JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

10 YEARS

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com.
Former Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia

THE HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE OF MALTA AND GOZO ARE UNIQUE IN THE WORLD

TMN
THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

THANKS AND WELL DONE FRANK
I WILL BE LOST WITHOUT YOUR JOURNAL

J.BORG

MONUMENT OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AWARDING OF THE GEORGE CROSS MEDAL TO MALTA. PROSPECT - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

www.maltesemigration.com 2001 2011

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Maltese Community Council of South Australia is an umbrella body consisting of representatives of Maltese societies established and operating in South Australia for the benefit of the Maltese Community.

The Council meets on a monthly basis and co-ordinates the functions and activities of the member societies.

In 1992 the Council organised the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the George Cross to the Maltese Islands and in conjunction with the Maltese RSL erected a memorial at Prospect Reserve to commemorate the fallen servicemen and servicewomen and civilians during World Wars I and II.

In 1993 the Council held a National Conference of the Federation of Maltese Community Councils of Australia. Delegates from interstate attended the Conference.

Past Presidents

the late Mr. Frans X Falzon
Mr. Harry Bugeja
Mr. Frank L Scicluna
Mr. Robert Debono.

Executive 2001-2003

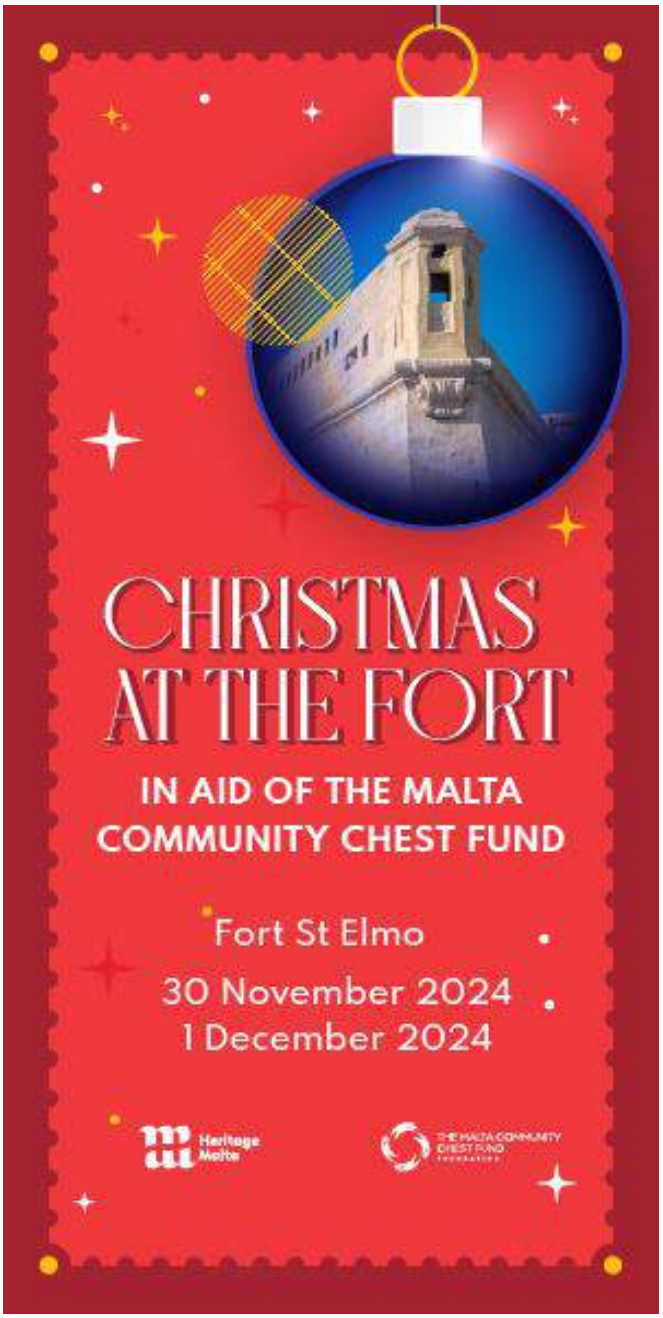
President -	Frank Scicluna
Vice President -	John Mangion
Secretary -	Bernadette Buhagiar
Treasurer -	Frans Pulis
PRO -	Edgar Agius

Plaque at the Memorial Gardens
Prospect - South Australia

ANZAC MEMORIAL AT PROSPECT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The plaque, mounted on a plinth adjacent to the war memorial, commemorates the South Australian soldiers who fought during the Gallipoli campaign during World War One, and are buried in Malta The plaque was unveiled to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary 1915 -2015.

MEMORIES • MALTESE COMMUNITY IN ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA



Step into the festive spirit with Heritage Malta's second edition of 'Christmas at the Fort' – a magical event celebrating festive Maltese traditions at the historical Fort St Elmo, Valletta! Join us on **Saturday, 30th November, from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm,** and on **Sunday, 1st December, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm**, for an enchanting experience that captures the essence of a Maltese Christmas. Feel the warmth of the season as you wander through the beautifully decorated fort, featuring a traditional Maltese Christmas Crib. Sample delightful food and drink from an array of stalls, including traditional festive treats, mulled wine, *imbuljuta* – a typical Maltese spiced chocolate and chestnut drink, and specialty cocktails, perfect for keeping warm as you explore. And don't miss the live chocolate sculpture presentation on both days.

Find unique holiday gifts at the artisan market where talented local artists will be showcasing their handmade creations, and let your young ones enjoy specifically tailored games and interactive sessions, meeting and taking photos with Santa himself, and sending him their letters, with the chance to win special prizes!

A procession with Baby Jesus on Saturday evening and a special mass on Sunday morning will bring together visitors and locals alike in the season's solemn essence. **Throughout the weekend, enjoy a programme of live entertainment** with performances by various singers, choirs, and bands, including a show-stopping grand Christmas concert by the Malta Police Force Band on Sunday evening. Various workshops and lectures exploring different aspects of the festive season will delight curious folk – the full activities programme is listed below.

