



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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Inside the Blue Grotto

The impressive interior of the Blue Grotto in Wied iż-Żurriq, perhaps the most sought-after site by tourists to the Maltese islands. The complex itself comprises of a massive main arch, as well as a system of six other caves. Inside, the cave walls mirror the brilliant phosphorescent orange, purple and green colours of the underwater flora, resulting in a mesmerizing scene of light and colour.

The brilliant phosphorescent water deep inside the cave



Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa giet u marret u halliet hafna dizappunti, imma ghal min iħobb żaqqu kollox l-istess

Din is-sena wkoll, il-Gimgha Mqaddsa giet u marret. Minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet imposti kemm mill-awtoritajiet governattivi kif ukoll dawk ekklesjatiċi, fil-fatt, il-Gimgha l-Kbira din is-sena, kienet wahda żgħira, filwaqt li l-festa tal-Ghid il-Kbir, li l-Knisja tqis bħala l-akbar okkażjoni għaliha, saħansitra akbar mill-Milied, għaddiet bla ebda pompa.

Ta' kull sena madwar id-dinja, il-jiem tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa jiġbru flimkien lill-insara biex ifakkru l-mewt u l-qawmien ta' Sidna Ġesù Kristu. L-ghid jiġi fi tmiem l-aktar gimgha importanti fil-kalendarju tal-knisja. Mhumiex biss l-insara li fakkruh. Hemm għad ta' reliġjonijiet oħra li wkoll josservawh bil-mod tagħhom.

Kull sena l-funzjonijiet fil-knejjes jiġbdu l-akbar folol u jghinu lill-bniedem biex jidhol f'qoxortu u jahseb fit-tbatija ta' Ġesù meta elfejn sena ilu gie fid-dinja biex kif tghidlna l-Knisja Kattolika, jifdiha.

Minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet u bi knejjes vojta "Kwadri ta' Pittura" magħmulin bir-ross mid-dilettanti fuq l-imwejjed f'Malta kaġun tal-pandemija tal-CONVID-19, il-mexxejja tal-knisja kellhom iħabblu rashom u jipplanaw kif setghu iżommu lill-fidili magħquda f'dawn iż-żminijiet billi jsibu kif, fl-istess waqt xorta jwasslu l-funzjonijiet tal-knisja f'dawn iż-żminijiet lill-komunità li minflok toħroġ minn darha biex issewgi, tiġi l-Knisja stess fi djarhom.

L-aktar mod effettiv instab li kien li l-funzjonijiet jiġu trasmessi b'mod ħaj (*streamed*) kemm fuq it-televiżjoni kif ukoll fuq il-komputers. M'hemm dubju li qatt daqs dan iż-żmien l-internet ma gie wżat mill-knejjes.

Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa ma tkunx mistennija biss għall-funzjonijiet ta' ġewwa. Huma l-miljuni madwar id-dinja li jistennewha biex jiċċel-ebraw ukoll fit-toroq tal-ibliet u l-irhula tagħhom. Kull pajjiż għandu d-drawiet tiegħu. Izda din id-darba dawk li tant ikunu herqana biex ifakkru l-passjoni, il-mewt u l-qawmien mill-mewt tal-Hallieq ġew dizappuntati.

Biex niehdu biss lil Malta, kull sena eluf kbar ta' Maltin jistennew kemm il-Gimgha l-Kbira biex jiehdu sehem attiv fil-jew isegwu purċissjonijiet li jsiru f'hafna mill-irhula, kif ukoll 'fil-purċissjonijiet' tal-ferh li jsiru fl-Ghid bil-ġirja tradizzjonali bl-istatwa ta' Kristu Rxox. Dis-sena ntnesew, kif kellhom jintnesew ukoll is-seba' visti.

Dizappunti oħra kienu ta' dawk li kull sena, anke b'għadd ta' sagri-fiċċi, imma b'ċertu sodisfazzjoni, jarmaw il-knejjes għall-okkażjoni, fosthom is-sepulkri, filwaqt li oħrajn jorganizzaw esebizzjonijiet,



kemm f'darhom f'xi karma apposta inkella f'xi garaxx, b'xi vari żgħar b'gal dawk li jintużaw fil-purċissjoni tal-Gimgha l-Kbira, jistiednu lill-pubbliku jżurhom.

Imbagħad hemm oħrajn li f'centri taż-żgħażaġ juru l-artistija tagħhom f'dik li hi pittura, imma jesegwuha fuq l-imwejjed, fuq platti, mhux fuq it-tila. Hafna jfissru dawn il-kwadri bħala pittura bir-ross jew bl-ghagin.

Kienu hafna li kienu diġa' hejjew dawn l-esebizzjonijiet, imma finalment setghu igawduhom biss huma għax biex jimxu mal-pariri, li ma jkunx hemm laqgħat ta' aktar minn tlieta, u biex ma jifirixx il-virus kemm jista' jkun jibqgħu f'darhom, ma setghux jistiednu nies għalihom.

F'dan iż-żmien ukoll, dejjem issib lil min johroġ b'xi novità, u f'Haż-Żebbuġ fejn issoltu wkoll toħroġ il-purċissjoni tal-Gimgha l-Kbira, harġu bl-idea, li wara li l-awtoritajiet taw parir biex ma jin-gabrux nies f'aktar minn tlieta, fuq xi bankijiet fil-pjazza ewlenija tar-rahal li huma popolari hafna mal-anzjani, bil-ghan li l-bankijiet ma jintużawx min-nies, poġġew minflok, stampi kbar kemm ta' Ġesù msalleb, kif ukoll tad-Duluri.

Kien ta' dispaċir tara u tisma' f'għadd ta' trasmissjonijiet televiżivi lil dawn l-organizzaturi minn djarhom, jesprimu d-dieqa tagħhom li dak li għamlu f'darhom u fil-garaxxijiet tagħhom setghu biss jgawduhom wehidhom, qisek għandek presepju jew sigra tal-Milied f'darek biss għalik u l-familja tiegħek.

It-tajjeb għal hafna kien li t-tradizzjonijiet tal-ikel setghu jiġu esegwiti u l-figolli, il-kwareżimal u l-qagħaq tal-Appostli setghu jsiru u jittiekl. Tibqa' wkoll il-konsolazzjoni l-oħra, li dis-sena, u din il-pandemija jghaddu u sen'oħra tasal ukoll. Dqs li kieku f'għadd ta' trasmissjonijiet televiżivi jkun sebah jum ġdid.

Li ma naqasx f'Malta kien l-ikel tradizzjonali. (Taħt mix-xellug): Il-figolli, il-qagħaq tal-Appostli u l-kwareżimal



Can the renewal of Maltese passports in Australia be simplified?



The applications for renewal of Maltese passports in Australia came into focus again when one of our readers and leading Maltese community leaders in Australia, Prof Maurice Cauchi of Melbourne raised the matter with the Ministry in Malta.

Prof Cauchi insists that applying for the renewal of a Maltese passport in Australia is laborious, time wasting, antiquated and practically kafkaesque.

He compared it to applying for an Australian passport renewal, which is not complicated and requires minimum demands compared with an application for a renewal of a Maltese passport.

He labelled the renewal application as galling since most applicants just cannot understand the need for again supplying most of the information, seeing that the procedure for obtaining the original passport should have required such information.

Profs Cauchi suggested that this procedure should be streamlined, ensuring that only additional information is required for renewal of a passport and not the full gamut as needed for an original passport application. A flyer explaining in detail why such new information is needed should be distributed with the Application Form,

Prof Cauchi's experience was passed on to the members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) for their information and also to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where it was referred to its proper authority i.e. Identity Malta. They, in turn, replied to an English letter in the Maltese language. We had to translate:

According to Identity Malta, this is the official procedure it follows

For the renewal of Maltese passports in Malta

The procedure for the renewal of Maltese passports in Malta is swift and efficient. The applicant needs only his old passport and the completed form

- * The passport is issued within four working days

- * In case of emergency it is issued in four hours.

Renewal of passport at Embassies/ High Commissions

The same service is provided as in Malta with little difference.

*Because most of them do not hold a Malta ID Card they have to submit a photograph endorsed by a professional and the Form A has to be signed by the same recommender.

* In case of renewals, as the information is already in the CDB and they produce the old passport, there is no need for other certificates as far as:

*There already is the registration of birth.

* Same as in the case of marriage. If the marriage is already registered, certificate is not requested, but if the marriage occurred between the old and the new passport, the marriage needs to be registered, and the original marriage certificate where the original marriage was held has to be produced.

* The consulate can ask confirmation of citizenship, especially where dual citizenship is concerned, to avoid dual identity.

These are requested only once, as information would then be in the CDB.

Passports are issued within 15 days because they have to be sent by courier. There is as well an express service, but this has to be paid for.

It appears, therefore, that there is considerable difference in procedures between what is required in Malta in line to what Identity Malta is stating, to what is being requested in Australia for renewal of a Maltese passport.

We at The Voice of the Maltese believe that there should be uniformity in the way applications for a renewal of passport are handled in Australia.

The Voice has asked for an explanation from the Malta High Commission, but as we went to press no reply has been forthcoming.

Coronavirus PANDEMIC WHO warns of fake medicines

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that growing numbers of fake medicines linked to coronavirus are on sale in developing countries, and in fact, a BBC News investigation found fake drugs for sale in Africa, with counterfeiters exploiting gaps in the market.

WHO said that taking these drugs could have "serious side effects", and one expert has even warned of "a parallel pandemic, of substandard and falsified products".

Around the world, people are stockpiling basic medicines. However, with the world's two largest producers of medical supplies - China and India - in lockdown, demand now outstrips the supply and the circulation of dangerous counterfeit drugs is soaring.

In just seven days after WHO declared coronavirus a pandemic Interpol's global pharmaceutical crime fighting unit, Operation Pangea, made 121 arrests across 90 countries and seized dangerous pharmaceuticals worth over \$A22.22m. (€12.81m).

From Malaysia to Mozambique, police confiscated tens of thousands of counterfeit face-masks and fake medicines, many of which

claimed to be able to cure coronavirus.

Jurgen Stock, Interpol's Secretary General said the illicit trade in counterfeit medical items during a health crisis shows a total disregard for people's lives.

According to the WHO, the broader falsified medicines trade, which includes medicines that may be contaminated or be out-of-date, is worth more than \$30bn in low and middle-income countries.

According to Pernette Bourdillion Esteve, from WHO's team dealing with falsified medical products, the worst-case scenario is, that they'll actively cause harm, as they might be contaminated with something toxic.

The global pharmaceutical industry is worth more than \$A1,59 trillion (€0.91 trillion). Vast supply chains stretch all the way from key manufacturers in places such as China and India, to packaging warehouses



in Europe, Sth America or Asia, to distributors sending medicines to every country.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, an expert in fake medicines at the University of Oxford, warned the circulation of fake and dangerous medicines would only increase unless governments around the world present a united front.

WHO has said that substandard and falsified medical products may cause harm to patients and fail to treat the diseases for which they were intended, and also lead to loss of confidence in medicines, healthcare providers and health systems.

Q. My mother passed away two months ago. We are in the process of distributing her financial assets. My sister and I are her sole beneficiaries. Our solicitor is planning to sell her shares and managed funds in order to equally divide the proceeds between the two of us. Can we advise him not to sell the shares or managed funds as now does not seem the correct time to do this?

A. Yes, you should contact your executor and inform him that you both wish to receive your inheritance in specie (which means - in the actual financial assets that they are in; or as they are). It may be more work for him as he would need to divide each parcel of shares into two equal amounts and prepare transfer forms.

Other documents will be required for the managed funds. His costs may be greater, but you would not be selling at a time when the share markets are so volatile.

Q. My wife and I are both retirees and receiving an income from our account-based pensions. We like the idea of taking a cut in our monthly pension payments, as this would be preserving our capital for the future. However, we are concerned that half way through next year, we may start to struggle financially. Could we alter the monthly payments again if this happens?

A. Yes, the government is giving retirees the opportunity of protecting their capital. By doing this one is not having to sell financial assets at a time where growth assets have dropped quite significantly. However, if you find that after a while this income is not sufficient to cover your daily expenses, then you could always increase the amount.

You do not have to lower the amount you are taking by 50% if this leaves you with in-

sufficient income. You could reduce it by say 25% only. But the opportunity is there and this is only for this year and next financial year.

Q. I am 45 years of age and I was thinking that with shares having dropped so much in the last couple of months now is a good time for me to start investing in shares. I have \$50,000 to invest. Should I purchase just one security or should I spread it amongst more?

A. Investing in the share market now is definitely much better than had you invested in the share market three months ago. However, if you have never invested in shares before, you need to understand that shares as growth assets are long term investments. You need to maintain these securities for a period of five years at least to see a decent result.

I believe you should contact a broker and he will advise you on what option suits your risk profile. He may advise you to invest only a portion of this money now, and a portion in a few weeks' time, as the mar-

This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



kets have not yet settled. You should definitely seek a broker's advice on this.

Q. I am a pensioner and have some money in the bank. My daughter and her husband have both lost their jobs because of COVID-19 and they seem to be struggling financially. They have a large mortgage and a young child and are feeling quite depressed about their current situation.

I was thinking of giving them \$10,000 which I know being a pensioner, that I am allowed to do. However, if they stay without jobs for a long period of time, I know they will need more. Can I give them more if this happens?

A. Your money is your money. Centrelink allows pensioners to be able to gift up to \$10,000 per annum with no more than \$30,000 over a five-year period. You can therefore gift them \$10,000 now, and gift them another \$10,000 in July if they still need the money.

If this situation continues for a long time, or if they remain unemployed for a long time, you could gift them or loan them more than this amount, but Centrelink will treat this amount as if you still have the money.

Q. My husband and I have been trying very hard to build up our superannuation now that we have both turned 50. We have been salary sacrificing \$12,000 each per annum plus our employer contributions. Should we continue to do this now that both the share and listed property markets have dropped so dramatically? It feels like all the money we invested last year just disappeared?

A. You most certainly should continue to salary sacrifice. By investing in superannuation now you are getting a much larger number of units than you would have done if the share markets had not corrected. Now is the time to buy and not sell or cease buying. If you continue to salary sacrifice, your superannuation will recover again much quicker because the number of units in your funds would have increased and their purchase price would have been quite low.

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- Rearranging finances to minimise ongoing fees prior to entering Aged Care facilities



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Anzac Day on April 25 to be commemorated differently

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Anzac Day services due this Wednesday April 25 will be held differently. Australia and New Zealand had to cancel many services; some could still go ahead.

