



# The Voice of the Maltese

*(driven by the voice of its readers)*

Issue  
230

**fortnightly magazine for the Diaspora**

June 16, 2020

**The Blue Hole at  
Id-Dwejra in San  
Lawrenz, Gozo**

*(see caption story on page 3)*



# Where did the Maltese come from?

*As a student in my schooldays, my history teacher used to tell us that it was very important to establish where we came from. He encouraged us to do our own research and also to delve into the history books. He also used to say that it was also important, but not that much, to know where we were heading, something that one cannot find in any books. It was up to us as individuals to make our own future.*

*Our teacher's enthusiasm for the subject made him very popular with the class. We used to fire so many questions at him, yet he never tired of answering, and for most of us history became our favourite subject. History-wise, the question most of us wanted answered was, "but us Maltese, where did we come from?"*

Joseph Cutajar

**F**or most of the time, it was believed that the Maltese descended from the Phoenicians, a seafaring race living along the Levantine coast and sailing beyond the boundaries of the known world.

The most important Phoenician legacy in Malta is literacy. The Phoenicians developed the first alphabet. However, surprisingly, they left no written accounts of themselves; they left us with a lot of speculations.

It is also thought that for some 700 years, through the Roman period until the arrival of the Arabs, the Maltese spoke Phoenician.

Under the Phoenicians, who officially stayed in Malta till 218BC (but culturally well beyond that), Malta passed from pre-history to history proper.

So are the Maltese descendants of the Phoenicians? Not according to Prof. Alex Felice, Dr Joseph Borg and Clint Mizzi from the University of Malta who around four years ago said that as a result of their findings, the Maltese are not descended from the Phoenicians after all, with a large swathe of the country's DNA confirming that we owe our roots to Sicilian settlers with a strong Arab sub-culture.

Malta has a long history. Most historians agree that the island was first inhabited in around 5900 BC. The first inhabitants were farmers that came from different parts of the Mediterranean, Europe, and Africa. Their agricultural methods degraded the soil until the islands became uninhabitable.

After an analysis of ancient soils, a team of researchers from Queen's University Belfast discovered, that the Maltese islands were repopulated in around 3850 BC by a civilization hailing from Sicily. At its peak this civilization built the Megalithic Temples, which are currently among the oldest surviving buildings in the world.

The team of researchers led by Prof. Caroline Malone from the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's, started work on the project in the late 80s. They spent over 30 years working on the prehistory of Malta, in particular on one burial site.

They arrived at their conclusion after excavating 220,000 bones, representing between 500 and 800 people dating from 3600-2350BC.

With funding from the European Research Council, an international group of archaeological experts spent over five years



The map of Malta published by Nicolaes Visscher II (1649-1702). The island was generally known for its military, religious knight order of St John who established themselves on the island in 1530.

analysing these ancient bones and examining the wider landscapes. It helped them to build a detailed picture of life in pre-historic Malta.

The data also revealed that the first inhabitants were "robust and healthy". The archaeologists described the inhabitants' teeth as "some of the best" they had ever analysed.

The researchers also noted that the inhabitants cared for their sick, injured and elderly and were "hardy and determined", continuing with their daily tasks despite being in chronic pain from advanced bone degradation.

They said they survived on meat, cereals and pulses but as time went on they ate less meat and almost no fish.

Prof Malone described the amount of detail extracted from these ancient skeletons as "remarkable". She said they change the entire understanding of the first Maltese people.

She explained that through radiocarbon dating they managed to pinpoint that the first inhabitants arrived in Malta 700 years earlier than was previously thought.

"We have also identified several episodes of separate colonisation. Given the restricted land space of Malta, it is remarkable that the second colonisation survived for 1,500 years," Prof. Malone said.

She believes that this sort of settlement stability, in terms of how they were able to live on ever-degrading land for such a period of time was "unheard of in Europe and is impressive".

By analysing soil cored from deep valleys that contained ancient pollen and animal evidence from past environments, the researchers also made important discoveries on climate change and the methods of farming used.

Meanwhile, it is worth noting that the civilization that hailed from Sicily in 3850 BC collapsed after 1,500 years, at around 2350 BC. Soon afterwards, Bronze Age warriors repopulated the islands.

(\*continued on page 3)



## Where did the Maltese come from? / from page 2

Malta's prehistory ends in around 700 BC, when the islands were colonised by the Phoenicians who ruled the islands until they fell to the Roman Republic, as already mentioned, in 218 BC.

In the 6th century AD the Eastern Romans or Byzantines acquired the islands, but in 870 AD, following a siege, they were in turn expelled by Aghlabids.

For a few centuries, Malta may have been sparsely populated until in the 11th century when the Arabs repopulated it.

In 1901 the Norman County of Sicily invaded Malta. A gradual Christianisation of the islands followed. At this point, the islands became part of the Kingdom of Sicily and were dominated by successive feudal rulers including the Swabians, the Aragonese and eventually the Spanish.

In 1530 Malta was given to the Order of St. John who ruled it as a vassal state of Sicily. Thirty-five years later, in 1565, the Ottoman Empire attempted to take the islands in what became known as the Great Siege of Malta, but the invasion was repelled.

The Order continued to rule Malta for over two centuries, a period characterised



by a flourishing of the arts and architecture and an overall improvement in society.

The Order was expelled from the islands in 1798 after the French First Republic invaded the islands, marking the beginning of the French occupation of Malta.

There is much more to it than this. Malta

**Capitulation of Malta to Napoleon in 1798** has a very interesting history. This is just an outline. Therefore from time to time, through *The Voice of the Maltese*, we intend to reveal more of our history, where we came from and what made us what we are today.

## Maltese student helps write a book about COVID-19



An e-book expected is to be published this week in New York about the current Covid-19 pandemic. 'The Reason Why the Earth Stood Still' is authored by Rebecca Caruana, a 22-year-old second year medical student at Malta University. The publishers would be the World Health Organisation (WHO), in conjunction with the US Disease Control Centres.

It all started after Rebecca initially wrote an article in the local media about the virus. Soon after, she received a telephone call from a doctor in New York telling her she would be interviewed about the project. She said that she had never aspired to be given this unique opportunity to further increase greater awareness of the virus.

Besides being a medical student Rebecca has also been manning the line 111 to give Covid-19 information to the local community. She had also been working continually on the site 'COVID-19'.

The Minister for Education, Dr Owen Bonnici, met with Rebecca Caruana and praised her initiative, which, he said was an educational means and a point of reference to the public about the pandemic.

The book was compiled in collaboration with New York doctor Syed Rizvi, dentist Pippasha Khan from London and speech therapist Daniel Hrbolio from Melbourne. WHO and US disease control centres have given the rights for publication.

## Gozo's Id-Dwejra was/is not just the Azure Window

When the Azure Window (also known as the Dwejra Window) in the village of San Lawrenz in Gozo collapsed on March 8, 2017, it left locals stunned. They described the event as if "losing a part of yourself". Ripples from its disappearance also spread far beyond local shores.

The news made headlines across the globe, with websites across Europe and as far away as India, China and Australia reporting on the rock formation's disappearance.

The Azure Window was a marketing asset for the Maltese islands but now, three years later, it is as if this icon has never existed. In fact, the confidence expressed after this loss that Gozitan tourism would weather the blow has materialised.

Dwejra itself managed to survive the negative impact, as the area has other interesting sites that keep attracting the visitors. Dwejra was not just the Window, and as we return to normality after the COVID-19 setback, the tourists, domestic or others would again return to discover the beauty of the area.

With its dramatic coastal formations and sea spilling over the rocks, Dwejra, is a magical attraction. One would



do well to spend time to explore the nearby bay and rock formations, the Dwejra Tower, take a boat trip through the caves from the Inland Sea, examine the Fungus rock, or swim in the spectacular deep sea of the bay, in the calm shallows of the inland sea.

Another attraction is the Blue Hole – one of Gozo's top dive-sites (featured on the front cover of the magazine and above). A swim in its foamy waters around it would be an experience worth having.

**Q.** We sold an investment property a few months ago and we have around \$120,000 as a capital gain on it. I am 63 years old and retired from work. I am planning to invest some of the money from the proceeds into superannuation after paying the capital gains tax. My wife is 58 and still working. Is there anything we can do to reduce the capital gains tax?

**A.** As your wife is working, she can make a concessional contribution on top of any employer contributions or salary sacrifice. These amounts can total \$25,000 only. But in your case, as you are not working and still under 65, you can make a concessional contribution of up to \$25,000 into super.

Contributions tax of 15% will need to be paid, but this would probably be less than the marginal tax rate you may have to pay on your half share of capital gain. As I am not aware of any other income you may have, you should talk to a qualified accountant in the next few days and he will be able to help you with this.

**Q.** I am a widow, pensioner, and 70 years old and have around \$350,000 in my superannuation. My son and his wife have a very large mortgage and his wife has recently lost her job. He has asked if I could help them by lending them \$200,000 from my superannuation in order to reduce their mortgage repayments. Do you think this is the right thing to do?

**A.** I am not against helping our children, however you also need to think about yourself. As you are 70 years of age you may not be in a position to replace these funds in superannuation in the future. If you are subsidising your pension with income from this

superannuation this income will reduce by more than 50%.

Unless you ask for some interest on the sum that you are lending him, then I believe lending him the money will not benefit you at all. Your age pension will not drop, but will not increase either, as the sum loaned to your son will still be treated as your asset.

**Q.** We are moving our father into an aged care home. He has a home valued around \$1.5 million and around \$45,000 in the bank. We need to pay a Refundable Accommodation Deposit of \$700,000. We are planning to pay the Daily Accommodation Charge instead as he does not wish for his house to be sold.

We are planning to rent the house for \$800 per week and he will be receiving most of the age pension. We will have a shortfall to cover daily costs. Can my brother and I help him with the ongoing costs and will this affect his age pension?

**A.** Some of the rental income will be counted, as income by Centrelink and therefore this will affect his age pension. However, for the first two years the house will not be treated as an asset even though it is

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



rented out. Paying his short fall will not affect his age pension, however you need to keep a record of what fees you pay so you will be able to be compensated once the house is sold.

**Q.** I am a pensioner and 82 years of age. I own my own home worth around \$580,000 and have a life expectancy annuity. Next year my life expectancy annuity runs out and the only income I will have is my age pension. This is very worrying as currently I need at least \$15,000 more than the age pension to cover my living costs which is the income from my annuity. What can I do to rectify this?

**A.** There are a few things you could consider. Downsizing, but considering the costs involved it may not leave you much better off. You could take out a reverse mortgage but you need to make sure you use it wisely. You could also consider taking in a boarder to help with your daily expenses.

These all have pros and cons and before taking up any of these options you need to see an adviser and he/she will make proper calculations to work out which option suits you best.

**Q.** I am 54 years of age and have just inherited \$220,000 from my father's estate. I want to invest this money in superannuation. Is this a good idea?

**A.** Building your superannuation is an option you can use to build funds for retirement. You can make a contribution of \$100,000 into superannuation each financial year i.e. this year prior to 1st July. Based on this amount you are able to "bring forward" future years limit i.e. a contribution of \$220,000 would use the limit for 2019/2020 financial year, 2020/2021 financial year, and \$20,000 of the limit for 2021/2022.

This would mean you could still contribute up to \$80,000 in before 30 June 2022, as part of your 3 year limit. Alternatively, if you did \$300,000 before June 30, you would have a 3 year limit "bring forward limit" of \$300,000 available from 1st July.

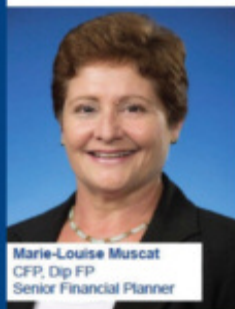
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# Coronavirus not all gloom and doom!

## *It also had its benefits*

One missed visiting the attractions of Brisbane during the Coronavirus pandemic

Christine Muscat

Although it is still far from over, it looks like this dreaded COVID-19 pandemic is subsiding. I was very impressed with the letter by Doris Cannataci in Issue No. 228 of *The Voice of the Maltese* when she claimed, speaking from experience, that “COVID-19 pandemic is worse than WWII for the Maltese”.

I am not old enough to remember the war years in Malta but I still remember vividly my father explaining to us siblings, not only the hardships, but also some very funny anecdotes. All I can say is, that while COVID-19 is still around, I have not heard any funny anecdotes about it, meaning that coronavirus has been mostly gloom.

However, though at the outset my experience during the restrictions for people to avoid the spreading of the coronavirus was very sad, my husband and I have managed to live through it and have found the truth in the saying that every dark cloud has a silver lining.

I can say that eventually, this experience has not been all gloom and doom.

At first it felt funny that the stay-at-home order was intended to protect people like us from the dangers of COVID-19. For people who like us who are quite active, being confined to staying in was not easy but then we understood and obeyed the order. In the end we found out that in the long run it also had its benefits.

My husband and I were both high-risk as we are nearing 70. What we missed most is hugging our grandchildren, but to a certain extent the situation improved when we could talk to them through Skype. Oh how I began like the Internet!



As to the silver lining I wish to explain this. The fact that we could not go out, led us to take up hobbies we seemed to have ignored.

I once again took up reading, something that I used to enjoy a lot years back. The joy of reading has returned, so too the joy of watching musicals on television station or computer and listening to music. My husband has returned to gardening and watching and comparing our front garden now with two months ago has become a sight.

Staying home help-ed keep us safe. We also returned to spending some time each day to exercising on a regular basis. I can truly now say that we are much fitter physically than before coronavirus. Before COVID-19 I had become lazy. I wasn't able, or rather I did not have the urge to exercise regularly.

After just two weeks almost forcibly staying at home, I started to feel horrible and miserable. My body constant-ly ached. Exercising made me fit again and I swore to myself that even if the restrictions are lift-

ed, one thing I won't stop doing would be keeping myself fit.