This event is being held under the patronage of Her Excellency the President of Malta, in support of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation. While entry is free, we encourage donations to aid this important charitable cause. Pets are welcome but need to be kept on a leash at all times. A shuttle service from Floriana Park and Ride to Fort St Elmo will be available:

Christmas at the Fort Children's Activity 30 Nov 2024 - 01 Dec 2024
Saturday : 09.00 - 23.30 Sunday : 09.00 - 20.00 Valletta, Malta Activities €5

www.heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/christmas-at-the-fort2024/

CLIMATE CHANGE

We already see effects scientists predicted, such as the loss of sea ice, melting glaciers and ice sheets, sea level rise, and more intense heat waves. Scientists predict global temperature increases from human-made greenhouse gases will continue. Severe weather damage will also increase and intensify.

Climate change has many consequences around the world, including:

- **Rising sea levels**: A direct consequence of climate change that can cause flooding
- **Droughts**: Can severely impact food production, water availability, and human health
- **More extreme weather events**: Includes heat waves, intense hurricanes, and more intense storms
- **Air quality**: Climate change can cause air quality to change, and extreme weather events like heat waves and droughts can adversely affect air quality
- **Sea ice extent**: Global warming has caused a significant reduction in the extent of sea ice in the polar regions
- **Human health**: Climate change can directly and indirectly impact human health by affecting the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the weather we experience
- **Emission instability**: Global emissions are the biggest contributing factor to climate change

Dinja Wahda's 30 years of inspiring children to protect nature in Malta and Gozo

Gozo News

The 30th anniversary of Dinja Wahda, the flagship environmental education programme, has been celebrated by BirdLife Malta with a special awards ceremony.

The event honoured over 50 primary schools from Malta and Gozo for their outstanding contributions to conservation and environmental education.

Since its launch in 1994, *Dinja Wahda* has grown from a small initiative into a nationwide movement, instilling environmental values across generations.

BirdLife Malta explained that run in collaboration with the Education Directorate, the programme has become an annual tradition in most primary schools in the Maltese Islands, a testament to the dedication of teachers, partners, and supporters. The ceremony celebrated the collective efforts of all who have been part of this 30-year journey.

In an audiovisual message for this occasion, the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, stated that the small size of the Maltese islands represents a challenge as they lack large environmental and natural spaces like those found in other countries. She said it is everyone's responsibility to protect and enhance what we have for present and future generations.

"We're thrilled to see so many students here with us – our true ambassadors for nature," remarked BirdLife Malta President Darryl Grima. "Your commitment reminds us of the powerful impact we can have on conservation."

BirdLife Malta thanked key partners who made this event possible, including Bank Of Valletta for their continued sponsorship of the Dinja Wahda programme; Merlin Publishers and Outlook Coop for donating books as gifts; Erasmus+ and EUPA for supporting the "A Superpower to Defend Nature" and Blooming Schools projects and the European Solidarity Corps Volunteers who shared the interesting work they do for BirdLife Malta in the different departments.

The ceremony concluded with a celebratory candle-blowing for Dinja Wahda's 30th anniversary. "Here's to many more years of Dinja Wahda, fostering the next generation of environmental stewards across Malta and Gozo," BirdLife Malta said.

Photo: BirdLife Malta

The 2024 Junior Eurovision Song Contest took place overnight in Madrid, Spain.
Seventeen countries sent their best young talent to compete for the Junior Eurovision trophy, and after a top-quality show, one act came out victorious.
The winner of Junior Eurovision 2024 is Andria Putkaradze and Georgia with the song 'To My Mum'.

MALTA REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CONTEST- RAMINES SCIBERRAS

Ramires Sciberras in third place from the public vote.
Malta ranked fifth during the 22nd edition of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest held in Madrid, Spain. This year 12-year-old Ramires Sciberras participated with the song Stilla Ckejkna by Aleandro Spiteri Monseigneur, Lon Kirkop and Peter Borg. Ramires also came in third place from the public's votes, with 79 points. However, he came in fifth place with the total votes, with a total of 153 points.
Ramires won the right to represent Malta in the Junior Eurovision after winning the contest organized by the Maltese national channel, PBS last September. This edition of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest was won by Georgia, which was represented by Andria Putkaradze with the song To My Mom.
He had a total of 239 points. During this edition of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest, 17 countries took part. This was the first time that the Junior Eurovision Song Contest was held in Madrid in Spain, as well as the first time since 2015 that the Junior Eurovision Song Contest was staged on a Saturday. For this edition Cyprus and San Marino returned to this contest while the United Kingdom chose not to participate this year.
Ramires Sciberras' musical journey has taken him all across the world. He was born in Cambodia, then moved to Malta to live with his adoptive parents when he was only a baby — his Junior Eurovision song is all about this experience. He considers his mum and dad to be his superheroes. At 12 years old, he's already had plenty of musical experience. He's been taking vocal lessons since he was 8 and entered singing competitions at home and internationally.