Even though public Anzac services are unable to go ahead, the tradition of remembering and commemorating the veterans and service personnel from Australia and

New Zealand is still there.

This day marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) during World War One.

On 25 April 1915, soldiers from both countries landed at Gallipoli Cove in Turkey, part of an Allied effort to capture the peninsula from the Ottoman Empire.

Traditionally, services include the Anzac Dawn Service, the Australian Lone Pine Service, international wreath laying ceremonies and the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair in Turkey.

Australia's Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester, said he regretted the decision to cancel the events. "We'll have to live-stream events and make sure we are providing opportunities for people to still respect our veterans," he said.

Amid fears over the spread of coronavirus Australia and New Zealand have also cancelled joint Anzac Day commemoration events at Gallipoli that had become a pilgrimage of sorts for many Australians and New Zealanders.

The first Anzac commemorations were held in 1916. These have morphed into big-budget productions in Australia, New

Zealand and Turkey.

Commemorations organised by the Australian Embassies and High Commissions in various countries have also been cancelled, but people have been requested to join in prayers from a safe distance in order to respect and acknowledge the thousands of the military people who are serving, have served or called upon to support Australia and New Zealand in times of war, conflict and disasters.

The ABC will be broadcasting and live streaming a private commemorative service from the Australian War Memorial on April 25 from 5.30am AEST (9.30pm Friday 24 April UTC+2).

One can also tune into Radio NZ National (AM & FM frequencies), listen live on the internet for the official New Zealand dawn service broadcast commencing at 6:00am NZST (8.00pm Friday 24 April UTC+2). More details at www.standatdawn.com.

Veterans are encouraged to wear their medals as for the official gathering.



5th MLA Convention postponed to 2021

As predicted in the last issue of The Voice of the Maltese, given the unfortunate present situation revolving around the COVID-19 pandemic, the 5th Convention for Maltese living abroad that was scheduled to be held at Valetta October 6-7 this year, has now been officially been postponed for next year.

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs took the decision following careful consideration of the matter. The Ministry has thanked all those who were due to participate and informed them that the new dates would be communicated to them in due course

Social distancing rules apply to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and save lives in our community.



Please keep a 1.5 metre distance from people, don't shake hands or exchange physical greetings.



Always cough or sneeze into your arm or use a tissue and put it in the bin straight away.



Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds or more with soap and water.

All travellers returning to Australia are now required to go into quarantine for 14 days in the city where their international flight lands.

Public gatherings, excluding household members or for work or education, have been reduced to a maximum of two people.

For more information on Coronavirus visit www.australia.gov.au
You can also call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

If I can be of assistance, please contact my office using one of the methods below.

ALEX HAWKE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MITCHELL

Authorised by Alex Hawke MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 8/23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154.

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Tal-biżá -Il-forka fil-ħabs ta' Kordin

Minhabba programm tar-radju li kont nipproduċi dwar id-delitti f'Malta bil-ġhajnuna ta' Edward (Eddie) Attard li hu awtorità dwar dan il-qasam u kiteb għadd ta' kotba dwar is-sugġett, konna ġibna l-permess, u flimkien żorna l-Habs (il-Facilità Korrettiva) ta' Kordin f'Rahaġ Ġdid. Kienet l-ewwel u l-aħħar darba tiegħi hemm. Kif irfisna ġewwa, hassejt fija biża' u tkexkix kbir.

Wara li rajna l-istruttura tal-ħabs - li l-bini tiegħu beda fil-1842 - għaddejna minn quddiem dik is-sala l-kbira, jew dik Ċentrali kif inhi magħrufa, li minnha jidhru d-diviżjonijiet ewlenin tal-ħabs. Konna akkumpanjati minn uffiċjal tal-ħabs b'diversi ċwieviet, kbar u żgħar, marbuta f'mazz f'idejha, iċċekku ma' kull pass tagħna fis-sigħat kwietu ta' waranofsinar.

Wasalna f'biħta u fuq naħa rajna l-kappella, filwaqt li n-naħa l-oħra l-maħna bħal grawnd kbir u fil-ġenb il-forka, li xtaqt naraha b'għajnejja u nħoss l-art taħt riġlejja. Hawn bdew għaddejnin fi ħsibijiet dawk li minn fuq din l-istess art għaddew għall-aħħar darba biex tintemm ħajjithom wara is-sen-tenza li temmitilhom ħajjithom.

Il-forka f'Malta orġinat fi żmien il-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann. L-eżekuzzjonijiet fil-bidu kienu jsiru fuq is-Saqqaja jew fejn kif sal-lum għadu magħruf bħala Pjazza Forok fir-Rabat.

Il-forka nużat l-ewwel darba biex nqatlu suldat u baħri In-ġliż li nstabu ħatja li ttradew lill-Gvern Inġliż.

L-ewwel Malti li ngħata l-forka kien Anġlu Farrugia ta' 54 sena, magħruf bħala 'il-krozz'. Kien ġie kkundannat għax fil-11 ta' April 1860 f'Hal Għaxaq kien qatel lill-kuntistabbli Serafin Zammit.

Fis-sensiela fuq ir-radju konna semmejna għadd ta' ismijiet li sfaw mgħallqa fuq din il-forka. Biex bħal donni nsostni ħsibijiet, fil-ġenb qabel tidhol fil-kamra tal-forka hemm il-lista tal-ismijiet ta' dawk li ġew ikkundannati u għaldaqstant ingħataw il-forka. Tkexkix...

Skont Eddie Attard l-kobar ta' din il-kamra tal-forka hu ta' madwar 20 pied wiśa' u madwar 40 pied fond. Għandha patibolu (speċi ta' pjattaforma għolja) li titla' għalih minn taraġ fuq quddiem. Dan it-taraġ tlaġtu bil-mod il-mod, hassejtni qisni tiela' għall-forka.

Minn hemm fuq ilmaħt faċċata kamra żgħira li fiha hemm xi tifikiriet ta' dawn l-eżekuzzjonijiet, fosthom il-bandiera sewda li kienet turi li se jsir it-tgħallieg tal-ikkundannat. Kien hemm aktar tifikiriet imma bejn bil-ħsibijiet u wkoll il-fixla u l-biża', ma żammejtx f'moħħi dak kollu. Izda niftakar xi fanali u l-ħabel oħxon li bih kien isir it-tgħallieqa. Dan kien għadu mdendel...

Issa wieħed kien jinnota wkoll li taħt il-patibolu, hemm fond biżżejjed biex il-ġisem tal-ikkundannat jaqa' u l-ħabel ta' madwar għonqu jissikka u jkser dik il-parti tal-għonq li, skont Eddie Attard, hija magħrufa bħala *atlas vertebrae*. Jgħid ukoll li jekk it-tgħallieg isir kif suppost, il-mewt kienet isseħħ mill-ewwel. Imma dan kien jiddependi minn kif titpogga l-ingassa u t-tul tal-ħabel.

Fil-kteib tiegħu, "Il-Habs" Eddie Attard kiteb hekk:

"Wara jibdeu l-ewwel thejjijiet għal din l-eżekuzzjoni ... l-ikkundannat kien jiġi mkejjel mit-tul u jintiżen. Skont it-tul tal-ikkundannat kien jiġi deċiż kemm kellu jkun twil il-ħabel. It-tul tal-ħabel ma kienx ikun dejjem l-istess, izda xi drabi itwal.



Wara kien jibda x-xogħol tal-bojja billi jipprova l-makkinarju tal-bokkapport, jiġifieri dik il-parti li fuqha l-ikkundannat ried joqgħod. Il-bojja kien ilesti wkoll xkora jew xkejjer bir-ramel tal-istess piż tal-ikkundannat u jorbothom ma' tarf il-ħabel li bih tkun se ssir l-esekuzzjoni."

Il-bojja kien ikun ħabsi volontier. Biex kien jagħmel dan ix-xogħol kienet tinħafirlu l-piena tal-ħabs u anke jingħata ftit tal-flus għal kull eżekuzzjoni li jagħmel. Kien ikun ukoll imġiegħel iġorr matul it-triq il-ħabel li bih ikun se jiġi mgħallaq l-ikkundannat.

Niftakar li fil-ġenb kont rajt u flejt xi xkejjer bir-ramel u rajt ukoll il-bokkapport fiċ-ċentru taħt

l-ingassa. Bżajt hafna, l-aktar xhin qaluli li dan kien jinfetaħ permezz ta' makkinarju u l-ikkundannat jiddendel għal isfel bil-ħabel marsus m'għonqu.

Biswit din il-kamra kont rajt ukoll ċella żgħira fejn kif qaluli, qabel jingħata l-forka l-ikkundannat kien ikun għamel tlett ijiem ta' riflessjoni fil-kappella akkumpanjat minn patri kapuccin. Kien ukoll jagħmel l-aħħar qrara tiegħu, u l-aħħar sigħat ta' ħajtu jibqa' kkonfortat mill-kappellan tal-ħabs, minn xi membri tal-kleru oħrajn u membri tal-Konfraternità tar-Rużarjanti, mgħassa minn għadd ta' suldati u pulizija.

Mal-ħajt ta' din iċ-ċella kien hemm ukoll salib kbir u nkwatru tad-Duluri bi xkaffa quddiemha li fuqha kien ikun hemm lampa tixgħel. Hemm ukoll l-ikkundannat kien jagħmel l-aħħar qrara tiegħu. Qabel jingħata l-forka l-ikkundannat kien ikun għamel tlett ijiem ta' riflessjoni fil-kappella akkumpanjat minn patri kapuccin.

L-ikkundannat seta' jkollu żjajjar minn xi membri tal-familja, izda qabel riedet issir talba lill-Gvernatur.

Wara l-forka l-ikkundannat kien jithalla siegħa taħtha biex jiġi ċert li l-mewt saret, filwaqt li fuq il-bejt tal-ħabs kienet tittella' bandiera li turi li l-ikkundannat kien miet.

Taħt il-ħruxija tal-forka f'Malta saru 91 eżekuzzjoni, l-aħħar waħda madwar 77 sena ilu, fil-5 ta' Lulju tal-1943. Dakinhar inqatlu l-aħwa Karmnu u Guzeppi Zammit minn Hal Qormi wara li nstabu ħatja bil-qtil ta' Spiru Grech sena qabel.

Wara li flejt dak li stajt ninnota il-gwardjan tas-sigurtá (li kien ukoll speċi ta' gwida) ħadna naraw iċ-ċimiterju fejn indifnu dawk l-ikkundannati. Hemmhekk, kulma fadal hemm biss il-lapidi tagħhom. Priġunier li jiehu ħsieb dan iċ-ċimiterju kien qalilna li l-oqbra tnaddfu mill-għadam ta' go fihom.

Meta ġejna fi tmiem iż-żjara tagħna kien beda jbexbex u x'hin harġu l-priġunieri miċ-ċelef tagħhom, bewwigna kuti kuti l-barra.

X'xhin sibtu ruħi fil-Pjazza ta' Raħal ħadt nifs qawwi.



Il-forka fil-ħabs

A working class man, humble and determined

This month's choice for Personality is Gejtu Deguara. He is no academic but a working-class bloke who had to migrate from Malta to Australia in search of a better future. He is very well known among the Maltese community. For 16 years he held the position of Vice President of the Maltese Community Councils in the state of Victoria. For 53 years he was also the correspondent from Victoria for The Maltese Herald.

Gejtu Deguara

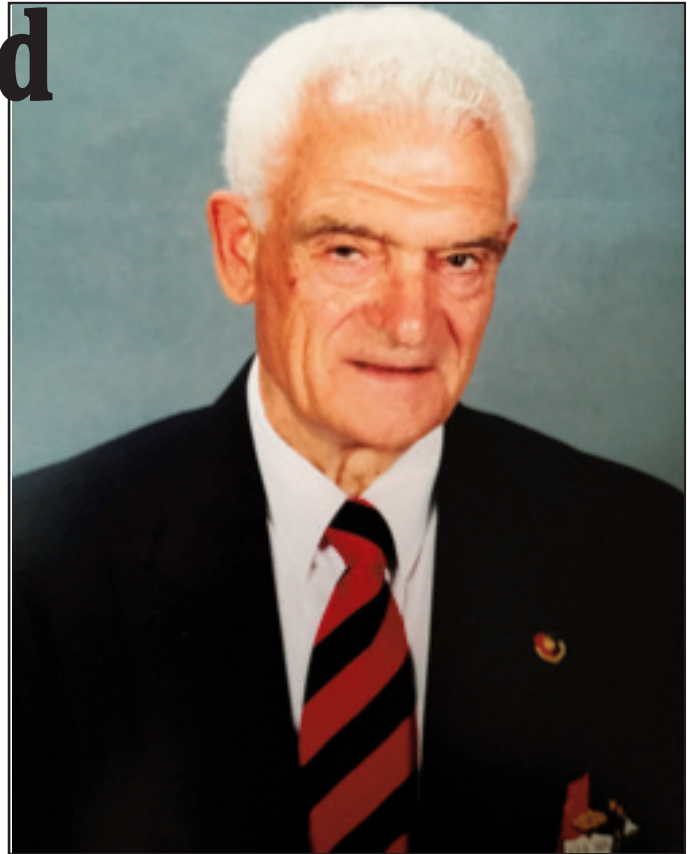
Gejtu is a very proud Maltese, especially as a Hamruniż. He was born in Victoria Street Hamrun in July 1936 but lived most of his life close to the Hamrun Primary School corner with Villambrosa Street. His father Carmelo was a very well known trumpet player with the St Joseph Band Club. His mother was Melita Spagnol.

He comes from a family of 14. He was the fourth born. He saw Melbourne for the first time from Princess Pier, in the Port of Melbourne, onboard the Arosa Star, on March 4, 1955.

Before migrating, Gejtu worked at the Marsa Sports Club. He was active in the Hamrun Boys Scouts and a very keen supporter of il-festa ta' San Gejtanu and the Hamrun Spartans football team.

His first experience in multiculturalism was when he worked in a car factory producing the well known Hillman and Humber. When he told them his name was Gejtu they responded told him that "it was too hard to pronounce" and they instead started calling him Bill. A similar experience took place when he went orange and grape picking in Mildura.

Gejtu started to work with Coles New World Supermarket as a storeman, and within seven years became a manager. He then worked for Jewel and was made supervisor for 26 supermarkets in the state of Victoria. He recalls "we had stores some 300km away which meant you had to spend more time travelling on the road than in the store itself"



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

He retired at an early age and soon became involved with the San Gejtanu Festa Committee serving as treasurer, secretary and eventually, for six years as President. He excelled as a sports commentator on Maltese

community stations 3ZZZ, 9.74 FM and 98.9 North West FM.

For many years Gejtu also drove the community bus for Maltese citizens on many outings for which the Victorian State Government honoured his voluntary contribution with a certificate of recognition. He was also active in the library service offered by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria at its centre in Parkville and was made a Knight of the Order of St Peter and St Paul.

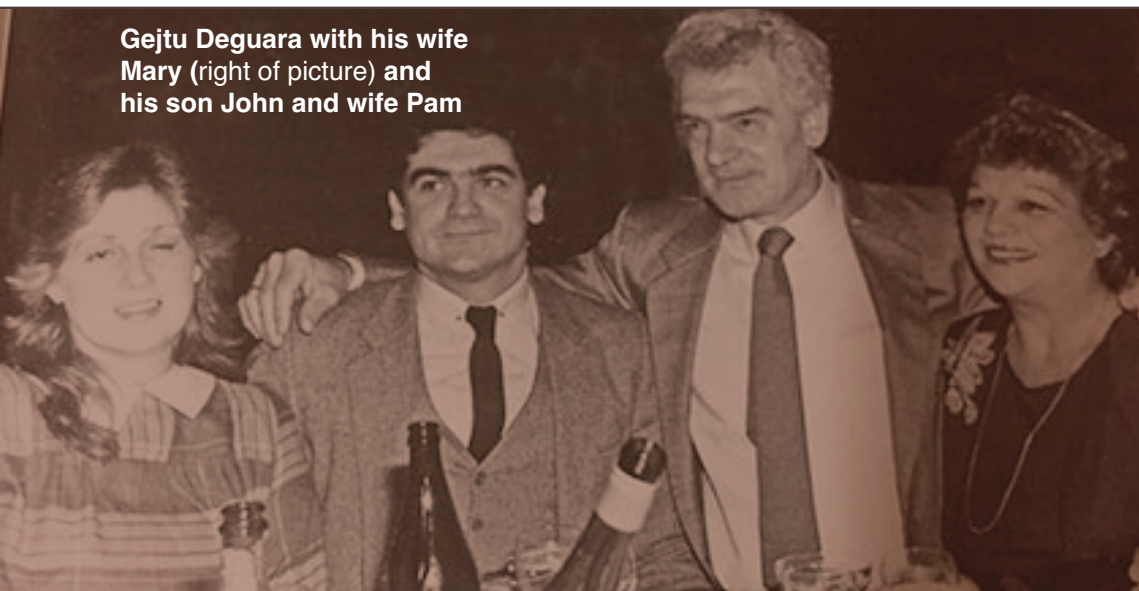
What was not known about Gejtu Deguara is that he supplied

The Maltese Herald and *The Voice of the Maltese* with cuttings of Melbourne newspapers featuring Maltese sounding names. This became less important with the advent of the internet and other modern ways of communication.

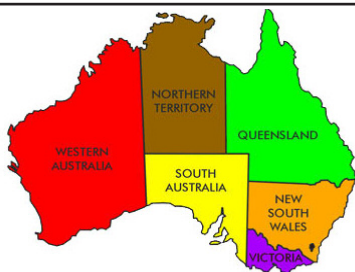
Gejtu married Mary Rose Sultana from Marsa in July 1959 at the St Mary's Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne and spent their honeymoon in Sydney.

They have one son named John and two grandchildren. At present, the couple is retired at the Gowanbrae Village.

Gejtu Deguara with his wife Mary (right of picture) and his son John and wife Pam



Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can also be read in flipbook format online. A pdf copy is also sent via email on request.

If you require a printed copy we can also oblige.

Editors:

Malta: Joseph Cutajar

Australia:

Lawrence Dimech: MOM, OAM, JP

email address:

maltesevoice@gmail.com

Letters for publication in *The Voice* magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



Now you can also join us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoice-ofthemaltese>

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

L-Innu Malti: imma min għandu ragun?

Paul Meli minn Brisbane, Queensland, jikteb:

Minix xi studjuż imma jinteressani l-ilsien Malti u aktar minhekk, inqisni bħala bniedem b'imħabba kbira lejn pajjiżi u art twelidi. Għalhekk interessani hafna l-artiklu ppublikat fil-*harga* ta' *The Voice* tas-7 ta' April, *L-Innu Malti*, is it time for revision?

Din il-kitba xprunatni biex immur infittex fid-dizzjunarji halli nara xi jfissru eżatt il-kliem, "taħkem", u "ħakkiem". Għalhekk, bogħod mir-raġunar tal-Prof Oliver Friggieri, se ngħid x'sibt jien u x'naħseb.

Jien fost dawk li ma nistax għaliha li fl-Innu Malti hemm it-talba "għal min jaħkimha" għax iġġibli memorji ta' meta Malta kienet immexxija minn dawk

kollha li għamluha tagħhom u kkolonizza-wha.

Hawn qed ngħid fost l-oħrajn, kemm għal-żmien il-Feniċi, l-Gharab, il-Kavallieri, il-Franċiżi, u aktar reċenti l-Ingliżi. Izda x'aktarx li barranin li ma jafux il-Malti, forsi jgħidulna li qed nagħmlu għageb mix-xejn.

Għaliex qed ngħid hekk? Fid-dizzjunarji jew kotba li fihom wiehed jista' jfittex it-tifsir tal-kliem, l-aktar bl-Ingliż, sibt li t-traduzzjoni tal-kliem "ħakkiem" u jaħkem" huma "ruler" u t-tifsira tagħha bl-Ingliż hi li dan jista' jfisser, "governor" (gvernatur), dak li għandu s-setgħa li jmexxi. Fit-Taljan sibt li tigi "governatore" jew "dominatore".

Il-kerha meta tigi għall-kelma "ruling" għax tigi mfissra bħala "dominanti", imma hemm ukoll tifsira oħra li ma tweg-gagħnix, li hi, "dak li għandu l-gvern f'idejh". Allura naħseb li f'dan is-sens il-Prof Oliver Friggieri għandu ragun.

Aghar hafna aktar hi l-kelma "ħakem" li minnha tohroġ il-kelma jaħkimha. Fit-traduzzjoni ta' "ħakem" insibu, "to render oneself superior, to command", li tfisser li wiehed jagħmel lilu nnifsu superjuri għal haddiehor, li jikkmanda (imma wara kol-lox, jekk niehdu l-aħhar tifsira, min jikkmanda fil-pajjiż, mhux il-gvern? Mhux hu li jagħmel il-liġijiet?).

Grazzi li permezz tal-artiklu ta' *The Voice* stajt ngħaddi ftit tal-hin naġġorna ruhi. Nittama li tajt ukoll lill-qarrejja ftit dwar xiex jaħsbu u jixtaru.

Lil Malta hadd ma jaħkimha!

Chas. Pirotta minn Parramatta NSW jikteb:

L-artiklu bl-Ingliz dwar *L-Innu Malti*, *is it time for revision*, (VOM April 7) hu wiehed mirqum. Napprezza l-kummenti tal-Prof Friggieri u l-inteligenza tiegħu izda ma naqbilx miegħu.

Il-kelma "jaħkimha" setgħet kienet addattata għal meta nkitbet minn Dun Karm izda maż-żmien u l-mixja kostituzzjonali tgħidilna li Malta illum mhix mahkuma. Malta llum hija mmexxija minn Gvern demokratiku, għalhekk kif nibqgħu nitolbu għal lil min jaħkimha?

Lil Malta hadd ma jaħkimha hlief forsi xi COVID-19.

One anthem two flags

Tony Mula from Ontario Canada writes:

What a splendid article regarding the Maltese National Anthem. (VOM 7th April). Indeed, Malta is at present not "mahkuma" unless of course we, for a moment forget the solid grip that the European Union has got on all aspects of the lives of the Maltese.

Notice the EU flag as big if not bigger than the Maltese flag at the background of all Malta Government shows and every corner of every office. It seems we have one national anthem with the word "jaħkimha" but more than one national flag.

The Maltese only have one flag, and they must not share it with others. The EU seems to have infected our minds.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Isn't it ironic?!



RonBorg

Just a few weeks ago, Bushfires were raging throughout Australia, and in South Australia, such beautiful scenic and Tourist attractions were being burnt down to the ground, causing loss of, life, buildings, livestock and ruining businesses.

A large number of towns that relied on the tourist dollar for their survival were suffering immensely, consequently, after this devastation, South Australians were being urged and pleaded to by these towns to come and visit to revive the financial situation of these townships and help them to get back on their feet financially.

Kangaroo Island, previously advertised as South Australia's "Best Kept Holiday Secret" before the bush fires, had about 48% of its scenic terrain incinerated.

The attractive beauty of the Adelaide hills was also devastated by the fires and of course the little niche businesses that thrived within, totally collapsed with the lack of the visiting customers.

Major holiday attractions which relied heavily on the visitor and tourist dollar, such as the Barossa Valley, world-renowned for its rustic charm and of course the numerous variety of wineries, and Victor Harbour, a fantastic seaside

town which is like a holiday place all the year-round, and with its marvelous views, were limping back to recovery.

Before the bushfires, these were major holiday attractions that relied heavily on the visitor and tourist dollar. After the devastating fires, the Government and businesses were urging us to support our locals by visiting and holidaying in these places in order to help them recover and stand back on their own two feet.

Suddenly, these same places that were asking us to visit their towns, and to support their recovery, are now requesting us to keep away with bluntly put "STAY OUT" signs on some main roads leading to their town.

All this is driven by the fact that they do not wish their townships and their little communities to get infected by COVID-19, and also because the local medical infrastructure would be unable to handle any major outbreak.

It's ironic isn't it, that one day one is encouraged to visit, and then rejected the next.

In spite of all of these sad dilemmas, there are still some snippets of pleasant happenings amongst us.

It was brought to our notice, that the South Australian Police department recently received a telephone call from a certain person by the name of Niki, who told them, "Hey guys just wanted to share this with you: a very lovely act of kindness.

"While feeling very overwhelmed having to go to the Norwood Centrelink office at 6.30 am (ready for it to open at 8 am!) at 7.30 am a cop car pulls up, and a young



policeman went along the line of 15 people, took their coffee order and brought back piping hot coffee for all... for free. No matter what this day brings, he totally made my day."

Of course, these acts of human decency and kindness are not only occurring in Adelaide. I have also read about this beautiful incident in Victoria: 'Alarmed by how people had been treating supermarket staff, the Melbourne teacher went to her local Coles, purchased some chips, chocolates, and treats, and then told the cashier to keep them for staff to brighten their day'.

"The checkout girl actually became quite emotional and she called the manager over, who said that was the first nice thing someone had done since the craziness started," Ms. Briffa said. "I just wanted them to know people care."

What else can I say, 'The milk of human kindness is not depleted'!!!

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY....

Save the earth..... It's the only planet with chocolate!

Life at Australian supermarkets

The supermarket shelves that normally housed toilet paper sat bare for weeks, but the loo roll has now made a slow resurgence, as Australians stock up on something else.

Cleaning products and baking goods have been flying off the shelves because after stocking up on toilet roll and gym gear, what else is there to do in isolation?

In an email newsletter released from Woolworths, one of the biggest supermarket chains in Australia, its CEO Brad Banducci said two of its largest growth categories have been cake

mixes and cleaning products.

"A lot more kids are baking and parents cleaning as we all spend more time at home," he said.

The supermarket giant is still experiencing double its normal demand for toilet paper, and in the last week alone Woolworths sold a staggering 20.5 million rolls.

"Despite much more stock coming in, we're still not where we need to be. It is slowly improving, but please help everyone by only buying what you need," Banducci said.

There are an additional 1,000 pallets coming in each week, which is more than half a million packets. Cleaning wipes are also still in high demand.

"We're doing our best to keep up with extraordinary demand for cleaning wipes, including securing extra supply from alternative sources in the short term, much of which will start to arrive in stores in the coming weeks," he said.

According to Banducci new health and safety measures are being taken across their stores to keep staff and customers safe from coronavirus, including employing a store greeter to wipe down trolley's and baskets, as well as to offer hand sanitizer to customers.

Shoppers must also now pack their own bags at the checkout. Shoppers must keep their distances with line markings on the floor for guidance, and perspex shields now protect checkout cashiers at counters.



Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

kitba ta'
**IVAN
 CAUCHI**



Naqsmu bħall-aħwa

F'dawn iż-żminijiet dif-
 fiċli, fejn id-dinja
 qieghda tiġi mhedda
 minn marda qerrieda li l-bniedem
 għad ma sabilhiex tarf, l-awtoritajiet
 tista' tgħid ta' kull pajjiż
 qed jaraw xi jridu jagħmlu
 biex isibu bilanċ bejn li jimminimizzaw
 il-fatalitajiet u l-impatt fuq l-ekonomija
 tal-pajjiż.

Wieħed ukoll jinnota li fit-tali
 pajjiż, l-emfasi huwa l-iktar li
 jipproteġu l-ħajja, tat-tali iehor
 iktar imxaqleb biex jipproteġu
 l-ekonomija, u ta' hemm l-ewwel
 jiehu din ir-rotta imbagħad
 jiehu l-oħra. Flejjes astronomiċi
 qieghdin jiġu minfuqa, jew
 mwieghda, biex tkompli d-dur
 ir-rotta kemm jista' jkun.

Qed nisimghu bil-komunitajiet
 joħorġu barra min triqithom
 biex jagħtu daqqa t'id, jew
 biex ifarrġu u jikkuntattjaw
 lil dawk barra miċ-ċirku
 tas-soltu, jew biex jagħmlu
 xi qadja lil xi ġirien vulnerabbli
 eċċ. Affarijiet li jgawwu l-qalb.

Madankollu, hemm ukoll xejra
 oħra li nnutajt li qed tħassibni.
 Din ġejja mhux mill-komunitajiet
 imma mill-mexxejja tal-pajjiżi.
 Fi ftit kliem, qieghdin jagħmluha
 ċara li huma lesti jipprovdur
 l-għajnuna lil grupp ta' nies
 li jinsabu fil-pajjiż, li jitqiesu
 li huma 'tal-post', u haddiehor
 jista' jdabbar rasu, illum qabel
 għada.

Nista' ntkom eżempji ta' x'irrid
 ngħid. Iktar kmieni dan ix-xahar,
 il-Prim Ministru tal-Awstralja
 Scott Morrison wissa lill-viżitaturi
 fil-pajjiż u studenti internazzjonali
 biex imorru lura d-dar. Qal
 ċar u tond li l-Awstralja għandha
 bżonn tiffoka l-prioritajiet tagħha
 fuq iċ-ċittadini tagħha.

