MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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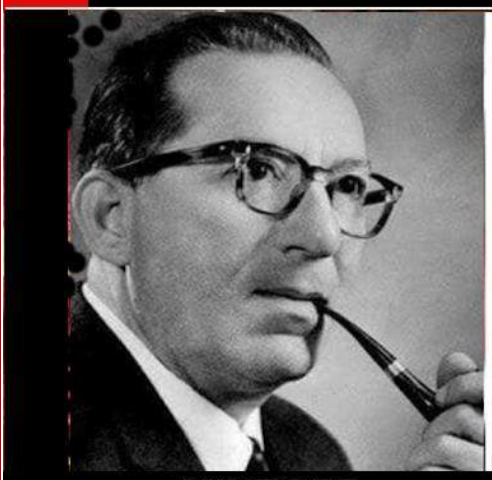
26 JANUARY 2026

AUSTRALIA DAY SURVIVAL DAY



MINTOFF

MOUNTBATTEN

NEW BABIES IN MALTA

Cairns and Region Maltese Association Inc
Queensland - Australia

The Royal Cat Society Malta

Press Release
21ST January, 2026.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE & RESCUE AMONG VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING EFFORTS DURING STORM HARRY

St John Ambulance & Rescue was among the voluntary organisations that assisted the Civil Protection Department (CPD) during Storm Harry, supporting emergency response efforts amid challenging and rapidly changing weather conditions.

A total of 18 trained St John Ambulance & Rescue volunteers were deployed on the ground during the storm, working side by side with CPD personnel. Their efforts were further supported by additional volunteers providing logistics and administrative support, ensuring effective coordination and continuity throughout the operation. For many volunteers, the experience highlighted the importance of preparation, teamwork and inter-agency collaboration.

"The last two days have been busy and eventful, but it's exactly what we spend months preparing and training for," said Charlton Sammut, a St John Ambulance & Rescue volunteer.

Another volunteer, Dorianne Magri, described the operation as both intense and deeply rewarding.

"Assisting Civil Protection throughout the storm was an intense yet meaningful experience, and it reminded me why this work matters," she said. *"I could only do this thanks to St John Ambulance and Rescue Corps, the organisation I am proud to be part of and which serves entirely through volunteers. The solidarity shown by people on the road was remarkable, and the gratitude we encountered is something I will never forget."*

For Giulia Grech, the storm marked her first station call-out as a volunteer. *"Despite the challenging weather, it was an experience I will never forget,"* she said. *"I was truly touched by the kindness and gratitude shown by the public. I'm incredibly proud of my fellow volunteers, who give their time freely and work selflessly to help others. I learned so much from this experience, and I'm grateful to St John for giving me the opportunity to serve."*

St John Ambulance & Rescue is a fully volunteer-led organisation, with emergency response in first aid and ambulance, firefighting, water rescue, urban search and rescue, together with the training, logistics and administrative functions all carried out by individuals who freely give their time in service of the community.

The organisation expressed its appreciation for the professionalism and cooperation shown by all the entities involved throughout the operation, noting that Storm Harry once again demonstrated the vital role of trained volunteers and strong partnerships during national emergencies.

St John Ambulance & Rescue is actively encouraging new volunteers to come forward. No prior experience is required, as full training is provided. By giving their time, volunteers play a direct role in supporting emergency response efforts and protecting the community when it matters most. For more information email – join@stjohnmalta.org

Daniela Azzopardi - PR Officer – St John Ambulance and Rescue

The Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck: blending history, faith, and community into a celebration

On February 10th, Malta celebrates St. Paul's Shipwreck, a national holiday marking the Apostle Paul's shipwreck on the island around A.D. 60. **This event is deeply significant, with religious ceremonies and various festivities centered around St. Paul's Shipwreck Parish in Valletta.**

According to the Bible, Paul was being transported to Rome when his ship, carrying 274 people, was wrecked off Malta. Miraculously, all aboard survived. One of the most famous miracles occurred when Paul was bitten by a venomous snake while gathering firewood but remained unharmed. This convinced many locals to convert to Christianity. **Though the exact site of the shipwreck is unknown, St. Paul's Bay is considered the most likely location. Today, it is a popular area with churches and shrines dedicated to St. Paul.** Paul also healed the father of Publius, the Roman governor, leading to Publius' conversion and role as Malta's first bishop. This is marked by the Mdina Cathedral, built on the site of Publius' house. Paul is believed to have spent the winter in St. Paul's Grotto near Rabat, where he began spreading Christianity. Divers in the 1960s even discovered anchors, thought to be from Paul's ship, linking the story to Malta's history. St. Paul's Shipwreck Church in Valletta, built in the 1570s, is central to the feast celebrations. The church houses a statue of St. Paul, paraded through the streets of Valletta on the feast day as part of a centuries-old tradition honouring Paul's legacy. **This year, Iniala Harbour House is proud to support the Church of St. Paul in Valletta with a donation to help fund the celebrations and street decorations for the feast on the 10th of February.** We are committed to preserving the traditions that honour Malta's rich cultural and religious heritage.

The day is marked by lively street processions, traditional music, and local food stalls. Visitors can enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of Valletta, where the streets are adorned with festive decorations and religious imagery. Keep in mind that since it's a national holiday, **some shops and services may be closed or operating with reduced hours. Public transport may also experience changes, and crowds around the church and main procession routes can be large.**

The Journal that keeps us Connected

Since 2013, I have produced 587 editions of the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad, primarily for Maltese individuals as well as non-Maltese residing in Malta, Gozo, and overseas. This accomplishment is significant, although the credit should be attributed to the thousands of readers and contributors who have supported this journal. I still keep a record of some subscribers who have never acknowledged us, and I continue to keep them in my database. I eagerly anticipate celebrating the project with a remarkable 600th edition later this year. Therefore, I kindly ask for your continued support to help us achieve a world record for our journal. It is gratifying to know that the Maltese journal is also printed in Malta, Gozo, and Australia, and is distributed to senior citizens, libraries, and schools. Small donations are vital for us to sustain our mission. This journal will be truly missed and appreciated once we stop its publication and gone forever.

Frank Scicluna – Editor - Adelaide, Australia

Malta would suffer in a world where 'might is right', president tells diplomats

President Myriam Spiteri Debono has urged diplomats to push for peace and insisted that international law always be respected amid global conflicts.

“A world in which might is right would be detrimental to all countries, especially small nations,” she said. The president was speaking to members of the diplomatic corps during New Year exchanges held on Thursday at the President’s Palace in Valletta. The tense global situation featured prominently in Spiteri Debono's speech.

At a time marked by conflicts, geopolitical tensions, disregard for human rights, and challenges to international law, Spiteri Debono stressed the significant role played by diplomats.

On the Middle East conflict, she said that peace in the region cannot be put on the back burne”.

Malta continues to insist that the best solution remains a two-state solution, she said.

Turning to Ukraine, Spiteri Debono said Russia’s "illegal and unprovoked aggression" has entered its fifth year, urging efforts towards a peace that respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

The situation in Venezuela showed the fragility of international law and should serve as a reminder of the responsibility all states and leaders have to safeguard human rights and to ensure that electoral outcomes are respected through peaceful, democratic transitions.

“At this juncture, calm and restraint are called for by all actors so that reactions do not exacerbate the plight of the Venezuelan people, but rather assist Venezuelans in securing the democratic environment they deserve to live in and lead,” the president said.

Misinformation and disinformation are intensifying conflicts, she warned, calling for “robust governance frameworks” for artificial intelligence to ensure it remains secure, trustworthy, and human-centred.The different threats to democratic values that are constantly emerging call for focused attention.

Climate's existential threat Beyond conflict, the president also highlighted the “existential threat” posed by climate change. “It fuels sea-level rise, desertification, water scarcity, and food insecurity, acting as a threat multiplier in conflict situations,” she said.

Malta, she added, will continue to highlight the disproportionate impact climate change has on small island nations and developing states of origin, transit, and destination that are dealing with this reality. She called for multilateral processes that promote safe and regular migration, while “keeping the humanity of migrants at the centre of our considerations”.