I sincerely thank all those who sent a donation
WE NEED HELP TO CONTINUE PRODUCING THE MALTESE JOURNAL
My bank details are Bank Commonwealth (Australia)
BSB - 065106 ACC - 00502597
Name - Frank Scicluna

Lyrics of Stilla Ċkejkna (English)
Like a little star, in immensity, lost in darkness
Uncertain about my imminency, my feelings, my immediate destination

Till a dim light emitted from the sun shrouded me, near me Because I'm a little star, with dazzling light, you found me

With one smile I perceived the significance of love
This new life with you by my side, I discovered myself fly high where I can dream
Surrounded with this light I sing these lyrics for you If scared, because of meaninglessness

A look inspired me with everlasting courage
Wherever I am, you are by my side
Embracing you throughout this wondrous journey
Not scared because the dazzling light in your eyes radiates like the sun

Like a little star that is growing, somewhat somehow lost
The light leads me, guides me, you found me With one smile I perceived the significance of love
This new life with you by my side, I discovered myself I fly high where I can dream

Surrounded with this light I sing these lyrics for you If scared, because of meaninglessness

A look inspired me with everlasting courage
Wherever I am, you are by my side
Embracing you throughout this wondrous journey
Not scared because the dazzling light in your eyes radiates like the sun

Your eyes glisten like the sun
Your eyes glisten like the sun

Lyrics of Stilla Ċkejkna (Maltese)
Bħal stilla ċkejkna, fil-kobor, fid-dlam mitluf
Ma nafx x'ser jiġri, kif se nħossni, fejn ser immur

Sakemm dawl ċkejken mix-xemx ġie jdur madwar, jinsab hawn qrib
għax stilla ċkejkna, b'dawl jiddi, sibtuni

Bi tbissima waħda fhimt xi tfisser li tkun tħobb
F'ħajja ġdida bikom ħdejja sibt min jien

Intir 'il fuq fejn nista' noħlom
Qalb dad-dwal għalikom inkanta dal-kliem
Jekk beżgħan, għax bla tifsira
B'ħarsa waħda mtlejt b'kuraġġ dejjiem

fejn inkun, tinsabu ħdejja
Ngħożżkom miegħi tul dan il-vjaġġ sabiħ
Mhux beżgħan għax minn hawn id-dawl
f'għajnejkom jiddi qisu ix-xemx

Bħal stilla ċkejkna li qed tikber, kemxejn mitluf
Id-dawl li jmexxini, jurini, sibtu lili

Bi tbissima waħda fhimt xi tfisser li tkun tħobb
F'ħajja ġdida bikom ħdejja sibt min jien

Intir 'il fuq fejn nista' noħlom
Qalb dad-dwal għalikom inkanta dal-kliem
Jekk beżgħan, għax bla tifsira
B'ħarsa waħda mtlejt b'kuraġġ dejjiem

fejn inkun, tinsabu ħdejja
Ngħożżkom miegħi tul dan il-vjaġġ sabiħ
Mhux beżgħan għax minn hawn id-dawl
f'għajnejkom jiddi qisu ix-xemx
Għajnejkom qed jiddu bħax-xemx
Għajnejkom qed jiddu bħax-xemx

THE JOURNAL THAT HAS BEEN CONNECTING MALTESE LIVING IN MALTA AND THOSE LIVING ABROAD FOR OVER 10 YEARS.
It is archived in over 40 places around the world
Help us to keep going - DONATE

Many Gozitans in their late twenties and older may remember visiting Frank Mizzi's massive nativity crib during Christmas time, which used to be on public display in an exhibition space annexed to his house in Fountain Street, just off St Augustine's Square. Those who do will probably recall that Christmas was not complete without a visit to this crib. It is a large crib, one that visitors can walk around, and a proper visit, accompanied by the commentary, would easily take around 20 minutes.

Frank Mizzi started building this unique Christmas crib around 40 years ago, and it has remained a work in progress ever since, with new features added over the years. In 2019, Mizzi, now in his eighties, together with his wife Tarcisia, decided to donate this unique work of art to Il-Ħaġar Museum. The crib was transferred from Mizzi's house to the museum, where it was reconstructed by a team of volunteers under Mizzi's supervision, and where it will remain on permanent display in the museum's newly developed lower ground floor.

Work on the surrounding area, part of which will be interactive, is still in progress but will be finalised in the coming months. This project will be inaugurated by Mizzi himself and blessed by Museum Founder and Curator Mgr Dr Joseph Farrugia this Friday, 22 November, at 7.30pm. Everyone is invited to attend. The Nativity crib can be visited during the museum opening hours of 09:00 to 17:00, seven days a week. Admission to Il-Ħaġar is free. This project has been co-financed by the Gozo Action Group Foundation through the LEADER programme.

Ms Monica Borg Debrincat

c/o Il-Ħaġar - Heart of Gozo Museum

IL-BORŻA TA' SAN MARTIN

A colourful cloth bag that is full of sweets, fruits, and nuts

by miklem

In Maltese tradition, On St. Martin's Day, children are given a simple and colourful cloth bag that is full of sweets, fruits, and nuts. As per the custom, the bag includes an apple, an orange, a tangerine, a pomegranate along with a collection of walnuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts, shelled almonds and figs. Sweets can also be included and usually one finds a glazed bun with a liquorice-sweet on top. Tradition has it that in days gone by, children used to hang this cloth bag onto their bed at bedtime and they would find all the goodies inside it in the morning. This tradition of a bounty on the feast of Saint Martin can be associated with the charity displayed by Saint Martin, but some say it originated from the times when the Church would be preparing for the fasting that was done during Advent and hence a good spread was a big treat before the 40 days of Advent..

THE CHAPEL OF SAINT MARTIN – IL-BAHRIJA

The original chapel was founded in the 15th century. It was mentioned in 1575 in inquisitor Pietro Dusina's report of his apostolic visit to Malta. Dusina mentions that the church lacked all means to use for the celebration of mass and that mass was only celebrated once a year. Dusina ordered the restoration of the chapel's door and ordered the parish priest of St Paul's Collegiate church in Rabat to encourage locals to care for the chapel. Years later, when Bishop Baldassare Cagliares visited the chapel in 1615 he found that Dusina's instructions were ignored and consequently deconsecrated the chapel.[1]

Interior of the Chapel

In 1643, agreements were drawn to celebrate vespers on the eve of the feast of St Martin and mass on the feast day. In 1684, Bishop Miguel Jerónimo de Molina visited the chapel and mentions that mass was celebrated on Sundays and feast days. Around the same year the chapel was rebuilt through initiatives of Cumbo Navarra.[2]

The chapel was used frequently by the locals until a new larger church was built nearby. The chapel was recently extensively restored and is mostly used for perpetual adoration.

