



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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An aerial view of the Church with its sharp steeple, at Ghajnsielem, the first village that will greet you as soon as you leave Mgarr Harbour on Malta's sister island of Gozo.



Malta's Foreign Affairs Minister threatens to leave politics if EU keeps ignoring Malta's legitimate pleas to share immigration burden

Malta's Foreign Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo has gone on Facebook to express his frustration that the European Union keeps ignoring the ongoing migration crisis. He said it makes him "feel like leaving politics".

Most of Bartolo's time since taking office in January has been spent dealing with the migration crises, and trying to convince the EU to help Malta share the burden it keeps facing with the asylum seekers trying to get into Malta.

The current situation makes him so "very unhappy" and frustrated that he feels calling it a day and instead spend his "last years reading, writing, listening to music, cooking, walking, travelling and above all enjoying my family".

In his Facebook post, Minister Bartolo said he liked to open up and express his concerns that could in the end lead to him leaving politics. He continued his post by saying:

"I detest racism and every kind of hatred towards foreigners. I believe in the dignity of every human being. I believe in human rights for everyone.

Of all those thousands who dare to cross the Mediterranean I want none to drown. I don't want people, whoever they are, to be treated badly, like slaves, beaten up.

I wish to stand up for my country. We can no longer bear the burden alone of caring for the thousands of people sent to Europe via Malta by human traffickers and people smugglers.

We want our EU partners to assume their responsibility with us and to take their share of the immigrants whose lives we save at sea.

Isn't it possible for us to out together an immigration policy that protects our people as well as the dignity and rights of immigrants?

If I find it is impossible for me to promote such a policy and for the EU to accept it, I will resign. It would be the easiest way out.

I will solve my own dilemma. I will live a quiet life and will no longer wrestle with my conscience. It will be a far more comfortable life.

But I will have solved nothing.

If the EU doesn't introduce a new immigration policy, which looks after the welfare of the Europeans and the rights and dignity of those who try to migrate thereby sharing the responsibility for their relocation ... the human tragedy will continue.

People will continue to drown. People smugglers will become richer and richer.

I will soon be forgotten as though I had never existed. But the human tragedy will continue."



Minister
Evarist
Bartolo

Malta keeps harping on the need for solidarity among the EU member states on the migration problem so that the smallest island in the organisation is not left alone to shoulder this burden.

Minister Evarist Bartolo said that Malta had asked its friends in the EU to share the responsibility for the 57 irregular migrants saved in Malta's search and rescue region a few days ago.

While holding intensive discussions with the EU commission to resolve their distribution, Malta is currently providing the

asylum seekers with a vessel to see to their needs (*below*).

But, he pointed out, since 2005 they have only accepted eight out of every hundred who landed on Malta's shores.

This year 1,200 irregular migrants have already come to Malta – a third of all those that human traffickers have sent from Libya towards Europe. And the number of people leaving Libya is bound to increase.

Bartolo said: "Our centres are full and we have no place for more migrants. We turn to the European Commission and they say: 'you are right, you shouldn't be left to bear this burden alone'. We need solidarity from Europe. We speak to the Vatican and they say we are right, as do UN officials.

All we are asking is for the other EU countries to take their share of irregular migrants."

Are we asking too much? He asked.

He kept on saying that Malta is the smallest country in Europe. It is carrying a burden much greater than it can bear.

"Instead of turning to those bigger than our country and telling them to take their share of the burden, we find people who accuse us and condemn us.

"Instead of accusing and condemning us, wouldn't it be better if they found a practical way to help us?"

Malta has raised its concerns with the European Union on countless occasions but has so far found no solace.

The EU's High Representative for foreign affairs, Josep Borrell confirmed that Malta had raised legitimate concerns about the possibility of having to face a wave of migrants coming from Libya and the risk that as a result, its health systems could be overwhelmed because of coronavirus.

He also reiterated the need for solidarity among the EU member states on the migration problem so that Malta was not left to shoulder this burden alone.



The vessel Malta has provided to asylum seekers out at sea

A different but most solemn Anzac Day for the Maltese

There were no marches or crowds at the Dawn and other services as Australians commemorated ANZAC Day 2020, but veterans and others stood in their driveways, decorated homes, displayed Australian flags, listened to neighbourhood bugles, and made special efforts to contact one another. Perhaps these special efforts could become part of commemorations after the end of this pandemic.

In spite of the restrictions members of the Maltese RSL NSW Sub Branch were very active in commemorating the historic occasion.

At the Maltese Bi-Centennial Monument at Civic Park, Pendle Hill, the vice president, Alfred Carabott placed flowers (see photo) in front of the commemorative plaque that is affixed to the wall. Cumberland City Council also placed a wreath with respect to the Maltese who served with the Allied Forces during the wars.

Members of the Maltese RSL Sub Branch dressed in their uniforms also organised individual ceremonies in front of their homes by displaying the Australian flag, lighting candles and reciting the RSL Ode and invited their neighbours to participate.

They included the sub-branch president, Charles Mifsud and his wife Jessie at their residence at Burraneer, Doris Pocock the secretary and her family at Kellyville, Lea Harding at Dee Why, and the treasurer Andrew Magro at his home in Bossley Park. Dorothy Gatt and Vince Depares did the same at Greystanes.

Normally, on ANZAC Day they all march proudly in the main streets of Sydney to honour and remember all those that defended our countries during all the wars.

At the back of the Maltese Centre in Cringila, a wreath was placed and prayers recited at the foot of the war memorial plaque.

Lea Harding's family will never forget Anzac Day 2020 with isolation and social distancing. Her sons and a grandchild stood on the walkway/driveway to be with their 90-year-old mum as she commemorated the occasion, while her tenants made for her a poppy flag.



Right: **The Maltese and Australian flags.**
Below: **Charles and Jessie Mifsud at their home at Burraneer,**
and below right: **Doris Pocock with son Mark (left) and husband Richard at Penrith**



Andrew Magro at Bossley Park



Lea Harding expressing her commitment to ANZAC from her home at Dee Why

Another service offered by *The Voice of the Maltese* providing legal information to our readers

New ruling from Revenue NSW: Where beneficiaries vary Will gifts

by Paul Sant

It is commonplace for Wills to be drafted to leave the rest and residue of an Estate equally between children, or a spouse and children. It is also not uncommon for beneficiaries to come to alternate arrangements to 'swap' the form of their entitlements under a Will, such as receiving Real Property instead of cash.

A new ruling from Revenue NSW highlights potential duty and tax consequences, if beneficiaries do not receive their entitlements as set out in the Will, and why it is important that your Will is drafted with appropriate wording to provide powers to your Executor to effect transfers in different ways.

Stamp duty

Generally, a transfer of Real Property (i.e. a house, unit, land) will be liable for payment of stamp duty. There are some exceptions and concessions, including in relation to deceased estates.

Duty payable for deceased estate transfers

Section 63(1)(a) of the Duties Act 1997 provides that duty of \$50 is payable where the Executor of your estate transfers Real Property to a beneficiary:

- i) Under and in conformity with trusts contained in your Will (or arising under intestacy, if you do not have a Will);
- ii) As the subject of a trust for sale contained in your Will;
- iii) As an appropriation of your Real Property in or towards satisfaction of the beneficiary's entitlement under your Will (or arising on intestacy) carried out in accordance with section 46 of the Trustee Act 1925.

Section 63(2) provides that a portion of the dutiable value of a property be reduced in accordance with the portion that a beneficiary is entitled to, where a transfer is made by your Executor under an agreement, such as a Deed of Family Arrangement, between one or more beneficiaries, to vary the trusts contained in your Will (or under intestacy).

Deed of Family Arrangement

First example: Ally and Bob come to an agreement where rather than selling a Real Property and distributing proceeds of sale equally between them, together with proceeds of bank accounts and sale of shares:

1. Ally and Bob obtain a valuation for stamp duty purposes of the deceased's Real Property;
2. Ally seeks to retain the deceased's Real Property, and agrees that Bob receive cash and shares from the Estate equating to the value of half of the Real Property;
3. Bob agrees to accept half the value of the Real Property in cash and shares;
4. Ally and Bob execute a Deed of Family Arrangement recording the agreement.

Second example: there are two Real Properties – Ally and Bob agree to each retain one property, rather than selling both and equally distributing the proceeds of sale.

What the new Ruling says

Ruling DUT 046 issued on 12 February 2020 confirms that a transfer *must be made both under and in conformity with the trusts of the will*. Where a Deed of Family Arrangement varies the trusts contained in your Will, the transfers in the above situations may not be considered under and in conformity with the Will.

In the first example, Ally is liable to pay stamp duty on half the value of the Real Property.



In the second example, Ally and Bob are both liable to pay stamp duty on half the value of the respective Real Property transferred to them.

Trust for sale

If your Will directs your executor to sell Real Property and distribute proceeds of sale to beneficiaries, and the beneficiaries, Ally and Bob, choose to transfer the property in accordance with their entitlements under the Will, rather than take proceeds of sale, the duty payable for each transfer is \$50.

Appropriation

If your Will provides for your Executor to exercise a power of appropriation, your Executor is able to appropriate the relevant assets, which means section 63(1)(a)(iii) applies and the transfer is liable to \$50 duty only. The Executor must ensure that:

- a) The appropriation does not prejudice any specific gift;
- b) The beneficiary must have given written consent to the Executor;
- c) They have considered the rights of any unborn, missing, or other persons (apart from the recipient beneficiary).

Capital Gains Tax

It may be more tax effective for your Executor to appropriate your assets between residuary beneficiaries, rather than using a Deed of Family Arrangement: an appropriation that provides no more than a beneficiary's entitlement does not trigger a CGT liability (see Income Tax Assessment Act section 97 on CGT death rollover for more information).

Conclusion

You can only contemplate what arrangements your beneficiaries may come to in varying entitlements under your Will. To minimise duty payable, you may wish to consider leaving specific properties to specific beneficiaries in your Will, seek financial advice for further information in regards to taxation consequences, or contact our office for advice in relation to your Will.

We have provided you with an overview of the topic above but you should consult a professional for advice specific to your circumstances.



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Maltese Spoken



Memorji u nostalgia



Lawrence Dimech

Bidu ferm diffiċli izda ta' sfida

Ir-ritratti dejjem igeddlek hafna memorji, daqqa sbieħ u oħrajn mhux daqs-tant. Jekk intom bħali ilkom tgħixu f'dan il-kontinent żmien twil tiftakru kemm kienu diffiċli u hafna drabi nkwetanti l-ewwel żmienijiet tagħna f'art daqstant kbira li ma għandha x'taqsam xejn ma dik li hallejna warajna.

Konna klikka ta' ġuvintur ngħixu qrib il-belt kapitali, fis-subborgi ta' Surry Hills, Newtown, Erskinvill u l-inħawi. Inhabblu rasna x'se nagħmlu wara jum xogħol, fejn se mmorru, kif se niddevertu xi ftit; konna għadna fl-aqwa tagħna, ġuvintur, avventu-rużi.

Konna mmorru mixxiet fit-tul. Jew nirkbu l-ferrovija, għalfejn ma nafux, l-aqwa li nqattgħu nofstanhar. Ma domniex wisq biex waqajna f'dak li konna nafu u nifhmu sewwa, il-logħba tal-futball. F'dan l-istat kienet il-logħba li jilagħbu l-emigranti jew il-wogs. Kienu jsejġhulha soccer.

Niftakar sewwa meta darba tlaqna għal għonq it-triq u spiċċajna Redfern fejn sma-jna hafna għajjat, dhalna fl-istadium għax hsibna li hemm xi partita football izda l-lasti kienu differenti u hliet plejers jippru-vaw jtkissru ma' xulxin ma rajniex. Talqna l-barra dizappuntati.

F'kemm ili ngħidlek iddeċidejna li norganizzaw tim tal-futball. Xejn ma kien faċli dak iż-żmien. Morna Queens Park, fejn diġà kien hemm xi timijiet tal-Maltin li ġew qabilna. Ideċidejna li morru għal rasna u għaqqadna l-Malta Eagles SFC. L-isem Eagles kien it-tim li kellna ta' taht is-sittax il-sena fil-Hamrun. Wara ftit ingħaqdu magħna



(Ritratt kortesija Lino Vella)

Grupp ta' partitarji akkaniti tal-Malta Eagles circa 1955/56

xi oħrajn minn tas-Sliema u nħawi oħra.

