JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com

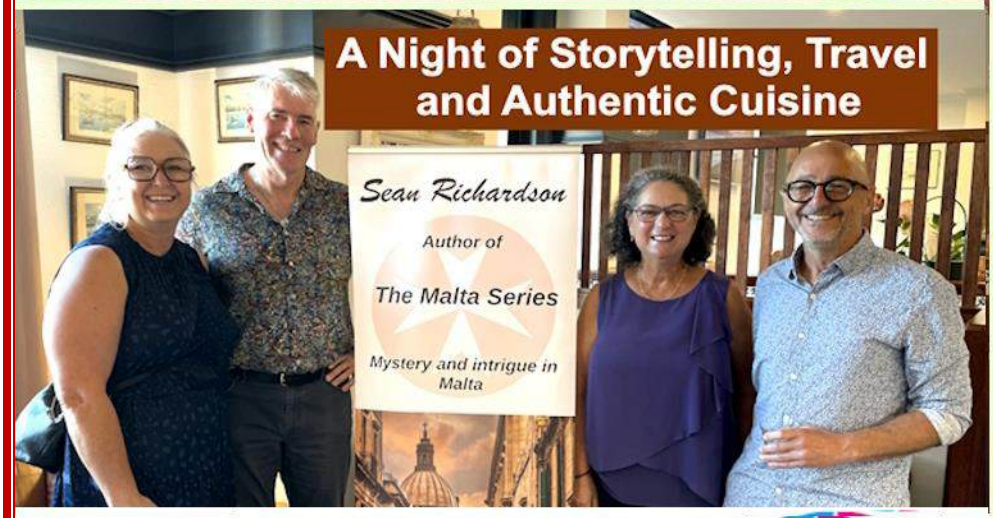
FTUĦ TA' LIBRERIJA PUBBLIKA FIL-KONSOLAT F'MELBOURNE L-AWSTRALJA

Hon Anglu Farrugia
SPEAKER

ZALZETT MALTI

MALTESE SAUSAGE

Prof. Stephen Montefort
Malta HC for UK



MALTESE AMERICAN
White House adviser who fueled the Trump-Musk feud

SERGIO GOR

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
MALTA IN THE WORLD
TEAMWORK MATTERS

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MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Malta in the World

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

MEETING OF THE DELEGATES AND MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

On Tuesay 3 June 2025 the Australian delegates of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) **Ms Judith Buhagiar and Ms Amie Cardona** from f Victoria; **Ms Miriam Friggieri** and **Dr. Antoine Mangion** from NSW; **Ms Alexandra Micallef** representing the other Staes and Territories, held their first meeting with newly appointed Regional Committee members from across NSW, VIC, AND OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES (We still don't have their names). All 6 members of the CMLA were joined by 14 committed committee members representing the Maltese community of their regional areas (i.e. outside the metropolitan area) — each one eager to contribute ideas, energy, and local knowledge to support our Maltese diaspora and to receive feedback from the communities they represent. They are committed to strengthening connections and enhancing support for Maltese communities throughout Australia.

We will publish a report of the meeting as soon as it is available to us for the information to all Maltese living abroad. We will also let you know who the members of the regional committees are and which region they represent. From the feedback I constantly receive our readers are eager to receive more details about the Council of Maltese living abroad They would like to know so that if they have any suggestion, ideas, comments or problems they can contact them easily.

It is imperative that we, the editor and readers of the Maltese journal keep connected with the Council and work together as a team.

WE ♥ THE MALTESE JOURNAL

I enjoy reading the periodical THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER. Years ago, I visited many Malta and Gozo sites on trips to Malta - which still fascinate me. I also remember the Sliema Govt. School Bus ie the 'Xarabank' excursions to some of those historical parts of Malta. In those days it was a fantastic day out, learning history and doing projects on our varied trips

Please, forward this AussieMaltese Journal to your friends worldwide to support the amazing Editor Frank Scicluna. You can also forward information or memories you might have on Malta, Gozo, Kemuna etc directly to Frank who will appreciate it. Enjoy - love Nannie Nance Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM (NSW AUSTRALIA)

THE MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PRINTS THE MALTESE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SA EVERY FRIDAY AT KILBURN FREE OF CHARGE

Consulate General of Malta in Melbourne

FTUĦ TA' LIBRERIJA PUBBLIKA FIL-KONSOLAT F'MELBOURNE

Il-Konsolat Ġenerali għall-Istat tal-Victoria għandu pjaċir iħabbar li librerija ta' kotba Maltin issa hija miftuħa għall-pubbliku fl-uffiċċju tal Konsolat f'Melbourne.

Din hi inizjattiva tad-Direttorat għas-Servizzi Konsolari u Maltin Jgħixu Barra, fi ħdan l-Uffiċċju tad-Deputat Prim Ministru u l Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u t-Turiżmu, f'kollaborazzjoni maċ-Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti fi ħdan il-Ministeru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali b'kollaborazzjoni ma' aġenziji nazzjonali oħra, fosthom l-Aġenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litteriżmu u Libreriji Maltin.