We never thought we could cope with staying home for days (weeks) on end. But we eventually did. We had also stopped going out and driving to shopping arcades, sometimes just for window-shopping.

Trips to supermarkets were also out of bounds, so for groceries (we had them delivered to us every Friday). At weekends before COVID-19 we liked to drive around to discover the country or travelling to NSW to meet our youngest daughter, or up to the Gold Coast to meet our son and his two girls, or Brisbane' big-city attractions. On occasions we also used to eat out. All this has also stopped, and as a result I have again took up baking more seriously now.

Anybody reading my contribution must be saying, is this the silver lining you mentioned?

Spending over two months home, we have managed to save a fair amount of money on fuel and other frivolities like eating out and spending money on things that we could do without. We have lost the urge of buying unnecessarily

The money saved has allowed us to open a “home fund”. We named it the ‘Malta Fund’. We had not been to Malta to visit my eldest daughter, and her husband, a local guy, and their two siblings, since 2018. Another trip is overdue. The craze to visit Malta keeps gaining ground every time we read an article about the island on *The Voice*.

Thanks to COVID-19 we now keep telling ourselves that we can afford another visit to Malta sooner than initially planned. Therefore soon as Malta opens its doors to outside visitors again, we are determined to hop on a plane to fly to the lovely island.

We also managed to stay healthy; therefore we could then truly tell our friends that it was all worth it. That is what I mean by the silver lining to the dark COVID-19 cloud.

## In appreciation of the frontliners

In appreciation gesture to the frontliners in the fight against Covid-19, a local dress designer, Fiona Vella, has created a dress with more than two thousand names on the skirt, of persons who battled the COVID-19 in Malta, which includes doctors, dentists, carers and other workers

The dress that was presented outside the Auberge de Castille is one of 12 creations of twelve fashion designers, who were inspired by the pandemic and modelled by supermodel and winner of the sixth edition of Britain's 2010 next top model, Tiffany Pisani

Malta Fashion Week and Malta Fashion Awards organiser, Adrian Mizzi, who for the first time in 22 years had to cancel the Malta Fashion Awards event, said that fashion serves as an expression for thousands of persons, and that fashion firms and the industry had to adjust their operation to meet the drastic changes in demand.

He went on to say that fashion generates big money, and that if the fashion and beauty industry in Malt had to close, it would have a strong effect on a number of sectors, including jobs.



# Paul Zammit is honoured in 2020 Queen's Birthday list

According to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General's data, none of the 993 recipients of this year's Queen's birthday Honours list that was announced on June 7 by the Governor-General of Australia, HE General David Hurley, listed Malta as their country of birth. However, they may be others that are of Maltese descent. One that caught our attention is Paul John Zammit of Concord NSW who was born in Alexandria Egypt in 1941 to Maltese parents.

Paul has received the Order of Australia for service to the Parliaments of Australia and NSW, and to the community. He has also supported The Voice of the Maltese since its inception, a benefactor and a contributor. He featured as our Personality of the Month, in issue 155, (May 23, 2017).

Paul told *The Voice* that this great honour would not reduce his commitment to the Maltese community. He also re-

minded us that his wife is also an OAM; a formidable husband and wife combination.

**The 933 Australians on the list were recognised as follows:**

Three appointed Companions of the Order (AC)

Fifty appointed Officers of the Order (AO)

Two hundred appointed Members of the Order (AM)

Four hundred and fifty-seven awarded Medal of the Order (OAM)

Women have received 290 awards between them (40.85 per cent), part of a long-term, positive trend that the Governor-General would like to continue.

Almost 40 per cent of awards (284 in total) were for outstanding service or achievement in the community.

The youngest recipient is 24 years old and 36 were aged over 90 when they were nominated.

The majority of medals are engraved at Government House in Canberra. Including service medals, around 16,000 medals are engraved each year at Government House.

The GG used *The Voice of the Maltese* to congratulate all the recipients on behalf of all Australians. He said: "I thank them for their service contribution to our country. This list recognises a group of outstanding Australians who have made a contribution to their community, to Australia globally or domestically. Their efforts have been noted by their peers, they've



## Paul's contribution to Australia

### *Parliament of New South Wales*

- Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, 1993-1996.
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, 1993-1996.
- Assistant Minister to the Premier of New South Wales, 1991-1992.
- Member for Strathfield, 1988-1996.
- Member for Burwood, 1984-1988.

*Parliament of Australia:* Member for Lowe, 1996-1998. The Arts: Foundation President and Patron, Inner West Eisteddfod, 19 years. Indigenous: Launched, Rona Tranby Trust, 1997. Author, White Paper and Green Paper, 'New Directions in Aboriginal Affairs', 1988-1989. Former Chair, Aboriginal Parks Ownership Committee.

*Community:* Knight of Magistral Grace, The Knights of Malta, 2017. Former Patron, Maltese Community Council of NSW.

*Business:* Managing Director, Zammit Sales, Marketing and Management, since 1998.

*Professional Associations:* Foundation Fellow, Australian Institute of Company Directors, since 1983.

been nominated and assessed independently as worthy of recognition."

He said that the system is driven by nominations. "To me, that's the most critical thing – it's bottom-up and it is driven by recommendations from peers. The system belongs to all Australians," the Governor General said.

*The Voice of the Maltese* would like to remind all that if you know someone worthy, look at what you need to gather and how nominations are assessed. People cannot be recognised if they're not nominated. That has to be driven by the community.

More information about the Order of Australia is available at [www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au).



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**Opinion: AndyBusuttil**

# It's Time To Be One!

**T**he failure of political institutions to act on violence against a people within a nation is a reflection of both their incapacity and unwillingness to truly act on behalf of all people. This is an indictment of every government that failed to act to constitutionally enshrine and protect the rights of First Nations and people of diverse ethnic backgrounds who are citizens.

Australia, among other nations, cannot stand back and criticise the human rights breaches of other countries without first exploring the failures of its own soul to protect ALL its citizens.

A Bill of Rights is needed in Australia and could begin with the statement that every person has rights equal to every other person. This would carry within it the imprimatur that First Nations People would need to have their circumstances elevated to bring them to parity with the rest of the population both under the law and in the provisions of a proper national constitution.

What's being done to the First Nations People of this country is an absolute disgrace and has been tolerated, if not proliferated, by successive governments for far too long with inadequate action following even the most positive proclamation.

The boy who was treated so violently by an unthinking and improperly trained cop in Sydney isn't just an Aboriginal child. He is a child who comes out of a deep context of dispossession and violence within a family and

social structure that has witnessed and suffered that violence since first settlement by Whites in this country.

If you think this is ancient history, lay three 80 year olds on the floor head to toe. From the head of the first to the feet of the last is the period of time during which Indigenous Australians lost their land, their societies, their people, their families and friends, their religious base was torn from under them. They watched everything they had built on this land destroyed, burned, flattened and violated.

Now they watch as their family members without due consideration are incarcerated at record rates, treated with deep suspicion by lawmakers and protectors, and assaulted by the protectors who don't understand the person they are dealing with.

My guess is that the young cop doesn't understand Aboriginal history and what our First Nation People have had to endure and continue to endure. My call would be to put him into contact with First Nation People so he could learn about them and then put him back on the beat.

Do the same for every magistrate who sits on the bench and exercises his or her power over every Black person who is brought before them.

Do not continue to allow 3.3% of the national population to take up close to 30% of our prison population.

Indigenous Australians in prison are not a reflection of their lawlessness. It is a reflection of the unwillingness of a nation to look at them with concern and consideration during a period when there is no excuse to be ignorant of their circumstance.

This nation and those in power within it do not understand their First Nation People or where they come from. The expression of outrage and grief that is occurring around the world has become not just one of deep protest about the violent assault on a man of colour. It's become an absolute rejection of inequity and racism everywhere. As it must.

We either stand together or we stand defeated by our own prejudice and violence. There are far more important things to do than divide humanity. Without the unification of humanity, we are doomed as a species and we condemn much of this magnificent planet to that same fate.

It's time to be one.



**Remembering the  
101th anniversary  
of the  
Maltese Uprising  
of 7th June 1919  
better known as  
"Sette Giugno"**

**Celebrations this year were cancelled  
due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Julia Finn MP**  
**Member for Granville**

**joins the  
Maltese  
community in  
remembering  
such a  
historic  
occasion**



## Air Malta to start schedule by flying to seven destinations

**F**ollowing the government's announcement that with affect from July 1 it would be reopening the Malta International Airport for commercial flights, Malta's national carrier, Air Malta has announced its schedule of flights for the summer, based on the concept of safe corridors. It has also opened its reservation systems for sales.

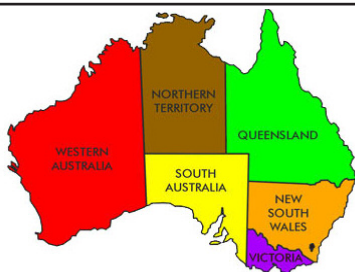
After nearly three months of operating repatriation flights to London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Rome, Air Malta said it is excited to restart welcoming scheduled passengers on commercial flights.

In collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority, Malta International Airport and the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, will start with flights to seven European destinations. In the first week it would be flying to Catania, Frankfurt, Munich, Dusseldorf and Berlin, Prague and Luxembourg. Followed, a week later, with flights to Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland.

Air Malta is looking ahead to flying over 150,000 passengers to these European destinations. Flights starting at €39 one-way are available on the [www.airmalta.com](http://www.airmalta.com) site and through travel agents.

In the coming days Air Malta said it would be launching a strong social media campaign on its channels to entice tourism to Malta with really attractive offers.

# Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### fortnightly magazine

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

The magazine can be read in flip-book or PDF format online. A pdf copy is sent via email on request.

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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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.



Now you can also  
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoice-ofthemalese>

## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

### In search of racial justice for all

Jason Camilleri from Smithfield writes:

What happened in the United States with the police killing of George Floyd and the anti-racism protests that the killing triggered around the world, including Australia, should open our eyes and also those of the government wide open.

Floyd's death sparked nationwide calls in the US for policing reforms, something that is promised after every similar killings and the savagery committed by the police against Afro-Americans.

Racism is not only confined to the US. We still also see it in various states of Australia, in some states more than others. Therefore we should all commend those who are organising these protest marches, especially the Black Lives Matter leaders for taking part in protests seeking racial justice and calling for an anti-racism strategy.

We must stand firm and hope the authorities would heed the call for justice. There should be no place for racism in Australia. It is so heartening to see so many young people joining in the protests. I wish I

were still young enough to join them

There's one thing I just cannot understand, and that is why there has been a rise in racism as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I agree with those who keep calling for the need to tackle racism in Australia through a national anti-racism strategy. We should be more human. There is a lesson to be learnt from such occasions.

### Wishing for NO wars, and NO pandemics

Alvin Gatt from Mona Vale, NSW writes:

In different issues of *The Voice*, Doris Cannataci from Malta and Ron Borg from South Australia seemed to have a slight disagreement about the seriousness or otherwise of the current pandemic, the COVID-19 and how it has affected us all, especially in Malta.

Honestly, I would rather have the present pandemic and the excellent work being done to preventing it from spreading.

In World War II, we had so much bombing, victory kitchens and food rationing, even hunger. Then again, I think I rather have no wars or pandemics.

### Congratulations Floriana!

Tony Cassar from St Albans, Victoria writes:

It is not often that we see sports dealt in the letters to the editor page, but I wish to differ and give my thanks to *The Voice* for the way it carries the meaning of a magazine to the letter by also keeping us readers updated with news about sports, and in particular football in Malta.

The news that the Maltese Football Association declared Floriana Champions of the Premier League for 2019/20 has given many of us in the state of Victoria great pleasure. Congratulations, Greens.

I grew up in Malta supporting Floriana and when, as a young boy, I arrived in Australia with my family I began to support Green Gully Ajax, for the simple reason that the club was formed by Floriana supporters who wanted to keep alive the name of the Floriana Ajax team.

Three more reasons why people like me in this state have kept faith with the Floriana tradition were, three former Floriana players, who in different eras donned the jerseys of George Cross and Green Gully, Tony and Lolly Vella, and later Billy Dalli. Those really were the days!

### High Commission in Canada

Alfred Borg from Kleinburg, Ontario Canada writes:

Recently in this part of the world, a persistent campaign has started pushing to elevate the Consulate to High Commission. We do have an Embassy in the US, but we hardly hear about it.

The Maltese community revolves around the new consulate. The Consul has become the kingpin and photos of him are being posted everywhere along with a lot of publicity. I wish him well. I am sure Malta is taking notice. Let us have a High Commission soon.



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# Il-logħob tan-nar fil-festi Maltin

**H**u fatt magħruf li l-logħob tan-nar fil-festi Maltin huwa fost l-aqwa fid-dinja. Dan jgħiduh ukoll piroteknici (in-nies li jaħdmu n-nar) barranin meta jaraw l-ispettakli kbar tal-logħob tan-nar li jinħadem fil-kmamar tan-nar Maltin.

Dis-sena, minhabba l-pandemija COVID-19, f'pajjiżna la għandna wisq festi u wisq inqas logħob tan-nar. Għal hafna din hasra għax tilfu l-ispettaklu tal-ħruq tan-nar ta' billejl ta' lejlet il-festi tal-irħula u l-ibliet Maltin. Generalment l-ispettakli tan-nar idumu għaddej ma jaqtgħu xejn għal aktar minn siegħa.

Fost l-irħula l-aktar magħrufa għan-nar huma dawk ta' Hal Lija, Haż-Żebbug, l-Imqabba, iż-Żurrieq u postijiet oħra li wkoll saru juru hila. Il-barranin li jżuru Malta jfittxu u jistennew dwn l-ispettakli bħall-ħobż. Forsi ma ndumux ma nerggħu nibdew narawhom.

