



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

Issue
231

fortnightly magazine for the Diaspora

June 30, 2020

Sunrise at Senglea

(Fritz photography)



The axe has finally fallen: Maltese language courses suspended

Black clouds have been on the horizon for many years. On several occasions the Maltese community had been repeatedly warned, however, although a shock, the official letter from Paul Martin, the chief executive officer of the NSW Education Standards Authority declaring the suspension of the Maltese language due to low national candidature of three consecutive years was expected.

In March last year, the Federation of Maltese Language Schools had warned that it was a dire situation that in the state of Victoria the Maltese did not have any students sitting for the VCE in this final year of the triennial allowance. Maltese must have a minimum of 15 students nationally.

The Federation has asked the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) and the NSW Education Authority (NESA) and SACE Board of South Australia for a deferment of twelve months to rally in students enrolments. It did not happen; hence the final axe as indicated by Martin's letter.

Due to low national candidature over three consecutive years, the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) accepted the recommendation from the Australasian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities (ACACA) to suspend the Stage 6 (Years 11–12) Maltese Continuers course. NESA will suspend the Maltese Continuers course following the 2021 HSC examinations.

The suspension of the Maltese Continuers course will still allow students to undertake the Year 11 course in 2020 to continue and complete their HSC studies in 2021.

According to the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Language (CCAFL), Maltese may be reactivated if documented evidence can be provided of: (a) projected candidature nationally for a minimum of three consecutive years, of at least 15 students at HSC level; (b) sufficient subject/language expertise available nationally to provide: •curriculum design and development •examination setting, vetting and marking teams, including a Chief Examiner, in addition to teachers of Maltese Continuers in the HSC; (c) tertiary or equivalent expertise available to support the teaching and assessment of Maltese Continuers.

Should there be a school with students wishing to study Maltese after the suspension date, schools and community members are advised that students could undertake a School Developed Board Endorsed course.

Contacting The Voice of the Maltese, a former teacher said that although it may sound terminal, the majority of the students in NSW are not interested in sitting for the HSC. "I am sure that

the school will continue teaching cultural and language classes as usual. However, there should always be a path for those willing to advance their study".

From the State of Victoria

The president of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Marlene Ebejer told *The Voice*. "Unfortunately we faced the same news last year. A delegation met with the department to put forward ideas of how to boost numbers moving forward. We have lost the battle.

"Our numbers for community classes in the state of Victoria are around 20 to 30 enrolments per semester. With the flexibility of online classes, we are hopeful of increasing these numbers. Many of our adult students are 2nd or 3rd generation or people connected to Maltese families.

"If anybody is interested in finding out more about our community based Maltese language classes, they can view our website: www.mccv.org.au.

From the State of NSW

Emanuel Camilleri, President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW told us. "It was inevitable; we had been warned years ago; unfortunately, all our efforts to boost the number of students did not materialise. Maybe because we did not try hard enough or a lack of interest. I think the latter is more in order. Like all things, we have to look at the circumstances, and when interest falls than the end follows".

Ivan Cauchi who teaches Maltese at the La Valette Centre Blacktown wrote to us in Maltese:

"Kien b'dieqa li grajt l-aħbar tas-sospensjoni tal-Malti mill-eżamijiet tal-HSC. Kienet ilha tberraq, u fl-aħħar faqqgħet. Innotifika tas-sospensjoni giet bi proċess ta' kif jista' jiġi riattivat, imma jidher li hu iktar diffiċli terġa' tibda haġa milli tkompliha.

"Jien naħseb li daww minna li jahdmu fit-tifrix tal-lingwa għażiża tagħna f'din l-art għandna nwarbu xi differenzi li kellna fil-passat u naħdmu fis-shih flimkien biex, fuq pjan fit-tul, nirritornaw il-Malti fil-post li jixraq lu bħala kulur neċessarju fil-kalejdoskopju lingwistiku edukattiv tal-Awstralja."

The Voice of the Maltese is of the view that teaching of the Maltese language in Australia needs a complete overall, practical assistance from the business community and the Malta Government but most of all better use of our limited resource. We can no longer afford to have separate setups. Unity will give us the strength to recover.



Students at the Horsley Park NSW Maltese Language School

Lisa is named Granville Women of the Year

The Maltese community is proud of the fact that one of their own, Lisa Bright nee Muscat, President of the Festa Committee of Greystanes was recently awarded the Granville Woman of the Year in the annual awards run by the NSW State Government.

Lisa, who works for the Diocese of Parramatta as a Project Officer for the Pastoral Planning Office comes from a Maltese family. Both her parents were born on the island.

Her father Louis comes from St Paul's Bay and moved to Australia with his family when he was still only nine years. He went back to Malta in the 70's where he met her mum from Gharghur. They were married in Malta and her mum, then in her early twenties, emigrated to Australia. Her mother's family still lives in Malta and Lisa has visited them quite a few times.

Lisa's role as a Project Officer is to accompany parishes and faith communities to grow and share faith within their communities. It also includes helping teams prepare plans for how they can bring to life the mission of Christ in their communities.

Another one of her tasks involves training and formation in a variety of areas from preparing for effective meetings to forming and growing ministry teams.

Lisa has lived in the parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace her whole life. In her late teens she became very involved with the parish through youth and music ministry, then in her early 20's she joined the Parish Pastoral Council and over the years has been on and off parish committees. She ministers in different areas of liturgy within the parish.

More recently, she was invited to join the OLQP Festa Committee and soon after was elected its President.

Requested to give more light about the

awards, Lisa explained that each year there are seven state-wide categories. In addition; each electorate announces a local winner.

One day, Julia Finn, the local member for Granville, the electorate in which she resides, called and informed her that she was named the *Local Woman of the Year*.

"It was such a surprise," Lisa told *The Voice*. "When Julia Finn phoned, I thought she was responding to the



Lisa (right) receiving the Award from Hon. Julia Finn.

Above: Lisa in a commemorative photo with the MP for Granville



nity," Lisa said. "It was such a huge honour to have been considered to receive such an award.

"To know that people appreciate the community events that myself and fellow team members coordinate, particularly at the level of local government, is really wonderful."

Lisa shares this award with all the people who make it possible to do the work that she does. She believes that no one can do life alone and in fact many people constantly

support her in order to do what she manages to do in her parish community.

"My family is very supportive of the work that I do, and I thank them whole-heartedly. My husband and my three children are very accommodating and put up with all the meetings, my moments of stress and/or exuberance. I also have an amazing network of extended family and friends for whom I am so grateful for their support.

"I have been blessed to have achieved many things in my life – in my personal and career. The biggest achievement has been to live the fullest of lives, with the grace of God and I pray that I can continue to be and do the best I can for as long as I can," she concluded.

invitations to support our events that year – but no. The conversation was that I had been awarded the *Local Woman of the Year for 2020* for my contribution to the local community through my parish and the Maltese community."

She had met Julia Finn on a number of occasions as she regularly attends community events in the OLQP Greystanes Community and is a huge supporter of migrant communities. "She is very supportive of the OLQP Maltese Festa that has been a highlight of the Greystanes community for 55 years."

But why her? "I asked myself the same question! The award is a wonderful recognition of women in general in our commu-

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

Pre-settlement Inspections: What do you look for?

by Paul Sant

Pre-settlement inspections are also known as final inspections. Purchasers, usually chaperoned by the sales agent, do such inspections. They are not compulsory, however they are strongly recommended.

How many times can I inspect the property?

Before you exchange contracts to purchase, as purchasers you can usually make appointments to see the property as often as your heart desires (without driving the poor vendors bonkers)!

In addition to your personal appointments, purchasers will often engage inspectors who attend the property to conduct pest and building reports, or survey reports.

However, after the cooling off period has expired, and you are taken to have completed your investigations of the property, purchasers are usually entitled to one pre-settlement inspection.

When can I do my pre-settlement inspection?

Inspections are usually done in the last week before settlement. We generally advise that the inspection does not occur on the day of inspection.

If issues are raised during an inspection, which is occurring mere hours before settlement is scheduled to occur, it can be difficult to have them resolved without delaying settlement. It is a good idea to inspect the property a day or two before settlement is expected to occur.

Basically, you should pick a time before settlement and after the vendors have re-

moved all of the personal property. The property should be empty when you go to do your inspection.

If the property is not empty, you may be entitled to a second inspection on a separate date to ensure that the items have been removed prior to settlement. More about this below.

What do I look for? And then what do I do?

In general, there are a handful of issues you should address at the inspections. These are:

1. You should check that the property is **in the same condition** or state of repair as it was when you entered the contract. If there is some deterioration due fair wear and tear, then you cannot make a complaint. However if there is damage caused by the occupants of the property during the settlement period you should contact your solicitor.

It is at this stage that having conducted a building inspection at the time of exchange can be particularly useful, as it is objective historical proof of the previous quality of the building. Having a building report handy means that you can easily avoid arguments with the vendor as to who saw what at the time of exchange.

2. You should check that the **occupants have removed all of their items** from the property. If the property is sold with vacant possession, this means that you must have clear access to the property, without having to remove or dispose of significant items yourself. In the event that the vendor has left bulky items behind, you should inform your solicitor, who will be able to negotiate a resolution on your behalf.



It may be that settlement can be delayed by a couple of hours, in order to allow for the vendor to remove the items, or a discount can be provided to the purchaser on settlement in order to compensate the purchase for the cost of removal of the items.

3. If the vendor has promised to **repair defects** in the property, this is your opportunity to check whether those repair jobs have been completed. If you need to bring an expert with you, feel free to do so.

4. This is also an opportunity to check whether the vendor will be able to **hand over keys and/or remotes** for all of the doors, windows, gates and locks that require a key. The vendor is not obliged to provide you with a new key, if the vendor did not have one at exchange, however it can be a matter of negotiation. At the very least, you will know whether you will need to hire a locksmith on settlement date.

If there are issues on settlement and the vendor has agreed to rectify the issues, you should request a second inspection to verify that the vendor has rectified the issues.

At times, vendor do not have the time or ability to fix certain issues, and may be willing to engage in negotiations to reduce the amount payable to them on settlement by the estimated loss the purchaser would suffer if they fixed the issue themselves. These are informal, but the speediest methods of resolution.

Each Australian State will have a different formal mechanism for dispute resolution within their format of Contracts for Sale of Land. Some involve the quarantining of a sum of money without delaying settlement, until an independent arbitrator resolves the purchaser's claim.

Thereafter, the money is released to the successful party.

You should obtaining specific legal advice about your particular contract, and the remedies available to you.

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



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Maltese Spoken



Learning about his heritage has been a journey

He has been performing for the Maltese community since the age of 14 years when his aunt, fortunately, got him in contact with the Maltese Cultural Association. Artist James Cassar told The Voice: "It is almost like the Maltese community has become my second family".

James Cassar

James was born at the Liverpool Hospital and lived in Camden NSW most of his life, a 3rd generation Maltese Australian. His great grandfather came from Qormi. Since then his grandfather Allan Cassar Snr. and then his father Allan Cassar Jr. were born. His mother's name is Roxanne Cassar.

James has been training and performing since age seven under the tutelage of his aunt Allanah. At age ten he took part in his first-ever stage musical and since then has performed in a great number of musicals and other events.

Some of his more notable musical roles include:

- Kurt Von Trapp – The Sound of Music
- Colin Craven – The Secret Garden
- Joseph – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat
- Judas Iscariot – Jesus Christ Superstar
- Raul De Chagne – Phantom of the Opera
- Galileo Figaro – We Will Rock You

He was also a featured artist in the 2009 Schools Spectacular performed in the Sydney Entertainment Centre before it's closure, in front of 10,000 people. He was one of the selected few to represent Australia in the "New Asia Singing Competition," in Beijing, China. It was a fantastic opportunity for him, and many of the friends he made from different countries there, are still close friends today.

James was fortunate enough to perform alongside the



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

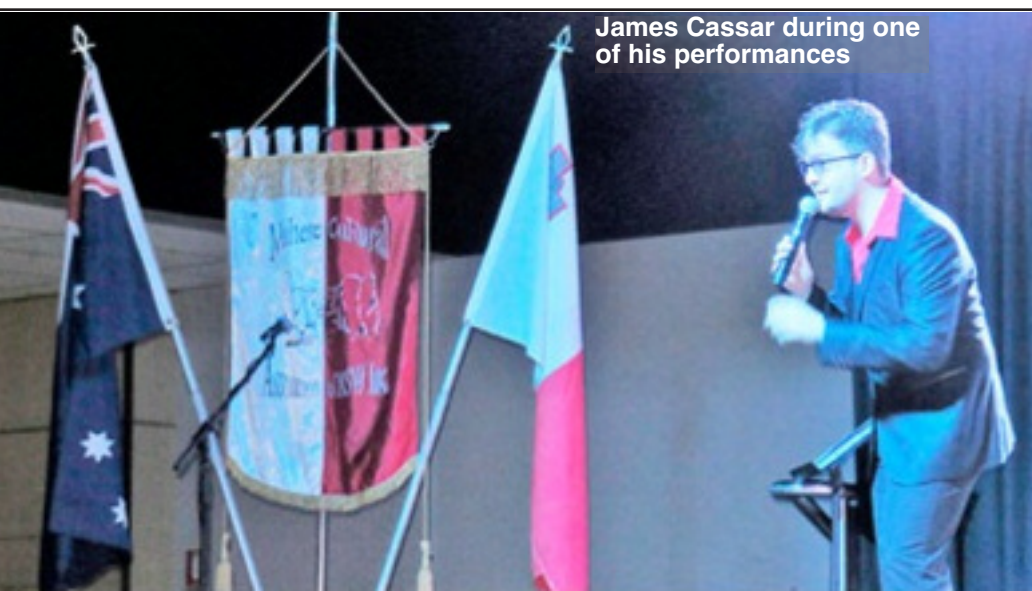
great Frank Ifield in "The Frank Ifield Show." This was performed at a few clubs around NSW and showcased many of the songs that were coming out around the time of Frank's start and all the way through his stardom.

Of late James has been doing the rounds through clubs NSW and performing all around Sydney and the Central Coast. During this time he has also been teaching the musicians of tomorrow from his studio in the ways of the

Voice, Guitar and Piano. An experience he finds most fulfilling.

He has been amongst us "forever". He has performed at many functions, in many different venues, and for many different associations within the Maltese community, which he feels very fortunate to be a part of.

He told The Voice of the Maltese that since the birth of his grandfather, none of his family has been to Malta, not even to just visit. "I'm hoping to be the first one of my family to go and visit in the near future. I do consider myself a Maltese-Australian and am quite proud to call myself as such. Learning about my heritage has been a journey. I hope to take it even further".



James Cassar during one of his performances

Opinion: AndyBusuttil

Cradled in Pietá*

Anzac day has come and gone. It has disappeared into the recesses of our mind until April 25th next year. But we mustn't forget that right now 105 years ago young men were dying on the battlefield.

That was a battlefield created by stupidity. A battlefield created and enhanced by decisions of idiots in power.

People who could not see beyond their own hubris and arrogance. People who could not see that others were as important as they were, regardless of their nationality or race. People who believed that violence was an answer.

Violence between people in uniform and in civvies. Violence that was generated by different nation states proliferated by them and exercised by the mindlessness of those who were indoctrinated in the belief that blind obedience is God.

Violence between people; yes between people, human beings, those who love and feel sorrow and cry at their losses and celebrate the birth of their children.

Violence that, when stepped back from and viewed with calm objectivity and a rational mind, makes absolutely no sense.

Forgetting the battlefield after Anzac Day until April 25th next year leaves us with a voided memory about the insanity of conflict until we see it again, and again, and again, and again when memory is refreshed; when memory stirs the sorrow deeply embedded in our souls.

Violence between us hurts us all. We say that we learn

from experience. I don't think so.

I was prompted to write this because of the anger and sorrow around the world about violence. I write this because regardless of our anger and sorrow about violence we continue to proliferate it.

We forget that there is no such thing as 'the enemy', be they people of different nationality, colour, clothing or belief. We don't seem to realise that tribal attachment is the enemy. Unless we transcend this tribal belief we will never save the planet.

**Cradled in Pietá has been written with reference to the fact that many Anzacs lie buried in Malta in the military Cemetery in the heart of Pietá that is a poignant mix of both war and civilian casualties.*

The Statue of the Pietá is so appropriate to the name of this cemetery given that it is the Holy Mother cradling her dead son in her arms. Her grief shows so deeply as must have the grief of all mothers whose sons now lie buried in Malta's sacred ground.



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If you're concerned, call your GP or the national Coronavirus Health Information Hotline **1800 020 080**, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For translating or interpreting services, call **131 450**.

Older citizens can also access the Older Persons Advocacy Network on **1800 237 981** from 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday.

Julie Owens MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA

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25-year-old pleads not guilty of decapitating mum's head

Almost a year after she allegedly decapitated her mother's head with kitchen knives, a young woman of Maltese descent, Jessica Camilleri, 25, has pleaded not guilty to the crime and wants a judge-alone trial.

In the NSW Supreme Court, Jessica Camilleri pleaded not guilty to the charge of murdering her 57-year-old mother, Rita, from Gozo, in their home in St Clair, a suburb of Sydney 39 km west of Sydney CBD.