Il-librerija tinkludi għażla ta' ġeneri u temi għal kull età u interess, inkluż comics u stejjer popolari maqluba għall-Malti, u għadd ta' kotba għat-tfal, li juru d-diversità tal-wirt nazzjonali ta' pajjiżna. Filwaqt li ħafna mill-kotba huma bil-Malti, hemm ukoll kotba bl Ingliż dwar il-wirt kulturali tal-pajjiż. Dan joffri opportunità lil dawk li ma jafux il-lingwa Maltija biex isiru jafu u jinvolvu ruħhom fl istorja u l-kultura tal-ġejjer Maltin. Il-librerija tinsab fl-uffiċċju tal-Konsolat f'Suite 613, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne u hija miftuħa mit-Tnejn sal-Ġimgħa (barra f'festi pubbliċi) mid-9.00 am-12.00pm. Għal aktar tagħrif tistgħu tikkuntattjawna billi iċċemplu fuq 9670 8427 jew permezz tal-email maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt

The Consulate General for the State of Victoria is pleased to announce that a Maltese book library is now open to the public at the Consulate office in Melbourne. This is an initiative of the Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad, within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, in collaboration with the Maltese Language Centre within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government in collaboration with other national agencies, including the National Literacy Agency and Maltese Libraries. The library includes a selection of genres and themes for all ages and interests, including comics and popular stories translated into Maltese, and a number of children's books, which showcase the diversity of our country's national heritage. While most of the books are in Maltese, there are also books in English on the country's cultural heritage. This offers an opportunity for those who do not know the Maltese language to learn about and engage in the history and culture of the Maltese Islands. The library is located in the Consulate office at Suite 613, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne and is open Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from 9.00 am-12.00 pm. For more information you can contact us by calling 9670 8427 or by emailing maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt ***Dr Giocoda Schemnri – Consul-General – Victoria***

THE MALTESE JOURNAL IN SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you once again for an enjoyable Newsletter.

A comment on Maltese Diaspora – South Africa (Maltese eNewsletter 563). After WW 2, the biggest employer in Malta, the Dockyard, was no longer as active as prior to, and during the war. Hence the mass migration from Malta. In this period, the Royal Navy had a base in Simonstown, South Africa. Some of the early Maltese secured jobs at this base, but then Britain decided to withdraw from South Africa, and this resulted in job shrinkage at the base. Most of the Maltese came to Simonstown during this period to secure jobs. Regards Ronald – ZANZIBAR - AFRICA

850 MALTESE BOOKS FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

May 6, 2025

Over 850 Maltese books are making their way to Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy and Belgium in a new initiative to set up libraries for Maltese diasporas across the world.

The Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, in collaboration with Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government have teamed up with other national agencies, including the National Literacy Agency and Malta Libraries, to set up these libraries in areas which can reach a substantial Maltese diaspora.

The first books in this initiative for Maltese diplomatic missions have already reached the Maltese Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. Other books donated through this collaboration are now being shipped to the other embassies as well.

To consolidate this collaboration, the Directorate has signed an agreement with Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, to provide linguistic services to the directorate and to Maltese communities abroad, with plans for more future projects promoting the Maltese language among the Maltese diasporas. This agreement was signed by Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism and Dr Maris Camilleri, Acting Chief Executive of Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti, who were accompanied by Chirelle Ellul Sciberras, Director Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad and Kevin Mahoney, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

Each of the Maltese libraries abroad will include a selection of genres and topics for all ages and interests, including comics and popular stories translated into Maltese, evidencing the diversity of Malta's national heritage. Malta Libraries has also contributed with books in English about Maltese heritage. This allows readers who do not know the Maltese language the opportunity to discover and engage with Maltese history and culture.

Academic Dr Charles Daniel Saliba has also contributed to these new libraries by donating complete sets of the first level of the Maltese for Foreigners series, while author Charles Buttigieg contributed books from his series Karamellu tar-Raħal t'Isfel. The new libraries and other related initiatives as part of this collaboration will be a valuable resource for the educational or cultural programmes of Maltese representations abroad, as they promote and encourage interest in the Maltese language. They will foster cultural exchange between the Maltese islands and communities of Maltese and Gozitans living abroad, giving visitors to Maltese embassies the opportunity to explore the richness of the Maltese language.

Annual Sette Giugno Commemoration Service at Civic Park, Pendle Hill - NSW

Marisa Previtera OAM (NSW)

On Sunday 8th June, 2025 the Maltese Community Council of New South Wales held the annual Sette Giugno Commemoration Services at Civic Park Pendle Hill where the Maltese Bi Centennial Memorial stands proudly to this day.

The MCC remembers the Uprising against the British on the Seventh June, 1919, at a time of great hardship and low employment and marks the beginning of the fight for independence for Malta. The commemoration service was very well attended and the MCC Events team delivered another well organised community event. The President, of the MCC, Miriam Friggieri gave a brief welcome address and paid a special tribute to Life Member and pioneer of the MCC, Mr George Bartolo OAM, who passed away earlier

The MC Lisa Bright ensured a smooth flowing program and the Keynote Speaker, Mr Paul Zammit OAM, KSG, FAICD delivered his address with attention to the historic events and pride in his Maltese heritage. H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg was also in attendance.

A recorded audio message was played from the Speaker of the House of Malta, Angelo Farrugia. Invited guests in attendance included, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Dr Hugh McDermott, Member for Prospect, Mr Stephen Bali, MP, Member for Blacktown, Ms Julia Finn, MP Member for Granville and Councillors from Cumberland Council who always support the MCC's events.

The Maltese Concert Band, under the direction of Mr Roderick Pirotta, gave a polished and inspiring performance. Photos - *Marisa Previtera*

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF NSW
STREGTH IN UNITY

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PROPOSES 'MEDITERRANEAN PEACE CHARTER': "THE MEDITERRANEAN MUST BECOME THE RICHEST SEA IN PEACE, NOT IN BLOODŻ

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anġlu Farrugia, has proposed a new framework for regional peace, the **Carta Mediterranea della Pace**, during a conference held at the Kore University of Enna in Sicily.