Minbarra l-ħarqa kbira jkun hemm dik tat-transulazzjoni, tat-tridijiet, tal-ħruq tal-vara ... insomma, gimgħa shiħa bin-nar ma jaqta' xejn, imma l-aktar f'jum il-festa.

Bħal kull haġ'ohra n-nar fil-festi żviluppa maż-żmien. Niftakar sewwa lill-ħabib tiegħi Żebbugi li kien joġġhod l-Imġarr, Ġanni Cilia, li f'intervista dwar l-ewwel murtaletti f'Haż-Żebbug għall-Festa ta' San Filep, li qalli li dawk kienu l-ewwel murtaletti li saru f'Malta. Kien qalli wkoll li qabel, in-nar kien isir minn fuq iz-zuntier, minn fejn kienu jinħarqu l-maskli.

Hafna forsi ma jiftakrux dawn il-maskli u jistaqsu x'kienu. Fil-fatt, dawn kienu l-ewwel għamla ta' logħob tan-nar marbut mal-festi. Fil-ktieb 'Xogħol u Snajja' tal-Imġhoddi', il-Professur Ġużè Galea jagħti wkoll tagħrif dettaljat dwar dawn il-maskli, u jgħid hekk: "Il-maskli kienu qishom bottun tal-bronż jew haġid, u r-raġel isammar fuqha bil-martell. Ir-raġel tal-maskli, wara li jikkargahom, kien iqiegħedhom fil-beraħ maġenb il-knisja; kien ipoġġihom ringiela u jtihom in-nar wiehed wiehed minn kandiletta mwahħla f'tarf ta' qasba twila; kien jixgħel il-miċċa fil-ġenb tal-masklu u din kienet tqabbad il-polvri u tesplodi bi sparatura kbira.

Xi drabi r-raġel tal-maskli kien jippostjahom wiehed wara l-ieħor. L-ewwel tnejn kienu jkun xi qamtejn imbegħdin minn xulxin, imbagħad bejn it-tieni u t-tielet wiehed id-distanta tibqa' tonqos u tibqa' sejra tonqos sakemm l-aħħar sitta jkun bogħod minn xulxin daqs xiber biss.

Wara li jippostja b'din il-manjiera l-maskli, ir-raġel li jispara kien ixerred serbut polvri li jgħaddih minn taħt il-miċċ tal-maskli kollha hekk li meta jixgħel it-tarf tas-serbut, in-nar jibqa' sejjer iqabba miċċa wara l-oħra.

Għall-ewwel, billi l-maskli jkun mibegħdin minn xulxin,



Xena mill-isbaħ li tixhed f'ilel il-Maltin fil-piroteknika



*Entużjażmu, ħila u amor propju. Festa bla nar mhix kompluta?*

n-nar sar murtal li ġieli jkun fih daqs persuna. Naturalment sar ukoll aktar perikoluż. Fil-fatt, b'dispijaċir wiehed jgħid li kien hawn hafna li tilfu hajjithom waqt li jkun qegħdin jaħdmu n-nar fil-kmamar tan-nar.

Jigri li wara dawk il-mumentanti jsiru hafna proponimenti ... iżda min ikun dilettant hemm jerga' jispicċa fil-kamra li generalment tkun ftit 'il barra mir-raħal, immarkata b'dak il-faxx aħmar u nota kbira 'Tersaqx 'l hawn - Perikoluż'.

Mal-kmamar tan-nar hemm imposti diversi regolamenti biex jitharsu hajjet dawk li jaħdmu f'dan il-qasam pirotekniku.

F'Malta n-nar hu maqsum, bejn in-nar tal-ajru, li fih hafna varjanti, minn murtali tal-bomba sa murtali tal-kulur; u l-hekk imsejja n-nar tal-art li dan l-aħħar tant sar kbir li anke l-kompjuter daħal fis-sistema. Tiskanta li f'hafna rħula ż-żgħażaġ saru mimlija entużjażmu aktar mill-kbar u saru jesperimentaw anke f'dan il-qasam.

F'hafna rħula antiki l-entuzjażmu tan-nar huwa kbir hafna, u minbarra l-periklu li fih, iqu u ukoll hafna flus. Imma naf hafna li hajjithom hija biss il-kamra tan-nar.

Huwa veru li dawk li jaħdmu n-nar (jagħmluh is-sena kollha) jagħmlu għall-gost, u allura jkun voluntieri, imma l-materjal jiswa hafna, u miegħu hemm marbut hafna xogħol ta' sengħa kbira. Ġieli kien hemm min qalli li murtal kbir, jiġi jiswa hafna flus. Naturalment, xhin tarah fis-sema saffi tagħna fih mitt gost, iżda dan ikun biss għal ftit sekondi.

Xi dilettanti li jaħdmu n-nar jafu daqs spizjar. Tismagħhom jikkellmu bejniethom u jużaw ċerti termini tekniċi ta' taħlit li jgħibulek għajnejk wara widnejk. Dawn ikunu gabru dan it-tagħrif mingħand ta' qabilhom.

Illum, biex taħdem in-nar tinhtieg permess, u biex tidhol fil-kamra tan-nar irid ikollok il-liċenzja meħtieġa li tiksiba b'eżami. Jekk ma jkollokx il-liċenzja A jew B, lanqas biss titħalla tidhol fil-kamra tan-nar għax jekk tinqabad, hemm marbuta pieni horox.

Insomma, il-festa Maltija hija dik li hi, u hafna jistqarru li biex tkun kompluta ma jistax ma jkollokx in-nar fiha.

# Perspettiva

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

Kitba ta'  
**IVAN  
 CAUCHI**



## It-tibdil fil-lingwa Maltija

**I**l-lingwa hija aspekt importanti hafna fil-kultura tal-bniedem, u tirrifletti realtaziet soċjali, politiċi, ġeografiċi, kulturali u storiċi li jinkitbu l-volumi fuqhom. Hija waħda mill-aspetti l-aktar importanti tal-identità ta' persuna, u tagħti idea tal-orġini tiegħu jew tagħha mal-ewwel kelma li titnissel.

Kont ġejt konxju minn età żgħira ta' differenzi fil-lingwa, dawk ta' dijaletti ta' raħal jew ieħor f'Malta jew Ghawdex, jew għax jużaw kelma differenti biex jirreferu għall-istess haġa, jew għax ikollhom aċċent differenti anke meta jgħidu l-istess affarijiet.

Niftakar lill-ġenituri jgħiduli waqt li jkunu għaddejnin minn xi triq u jisimghu 'li xi hadd jitellem "Dak minn ta' Sannat" jew "dik naħseb li mix-Xewkija" wara li jkunu lissnu biss nofs sentenza.

Il-lingwa tinbidel u tiżviluppa maż-żmien, u tirrifletti bidliet fit-teknoloġija fis-sens wiesgħa tagħha, il-qsim ta' ideat, it-taħlit tar-razz u popli, il-bidu jew tibdil ta' attivitaziet ta' kwalunkwe tip, u l-bqija. Biex wiehed ikun jista' jithaddet dwar dan kollu, huwa ċar li jrid ikun hemm kliem adattat.

X'forom dawn il-kliem għandhom jiehdu, fil-lingwa mitkellma kif ukoll dik miktuba, hawn dibattitu shih. Wiehed jista' jgħid li hawn żewġ filosofiji li jiġu applikati.

L-ewwel waħda hija dik preskrittiva, fejn ikun hemm deċiżjoni ta' xi awtorità fuq kif għandu jew m'għandux jissawwar il-kliem. It-tieni hija dik deskrittiva, fejn l-awtorità tara li r-rwol tagħha jkun li tiddekrivi jew tiddefinixxi l-lingwa kif tkun qed tintuza mill-poplu.

Fil-Malti, sa ftit snin ilu l-awtorità kienet meqjusa li kienet l-Akkademja tal-Malti, li fil-bidu tagħha kienet tissegħja l-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti. Fl-2005 twaqqaf il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti b'att ta' liġi, u minn dakinhar kien hemm żewġ inizjattivi sinifikanti.<sup>1</sup>

L-ewwel waħda kienet imsemmija Deċiżjonijiet 1 li saret fl-2008,<sup>2</sup> u kienet iffokata fuq il-varjanti ortografiċi, jiġifieri fejn ikun hemm kliem li jkun hemm iktar minn mod wiehed kif jinkitbu.

Kien hemm il-maġġoranza l-kbira tad-deċiżjonijiet meħuda li qbilt magħhom, bħal filgħodu minflok fil-ghodu u oħrajn fejn deċiżjoni tidher arbitrarja (bħall-użu standard tal-ittri kapitali) imma talinqas tkun taf li hemm mod stabbilit kif għandhom jinkitbu.

Kien hemm deċiżjonijiet oħra li ngħidilkom id-dritt darrsuni xi ftit. Eżempju kien it-tneħħija tal-apostrofu tan-negattiv tal-pronom personali fil-funzjoni verbali, bħal 'mhux' minflok 'mhux', 'mhix' minflok 'mhix', filwaqt li għandhom jinkitbu 'm'jienx' u 'm'ahnix'. Ma kienx ikun iktar sempliċi, wiehed mill-prinċipji miżmuma mill-Kunsill, li tinzamm ir-regola li meta l-kelma 'ma' tan-negattiv titqassar, tinkiteb 'm' dejjem?

Sentejn ilu, kien hemm eżerċizzju naħseb iktar inkrepattiv mill-Kunsill, imsejjaħ Deċiżjonijiet 2,<sup>3</sup> li ttratta l-kitba ta' kliem mill-

Ingliz fil-Malti. L-ewwel prinċipju li saħaq il-Kunsill, wiehed għaqli hafna, huwa dak li jekk teżisti kelma fil-Malti għal xi tif-sira jew kuncett, għandna nużawha minflok nużaw waħda li ġejja mill-Ingliz, bħal 'rigal' minflok 'present'. Prinċipju sagrosant.

Imbagħad kien hemm deċiżjonijiet fuq kliem li jistgħu jinqasmu fi tliet kategoriji. Fl-ewwel kategorija hemm kliem li dahlu sew fil-grammatika Maltija, u jibqgħu jinkitbu bil-Malti.

Fit-tieni kategorija, kliem magħmul minn żewġ kelmiet jew iktar għandu jinkiteb bl-Ingliz, bħal 'fire extinguisher'.

Fit-tielet kategorija hemm kliem li jista' jinkiteb jew la Maltija jew bl-Ingliz, bħal 'kompjuter(s)' jew 'computer(s)'.

Dawn l-aħħar żewġ kategoriji tellgħuli l-mirra jkolli ngħid, speċjalment tal-aħħar. Għalfejn għandna naċċettaw il-kitba bil-karattri barranin, li ma jsegwux il-fonetika Maltija? Paċenzja li forsi l-Malti ma kellux kelma biex ifisser ogġett jew hsieb, u għalhekk nassimilaw kelma barranija, imma talinqas stajna nużaw il-fonetika Maltija biex ikollna xi haġa tagħna.

B'din id-deċiżjoni, iddahlet il-kumplikazzjoni fit-tagħlim tal-Malti, fejn konna ngħidu per eżempju li l-ittra 'c' fil-Malti ma teżistix, u teżisti oħra 'ċ' bit-tikka li tinħass differenti, u issa għandna wkoll il-'y'. Ukoll waqt li ngħallmu b'diffikultà li fil-Malti, l-ittri 'sh' jinstemmu qishom 's' waħedha minħabba li l-'h' m'għandhiex hooss, issa rridu noqogħdu attenti li l-kelma ma' tkunx ġejja mill-Ingliz.

Biex tagħqad, hemm deċiżjoni oħra li l-kliem li jithalla li jinkiteb bl-Ingliz, ma jiġix immarkat bilfors bil-virgoletti (*inverted commas*) jew il-korsiv (*italics*), imma din id-deċiżjoni tithalla fidejn il-kittieb, hlief f'kotba tat-tfal. Din x'konsistnza hi?

Kellna mod ċar kif nuru li kelma ġejja mill-Ingliz, u għalhekk qed tinkiteb skont liġijiet tal-Ingliz, u issa qed ninkorporaw dawn il-liġijiet fil-Malti.

Din l-aħħar deċiżjoni ma tista' tinzilli b'xejn.

Il-lingwa Maltija diġà b'daharha mal-hajt, b'hafna Maltin jistaqsu lilhom infushom għalfejn għandhom jgħallmuha meta jistgħu jinqdew kompletament bl-Ingliz. L-assimilazzjoni ta' kliem Ingliz mingħajr mittiefa fil-Malti, u mingħajr l-ikien komponent Malti fih, u l-anqas l-immakar li huwa barrani, għalija jagħti l-messaġġ li l-Ingliz jista' jagħti fil-ġenb lil ilsienna.

Jien għalija dan kien pass żejjed, bla bżonn, u li għad jagħti sogħba lil ġenerazzjonijiet ta' warajna, jekk ikun għadu jimpur-tahom.

It-tahsir beda ġmielu.

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# Memorji u nostalgija

## L-ewwel jiem fl-inħawi ta' Sydney

Lawrence Dimech

Jew minhabba x-xjuhiya jew għax inħares b'nostalgija u anke bi kburiya lejn l-ewwel żmienijiet tiegħi fl-Awstralja, sirt niehu pjaċir nirrakkonta għajjiet qosra minn dak li sibna ma' wiċċna fil-hamsinijiet u wara.

Halli nibda mill-bidu. F'Malta konna guvintur attivi hafna, nilagħbu l-futbol, nat-tendu l-Lega (Azzjoni Kattolika) fejn tghallimna nilagħbu l-biljard u t-table tennis.

Dak kien żmien tal-passiġġar, tilgħijn u neżlin bejn il-pjazza u l-Knisja. Fejn it-tfaljiet u l-guvintur jiltaqgħu u jibdeu jin-namraw. Xi qabza wkoll lejn Sqaq il-Fatati ma kinetx tonqos. Imsomma Strada Rjali l-Hamrun kienet f'idejna.

