



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad



Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Contact - maltesejournal@gmail.com



Valerie Buhagiar



Natascha
McElhone

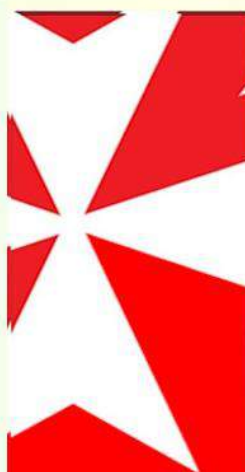
VALERIE BUGAGIAR#
Writer/Director



Carmen
a charming story
set in a village in
MALTA



Antonia Camilleri



MALTESE
AUSTRALIANS
IN THE
ILLAWARRA
REGION
NSW
AUSTRALIA

GEORGE CROSS FALCONS
MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE
CRINGILA - NEW SOUTH WALES



THE ONLY
JOURNAL
FOR MALTESE
LIVING ABROAD
WHICH BINDS
US TOGETHER
AND LINKS US
WITH OUR
HOMELAND



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



ARCHBISHOP VISITS MALTESE PATIENTS IN LONDON



Archbishop Charles Scicluna concluded a two-day pastoral visit to London, where he met with Maltese patients and their families who are currently undergoing treatment in the United Kingdom.

During this visit, Archbishop Scicluna had the opportunity to meet with Maltese residents at Puttinu House in Sutton. He presided over a Mass and encouraged the patients to remain steadfast in their faith. He emphasised that finding solace and healing can be achieved through Jesus, even in the face of discouragement and fear.

Archbishop Scicluna visited Maltese patients at the Royal Marsden Hospital and spent time with children

receiving treatment at the Great Ormond Street Hospital. During his visit, he administered the sacrament of baptism upon two babies: one Maltese, born just a few days ago in London, and an Indian baby who is three months old. As a gesture of comfort and

hope, the Archbishop presented patients, their families, and even hospital workers with rosary beads, representing the comforting presence of Our Lady. The Archbishop praised Puttinu Cares for providing accommodation and assistance during these challenging times. He expressed deep gratitude to the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus and the Conventual Franciscan Friars, Fr Mario Sant and Fr Joseph Formosa, who have provided moral and spiritual support to the Maltese community in need of specialised care in the United Kingdom over the past nine years.



By end of 2022, there were 542,000 people living in Malta

Times of Malta
The increase was mainly driven by a total net migration:

national data

Malta's population continued to increase in 2022, with an estimated 542,051 people living on the island. According to national data, this means that the local population increased by 4.2 per cent over 2021.

The increase was mainly driven by a total net migration (immigration less emigration) of 21,798 people. Third-country nationals made up 83.1 per cent of the total net migrants in 2022, and men accounted for 65.8 per cent.

In a statement on Monday, when the world marks Population Day, the National Statistics Office said nearly 53 per cent of the total resident population at the end of 2022 was male.

People under the age of 18 made up 15.1 per cent of the total population, while 18.6 per cent were aged 65 and over.

Of these, 3,395 persons – 2,415 women and 980 men – were aged 90 and over.

Live births drop Resident live births in 2022 decreased by two per cent over the previous year. Of the parents who gave birth in 2022, 39.7 per cent were aged 30 to 34 at the time.

Resident deaths in 2022 also increased by 1.6 per cent. Of the 4,230 deaths, 67.4 per cent were aged 75 and over. Population estimates published in NSO's statement on Monday are based on the 2021 end-of-year estimate, which has been revised as a result of the latest Census of Population and Housing.

The revised estimate for 2021 supersedes the previous estimate published for this reference year. This updated estimate results from the ongoing intercensal revisions of the population time series. Further revisions to the population series from 2012 to 2021 are expected later this year. Malta has seen a dramatic increase in population in the last decade or so, outpacing by far that of all other EU countries. In 2011, the population was estimated at just over 417,000.

'Maltese woman has died in what is being investigated as a domestic violence incident in Sydney Australia

By Joe Attanasio



A "wonderful and kind" woman has died in what is being investigated as a potential domestic violence incident in [Sydney's west](#) overnight.

Christine Formosa Rakic, 50, was found dead at her ex-partner's home in Rooty Hill about 8.30pm on Tuesday after a family member called police concerned about her welfare. Rakic had died before police arrived.

Christine Formosa Rakic was found dead in a Rooty Hill home on Tuesday night. (Facebook)

Superintendent Steve Egginton from NSW Police said Rakic had suffered "significant injuries".

Her ex-partner Dusan Rakic, also 50, was found with injuries to his arms. He remains under police guard at Westmead Hospital. Egginton said Mr Rakic is in a "critical but stable" condition but is in an induced coma.

"We don't have a lot of information at the moment based on the fact the two people (were) in the house at the time, one is deceased and the other is effectively in a coma," Egginton said.

He added Mr Rakic has had interactions with police in the past but "not a lot".

"There have been some light offences in the past in respect to the gentleman in hospital," he said. Ms Rakic allegedly went to police earlier this year and Mr Rakic was charged with assault.

He was released on bail. She was then granted an apprehended violence order.

A crime scene was established at the Rooty Hill home. (9News)

Neighbours say they heard screaming and running at the property.

"I've never seen this happen around here before and I've been here for over 40 years," one said. Another said: "My brother was there, he said he heard a loud scream from next door."

"He said, 'It's a woman, a woman's voice.'"

A friend of Ms Rakic has described her as "wonderful and kind" as they and her family mourn her loss. A crime scene has been established and investigations are continuing into the circumstances surrounding the incident. Egginton said one line of inquiry is domestic violence.

"Sadly it looks like this may be the case," he said.



Malta's beloved historic buildings
come tumbling down and
high rise building going up



Seaview Hotel
Qawra

14 East
Gzira

Pender Gardens
Paceville

Portomaso
Paceville

Fortina
Gzira





TE IWA O MATARIKI THE NINE STARS OF MATARIKI



LAWRENCE AND ROSIEANNE BUHAGIAR AT THE MATARINI IN NSW

Matariki is the Maori name given to the star cluster known as the Pleiades. For many iwis (tribes), seeing the star cluster rise before dawn around late-May early-June is the mark of a New Year. The event is celebrated across New Zealand in the form of festivals full of food, singing, dancing and a public holiday. You are also likely to see markets, museum exhibitions and planetarium events dedicated to the Maori New Year. Matariki is also a time to remember those who passed during the past year, seen with positivity in the life and death cycle.

The Consul-General of New Zealand in Sydney, Mr Bill Dobbie and his team within NZ Trade, organised a reception for the occasion and Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, the Consul-General of Malta in NSW and his wife, Rosieanne, were invited to attend. H.E. Dame Annette King - NZ High Commissioner for Australia and H.E. the Governor of NSW, Margaret Beazley AC KC were key speakers.