The chapel includes one altar and a painting depicting Martin of Tours, St James the Greater and St Philip Neri. It dates from 1735 and is the work of Francesco Zahra.

Dear Editor, Niehu gost hafna naqra il-'Journal for Maltese Living Abroad.' This keeps us the Maltese Emigrants of yore informed, interested, and updated on the Maltese Islands, various Australian - Maltese news etc. Through this journal we also keep our Maltese language alive. I look forward to catching up with news, sending it onto many young contacts in Australia, Malta and worldwide. Thank you for keeping this Maltese Journal going. **Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM**

This is my first time to write to you although I have been receiving the Maltese Journal for more than 5 years. The 541st edition was one of the best. I read with great interest on pages 7 and 8 the useful information for us Maltese Living Abroad regarding our rights and responsibilities while we are travelling to Malta and other places. I always learn something new and useful reading your Journal. You are providing an important mission for us Maltese Living Abroad. Keep it up.
Joseph Camilleri – Canada

As a Maltese who emigrated to this country (Australia) more than 50 years ago, I look forward to your weekly journal and to read about Maltese history, culture and customs. Your journal helps people, like me, to maintain this link with Malta and others from different countries. As you get older, this link becomes more precious and important in our turbulent world. **Josette Walsh (Grima)**

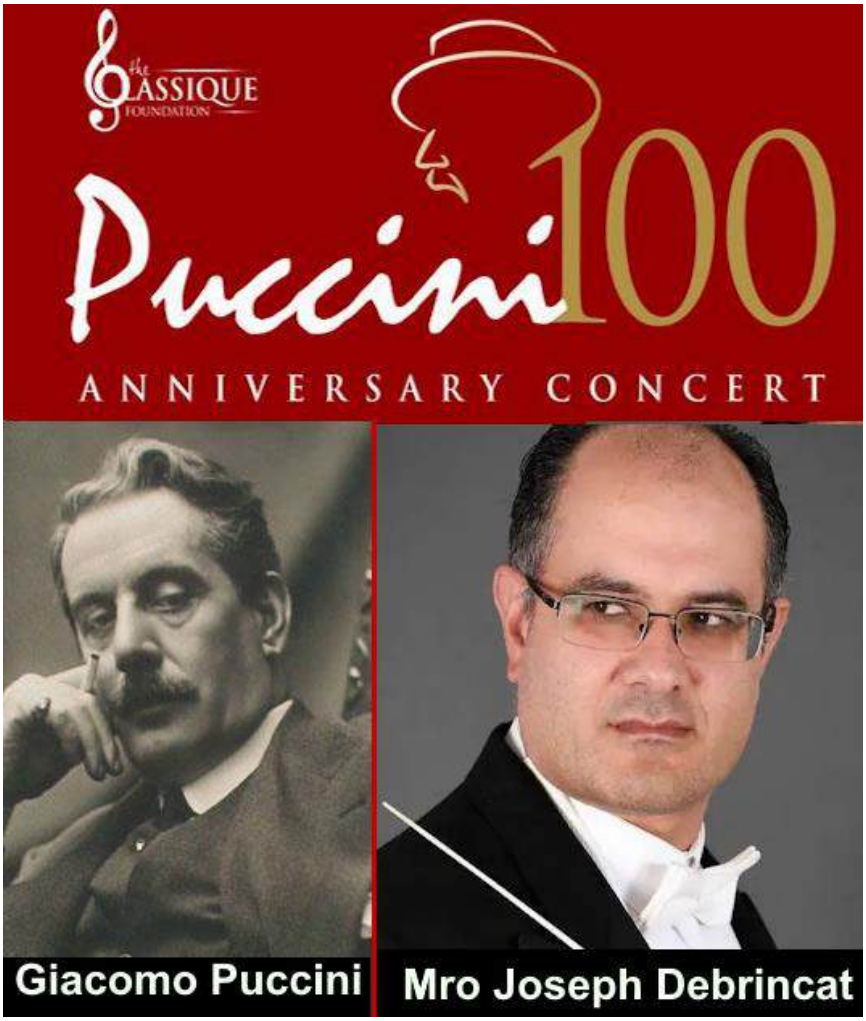
We, Maltese living abroad, need this only journal for Maltese Living Abroad. Your journal and the "The Maltese Presence in North America Newsletter" are the only forum remaining for news, activities, events happening in the Maltese Living abroad communities. These newsletters also bring us knowledge and understanding of events that have happened in the past relating to the Maltese culture and heritage. Just let me know how I can help because when you decide to stop publishing this journal you will leave a big vacuum, and we lose a friend and the link with our homeland will deteriorate. Can you find somebody or a group of Maltese who will continue producing this newsletter? **A & J Abela - UK**

Your Maltese Journal is needed by me. I miss Malta greatly. It is a joy to receive the news of Malta and Gozo. I have spoken with other people who have Maltese relatives in many countries, your Journal keeps us as one. A book would be wonderful, as there have been so many great editions. In Malta they used to release a magazine "Malta at War" by John A. Mizzi and Mark Anthony Vella. It was put into book form for future generations to read. Grazzi **Salvatore Mifsud,**

My family and I always look forward and welcome your publication and would be disappointed to see it end. I trust that this is the view of many other readers, not only in Australia, but in numerous other countries. Hope we can still enjoy the fruits of your good work. Stay healthy and God bless
Joe Debattista – Western Australia

I personally think that you are doing a great service for the Maltese living abroad and would love to see the Maltese journal continue. I appreciate all the hard work that goes into such a publication and have found it to be very informative and interesting.
I also think that it helps to keep the younger generation interested in the Maltese history and their heritage. For the journal to be published into a book might also be a great idea to keep the Maltese heritage alive for future generations, although I image this would be an enormous undertaking.
Thanks once again for your time and effort into producing the Maltese E-newsletter. **Shaun Galea**