Konna popolari mat-tfaljiet u bejn il-Lega u l-każini tal-banda, l-istudji u l-imhabba tal-ġenituri kellna hajja normali għal dawk iż-żmienijiet.

Waqt li llum Malta għaddejja minn pandemija dak iż-żmien kienu jissikkawna biex nemigraw. Daż-żmien iwissuna biex nibqgħu għewwa; dak iż-żmien kienu jhegġuna biex naghmlu l-wisgħa'. Mijiet u eluf telqgħu djuł ommom u parpru lejn l-Awstralja. Ikkonvinċewna li l-emigrazzjoni kienet is-safety valve għall-ekonomija ta' Malta.

Wara vjaġġ ta' aktar minn xagħrejn fuq vapur tal-merkanzija Franċiż. Tlaqt mill-gabuba ċkejna li konna noqogħdu fiha, familja fqira izda ferrihijja. Fuq il-vapur Star of Malta għal Sirakuza u bil-ferrovija għal Marsilja fejn sibt il-vapur li għaddiena mill-Kanal Panama, l-iktar triq twila lejn l-Awstralja, fejn halla l-karkura x-xitan.

Hemm hafna x'tikteb dwar il-vjaġġ, izda dan għal darb'ohra. Diġà kelli żewg ħuti ohra akbar minni f'Sydney. Kienu jo-

qogħdu fil-parti il-wiesgħa ta' Triq Wilson fi Newtown quddiem il-park.

Fuq wara kien hemm Macdonald Town Station (li llum ma għadux jintuza) u l-linji maġġuri tal-ferrovija li jwassluk lejn iċ-Central Station. Għall-ewwel ġimgha, bil-lejl ftit kont nista' norqod l-aktar

Donnhom kienu jagħarfuk li int għdid. Qlajt xi ftit kummenti. Wara l-bar kien hemm Fredu (in-Nemusa), li kien plejer tal-futbol magħruf f'Malta. Ma kienx hemm ċajt miegħu.

Ħuti wissewni għal darba darbtejn li ma jridux jarawni iktar lejn dawn l-inħawi



minhabba dawk tal-heavy cargo li bil-hsejjes enormi tagħhom kienu jissussaw il-kamra tiegħi.

Fil-ghodu tal-ewwel Sibt tiegħi f'Sydney, ħuti ħaduni fejn jiltaqgħu l-Maltin. Kien il-każin tal-Boy fi Triq Liverpool, East Sydney. It-triq l-ohra mal-ġenb kienet Palmer, iċ-ċentru tal-prostituti, il-blue light district.

### Trid tkun emigrajt biex tifhem aħjar lill-emigranti

Sibt xena tal-ġenn quddiem. Il-każin, jew aħjar il-ħanut kien imballat bil-Maltin. Anke l-bankini u nofs it-triq kienu ffullati, kulhadd jitellem, iġhajjat u storbju alà Maltija.

Dħalna għewwa. Foga ta' sigaretti, iktar għajjat u kliem laxkat. Wara nett f'kamra fil-ġenb kien hemm il-logħob tal-karti.

mqallba tal-belt ta' Sydney. Aktar ma tithallat mal-Maltin, speċjalment f'dawk in-naħat, li dawk iż-żmienijiet kienu iċ-ċentru tal-komunità iktar kont tkun infurmat.

Ftit il-bogħod fi Triq Brisbane kien hemm il-każin propju tal-Maltese Settlers Association, għaqda li kellha hafna importanza għax dawk kienu żmienijiet meta l-Maltin tasew kellhom bżonn min jgħin-hom; kienu jinhtieġu l-wens ta' xulxin f'pajjiż mimli diskriminazzjoni kontra l-emigranti godda.

Meta xi żmien wara sirt rappreżentant tal-Gvern ta' Malta fi NSW dawk in-naħat fejn kienu jsorġu l-Maltin saru ta' importanza. Kien żmien meta mijiet ta' irġiel kienu jhallu warajhom lill-marthom u l-familja u jemigraw weħidhom biex wara xi żmien jibagħtu għalihom. Izda dan mhux dejjem kien il-kaz. Hafna kienu dawk li jinsew lil dawk li kienu hallew warajhom f'Malta.

L-awtoritajiet Maltin, speċjalment l-Emigrants Commission kienu kontinwament jitolbuna nfittxu lil dawk il-"mitlufin". Kien ikolli lista twila. Ninzel niehu kafé (għax jien ma nixtrobx) fil-ħanut tal-Boy.

Ma' Fredu kont naghmlu ċar li dawk li ma jridux ikellmuni naqbzuhom, izda tiskanta, kien hemm oħrajn li kienu qabdu t-triq tal-logħob tal-azzard u anke prostituzzjoni, li rnexxili niktbilhom ittra għal dawk li hallew warajhom jew li tawni l-indirizz għid tagħhom.

Malta ftit setgħu jifhemu kif kelli l-hila nsib lil dawn il-"mitlufin", dawk li skont aħna almenu, kienu qabdu triq hażna. Ma kontx xi detektiv prim jew xi burokratiku elit izda kont emigrant bħalhom. Nitkel-lmu bl-istess lingwa. Trid tkun emigrajt biex tifhem aħjar lill-emigranti.

Hemm iktar stejjer, iktar memorji, Nil-taqgħu darb'ohra.



Kapijiet tal-komunità Maltija fil-hamsinijiet u wara. Mix-xellug: Jim Zammit, Jim Caruana, Romeo Meli, John Scicluna, Vincent Pisani, Joe Dougall, Lawrence Dimech, Joe Busuttill, Joe Attard u Charles Pullicino.



## Roundup of News About Malta

# Government injects €900 million in regeneration plan

**A**t a time when everybody had been expecting darkness to prevail, in Malta we have seen light, Prime Minister Robert Abela said when a few days ago he presented a €900 million plan for economic regeneration aimed at reviving the economy following three months dominated by COVID-19.

Flanked by Finance Minister Edward Scicluna and Economy Minister Silvio Schembri, the Prime Minister described the plan as visionary that gives direction to those wanting to invest and to spend. "This is a good moment for our country. Tomorrow will most certainly be better," he said.

The latest regeneration packet follows three other unprecedented measures the government had launched during the pandemic to help keep the economy afloat and safeguard jobs. The current one aims at boosting public spending, safeguarding jobs and to keep the economy moving forward thus creating a "feel good factor".

As the numbers of infections during the pandemic have dropped substantially, the government intends to strengthen the economy that had been hard hit, and to help businesses that have experienced a decrease in turnover in recent weeks to recover.

The plan is three-fold: to help businesses address costs, address the need to increase consumption, and also the supply side.

The recovery plan, considered as a mini-budget, before the main budget set for October, includes an unprecedented expenditure of €400 million, to strengthen the productive sector of the country, by investing in digital promotion in foreign markets, and the building of new modern factories to attract foreign investment.

Another important measure is that relating to the 'wage supplement' (€800 grant),



Prime Minister Robert Abela (centre) flanked by Ministers Edward Scicluna (left) and Silvio Schembri at the announcement of the plan

which will remain in place throughout June. For July, August and September those eligible would receive €600. After that, it is expected to be divided into three stages, namely, hospitality (hotels), leisure areas, language schools, travel agencies and airlines that will remain receiving the grant until the end of September.

Also up until the end of September, electricity bills for businesses will be reduced by 50% up to a maximum of €1,500, costing the government €30 million.

With the aim of providing incentives to increase domestic consumption, the government is handing out a total of €340 million directly to the people, by issuing €100 vouchers to each person over the age of 16 that have to be spent by September.

Most, €80 are to be consumed in accommodation, bars or restaurants and the other €20 on outlets that had been affected by the COVID-19 restrictions and forced cease functioning for close to three months.

The Government announced it would reimburse 33% of port charges to those ships that bring cargo to the country but are not involved in trans shipment. A 10% refund will also be given on container charges schemes for both export and import but not trans shipment.

Trade Malta will reimburse 80% of costs to companies that had to participate in international fairs that have been cancelled.

All licences due to the Malta Tourism Authority and the Commerce Department for 2020 are being waived.

Stamp duty on property is to be reduced both for buyers and sellers. The rate will decrease from 5 to 1.5% for the buyer and 8% to 5% for the seller. Such rates are to be applied to the contracts signed between now and the end of March.

This measure targets properties of up to €400,000. For those buying a second property, these measures mean a €14,000 discount on stamp duty.

The plan includes a substantial reduction in fuel prices from Monday (June 15).

Couples that had to postpone their weddings and incurred additional costs would get a refund of up to €2,000.

A one-off grant of €250 to low-income families and tax refunds and wage supplements for students are also in the plan.

Throughout the week following the announcement of the regeneration plan, Ministers have been explaining further how to benefit from the measures, and helplines have been launched to be used by anyone seeking information on their eligibility.

The government's plan has been well received by the business associations, the Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of SMEs and other employers and most of the trade unions.

The reaction has been quite positive save for the Opposition (see pages 14 and 15 for reaction in Maltese).

## Foreign Minister Bartolo calls for enhanced EU collaboration with EaP countries

**D**uring a video-conference meeting (VTC) between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo welcomed the EU's long-term approach towards establishing a deeper collaboration between the EU and the Eastern Partners beyond 2020.

Underlining the importance to continue building a strong response to the socio-economic recovery of partner countries following the post COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister underlined flexibility as necessary.

He said, "When devising the priorities within the policy measures beyond the 2020 deliverables, we should better address the situation that will emerge in the post-

pandemic reality within the Eastern Partnership countries. In every relationship, we need to address the Politics of the Future."

He expressed his support for the March 19 Joint Communication entitled 'Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all', the Minister stated that the development of our partnership needs to be essentially result-oriented, strategic and ambitious, with a stronger emphasis on tangible and visible projects that affect people's day-to-day lives.

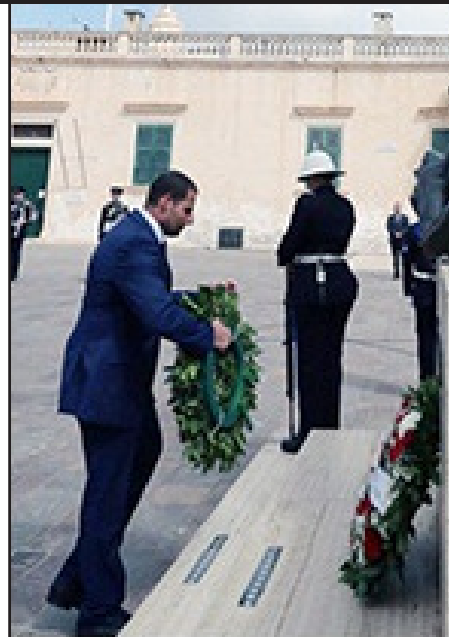
There needs to be a drive-in strengthening ownership of these projects and ambitions for a stronger result-orientated partnership that is mutually beneficial.



## Roundup of News About Malta



The laying of wreaths on the Sette Giugno Monument in Valletta on the occasion of the 101st Anniversary of the uprising (from left): The Speaker, Anglu Farrugia, Prime Minister Robert Abela, and Opposition Leader Adrian Delia



# In commemorative speech Speaker salutes *Sette Giugno* 1919 victims

Malta commemorated the June 7 (*Sette Giugno*) events differently this year, marking the 101st Anniversary of that historical day. The COVID-19 pandemic saw to that. However, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anglu Farrugia said that one should not allow these particular circumstances to hinder the Maltese from recalling the challenging circumstances of that day.

He said that on the basis of the lessons learnt from the past one can forge a better future for our country, a statement he made, because he believed it was important to look at how the protagonists of the 1919 events behaved before and after the *Sette Giugno* riots, as well as during the discussions that followed those events.

"I would like to mention, amongst others, Manwel Dimech and Nerik Mizzi, who in spite of surely not sharing the same political belief, were in agreement on the direction Malta was to take.

"So much so, that we note that both the followers of Manwel Dimech, and whose ideology was continually being obstructed by the British administration, and those of Nerik Mizzi, moving forward in unison against the British rule."

He maintained that in the period that led to the June 7 events, these two protagonists from history moved in the same direction against the British colonial rule and in favour of the Maltese people. "In those times the national interest always prevailed, irrespective of any personal political belief," He said.

The Speaker delved deeper into history especially following on those events.

Closer to our times, Dr Anglu Farrugia said that since his last *Sette Giugno* speech last year, Maltese Parliament has already convened 94 times, and there have been over 100 meetings of the parliamentary committees.

He was pleased to note that in the vast ma-

jority of the work carried out in Parliament, there was always agreement that what was being done was in fact in the national interest.

He said that generally, common sense prevailed, and together important decisions were taken allowing Parliamentary work to carry on uninterrupted.

He added that what he said in his speech reflects his belief that Parliament must lead by example and should also aspire to be one of the leading national Parliaments in Europe in the promotion and implementation of parliamentary democracy.

"Therefore, we have to see how we can improve not only those procedures relating to the efficiency of Parliament, but also those relating to the implementation of parliamentary democracy," the Speaker said.

Finally, he saluted the victims of the *Sette Giugno* 1919.

## PM announces lifting of health emergency

Prime Minister Minister Robert Abela said in an interview with members of the media on Sunday, that as a result of the country's low number of active COVID-19 cases, Malta is no longer in a state of a public health emergency that had been declared in March, during the COVID-19. At the time, the measures were intended to eliminate the threat of the pandemic.

As to facemasks and social distancing measures, the PM said such guidelines would remain in force, yet recommended that people should abide by the current guidelines. However, there would be no legal obligations.

Answering questions from representatives of *MaltaToday*, *The Malta Independent* and *NET News*, the Prime Minister said Italy (excluding airports in the northern regions), France, Spain, Poland, Croatia and Greece have been added to Malta's on its safe flight corridor list.

