MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

ORDER OF MALTA
Australia
Southern Central
Region

MALTESE AUSTRALIAN

JAMIE RUGGIER

The Fastest Legally Blind Drag Racer in the World

Toninu Aquilina 1955 Murder Revisited

We wish our readers a happy

Valentine's Day

OBE AND HAPPY

Over Bloody Eighty

Submitted by one of our readers

If you were born in this time span, your ages range between 77 and 93 years old and you are one of the rare surviving one-percenters. You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's. You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years. You are the last to remember ration books for everything from tea to gasoline to sugar to shoes. You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" at the front door. Discipline was strictly enforced by parents and teachers. You are the last generation who spent childhood without television and instead, you “imagined” what you heard on the radio. With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside". There was no city playground for kids. The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like. We got “black-and-white” TV in the late 50s that had 3 stations and no remote telephones (**if you had one**) were one to a house and hung on the wall in the kitchen (who cares about privacy).

Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked. Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon. INTERNET and GOOGLE were words that did not exist.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and your dad would give you the comic pages after he read the news. The news was broadcast on your radio in the evening. The radio network gradually expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were 2 lanes and there were no Motorways. You went to the city to shop. You walked to school and back.

Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.

You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.

They were glad you played things like Fiddle Sticks, Cigarette Cards, Grab, Monopoly, Marbles, and Jacks by yourselves. You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves. You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.

Polio was still a crippler. Everyone knew someone who had it. You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our country. World War 2 was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.

Only your generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better. More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"

If you have already reached the age of 77 years old, you have outlived 99% of all the other people on this planet. I often read this one, here’s a beauty they forgot—

The headmaster could give you the cane – and no one died from it.

ORDER OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL LOURDES MASS
SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2025

The Order of Malta's celebrated the annual Lourdes Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide on the 8th February 2025. The Mass was for the intentions of all Catholic families, especially the sick and infirm members of our community. Several priests concelebrated the Mass with Father Lancy as the main celebrant. The commentator was Chev. Noel Mifsud who coordinated the Mass.

The cathedral was almost full and those in attendance received a blessing for good health and a bottle of water from the Lourdes sanctuary and an Order of Malta brochure from Members of the Order. Members will be available after Mass to talk about the work of the Order of Malta.

The order of Malta – more formally known as the Sovereign Military Hospitallers Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and Malta – is one of the oldest religious orders in the world. The Knights and Dames are lay Catholic order dedicated to servicing the sick and poor and defending the Catholic Church.

In South Australia members of the Australian Order of Malta gather for prayer, retreats, Mass and spiritual activities once a month. The projects includes 'Coats for the Homeless' and supporting the work of St. Vincent the Paule, Mary Potter Hospice,, Adelaide Care Centre, Catherine House and Hut Street.

Chev. Noel Mifsud

Chev NOEL MIFSUD

He is currently national board member of the Order of Malta AND COORDINATOR OF THE Order of South Australia and Western Australia.

Noel Mifsud, who was awarded, as one of the 'The Best Educators in Australia influencing Culture and Reform'. The Educator Australia's most prestigious lists.

Noel Mifsud has served in education for over 35 years, including 16 years as principal in R-12 schools in South Australia and the Northern Territory. He has also served as a reservist captain in the Army Education Corps and was the wintering station leader for Casey Station in Antarctica.

He has lectured on Australian Education and conducted workshops for teachers, parents, principals and boards nationally and internationally.

His areas of expertise include: Aboriginal education, Asia literacy, crisis management, educational building design and strategic planning.

Noel has served on numerous state and national boards. He is currently national board member of the Order of Malta.

He was a former member of the Multicultural Education Commission, chair of the Edmund Rice Principal's Association and SA Catholic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Committee. In 2019 he chaired the SA/NT Learning Environments Australasia building awards.

He is a senior education and business consultant/coach working with businesses and schools across Adelaide.

THE MESSAGE NOEL MIFSUD DELIVERED DURING MASS FOR THE SICK AT ST. FRANCIS CATHERDAL ADELAIDE ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2025

For nearly a millennium, the Sovereign Order of Malta has been a lay religious order dedicated to serving the sick and the poor, while upholding the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Order's origins date back to 1048, when Christian crusaders established a church, convent, and hospital in Jerusalem to care for and protect pilgrims of all faiths and races in the Holy Land.

In South Australia, members of the Australian Order of Malta come together for prayer, retreats, masses, and spiritual activities. One of their major outreach projects, "Coats for the Homeless," supports the efforts of St Vincent De Paul, Adelaide Day Centre, Catherine House, and Hutt Street. The Order of Malta holds global diplomatic status and permanent observer status with the United Nations. Australian members also serve both nationally and internationally. Daniel O'Connell a member from South Australia has been actively involved in humanitarian relief work in Ukraine, providing food and aid to those in need. Additionally, members have recently travelled to Timor Leste to support a clinic and have visited refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines.

Last year, I had the privilege of traveling to Timor Leste and participating in a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis. Bishops Charles Gauci and Eugene Hurley, whom many of you in this Cathedral know, were also present.

Since 1958, the Order of Malta has conducted an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. This five-day program offers members the opportunity to gather in prayer and assist the sick on their pilgrimage to Lourdes. In 2018, South Australian members, including Mary Kennedy, Dr. Ian Leitch, and I, were blessed to attend the Order of Malta's pilgrimage to Lourdes with 7,500 pilgrims. Bathing in the waters of Lourdes, assisting the sick, and attending Mass in the grotto where the Blessed Virgin appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 are memories I will always cherish.

During one of the daily Masses a member of the Order reflected: "We stand together here in Lourdes, which casts its own influence on us. We meditate on the miracle of Bernadette and the miracles that have been wrought here so many times over so many years. Since the wondrous apparition of Mary to the little 14-year-old in 1858, those experiences have had a profound impact on the world. We reflect on what a miracle is: It may not be a cure, but it may be a grace given to all pilgrims who come here - the miracle of serenity in the love of the Virgin Mary, the miracle of unconditional kindness to others, the miracle of tolerance, and the miracle that helps us understand that we are part of the same great spiritual family".