Around the world there are many names for this group of stars. In Japan, it is called Subaru, which means 'to come together'. In China it is Mao, the hairy head of the white tiger, and in India it is known as Krittika. In Greek mythology they are known as the seven sisters, and in Norse mythology the Vikings knew them as Freyja's hens.

For many cultures, these stars are connected to celebration, planting, harvesting, weather, and life. For Māori, the rising of Matariki signals te Mātahi o te Tau, the Māori New Year. The appearance of Matariki in the morning sky is a sign for people to gather, to honour the dead, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

In 2022 Matariki became an official public holiday in Aotearoa New Zealand. Te Ture mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o te Kāhui o Matariki 2022 | Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Act 2022 came into effect in April 2022. It is the first public holiday in Aotearoa to recognise te ao Māori.



Gozo's tomato season now in full swing - GOZO NEWS

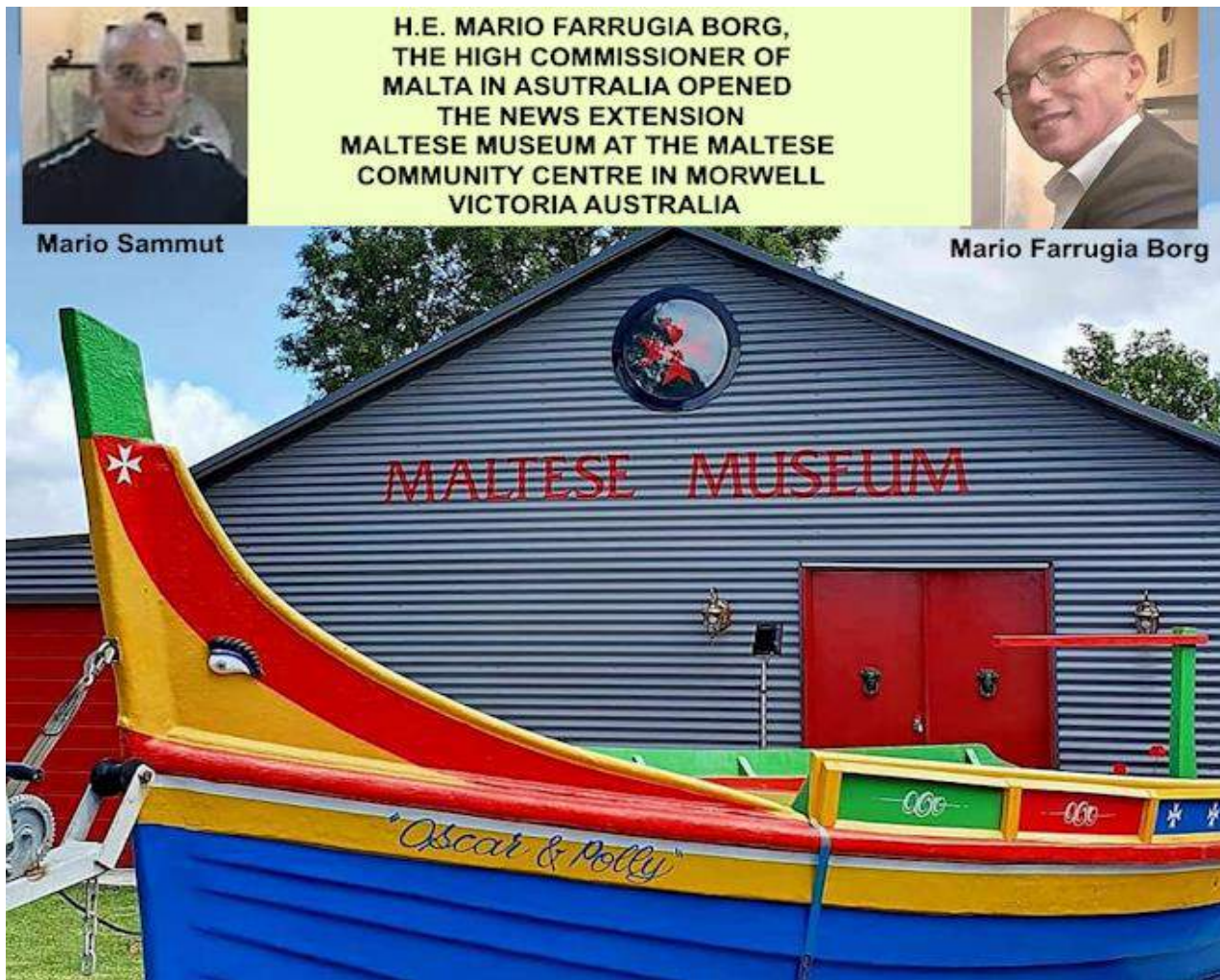
This year's tomato season is in full swing at the Magro plant in Xewkija, with tomato processing well underway.

Truckloads of tomatoes are arriving every day at the factory and the company said that over 150 employees are involved

in one way or another through the season.

Trucks and tents are set up to welcome and weigh the red fruits, while visits to local farmers ensures that the plants meet the strict quality control adhered to by the company.

Magro Brothers invite the public to join them during this special time. Free factory tours are available, where visitors will have the opportunity to see demonstrations of the entire tomato process – a tour which will be enjoyed by young and old alike. A free token is given to all visitors.



CONGRATULATIONS MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA



The National Archives of Australia presented a framed certificate of appreciation to **Madam President Antonia Camilleri of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria.**

Antonia was also given a framed photo of the ministers signing the assisted package agreement.

Antonia was congratulated for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc's contributions and also all the members of the executive, Tania Di Carli, Chris Chetcuti, Rosemary Attard, Fr Lonnie, and Andrew Gatt who invested so much time of voluntary work to make this project a success. The National Archives acknowledged that the event was one of the largest in Victoria and appreciated Antonia's vision on the project and her leadership in delivering this historical and informative event.

The Maltese Community Council thanked Patrick Ferry - General Manager of the National Archives of Australia for assisting and working together to create a successful event.

The Maltese Community Council would like to thank Joe Axiaq from SBS Radio, Emmanuel Brincat from North West Radio and the Maltese Own Band for their contribution to the project. But not least our Maltese

Community who attended and made this event a memorable one. **Joseph Matina – Victoria, Australia**

The National Archives of Australia strives for service excellence as we make the collection available to the public

<https://www.naa.gov.au>



PHOTOS OF MALTESE MIGRANTS PRESERVED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA



In 1948, Australia and Malta signed their first migration agreement. By 1965, over 35,000 Maltese had migrated to Australia – about 10 percent of Malta's population.

The National Archives' collection contains records about key events and decisions that have shaped Australian history. With more than 45 million items, our collection mainly includes Australian Government records from Federation in 1901 to now. Maltese migration records from 1948 to 1955 bring to light amazing photographs which are much more than passport mugshots. They convey the spirit and character of the Maltese migrants themselves. National Archives' Victoria Office is making these records accessible to all.

