THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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Multicultural Aged Care INFORMATION

COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Hon. Chris Fearne MP

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

Welcome

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

JUNE 11 - JULY 19 CANADA | MEXICO | USA

MALTESE JOURNAL

CONNECTING

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD AND THE MALTESE JOURNAL

The Maltese E-Newsletter, The Journal for Maltese Living Abroad, is delighted to announce appointment of the Hon Chris Fearne as Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs in the newly formed Malta's Cabinet. Consequently, he now holds the position of Chairman of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA). We extend a warm welcome and look forward to a productive partnership between the Council and the Maltese Journal in their shared objective of advocating for and safeguarding the rights and interests of Malta's Diaspora. At the same time, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg for his leadership, commitment, and support during his tenure as Chairman of CMLA, along with his substantial contributions to Malta's foreign affairs. Mr. Frank Scicluna, the editor, along with the readers of the Maltese Journal, convey their best wishes to Minister Fearne for success in his new role, and we stand ready to assist him in all his efforts on behalf of the Maltese community abroad. We do not seek financial support (as we recognize the futility of such a request); however, what we expect from the Minister and the CMLA is acknowledgment, support, cooperation, collaboration, and mutual respect not for personal gain, but for the advantage of all members of the Maltese living overseas. Don't let us down, Minister.

The readers of the Maltese Journal deserve recognition

General Consular Affairs - MALTA

In recent years, there was a considerable increase in the number of Maltese nationals travelling abroad for business or leisure. While this is a positive sign, it has also brought about a new set of challenges and a significant increase in requests for consular assistance, the majority of which could be easily avoided if travellers are properly guided about what to do prior to travel.

Consular assistance is regulated by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) and consists of an array of consular issues related but not limited to cases taking place abroad and involving Maltese nationals. Issues range from loss/stolen or expired passports to hospitalisation and deaths, violence and criminal offence, family disputes and deportation of Maltese nationals.

Further, consular assistance also includes legal matters in the form of notifications on maritime contraventions, transmission and processing of rogatory letters, EFTA Court documentation, information related to deaths/incidents of foreign nationals, documentation for request for transfer of sentenced persons, transfer or request for extradition of local/foreign nationals.

The General Consular Affairs Unit which forms part of the Client Service Office (CSO) also handles requests received by foreign missions to visit foreign inmates at the Correctional Service Agency and the setting up of polling stations in Malta by Embassies for foreigners living in Malta to be able to vote in elections taking place in their homeland.

Who to contact in case of emergency

The Ministry provides emergency consular assistance 24 hours a day including weekends and public holidays. If you are abroad and need help, you can call the Maltese Embassy, the High Commission or the Consulate in the country you are visiting, when present, or the Ministry in Valletta. After office hours, the Ministry operates through a Duty Officer who takes note of your request and, if possible, assists immediately. When immediate assistance is not possible, your request will be referred for action to the officers in charge at the Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad Directorate. You can access addresses and telephone numbers of Missions abroad online by clicking on **Malta Representations** and select the country of which you require Malta's diplomatic contacts.

The Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad

The Directorate assists all Maltese travellers who find themselves in distress whilst abroad. In such situations, the Directorate acts as the main point of contact between the individual who is abroad and his/her family in Malta, to facilitate any possible support and ensure that all services rendered are provided in the best possible manner and in a timely order. Are you in an emergency?

Do you require emergency consular assistance abroad? If so, call the MFT Emergency Line now: (+356) 2204 0000

Multicultural Aged Care

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

A friendly reminder: stay cautious of unexpected visitors and calls

There have been reports of people pretending to be aged care assessors or allied health workers. Some people have received unexpected phone calls or visits from someone claiming to be from My Aged Care.
There is no need to feel worried. Simply take a moment to check before sharing any information or allowing someone into your home.
Remember:

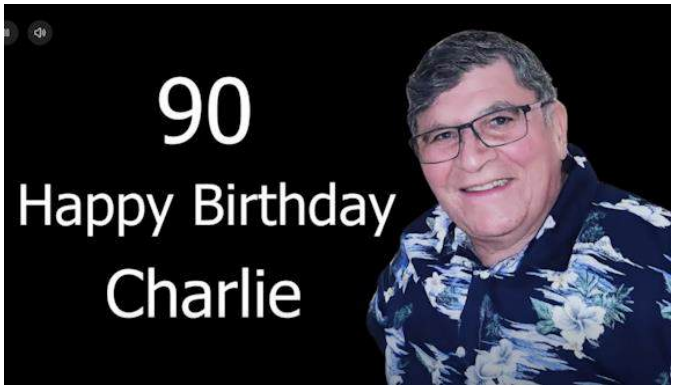
- A genuine aged care assessor will arrange a visit with you in advance.
- They will be able to show you identification.
- Do not share personal or banking information with anyone you do not know.
- You do not need to let anyone into your home if you feel unsure or uncomfortable.
- It is always okay to say: "I would like to check first."

To confirm whether a call or visit is genuine, contact My Aged Care on 1800 200 422.
My Aged Care is available:

- Monday to Friday: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

If you believe you have been contacted by a scammer, you can report it to Scamwatch at www.scamwatch.gov.au.
If you would like to speak to the MAC team in Adelaide for further information, please feel free to call us at 08 8241 9900.

MULATICULTURAL AGED CARE



Over the past 24 years, Mr. Charles Mifsud OAM MQR JP from NSW has had the honour and privilege of being involved in organizing and bringing forth numerous exceptional artists from his homeland, Malta, through The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW, to aid in celebrating and preserving Maltese culture in Australia.

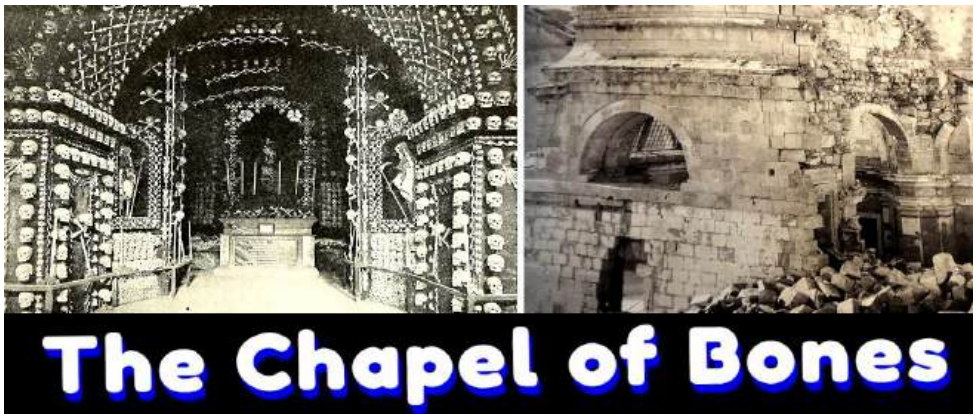
During his 90th birthday family gathering, Charles was pleasantly surprised with a video showcasing a magnificent rendition of a truly patriotic and beautiful Maltese classic – Tema '79. He expressed, "I extend my gratitude to these remarkable friends with extraordinary voices, whom I have come to know over the past 24 years. You all began as acquaintances, but you have all evolved into much more than that and each of you holds a unique place in my heart. Thank you for this genuinely wonderful gift; you have made my birthday celebration even more memorable."

Ludwig Galea, Debbie Scerri, Janvil, Pamela, Mark Tonna, Christabelle Scerri, Alan Sciberras, Jasmine Abela, Nadine Axisa.