May all gathered in Christ's name today be graced with the serene love of the Virgin Mary, the miracle of God's unconditional love, peace, health, and happiness in 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOZO DELEGATION OF THE ORDER EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

Chev. Joe Bajada – PRO Delegation Gozo.

After the success of the last two years, the members of the Gozo Delegation of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, repeated the New Year's Greetings activity. This took place on Sunday 26th January 2025 where they began their activity with a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Chapel of the Augustinian Sisters, in Għajnsielem.

This was concelebrated by the Prior of the same Delegation, Mgr. Comm. John Muscat who was assisted by Can. Cav. Joe Cardona. Cav. Mgr. Laurence Sciberras animated the mass with the playing of the organ. This Mass was also attended by the Lieutenant for Malta, H.E. Ambassador Roberto Buontempo, together with his wife, as well as the Chancellor of the Order, Comm. Christopher Busuttil Delbridge and his wife. Afterwards, all those present, Knights, Dames, and Postulants, as well as their families, attended a meal at the same Convent where they exchanged good wishes for the New Year. During this social activity, some speeches were made on the occasion where the Delegate for Gozo, Comm.

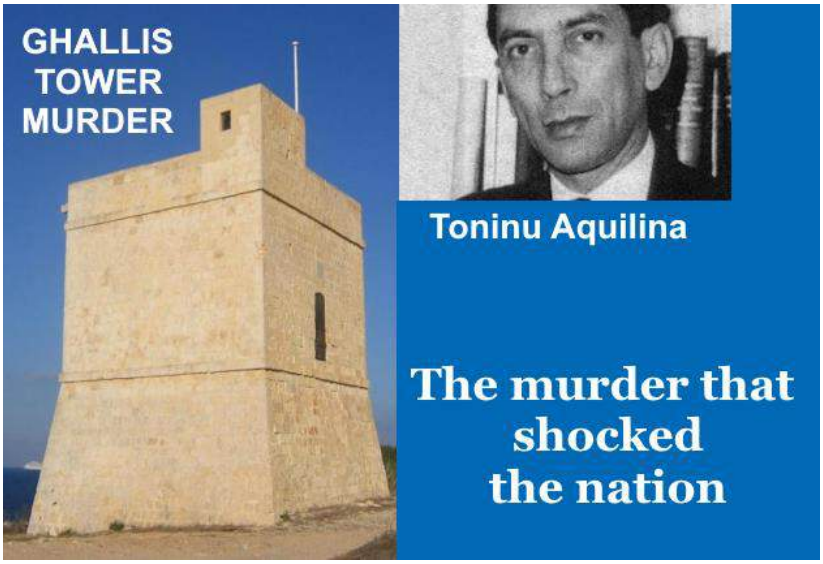
Euchar Mizzi, after thanking those present for their very good attendance, added that this year 2025 is a special year, the Jubilee, the Year of Hope that we all wish, that above all peace reigns again in the Holy Land. He mentioned the great work that the Order is doing, with the number of members growing every year. He praised the great work being carried out by the Lieutenant for Malta, H.E. Ambassador Buontempo.

Ambassador Roberto Buontempo, apart from expressing his great satisfaction for the work being carried out by the Gozitan Delegation, also showed his appreciation for all those who attend activities in Malta despite the many difficulties that one has to face. He recalled that the 2026 investiture will take place in Gozo in May, on the feast of St. George the Preacher. He appealed to everyone to do their utmost to find candidates of Christian values with the possibility of joining our Order. He said that as always he believes in Gozo and the Gozitans, therefore next March, the Order's Lenten retreat will be held in Gozo and will be led by the renowned Biblical scholar, the Rev. Mons.

Laurence Sciberras. He said that although the order has 12 commissions, he intends to create an Esquire Group that will be young people between 17 and 24 years old who are not members of the Order, but who will be a kind of friends of the Order who will wear a grey cloak and the same cross of the Order.

He thanked everyone for the very beautiful gift that had just been presented to him by the Delegate Comm. Euchar Mizzi on behalf of all the members, and which consisted of a very beautiful silver

icon representing Our Lady of Lourdes. On the same occasion, Can. Cav. Joe Cardona shared a cake on his birthday. Finally, a big thank you goes to all the Gozitan members, for their full cooperation so that this activity was once again a success like those of the last two years. All this augurs very beautiful things of more fruitful work among all the members.



Toninu Aquilina's death led to a radical overhaul of criminal justice in Malta

Għallis Tower, site of the murder, including the well where the corpse of Toninu Aquilina was found. Photos provided by Eddie Attard. Inset: Toninu Aquilina

One Thursday morning 67 years ago, Toninu Aquilina left Valletta's South Street with over £15,300 in cheques and £1 notes.

It was a trip to the national bank on Republic Street that the Malta Millers Association messenger had done numerous times.

However, on February 24, 1955, Aquilina did not make it to the bank. He did not make it home either. The police first suspected he had run away with the money. The air and seaports were put on the alert.

"Sadly, his body was discovered two weeks later by members of the Civil Defence on a training exercise near the Għallis Tower at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Aquilina had been shot in the back of the head," crime historian and former police officer Eddie Attard recounts.

George Terreni was found guilty of murdering Aquilina in 1956. The trial was based on circumstantial evidence and was one of the most famous in Malta's history. Once Aquilina's body was lifted out of a well, the police abandoned the place. This was a mistake as hundreds of people went to the site afterwards. The suspect's interrogation was delayed – he was arrested, interrogated and released multiple times.

The investigation into the murder took a turn with the arrival of Inspector Albert Victor Griffin, Sergeant Henry William Pugh and Lewis Nicholls, director of the Metropolitan Police Laboratory of Scotland Yard.