Outlining a vision rooted in neutrality, ecological justice, human dignity, and intercultural understanding, Speaker Farrugia declared: *"The Mediterranean must become the richest sea in peace, not in blood."*

He described Malta's recognition of the State of Palestine as *"an act of historical justice and moral coherence,"* while stressing the urgent need for a humanitarian response to the ongoing suffering in Gaza.

The proposed Charter outlines several strategic commitments, including active neutrality without militarisation, peace education in Mediterranean schools and universities, regional cooperation for sustainable development and a dignified, rights-based approach to migration.

"**Neutrality is not a slogan—it is a foundation for moral leadership,**" the Speaker said, adding: *"There can be no peace in Europe without peace in the Mediterranean."*

Reflecting on recent challenges within the European Union, Dr Farrugia emphasised the need for declared values to align with policy actions, particularly with regard to international humanitarian law. He called for greater accountability and dialogue in EU external relations.

Addressing academic institutions, the Speaker encouraged universities like Kore di Enna to become *"forges of vision"* and to drive a new cultural transformation built on shared responsibility and historical ties. He anchored his address in Malta's long-standing neutral foreign policy and leadership in Mediterranean diplomacy, citing Prime Minister Dom Mintoff's 1975 speech in Helsinki as a foundational moment that positioned the Mediterranean at the heart of Europe's peace architecture.

A TASTE OF MALTA IN MELBOURNE: by Sean Richardson

A Night of Storytelling, Travel, and Authentic Cuisine

Melbourne recently played host to a unique cultural experience as fiction writer Sean Richardson, tour specialist Nick Desira, and restauranteur Mark Mizzi collaborated to bring A Taste of Malta to the city. The special event celebrated Maltese heritage through storytelling, travel, and traditional

cuisine, offering guests an immersive evening that transported them to the heart of the Mediterranean.

The event featured Sean Richardson, author of The Maltese Web, talking about his thriller set in Malta that follows the gripping story of Marica Debono, the country's best financial investigator. As

Debono hunts international criminals seeking to exploit Malta's financial system, she unearths a web of secrets one of which connects to her family. His talk explained how Malta's rich history and
culture inspired his novel, giving patrons a glimpse into the intrigue woven into his storytelling.
Nick and Steph Desira, founders of Desire to Travel, showcased their small-group tours to Malta, designed to provide visitors with an authentic and immersive experience of the islands. Their itineraries go beyond the usual tourist hotspots, connecting travellers with the real Malta and its hidden gems.
Meanwhile, Mark Mizzi's restaurant provided the perfect culinary backdrop for the evening, serving
up a menu filled with traditional Maltese dishes. With a dedication to authenticity, the restaurant prides itself on making many of its own ingredients, ensuring that patrons experience the true flavours of Malta.
The event was a resounding success, bringing together literature, travel, and food to celebrate Malta's cultural richness. It offered Melburnians a rare opportunity to engage with the Maltese way
of life, connecting many to their memories of Malta, and left others inspired to experience Malta firsthand.
The Maltese Web is available on Amazon as an E-book or paperback. For a unique experience to explore Malta, contact Nick Desira at desiretotravel.com.au and enjoy great Maltese food at Mark
Mizzi's restaurant – Nanna's Place Mediterranean restaurant in South Melbourne. You can find Sean's writing on and stories about Malta at seanrichardson.com.au

INAUGURATED THE EMBASSY OF MALTA IN BRASÍLIA

On June 3, 2022, Malta's current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Dr. Ian Borg, officially inaugurated the Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Brasília. H.E. John Aquilina became Malta's first Resident Ambassador of Malta to Brazil and the first Resident Ambassador in Latin America, with Mr Stephen Cachia as the Deputy Head of Mission. Stephen concluded his distinguished mission in Brazil in February and Mr Bernard Vella is now the new Deputy. On March 28, 2024, John Aquilina also became the Ambassador to Chile, when he presented his Credentials to President Gabriel Boric. Traditionally, Maltese foreign policy has focused on its neighbourhood: the Mediterranean, Europe, and North Africa. The opening of the first diplomatic mission in Latin America represented an unprecedented step in broadening its horizons. Malta currently has 45 missions abroad, spread across six continents. The Embassy is committed to strengthening political, commercial, and cultural ties. Each year, a growing number of Brazilians choose Malta to study English, further solidifying people-to-people diplomacy, and thousands are coming to Malta as tourists. The Embassy also works in tandem with the EU Delegation in Brazil in areas such as Human Rights, Climate Change, Deforestation, Environment (COP30), Maritime Routes, Research & Innovation, Trade, and other global issues.

SEARCH FOR MISSING 78-YEAR-OLD FISHERMAN IN PORT KEMBLA - WOLLONGONG, NSW

Darren Malone

The search for missing fisherman has been called off after a 3 day extensive search by emergency services and volunteers.
Unfortunately he hasn't been found yet
Paul Galea 78 from Penrith loved his fishing and has been fishing the Port Kembla area's since the 1970s.
And an egg farmer in Llandilo egg farm the family owned business since 1963. He was known as a very strong-minded fisherman when it came to safety.
The amazing family aware that it's now a recovery and just want Paul home to have a burial.
Thank you to everyone involved who helped search for this amazing man MULTI-AGENCY SEARCH OPERATION Emergency services did the search for missing man after a boat overturned Near the port Kembla, Wollongong with Marine Rescue Port Kembla 31 and Water Police NSW Maritime included in the search.