He said "I would also like to express my gratitude to Andrew Zammit at TONE STUDIOS for your exceptional engineering, and of course, to Henry Zammit Cordina, who filmed and compiled the special video and montage."

Frank Scicluna, the Editor of the Maltese Journal, along with the readers of the Maltese Journal, extend their congratulations to Charles, a solid pillar of the Maltese community in NSW for his outstanding achievements over many years. We wish him peace, love, health, and God's blessings on his birthday. Thank you as well for your support and assistance with the Maltese eNewsletter,the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad. **www.facebook.com/reel/976478421872117**

Nibbia Chapel was a Roman Catholic chapel in Valletta, Malta, which was dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy. It was originally built in 1619 by Fra Giorgio Nibbia, a knight of the Order of St. John, and it was located near a cemetery where deceased patients from the nearby Sacra Infermeria were buried.



The chapel was rebuilt in the Baroque style in 1731. In 1852 its crypt was decorated with skeletal human remains taken from the adjacent cemetery, giving rise to the name **Chapel of Bones** (Maltese: *Il-Kappella tal-Għadam*). The chapel was heavily damaged by aerial bombardment in 1941, and its ruins were subsequently demolished, leaving only some foundations on the site. However, the crypt might still survive intact.

The Nibbia Chapel was built in 1619 with funds of the knight Fra Giorgio Nibbia, who was buried there upon his death.[1] The chapel was dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy (or the Madonna della Pietà),[2] and it stood next to a cemetery where patients who had died at the Sacra Infermeria were buried.[3] It was used mainly to celebrate mass for the souls of these patients.[4] The chapel was commonly referred to as *ta' Nibbia* after the knight who built it, but it was also called *taz-zuntier*, a Maltese word which formerly meant "cemetery".

The original chapel was dismantled in 1730, and it was rebuilt in 1731 to designs attributed to the Baroque architect Romano Carapecchia. In 1776, the Sacra Infermeria cemetery was cleared, and the human remains were transferred into an ossuary beneath the chapel.[4]

The remains of the Nibbia Chapel

In 1852, chaplain of the hospital Rev. Sacco decided to decorate the crypt with human remains from the cemetery. It therefore became known as the *Chapel of Bones*, and by the early 20th century it had become an attraction for both the Maltese and tourists, being featured on a number of postcards.[4][6] Over the years, local tradition held that the bones in the crypt did not belong to Sacra Infermeria patients, but to soldiers who had died during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.[7]

Saint George Preca held conferences about Christian eschatology within this chapel. Several pilgrimages were held at the chapel, especially during the month of November.

Evans Building, whose grounds contain the chapel's remains

The chapel was damaged by aerial bombardment on 14 February 1941, during World War II. Some human remains were apparently collected and buried at the Addolorata Cemetery,[4] although the crypt might still survive intact. The chapel's ruins were demolished in the late 1970s, leaving only a few remains on the site.

The remains of the chapel, which include Nibbia's sarcophagus, are now found in a cordoned area in the car park of Evans Building.[1][8] The ruins were given a facelift by the Archaeological Services Cooperative and the Grupp Arkeologiku Malti (Maltese Archeology Group) in 2002,[9] but they have since fallen into a state of disrepair.[3] These remains were scheduled as a Class B national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in 2008.[1]

The Nibbia Chapel was an octagonal building with a dome. The façade had a large portal with the main doorway, which was flanked by two sets of Doric pilasters on either side. The door had an architrave with a marble plaque, which was topped by a broken rounded pediment. The upper section had a central arched window between small clusters of pilasters and running scrolls, and it

was separated from the lower half of the structure by a thin cornice. Another triangular pediment topped the building.[1]

The chapel had a vaulted underground crypt which served as an ossuary. Skeletal remains of patients who had died at the Sacra Infermeria were arranged in decorative patterns on the walls, and the crypt therefore became popularly known as the *Chapel of Bones*. The crypt had one altar, which had a Latin inscription lamenting the ephemerality of life and requesting prayers for the deceased.[1] The exact location of the crypt has been lost, and it could have been either under the chapel itself or in the immediate vicinity. Although the chapel was destroyed during the World War II bombings, the crypt might still exist.

MALTA LAND Of HONEY - BEEKEEPING

https://www.maltabeekeepersassociation.com/

A honeybee starts the honey making process by visiting a flower and gathering some of its nectar. Many plants use nectar as a way of encouraging insects (bees, wasps, butterflies, etc.) to stop at the flower. In the process of gathering nectar, the insect transfers pollen grains from one flower to another and pollinates the flower. Most flower nectar are like sugar water -- sucrose mixed with water. Nectar can contain other beneficial substances as well. To make honey, two things happen:

Enzymes that bees produce turn the sucrose (a disaccharide) into glucose and fructose (monosaccharides). See How Food Works for a discussion of food enzymes and saccharides. Most of the moisture has to be evaporated, leaving only about 18-percent water in honey. Here is a very nice description of the enzyme process: An enzyme, invertase, converts most of the sucrose into two six-carbon sugars, glucose and fructose. A small amount of the glucose is attacked by a second enzyme, glucose oxidase, and converted into gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide. The gluconic acid makes honey an acid medium with a low pH that is inhospitable to bacteria, mold, and fungi, organisms we call microbes, while the hydrogen peroxide gives short-range protection against these same organisms when the honey is ripening or is diluted for larval food. Honeybees also reduce the moisture content of nectar, which gives it a high osmotic pressure and protection against microbes. This page gives a very nice description of the evaporation process:

The effect is to make honey a very stable food. It naturally resists moulds, fungi and other bacteria, allowing it to last for years without refrigeration!

Bee Keeping

Beekeeping (or apiculture, from Latin apis, bee) is the maintenance of honeybee colonies, commonly in hives, by humans. A beekeeper (or apiarist) keeps bees in order to collect honey and other products of the hive (including beeswax, propolis, pollen, and royal jelly), to pollinate crops, or to produce bees for sale to other beekeepers. A location where bees are kept is called an apiary or "bee yard".

Depictions of humans collecting honey from wild bees date to 15,000 years ago, efforts to domesticate them are shown in Egyptian art around 4,500 years ago. Simple hives and smoke were used and honey was stored in jars, some of which were found in the tombs of pharaohs such as Tutankhamun. It wasn't until the 18th century that European understanding of the colonies and biology of bees allowed the construction of the movable comb hive so that honey could be harvested without destroying the entire colony.

MalteseCommunity Radio 5EBI 103.1fm hear a world of difference

Established in 1977 by; Fr. P.P.Meilaq OFM, Mr FX Falzon, G.Grech, J.Monsigneur

From left - Frans Falzon, Carmen Debono, Gaetano Grech and Father Peter Paul Meilaq

MALTESE COMMUNITY RADIO ADELAIDE

By Ron Borg

The Maltese Community Radio program is proud to say that we have been part of Radio 5EBI 103.1*fm* since October 1977. 49 years of happy and comfortable association with this station and bringing an entertainment and information service to the Maltese Community in South Australia!

In the inaugural years, the initial pioneering work to start this program was done by the handful of enthusiastic people, Father Peter Paul Meilaq, Mr. F X. Falzon, Mr. Gejtu Grech and Mr. Joe Monsigneur. With the constant aid of the staff at 5EBI, the program was successfully received by the community and continued to thrive with new presenters filling in the place of those retiring. In 2008, one of the founders Mr. Grech, retired but unfortunately passed away in August 2012. However, in 2008, Doris Mangion, joined the group formed by Carmen Debono, Bernadette Buhagiar, and John Mangion, and the program continued to thrive. John and Doris resigned in 2018, but Carmen and Bernadette continued with the programs, and Ron Borg joined the team in January 2001. The trio worked well together, but unfortunately, Carmen passed away in March 2023.