L-ammont ta' nies involuti huwa
 kbir. Biss biss huwa stmat li
 hawn nofs miljun student internazzjonali
 l-Awstralja, li ħafna minnhom
 tilfu xi impjeg li seta' kellihom
 biex imantnu lilhom infushom
 waqt li huma hawn, u li mhumiex
 intitolati għall-għaj-nuna
 straordinarja li qieghda tiġi
 offerta li iċ-ċittadini Awstraljani.¹

Eżempju iehor kienet stqarrija
 x-xahar l-iehor ta' Ministru f-Malta,
 Silvio Schembri, li jekk haddiem
 barrani jitlef ix-xogħol għandu
 jkun deportat. Din l-istqarrija
 qajmet kemm appoġġ kif ukoll
 kritika fuq il-midja soċjali u l-lingwaġġ
 ġie daqsxejn imtaffi u ċċarat.²

Madankollu l-messaġġ baqa' li
 barranin ta' terzi pajjiżi (jiġifieri
 dawk barra l-Unjoni Ewropea) li
 jitilfu x-xogħol, jitilfu wkoll il-



Immigranti illegali jhallu l-Libja
 biex jfittxu ažił fl-Ewropa

permess li jaħdmu fil-pajjiż u li
 jkunu fil-pajjiż. Dan fil-fatt
 mhux prinċipju ġdid, imma l-entuzjażmu
 li bih ġie mqajjem stieden
 mistoqsijiet mhux ftit.

F'dawn il-jiem, il-Prim Ministru
 Malti Robert Abela ddikjara li Malta
 mhix se tibqa' thalli immigranti
 jizbarkaw fil-portijiet tagħha, u mhix
 se tmur iktar issalva-hom, sabiex
 ma jiġux użati riżorsi li bħalissa
 qed jintużaw biex jiġġieldu l-virus
 qerriedi. Dan il-pass huwa simili
 għal dak li ttehed mill-Italja.³

Jien napprezza d-diffikultà ta' stress
 kbir fuq ir-riżorsi ta' kull pajjiż, u
 deċiżjonijiet diffiċli li qed jittiehdu.
 Ikolli ngħid madankollu li nhossni
 skomdu nisma' dan kollu.

Fejn spiċċat l-ospitalità tal-Maltin
 innutata minn San Luqa u San Pawl
 fl-Iskrittura?⁴ X'se jiġri mill-imsej-
 kna jitbandlu fuq il-mewġ, li l-uniku
 delitt tagħhom kien li jaħarbu stat ta'
 gwerra, vjolenza jew guh f'pajjiżhom?

Kif il-pajjiżi fin-nofsinar tal-Ewropa,
 inkluża pajjiż zġħir bħal Malta,
 jithallew jaffrontaw il-piżijiet tal-immigrazzjoni
 mingħajr riżorsi adegwati?

Il-haddiema u l-istudenti barranin
 kuntenti bihom sakemm jikkontribwixxu
 għall-ekonomija, u malli jinqalghu l-problemi,
 dqshekk u ma rridux nafu bihom?

Min għandu żewġ ilbiesi, jaqsam ma' min
 ma għandu xejn, u min għandu x'jiekol
 jagħmel l-istess.⁵

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4. Acts 27-28
5. Luke 3:11

(Ara wkoll artiklu dwar is-suġġett: 'Malta unable to guarantee rescuing lives at sea; puts Libya in the spotlight'; f'pagna 13)



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Yes, the Australian bush is recovering from bushfires – but it may never be the same

As bushfires in New South Wales are finally contained, attention is turning to nature's recovery. Green shoots are sprouting and animals are returning. But we must accept that in some cases, the bush may never return to its former state.

We've all read the devastating figures of destruction this fire season. More than 11 million hectares of land burned across the country over a period of about six months. There is some evidence more than one billion animals perished.

We can take some heart in the regenerative power of the Australian bush. However, when we read of "recovery" in the media, we feel we must clarify what that might actually look like. While Australia's environment has evolved to adapt to fire, our research shows we can no longer assume it will recover completely.

A fiery future

We are scientists and social science researchers who work in transdisciplinary climate change projects, liaising with park rangers, farmers, policymakers, emergency services and local government. Our work involves scoping future challenges in land management and developing a range of plausible future climate scenarios for southeast Australia.

Our experience told us something like this catastrophic climatic event was possible, but as researchers we weren't prepared to see such an inferno this summer.

Although fires are natural in Australia, they're now occurring at an unprecedented frequency and intensity in areas that, historically, did not burn. This new regime does not allow the effective recovery of natural systems to their pre-fire state.

Alpine ash to ashes

Fires in alpine ash forests (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) are a good example of this. Unlike many eucalypt species that can re-sprout after fire, this species' only means of recovery is through germination via a seed bank in the canopy, and rapid germination and growth of seedlings after fire.

Multiple fires in quick succession kill seedlings before they reach maturity, disrupting the tree's reproductive cycle and leading to local extinction of the species in the landscape.

Alpine ash forests have endured repeated fires in recent years.

In 2013, a blaze in Victoria burnt more than 31,000 hectares of the Alpine National Park.

Vast areas have been burnt again in this season's fires in the same places. Research reveals climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of fires in the Australian Alps.

This ecosystem will not recover. It will instead transition into a new, different ecosystem, and many species that evolved to live in the original habitat, such as the alpine ash, will no longer be supported. They will be replaced by other vegetation types, such as other eucalyptus woodland, shrubland or grassland.

No more refuge

To further illustrate this point, take the Tasmanian pencil pine *Athrotaxis cupressoides*.

This slow-growing conifer native to Tasmania can live for up to 1,000 years. They are found in Tasmania's highlands and sub-alpine regions – historically a Tolkien-esque landscape of moss and emerald green cushion plants, studded with thousands of tiny mountain lakes, called tarns.

But large fires across Tasmania's pencil pine habitat in recent years, including those in 2016, reduced hundreds of isolated pencil pine communities to blackened skeletons. The stands of trees that remain are struggling to survive in a drying and warming climate.

All this is occurring in areas that historically did not experience fire, which allowed a suite of ancient, fire-sensitive species to persist.

As climate change worsens, the pencil pine will be restricted to even smaller areas. Higher temperatures and increased fuel loads increase the likelihood of destruction by fire. Areas where pencil pines have historically been protected will diminish in number and size.



by Prof. David Bowman

Professor of Pyrogeography and Fire Science
Fire Centre Director School of Natural Sciences The University of Tasmania

Along with some eucalyptus trees, Australian flowering grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea*) are pyrophytic plants – which means they are adapted to survive in fire-prone habitats.

Natalie Maguire / Flickr, CC BY-SA



Irreplaceable loss

In these cases and many others, animal species relying on these trees and their ecosystems are profoundly affected. Well before the latest fires, Australia had an abysmal record on vertebrate extinctions. This summer's fires have brought some animal species, including the Kangaroo Island dunnart, closer to extinction.

Future fire seasons will not be normal events, or even some kind of stable "new normal", to which humans and nature will readily adapt. We're seeing a trajectory of change in which our climate will shift faster than most living things can tolerate.

The Australian environment evolved with fire and in past conditions, could recover from fire. However climate change has altered the rules irrevocably.

We can no longer rest assured that nature will bounce back, and that knowledge should be a wake-up call for the world.

Courtesy THE CONVERSATION



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta least affected among EU states with COVID-19 pandemic

The International Monetary Fund, IMF, has forecast that Malta will be one of the least economically affected countries among European states with the COVID-19 pandemic.

It further states that while, as a result of the pandemic the global economy is projected to decrease by 3% this year, Malta's economy is expected to decrease by 2.8%, and that it would rebound strongly by next year when its economy should grow to 7%. Malta's current account balance is expected to fall from 8.4% of GDP last year to 3.3% this year, before rebounding slightly to 6.1% next year.

The IMF points out that due to the current situation, it expects Malta's unemployment, which was 3.4% before the pandemic started, to increase to 5% this year but will again begin to fall in 2021.

The IMF has described the global slowdown as the worst since the 30s recession, adding that the pandemic pushed the world into a great crisis and its continuous spread will test the ability of governments and central banks on how to control the crisis. A Fund economist said that during the next two years the crisis may cut over €8 trillion from the total gross domestic product.

The IMF's conclusions are based on the latest pandemic statistics if it enters the second half of the year, in which the Government may be able to ease restrictions and thus give a boost to the economy.



In a baseline scenario – which assumes that the pandemic fades in the second half of 2020 and containment efforts can be gradually unwound – the global economy is projected to grow by 5.8 percent in 2021 as economic activity normalizes, helped by policy support.

*Meanwhile, in separate reports two rating agencies, Fitch and Moody's, both also have expressed confidence in

Malta's economic prospects.

In its assessment, based on the assumption that the coronavirus pandemic will ease in the second half of the year, Fitch expects Malta's economy to contract by 5.9% this year before rebounding to a moderate 3.6% per growth in 2021.

On the other hand Moody's believes that Malta's economy will contract by 3.8% this year before returning to 3.2% growth next year.

Mood's said that Malta had a relatively well-diversified economy in terms of trade partners and sectors, and that would help cushion the pandemic blow.

In his reaction, Prime Minister Robert Abela expressed satisfaction at the predictions, especially the IMF's that Malta's economy will this year withstand the impact of COVID-19 three times better than the Euro Area.

The Economy Ministry noted that the projections indicated Malta would most likely suffer economic impacts far smaller than those in other countries and regions.

More financial assistance aimed to help businesses

The Government has announced more financial assistance in order to ease businesses' liquidity constraints due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister for Finance and Financial Services Prof. Edward Scicluna said that the Government would be subsidizing interest rates on the working capital loans for two years and up to a maximum 2.5%.

This is in addition to the launch of the Tax Deferral Scheme and the enforcement of a directive for Banks to provide moratoriums on bank loans and interest.

Largest-ever investment in waste management facilities

Malta is to make its largest-ever investment in the waste management sector that would take it to a new level, not only in waste management but also in the country's overall environmental performance and recycling targets.

Announcing the investment the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning Aaron Farrugia said that the new state-of-the-art waste management facilities would drive the country towards a circular economy, with all waste streams being reutilised to their full potential.

The investment includes pillars in waste management such as the much-needed waste-to-energy plant that will in itself significantly limit Malta's landfilling volumes, a new plant for the management of dry recyclables, a plant to treat organic waste to extract energy and produce compost for use in agriculture, as well as the replacement of the clinical and abattoir waste incinerator.

The Minister said Malta would finally be in a position to stop its predominant reliance on landfilling and to aggressively turn waste into precious resources, be it energy, fertile agricultural resources, or upcycled products. The facilities, require 82,000m² of land.

Three vast areas previously used by Wasteserv, adding up to 170,000m² will be returned to the people in the form of green areas.

Prisoners demonstrating the importance of unity

Prisoners at the Corradino Correctional Facility are helping to combat the outbreak of Covid-19 by producing masks and other personal protective equipment, that is being used by officers and residents of the Facility, and by other government entities.

These efforts come at a crucial time when it has become challenging to find enough protective equipment all around the world.

Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement Byron Camilleri praised the initiative and said that the residents are demonstrating the importance of showing unity as a country through these challenging times.

'Dream Malta Now... Visit Later'

The Malta Tourism Authority has launched aimed a promotional campaign intended at reminding potential visitors about the beauty that awaits them in the Maltese islands once it becomes possible for people to start travelling again. The campaign has been given the name of, 'Dream Malta Now... Visit Later'

Using a 60-second video clip produced in fourteen different languages, the campaign will be conducted primarily online. It will be accompanied by a series of social media posts promoting the same message.

Commenting on this campaign, Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Julia Farrugia Portelli said that, "When faced with a challenging scenario like the one we are currently experiencing, a common reaction is that of halting all marketing and retreating completely from the scene".

She said that this was not the philosophy adopted by the Malta Tourism Authority and the Government. On the contrary, it has devised a campaign, oriented towards different areas of interest. "Through it, we aim to provide prospective visitors with a taste of the Maltese islands and entice them to visit at a later date," the Minister said.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta unable to guarantee rescuing lives at sea; puts Libya in the spotlight

Malta has always shouldered its humanitarian responsibilities and expects other European Union members who seem to be more interested in erecting fences around their walls, to do the same, Prime Minister Robert Abela said with regard to criticism levelled at the decision to declare, that in the current circumstances, it would no longer accept or offer a safe place to irregular migrants. Malta has not got the ways and means that it can guarantee rescuing lives at sea.

Malta's decision has clearly been motivated by health and resource concerns. Its resources, particularly the disciplined corps and the health authorities, are working around the clock to save lives on the ground and it is not currently in a position to divert these resources.

Malta's position was formally communicated to Libya, Italy, and Germany during meetings held between the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo and the Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement Byron Camilleri, and the countries' respective ambassadors to Malta.

In talks with the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Malta stressed that the European Union must shoulder its responsibility, particularly in these trying times.

The Maltese government called on the EU to make a fresh push for Libya to stop migrants trying to reach European soil, and requested it to launch an immediate human-

itarian mission in Libya.

In a letter to the EU's High Representative for Foreign Policy Josep Borrell, Ministers Evarist Bartolo and Byron Camilleri said the EU should "boost the empowerment of the Libyan Coast Guard in enhancing the control of its borders, as well as concretely ensuring that Libya represents a safe port for the disembarkation of migrants."

Humanitarian mission

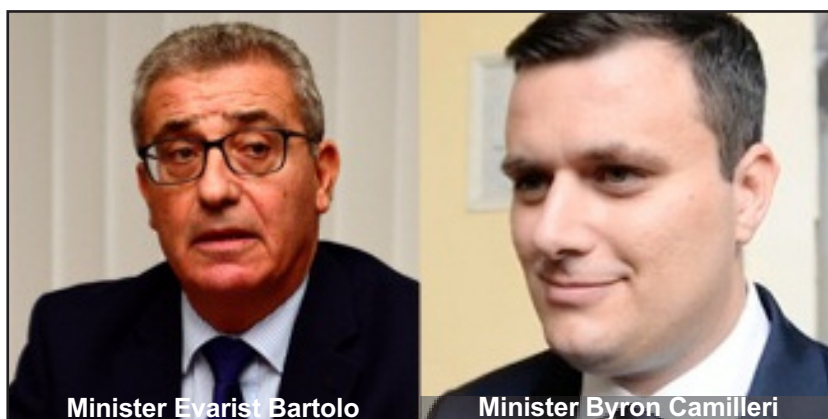
When it comes to the launching of an immediate humanitarian mission in the North African country, Malta said the EU should do this by providing food, medicines and health care equipment.