Nicholls found fibres in a car with registration number 12764, which a bank cashier, George Terreni, had hired on February 23. The fibres matched those of the sack that covered Aquilina's corpse.

The investigating team also found flakes of red and white paint on some of Terreni's clothing that matched paint at the entrance to Għallis Tower. However, the most important circumstantial evidence was a piece of plywood found near the body that belonged to a box found in the rented car.

In 1956 a jury – split eight to one – found George Terreni guilty.

One juror was not actually convinced that the man was not guilty. He voted in that manner as he was against the death penalty and knew that a death penalty can only be handed down in the case of a unanimous vote.

Terreni was out of jail after eight years, following a series of amnesties in his favour.

Later. He was killed in a car accident in England while he was crossing the road.

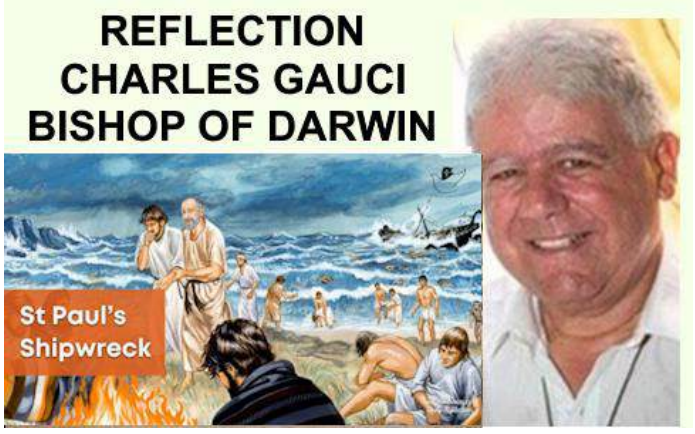
This legend is centred around the fortified city of Senglea, a crucial city for the Maltese military base, part of the Cottonera among other fortified cities including Birgu and Cospicua.

Back in the day when the Order of Saint John ruled over Malta, the Grand Master at the time built a spacious house famously known as the 'Casa della Sirena' (a literal translation to 'House of Mermaids'). The house was so massive that it was noted to be the largest house in Senglea, with an esteemed garden to compliment the building. Unfortunately, this house was demolished during the second world war, the cave underneath being the only survivor from the whole building. This cave was known for the mermaid that found shelter in this cave after a treacherous storm.

The mermaid decided to stay put and make the cave her home, swimming out to huge boulders next to the beach and sing with her haunting voice, enchanting fishermen nearby. One day one particular fisherman followed the cadence of her voice, meeting with the mermaid at the cave.

While initially timid, the mermaid and the fisherman became friends, planning multiple meetups close to her cave. While the mermaid thoroughly enjoyed these encounters, she was incredibly worried as she was innately cursed, instantaneously turning into stone if a human kisses her lips.

One day, during another encounter between the mermaid and the fisherman, the fisherman, unknowingly of the curse, went and touched lips with the mermaid, causing her to turn into lifeless stone. From that point forward, the cave always had a rock in the form of a mermaid in place, leaving a history mark for inhabitants and curious visitors alike.



Last Monday was the **Feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul in Malta**. Given my **Maltese background**, this event holds a **special significance** for me. This remarkable event is recorded in the *Acts of the Apostles*. Paul was travelling as a **prisoner to Rome** because of his faith when the ship he was on was caught in a violent storm and **wrecked on the Maltese Islands**. As foretold in a **vision given to Paul**, everyone on board was **saved**.

Shortly after landing, Paul survived a **snake bite** and later **healed the father of Publius**, the chief citizen of the island.

Paul **introduced Christianity** to Malta, and over the centuries, countless **Maltese missionaries** have followed in his footsteps, carrying the Gospel to distant lands—just as Paul himself did. Paul, once a **zealous persecutor** of the Church, was transformed by God's grace into one of its **greatest missionaries**—arguably, the greatest of all.

God's grace empowered him to be **deeply imbued with the Spirit of Christ** He endured **great suffering** for the sake of the Gospel, but he remained **resilient** to the very end, ultimately **laying down his life as a martyr**.

His story is a powerful reminder that **we, too, can grow and change** through the power of God working in us— accomplishing far more than we could ever ask or imagine!

The Extinct Maltese Pig.

Archaeological discoveries dating back to the Neolithic period show that pigs were present in Malta from early times. The popularity of pigs in Malta increased between the Greek and Carthaginian periods.

By the 20th century, this breed was still common, but at that time, foreign pig breeds began to be introduced. The only known photograph provided by Ellis indicates that the Maltese pig was smaller and had a resemblance to the now-extinct Prievidza pig, which was once found in parts of Yugoslavia.

From the skull and image we have it seems also that the closest living breed maybe the Sicilian Black Pig (Nero Siciliano).

The "Maltese Pig" is an extinct breed of pig that once existed in Malta, disappearing sometime in the late 1930s or early 1940s due to the introduction of foreign pig breeds, leading to crossbreeding and the loss of the distinct Maltese pig characteristics; archaeological evidence shows pigs were present in Malta since the Neolithic period, but the breed eventually became extinct.

Today's Pig - n 1982, the pig farmers of Malta and Gozo formed the Pig Breeders' Cooperative Society; combining their efforts and their small, family-run farms to jointly produce and market local pork for local consumers. Back then, Malta was nearly 100% self-sufficient for pork and pork products, meaning that pork sold and eaten in Malta was almost certainly reared and produced locally.

Once Malta joined the EU's open market this began to change. Importers found that cheaper pork produced in a different way and in different countries, could be presented to consumers as the same thing, and so could be sold instead of local pork, and at the same price.

This brought great hardship for the local pork sector and other related sectors, without any real benefit to the local consumer. It became apparent that if Maltese pig farmers want their pork to be presented as the unique product that it is, they will have to do it themselves.