From left - Carmen Debono, Bernadette Buhagiar, Doris and John Mangion

In this period, we were producing 3 programs weekly, Sunday morning, Monday morning, and Monday evening. Our listeners were very appreciative of the 'Radio on Demand' system that 5EBI introduced because of the advantage of listening to our program anytime, at their convenience, be it in the comfort of their beds at night or even while killing time in waiting rooms of hospitals! Of course we have introduced more innovative broadcasts like; regular interviews with artists and artisans of Maltese descendants, interviews in English but pertinent to Maltese interests, we expanded the Maltese Sport and news, but not including any politics. We also recite a weekly report of the Mondial competitions, general news from Malta, episodes of interesting stories, (*Romanzi),* we also produce informative and interesting stories about Maltese entertainers, statesmen and clergy in both Australia and Malta, and a host of other items of informative and educational items of general interest to the community.

From left - Ron Borg and Bernadette Buhagiar at the studio

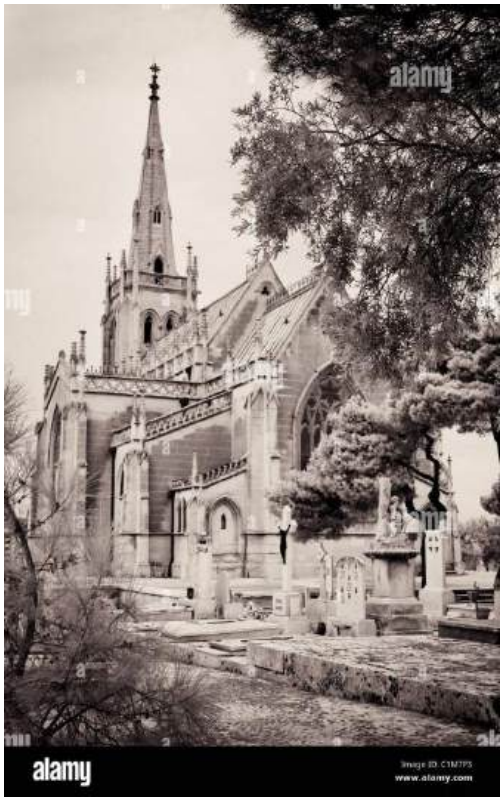
Apart from this, we also broadcast messages from all the Maltese Clubs and societies to keep the community informed of their activities. Of course we also broadcast any announcements from any of our listeners regarding Births, Bereavements, Anniversaries or any other occasions, as well as musical requests which keep the programs enhanced with music and songs from Maltese artists, with special editions on days like Mother's & Father's days, Festa days during their occurrence in Malta like "*Otto Settembre, Jum il-Ħelsien and Indipendenza"*, and also some from Australia like Anzac & Australia Day.

I'm pleased to say that, from the positive responses of our listeners, the variety in the programs seems to have pleased them well.

Earlier this year (2026) we were confronted by the increase of the program broadcasts levies by the radio station management. Financially we could not sustain the increased cost of three programs, consequently we reduced them to two weekly programs, one on Saturday afternoon at 5.00pm but we continued to also broadcast the Sunday Morning Program at 7.00am.

Both Bernadette and I, take pleasure in bringing these weekly programs to inform, entertain, and unite the Maltese Community of South Australia voluntarily, in fact, Bernadette Buhagiar and myself Ron Borg, have just been recognized and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the 'Volunteers Australia Council. We are grateful for this honorable accolade bestowed upon us both!

We hasten to add, that we could not have had this progress without the continued assistance of the friendly and cooperative staff of Radio 5EBI Fm which is presently celebrating 50 Years of Broadcasting to the Multicultural Community, and of course our appreciative listeners and most of the Maltese.



THE SANTA MARIA ADDOLORATA CEMETERY – PAOLA

The Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery was inaugurated in 1869 following a seven-year construction period that cost 33,000 British pounds. The national cemetery has 20,000 graves spread over an area of 160 tumoli which are catered daily by six gravediggers who assist in the last voyage of the individual – his burial. The 20,000 graves are divided in three categories, the government's common property, graves belonging to organisations, societies, fraternities and religious orders; then there are graves of private families. At the time it was built, bodies were buried in churches – except for cases of contagious llnesses like cholera and the plague when they were buried in outdoor designated burial grounds.

But initially, people were reluctant to bury their loved ones outside a church. Although inaugurated in 1869, the first burial was made in January 1872.

With an entrance of its own, the section happened to flank a rubbish dump. People soon started calling it "*Il-Miżbla*". The term **"Miżbla"** (literally "rubbish dump" in Maltese) refers to an unconsecrated section. Historically, it was used between 1961 and 1969 to bury those considered out of grace with the Catholic Church in Malta. Those buried in this area mainly include:

Interdicted Labour Party Supporters: Between 1961 and 1963, the Church imposed an interdiction (*l-interdett*) on the Malta Labour Party. Anyone who associated with the party, read its newspapers, or died without receiving last rites was denied a Catholic burial.

Ġużé Ellul Mercer: The former Deputy Prime Minister and prolific author died just as the interdiction was being heavily enforced and was interred there. **Lisa Zammit of Msida:** Known as the only woman buried in the unconsecrated *Miżbla* section, she was denied a religious burial for her vocal support of the Labour Party.

Unbaptized Babies: The area was occasionally used for unbaptized infants or individuals who did not receive proper religious rites. **Migrants and Mariners:** In later years, the area was also used as a burial ground for migrants and asylum seekers who tragically lost their lives attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

In November 2019, Archbishop Charles Scicluna visited the *Miżbla* to pray over the tombs, lay flowers on the grave of Ġużé Ellul Mercer, and formally ask for forgiveness for the historical division the church caused.

A walk throughout the cemetery will reveal some interesting, even haunting, monuments and graves. Like the grave of Giuseppe Gouder, an 18-year-old who died in a

tram accident in Għajn Dwieli on September 30, 1905. A weeping angel tells the story of 19-year-old Giulio Mifsud, born Benghazi, who died on February 15, 1942 – during WWII - "to save the life of his friends".

When the cemetery first opened, nobody wanted to be buried there.

Another famous grave is that of **Dun Alfred Gatt** – a most sought confessor and counsellor believed to have the ability of healing and knowing the unknown – who died on March 26, 1937, aged 64. Also interesting is the life-size elegant statue of Italian born Maria Paleri, who died on in December 1889, aged 33.

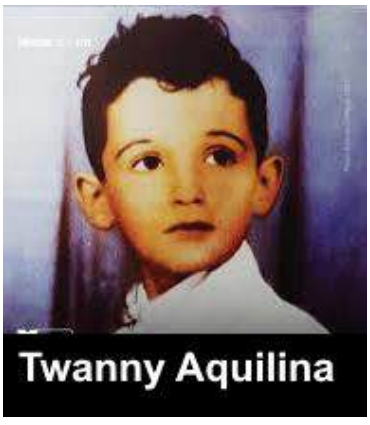
The current main office was a convent of the Franciscan Capuchin Friars who ran the place and lived there until 1979. That year, they moved out of the convent for health reasons since living in a valley came with a range of health issues, but continued administering the cemetery until 2010 when they gave up the role due to dwindling numbers.