Sibna l-isfog li tant kellna bżonn. Konna mdejjin, mingħajr familja, f'belt stramba u xejn hanina. Imsomma konna "barranin". Kellna bżonn l-ghajnuna, l-appogg u l-wens ta' xulxin. Li ma kienx għat-tim tas-soccer, il-magġoranza tagħna konna mmorru lura lejn Malta.

Mix-xogħol għad-dar u kulma ma jgħidulek "you wog go home" iwassal għal dwejjaj kbar. Fis-soccer sibna sfog, mhux min jilgħab biss izda dawk il-mijiet ta' Maltin, jekk mhux eluf li matul is-snin ta' wara kienu jiġu jagħtuna l-appogg tagħhom.

Hadd minnha ma kellu karozza. Konna nigġerrew b'tal-linja jew it-trams u l-ferrovija. Xejn ma kien diffiċli. Min kien jilgħab mhux jithallas kien, imma jhallas miżata qabel kull logħba. Ridna nixtru l-gerijiet u nħallu hafna spejjeż oħra.

Issa l-weekends kienu mimlijiet attivitajiet li hloqna ahna, stess; bdejna nnaqqsu hafna minn dik il-kiefa solitudni l-aktar il-Hadd

fejn kważi kollox kien ikun magħluq. Għamilna hafna hbieb ġodda, hloqna komunità vibranti.

Lill-Maltin tajnihom sens ta' kburija fil-qasam sportiv għax irnexxilna niffurmaw timijiet li jikkompetu ma' komunitajiet ferm ikbar minnha. Sirna daqshom; sirna bħalhom, jekk mhux ahjar; sirna parti attiva minnhom.

Wara ftit snin mifrudin saret ukoll l-għaqda shiħa u storika mal-Melita SFC. Inholqot l-akbar għaqda li qatt kellhom il-Maltin fi NSW. Inbena l-Melita Stadium. Eluf kbar kienu jattendu biex jaraw lit-tim jilgħab.

Konna tant kburi. Iva, kont parti mill-istorja. Saret parti importanti minn haġti. Inholqu iktar għaqdiet mhux sportivi, u bdiet The Maltese Herald.

Kienu żmienijiet tal-bidunett, u ta' sfida li ffurmaw dak li ahna l-lum. Mhux għax konna ftiit fil-ghadd hdejn komunitajiet oħra, izda għax konna determinati; għax dejjem konna kburi li ahna Maltin.

L-istorja tal-Melita Eagles FC imfakkra fil-memory wall li hemm fil-Melita Stadium





Id-dekoratur Rabti MIKIEL FSADNI

L-aqwa xogħol tiegħu kien fl-Oratorju ta' San Ġużepp



Ftit ilu, donni aktar mis-soltu, ammirajt bis-*shih* id-dekorazzjoni tal-Oratorju ta' San Ġużepp fil-Knisja Ta' Ġiezu fir-Rabat, u minnufih ftakart fid-dekoratur Rabti Mikiel Fsadni, li kellu parentela mal-iskultur Anton Agius, u għamel din id-dekorazzjoni.

Niftakar lil Anton jgħidli dwar il-hila kbira ta' Mikiel bħala dekoratur mill-aqwa. Fil-fatt, Anton kien hađem plakka mad-dar ta' Fsadni li turi li f'dik id-dar twieled u għex l-induratur.

Fl-arti Maltija jissemmev hađna pitturi u skulturi izda ftit li xejn jissemmev ismijiet ta' dekoraturi minkejja li f'Malta hawn dekoraturi ta' hila kbira, fosthom Fsadni, li l-aqwa xogħol tiegħu huwa l-Oratorju ta' San Ġużepp.

Mikiel Fsadni wettaq l-induratura ta' dan l-oratorju ta' San Ġużepp, li jixbah hađna lill-Kappella tas-Sagrament fil-Katidral tal-Imdina, meta kellu 28 sena. Huwa wettaq xogħol marawilja. L-istukki tiegħu, b'dik it-teknika tradizzjonali, iwasslulna motivi ta' bukketti ta' fjuri (fin-niċċa ta' San Ġużepp) u dekorazzjoni mill-aqwa fis-saqaf xhieda tal-hiliet artistiki ta' dan id-dekoratur.

Minn dejjem kienet il-holma ta' Mikiel Fsadni li jwettaq dan ix-xogħol artistiku tiegħu f'dan l-oratorju. Kulhađ jaf kemm Fsadni kien akkanit u devot kbir ta' San Ġużepp. Huwa hađem ukoll dekorazzjoni sabiħa għall-Kazin tal-Banda L'Isle Adam, u l-aħħar xogħol tiegħu kien fis-Sala l-Hamra tal-Kazin.

Għalkemm fil-fehma tiegħi d-dekorazzjoni tal-Oratorju ta' San Ġużepp tibqa' l-kapulavur tiegħu, Fsadni wettaq diversi xogħlijiet tajbin oħra li nsibu fil-knejjes Sant' Agata, San Duminku, San Mark, San Pawl fir-Rabat, u knejjes u palazzi oħra.

Mikiel Fsadni twieled ir-Rabat fl-1869 u għex f'Misraħ L'Isle Adam (fejn hemm il-plakka). Il-hila artistika tiegħu bdiet tidher sa minn eđa žghira. L-ewwel tahrig tiegħu f'dan il-qasam hađu mill-hanut ta' missieru stess, Mastru Piet, li wkoll kien wieħed mill-aqwa dekoraturi fi žmien.

Ta' min jgħid li f'dawk iż-żminijiet din l-arti tad-dekorazzjoni kienet fl-aqwa tagħha, bi knejjes u palazzi lkoll b'entużjażmu kbir dwar min johloq l-aħjar disinji li jissodisfaw id-dehra Barokka tal-post.

F'kitba ta' Joe Camilleri dwar Mikiel Fsadni nsibu li l-ewwel nies li użaw hiliet Fsadni kienu, il-familji Cassar Torreggiani u De Piro. Fsadni għamel l-ewwel xogħlijiet tiegħu fil-palazzi tagħhom. Barra minhekk, flimkien ma' missieru kien ta' għajnuna kbira fid-dekorazzjoni tal-irham li hemm fil-knisja ta' San Pawl, li giet imfaħħra hađna minn Elio Coccoli li għandu hađna pittura fl-istess knisja.

Mikiel Fsadni għamel ukoll xogħol fil-Knisja tal-Kuncizzjoni fil-Qala Għawdex, u kien iqis dan ix-xogħol fost l-aktar xogħlijiet importanti tiegħu minhabba li iddekorat din il-knisja tas-seklu sbatax. Huwa għaraf sewwa jarmonizza d-dekorazzjoni tiegħu minn gēwwa mal-istil ta' din il-knisja importanti.

Imma Fsadni ma kellux talent biss fl-arti tad-dekorazzjoni. Kien ukoll kapaci hađna wkoll fil-pittura, l-aktar f'xeni ta' panorama. Fil-fatt hawn hađna xogħlijiet tiegħu f'dan il-qasam imxerrda f'diversi palazzi u djar privati. Darba fil-Mużew Wignacourt fir-Rabat kienet saret wirja tal-pittura tiegħu.

Id-dekoratur Mikiel Fsadni miet f'Ottubru tal-1961, fl-eđa ta' 92 sena.



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COVID-19: Shopping tips that could keep you safe at the supermarket

For many of us, grocery shopping is when we will come into contact with the highest number of people during the pandemic. The more people we encounter, the higher the risk of virus transmission. So, how do we keep safe when going to the shops?

To become infected, a person needs to be exposed to a certain number of virus particles, but we do not yet know exactly what this number is for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

You can be exposed to the virus by breathing it in, or by touching something with viral particles on it, and transferring it to your mouth, nose, or eyes.

When an infected person coughs, they produce lots of droplets that range in size. Bigger droplets will settle onto surfaces more quickly because of their higher mass.

However, smaller droplets will be transported further away from the infected person because their lower mass makes them more easily carried by air currents. The bigger drops carry more virus particles. And the more virus particles you are exposed to, the more likely you are to become infected.

This is where the two-metre rule for social distancing comes from: the bigger droplets should not travel beyond two metres.

The bigger droplets will settle onto surfaces and people infected with COVID-19 may contaminate surfaces with the virus by touching them. The coronavirus can also survive on different materials for some time.

It can survive for one day on cardboard and three days on plastic and stainless steel.

But the virus is relatively easy to kill. Detergents, alcohol,

bleach, and some disinfectants have all been shown to be effective at inactivating coronaviruses.

The surfaces most likely to have the virus on them are those that are touched frequently by lots of people. In a shop, areas such as the trolley and basket handles, the chip and pin machine, or at the self-checkout, are likely to have the highest number of virus particles.

But there are still many ways to keep yourself safe during – and after – your shopping trip.

Stay home if you can

Plan ahead so you don't have to go to the shops often – and opt for home delivery if possible.

Spend as little time in the shop as possible

Try to touch as few things as possible and do not linger for too long in the aisles – especially busy ones. Maintain your distance from others and do not touch your face.

Keep contact to a minimum

Tills and self-checkouts will both have had lots of people touching them, so these are virus hotspots to avoid.

Clean your hands

Once you have checked out and left the shop, remove your gloves and dispose of them if you were wearing them.

When you get home, you should give your hands a wash before you unpack the shopping.

Food preparation

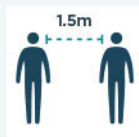
Freezing and cooking should inactivate the virus, although there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 can be transmitted via food in particular.

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CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON

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



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



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

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 now been reduced to a maximum of two people.

For more information on Coronavirus visit www.australia.gov.au

You can also call Coronavirus Health Information Line 1800 020 080.

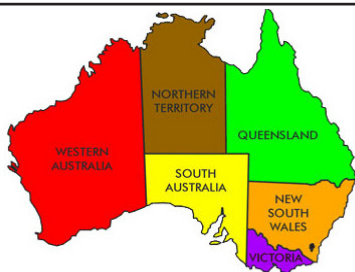
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Have your say/Xi trid tqhid?



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.

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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.



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

A good companion in troubled times

Lorraine Jackson from Villawood NSW writes:

In these troubled times of coronavirus and so many places closed, I would just like to thank the editors of "The Voice" for continuing to get my subscription copy to me through the post.

With everyone having to stay home, stay safe, I value the magazine more than ever. I very much look forward to being able to sit in the sun with a cuppa reading all the news and interesting articles from here and Malta.

Well done and I will definitely be renewing my subscription for the year.

Keep safe and well

Respecting our intelligence

Tony Borg from Liverpool, UK writes:

Your publication gets better with every issue. The way you deliver the news is very different from others. You give different views.

The way you handled the Cardinal George Pell story was an excellent example. Even the news from Malta is selected so that you promote the right image of our country. After all, *The Voice* is a publication for Maltese living abroad.

Readers are not fools; they need a magazine such as this that respects their intelligence.

Another excellent issue

Richard Cumbo, from Toronto, Canada writes:

Issue No. 226 of *The Voice of the Maltese* was another excellent issue of your very informative magazine, the dedicated efforts and hard work put in to produce it is greatly appreciated.

Keep it up and may all your many readers world wide be safe and healthy.

Interesting, but confusing times

Maria Debono from Penrith NSW writes:

We live in challenging/interesting times. As a vulnerable person, I am more concerned about living in confusing times. News about the COVID-19 pandemic is often over the top that leaves us elders more worried.

Nothing is straight forward, at least in NSW. The people at the top often speak double-dutch. Others want to outdo each other, resulting in the final explanation not so clear.

If we are positive, do we all finish in hospital? Are schools open? Are beaches ok? Do I wear a mask? What about old aged homes? Social media is a dangerous place. The wacky and dangerous claims of Donald Trump to inject disinfectant into people as a cure.

So much news, so much confusion!

Support for Malta

Charles Mangion from St Albans, Vic. writes:

I always like reading the commentary by Ivan Cauchi. There have been times when I did not fully agree with his views but I keep admiring him.

One of the few times that I have not been in agreement with him was in the last issue when he questioned Malta's hospitality because it decided to close its ports for embarkation by illegal/irregular immigrants.

Prime Minister Robert Abela had a valid reason for such a decision. At the present time Malta, which in the last 12 months had picked up 4,500 irregular immigrants, about 1,200 this year, has not got the human resources to shoulder the burden. We need to understand this and fully support Malta's decision.

Strong action needed

Saviour Caruana from New Delhi, India writes:

You are correct to resurrect the polemic about the *Innu Malti* and the word "lil min jahkimha". Time moves on, and we need to move with it. The same could be said about the George Cross emblem on our national flag.

Another matter that annoys me and other Maltese living abroad perhaps more than the locals, is that Malta celebrates five national days. How long are we going to wait for somebody to say, *issa daqshekk!* by giving us one national day.

The others can still be commemorated, but we must stick to one national day, one nation, and one flag.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Others have also endured!



RonBorg
(Adelaide)

Recently I have heard it said many times, that, "This Pandemic is the worst thing that has happened to the world!" I do not wish to make light of this present situation, but if you think that this is the case, just have a heart-to-heart talk with a relative or an old friend, or if you are a younger person perhaps talk to your parents or grandparents about what they had to experience during World War II when they were in their birthplace, Malta.

We think that self-confinement to our house with nowhere to go, and not all that much to do but watch TV and play games, is not much fun after a few days of this self-incarceration to prevent the spread of this virus. Spare a few moments to think of our old relatives that had to confine themselves to the morbid environment of the overcrowded underground shelters, carved in rock to protect themselves and their loved ones from the raining thousands of tons of bombs during World War II.

They did not have the luxury of, when bored, to sit in their lounge in front of their TV set in their dimly lit refuge. They were too busy saying the Rosary and praying that they could be spared as they listened to the whistles of the aerial bombs, and hoping they would not hear the immense explosion on their doorstep.

During the war Malta was the most bombed place on earth during WWII as 15,000 tons of bombs were dropped on the Maltese Archipelago, the geographic centre

of the Mediterranean Sea. Now that was, harsh self-imposed confinement!

In our current glum situation, a lot of us are feeling hard done by, when we go to our supermarkets and find the shelves empty and are deprived of toilet paper, sanitizers and some of our normal comfort commodities; what a frustrating and dismal situation!

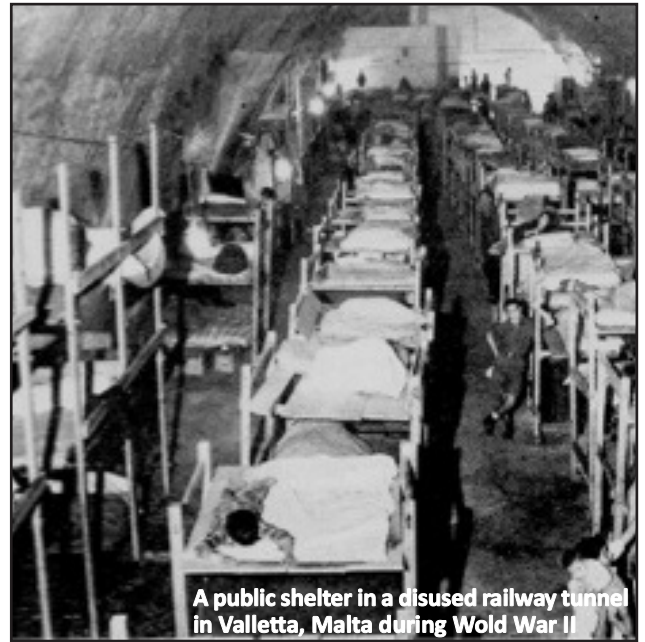
How much more hurtful would it have been to endure the very limited amount of basics like the meagre amounts of kerosene for your cooking stove or the limited amount of food that you could buy to maintain your family's hunger with the ration card, and perhaps waiting in line to get a bit of hot-cooked food from the public Victory Kitchen to feed your whole family!

Now that is a lot harder than the line-up at the Supermarket today, isn't it?

For some, perhaps that might seem a long time ago, but tragedies that took the lives of many people throughout the world kept reoccurring. During the era of the Vietnam War, many thousands of young men, including myself, were clutched from the comfort of their normal daily lives and thrown into joining the Australian army, to leave their home life and get trained to go to a foreign country to kill or be killed.

I remember with horror when my entire fellow 'fresh-faced' young conscripted mates at the training camps were being taught about the hazards that may be encountered overseas.

Should you be among a platoon of guys



A public shelter in a disused railway tunnel in Valletta, Malta during World War II

No, that was not a killer virus but nonetheless it was very real and deadly! (Thank God I was spared the ordeal!)

As if these terrible events were not enough to break our human spirits, another one cropped up for us especially here in Adelaide in South Australia in 1974. We always have an abbreviated name for epidemics. Our present one for coronavirus is COVID-19, but back in 1974, we had SIDS (short for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).

Believe me, at the time this epidemic was one that struck terror in the minds and hearts of parents, of newborn babies (just like me and my wife). For some unknown reason some innocent little angels were being found dead in their cots to the complete heart-breaking horror of their young parents.

Can you imagine the dreadful feeling that hung over the heads of all these parents, not knowing if this miraculous creation that filled their life with joy could possibly die, just like that, while sleeping peacefully in its cot! It's a horrible feeling that even caused some mental breakdowns among some of the unfortunate parents.

SIDS was found to be an upper respiratory tract infection, but unlike our present virus it was much more abrupt, yet it still attacked those more vulnerable, our little innocent babies instead of our older generation like COVID-19.

We can see that despite the deleterious effects of coronavirus, people before us have faced similar or even worse situations, and have eventually risen to a good life again. God willing, if we do not aggravate the situation by panicking, and help ourselves by following the advice of the medical people, we too can rise again to better days of living peacefully and in harmony!

(See also report from Adelaide on page 11)

Maltese people lining up at the Victory Kitchen for hot food during World War II



in a jungle bush track, and one step on a mine by someone could kill or maim you or your friends for life! How chilling it was to be handed a deadly rifle (an Armalite M16) that spits 13 rounds per second to shoot at your enemy; even worse, to know that the enemy is also using the same weapon pointed at you!

Perspettiva

A ktarx li whud minn-kom huma familjari mal-kbieb 1984 ta' George Orwell (jew ismu proprja Eric Arthur Blair), li kien ktieb importanti fil-korsijiet tal-letteratura Ingliża tal-iskola sekondarja ta' żmien. Dan kien jitttratta ambjent fittizju, fil-futur immaginat ta' meta nkiteb (fl-1948), fejn l-abitanti jkunu dejjem taht sorveljanza ta' kameras mifruka kważi kullimkien.

Illum nistghu nġid li dan l-ambjent immaginat ma kien fittizju xejn, għax gie fis-sehh bl-avvanzi enormi tat-teknoloġija tal-informatika u tat-telekomunikazzjoni, mhux 'il bogħod wisq mid-data li hija l-isem tal-ktieb.

L-użu ta' kameras tas-sigurtà f'hafna rkejjien tat-toroq, fil-bidu bħala deterrent fi hwienet kummerċjali, imbagħad fit-toroq u issa fid-djar, huwa magħruf sew.

Illum kważi kulhadd iġorr miegħu mezz tat-telekomunikazzjoni, li għandu mill-inqas kamera waħda, u wisq probabbli tnejn, li fil-fatt huwa kompjuter sofistikati iktar mill-ikbar kompjuter ta' xi għexieren ta' snin ilu, li altru milli jhallik biss iċċempel lill-kunjata.

Wieħed faċilment jista' jistalla fuq il-mowbajl tiegħu applikazzjoni (app) ta' sorvelja, jew jiġi stallat bil-moħbi fuq dak tas-sieħb/sieħba jew xi wild, jew jekk niġu għal dan, jiġi stallat minn żviluppatur bla skrupli mingħajr ma' tkun taf meta tistalla xi haġa ohra li tkun biss maskra. L-istess jista' jsir fuq kompjuter tad-dar.

Ikolloi nsemmi wkoll il-faċilità li biha organizzazzjonijiet kummerċjali u statali jistghu, jekk iridu, iżommu tagħrif fuq l-utenti tas-servizzi tagħhom, u jibnu profil dettaljat ta' kulhadd, bi preċiżjoni kbira.

Fejn tista' twassal din? Forsi l-iktar pajjiż li ha s-sorvelja taċ-ċitadini tiegħu għal stadju avvanzat huwa ċ-Ċina, li għandu sistema li biha l-persuni jiġu magħrufa minn persunithom waqt li mexjin fit-triq, jiġu dlonk ikklassifikati b'numru li jindika kemm huma 'ta' min jafdahom u abbażi ta' hekk jittieħdu deċiżjonijiet awtomatiċi fuq jekk, per eżempju jistgħux jixtru biljett tal-ferrovija jew jingħataw servizz.¹

Bl-ebda mod mhi ċ-Ċina l-uniku pajjiż li qed jagħmel dan it-tip ta' sorvelja. Ir-rivelazzjonijiet ta' Snowden urew li anke pajjiż li jiftaħar bil-libertà bħall-Istati Uniti jipprova jissorvelja kull tip ta' komunikazzjoni madwar id-dinja u jahbi l-fatt li qed jagħmel dan.²

Dan kollu qed jingħad minhabba app ġdida li għadha kif ġiet varata fl-Awstralja bil-ghan li tghin fil-ġlieda kontra l-virus qerried COVID-19.

Din l-app, imsemmija COVIDSafe, li hija softwer li jiġi stallat fuq mowbajl, xogħolha hu li tiehu nota ta' mowbajls ohra li jkunu fil-qrib, jagħmel stima ta' kemm ikunu 'l bogħod, u jzomm nota tagħhom jekk id-distanza tkun iktar qrib minn 1.5m (hawn daqsxejn ta' konfużjoni persistenti jekk ir-rakkomandazzjoni ta' tbeġhid soċjali hux ta' metru u nofs jew żewġ metri).

Interessanti hu li din in-nota ssir jekk id-distanza tkun inqas minn hekk għal hmistax-il minuta, u mhux għal mument biss, jew talin-qas hekk hemm miktub fuq il-websajt tad-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa.

Kien hemm kritika u biża' li dan huwa pass iehor fit-tnaqir pass wara pass tal-libertajiet personali, speċjalment wara li l-parlament Awstraljan kien għadda l-liġi fitt qabel l-elezzjoni federali tal-2019

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

Kitba ta'
IVAN
CAUCHI



Huna l-kbir

li teziġi li l-kumpanniji tat-telekomunikazzjoni u tat-teknoloġija tal-informazzjoni sabiex jipprovdu mezz li bihom ikunu jistgħu jifthu

messagġi magħmulin sigrieti bil-kriptografija.

Biex inaqas din il-biża', il-gvern Awstraljan wiegħed li l-app hija żviluppata sabies l-informazzjoni tkun miżmuma primarjament fuq il-mowbajl tal-partecipanti li jkollhom il-jedd li jaċċettaw jew le li jgħadduha lid-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa jekk jinstabu li jkunu infettati bil-virus.

F'dak il-każ, din l-informazzjoni tikkonsisti f'lista ta' numri tal-mowbajls li kienu qrib wisq tal-persuna infettata, u għalhekk jirċievu messagġ li ġew esposti għal din il-marda, biex jittieħdu passi rakkomandati fuq is-saħħa tagħhom.

Il-gvern qal ukoll li l-informazzjoni tingħadda mill-kriptografija, li tintuża biss għall-iskopijiet ta' ġlieda kontra l-virus, u min jinqabad jaċċessa l-informazzjoni għal skopijiet ohra jkollu sanzjonijiet kriminali.³ Dawn l-intenzjonijiet huma kollha pozzittivi għalkemm minnhom infushom m'huma l-ebda garanzija li abbuż ma jsirx.

Eżempju wieħed huwa li l-app jingħata identità li tinbidel kull sagħtejn u tiġi protestta bil-kriptografija, imma xorta wieħed irid idahhal in-numru tal-mowbajl, li minnu nnifsu huwa identità. Ukoll bil-poteri li diġà għandu biex jikser il-kriptografija, u issa li l-app qed jiġi żviluppata minn aġenzija tal-gvern innifsu, il-valur tal-kriptografija huwa mnaqqas.

Inżid li ma kontx impressjonat meta sibt li meta l-informazzjoni titlaq minn fuq il-mowbajl għal għand il-gvern, tinzamm fuq servers fiċ-ċentri tad-data tal-Amazon fl-Awstralja. L-Amazon hija kumpannija ġganteska Amerikana, li għalhekk hija suġġetta għal-liġi Amerikana li għandha wkoll poteri wiesgħa li ġġiegħel lil kumpanniji bħall-Amazon jagħtu aċċess għal din id-data lill-awtoritajiet Amerikani.

Għalkemm il-klawd tal-Amazon għandha ċertifikat fis-sigurtà għall-informazzjoni tal-gvern, jidher li l-kuntratt originali kellu wkoll iż-zamma taċ-ċwieviet kriptografiċi fuq l-istess klawd, haġa li mhix rakkomandata għal raġunijiet ta' sigurtà.⁴ Jidher li wara li saret kritika ta' dan l-aspett, il-gvern qed jara biex jirrimedja għal dan.

Fi kliem iehor, thassib għas-sitwazzjoni hemm u mhux infundat ukoll, mingħand hafna li huma midhla tas-suġġett, u tiegħi ukoll. Madankollu, ikolloi nġid li jien iddeċidejt li nipparteċipa fl-iskema, minkejja l-biża' ta' xi abbuż.

Jekk il-partecipazzjoni tghin sabiex jiġi identifikat b'mod bikri min seta' kien espost għal dan il-virus qerried, u jwassal biex jissalvagwardja s-saħħa jew anke l-hajja ta' xi hadd, nahseb li l-benefiċċju jirbah fuq il-riskju.

Jien stallajt, u int?

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A round-up of news from Adelaide

Report by RonBorg

Just like most cities all around Australia, Adelaide is feeling the effects of the restrictions that have been brought about by the constraints of Covid-19. But let us take a glimpse of how we are experiencing it in the "City of Churches".

Virtual funerals

Since the government brought in restrictions on social gatherings, the funeral industry has seen a spike in live-streamed services, bringing about a new way of being together online.

"Due to current government restrictions, there are many loved ones who can't be here today and they're joining us through Facebook Live," funeral celebrant Olivia Harrison told a family, and over 200 people around Australia watching online.

Before the advent of COVID-19, it would be unusual for a video of a funeral held in Mount Gambier to receive 4,000 views, but now it has happened.

SA's jobless figures nation's highest

South Australia's unemployment rate remains the nation's worst. With the full impact of coronavirus job cuts, business closures and social distancing regulations, the Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force figures for March, show SA's seasonally adjusted jobless rate climbing to 6.2%, up from its already nation-topping February rate of 5.8%. The national average jobless rate for March was 5.2% , up from 5.1% in February.

SA universities facing billion-dollar hit

Modelling just released suggests that due to lost international student revenue, South Australian universities could lose up to \$922 million over the next three years. The Mitchell Institute at Victoria University has calculated that SA's broader economy would also be hit, losing \$1.06 billion. *In Daily* recently reported that SA universities could lose a generation of young staff, employed as casuals but many unable to access the Federal Government's Job Keeper subsidy.

Schools to remain open in Term 2

Due to lost international student revenue, schools will remain open for a "soft start" to Term 2 for those students who feel safe to attend, Premier Steven Marshall said. It follows a national cabinet meeting, during which state and territory leaders received advice from health authorities that schools should not close.

Marshall said the Government was currently determining student attendance figures for Term 1, which, due to the coronavirus ended early. He said parents could still determine whether their children should go to school based on personal circumstances and "no child would be turned away".

Police fine partygoers for breaching restrictions

SA Police issued fines to attendees of a birthday party at Coober Pedy night for breaches of COVID-19 restrictions. Police said reported they found a "birthday party in full swing", with at least seven adults and 10 children attending. "Three of the adults were issued with expiation notices and four other adults were cautioned for breaching gathering restrictions," Police said.

Takeaway back on menu for cellar doors

Emergency laws banning food and wine sales at SA wineries, cellar doors and breweries are being wound back, with takeaway orders now being given the green light. That original direction ordered cellar door and wineries to immediately stop offering food and drink takeaway orders, even though hotel bottle shops, cafes and restaurants were permitted to continue offering takeaway service.

The order forced many cellar doors – which had pivoted their businesses to servicing online orders in order to keep operating – to immediately shut kitchens down and lay off staff.

City council braces for \$20m pandemic hit

Adelaide City Council has estimated that as a result of COVID-19, by the end of this financial year, it would lose up to \$20 million in revenue, prompting elected members to ask for pay cuts after voting to trim their own wages. Councillors voted to take a 20% cut to their allowances – currently set at \$25,930 per annum – for the next three months.

"Record low" RAH numbers as pandemic empties nation's emergency departments

The Royal Adelaide Hospital has seen patient numbers at its emergency department plummet, as the pandemic clears hospital EDs across Australia by up to 50%. In South Australia, hospitals are seeing almost half the number of patients. "We're seeing record low numbers," said Katrina Romualdez, acting medical lead at the Royal Adelaide Hospital emergency department.

SA country newspaper closes "indefinitely"

One of South Australia's oldest country newspapers has closed its doors today as a result of the pandemic, with News Corp also deciding to suspend printing of its *Messenger* newspaper titles in Adelaide.

The Bunyip – first published in 1863 – announced it would close "indefinitely" due to losses caused by the pandemic. The Gawler-based newspaper, owned by the Taylor Group that owns five newspapers in regional SA, had employed 12 people – journalists, salespeople and administration staff – who have been stood down.

Older Sth Australians more concerned about nation than themselves

Older South Australians are most concerned about the nation's health than their own vulnerabilities to COVID-19, according to research by local social enterprise. Findings in the state-wide survey showed the older population was most concerned about the virus's impact on the economy, with 90% nominating this as their chief concern. "We've found they have higher levels of concern for their friends and family and higher levels for older people generally, with the highest concern for the nation overall.

Adelaide's "Cocaine Cassie" released from Colombian jail

Convicted South Australian drug smuggler Cassie Sainsbury has been released from a Colombian prison after serving half of her six-year sentence. Sainsbury, from Adelaide, walked free from El Buen Pastor women's prison. As part of her parole conditions, the 22-year-old must remain in Colombia for another 27 months.

Sainsbury was convicted for attempting to smuggle 5.8kg of cocaine out of Colombia, after being arrested at a Bogota airport. The drug was found packaged in 18 headphone boxes in her suitcase. Her release follows Colombia President Ivan Duque's order of releasing 400 prisoners to home arrest for "humanitarian" reasons in an effort to reduce overcrowding and prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Royal Show cancelled

Farmers and rural organisations say it is disappointing but understandable that the 2020 Royal Adelaide Show has been cancelled. It is only the fifth time the event has been cancelled in the show's 181-year history. The only other times the event was cancelled were during the two World Wars, the Victorian Gold Rush of the 1850s and the 1919 Spanish flu pandemic.

Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA chief executive John Rothwell said health and safety were the reasons behind the decision, especially with the show drawing about half a million people across 10 days.

"The income will be sorely missed but our members are resourceful and resilient and will be thinking of ways to overcome this," Country Women's Association president Roslyn Schumann said.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta considered one of world's top countries to deal, resist COVID-19

German ratings agency Scope Ratings, and Investment Migration Insider, (IMI), considered to be the No. 1 publication for investment migration, have both singled out Malta as amongst the top countries in the world in their ability to deal with the coronavirus crisis and to resist the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scope's is a new economic study that delved into various economic factors such as GDP, financial surplus, and government borrowing. It ranked Malta fifth globally, behind Taiwan, China, Switzerland and Thailand.

Malta also managed first place when compared to other European countries, having been named the most resistant to the negative effects a pandemic can have on a country's economy.

Meanwhile, IMI said that Malta is



clearly setting an example for others to follow, adding that in terms of testing, the country appears to have done the best job, and that thanks to its commendable efforts, it has tested a greater share of its general population, resulting in a much lower deaths-per-tested rate.

Up to last Sunday Malta had already

tested over 36,000 of its inhabitants, about 1 in 14.

In the meantime, Scope Ratings' economists noted the very good situation of the international balance of payments of Malta, with one of the largest surpluses in the world. In addition, it has a low national debt burden, and debt is not due to foreigners.

In its reaction the government said that this positive certificate follows closely on the recent conclusions of three other international rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's - which confirmed that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the outlook for Malta was stable.

"The International Monetary Fund also predicted that Malta would experience the least negative economic impact among member states of the European Union," the government said.

Malta relaxes COVID-19 restrictions

As of Monday, May 4, that is, 55 days fifty-five days after identifying the first case of Covid-19, Malta started to lift some of the restrictions imposed in order to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, with Prime Minister Robert Abela saying that life could start returning to normality and a number of business outlets can reopen their doors.

The Prime Minister made the announcement during a media conference he addressed on May Day along with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Chris Fearne, and the Superintendent for Public Health Prof. Charmaine Gauci.

He began by praising the public for being responsible and obeying all the directives, adding that the government's wage supplement would stay in place.

He said: "Today, we have a new day. It does not mean we're over this but it means we're closer to our new normal."

The Prime Minister said that the lifting of some of the restrictions was being made following consultation with the health authorities.

Medical services that had been suspended as a precautionary measure are also being lifted. However, people have been warned not to become complacent.

Minster Fearne and Prof Gauci said that plans to relax some of the restrictions follow indications that the transmission rate of coronavirus has been below one for two weeks. Fearne also named a list of the retail outlets and services to be affected.

He also indicated to help contain the spread of coronavirus the



Prime Minister Robert Abela (centre) flanked by Minister for Health Chris Fearne and Prof Charmaine Gauci

easing of measures come with restrictions, among them, that all outlets, will have to introduce social distancing and safety restrictions that include the wearing of face masks by both employees and clients.

He said that hand sanitisers should be made available on entry into a shop, and people would be tested for fever at shopping malls while numbers are to be kept in check, and changing rooms CAN NOT be used.

Bus commuters and drivers on public transport will also have to wear facemasks. Malta to Gozo travel will be relaxed but people will be obliged to wear face masks while on a ship and the number of commuters will be restricted on each vessel.

The number of people allowed to gather in groups has been slightly eased from three to four.

For at least the next three weeks, hairdressers and beauticians will stay shut, so too, as will restaurants and cafes. The airport will also remain closed, except for repatriation and cargo flights.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta puts forward six proposals to revive the tourism sector

Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Julia Farrugia Portelli highlighted the measures Malta has undertaken to manage the current crisis and to mitigate the impact on the tourism sector when she participated in the virtual Minister conference of EU Tourism Ministers.

At the conference that was organised by the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Minister pointed out that despite the fact we have not turned around the COVID-19 crisis yet, it is imperative that the EU launches robust and ambitious plans to revive the tourism industry as soon as possible.

She further explained that Malta depends heavily on international tourism to the tune of 25% to 30% of its GDP and that international bodies have praised it for its management of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Minister Farrugia Portelli (pictured right) put forward six proposals concerning EU-wide actions: 1. A strong commitment is needed regarding the re-opening of the tourism sector. There are risks that need to be managed. However, new protocols are needed to manage these risks effectively particularly concerning flights, accommodation, and entertainment.

2. Designate safe corridors between territories and regions.

3. EU assistance should not be limited to financial instruments that would burden operators with additional debt but must also include the possibility of grants.

4. The recovery strategy must also take into consideration geographic disparities and differences. For island member states such as Malta, the aviation sector is more than just an integral part of the tourism sector, and airlines should be supported.

5. The EU needs to take a definite stand on the package travel directive and air passenger regulation while acknowledging that consumer rights must remain protected at all times. The EU needs to look at the unlevel playing field that has been created by individual national policies.

6. Investment in the upskilling of the workforce and the upgrade of the tourism product is needed as this is an opportunity to start afresh by making the tourism industry more sustainable.

Meanwhile, Malta, together with Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, and Bulgaria presented a joint statement to the European Commission calling for strong financial allocation for tourism in its recovery plan that is being drafted.

The statement calls for short and long-term measures to assist the tourism associated sectors in mitigating the COVID-19 effects. The statement also acknowledges that the countries on the EU periphery are the worst affected. It underscores the importance of assisting airlines in securing their connectivity.



Much more than a clean bill of health

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union indicates that the Maltese way of life may actually be among the best in Europe. People in the smallest member of the European Union mostly live in good health during their lives.

The statistic places Maltese women at the top of the classification among the 31 European countries; Maltese men came second after the Swedes.

Among the EU Member States, Malta recorded the highest number of healthy life years in 2018 for women (73.4 years), followed by Sweden (72.0 years) and Ireland (70.4 years), whilst the highest numbers for men were also recorded in Sweden (73.7), Malta (71.9) and Ireland (68.4).