The Ministers warned that "over 650,000 people await to leave Libyan shores for Europe," and that "there are all the ingredients for a major humanitarian disaster waiting to happen, as desperate people look at the Mediterranean as their only escape."

In light of the current scenario, that is, that Libya today represents a complex landscape plagued with difficulties across conflict, health, humanitarian and migration dimensions, and that humanitarian assistance on the ground continues to decrease, Malta requested the EU to come back with options to be discussed at an emergency Foreign Affairs Council.

In the meantime, questioned about the situation on TV, Minister Bartolo said that he discussed the matter with the EU Commissioner, the Vatican and the UN and all agreed that Malta was right, however, except for a few countries, nobody is offering concrete help to solve the problem.

He explained that between January and April this year, Malta picked up 1,135 irregular immigrants and between March 2019 and March this year, the number was



Minister Evarist Bartolo

Minister Byron Camilleri

a staggering 4,491.

He said the open centres accommodating these immigrants are overcrowded.

Malta's decision is accepted by European Court of Human Rights

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has rejected a request by Maltese NGO, Repubblika for the Strasbourg court to force Malta and Italy to rescue migrants who find themselves in difficulty at sea. The request to reverse the situation was made after Malta decided to halt migrants' rescues to continue in order to focus its resources on the COVID-19 crisis.

NP leader joins appeal

On his part Nationalist Party leader Adrian Delia is insisting that persons not qualifying for asylum should be sent back immediately, whereas migrants qualifying for asylum should be distributed among European countries.

He made the appeal during talks with the European Commissioner for Migration, Ylva Johansson. He said that she agreed, and even committed herself to insist at European level for the immediate setting up of this process.

Delia pointed out the detention centres in Malta are overcrowded, and Malta's resources are under great pressure. He said Malta cannot continue to shoulder a bigger burden than it is currently shouldering.

Malta forces help in rescue of immigrants in the Mediterranean

The Malta Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) has coordinated the rescue of an immigrant boat that left Libya and, after a few days in Libyan waters, entered Malta's Search and Rescue Area (SAR).

The boat had already been in distress for a number of days in Libya's SAR, not Malta's. The European Union was aware of the boat, flew its aircrafts over the area but did not send any vessels to pick up the migrants.

The Armed Forces of Malta made a number of flights to pinpoint where this boat was located, and as soon as the boat's exact location was established called nearby vessels to assist. A commercial vessel was dispatched to the location of the boat for assistance and a Libyan fishing vessel later took the migrants on board.

During this time, the Armed Forces of Malta was also coordinating four other similar cases on its own.

Maltese bishops request help from the Vatican

The Maltese ecclesiastical authorities, Bishops Charles Scicluna, Mario Grech, and Joe Galea Curmi, and the General Secretary of the Malta Episcopal Conference, Fr Jimmy Bonnici have requested the Vatican to intervene in the current immigration crisis in the Mediterranean.

In their letter to the Vatican the Bishops acknowledged the difficult situation Malta is currently facing after it allowed a further 64 immigrants to disembark in Malta. They described the situation as putting increased pressure on a small country already under great pressure from the current pandemic and appealed for the Vatican to intervene with other EU member countries to support Malta and to accept the irregular immigrants.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Stharriġ dwar min hu l-aktar fdat



laħaq l-ghatba ta' Kastilja, li ma kellux jiffaċċja wahda mill-akbar kriżijiet, jekk mhux l-ikbar, kriżi, li qatt kellna f'Malta.

Dan minkejja li minn dawk il-kummenti li kienu qed jidhru f'xi ġurnali elettronici, xejn ma kienu kumplementużi lejn Abela, fejn saħansitra ntqal li hu dgħajef, u li ma jafx x'qed jagħmel, eċċ.

Skont l-istharriġ Abela baqa' jzomm l-istess perċentwal ta' apogġ daqs kemm kellu propju meta kien għadu kif gie elett Kap tal-Partit Laburista u Prim Ministru ta' Malta, jiġifieri 62.4%, fil-waqt li l-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista Dr Adrian Delia (fuq il-lemin) jgawdi biss 17.3%, jiġifieri distakk ta' 45 punt perċentwal.

Iva, anke waqt li għaddejja din l-imxija, il-ġurnal *Maltatoday* ma naqasx li jzomm is-sistema tiegħu li kultant żmien jagħmel stharriġ fost il-poplu dwar dak li jhoss dwar il-mexxejja u l-partiti politiċi.

Għal darb'ohra r-riżultat tal-istharriġ kien konferma qawwija għall-fiduċja tal-maġġoranza tal-poplu fil-Prim Ministru Malti, Dr Robert Abela (fuq ix-xellug), li bilkemm

L-istharriġ juri li Robert Abela jgawdi l-fiduċja tal-biċċa 'l kbira tal-Maltin aktar minn Adrian Delia f'kull reġjun tal-pajjiż u wkoll f'kull parti tas-soċjetà Maltija. Saħansitra jgawdi wkoll il-fiduċja t'aktar minn kuart (25.9%) ta' dawk li fl-aħħar elezzjoni ġenerali vvutaw lill-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Hu biss f'Għawdex li Abela mar xi ftit lura fil-waqt li Delia żdied bi tliet punti, u attwalment il-Partit Nazzjonalista ha spinta wkoll f'Għawdex għalkemm xorta wahda baqa' taht il-Partit Laburista b'44.8% għall-PN u 48.2% għall-PL.

Minkejja dan il-Partit Laburista għadu sewwa fuq quddiem meta wiehed jiehu l-eletturi ta' Malta u Għawdex flimkien billi il-PL qed jikseb il-fiduċja ta' 49.1% ta' dawk li wiegħu għall-istharriġ, bil-Partit Nazzjonalista jikseb 23.3%, jiġifieri distakk ta' 26 punt perċentwal bejn iż-żewġ partiti politiċi.

Imsomma minkejja t-tensjoni li hawn minhabba l-coronavirus, xorta huwa diffiċli għall-Maltin li jinsew il-politika partigġjana.



Forsi wiehed jistaqsi, ara għaddejjin minn pandemika bħal din dak li jkun kemm qed iħabbel rasu dwar l-użu tal-ilsien Malti?

Attwalment l-idea li nikteb dwar l-użu tal-Malti f'dawn iż-żminijiet mhix hieqa tiegħi, imma mnebbha minn kitbiet li dehru f'żewġ ġurnali differenti wahda mill-Prof. Adrian Grima tal-Fakultà tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta u l-ohra minn Charles Xuereb għal hafna snin xandar fuq l-istazzjonijiet tar-radju u t-televiżjoni Maltin.

It-tnejn li huma rabtu l-artikli tagħhom ma' din l-imxija tal-coronavirus u nsistew kemm jistgħu li anke f'din is-sitwazzjoni għandu kemm jista' jkun jintuża kliem propju Malti waqt taħdidiet, stqarrijiet għall-istampa .. u saħansitra biex nitkellmu bejnietha.

Adrian Grima jibda mill-użu tal-kelma "imxija" .. li jien inhobb nuża u fil-fatt użajta fl-aħħar artiklu tiegħi. I M X I J A t f i s s e r m a r d m e x x e j l i j e h d u h h a f n a n i e s , b h a l l - i n f l u w e n z a , i l h o z b a , e c c . ; m a r d l i j i n - t r i k e b , e p i d e m i j a .

Ikompi billi jispjega li reggħet feġġet il-kelma "sahhiet" minflok *ciao*, *bye* eċċ, kelma qawwija u addatata hafna għal dawn iż-żminijiet għax torbot it-tislima mas-sahha. U flimkien ma sahhiet issa fid-diskors

L-użu tal-Malti

u l-kitba qed jiffaċċaw sewwa l-kliem u l-frazi: "kuraġġ", "hu hsieb saħhiet", "aġmel il-qalb", "qawwi qalbek" eċċ.

Min-naħa medika, aktar minn qatt qabel qed nisimghu: "kwarantana", "toqghod kwarantana", "qieghed kwarantana", "zammewha kwarantana", "pogġewhom kwarantana", "għadha kwarantana", u "ilha kwarantana", "pulmonite" (flok "pneumonia").

Charles Xuereb jinsisti li l-ġurnalisti u x-

x a n d a r a g h a n d h o m j o q o g h d u a t t e n t i x i k l i e m j u z a w , m h u x b i s s g h a x d a w n j i s t g h u j f i x k l u l i l x i w h u d i m m a w k o l l g h a x t a j j e b l i w i e h e d j u z a ' l - k e l m a M a l t i j a , g h a l k e m m m ' h e m m x e j n h a z i n l i f e j n m e h t i e g t i n t u z a d i k I n g l i z a .

Attwalment jibda l-artiklu tiegħu billi jirrimarka dwar il-fatt li waqt il-konferenzi stampa li jingħataw kuljum dwar il-coronavirus qed ikun hemm xi ġurnalisti jistaqsu bl-Ingliż (attwalment dawk li jkunu jindirizzaw l-istampa dejjem iwiegħu bil-Malti).

Sostna li l-udjenza li fil-maġġoranza assoluta tagħha hija Maltija, għandha dritt li jkollha il-mistoqsijiet u t-tweġibiet bil-Malti. Għalkemm tajjeb li ċerti messaggji importanti b'xi mod jitwasslu wkoll bl-

ilsien Ingliż għal min ma jifhimx il-Malti.

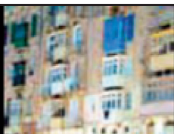
Xuereb imbagħad jagħti xi eżempji fejn anke kliem bil-Malti imma b'bixra barranija bħal ma hi l-kelma "kaw-tela" (caution), "trasmissjoni" (transmission) aħjar nużaw kliem purament Malti bħal, "b'attenzjoni kbira. bi prudenza, qisu ma ġara xejn, tixrid".

Irrefera wkoll għal kliem li beda jiffaċċa minhabba t-testijiet li jsiru "swabs" bil-Maltin malajr jaddottaw il-verb "isswobja". Attwalment il-kelma "swab" bil-Malti hija "kampjun" u għallhekk ikun aħjar jekk ngħidu "jittiehed kampjun u jsir test" għax attwalment meta qed insemmu s-"swabbing" li jkun qed isir hu li jittehd kampjun u jsir test fuqu.

Sfortunatament hemm ġurnalisti li jużaw ċertu kliem barrani li fil-fatt għandna l-kelma Maltija għalih, bħal *flights* (titjiriet), *lists* (listi), *home deliveries* (jitwasslu d-dar), *partner* (sieheb), *Finland* (Finlandja), *health care worker* (haddiem tas-sahha, tas-sanità): *contact tracing* (insegwu minn fejn ittiedet), *incubation period* (sakemm johorġu s-sintomi), *acute episode* (perjodu aktar diffiċli), *respiratory illness* (mard tan-nifs), *social distancing* (distanzi bejnietha), *surfaces* (uċ- (uh), *cluster* (grupp), *community spread* (imxija), *essential retail* (bejgħ bl-imnut essenzjali), *public/mass gatherings* (laqgħat pubbliċi/folol), *travel history* (fejn kienu msefrin), *frontline* (fuq quddiem) u *containment phase* (iż-żmien li nżommuha milli tixteret).

Wiehed jispera li l-ġurnalisti u l-habbara jagħtu kas ta' dak li kitbu dawn iż-żewġt hbieb tal-ilsien Malti, forsi ma nkomplux nitlifu l-użu tajjeb tal-ilsien nazzjonali tagħna.





Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



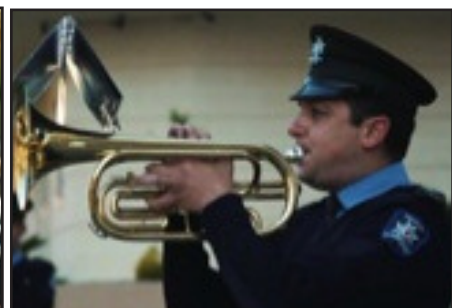
Il-pulizija jagħtu sorpriża lill-anzjani

Mhux ta' b'xejn hafna Maltin qed isejjhu lil għadd ta' haddiema li qed iduru bina u jiehdu ħsiebna eroj u anke jsejnhom angli għall-mod kif qed jimxu mal-poplu, l-aktar ma' dawkl li l-aktar jinħtiegu l-wens.

Il-forzi tal-ordni huma fost dawn. Huma għandhom ix-xogħol tagħhom x'jagħmlu, imma madankollu qed ukoll isibu l-hin biex



L-anzjani u dawk li jiehdu ħsiebhom jifirhu mal-banda tal-pulizija



imorru lil hinn minn dmirijethom. Fost dawn isibu l-korp tal-pulizija li b'sinjal ta' solidarjetà marru jferrhu lill-anzjani f'wahda mid-djar fejn jinsabu miġburin. Kienet sorpriża bla mistennija.

Kulhadd apprezza lill-membri tal-banda tal-korp tal-pulizija li f'Hadd il-Għid ingabru taht it-twieqi ta' dar tal-anzjani li r-residenti tagħha, bħal f'kull dar ohra, min jaf kemm qed iħossu n-nuqqas taż-żajjar minn tal-familja, l-aktar ta' wliedhom u tan-neputijiet, u ferraħom id-daqq tagħhom.

Kienet sorpriża sabiha f'dan iż-żmien li minhabba l-imxija tal-coronavirus jistghu jhossuhom wehldhom aktar mis-soltu.

Magħhom hemm ukoll għadd ta' haddiema li jdur bihom u li huma wkoll, uħud anke b'għażla tagħhom, li qed jibqgħu bogħod minn djarhom u l-familji biex hekk jissalvagwardjaw kemm saħhet l-anzjani u wkoll il-membri tal-familja tagħhom.

Kien għest li gie ferm apprezzat, anke mill-familji tal-istess anzjani u li minhabba ċ-ċirkostanzi ma jistgħux ikunu magħhom.

Rohs ta' 35% fil-mizati tal-iskejjel privati

Il-Gvern habbar li lahaq ftehim mal-skejjel privati biex sakemm it-tfal mhumieq jattendu l-iskola minhabba s-sitwazzjoni tal-Covid-19, il-mizati għall-istudenti jorhsu b'35%. Barra minhekk sostna wkoll li dawn l-istudenti mhux se jtitlfu posthom fl-iskola.

Sadanittant, il-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol sahaq li billi l-mizati huma arrangament privat bejn il-ġenituri u l-iskejjel privati, jekk tinħass il-htiega minn xi hadd minnhom li ssir xi revizzjoni, dan irid isir b' taħditiet u qbil bejniethom.