The "Mother and Son grave" at the Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery in Paola, Malta, is one of its most famous and heartbreaking monuments. It features a life-size statue depicting a deceased mother seated on a chair with her son mourning her in his arms.

MOTHER AND SON - The Story Behind the Grave

The Tale: The monument was erected in 1904 by a wealthy Italian businessman named Attillo Micari. Legend states that he returned to Malta unexpectedly from studying or working abroad. His elderly mother, Giovanna, was so overjoyed to see her son again that her heart gave out, and she died in his arms.

The Tomb: Stricken with grief, Micari commissioned the striking, sentimental statue from a foundry in Rome to honor his mother. When Micari himself died in 1915, he was buried alongside his mother in the same tomb.



Another "Mother & Son" Story

Another well-known and tragic grave associated with a mother and son at the Addolorata Cemetery belongs to **Twanny Aquilina**, an 8-year-old murder victim who died in 1960 in Valletta. His grieving mother, Giga, was accused of the crime but always maintained her innocence.

The child's monument at the Addolorata, which shows him wearing his Holy Communion outfit, has become one of the secrets of the cemetery frequently pointed out by local historians.

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE

MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MARGARET ABELA - SECRETARY

Dear Frank, Congratulations on the remarkable achievement of publishing the 600th edition of the *Maltese Living Abroad Journal*.

Reaching this milestone is a testament to your extraordinary dedication, vision, and commitment to preserving and celebrating Maltese culture, history, and identity across the world. For decades, the journal has served as a vital link connecting Maltese communities abroad with their heritage and with one another.

Your tireless work has ensured that the stories, achievements, traditions, and contributions of Maltese people living overseas are recognised and remembered. Through your leadership and passion, you have created a publication that is not only informative but also deeply meaningful to generations of readers.

The 600th edition represents far more than a number—it reflects years of service, perseverance, and an unwavering belief in the importance of keeping the Maltese spirit alive, no matter where in the world Maltese people call home. Thank you for your outstanding contribution to the Maltese diaspora. May the journal continue to inform, inspire, and unite readers for many years to come.

With warmest congratulations and best wishes,

INVITATION = THE COMMITTEE OF THE MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INVITES YOU TO ATENND SOCIAL GATHERING AND LUNCH EVERY TUESDAY AT THE MALTESE CULTURAL CENTRE 6 JEANES STREET, BEVERLEY FROM 9.30am TILL- 300pm

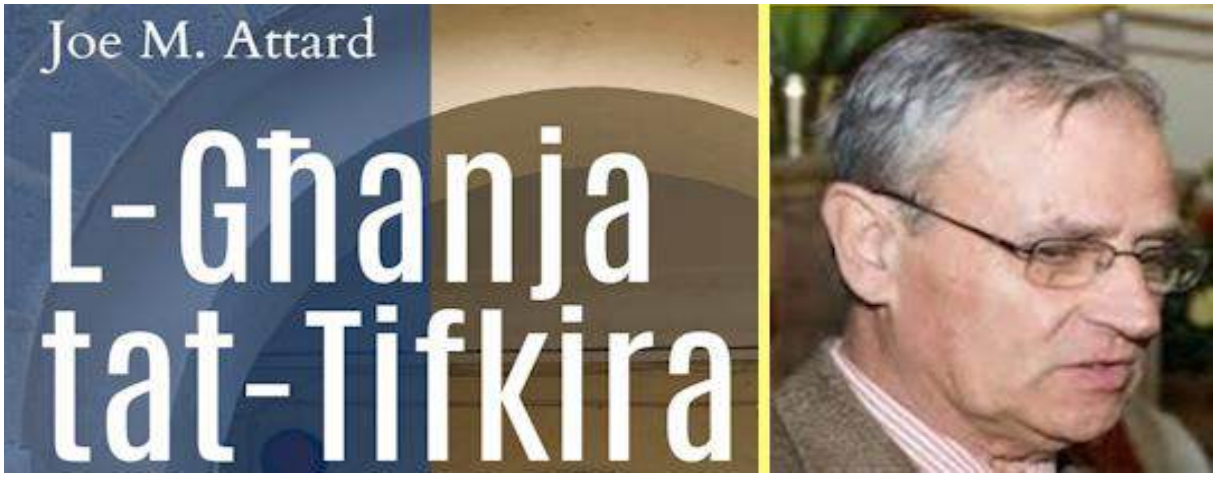
HIGH COMMISSIONER DONATES MALTESE BOOKS IN ACT

High Commissioner Clifford Borg-Marks, accompanied by his wife, Fiona Jin Fan, recently visited Canberra Grammar School (CGS) to donate, on behalf of the Malta High Commission, a collection of children's books in the Maltese language to the Mother Tongue section of the school's Primary Library.

The donated books included, among others, novels written and illustrated by award-winning authors Trevor Zahra and Charles Casha, historical fiction by Gino Muscat Azzopardi, traditional folk legends from Malta, fairy tales translated into Maltese, reading primers for beginners, and a volume of Bible stories for children.

High Commissioner Borg-Marks expressed the hope that the books will be enjoyed by Maltese schoolchildren in the Australian capital and will enrich the tapestry of CGS's Mother Tongue collection.

Mr Dan Wetherall, Associate Director of Students and Mr Adam Guzowski, Head of Primary Library, welcomed High Commissioner Borg-Marks and his wife to CGS and thanked the Malta High Commission for its generous donation and its support of the school community.



IL-POEŻIJI TIEGĦI

Xi ftit tal-ġimgħat ilu, irnexxieli nippubblika, bl-għajnuna tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, it-tieni edizjoni tal-ktieb tiegħi tal-poeżija, **L-Għanja tat-Tifkira** li kien jiġbor fih l-poeżiji li ktibt matul dawn l-aħħar għaxar snin. Kienu ħafna l-ħbieb tiegħi li ħeġġewni biex nasal għal dan il-pass, u wara li sibt ħafna għajnuna mingħand ibni Francesco Pio, meddejt għonqi għal dan ix-xogħol li kien jeħtieġ ħafna attenzjoni u paċenzja. Qed nikteb din ir-reċensjoni bil-Malti, għax jien għaddejt ħajti ngħallem il-Malti l-Liceo u l-poeżiji huma kollha bil-Malti, minsuġa f'okkażjonijiet ta' Praċetti, Griżma tal-Isqof lit-tfal, Żwiġijiet, Festi, Anniversarji u Mwiet. Dan kien fl-2022. Minn dak inhar 'l hawn komplejt nikteb u lejn tmiem is-sena 2025, ħriġt it-tieni edizzjoni li milli jidher intlaqgħet tajjeb ukoll. Issa, fl-4 ta' Novembru li ġej, fil-għaxija, jekk Alla jrid, din il-pubblikazzjoni se nillanċjaha fil-Palazz tal-President f'San Anton fil-preżenza tal-Eċċellenza Tagħha u ta' dawk kollha li jħobbu jiktbu u jippubblikaw f'ilsienna. Tista' tingħaqad magħna jekk tgħarrafni! Xejn speċjali imma nemmen li għandha tkun Lejla ħelwa ta' tifkira li fiha qed nistieden li Dr. Joe Zammit Ciantar biex jagħmel Kritika Letterarja, wara li kien għamel xi ħaġa simili fl-ewwel ħarġa tal-ktieb il-mibki u qatt minsi l-Profs Oliver Friġġieri, flimkien mat-tlett uliedi naqraw xi erba' poeżiji mill-ktieb, ikollna intervent mużikali mit-tenur żagħżugħ Angelo Muscat u nispjega fil-qosor kif wasalt sa fuq it-tarġa tal-Palazz tal-President li fiha sibt tant għajnuna u kuraġġ. Tagħlaq is-serata l-President ta' Malta li niftakarha titrabba fl-istess triq fejn kbirt jien ukoll, Triq Vajringa, fil-qalba tar-Rabat tagħna.