The court was told that Jessica wanted to apply for a judge-alone trial – which prosecutors said they were against. The case was adjourned for hearing on the issue later in July.

Jessica said in court last year that she had several conditions including border autism, bipolar disorder, and anxiety and asked to be taken to a hospital where she could receive treatment. The police said the alleged crime was "up there with one of the most significant, most horrific scenes they had had to face."

Police constable of Maltese descent dies in tragic road accident

Aaron Vidal, 28, a NSW Police constable of Maltese descent died after he was struck by a ute vehicle driven by a 17-year-old in the intersection of Windsor and Schofields Roads Rouse Hill, a suburb of Sydney, 43 kilometres north-west of the Sydney central business district.

Aaron was travelling home from work on a motorcycle from Sydney City Police Area Command where he worked for three years alongside his father, Chief Inspector David Vidal.

He leaves behind a pregnant fiancée, Jessica, and six siblings. Aaron lived in Bligh Park. His parents were both born in Australia, but his grandparents were from Rabat, Malta.

Police alleged in court that 37-year-old Tommy Balla drove the ute through a red light at an intersection. Balla appeared in Blacktown Local Court on charges of dangerous driving occasioning death and negligent driving occasioning death. He was granted conditional bail and is due to appear before the same court on August 14. If found guilty he faces a maximum penalty for the offence of 14 years behind bars.

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said in a statement that Constable Vidal

had been recognised within the force for his commitment to protecting the community. "On two occasions, he had been formally recognised for good police work by members of the community, which shows that he was held in high regard by not only his peers but the community he served," Mr Fuller said.

Aaron (right) had been confirmed as a constable in December 2018 and was attached to the force's "proactive crime team". He was a man of service. Before he joined the police force, he served as a member of the armed forces.



High Commission for the Republic of Malta



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

The Malta High Commission in Canberra advises that the Consular Offices will reopen to in-person appointments on the following dates:

- Consular Office in Canberra: from June 22
- Consulate General in Melbourne: from July 6
- Consulate General in Sydney: from June 16

The reopening of the Consular Offices to the public will require the strict observance of the COVID-19 precautionary measures, as follows:

- Persons accessing the offices are expected to practice good hygiene and must sanitise hands upon entry;
- Applicants will only be allowed access to the offices at the time of the pre-booked appointment – no more than two persons allowed per allocated booking or persons residing within the same household;
- Persons should wear a facemask to be taken off only when instructed by members of staff – to capture biometric images.

In-person appointments relating to applications for passport and citizenship, and other consular services, including the witnessing of signatures and identity, will be accepted by APPOINTMENT ONLY. To make an appointment one should contact our offices on:

Malta High Commission Canberra:

highcommission.canberra@gov.mt: (02) 6290 1724

Consulate General Melbourne:

maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt: (03) 9670 8427

Consulate General Sydney:

maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt: (02) 9262 9500

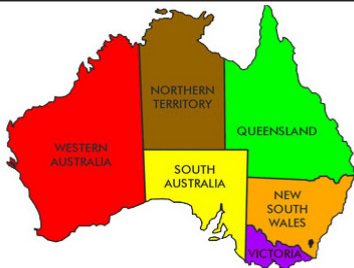
The timeframe of application processing has been impacted by the current restrictive measures and are taking longer. Applicants must leave ample time to renew their passports. Visa applications remain suspended until further notice.

We look forward to welcoming applicants back and will appreciate your cooperation in making this a safe (COVID 19 free) experience for all.



Aaron (left) with his father Victor

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
join us on facebook:

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

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

History of Maltese islands full of great richness and diversity

Andy Busuttill from Hazelbrook, NSW writes:

I was delighted to read Joseph Cutajar's article about the history of our homeland in the last edition (No. 230) of *The Voice*.

The history of our Islands is of enormous depth and breadth. It is a history of great richness and diversity and shows the extent to which we, as a people, have endured the influences of so many other cultures yet managed to retain our uniqueness of quality and language.

In particular, and in the main with fewer exceptions than adherents, the 'heart of Malta' is a celebratory feature of our Island history and culture. I have always found the Maltese people to be characteristically generous and embracing.

Given the number of times that we have been invaded and dominated this is indeed

extraordinary. This is perhaps a national attitude that the rest of the world would do well to embrace and replicate.

Maltese people would do well to study our history and be proud of what we have achieved in the face of much adversity over the centuries. The history of Malta itself is indeed the history of the world!

Very interesting and enjoyable reading

Doris Cannataci from Sliema writes:

How I enjoyed reading your first article in *The Voice* magazine "Where did the Maltese come from?" (Pages 2 and 3) I did quite a bit of research about it for my thesis. It is very interesting.

I felt a sense of pride reading about 22-year-old medical student Rebecca Caruana (page 3) and about Paul Zammit receiving the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours (page 6).

It was also interesting to read about the obituary of Michael Lanzon: his wife Edith Storace was at Grammar School with me a grade or two lower than me.

Reading Christine Muscat's article about Covid-19, it would be good if she were to say what her father used to relate about WWII.

Finally I find it a very good idea to include topics like *Snajja Maltin* in the magazine. Keep up the good work!

High Commission in Canada

Joe Xerri from Toronto, Ontario Canada writes:

I agree that we in Canada should have a High Commission no just a Consulate. We deserve better and hope that the present Consul-General would be the first High Commissioner.

Nostalgija u ta' ispirazzjoni

Mario Griscti minn Ta' Xbiex jikteb:

I receive *The Voice of the Maltese* Nru.230. Harġ'oġra li paxxietni u stimulatli nostalgija u l-inspirazzjoni għal aktar interess f'dak li qed isehh fil-kontinent Awstraljan. Malta u l-Awstralja huma hbieb antiki. Hbiberija mibnija fuq bazi soda.

Grazzi mill-qalb.

Grazzi tal-artikli tassew interessanti

Norman Bonello minn The Ponds NSW jikteb:

Nixtieq tassew infahhar u fl-istess hin nagħti ħajr lil Ivan Cauchi għall-artikli u kummenti mirquma u tant riċerkati li jiktbilna f'kull harġa ta' *The Voice*. Suġġetti dejjem interessanti u topici.

Grazzi wkoll lit-tmexxija tar-rivista talli żżommu l-livell għoli f'kull harġa. Diġà qed tagħmluha, imma nkompli nhegġeg li dejjem tibqgħu żżommu bilanċ bejn l-artikli bil-Malti u dawk bl-Ingliż għax il-Malti hi l-lingwa tagħna. Grazzi wkoll għall-varjetà tal-artikli li ttuna f'kull harġa



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

For issues concerning:

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P: (02) 9756 4766

E: prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au

2679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164

Il-baned fil-festi Maltin

Il-banda hija fattur importanti fil-festi tradizzjonali Maltin, u kulhadd jistenna jarmaha biex tohroġ dak hoss qawwi u sabiħ. Sa minn jiġi qabel il-festa, il-partitarji jaħdmu biex fil-festa l-banda tagħmel għeħ lill-każin tagħhom. Fejn fir-raħal ikun hemm aktar minn banda waħda, ma jonqsux il-piki.

Minhabba l-pandemija ta' din is-sena, das-sajf se nkunu mingħajr festi tal-irhula, għalhekk il-baned se jibqgħu għewwa u wara kollox anke jsofru finanzjarjament. It-tajjeb hu li biex jittaffa dan it-telf lis-soċjetajiet tal-banda, il-gvern nieda fond biex dawn l-għaqdiet igawdu minn għotja ta' €150,000.

Fl-istess hin, bil-għan li l-belt kapitali Maltija terġa' tingħata l-hajja u l-attività ekonomika u soċjali terġa' tirpilja wara d-daqqa tal-pandemija, ttabbar li fix-xhur tas-sajf, disa' baned lokali u t-tnejn tal-belt se joffru divertiment mużikali lil dawk li jzuru l-kapitali f'ħinijiet differenti tal-gimgha. Il-baned se jkollhom sehem sħiħ fl-attività.

Hekk b'xi mod tittaffa l-kilba ta' dawk li jhobbu l-baned u li tant jentuzjażmaw ruħhom ihejju l-baned għall-festa li generalment jilhaq l-aqwa tiegħu fil-marċ ta' filgħodu f'jum il-festa nnifisha, meta l-briju tal-partitarji, l-aktar dawk akkaniti, jidher bil-kbir b'kuluri tal-każin u emblemi oħra jitbandlu u jixxejru mar-ritmu u l-kant tal-marċ Malti.

Interessanti l-fatt li ż-żgħażaġħ mimlija enerġija jzidu fil-briju jgħabbu lil xulxin fuq l-ispallejn u jzidu mal-briju bl-għajjat ta; 'Viva l-festa kbira tagħna' u 'Ma' tagħna ma tagħmlu xejn'.

Il-bidu tagħhom fi Sqallija

Il-hoss tal-baned Maltin huma karatteristiċi tagħna u jingħarfu sewwa minn dawk barranin. L-uniċi baned li jersqu qrib l-istil u l-forma tagħna huma tal-Isqallin. Dan inhabba li l-baned tagħna u l-festi tradizzjonali Maltin jafu l-għerug tagħhom lill-baned u lill-festi Sqallin.

Fl-imghoddi, in-nies l-aktar magħrufa fir-raħal li jkunu f'pożizzjoni finanzjarja tja b'ħafna aħjar minn dik ta' ħad-diem li jaqla' ħobzu bil-ġurnata, bħal xi kuntrattur, avukat, nutar jew tabib, kienu jsibu ruħhom fil-kumitati tal-baned u l-festi tal-irhula tagħhom, mnhabba li jkunu mbuttati, inkella jimbutaw huma biex jingħataw il-hatra.

Ma kinetx ħaġa kbira li kienu jieħdu xi safra lejn Sqallija, u wieħed jifhem għaliex Sqallija. Dan għax minhabba li fl-imghoddi l-ivvjaġġar kien bil-baħar kienu dejjem jagħzlu l-art l-eqreb ta' Malta, Sqallija. Hu proprju minn hemm li gabu magħhom l-ewwel drawwiet Maltin għall-festi tagħna.

Il-festi Sqallin għandhom xebħ kbir ma' dawk tal-Maltin imma nahseb li l-festi tagħna żviluppaw aktar u kabbar-nhom biex saru tassew il-festi tagħna.

Fl-imghoddi l-irhula Maltin kien ikollhom il-baned tagħhom, jiġifieri bl-bandisti mill-istess raħal. Illum dan m'għadux possibbli. Din l-użanza kważi ntemmet u l-baned



kollha, f'Malta u Għawdex, jissellfu bandisti minn ta' xulxin.

Huwa fatt li l-baned żdiedu, iżda l-bandisti naqsu. Illum biex iddoqq banda trid tħallas sewwa. Dak l-entuzjażmu ta' dari fost l-imsejha bandisti tal-post naqas bis-sħiħ. Fil-fatt, niehu gost meta nara xi baned fil-irhula li għad fadlilhom numru sabiħ ta' bandisti tal-post u lill-kumitati tal-każini jagħmlu l-almu kollu tagħhom biex iżommu l-interess u l-entuzjażmu fil-banda.

Nitgħaxxaq ukoll nara dawk ir-ritratti antiki mwahħlin fis-swali sbieħ tal-każini tagħna li juru l-baned tagħhom fl-imghoddi. Fihom tista' tresserva kburija (biex ngħid hekk) li dak li jkun jiffirma parti mill-banda tal-każin tiegħu.

Is-surmast ikun ma' dawk ta' quddiem, u generalment fl-ewwel filliera jkun hemm dawk bl-istrumenti tal-injam, bħal klarinetti, eċċ. L-istrumenti tar-ramm (baxxi, trumbuni, eċċ) ikunu fuq wara tar-ritratt.

L-entuzjażmu fil-baned kien kbir ħafna, tant li kien hemm ħafna li sa kienu jgibu surmastrijiet barranin u jħallsu hom tajjeb biex jidderiġulhom il-banda tagħhom.

Id-delegat tal-banda

Fl-imghoddi kull banda kien ikollha wkoll id-delegat tagħha biex jieħu ħsiebha. Dan kien ikun speċi ta' ħolqa mal-kumitat ġenerali. Qaluli li anke dan qed jisparixxi u minflok, qed jidhol il-kuntrattur li xogħlu hu li fejn ma jkunx hemm id-delegat tal-post ikun hu li jiffirma jew jorganizza l-banda. Qabel, id-delegat kien jgħri minn festa għall-oħra biex isib l-aqwa bandisti għal meta jkollu bżonn.

Illum għadek issib każini tal-banda sbieħ u attrezzati b'kol-lox, bi swali dekorati b'mod mill-aqwa, l-aktar grazzi għall-kumitati tan-nisa li dejjem ħadu dan l-inkarigu f'idejhom. Qabel, dawn il-kumitati tan-nisa ma kinux jeżistu u l-każin tal-banda kien iffukat biss fil-banda: li jkabbarha u li tkun waħda li tassew tagħmel għeħ lill-każin u lir-raħal tiegħu.

L-interess tat-tagħlim tal-mużika fil-baned kiber u f'kull każin issib l-jiddispaċini li forsi aktar iva milli le, din tkun biss furja taż-żgħażaġħ – guvintur u tfajliet – għax kif jaqbd u jinnamraw, jew bl-iskuża tax-xogħol jew l-istudju, iwarrbu kollox fil-ġenb.

Imbagħad addijo l-enerġija tal-għalliem tiegħu biex iwasslu sal-mument meta jkun jaf jagħmel erba' noti!

Dan ma jfissirx li m'għadekx tara bandisti tassew tajbin, u m'hegga biex joqogħdu għall-eżamijiet tal-mużika u jiksbu l-aħjar ċertifikati ... iżda dawn huma biss il-ftit.

Il-baned Maltin għad għandhom posthom fil-festi, u fil-jiem tal-festa kulhadd jimtela bl-entuzjażmu, inkluż iż-żgħażaġħ għall-hoss tal-banda Maltija. Ħafna soċjetajiet mużikali jgħidu li 'allahares ma kinux iż-żgħażaġħ għax kieku m'għandna xejn'.

Kulhadd jaf kemm il-barranin li jkunu fostna għall-festi jhobbu jissieħbu mal-festa Maltija u jallegraw ruħhom għall-hoss tal-banda. Hi wkoll drawwa li aġenti li jgibu t-turisti fis-sajf, dejjem jinkludu żjarat fil-irhula għal xi festa tar-raħal biex jibqgħu jiftakru ż-żjara.

Il-banda Maltija hija magħrufa għall-marċi sbieħ tagħha, b'karatteristiċi tagħna li ma ssibhom imkien aktar. Huwa stil ta' marċi festivi li missirijietna għarfu jsawru sewwa l-hoss tagħhom mal-hoss tal-festa Maltija.

Banda Maltija ddoqq fit-toroq waqt il-festa



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-sospensjoni tal-Malti bħala sugġett tal-HSC

Bhal ma probabbilment tafu, it-tagħlim tal-Malti fil-livell tal-HSC fi NSW se jintemm wara l-eżamijiet tal-2021. (Ara l-artiklu ewlieni f'pagna 2). Din kienet deċiżjoni li n-NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) ikkomunikat lill-Konslu ta' Malta f'Sydney is-Sur Buhagiar.¹ Ir-raġuni li ngħatat kienet l-għadd baxx ta' kandidati għal dan l-eżami fuq tliet snin konsekuttivi.

Din is-sospensjoni giet għal għarrieda, imma ma nistax ngħid li ma kinetx mistennija. Kwazi kull sena l-organizzazzjonijiet involuti fit-tagħlim tal-Malti fl-Awstralja kienu jirċievu ittra ta' twissija minhabba l-għadd ta' studenti miktuba kien inqas mill-ammont minimu preskritt (hmistax-il student).

F'kull perjodu ta' tliet snin, kien isir sforz ta' barra minn hawn biex ikun hemm iktar minn hmistax-il student talinqas f'sena waħda minnhom, u din jidher li kienet tagħmel l-awtoritajiet irażżnu l-id bil-mingel, u jipposponu l-hsad għall-perjodu tat-tliet snin ta' wara.

Jidher li din it-tattika ħadmet għal diversi drabi, imm'issa daqshekk!

L-ittra tissokta tiddikjara l-proċedura li biha jista' jerga' jiġi kkunsidrat li l-Malti jiddaħhal mill-gdid f'dan il-livell, li jinkludu:

- li jkun hemm mill-inqas hmistax il-kandidat proġettat madwar il-pajjiż għal tliet snin konsekuttivi;
- jkun hemm biżżejjed għarfien dwar kif jissawwar il-kurrikulu u l-organizzar tal-eżamijiet;
- ikun hemm livell suffiċjenti ta' tagħlim għal-lingwa.

Din il-proċedura mhi xejn ġdida; l-ikbar problema hija l-ewwel kundizzjoni, għax il-kundizzjonijiet l-oħra diġà kienu qiegħdin jintlaħqu. Preċiżament, il-problema hi li jekk in-numri ta' studenti msemija ma ntlahqux fil-passat reċenti, kif se jintlaħqu fil-futur? X'kundizzjonijiet differenti se jinholqu biex jintlaħqu?