The Kim's brand is the Maltese pig farmers' last best hope to once again present local pork with the respect that it deserves, and to inform or remind consumers of the unique and beneficial properties of both the product and the sector. Source - www.majjaltamalta.com/

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION

If you want to send a donation to continue publishing this journal here are my bank details

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065106
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About 3.6 million tourists visited Malta TVM NEWS

The tourism sector has completely recovered from the effects of the pandemic era and last year Malta and Gozo were visited by about 3,600,000 tourists, an increase of 19.5% over 2024. It is estimated that each tourist spent an average of €925.

These figures for this year were presented during the second national tourist conference 'Shaping the Future' by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) which is forecasting a further good year although perhaps not on the same level.

The 3.6 million was a record year for the tourism industry with nine out of every ten arrivals visiting for tourism purposes last year and 79% visiting for the first time.

Carlo Micallef announced these figures and attributed this substantial increase to overseas promotion.

Malta and Gozo were most popular for those aged between 25 and 44 and almost half of the tourist arrivals hailed from the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Poland and Germany. He said a review for this year shows it should also be a good year this year.

He said it is not expected the amount will increase at the same rate but it may be a slower year with a great increase of arrivals in winter rather than in summer.

Micallef remarked Malta is among those countries which has made a quick recovery after the pandemic.

Mew MTA Chairman Charles Mangion, who was unanimously approved by Parliament, explained these result as being very encouraging.

He said these figures result from Malta's solid tourist setting in previous years, but these cannot be taken for granted and great awareness has to be maintained and challenges anticipated have to be met and adjusted to.

In a closing speech, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Ian Borg, remarked the time has come for all those involved in this sector to project a resilient future for Malta and Gozo to remain relevant destinations as attractions and being competitive and further said these improved figures are the result of great cooperation between the Government and the private sector.

OUR SPONSORS

Maltese wartime harbour pilots (from left) Domenico Attard, Abram Darmanin (for P&O), Wenzu Attard, Joseph Zahra (chief pilot), and Frans Attard.

A portrait of Wenzu Attard the harbour pilot who steered Ohio into Grand Harbour.

Tanker OHIO entering the grand harbour 14 August 1942

An unsung Maltese hero as Tanker Ohio brings salvation to besieged Malta

Lina Brockdorff

Maltese wartime harbour pilots (from left) Domenico Attard, Abram Darmanin (for P&O), Wenzu Attard, Joseph Zahra (chief pilot), and Frans Attard.

Several books have been written about Operation Pedestal of August 1942, dealing with the British convoy which, despite crippling losses, finally made it to Malta on August 14-15, 1942, saving the island from surrender.

Wenzu Attard, the harbour pilot steered Ohio into Grand Harbour.

Wenzu's wife*, mother and brothers tried to dissuade him. The tanker was still full of fuel. If there was another attack it could explode*.

Unless readers are given the detailed background to this story they simply cannot appreciate what this convoy, known as the *Santa Marija* Convoy (because it coincided with the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, or *Santa Marija*), meant to Malta.

Operation Pedestal was intended to get desperately needed supplies to Malta at a time when the island was effectively under siege, blockaded by Axis air and naval forces. To sustain the island, Britain had to get convoys through at all costs. The most crucial supply was fuel, delivered by the *Ohio*, an American-built tanker with a British crew.

At that point Malta was at a complete standstill, both because food supplies were scarce and because it lacked fuel and ammunition to defend itself. Malta was on the brink of surrender.

Before Operation Pedestal there were two other attempts to send supplies of food and ammunition to Malta. These were Operation Vigorous from the east and Operation Harpoon from the west, which unluckily both ended in disaster.

After this failure everyone was questioning how long Malta could hold out on its steadily diminishing supplies. Yet the British did not give up. Operation Pedestal was an attempt to run more than 50 ships through the Mediterranean, which was well guarded by German U-boats, Italian E-boats as well as by the *Luftwaffe*, the German air force, and the Italian *Regia Aeronautica*.

This operation has gone down in history as an important British strategic victory of World War II. But it was achieved at the cost of more than 400 lives, with only five of the original 14 merchant ships finally reaching Grand Harbour.

Of these five ships, *Ohio* steals the limelight as it had both the most fundamental role and the most dramatic survival of the whole convoy.

The following is an account of *Ohio*'s last three days before the tanker defied all odds and managed to limp into Grand Harbour with its precious cargo of fuel.

August 12: The Operation Pedestal convoy entered Gibraltar in heavy fog two days earlier. The Germans suspected that the fleet could only mean an imminent invasion of Sicily. They mounted continuous air attacks resulting in heavy Allied losses.

August 15: Although details of this hazardous voyage were not available locally, still every Maltese knew that something ominous was happening just on their doorstep. All the Maltese knew it involved the remains of what was once a convoy. All over the island prayers were offered for the safety of the sailors and that Malta might finally obtain some food and fuel. At 6 a.m. news spread that whatever was near our shores was trying to enter harbour.

The battered shores and bastions of the Barrakka, St Angelo and Senglea were soon covered with people anxious for news. Maltese tugs were ready to help and soon the stricken but brave tanker was seen limping into harbour while men and women waved and cheered and a brass band played *Rule Britannia*.

It was customary for Maltese pilots to steer ships into harbour; there was, in fact, a schedule which was duly observed. Yet, in those turbulent days of constant attacks such a detail was usually disregarded and the Admiralty normally asked the captain himself to steer the ship into harbour.

However it seems that on this particular occasion the Admiral decided that a Maltese pilot should be asked to assume such a responsibility; and because of the interrupted schedule it was not quite clear who should have been on duty. It was up to the chief pilot, Joseph Zahra, to decide who should steer *Ohio* into Grand Harbour.