The director for research and information at the Health Department in Malta, Prof. Neville Calleja, points out that that accessibility for free health care and free medicines provided by the government for chronic disease are among the factors permitting Maltese to live longer and in good health.

In 2018, the number of years a person is expected to continue to live in a healthy condition at birth in the European Union (EU) was estimated to be 64.2 years for women and 63.7 years for men.

Life expectancy for women (83.7 years) in the EU was, on average, 5.5 years longer than that for men (78.2) in 2018. Healthy life years represent approximately 77% and 81% of the total life expectancy for women and men respectively.

Be an Artist - Testing kids' creativity

With children confined indoors as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, Heritage Malta has launched an initiative to keep children creatively busy. As such, those under the age of 16 are being invited to participate in an art competition, *Be the Artist*.

This is a competition that is aimed at helping to keep children, who won't return to school before the beginning of the next scholastic year in September, busy, and at the same time enable them to express their artistic talents.

Every fortnight Heritage Malta is announcing new themes (five in all related to museums and heritage sites) as the subject of their artistic work. The competition kicked off on April 13, and is scheduled to

continue until mid-June.

Children, aided by their parents or anybody currently looking after them have been invited to participate.

The first theme was the Prehistoric Temples. Each theme will be accompanied by guidelines and indications to inspire their artistic and creative talents and may be viewed on a Facebook Event Page that has been created for this purpose. It is also carrying pictures of their creativity.

Submissions, drawn or by way of craftwork or any other method, would be examined by Heritage Malta and the best ten submissions are being posted on the Heritage Malta website and later also be exhibited at the National Arts Museum, MUŻA.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

L-ekwipaġġ ta' salvataġġ, il-Kap tal-Armata u l-PM 'mixlija bi qtil'

Azzjoni li qajjmet reazzjoni qawwija min-naħa tal-Prim Ministru Malti Robert Abela tant li sejjah konferenza stampa dwarha, kienet dik tal-akkuża ta' qtil li NGO Reppublika għamlet fil-konfront tal-Prim Ministru, il-Kap tal-Armata u għadd ta' suldati, l-ekwipaġġ tal-Patrol Boat P52 fil-konfront ta' immigranti li kienu fl-ibhra kontrollati minn Malta.

L-istorja bdiel meta tliet avukati, fosthom Jason Azzopardi, il-Kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni Nazzjonalista għall-Gustizzja, f'isem l-NGO Reppublika, ippreżentaw denunzja quddiem il-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija fejn talbu biex il-Prim Ministru u l-Brigadier Jeffrey Curmi, flimkien mal-ekwipaġġ mill-Forzi Armati ta' Malta, jiġu investigati kriminalment fuq akkuża li minflok ma salvawhom, qatgħu l-cable tad-dingy tal-immigranti u wasslu għall-mewt ta' whud minnhom.

Sostnew fl-akkuża li fost kolloxx, bl-aġir tagħhom injoraw s-sejha għall-ghajnuna f'tenattiv biex l-emigranti ma jkunux salvati.

Fil-konferenza tal-aħbarijiet il-Prim Ministru qal li hu stess mar għand il-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija halli jsiru l-investigazzjonijiet meħtieġa, inkluz tal-fuq.

Sahaq ukoll li "l-akkuża li għamel l-imsemmi kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni flimkien ma' Repubblika hi mill-aktar serja, u li l-Armata ta' pajjiżna wettqet l-omicidju jiġifieri l-qtil volontarju ta' għadd ta' immigranti fuq il-baħar billi ma salvathomx."

Abela spjega li dan kien ifisser li l-11-il membru tal-ekwipaġġ tal-P52 u l-Brigadier, il-koll speċjalizzati fil-hidma tagħhom, issa se jiġu investigati fuq qtil volontarju ta' għadd ta' immigranti irregolari, b'mod li ġew sfukati mill-hidma kbira li kienu qed iwettqu b'risq il-poplu Għawdxu u Malti.

"Flok sellimnielhom ta' kemm issugraw hajjithom għalina, anke mijiet ta' mili '1 bogħod minn xtutna, hemm min irid jixhethom il-habs. Iddispaċut għaliex bl-

azzjoni li wettqu Jason Azzopardi u Repubblika, se jkomplu jnaqqsu mir-riżorsi limitati li bħalissa għandna fuq il-baħar, u jaqgħu qalb il-forzi tal-ordni," qal il-Prim Ministru.

Anke żvela kif Repubblika marru quddiem il-Qorti Ewropea tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem jitolbu biex Malta u l-Italja jifhmu l-portijiet tagħhom għall-immigranti, talba li, qal, ma ġietx milqugħa.

Fi tweġiba għal din il-konferenza stampa, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Adrian Delia, sostna li

kienet għidha li Jason Azzopardi ressaq il-protest ġudizzjarju f'isem il-Partit Nazzjonalista għax dan għamlu privatament bħala avukat tal-NGO Reppublika.

Qal li "Il-pożizzjoni tal-Partit Nazzjonalista hi ċara u bla taqlieq: Ahna ma nippermettu l-ebda haġja tintilef ... għalina m'hemm ebda kompromess ma' dan il-prinċipju u nistennaw li l-Gvern jikkellemlu bl-istess mod ċar fuq dan il-prinċipju."

Min-naħa tiegħu Azzopardi qal, li hu avukat u ma nikkumentax dwar ix-xogħol professjonali tiegħu. "Imkien fid-dinja demokratika ma jkun hemm partit fil-gvern, jew aghar, il-Prim Ministru, li johorġu attacki kontra l-avukat ta' klijent li jkun fetaħ azzjoni kontrih jew kontra l-Gvern tiegħu. Dan isir biss bħala intimidazzjoni u huwa sinjal ta' reġimi totalitarji," qal.

Sintendi ma naqsux il-battibekki bejn il-partiti dwar il-kwestjoni bil-Partit Laburista jsostni li Delia kellu jiehu passi kontra Azzopardi għall-aġir tiegħu. Il-kummenti fil-ġurnali ma naqsux lanqas, b'ħafna ma tant



L-ekwipaġġ tal-P52 f'mument ta' salvataġġ tal-irregolari

jikkumentaw sabiħ dwar l-aġir ta' Azzopardi u Repubblika.

Kien hemm żvolta meta l-NGO Reppublika qalet li kienet irċeviet tagħrif ġdid li tista' tneħhi kull akkuża ta' ksur ta' liġi jew tentattiv ta' qtil minn fuq l-AFM.

Filwaqt li f'it wara, l-avukat Azzopardi habbar li ma kienx se jibqa' jirrappreżenta lil Repubblika fil-każ, għax sostna li ma riedx iħalli lill-Prim Ministru jinqegħda bis-sitwazzjoni biex jattakka lill-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Kien hemm min sostna li din kienet skuża għax Azzopardi għamel hekk għax fil-Partit Nazzjonalista kien hemm min ma hax pjaċir li dahal fil-kwestjoni.. li billi tinvolti l-kwestjoni tal-emigranti l-partiti politiċi jibzgu minnha.

Izda minkejja li r-Repubblika għamlet pass lura dwar dak li qalet dwar l-Armata, skont il-liġi, la darba din talbet l-Investigazzjoni ma setgħetx tirtiraha u għalhekk l-investigazzjoni immxixja mill-Magistrat Joe Mifsud għadha għaddejja.

Kritika minn xi għaqdiet

Kif jiġri dejjem, kien hemm diversi għaqdiet u NGOs li kkundannaw lill-Gvern għax għalaq il-portijiet u qal li ma setax jiggarrantixxi li jslava l-immigranti. Fost dawn kien hemm 335 akkademiku li qalu li d-deċizzjoni tal-Gvern li ma jhallix dgħajjes jidhlu hija illegali.

Dawn saħqu li filwaqt li jifhmu li l-Istati membri tal-UE għandhom sfidi kbar x'jiffaċċjaw f'dan il-waqt diffiċli, fl-istess waqt is-sitwazzjoni ma tiġġustifikax

il-ksur tad-drittijiet umani.

Sahaq li Id-deċizzjoni li jingħalqu l-portijiet tmur kontra l-liġi, u kkundannaw dak li semmew bħala n-nuqqas ta' solidarjeta' fost l-istati membri tal-UE biex jirrispettaw l-obbligi morali u legali kollettivi.

Li hemm żgur hu, li l-maġġoranza tal-poplu Malti taqbel mal-Gvern. Kif jidher mill-ftit kummenti li deħru fil-ġurnali, sakemm l-istess ġurnali għalqu l-kolonna tagħhom għal dawn il-kummenti.

Salvaw mijiet ta' hajjiet

Fil-isfond ta' din il-polemika, ġurnal kiteb li skont cifri, mill-2013 '1 hawn, il-Forzi Armati ta' Malta wettqu 484 operazzjoni ta' salvataġġ li fihom salvaw 13,353 persuna minn fuq il-baħar.

Fost dawn, 12,940 kienu immigranti rregolari, 65 kienu bahrin jew haddiema li jahdmu fuq il-baħar, 311 kienu nies pajzana u kien hemm 37 sajjied.

Minn fost dawn in-numri kollha, wehidhom, sal-lum, il-patrol boat tas-sezzjoni marittima tal-Fori ta' Malta P52 u l-ekwipaġġ tagħha salvaw 2,547 persuna

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Mix-xena tal-COVID-19.... fil-qosor

Mill-bierah it-Tnejn, Malta bdiet tillaxxa xi miżuri li kienu ttiehdu biex ma jinxteridx il-coronavirus u bdew jinfethu xi stabbilimenti kummerċjali. Se nagħti ħarsa fil-qosor dwar dak li kien qed isehh fix-xena ta' din il-pandemija.

CHRIS FEARNE: Fejn tidhol il-kriżi tal-pandemija, mhemmx dubju li l-aktar politiku popolari, fost il-membri Parlamentari (Gvern u Oppożizzjoni), hemm l-Viċi/Prim Ministru u Ministru tas-Saħha, Dr. Chris Fearne.

Infatti minn stħarriġ tal-Maltatoday hareġ li 91.4% tal-intervistati qalu li għandhom stima kbira għall-mod kif qed imexxi l-qasam tas-Saħha. L-appoġġ gie mill-Laburisti (96.4%), u min-Nazzjonalista (86.2%).

Għawdex Ghoddu Hieles:

Fejn kellna l-ewwel mewta ta' mara anzjana b'riżultat tal-coronavirus, issa għoddu hieles mill-virus, tant li f'dawn l-aħħar ġimagħtejn, instab każ wiehed biss ġdid pożittiv, nhar il-Ġimgħa li għadda. Fil-waqt li daww li kienu ġew infettati qabel kollha fiequ.

Wiehed jispera li bil-miżuri li qed jittehd, anke billi t-traġit bejn iż-żewġ Gżejjer huwa limitat iħallu l-effett tagħhom.

KULL QATRA TGHIN: U l-Partit Nazzjonalista qal li mijiet ta' persuni qed jagħmlu użu mill-inizjattiva tal-partit tagħhom li fiċ-ċirkustanzi iddeċieda li jgħin lil daww li ma jistgħux joħorġu minn djarhom u qed jilqa' ordnijiet minn għandhom fil-kwartieri għal xirxiet ta' affarijiet tal-ikel u tal-merċa u jwassluhom wara l-bieb tad-djar, u fl-istess waqt jaqilgħu xi haġa għall-partit (*ir-reklam stampa taħt*).

Iżda dan għab reazzjoni politika fejn intqal li l-PN, li kulhadd jaf bil-qagħda finanzjarja

ħażina tiegħu, inqeda bis-sitwazzjoni biex jipprova jtaffi xi ftit minn dan id-dejn.

Imsonna, kull qatra tghin. Fuq kollox din inizjattiva li biha qed jinqeda kemm il-klijent u wkoll min ibiegħ.

FESTA DIFFERENTI: Kif tafu l-Kurja Maltija waqqfet iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tal-festi li s-soltu jsiru b'tant pompa. Iżda jidher li jista' jkun hemm min tal-inqas jiċċelebra l-festa b'xi mod jew. Dan deher mill-ewwel festa tal-istaġun ta' San Publiju fil-Furjana.