U kif se jingabru dawn l-istudenti meta l-kors tal-HSC tal-Malti se jitwaqqaf? Liema skola se tiehu dan ix-xogħol? Fi NSW kollu hemm skola waħda biss li kellha kors tal-HSC tal-Malti, is-Saturday School for Community Languages f'Seven Hills. Dak se jjer bonswa issa. Kif se jerga' jinbeda kollox?

Naturalment, wiehed jitlob li jsir miraklu. Ngħid għalija, li nahdem fil-qasam, ninsab pessimist. Ngħid hekk għaliex apparti dan ta' fuq, wiehed irid ukoll josserva x'qed jiġri fis-sistema edukattiva tal-istat ta' NSW.

Fl-istess jiem fejn id-deċiżjoni fuq il-Malti kienet qiegħda tiġi mħabbra, il-gvern ta' NSW ħareġ fil-pubbliku rapport tal-istess NESA² u r-reazzjoni tiegħu għalih.³

L-iktar konklużjonijiet importanti kienu li hemm wisq tifrix fil-sillabi fl-iskejjel ta' NSW li ma jhallix biżżejjed hin biex wiehed jiffoka fuq dak li hu bażiku, u li mhux is-sugġetti kollha tal-HSC jipprovdu holqa ċara għal studju aħhari u karriera.

Fil-fehma tiegħi, il-Malti f'dan il-pajjiż jiġi kkunsidrat li jaqa' f'din il-kategorija, u probabbilment jibqa' jaqa' f'din il-kategorija jekk thares 'il quddiem fis-snin li ġejjin.

Għalkemm jien pessimist, dan ma jfissirx li nahseb li ma jista' jsir xejn. Nistgħu nippruvaw, u inhoss li għandna nikkunsidraw dan li ġej.

L-għadd ta' studenti tal-Malti fi NSW, u fl-Awstralja, huwa baxx, speċjalment meta tikkunsidra li persentaġġ baxx minnhom ikunu motivati li jkomplu l-istudji tagħhom fil-livell tal-HSC. Al-lura biex ikun hemm numru ikbar ta' studenti avvanzati (*continuers*), jridu jiżdiedu l-istudenti li jibdew mill-bidu (*beginners*).

Problema kbira li għandhom l-iskejjel komunitarji li jgħallmu l-Malti, hi li dawn kienu bbażati fuq is-sistema tradizzjonali li l-istudent irid imur fizikament fi klassi u jitgħalllem hemm.

Dan ifisser li jekk hemm xi hadd interessat li joqgħod daqsxejn 'il bogħod, jista' jaqta' qalbu u ma jinkitibx, anke jekk interessat sew.

Illum hawn tekonoġiji li bihom it-tagħlim jista' jsir onlajn, u dan il-perjodu ta' restrizzjonijiet ikkawżati mill-koronavirus uriena li n-nies daru għal dawn it-tekonoġiji, anke jekk jarawhom bħala inferjuri għall-klassi.

Jien jidher li nistgħu nużaw dawn it-tekonoġiji b'mod iktar effettiv biex nilhqu swieq godda ta' studenti li għalihom għal-lezzjonijiet tal-Malti.

Meta l-għadd ta' studenti *beginners* ikun kbir suffiċjenti, jien nahseb li waħidha toħroġ ix-xewqa ta' whud minnhom, wara xi sentejn jew tlieta, biex ikompli t-tagħlim tal-Malti b'ċertifikat li jiġi aċċettat f'dan il-pajjiż. Ikun f'dak l-istadju li nkunu nistgħu nergħu navviċinaw lin-NESA (u lill-VCE f'Victoria jekk ikunu fl-istess sitwazzjoni).

Wiehed jista' biss jagħmel mill-aħjar, u jipprova.

Jahdem u jippjana. Jitlob u jittama.

Referenzi

1. letter reference D2020/98647 dated 19/6/2020 from Paul Martin, CEO NESA to Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General of Malta
2. NSW Curriculum Review; April 2020; NSW Education Standards Authority
3. NSW Government response to the NSW Curriculum Review final report; 2020; p.8



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Servicing the Maltese older community during COVID-19

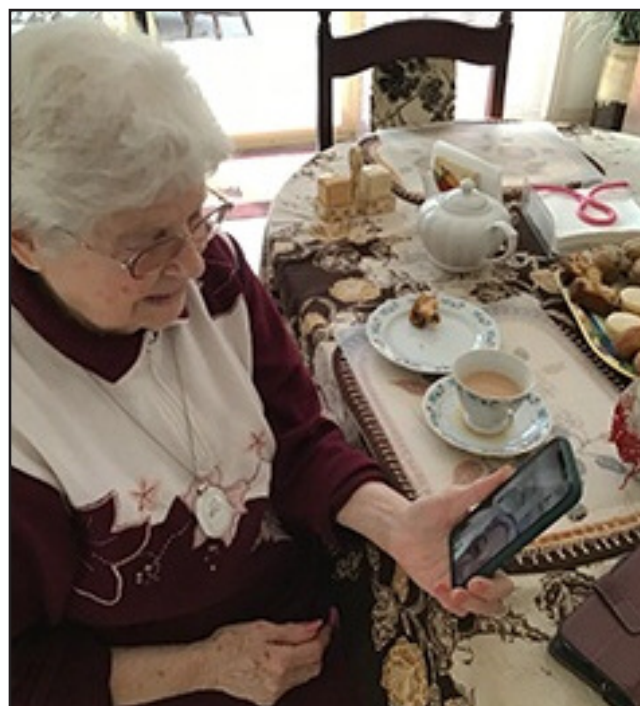
On March 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. (MCCV) closed its centres. Therefore to ensure a continuity of service, support and socialisation to its most vulnerable consumers, that is, the Maltese older community, the usual on-site group sessions have been modified.

Social Support staff that normally facilitate activities at both centres are working currently together with the coordinator to provide the following services to members of the Maltese community in their homes. These include:

- Contacting consumers by telephone three

times a week to perform welfare checks, determine support needs and identify the most isolated consumers who do not have family or services to support them.

- Providing information and contacts for services such as Beyond Blue, COVID-19 Hotline, Food bank and other relevant services.
- Conference calls allowing up to four consumers to chat together.
- Sending birthday cards to consumers, followed by a phone call on their birthday.



- iPad lessons and Loan service. Staff visit consumers and explain the use of the device and provide instruction booklets and telephone support.

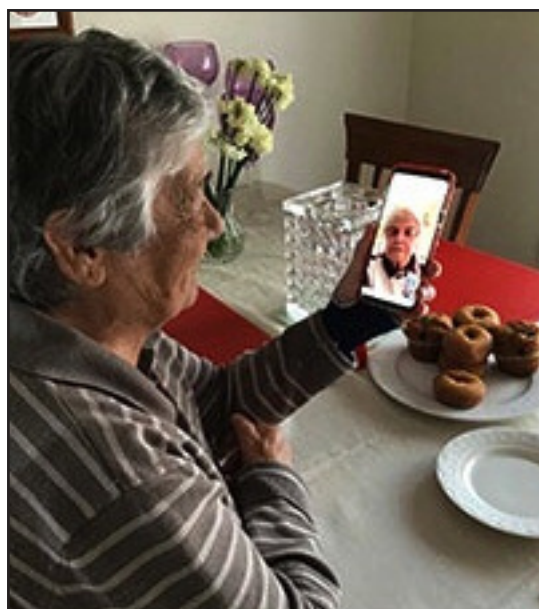
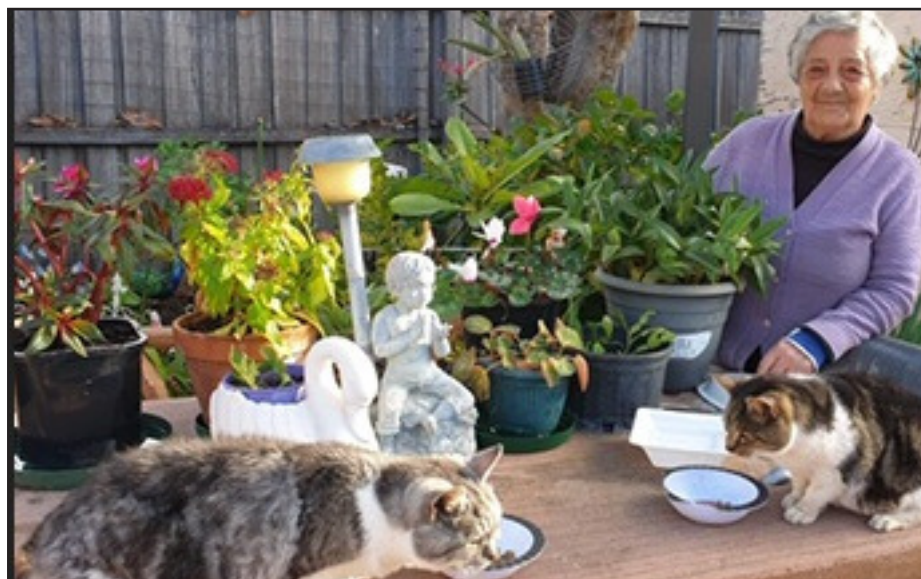
- Weekly scheduled online activities including FaceTime morning tea sessions and virtual socialisation sessions.

