JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP - Adelaide - Australia

MALTA Independence Day

MALTESE REGATTA AT THE WOLLONGONG HARBOUR NSW AUSTRALIA

Malta Independence Day

21 September 2025

Contact Louis - louie.parnis@gmail.com

Collect a Printed Copy of the Maltese Journal on Friday at the Maltese Seniors Citizens Club Kilburn - SA

MESSAGE FROM THE PETER MALINAUSKAS PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA ON MALTA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Martina Fenech Wins Konkors Kanzunetta Indipendenza 2025

BISHOP OF GOZO, ANTON TEUMA, TO VISIT THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

MESSAGE FROM THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MALTA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr Frank Scicluna Editor - Maltese Journal
Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com
Dear Mr Scicluna

We write to convey our sincere best wishes to you and your community as you celebrate the Independence Day of Malta on 21 September 2025.

In 1964, Malta emerged as a fully sovereign nation, empowered with the right to determine its own future and destiny, and to establish its own bilateral relations with other countries.

As we reflect on last year's significant milestone-the 60th Anniversary of Malta's Independence and 60 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we are reminded of the importance of preserving cultural heritage, strengthening bilateral ties, and honouring the valuable contributions of the Maltese diaspora in South Australia.

The vibrant Maltese community in our state is a testament to the strength of these bonds. Your community has contributed immensely to our state through its rich cultural heritage, strong work ethic that has supported our economy, and an unwavering commitment to family, community and civics. Malta and its people, both at home and abroad, have long been valued friends and allies of Australia, and we honour this friendship through the celebrations of our proud local Maltese community in our state.

We wish you, your family, friends and community happiness and prosperity as you honour this important day.

Awguri għal Jum l-Indipendenza!
YOURS SINCERELY
PETER MALINAUSKAS PREMIER
ZOE BETTISON - MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

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THE MALTESE JOURNAL

The Journal is recognised by governments and agencies,
and it is distributed to libraries, schools, Maltese clubs,
and thousands of readers worldwide.
It is unique, as it is the only journal dedicated
to Maltese people living abroad.

Email- maltesejournal@gmail.com

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA

E-NEWSLETTER

This article was published in the TIMES OF MALTA on the 14 September 2025

THE 85-YEAR-OLD BATTLING TO KEEP MALTESE IN NORTH AMERICA CONNECTED. DAN BROCK IS A VITAL LINK FOR MALTESE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. BUT WHO WILL SUCCEED HIM?

Emma Borg

An 85-year-old man with no Maltese ancestry is the unlikely force behind a popular e-newsletter that keeps the Maltese community in North America connected. But with no successor in sight, the future of the publication hangs in the balance. Dan Brock is an 85-year-old Canadian of Polish, Irish and English ancestry. He is also the editor of *The Maltese Presence* in North America, a monthly newsletter read by thousands.

Despite not being Maltese, Brock has spent the last six years compiling letters, stories and photos that help Maltese communities, often separated by geography and time, stay in touch.

Yet with the number of Maltese clubs in decline and younger people less involved, Brock has so far found no one to take over the project.

“I’m concerned that without the younger generations, i.e. individuals under 60, joining and taking an active part in the local Maltese clubs, these clubs will be forced to disband,” Brock said.

Although he is not Maltese by heritage, Brock’s connection to the community began through his wife, Loretta, who is Maltese. He has since also become a dual Maltese citizen.

The couple joined the Maltese-Canadian Club of London in 2005. Brock eventually took on several roles in the organisation, including serving as the club’s newsletter editor.

When the London club closed its doors in 2018, Brock considered stepping aside. But instead, he chose to start another newsletter, this time with a wider scope that reached beyond Canada to include Maltese communities throughout North America.

“No one was coming forward to be the ‘glue’ to head this,” Brock said. “I then offered to serve as the ‘clearing house’ for keeping the group in touch via e-mails. This was all that was needed.”

Since then, The Maltese Presence in North America has become a reference point for members of the Maltese diaspora. A place to share community events, celebrate heritage and keep track of social clubs across Ontario, Detroit, New York, California and beyond. Each issue features letters from contributors, photographs of events like boċċi or fenkata nights, and updates on visits by Maltese dignitaries to local clubs.

The newsletter is now in its 73rd issue, having started in January 2019. It is read by a dedicated audience that includes older community members as well as younger readers.

“I know that the newsletter is read by some in their 20s. I have one in mind to hopefully continue the newsletter. He expressed an interest in so doing a few years ago,” Brock said.

However, unfortunately, when he recently tried to contact the person in mind, they did not respond, leaving him in the lurch. Brock, a historian by background, believes his skills have helped him shape the newsletter into something meaningful.

The meet-up of the Toronto and Detroit community in 1945. Photo: Richard Cumbo Toronto

"With my talents in the area of history, I could fill a gap in our community which no one else was occupying," he said. "I believe that God has given me a talent in this area and, in the absence of anyone else stepping forward to undertake the bringing of the Maltese of all North America somehow in touch with one another... it behoves me to step to the plate."

He credits his inspiration to a man named Tony Vella, who he described as "the heart and soul of the London club". One of Vella's dreams was to reunite all the Maltese clubs in North America, something that once happened in 1945 – when the Maltese Society of Toronto and the Maltese Legion of Detroit gathered at St Paul's Hall in Toronto to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Victory. A similar event was attempted in 1981, but it never materialised.

Brock said his idea for the newsletter was also shaped by publications from the Maltese-Australian community, including Frank L. Scicluna's, the Journal of the Maltese Diaspora and The Voice of the Maltese by Joseph Cutajar and Lawrence Dimech. He sees the newsletter not just as a way to share updates, but also as a tool for cultural preservation. Its aim, he said, is "to assist the Maltese living in North America in learning more about their family's past" through articles by academics and contacts for community leaders and contributors from across the diaspora.