Malta is to open its airport on July 1 and all flight restrictions would be lifted on July 15 Robert Abela said, adding that tourism forms one third of the country's GDP, and that the government acknowledges the role such a sector holds in the country's economic success. The Malta Tourism Association is tasked with carrying out the necessary measures to attract the tourists.

## New Police Commissioner

After considering the two candidates referred to it by the Public Service Commission, made up of two members each named by the Government and the opposition and a chairman agreed by both, the Cabinet of Ministers nominated Mr Angelo Gafà as the candidate most qualified for a hearing by the Parliamentary Committee for Public Appointments for Police Commissioner.

# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Spinta lill-ekonomija Maltija

**K**if qed jidher f'din il-ħarġa tal-magazine, ftit tal-jiem ilu l-Gvern Malti ippreżenta pjan ta' riġenazzjoni ekonomika f'forma ta' baġit ta' €900 miljun biex jagħti spinta lill-ekonomija Maltija halli tohroġ mill-kriżi li gabet il-pandemija tal-COVID-19.

Meta ppreżenta dan il-baġit speċjali l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela qal li filwaqt li hawn pajjiżi fejn il-pandemija għadha qed tikber u li kellhom jagħmlu lockdown totali, f'Malta qed nitkellmu dwar kif se jtkattar il-kummerċ.

Qal hekk: "Dan nistgħu nagħmlu għax żammnejna l-pandemija taħt kontroll. Għandna għalfejn inkunu kburin."

Kif intqal fil-gazzetta *The Malta Independent*, dan il-mini-baġit gie milqugħ tajjeb minn kulhadd "All-round praise for June budget, with some points of criticism", nistgħu nġidu bl-eċċezzjoni tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni u sa ċertu punt il-Unjon Haddiema Maltin, li kienet l-unika unjon li ma fahhritux.

Sahansitra l-editorjali tal-ġurnali kkumentaw pożittivament dwaru. Ejja nagħtu daqqa t'għajn lejn uħud mill-kummenti:

### Min ihaddem

Il-kummenti tagħhom kienu tassew pożittivi, għalkemm sintendi kien hemm min xtaq aktar.

L-istess il-Kamra tal-Kummerċ li stqarret li tinsab sodisfatta li l-Gvern aċċetta u ħabbar miżuri li kienu proposti minnha, fosthom trahhis fil-prezz tal-fuel u appoġġ dirett biex jiġi mgħajjuna n-negozji halli-gergħu lura fuq saqajhom.

Dan minhabba li bosta mill-inċentivi għandhom jgħinu lin-negozji jibdlu l-kriżi tal-COVID f'opportunità ta' tkabbir permezz ta' ekonomija riġenerata.

Il-Kamra tal-SMEs laqgħet b'mod pożittiv il-miżuri mħabbra, għalkemm innutat li hemm aspetti fejn stenniet li jsir aktar. Fost l-oħrajn, il-bżonn ta' aktar għajjuna għall-ħlas tal-kirjiet kummerċjali.

L-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Catering (I-ACE) qalet li l-pakkett offrut mill-Gvern se jservi biex jitnaqqas id-distakk fil-profit u l-likwidità kawża tal-miżuri li kienu daħlu fis-seħh minhabba l-koronavirus.

Il-Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association ukoll iddeskriviet il-pakkett fi-

nanzjarju mħabbar mill-Gvern bħala wiehed pożittiv u li se jgħin lill-industrija tat-turiżmu.

Qalet li dan il-pjan se jikkontribwixxi b'mod effettiv biex is-settur tat-turiżmu u l-bqija tal-ekonomija jergħu lura fuq riglejhom.

Ix-xhur li ġejjin mhux se jkun faċli għall-ukandi u ristoranti, madankollu, dan l-istimolu ekonomiku se jagħti spinta lejn

rament l-investment ikkreat ikun mibni fuq sisien sodi bl-involviment dirett tas-settur privat.

Ziedet tgħid li dan għandu jwassal halli pajjiżna jerga' jibda jirreġistra tkabbir ekonomiku, b'ekonomija reżiljenti li jis-salvagwardja l-impjegji u l-livell tal-għajxien dicenti tal-haddiema u l-pensjonanti tagħna.

Iżda l-Unjon Haddiema Maltin (UHM)

ma kienetx daqs-hekk pożittiva. Il-UHM qalet li l-Gvern ħaseb iżjed fin-negozji u naqas milli jgħin lill-haddiema u l-familji tagħhom.

Qalet li l-mini-baġit qed jagħti spinta 'l quddiem lill-ekonomija, u wiehed irid jara li l-allowances lill-haddiema ma jkomplux jitaqqru.

Din il-unjon qed ukoll tippretendi li t-take-home-pay

tigi lura għan-normal. Barra minnhekk, qalet li tinsab iddiżappuntata li l-frontliners ma ngħatawx kumpens mixtieq u li kien mistenni għalihom.

Min-naħa l-oħra, qalet li tilqa' b'mod pożittiv il-vouchers li ngħataw lill-familji (€100 lil kull min għalaq is-16-il sena) biex jintefqu sa tmiem Settembru f'ukandi, ristoranti, u ħwienet oħra tan-negozju. Imma qalet li kienet qed tippretendi li t-tfal ta' taħt is-16-il sena ukoll jibbenefikaw.

Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażaġh qal li jilqa' l-miżuri mħabbra u li huma mmirati biex isostnu l-kwalità tal-ħajja taż-żgħażaġh f'dan iż-żmien tal-pandemija.

Il-KNŻ jinnota li għalkemm qed jiddaħħlu tliet xhur wara, il-proposti tiegħu dwar l-istudenti ġew ukoll milqugħa u se jiddaħħlu fis-seħh.

### L-Oppożizzjoni

Uħud mill-kummenti tal-Unjon Haddiema Maltin ġew riflessi fl-ewwel reazzjoni tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Dr Adrian Delia, li qal li jinsab sodisfatti li ħafna minn dak li kien pożittiv fil-mini-baġit kienu proposti li kien ilu li għamel il-PN, imma kien iddispaċat li dawn waslu nofs triq.

Sostna li l-Gvern nesa kważi għal kollox lill-familji. Sostna li l-pjan tal-Gvern wasal nofs triq għax halla lill-familji jgħorru l-piżijiet tad-dawl u tal-ilma.

(\*ikompli f'paġna 15)

**Il-Gvern se jissusidja kemm lill-haddiema u anke lil min ihaddem** – Il-Forum Unions Maltin

**Huma miżuri li se jgħinu l-industrija tat-turiżmu biex tirkurpra mill-effetti tal-pandemija** – Il-GTA

**"Proposti li ddaħħlu tliet xhur wara"** – KNŻ

**Il-KNŻ jilqa' l-miżuri mmirati biex isostnu l-kwalità tal-ħajja taż-żgħażaġh**

**Delia jgħid li l-Gvern m'għenx lill-familji**

**"Ebda għajjuna għall-familji"** – Adrian Delia

**Uħud mill-kummenti u r-reazzjonijiet dwar il-mini-baġit ta' riġenerazzjoni**

aktar fiduċja fis-settur turistiku kollu u jawgura tajjeb għall-konsumaturi, l-impjegati u l-partijiet interessati l-oħra kollha, inklużi l-investituri.

L-Assoċjazzjoni ta' Min Ihaddem (MEA) iddeskriviet il-pakkett ta' miżuri bħala wiehed li se jgħin biex tiżdied l-attività ekonomika – iżda xorta jeżistu diversi punti ta' kontestazzjoni.

L-Assoċjazzjoni spjegat li l-fatt li l-għajjuna supplimentari se tinżel għal €600, dan jaf jissarraf f'aktar tkeċċijiet ta' haddiema. Apparti minn hekk, l-MEA tinsisti dwar il-ħtieġa li r-roħs fil-kontijiet tad-dawl għandu jkun estiż għar-residenzi kollha – u t-tnaqqis ta' 50% għandu jkun permanenti.

Kummenti pożittivi oħra ġew mill-Għaqda al-Iżviluppaturi (Malta Developers Association,) il-Gozo Business Chamber u oħrajn.

### L-Għaqdiet tal-Haddiema

Hawn, il-fehmiet varjaw xi ftit.

Il-General Workers Union sostniet li l-Gvern wera biċ-ċar l-oġġettiv ewlieni li jkompli jinvesti fl-ekonomija tal-pajjiż. Is-surplus ekonomiku wassal biex il-Gvern ikun f'pożizzjoni li johloq stimulu ekonomiku li jincientiva l-investment anke f'setturi tradizzjonali u setturi godda, li fl-aħħar mill-aħħar iwassal għat-tishih tal-impjegji fil-pajjiż.

Il-miżuri se jkomplu jsaħħu l-fiduċja bejn il-partijiet soċjali kollha tal-pajjiż biex ve-

**Il-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-UHM pożittiv fuq xi miżuri iżda xtaq iżjed**

**Mini-budget li ma indirizzax biżżejjed lill-haddiema u l-familji tagħhom** – UHM

**Imwettqa ħafna mill-proposti mressqa mill-Kamra tal-Kummerċ**

**L-ACE tilqa' l-pakkett finanzjarju mħabbar mill-Gvern**

**"Għajjuna pożittiva"** – MHRA

**GWU: fiduċja u kunfidenza fl-investment u t-tishih tal-impjegji**

Reactions: All-round praise for June budget, with some points of criticism

# Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

## Kull laqxa tghin

**B**halissa hawn tigrja fost il-pajjiżi li jiddependu sewwa fuq it-turiżmu halli jippruvaw jiġbdu lejhom it-turisti u jhajjruhom iżuru pajjiżhom. Għalhekk wara tlett xhur xotti għal kollox mit-turiżmu, hu fatt li kull laqxa tghin, l-aktar meta din il-laqxa tiġi min barra il-pajjiż.

Min-naħa ta' Malta jidher li din il-laqxa sabitha u tista' tibda tgawdiha ftit tal-jiem oħra, mill-1 ta' Lulju wara li rnexxiela tidhol fost dawk il-pajjiżi li qed jitqiesu bħala siguri wara l-epidemija

Infatti s-sit European Safest Destinations

## 'Kien mini-baġit li ta biss bla ma ħa xejn'

\*ikompli minn paġna 14

Qal li dak li propona l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela jixhed li l-Gvern jinsab għal kollox bla pjan u li bla viżjoni u li dawn il-miżuri ma jagħtu ebda direzzjoni fejn se ssir ir-rigenerazzjoni, liema setturi se jiġu xprunati.

Dr Delia kkritika wkoll dak li qal li hu nuqqas ta' inċentivi fejn jidhol it-turiżmu, u minbarra li jhegġeg it-turiżmu intern, il-Gvern baqa' ma għamel xejn biex iħajjar turizmu barrani lejn pajjiżna, waqt li pajjiżi oħra qed joffru pakketti attraenti.

Għal darb'ohra reġa' nesa lil dawk in-negozji li kien halla barra mill-ghajjnuna matul il-pandemija, qal, u nesa wkoll lil dawk il-frontliners li ħadmu tant waqt il-pandemija u li kienu huma li ħarġu l-pajjiż minn din l-imxija. Lil dawn tawhom biss ċapċip imma l-ebda kumpens, sostna.

## Il-pubbliku

Min-naħa tal-pubbliku, ħlief għal xi eċċezzjonijiet zgħar, ir-reazzjoni kienet waħda mill-aktar pożittiva u f'kull stħarriġ li sar wara li tħabbar il-mini-baġit, kien hemm x'juri li l-miżuri u l-inċentivi ntlaqgħu tajjeb.

Żewġ miżuri li l-aktar li ntlaqgħu kienu, ir-roħs tal-fuel għall-vetturi, u l-ghotja ta' vouchers ta' €100 lil kull min għalaq is-16-il sena li jridu jintefqu fi stabbilimenti, bħal lukandi, ristoranti u hwienet ta' oġġetti mhux essenzzjali li minħabba l-pandemija kienu kostretti jagħlqu u allura sofrew minn nuqqas ta' bejgħ.

Il-vouchers (li jammontaw għal €340 miljun) iridu jintefqu sal-aħħar ta' Settembru bil-ghan li jerga' jirranka n-negozju.

Għalkemm kien hemm ukoll min ħass li l-flus setgħu ingħataw bla rbit ta' nfieq, il-ħsieb ġenerali kien, li wara kollox, dan il-mini-baġit tak u mhux ħadlek, minħabba li ma giet imposta l-ebda taxxa.

2020 poġġa lil Malta fost dawk il-pajjiżi li huma siguri u bla periklu biex wiehed iżur għall-btajjel tiegħu wara l-pandemija tal-COVID-19.

Dwar Malta jgħid li kien hawn 55 darba inqas każi ta' koronavirus milli kien hemm fl-aktar pajjiżi Ewropej li ġew effettwati. Jgħid ukoll li Malta għandha aktar sodod fl-isptarijiet għal kull resident milli hemm, pereżempju fil-Finlandja, fl-Irlanda u fir-Renju Unit.

Ġie spjegat li peress li f'Malta l-pandemija dejjem kienet limitata, allura l-isptarijiet qatt ma kienu ffullati u jistgħu jinsabu f'qagħda li jilqgħu lit-turisti jekk ikun hemm il-bżonn.

Fost kulhadd, ġew anke mistiedna dawk it-turisti li għandhom id-delizzju tal-ghadds fil-baħar kahlani, u li jixtiequ jes-



perenzaw it-teżori tal-gżejjer Maltin biex jibbukjaw halli jkun jistgħu jintefgħu (fost l-oħrajn) fuq il-bajja ramlja tar-Riviera jew inkella jinqatgħu għall-kwiet fil-gżira Ghawdxija.

Għajjnuna oħra ġejja wkoll minn rapport mahruġ mill-Agenzija Ewropea għall-ambjent li sab li 97.7% tal-ilma tal-ghawm f'Malta huwa ta' kwalità eċċellenti. Dan ifisser kważi 13 fil-mija aktar mill-medja Ewropea.

