

## Valletta cooling fountains

**Tony Alexander, Victoria, Australia**

I was watching a TV prog-ramme and was very annoyed to see two boys in their swimsuits play around those water fountains in St George's Square, Valletta.

It was never the intention of the authorities that these be used for people to cool themselves in hot weather. This kind of behaviour must not be allowed.

I suggest that a railing be constructed around the fountains with notices in various languages saying it is an offence to enter the enclosed area.

The railing can be mounted in a way that it can be removed when the square is to be used for special functions.

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## Comments

Joe Xuereb(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

@ D.Vella (17hrs.35mins.). Believe me, I wouldn't have endorsed this excuse for a fountain in Valletta's main square. Believe me I have more than joined the fray over the building of a roofless theatre. It is the least - and the most - I can do being this far removed from my country. As I said these jets of gurgling coloured water, emanating from the ground like some minor miracles, are a sure attraction for kids. But amusing jets of water should best be relegated to provincial shopping malls and not in what is to be a City of Culutre in a few years' time. And beautiful as it is, Valletta has neither the opulence nor, more importantly, the water of a Rome or a Versailles.

The water-jets are there now. Some may dislike them. But degrading them further is not going to do them any favours. Besides, the jets can be turned off and the space is, hey presto!! a car-park. I imagine that was the whole idea.

A Trevi Fountain would not be moveable like some churchy calendar thing.


Denis A. Darmanin(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

During the heat wave of 1970, then just a teenager and many adults alike, we enjoyed a dip in the outside fountain of the newly built, multi million dollar Arts Center in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. No one bothered to stop us and it was the order of the day. Although I have been missing a few decades, I stand to be corrected, but relatives said that its still tolerated today even in other locations. It also happens in most other fountains in large cities. After all, these kids didn't exactly have a bar of soap and a towel; then that would have made a difference!


A. Bialczak(2 weeks, 1 day ago)

Unfortunately the fountains in Melbourne have not been operating because of the drought. However I can recall a similar fountain to the one in Valletta Square (on the

banks of the Yarra River next to the Casino )where children and adults used to cool off on a scorching hot day. I suppose there's the danger of slipping on the concrete and getting injured. Just recently when I visited The Louvre in Paris just about everyone dipped their feet ( including me) in the refreshing nearby fountains. By the way I just loved my recent trip to Malta. The cafes along the waterfront, the statues, the fountains, the shops, the people. ....

j grech(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

come on man chill out they are only children and so what if they were adults, the cost of electricity has shot through the roof so we cant put aircon on or afford to keep the fans on continuously we even get hikes in our water rates so why cant the kids stay cool using free government water and why should we as adults not be able to sit dangling our feet in free water to cool off,your telling me this does not happen in australia ? where do you live in the bush? it happens all over the world ,fountains are there to be enjoyed by all ,be it looking at them or dipping in them get a life mister

Joe Xuereb(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Tony Alexander may have a point. In London, high-spirited fools, high on booze frolicking in freezing water on Nov.5th and New Year's. It's an accepted ritual, with crowds so high on alcohol and whatever that are difficult to control. These pathetic little fountains in arid Malta, common in London and all over Turkey, where god-given water is not a problem, fascinate children but I never witnessed their 'abuse'. In Malta, well! in Malta a watery-sea is everywhere just around the corner. So! What's a common feature everywhere else, in the newly-refurbished St.George's Square is a statement square, so not quite the same thing as some third-rate shopping mall in Huddersfield. Let's retain some class, some dignity. Slippery-slopes come to mind. What next? Graffiti all over the place?


Carmel Pule`, are you for real?

I'm now happily settled, starting too watch Rigoletto on BBC2. This is direct, IN REAL TIME, performed in Mantua. And tomorrow early afternoon, the final act/s. In real time. Sure, I've seen Rigoletto a few times, but this is different. And no doubt, I'll watch it again.....and again.....and others. It is called 'having spirit'. So please Carmel, none of your philistinism.

Children must play. But.....

D Vella(2 weeks, 3 days ago)

If it's a 'statement square' and you want 'dignity',then why didn't you protest when they installed that fairground hackneyed water play that thinks it's a fountain?. It's alright at the Midi square,that's a shopping mall but not in front of The Palace.If you are going to have a fountain then take a trip to Rome or to Versailles and then come back and let us talk of fountains.

J. Spiteri(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Only last weekend late in the evening, the same thing was going on at The Point in Sliema. Three children, one barely four years old, having the time of their life, splashing about the colour changing water, totally drenched in water, watched by passers by and filmed by locals and tourists alike.They were only having fun, doing

no harm to anybody's property or to themselves. Let children enjoy life while they're still young. Wished I could join them !

D Vella(2 weeks, 3 days ago)


You can,what's stopping you?.

"They say,  
What say they,  
Let them say"


D Attard(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Get a life Mister. It's 35c in the shade there are fountains and cool water(don't know how hygienic it is).What do you expect?. People play in the Trafalgar Square fountains,Trevi,Paris all are used. As a teenager I swam in the Buckingham Palace fountains and fished for money people throw in, to get home:).

The Fountains in front of the Palace are not serious fountains,but look as if they are aimed with children in mind. Blame the fountains, not the children. Personally I think those fountains are in very bad taste in front of the Palace as they are and more suited to some market square

Joseph Galea(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Mr. Alexander, who are you to state that "It was never the intention of the authorities that these be used for people to cool themselves in hot weather?" The whole point of fountains like this is to have public participation. The suggestion to put a railing and "notices in various languages saying it is an offence to enter the enclosed area" is patently absurd. What a kill joy!