It seems none of the pilots was eager to call for duty. Lorenzo (Wenzu) Attard, whose three brothers Domenico, Frans and Wiġi were also pilots, as were his cousin and uncle, decided to do the job. His son George relates how his father loved to narrate this event.

As soon as he decided to leave his home in Vittoriosa, Wenzu's wife Antonia (*née* Persico), mother and brothers tried to dissuade him, telling him he was mad to try such a risky venture.

The tanker was sinking, and was still full of fuel. If there was another attack it could explode, causing a disaster in the Three Cities and for all involved.

But Wenzu was adamant. His answer was: "We are all dying of hunger anyway... if anything happened it would only mean that I died a few days before my time, but I simply have to try and save Malta."

And with those words he rushed out towards the harbour where, without loss of time he had to manoeuvre his way up a scramble-net to the *Ohio*.

As soon as the tanker came in, besides all the cheering and band-playing there was also an incessant beehive of activity on the wharves. The 10,000 tons of fuel oil started to be pumped by HMS *Boxall* while pipes were hauled aboard and emergency salvage pumps began to discharge the kerosene. The *Ohio*, which made port just six inches (15 centimetres) above the water, could be seen sinking lower and lower. *Ohio* also carried a substantial amount of wheat and other much needed food supplies, which was saved and stored within a few hours. It is generally recognised that *Ohio* was the saviour of the beleaguered island. Its captain was later awarded the George Cross. Although such a triumph was of utmost importance for the Maltese, it had a more significant effect on the battle for North Africa.

Many historians trace the turn of the tide and the Allied victory to this single event – which boosted the hope and morale of the Maltese with renewed prospects of survival.

It is sad to note that 70 years after such an important historical event, the heroic act of Wenzu, the Maltese pilot, has not been given its due. There is not a single marble slab to honour him. Yet Malta's public gardens and squares are adorned with statues and monuments of various statesmen, poets and lesser known citizens.

The national poet, Dun Karm, had chided the Maltese for their ingratitude of not acknowledging their brave forefathers. No poet has ever spoken or written words of praise for Wenzu.

Child Migration to Australia 1953

The sculpture commemorates the contribution made by British and Maltese girls and boys who left their country to find a new life in Western Australia.

The life-size bronze statue of a young boy and girl carrying all their worldly possessions in a small suitcase apiece serves as a perpetual reminder of the experiences of nearly 3,000 unaccompanied children who were shipped to Western Australia from Britain and Malta over a period spanning more than 50 years. The memorial to honour the memory, and the contribution to Western Australian society and the history, of former child migrants was launched on Human Rights Day (10 December) 2004 by the West Australian Minister for Community Development, the Honourable Sheila McHale.

Between 1947 and 1953 over 3200 children migrated to Australia under approved schemes. About 100 of them 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 declined. Over 30 homes were approved by the Commonwealth for the housing of child migrants. Most of these were run by voluntary and religious organisations. It was not government policy to provide homes specifically for migrant children; however, the government did contribute towards the capital expenditure incurred by these organisations in setting up suitable homes. Both the Commonwealth and State governments contributed towards running costs. The governments of the United Kingdom and Malta also paid maintenance for their children who had emigrated to approved institutions in Australia.

Dear Frank, your Journal is a shining gem and I don't have enough words to describe the variety and depth of its contents. I have been a writer and a journalist for over 50 years but the content and presentation simply amazes me.
I firmly believe it is one of the best online Journals in the world and I am sure that Maltese and Gozitans abroad as well as those having Maltese and Gozitan roots treasure this Journal.
Keep up the splendid work and wishing you very best regards,

ALBERT FENECH - MALTA

CARMEN THE MALTESE VISITS THE MALTESE MUSEUM IN MORWELL

Maltese community in Australia launches museum dedicated to Malta

A wonderful afternoon was had today with Debra (Carmen the Maltese) and her family. They enjoyed lunch at the Maltese Community Centre Latrobe Valley. The Maltese community of Latrobe Valley is proud to have *It is the ONLY Maltese museum in the country!*

The main organiser of the Museum is Mario Sammut, a Maltese migrant living in Australia for the past 40 years: “The dream was to preserve the Maltese culture and identity while assimilating within the Australian community. It was just a dream, but over the years it became more evident that other Maltese migrants shared the same dream and determination to preserve their culture,”

Mr. Mario Sammut

The post reveals a touching offer by artist Charlie Camilleri was willing to donate the exhibits to the Maltese Community Centre several memorabilia if Mario promised that one day these will be fully restored and permanently displayed in a Museum,.

Plans for the museum where implemented in 2018, with various activities organised to help raise funds for it. The museum, which takes the place of Morwell’s old pigeon club, took a lot of effort to purchase and restore: “An incredible amount of hard work has gone into transforming a dilapidated pigeon club building into a home for Maltese history. Indeed, it took the Maltese community two years to bring their dream to fruition.

Unfortunately, Charlie passed away before the project was completed, but the promise made to him was nevertheless fulfilled.

Apart from Charlie's 15 impressive miniature models of important Maltese buildings, the museum also boasts a selection of Maltese artefacts and historical objects, some of which were donated by the family of the late Mr Frank Consiglio, the first Consul General for Malta in Victoria.

President of the Maltese Community Centre, Mario Sammut believes it is a great opportunity for anyone, especially local Maltese and non-Maltese people to get a sense of history and culture of the Maltese Islands. “People come and visit the Museum, its open every Sunday,” Mr Sammut said.