Malta will continue to insist that the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations are upheld, she said.

“History has shown us that when humanity, inclusion, and understanding serve as our guiding light, peace and prosperity find fertile ground in which to flourish," she said.

The president said that, as a young nation, Malta has always acted as an honest and reliable partner, with a workforce that has contributed to a vibrant and resilient economy.

Looking ahead, she said Malta will be launching a dedicated framework to further structure its engagement with African, Asia and Oceania partners.

The dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Apostolic Nuncio to Malta, Mgr Savio Hon Tai-Fai, opened the proceedings by praising Malta's hospitality and its role in promoting peace through dialogue.
"Maltese neutrality does not represent the silence of indifference, but the courage to speak up for peace," he sai

SKOLA MALTIJA SYDNEY: PIONEERING THE FUTURE OF MALTESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

As **Skola Maltija Sydney** enters its 19th year of offering Maltese language and culture classes, we are pleased to announce that enrolments for 2026 are now open. Following a landmark 2025 where our student community grew to **70 enrolments**, the school continues to grow as a mature, resilient, and respected educational service.

Addressing the Gap: New High School Pilot

The primary focus for 2026 is the launch of a **NEW Fee-Free Pilot High School class**. This initiative is a high priority for both our school and community, designed specifically to meet the needs of students wishing to start or continue their study of Maltese after primary schooling.

For the past four years, the community has felt the impact of the suspension of the Maltese Higher School Certificate (HSC). We know that the middle years of schooling are a critical time when language learning often drops off, leading to language attrition. By offering an age-appropriate and accessible online program, we are dedicated to closing this gap and ensuring our youth have opportunities to remain connected to their language and cultural heritage.

Students graduating with Maltese language and literacy skills, and with an understanding of the geography, history and culture of Malta, are advantaged if they wish to apply for a Working Holiday Visa* under the new scheme for Australian youths aged 18-30.

* To learn more visit Identità's Central Visa Unit page for Australia.

A Vision for the Next Generation

Reflecting on the school's trajectory, 2025 Principal **Cynthia Villar** notes:

"Whilst we remain proud of our achievements, we are never satisfied as we strive for improvement and excellence. Our true legacy is measured by the lives we shape along the way. As Skola Maltija Sydney approaches its 20th anniversary, we are excited to expand our reach through new digital platforms and secondary programs, ensuring a meaningful and lasting contribution to the Maltese Australian community."

Open to All Across Australia

While our school is based in Sydney, our online delivery mode has allowed us to transcend borders. We are proud to welcome students from across Australia, currently serving learners from regional NSW and as far as northwest Tasmania. Please note that all scheduled times for online classes are in **Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)**, however all students are welcome.

Community Built on Roots

At Skola Maltija Sydney, we believe language is the heartbeat of our culture. Families choose our programs because we offer more than just a classroom; we provide a space to connect with others who share the same cultural roots and represent our heritage to the broader Australian community.

2026 Program Offerings

Skola's K-10 programs are aligned with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Modern Languages K-10 syllabus (2022). We invite you to join our diverse range of classes starting the first week of February.

- **Online High School Class (Yrs 7-10):** Funded by the *Community Language Schools Grants Program* administered by the Australian Department of Home Affairs.
- **Online Primary Class (K-6):** Part of our ongoing participation in the NSW Department of Education *Online Learning Pilot Program*.
- **Face-to-Face Primary (K-6)** at Llandilo Public School supported by the NSW Community Languages Schools Program (NSW Department of Education).
- **Adult Beginners/Continuers Class Online**

Skola Maltija Sydney is a registered **Active and Creative Kids** provider, and accepts NSW Government vouchers to support families.

For more information or to enrol visit skolamaltija.org or contact us at skolamaltijasydney@yahoo.com.au

Annemarie Thind – Communication & Enrolment Officer – Public Officer

ABOUT THE MALTESE SCHOOL

Skola Maltija Sydney is a dedicated not-for-profit community language school committed to providing high-quality Maltese language education. We believe that learning a language is more than just words — it's a bridge to understanding our identity, traditions, and heritage. Through our classes, students not only learn to speak Maltese but also connect deeply with the culture that shapes it.

Our small class sizes and experienced teachers ensure that every student receives personalised attention and support on their language journey.

Skola Maltija Sydney operates as a program of *Akkademja Maltija ta' New South Wales Inc.*, proudly supported by the *NSW Community Languages Schools Program, NSW Department of Education*, and is a member of both the *NSW Federation of Community Language Schools* and the F*ederation of Maltese Language Schools Australia*. Skola Maltija Sydney is an Active and Creative Kids registered provider.

MALTESE LANGUAGE SPARKED A FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN 2 UCLA GRAD STUDENTS

UCLA NEWSROOM

Jacqueline Jacobo

If you're looking for an example of how language can bring people together, look no further than Richard Assaley and Glen Spiteri.

Assaley is a doctoral student in the UCLA Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His research focuses on the question of who decides what languages are considered Arabic. One of his specific areas of interest is Maltese, a language that Assaley had been learning and exploring since his days in community college.

Spiteri, meanwhile, is a doctoral candidate in cognitive psychology. His research interest — understanding what motivates people to act altruistically — has little connection to Assaley's. But in recent months, the two have become fast friends because of another meaningful link: Spiteri is one of only two current UCLA students from Malta.

Malta is a small island nation located in the Mediterranean Sea, between Sicily and northern Africa, with a population of around 570,000. Worldwide, only about 530,000 people speak Maltese; in the U.S., there are probably just a few thousand Maltese speakers. Before the two met at the beginning of fall quarter, Assaley had been wondering whether there were native Maltese speakers in Los Angeles he could connect with. And Spiteri, who has been at UCLA since 2023, has — not surprisingly — found it challenging to connect with others who are fluent in his native language, 6,700 miles from home.

Fortunately, a friend told Spiteri about Michael Cooperson, a UCLA professor of Arabic and chair of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, whose research interests include Maltese and who is Assaley's faculty advisor.

"I had given up on finding Maltese speakers in L.A., so finding Glen was a great gift," Cooperson said. "I'm delighted that Rich can learn real, live Maltese instead of just the academic version."

In an interview, Assaley and Spiteri reflected on their serendipitous connection and how their friendship has enriched both their academic and personal lives.

How did they meet?

Glen Spiteri: One of my former mentors and collaborators knows someone who co-directed a popular Maltese TV program, and I learned that Professor Cooperson had worked on research about the show. Being Maltese, it is super rare to encounter anyone else who's researching our language and culture. So I reached out to Dr. Cooperson, and he introduced me to Rich.

Richard Assaley: At the beginning of my graduate program, I asked Dr. Cooperson if there was a local community of Maltese speakers I could get in touch with. Although there are some Maltese circles in Michigan, New York, Chicago and San Francisco, he said to not get my hopes up about finding people in Los Angeles. But at the start of fall quarter, Dr. Cooperson said, "Guess what!" and he told me about Glen. We set up an appointment to meet, and everything fell into place.

Spiteri: Maltese is unique because it is the only Semitic language to be written in a Latin alphabet; it's also the only Semitic language to be an official EU language.

But from my perspective, it has a very Semitic structure — a lot of our verbs come from Arabic or have Arabic influence. However, I think our nouns and adjectives are closer to the Sicilian dialect of Italian. The language has also adopted some English when it comes to technological terms, like "computer," "keyboard" and "TV." But for the most part, I think, it operates on a Semitic structure.

Assaley: This is where a very interesting discussion emerges. Oftentimes, an Arabic speaker will hear Maltese or see it written, and they'll say, "This is Arabic, right?" While there's a linguistic basis for stating that as fact, there are also certain social implications of Arabic as a language category that make that assessment a little unfair — but that's more about the category than anything else. Structurally, Maltese is Arabic. It developed from Sicilian Arabic, which itself is a North African variety. However, Maltese developed in isolation for a long time; since medieval times, it hasn't really been connected with the rest of the Arabic-speaking world. Because of that isolation, it maintained features from classical Arabic that no other spoken variety has, but in addition, a huge part of its vocabulary is derived from Romance languages. Like Glen said, it has a lot of Sicilian and standard Italian words.

