

Gozitan Launches two books on Migrants in Melbourne

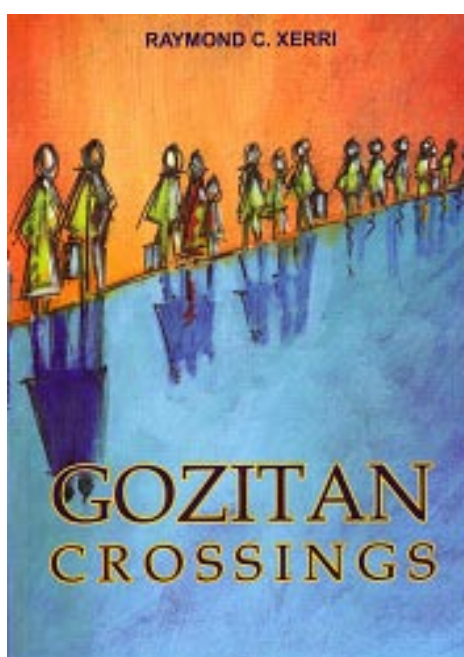
MAURICE CAUCHI

Dr Raymond Xerri, currently Counsellor at the Malta High Commission in London, has recently launched two books in Melbourne relating to migrant issues.

His first book, *Gozitan Crossings - The impact of migration and return migration on an island community* (2005), is a version of his thesis which he submitted to Victoria University for his Ph.D. It deals with various aspects of life in Gozo (mainly his native Qala), as well as in Melbourne, and includes insights of life in both lands. It emphasizes the identity of the Gozitan migrant and highlights differences with those from the sister island of Malta. The several chapters deal with ferry crossings and their vicissitudes, life in Melbourne as forged by the Gozitan migrant, work related ethic of the Gozitan, faith and festas, as well as insights into linguistic differences between Gozitan and Maltese. Other chapters deal with bingo, races, and bars, making money, flags, and fireworks. One attractive feature of the book is the number of photographs which are collected in 'pictorial essays' relating to life in Gozo and Melbourne. This book is intended to be the first of a series on Gozo & the Gozitans. It is a very readable book which

should be on the shelf of everyone interested in migrant issues as well as life in Gozo.

Another book launched at the same time by this author is *A Decade of Australian Qala Association 1995-2005*. This book deals primarily with the development of this association in Melbourne, emphasizing its continuing contacts with the village of Qala in Gozo. It contains a history of the Australian Qala Association, which includes several pictures of personalities involved. It concludes with four 'expert essays' by Dr Joseph Bezzina, Prof. Ron Adams (Victoria University), Prof. Maurice Cauchi and Mark Caruana, and Dr Ray Xerri about aspects of Gozitan migration and return migration with particular focus on Qala. These essays apart, this book is of more interest to those from Qala, be they resident in Gozo or beyond the Maltese shores.



Prof. Maurice Cauchi was the head of the Pathology Department at the University of Malta. He is currently retired in Australia, where he is also President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria.