

Maltese president Marie Louise Coleiro Preca will visit the monument on Monday between 11am and 12 noon, and Mr Calleja says it would be a great time for former child migrants to share their stories.

by **TRILOKESH CHANMUGAM**



**WHEN THE MALTESE EMIGRANTS HAD TO LEAVE MALTA**  
Mr and Mrs John Manche' with their family of eight left Malta  
on the migrant ship, Castel Felice, to settle at Wentworthville, NSW.  
Date: 26 January 1955  
The children are Tony 12, Monica 9, Marie 8, Rose 6, Francis 4,  
George 3, Charlotte 1 and Jeanette 5 months.  
Source: Fairfax Photography. Photo: Argus



### **Maltese Emigrants leaving Malta and their relatives in the 50s**

One of the sad events that occurred on the voyage was that of one of the Maltese migrants that fell ill, and was admitted to the ship's hospital, but unfortunately died and was buried at sea.

Also on voyaging on the SS Asturias, but in September 1952, was Joe Monsigneur. Joe travelled by himself on this journey but he said that he soon made some friends with fellow Maltese from his beloved town of Sliema. Other Maltese that were also on board were, Tony Azzopardi, John Mula, Edward Seale, and Joseph Vella. The highlight of the voyage to Australia was on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, when the Maltese Migrants celebrated the Malta National Day, with co-operation from the ship's captain and Tony Azzopardi's assistance



*Joe and Pauline Monsigneur*

### **MALTESE MIGRANTS IN ADELAIDE**

The **SS ASTURIAS** was one of the many boat which carried Maltese passengers to far away lands especially to Australia. The ship was built in 1926 as an armed merchant cruiser to carry troops in 1939 and was badly damaged by an Italian torpedo.

One of the passengers voyaging on this ship in December 1950 was Carmelo Baldacchino. Although travelling by himself, he recollects that some of the fellow Maltese migrants bound for South Australia were, Salvu Farrugia, John Baldacchino, and Gejtu Grech. Besides Maltese migrants the passengers mainly consisted of Polish and English passengers.



**WE THANK ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS  
FOR MAKING OUR JOURNAL NUMBER 1.  
BRINGING THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES CLOSER  
THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA**





## Malta to Melbourne on MS Skaubryn

### August -September 1955

*The Skaubryn at anchor in Valletta, MALTA*



I read with great interest on your Maltese Newsletter website, the article on the passenger liner/migrant ship, MS Skaubryn. I do so with great memories of having been a 12 year old passenger from Senglea - boarding at Valletta Malta - to Melbourne Australia in August/September 1955. Although the journey was quite a dramatic one, it is rarely mentioned online or in other links, newspapers etc. In fact, the voyage could easily have become one of the great shipping disasters of modern times. It was on this voyage that the ship could quite easily have sunk in the Indian ocean off the coast of Aden where indeed, Skaubryn ultimately met its fate just three years later in 1958. Eerily, that latter event occurred almost in the same spot as the event in September 1955.

Although only twelve years old and such a long time ago, I remember the frightening event as if it was yesterday. It started with a woman running through the passageways on the lower deck screaming that the ship was on fire. I recall that we were all told to put on our life jackets - doubtless as a precaution – albeit that it would have made no difference if the ship had sunk, given that there was a huge sea resulting from monsoon winds with waves so high and strong, that I doubt anyone would have survived. Indeed, my father who was a long-serving seaman, had looked extremely worried by the state of the sea and the effect it was having on the ship. I remember asking him what the "creaking" sound the ship was making before the fire and why he looked so worried. He told me it was caused by the ship being raised to the top of a wave amidships and the weight on either side of the ship was stressing the rivets holding the iron plates together. It took me no time to realise, the potential for the ship to break in two!



Needless to say, that fear, coupled with what we now knew was happening in the engine room (where the fire had started) had most on the ship praying for a miracle. Fortunately for all of us, the fire was put out but the rough sea continued unabated for some time. If that was not enough, we were then told that the ship had lost one of its propellers after which the ship drifted aimlessly in the Indian ocean for around three days. That meant that the scheduled 27day voyage to Melbourne was stretched out to 33 days. **(Photo: Joe Briffa and his mother)**

Although I remember clearly that when we eventually docked in Melbourne the ship was standing at a quite serious angle, I am not sure whether the list was caused in the Indian ocean, or after we left Perth for Melbourne somewhere in the Great Australian Bight. I do recall seeing a newspaper report on that situation showing a guy lighting another guy's cigarette with both standing at a precarious angle. I have not been able to locate a copy of that report, but would dearly love to do so.