Press Release by the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry For Foreign Affairs and Tourism and Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg opens the MHRA Malta Hospitality Forum 2025

Quality and sustainability become synonymous in shared efforts to preserve unique charm of the Maltese Islands

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism Ian Borg officially opened the Malta Hospitality Forum 2025, hosted by the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association (MHRA), in Qawra, on Tuesday.
Under the theme "Malta Sabiħa" (Malta is beautiful), this year's Forum focused on the importance of enhancing the experience of visitors to the Maltese Islands, with discussions on several elements that make Malta more competitive and beloved as a destination.
In his keynote opening address, Deputy Prime Minister Borg welcomed the theme of the Forum, underscoring the need to appreciate, preserve and celebrate the unique charm of the Maltese Islands. "We still have challenges to overcome and areas to improve, but no one can deny that the beauty of the Malta experience continues to attract more visitors, year after year. Efforts to highlight the unique pull factors of our islands are in sync with our strategy, and we stand ready to support all stakeholders in this direction," he said.
The Government is working towards a year-round tourism model which seeks to attract tourists to the destination for its best attributes, experiences and offers. "As we are proposing in the Malta Vision 2050, we are aiming for tourism which acts in harmony with the social and natural environments; tourism which respects landscapes, traditions, people and all those things which can be presented to our visitors as part of a genuine and unique experience. It is such aspects which attract the discerning, quality visitor, who would be willing to pay higher premiums," Dr Borg explained.

The Tourism Ministry and the Malta Tourism Authority are actively engaged in efforts to diversify the Maltese tourism offering, constantly establishing new motivational segments and reasons to visit. In this regard, Malta is enriched with a wide variety of man-made, natural, cultural, culinary, tangible and intangible offers and experiences, surrounded by blue seas and favourable weather conditions, a combination which even larger competitors struggle to put together.

"All of this links directly with sustainability, as it places tourism and all that is worth safeguarding in Malta, Gozo and Comino within the same value chain. Thus, tourism increasingly becomes a supporter of those elements which not only distinguish us, but which we are also responsible to preserve for posterity. In this way, quality tourism and sustainable tourism become synonymous," Deputy Prime Minister Borg stated.

He also highlighted ongoing efforts to reinforce Malta's mix of short and long-haul air connectivity services with new direct long-haul flights, as well as the Malta Tourism Authority's increased marketing operations, with stronger overseas networks and highly targeted digital marketing initiatives.

On the 6th of June 1948, John Gauci, an architectural draftsman, married Violet Briffa, who was at home helping her mother care for a large family.

They were each other's first boyfriend and girlfriend. They had met nearly two years earlier and were committed to one another from very early in their relationship.

Temperamentally, they were very different. He was methodical, highly organised, and cautious, hesitant to make the wrong decision by acting too hastily. She was spontaneous, artistic, and full of energy. They complemented each other in a relationship built on equality.

As their children were born, they were deeply dedicated to their upbringing, showering them with love. They gave them the precious gift of time—playing, storytelling, praying daily with them, and teaching them. There is much I could say about their commitment and fidelity.

As they faced life's challenges, such as the death of children, illness, and many other hardships, they brought out the best in one another. It is with deep gratitude that I remember my parents. Not perfect people—but great people nonetheless. Wonderful role models for me, and motivators who continue to inspire me to share what I've been given with others. Thanks be to God. Today, my younger sister turns 70 years of age.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION

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INTERFAITH UNITY

Fr. Lonnie Borg mssp Facebook

This photograph captures a powerful moment of interfaith unity. At the center stands Pope Leo XIV, sharing a peaceful encounter with two Sikh men.

The Sikh representatives are dressed in traditional attire, each holding a ceremonial sword known as a kirpan, a sacred symbol in the Sikh faith. One wears a blue turban and sash, while the other is dressed in white with a light green turban. This image reflects mutual respect, harmony, and the spirit of dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Sikh community. Photo: © Vatican News

19 June 2025 1900hrs GMT (2000hrs Malta)

FRIENDS OF VALLETTA

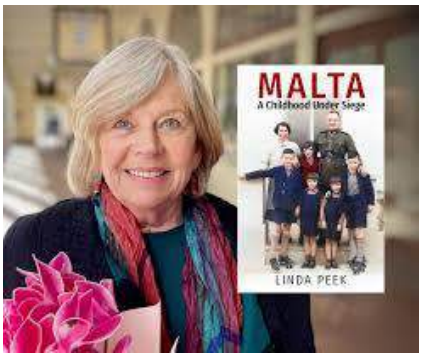
City of Chichester - Valletta Capital of Malta

A Medic's View of the Ties Between Chichester/UK and Valletta/Malta By His Excellency Professor Stephen Montefort, Malta High Commissioner to the UK

You are warmly invited to a special talk by His Excellency Professor Stephen Montefort, Malta's High Commissioner to the UK, speaking in person at the Council Chamber in Chichester at 1900hrs (2000hrs Malta time), Thursday 19 June. The talk will also be transmitted on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. The Zoom session will open a few minutes beforehand. This talk is open to all, whether in the UK, in Malta or elsewhere: everyone is welcome. Proceeds will support 'Puttinu Cares', a Maltese charity which helps many Maltese patients who receive specialist treatment in the UK, see https://puttinucares.org/about-us/. Please donate £5 or 5 euro, or more as you wish, to attend this talk. You can donate in person on the day, or online, either directly to Puttinu Cares, via https://puttinucares.org/your-donation/ , or to Friends of Valletta for us to forward on your behalf. Our BACS details are as follows, Account: Friends of Valletta, Sort code: 60-03-08. Account number 81138695.