A 'win-win' agreement

One of Australia's first assisted migration agreements after the Second World War was with Malta. Signed in May 1948, this was a 'win-win' for both countries. Concerned that it had to 'populate or perish', Australia was seeking to rapidly increase its population. As prospective migrants, the Maltese had the advantage of already being British subjects. And importantly, they were European, which was still the key consideration under the White Australia Policy. Meanwhile, Malta was looking for migration opportunities for its people as it was seriously overpopulated and still devastated from sustained German and Italian attacks during the War.

Maltese spirit and character

The Maltese migration records being catalogued in Victoria generally consist of application forms, police clearances and health checks. Many also have photographs attached. These show the spirit and character of the Maltese migrants themselves.

There are young labourers, mechanics, farmers and clerks in their best suits, hoping to 'get ahead' in Australia through hard work. Older men – husbands and fathers – display pride at being able to give their families a better start in life. Young women are 'dressed to the nines', with fashionable hairstyles. Since their wonderful dresses were often sewn at

home, these photographs not only highlight their beauty, but also their resourcefulness. Mothers and their children are immaculately dressed in their 'Sunday best', without a single hair out of place. Such images powerfully attest to the central role women played in Maltese family life. The large size of many families also points to the important role the Catholic faith played in Maltese society.

Good impressions but lingering prejudices

Most Maltese probably hoped their photographs would maximise their chances of being accepted for migration. The Maltese Government was also very conscious of the importance of migrants making a good impression. This was because Australia had not always welcomed them.

Maltese migration to Australia had been heavily restricted before the War. In the notorious 'Gange' incident of 1916, the Australian Government even used the infamous 'Dictation Test' (usually applied to exclude non-Europeans) to prevent a group of Maltese migrants from landing. To ensure that they would fail the test, it was administered in Dutch!

Pre-war hostility to Maltese migration was partially fueled by perceptions that the Maltese were 'cheap labour', thereby threatening Australian wages and living standards. Racial prejudices were also strong. Although Maltese were British subjects, they were not regarded as being of 'good British stock'. Instead, like other Southern European migrants, they were widely disparaged as 'dagoes', with nasty racialised connotations of being lazy, dirty, hot tempered, superstitious and generally inferior to migrants from the British Isles and northern Europe.

Although Australia's official attitude towards Maltese migration after the War quickly changed from restriction to assistance, racial prejudices and stereotypes were more difficult to shift. These unfortunately were part of the migration experience of many post-war Maltese migrants.

Developing the next generation of archivists

So far, the Victoria Office has added nearly 8,000 Maltese migration records from series MP80/2 and MP210/3 to RecordSearch, meaning they can now be searched for by name. There are many more still to be added.

As well as making these records more discoverable, this work is providing 'hands on' archival training to information management students undertaking placements with the National Archives as part of their university studies.

THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE HISTORY OF MALTA

Chev Peter Paul Portelli - Grand Master's Message



**The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul
International Convention in Nadur -Gozo - Malta**

Photo Carmel Saliba 28.6.23.

On Tuesday 27 June we attended a Special Mass for the Confraternity in the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul. Seven priests took part in the concelebration including Mons. Jimmy Xerri Archpriest of Nadur, Chev. Fr. Peter Ntayamanja, Chev. Fr. Joseph Mkinga and Chev. Mons. Salv Pace.

On Wednesday 27 June, we had the investiture ceremony at the Confraternity Office in December 13 Street, then we took part in the procession with the clergy and the Bishop

The month of June was full of activities for the Confraternity with the celebration of the feast of our Patron Saints Peter and Paul, in Melbourne and in Malta.

In Melbourne the celebration took place on Saturday 10 June, 2023 with a solemn investiture and a Mass celebrated by Chevalier Frank Buhagiar Chaplain of the Confraternity and accompanied by the Rev. Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic, Rev. Fr. Velimir Maglica.

Chevalier Fr. Frank Buhagiar Chaplain of the Confraternity led the investiture ceremony. The Grand Master Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli called the names of the candidates the Rev. Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic, Rev. Fr. Velimir Maglica, Guseppi Berlino and Connie Genua.

After the investiture ceremony Chevalier Fr. Frank Buhagiar PE presided on the Mass accompanied by Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic and Fr. Velimir Maglica, Afterwards we had some refreshments at the hall.

On Sunday 11 June, the Grand Chapter of Melbourne organized a festive Lunch. Over 100 patrons attended the event. The music and the food was brilliant. Thanks to all the helpers for a successful festive lunch.

In Malta the Knights Convention was very successful. The celebration started with a Lunch on Sunday 25 June. A nice number of 30 patrons attended the Lunch. The Mayor of Nadur Dr. Edward Said was invited for the occasion. The Grand Master thanked everyone including the Archpriest of Nadur Mons. Jimmy Xerri and the Mayor Dr. Edward Said for their support.

from the Church of the Sacred Heart to the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, where we attended for the vespers.

On Thursday 29 June, the Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul we attended the Pontifical Mass concelebrated by Bishop Anton Teuma and the clergy of the Basilica of Nadur.

This was a very successful time for the Confraternity. SPECIAL THANKS I would like to extend my special thanks to the Supreme Council of the Confraternity in Melbourne for their support to help Fr. Peter Ntayamanja and Fr. Joseph Mkinga, Members of the Confraternity to help them achieve their wish to visit Gozo.

Monsignor Archpriest Jimmy Xerri and the Mayor of Nadur Dr. Edward Said for their support throughout the festivities.

I like to thank all those who contributed to help Fr. Joseph and Fr. Peter during their stay in Gozo, especially the Franciscan Friars Minor (Ta' Ġiezu) for providing lodging and food. Chev. Jonathan Vella and his family for providing meals in the evening. Those who gave their time to show them around Malta and Gozo. Those who gave them money for the Mass intentions and the Grand Chapter of Malta based in Nadur for their contribution to assist them while they were here in Gozo. Thank you to the parish of Nadur and Xewkija for helping the priests with the Mass intentions. Thank you to the priests in Nadur who make them feel at home. Dame Mary Portelli and I are very honoured to have met Chev. Fr. Peter and Chev. Fr. Joseph.

H.E. MARIO FARRUGIA BORG VISITS ADELAIDE



The Minister for Trade & Tourism, Senator the Hon. Don Farrell MP (left) and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon. Penny Wong MP (Right)

The High Commissioner of Malta, H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg, together with other 78 Heads of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires, visited Adelaide upon invitation by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon. Penny Wong MP and the Minister for Trade & Tourism, Senator the Hon. Don Farrell MP, on 28-30 June 2023.