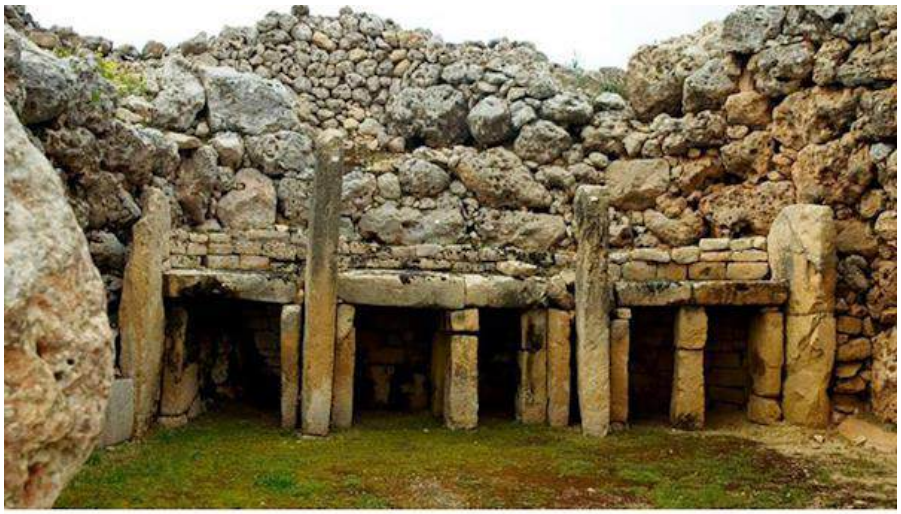
The title for the world's fastest blind person on a quarter mile (402m) drag strip now belongs to an Australian, with Jamie Ruggier setting a new record in Victoria.

Mr Ruggier set what is claimed to be a new world record at Heathcote Park Raceway, about 150km north-west of Melbourne and just 30km east of Bendigo.

Aboard his brother Daniel's modified turbocharged 13B two-rotor powered Mazda RX-3, Jamie Ruggier set a time of 10.32 seconds down the quarter-mile, passing through the finish marker at 208km/h (129mph). Jamie is a Maltese Australian. His family lives in Girraween NSW

We congratulate Jamie for this great achievement.

The Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government of Malta Owen Bonnici has revealed that in the past year 50,300 people managed to visit one of Heritage Malta's many sites for free, due to the recently introduced passport initiative.



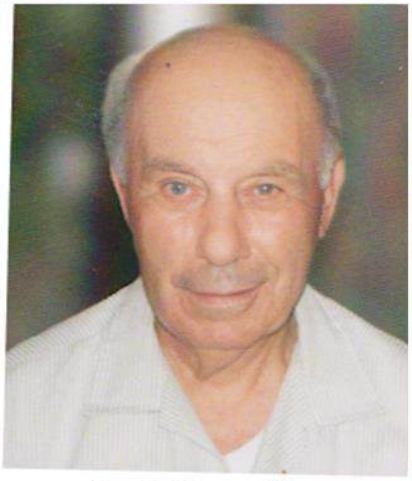
Over 50,300 People Visit Heritage Malta Sites For Free during 2024 Due To Passport Initiative

Bonnici also revealed that these figures resulted in an increase of 7000 people who visited Heritage Malta sites, from the year of before.

The Heritage Malta passport initiative allows students and the elderly to have a Heritage Malta specific passport which allows them to visit any Heritage Malta site.

In Loving Memory

Maria Stella Zauch
nee Calleja
19/5/36 - 11/1/2025
Beloved wife of Gory
Mother of Cheryl, James,
Donald, Christopher and Grandma
and Great Grandma
of many



Jack Vassallo
Born in Zejtun 7/12/1928
Died in Adelaide 202/2025
Husband of Carmen(Deceased)
Loving father of Catherine,
Dorothy, Mary, Angelo,
Trevor (deceased) Horace (D)
and Sue
and Grandpa and Great Garndpa
of many

May they rest in Peace

WE THANK THE MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE TEAM WHO PRINT THE MALTESE JOURNAL AND GIVEN FREE OF CHARGE TO THOSE WHO ATTEND THE WEEKLY LUNCHEON AT THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSC. 49 LEHUNTE STREET KILBURN SA - EVERY FRIDAY

LA VALETTE
SOCIAL CENTRE

THE FEAST OF
ST. PAUL'S
SHPIWRECK
THIS SATURDAY
15TH FEBRUARY

PROCESSION AT 4.45 PM
Mass at 5.30 pm

Then join us for a taste of
delicious Maltese
food

Live Entertainment
by
CAHRLES MUSCAT
7.00pm onwards

KIDS 12 & UNDER EAT FREE
One free kid's meal with a purchase
of Pasta or Mains Meal

175 Walters Road
BLACKTOWN – NSW

MMG Concert
Band of Victoria

MMG
Concert Band of Victoria

Saturday
22 February
9am till 4pm

BUNNINGS
warehouse

Fundraiser
Sausage Sizzle

Saturday 22 February

Come and support us at Bunnings
Sunshine!

GIARDINIERA FROM MALTA

This recipe is not only 100% Vegan, but it goes back a very long way, and with much nostalgia attached to it – the aroma and taste take us back to our childhood at the beach. It's simply delicious, mouthwatering and, I promise, a MUST for the summer months. This is my version, and cross-links somewhat between a caponata and a giardiniera. Why ? Well, because I simply love them both – and I'm just one of those people that loves marriages of food.

My first choice would be to do it the Maltese way and eat it with Maltese Bread then smother it with tomato paste/puree, drizzle over with olive oil, then add copious amounts of this heavenly treat !

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tbsps extra virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, cut into thin rings
- 2-3 garlic cloves, cut into slithers
- 3 red peppers cut lengthways into medium sized pieces (8/9 in total)
- 2 green peppers, cut as above
- 1 small eggplant, cut into medium pieces
- 1 grated carrot
- ½ cauliflower (use only its florets and lightly steam)
- ½ cup of chopped olives
- 1 large green chilli, chopped
- 12 fresh basil leaves, roughly chopped
- 1½ tsp coriander seeds (a must)
- 6 sundried tomatoes, halved and roughly chopped
- 2 celery sticks, chopped
- 4 chopped artichoke hearts (the ones in a jar with olive oil, ready cooked)
- 3 tbsps sweetcorn (this is optional)
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1½ tbsps tomato puree
- ¼ cup agave nectar
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- extra oil for drizzling on top

METHOD

Simple, pour the oil in a non-stick large saucepan, and allow a few seconds for it to heat. Then throw in the eggplant pieces and the onions, and allow them to fry until they catch a little colour. Next, add the celery, making sure that you are tossing all the ingredients around as they cook.