Between 1946 and 1996, nearly 20,000 Maltese people migrated to Canada, with the highest numbers arriving in the early 1950s. Over the same period, around 11,500 moved to the United States. However, by the 1980s, the number of new arrivals had dwindled, and many existing communities gradually assimilated into Canadian and American society.

This has made it increasingly difficult to keep Maltese cultural institutions active, and interest among younger generations remains limited. For now, Brock continues to publish the newsletter each month. But with no confirmed editor waiting in the wings, its long-term future remains uncertain.

Mr Brock wrote to us - ***In the latest issue of the Maltese e-Newsletter from Adelaide, I was particularly struck by the following statement on page 2: "We are really concerned that without the involvement of the younger generations in the local Maltese associations and clubs, these clubs will be forced to disband and be lost for ever. "***

Here in London, Ontario we had a very fine club building, debt free, and a healthy bank balance, still we were forced to sell off the property and disband the Club because we could not get the younger generations involved. Only a handful of the members were under 70 years of age and those in their 70s and 80s were left to run the Club, do the maintenance, etc. Many of them had been involved since the beginning of the Club decades earlier. They were in poor health in many cases and had just run out of steam. The final blow came when we were unable to get anyone to take over as president.

EDITOR'S INPUT: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY IN TORONTO REFLECTS A TREND THAT COULD IMPACT THE ENTIRE MALTESE DIASPORA. THE WORK, SACRIFICE, AND DEDICATION OF OUR ANCESTORS ARE AT RISK OF BEING FORGOTTEN. WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE. I AM CONCERNED THAT UNLESS WE ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM COLLECTIVELY, THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY APPEARS INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN AND BLEAK. BUT WHO CARES? WE DO. DO YOU? Perhaps this topic could be included in the agenda for the next meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

BISHOP OF GOZO TO VISIT SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

The Bishop of Gozo, Mgr. Anton Teuma, will visit the Gozitan and Maltese communities in Australia. He will visit both Sydney and Melbourne between 27 September and 8 October 2025.

These are the main appointments of his visit: In Sydney, the visit will begin on Sunday 28 September, at 12:15pm, local time, where together with the local Bishop he will celebrate the feast day mass at the Church of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, in Greystanes, at which the statue of the Madonna will be crowned.

The following day, Monday 29, at 9:15am he will lead a mass in the same church, while at 11.00am, at the George Preca Centre, he will meet with various Maltese associations in Sydney.

Then, on Wednesday 1 October, the Bishop will officially meet with the Maltese and Gozitan communities residing in Sydney. At 9:15am he will celebrate mass at the Church of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, and then continue to greet the people at the George Preca Centre.

For his last day in Sydney, Thursday 2, at 10am he will celebrate mass at the La Vallette Social Centre, and then continue to greet the Maltese and Gozitans present. The second part of the visit, in Melbourne, opens with a stop at Bacchus Marsh where on Saturday 4 October, at 2pm, the Bishop will celebrate mass at the Church of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. In the evening, at 6pm he will celebrate another mass at the Maltese Cultural Centre.

On Sunday 5th, at 8am the Bishop will celebrate mass at St Paul's Church in Kealba. The last appointment of Bishop Anton Teuma's visit to Australia will be on Tuesday 7th October, where at 9:15am he will celebrate mass on the occasion of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at St Bernardine's Parish Church, in Sunshine North.

Notte Bianca (Italian for "white night") is Malta's largest annual cultural festival, held in Valletta on the first Saturday of October. Organized by Festivals Malta, it transforms the capital's streets, museums, and palaces into an open-air stage for a night of free music, dance, theatre, and art performances. The event features various themed routes, offers family-friendly and adult-oriented content, and is a popular, crowded celebration of Maltese culture.

What to Expect

Arts and Culture: Enjoy a wide array of performances including music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and street art.

Free Admission: The entire event is open to the public free of charge.

Late-Night Openings: Museums, churches, and many cafés and restaurants extend their opening hours, participating in the festivities.

Themed Routes: The festival often features different themed routes, such as "Classics," "Dance," "Kids," and "Red," catering to diverse interests.

Crowd-Pleasing Events: Look out for flash mobs, parades, and other roaming street performances.

When and Where **When:** The first Saturday of October.

Where: The capital city, Valletta, is the primary location for the festival.

How to Get More Information

Official Website: Visit the Festivals Malta website at festivals.mt/nb for the latest program and updates.

Social Media: Follow Notte Bianca on their official social media accounts for announcements and behind-the-scenes content.

HOSPITALITY - OUR MALTESE IDENTITY.

FR. MANUEL PARNIS mssp

Although we are small as a nation, yet we Maltese have for centuries been the refuge to so many who came to our shores to conquer, govern and visit us impressed by so many opportunities that our country is able to offer from the naval, commercial and strategic point of view besides the harmony that our good weather and peaceful places where you can relax and dream too. Malta and Gozo have always been a haven of hope for all those who have ventured far and wide and at the end of their journey, found time to come to our precious peaceful enviroment in the Mediterranean in order to receive a heart felt welcome according to the hospitality at its best given to them by all our Maltese brothers and sisters.

One of those great events that really enriched so much our history especially from the spiritual point of view, was that of the arrival of St. Paul. Around Ad 60 St. Paul was on a ship sailing to Rome to be judged there by the Roam authorities. To our great heavenly blessings, his ship got shipwrecked on our shores caused by a big storm. Lucky enough, neither he nor the rest of the prisoners which counted around 267 were lost, and so, they came to shore and were saved from the storm that was raging at the time. According to Paul's narrative, the inhabitants "treated us with unusual kindness. They made us all welcome by lighting a huge fire because it had started to rain and the weather was cold."