The event was an opportunity for the South Australian Senators to showcase their beautiful state capital and

surrounding areas to the diplomatic corps. It also provided an excellent opportunity for the diplomatic corps to network with the South Australian government and corporate world. The Visit program started in the evening of Wednesday, 28 June, with a reception at the Government House hosted by the Governor of South Australia, H.E. the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, followed by an exclusive preview of Illuminate Adelaide at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

On Thursday, the 29th, the delegation from Canberra visited the University of Adelaide and Penfolds Magill Estate and were officially welcomed by the Foreign Minister at dinner at the National Wine Centre of Australia. On Friday, 30 June 2023, after a tour of the Australian Cultural Gallery at the Museum of South Australia, the Visit culminated with a farewell lunch hosted by Deputy Premier of South Australia Hon. Susan Close MP. The High Commissioner also met the Maltese Community in Adelaide to ensure them of the High Commission's ongoing support and concern.

Gozo Ceramics Festival returns to Xlendi Bay this month

BY GOZO NEWS -

The Gozo Ceramics Festival is back later this month for the 10th edition, and will once again take place in the beautiful setting of Xlendi Bay.

Xlendi has become synonymous with the ceramics festival which is now a highlight of the summer cultural calendar in Gozo.

As always, this year's event promises visitors a night filled with ceramics, art, music and entertainment.

45 ceramic artists, both local and international, as well as skilled craftsmen, will be demonstrating their talents and skills in public, including sculpting, hand modelling and throwing on the potter's wheel.

There will also be a free hands-on area for children to get their hands dirty, this is always one of the popular spots for families!

There will be a demonstration of raku firing on ceramic pieces, as well as musical entertainment during the evening, in fact a programme of activities for everyone to enjoy. The Xlendi Administrative Committee will also be illuminating the area with the magical fjakkolata, when hundreds of candles will be lit around the bay and on private balconies.

Entrance is free and everyone is invited to attend, on Saturday, the 29th of July from 5.30pm until 11pm. There will be a free park and ride service provided on both sides of Xlendi.

Gozo Ceramics Festival is organised by the Ministry for Gozo, Munxar Local Council and the Cultural Heritage Directorate.



**MACKAY - QLD
1994**



**Maltese Community
in Mackay**

BUS WAS SAM'S PRIDE

SIMEONE (Sam) Bartolo arrived in Australia from Mosta, Malta in 1924, having spent some years prior to this working in a car factory in Detroit, USA.

He landed in Adelaide with two shillings and six pence in his pocket and worked his way up the east coast to Mackay, spending some time in Melbourne.

In Mackay he established himself as a cane farmer in the Habana district, in partnership with his brother Paul.

He married Maria Camilleri on January 1, 1926. Ten years later, in 1936 he purchased the Habana bus run. He ran a daily service for adults and school children.

The bus pulled a trailer behind in which milk cans were transported from all the farms along the way into the Mackay butter factory.

This service made the bus ride a very leisurely one as the 19 km (12 miles) trip to town took just on one hour due to frequent stops with the driver needing to

get out to load the cans.

Another aspect of this service was a cost of sixpence for messages in the city — there was no telling at times what embarrassing messages were requested. Many of these, his son Jim, when he took over the driving of the bus, would hand on to his then girlfriend Betty to do for him.

Saturday nights were a big event for the bus service when every available bus was run into the city (sometimes three buses).

The Saturday night pictures as well as other forms of entertainment took people to Mackay for the night.

One amusing story is told of the time Sam was filling the bus with fuel in Mackay (outside Frendeley Motors in Wood Street) when he got talking (which was very characteristic).

The fuel tank having been filled he then drove off with the hose still in the tank to find he was dragging the petrol bowser along behind him up Wood Street.

Mary Formosa (the daughter of Joe Camilleri)

was a passenger in the bus at the time.

In Habana itself Sam operated a small shop — a sort of unregistered bar — which became a gathering place for the Habana Maltese community, particularly on weekends.

The men played cards and drank sly grog, the women and children talked, knitted and played and all ate peanuts. His wife Maria spent the day before roasting the peanuts and the day after sweeping up the shells!

Sam's pride and joy was his bus the *Valletta Flyer* which he named after Valletta, the Capital of Malta.

The family moved into North Mackay in Ungerer Street, in 1954 having sold the bus run.

From this time on he ran a real estate business from his home, also from the bus seat at Rockman's corner (Wood and Victoria Streets) which became known as Maltese corner!

Sam was an extremely keen fisherman and fished with people from all walks of life. There are many who could tell a tale or two about

his fishing trips.

Sam and Maria had four children, Jim, Charles, Grace and Phyllis.

Maria was his constant help-mate from the days of the farm where she spent her honeymoon in the paddocks picking up tops to caring for him in his last illness when he died on April 1, 1980.

● Sam Bartolo's two brothers, Paul and Charles also came to Australia and lived in Habana. His other remaining brother, Jim never left Malta.

Charles (Lassix) came to Australia before his youngest daughter, Rita was born with the understanding that his wife would soon follow.

Then came the war years and the departure from Malta was delayed (and delayed lots more). Rita was 21 years old before her father saw her for the first time in 1948.

Lassix worked as a baker in Habana and lived with Sam and his family. Charles and his wife, Marianna went back to Malta to live in 1968.

— CARMEL BARETTA.



During the funeral of Nirvana Azzopardi, who died recently of cancer, a letter was read that she had written shortly before she died where, among many things, she had said that "we work to live and not live to work" as well as "we don't wait until we get sick to tell our loved ones that we love them".



SOME EXAMPLES OF THE WILDLIFE OF MALTA

Few people know about the incredibly diverse and beautiful species of wildlife that call the archipelago home. Read on to find a few of the more common animals and see how many you can spot on your holiday!

Hundreds of thousands of people flock to Malta on a yearly basis. All of which are seeking the sunshine, the crystal blue waters, the fascinating history, and the incredible food. However, very few people know about the incredibly diverse and beautiful species of wildlife that call the archipelago home.



RIZZI

Rizzi, known as sea urchins in English, are incredibly intriguing and beautiful creatures. These small, spiny, spherical creatures have an army of protruding spines emanating from their bodies. Make sure you keep your distance as it's very easy to get ones of these spines stuck in your skin.

They lurk in nooks and crannies around underwater rocks and move slowly feeding off the bottom of the ocean floor. They also make for a very tasty treat and you can even try eating them. In fact, they're a very popular delicacy in Maltese cuisine. Traditionally cooked with pasta, the insides are used to make a delicious sauce! These fascinating creatures are protected

species in the wild so it's best to leave the preparation of the sauce to the restaurants.

CHAMELEONS AND LIZARDS

If you walk down any street on the Maltese Islands, you're in with a chance of spotting lizards scuttling across your path and up the walls. If you are extremely lucky, you could even chance across a chameleon or two.