Despite the fear caused by the events south of Aden, the voyage itself was a great adventure for a 12 year old child. I loved all the great activity and roaming around the myriad nooks and crannies of the ship and overall, had a great time. Not so for my mother and sister, who spent most of the trip in our cabin suffering chronic sea-sickness. Regrettably, the food on offer for those migrants on the lower decks was very poor indeed and the water so horrible one could hardly drink it. Not so for those on the upper decks who enjoyed great food, wine and beverages. I recall one day when there were so many

complaints about the food - eg: little white paper cups of glue-like gelatin looking and tasting substance, accompanied by raw almonds - still in their green skin - being served as dessert! On that occasion, a fellow passenger from Malta who had lived in Australia for some 50 years, got a few other disgruntled passengers to go to the edge of the long table, each to grab a section of the table cloth folded it over the "food", drinks, cutlery and crockery, and marched it out to the edge of the deck and through the lot overboard, all to the loud cheering of the passengers! We did notice some improvement in the food after that.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why this particular voyage has not been the subject of much that has been said and written about Skaubryn. Thank you very much for your extremely interesting website which is so vital in the recording of shipping history. I have attached a copy of my passport photo with my mother, taken in 1955 for our voyage to Australia. **Joe Briffa Melbourne Australia**



## **CAPTAIN HENRY CURMI FIRST COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA**

*Melbourne,  
Victoria  
25 April 1944.  
Captain Henry  
C. Curmi, OBE,  
Commissioner  
for Malta,  
walking up the  
steps of the  
Shrine of  
Remembrance*

*to lay a wreath shaped as the traditional Maltese Cross, on the Stone of Remembrance, during the Anzac Day Ceremony.*

Captain Curmi occupies a very important niche in the history of Maltese migration. He was Malta's first Commissioner in Australia at a time when Maltese migration reached its peak.

At 18 years he joined the Malta civil service. In 1910 he enlisted with the King's Own Malta Regiment, and saw action during the First World War in Egypt, Palestine, Gallipoli and Mudros where he was mentioned in dispatches. He went to Australia for the first time on January 1, 1929 as Maltese Commissioner, but had to return home the next year because of ill-health. He was back there six years later. His main aim was to improve the Australian understanding of the Maltese migrant, through his writings and contacts.

The number of migrants to Australia prior to the 2nd World War was not large, but he helped organised

'reception committees' to ensure that they were welcomed and jobs found for them. This committee was also active collecting food and clothing to send to the people of Malta during the war.

Australian policy to migration after the war changed dramatically, partly through the realisation of the need for an increase in population for defence purposes. The Immigration Minister at the time, Mr Arthur A. Calwell, as well as the trade unions became converted to the need for more migrants. A financial agreement, the Australia - Malta Passage Assistance Agreement was reached in May 1948, where adults would pay £10 and those between age 14-19 would pay half-price (children below that age went free of charge).

Captain Curmi was very much involved in all these negotiations and was instrumental in ensuring their success. He was also very much involved with the migrants themselves. Between 1949 and 1952, more than 15,000 Maltese had migrated to Australia. Captain Curmi retired in 1952, aged 62 years. His main aims had been to obtain better recognition of Maltese in Australia, to improve the general tone of their life there, and to promote Maltese emigration. , he died on 5 March 1967 at Kewat the age of 77 and was buried in Springvale cemetery.

[For further information see: Profiles in Maltese Migration by Fr Lawrence E. Attard, 2003, PEG, Malta]





Prime Minister Paul Boffa and Archbishop Michael Gonzi (standing, centre) seeing off the emigrants about to board the Vulcania.

If you have photos/stories of you or your family similar the ones on the left send them to us and share them with others



Maltese emigrant Edward Scicluna kissing the hand of Archbishop Michael Gonzi as he blessed those about to board the Vulcania. Photo: Joe Pace

**We are so grateful to your journal to keep the memories of migrants alive so that our next generation will always remember George Abela**



The Maltese emigrants in front of Customs House before boarding the Vulcania on June 17, 1948 on their way to Canada.

**Let us work together. Our aim is to inform and unite MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**



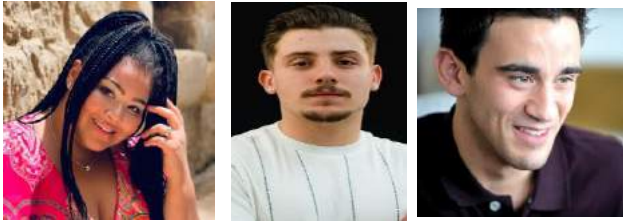
## These Migrant Ships Transported Thousands of Maltese to Australia in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s

You or your parents or your grandparents must have used one of these ships to emigrate from Malta to Australia long time ago

**ANGELINA LAURO** 2 VOYAGES 1970, 1972 401 Maltese Migrants  
**ARCADIA - P & O SN COMPANY** Number of voyages - 2 1962 -63 3 Maltese Passengers  
**AURELIA** 1949-1960 Number of voyages - 15 3,288 Maltese Passengers.  
**AUSTRALIA Lloyd Triestino** 1952 Number of voyages - 1 268 Maltese Migrants.  
**ASTURIAS** 1947 -52 Number of voyages - 18 4770 Maltese Passengers  
**CASTEL FELICE** Sitmar Lines Number of voyages - 6 1955 1958 3,276 Maltese passengers.  
**CASTEL VERDE - Sitmar Line** 1954 Number of voyages - 2 556 Maltese Migrants.  
**CYRENIA** 1950 - 1954 Number of voyages - 6 999 Maltese Passengers.  
**FAIRSEA** 1954-1962 Number of voyages - 1,724 Maltese Passengers.  
**THESEUS HOBSONS BAY Shaw Saville line** 1934 -36 Number of voyages - 6 72 Maltese Passengers.  
**LARGS BAY Shaw Saville Line** 1948 - 56 Number of voyages - 28 324 Maltese Migrants  
**MOOLTAN P&O SN COMPANY** 1952 Number of voyages - 1 352 Maltse Passengers  
**ORCADES** 1939 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 2  
**ORIANA P&O SN COMPANY** 1962 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 156  
**ORAMA - ORIENT LINE** 1936 - 37 Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 12  
**ORONSAY - ORIENT LINE** 1936 - 37 Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 4  
**ORSOVA - ORIENT LINE** 1958 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 2  
**ROMA - FLOTTA LAURO** 1959 - 65 Number of voyages - 22 Number of Maltese Passengers - 3849  
**SKAUBRYN** Departed Greenock Saturday, 22 September 1883 Arrived MALTA 2 October Sailed 3 October Arrived Port Said 7 October via Suez Canal Arrived Aden 14 October Sailed 14 October Arrived Colombo 23 October Sailed 25 October Arrived Batavia 1 November Sailed 3 November Arrived Thursday Is. 13 November Arrived Cooktown 15 November Arrived TOWNSVILLE 16 November 1883  
**JERVIS BAY** 1934 - 39 Number of voyages - 9 Number of Maltese Passengers - 107  
**OCEAN TRIUMPH** 1950 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 905  
**RANGITIKI - N.Z.S.S. COMPANION LIMITED** Passengers: 598 Sister ships: Rangitane (1), Rangitata 1946 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 64  
**STRATHNAVER** 1948 -59 Number of voyages - 10 Number of Maltese Passengers - 111  
**STRATHMORE 1940 - 58** Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 470  
**STRATHAIRD 1940 - 58** Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 1732  
**STRATHNAVER** 1948 - 59 Number of voyages - 5 Number of Maltese Passengers - 1732  
**SURRIENTO FLOTTA LAURO** 1949 - 1955 Number of voyages - 10 Number of Maltese Passengers - 3381  
**TAHITIEN Messageries Maritimes** 1959 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 60  
**TOSCANA - Lloyd Triestino** 1948 - 57 Number of voyages - 5 Number of Maltese Passengers - 1202  
**UGOLINO VIVALDI Lloyd Triestino** 1949 Number of voyages - 2 Number of Maltese Passengers - 18  
**H.M.S. VICTORIOUS** 1946 The VICTORIUS carrying 1088 passengers from the United Kingdom wartime evacuees returning to Singapore, picked 15 men from Malta. These Maltese migrants completed their voyage to Australia on the Blue Funnel Line Steamship 'GORGON' and arrived at Fremantle on 12 December 1946  
**NUDDEA** British India Stf Navigation Company. BUILT 1883. Gr. T. 2964



## The three Coaches that will be the face of The Voice Kids Malta show!



These three will be coaching the first season of The Voice Kids Malta.

**Destiny Chukunyere** - Destiny Chukunyere won the Eurovision Song Contest 2015, where she represented Malta with the song "Not My Soul". She also represented Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest 2021, with the song "Je me casse", where she finished in 7th place with 255 points.

**Owen Leuellen** - Owen Leuellen rose to fame after the first season of X Factor Malta, placing second after Michaela Pace. Ever since then, the singer, songwriter and rapper, released 3 singles: My Time, Runaway and Dark Days, and also an album: Dreams.

**Gianluca Bezzina** - Gianluca Bezzina is a Maltese medical doctor and a part-time singer who represented Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest back in 2013. He took up the iconic song of "Tomorrow" where he was placed 8th with a total score of 120.

## Art in Malta



Although isolated, Malta's art has been rich and varied, starting with the decorations of its Neolithic temples dedicated to the cult of fertility. Pottery found at Ghar Dalam is the first of its kind in the Mediterranean. Malta's prehistoric art goes from wall paintings of animals to the elaborate floral altar at Hagar Qim, however right through this period, the stylised figurines or complex spiral bas-reliefs (carvings) are sophisticated in design and rich in symbolism.

With the arrival of the Phoenicians in Malta, artistic pieces became very different with delicate carving in ivory and even a limestone statuette of a man in draped clothing. Pieces of jewellery found in tombs dating to about 900BC include gold beads, rings, bracelets and amulets worked with images of winged griffons, trees and suns. From the 6th Century BC Maltese Phoenician communities came under the influence of Carthage and its art takes on a more oriental influence in its statues and burial traditions like sarcophagi coffins found in tombs.

Like the rest of the Mediterranean, during the Punic period, Maltese art was influenced by the Greek tradition, as seen in its marble sculpture, finely-crafted pottery and terracotta figurines found at Tas-Silg. The Roman occupation in 216 BC Malta's art rose to new heights, in the form of wall paintings and mosaics, portraits and sculpture, both statues and bas-reliefs. Many examples may be seen at the [Roman Domus](#) in Rabat where the floors are decorated by intricate stylised mosaic designs. Fine marble statues, including large draped figures as well as statues of Roman gods survive from this period.

With the spread of Christianity to Malta, Punic-Roman tombs in the Rabat area were enlarged to accommodate Christian burial ceremonies; the paintings and carvings dating to the fourth century or later in some of these catacombs show that culturally the islanders were closer to eastern or [Byzantine](#) Christianity.

This community and its traditions were destroyed when Muslims from Tunisia landed in Malta in 869 A.D. After being abandoned in the centuries of Arab domination, parts of these catacombs seem to have been used again in later medieval times with some of the better preserved and more defined fresco paintings dating from the late thirteenth to the early sixteenth centuries. Along with the wall paintings at Hal Millieri Church, these frescos show clear familiarity with the southern Gothic style of religious painting.

In 1530 the Maltese islands were given by the Spanish King to the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem whose rule was to last until 1798. The arrival of these knights from all over Europe brought wider European influences, particularly Italian and Flemish, and was followed by centuries of support for the arts. The most notable of the artists attracted to Malta is [Caravaggio](#) whose 'St Jerome' and 'Beheading of St John' remain a magnet for art-lovers. [Mattia Preti](#)'s wall paintings also add to the glory of St. John's Co-Cathedral, while works by Filippo Paladini, Matteo Perez d'Aleccio, Antoine de Favray, Guido Reni, Jusepe de Ribera, Carlo Maratta are to be found in several churches and museums along with works by Malta's own by Melchior Gafa, Gio. Nicola Buhagiar and Francesco Zerafa.

Some of the most important works are the portraits of Grand Masters and other leading members of the Order that decorated the Knights' palaces and churches. Outstanding silverware, ceramics from the Sacra Infermeria (the main Hospital of the Order) and some grand examples of armour add to Malta's artistic expression.

A sad period of looting and scattering of works followed during the 1798 French occupation of Malta and the early decades of British rule over Malta with many works of art being lost forever. The early British period following the expulsion of the French was mainly dominated by foreign painters like Gianni, Charles de Brockdorff and the Schranz family, however this changed in the 20th century, when outstanding Maltese artists like Antonio Sciortino, Giuseppe Cali as well as brothers Edward and Robert Caruana Dingli set new standards for Maltese art.

The excitement of the post-war years and of Malta's gaining Independence produced an artistic enthusiasm guided by Josef Kalleya, Alfred Chircop, George Preca, Anton Inglot, Emvin Cremona, Frank Portelli, Antoine Camilleri (b.1922) and Esprit Barthet who succeeded in steering Malta beyond its traditional roots to more modern artistic expression.

To this very day Malta remains extraordinarily rich in artistic talent, with artists exploring different fields and several exhibitions running throughout the year.

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## **What the Maltese living abroad want to see happening:**

**The history of Maltese Emigration be introduced in school curriculum**

**The restoration of Australia Hall in Pembroke**

**More funding to Maltese language schools of Maltese communities abroad**

**Facilitating the process of acquiring Maltese citizenship and passports**

**Officially acknowledging the work and achievements of this journal**

**Erecting a monument in Malta in remembrance of Maltese Living abroad**



**BMX TRACK RACING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022**

***Giacomo Gatt, Alessio Figgiomeli and Timothy Attard are the local champions***

Recently the BMX Association held the 8th and last round towards the National Championship of Track racing. Giacomo Gatt, Alessio Figgiomeli, and Timothy Attard are the local champions respectively of the Under 7, Under 10, and Under 13 years categories.

The Under 7 Years category was won by Giacomo Gatt who obtained a total of 240 points. The second was classified Ben Scerri with 210 points, while Timmy Micallef was third with 136 points. The category between the ages of 7 to 10 was won by Alessio Figgiomeli with 240 points. Sebastian Grima with 236 points and Eduardo Baraggioli with 182 points finished respectively in second and third positions.

The category between the ages of 10 to 13 was won by Timothy Attard by 316 points. Second in the general classification came Nicholas Spiteri with 236 points, while the third was Lorenzo Baraggioli with 229 points. After the races, a presentation of trophies was given to the first 3 winners of each category.



President John Zammit started by thanking all those who were involved during this whole successful season. He also thanked all the parents for supporting their children and the club. John Zammit also said that they will be having a summer break, but will still be holding one lesson on each Wednesday from 19.00 - 20.00. They will also be working on a new season calendar and will be including another category that of ages 13 -16 [Joe Bajada]



**L-ILSIEN  
MALTI  
HUWA  
  
L-ILSIEN  
TAL-  
MALTIN  
HUMA  
FEJN  
HUMA**

***It is very encouraging and noble to see our children learning the Maltese Language at the MALTESE CENTER IN NEW YORK***

## FLORIANA WINS FOR THE 21ST TIME FA TROPHY IN EXTRA-TIME THRILLER IN MAY 2022

Floriana are the winners of the Izibet FA Trophy 2022 after defeating neighbours rivals Valletta by the one goal in extra time. Floriana, therefore, match Sliema Wanderers' record of twenty-one FA Trophy wins. History of FA Trophy



First FA Trophy winners 1934/35 - Sliema Wanderers

The advent of the FA Trophy competition in Malta all kicked-off with an advert from Thomas Cook and Sons announcing a seven-day tour to Rome intended to attract the attention of local football followers.