Spiteri: One of the first things I spoke to Rich and Dr. Cooperson about was this phenomenon in moral psychology called the moral foreign language effect, where bilinguals or multilinguals tend to display more of an affective connection with their native language. So, they're typically more likely to make more deontological judgments and decisions when they speak in their native language than when they speak in a non-native language.

Glen Spiteri said = For example, when I use Italian, which is not my native language, my reasoning takes on a more utilitarian or cost-benefit character. By contrast, when I use Maltese, my moral reactions tend to feel more immediate, emotional and intuitive.

I'm curious to see how we can connect this mode of communication with modes of thinking about morality, so I hope to pursue this in my own research at some point.

Assaley: I always have questions for Glen about the language. For example, I might ask him, "Do you actually say this phrase?" and he'll let me know if it's a figure of speech that's still used, or if we would only see it in very old Maltese texts. Primarily, I'm just really happy to know him. But aside from being a great friend, he's a really good resource for learning about Maltese.

Assaley: It almost seemed like fate. Coming into my doctoral program, I was trying to find someone who speaks the language that I'm trying to learn everything about. And then to also have that person be somebody that you really like and want to hang out with, that's super cool.

Spiteri: Coming to UCLA from Malta, the odds of this happening are completely stacked against you — I never thought I'd come across someone else here who speaks Maltese. I feel like I can connect with Rich in a way that I can't connect with other people when I'm speaking English. A different part just comes out of you when you're speaking your native language.

Recently, we had an exchange over Instagram about curse words. It was hilarious to see that Rich was familiar with these words — and we got to learn that several Maltese curse words are identical in Lebanese. In both languages, people use them in a very particular, casual way. It was so cool to make that connection. So it's a huge pleasure to help Rich learn the language and practice it, and also get to learn from him about my own culture and background.

Assaley: Those are my proud moments, when I can ask Glen, "Did you know this about your own language?" It's all really exciting, because I know that as I go further into my language journey, I have a wonderful person to expand my knowledge with.

'IS-SIENJA' IN MALTA'S EARLY AGRICULTURE

Times of Malta

GIOVANNI BONELLO

For thousands of years, agriculture received no help from mechanised contraptions. Back-breaking labour dominated, occasionally assisted by strong quadrupeds. Probably, the only exception was the traditional sienja whose origins and history lurk in obscurity but, presumably, stretch back a very long time.

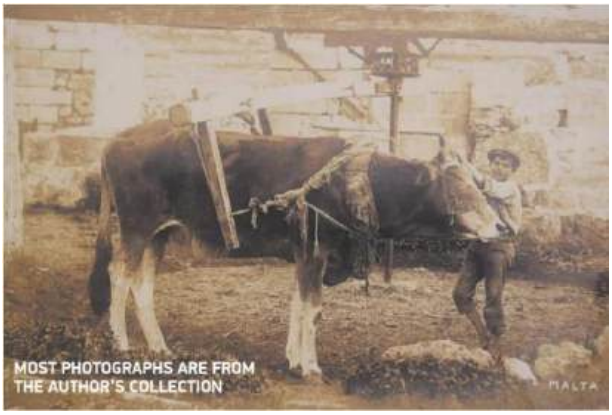
I am not aware of a correct English equivalent of the Maltese word sienja. The universally-used water wheel or water mill refer to a totally different mechanical device — running water turning a wheel and converting the movement into energy, commonly found in countries with abundant waterfalls or rapidly moving rivers or streams. This led to hydroelectric power

The sienja, on the other hand, collects water by rotating buckets moved by animal muscle.

It proved its utility in arid countries. The closest translation would be noria in Italian.

Maltese farmers, probably since time immemorial, harnessed animals to turn a large horizontal wheel. This, through a system of cogs at right angles, rotated a vertical wheel fitted with small buckets round its rim which scooped water from lower levels, raised it and released it in troughs or canals.

Farmers used any large livestock to turn the horizontal wheel — oxen, horses, mules or donkeys, sometimes blindfolded to avoid dizziness. This became an essential machine near fields that were bagħli, devoid of water supply, and useful in saqwi, fields with indigenous water supplies.



The usage contributed a phrase to the language — il-ħmar tas-sienja — a derogatory reference to anyone who repeats endlessly the same menial task.

Though characteristic of the Maltese countryside, photographs of is-sienja prove anything but common to come by. Even camera artists who had a feeling for the local agricultural scene, like Salvatore Lorenzo Cassar and Richard Ellis, seem to have overlooked the sienja entirely

THIS JOURNAL GIVES A STRONG VOICE TO ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD AND BRINGS THEM CLOSER TO THEIR HOMELAND – MALTA AND GOZO

MALTA - THROUGH THE AGES – MINTOFF AND MOUNTBATTEN

Ernest Ferrante - Facebook ·

The friendship between **Lord Louis Mountbatten and Dom Mintoff** was one of the most unlikely and controversial alliances in 20th-century Mediterranean politics.

On one side was Mountbatten: a royal prince, an Earl, and the ultimate symbol of the British Empire. On the other hand was Mintoff: a socialist firebrand, a staunch anti-colonialist, and the man who eventually evicted the British military from Malta.

Here is why their relationship raised so many eyebrows and how it functioned behind the scenes.

"The Prince and the Socialist" Despite their polar-opposite ideologies, the two shared a genuine personal chemistry.

A Shared History: They met in the late 1940s and early 1950s when Mountbatten was Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet. They bonded over long, "passionate" discussions about international politics. The 1973 Secret Lunch: At the height of a bitter standoff between Malta and Britain over military base fees, Mountbatten accepted an informal lunch invitation at Mintoff's private residence, l-**Għarix in Delimara**. Declassified British documents reveal that Mountbatten "really enjoyed his lunch" but found the wine "undrinkable"—yet he stayed and charmed Mintoff for hours.

Personal Affection: Mintoff, known for his "tantrums" and abrasive style with British diplomats, was notably soft with Mountbatten. He once remarked that Mountbatten was a man for whom "personal relationships are very important."

Why the British Government Was Alarmed The British Foreign Office often viewed Mountbatten's "freelance diplomacy" with suspicion. A "Loose Cannon": Officials feared Mountbatten's charm might lead him to make promises to Mintoff that the British government couldn't keep.

Mintoff's Leverage: Mintoff was a master of "Cold War brinkmanship," playing Britain off against Libya and the Soviet Union. The fact that the Queen's cousin was regularly dining with a man who was cosying up to Colonel Gaddafi was a PR nightmare for London.

The Integration Crisis: In the 1950s, Mintoff initially wanted Malta to become part of the UK (Integration). Mountbatten supported this idea, which put him at odds with many in the British establishment who saw the plan as economically unfeasible.

The "Melancholy" Final Years The controversy peaked as the British military prepared to leave Malta for good in 1979. While Mintoff respected Mountbatten, he was also a ruthless nationalist. When the British government suggested Mountbatten attend the final withdrawal ceremony in 1979, Mintoff effectively snubbed the request. He stated that Mountbatten was welcome as a personal friend, but not as an official guest of the British government. Mountbatten's Regret: Mountbatten was deeply hurt by the finality of the British exit. He viewed the withdrawal as the end of an era he had spent his life building.

The friendship was controversial because it humanised the "enemy" on both sides. To the British, Mountbatten was being manipulated by a radical; to Maltese nationalists, Mintoff was being too friendly with the old colonial oppressor.

NESPLORAW IT-TIĠIJIET MALTIN – LEJLET JUM IL-MAĦBUBIN!

Il-Ġimgħa 13 ta' Frar, lejlet Jum San Valentinu, Heritage Malta flimkien ma' Taste History qed jistednuk għal esperjenza speċjali li twaħħad l-istorja, l-imħabba, u l-passjoni għall-ikel u l-letteratura.