Pule' Carmel(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Whenmy daughterSarah was born the only playthingsI had at home were dancing water and sand and bouncing balls.The reason was very simple because these are items which have infinite movements and infinite shapes which children love to play with.A bought toy has only one shape and children put it away so quickly.

MrAlexander stated soclearly,"The railing can be mounted in a way that it can be removed when the square is to be used forspecial functions."

That is exactly what Malta did on that occassion,children playing and creating thier own movements and shapes is a special occassion,much better than a mass of uniformed people marching to a disciplined predetermined movement to the call of a sergent major.

Just a clue of my feelings, I hate people going to enjoy the repetitive music of Operas, as Aida, La Traviata, Ave Maria, Innu Malti etc and repeated Songs at the granaries where everybody heard the music of mediocre singersbefore and know exactly what follows. The originality of children playing with water and an old tired man smoking his pipe is something that only great artists can recognise the original natural beauty. Indeed all these are the special occassions and not the iniformity.


Paul Borg(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Dear Mr.Alexander, get a life !!!!

martinfrendo(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

on the other hand we should get more of these fountains not only in Valletta but across our towns and villages. how about changing the water at the Triton fountain into a swimming pool? In Germany and Canada maybe elsewhere too, (prominent historic buildings) fountains are converted into swimming pools where not only children with swimsuits jump into but also adults.

lets bring life and refreshment to our cities.

patrick zammit(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

I get annoyed when people get annoyed with children being children.

As to bacteria, infections etc, has anyone heard of chlorine?

J. Debono(2 weeks, 3 days ago)

Do they use chlorine in fountains?? I doubt it.

Also they use chlorine in pools, however the most common ear infections, usually happen in a chlorine laden pool!


patrick zammit(2 weeks, 3 days ago)

J Debono

I also doubt it. But it can be done to keep bacteria down to acceptable levels.


Ear infections are also caused by clean water.

[http://www.floxinotic.com/otitis\\_externa.htm](http://www.floxinotic.com/otitis_externa.htm)

John Carmel Navarro(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

@J Debono - surely living on a small Island where the sea is accessible very easily I cannot see family making day trips so their children can spend the day playing in the fountains, it is just a spontaneous thing children love to play in water. I do hope that families do not start taking their canopies and BBQ's to spend the day in St George's Square!!

@Ian Off with their head!

yana micallef stafrace(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Your comment is sensible. Tony Alexander on the other hand needs to take a chill pill.

J. Debono(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 


Children should not be allowed to play in fountains, for their own health, as usually second class water is used for fountains.

Also as the water is recycled, harmful organisms may grow in this water and accumulate, which can give rise to serious throat/ear infections.

Ian Waugh(2 weeks, 3 days ago)

(confession time!) ... When I was quite younger I twice dived (ok climbed!) into the fountains at Trafalgar Square on two New Year Eves. The water must have been

totally contaminated with no manner of bugs and organisms (!) but the only ill effect I ever suffered was a hangover! This is really a pathetic and very silly debate going on here (talk about Nanny State ... where is Nanny these days?).

Ian Waugh(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

... for goodness sake! 'Mister Angry' in Australia "was very annoyed to see two boys in their swimsuits play around those water fountains in St George's Square, Valletta!" Please! Has the world gone completely mad? What punishment does this correspondent want to inflict? Birching? Tie them to the stocks maybe! How ridiculous!


James Catania(2 weeks, 3 days ago)

Mr Tony Alexander


GET A LIFE!!!!

g. scerri(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Why shouldn't children play? After all, the "fountains" in St. George's Square are identical with what children find in adventure playgrounds.

John Carmel Navarro(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 


Tony do you lead a boring life in Australia surely the whole project was designed for the benefit of the public so how wonderful it is to see children making good use of St George's Square waters to cool off. Chill out and get your hose pipe out and dance under it!! Goo day

m borg(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

dear mr. alexander, get a life.


Karl Consiglio(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Should allow the poor karozzin horses cool off in them too


Karl Consiglio(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Tony Alexander,

The these fountains are good for nothing.


Franco Farrugia(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Mr Tony Alexander who lives in Victoria, Australia, needs to get a life, that's what!


Charles Sammut(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Tony Alexander, you must have had a very boring, deprived and austere childhood to feel "annoyed" at the sight of children playing happily and enjoying themselves.

May the opposite of what you ask for, happen. May we see hundreds of carefree children playing and enjoying their childhood in this square. Childhood is but a fleeting moment in life and it is a crime against humanity to deprive anyone of its joys.

Lawrence Bonello(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Oh for goodness' sake! Let children be children. What harm are they doing by splashing around in an open fountain in the summer heat? Its not like they're vandalising the fountain or anything of the sort! I've seen dogs splashing about the Louvre fountain during a particularly hot Parisian summer. And no kill-joys were around to grumble about it!

Victor Laiviera(2 weeks, 3 days ago) 

Mr Alexander must be a very uptight person, to become "very annoyed" at the sight of children playing happily. I'm sure it's a nicer sight than any "special function".

As for "the intention of the authorities" .... I'm sure his Aussie mates will be more than happy to tell them what to do with it.

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