Jien ma ngħoddx ruħi b'xi poeta prim imma l-poeżija tiegħi tidher li tinżel tajjeb ma' kull min jaqraha għax jien inħobb il-vers tat-tmienja u bosta drabi t-tieni vers jirrima mar-raba wieħed. Rari npoġġi biex nikteb poeżija imma bosta drabi niġi mitlub biex nikteb poeżija li tkun tfakkar xi okkażjoni, bħal xi Praċett jew Griżma tat-tfal, xi mewt fil-familja, għeluq snin xi persuna (u dan l-aħħar ġejt mitlub biex nikteb poeżija lill-Kaptan ta' vapur li kien qed jagħlaq mitt sena), xi okkażjoni ta' festa fil-familja bħal ngħidu aħna xi tieġ, xi inawgurazzjoni ta' xi post f'Għawdex, il-festi tagħna, xi konkors letterarju, u naturalment kultant dwar xi suġġett li bih joħolmu niesna. Imbagħad inżomm fissi xi appuntamenti matul is-sena bħalma huma il-Milied, l-Għid Imqaddes, il-festa tal-Kunċizzjoni, L-Assunta fic-Cittadella, il-megalomartri San Gorg, San Valentinu, il-Karnival. Mhux l-ewwel darba li ktibt ukoll xi innu lil xi qaddis inkella xi kanzunetta għal xi festival. U ż-żmien

għaddej u fl-1 tas-sena għalaqt tmenin u għadni nħossni komdu ħafna nikteb meta niġi mitlub.

U allura issa erġajt quddiemkom b'din it-tieni edizzjoni tal-ktieb li fih issibu poeżiji li kont ktibt għal diversi okkażjonijiet, xi whud qosra u oħrajn twal. Tiskantawx tkunu tqallbu l-paġni ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni li qed ngħaddilkom u ssibu xi waħda li kontu tlabtuni intom stess. Is-Santa jew il-flyer tmur u tiġi imma hawnhekk se tkun immortalizzata u jiena mmut, imma kitbieti tibqa'.

Xtaqt ngħid grazzi mill-qalb lil ħu l-mara tiegħi Dr Joe Zammit Ciantar li għamilli l-Preżentazzjoni ta' dan il-ktieb, liż-żewġ uliedi Nathaniel u Francesco Pio għat-tiswija tal-għeltijiet, l-editjar u l-produzzjoni tal-ktieb, kif ukoll lil dawk kollha li laqgħu l-istedina tiegħi u għoġobhom jgħinuni biex dan il-ktieb jerġa' jara d-dawl tal-istampa. Li fadal biss issa huwa li l-ktieb jinżel tajjeb ma' dawk kollha li jħobbu l-Malti biex hekk ma jibqax fuq l-ixkafef ta' dari imma jsib ruħu għand bosta familji li għandhom għal qalbhom il-letteratura Maltija. Niftakar lis-Sur Pawlu Mizzi Direttur u Fundatur tal-Klabb Kotba Maltin jgħidli li l-Poeżija qatt ma kienet daqstant popolari fis-suq tal-kotba!

Intant se nagħlaq dawn il-kelmtejn billi ndewwaqkom l-għanja li ktibt lil Għawdex fejn rajt l-ewwel dawl u fejn fi żmien mhux 'l bogħod għad irrid nagħlaq għajnejja! Il-poeżija semmejtha

LIL GĦAWDEX TIEGĦI.

Din il-gżira li wellditni
Ma nibdilha żgur ma' ħadd
U sakemm in-nifs dlonk nieħu
Li niċħadha ma jkun qatt!

Għax għalkemm hi gżira ċkejkna
Issaħħar lil min iżurha,
U fl-aħħar minn tal-ġurnata
Lilha żgur jibda jadura.

Għaliex lil dir-roqgħa art tagħna
Alla ħabbha żgur bi sħiħ,
Ma ngħidx illi ppreferiha
Imma għolliha wisq, qatigħ.

Ma tiġix ġurnata waħda
Li x-xemx ma ssaħħanhiex;
Ma nistgħux ingergru, ngemgmu,
Li lilha ma xxarrabhiex!

Għoljiet sbieħ lilha jżejnu
U ma' dawn widien ħadrana
W hekk kif ir-rebbiegħa tasal
Magħhom niġru żgur tarana.

U kif Gunju isellmilna
Ċuff fil-baħar naqbżu żgur
Gewwa l-ilma ċar u safi
Qalb il-ħut minn kull kulur.

Fis-sajf erħilna ngawdu
Festi sbieħ kollha kulur –
Ngħid għalija kollha nħobbhom,
Lil kull raħal, belt inżur!

Imma kemm tingħafas qalbi
Meta tant spekulaturi
'Flats' bl-addoċċ jibnu bla rażan
U addio, siġar, fjuri!

Hemm bżonn nieqfu waħda sewwa
Ma nħallux dan ir-rigress
F'niesna joħloq niket, dwejjaq –
Dan mhux il-veru progress!

Dan il-poplu żgur jixraqlu
Li jgħx hieni fl-armonija
F'din i-gżira Għawdxija tagħna
Mżejna b'paċi u bżulija!

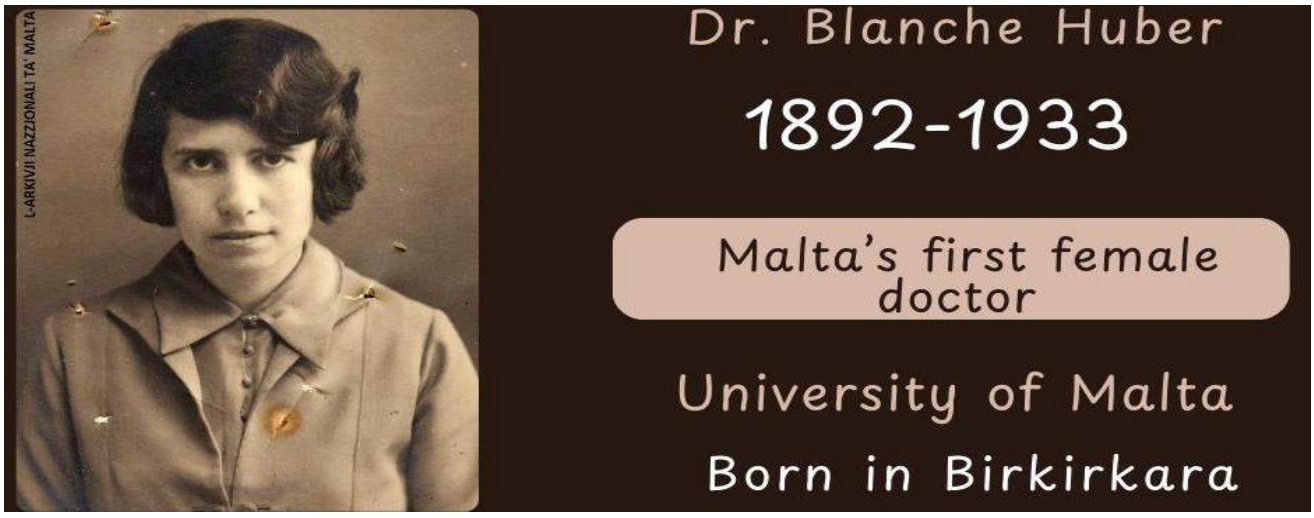
MALTA'S FIRST FEMALE DOCTOR BLANCHE HUBER MD

This house served as the residence Dr Blanche Huber MD, the first Maltese female medical student.

Huber enrolled at the University of Malta with Tessie M. Camilleri in October 1919 and graduated six years later in 1925. Dr Blanche Huber practiced as a pharmacist in the town of Żejtun and she passed away at the age of 40 on 19 July 1942.

The house is of architectural significance, being a typical construction of a 20th century house with a garden at the back, and is socially significant given its connection to Blanche Huber, a pioneer of her time. National Inventory Number: 02581.

Blanche Huber (c. 1900 – 1940) was the first woman in Malta to train as a doctor. She graduated as a doctor from the University of Malta in 1925, having entered it in 1919.[1][2] However, Huber never worked as a doctor, instead she always practiced as a pharmacist in Żejtun. Blanche Huber was born in Birkirkara to Hon Joseph Huber, and she later married Dr. Joseph Caruana, a fellow medical professional. Huber matriculated in June 1919. In October 1919, she and Tessie Camilleri were the first female students to enrol at the University of Malta.[2][5] Huber chose to enrol in the longer medicine course, and Camilleri, a literature student, graduated ahead of her in 1922. She graduated as a doctor from the University of Malta in 1925. However, Huber never worked as a doctor; instead, she practiced as a pharmacist in Żejtun. Huber died on 19 July 1940 at the age of 40. Blanche Huber Street in Sliema is named after her.



I have read through this wonderful 600th edition of the Maltese Newsletter/Journal. It is amazing and it indicates how important and well-received every edition of this newsletter is. You have given so much to so many all over the world. As to this edition being the 600th, that is just overwhelmingly amazing. Every edition is full of information and very educational.

Lena and George Saliba

George Michael Saliba OAM A Lifetime of Service to the Maltese Community

Few individuals can truly be described as pillars of a community, yet George Michael Saliba OAM has earned that distinction through decades of unwavering dedication, leadership, and service to the Maltese community in Victoria.

Born in Senglea, Malta, in 1936, George arrived in Melbourne with his wife Lena in 1958 and settled in Newport, where he would begin a remarkable journey of community involvement that continues to this day.

George's passion for community service began at an early age. As a teenager in Malta, he helped establish the Malta Amateur Football Association (M.A.F.A.) in 1955, an organisation that has since grown into one of Malta's largest sporting bodies. This early commitment to building strong community organisations would become a defining feature of his life.

In 1973, George was a founding member of the Newport Maltese Association and became its first President, serving with distinction for 22 years. Under his leadership, the Association flourished and became one of the strongest and most respected Maltese organisations in Victoria. In later years, he again answered the call of duty by returning to the presidency at the request of fellow members.

Beyond Newport, George played a major role within the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, serving as Senior Vice President for many years and contributing significantly to the development of the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville. Through his leadership and fundraising efforts, hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised to support this important community asset.

George has also been instrumental in promoting Maltese culture through initiatives such as the Maltese Cultural Festival, the Maltese Song Festival, and numerous community events that have celebrated and preserved Maltese heritage for future generations.

His contributions have been recognised through several prestigious honours, including the Manuel De Vilhena Award in 1999, the Victorian Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs in 2007, and, most notably, the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2011 for service to the Maltese community.

Today, George remains an inspiration to many. Together with his beloved wife Lena, children, and grandchildren, he represents the values of commitment, generosity, and community spirit. His legacy is reflected not only in the organisations he helped build, but also in the countless lives he has touched over a lifetime of dedicated service.

Emmanuel Brincat Melbourne

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

MALTESE COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Over 30,000 Maltese citizens migrated to the United Kingdom during the post-World War II exodus between 1946 and 1996. While Australia became the most popular destination for the Maltese diaspora, the UK served as the second largest. Nearly 40% of those who left eventually returned home to Malta.

History of the Migration Waves

Early Arrivals: Before World War I, Maltese migrants settled in Cardiff, working in the docks of Tiger Bay.

The Post-1945 Exodus: Mass unemployment in Malta's dockyards and a spiking birth rate drove roughly 30% of Malta's population to emigrate. Between 1946 and the late 1970s, the UK took about 22% of all departing emigrants.

No Visas Needed: Because Maltese citizens were British subjects, migration required no visas before 1962, making travel straightforward.

Sectors: Migrants frequently found work in London's East End docks, Lyons Corner Houses kitchens, canning and ice cream factories, and catering.

Demographics and Settlements

Historical Totals: Exact historical migration records track 31,489 Maltese arrivals into the UK, with 12,659 of those individuals ultimately returning to Malta.

Modern Counts: Current records indicate that over 40,000 Maltese-born individuals reside in the UK today.

Key Locations: Major hubs of Maltese settlement historically formed around London's East End and Commercial Road, as well as in Chatham, Portsmouth, Lancashire, and Cardiff.

The story of the post-war Maltese migration to Britain is therefore largely complete. The community is ageing. The original migrants are in their seventies and eighties. Their children, in many cases, are British in everything except surname. Their grandchildren are, with rare exceptions, British without qualification. The Maltese Mission still serves the older generation; the question of whether it will still serve a meaningful Anglo-Maltese community in 2050 is open.

31,489 people came. 12,659 went home. 18,830 stayed. Their descendants are now woven into the fabric of British life from Cardiff to Chatham to Pimlico, from Enfield to Manchester, from Portsmouth to the small towns where servicemen's wives raised families that became part of the local community. That is the second biggest Maltese diaspora. It deserves to be remembered with the same seriousness as the Maltese who went to Sydney, Melbourne or Toronto or Detroit.

GASMASKS DURING WORLD WAR 2

22 OCTOBER 1940: MALTA TO PREPARE FOR GAS ATTACK
ANTI-GAS EQUIPMENT ORDERED FROM UK

The Governor and Commander in Chief is acting to ensure that Malta is fully protected in the event of an enemy poison gas attack. Items ordered in the early months of this year have still not arrived in Malta and, with the arrival of troop reinforcements, more are already required. It is believed that an earlier shipment has reached Gibraltar but remains there awaiting onward shipment to Malta.The Island is short of thousands of respirators, face masks and anti-gas capes as well as several items of anti-gas equipment. Malta will be ready to cope with an enemy gas attack only once all orders already placed have been fulfilled.

Gases were first used during the First World War (1914-1918). The armies of both sides made extensive use of gases to disabilitate a large number of enemy soldiers before an attack. Gas was released on the battle area from cylinders depending on the wind to carry the gas cloud forward towards the enemy. It could also be released from shells fired by guns. Gases used in war would cause the eyes to swell and produce a lot of tears which made it difficult for soldiers to see well.

Gases also irritated the nose, throat and lungs making it very difficult for soldiers to breathe. Some gases could also cause severe blisters when they come in contact with the skin. War gases fell into two broad categories. There were those that were released in the form of vapour like for example chlorine. Then there were those which were released in the form of liquid which evaporated very slowly. These gases were very dangerous as they contaminated anything they came in contact with. Mustard gas fell in this category. Gas This type of gas mask was issued to soldiers.

For this reason it is constructed differently from the other gas masks. The filter was large so that it would serve for a longer period. The filter was carried in a cloth pouch, and it was attached to the mask by means of a flexible rubber tube.