In fact the tour package included a first class seat ("Ingresso Posti Distinti") for the first ever Italy v England encounter which was to be played at the Stadio Partito Nazionale Fascista in Rome in May 1933.

The tour was priced at the princely sum of £12 but this did not deter a group of 200 Maltese supporters, mainly English sympathisers, to take the bumpy crossing to Sicily on the mail-packet and a further 24 hours on a coal-driven train to Rome. Among the group were high MFA officials namely, Lieut. H. Melville, Mr J. Cachia, Mr Alfred Stagno Navarra and Mr J. H. Cracey. Three days after their arrival in Rome the Maltese group had a special appointment as they were at the train station to greet the English party upon their arrival in Rome.

Sir Frederick Wall, The FA Secretary and Head of the English delegation invited the MFA officials to lunch at the Grand Hotel where they met the English players. The following day the whole group was invited to watch a training session of the English team.

On matchday, the 200 Maltese supporters in a jam-packed Italian Stadium filled to the brim with 50,000 tifosi azzurri were not silenced as they voiced their whole-hearted support to the English team.

Joe Griffiths, the first coach of the national side, who was present for the match recalls how the English

players themselves were startled and equally pleased to hear the encouraging support in their own English language coming from the Maltese group seated in a prime location near the touchline.

The efforts of the Maltese group did not go unnoticed. Sir Frederick Wall was quick to notice, appreciate and promise a reward.

In fact, a year later, true to his word Sir Fredrick Wall fulfilled his promises made to MFA Officials as he sent a handsome statuette made of silver in appreciation of Malta's vociferous support on that fateful day in Rome.

Together with the Trophy there was a signed letter from Sir Fredrick Wall requesting the MFA for an annual competition on a knock-out basis which would involve local and service teams in Malta, the winner of which would retain the Trophy for one year. Hence the start of the FA Trophy

**Just for the record:** The history of the knock-out competition in Malta did not start with the very first FA Trophy match between Melita and Sliema Rangers in April 1935 but many years before, that is, since Valletta United played against Msida United for the National Ground Cup on 9th April 1911.

Since then, the Cup had changed shape and name on several occasions as the knock-out competition was renamed Mile End Sunday Football Cup, Gaelic Cup, Empire Sports Ground Cup, the MFA Cup and the huge Cousis Shield always according to the name of the new sponsor.

But still it was our knock-out competition long before the arrival of the handsome FA Trophy.





# Rivalry at the Regatta



by **Liz Ayling**

**But who cares about the history and religious history when you've the Regatta!**

The 8th September is known as Victory Day in Malta. It's a catch-all day because this particular public holiday has several roots, not one clear-cut *raison d'être* for celebration: it marks the end of the Great Siege in 1565 and the end of French occupation on Malta in 1800, as well as the armistice of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943 which saw the close of the Italian bombardment of the Islands.

Just to add to this medley of historic celebratory dates, we can include a parish feast day (*festa*) as some four localities celebrate the feast of Our Lady as a Child (Maria Bambina/Our Lady of Victory). To help coordinate things here a little, the religious feast conveniently changed its age-old name to the feast of 'Il-Madonna tal-Vitorja' in a mix of history and religious fervour following the end of the Great Siege of 1565 and the end of World War 2.

The 8th September is synonymous in most locals' minds with the battle of the Grand Harbour oarsmen as they pitch brawn (and brain, in tactics and staying power) in the ritual Dhajsa rowing competitions.

Teams from Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Kalkara, Cospicua Marsaxlokk and Marsa have been practising for months to ensure they make a fighting attempt to win the Regatta. The link with all the historic celebratory reasons above? Well, there's the fighting spirit (reminiscent of the Great Siege) and the zeal and passion (similar to the levels that go into parish *festas*).

So, while some reasons for public holidays can be mundane or irrelevant to today's society, at least 8th September has a bit more panache than most. And it's still a day of victory for some.

**PLEASE HELP YOUR JOURNAL BY  
SHARING IT WITH OTHERS**



## MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

**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>**

## Try the Maltese Pulpetti (Corned Beef Croquettes)

*Adapted from Nanna* <http://nannascookbook.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/maltese-pulpetti-corned-beef-croquettes.html>

The first time I ever had corned beef pulpetti was as a teenager. We had arrived at Nanna's house late at night, tired from our 4-hour journey. It was gross and rainy outside, making her kitchen seem warmer and cozier than usual. Nanna was busily alternating between forming little patties and then frying them gently in her electric griddle. We all gathered around Nanna as she worked, devouring the little potato and meat cakes as soon as they came out of the fryer.