Fl-atmosfera maġika tal-Palazz tal-Inkwiżitur fil-Birgu, mis-7:00pm 'il quddiem, se nivvjaġġaw lura fiż-żmien biex nesploraw kif l-ikel u x-xorb fit-tieġ Malti evolvew matul is-snin. Permezz ta' siltiet letterarji magħżula u ġawhar ta' sorsi primarji, se niskopru dinja mimlija togħmiet, ritwali u rabtiet soċjali – elementi li kienu jiffurmaw il-qalba taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet marbuta maż-żwieġ.

Irċevuta oriġinali tal-1933, mit-tieġ ta' bint l-Avukat Barbara mill-Belt Valletta – li kien sewa 8 sterlini – se tiftħilna tieqa fuq mument intimu li jirrifletti bidliet fil-ħajja Maltija. Minn hemm, il-vjaġġ ikompli b'għażla ta' ikel u xorb ispirati proprju mit-tiġijiet tal-bidu tas-seklu 20: togħmiet li jfakkruna f'memorji, stejjer u tradizzjonijiet li għaddew minn ġenerazzjoni għal oħra.

L-attività se ssir bil-Malti, bl-appoġġ tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Università ta' Malta.

Il-biljetti jistgħu jinxtraw online minn: Store - Heritage Malta jew direttament mis-siti u l-mużewijiet ta' Heritage Malta.

English translation

On Friday, February 13th, the day before Valentine's Day, Heritage Malta, in collaboration with Taste History, invites you to partake in a unique experience that intertwines history, romance, and a love for culinary arts and literature. In the enchanting setting of the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa, starting at 7:00 PM, we will embark on a journey through time to examine the evolution of food and beverages at Maltese weddings over the years. Through carefully chosen literary excerpts and valuable primary sources, we will uncover a rich tapestry of flavors, rituals, and social connections – the very elements that constitute the essence of wedding festivities. An authentic receipt from 1933, pertaining to the wedding of Dr. Barbara's daughter from Valletta, which amounted to 8 pounds, will provide insight into a personal moment that mirrors the transformations in Maltese society. From this point, our exploration will proceed with a curated selection of food and beverages inspired by early 20th-century weddings: tastes that evoke memories, narratives, and traditions handed down through generations. The event will be conducted in Maltese, with assistance from the Department of Maltese at the University of Malta. Tickets are available for purchase online at: Store - Heritage Malta or directly at Heritage Malta sites and museums.

MARK CARUANA (1946–2025) by Barry York

Multiculturalism, ethno-historical studies, migrant welfare, and the Maltese community in Australia have lost a significant champion with the passing of Mark Caruana, who died in Sydney on 24 November 2025, aged 79.

Mark was born in Sliema, Malta, in 1946. A strong student, he completed A-levels in Chemistry and Italian and initially worked as a control analyst in a synthetic nylon factory. He later joined the University of Malta, working in the library and gaining a library assistant certificate, before transferring to the Chemistry Department as a laboratory technician. He was still employed there at the time of his emigration in 1973.

In 1970 he married Antoinette (née Micallef), and their son Adrian was born in Malta in 1973. Mark migrated to Australia later that year, travelling alone by plane and paying his own passage. Six weeks later he sent for Antoinette and Adrian, and the family settled in Marayong.

In Sydney, Mark built a long career in community and public service. Over the years he worked as a library assistant, migrant welfare worker, district officer, children's protection worker with Community Services, schools community liaison officer, community information officer, and multicultural liaison officer.

He was also a tireless community volunteer. Mark was a co-founder and past President of the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown and Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. He served on committees of the Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre, Maltese Welfare NSW, the Maltese Cultural Association, and the Mt Druitt Ethnic Community Centre, and was a co-founder of the Salesian Past Pupils and past President of the Don Bosco Association.

Mark loved the people and diversity of Sydney's western suburbs and served as a board member of the Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee in the 1990s. Suburbs such as Blacktown, Marayong, Pendle Hill and Greystanes were once known as 'Little Malta' because of the significant Maltese settlement there, which began with market gardeners in the 1920s and 1930s.

With his background in librarianship, he helped establish the Blacktown Library Ethnic Advisory Committee in 1977 and remained on its board for 20 years. For his long-standing commitment to the Maltese community of NSW, Mark Caruana was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2020

Il-Karnival Magħna wkoll

Kav. Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex

Ta' kull sena ħafna min-niesna tistenna b'ħerqa l-Karnival. Għadek issib ħafna dilettanti ta' dawn il-festi folkloristiċi u rikrejattivi li jafu l-bidu tagħhom qabel il-wasla tal-Kavallieri fostna. Naturalment dawn il-festi tradizzjonali u popolari jiddependu ħafna fuq il-burdata tat-temp. Fil-ġżira tagħna l-Karnival din is-sena se jibda nhar is-Sibt 7 ta' Frar fis-7.30pm. bil-Gozo Carnival Opening Parade. L-għada l-Ħadd matul in-nofs ta' nhar ta' filgħodu nkun qed nippreżenta l-Karnival fil-pjazza ewlwnija tal-Għarb. Matul il-jiem ta' wara diversi Kunsill Lokali jorganizzaw ukoll il-Karnival fir-raħal tagħhom u jien nerġa' nkun Ta' Sannat nippreżenta serata Karnivaleska it-Tnejn 9 ta' Frar wara nofs. Fl-aħħar jum tal-Karnival it-Tlieta 17 ta' Frar 2026 fi Triq ir-Repubblika Victoria jkun hemm il-Gran Finale li jinkludi żfin fi Triq Fortunato Mizzi bis-sehem tal-kumpaniji taż-żfin, maskri grotteski, karrijiet trijonfali u baned. It-tfal tal-iskola flimkien mal-għalliema jieħdu gost b'jumejn vaganza, għad li ħafna minnhom jieħdu sehem mal-iskola tagħhom. U allaħares ma kienx hekk. Jekk ma tinvestix fit-tfal, il-ġejjieni tal-Karnival jista' jkun wieħed imċajpar. Ta' tfal li konna niftakarni nfittxu fil-gwardarobbi t'ommi u nsibu xi libsa tgħodd għalina u erħilna nxidduha u niġru mat-toroq tar-Rabat b'wiċċna mgermed b'xi tapp ta' flixkun maħruq u b'xi bastun f'idejna! Jien trabbejt fl-atmosfera tal-Karnival għax missieri, Alla jaħfirlu, mhux darba u tnejn kien jiġbor madwaru salt ħbieb u jidħlu fl-enclosure fuq xi truck u jaqsmu lil kulħadd bid-daħk billi darba niftakar għamlu operazzjoni medika u darba oħra tellgħu rocket fil-qamar! Kont inħossni fis-seba' sema niġri fil-garage ta' missieri narahom jibnu l-float, jiżbgħu l-maskeruni u jhejju l-kostumi. Dak kien żmien! Mhux ta' b'xejn għadni nieħu gost mippreżenta xi programm jew serata tal-Karnival għalkemm għadni kemm għalaqt it-tmenin!

O żmien ħelu kif għaddejtli
Żmien ta' meta kont bla ħtija
It-tifkira biss ħallejtli
Biex il-għira nħoss għalik
Int ma' terġa' iżjed għalija
U sal-mewt indum nibkik!