While on the island, Paul was able to cure the father of Publius the chief man of the island itself. Publius's father was sick in bed. He was suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him and after a prayer, he laid his hands on the man and healed him. He had the opportunity to heal so many others and preach during his three months stay on the island. Paul continues to emphasize that when their time in Malta was over, the inhabitants "honoured us with many marks of respect and when we sailed, they put on board the provisions we needed" for the journey to Rome.

Hospitality has always been the characteristic sign of our fraternal behaviour with all those who come and visit us. Wherever we are, we are so keen to help and keep in touch with everyone.

Between the 4th and 5th century existed a community of Jews in Malta especially around the catacombs in Rabat. The presence of Jewish catacombs date back from the Roman and Byzantine periods. These Jews co-existed really well with the Christian community. They probably came over to Malta with the Phoenician traders.

Another special moment to show solidarity with others, was given later during the First World War when Malta earned the title of "Nurse of the Mediterranean" during the War of Wars because its hospitals treated over 130000 sick and wounded soldiers particularly ANZAC troops evacuated from the Gallipoli Campaign. Its strategic location, existing medical infrastrature with roots in the Hospitaller Knights Carism and efforts to provide a high standard of care, love and dedication, the situation for these poor soldiers was transformed completely thanks to the crucial medical haven and rehabilitation the the island was able to provide in the midst of war and destruccion.

During the Second World War when the Maltese were suffering from acute hunger, Malta well battered by the continuous barrage of bombs from German Stukas and Italian war planes, on 8th September was saved by the arrival of the American tanker Ohio that formed part of the Convoy that we know as the convoy of Santa Maria. The tanker was able to enter the harbor and unload the precious load that it had on board. This was a gift from heaven thanks to the intersession of the Virgin Mary who intervened for us.

By being so kind to others through our hospitality and faith, Jesus wanted to pay us hundredfold for the kindness that we show and share with so many others irrespective of religion, ethnic background, culture and tradition.
This is something that we need to remember, cherish and be proud of, because for our bravery we got the George Cross and for our hospitality we get God's blessings.
Millions of tourists come to our shores every year. They do not come for the sake of the natural beauty of our country only, but also for the love and kindness that we share with them.
Let us continue to cherish our way of welcoming others to our shores and help as much as we can the foreign workers from third world countries who came to Malta to find a better life by finding good jobs, share with us their valuable culture, traditions, cousin, ethnicity and their human richness. Let us continue to share with these people who now form part of our cosmopolitan population by sharing with them our friendly and Christian approach so that we continue to grow together as one family, one community and one country with so much hope for a better future together.

Teatru Manoel September 25th, 2025

W.A Mozart's The Magic Flute

One of Mozart's most beloved operas, The Magic Flute blends fantasy and adventure with beautiful music. It follows Prince Tamino, who, aided by a magic flute and the bird-catcher Papageno, seeks to rescue Pamina from the sorcerer Sarastro. Conducted by Philip Walsh, directed by Denise Mulholland and featuring the singers from the Opera Nova Project alongside a full orchestra from the Fames Institute, Macedonia made up of young musicians from all over Europe and Malta. The Magic Flute is a joint collaboration between Opera Nova Project and Teatru Manoel. Sung in German with English surtitles and dialogue.

MALTESE COMMUNITY RADIO PROGRAM IN ADELAIDE

From October onwards, the Maltese Radio Programs heard on 5EBi, will be heard on;

- ✓ Saturday afternoon at 5:00pm and on
- ✓ Sunday morning at 7:00am

If you miss any program, just tune in to the "Radio on Demand" on the 5EBI website at any time at all.
We invite you to tune in to both these very interesting Maltese variety programs that keep you informed and entertained in Adelaide.

(The 3 programs have been reduced to 2, because of the increased costs which we cannot sustain!)

MalteseCommunity Radio 5EBI 103.1fm

MALTA AND THE MEETINGS THAT CHANGED HISTORY

Sean Richardson

'I can see Russia from my house!' Attributed to Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, was actually the comedian Tina Fey mocking a Sarah Palin interview with the American broadcaster ABC, "*You can actually see Russia from land here in Alaska*."

Later, Palin would explain Alaska's strategic position as a state of the USA but with close proximity to Russia. Years on, Trump and Putin chose Alaska as a meeting place to discuss an end to the war in Ukraine. But what does that have to do with Malta?

Locations for significant meetings of world leaders are chosen for many reasons – strategic positioning, neutrality, convenience and proximity among them. Malta has been the stage for some pivotal diplomatic encounters thanks to its location between Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Its strategic position has drawn world leaders in times of war, peace and crisis, making the island a discreet but decisive player in twentieth and twenty-first-century history.

During the Second World War, having endured the bombardment by Germany and Italy, the battered island was used as the base by Eisenhower, Montgomery and their generals to plan and later prepare Operation Husky – the 1943 invasion of Sicily.

Two years later, in 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met in Malta prior to meeting with Stalin in Yalta. Their discussions in Valletta shaped the final preparations for the ending of the war in Europe and prepared them for the negotiations with Stalin for a post-war world. Stalin was originally to travel to Malta for the discussions but at the last minute remained in Moscow.