Malta b'hekk ikklassifikat fit-tielet post minn fost 30 pajjiż u Ewropa f'daqqa

## Il-mina Malta-Għawdex eqreb

**G**ħalkemm għadek issib xi kritika għall-proġett tal-mina proposta bejn Malta u Għawdex, u hafna forsi għadhom xettiċi li din tista' xi darba titwettagħ, kulma jmur jidher li dan il-proġett wara kollox jista' jseħh.

Dan intwera mill-fatt li hekk kif għalaq il-proċess imsejjah pre-qualification questionnaire biex tiġi mogħtija l-konċessjoni għall-proġett tal-mina ta' 14-il kilometru bejn iż-żewġ gżejjer, dahl u uffiċjalment erba' offerti ta' żewġ konsorzji u żewġ

kumpanniji li offrew li lesti li jidhlu għal dan il-proġett.

Eventwalment, min jieħu l-konċessjoni, se jiddisinja, jibni, iħallas, iħaddem u jmantni l-proġett li għal hafna forsi għadu jidher xi holma.

Il-Ministru responsabbli mit-Trasport u l-Infrastruttura, Ian Borg spjega li l-offerti ġew minn gganti tal-infrastruttura mondjali mill-kontinent Ewropew u dak Azjatiku, fosthom mill-Italja, it-Turkija, Franza, iċ-Ċina, l-Olanda u l-Gappun.

## Restawr fuq tliet knejjes ewlenin fil-belt

**I**nteressanti hafna li minkejja x-xogħlijiet kbar li qed isiru bil-holqien ta' toroq godda li sa ftit tas-snin ilu l-Maltin forsi lanqas biss kienu johlmuhom, jew kienu jaraw bħalhom biss fl-istampi, xorta waħda qed isir xogħol iehor siewi. ta' infrastuttura, l-aktar restaw.

Jibqa' l-fatt li l-akbar proġett huwa dak tal-Marsa fejn dalwaqt jiġi fi tmiemu u nkun nistgħu nibdew insuqu minn fuq seba' pontijiet fuq xuxlxin li jtaffu t-traffiku u jnaqqsu l-hin tal-ivjaġġar.

Imma dawk li joqogħdu l-belt Valletta jinsabu wkoll kuntenti li hemm tliet knejjes fil-kapitali Maltija li qed isirihom restawr u rigenerazzjoni b'valur ta' madwar €700,000.

Fost il-knejjes li qed isir restawr fuqhom, u li whud minnhom huma meqjusa bħala mit-teżori li hallitilna l-istorja, hemm il-Bażilika tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu, li qed isirilha restawr tal-koppla fuq barra u xi tiswijiet u manutenzjoni oħra, il-Knisja tal-Madonna tal-Pilar, u l-Knisja ta' Santu Wistin. F'kull waħda minnhom l-akbar xogħol qed isir fuq il-koppli. Qed ukoll isirihom titjib konsiderevoli iehor u nstallati sistemi godda ta' dwal.

Il-Ministru tal-Infrastruttura Ian Borg tenna li l-knejjes huma aspekt ċentrali għall-komunità Maltija, u li se jibqa' jsir xogħol fuq aktar proġetti bħal dawn, fejn, qed, qed isir investiment dirett fil-livell tal-ghajxien ta' pajjiż, fil-prodott turistiku u fil-wirt li jithalla lil dawk li jiġu warajna.



## A quick glimpse at Australia

# Australia in recession – first in 29 years

**A**ustralia has entered its first recession in 29 years, with gross domestic product in the March quarter down 0.3 per cent.

While the exact number for the current June quarter isn't yet known, there is no mistaking that due to the coronavirus shutdown's impact on the economy, it will be negative growth. Yet despite its negative growth figures, Australia is actually faring relatively well compared to the rest of the world and especially compared to other developed countries.

Economists say the reason Australia's economy is the "envy of the world" is largely because it was in a strong fiscal position to begin with at the start of the pandemic. It's 30 years since our last recession, which obviously means Australia had a good growth experience, we have a good fiscal position.

Australia delivered a stimulus more than other places in the



world and quite quickly. All this has led to a pretty good COV

John Hawkins (*pictured left*) the assistant professor of politics, economics and society at the University of Canberra said there was not much the Government could have done to avoid this recession.

"There was no way to avoid it. There isn't much to be done to react in the March quarter. The Government announced a big stimulus package and in hindsight could have moved a bit quicker, but I think it was inevitable, this was going to be a weak quarter for us," he said.

"This is not a financial recession like we experienced in 1991 or that the world experienced in 2008 and 2009, this is just shutdown inactivity, and we are already starting to see some signs of improvements in consumer spending," he said.

## Another blunder by the Government

**T**he Government announced it would refund \$721 million worth of debts it clawed back through the scheme.

Robodebt was the name given to an averaging process which saw data from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) matched with income reported to Centrelink by welfare recipients.

The scheme saw hundreds of thousands of people issued with computer-generated debt notices, some of which made demands for payment from people who did not owe the Government any money.

Services Australia said in a statement that 470,000 debts would be waived, with refunds to be rolled out from July.

More than 370,000 people were affected, with some having been issued multiple notices.

The decision comes after the Department of Human Services halted a key part of the scheme last year and said it would require additional proof before it used income averaging to identify overpayments.



Eddie Mabo (second from right) with his legal team

## The Mabo decision – 28 years ago

**I**t has been 28 years since the Mabo decision recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people have right to their land; however, reconciliation between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples has stalled over the past 28 years.

The day commemorates Torres Strait Islander Eddie Koiki Mabo and his role in the High Court decision on 3rd June 1992 which overturned the terra nullius declaration - that Australia was once land belonging to no one. It allowed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have rights to their

land.

According to the latest numbers from the National Native Title Tribunal, there have been 496 native title determinations since. Only certain types of land can be subject to determinations, and people need to prove they have a continuous connection to that area.

Information released on Mabo Day last year said that 37 % of all land in Australia now has a recognised native title interest in it, and that this figure will grow to about 60% once all claims are finalised.



Senator McCarthy

## National cabinet challenged

**L**abor Senator Larndirri McCarthy has called on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to convene a national cabinet on Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody.

Her push comes after tens of thousands of people defied public health orders to march in protests held throughout Australian cities. Senator McCarthy told SBS News national leadership was needed to bring appropriate attention

to the plight of Indigenous Australians.

"Focus on First Nations People and the high incarceration rates and the deaths in custody through a national cabinet – that's the challenge for you now," she said.

She added: "This country screams out for the cries of those families who have lost their children in the custody system ... they're crying out for something to be done." There have been 434 indigenous deaths in custody since a Royal Commission held into the problem, ended in 1991.

## Sydney's light train

**T**he NSW government insists Sydney's troubled eastern suburbs light rail project won't cost more than \$2.99 billion despite the auditor-general finding the total price has already exceeded that figure.

The NSW auditor-general Margaret Crawford has now accused Transport for NSW of failing to consistently update the public on the price tag, which she said had topped \$3.1 billion. She said extra costs had been omitted.



A quick glimpse at Australia

# End violence, racism against indigenous Australians

Australians have defied warnings from the prime minister and health experts about the coronavirus risk to turn out in force to protest against racism and Indigenous deaths in custody.

Black Lives Matter protests in all the major cities and some regional towns were held in solidarity with those in the US, sparked by the death of African-American man George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The protests were largely peaceful, Sydney had the largest crowd, with 20,000 people marching from Town Hall to Belmore Park after the Court of Appeal declared the protest a legal assembly at the eleventh hour. NSW Police made just three arrests in Sydney, which Assistant Commissioner Mick Willing called a "really positive result".

Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide also had large crowds, with protesters wearing face masks, organisers handing out hand sanitiser and efforts made to ensure social distancing. But Victoria Police plans to fine Melbourne rally organisers \$1652 each for breaching the directions of the chief health officer.



Victoria Police had earlier warned the Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance they could face fines if they went ahead with the rally, and followed through on their warning.

Three organisers of the rally in Melbourne were hit with \$1652 fines.

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy had said that while people had the right to protest, mass gatherings were dangerous in the midst of a pandemic. Prime Minister Scott Morrison had also urged

## Marches in a Black Lives Matter Rally in Sydney

Australians not to attend protests.

Alex Hawke, Australia's minister for the Pacific criticised those who attended the protests in Australia, because of health concerns due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Labor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy has called on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to convene a national cabinet on Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody.

## Mixed reaction to Abbott's award

There has been mixed reaction to former Prime Minister and Member of Parliament Tony Abbott receiving a Queen's Birthday honour, with critics labelling the award "shameful".

Mr Abbott was among 933 Australians to be honoured (*see also page 6*) receiving the highest award - the Companion of the Order of Australia - for his "significant contributions to trade, border control and to the Indigenous community".

Mr Abbott took the top office in 2013 following a campaign vowing to "stop the boats", implementing his zero-tolerance Operation Sovereign Borders scheme immediately. Data from the Refugee Council of Australia says 3127 were detained in off-shore processing facilities in Papua New Guinea or Nauru after July 2013.

Associate Professor of Indigenous Health at Latrobe University and Palawa woman Cath Chamberlain said she thought the award was "offensive" to Indigenous Australians. "He cut more funding for health than any other Prime Minister," she said.

Tony Abbott served as the 28th Prime Minister of Australia from 2013 to 2015. In 2019 he lost his Warringah NSW seat.

"I'm surprised they didn't award him for 'services to women' while they were at it." Other politicians were quick to issue their criticism with Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young calling it a "ridiculous spectacle".

## Renovation rescue – another grant

The Federal Government will fire the starter's gun on a renovation rescue for the economy with \$25,000 cash grants for new homes and renos. But you will only qualify for the cash splash if you're spending \$150,000 or more on a renovation and you meet an income test, with swimming pools and tennis court projects banned.

For new home builds, the value of the prop-

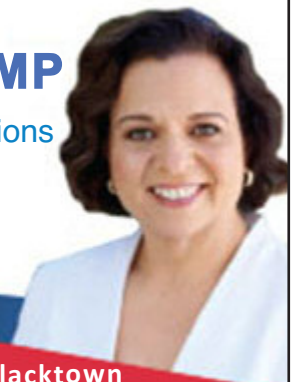
erty must be \$750,000 or less. PM Morrison said the \$25,000 grants would "support those Australians whose dream it was to build their home or to do that big renovation".

To qualify for HomeBuilder, you need to be building a new home worth less than \$750,000, or if you are renovating an existing property, it needs to have been previously valued at less than \$1.5 million.



### Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



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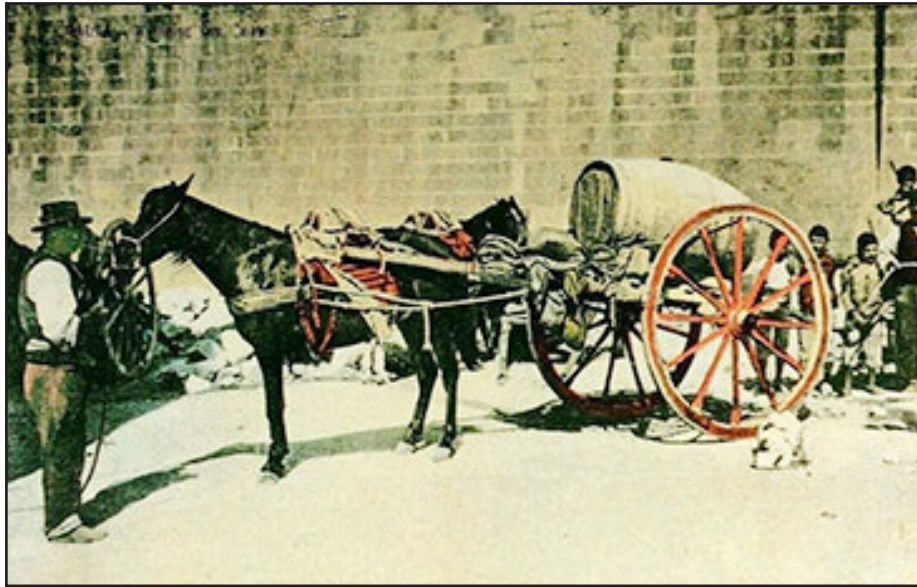
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## Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija



Fl-ilsien Malti hemm xi kliem, u wkoll ismijiet ta' snajja Maltin li f'tit għadna nisimgħu bihom, speċjalment iż-żgħażaġh, imma interessanti li wieħed mhux biss isemmihom imma wkoll jagħraf it-tifsira tagħhom. Illum il-bexxiex u l-buttar.



Snajja antiki Maltin:

## Il-bexxiex

Minhabba li fl-antik f'Malta kien għadu ma jintużax l-asfalt, u wara anke t-tarmak, it-toroq Maltin kienu jinksew bi żrar tal-qawwi li kienet tagħmilha diffiċli biex jinkies il-wieċ tal-art, għalhekk minflok kennies l-gvern kien jimpjega miegħu lill-bexxiexa bħal dak fl-istampa.

Fil-fatt il-bexxiexa kienu sidien ta' xi ziemel u karettu li fuqhom, bi hlas, kienu jgħorru tank tal-ilma.

Dawn imbagħad kienu jgħaddu mit-toroq ibixxu l-ilma halli bhekk iraqqudu t-trabijiet. Il-bexxiexa nqatgħu hekk kif beda jinqata' ż-żrar mit-toroq għall-habta tal-1930 u beda l-kisi tal-asfalt.

Fl-istampa (*xellug*), jidhru tfal isegwu x-xogħol tal-bexxiex li fuq iż-ziemel tiegħu jidher ukoll it-tank tal-ilma li kien juża biex irraqqad it-trab.