Nannu was on the couch, snoring by then, as the TV droned on in the background, but the rest of us continued to eat right where we stood, relieved to not be cooped up in the car and happy to be together again with good food warming our bellies.

I don't think I had ever had a croquette of any kind before this, but I instantly fell in love. What's not to love when you fry mashed potatoes though? Besides corned beef, pulpetti is often made with tuna, ground beef, or ground pork. Sometimes diced hard boiled eggs are included as well.

I've seen some recipes call for breadcrumbs or a combination of milk and bread instead of the potatoes. Pulpetti is one of those dishes that you can easily adapt based on what you have available in your pantry and your own personal preferences; however, I am sure every Maltese family has their own favorite way to make them, most likely the way *their* Nanna did. Pulpetti can be made with many other kinds of meat if you're not a fan of corned beef. Some traditional alternatives: tuna, ground pork, ground beef, and hard boiled eggs.

**Yield:** 24 medium (1 1/2 inches) sized patties    **Total Time:** 1 hour

3 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch dice (about 4 cups)

1 medium onion, grated or finely diced

2 garlic cloves, minced

1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

2 eggs, beaten

1/4 teaspoon black pepper, freshly ground

2-3 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, chopped

1 can of corned beef

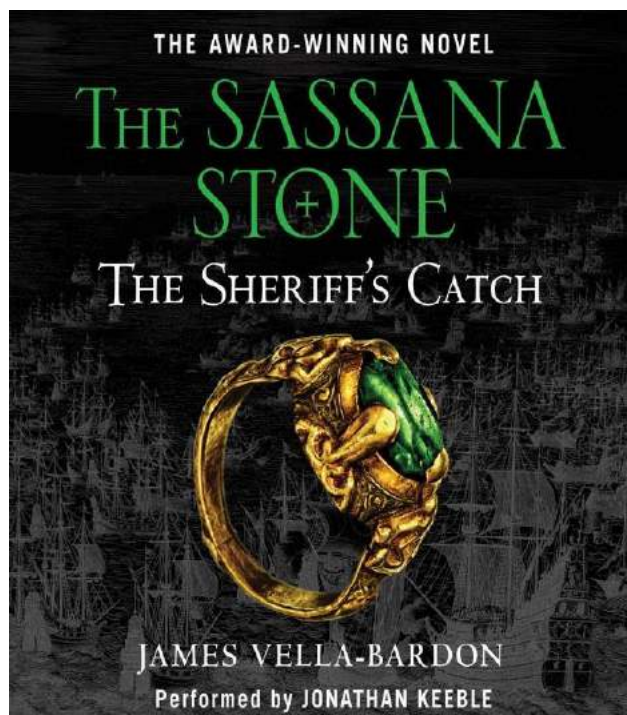
1/2 cup Semolina flour or seasoned bread crumbs

Vegetable oil for frying



Bring a large pot of heavily salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain the potatoes and place them in a large work bowl. Mash the potatoes; add onions, garlic, cheese, eggs, pepper, and parsley; stir to combine. Work in the corned beef until well incorporated. Shape into balls and flatten slightly into round patties. Roll in semolina flour. Place a heavy-bottomed frying pan over medium heat. Add a small amount of vegetable oil, enough to coat the bottom. Once the oil is hot, work in small batches, making sure not to crowd the pan. Allow the patties to fry for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until they are golden brown. Handle the patties carefully, as they are delicate. Allow patties to drain on paper towels before transferring to a serving platter. Serve hot with marinara sauce for dipping.





**"Wonderful, riveting page-turner" - Reader's Digest**

And those of you would like to learn more about **THE SHERIFF'S CATCH**, can read this [great review](#) of it which was recently published in the **Reader's Digest**. Keeble has spectacularly brought the novel to life, with his voice evoking inch perfect reflections of the characters' sentiments and the book's vivid prose.

**THE SHERIFF'S CATCH - FREE EBOOK DOWNLOAD!**

And for those Amazon Kindle ebook readers late to the party who would like to

know what all the Santi fuss is about, you can prepare for the launch of **A REBEL NORTH** by also downloading a **FREE EBOOK** of **THE SHERIFF'S CATCH** on [Amazon.com](#) from **18-22 July Pacific Time!** Keep an eye on our Facebook Writer page for more details.

What better way to kick off the Armada Saga series by getting started on your **FREE** eBook version of **THE SHERIFF'S CATCH** next week - and for less than the price of a cup of coffee, you can also buy **A REBEL NORTH** ebook on presale, which you can read after Sheriff.

Also a reminder that my riveting standalone novella **MAD KING ROBIN** is being actively stocked by the fantastic [Abbeys Bookshop](#) in Sydney as well as Agenda Bookshop in Malta, so don't forget to drop by these great stores if you would prefer to buy a paperback version of **MAD KING ROBIN** from a shop (check out its incredible reviews on [Goodreads](#)). You can also place an order for any of my titles at all bookshops, who'll be able to order them in for you.