The local lizards are small in size and move as fast as the speed of light. Chameleons, on the other hand, are much slower and tend to favour darker spots where they can sit and watch the world go by. A real treat to behold!

CATS

Whilst not exactly a wild animal as such, Malta is full of feral



cats. Most keep to themselves but you will most likely come across a few friendly ones looking for a belly rub and a tickle behind the ears.

The Maltese street-cats have even developed their own kind of markings and these mottled mixed breeds are known as "Tal-Madonna" cats and there are several blogs and Instagram pages set up in their honour!

DOLPHINS

You might not immediately think of dolphins when you

think of Malta, if you are lucky you could be in for a sighting during your stay. Dolphins are sometimes spotted during the summer months off the coast of Cirkewwa and in St Thomas Bay in Marsaskala in the South.

If you decide to take a boat trip offshore, you might stand more chance of spotting some. They are quite rare so if you do spot some, consider yourself very lucky!

These are just a few of the species that you might encounter when you visit Malta. Also, keep an eye out for (non-venomous) snakes, shrews, freshwater crabs, geckos, moths, birds and even the occasional migrating flamingo!





Dwejra Tower (Maltese: *Torri tad-Dwejra*) is a small watchtower in Dwejra Bay, San Lawrenz, which is on the island of Gozo in Malta. It was completed in 1652, and is part of the Lascaris towers. Today, it is in good condition and is open to the public.

It is one of four surviving coastal watchtowers in Gozo, with the others being Xlendi Tower, Mgarr ix-Xini Tower and Isopu Tower.

The remote location of the tower, and the scarcity of fresh water supplies, meant it was essential for the tower to store as much potable (drinkable) water as possible for use by the men on duty.

Within the basement room there are some fine vaulted arches and limestone slabs resting directly on them. Here you will also find the main entrance to the large, bell-shaped cistern, cut directly into the surrounding bedrock by hand when the tower was first constructed. Its purpose was to collect and store

as much scarce rain water as possible, particularly during the winter months.

The design of the well shaft directly above the cistern allowed this potable water to be easily raised up from the cistern to the well head on the first floor guard room, by the men based permanently at the tower. Also on this floor

are two niches, one with a small recessed cooking area and smoke extractor hole above it (see photos). The cistern was cleared and repaired by #DinIArtHelwa when the tower was restored in the late 1990's.

Close by to Dwejra Tower, is a small freshwater pool known as 'Il-Qattara' which is found on the eastern wall of the limestone amphitheatre shaped hollow that wraps around the Inland Sea area. This pool, which remarkably does not dry out, even over the long, hot Gozitan summer, provides an important refuge for many animal and plant species which rely on the freshwater, which is fed by a perennial trickling spring seeping from the walls.

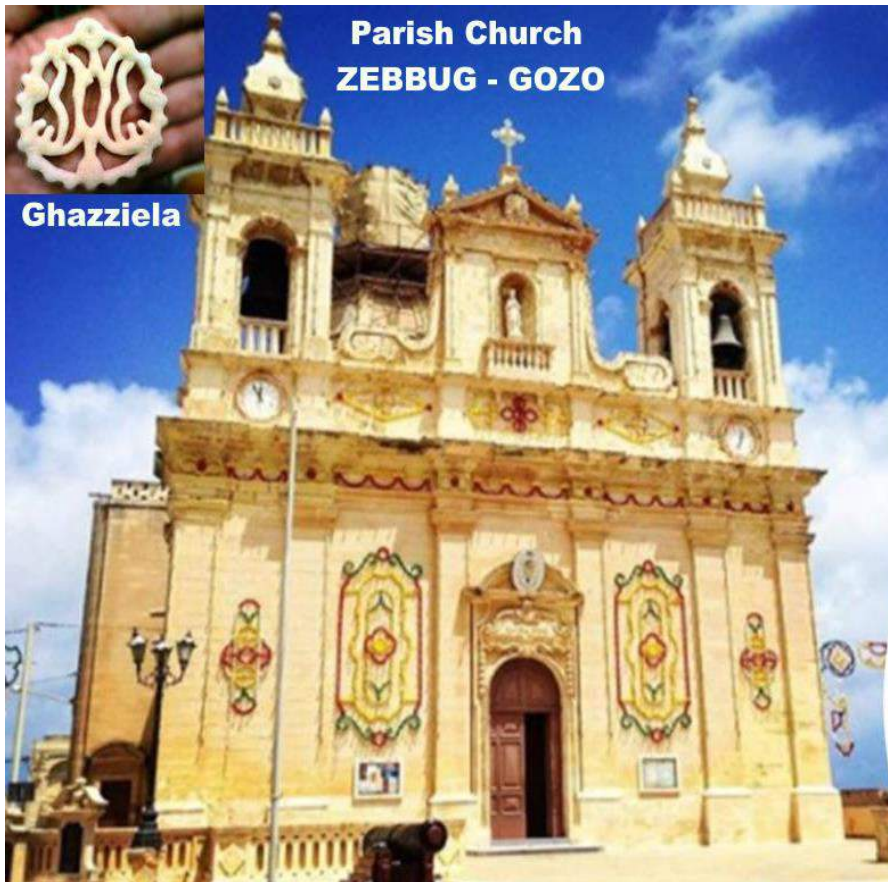
Man-made drainage channels can also be seen carved into the rock. There is also the possibility that fresh water was also collected from here for use by the men based at the tower. Free entrance

Let's work together and give a good example to our younger generation

Did you know of Gozo's 'Ghazziela' tradition that wards off thunderstorms?

As the first post-summer rains hit, head to Zebbug and get your hands on this craft.

Jillian Mallia



The hilltop village of Zebbug in Gozo is famous for its lacework, beautiful parish church and for bearing the brunt of some of our winter's harshest storms when they come about. Locals have long practiced a tradition unique to the village to protect them from storms while also dedicating their work and prayers to the Madonna of Ghazziela.

Behold the *ghazziela* tradition, named of course after the Madonna of Ghazziela. The highly original tradition which is primarily a devotion to the Madonna and also said to protect homes from the harshest of storms, sees locals producing small talisman from unleavened bread dough as early as July, in order to make enough for the entire town and end some.

Legend has it... According to legend, one night during a storm, a poor family that lived on the outskirts of the village had a dream that snakes of fire tried entering the home through the window. They didn't manage to get through because of a wheel-like talisman that lit up and blinded the snake. Legend has it that when the mother of the family told the parish priest about her dream, he ordered all families to make the same wheels from a piece of dough. And the rest... well has continued through history and into the present.