Il-Gvern qal ukoll li bis-saħħa tal-ftehim mal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Iskejjel Indipendenti, hadd mid-900 impjegat full-time u aktar minn 180 impjegat part-time fosthom edukaturi jew xi haddiema ohra ta' dawn l-iskejjel privati mhu se jitlef xogħlu.

Jinqdew bl-Imxija

Filwaqt li l-maġġoranza assoluta tan-nies huma mdahhlin f'qoxorthom minhabba l-cornonavirus, hemm min qed japprofitta ruħu mis-sitwazzjoni biex iħaxxen butu.

Fost dawn hemm xi negozji li qed jgħollu l-prezzijiet ta' certi prodotti, anke jekk s'issa jidher li hadd mhu qed isibha diffiċli biex isib l-oġġetti essenzzjali tal-ikel. Sa kien hemm rapporti li ċertu laham frisk għola b'7% aktar minn xahar u nofs ilu.

Barra l-gholi fil-prezzijiet hemm min inqeda bis-sitwazzjoni biex jisraq, fosthom serq meta l-hallelin ippużaw ta' nies mibghuta biex jgħinu lill-anzjani li malli fethulhom il-bieb sequhom.

Hemm ukoll każi fejn persuni jordnaw l-ikel bit-telfon u malli dak li jwassal l-ikel ikun fi triqtu jaqbu fuqu u jehdulu l-flus.

Dan sintendi jkompli jżid mal-problemi li jridu jiffaċċjaw il-forzi tal-ordni li bħalissa huma mpenjati hafna, fosthom biex jaraw li l-poplu jħares ir-regolamenti ta' kwarantina.

Ta' min ifaħħar lill-istess forzi tal-ordni li 'l-hallelin il-ġodda' qabduhom malajr, ressequhom il-Qorti u ġew ikkundannati.

Delia jgħid li l-armata hija t-tarka tal-pajjiż

Waqt iżjara li għamel fil-bażijiet tal-iskwadri tal-baħar u tal-ajru tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta (AFM) fejn ingħata spjega dwar l-operat tal-armata mill-Brigadier Jeffrey Curmi, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Adrian Delia (lemin b'libsa blu) faħħar hidmiethom u ddeskriva lill-armata bħala t-tarka tal-pajjiż.

Filwaqt li qal li l-membri tal-armata qed jirriskjaw hajjithom biex jipproteġu l-pajjiż, Delia raddilhom hajr għall-hidma li qed jagħmlu f'dawn iċ-ċirkostanzi diffiċli. Żied jgħid li l-poplu Malti jagħraf is-sehem kruċjali tal-Armata Maltija biex thares is-sigurtà ta' pajjiżna u tagħti serhan il-moħħ lill-poplu Malti.

Delia qal li meta wiehed iqis ir-riżorsi, hafna



drabi Malta qed iġġorr piż kbir hafna u sahaq dwar il-htiega li l-pajjiż jingħata iktar għajnuna mill-Ewropa



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**—
Halli l-familja
tagħna tgħin lill-
familja tiegħek**



A quick glimpse at Australia

Unemployment soars to its highest level

Up to 1.4 million Australians are expected to be out of work by June as Australia's jobless rate soars to its highest level in nearly three decades due to the coronavirus shutdown. Treasury expects the unemployment rate to rise to 10 per cent in the June quarter, from 5.1 per cent in the most recent data, but Treasurer Josh Frydenberg says that figure would have been 15 per cent if not for the government's \$130 billion JobKeeper wage subsidy programme.

It comes after chief medical officer Brendan Murphy warned it was "too early" to end social distancing measures but that the national cabinet would look at "what, if anything, can be relaxed in the coming

weeks", with Health Minister Greg Hunt saying the goal now was "effective eradication" of the virus.

Before the coronavirus led to major economic shutdowns and mass stand-downs of workers, the jobless rate was 5.1 per cent. Prime Minister Scott Morrison described the projected unemployment figures as a tragedy.

"Unemployment at that rate – hundreds of thousands of people losing their jobs – it is just absolutely heart-breaking," he said.

"The JobKeeper programme means we'll be able to limit that devastation. We've also got the doubling of the Job-



Seeker programme, which means that those who do find themselves unemployed will be able to gain access to support that we've never seen in this country before." But Australia continues to hold its prized AAA-credit rating, one of only ten countries to do so.



Cardinal George Pell walks free ...NOT guilty on all charges

A full bench of the High Court of Australia recently unanimously (7-0) decided to quash the conviction of 78-year-old Cardinal George Pell who was serving a six-year prison sentence after being found guilty in December 2018 of abusing two choir boys at St Patrick's Cathedral in the 1990s when he was Archbishop of Melbourne.

Australia's highest court's judgment overruled that verdict and Cardinal Pell has been acquitted on all charges.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Mark Coleridge from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference released a statement saying, the ruling would be "welcomed by many, including those who believed in the cardinal's innocence throughout this lengthy process".

The cardinal said "My trial was not a referendum on the Catholic Church; nor a referendum on how the Church authorities in Australia dealt with the crimes of paedophilia in the church, the point was whether I had committed these awful crimes, and I did not," he added.

Speaking to *The Australian*, Terry Tobin QC said that if the High Court was right about the possibility of the offences not occurring, an innocent man had been sent to jail for 405 days in what was one of the biggest injustices in Australian criminal history. "That is a very high cost in our lib-

eral democracy," he said.

The Sunday Telegraph wrote that "the verdict by the High Court was quashed on a point of law – not an assessment of the evidence. We do not know whether he did it, nor do you". The Sunday newspaper further viewed that if there is a genuine desire for healing – and everybody from the Pope down says there is – Cardinal Pell cannot be simply ushered back into the fold.

In an interview on national TV, Cardinal Pell warned against the pendulum swinging the other way, so that accusers are always believed. He said he was ashamed of crimes committed by members of the church and ashamed the issue had been treated "inadequately". He said: "It was very bad; hopefully we got rid of it. It was like a cancer. We had to cut it out".

According to *The Herald Sun*, Cardinal George Pell is being investigated over a fresh child abuse allegation by a new accuser; just days after the High Court quashed his convictions on historical charges. It is believed the new allegation has been made by a man who works in a professional role. The alleged incident is believed to date back to the 1970s.

Cardinal Pell, has always vehemently denied any sexual abuse, and news of the fresh investigation is frustrating for those close to him.



Australian citizenship ceremonies will be conducted online via video secure video link, with the prospect of up to 750 people conferred each day, acting Immigration Minister Alan Tudge announced.

He said that the Morrison Government "recognises the importance of Australian citizenship for migrants and the wider Australia community". He added that there are currently 85,000 people awaiting a ceremony and those already scheduled for a citizenship event would be notified.

"Australian citizenship is an immense privilege, and fundamental to our national identity," Mr Tudge said in a statement.

There had been fears that tens of thousands of migrants waiting to become citizens were going to face an indefinite wait for the process to be finalised, after ceremonies across the country were cancelled because of social distancing measures brought on by the coronavirus.

After an application for citizenship is approved, under the Australian Citizenship Act migrants are required to make a pledge of commitment to Australia before a presiding officer, which usually occurs at a ceremony organised by their local Council.



A quick glimpse at Australia



La Valette SC at one of its functions before the lockdown



The Maltese Club in South Australia

Nowhere to go as clubs, social or otherwise are in lockdown

Sports and social clubs across Australia are among the many institutions affected by the government's shutdown laws amid the coronavirus outbreak.

For the thousands of patrons who make the daily pilgrimage to a club for social connection activity, playing pokies or

bingo, there are concerns anxiety levels may rise the longer the clubs stay closed. But with clubs, pubs and restaurants now a no-go zone members are forced to stay indoors and find other sources of entertainment.

The three Maltese social centres in NSW are also closed. La Valette Centre, normally very busy on a Thursday when they organise the adult seniors morning, and their busy kitchen, that recently started to open all week, the b o c c i pitches, and Saturday evenings entertainment ceased functioning during the shut down.

The George Cross Falcons centre at Cringila (near Wollongong) has stopped all its functions. The same can be

said of the Hamrun Centre at Marsden Park. Maltese are frequent visitors to many social RSL, Ex-Service clubs all over NSW. Marconi Club is also very popular with the Maltese community.

In Melbourne, the MCC Centres at Parkville and Sunshine, Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Western Suburbs at Gooding Street Melbourne are also closed. So are Maltese clubs in Bassendean, Western Australia and the South Australia club at Beverley. Every Maltese association in Australia is hopeful these shutdowns will not last much longer.



The Maltese Club at Gringila



The Hamrun Club NSW

In order to avoid getting infected with coronavirus

People in Australia are advised that they must stay at least 1.5 metres away from each other, while gatherings are limited to two people unless you are with your family or household.

If you believe you may have contracted the virus, call your doctor (don't visit) or contact the national Coronavirus Health Information Hotline on 1800 020 080. If you are struggling to breathe or experiencing a medical emergency, call 000.

SBS is committed to informing Australia's diverse communities about the latest COVID-19 developments. News and information is available in 63 languages at [sbs.com.au/coronavirus](https://www.sbs.com.au/coronavirus)



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija



Il-qari ta' ktieb l-isbaħ mogħdija taż-żmien

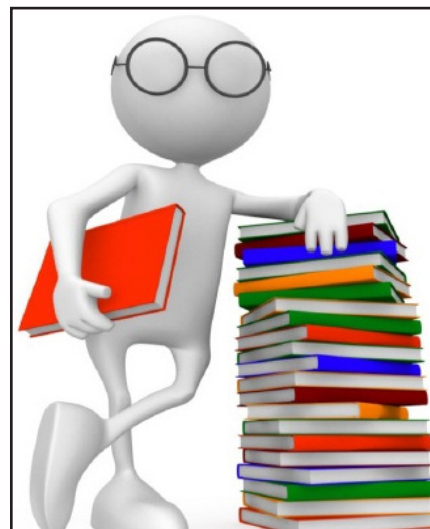
Bil-qerriedi coronavirus jibqa' jispikka fil-midja u bir-raġun, u bit-tant pariri tal-awtoritajiet mediċi u xjentisti li qed jagħmlu minn kollox biex iżommuna fuq ix-xwiek halli niskansaw ruhna minn din li hafna qed laqquha bħala pesta, ma nafx tistax tgħid li hemm ukoll xi lat pożittiv, imma xorta se ngħidu.

B'hafna popli 'maqfula' f'darhom f'tentattiv biex jevitaw li jittieħdu u titrażzan il-pandemija, fost l-aktar affarijiet li jistgħu jnessu xi ftit dan id-dwejjaq, hemm il-qari, kemm jekk dwar xi suġġett minn fuq l-internet, imma l-aktar tal-kotba li jista' jkun li hafna minna stajna warrabna fi djarna stess u li minhabba l-hajja mghagħla konna nsejnihom fuq l-ixkaffa.

Il-qari hu l-aktar sors ta' għerf. Hu wkoll mogħdija taż-żmien li jrendi lill-bniedem, mhux f'finanzi imma fis-serħan il-moħħ. Daż-żmien, bi ftit flus wiehed anke jista' jaqra kotba minn fuq l-internet, imma għal hafna, ferm isbaħ li nħossu l-ktieb f'idejna, minhabba li jekk ikun ktieb li jogħgħbok itik tant sodisfazzjon li lanqas tkun trid titilqu minn idejk. Jekk min-naħa l-oħra jdejjek, tista' twarrbu.

F'din il-paġna f'hargiet alternattivi qed nagħtu tagħrif u ngħibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja xi awturi li forsi whud minnhom mhumieq tant magħrufa, imma li huma wkoll ikkontribwew bis-shih lil-letteratura Maltija. L-awturi l-aktar magħrufa wkoll se niktbu dwarhom fil-gejjieni.

Kif kull min isegwi din il-paġna jaf li hawnhekk nalternaw billi nżommu wkoll lill-qarrejja agġornati b'tagħrif iehor dwar il-kitba Maltija u xi 'stejjer jew kurzittajiet li whud forsi ntnešew imma li wkoll kienu ta' għajnuna biex l-ilsien Malti jgawdi l-importanza u jingħaa l-gieħ li jixraq.



L-epigrammi.... Imma x'inhuma proprjament?

Poezija qasira, mirquma u marbuta tajjeb

It-tifsira li jagħti l-Professur Oliver Friggieri għall-epigrammi hi din: "Poezija qasira, mirquma u marbuta taj-

L-epigrammi huma speċi ta' sqarrijiet qosra, interessanti, ġieli anke momorabbli u minn xi daqqiet satirici li jibgħu miftakra. Il-kelma nnifisha ġeja mill-Grieg, epigramma "skrizzjoni" minn epigraphen "tikteb fuq" li kienet tintuża sa aktr minn żewġ millennja.

Eżempju: Mhux kull ma jleqq hu deheb.

Bħala tifsira: Dak li jidher minn barra ma jurix kollox. Jisa' jidher ta' valur, imma ma jiswiex.

jeb, li aktarx tolqot u tahsad bl-originalità tagħha, li jista' jkollha tema li tvarja u li hi trattata bis-serjetà jew b'mod satiriku; kitba, fil-versi jew fil-proża, li tesprimi xi haġa b'mod milqut, fil-qosor, b'ton serju, filosofiku jew satiriku u l-bqija.

"Il-forma l-iżjed imfittxa tal-epigramm tul it-tradizzjoni hi d-distiku bl-en-dekasillbi, iżda l-forom ivarjaw minn kitieb għal iehor."

Friggieri jsemmi bħala epigrammisti bikrija Maltin lil Luigi Rigord (1757-1823) u Giuseppe Zammit (1802-1890), magħruf bħala Brighella, awtur ta' Carmine epigrammatica (1839).

Jissokta jgħid li, "Il-ġabriet ewlenin tal-epigrammi fil-poezija Maltija huma Ejjew Nidhku Ftit! (1962) u Ejjew Nidhku Ftit Iehor (1965) ta' Anton Buttigieg (1912-83). Huma x'aktarx dejjem miktubin bi kwartini ta' endekasillabi li jirrimaw fit-tieni u fir-raba' vers. Is-suġġetti jvarjaw u jiffurmaw ħarsa wiesgħa lejn oqsma dif-

ferenti tal-hajja fiha nnifisha u l-aktar f'-Malta.