Hawnhekk il-Kappillan xorta pprova jfer-rah lin-nies billi saċerdot hareġ waħdu f'puċissjoni mhux tas-soltu bl-ostensorja

bl-ostja ewkaristika jbierek lin-nies li ħarġu jsellmu lill-ewkaristija mill-galleriji mzejnin u minn barra l-bibien ta' djarhom.

Inizjattiva tas-saw sabiħa. Issa naraw x'se jigri fi bliet u rhula oħra!!!!

MINN TA' QUDDIEM: Fil-kriżi li Malta għaddejjin minnha, qed jirnexxielna nżommu postna minn ta' quddiem f'ċerti setturi, fosthom

dwar l-effett tal-Coronavirus. Infatti Malta tpoġġiet fost l-aqwa pajjizi fid-dinja li qed jirreżistu l-pandemija tal-Coronavirus. (*Ara pagna 12*).

Fost ir-raġunijiet, l-esperti nnuttaw il-qagħda ferm tajba fil-bilanċ tal-pagamenti internazzjonali ta' pajjiżna, u r-rapport innota li barra minnhekk pajjiżna għandu piż ta' dejn nazzjonali baxx, filwaqt li dan id-dejn m'huwiex dovut lil barranin.



ŻWIGIJIET u TWELID: Minhabba l-pandemija COVID-19, aktar minn 134 koppja kellhom ibiddlu l-pjanijiet tagħhom u jipposponu l-jum taż-żwieġ tagħhom, fost dawn koppja li l-mara hija infemmiera.

Sadanitank, koppji jew persuni b'wild ġdid qed jinqdew bis-servizz tal-posta biex japplikaw għaċ-ċertifikat tat-twelid. Iżda dan kollu se jinbidel billi mill-bidu ta' Mejju dan kollu se jibda' jsir *online*. Il-koppji kollha li iwelldu it-tfal bħalissa jistgħu japplikaw għaċ-ċertifikat *online*.

TURISTI VIRTWALI: Bl-ajruport u l-portijiet magħluqa l-ebda turist ma jista' jirfes fuq Malta bħalissa, iżda xorta għandna turisti li qed jżuru lil Malta permezz tal-mezzi moderni tal-kommunikazzjoni.

Fuq inizjattiva ta' Heritage Malta u l-Awtorità Maltija tat-Turiżmu (MTA) qed jifilmjaw siti storiċi f'Malta biex juruhom lill-barranin f'pajjiżhom stess.

Il-filmati se jkollhom kummentarju bilingwa Ingliża għalkemm se jkun hemm 'subtitles' b'lingwi differenti skont is-suq li għalih ikun indirizzat il-film. B'hekk, l-MTA qed tittama li dan jgħin wara li tghaddi l-pandemija u wkoll malli l-ajruporti u l-portijiet jifthu mill-ġdid il-barranin li jkun raw il-filmati jthajjru jżuru u jaraw is-sbuhija ta' pajjiżna.



NIBQGHU ID-DAR

FDAN IŻ-ZMIEN META HU IMPORTANTI LI KEMM JISTA' JKUN KULHADD JIQQA' D-DAR, IL-PARTIT NAZZJONALISTA QED JOFFRILEK IL-POSSIBILITA' LI TAGHŻEL:

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XIRJA KBIRA JEW WANDA IZORAR	DELIVERY B'XEIN		IL-ĦLAS (SIR MALLI TASAL GħANDK L-ORDNI)

IX-XIRJET JINKLUDU VARJETA' TA' FROT T U ĦAĦIX FRISK LI JKUN HAWN FIS-SUQ, BOTTIJET TAL-IKEL, CHAGIN, U PRODOTTI TA' IKEL OĦRA.

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A quick glimpse at Australia



Best of mates: Australia's Scott Morrison (left) and USA's Donald Trump

Australia follows US in call for global inquiry

Prime Minister Scott Morrison defended Senator Marisa Payne's calls for a global inquiry into China's response to the outbreak as an "issue of importance for public health". Senator Payne announced the push for the investigation, revealing her level of concern about transparency from China is at a high point.

It seems that Australia is closely following the USA in this matter.

Beijing has sternly rejected Foreign Minister Marise Payne's calls for the inquiry, labelling the basis of such a review as groundless. Geng Shuang, Beijing's foreign ministry spokesperson said that Senator Payne's remarks were entirely without factual basis.

Shuang added that questioning of China's transparency was unfounded and

showed a lack of respect for the sacrifices of its people. "Since the outbreak began, China has always acted in an open, transparent and responsible manner and taken a series of resolute, timely and forceful measures," he said.

Meanwhile "best of mates" Donald Trump and PM Morrison had a telephone conversation on health responses to Covid-19 and the need to get our market-led and business centres economies up and running again.

They also talked about the World Health Organisation and working together to improve the transparency and effectiveness of international responses to pandemics.

There is a push in Liberal circles to nominate former PM Tony Abbott as the next WHO secretary.

Coronavirus breakthrough?

Early tests of a potential coronavirus vaccine have shown promising results against the deadly virus, Queensland researchers say. The University of Queensland's COVID-19 vaccine has shown in pre-clinical tests it can raise high levels of antibodies that can neutralise the virus.

The university's project co-leader Professor Paul Young said the results were an excellent indication the vaccine worked as expected.

"This is what we were hoping for, and it's a great relief for the team given the tremendous faith placed in our technology by CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation), federal and Queensland governments and our philanthropic partners," Professor Young said in a statement.

"We were particularly pleased that the strength of the antibody response was even better than those observed in samples from COVID-19 recovered patients."

Professor Kanta Subbarao of the Doherty Institute, which is working with The University of Queensland, tested the vaccine samples in the laboratory.

"This is a very important finding because similar immune responses with SARS vaccines in animal models were shown to lead to protection from infection," Prof Subbarao said.



Professor Paul Young

Pauline Hanson It has come to pass ...

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson has claimed the coronavirus has vindicated her opposition to "globalisation", saying she warned Australia about the "dangers" years ago.

"The Coalition and Labor parties will act like no one could have seen any of this coming, but the truth is they were warned, and they did nothing," Ms Hanson said.

"I warned them of the dangers of allowing our manufacturing to be sent offshore. I warned them of the dangers of foreign ownership. I even warned them of the United Nations' corrup-

tion which we are now seeing displayed so clearly by their offshoots in the World Health Organisation. "Sadly, much of what I warned about has come to pass and now the true cost of globalism is being laid bare for all to see."

Ms Hanson referred to a speech she gave in 1997, in which she railed against free trade and the United Nations, among other things. That wasn't long after her maiden speech to parliament, in which she claimed Australia was being "swamped by Asians".



A quick glimpse at Australia

Contact tracing app introduced

The Australian government has launched a mobile phone app called COVIDSafe. The voluntary app is now available for download and registration. It has been backed by doctors, nursing, business and banking groups. It aims to help health officials identify people who may come in contact with someone with the disease.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said anyone concerned about privacy could use a fake name when they registered for the app. "Yes you can - that's legally available," he said.

The Australian app is based on Singapore's Tracetogether software, which records the Bluetooth connections a phone makes with others so the user can give that data to state health authorities if they catch the virus.

The government hopes a broader testing regime, and the contact tracing app will lead to a relaxation of the economic shutdown sooner. Prime Minister Scott Morrison told the ABC that only health authorities would have access to the data.

"It's another tool we need to get back to normal as much as we can," he said. "No other

government agency can use this information, no one in the commonwealth government at all, and in state authorities, only the health officer can use it," he said. "Not the police, not the welfare people, nowhere else. Just the health officer."

The message from the PM is clear: [We have had great success in flattening our curve, that is obvious," he said from Canberra.

"But having a low number of cases, having Australians out of work, having a low number of cases and children not receiving in classroom education, having a low number of cases and businesses not being open, having a low number of cases and Australians not able to be going about their as normal lives as possible - that is not what success looks like."



Good riddance to Ruby Princess

The Ruby Princess, the massive 18-deck ship with 1,040 original crew from 50 different countries, has left Port Kembla after a stay of 10 days to refuel and stock up supplies.

Eleven deaths and more than 600 cases of COVID-19 have been linked to the ship, meaning it is the single biggest source of coronavirus infections in Australia.

Under normal circumstances, cruise ships would dock at the iconic Circular Quay in Sydney Harbour. But The Ruby Princess was diverted to an isolated dock at Port Kembla, an industrial suburb in Wollongong, about 100km south of Sydney, in NSW's Illawarra region, where we find an active community of Maltese.

They even have a centre in the suburb of Cringila.

NSW Police Commissioner Fuller launched a criminal inquiry to determine whether Carnival Australia downplayed the number of potential coronavirus cases on the ship before it docked at Circular Quay on March 19.



Soft opening of churches



Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP (*left*) in his fourth pastoral letter to the people of Sydney since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic said that not being able to physically gather for worship is "hard" as "our religion is so sacramental, physical, palpable."

"On behalf of the Bishops of New South Wales, the clergy and the lay faithful I've written to the Premier

pressing the case for the re-opening of churches, initially for private prayer and confession,"

the Archbishop wrote.

"It's likely that such a 'soft opening' will happen before we can resume public Masses.

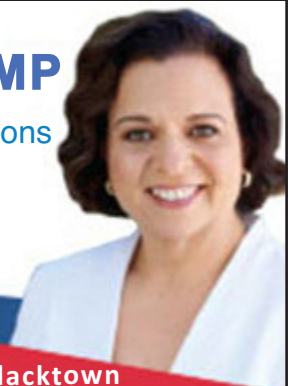
"And whether it's for prayers or Mass, we are determined to abide by government directives regarding numbers, density (or distancing) and hygiene. Over these weeks, we've demonstrated an admirable ability to adapt as necessary!"

He says he has been "hugely encouraged" that thousands of Catholics are still participating in Masses online. At the same time, churches are closed and "making a spiritual communion where they cannot make a sacramental one".



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija u dawk li matul is-sekli ħadmu għall-iżvilupp tal-ilsien Malti

Hafna minn dawk li tinteressahom il-letteratura Maltija fl-Awstralja forsi jafu aktar minn oħrajn lill-kittieb li se ngħib għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja llum, Manwel Cassar,

għaliex l-imħabba tiegħu għall-ilsien Malti u l-kitba wasslitu biex fl-1959 kien waqqaf l-Għaqda tal-Letteratura tal-Maltin fl-Awstralja.

MANWEL CASSAR-għamel isem l-aktar għal hidmietu fl-ilsien Malti fl-Awstralja

Manwel Cassar, magħruf ma' dawk midhla tal-letteratura bħala kittieb prolificu ta' poeziji bil-Malti, twieled l-Imnsida fit-3 ta' Jannar tal-1933, qabel sar magħruf għal kitbietu, ħadem kemm bħala għalliemi u wkoll fiċ-ċivil.

Wara l-primarja, Manwel issokta bl-istudju tiegħu, l-ewwel fil-Liċo l-Ħamrun, u wara fil-Kulleġġ tat-taħriġ tal-għalliema, St Michael's Training College f'Ta' Ġorni minn fejn, fl-1950 iggradwa bħala għalliemi.

Hames snin wara żżewweġ lil Josephine Spiteri u fl-istess sena emigraw lejn l-Awstralja fejn issetiljaw f'Melbourne, fl-istat ta' Victoria u anke beda jgħalliem fl-iskejjel tal-istess stat. Huma kellhom ħamest itfal.

Wara xi snin Manwel inhatar kap ta' skola rurali, sakemm abbanduna l-professjoni u għażel li jkompli l-karriera bħala Postal Accountant u awditur.

Kemm waqt hidmietu, u forsi aktar wara li rtira, żamm ruhu attiv ukoll fil-kitba u fuq l-inizjattiva tiegħu twaqqfet l-Għaqda tal-Letteratura tal-Maltin fl-Awstralja, li

b'dispaċir wiehed jgħid li ma baqghetx tiffunzjona.

Kien President tal-Maltese Literature Group -- Grupp Letteratura Maltija.

Fil-letteratura stabilixxa ruħu bħala kittieb prolificu kemm tal-poezija, u l-proża. Talent ieħor li kellu kien tal-pittura u anke għal aktar minn darba għieli esebixxi xi xogħlijiet minn tiegħu u rebah hafna premjijiet.

Fil-fatt hu studja l-pittura fir-Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology tant li fl-1984 kiseb id-Diploma in Fine Arts (Painting) u s-sena ta' wara l-Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting). Huwa ssokta bl-istudju tiegħu fi Newcastle College of Advance Education (NSW). Ha sehem f'ħafna esebizzjonijiet u rebah hafna premjijiet.