At this point, you may need to add some extra olive oil, and shortly after, add the peppers and continue to stir. Then add the carrot, garlic, chilli, and coriander seeds, and allow to cook on a low heat for a few minutes. Now add in the tomato puree, and stir again. Add the remaining ingredients, lower the heat to the minimum, cover, and allow to cook gently (still keep an eye on what's happening, and stirr gently from time to time). You will experience a wonderful aroma that emerges from this wonderful recipe. My giardiniera can be eaten with rice, pasta, crunchy bread, pitta bread, etc, – experiment and find out. But it's super delicious as a pizza topping, with added vegan cheese. Must be stored in the refrigerator.

Qarabali Mimli –Stuffed MARROWS

Healthy Food

Qarabali Mimli is a Maltese stuffed courgette recipe. At just 70 calories per serving, this vegetarian dish is the perfect recipe for weight loss.

Qarabali mimli il-forn is one of Malta's most loved comfort foods. 'Qarabali' in English translates to courgettes or marrows or zucchini, depending on your location. In Maltese cuisine, qarabali mimli refers to stuffed round courgettes and not the long 'stuffed zucchini boat'. In this part of the Mediterranean, round courgettes are much more popular than the cucumber looking type.

Since this is a hugely popular traditional Maltese recipe, I grew up eating it very frequently. Although I must admit, as a kid, it was never really one of my favourites. Mainly due to the fact that I didn't quite like vegetables in general. My mum struggled to make me and my brother eat our greens and always used to come up with every possible invention to sneak some veggies into our food.

Qarabali Mimli are traditionally stuffed with minced meat in tomato sauce and topped with a generous helping of Cheese. This one's a vegan twist on the classic, making it a fantastic recipe for weight loss.

How to make stuffed courgettes

This vegetarian stuffed courgette recipe is fairly simple to make. All you need to do is boil the lentils and meanwhile, stir fry the main ingredients in olive oil. You then add the lentils and some seasoning to the mix and stuff it into the cored marrow. The hardest part is waiting patiently for the courgettes to bake for around 45 minutes.

And voila, you've got yourself a totally filling, divine tasting, healthy lunch or snack.

What's not to love about food which is nutritious and healthy yet tastes just as incredible?

These lovely lentil and mushroom stuffed courgettes surely taste like a treat and are an awesome twist on the well-loved food. And to top it all, lentils come packed with numerous health benefits. They're a great source of protein and dietary fibre and are also rich in iron, minerals and B-Vitamins. Not to mention that they're an inexpensive and easy to cook ingredient, what more could you possibly wish for?

Did I mention that this stuffed courgette recipe contains ONLY 70 calories per serving? Now that's an awesome treat, especially for those on a diet! And I can promise you that it tastes so much more decadent than the calories it contains! If you're set on losing weight, tasty recipes like this one can be a real godsend. It's nice to eat something that really tastes like comfort food without the calories.

If you're wondering what to do with the courgette flesh, don't throw this away. You can use the zucchini flesh to make soup, fritters, or even some zucchini bread if sweets are more your thing. Speaking of which, don't forget to check out the diet recipes section for a bunch of guilt-free sweet recipes that will make you forget you're on a diet.

Want to discover more Maltese recipes? Check out this stuffed aubergine (brungiel mimli) recipe and this low calorie baked pasta casserole!

Kav. Joe M Attard – Gozo 2025

Matul Frar għandna d-drawwa
Illi nfakkru festa ħelwa
Magħha iżda din is-sena
Ġabitilna ħafna dnewwa.

It-twajjeb San Valentino
Ġie milqugħ minn maltemp kbir
Fejn matul dil-festa s-soltu
Qalbna bil-ferħ trid ittir!

Għal għarrieda ġiet imxija
Li niżżlitna għarkubbtejna
U ġegħlitna d-dmugħ inxerrdu
Gelgul sħun minn dawn għajnejna.

Ħafna kellhom l-isptar jidħlu
Oħrajn qagħdu kwarantina
Min qatt ħolom li dal-Covid
Daqstant gwaj kellu jagħtina!

Ħtija tiegħu kbar, anzjani
Sabu ruħhom taħt l-irħama -
Li jingħaqdu lura magħna
Żgur li issa ma hemmx tama!

Ma' dil-pandemija kellna
Inħassru bosta attivita'
Il-kummerċ ukoll mar lura
Kulħadd ħass dil-gravita'!

Niesna kellha toqgħod ġewwa
Biex dal-Virus ma jiġrix
It-tobba għamlu minn kollox
Biex kemm jista' ma jferix!

Issa għall-grazzja t'Alla tfaċċa
Xi raġġ dawl fit-tarf tal-mina;
Tinsewx ħbieb lil Sid il-ħlejjaq
Jekk triduh jiftakar fina!

Inwiegħduk San Valentino
O patrun tal-maħbubin
Għalkemm imdawrin b'tant niket
Xorta aħna ferħanin

Għaliex int tidħol għalina
Ma tħallina qatt waħidna
Iżda f'wiċċ dan il-hemm kollu
Hemm idek li żgur tirfidna.

U fi Frar ta' sena oħra
Ħielsa lkoll minn dan l-imrar
Nagħmlulek festa mill-isbaħ
Bil-banda u l-isparar.

Maħbubin ta' Malta w Għawdex
Nixteqilkom ferħ sinċier
Ħalluh jibqa' dieħel f'darkom
Ġej mill-qalb ta' Kavallier!