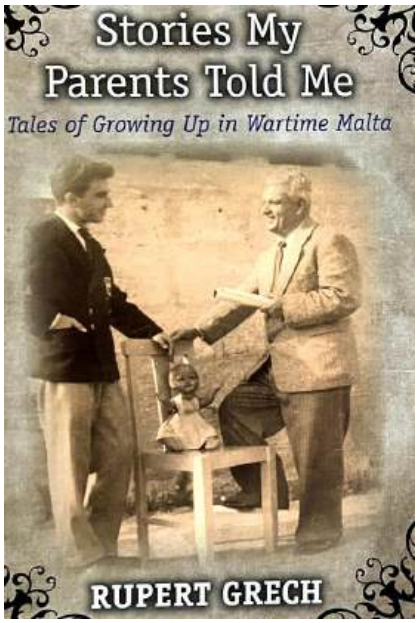
In peacetime, meetings in 1979 finalised the negotiations leading to *Freedom Day,* when British forces fully withdrew from Malta. This was a turning point for the island's neutrality and non-alignment during the tensions of the Cold War. That same year, after Zambia, the original host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), was unable to stage the meeting, Malta stepped in. With little time to prepare, leaders from across the Commonwealth convened to debate the future of Rhodesia's push for independence (soon to become Zimbabwe), the global response to apartheid South Africa and the measures to stabilise the global economic situation after the oil shocks.

In December 1989, Malta was again at the centre of world attention with the Malta Summit between US president George H. W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhael Gorbachev. Their meeting aboard warships, anchored off the coast of Marsaxlokk, debated the end of the Cold War. Symbolically they declared the end of the Cold War, paving the way for German reunification and the Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe which lead to the dawn of a new Europe.

In the new millennium, Malta was the scene of three major summits. In 2005, with Queen Elizabeth II in attendance, Malta hosted the CHOGM conference where leaders set significant directions on climate change and sovereign debt issues. A decade later in 2015, Malta welcomed African leaders to address the critical situation of the Mediterranean migration crisis, which reshaped Europe's migration policies.

The most recent summit, in 2017, brought together EU heads of state to discuss the Brexit negotiations, relations with the USA under the new US President Trump, and the continuing challenge of mass migration across the Mediterranean.

In 2025, Malta once again offered itself as a mediator and location for peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.
Malta has repeatedly been called upon when the world needed neutral ground. Its diplomatic influence far outweighs its small size. Unlike Alaska, which looks across the water to a single rival, Malta stands at the centre of the Mediterranean – a true crossroads, with a view across all points of the compass. It has been, time and again, the place where great powers have gathered to debate, negotiate, and alter the course of history.



STORIES MY PARENTS TOLD ME: TALES OF GROWING UP IN WARTIME MALTA

EXTRACT FROM THE SECOND EDITION

Pupa and her classmates did not get much schooling in the spring of 1942. The Nazis had decided that Malta must fall because of the tiny nation's strategic location in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea between Sicily to the north and Libya to the south. Malta was a serious threat to AXIS shipping sailing from Italy to North Africa. The Nazi plan was to move across North Africa from Libya and capture Egypt where they could seize the Suez Canal and subsequently control the supply of oil from Middle East oilfields. The successful Allied disruption of the Axis supply route of materials and reinforcements to North Africa, launched from the British base in Malta, had been one of the few Allied success stories of the war up to that point. During the second half of 1941, allied attacks sank 60% of Axis supply ships going to North Africa. In May 1942, German Field Marshall Rommel warned that "without Malta, the Axis will end by losing control of North Africa." Malta was pounded relentlessly with bombing. Luftwaffe records show that during the first six months of attacks, there was only one twenty-four-hour period without an air raid. During this period Malta suffered 154 continuous days of air raids. In comparison, the London Blitz experienced 57 continuous days of bombing. The weight of bombs dropped on Malta during
March and April of 1942 alone, was double the amount dropped on London during the worst year of the Blitz. The main island of Malta, at 246 sq. km. in total area is less than one sixth the size of the City of London. Furthermore, the bombing was concentrated on the central and southern region of the island, especially the Grand Harbour area and central airfields. In the month of April alone, enemy planes executed 9,500 sorties over Malta resulting in 282 air raid alerts. The Maltese feared the Germans during this time. Earlier in the war, the reluctant Italian pilots flew so high in order to avoid the anti-aircraft guns that their payload sometimes missed the island altogether and their bombs fell into the sea. The local fishermen even benefitted from the dead fish the exploding bombs would push to the surface in the Grand Harbour. But since the Luftwaffe took charge of the campaign the strikes were clinically efficient and devastating in their effect. The Germans flew in low, reduced large areas to rubble and strafed anything on the ground that moved, including women, children and the elderly. Some of the worst of it was when the German planes dropped small anti-personal devices called "butterfly bombs" disguised as fountain pens that killed or maimed children who picked them up.

RUPERT GRECH

Rupert Grech is a first generation Maltese-Australian born of post-war immigrants to New South Wales, Australia, from the small Mediterranean island of Malta. In childhood, he lived in the low rent suburbs of inner Sydney, eventually moving to the west of the city. Grech graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Diploma in Education from the University of Sydney. He also played in A-Grade Rugby League and was selected to try out for one of the professional clubs. Teaching being at heart, Grech became a highly acclaimed principal of two regional schools in low socioeconomic areas and under his leadership, educational innovations resulted in a greater than 50 percent reduction of the student discipline suspension rate and over 30 percent increase in student enrollment in three years. Grech is the author of the popular book Stories My Parents Told Me: Tales of Growing Up in Wartime Malta. At present he spends time living alternately in Valletta, Malta and in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, while trading equities on the Australian Stock Exchange, developing property and writing.

A SMALL DONATION WILL KEEP THIS JOURNAL ALIVE - THANKS

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF VICTORIA

MALTESE MIGRANTS

Maltese migration records from 1948 to 1955 bring to light amazing photographs which are much more than passport mugshots. They convey the spirit and character of the Maltese migrants themselves. National Archives' Victoria Office is making these records accessible to all.