Please add your name as reference, followed by '19 June', e.g. Smith-19June. The talk will be recorded for the Friends of Valletta website. Your attendance is taken as consent to potentially appear on the recording. You are also very welcome to enrol as a Friend of Valletta, only £10 p.a., to receive our 'Melita' newsletter and invitations to future talks, see https://www.friendsofvalletta.org/membership/. Previous 'Melita' newsletters and recordings of talks are on our website. Please share this invitation widely, and support Puttinu Cares. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday evening 19 June.

This week at the High Commission in the United Kingdom, author Linda Peek launched her book



"Malta: A Childhood Under Siege", a compelling memoir of the childhood of her mother, Margaret Staples, in war-torn Malta during World War II.

The book vividly portrays the relentless bombardment and siege that Malta endured due to its strategic position in the Mediterranean. Linda's narrative interweaves historical events with personal stories, shedding light on the daily challenges, fears, and triumphs of the Maltese people, showcasing their incredible resilience and unity. After an introduction by the High Commissioner and a presentation by the author, there ensued an engaging Q&A session with the audience.

TRUMP AND MUSK FALLOUT: WAS THE MALTESE SERGIO GOR THE SPARK BEHIND THE FEUD?

A Malta-born 38-year-old US man from Cospicua who works close to Trump was instrumental in causing feud with Musk

Sergio Gor (born November 30, 1986) born in Cospicua. For him, the city of Cospicua is number one. He left Malta with his family at the age of twelve and studied at a University in the United States.

Today Sergio Gor has found himself at the heart of the public fallout between US President Donald Trump and tech billionaire Elon Musk. According to a report by the *New York Post*, simmering tensions, personal vendettas, and behind-the-scenes manoeuvring triggered the dramatic rift between the two influential figures. The decision reportedly came just hours after Musk exited the Oval Office. Sergio Gor is the director of Presidential Personnel in the Trump administration. Gor played a significant role in the withdrawal of Jared Isaacman's nomination to lead NASA in June 2025. Isaacman, a tech billionaire and associate of Elon Musk, had been approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with a 19-9 vote on April 30, 2025, and was expected to secure strong Senate support. However, Gor lobbied against the nomination, highlighting Isaacman's past donations to Democrats, which led to Trump withdrawing the nomination, citing "prior associations" after a review. The decision contributed to tensions between Trump and Musk, with Gor's influence cited as a factor in their public falling out. Gor is a frequent presence at Mar-a-Lago and maintains a close relationship with former Marvel executive Isaac Perlmutter, a major Trump donor and ally. Gor is an amateur DJ in the Palm Beach, Florida area. He is fluent in English and Maltese.

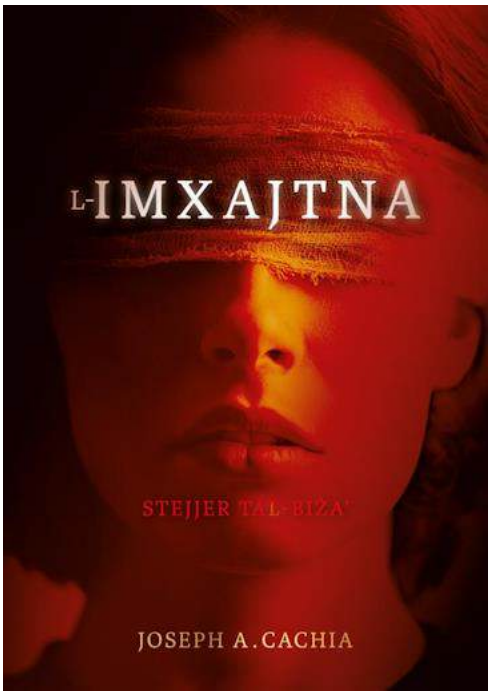
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD

missions.foreign.gov.mt

The Government of Malta has 45 missions overseas, spread across 6 continents and 34 countries. There are 6 types of missions, which can be sub-divided mainly into bilateral, multilateral and consular missions, and others being a mixture between them.

The traditional type of mission is an Embassy which is located in the capital city of the host country. Another type of mission is a High Commission, which is like an Embassy but located in a country of the Commonwealth. Embassies and High Commissions are bilateral missions, which are focused in particular on the political, commercial, cultural and economic relations amongst others, between Malta and the host country.

Multilateral Missions are called Permanent Missions or Permanent Representative and are accredited to an international organization in the host country, such as the United Nations in New York, the OSCE in Vienna, or to the European Union in Brussels. Consulates or Consulates General are primarily focused on consular matters such as the provision of passports or the registration of foreign life events of Maltese residents or the visa process to enable third country nations to travel to Malta. Consular work is also performed by the consular section in our bilateral missions.



BDL books

L-IMXAJTNA -THE POSSESSED

Author – Joseph A Cachia

Paperback €14.95

This is a collection of nine scary stories that should make you wonder if what you read could have really happened. There is a connection between the living and the dead that can bring them closer together. The living may encounter the dead... or the one who pretends to be dead.

And how do spirits, good and bad, affect those who have lived their lives as if nothing happened after they close their eyes in death? In these stories we will meet a haunted girl during the time of Grand Master Pinto. We will also meet a man who claims to continue to have ties to his mother even after her death. Then there is that mother and her daughter who dream the same dreams in connection with a crime that occurred more than a hundred years earlier.