Making the ghazziela

Volunteers congregate for about five consecutive Sundays in order to make enough by the second Sunday of September which is when the *ghazziela* are given out, timed with the expected first post-summer rains. They are cut out into the shape of a spinning wheel which was said to be the Madonna's craft, while also incorporating the letter 'M' since the town has a strong devotion towards Virgin Mary. The talisman is then baked and stored in cardboard boxes.

When the big day arrives, the *ghazziela* are taken out of the boxes, the excess flour dusted off and displayed in straw baskets on the church parvis. After mass, the talisman are blessed and handed out to locals: adults receive two each while children receive one.

no one knows exactly when, how or why this interesting tradition started but it is believed that Zebbug's first parish priest's will (dating back to 1737) does show that left a trust fund to the community in order to continue making the *ghazziela*.

BBC Concert Orchestra Celebrates '100 Years Of Hollywood' In Floriana



By Kira Borg Marks

Fireworks, Shaun Farrugia, movie soundtracks, and an orchestra... what more could one want?

Yesterday night witnessed an unforgettable and magical show, as the BBC Concert Orchestra celebrated '100 years of Hollywood', at Floriana's Fosos.

Conducted by Mike Dixon and organised by 356 Entertainment, the concert brought 70 musicians together, alongside nearly 20 multi-talented West End

stars like Louise Dearman, known for her roles in *Wicked*, both as Elphaba and Glinda.

The concert featured epic soundtracks straight out of Hollywood's time capsule. From classics like *Singin' in the Rain* to groovy hits like *Dirty Dancing*, to the showstopping melodies of *The Greatest Showman*.

It was a brilliant commemoration of Tinseltown's greatest musical numbers, and movies.

The concert even featured a few Maltese artists, including Shaun Farrugia, who kicked off the celebrations. Yesterday's concert will air on BBC radio 2, on 13th August.

"It was a fabulous evening. Many many thanks for the music and performances – goosebumps, tears, laughter... it was fantastic," an audience member commented.

REFLECTION BY BISHOP CHARLES GAUCI OF DARWIN



In my ministry, I have over many years reflected, listened and observed the many interactions between parents and children.

I had a very happy childhood. I was blessed with parents who loved each other. My grandparents were part of my everyday life as were many other relatives. Each one of those people contributed to my development in their own way.

So very often, I observe amazing love tenderness and wisdom in how parents interact with their

children. Then I hear of the pressures some parents find themselves under. I feel so sad when I hear and sometimes see what some children have to experience! Some children are told to experience and see things that they have a right to be protected from.

Traditionally in most cultures, extended families were the norm. A village used to raise a child. For many reasons, in many cases, nuclear families are now increasingly the norm.

I have heard it said 'a newly married couple are not given a manual of how to raise a child. How true...' However, in the past extended families often shared experiences, and wisdom and modelled parenting skills for each other.

Grandparent's baby Sat giving mum and dad a break to go and do some other things. They were able to be rejuvenated and work on their relationship. For some, this still happens. For others, it is sadly not so. I deeply admire how some parents do their very best under extremely difficult circumstances. They sacrifice so much!

As the tyranny of distance and other circumstances mean that parents often are isolated from physical proximity, we need to Keep finding creative ways of mutual support.

The investment in children belongs to all of us. We hear the words of Jesus, 'Let the little children come to me do not stop them!' He also spoke harshly to those who harm them.

Foreign workers renting bunk beds in rooms with private lockers, shared bathrooms



by **Luke Vella** An investigation by sister newspaper Illum finds beds up for rent in properties in Marsa, Marsaskala, Sliema, and Hamrun at around €150 to €400 per month

A property in Hamrun that can host up to 10 people at €220 per month The newspaper Illum reports that on social media one can easily find numerous beds and rooms for rent at around €150 to €400 per month, which provide a snapshot of the poor living conditions that some foreign workers are living in. The investigation revealed that some of the small rooms are being shared between several people, whilst other individuals share similar rooms in the same household.

Despite the appalling conditions in which the residents live, even as evidenced by the photos that are used to advertise these places, Illum notes that foreign workers still seek to live in them.

Information released by Parliament in January of this year shows that the absolute majority of foreign workers in our country are paid less than €20,000 per year. This is because in 2021, out of 37,688

foreign workers in Malta, more than 21,000 of them had a salary that does not exceed €15,000 per year. The paper reported that most people who make use of these rooms come from Asian countries, mainly India and Nepal, with many of them choosing to work in Malta to support their families.

Illum was in contact with a man from Nepal who wants to live and work in Malta. He comes from a big family, and since his father is elderly, every member of the family that can work contributes to feeding the family. For these types of workers, Malta is attractive because human resources are limited, especially in catering, construction, and healthcare.

All this led to a situation where in 10 years, the population increased by 100,000 and might need to reach 800,000 by 2040 for the economic growth to keep up its pace.

Finance Minister Clyde Caruana recently sounded his concerns on the matter and said this number adds severe pressure on the country's infrastructure. Illum found an advert for beds Marsa in rooms with private lockers that can host up to six people, going at €250 per month, with bills included.

The paper reached out to a person advertising beds for rent inside a property in Marsaskala, who disclosed that there were already six people living there, but there was still space for more.

Another property in Sliema has beds up for rent at €300 a month and hosts up to seven people. The conditions of the house leave much to be desired with dirty bathrooms and a kitchen with an old fridge. A Hamrun house was also advertised as hosting up to 10 people at €220 per month.

It is a statistical fact that our ageing Maltese community living abroad has reached that critical point and is rapidly disappearing. The achievements of the past and present leaders are remarkable, but have we invested in attracting and empowering our younger generation to continue our sterling work to promote and preserve the language, history and culture of our homeland?

**THE ONLY
SOLUTION**

**EMPOWERING
OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE**



Remember in the 50s, 60s, 70s the Government solved the problem of overpopulation and unemployment by enforcing mass emigration to the US, Canada, Australia and the UK. Now a good percentage of those who live in Malta are foreigners.



St. Paul's Statue, 1845

St Paul's Bay - Malta

This statue was inaugurated in 1845 and stands 4m high. It is thought to be located near the spot where St Paul was shipwrecked in 60 AD. The large statue of St Paul on St Paul's Island is the work of two sculptors, Sigismondo Dimech (1780-1853) of Valletta and Salvatore Dimech (1805-1887) of Lija, a scholar of Sigismondo. Both of these masons created many other artistic works. The statue alone is about 4m high and represents St Paul holding a book in his left hand while holding up the right hand. At his feet lies the snake which, according to the Acts of the Apostles, came out of the fire and bit his hand. The statue stands on a platform 8.3m high, which is the work of Francesco Spiteri.

The stones are second-grade travertine, and for every four orders of height, pieces of stone shaped like a chain were affixed. The mixture required to fill in the joint lines of the stones is made up of lime mortar, sand and fabricated cement with puzzolana of first quality.