Gorġ Pisanl - Naħseb li ħafna min-niesna tħobb toħroġ biex tara l-Karnival b'mod speċjali dak organizzat mill-Kunsill tal-Kultura fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex li jsir fil-qalba tar-Rabat, b'mod speċjali fl-Enclosure ta' Pjazza Indipendenza li issa għandha paviment tassew sabiħ, kif ukoll fi Triq ir-repubblika u Triq Fortunato Mizzi, Karnival organizzat li jkun jinkludi karrijiet trijonfali, maskri grotteski, kumpaniji tat-tfal u tal-kbar bil-kostum u danza, xi 'hilarious company', kompetizzjoni għall-aħjar kostum , il-ballu tal-Karnival, il-Parata, baned Għawdxin, kumpaniji barranin u divertiment ieħor. Naħseb li ħafna mill-qarrejja jiftakru lil Fredu Spiteri tal-leverist li kien jara x'jivvinta għal Karnival -- darba minnhom ħareġ liebes nofsu fqir u nofsu sinjur; darba oħra ħareġ ikaxkar warajh il-bieb tad-dar bħal Gaħan tal-istorja! Intant xi drabi naraw ukoll iż-żifna antika tal-Kumittiva magħrufa ħafna fost in-nies ta' San Lawrenz u dawk tax-Xagħra, fix-xaqliba tan-'Nazzarenu'. Kien hemm xi snin meta konna naraw ukoll il-Kukkanja iżda din issa ilha ftit ma ssir fil-belt Victoria. Ġie li kellna wkoll xi ġirja fl-enclosure wara xi qasqus (catch the pig) imma din ilha li nqatgħet. Sallum fid-djar tal-Għawdxin wasal il-Brochure li jistampa l-Ministeru għal Għawdex li jinkludi tagħrif dwar il-Karnival fil-ġżira tagħna.
F'dan iż-żmien fil-vetrini tal-ħwienet tal-ħelu titfaċċa l-"Prinjolata" li ħafna nies jagħmlu għaliha. Tajba u ma fihiex xewk! Il-perlini wkoll huma assoċjati ma' dawn il-festi tradizzjonali u folkloristiċi tal-Karnival li jingħad li kien il-Gran Mastru Pinto li daħħalhom fostna, għalkemm studji reċenti juru li daħlu qabel

f'pajjiżna. Għadha drawwa fostna wkoll li xi erba' għannejja jarmaw trakk, iżejnuh bil-palm u joħorġu jgħannu mat-treqat waqt li jfajru l-perlini u ħelu ieħor għal fuq il-folla. Baqgħu ġejjin sa żmienna u donnu l-poplu tagħna jkun jistennihom biex jitbellah ftit u jinsa għal mument il-ħajja ta' kuljum. Il-Karnival tat-tfal għandu sehem importanti f'dawn il-jiem u tista' tgħid l-iskejjel Għawdxin kollha jippreżentaw xi 'item' fil-programm. Sinjal tajjeb għax jekk ma nrawmux it-tfal sa miċ-ċokon, il-Karnival x'futur jista' jkollu! L-isports Complex ta' Victoria ġie li kien joffri alternattiva tajba meta t-temp ma jippermettix!

Il-Kunsilli Lokali wkoll fil-maġġoranza tagħhom jorganizzaw il-Karnival fl-irħula tagħhom u n-Nadur forsi l-iktar li jispikka. Hawnhekk isir ukoll il-Karnival spontanju u ħadd mhu eskluż li jxidd il-maskra u joħroġ iterraq mar-raħal. Nies barra mir-raħal ukoll issibhom hawnhekk jiddevertu u jixxalaw fosthom partita Maltin. Mhemm xejn ħażin sakemm wieħed jara li ma joħroġx saqajh barra mill-friex! Fi tfuliti jien niftakar lil tal-'liżar' li kienu joħorġu mkeffna biss f'liżar jiġġerrew mat-toroq jisfidaw il-ksieħ ta' Frar kif ukoll lil Fredu l-Leverist, għannej tal-'prima klassi' dejjem liebes ta' xi ħaġa li qatt ma tistenniha jew tobsorha! Kellna wkoll lil kumpanija "Muskettieri Għawdxin" li kienet tinkludi lil Gużeppi Ballucċi, Giġi Sillato, Koli Apap, Gużeppi Micallef u oħrajn. Dawn illum kollha ħallewna u qed jistrieħu taħt l-irħama kiesħa tal-qabar! Baskal Attard jibqa' magħruf għat-trakkijiet li bihom kien jidħol fl-enclosure u jifqa' lil kulħadd bid-daħk! Darba tela' fil-qamar u sena oħra għamel operazzjoni medika fil-pjazza. X'ma tidħakx in-nies! Dan illum ħalliena wkoll iżda l-Għawdxin jgħidulek li dak kien l-isbaħ Karnival! Fis-sittinijiet il-Karnival f"Għawdex kien ħa spinta 'l quddiem u beda jsir b'mod organizzat. Certu Pawlu Portelli (tal-Lingi) il-Kav Koli Apap, Giġi Sillato, imdawrin b'xi ftit dilettanti oħra kienu waqqfu Kumitat organizzattiv u bil-mod il-mod il-Karnival beda jieħu s-sura u n-nies bdiet tinġabar fil-pjazza tat-Tokk, illum Pjazza Indipendenza, toqgħod bil-qegħda u tgawdi l-ispettaklu. Il-premjijiet bdew ukoll iħajru l-kumpaniji biex jieħdu sehem u llum dawn il-ħwejjeġ saru parti mill-ħajja Għawdxija.

Il-Karnival jiġi biss darba fis-sena u kulħadd jista' jwarrab għal mument is-serjeta' u jċarrat snienu biex jidħak ftit. Id-daħk jingħad li jnaqqas it-tikmix fil-wiċċ w allura għax ma nitbissmux ftit! Iżda ma ninsewx li hekk kif jintemm, l-għada, jibda żmien ir-Randan, jiem ta' sawm u astinenza, żmien totalment differenti, iżda li jrid ikun ukoll. Għalhekk il-munita għandha żewġ faċċati, ħbieb!

Din is-sena ħa ngawduhom
Dawn il-jiem ta' ferħ u bluha
Jalla fil-fond jibqgħu dieħla
Ta' dawk li qalbhom muġugħa!

Tinsewx li kif jisbaħ l-għada
Ikun sawm u astinenza;
Illum mela niddevertu
Wara żmien ta' penitenza.

REFLECTION BY BISHOP CHARLES GAUCI OF DARWIN

HOW MANY TIMES?

Jesus was asked how many times we should forgive — they suggested perhaps seven times? He replied, not seven, but seventy-seven times! He was making it clear that we must never stop forgiving.

Last week, someone asked me for help. I couldn't assist immediately, and he reacted in a way that I could have taken offence to. I almost responded defensively. However, as I reflected, I realised the man was hurting. I remembered the words of Jesus: "Judge not, and you shall not be judged." But does this mean we shouldn't speak up when others hurt us . does it mean we should let people take advantage of us?

We do have the right to speak the truth. When Jesus was slapped in the face by the high priest's servant, He did ask for an explanation. And yet, He also died forgiving those who so savagely butchered Him and were in the act of killing Him. He invites us to learn from Him, who is meek and gentle of heart.

GOZO BASED TRACY LAMOURIE PROMOTING MALTA OVERSEAS

Tracy Lamourie, a high profile international award winning publicist, is the Founder and Managing Director of Lamourie Media Inc. A Universal Women's Network 2020 Woman of Inspiration Winner for the Women In Media award and the author of the upcoming book GET REPPED – Build Your Brand With Effective Public and Media Relations. She is a well known long time advocate on a myriad of important worldwide issues and an award-winning international publicist working across industries from major entertainment projects to small businesses. Tracy is passionate about amplifying important messages and being a voice for those who most need one.

Recognized by media around the world for her 20-year campaign that ultimately helped free an innocent man from death row to her work getting clients major media attention and for her local community work, she is the winner of the FIRST PLACE PLATINUM award Hamilton Spectator ReadersChoice for PR 2018, Diamond 2019.She is a 2020 RBC Women of Influence Nominee and was also recently nominated for the internationally prestigious 2020 Tällberg/Eliasson Global Leadership Prize. She has been frequently quoted in the international media on both human rights issues and as a Public Relations thought leader. A frequent guest on TV, radio and high profile podcasts around the world on topics of leadership, empowerment, and entrepreneurship as well as all aspects of media and public relations.

Tracy and her husband moved to Xewkija Gozo from Canada.