"Il-politiċi, il-kleru, l-irġiel u n-nisa bħala sessi b'xejriet tipici, il-professjonijiet, id-drawwiet u l-vizzji personali u soċjali huma t-temi li Buttigieg jitrattahom bl-ironija u bis-satira. Epigrammi oħra huma allegorici, mibnjin fuq ħejjex u annimali b'kontenut ta' xeħta u fejda li jorbtu mad-dinja morali tal-bnedmin.

"L-imġiba kritika tal-poeta, ċajtiera u nebbiexa ssawwat lis-soċjetà xi drabi bl-aħrax u dejjem fid-dawl tal-għażla bejn it-tajjeb u l-ħażin. L-attitudni hi maskili, xejra li hi tipika tal-poezija satirika kollha.

"Bħala kontenut, l-epigrammi ta' Buttigieg jintrabtu mal-ħrejef morali u ċajtiera ta' Gan Anton Vassallo (1817-1868) u l-oħrajn li nqadew bil-ħrafa għall-istess skop. Buttigieg jislet hafna mill-motivi tiegħu mill-esperjenza ta' politiku u avukat, iżda kollox hu mbiddel f'kumment soċjali u morali li jhossu kulhadd."

Eżempji ta' epigrammi (biż-żufjett) mill-ktieb, Ejjew Nidhku Ftit! ta' Anton Buttigieg

SHAKESPEARE U DANTE

Shakespeare u Dante ltaqgħu għewwa dverna id-dinja l-oħra, sewwa ma nafx fejn, u qalu t-tnejn kemm imexxew mal-Muza, U kif man-nisa għamlu f'jak it-tnejn.

LILL-HMAR

Għandek l-akbar widnejn li hemm fid-dinja, iżda tgħidlek kemm tgħidlek għal ta' xejn, għax qatt ma tisma': min tahomlok għamel il-vera parodija tal-widnejn.



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A queue of hyped-up amused seniors waiting their turn to buy their needs at supermarkets

Lockdown at home - COVID-19



Nancy Serg-Borg OAM

This is a very dark and uncertain period, which has changed our modern, lives perhaps forever. It started for us when seniors were allotted two shopping hours, from 6-8 am. On the first day we drove to the carpark at 6 am. It was in semi-darkness, already full of cars. The queue of hyped-up amused seniors ready with trollies in front of them snaked around corners to Big W, Coles and Aldi.

Some clothes shops were open at that unearthly hour, but the seniors were only focused on one thing, groceries. It was a surreal ambience!

The week before we had freely visited the same shops and were elbowed by the younger set in the aisles as they heftily picked up multiple essentials we needed! Shocking! Some seniors were not much better, blocking with trollies to reach much-prized toilet paper, flour, sugar, eggs, butter, milk, meat, and veggies, etc.

Now we seniors are in lockdown at our house, whilst our daughters are taking it in turns to bring supplies, leaving them at our front door! We are ever so grateful to them, yet in disbelief! We can't hug - just blow a kiss as they depart.

Watching CoVid-19 news on TV is all doom and gloom. The many luxurious passenger

cruise ships debacle is surreal; many crew and passengers sick; hospitals full; exhausted and sick medical staff; queues at Centrelink; uncertainty; unemployment; no wages.

The death toll keeps rising; don't leave the house; Keep your distance, two metres apart. I penned a priority list of things to do. A back and forth to each room ensured adequate exercise at least. My husband retreated to the garage and shed. He made and installed extra shelves in the laundry.

A recent gale force storm blew the shed roof away at 9.30 pm. Searching for it we both copped a cold. Now the roof is safely bolted down.

The garden required work after the drought, bushfires, autumn rains and Storms. No fear, we are both getting plenty of Vit-D from the Sun.

I had new plans for a garden area, but my husband wanted no bar of it right now. He retreated inside for a cuppa and more TV COVID-19 news.

The sewing machine, oiled, is back at work! I blissfully engrossed myself down memory lane, trying on, altering, mending school trousers cutting up cloths for garage rags, etc. I left our clothes wardrobes with three sizes in the too-hard basket for another day and happily distracted myself with a treat.... custard and stewed pears.

I am cooking plain healthy food, keeping freezer full just in case. Cleaning cupboards were always done on a Saturday morning when I worked full time. Now a senior, it is one thing at a time, day by day, as I am inclined and have energy. Thinking of culling my extravaganza of gourmet cookery books, but not just yet...no way! I did imqaret to give out for Easter this COVID-19 year.

This is lockdown, big time. Church, schools, concerts, outings, meetings, all cancelled with future dates planned, whenever that future is! We watched Good Friday Mass via iPhone on TV. I pray as I go

about my day, and let God take care of it all. I wrote a heartfelt prayer.

I am catching up with reading "The Sword and The Scimitar" by David Ball, an enthralling saga about Muslims and Maltese in the 16th Century, a gruesome warring era. I am so proud of those Catholic resilient Maltese Islanders. I wonder how my forebears were involved!

My daughter gave me an art book and I tentatively coloured a big heart. She said it was beautiful. There I go. I gave one to my mum Agnese Borg (101¼ years old) last year!! I spoke to her via my sister's iPhone. She lamented we don't visit anymore.

We have ZOOM family meetings keeping us connected and bonded. The grandchildren want to come over and play. They miss my Semolina and Chickpea patties. I will send some over! I feel better for having seen and talked on screen, yet feel so painfully far.

The sudden surge of phone calls, pings on iPhone demands immediate attention, giving me permission to rest catching up with those who matter.

We are all in the same boat! I feel lucky to be connected to the outside world as I receive attachments, beautiful, bizarre, grim or atrocious! I forward on to uplift others.

By the way, this year for Easter instead of the Maltese Figolli, I made Maltese Mqaret which I baked, and fried some. I placed Maltesers on top for decoration. Have not done them for years. It was nice with a cuppa after the 10 am Mass on TV at St Mary's Cathedral this morning.

The world has changed already. But the galahs, pigeons and transient birds are oblivious to it all as they tap on my windowsill demanding seeds, another fantastic distraction....

Let us treasure our beautiful World and start making future exciting plans like our resilient forebears. God Bless us all. *Il-Bambin magħna lkoll. Sahħa.....*

ŽiguŽajg

Meta ġejt arrestat

Fil-hamsinijiet fl-Awstralja kien hawn hafna diskriminazzjoni kontra l-emigranti li kienu qed jaslul bl-gheluf. Anke l-pulizija kienu jitrattawna hażin għal kull haġa ta' xejn. Konna għadna kemm wasalna minn Malta u f'Victoria Park, biswit Sydney University (*ara stampa taħt*) infetħet pixxina pubblika. Kont immur nġum hemm kważi kuljum, xemx u xita.

Darba minnhom kont hemm ma' kuġin tiegħi. Ma konniex għadna dragna nagħmlu użu mil-*lockers* biex naqflu xi oġġetti ta' valur. Kont qed nixxemmex sakemm il-kuġrin imur jiehu għawma. Halla miegħi l-arloġġ u xi ċrieket li kellu u jien dlonk poġġejthom fuq idejja, hdejn tiegħi.

Gie fuqi raġel, bħali liebes il-malja. Wara sirt naf li dan kien dedektiv pajżan. Hatafni minn għonqi bil-herra u dahhalni fl-uffiċċju tal-pixxina, bla ebda kliem u bla ebda spjegazzjoni. Sadanittant għadni ma nafx għaliex u bdejt inhaqqaq miegħu. Xi kelma mhux flokha qabziti wkoll.

Ftit mument wara gie l-vann l-iswed u sibt ruħi fiċ-ċella tal-ghassa tal-pulizija mingħajr iż-żewġ arloggi u xi ċrieket li kelli f'idi. Nipprotesta mas-surġett izda kollu għalxejn. Domt maqful għal xi sigħat qabel ma sar jaf hija Tony. Konna noqogħdu f'it il-bogħod, fi Newtown.

Hija gie l-ghassa għalija flimkien mal-kuġin u spjegaw lis-surgent li l-arloġġi u ċ-ċrieket ma kienux misruqin izda tal-kuġin tiegħi u kont qed inzommomlu sakemm mar ha għawma.

Sfajt kalzrat, avolja għal f'it sigħat. M'hemm x'taġhmel. L-ewwel esperjenza qarsa tiegħi mal-ġustizzja fil-belt ta' Sydney l-Awstralja fil-hamsinijiet.

LawrenceDimech

(Din l-aneddota giet ippublikati fil-ktieb "Jinżlulek għazel" miktub miż-żewġ hbieb tiegħi, Charles Flores u Tony Barboro Sant. It-tieni edizzjoni se toħroġ dalwaqt.)

Fiż-żmien meta l-iskejjel f'hafna mill-pajjiżi madwar id-dinja jinsabu magħluqin minhabba l-pandemija tal-COVID-19, jekk ma jsibux fiex jehdew, it-tfal li huma mdorrijin iqattgħu tant hin fl-iskejjel jistgħu jsibu ruhhom xi f'it frustrati.

Din xi haġa li qed jgħaddu minna t-tfal, huma ta' liema nazzjonalità huma, għal-hekk hu importanti li l-hin tagħhom ma jintilifx f'affarijiet ta' bla valur. Il-ġenituri l-aktar, forsi ġieli jsibuha diffiċli x'jaqdbu jagħmlu biex jgħinuhom.

Bil-ghan li t-tfal jiġu mghejjuna tissahħaħ fihom kemm l-edukazzjoni u wkoll il-kultura, f'Malta bħalissa l-ghalliema li bħal-hom jinsabu d-dar, qed huma wkoll jippruvaw kemm jistgħu jgħinu billi jtuhom lezzjonijiet onlajn skont il-kurrikula tal-klassi li hallew warajhom fl-iskola.

Imma qed isir ferm aktar hekk. Kull sena f'Malta jsiru għadd ta' attivitajiet li jferrhu lit-tfal, l-aktar ta' minn 10 snin 'l fuq permezz tal-istaġun magħruf bħala ta' ŽiguŽajg, imtella' mill-Fondazzjoni Kreattività li ilu jsir mill-2011. Dan jikkonsisti f'festival ta' 10 ijiem b'attivitajiet kulturali.

Minhabba l-pandemija tal-coronavirus l-avvenimenti ta' dan il-proġett skedati għal dan l-istaġun ġew imħassra sakemm jgħaddi kollox u nerggħu lura "għan-normal". B'danakollu mhux kollox hu mitluf.

Issa hemm ċans li l-Maltin li jgħixu barra wkoll jistgħu japprofittaw ruhhom u jaraw lil uliedhom ċekjnin li bħal daww f'Malta jgawdu minn dak li joffri *ŽiguŽajg onlajn*, kemm minn fuq is-sit www.ziguzajg.org, kif ukoll minn fuq il-paġna tal-Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ziguzajg>.

Billi jidhlu fihom, it-tfal jistgħu jsegu l-ispettakli mtella' waqt il-festivals passati ta' ŽiguŽajg, magħmula apposta għat-tfal. Kull nhar ta' Ħamis bdew jiġu murija xows differenti li qed ikunu aċċessibbli għal ġimgha shiha.

Il-ħsieb tal-organizzaturi hu li permezz ta' *ŽiguŽajg Onlajn* tiġi mwassla fid-djar il-kreattività. It-tfal qed ukoll jiġu mhegga jinkitbu fil-lista tal-ġurnal virtwali ta' ŽiguŽajg biex ikunu jistgħu jiġu mgħarrfa dwar xandiriet u avvenimenti futuri!

Il-ħsieb tal-proġett hu li jgħaqqad id-dinja tal-mużika Maltija tradizzjonali u kontemporanja mad-dinja tal-letteratura Maltija filwaqt li permezz ta' organizzazzjoni ta' livell artistiku mfassal fuq il-kreattività u d-diversità tal-arti, tinholoq esperjenza unika edukattiva kif ukoll divertenti.

Jekk kif inhu maħsub, ix-xows se jkunu bħall-ewwel wieħed li għadu kif sar, meħud mill-Festival ta' ŽiguŽajg 2016, allura żgur li t-tfal, u sa ċertu punt anke l-kbar jekk iridu jidhlu fuq is-sit biex isegwu, għandhom hafna x'jakkwistaw, u se jkollhom fiex jixxalaw



Gozo

round and about

by Charles Spiteri

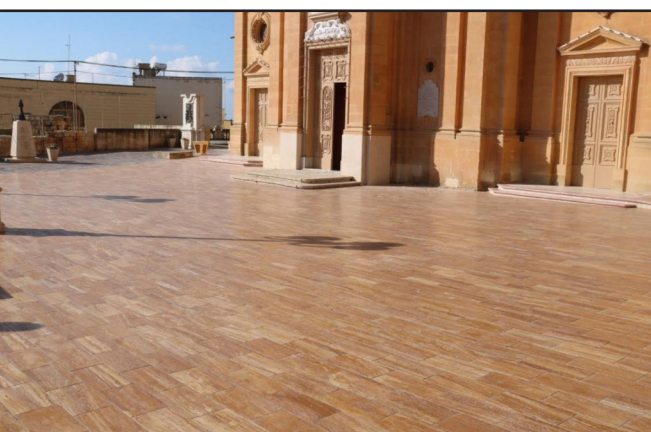
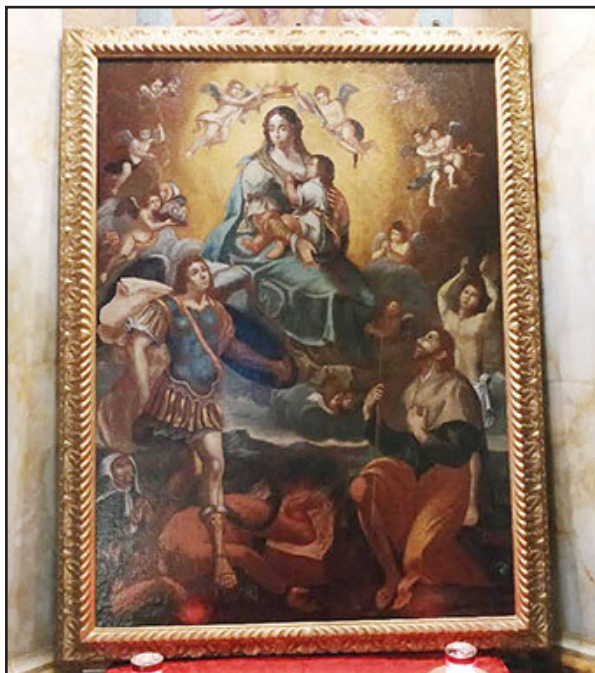


1689 Our Lady's painting exhibited at Nadur Church

A 1689 painting depicting Our Lady breastfeeding Jesus (below) has been placed near the main altar at St Peter and St Paul Basilica in Nadur to invoke Our Lady's intercession against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Someone, who most probably experienced the 1675-1676 plague that left around 11,300 persons dead must have commissioned the painting. It was donated to the church on the occasion of the inauguration of the new parish in 1688.