Towards the end of the 19th century, a ship carrying a creature that would change the lives of a family arrived in Malta. The consequences of this are still felt today when a man with one hand recounts a macabre story. Was there a connection between a famous tenor who never spoke and elderly people who began to die after hearing him sing? Would you like to look in the mirror and see what you will be like in fifty years? It's better not to know because you will surely be scared by what you see!

HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION FROM MALTA'S POUNDING TO A NEW LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

This article was published in THE RECORD (WA) on 22 Aug 2012

(The late) Felix and Rita Calleja survived the terror of the German bombing of Malta during World War ll to start a new life for their family in Australia. Photo- Paul Calleja

Seventy years ago Felix Calleja and Rita Grech stood at the altar of the Hal Lija Church of the Transfiguration in Malta and took their marriage vows, promising to be true in good times and in bad, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health; till death do them part.

War determined that these vows would first be tested in the bad times.

Nazi bombs destroyed many of their engagement presents the night before the wedding and rained down near their village during the ceremony, shaking the church and terrifying the congregation.

The raids commenced in early evening and continued through the night, forcing Felix and Rita to spend their first night as a married couple in a cramped and damp cellar, sheltering from the menacing bombs with a dozen or so frightened friends and strangers. Starvation times followed, forcing Rita, now expecting her first child, to stave off hunger pains during the night by eating carob seeds.

Then came the sleepless nights as her new-born cried for food she could not supply.

Shortly after war's end Felix and Rita experienced a new depth of pain with the loss of their second child who died at 10 months old from the poor health conditions of post war Malta.

Migration, resettlement a world away from Malta and raising eight children in a liberal society that challenged the values of conservative Malta, all tested their vow to stay together in bad times.

But good times eventually arrived and largely stayed to this day.

Their eight children carved out successful careers for themselves, married and produced 24 grandchildren who, in turn, produced 17 great-grandchildren – at the last count.

They are now in the first year of their ninth decade and, although they have the expected ache and pain, companions of old age, both are in relatively good health. The couple are also of sound mind, have good eye-sight and mobility, even if a little restricted. But their greatest asset is their family of 49 descendants who are close to them and are always ready to keep their good times rolling on.

Source: ***The Record*** *is the weekly newspaper of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth.. - WA*

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR ANCESTOR'S STORY. WE WILL PUBLISH IT IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR HISTORY'S SAKE AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

"The Gut" Strait Street in Valletta Malta

STRADA STRETTA

in the 50s to 70s

PAWLU T-TORK

The real battle of battles in Strait Street history remains strongly etched in the brain of those who can remember it, and took place in 1950, a time when thousands of British troops were being withdrawn from Palestine where they had dealt with the front-line brutal confrontations between the newly-launched state of Israel and the start of Palestinian resistance. These were of necessity tough and hard-grained commandos sorely deprived of female company and alcohol during their stint in Palestine. At "The Gut" they amply made up for lost time and for many weeks trouble had been brewing.

The residents of Valletta had, over the decades, become almost totally inured to troublesome occurrences but the quarrelsome conduct of these returning commandos was more than they could bear and particularly that of one commando troop, which ran amok amongst the many bars and drinking clubs. An ad hoc meeting of bar and club owners, as well as the various minders and bouncers fashioned a "Valletta Troop" and on one early evening they formed a chain determined to bar the commandos from entering the street.

The result, of course, was bedlam. The commandos were tough, but the "Valletta Troop" was tougher and resilient, seasoned as they were in street fighting and tackling trouble. Pitch battles ensued over the next three nights (the local constabulary seemed "unaware" of what was happening and the British Military Police could only deal with British servicemen). Finally, the British Admiralty acted and confined all servicemen to their troop ships until the troublesome commandos sailed away.

Amongst the fiercest local individuals was one "Pawlu t-Tork" (Paul the Turk), a most interesting and endearing character. He was a gigantic man of Turkish descent who by day worked as a bread-seller pushing a large wooden trolley laden with fresh bread, the most gentle and docile of men despite his massive build. His endearing calls of "Pawlu hawn" (Paul is here) became a bye-word in Malta. By night he was a different character and worked as a bouncer, a seasoned and accomplished street fighter who was frequently challenged by other bruisers to bare-knuckle fights but always emerged victorious.

With the Admiralty announcement, the "Valletta Troop" claimed victory, and henceforth, the residents of Valletta became affectionately known as "Tal-Palestina" and their war cry "Tal-Palestina, hadd ma just Ghalina" (we are invincible and nobody can match us). Although many years have elapsed, the slogan is still widely used today and particularly chanted during football matches when Valletta FC is playing! As for "Paul the Turk" he died many years ago but is still affectionately remembered as a folklore character for his sales-pitch cry of "Pawlu hawn".

AFTER I ANNOUNCED THAT I NEED HELP TO CONTINUE PUBLISHING THIS UNIQUE NEWLETTER AFTER 12 YEARS. I RECEIVED MANY OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE READERS, CORRESPONDENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS. I THANK YOU ALL. I WILL GIVE YOU MORE INFORMATION LATER ON. STAY CONNECTED

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS IN MALTA

Malta and its sister islands of Gozo & Comino, a Mediterranean archipelago, offer visitors an off-season Summer experience in the Fall months with a diverse range of festivals & events. This hidden gem is perfect for travellers looking for off the beaten path destinations that offer breathtaking landscapes, a year round warm climate, and appeal to a diverse group of travelers. With more than 8,000 years of history, Michelin-starred gastronomy, local wine and year round festivals, there is something for every visitor, even during the Fall months. .