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

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

There are young labourers, mechanics, farmers and clerks in their best suits, hoping to 'get ahead' in Australia through hard work. Older men – husbands and fathers – display pride at being able to give their families a better start in life. Young women are 'dressed to the nines', with fashionable hairstyles. Since their wonderful dresses were often sewn at home, these photographs not only highlight their beauty, but also their resourcefulness. Mothers and their children are immaculately dressed in their 'Sunday best', without a single hair out of place. Such images powerfully attest to the central role women played in Maltese family life. The large size of many families also points to the important role the Catholic faith played in Maltese society.

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

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

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

Underwater Cleanup at Ċirkewwa South Quay – Saturday, 13th September

St John Ambulance and Rescue, Coast is Clear and Calypso Sub Aqua joined forces to organise a highly successful underwater clean-up at Ċirkewwa South Quay. The initiative highlighted the strength of collaboration between NGOs, bringing together volunteers, divers, and supporting entities in a collective effort to safeguard Malta's coastal environment. Volunteers joined forces to remove debris from the seabed, improving safety for divers and protecting marine life.

Volunteers also received support from the **Armed Forces of Malta (AFM)**, the **Civil Protection Department (CPD)**, and **Cirkewwa Marine Park Divers**. Special thanks are extended to **Transport Malta, the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), Mellieħa Local Council, and the Police** for their assistance and collaboration. Farsons for providing refreshments and Watercolours Dive Centre and Dive Systems limted for supporting with equipment.

This event is one of the key deliverables of St John Ambulance and Rescue's VOPS-supported project, thanks to Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, which has enabled the purchase of a **coastal rescue truck** to enhance coastal and marine emergency response. Additionally, a series of **awareness campaigns** have been launched on social media, promoting diving safety, coastal protection, and environmental conservation.

A total of **70 volunteers** including **10 AFM and CPD personnel** took part in the operation. Over **500 kilograms of debris** were collected from the seabed, significantly contributing to marine conservation efforts and improving diving safety at Ċirkewwa.

The event was attended by Ministers Dr. **Ian Borg** and **Julia Farrugia Portelli**, who commended the initiative and recognised the importance of partnerships between volunteers, NGOs, and authorities in preserving Malta's marine environment.

Julia Farrugia Portelli, Minister for Inclusion and Voluntary Organisations, commending the initiative and underlining the vital role of NGOs and volunteers in environmental protection. She specifically highlighted the strength of collaboration between **St John Ambulance and Rescue, Coast is Clear, and the Calypso Sub-Aqua Club**, noting that their joint effort serves as a model for successful partnership in safeguarding Malta's marine environment.

Dr Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, who highlighted the importance of protecting Malta's seas through collaboration between volunteers and authorities.

St John Ambulance and Rescue, Malta Email: pr@stjohnmalta.org – **Daniela Azzopardi**

VILLAGE BISCUITS - BISKUTTINI TAR-RAHAL

Wonderful psychedelic biscuits traditionally served at Christenings. Village biscuits are a wonderful little treat. The mixture is quite wet so you may need to use a little flour when forming into balls
Author: amaltesemouthful (Marlene Zammit)

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggs separated
- 400 grams light brown sugar
- 550 grams flour
- Zest of 1 lemon and 1 orange
- 3 tablespoons lightly crushed aniseeds
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1 large teaspoon baking powder
- Extra flour when rolling
- For the royal icing:
- 300 grams sifted icing sugar
- ½ lemon juiced
- 1 egg white
- food colouring

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 230oC
2. Beat the egg whites with an electric mixer until stiff.
3. Slowly add in the sugar and continue to beat.
4. Mix in the egg yolks
5. Beat everything else with the mixer except for the flour.
6. Using a baking spoon add in the flour and mix well.
7. On a baking tray lined with baking paper, place balls of the mixture. You may need to use a little flour on your hands when forming the balls as the dough is quite soft. Make sure to leave a little room next to each biscuit too as they do rise and spread.
8. Cook for about 15 minutes or until golden brown.
9. Allow to cool and then make the royal icing by mixing the royal icing ingredients and some food colouring.
10. Using a piping bag make swirls of icing on top of the biscuits.
11. Allow the icing to set and then serve!

MALTESE COFFEE

2 tablespoonsCoffee Grounds
(strong or robust blend such as espresso or a dark french or italian blend)
1 teaspoonRoasted Chicory (ground)
8 ounces Cold Water
(use 6oz for stronger coffee or 8oz for weaker coffee)
1 pinchGround Cloves
1 pinchGround Anise Seed
1 pinchTangerine
(or orange, zest, fresh grated, optional)

ALL HAPPENED IN 1919

BATTLESHIPS VISIT TO MALTA

World War I Royal Navy battleships in Grand Harbour. The naval base was active throughout the war and dockyard employment nearly doubled. British, French and Japanese naval vessels used the harbours and crews went ashore for recreation. Photo: Churchill College, Cambridge, Archives Center. Bonham Carter Papers

7 JUNE RIOTS (SETTE GIUGNO)

A riot broke out in Valletta on Saturday 7 June 1919 during the meeting of the National Assembly, when a crowd attacked the Union Club, the Governor's Palace and the University. It lasted until Tuesday when the new Governor, General Herbert Plumer arrived to take over the administration of Malta.

Protests arose over the increasing cost of food and widespread unemployment. University students also aired their grievances in connection with their degrees. The premises of the Malta Daily Chronicle were destroyed; a flour mill in Hamrun was looted. The military was called in to assist the police. Soldiers of the West Yorkshire Regiment fired on the crowd and used their bayonets to restore order; four were killed and eight injured. 32 Maltese were arrested in connection with the riots. Sentences were handed down ranging from 3 months to 7 years imprisonment with the Governor remitting 14 minor sentences.

On 22 June General Plumer declared that the Secretary of State Lord Milner was prepared to consider how far it was possible to grant the people of Malta an order to share in the administration, without impairing Imperial interests.

POW MALTA JANUARY 1919

On 1 Jan 1919, 2078 Prisoners of War were held by the British in Malta. There were: Germans 1301, Austrians 318, Turks 312, Bulgars 23, Others 124.

In 1915, Captain D C L Fitzwilliams RAMC wrote *A practical manual of bandaging*. This was published in 1915 while he was serving at Malta as medical officer to 1,500 Prisoners of War of various nationalities, and while he was actively engaged in preparing orderlies for their duties in the field.

AWARDS GREAT WAR

On 28 Aug 1919 the following officers were brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered in connection with the war: Temp Maj T Mackenzie V D MD, Temp Maj C R Nicholson, Surg Maj A E Mifsud RMA, Surg Maj R Randon MD RMA.

In 1919, Prof Winifred Clara Cullis, Professor of Physiology at the University of London, was sent to Gibraltar and Malta to lecture to the troops. She was appointed OBE in recognition of this service.

LEPROSY

In 1919, a commission was set up which modified some of the severe legislation regarding leprosy first enacted in 1893. Any person suspected of leprosy was examined by a medical board of officers and if found contagious was compulsory detained in the Leper Asylum. The Leper Hospital (St Bartholomew's Hospital), had a resident medical officers with the nursing carried out by the Sisters of Charity assisted by male and female nurses under the Medical and Health Department.

Legends & Myths in Malta

Malta, a small country full of mysterious temples, ancient buildings, a rich history and beautiful natural sites.

Taking into account the people of Malta and Gozo's romantic, emotional and frequently quirky temperament, it's no wonder that Malta is also a treasure trove full of **legends**, **myths**, and **folk tales**. The inspiring atmosphere of our beautiful country serves as the perfect muse for these stories.

Malta is surrounded with legends and myths. Religious stories and ghostly tales have been told on the island for centuries. Some of these stories are truly fascinating and eerie, others slightly farfetched, each as interesting as the last.

SAINT PAUL AND THE VENOMOUS VIPER

Perhaps the best known legend on the island is that of Saint Paul and the Venomous Viper. This legend can be found in the Bible. Legend has it that when St Paul was gathering wood to make a fire for himself and some other shipwrecked people, a venomous viper sprang out of the sticks and bit him. The Maltese, who were very superstitious at the time, expected St Paul to die of poisoning, however no harm came to him. It is said that from that day all snakes and scorpions in Malta became harmless and non-poisonous.

THE LEGEND OF TAL-MAQLUBA

Another interesting legend in Malta which I was recently told is that of tal-Maqluba. The legend states that once the area of tal-Maqluba, just south of the Maltese village of Qrendi, there once was an evil village. The people were so bad that God punished them by opening the ground and the whole village was swallowed by the Earth. The opening in the ground stopped exactly in front of a chapel, which is still present just by the edge of this enormous hole. The crater is 50 meters in circumference and around 40 meters deep.

LOST CITY OF ATLANTIS

However my favourite legend is the one that states how Malta may just be the true location for Atlantis. Malta has incredible ancient structures that are now dated as over 5000 years old and are said by orthodox archaeologists to potentially be the oldest stone ruins in the world.

Malta once had huge animals like elephants. This shows evidence of having been destroyed in a huge cataclysmic wave. Author Joseph Ellul and others have proposed that Malta was part of a great civilization of the past, possibly Atlantis. Malta was probably connected to other parts of the Mediterranean when a huge wave from the Atlantic filled the Mediterranean. The island is far too small now to have been Atlantis, but it shows that the Mediterranean was a very different place 12,000 years ago.

Calypso Cave in Gozo

In a medium-sized open cave hidden inside the high cliffs overlooking Ramla Bay on the Western side lies what is known as the Cave of Calypso. According to Homer's *Odyssey*, Calypso was a water nymph who could not leave her abode – the island of Ogygia. After losing his ship and his comrades, the King of Ithaca and great hero Ulysses was blown on the shores of the island and found by Calypso, who fell in love with him. Ulysses remained in Calypso's cave for seven years, before being allowed to sail back home to his wife.

However, Calypso was still in love with him, and legend says that she's still waiting for him on her island. The way Homer describesthe location of Ogygia within the Mediterranean Sea – as well as a number of other ancient writings on the subject – have led popular theory to state that Gozo is Ogygia, and that the cave was the one in Ramla Bay. If you want to take a look at it, all you have to do isvisit this amazing beach, set between the villages of Xagħra and Nadur. Who knows, maybe you'll even hear the sound of Calypso, moaning and crying for her Ulysses, in the sound of the crashing of the waves below.

ST. ANGELO IN BIRGU (VITTORIOSA)

Built around the medieval period as a castle called the Castrum Maris (Castle by the Sea.) Later rebuilt by the Order of St John. During the Great of Siege, Ottoman soldiers were decapitated and their heads were used as cannon balls, talking about extreme measures. However, this was done because the Ottomans crucified Knights,(also headless and cut up) floating in the Grand Harbour, with the tide bringing them to Birgu. The place is haunted by the headless Ottomans and also the mysterious Grey Lady.