She just found out that was quoted in the iconic US publication Newsweek.

recommending Gozo and Mdina in an article on must visit tourist destinations for 2026. This one starts by quoting a travel expert talking about how Malta is becoming an increasingly popular travel destination for North Americans. Then it says,

"Tracy Lamourie, founder and managing director at Lamourie Media, who lives in Malta, told Newsweek that the southern European island "has everything for every taste," from the quiet, historic streets of Mdina to the slower pace of Gozo, "where horses still walk on the streets and much of the landscape still looks as it did a thousand years ago." 10 Underrated Travel Destinations To Visit in 2026, According to Experts - Newsweek https://share.google/PX5XRKhgZTo1HrZfr

Tracy was also quoted last year in Daily Express UK as a travel expert with Ramla Bay as my pick for best beach in Europe.

https://www.express.co.uk/travel/beach/2103940/best-beaches-Europe-Italy-Greece-Spain-Portugal

Dave and Tracey were also guests on TVM AM show a few months ago talking about why we love it so much.

ART EXHIBITION IN MOSTA

The Talent Mosti Philanthropic Association is set to host an art exhibition featuring the works of Ċensu Fenech and Nathalie Mifsud at the Razzett tal-Markiż Mallia Tabone, located at 27 Triq il-Wied il-Għasel, Mosta, adjacent to the Secondary School, Maria Reġina College, commonly referred to as Lily of the Valley.

Exhibition Hours:

- Monday to Saturday from 6pm to 8pm and Sunday from 10am to 12pm
- Free admission – All are welcome
- VO226 – For further details, please visit our Facebook page: Razzett tal-Markiż – Cultural Centre
- This event is fully supported by the School Council of Lily of the Valley Secondary School within Maria Regina College, Mosta

Highlighting the artists:

Ċensu Fenech Following his retirement, Ċensu pursued a two-year ceramics course at MCAST, Mosta. He subsequently advanced his education at the Valletta School of Art, where he earned a Diploma in Sculpture.

Nathalie Mifsud Nathalie is an artist who has taught herself. Her artwork embodies a deep appreciation for the Maltese landscape. She adopts a minimalist approach, focusing on the essentials while adding a touch of fantasy. She aspires for her creations to foster a greater appreciation for nature.

ST. PAUL'S EXHIBITION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

St Paul's shipwreck in Malta in AD60 is the main theme of an exhibition in the European Parliament celebrating Malta's Catholic tradition.

Organised by MEP David Casa and inaugurated by European Parliament president Roberta Metsola, the exhibition reflects on the shipwreck as a pivotal moment that marked the beginning of Christianity in Malta, laying the foundations of a faith that continue to shape Maltese society, culture and identity to this day.

Among the exhibition's highlights is a reproduction of the 367-year-old titular statue by renowned Maltese Baroque sculptor Melchiorre Cafà, alongside an informative photographic display and an immersive virtual tour of the Collegiate Parish Church of St Paul's Shipwreck, completed in 1570 in Valletta. Casa said the exhibition presents a defining part of Malta's spiritual and cultural heritage within the heart of Europe's democratic institutions.

"St Paul's arrival in Malta shaped our history and identity in a profound and lasting way. This exhibition allows us to share that heritage with a European audience and highlight the values that have defined Maltese society for centuries," he said.

The exhibition will remain open throughout the week and is accessible within the European Parliament.

2025: MORE BOYS BORN THAN GIRLS – NOAH AND EMMA MOST POPULAR NAMES

During 2025, a total of 4,368 births were registered in Malta and Gozo. Of these, 2,243 were boys and 2,125 were girls. The Malta Public Registry recorded 4,028 births, a decrease of 79 compared to 2024, while 340 births were registered in Gozo.

The most popular boys' names in both Malta and Gozo were Noah, Luca, and Matteo.

For girls, the most popular names in Malta were Emma, Emilia, and Leah, while in Gozo they were Ellie, Valentina, and Mia.For the fourth consecutive year, Ġanni and Luċija remained the most popular names using Maltese characters In the same year, a total of 4,176 deaths were registered across Malta and Gozo. The Malta Public Registry recorded 3,838 deaths, of which 1,979 were men and 1,859 were women.

In Gozo, 338 deaths were registered, including 168 men and 170 women.

Commenting on the role of the Public Registry, Vincent Sladden, Head of the Public Registry, said that the registry is involved in every stage of life, from birth to death.

"When a baby is born, parents are encouraged to contact the Public Registry as soon as possible to register the birth and obtain the birth certificate. Similarly, in the event of a death, notifying the Public Registry allows the death certificate to be issued promptly and the necessary procedures to be completed with greater ease," Sladden explained.

With regard to marriages, a total of 2,240 marriages were registered in Malta and Gozo during 2025. The Malta Public Registry recorded 2,069 marriages, an increase of 48 compared to 2024, while 171 marriages were registered in Gozo. During the same period, one Civil Union and 65 cohabitations were registered, the majority of which took place in Malta.

There was also an increase in demand for official certificates.

The Malta Public Registry issued over 76,000 birth, death, and marriage certificates, an increase of nearly 2,600 compared to the previous year, along with more than 1,500 multilingual certificates. Demand also rose for Certificates of Free Status and for the online services provided by the registry. In Gozo, over 6,000 certificates of the same type were issued. Sladden also reminded the public of the advantages of multilingual certificates within the European Union:

"Anyone who needs to present a civil status certificate within the European Union should contact the Public Registry. We issue standard multilingual certificates, meaning there is no need for a separate sworn translation, as these certificates are accepted across the EU."

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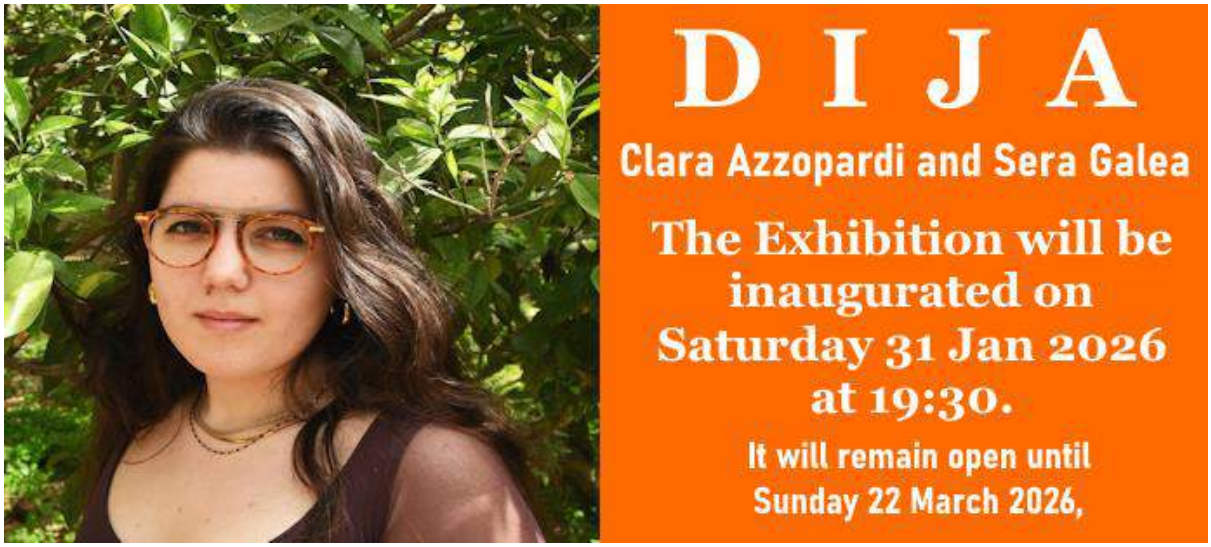


First Temporary Exhibition at Il-Ħaġar for 2026

DIJA by Clara Azzopardi

Il-Ħaġar Museum is pleased to announce its first temporary exhibition for 2026, presenting artworks by Gozitan artist Clara Azzopardi. This solo exhibition meditates on light in times of grief, hope, memory, celebration, and the mundane. The body of work on display reflects on how light weaves through humanity's lived experience.