100 SENA
MILL-MEWT TA' GIACOMO PUCCINI



Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat Għawdex

Xtaqt nifraħ lis-Surmast żagħżugħ Rabti Mro Joseph Debrincat ammiratur u studjuż kbir tal-kompożitur Taljan Giacomo Puccini li għadu kemm ħa l-inizjattiva li jfakkar l-ewwel Mitt Sena mill-mewt ta' dan il-Kompożitur magħruf b'kunċert orkestrali mill-aqwa fuq il-palk tat-Tejatru Astra bis-sehem tal-Orkestra Filarmonika Nazzjonali u solisti tassew bravi u internazzjonali s-Sopran Erka Grimaldi mwielda f'Asti l-Italja u t-Tenur Amerikan Gregory Kunde. Sala ppakjata bin- nies minn Malta u Għawdex flimkien ma' salt barranin ma waqfux japplawdu kull biċċa li ndaqqet li kienu jinkludu siltiet mill-'La fanciulla del West', 'La Boheme', 'Madame Butterfly', 'Turandot' , 'Suor Angelica', 'Manon Lescaut', it-'Tosca', 'Le Villi', u 'Scossa Elettrica'. Kif tistgħu taraw ir-repertorju operistiku kien wieħed wiesa' u bla dubju l-Maestro ra li jolqot il-gosti ta' kulħadd. U rnexxielu għax il-folla ħarġet sodisfatta ferm b'dak li rat u semgħet, dejjem mertu tal-Orkestra Nazzjonali u l-ħlewwa u l-ħila taż-żewġ solisti barranin, dejjem taħt id-direzzjoni impekkabbli tal-Maestro żagħżugħ Joseph Debrincat. Ngħid għalija, għalkemm fil-mument ninsab marsus mill-morsa tan-niket billi għadni kemm tlift lis-seħba ta' ħajti, ma ridtx nonqos lil dal-Maestro li jiġi iben wieħed mill-kuġini tiegħi li lejhom għandi ħafna rispett. U nemmen li marti taħfirli! Mulej iddumx ma turiha wiċċek! Tistrieħ fis-sliem!

artscouncilmalta.gov.mt
ARTS COUNCIL MALTA
Arts Council Malta is the national agency for arts and culture in Malta
www.heritagemalta.mt
Heritage Malta

DELEGATES OF THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

(more profiles in the following editions)

Miriam Friggieri (NSW AUSTRALIA)

Miriam Friggieri was born in the city of Liverpool, in the South-West of Sydney in the state of NSW, Australia. Miriam's parents, both born in Malta, immigrated to Sydney in 1959 with Miriam's two older brothers.

From a very young age, Miriam felt a very strong bond to her parents' homeland, taking a keen interest in its rich history and culture through her parents' stories of their experiences in Malta, especially as children during World War II. Miriam visited Malta for the first time at the age of 15. Meeting relatives and exploring Malta with her parents and younger brother, during a two month vacation, affirmed Miriam's affection for Malta.

In Australia, back in the 60's, immigrants were discouraged from speaking to their children in their native language but, somehow, like many Maltese families, Miriam and her brothers grew up understanding Maltese but not speaking it very well. Today, Miriam's Maltese has greatly improved, assisted by subsequent visits to Malta and, especially, via active participation in the Maltese community for nearly ten years.

Miriam is a proud dual citizen of Australia and Malta and is currently, since February 2021, the President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW (MCC) and, concurrently, the Vice-President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools in Australia, and Treasurer for the Friends of Providence House NSW (raising funds for Id-Dar tal-Providenza in Malta). Previous community roles include Treasurer for the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW, Secretary for the Maltese Community Council of NSW, and Secretary for the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco NSW. All voluntary positions.

Miriam also volunteers as the coordinator of the MCC Radio Team and produces and presents two, one-hour, weekly Maltese programmes on community radio station 2GLF in South Western Sydney. Miriam is also the Group Leader for one of the MCC seniors groups and assists with other MCC groups and activities. Miriam works closely with her MCC committee, as well as with the Administrator for the MCC Maltese Language School of NSW, and the MCC Community Worker, aligning with the aims of the MCC, to preserve and promote Maltese identity, culture, heritage and language for all Maltese, by birth and descent, in NSW.

Miriam has extensive corporate work experience in hardware retailing, retail management, administration, staff training, quality assurance, data management and purchasing, spanning a career of nearly forty years.

Antoine Mangion (NSW Australia)

Born and raised in Australia, Antoine Mangion has long been involved in Sydney's Maltese community. He is currently Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW and Treasurer of La Valette Social Centre. Previously, he was President of Maltese Concert Band NSW where he continues to participate as a band-member playing the tenor saxophone.

After completing a Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours, Antoine worked in an advocacy role as a Policy and Research Officer at a pensioners' association. After some time he returned to university to complete a Graduate Diploma in Teaching, but ended up remaining at university to undertake a PhD while working as an academic tutor and research assistant in the field of education.

Antoine recently completed his PhD on the post-school aspirations of students from migrant backgrounds. He is currently a Lecturer in General Education and Discipline-related Studies at Australian Catholic University. His areas of interest are in the sociology of education and politics of education, particularly in relation to equity issues.

Antoine married Lisa (née Gatt) in 2011 and has a beautiful young daughter Pina.

Source:

www.malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/council-for-maltese-living-abroad/cmla-members/

Government to mark 50 years as a Republic with 'L-Istorja, Int' celebrations in Valletta

'L-Istorja, Int' (History, You), will be the theme for the 50th anniversary celebrations for Malta's Republic Day

by **Karl Azzopardi**

Culture Minister Owen Bonnici (Photo: DOI)

'L-Istorja, Int' (History, You), will be the theme for the 50th anniversary celebrations for Malta's Republic Day.