The grey lady was a beautiful woman but had a tragic life. She was a mistress of Di Nava family. Tired of being second best, the lady went to the house of the noblema, while his wife was there. The nobleman told his guards to "get rid of her". The guards took it literary and killed her. Dumping her body in a dungeon known as "It-Toqba" The hole. When he found out what the guards did, he killed them and dumped their bodies in this hole. Take about a huge misunderstanding right there. Now, her spirit is exorcised. You can stroll the bastions with ease but keep a lookout for the headless Ottomans

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

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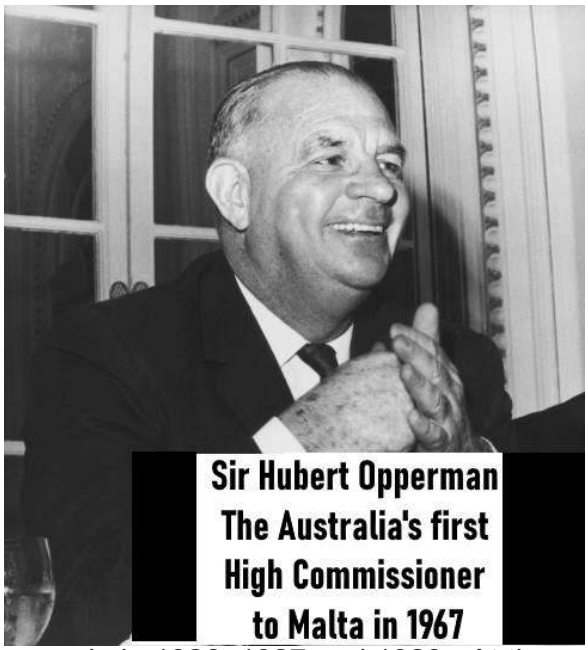
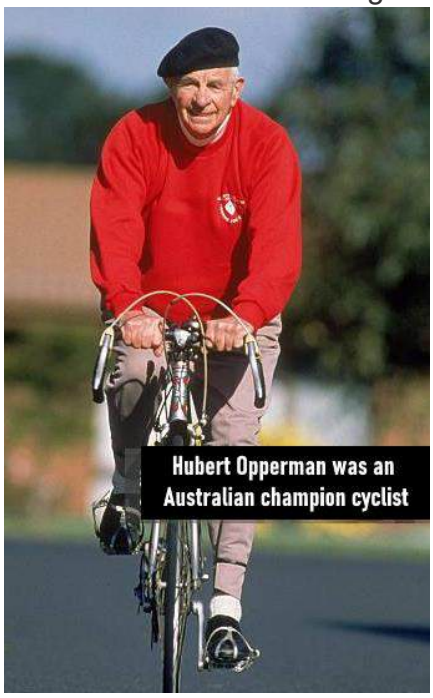


Sir Hubert Opperman The first Australian High Commissioner for Malta

Sir Hubert Opperman was appointed as Australia's first High Commissioner to Malta in 1967, serving in this diplomatic role for five years after his retirement from Australian politics. This appointment followed a distinguished career as a champion cyclist and a long tenure as a Liberal Party member in the Australian House of Representatives, where he also served as a minister.

Hubert Opperman was born in Rochester. His early job as a telegraph boy encouraged his love of cycling. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s "Oppy" was the dominant figure in Australian cycling. He first won the Australian Road Cycling Championship in 1924. He won it again in 1926, 1927 and 1929. At the same time he was becoming an international star. This statue is modelled on his stunning victory at the Bol D`Or in Paris in 1928. In the same year he was highly placed in the prestigious Tours De France. His first place in the 1265 km. Paris - Brest-Paris Road race of 1931was the highlight of his sporting career. That year he was voted sportsman of the year by a French newspaper. In 1991 Sir Hubert Opperman attended the centenary celebrations of the race and was honoured with the gold medal of the city of Paris.



"Oppy" retired from cycle racing in 1940. Typically, he celebrated his retirement with a twenty-four-hour marathon at the Sydney velodrome, breaking one hundred and one records with the process.

After war service with the R.A.A.F. he entered Federal politics holding the Victorian seat of Corio for the Liberal Party from 1949 until 1967. During this time, he served as Minister For Shipping and Transport and Minister for Immigration.

In 1967, he was appointed Australian High Commissioner for Malta, receiving the O.B.E.in 1952 and was knighted in 1968. This statue was officially unveiled by Sir Hubert Opperman on his 90th birthday, 29th May 1994.

(Photo) Cufflinks worn by Sir Hubert Opperman while he was High Commissioner to Malta between 1967 and 1972 His beret and cufflinks are preserved in the National Museum of Australia.

LIST OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS OF AUSTRALIA TO MALTA

Sir Hubert Opperman (1967–72) Bill Cutts (1972-74) Bill Cutts (1974–75) Ian Nicholson (1975–76) John McMillan (1976–78) Geoffrey Pretyman (1978–81) Guy Cotsell (1981–84) Ross Smith (1984–87) Gregory Gibson (1987–1990) John Mahoney (1990-93) Christopher Freeman (1993–97) Colin Willis (1997–2000) Iain Dickie (2000–03) Richard Palk (2003–2006) Jurek Juszczyk (2006–09) Anne Quinane (2009–12) Jane Lambert (2012–2016) Julienne Hince (2016–20) Jennifer Cartmill (since 2020-23) Matt Skelly (2023

MALTESE-CANADAIN PARISH IN TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Toronto was built in 1931 by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto and the wider Maltese community, serving as a central religious and social hub for Maltese immigrants in Canada and the only national Maltese church in North America. Founded by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (MCST) in 1922, the church was constructed with the help of the community and the Franciscan Fathers, becoming a landmark for maintaining Maltese cultural and religious ties. The church complex also includes an auditorium and a museum, preserving the social history of the Maltese community.