Imm l-akbar imħabba u talent li kellu kienet għall-kitba u ipprova wkoll jifrex din l-imħabba billi kiteb għadd ta' artikli dwar letteratura Maltija-Awstraljana f'gazzetti ta' Malta u ta' Melbourne, u għen ukoll biex awturi Maltin-Awstraljani jkollhom xogħlijiet tagħhom, bħal poeziji, ippubblikati f'xi gazzetti f'Malta.

Kien ukoll strumentali biex qaleb għall-Malti u ippubblika xi kotba mill-Inglizi, fosthom, fl-1952, il-kteb ta' Edgar Wallace, *The Four Just Men* li bil-Malti tah l-isem ta' *L-Erbgħa tal-Ħaqq*. Kellu wkoll sehem kbir f'ħafna antoloġiji.

Għadd ta' poeziji minn tiegħu gew ippubblikati, fi *Driegħ ma' Driegħ* (1971) u f'*Ir-jieh* (1987).

Minkejja li kien jgħix bogħod minn art twelidu, huwa kien imsieheb fl-Akkademja tal-Malti u kien iżomm kuntatt sew mal-bqija tal-membri.



Fl-Awstralja kien ukoll membru tal-Victorian Association of Multicultural Writers, fuq il-kumitat tal-Australian Poetry Lovers Society u għamel żmien ukoll imexxi minn President, l-Australian Rosstrum. Bejn l-1988 u l-1992 mexxa wkoll il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija u għamel żmien kontributur kritiku tal-kotba fuq irradju 3EA ta' Melbourne.

Manwel kienu ukoll jinteressa ruħu fid-drama u ta l-għajjnha tiegħu biex gew organizzati wirjiet ta' drama u letterarji tal-Għaqda Letteratura Maltija fl-Awstralja, fil-Kunsill Malti ta' Victoria, fil-Malta Star of the Sea Dramatic Company u fil-Maltese Performing Arts.

Fl-1992, għax-xogħol tiegħu fil-Letteratura, Manwel ingħata l-Manoel de Vilhena Award.

Manwel miet fl-età ta' 86 seta fit-8 ta' Novembru 2019 tas-sena l-oħra.



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MCC NSW work for community ongoing despite pandemic

The Voice of the Maltese can confirm that even though there is a general lockdown in NSW, and its normal meetings have been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of the Maltese Community Council of NSW (MCC) continue to carry on with its work, including keeping in touch through phone calls with the community to check on their wellbeing.

There is a whole list of other important activities the MCC is currently undertaking, like ensuring that social distances and self-isolation requirements are observed by dealing with any urgent matters over the phone or via online meetings between MCC members, with Government or other agencies.

MCC members are also kept informed via email and its Facebook page regarding Covid-19 Government Department updates as well as other items of interest.

The one-hour MCC Maltese radio programme that is aired every Sunday at 11am on 2GLF 89.3, is another great source of news and information for the Maltese community.

Meanwhile, the MCC Welfare/Community

Worker, Marisa Previtera, is providing ongoing support by phone to the Maltese community who reach out for assistance, and responds to their individual needs.

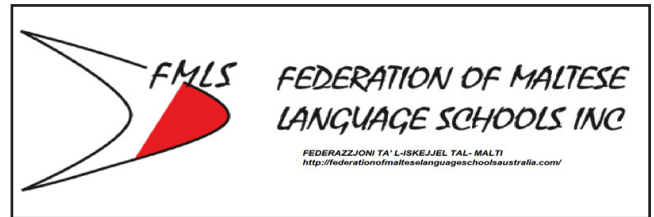
Marisa has also recently set up a new Facebook page called "Keeping Connected for Maltese Seniors" aimed at providing and sharing important Government updates on COVID-19 information as well as providing uplifting and interesting articles for the much-needed mental wellbeing of the community.

The Maltese Language School (MLS) lessons are being prepared by new Principal, Maria De Carlo and MLS teachers and will be delivered online when the school returns for term 2.

Grants applications are progressively being submitted, where appropriate, to seek funding to support current and future initiatives.

The MCC Executive Committee encourages members of the community that wish to be contacted regarding any issues, concerns or just to keep in touch, to call anyone of the MCC representatives listed below:

Marisa Previtera – 0414 863 123
Emanuel Camilleri – 0409 744 376
George Bartolo OAM – 0419 635 077
(primarily for the Wollongong area)
Miriam Friggieri – 0419 476 924
Antoine Mangion – 0405 233 144
Maria De Carlo – 0416 119 100



From classroom to virtual learning

The 2020 Semester school year by the Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc. (FMLS) started with successful and hectic activities towards the teaching of Maltese Language in Australia that were busy encouraging students to continue attending classes, attracting new students and ensuring that there are enough qualified teachers to meet class demands.

But, FMLS president Edwidge Borg, said, they are now faced with a new challenge. "No more face-to-face Maltese Language classes while we are threatened by the COVID 19 pandemic. The abrupt closure of all classes interrupted the last two to three classes scheduled for term 1 prior to the Easter holidays," she said.

With the Easter holidays over, the MCCV Maltese Language classes in Victoria have moved from classes held Parkville and Sunshine to webinar classes held through ZOOM.

Teachers were mentored on hosting Zoom and classes have successfully resumed for term 2 online using ZOOM.

"While there is nothing better than face-to-face class teaching, we have to explore new mediums to impart our Maltese heritage to future generations while this pandemic lingers over our shores," the president said.

Meanwhile, Ms Borg has encouraged all schools that while classes are closed to use these electronic media. Below are links with useful hints to assist schools:

Virtual learning and conferencing

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/digital/Pages/virtual.aspx>

The Best Webinar Hosting Tactics for Educators

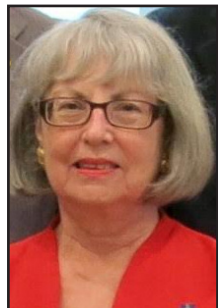
<https://medium.com/@BigMarker/the-9-best-webinar-hosting-tactics-for-educators-8305c0b4786f>

All Correspondence to the FMLS should be addressed to: The Secretary, FMLS INC. Email: patgrech@bigpond.com and cc to: The President: edwidgeborg@hotmail.com



New Principal Mario DeCarlo (standing) with Horsley Park NSW Maltese classes

COVID-19: Lockdown reprieve



Nancy Serg-Borg OAM

Since my last article, COVID-19 Australian grid decreased due to enforcements and hefty fines for discarding lockdown rules, attacking Public Services Staff, closure between State borders etc.

No family, No travel, No parties, No cinema, No Beaches. "STAY AT HOME".

The passenger ship saga brought angst and deaths, departing our shores on April 23. NO Mass on Sundays! Unheard of for Catholics! In Easter mode I yearned for a Malta cultural experience and watched the San Gorg Qormi Malta Good Friday 2019 Procession on u-tube. This got us closer to solemnity and tradition.

In the following weeks, we watched Mass on TV from other countries. Longing for music, I listened to a CD by The Beethoven Society of Australia, of which I was a member.

We sang Beethoven 9th at the Manoel Theatre Valletta Malta; European Cathedrals; Sydney Opera House, Town Hall etc. Lifelong friends were made! Six Australians, a Maltese man and myself sang in the Luciano Pavarotti Concert in Stockholm Sweden. We felt privileged!

People are tired of Lockdown!

It is challenging, bewildering, and inconvenient. I am relishing catching up at home in a leisurely manner for a change. Our house is now ash and dust free from disastrous tragic bushfires four-and-a-half hours away in Southern NSW.

We were concerned about Sibling No 6 who lives there. She was assisting the State Emergency Services and was fine, as were her fur-kids! Woof! What a relief!

A 90-year-old friend who lives on a farm three hours up North phoned. An endearing conversation! Relatives overseas rang, emailed, etc. checking our safety.

A young relative found out from me his grandfather was one of 18 children. He had never visited Malta. WOW! How many descendants worldwide do not know their Maltese genealogy? I started a family tree at 15 years old in Malta, before emigrating to Australia. Sibling No 9 took over, doing a sterling job!

Watching my mother on video enjoying the Maltese *Imqaret* I sent her was satisfying! She

taught me how to make them as a child. Mum is benefitting from daily pushing her walker up the street from her own house, keeping fit at 101-1/2 years old.

Despite varied dementia modes, she sends greetings and happy birthdays globally to families via *iPhone* video on social media. Thanks God mum is ably cared for in different routines, by my two sisters and a brother.

Varied items stolen from neighbours

Exercising to refrigerator, pantry and garden is now a habit! I drag myself off computer for a healthy walk before I pile weight on and body jams up with all the extra cooking. Daughter No 1 sent a message that 20 homes nearby were burgled overnight by a drive-in-car-sweep. A payment for a painter, gone!

One night at 8pm Daughter No 2 delivered the weekly milk and bread for our freezer. Keeping distance, the three boys thanked me for the Maltese *Imqaret*. "We liked them Nannie, can you make more please". How uplifting was that!!

On-line shopping is ok, albeit with some surprises thrown in, i.e. *1 x Banana instead of 1 Kilo*. Our face fell. We shared the banana sliced on toast. Recipes are exchanged globally. I adapted one by a cousin in Italy and re-named it "*CoVid19 Crepe*" Recipe. Many recipes experimented with, increasing our waists! More hefty walks!

Week 8, restless families at home ventured to the local park in wonderful autumn weather. After my husband finished trimming the hedges, we met Daughter No 3 and two grandchildren at the park-dog-enclosure. We elbowed each other for greeting, keeping distance. They are taller!! All excited to see each other!

Feeling refreshed and thankful

My husband and a dog owner never stopped talking. It was good for the men to

be out of the house as well. The open-air gym was chain-bolted, soccer fields, tennis courts closed.

Last week I passed a circle of people chanting in low voices under a tree, sending shivers up my spine! I walked slower savouring this amazing moment; feeling refreshed and thanked God to be alive.

Anzac Day 2020: a tribute by our Australian descendants

We stood at the top of our driveway with neighbours lining our street at dawn, listening to the "Last Post" blaring from a trumpet nearby. It was touching and patriotic. This year's Anzac Day March Parade in Sydney City was cancelled.

Each region celebrated locally and televised. Three of our grandchildren usually march with their father and grandfather, Australian War Veterans. So proud of them! They videoed last night, excited with their ANZAC bonfire in their backyard.

Via *iPhone* video I participated in my friend's large group chat. We all wore a Rosemary sprig. I made a Poppy from red material just like we did in Malta at school.

Daughter No 1 and family brought home-made Anzac caramel iced biscuits for afternoon tea in our front courtyard, seating apart. Yummy! In the autumn sun the world felt normal again. How precious one's family is!

Restrictions soon to be eased

Now school starts one day weekly in 2nd week of term 2 in May. Working parents can't wait! Tonight we heard that restrictions would be eased soon. Hooray!

In our backyard, beautiful Lorikeets hang upside down from the seed-tray wire, pushing the gentle pigeons out! The Galahs dive in, scattering all. The fat lizard had babies before winter arrives. I watched them darting in and out from under bushes everywhere.



Some neighbours commemorated ANZAC DAY in their driveway

Gozo

round and about

by Charles Spiteri



New monument at Kercem village completed

Work on a new monument at the entrance to Kercem village has been completed. The monument, designed by Fr Roberto Gauci, director of Eikon – a new centre for projects of liturgical art – was sculpted in marble cut from Gozo by Fr Gauci himself with the help and guidance of Raymond Bonello from Xaghra.

The monument (*right*) consists of three pillars featuring abstract scenes of the San Girgor procession that was held every year on March 12 from the Cathedral in Victoria to the Kercem parish church with the participation of all parishes. Inciden-



tally, the site where the monument was set up, stood an ancient chapel dedicated to St Gregory which collapsed after the present church dedicated to the saint was

built.

The monument was commissioned by the Kercem local council with the help of the Gozo Ministry.



New Maestro di Cappella for the Gozo Cathedral

Mro Joseph Debrincat of Victoria (*pictured left*) has been appointed Maestro di Cappella of the Gozo Cathedral succeeding Mro Colin Attard who had occupied the position for the past twenty-five years.