Making the announcement during a Wednesday morning press conference, Culture Minister Owen Bonnici said the spectacle highlights will be an audio-visual spectacle held on 13, 14 and 15 December at St George's Square in Valletta. A projection on the President's Palace façade in Valletta will be part of the spectacle.

Bonnici said the theme centres around reminding people that that are part of the achievements Malta realised when it became a Republic.

"While these activities will be an ideal occasion to celebrate this important anniversary, they are also an invitation for every Maltese and Gozitan to work together, hand in hand, to participate in the next chapter of our country's history," he said.

The minister also announced that as part of the celebrations, an educational campaign will be launched in the coming days to highlight memorable achievements for the country since its became a Republic.

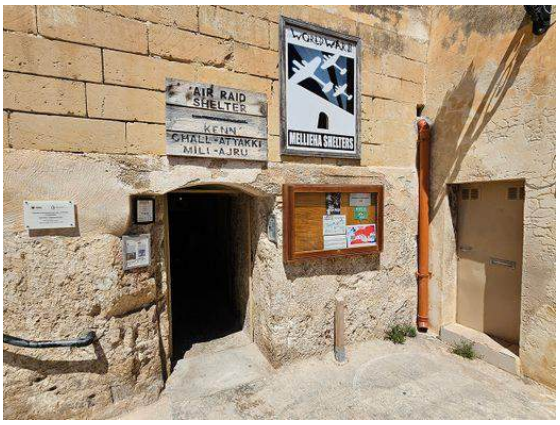
A Timeline of Malta's Journey

'L-Istorja, Int' will take audiences through a chronological journey, celebrating key moments in Malta's history:

1. **The Birth of the Republic (1974):** Relive the moment Malta declared itself a republic, charting a course toward self-governance and independence.
2. **Cultural Milestones:** From Valletta's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site to being named the European Capital of Culture in 2018.
3. **Modern Triumphs:** Highlighting Malta's achievements in technology, economy and international diplomacy.

Event Details

- **Dates:** 13th, 14th and 15th December 2024
- **Time:** Evening performances (specific times to be announced)
- **Location:** St George's Square, Valletta
- **Admission:** Free entry with ticket reservation via showshappening.com
- **How to Reserve Your Spot**
- Tickets for 'L-Istorja, Int' are free but required due to limited seating. Secure your spot today by visiting showshappening.com. Don't wait too long—this is an event you won't want to miss and spots are filling up fast!
- **A Call to All Maltese and Gozitans and any Maltese from abroad who will be holidaying in Malta during the Christmas Season.**
-

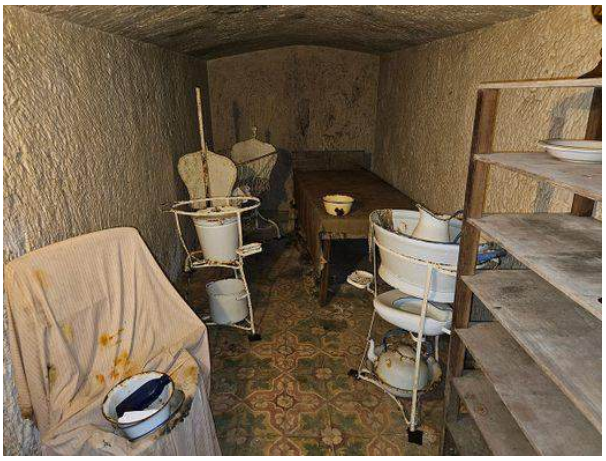


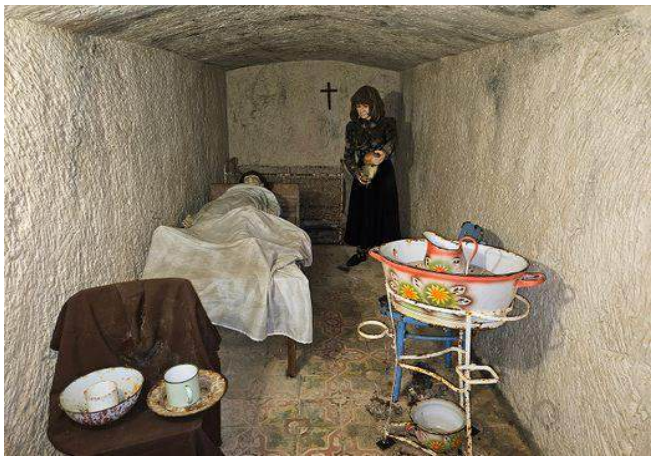
MELLIEĦA WORLD WAR II SHELTERS

Mellieħa, Malta

These purpose-built WWII air raid shelters, which run half a kilometre under the town of Mellieħa, are among the longest in Malta.

When World War II started, the islands of Malta in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea were not immediately targeted by the Axis powers, even though the islands were a British colony and the British military maintained a major presence on the islands.





Then, on June 10, 1940, Italy formally declared war on the Allies, and Axis planes immediately began to bomb Malta. The attacks would continue for three years until Allied forces were able to launch invasions of Sicily and the Italian mainland.

The civilians in Malta were initially unprepared for the bombings, and when they discovered that the masonry of their homes would not withstand the bombings, the people sought refuge in many of the archipelago's natural caves (such as Għar Dalam) or pre-existing man-made tunnels (such as the tunnels built by the Knights of St. John in Valletta or the catacombs in Rabat). Over time, though, people dug new tunnels to protect themselves from the bombs.