Azzopardi is drawn to the presence of light in two primary spaces: the home and the expanse of the sea. Indoors, it transforms a space into a sanctuary; outdoors, the sea's surface mirrors this play of light, constantly shifting. In her practice, Azzopardi explores how these motifs serve as metaphors for her own experiences of light. Her work embodies its presence, offering a sense of refuge - a pause amid life's flux. The exhibition captures these fleeting moments, reminding us that, in a world of constant change, light remains an anchor for reflection.

DIJA will be inaugurated on **Saturday 31 January 2026 at 19:30**. Everyone is invited to the official opening. The exhibition will remain open until Sunday 22 March 2026, during the Museum's official opening hours (Monday to Sunday, 9:00-17:00).

Ms Monica Borg Debrincat c/o Il-Ħaġar - Heart of Gozo Museum

Recently here in Australia we had with us from Malta, an exceptionally talented stage artist. Josuel Grech is a magnificent Elvis impersonator who has succeeded to win first prizes for his great talents all over the world, in Malta, in the UK, in the USA, and now also here in Australia. In the past few weeks he has had very successful performances in New South Wales, in Victoria, and on Saturday 31st December 2025 he had a very successful show accompanied by his 5-piece band at the Bridgeway Hotel at Pooraka, SA.

We on the Adelaide Maltese Radio had the privilege of interviewing (in English) our 'Maltese Elvis' and you can hear this interview which was broadcasted on Saturday the 17th Jan 2026 on 5EBI 103.1 fm SBS Radio and any day or time afterwards by tuning in to Radio 5EBi fm, on demand any day or time afterwards. Ron Borg – Adelaide, South Australia

Dr Matthew Paris to form part of FIFA Futsal Committee

Dr Matthew Paris, Senior Vice President of the Malta Football Association, has been chosen by FIFA to form part of the Futsal Committee.

Dr Paris is one of the 19 members from world football, chosen by Gianni Infantino and Mattias Grafstrom, President and General Secretary of FIFA, to form this committee.In a brief comment, Dr Paris said that futsal in Malta is thriving with our national team that made it to the qualifying main round and with our u19 national team that consolidated its position.

"From an administrative side the MFA has an excellent relationship with FMA, whose President Mark Borg was recently nominated to act as a delegate for the upcoming Futsal Euro Finals. Luxol St Andrew's Futsal has once again left its mark. From a player's perspective, Malta has managed to export 3 local talents to other leagues outside of the country. All of this did not go unnoticed by the international futsal community," said Dr Paris.

The FIFA Futsal Committee is headed by Chairperson Vadim Laasenko from the Latvia FA.

FORT SAN SALVATORE

Fort San Salvatore (Maltese: Il-Forti San Salvatur), also known as Fort Salvatore (Maltese: Il-Fortizza tas-Salvatur), is a retrenched fort in Birgu, Malta. It was built in 1724 on one of the bastions of the Cottonera Lines. It was used as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Greek War of Independence and World War I and as an internment camp and kerosene depot in World War II.

Construction of the Cottonera Lines began in 1670, but work was suspended ten years later due to a lack of funds. By this time, the bastioned enceinte was complete, but other crucial parts such as cavaliers, ravelins, the ditch, the glacis and the covertway had not yet been built. In the early 18th century, some efforts were made to complete the lines, although they still lacked some crucial elements.

In 1724, San Salvatore Bastion, the northernmost bastion of the Cottonera Lines and the closest to the city of Birgu, was converted into a retrenched fort by French military engineers. The fort has two demi-bastions linked by a curtain wall, all of which are surrounded by a ditch. A parade ground is located in the centre of the fort.

The fort remained in use by the British in the 19th and 20th centuries. From 1824, it was used as a prisoner-of-war camp for Turkish prisoners during the Greek War of Independence. It became a POW camp once more when it housed German prisoners in World War I.

Between May and July 1940, some Maltese who were believed to be supporters of Italian irridentism, including future Prime Minister Enrico Mizzi, were interred within the fort. 43 of the internees were later exiled to Uganda but were allowed to return in 1945. During World War II, the fort became a kerosene depot. The depot exploded when the fort was bombed by Italian aircraft on 25 October 1941.

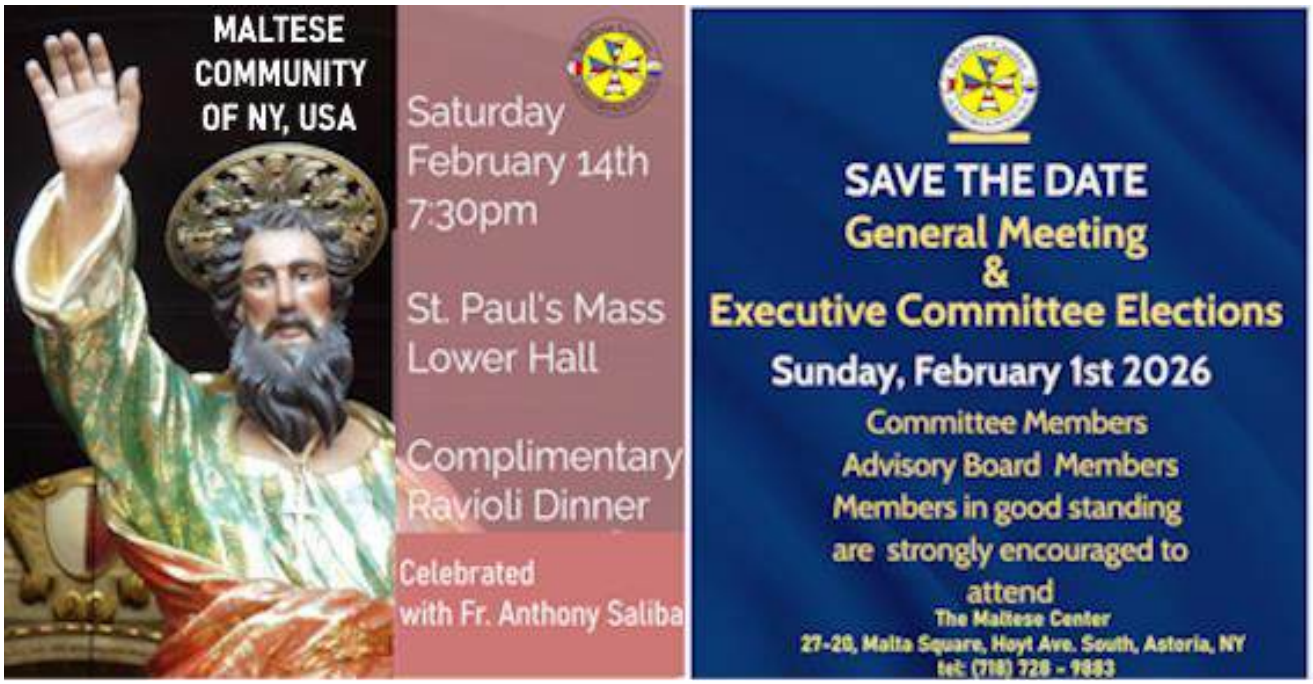
The Royal Cat Society is Holding a Major International Cat Show in Malta

The Royal Cat Society Malta is preparing to host the inaugural local TICA-sanctioned cat show of 2026, which will bring a significant international feline event to Qrendi at the end of January.

This two-day event is scheduled for the 31st of January and the 1st of February at the Ċentru Pastorali Qalb ta' Ġesù, and it will be free of charge. It will feature a diverse array of cats from Malta and various parts of Europe. Organized under The International Cat Association (TICA), established in 1979, the show will present numerous pedigreed breeds alongside rescued domestic cats.

Attendees will have the chance to observe breeds such as Singapuras, Abyssinians, Maine Coons, Ragdolls, and Sphynxes, all vying for esteemed titles judged by certified international TICA judges. The event is anticipated to draw breeders, exhibitors, and cat lovers, as well as families seeking an engaging and educational experience. In addition to the judging rings, the event will feature grooming demonstrations and "meet the breeds" sessions, allowing participants to interact with breeders and gain insights into responsible cat ownership, breed traits, and feline care.