VILLAGE *FESTAS* (MAY-SEPTEMBER)

If you like local festivities or festivals, Malta is the place for you. The Maltese have more than 75 local village feasts during the summer. These originally religious festivities are in honour of the town's patron saint. All events like this in Malta have fireworks, religious processions and brass band music marches, which are all very fun to watch. These events are so popular among tourists that a few local tour operators even organise trips to some of the most popular "festas". Catch a glimpse of what Malta is all about, specially in the main events of Saturdays and Sundays.

MALTA INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL (JULY)

This international festival in Malta is organised every year since 1990. The three-day event always features top musicians that Jazz lovers will recognize. Expect to find a mix of Jazz styles performing under the beautiful Maltese night sky in the historical location of Ta'Liesse, in the Great Harbour of Valletta. Even if you are not a Jazz fan, the setting of this great festival in Malta is something not to be missed.

THE FARSONS GREAT BEER FESTIVAL (LATE JULY)

The Farsons Great Beer Festival claims to be the biggest and most diverse free outdoor festival in Malta. Of course it is sponsored by Farsons, a Maltese brand which sells the beer produced and imported by them. But this is an event for the whole family in a popular environment with around 40 live bands performing on two stages, kids' Fantasyland and a lot of Maltese food and drink. The festival starts at 8pm everyday, in Ta'Qali park. Entrance and parking is free.

MALTA'S DELICATA WINE FESTIVAL (EARLY AUGUST)

The first edition of Malta's wine festival was in 2002. This Maltese event is the way the country celebrates the beginning of the wine harvest. It offers visitors a wide range of quality wines from Malta and Gozo in the beautiful setting of the Upper Barrakka Gardens, once again in the Grand Harbour of Valletta. To have a taste of Maltese wine production in the festival, simply buy a glass at the entrance (which you take home as a souvenir and costs around €10). Then try as many wines as you want, if you're over 18. Open 7pm-11.30pm, in the event you can also buy bottles of wine or try international and Maltese food while watching renowned artists perform live. Another event within the festival is the annual wine regatta, which takes grapes from the waterfront's winery to the grape crushers in the Upper Barrakka Gardens. In the first days of September, a sister event of Malta's

Delicata Wine Festival is held in Nadur, Gozo. The concept is exactly the same but this one celebrates the closing of the Maltese grape harvest.

CEREMONY OF OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (SEPTEMBER)

This event celebrates the lifting of the 1565 siege against the Turks, the capitulation of the French in 1800 and the end of the siege of the Axis powers in 1943, all part of Malta's history. On the same day, Valletta's Grand Harbour is the scenery to a traditional regatta of colourful boats.

GUARDIA PARADES (ALMOST ALL YEAR ROUND)

In Guardia Parades are colourful events in which actors show tourists in Malta how the inspection of the Fort St Elmo and its troops was actually made by the Grand Bailiff of the Order of the Knights of St John. Organised by Malta Tourism Authority, In Guardia Parades are performed by about 70 actors dressed in ceremony uniforms from that time of Malta's history, demonstrating the military power of the Maltese.

This event is held on Sundays in the Fort St Elmo, weather permitting. It starts at 11.00am and lasts around 40 minutes. Visitors buy their tickets at the gate: adults €5, children 6-12 and students €3.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (SEPTEMBER 21)

Independence Day is celebrated every year since 1964, when Malta attained its independence from the UK. Several events take place in different settings.

MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW (LATE SEPTEMBER)

The first edition of this Maltese Air Festival was back in 1993. Throughout the day (10.00-18.00h), on land, visitors have access to some of the Luqa Airfield ramps (south of Valletta), watch the many types of civil and military aircrafts on display or chat with the pilots in The Malta International Airshow. You even have aircrafts from World War II, in which Malta played a vital role.

Up in the air, parachute teams perform as well as a lot of planes from different eras. The Red Arrows squadron and RAF planes such as Harrier, Jaguar and Hawk are regular visitors. There is also a "Merlins over Malta" feature event with the legendary Spitfire doing a fly pass over your head. Take your camera with you and enjoy this event in Malta.

NOTTE BIANCA

Notte Bianca (White Night) is a free event that lasts all night, from 6pm-6am, in Valletta's public spaces. It is Malta's version of the open city concept that some other European capitals have one time a year. In Malta, Valletta's monuments, public and private art galleries and important building are open to visitors during all night, together with many shops and restaurants. Expect to find a lot of people enjoying Malta's history, the arts and folklore also shown in original events that cover music, theatre, cinema and dance.

BIRGUFEST (OCTOBER)

The BirguFest Festival in Malta was created to celebrate the past of Citta Vittoriosa (Birgu's old name) and show its history and beautiful architecture. But it soon became one of the biggest and best cultural events in Malta.

The festival lasts 3 days, in which activities held throughout the day consist of guided tours around the city, re-enactments, parades, traditional and modern musical concerts, exhibitions and food stalls offering not only Maltese food but also other tasty delicacies. Birgu's museums are open late, entrances are cheaper and some usually closed venues open to to public.

But the absolute highlight of this Maltese festival is Birgu by Candlelight, on Saturday night. Around 10,000 candles of all kinds light up the beautiful old Citta Vittorio's, making it the most romantic place in malta, at least for one night.

FESTIVAL MEDITERRANEA (LATE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER)

Festival Mediterranea is an event that turns the Gozo island into a big party that glorifies its cultural and artistic life. There are music concerts, walks and talks in ancient and historic places, field trips, food and drink events and art exhibitions.

Australia has a range of visas that allow skilled workers to come to Australia to live and work and use their skills.

Short stay work visas allow you to work in Australia for a short period of time, either in a specialist area or while you undertake seasonal work on a temporary basis.