Wara li qrajt ħafna mill-Journal, iktar qed insaħħaħ l-ideja li dan il-materjal kollu jinġabar fi ktieb għax tkun Enċiklopedija mill-aqwa. Wieħed isib ħafna Storja reċenti u passata li waħidha biss ukoll jistħoqqilha ma tintilifx. Ħu l-każ per eżempju tat-tagħrif dwar il-Lunzjata; fejn sa ssib dan it-tagħrif ukoll!
L-istess dwar San Dimitri u suġġetti oħra; l-istess jingħad għall-ġgrajjiet kurrenti bħal dwar dak il-funeral singulari li daħlet għalih il-Parroċċa ta' San Gorġ! Il-letteratura wkoll għandha sehem kkbir li ma tintilifx! U nista' nibqa' sejjer! Ciao jm ATTARD - GOZO

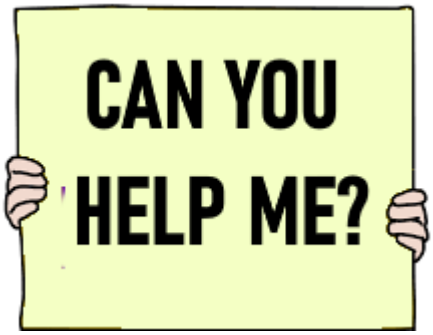
Street Elements Hiphop Artists is feeling proud.

.

Local dance crew Street Elements just qualified for the Dance World Cup Finals in Spain, acquiring an 88.5 score i.e first place in the Children large Group Street Dance Category..

They secured a spot in the finals of this prestigious competition, bringing together top talent from around the world! This achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and passion for hip-hop and dance.

A huge thank you to Ms. Charlene Grange , All The AMAZING Group & Their Amazing Parents who believed in us and supported.



Request for some ancestry data about Dom Mintoff

annetarosati@gmail.com

Dear editor

Thanks for reading and hopefully helping my quest.

My name is Anneta Rosati, I live in Mackay Queensland.

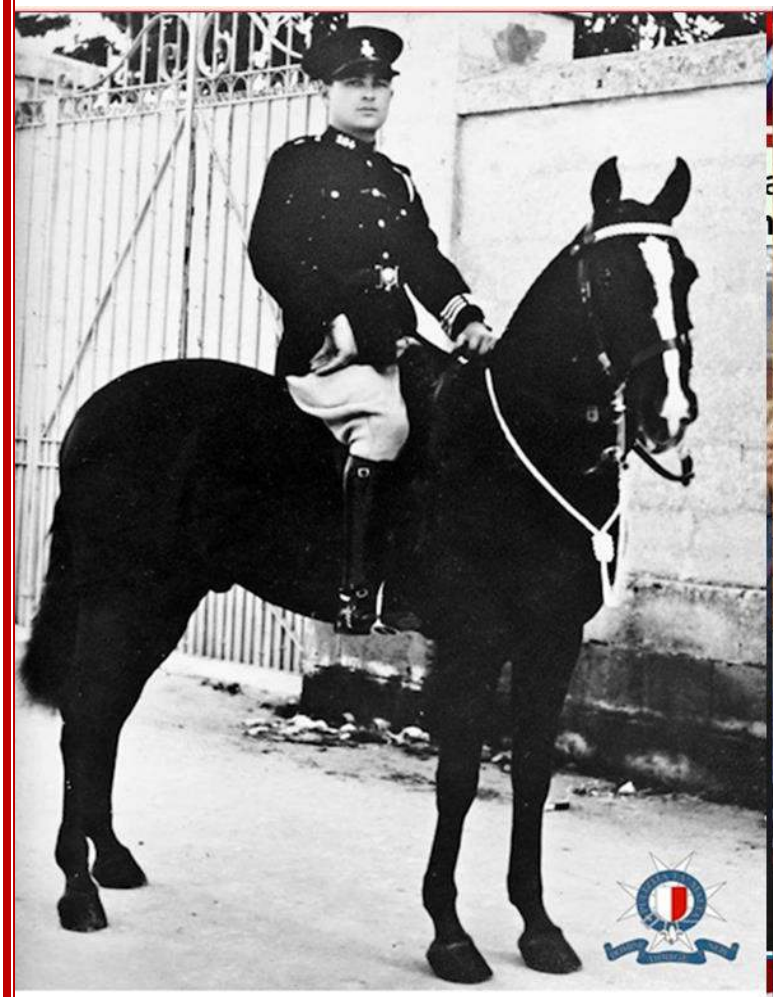
My mother's maiden surname was Rocco, from Hamrun. My maternal grandmother was Anneta D'Amato from Hamrun. My maternal great grandmother was Vittoria Vassalo, daughter of Spiridione Vassallo and Giovanna Mintoff.

I would like to ask a favour. Would you be able to search the internet and provide any links with the information I seek, or provide the information using your research sources and skills or provide data and or research links from any colleague in Malta?

The data I would like is:

- The names of both (husband & wife), the paternal grandparents of the late Dom Mintoff.
  - Possibly also the maiden name of the paternal grandmother
- The names of both (husband & wife), the maternal grandparents of the late Dom Mintoff.
  - Possibly also the maiden name of the maternal grandmother
- Any internet site where these ancestors of Dom may be seen in ancestry standard format. I would hope that you will help my enquiry or seek help from another valued source.

Regards and thanks Anneta Rosati from Mackay, Queensland Australia



This is PC 284 Grezzju Cassar, Malta Police Force, a dedicated horseman who was sadly killed during an air raid during the Malta Blitz.
Then only 27 years old, PC 284 stood his ground in the Mounted Section's stables to comfort his terrified horse, only for both of them to be killed when a bomb was dropped nearby.
Photo: Malta Police Museum Collection

St. Nicholas Feast at Plumpton NSW

The journal is a highlight of my week,
It's free, friendly and non-political

J. Buttigieg