Thank you all for your interest and readership, and please do share this news with any of your bookworm friends while also inviting them to join the mailing list. And keep those photos of the books coming! Best wishes, James Vella-Bardon



## MFA Best Players

**Jurgen Degabriele** and **Dorianne Theuma** have been voted as MFA Player of the Year for the 2021/2022 season. Degabriele, 25, has played a key role in propelling Hibernians to their 13th domestic championship with his 14 goals in 26 games. The Malta international, who scored five goals for his country, registered five assists in total as well.

This is the first time that Degabriele has been named the best player of the Maltese championship as he becomes the fifth Hibernians' player to clinch this award in the last ten years. Meanwhile, Dorianne Theuma won the MFA Player of the Year for the past women's league campaign. Theuma, 38, has now won this award for a record eighth time since her first in the 2002/2003 season. [www.sportsdesk.com.mt/](http://www.sportsdesk.com.mt/)

# MARTA

## Letters To Cousin Charlie



CHARLES N. MIFSUD

## A PRECIOUS GEM FROM MACKAY

Dear Charlie,

How are you all? Hope you are all well, hadida eh!

I will *make a bet you will not cut* who is getting married (*nghamillek imhatra li ma taqtax minn ser jizzewweg*).

I tell you who – my husband's sister, Grace. Yes, and we are all happy about it. I tell you her fiancé is a very lucky man, because *she has a very good heart*. (*Ghandha qalbha tajba*).

Toni my husband is *making the wedding* (*ser jaghmel it-tieg*) and he will be taking her up on the altar. Last weekend we had a party for them, you know for "the engage". It was very good, plenty dancing, plenty good music, plenty people and plenty drinks and food. So much food and drink that it went over the heads. Raymond her fiance paid for it.

He is, as we say, "of the good" (*tat-tajeb*) because his family own cane farms. Toni wanted to pay for this party too, but Raymond said "No thanks, I want to pay for this one, anyway

your heart I saw it." (*Rajtha qalbek*)

Anyway, our son Peppi is starting a new business with this chap Louis. They have got two old American cars and they hire them out, one is called a "Dutch" (*Dodge*) and one is a "Stupid-baker" (*Studebaker*). I am not very happy about it because Louis is *not from the best* (*mhux mill-ahjar*) you know. I told Peppi, I said "This chap Louis when he lived in Sydney he was always in trouble.

He used to live at Lightcar (*Leichhardt is a suburb of Sydney*). I think that's why he likes cars, and he came to Mackay *quickly quickly* (*malajr, malajr*) and if you trust him, *he laughs with you*." (*jidhak bik*) But dear Charlie, he does not hear from me so I pray to the Lord *to open his brain*. (*jiftahlu mohhu*)

Anyway, my friend Maria is very happy because her son Eddie now made the exam and he came from the first (*minn ta; l-ewwel*). Oh, yes Eddie is very smart - *his head is good plenty*. (*rasu tajba hafna*). All the young people up here are excited because Madonna is coming to Brisbane for concerts.

I asked Toni if we can go, but he said no, oh he hates her. I like to go, but Toni said there are three things wrong with her - "She is overpaid, oversexed and over here!" So, anyway I said to him "OK then, we go to the U2 concert" but he does not know them, and he said to me "U ejja U2 me3, who are they?" I said to him "Gee you take *everything for the fun*". (*Inti tiehu kollox bic-cajt*)

You see, Toni does not like these things, he likes to watch TV or a good film, especially *if it is of the laugh*. (*Jekk ikun tad-dahk*). So I say to myself, oh well it is not going to fall, the world, and after all from the *lost take what you can*. (*mill-mitluf tiehu li tista*).

But then I think how can you take something from something that's lost?! Insomma Kugin, Sahha that's all for today. All the best to you all.

Your Cousin - MARTA

The publication entitled, *Marta, Letters to Cousin Charles*, was written by Charles N Mifsud from New South Wales. It is a book of Maltese-Australian humour, logic and more and it will delight you with its clean humour...you will not want to let it out of your hands...

Price \$10:00 plus postage and handling/ For inquiries email Charles <[cnmifsud@gmail.com](mailto:cnmifsud@gmail.com)>. You will not ever regret taking Cousin Marta into your home, guaranteed to put a smile on your face and love in your heart.





*"Tas-Serkin" Rabat, Malta*

## Pastizzi recipe, make your own Maltese traditional cheesecakes with ricotta or peas

Pastizzi is probably the **most popular snack** on the entire islands of Malta and Gozo. The **traditional ricotta cheesecake** is sold for a **really cheap** price in all the **Pastizzerias across the islands** and is always warm as the high demand requires to bake them continuously during the day. The most common pastizzi are made with

ricotta, but there are also two other varieties: one made with peas and onions and the other with anchovies. Your holiday in Malta won't be complete if you don't try at least one out!