- Window visits to consumers and more recently, in-home visits and assistance with shopping.

- Delivery of a fortnightly newsletter containing activities, Maltese recipes submitted by consumers, prayers, photographs of consumers participating in activities, 'a day in the life' consumer interviews, information about staying safe during COVID-19, puzzles and brain training activities.

These services allow consumers to maintain connections with the outside world in these uncertain times. Socialising and interacting, whether it is in person or via some form of digital or printed media is beneficial to our most vulnerable community members and assists in reducing social isolation and provide consumers with fun and stimulating activities.

Pictures show members of the Maltese older community that are served by the MCCV staff





Roundup of News About Malta

The Venice Commission positively welcomes Government's measures

The Government and the Venice Commission have concluded positively the first tranche of reforms, initiated soon after Prime Minister, Robert Abela took office. The Venice Commission positively welcomed the Government measures, which had been subject to a process of consultation.

Addressing the media with the Minister for Justice, Equality and Governance, Edward Zammit Lewis, the Prime Minister said that the process had the full commitment of the Government, which evaluated, consulted, and resulted, ultimately, in favourable approval by the Commission.

These proposals are now to be tabled in



Minister Zammit Lewis and Prime Minister Robert Abela

Malta's reputation abroad, can take place.

For his part, the Dr Edward Zammit Lewis pointed out the importance of the reforms concerned. They include the appointment of the President of Malta proposed to be elected and removed by a

Parliament so that the needed reforms to strengthen the rule of law, institutions and the betterment of

qualified majority of two thirds of the House of Representatives.

Other proposals include, the appointments of the Judiciary, the Chief Justice, the persons and positions of trust, of the Permanent Commission Against Corruption (PCAC), the Ombudsman, the Permanent Secretaries, and also the Prosecution, in that the Attorney General (Director of Public Prosecutors) is now separate from the State Advocate. The DPP will take over prosecutions of those offences that carry a punishment of more than two years (including corruption related offences), while the police will remain responsible for investigative work

93% of adults in Malta are active savers

For the first time, Malta features in the OECD INFE 2020 International Survey of Adult Financial Literacy conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It reports that 93% of Maltese adults are active savers.

Malta participated in its first OECD INFE Survey on Financial Literacy in 2018 through an ESF co-financed project. It was undertaken by GEMMA on behalf of the Office of the Permanent

Secretary within the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity.

The Minister for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity Michael Falzon said that the aim is to invest more in these projects so that families, children and the elderly can benefit from them while learning how to save for their future.

Below are a number of the key findings of the OECD INFE 2020.

Planning and Managing Finances

The most popular way for keeping track of their household finances is by keeping a note of their spending - 46% of Maltese adults.

35% of Maltese people prefer reading about investment products in Maltese;

Another 35% prefer reading documentation in English.

Active Savings and Financial Shocks

The study shows that 93% of adults in Malta are active savers, who save in different ways.

84% of adults in Malta save in a savings/deposit account.

72% of adults in Malta are able to face a major expense equivalent to their income without having to borrow money or ask family members for help.

Financial Goals

45% of adults in Malta do not have a retirement plan.

56% of adults in Malta are likely to rely entirely on their govt. pension at retirement age.

Only 15% have a private pension plan.

Making Ends Meet

64% of adults in Malta have not encountered a situation in which their income did not cover their living expenses in the last 12 months.

Of the 33% who experienced a situation where income did not cover expenses, 86% used existing resources like cutting back on spending.

Choosing and Using Financial Products and Services

31% considered various options from one company to choose their pension fund. 29% did not consider any other options at all.

Attitudes and Behaviour

62% of Maltese people keep a close personal watch on their financial affairs.

3 in 4 adults in Malta do not have too much debt right now, whilst 13% said that they do.

95% of adults in Malta always/often pay their bills on time.

Some 80% of adults in Malta always/often take careful consideration of whether they can afford to buy something prior to buying it.

Some 95% of adults in Malta always pay their bills on time, whilst a low 1% never pay their bills on time.

Level of Financial Knowledge

44% rate their overall knowledge on financial matters as average;

21% consider themselves to possess a very high/quite high level of overall knowledge on financial matters.

Malta appoints new police commissioner

Angelo Gafá (*right*), has officially been appointed Malta's new Police Commissioner, following approval by a Parliamentary committee meeting. He becomes the first PC to be appointed through a new process agreed upon by Government and Opposition after the Prime Minister relinquished his power to be the one to nominate him.

However, the Opposition boycotted the parliamentary committee meeting that conducted the public grilling.

Initially, Gafá was among 14 applicants following a public call for applications. After interviews, the Public Service Commission whittled the number down to two and passed the shortlist to the government that eventually opted for Gafá. Following a public grilling his nomination was en-



dorsed.

The new commissioner is a former investigator and police inspector. For the past few years he acted as the police corps' first CEO. He is also Visiting Lecturer on Criminology in the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at Malta's University.



Roundup of News About Malta



July 1 Malta reopens and starts to welcome back the tourists

AS of July 1, Malta is to reopen its doors to the tourists as the International Airport starts welcoming tourists from several countries that have been identified by government as safe for travel to and from Malta.



In an interview on CNN's Quest show, the Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Tourism Julia Farrugia Portelli (left) said that potential tourists to Malta would be visiting

what she described as "the safest destination in Europe".

Malta's International Airport resumes operations July 1 to a limited number of countries. And would be lifting restrictions on all other flight destinations on July 15.

The first group of destinations reopening for travel comprise Italy (except Emilia Romagna, Lombardy, and Piemonte), France, Spain, Poland, Iceland, Slovakia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Switzerland, Estonia, Denmark, Hungary, Austria, Luxembourg, Germany, Czech Republic, Ireland, and Finland.

Travellers arriving in Malta directly from the countries and regions on this list will not be required to observe a 14-day quarantine. They will be asked to declare they had lived in the country of origin for at least four weeks before travelling. They will also be asked to fill in a passenger locator form enabling the health authorities to trace them swiftly should the need arise.

The reasons Minister Farrugia Portelli gave for her assertion that Malta is "the safest destination in Europe", are mainly its success in containing COVID-19 since it closed its borders last March. She said

the island is well-prepared to start welcoming tourists.

"We put coronavirus first when we had the first issues popping up in February, and Malta was the very first European country to close its borders. We weren't afraid to do so, despite tourism being high up on our agenda."

She reiterated that Malta was one of the very first few countries that pledged and put forward the argument of having safe corridors.

"Other countries followed but we saw a fragmented approach throughout the world. We're an island that depends highly on tourism; the total input related to tourism goes up to 30% of our economy so we depend on incoming tourism," the Minister said.

Her aim is that by the end of the year, Malta would have managed to receive around 700,000 tourists.



Neil Agius at the end of his record long-distance swim at Balluta Bay

Neil Agius completes 104k record swim to raise awareness of environmental threat

Neil Agius, 34, successfully completed a 104 kilometres swim from Sicily to Malta, in a record time of 28 hours and seven minutes. His feat was part of the "Wave of Change" campaign to raise awareness of the environmental threat of plastic in the sea.

The swimmer, an anti-pollution activist, dived into the sea at Punta Braccetto in Sicily at 5 a.m. on Thursday and finished the swim, a distance of 103.66km at Balluta Bay, St Julian's, just before 9.30 a.m. on Friday where he was accorded a great welcome by a large crowd.

This was the longest distance ever undertaken by a Maltese swimmer. A similar

swim but a shorter distance of 90 kilometres from Pozzallo in Sicily to Qbajjar in Gozo was undertaken 35 years ago, on July 28 1985 by Nicky Farrugia who completed the swim in 30 hours 17 minutes. Nicky was among the first to congratulate Neil for his achievement. He described it as a "fantastic swim". He also congratulated Neil's team for a "job well done".

At the end of his long distance swim, a tired but satisfied Neil expressed the desire that his feat could help people to become aware of the fact that polluting the sea waters with plastic is not on.

President George Vella said it was an "impressive record". He admired the swimmer's determination and his preparation. He hoped it would help raise awareness of the waste, particularly plastic, currently being dumped into the sea.

Prime Minister Robert Abela said it was important that the message behind his "brave swim" was heeded. He added that with minor efforts and more responsible behaviour towards the environment, the world we live in "will wake up to a brighter tomorrow," he said.

Opposition leader Adrian Delia described Neil as "a star" and "a beacon of perseverance, courage and determination".