One of the longest World War II bomb shelters in Malta was dug in the community of Mellieħa at the north end of the island of Malta. A group of diggers started creating this tunnel in July 1941, and it would eventually stretch to half a kilometre long. The tunnels could house not only the 3,842 people of Mellieħa itself but also 1,117 people displaced from other parts of the island. Each person was allocated a total of two square feet, but individual families could apply to dig their own private rooms off of the main tunnels. Additionally, the tunnels included a maternity hospital and clinic as well as a section that was used to store works of art from the Valletta Museum.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the tunnels underwent restoration work, and in 2004, they opened as a museum. Cases near the entrance display examples of gas masks and digging tools from the WWII era, and a couple of the rooms in the tunnels have been decorated to show what they looked like during the war. A few mannequins scattered throughout the shelter and a movie projector at the end of one corridor provide some additional life in the tunnels. Other sections, however, are simply long corridors of bare rock. Overall, visitors to these shelters should come away with some sense of the bleak experiences of the people who survived for years hiding from Italian and German bombers within these tunnels.

MALTA POLICE SALUTE MEMORY OF LATE CONSTABLE ROGER DEBATTISTA

The Malta Police Force yesterday commemorated the ex-PC 949 Roger Debattista, who tragically lost his life 23 years ago whilst on duty.

On November 12th 2001, Roger made the sacrifice during a bank hold-up in Ta' Farsina Qormi to protect the people present.

A father of two, Debattista noted three armed robbers making their way towards the entrance and tried to lock the door.

However, one of the robbers shot in his direction, with the bullet going through the door and hitting the constable. The robber, later identified as Andy Calleja, aimed and shot at Debattista, killing him.

'Mario Borg, Ian Galdes and Mark Falzon were charged with the armed robbery. Borg and Falzon were sentenced to five years and Galdes to seven years imprisonment. Andy Calleja was charged for the cold-blooded murder and the armed robbery amongst other charges. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, confirmed on appeal in 2004.'

Members from the police corp gathered at the bust erected in Ta' Farsina to honour his memory.

'Despite the ultimate price Roger paid in the line of duty, his mother's gentle look and heartfelt words remind us why we serve. Her strength and grace give us the motivation to keep following his footsteps of bravery and dedication.'

CHILD MIGRANT MEMORIAL AT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM – ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Photographs supplied by Stephen Warren

The sculpture commemorates the British child migrants who were removed from the homeland and families and transported to South Australia between 1912 and 1967. Some of the child migrants were from Malta.

In the years following World War Two, a popular immigration slogan was 'the child, the best immigrant'. They constituted a particularly attractive category of migrant because they were seen to assimilate more easily, were more adaptable, had a long working life ahead and could be cheaply housed in dormitory style accommodation.

Between 1947 and 1953 over 3200 children migrated to Australia under approved schemes. About 100 of these children were Maltese while the remainder came from the United Kingdom. Other European countries were asked if they would like to participate in the child migration scheme but they declined.

There were over 30 homes approved by the Commonwealth for the housing of child migrants. Most of these were run by voluntary and religious organisations.

He's especially proud to have won the World Hit category at the prestigious *Riga Symphony* competition in 2023. To add to his musical repertoire, Ramires has started learning to play the piano. **Prospect South Australia. Malta George Cross 50th Anniversary 1942–1992**

ORDER OF MALTA - AUSTRALIA

The Order of Malta - Australia invites you to the Annual Lourdes Day Mass in Sydney, NSW on Saturday, 7 December 2024 at 11am at St Mary's Cathedral

The Order of Malta's annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral is celebrated for the intentions of all Catholic families, but those in need of physical or spiritual healing and support are particularly encouraged to participate and will receive a bottle of water brought from the shrine at Lourdes. All those in attendance will receive a blessing for good health.

ORDER OF MALTA VOLUNTEERS

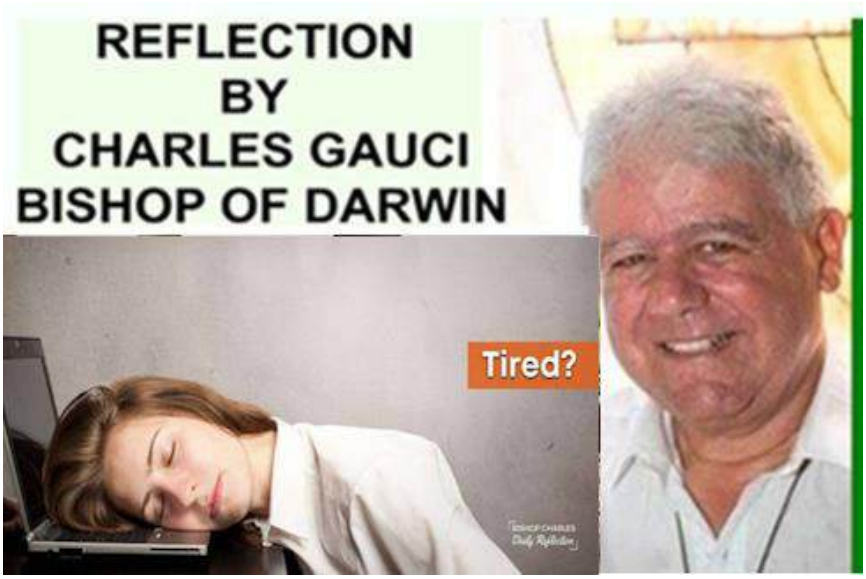
attend weekly Community Care Van services in Sydney, Paramatta and Melbourne to provide services to rough sleepers. This initiative is just one part of our longstanding commitment to assist the homeless and disadvantaged in

Australia.

Pictured: The Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap during his recent visit to Australia with one of our Community Care Vans. Interested in volunteering for our Community Care Van services? Learn more https://www.orderofmalta.org.au/volunteeropportunities/

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, officially the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, and commonly known as the Order of Malta or the Knights of Malta, is a Catholic lay religious order, traditionally of a military, chivalric, and noble nature.



As I write this, I feel tired—and for good reason! The last few days have been incredibly full.

I've noticed some of my typical patterns when I'm feeling this way. I tend to react to immediate events a bit too quickly. I catch myself 'sweating the small stuff' more than usual, and my usual 'thick skin' seems to wear a bit thinner. It's so important to know ourselves, to recognise our own patterns of behaviour, especially in moments of fatigue.