## Il-buttar

Xogħol il-buttar kien li jagħmel il-btiet, il-krietel u l-ġarar. Il-btiet kienu jintużaw biex fihom jinġrru l-prodotti tal-biedja bħal basal, patata, pastard, bettieħ, hawh, rummien u prodotti oħra għall-prodotti oħra.

Il-krietel kienu jintużaw l-aktar biex fihom jitpoġġa l-inbid. Dawn imbagħad kienu jiġu merfigħa fl-imħżen u jinfethu għal xi okkażjoni.

Il-krietel speċjalment, kienu jsiru billi l-buttar idawwar xi injam fit-tond u madwar l-injam kien jagħmel ċrieki tal-hadid li ma jsaddux biex jgħaqqadhom flimkien.

Meta l-kartell ikun lest, il-buttar kien jiftaħ toqba mnejn jimla l-inbid. Imbagħad kien isodda b'biċċa sufra imkebbha f'ċar-ruta ratba. I krietel għadhom jintużaw sal-lum, l-aktar minn daww l-jghassru l-gheneb għall-nbid fi kwantitatijiet kbar.

## Verbi Dghajfin fl-ilsien Malti

**K**ont taf li l-ilsien Maltin għandu dawk li wieħed isibhom bħala *Verbi Dghajfin*?

Minhabba li fil-Malti hemm żewġ ittri li nsibuhom bħala konsonanti dghajfin, u li huma l-**J** u l-**W**, il-verbi li fl-għerq tagħhom ikollhom xi wahda minn dawn il-konsonanti, huma li jissejju l-Verbi Dghajfin.

Xi haġa li forsi tfixkel lil min ikun qed jikteb hi, li dawn mhux dejjem tilmahhom minhabba li kif jgħidu l-istudjużi tal-Malti,

il-verb japprofitta ruhu mid-dghufija tagħhom u jwaqqagħhom, għalhekk jinhtieg li wieħed imur fin-nom għax dan jirrispetta-hom.

**Verb Xebbiehi:** Dan hu dak il-verb li l-mamma tiegħu (*huwa x'ghamel?*) tibda bil-konsonanti '**W**', bħal **Wiret** – **Waqa** – **Wizen** – **Wasal**.

**Verb Mohfi:** Dan hu dak il-verb li l-mamma jkollu żewġ konsonanti b'vokali. Għalhekk jekk toħroġ nom minnu tkun taf għandux '**J**' jew '**W**'. Bħala eżempju nistgħu niehdu, tar – ta**J**ra; dar – da**W**ra; mar – ma**W**ra; hiet – h**J**ata.

**Verb Nieqes:** Dan hu dak il-verb li l-mamma jkollu żewġ konsonanti u żewġ vokali, u fl-aħħar ikollu l-'**J**' li taqa'. Eżempju: **MeXa** – mix**J**a; **BeKa** – bik**J**a.



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**—  
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tagħna tghin lill-  
familja tiegħek**

# Gieh lill-belt kapitali Maltija, Valletta



Kitba ta' Victor Scerri

**I**l-Maltin għandna għax niftaħru bil-belt kapitali tagħna, Valletta u nagħmlu tajjeb li nuru lill-barranin li minkejja li għaddew 454 sena minn fuqha, u hija fost l-iżgħar bliet kapitali fid-dinja, hija ħajja u r-rikkezzi u l-istorja li għandha x'toffri jagħmluha gōjjell fil-Mediterran li ma tistax ma tgħozziex.

Il-belt Valletta mxiet maż-żmien u mhux biss żammet dak kollu li sawwarha, imma, speċjalment fl-aħħar snin, imxiet ukoll maż-żmien u għarfet tħallat l-antik mal-modern. Ċertament li anke jekk għadda ż-żmien minn fuqha, għarfet tibqa' zagħżuġha u attiva.

**V**alletta illum tħaddan diversi u palazzini restawrati u binjiet mibdula f'*boutiques* li jkabbru l-kummerċ. Hafna negozji biddlu l-istruttura interna tagħhom biex jikkomplimentaw lil Valletta moderna.

Tassew li Granmastru holom, arkitett iddisinja, Papa iffinanzja u l-haddiema operaw. Valletta stenbhet minn għolja u baqgħet tisbieħ u tixhed storja ta' vittorji grandjużi li huma l-qċaċet ta' l-istorja ta' Malta.

Wara li Francesco Laparelli tefa' l-pjan tiegħu ta' bini ta' belt fortifikata 'l-quddiem bil-ghan li finanzjarjament jassiguraw din il-biċċa xogħol enormi, il-Kavallieri għamlu talba lill-qrati Ewropej għal finanzjament.

Wara d-difiża erojka u mfahħra tal-gzejjer mill-qrati tal-Ewropa, il-flus setgħu jinkisbu.

Għall-bqija tal-Ewropa Kristjana Malta mdawwra bis-swar kif xieraq kienet tassew tfigħer ilqugh iehor ta' harsien li jsaħħar u jħares lill-punent mit-Torok. Dawn il-qrati hasssew li kien dmirhom li jghinu lill-artna Nisranija meta l-Ottomani kienu ta' theddida għall-artijiet Insara.

## Ma kienetx biss kwestjoni politika

Tajjeb jingħad li din ma kienetx biss kwestjoni politika kif nifhmha kontemporanjament. Il-kwestjoni kienet essenzjalment reliġjuża. Id-disinn ta' Laparelli kien jirrappreżenta tluq sinifikanti mill-istruttura tradizzjonali ta' belt medjevali. Il-preferenza tiegħu waqgħet fuq disinn ibbażat fuq gradilja.

Is-sistema pprovdiet ventilazzjoni ġeneruża u ziffa tal-baħar sabiha lil Valletta li għamlu l-hajja aktar tolleranti għall-abitanti. Beltna kienet ukoll tħaddan karatteristiċi interessanti, bħal turgien usa' biex jakkomodaw lill-kavallieri u l-korazzi kbar tagħhom.

L-arkitett Malti Gilormu Cassar qabad id-disinn ta' Laparelli li kien jinkludi l-fortifikazzjonijiet esterni u s-sistema ta' gradilja li fuqha kienet se tkun ibbażata Valletta u kompli bil-kostruzzjoni billi ikkonċentra fuq il-binjiet.

Wara żjara qasira fl-Italja Gilormu Cassar bena għadd sew ta' binjiet li kienu jinkludu bereg

(*Auberges*) għal kull wahda mill-Lingwi tal-Ordni ta' San Gwann. Simili hafna għal ambaxxati.

Il-bereg issem-mew għal-Lingwi jew in-nazzjonijiet differenti li kienu jiffurmaw l-Ordni ta' San Gwann in-nifisha u saħansitra servew bħala darhom, il-bogħod minn djarhom.

Immankabbilment, dawn il-famużi bereg għadna nistgħu ngawduhom. Xi whud minnhom qed jaqdu funzjonijiet ferm differenti milli oriġinarjament kellhom iservu. Għas-snin kollha li għaddew minn fuqhom, wara li nbnew fis-seklu sittax, għadhom binjiet ta' ċerta saħħa u kburija, xhieda tar-rikkezza li l-Ordni tal-Kavallieri żejnet biha lil Valletta.

## Id-dejn lejn l-Ordni

Wara dan kollu, fl-isplendur kollu tagħha, dejjem f'dan il-kuntest storiku, Valletta għandha dejn kbir lejn il-Kavallieri ta' San Gwann. Ma ninsewx li kien il-Gran Mastru tal-Ordni Jean de Valette li holom b'din il-belt u taha ismu.

Valletta hi mzejna wkoll saħansitra bi Knejjes, Kon-Katidral, Katidrali, Baziliki, palazzini, lukandi qodma u ġodda, djar ta' karattru u ġonna mill-isbah ma toroq li jgħixu l-hajja.

Fil-kapitali Maltija jsiru wkoll għadd ta' festi popolari u ta' lussu, bħall-Karnival u l-Gimgha Mqaddsa. Lanqas ma wiehed jista' jinsa l-festi u ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet sportivi li jafu jagħmlu l-beltin fl-okkażjonijiet meta l-klabb belt jirbaħ xi kampjonat jew kompetizzjoni lokali tal-futbol.

L-Għid Imqaddes huwa ukoll partecipazzjoni massiva f'celebrazzjoni ta' festa reliġjuża, l-akbar wahda fil-kalendarju, li fiha jieħdu sehem folol kbar. Valletta hi wkoll magħrufa, għalkemm aktar qabel milli issa, għall-parati li kienu jsiru. Daż-żmien hadulhom posthom il-marċi mill-baned lokali li jsiru fil-perjodu tal-festi reliġjużi u statali.

## Kalendarju Kulturali Kontinwu

Ma nkun qed ngħid xejn ġdid jekk ngħid li Valletta hi kalendarju kontinwu tal-kultura li jlewwen il-hajja tagħna u jinfilsa u jipprogetta attivitajiet ġodda, friski u kontemporanji.

Dan jiswja tassew għax wiehed ma jridx jinsa li din hi l-belt kapitali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta, allura trid ukoll iżżomm status għoli.

Diffiċli wiehed isemmi kull attivitá li ssir fil-belt Valletta, għax tant qed isiru attivitajiet fi hdanha, li impossibbli ssemmihom kollha.

Nittama li b'dan li ktibt wegħt lil dawk ix-xet-tiċi li jistaqsu: "x'jimpurtani?"

Valletta se tibqa' tagħmel il-passi 'l-quddiem għax hi destinata għal tiġib kontinwu.

(Tmiem)



Il-Gran Mastru La Valette

Il-berġa ta' Kastilja u l-uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru





## Fix-Xaghra jigu mfakkra l-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno

Il-monument fi Triq Bullara (xellug), u l-ahwa Bajada fiż-żifna fuq iz-zuntier tal-Knisja tax-Xaghra

Nhar il-Hadd 7 ta' Ġunju fix-Xaghra, tfakkru l-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno, Karmenu Abela, Manwel Attard, Gużeppi Bajada (mix-Xaghra) u Wenzu Dyer. Saret quddiesa mill-Arċipriet Mons. Carmelo Refalo fil-Kollegġjata Bażilika ta' Marija Bambina.

Saru wkoll ċerimonji qosra fuq iz-zuntier tal-knisja u fi Triq Bullara, fejn tqeghdu kuruni fil-ġenb tal-knisja, taht il-mafkar ta' Gużeppi Bajada u mal-monument fi triq Bullara. Ix-Xaghra Historical Reenactment Organisation, hadet hsieb torganizza t-tifkira li fiha hadu sehem ukoll, l-ahwa Christabel u Maribel Bajada, b'żifna simbolika. Indaqq ukoll il-last post minn Christian Magrin, trumbettier mal-Banda Victory u l-Innu Malti.

Fiż-żewġ postijiet saru diskorsi tal-okkazjoni mill-Arċipriet Mons Carmelo Refalo, is-Sindku Christian Zammit, Georgette Bugeja Sultana u l-Ambaxxatur u Delegat Permanenti fil-Ministeru tal-Affarijiet Barranin (Malta) u l-President tal-Kumitat ta' Ghawdex għaċ-Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali u Reġjonali, Mons. Dr. Joe Vella Gauci.

Preżenti wkoll kien hemm il-Ministru għal Ghawdex Clint Camilleri,

il-kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni għal Ghawdex Chris Said, membri Parlamentari ohra, mill-kunsilli lokali mill-Kumitat Organizzattiv tal-Festi Nazzjonali.

Fiċ-ċerimonja li tmexxiet minn Maria Grima indaqq ukoll il-last post minn Christian Magrin, trumbettier mal-Banda Victory u l-Innu Malti.

Mill-Gżira  
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Ix-xogħol li qed isir fuq il-Mużew Reġjonali, u (inset) dehra tal-faċċata tal-bini li fadal mill-eks Liċeo Ninu Cremona

## Mużew Reġjonali minflok l-eks Liċeo Ninu Cremona

Bhalissa għaddej gmielu x-xogħol fuq il-bini ta' Mużew reġjonali Binnovattiv għal Ghawdex li qed jigi mwettaq b'kollaborazzjoni ma' Heritage Malta, l-agenzija nazzjonali għall-mużewijiet, konservazzjoni u wirt kulturali. Il-proġett li qed jigi ffinanzjat minn fondi Ewropej għall-ewwel darba, se jgħaqqad diversi suġġetti flimkien, fosthom l-arkeoloġija, il-folklor, l-istorja naturali u l-arti viżiva.

Il-post magħżul għall-proġett huwa l-bini li fadal mill-eks Liċeo

Ninu Cremona fir-Rabat li kien ġie mibni fil-hamsinijiet fuq disinn ta' Joseph G. Huntingford u li jiffirma parti importanti mill-wirt arkitettoniku tal-Gżira Għawdxija.

Meta xi snin ilu l-iskola l-qadima kienet qed titwaqqa' halli jinghata spazju għal skola ġdida, Heritage Malta ghamlet talba biex tiehu f'idejha l-ftit bini li kien fadal minn dan il-kumpless biex tissalvagwardja din it-tip ta' arkitettura u tagħmel użu ġdid minnha.

## Obituary: Michael Lanzon 1933-2020

On Sunday, May 24, 2020, Michael Lanzon, passed away peacefully aged 86 surrounded by his family.

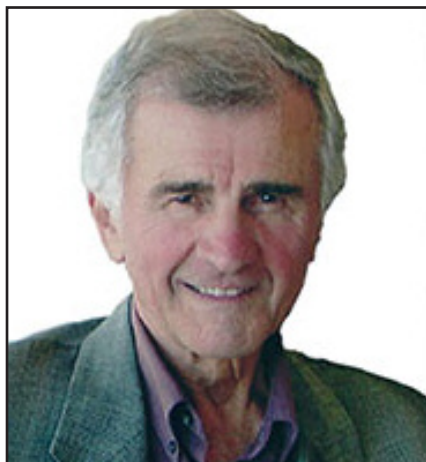
Born on September 1, 1933, in Paola, Malta, Michael studied electrical engineering in England and returned to Malta where he completed his National Service in the early 1950s as a civilian electrician on the British Mediterranean Fleet submarine base at Manoel Island.