Gozo enjoys post COVID-19 bonanza Thousands of Maltese spend Mnarja on the sister island

In the first long weekend of summer post-COVID-19 pandemic, domestic tourism was at its best as thousands of Maltese flocked to the neighbouring island to enjoy the Mnarja weekend.

Instead of the Buskett Gardens, one of the most popular of traditional holidays in Malta, also known as the feast of St Peter and St Paul on June 28, helped Gozo to recover from the pandemic in the best way they can.

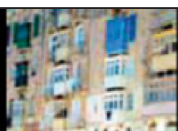
With flights from and to Malta still suspended until July 1, thousands of Maltese chose the only destination out of the island open for them and celebrated the holiday by taking a 20-minute

boat trip to the sister island.

According to Gozo's Tourism Authority, most holiday accommodation in Gozo the past few days has been full to the brim, the beaches were crowded and restaurant owners rose to the occasion by accommodating their patrons.

While abiding by the fullest with the instructions of the health authorities by keeping social distance and playing is safe, the restaurateurs rose to the occasion and provided all that was needed of them.

This much-needed bonanza has helped jumpstart the Gozitans' economic recovery. It augurs well for a busy summer.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Wara d-dimostrazzjonijiet li wasslu għat-tneħħija ta' xi monumenti



Att redikolu jekk...

Sadanittant, il-Ministru tal-Kultura Josè Herrera qal li jekk jitneħħew monumenti tal-era kolonjali, dan ikun att redikolu. Tenna li bl-istess kejl għandna nneħħu wkoll l-istatwa ta' La Vallette fejn Malta kienet taħt it-tneħħija tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann.

"Ikun redikolu li jitneħħew monumenti li jappartjenu għall-perjodu imperjali. L-istorja ma tistax tibdilha u trid tittiehed fil-kuntest tal-era partikolari", tenna l-Ministru fil-parlament.

Irrefera wkoll għall-midalja tal-George Cross, li l-emblema bis-salib tagħha jinsab ukoll fuq il-bandiera Maltija li ngħata bħala rikonoxximent għall-qliubija tal-poplu Malti waqt it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija u b'hekk ma kienx att ta' umiljazzjoni anzi pjuttost il-kontra.

"Li nkissru l-monumenti, ma tibdilx l-istorja", insista l-Ministru.

Hawn qbil ma' li qal il-Ministru Herrera għax fuq kol-lox anke dawk il-monumenti li jfakkruna f'dawk il-mument i xejn sbieħ għalina, jgħinuna napprezaw aktar dak li għaddew minnu missirijietna u kemm issieltu biex illum qegħdin fejn qegħdin.

Wara l-qtil mill-pulizija ta' George Floyd, fl-Istati Uniti, qamu irvellijiet mhux biss fl-istess Stati Uniti, imma b'dimostrazzjonijiet f'għadd ta' pajjiżi madwar id-dinja. F'ċerti pajjiżi, ma' wħud mid-dimostranti wehlu xi monumenti li wħud minnhom ilhom hemm snin twal. (Ara wkoll artiklu dwar dan f'pagna 16).

Mhux biss sar tħażiż u tiċpis ta' żebgħa fuq uħud minnhom, iżda kien hemm każi fejn dawn saħansitra twaqqgħu minn posthom u, jew tkissru, jew intefgħu f'xi xmara, eċċ.

Dan minħabba li d-dimostranti jsostnu li l-monumenti kienu ta' nies li jfakkru fi skjavitù, kolonjalizmu, ħakma, eċċ. Saħansitra, taħt il-qilla tad-dimostrati twaqqqa l-esploratur li kien sab l-Amerika Kristofru Colombo.

F'Malta wkoll kien hawn min ipprova iqajjem din il-kwestjoni dwar xi monumenti li għandha f'pajjiżna li llum hemm min iqishom kontroversjali jew ifakkru fi żminijiet li bl-għajnejn tal-llum ma jinhassux li kienu sbieħ għall-Maltin.

Din mhux xi haġa daqshekk ġdida għalina, għax minn dejjem kellna lil min ma tantx ihares sabiħ, pereżempju, lejn il-monument tar-Reġina Vittorja li qed jiddomina waħda mill-pjazez ewlenin tal-belt kapitali, Valletta.

Ir-Reġina Vittorja

Attwalment, l-istoriku Charles Xuereb ilu żmien jikteb dwar il-ħtieġa li l-kapitali Maltija ma tibqax iddominata minn tifikiriet kolonjalisti u qal: "Il-Belt Valletta li hija l-belt Kapitali tal-pajjiż tagħna indipendenti u Repubblikan għadu ddominat minn xi 30 monument; hemm fuq l-20 li huma kolonjali."

Dawn jirrapprezentaw żbilanċ storiku u għalkemm m'għandhomx jiġu vandalizzati jew mormija, għandhom jitwarrbu mill-Belt.

Jgħid li l-monument tar-Reġina Vittorja twaqqaf hemm biex ifakkur l-50 sena tar-Reġina fuq it-tron. Qal li għandu jitneħħa mill-qalba tal-kapitali, "għax wara kol-lox biex poġġewha hemm neħħew granmastru, jiġifieri din mhux se tkun l-ewwel darba, u poġġiha fi ġnien bħal Hastings jew jekk iriduha l-Għawdxin ma jiddejjux, Victoria li kienu huma stess li dak iż-żmien

talbu lill-Gvernatur biex iżidu isem Victoria mar-Rabat".

Skont Xuereb il-Maltin għandhom hafna biex ikunu kburin, imma bil-kolonjalizmu jkun qed jiftaħru b'rinxx haddiehor.

"Li dak kollu li kellu dak li kien fuqek kien aħjar, u allura jekk tiftaħar bih bħal George Cross, ir-Reġina Vittorja u l-armi rjali fil-Belt inti f'għajnejn il-bqija tad-dinja se tidher superjuri, din hija ħrafa".

Min-naha l-oħra hemm min isostni li m'għandhomx jitneħħew monumenti għax huma parti mill-istorja tagħna.

Il-Monument tar-Reġina Vittorja sar wara li ngħabru l-flus għalih mill-Maltin, għandu features Maltin fih u l-iskultur għażluh il-Maltin. Storiku iehor, Liam Gauci qal, "Dan riduh missirijietna, jiġifieri issa se neħduha kontra missirijietna wkoll".



Charles Xuereb

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

L-inkwriet jissokta Għan-naħa tal-Gvern

Minn xi daqqit nahbat nikkonferma li f'-Malta ngħixu l-kampanja elettorali mhux kull hames snin, imma kull jum u kull mument, tant li anke waqt l-aqwa tal-imxija tal-COVID-19, il-midja, l-aktar dik soċjali kompliet tirrapporta ġrajjet, anke f'waqtiet fittizji, ta' kwestjonijiet politiċi. Sahansitra kien hemm min dawwar din il-pandemija f'polemika bejn il-koħol u l-homor.

Ċertu nies tant il-politika titlallhom għal rashom li bil-kummenti li jiktbu tiddubita, u tghid li alla ħares hu hekk, li ma tantx huma kuntenti li l-imxija f'Malta giet ikkontrollata tant tajjeb li f'it

li xejn qed ikollna każi.

Imma lil hinn mill-imxija hemm fatturi oħra li qed ikomplu jsaħħnu l-qiegħa, fuq quddiem net dak li hiereg mill-Qorti fil-każ kontra Jorgen Fenech li qed ijiġi mixli li hu l-mandant wara l-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia.

Issa żdied ukoll rapport ta' Reuters flimien ma' The Times li meta l-EneMalta xtrat il-proġett tal-Imtiehen tar-Rih li jipprovdut l-enerġija fil-Montenegro għal għaxar miljuni u nofs Euro, permezz ta' kumpannija tiegħu, l-istess Jorgen Fenech għamel qliegħ ta' €4.5miljuni. Qabel inbiegħu, l-imtiehen kienu nbiegħu għal terz tal-prezz li xtrathom l-EneMalta.

Matul ix-xhieda fil-qorti ssemmev diversi nies tal-politika: fosthom l-eks Ministru Chris Cardona, l-eks-kap tal-Istaf f'Kastilja Keith Schembri, li t-tnejn warbu mill-politika kif ukoll il-kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Adrian Delia li gie allegat li rċeva xi flus mingħand Fenech biex ifixkel l-elezzjoni tal-kandidat tal-partit tiegħu stess, David Casa.

Fil-fatt dwar l-allegazzjoni kotntra Adrian Delia, apparti l-investigazzjonijiet mit-taqsima għar-reati ekonomiċi, inhatret ukol inkjesta maġisterjali li qed tisma' l-ewwel xhieda.