We recently had a clergy retreat, and one of the many valuable reminders was the importance of contemplation—taking time to simply be with the Lord, just as we are. This practice helps us build resilience. It strengthens us to keep living and acting from our core beliefs, even when we're tired. May we all learn to rest in God's presence and draw renewed strength from His love.

On 9 November 2024, the Maltese Center in NYC hosted a commemorative Holy Mass celebrated in Maltese by Fr Anthony Saliba, to pray for the dearly departed. The Consul General, Ms Denise Demicoli, kindly joined the Maltese & Gozitan community in New York to pay respects

Maltese Center
ASTORIA:NY:USA

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Maltese eNewsletter

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad connecting communities around the world

'MAGNA ŻMIEN' IN CANADA

Malta – Canadian museum

Their purpose of the visit is preserving and giving new life to Maltese memories. If you have photos, recordings, and or films please reach out to them.

Magna Żmien Co-Founders Andrew Alamango and Andrew Pace landed in Toronto, Canada, kickstarting set up for the training sessions and public programme taking place at the Maltese-Canadian Museum

Our first weekend of events starts this Saturday in Toronto Canada!

Have a look at this weekend's programme which is free and open to the public 👇:

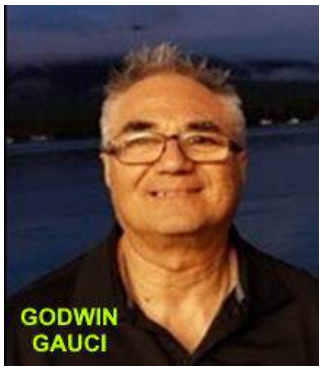
Introducing Magna Żmien: Aims of a Community Archive — Saturday 16 November, 10:30am – 12:30pm (GMT-5) | Overview of Magna Żmien's mission, digitisation studio, work with donors, and major projects. Open to the Maltese-Canadian Museum volunteers and the public.

Exploring Collections from the Magna Żmien Archive — Saturday 16 November, 2pm – 4pm (GMT-5) | Interactive session featuring highlights from Magna Żmien's collections, with digital archives from Malta and Canada to explore.

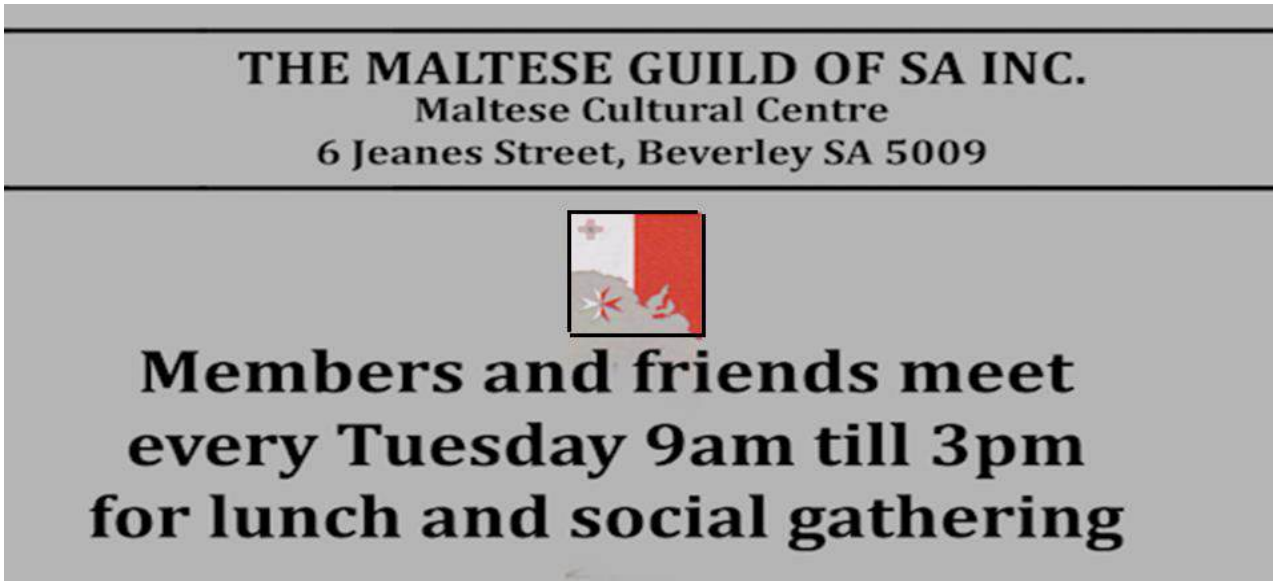
Introducing the Maltese-Canadian Museum and its Collections — Sunday 17 November, 11:30am – 12:30pm (GMT-5) | Presentation on the Maltese-Canadian Museum's history, focusing on Maltese migration to Canada, with a collection walkthrough.

Leħen il-Maltin fuq Żigarella: Audio Messages in the Diaspora — Sunday 17 November, 2pm – 4pm (GMT-5) | Showcase of personal audio messages, music, and għana from Maltese diaspora recordings, offering a unique insight into Maltese life.

This project is in collaboration with the **Maltese-Canadian Museum** in Toronto. This project is supported by the Maltese High Commission in Ottawa and the **Arts Council Malta** International Exchanges Fund.



NEW COMMITTEE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Maltese Senior Citizens Association of South Australia in September the following members were elected to form a new committee for 2024-2025. **President** – Godwin Gauci, **Vice-President** – Antony Jackson, **Secretary** – Charles Mifsud, **Treasurer/Public Officer** – John Mangion, **Councillors** – Jane Grima, Alice Fabri and Mary Borg. **Auditor** – Frank Scicluna, **Trustees** – John Mangion and Frank Scicluna

You are invited to join us for lunch every Friday at the Progressive Hall, 49 LeHunte Street Kilburn from 10am till 3.30pm