Mro Debrincat studied music at the University of Malta under Malta's leading composers, Charles Camilleri, Joseph Vella, and John Galea. He furthered his studies in conducting under Michael Laus and subsequently attended master classes in Milan with renowned conductor Herbert Handt.

In 2005, he was awarded an M.Phil. in Music from the University of Malta after submitting a dissertation on the unique compositions of Francesco Azopardi (1748-1809) at the Music Archives of the Gozo Cathedral.

Mro Debrincat was the first bandmaster of the Santa Margherita Band of Sannat and as of 2000 he is the maestro di cappella of the same village. He is also the assistant bandmaster of the Leone Band Philharmonic Society.

His affection for cultural events, led him to establish the Classique Foundation and for the past two years was the mastermind behind the festival MUSIC+. He has conducted the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra more than once, both on his initiative, as well as a guest conductor.

'Every road is a river'

These last few weeks have been very worrying for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As all public activities have been cancelled, Mary Portelli (*on right*) and Rabia S. Aktar had to postpone their joint exhibition scheduled for the exhibition hall at the Ministry for Gozo, in Victoria, in April/May.

The initial disappointment turned to opportunity as both artists are adding more artwork to their collection. Mary has started work on a glass mosaic wave, something she was not planning for the exhibition because she 'had so many other thoughts on her mind' that she

wanted to express in her exhibition.

In the meantime, Rabia, far away in Karachi, is also dedicating more time to her miniature artwork with gouache on wasli paper.

The two met during V18 Artist-in-Residence programme and have remained in touch ever since. Expressing themselves in two diverse art forms, the title 'Every Road is a River' fitted both collections perfectly.

In Rabia's own words, like a winding river, "the future is hazy and unclear, but ultimately wonderful in its strangeness".

Let us all keep looking ahead positively!



Portal ta' tagħlim li jista' jintuża wkoll mill-komunitajiet Maltin

Il-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni f'Malta għadu kif nieda uffiċjalment portal gdid bl-isem <http://teleskola.mt>, li hu mimli b'iktar minn 1,000 lezzjoni u attività għall-istudenti kollha mis-snin bikrin sa tmim is-sekondarja.

L-għan tal-portal hu li jagħmilha faċli għall-istudenti, għall-ġenituri u għall-ghal-

liema biex isibu lezzjonijiet ta' kull sena skolastika u ta' kull suġġett b'mod faċli hafna.

The Voice inhossu li għandna ngibu wkoll għall-attenzjoni tal-Maltin li jgħixu barra u li għandhom għal qalbhom it-tagħlim ta' wliedhom, kif ukoll l-għalliema li fost kol-lox jiehdu wkoll ħsieb it-tagħlim tal-Malti fost il-komunitá, biex jużaw dan il-portal. Se jsibuh utli žgur.

Kif wiehed jidhol fil-portal, l-ewwel li jagħmel u li jagħzel il-livell, imbagħad jagħzel is-sena u fl-aħħar nett jagħzel is-suġġett li jixtieq biex isib il-lezzjonijiet adattati għalih.

Il-portal fih materjal adattat għat-tfal ta' kull età u livell, mill-kinder, għall-istudenti tal-primarja, tal-medja u tas-sekondarja, f'kull suġġett.

Wiehed jista' wkoll iħalli l-kumment tiegħu hdejn kull lezzjoni biex jikkomunika

mal-għalliema.

Il-portal fih min-jiera ta' tagħlim u ta' riżorsi marbutin mas-sillabi li jintużaw fl-iskejjel Maltin kollha, u žgur li jistgħu jkun ta' fejda għal dawk il-Maltin li jgħixu barra.

Il-portal se jkun wiehed attiv li jinbidel ta' spiss u li jikber bl-għajjuna ta' hafna edukaturi li għandhom għal qalbhom it-tagħlim ta' uliedna.

Il-Ministru tal-Edukazzjoni Owen Bonnici ta' hajr lill-edukaturi li bil-hidma u u d-dedikazzjoni tagħhom tfassal, inholq u ntela' dan il-portal, b'riżorsi adattati għall-istudenti Maltin.

Ta' min jgħid li sa mill-ewwel jum tal-għeluq temporanju tal-iskejjel f'Malta, il-Ministeru tal-edukazzjoni poġġa r-riżorsi online biex l-istudenti u l-ġenituri jkun jistgħu jagħmlu użu minnhom bl-iktar mod faċli.

UŻAWH!!



teleskola.mt
**L-Iskola
f'darek**

Obituary:

Josephine (Guza) Mallia

With sadness, we announce the death of Guza Mallia who passed away on April 21 at Wollongong hospital aged 85.

Josephine, who was the mother of five children, 12 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren was from Hamrun, Malta.

She emigrated to Australia in February 1955 on the Arosa Star with her husband Joe (now deceased), young daughter Carmen and a month-old baby. They arrived in Australia four months later.

Together with her husband Joe she was an important item of the Maltese community in Wollongong and the George Cross Falcon Club. They were both Life Members for their continual work within the club and the community.

As a team, they were awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Illawarra Area Health in the 2001 Seniors Week, and in 2003 from the Maltese Welfare of NSW.

Josephine was an original member and long-time treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary of the GCFC where she worked tirelessly in fund-raising to buy necessities for the club and also in organising functions.

She was also a terrific mother and a good wife to her husband Joe. Her motto in life was always "family comes first". She is greatly missed by her large family in Australia, Canada, and Malta.

God give her eternal rest In Peace



Suspension of in-person appointments at High Commission in Canberra and Consulate Generals 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.

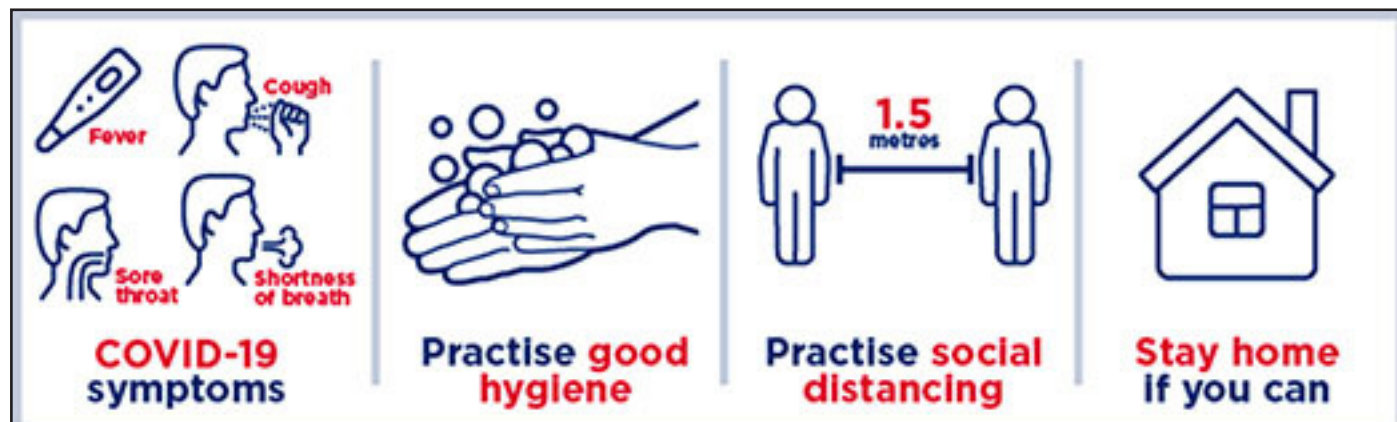
This suspension of services impacts passport, citizenship applications, witnessing of signatures and identity. Until further notice Visa applications will no longer be accepted.

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

Some Radio stations may be off air due to covid-19 restrictions

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

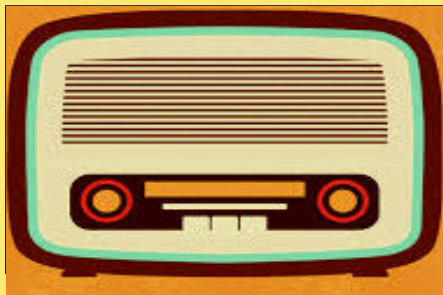
MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

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 32 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 jibdwu jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi ħlas.

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdwu jirċevu kopja pprintjata 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 wieħed 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



Football in Australia would only commence when deemed safe

Following Prime Minister Australian Prime Minister's Scot Morrison's announcement last Friday that the national cabinet had agreed to principles in relation to sport, Football Federation Australia (FFA) and its nine Member Federations Football NSW are collaborating to develop a set of guidelines that would support the commencement of community football as soon as possible.

FFA has announced that it has produced guidelines in readiness for a return to community football. As such, it has produced a set of Guidelines, including protocols and measures to be put in place to ensure a safe and responsible resumption of the game.

These Guidelines are currently being reviewed by senior health officials and would be used by its affiliates to guide a return to football, taking into account the relevant regulations and health advice in each state and territory.

FFA Chief Executive James Johnson said that the health and wellbeing of all two million football participants in Australia is of paramount importance to them.

The associations and clubs are continuing to work together to plan a re-start of community football, positioning the sport to commence after the Federal and State Government health authorities deem it safe.

When it comes to Football NSW, its CEO Stuart Hodge said that it has continuously monitored developments and been in constant contact with FFA and Governments to ensure that "we will only return to the field when it is deemed safe to do so, and once health authorities give the go ahead".

He went on to say that football remains aware of its obligations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the football and wider community.

Whilst the exact date of return to play relies only on the lifting of Government restrictions, Football Associations and clubs are working on a series of scenarios and competition formats that is focused on providing as much football opportunities as possible in the time frame that the sport would have at its disposal.

Community football is currently suspended until at least May 31, and the FFA said it would be providing a further update in due course.

In order to help the grassroots football community stay active and connected



throughout the temporary suspension period, FFA recently launched an online Skills Hub, developed in association with each of Australia's nine member federations.

To access the Skills Hub and get involved with the #PlayAtHomeChallenge, so visit www.playfootball.com.au/skills-hub.

Malta FA final decision May 25

Based on its thorough evaluation of the current situation resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, while reiterating that the health, safety and well-being of players, spectators and all those involved in football, the Malta Football Association (MFA) has decided to terminate the national leagues of the lower divisions and categories, but excluded the Premier League and FA Trophy, as well as those run by the Gozo Football Association.

The sporting outcome of these competitions, that is the winners, relegation and promotion issues and play-offs, would be decided in due course.

This decision was taken in light of the latest guidance issued by the Government in replying to the Malta FA's formal request about the viability of the timeframes for the potential restart of the domestic football competitions.

In its official reply, the Government stated that it is not in a position to confirm with certainty when the restrictive measures affecting the Malta FA could be lifted.

Meanwhile, for the Premier League and FA Trophy, which determine the four teams taking part in next season's UEFA club competitions, the MFA said it would adhere to the recommendations and guidelines issued by UEFA, and also take into account the directives given by the health authorities.

A final decision on these two competitions would be made by May 25, which is the first deadline established by UEFA.

The deadline for associations to submit the names of the clubs qualifying for next season's UEFA club competitions is July 20.

The football and futsal competitions in Malta have been suspended since March 13.

COVID 19 great impact on global sports

The COVID-19 outbreak affected not only the football associations individually but also the international sports organisations worldwide, and has compelled them to either cancel or postpone most of their activities. Covid-19 is also having a great impact on the global sports industry and sponsorship.

This dramatic spread has led to sports events across the globe being cancelled and many professional leagues being suspended or postponed. This has also had a significant impact on not only the fans of these sports, but also those working in the industry and even the economies of entire nations.

When it comes to the European Football Union, UEFA, it has released €236.5m to help its 55 member associations meet the challenges of COVID-19 in their respective countries.

Each national association is to be allowed to set its own priorities in light of the negative

impact of the coronavirus on football at all levels.

Each association is to be given up to €4.3m for the remainder of this season and next, as well as part of the investment funding. The money can be used as the members see fit to rebuild the football community.

Formula 1 targets July for season's first race



Like every professional sports series, Formula 1 is currently on hold due to the coronavirus outbreak that has forced much of the world into lockdown.

This situation has thrown up a lot of questions about the current season, as to when the cars are likely to go racing again, and what it means for 2021 and beyond.

Given the constantly evolving situation with the pandemic, at the moment it is not possible for certain when racing will be able to resume. The target is to start to racing in Europe through July, August and beginning of September, with the first race taking place in Austria on July 3-5 without spectators.