A heavy-duty gas mask the type of which was issued to members of the ARP, Police, firemen, and other members of the civilian services. 11 The use of gases in war produced a lot suffering to those that were hit. Many nations signed the Geneva Convention in 1925 by means of which the use gases in war was forbidden. However, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy were signatories of this convention. In 1936 Italy actually used gas during the war in Abyssinia.

All this raised fears that in a future conflict gas might be used not just against soldiers but also on the civilian population. This fear led to the setting up of organisations to provide for adequate protective measures for civilians. In Britain and Malta this work was done by the ARP. Gas masks were issued to each and every person. There were also different types of gasmasks for soldiers, civilians, children and babies. Gas marks were usually made of rubber moulded to fit into the face and seal off the eyes, nose, and mouth from the outside air. The filter attached to the mask 'cleaned' the air of harmful gases.

maltadaily.mt

Global dance music superstar Afrojack and Maltese pop star AIDAN have officially joined Katy Perry on the Isle of MTV Malta 2026 lineup,

13h

Global dance music heavyweight Afrojack and Maltese pop sensation AIDAN have officially been added to the @isleofmtv 2026 lineup, joining international superstar Katy Perry for one of the summer's biggest events.

The announcement was made during today's Isle of MTV Malta launch, with organisers confirming that the award-winning Dutch DJ and producer will return to the iconic Fosos, Floriana on Wednesday 22nd July.

Known for global hits such as Take Over Control and collaborations with some of the biggest names in music, Afrojack remains one of the most sought-after names in electronic dance music. Fresh off the release of Awake Tonight alongside David Guetta and Sia, the DJ is set to bring his signature energy to Malta once again. He will also perform a special KAPUCHON set at the Official Isle of MTV After Party at Gianpula Village.

Joining the lineup is Malta's record-holder for most number 1 singles: AIDAN, who recently represented Malta at the Eurovision Song Contest 2026 and released his latest album Cowboys Don't Cry. The singer described performing for a home crowd at Isle of MTV as "something truly special."

Now in its 18th edition, Isle of MTV Malta has welcomed some of the world's biggest artists over the years and continues to attract thousands of music fans from Malta and beyond. Tickets are available now from isleofmtv.com, with more local artists and DJs set to be announced in the coming weeks. #MaltaDaily

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A SUMMER OF FEASTS, SUNLIGHT AND SEA

June is here, and the island's tempo will settle into the relaxed rhythm of a Mediterranean summer. Days unfold in a leisurely fashion, with time set aside for integrating the typical Mediterranean siesta into the day. The afternoon blends into the longer, balmy evenings. From beach escapes and leisurely swims to alfresco dining beneath the stars, summer on the island is all about embracing the outdoors and savouring life at an unhurried pace.

The Gozitan Summer of Feasts There is no Gozitan summer without feasts. Indeed, the summer feast, or *festa*, held in different towns and villages Gozo is the peak of authentic community life: the sharing of high spirits and the creation of a vibrant atmosphere as the village celebrates its patron saint. As village squares become noisier with the festive fervour of the crowds and the jubilant marches of brass bands, lavishly decorated with flags, standards, and illuminated festoons, one cannot help but mingle with the crowd and, if not join directly, absorb the infectious energy and spectacle of the days.

Why Gozo is the Perfect Mediterranean Destination Wedding Location For couples seeking an intimate Mediterranean destination wedding, Gozo offers a rare combination of authenticity, exclusivity and natural beauty. Tucked away in the heart of the Mediterranean, the island might not be known to some, let alone on the radar as a wedding destination, but, in effect, a destination wedding in Gozo is akin to a secret getaway.

June kicks off with **Bis-Saħħa Wine Festival** in the quaint hamlet of Santa Luċija, while Villa Rundle Gardens buzzes into June with the **Honey and Bee Fest**. This festival, spread over the 6th and 7th June, proudly upholds Gozo's reputation as the island of honey. On Sunday, 7th June, Gozo commemorates the Public Holiday of **Sette Giugno** in Xagħra. The Mnarja Philharmonic Society will hold the concert **Big Band Adventures** on the 11th of June. On another note, the acclaimed **Victoria International Arts Festival** returns from 12 June to 13 July. The month-long festival, a rich and diverse musical programme, has been described by experts as *"the biggest and best privately organised culture festival on the islands"*. On 13th June, Kerċem will hold the third edition of **Agħmillu Pinta** beer festival. Other festivals occurring during June include the **Agrarian and Artisanal Fair** associated with the Mnarja Feast, the **Aurora Folk Festival** (26 to 28th June) and the Xagħra **Fig Festival** (27th June).

Finally, the festa season is here. This year, the first Gozitan feast will be held in **Għasri** on the 7th June. **Fontana** will celebrate its feast on the weekend of the 14th June, while the following week, **Xewkija** will honour its patron saint with the feast culminating on 21st June. The Xewkija feast will also feature traditional horse races on 13th June. The last feast for June will be the **Mnarja Feast** in Nadur on 29th June.

La Valette
Social Centre
BLACKTOWN
NSW
======
Saturday
20 June 2026

Featuring James Cassar, Natasha Tatarinoff, Steve Vassallo and Katelyn Vella, and a comedy by the ĊITTADINI. It's going to be an afternoon filled with wonderful entertainment so get your tickets now!TICKETS ONLY $25
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LINKING MALTA AND GOZO WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

HADFIELD GOLDEN YEARS SOCIAL CLUB

Written by our correspondent Emmanuel Brincat

On Tuesday, 2 June, members and guests of the Hadfield Golden Years Social Club gathered at the Fawkner Bowling Club to celebrate a Belated Mother's Day Luncheon organised by President Mrs Mary Cardona and her dedicated Committee.

The venue, which is also home to the Club's weekly social gatherings and Bingo activities, provided the perfect setting for what proved to be a warm, friendly, and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Special thanks are extended to Club Secretary Vicky and the staff of the Fawkner Bowling Club for their assistance, cooperation, and hospitality.

Proceedings commenced with the National Anthems of Malta and Australia, followed by Grace recited by Mr Jonah Caruana. In her welcome address, President Mary Cardona thanked members, volunteers, and guests for their ongoing support and acknowledged the hard work of the Committee members whose efforts helped make the occasion such a success.

The luncheon was catered by Raywood Catering under the direction of Ray Bonnici and his team. The quality of the food and service received many compliments from those in attendance and contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the day.

Throughout the afternoon, the atmosphere was filled with friendship, laughter, and community spirit. Members and guests enjoyed the opportunity to socialise, and celebrate together. The Club's raffle also received tremendous support, with all tickets sold and prizes distributed, demonstrating once again the generosity and commitment of our members.

Entertainment was provided by DJ Dominic, whose excellent selection of music kept the atmosphere lively from beginning to end. His program featured a variety of Maltese, Italian, and international favourites, many of which brought back fond memories for those present. The dance floor remained busy throughout the afternoon as members enthusiastically joined in the celebrations.

One of the highlights of the day was the special invitation for all the ladies to take to the dance floor, followed by the gentlemen joining them while DJ Dominic played *Simple the Best* followed by the HGYSC *Anthem* as everyone came together in a wonderful display of friendship, unity, and community spirit. These moments reflected the true essence of the Hadfield Golden Years Social Club and the strong bonds shared among its members.

The success of the luncheon was evident from the many compliments received during and after the event. Members and guests expressed their appreciation to President Mary Cardona and her Committee for organising such an enjoyable gathering and voiced their hope that similar social functions will be held again in the future.