On the platform a marble slab was fitted with the following words chosen by the Latinist Dun G. Zammit (aka 'Brighella'): 'To the Apostle St Paul, Master and Doctor of the Church of all People, Father and Patron of the Maltese. This statue is the same place where he was shipwrecked – together with 275 others – on this island where he had to come and teach the faith of Christ, as his friend St Luke says in the Acts of the Apostles Cap.XXVII.

Salvatore Borg, in memory of this event – in the year 1845 – worked hard for its erection' The promoters of the fund-raising for the erection of the statue were Fr Francesco Caruana Dingli, Dr Michele Parnis, Filippo Busuttill, Vincenzo Spiteri, and Salvatore Borg, who was the most active among them. The costs of the platform, including the sculptor's fees, amounted to 1,150 scudi. The five large stones used for the construction of the statue cost 171 scudi, while the sculptors were paid 333 scudi. The promoters started collecting money for the statue in 1843, when they set up subscription lists. One list was for the nobility, judges and professionals, and another for residents of the Three Cities. Various persons donated large sums of money and Salvatore Borg himself donated 100 scudi.

He also allotted an amount of money for the maintenance of the statue. A year before the statue was inaugurated in September 1844, work on the platform and statue was ready but only half of the money required was collected. It took another year to collect the whole amount. The statue was inaugurated and blessed on 21st September 1845 at 5 pm. The parish priest of Mellieha as well as clergy from St Paul's church in Valletta were invited. Prayers were said and hymns were sung. The ceremony ended with the firing of cannon shots, after

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING
STRONG WITH
THE MALTESE JOURNAL**



which the people returned home with kerosene lamps as it was already dark .



11-year-old Jakim Azzopardi caught 117kg bluefin tuna

The catch was shared onto Shotgun Odyssey – Travel Oz – a personal travel blog created by the family to document and share their travel adventures in Australia,

The family spent an entire year living in a caravan and travelling around the country.

His mother said - "I'm sure that's one he's not going to forget for a long time!"

Saint Catherine's Girls School Bramley Chamber Choir from the United Kingdom will be giving three concerts while visiting Malta. St. Catherine's enjoys a strong reputation for the excellence, inclusiveness and variety of its music. Female students are encouraged to get involved, and there are performance opportunities - solo and ensemble - to cater for all abilities and tastes. Academic Music lessons focus on listening and evaluating skills as well as composition and performance. Around 600 individual music lessons are given each week by a team of over 30 Music Teachers, and the School provides opportunities for all girls to play

The JP2 Cultural Foundation presents

RECITALS



St. CATHERINE'S

School Bramley Chamber Choir
from the United Kingdom ~ Malta and Gozo Tour 2023

VALLETTA ~ SATURDAY 15 JULY 2023
12.30hrs ~ ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

GOZO ~ GHAJNSIELEM ~ SUNDAY 16 JULY 2023
18.15hrs ~ ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH
20.30hrs ~ PIAZZA MADONNA TA' LORETO
(Main Square)

RAHAL IL-ĠDID (Palo) ~ MONDAY 17 JULY 2023
18.30hrs ~ BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING



and sing in the many choral and instrumental ensembles on offer. These include nine choirs, the Symphony Orchestra, Camerata (the school's top string ensemble), String Orchestra, Concert Band, Wind Band, Brass Choir, Brass Ensemble, Jazz Band, Harp Ensemble, Fife & Drum Band, rock bands and many chamber groups. A large student choir, Camerata, Concert Band and Jazz Band also make regular tours in different countries. In Valletta, in the Church of Santa Katarina next to the MUŻA Museum, this choir will be hosting its first concert. The lunchtime Concert will take place on Saturday 15 July 2023 at 12.30pm. On Sunday 16 July 2023, the second concert, which will be in Ghajnsielem Gozo and will be divided into two sections. The first section will take place in the Church of Sant'Antnin of Padua starting at 18.15hrs while an outdoor concert will take place in Piazza Madonna Ta' Loreto, the Main Square of Ghajnsielem starting at 8.30 p.m. The last recital will take place on Monday 17 July 2023 at the Basilica of Christ the King in Pahal and will start at 6.30pm.



Remember nanna lowering down
the goffa from her balcony?
The traditional Maltese wicker basket
would be lowered down from the balcony
for the bread man to put the bread in,
or for anything else, like groceries
saving going down the stairs



MATCHBOXES



Gozo wins medals under its flag.



Gozo is competing as Gozo, bearing the iconic three hills flag Mark Laurence Zammit

Source: Times of Malta

Gozo has made history by winning two medals at an international sports competition in which it is competing as Gozo, rather than as part of Malta.

The sister island is competing as Gozo for the first time in history, with a team of all-Gozitan athletes bearing the Gozo flag - featuring the iconic three hills - rather than the red and white Maltese flag.

Marlon Attard, 23, swept a gold medal on Tuesday, and the day before, Lara Calleja, 25, swept a silver one. Both are competing in the shooting discipline.

Attard and Calleja are among a contingent of 40 Gozitan athletes, their coaches and trainers. Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri joined them on Monday.

First held in 1985, the International Island Games is a biennial multi-sport competition featuring teams from European islands and other small territories, most of which are not independent states, but form part of larger states or countries. This year's games are being held in Guernsey, a small island nation tucked just above the northern French coast in the English Channel.

Among the 24 competing islands are Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, the Isle of Man, Menorca and the Falkland Islands. They are competing for medals in 14 disciplines - archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, bowling, cycling, football, golf, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis and triathlon.

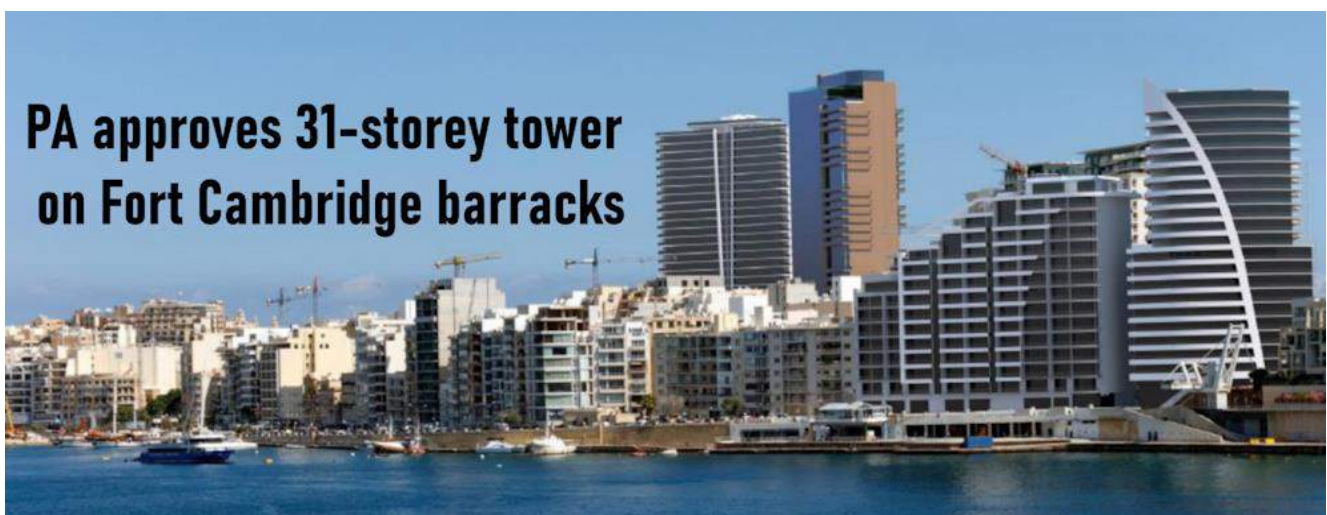
The 40 athletes are going by the name 'Team Gozo'. Photo: Facebook/Clint Camilleri.