Maltese immigrants in Toronto initially shared places of worship with the Italian community.

Many Maltese found employment at the Swift Packing Company, a key employer for the community in the early days.

After the Siege of Malta in 1939, a large influx of Maltese immigrants to Canada was supported by the established community, who offered housing and assistance.

Formation of the Maltese-Canadian Society (MCST)

The MCST was founded in September 1922 by a group of Maltese men, including John Zammit, to unify the growing community in downtown Toronto.

Father A. Cauchi, a Maltese Augustinian priest, was the MCST's first chairman and was instrumental in inspiring the group to establish a Maltese National Church.

Construction of St. Paul the Apostle Church

The church was completed in 1931, a significant feat achieved through the combined efforts of the MCST and the entire Maltese community.

It was unique in North America as the only national Maltese church.

In 1955, the Society supported the Franciscan Fathers in building a new church.

The church's auditorium was completed in 1960 to commemorate the 19th Centenary of St. Paul's shipwreck in Malta.

The church complex houses a museum space that collects, preserves, and displays social history artifacts from the Maltese community, with its collection started by Fr. Raymond Falzon OFM.

Maltese MSSP priests, such as Father Mario Micallef and Father Ivano Burdian, left St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto around early 2023 due to a shortage of priestly vocations in the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP). The MSSP leadership made the "difficult decision" to withdraw from the parish after nearly 25 years of service to the Maltese community.

Why they left

Shortage of vocations:

The departure was a result of a broader issue within the MSSP, which, like many other religious orders, is facing a decline in new vocations to the priesthood.

Strategic decision:

The leadership of the MSSP made the decision to leave the Toronto parish, recognizing the lack of available priests for its ministries.

Impact on the parish and community

Loss of service:

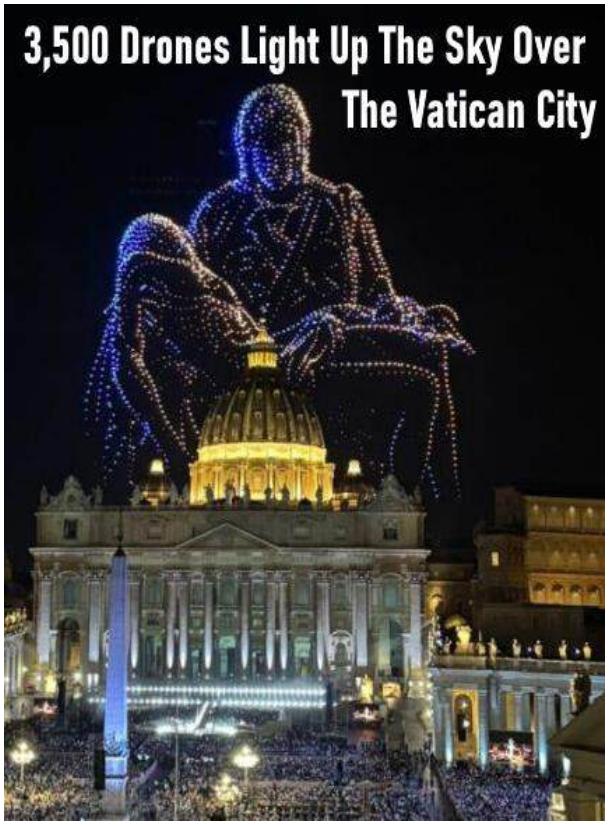
The departure marked the end of the MSSP's nearly 25-year service to the parish, which was the only Maltese national parish in North America.

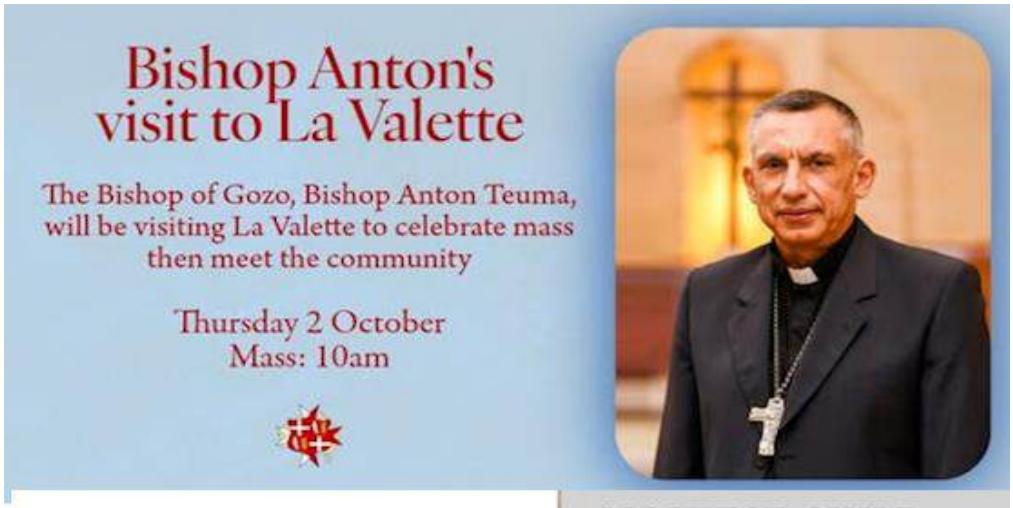
Archdiocese involvement:

The Archdiocese of Toronto was aware of the situation and worked with the parish to find a new pastor to ensure the parish remained open and flourishing.

Community gratitude:

Parishioners expressed immense gratitude for the service provided by the departing priests, particularly Father Mario Micallef and Father Ivano Burdian, who served during challenging times.





EVERYONE HAS AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL. SEND IT TO US AND SHARE IT WITH OTHER READERS