The organizers state that the show aims to honour both the elegance of pedigreed cats and the significance of promoting rescued domestic cats, showcasing the diversity and allure of the feline world. The Royal Cat Society Malta characterizes the event as a distinctive opportunity for the public to witness an international-standard cat show in their locality, promising a weekend devoted to the grace, beauty, and personality of cats of all varieties.



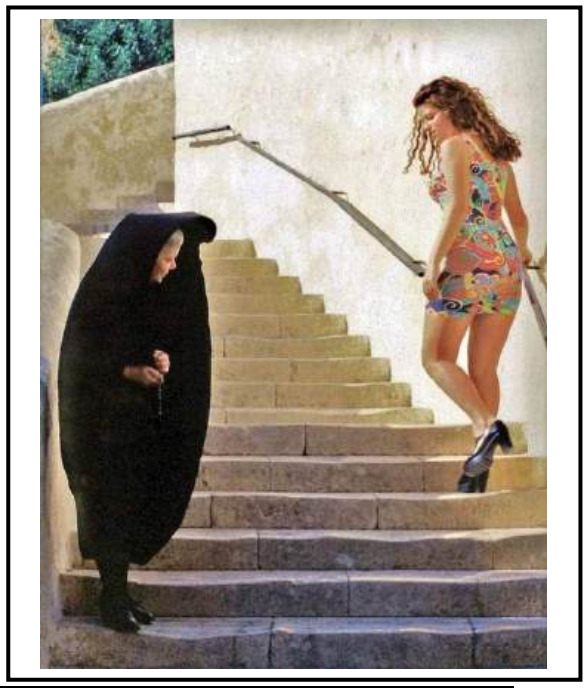
FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN MALTA CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO

The Filipino Community in Malta is a large, vibrant group, exceeding 13,000 people, primarily working in healthcare (care workers) and services, attracted by Malta's growing economy, with strong social networks via groups like "Filipino Community In Malta" on Facebook that support cultural traditions, worker rights, and community welfare, maintaining strong ties through celebrations, cultural events like Sinulog, and mutual support systems like 'paluwagan'.

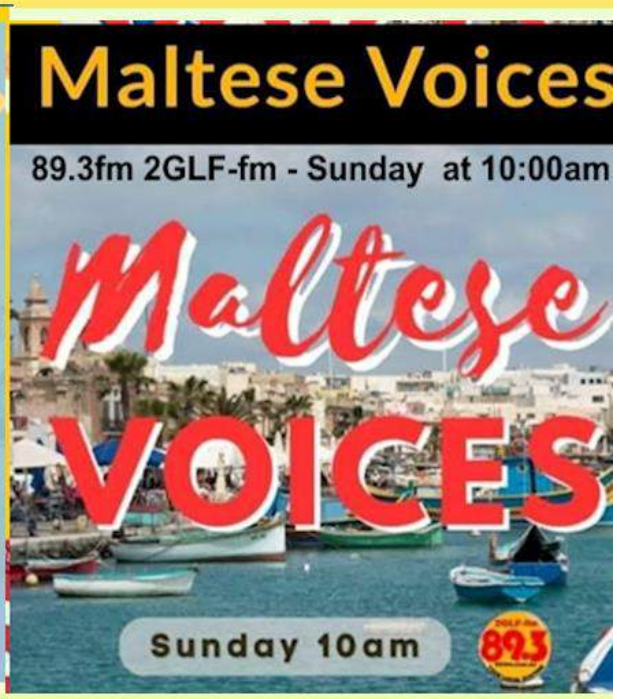
The Feast of Santo Niño is one of the most colourful and meaningful celebrations of the Filipino community, commemorating the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines and honouring the Holy Child Jesus. Celebrated on the third Sunday of January, this joyful tradition has found a vibrant home in Marsaskala, Malta, centred around the Parish Church of St Anne.

The feast brings together faith and culture through a shoreline procession, a solemn Mass with a Filipino choir, and the lively Sinulog dance accompanied by drums and the cry of “Viva Pit Señor!”.

The celebration continues with traditional Filipino food and festivities, welcoming Maltese locals and visitors alike, and beautifully reflecting unity, devotion, and cultural friendship.



THE VOICE OF ILLAWARRA
NEW SOUTH WALES
WITH LOUIS PARNIS



support your local associations

MALTA TO BE PROMOTED THROUGH FOUR-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH MELBOURNE-BASED FOOTBALL CLUB

Melbourne-based club Caroline Springs George Cross Football Club was founded by Maltese migrants in 1947 and recently promoted to the National Premier League in Victoria, Australia

The four-year deal with George Cross Football Club will promote Malta as a long-haul destination among Australians (Photo: Caroline Springs George Cross FC/Facebook)

Visit Malta enters four-year marketing partnership with Caroline Springs George Cross Football Club, promoting Malta as a desirable tourism destination within the Australian Market and on a global stage.

"As Malta's tourism strategy is shifting focus to attract higher-yielding tourism from long-haul markets, Australia is definitely a key long-haul source market for Malta, presenting strong opportunities to engage both the Maltese community and the broader travel audience, with significant potential for high-value tourism," said Carlo Micallef, Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Tourism Authority.

The four-year partnership with the Melbourne-based club, founded by Maltese migrants in 1947 and recently promoted to the National Premier League in Victoria, Australia, will further strengthen the cultural ties between Malta and its diaspora community abroad.

Visit Malta will serve as the club's main jersey partner, with both the home and away kits, which are worn across all 33 George Cross FC squads displaying the Visit Malta logo.

The company's branding and promotional content will also feature across the club's digital and media platforms, including social media channels and physical visibility at the club's stadium and training facilities.

"This partnership is particularly meaningful to me, given the strong Maltese heritage embedded within George Cross. Our identity is reflected in our name, badge, and colours, and this collaboration with Visit Malta aligns naturally with who we are as a club", stated Mark Sultana, President of Caroline Springs George Cross FC, "With more than 200,000 Australians of Maltese heritage and approximately half of our junior players coming from Maltese families, football provides an effective platform to maintain and celebrate this cultural connection."

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Ian Borg added, "Through this collaboration, we are showcasing Malta's rich heritage, lifestyle, and experiences to new audiences, while creating meaningful connections that translate into sustainable, high-value tourism for our country."

Through football, one of Australia's most followed sports, the collaboration will showcase Malta's Mediterranean lifestyle, history, and urban and coastal experiences to new audiences.

Calling All
MUSICIANS!
Join Us to Play Maltese Marches!
PORTARLINGTON
FAMILY DAY!
Rehearsal:
Wednesday, 21 January
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Bus to Portarlington Available!
$30 Per Person.
REGISTER NOW!

Cairns and Region Maltese Association Inc
CARMA invites everyone to come celebrate:
Saint Paul's Shipwreck
Feast Day
Saturday, 21 February 2026
10:30am Mass
St Monica's Cathedral
181 Abbott St, Cairns City, QLD 4870
then from 11:30am in the Catherine McAuley Centre
In the hall behind the Cathedral from
Abbott St. Follow the signs.
Authentic Maltese food including, Gbejniet Tal Bzar, Ross il-Forn, Ravioli, Pastizzi, Torta tal-Qargha hamra, & Qaghaq Ta' il-ghasel
Gold coin entry donation is appreciated.
For catering purposes please register
by contacting Vicky on 0409 551 527
EFTPOS available
We are very privileged and thankful to have Bishop Joe

SAVE THE DATE
MALTA
VS
NORFOLK ISLAND
TEST SERIES
MALTA
NATIONAL
SINGLES
CHAMPIONSHIPS
WOMEN
12 - 15 FEB 2026
TWEED HEADS, NSW

NORFOLK ISLAND
LAWN BOWLERS
MALTESE
FALCONS
VS
ISLAND SHOWDOWN

Maltese Falcons - Maltese Lawn Bowlers Association February 2026 at Club Tweed in the Gold Coast Queensland - Australia