Temporary or Provisional skilled visas allow you to work in Australia in a skilled role for a longer period. Some of these visas provide a pathway to permanent residence for applicants who meet certain requirements.

Permanent skilled visas are for migrants who make valuable economic contributions and fill skill shortages in the labour market. If you are granted a permanent skilled visa you become an Australian permanent resident.

www.immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/skilled-migration-program

Festivals in Gozo: The Island of Vibrancy

Gozo - an idyllic island in the middle of the Mediterranean sea, full of vibrant and interesting festivals. Challenged by size, the region makes up for it by the quality and variety of festivals. From contemporary ones to traditional festivals, there is always something happening on the island.

From 20 Village Festas to artistic, cultural and gastronomical festivals, Gozo's event calendar is full of vibrant festivals. Every time you visit the island there will be something unique and different going on - from January to December. For music lovers, Gozo offers a vast range from Classical Operas to more contemporary music such as Pop and Indie. Gozo's musical festivals are designed to ignite the soul of every music lover.

The island of Gozo is the second largest island in the Maltese Archipelago. Located a 30-minute boat ride from the main island of Malta, Gozo spans 67 km2 and includes 14 localities, each with its traditions and identity. The capital city, Victoria, hosts the medieval fortress city of Cittadella which in itself is a mecca of history and culture. The beautiful old town cores of villages are regularly used for festivals - from Folklore Festivals to Literature festivals and other celebrations of culture and religion, performing arts and identity. Gozo's Celebration and vibrant love for arts make up for its challenging size.

What to Expect at a Gozo Feast

A typical Gozitan village festa is a multi-day event filled with activities for all ages:

- **Church Ceremonies:** Masses and novenas dedicated to the patron saint.
- **Street Decorations:** Villages are adorned with coluorful banners, twinkling lights, and statues of saints.
- **Band Marches:** Brass bands parade through streets playing traditional Maltese music.
- **Fireworks:** Spectacular pyrotechnic displays light up the skies both day and night.
- **Food Stalls:** Enjoy local delicacies like mqaret (date pastries), nougat, and pastizzi.
- **Unique Traditions:** Some villages incorporate special activities like horse racing or artistic displays.

Parruccan Confectionery is a hidden gem offering homemade Traditional Maltese Pastries and hand-made Maltese soft and brittle Nougat, crafted with care by the owner himself. It is based in Rabat, Malta Visitors and locals have praised the shop for its pure Maltese delights and are tempted to try a variety of Maltese kannoli, qaghaq tal-ghase, qubbajt, imqaret which promise an authentic taste Malta's culinary heritage.

Guests have also praised the excellent customer service provided by the friendly owner, who often offers free samples and ensures that prices remain affordable. For those seeking a taste of traditional Maltese sweets, PARRUCCAN.

HOW TO MAKE MALTESE SAUSAGES
KIF TAGHMEL IZ-ZALZETT MALTI

They taste great and are pretty easy to make at home, here's how.

Equipment

- You're going to need a Mincer. These can be purchased from kitchen supplies stores or online.
- Stand mixers like a Kitchenaid do have mincing attachments also.
- The next essential piece of hardware you'll need is a SAUSAGE-STUFFER. They can be purchased in a range of sizes from kitchen supplies stores or online.
- Again stand mixers can come with attachments for stuffing sausages.

Recipe For Pork, Sage And Fennel Sausages

Makes around 20 depending on the size of the sausage you'd like to make

Ingredients:

- 1 whole pork shoulder cut into 3cm chunks.
- 3 metres sausage casings (ask your butcher for this when purchasing the shoulder).
- Handful of fresh sage, chopped.
- 2 tbsp. fennel seeds.
- 2 cups (500ml) dry white wine.
- Salt to season the shoulder mince.
-

Method:

1. Clamp the mincer to the kitchen bench or table and then feed the meat through the top, turning the crank as you feed. Use a tray to catch the mince.
2. Dry roast the fennel seeds on a medium heat in a small frying pan until aromatic.
3. Using a mortar and pestle, grind the fennel seeds into a fine powder.
4. In a large bowl, combine the minced pork shoulder, white wine, sage and ground fennel seeds.
5. Season with salt and mix everything by hand until well combined.
6. Take a spoonful of the sausage mixture and fry with a few drops of olive oil in a small frying pan until cooked. Taste the sausage meat, checking if it needs more salt and add to the mixture if needed. Repeat until seasoned to taste.
7. Load the canister of the sausage stuffer, packing down tightly with your hand to make sure there aren't any pockets of air.
8. Select which nozzle you want to use (the wider the nozzle, the thicker the sausage) and attach it to the sausage stuffer. Then, grease the nozzle with a little olive oil to stop the sausage casing from sticking.
9. Find the end of casing and gently pry it open and feed onto the nozzle. Tie a knot in the end of the casing and pull flush up the end of the nozzle where the sausage meet will come out. Trim off the excess casing.
10. Gently turn the crank so that the sausage meat comes through the nozzle into the casing. Don't turn the crank faster than you can handle the sausage forming into the casing.
11. When you've exhausted the sausage meat, pull of 10 cm of casing and cut close to the nozzle, then tie small knot at the end of the sausage.
12. So now you're left with one long sausage. To tie into links, hold a length of about 8 to 10cm of sausage in your left hand gently twist with your right hand to form a link. Repeat until all the sausage are made into separate links.

That's all you need to do to make delicious homemade sausages in your kitchen. Try experimenting with flavours; the options are almost endless.

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

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