Later, he started a career in radio and television working as a journalist and newsreader at Rediffusion in Malta. In 1962, he married Edith Storace, who also worked at Rediffusion. They were both popular television and radio personalities during the 1960s. Michael was also a talented actor, filmmaker, director and writer, with a passion for live theatre.

In 1970, Michael emigrated to Australia with his wife and three young sons and permanently settled in Sydney where he established a highly successful sales and training career that saw him take on business challenges in Australia and Asia-Pacific.

Both he and Edith continued to work in SBS radio and television, bringing Maltese language programmes such as news bulletins and book readings to the migrant population of Australia. Michael also worked as a Maltese-language interpreter and translator for the migrant community.

After a short stint in retirement, during



which time he cared for Edith who had become terminally ill and passed away in 1996; Michael returned to the workforce until he retired once again in 2011.

He took up lessons in standard and Latin dance, and in 2001 married Josiane Borg Cardona who had migrated to Australia with her parents as a teenager.

Michael is survived by his wife Josiane, his three sons Peter, Patrick and Michael, their spouses, grandchildren Elke, Brianna, Chris, Ava and Kate, his brother Victor and sister Carmelina as well as in-laws and other relatives.

He will always be remembered for his knowledge and wisdom, his intellect, his loyalty, his hearty laugh, and his kind and compassionate spirit.

Michael's celebration Mass presided over by his good friend Father Shiju Simon was held on Friday, June 5 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Forestville, Sydney Australia,

## Need for supporting vibrant cultural diversity in Europe

Although Malta is ensuring that enough investment is being directed into the online and innovative cultural sphere, in the long run this will not suffice as traditional cultural initiatives need to be backed up with the necessary support.

That was the view expressed by Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera during a video conference of European Union Ministers of Culture on the impact of Covid-19 on the cultural and creative sectors.

During the conference that was organised by the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Minister explained that he has set up an ad hoc response committee to set a better vision of what type of digital future Malta wishes to embrace and the modes of digitisation it wishes to endorse.

In this new vision, Malta will consider digitisation as a key pillar to help it mitigate the current crisis and the new reality that follows.

He said that lessons learnt from this pandemic include the need to record and archive the major cultural events that are organised throughout the year and that society is valuing more the importance of culture and creativity.

He stated that the declaration supported by Malta and other Member States, highlights the need of ensuring continuity in supporting a vibrant cultural diversity within Europe. Tapping into the potential provided by the establishment of a level playing field, within the Creative Europe Programme, is vital in this respect.

He pointed out that collectively they must ensure that no member state is left alone during these unprecedented times.

## Fundraiser for Maltese Concert Band of Victoria

The MMG Concert Band of Victoria is currently seeking support in its efforts to raise funds in order to purchase resources and equipment for their Music School. Their fundraiser is in the form of a raffle, with the lucky winner set to win an amazing THERMOMIX bundle to the value of \$2714.

The bundle includes: •TM6 Thermomix •2 x Thermoservers •1 x Simply and Delicious Cookbook and •1 x Kitchen utensil bundle

Only 400 tickets are available. Tickets at \$10 each can be purchased from the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BJWTG>.

The raffle is only open for Australia. One can purchase as many tickets as he likes. (Note – There is an additional 0.50 transaction fee per ticket purchased)

Ensure you get in quick, as this is one you don't want to miss.

The raffle is to be drawn live on the band's Facebook page on **Thursday June 24 at 8pm**. Make sure to like the band's page to follow prize draw updates: <https://www.facebook.com/MMG-ConcertBandofVictoria>

## L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tfori lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiettagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma mhegga biex jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: [www.tvn.com.mt](http://www.tvn.com.mt). għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.



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# How to maintain a slower pace of life after lockdown

**Prof GianaM.Eckhardt  
and  
KatharinaC.Husemann**

Before lockdown, our lives were defined by speed. Rushing around, living life at rocket pace was the norm. Keeping up with work responsibilities, social obligations and the latest tech or fashion trends was a never-ending feat. Only a privileged few could afford to slow down.

But in lockdown, the pace of life slowed dramatically overnight for everyone. People literally stopped running to work. The office, gyms, pubs, clubs and restaurants closed. Global travel shut down. Staying at home became the new normal. People began playing board games and puzzles, gardening, baking and other analogue pursuits with their new -found time.

Now that we are gradually emerging from lockdown, one tentative step at a time, is it possible to hold on to the benefits of being slowed down, and not go back to our old rushed way of living? Our research shows that in order to experience the benefits of slowing down, people must decelerate in three ways.

## 1. Slowing down your body

We call this embodied deceleration – when the body itself slows down. For example, when people walk or cycle as their primary forms of transportation, rather than taking the tube, train or bus.

During lockdown, we have all had to stay close to our homes, and public transport

has been for essential workers only. As we come out of lockdown, the city of London, for example, is expecting more people to continue walking and cycling rather than taking faster forms of transport, and is altering the built environment of the city to facilitate this.

If possible, try to continue these slower forms of moving, as they do not only provide physical benefits. Moving at a slower pace allows for feeling a stronger connection between body and mind, which can gradually open up mental space for deep reflection. It is about getting into a mindset in which you have time to think, not just react.

## 2. Controlling your technology use

You don't need to give up technology entirely. This is about having control over technology, and also communicating more face-to-face.

During lockdown, we have all relied on technology to a great extent – to do our work remotely as well as keep in touch with our loved ones.

Yet technology has been used to rekindle vibrant and meaningful connections to those who are important to us. From Zoom happy hours with long lost friends to watching movies with a partner, technology has been used to reinforce close connections.

Try to continue these practices as you emerge from lockdown. For example, keep up your involvement with the WhatsApp neighbourhood group, which checks in on vulnerable community members. This keeps you grounded in the local, and continues your use of technology to facil-

itate close, meaningful and long lasting, rather than superficial and short, relations with others.

## 3. Limiting your activities

This is engaging in only a few activities per day and – crucially – reducing the amount of choices you make about buying things. During lockdown, when we were all confined to our homes, the only activities to be engaged in and choices to be made were where to set up our home office, what to eat for each meal, and where and when to take a walk.

Now, as we begin to see others outside of our household, as restaurants and bars begin to open for takeaway and shops start to reopen, the amount of activities and things we can consume starts to rise.

Try to remember the feeling of making your own food, and sharing it with your household, rather than running back to eating many meals out and on the go. As you emerge from lockdown, try to maintain practices like stopping work to eat your lunch in the middle of the day, and take tea breaks, preferably with others and outdoors when you can. There is much value to be gained from having the rhythm of your daily life be one that you can savour.

In general, all three dimensions of slowing down speak to simplicity, authenticity and less materialism. Although many people desired these in their life pre-lockdown, it was hard to achieve them, as we felt there was no getting off the sped-up rollercoaster.

Now, when we have all experienced the benefits of living a life which emphasises these values – the amount of things purchased during lockdown was quite small, and many people decluttered their homes – there is an incentive to hold on to this rather than rush back to our old, accelerated life.

We are seeing societal changes that facilitate maintaining this new, slowed down rhythm. New Zealand is talking about moving to a four-day workweek, for example, and Twitter says employees can continue to work from home indefinitely.

The current moment offers a unique opportunity to push back against the cult of speed and to continue life in this slower, more meaningful form.

Courtesy **THE CONVERSATION**

**Baking your own bread has been a lockdown trend** Shutterstock



# 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](http://www.3zzz.com.au). Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

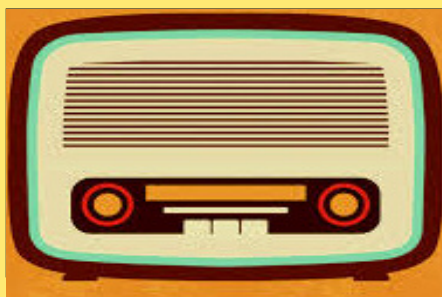
**MELBOURNE:** on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

### 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. Also *On Demand* on l-Internet: [www.893fm.com.au](http://www.893fm.com.au)

*On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u sugġetti ta' interess.*

**SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38.** Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: [sbs.com.au/maltese](http://sbs.com.au/maltese) (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thurs-

days 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](http://www.coastfm.org.au)

**SBS MALTESE NEWS:** L-Aħbarijiet 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](mailto:bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com) Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email [ronborg@mac.com](mailto:ronborg@mac.com)

**97.9 FM Melton** Tuesday Maltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm Presenter Miriam Vella



## 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 akkademiċi lill:

**admin@mccv.org.au**

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



## Events for 2020

Sunday July 5  
Lejla fil-Buskett  
Sunday October 18  
Fete  
Saturday November 14  
Dinner Dance  
Sunday December 6  
Festa San Nikola

## 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](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com)

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

### Avviż lill-qarrejja

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

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

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdwew jirċevu kopja pprintjata tal-magazine kull darba li joħroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jzommuha f'idejhom, huma mħegġa li jabbonaw għal sena ħalli jagħmlu żgur mill-kopja

Biex dan isir wiehed l-ewwel jibghat email lil [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto: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 mhumix kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna u jkun moqdijin.

### Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi sugġett huma mħegġa ma jhallux għall-aħħar. Jekk tridu tibagħtu l-emails indirizza-whom [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Maltesevoice@gmail.com)



# Formula 1 back on track on July 5

**A**fter months of cancellations and postponements, Formula 1 has revealed a provisional 2020 Formula 1 season calendar to return to track action. The season would start on July 5 with the Austrian GP. It will be the first of eight behind-closed-door European races in 10 weeks.

The FIA currently expects the opening races to be closed events, but hopes fans would be able to join its events again when it is safe to do so.

The latest Formula 1 races to be cancelled owing to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic are, Japan, Azerbaijan and Singapore. The last two named are street races.

Formula One chief executive Chase Carey has said that once the 2020 season gets underway races will not be cancelled, even if a driver or team member tests positive for coronavirus, with plans in place if the situation arises.

The sport says it still has an "expectation of having a total of 15-18 races before the completion of the season in December" amid interest from new circuits.

The new schedule features eight races at six circuits, with back-to-back GPs in Austria (Spielberg circuit on July 5, 12) and England (Silverstone on August 2, 9), while



there are also set to be two triple-headers.

The other events on the calendar are those in Hungary (Budapest on July 19), Spain (Barcelona on August 16), Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps on August 30) and Italy (Monza on September 6).

Eight races are the minimum needed for a world championship, although F1 says, "further races will be announced in the coming weeks".

The second Austrian race is to be called the Steiermark GP - the German name for Styria, the region the Red Bull Ring is situated - with the second Silverstone race called the 70th Anniversary GP, in honour of the circuit hosting the championship's inaugural event in 1950.

All races will take place without fans in attendance, while F1 plans to create a 'biosphere' on location with everyone entering the paddock tested for coronavirus regularly and observing social distancing.

The F1 2020 campaign was due to start in Australia on March 15, but that Grand Prix was called off hours before first practice was due to start amid coronavirus fears - and nine more races have been called off since then.

Instead, the season is set to begin with consecutive races at Spielberg's Red Bull Ring, the first on Sunday, July 5, which was Austria's planned race date.

After the second race there, the sport will head 200 miles east to the Hungaroring in Budapest.

There will be a week off before planned back-to-back races at Silverstone. F1 is expected to be granted a quarantine exemption by the British government. Then follows a race in Barcelona that was initially set for May.

F1's regular Belgium-Italy double-header keeps its planned race dates, with Grands Prix at Spa-Francorchamps and Monza the last races confirmed by the sport so far.

## The return of the Premier League confirmed for next Wednesday

**F**ollowing a number of video conferences, the representatives of the Premier League clubs in England have come to the conclusion that all immediate hurdles to the return of play have been cleared and the reopening will go on as planned to start on Wednesday June 17, with a full resumption due the following weekend.

Many football supporters all over the world over have given the thumbs up sign to the news emanating from the English football authorities. It is no secret that the Premier League is the most followed football competition, in most parts of the world.

At this point the Premier League can enter the final stages in the return to action, which will be all about logistics and finessing the details, not to mention the good health of everyone concerned, in ways that go beyond the rounds of Covid-19 testing carried out so far. Neutral venues will remain an option, to be used as and when required.

There has also been an agreement on an on-field change. For the remainder of the season five substitutes would be allowed, with nine reserve players permitted on the bench.

It is a hugely difficult situation for the players after over two months of "inactivity". They would still be expected to win, instantly, however, one should also expect a loss of sharpness in basic technique by the players. The French newspaper *L'Équipe* ran a study on this subject, with input from players across Europe who have noted a loss of basic ball skills during confinement.

Marcelo of Real Madrid reported that for the first time during an extended break he felt his ball control suffering. Players reported puzzled laughter at mistakes in training that just wouldn't normally happen. Patience would certainly be required on all sides. This is all very new.

## Competitive sports Malta back July 15

**F**ollowing the dates and guidelines issued by the Government for the resumption of contact sports activities in Malta on July 15, the Malta FA will now be stepping up its preparations and plans for season 2020-21.

The date vindicated the association's decision to terminate the football competitions' season as it did, also due to the fact that UEFA had set a July 20 deadline for the submission of the names of the teams competing in the initial qualifying rounds of the 2020-21 UEFA club competitions.

Therefore it had been impossible to complete the BOV Premier League, with 42 matches remaining, and the final three matches of the FA Trophy, in a five-day period.

## Football in NSW can return on July 1

**T**he NSW Government has set July 1, as the date when tens of thousands of senior football players of all ages can join youth in commencing contact training and football matches.

However, it has indicated that until that date, current restrictions remain in effect, and no competition matches can be played (including 'friendlies' as part of a training session).