### Ingredients to make your own Pastizzi:

#### For the dough

- 500 grams of flour
- 1 tsp of salt
- 180 grams of softened butter
- Chilled Water
- 

#### For the filling

- 300 grams of Ricotta
- 3 Eggs
- Handful of chopped parsley
- Generous amount of salt and pepper to taste

### Instructions

1. Sift flour and salt together in a bowl and make a well in the center. Add small amounts of the chilled water and mix until the dough is soft but not sticky. Turn out on a lightly floured surface and knead until it all comes together consistently.
2. Lightly oil your surface and roll out your dough as thin as possible . You also want to roll it out long as you can and not too wide. Smear the softened butter evenly over the dough.
3. Starting from the end closest to you, stretch and roll the dough upwards. Continue to stretch and roll the dough. If the dough gets long and thin at the sides, just fold it into the middle and keep rolling. This will just end up creating more layers in the pastry. Once you have finished rolling it, place it on a plate, cover it with glad wrap and leave it in the fridge for 24 hours.
4. Mash all the filling ingredients together until really well mixed. After 24 hours, place dough on a lightly floured surface and cut into thick slices about 2 cm wide. Stretch the outer edges of each section until you have an oval shape. Try not to press down on the dough as it inhibits it becoming flaky.
5. Place dough in the palm of your hand and fill with your chosen filling. Stretch the sides out. Press sides together all the way around. Pinch the ends flat and gently push inwards to shape the Pastizzi. Bake on a baking paper lined tray at 220 until golden brown for about 20 minutes.





## THE MALTESE AGED CARE ASSOCIATION (SA) INC.

(MACASA) was founded in 1994 with the intent of establishing ethno-specific aged care services for our Maltese elderly in South Australia. The development of **MACASA** over the years has been rewarding, and at times very challenging. Here is a brief look at our achievements.

### HISTORY OF MACASA

In 1994, a group of Maltese volunteers recognised the need for some form of residential care for our Maltese elderly. A committee met on a regular basis and incorporated our Association under our present name.

In 1995, we undertook a survey of 100 Maltese families in South Australia who were interviewed in their own homes. An extensive list of questions was put to these people regarding their health. This survey presented an opportunity for **MACASA** members to speak directly to our older people and discuss their needs with them. It also was an opportunity to inform them about the activities of **MACASA**, and to supply them with information about aged care services that were currently available to them plus possible future options.

The results from the survey identified the need for help at home, and help with Maltese meals, transport and Residential Care. **MACASA** members volunteered their time for this since no financial assistance was received specifically to conduct this survey.

### Home-delivered or Frozen Pick-up Meals

In 1998, funding was made available to provide a culturally-appropriate meals service. Thanks to the survey previously conducted, we knew where the majority of the elderly Maltese were located, and we were able to plan our kitchen in a central area. In collaboration with the Maltese Guild of SA, we opened our first kitchen in Beverley at the Maltese Cultural Centre in the Western area. As this was a new venture for us, it was no easy task. It was thanks to the resilience and persistence of Charles Bezzina, our Maltese cook at the time, and MACASA that we managed to deliver this service. We are proud that MACASA in South Australia is the only Maltese Association providing a Maltese Meals Service in Australia.

Over time, the demand for Maltese meals grew. In 2003, due to further expansion of the Meals Service, it was necessary to look for a bigger kitchen. After moving to the RSL facility in West Croydon, we eventually relocated our Office and Kitchen to: **Cheltenham Community Centre 62 Stroud Street North Cheltenham SA 5014**

The current Services Manager, works with a dedicated group of volunteers who deliver the meals and other services to our clients. The fact that our community owns this service is invaluable; a "little Malta" is created in the busy buzz of our kitchen, as the cooks and volunteers happily participate in the preparation and delivery of approximately 50 meals per day. The value of Maltese volunteers delivering the meals lies in the fact that our clients look forward to chatting with them on a regular basis.

Hot meals are delivered fresh daily from Monday to Friday in certain areas. For many people who would like meals but live outside our delivery areas, we have developed a Frozen Meals Program. This program is also available Monday to Friday, and any number of meals can be picked up from our facility either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

In 2003, an opportunity arose with the then Uniting Care Wesley at Regency Green. Funding was being offered to provide a residential house for ethnic communities. We met, and discussions started, the result of which is our present Maltese wing called "Melita House". We have Maltese residents at present. **MACASA** volunteers visit the residents on a weekly basis, and monitor the service to ensure it is ethnically-appropriate.

These **MACASA** volunteers visit and give Holy Communion to our residents regularly. Father Gabriel also performs Mass for all the residents of Regency Green regularly. The residents find comfort in the fact that they are within their own culture with regard to company and appropriate food. Our Kitchen regularly delivers Maltese meals to those residents.

MACASA'S role is to *Initiate and develop services for our Maltese elderly & wider community, Refer clients to relevant services, Ensure that information is appropriately given out through the Maltese media and wider community, community clubs, etc., Assist in the ongoing monitoring and assessment of services, and Most of all we ensure that these services are culturally- and linguistically-appropriate.*