Besides Our Lady, the painting depicts St Michael Archangel, St Roque and St Sebastian, and a lady on the bottom left-hand side, reciting the rosary. Since the middle ages, St Sebastian and St Roque were regarded as protectors from various epidemics, including the bubonic plague.



Commemorating Saint John Paul II's visit to Gozo in 1990

The JP2 Foundation (Fundazzjoni Papa San Gwann Pawlu II) has launched a special prayer invoking the intercession of Saint Pope John Paul II against the COVID-19 pandemic.

A copy of the prayer has been placed at the foot of the bronze statue of Pope John Paul II that was set up in Victoria on the way to Ta' Pinu in memory of the pope's visit to Gozo 30 years ago.

Since the erection of the monument, pensioner Carmelo Cini, who lives nearby, has offered his services to the foundation by lighting a candle and placing flowers in front of the monument on a daily basis. He also raises the Maltese and papal flags.

The JP2 Foundation is commemorating the 30th anniversary since Pope Saint John Paul II visited the Maltese islands on May 25-27, 1990.



Celebrating Palm Sunday with a difference

The parish church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary at Xaghra annually celebrates Palm Sunday in a special way. Archpriest Carmelo Refalo carries the crucifix in procession, accompanied by parishioners, including children holding olive branches and palm fronds.

This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the procession had to be cancelled. Instead the crucifix was placed in front of the main door of the parish church (right) for the daily veneration of parishioners. Flowers and candles were placed next to the cross.



Fontana Sanctuary restoration project

The sanctuary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Fontana, is undergoing a restoration project, including the church's façade (left) and parvis (extreme left). The project is co-funded by the EU and managed by the Association KURA within the Gozo Diocese. The people of Fontana are also contributing regularly so that the financial demands of the project can be met in the shortest time possible.





Tnedija ta' proġett ambjentali ġdid f'Malta: Inħaddru pajjiżna

Ghad kif ġiet imhabbra inizzjattiva mill-Ministeru għall-Ambjent, it-Tibdil fil-Klima u l-Ippjanar li biha, l-ibliet u l-irhula Maltin u Ghawdxin se jibdeu jiġu mhaddra bl-iskop li jittiejeb l-ambjent fiż-żoni li fihom jgħixu u jahdmu r-residenti.

L-ewwel fażi tal-proġett se tinhadem mal-ewwel sett ta' hames kunsilli lokali li se jingħataw fondi mill-Ministeru biex jimplimentaw għadd ta' proġetti ta' thad-dir tal-pajjiż. Dan huma, tal-Qala f'Għawdex, Tas-Sliema, il-Gudja, Haż Żebbuġ u l-Hamrun.

Għadd ta' toroq, pjazez u spazji pubbliċi oħra li bħalissa neqsin mill-ħdura u l-benefiċċji fiżiċi u psikoloġiċi li jgħibu magħhom is-siġar u xtieli ġew magħżula mill-kunsilli lokali nfushom.

L-ispeċji ta' xtieli li se jintużaw huma xierqa għas-siti proposti, b'tahlita ta' xtieli indigeni u barranin li eventwalment ikunu jistgħu jgħixu fil-kundiz-

zjonijiet klimatiċi tal-pajjiż.

Fi kliem il-Ministru għall-Ambjent, Aaron Farrugia wasal iż-żmien li nifukaw fuq kif se ntejjbu l-ambjent fil-komunità, għax filwaqt li tajjeb u sabiħ li l-pajjiż ikollu żoni fin-natura li l-familji jkunu jistgħu jżuru, jinhtieg li Malta jkollha żoni hodur oħra fil-qalba tal-lokalitajiet. Tenna li "dawn il-proġetti huma l-ewwel pass ta' viżjoni holistika fis-settur ambjentali.

Apparti mit-tisbieh tal-lokalitajiet Maltin u Ghawdxin, dawn is-siġar u arbuxelli mistennija li kunu ta' benefiċċju għall-komunità bl-ippurifikazzjoni tal-arja tal-madwar. Fl-istess waqt, fejn għandhom x'jaqsmu s-siġar, dawn e jkunu qed jagħtu rifugju lil għadd ta' għasafar u insetti fil-gżejjer Maltin.

Il-Ministru Farrugia qal li min-naħa tiegħu, dan hu biss il-bidu tal-inizzjattiva għax il-hsieb hu li ssir "rivoluzzjoni hadra fil-pajjiż".

Restawr fuq xi niċeċ u statwi fil-kapitali Maltija

Bħala parti mill-proġett li l-Korporazzjoni għar-Riġenerazzjoni tal-Port il-Kbir (GHRC) qed timplimenta fl-akkwati ta' Marsamxett fil-kapitali Maltija Valletta, għadu kif tlesta r-restawr ta' għadd ta' statwi u niċeċ, hafna minnhom iddedikati lill-Madonna tal-Karmnu fli il-belt hemm bażilika iddedikata lilha.

B'kollox sar restawr fuq 14 maqsumin bejn tmien statwi kbar tal-ġebel u sitt niċeċ mal-hitan. Erbgħa mil-istatwi, kbar qegħdin fl-inhawi tal-Bażilika tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu.

Fost in-niċeċ hemm sitta li jinsabu fi Triq il-Punent, u tlieta fi Triq iż-Żekka u Triq San Duminku. Fuq tal-aħħar kien hemm li kellhom bżonn tiswiġa urgenti minhabba li ilhom esposti għall-elementi u għall-umdità.

Il-Ministru Ian Borg li taht id-dekasteru tiegħu jaqa' dan ix-xogħol, qal li n-niċeċ u l-istatwi, l-aktar daww fil-belt kapitali, għandhom storja twila li thares lura lejn żmien il-Kavallieri u għandhom post importanti fil-kultura Maltija.



Wahda mill-istatwi li ġew restawrati

Community Wheels Inc.: Connecting you with your community

Community Wheels is your local community organisation that provides door-to-door transport services to eligible people (+65 yrs old) to:

- * attend medical appointments
- * go shopping (including assisting clients with shopping bags)
- * meet a friend for a chat or coffee, and
- * go on bus tours etc.

Available in the Parramatta City Council and parts of Cumberland Council areas.
For information call: 88681400

Suspension of in-person appointments at High Commission in Canberra and Consulate Generals in Melbourne, Sydney

In line with precautionary measures in relation to COVID-19, the High Commission in Canberra advises that until further notice, in-person appointments from the three offices in Australia have been suspended. They include: the High Commission in Canberra, and the Consulate Generals in Melbourne and Sydney.

This suspension of services impacts passport, citizenship applications, witnessing of signatures and identity. Until further notice Visa applications will no longer be accepted.

The three offices will still be contactable over the phone and via email. Malta High Commission Canberra: (02) 6290 1724; 0433 799 746; email: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt.

Consulate General Melbourne: Malta Consulate Melbourne: (03) 9670 8427; 0430 378 407 email: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt

Consulate General Sydney: (02) 9262 9500; 0430 402 177; email: maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt

Any inconvenience caused is regretted. The public will be informed once services are reinstated.

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

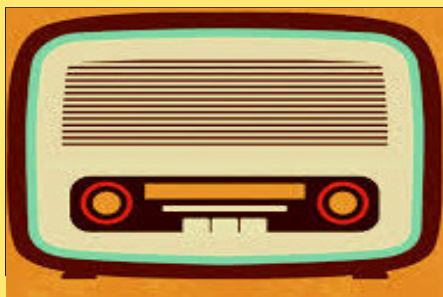
MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio

Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip.

Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.



SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM.

(Jista' wkoll jinstema' On Demand minn fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) *Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahhar ahbarijiet minn Malta, muzika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.*

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38.

Programmes can be accessed online (live or catch up) at:

sbs.com.au/maltese and via mobile phone, using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.

VIVA MALTA on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford Central Coast NSW. Aired on Thursdays every fortnight from 6 pm - 7 pm. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

Web streaming: www.coastfm.org.au

SBS MALTESE NEWS: *L-Ahbarijiet* are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 31 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 - 8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide:

Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm

Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

L-MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a *part-time* tal-ilsien Malti fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

L-applikanti għandu jkollhom għarfien sew tal-Malti kemm miktub kif ukoll mitkellem.

Ibghat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademici lill:

admin@mccv.org.au

Għal tagħrif iehor ċempel fuq: **0412 115 919**. Halli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.

Important Notice

If you are unable to buy the next issues of *The Voice* from the usual sources, you can inquire about our subscription at: maltesevoice@gmail.com

We will deliver *The Voice* by mail to your address anywhere in Australia.

Avviż lill-qarrejja

Tixtieq li jkollok kopja f'idejk ta' The Voice?

Infakkru lill-qarrejja li *The Voice of the Maltese*, mhux biss magazine online, iżda wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ippubblikat. Huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li approfittaw ruħhom minn dan u abbonaw biex anke jibdwew jirċevu kopja pprinjata bil-posta d-dar bi ħlas.

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdwew jirċevu kopja pprinjata tal-magazine kull darba li johroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jzommuha f'idejhom, huma mhegga li jabbonaw għal sena halli jagħmlu żgur mill-kopja

Biex dan isir wiehied l-ewwel jibghat email lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta' abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumiex kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna u jkunu moqdijin.

Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga ma jhallux għall-ahhar. Jekk tridu tibagħtu l-emails indirizza-whom maltesevoice@gmail.com. L-ittri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom: *Letters to the editor*.

Please Note:

If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com



Events for 2020

Sunday July 5

Lejla fil-Buskett

Sunday October 18

Fete

Saturday November 14

Dinner Dance

Sunday December 6

Festa San Nikola



Uncertainty reigns in football circles

Uncertainty still reigns in Maltese and European football circles as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, if an improvement is registered in the fight against the pandemic, and the Health Authorities gives it the go-ahead, Malta's FA might decide to resume the Premier League season behind closed doors in June.

On the other hand, the 14 First Division clubs have agreed that due to lack of income, the league should not be continued and the rest of the fixtures to be cancelled. If aided financially by football governing bodies they would be ready to continue,

It is also reliably understood that though they too have agreed on the cancellation, current league leaders Zejtun are pushing for automatic promotion.

They say they have invested a lot of money in order to fulfil their dream of promotion. According to reports, they fork out around €20,000 a month in wages.

UEFA still to decide

The European Football Union, UEFA, has still to decide about the dates for the semi-finals and final of the UEFA Champions League, and the rest of the matches – from the quarter-finals up to the final of the UEFA Europa League. Therefore it is holding an Executive Committee meeting via videoconference this coming Thursday (April 23) for an update meeting to discuss the latest developments regarding the impact caused by the coronavirus outbreak on European football.

Emily Mifsud named joint top female cricketer in Tasmania

A year after moving to Tasmania from New South Wales to play cricket, 23-year-old Emily Mifsud, was recently awarded the 2019/20 Cricket Tasmania Premier League Female Player of the Year (jointly with Emma Thompson).

After finishing equal second and just one vote behind Ashley Day in 2018/19, Emily Mifsud (New Town/Kingborough) and Emma Thompson (Clarence) once again finished on an equal tally of 21 votes to share the coveted Fazackerley Medal honour for the 2019/20 season.

The Cricket Tasmania awards were supposed to be at a function to celebrate the season. However, in light of the current climate, and due to the ongoing threat of Coronavirus, the best and fairest players had to be recognised on a slightly smaller scale.

After moving to Tasmania last season Emily, the daughter of George and grand daughter of Charles Mifsud, the President of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW, asserted herself as one of the competition's most talented cricketers and showcased her talent with 489 runs at 61.13 (including one century) and claiming 13 wickets at 13.46.

After eight rounds, Mifsud and Thompson were equal on 14 votes before Thompson took the lead midway through the Kookaburra Cup (One-Day) rounds and had a lead of three votes with two rounds

to go. But an unbeaten century from Emily against Glenorchy helped seal three votes for her to equal Thompson at the top before both players finished on 21 votes at the end of the season.

In addition, Emily, who was also a first class Soccer Player before concentrating on cricket as her main sport, also captained New Town's 3rd Grade Men's team where she led the club to a finals spot. For the second year running she was also named in the Team of the Year, for which she also received the honour of making that "team".



Football mourns the death of legendary striker Tony Cauchi

Less than three months after the death of his former team-mate in the Floriana football team, Tony Vella, the Maltese football community is mourning the loss of former Malta and Floriana striker Tony Cauchi who died on Sunday April 12. He was 84.

Tony is the third Maltese legendary footballer who died in the last eight months, following the demise of Victor Scerri in August last year, and Valletta's Josie Urpani last January.

Tony was born in Floriana on May 2, 1935. Like most of the footballers born in the city suburb, had a passion for the game and the club he so loved. He spent 15 years in the top flight with the Greens.

Tony was mostly known as a striker but though he spent most of his footballing career in that position, known for his skills as a great header of the ball and of possessing a powerful shot in both feet, he

started his football career as a goal stopper before converteing into a goal-getter at age of 15 in the 1950/51. He made his first team debut at age 17 on November 30, 1952 against Birkirkara. At the end of that season

he won his first of four championship-winning medals.

He did so well as centre forward that he eventually became one of the best ever strikers in Maltese football. Still in his teens, two years after his debut, he was selected to play in a trial match for the MFA Amateur XI.

On three occasions Cauchi served Floriana in goal. The one that readily comes to mind was the final of the Cassar Cup against Sliema Wanderers. The Greens found themselves without a goalkeeper and he volunteered to fill in. Floriana won 6-0.

He also played in goal in a 1966 FA Trophy quarter-final 5-0 win over Rabat and once more in the opening league match of season 1964/65 against Hibernians.

Tony Cauchi won the championship four times, six times the FA Trophy, three times the Cassar Cup, twice the Scicluna Cup and once the Independence Cup. He was the league's top scorer on two occasions and managed a remarkable scoring record at club level with 175 goals in 226 official matches.

Cauchi played nine times for Malta, including the first-ever official international match against Austria on February 24, 1957.

He became the first Maltese player to score for Malta in an international. His goal came three minutes from time when Austria were already leading 3-0. His goal started the locals' comeback, and despite a 2-3 loss, the match made the history books.

At the end of his laying days, Tony, who, like other Floriana players also played cricket for Fsoibians, took to coaching and was in great demand for his skills and enthusiasm.



Tony Cauchi (right) in meeting with Victor Scerri before the latter's death