Congratulations and sincere thanks are extended to President Mary Cardona, her hardworking Committee, volunteers, caterers, and all those who contributed to making the Belated Mother's Day Luncheon such a memorable occasion. Most importantly, thank you to our members and guests whose

98.9 NORTH WEST FM
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THE HEART OF OUR MALTESE COMMUNITY
Emmanuel Brincat – Producer / Presenter
Programs Mondays / 7pm – 8pm Fridays / 6pm – 7pm
https://www.northwestfm.org/

friendship, enthusiasm, and support continue

CARMA invites everyone to come celebrate:

Madonna Ta Pinu

Feast Day

Saturday, 13 June 2026

10:30am Mass

St Monica's Cathedral

177 Abbott St, Cairns City, QLD 4870

then from 11:30am

Authentic Maltese food including, Ghagin il- Forn, Hobz, Ross il-Forn & Pastizzi

In the hall behind the Cathedral from Abbott St. Follow the signs.

Gold coin donations are appreciated.
For fun we will be having a cent sale!

Once again, we are very privileged and thankful to have Bishop Charles & Bishop Joe presiding over Mass.

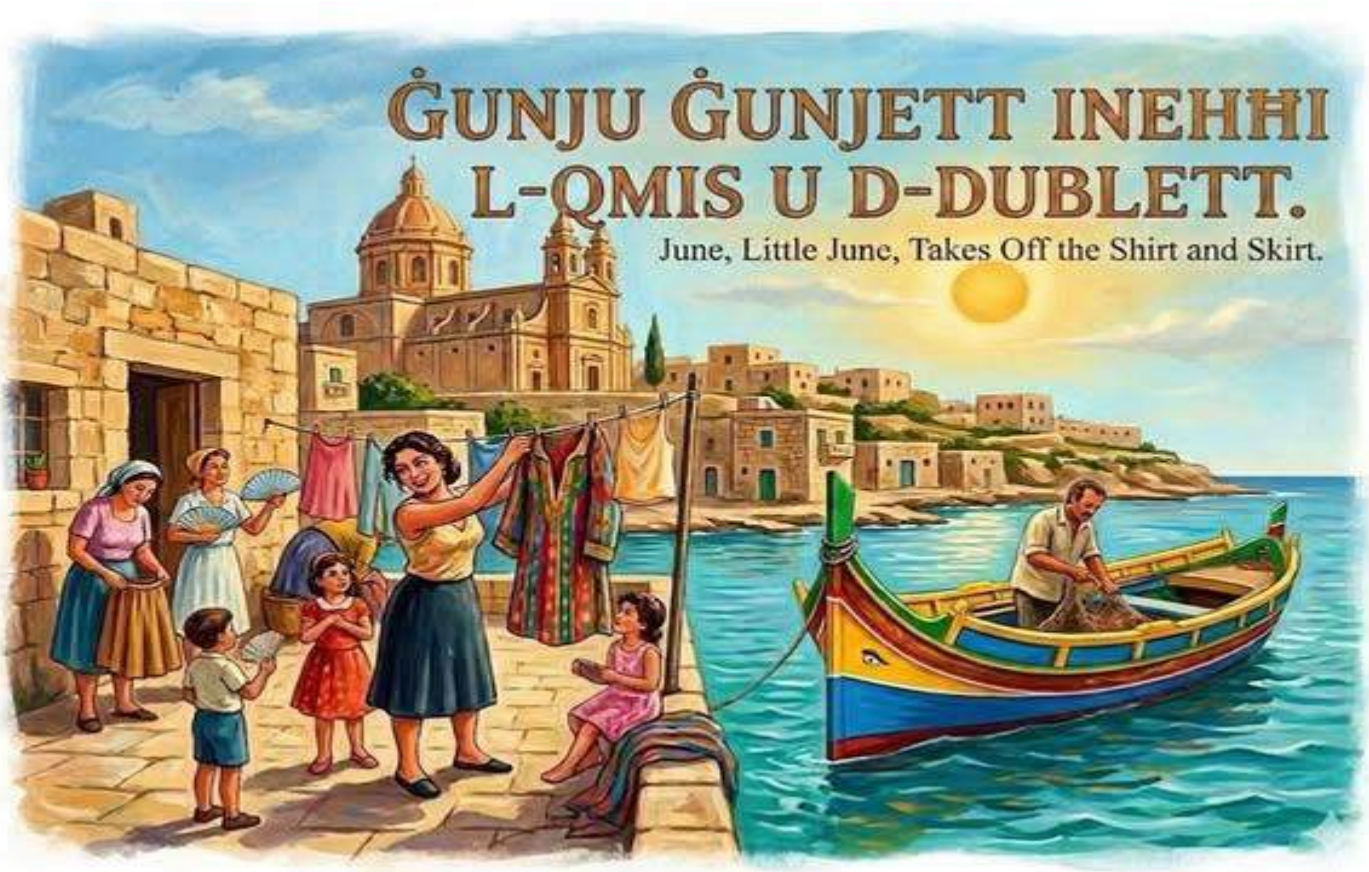
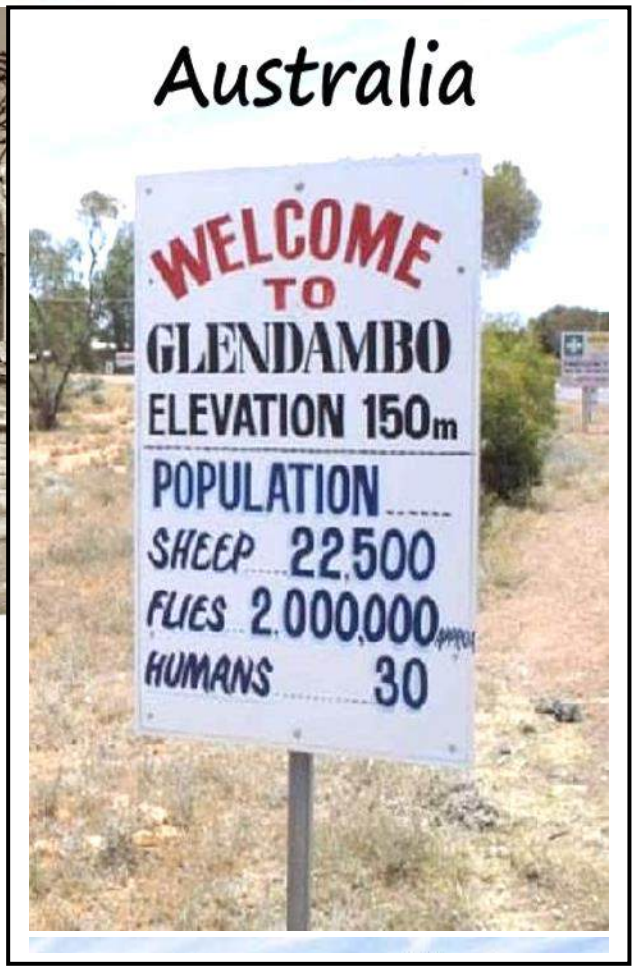
For catering purposes please register by the 1st of June contact Vicky on 0409 551 527
vportelli@hotmail.com

EFTPOS available

Take away items available, Kunserva, Kinnie, Pastizzi

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration and enjoy Maltese food, hospitality, music and entertainment.

For more information visit CARMA
https://m.facebook.com/CARMAssociation



**The devastation after the direct hit by the Luftwaffe on April 7, 1942.
This event was a major blow to the Maltese people, as the theatre was considered one of the most beautiful and culturally significant buildings in the Mediterranean.**