Gozo has four athletes competing in athletics, six in cycling, four in shooting, four in swimming, one in table



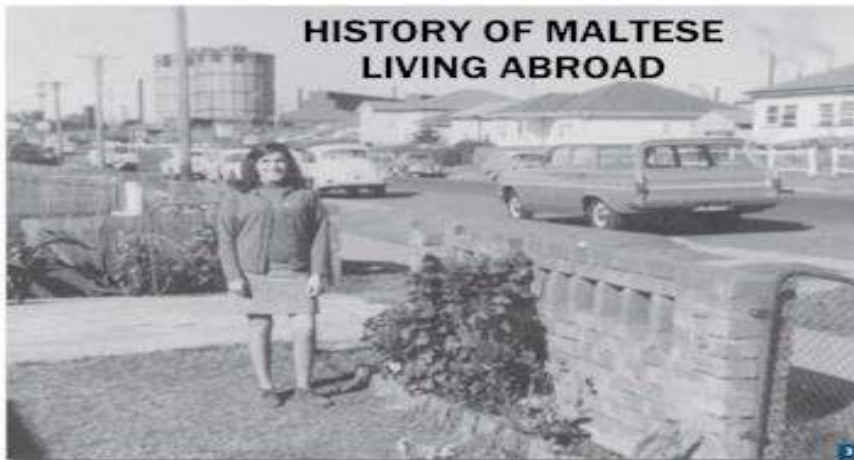
tennis, one in triathlon and 20 in football.

This is the first time that Gozo (or Malta) are participating in the International Island Games.



PA approves 31-storey tower on Fort Cambridge barracks

THE MALTESE AUSTRALIANS OF THE ILLAWARRA REGION NSW GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE – CRINGILA



HELEN MICALLEF - CRINGILA NSW



ANNUAL MALTESE BALL 1959
WARRAWONG COMMUNITY HALL



SAMMUT-ALESSI FAMILY
FIRST HOUSE AT SURRY HILLS 1958



MALTESE COLUNTEERS PREPARING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE NEW
GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE - 1950



MALTESE YOUTHS AT THE CROWN
STREET PARADE - WOLLONGONG 1973

Maltese migrants had immigrated to the South Coast of NSW well before World War 2.

In the early 1950s Maltese started arriving in Australia in great numbers and choose to settle in Port Kembla and predominately in the Cringila area. Maltese migrants from Wollongong who could speak English would go to Sydney Harbour to welcome the new arrivals.

They would bring them to Port Kembla to find them accommodation and employment. Employment was usually found for them at the steelworks. This service was provided to all Maltese newcomers. In 1951, the Maltese in Wollongong got together and decided to establish a club to help the newer migrants, whom many could not speak English.

Mr Lorry Pavia, John Mallia, Joe Cassar, Joe Magro and others decided it was now time to start a proper community club so they organised a committee meeting which was held in a tin shed across from the club or otherwise they would meet in each of their houses respectively.

A fee of 10 cents per week was given by each member which went towards funding for the building of the Club.

The Club is situated ten minutes outside Wollongong and forty minutes from Liverpool. The Club was built in 1951 to serve the Maltese community that arrived in the Illawarra to work at the steel works. It has also served the community as a welcoming place for all the Ministers and Clergyman and others that travelled to Australia from Malta to meet the Maltese that migrated to all parts of Australia.

Today the Club is proud of its great committee that understands the importance of solidarity and the President Louis Parnis bringing management skills to the Maltese Centre and they are reaping the rewards after several years of dedication to make sure that the financial position of the George Cross Falcons Club Inc. is viable to cover all the expenses in maintaining the premises.

Mr. Parnis encourages everyone to attend this vibrant centre at some time to appreciate all the work they have achieved in the last ten years, things like renovation of the amenities block, Murals, air-conditioner, solar panels on the roof, carport, workshop, four spectacular memorials including the Maltese ANZACs and the '7 Settembre', and the planting of trees donated by Wollongong City Council. The Committee four years ago committed to refurbish the original room underneath the premises and the President formulated a plan and today the room is completed and fully function to host the Men's Shed Workshop.

The Maltese Centre is proud to support Greenacres group men and women to work in the workshop. This milestone was achieved with the help of the volunteers and to all that donated funds so to enable us to complete this great project for the local Community. To date they had donated Wooden toys to the Illawarra Disability Trust, Greenacres Group, Kids in Foster homes, and Carinya Cottage Women's refuge.



**MISS GEORGE CROSS BALL AT PORT KEMBLA
LEAGUES CLUB - 1974**



**Rose Micallef - Miss George Cross
1973**



**FR. LEONARD TESTA AND GEORGE BARTOLO
AND JOE CASSAR - WARRAWONG CHURCH
1991**



**GEORGE CROSS FALCONS 1ST. GRADE
SOCCER TEAM WITH JOE MAGRO (Sen)
1990**



**MR. LOUIS PARNIS
CURRENT PRESIDENT**



**HELEN CROCKO
FORMER MISS GEORGE CROSS**



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ON THEIR WAY TO AUSTRALIA**



ROSE MICALLEF

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BBQ**



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DOORS OPEN AT 7pm

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Under 12: Free

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WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM


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Published in Adelaide,
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The editor and team
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for Maltese living abroad.



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AND EMPOWER MALTESE
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Printed 100% in Australia



**MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION OF SA INC**
PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY HALL
LE HUNTE STREET, KILBURN

Christmas in July

Friday, 21 July 2023

Lunch and Entertainment by the
Godfather Band




If we want to survive and
grow we must work
TOGETHER



We are proud of our Maltese Achievers ✠

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
connecting communities
around the world

**I THANK ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT ME IN PRODUCING
THIS UNIQUE JOURNAL**