Fil-każ tal-Imtiehen tal-Montenegro implikaw lill-eks-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat u l-eks

Ministru Konrad Mizzi, li kien nkarigat mill-Enerġija.

L-Oppożizzjoni u parti mill-midja rikbu fuq dawn l-akkużi u allegaw li Muscat u Mizzi bagħbsu għad-dannu tal-poplu. Waqt li Muscat qal li ma kienx imdahhal fix-xiri tal-Imtiehen, Mizzi sostna li mix-xiri u t-thaddim tal-proġett l-EneMalta kienet għamlet qliegħ kbir.

Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela qal li kien iddisgustat bl-allegazzjonijiet u sa talab li ssir inkjesta. Qal li li jekk jinstab li xi hadd abbuża għandu jħallas ta' għemilu, u għalhekk ahjar iwarrab qabel iwarbu hu... li giet interpretata bħala twissija lill Konrad Mizzi.

Il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni sostna li Abela wkoll għandu tort fil-kwestjoni għax meta sar ix-xiri hu kien il-konsulent tal-Prim Ministru. Min-naħa tagħtha l-pulizija sostniet li ma stennietx ir-rapport tal-midja biex taġixxi għax kien ilha li bdiet investiga l-każ.

Il-Prim Ministru hass li għall-ġid tal-Gvern u aktar u tal-Partit Laburista, Konrad Mizzi kellu jitneħħa mill-Grupp tal-Partit Laburista. Izda fil-waqt li Cardona aċċetta li jirriżenja minn Deputat Mexxej, Mizzi sostna li la s'issa ma tressaqx quddiem il-ġustizzja, għadu ma nstabx hati, "ma qbiltx li għandi nwarrab fuq allegazzjonijiet u spekulazzjonijiet mbuttati 'l quddiem mill-avversarji tal-Partit Laburista," qal.

Il-Prim Ministru hass li ma kellux triq oħra hlief

Il-Kap tal-PN taħt inkjesta

Għalkemm il-Partit Nazzjonalista ma fetaħx inkjesta hu dwar l-akkuża li Delia rċeva €50,000 mingħand Jorgen Fenech f'tentattiv biex jiġi influwenzat il-proċess elettorali tal-elezzjoni tal-Parlament Ewropew tal-2019, xorta nfethet inkjesta maġisterjali minħabba l-fatt li fin-nofs hemm akkuża bħal din

L-allegazzjoni, li Delia ċaħad, hareg biha l-ewwel l-MP ġdid tal-PN David Thake, li kien anke qal li l-partit kellu jagħmel inkjesta interna hu. Thake kien fost dawk imsejja jixhdu fl-inkjesta maġisterjali.

Fix-xhieda tiegħu Thake sqarr li hu qatt ma qal li l-flus għaddew, li hadhom il-Kap tal-PN Delia u li Pierre Portelli kien qed jiġborhom mill-Portomaso.

Li ġibed l-attenzjoni kien meta Thake qal: "Jiena mhux se ngħaddi ġudizzju. Nishaq biss fuq il-prinċipju li kwalunkwé persuna li mhux nadif tazza għandu jwarrab biex ismu jkun imnaddaf..... Il-politika mhix post għall-politiċi li għandhom dellijiet u allegazzjonijiet fuqhom li jsiru b'persistenza u li jqajjmu dubji kbar.

"Politiku taħt allegazzjonijiet li jsiru b'persistenza u li jqajjmu dubji kbar għandu jwarrab sakemm inaddaf ismu."

Li qal Thake gie interpretat bħala messagg pulit biex Delia jwarrab: "David Thake implies that Adrian Delia should resign to clear his name" (Maltatoday 25.06.2020)

Mizzi jtir ukoll

li jsejjaħ laqgħa urgenti tal-Eżekuttiv Nazzjonalist flimkien mal-Grupp Parlamentari tal-Partit Laburista u wara votazzjoni, il-mozzjoni biex Mizzi jitneħħa minn membru tal-Grupp Parlamentari Laburista giet approvata.

Minkejja li mhux se jibqa' membru tal-grupp Laburista, Konrad Mizzi xorta se jibqa' fil-Parlament. Infatti ikkonferma li se jissokta jappoġġja lill-Gvern Laburista.

Għalkemm kien hemm min ha din it-tkeċċija bħala ammissjoni ta' htija, kif qal tajjeb il-Prim Ministru.

"Dawn huma allegazzjonijiet u mhux se nkun jien li niġġudika, imma ahna rridu naraw illi noholqu l-istandards bħala partit u anke Gvern."

Imma jekk wiehed jaqra dak li nkiteb fil-midja hafna diġà ġġudikaw lil Mizzi u sabuh hati.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Global statue revolution

The global statue revolution continues with bronze and marble men of history – often with colonial and racist pasts – getting torn down across the world. And now attention has turned to Australia and its own colonial past, with calls for a similar revolution growing.

NSW Police were photographed (*Pictured right*) standing guard around a Captain Cook statue in Sydney's Hyde Park as Black Lives Matter protesters spread across the city, and later, two women were charged after the same Captain Cook statue in Sydney's Hyde Park was defaced.

Police were alerted to the vandalism about 4am on Sunday and arrested two women, Charmaine Morrison-Mills, 27, and part-time Greens staffer Xiaoran Shi, 28. They were charged with destroying or damaging property and possessing a graffiti implement. The women were allegedly found with several spray cans in a bag. The two women were granted bail in Parramatta Bail Court.

Over the weekend the 110-year-old statue of Captain James Cook in Randwick was also defaced and painted with the words "no pride in genocide". The graffiti was removed by Randwick City Council on Sunday.

And it isn't just Captain Cook in the firing line. The statues of former Australian Prime Ministers Tony Abbott and John Howard were sprayed with red paint in regional Victoria. There are other statues in Western Australia and other States. Australia is following what is happening in the US.

University of Sydney History Professor Mark McKenna said history, no matter how you look at it, was always going to be "problematic".

Statues will always be important in sparking debate and bringing Australia's bloody and colonial past into conversation.

Michael Mansell of Tasmania said "There's no place in 2020, for the statues of racist people who have done so much damage to Aboriginal people, who today if they did it, would be given five years in jail for a criminal offence," he said.

"Just because the people of that era in the 1800s honoured this man's memory, doesn't mean the rest of us to have to be stuck with it more than 150 years later."



Unemployment figures "devastating"

Australia's unemployment rate jumped to a seasonally adjusted 7.1 per cent in May, with 227,700 jobs lost during the month. The jobless figures are the worst since October 2001.

There was a decrease of 89,100 in people with full-time work and 138,600 people in part-time employment, figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the numbers were not surprising given the impact of the coronavirus crisis.

"We are very aware of the significant blow that Australians are being hit with through the course of this pandemic," he told reporters in Canberra. "These statistics today are a reminder to all that our task is simple ... and that is we must get Australians back into work."

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg called the

figures "devastating. These are not just numbers. These are our friends, family members, workmates and young Australians forced out of work by coronavirus face 'devastating' long-term impacts."

Youth unemployment has risen from 14.1 per cent to 16.1 per cent. Young people have been most affected in these numbers.

Frydenberg added, "But my hope is that, equally as the economy opens up, they will hopefully also be the first to benefit from economy opening up."

The sharp fall reflects the ongoing impact of strict social distancing measures imposed in late March, which led to business closures. Most economists had expected the unemployment rate to jump to 7.0 per cent with about 100,000 jobs lost in the month.



Covid-19 - Have they found a cure?

The steroid dexamethasone was shown to be the first drug to significantly reduce the risk of death among severe COVID-19 cases, in trial results hailed as a "major breakthrough" in the fight against the disease.

Researchers in England led by a team from the University of Oxford administered the widely available drug to more than 2,000 severely ill COVID-19 patients.

Among those who could only breathe with the help of a ventilator, Dexamethasone reduced deaths by one third, and by one-fifth in other patients receiving oxygen only, according to preliminary results.

Normally used to treat a range of allergic reactions as well as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma, Dexamethasone is an anti-inflammatory.

Daily doses of the steroid could prevent one-in-eight ventilated patient deaths and save one out of every 25 patients requiring oxygen alone, the team said.

"Dexamethasone is the first drug to be shown to improve survival in COVID-19. This is an extremely welcome result," said Peter Horby, professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford. "Dexamethasone is inexpensive, on the shelf, and can be used immediately to save lives worldwide."



A quick glimpse at Australia



Wage theft a criminal offence

Employers stealing wages and entitlements from staff in the State of Victoria could be hit with hefty fines or up to 10 years' jail. The Victorian Legislative Council passed Australia's first legislation to make wage theft a criminal offence. (See picture left).

Employers who dishonestly withhold wages, superannuation or other employee entitlements could be fined up to \$198,264 for individuals, \$991,320 for companies and be

sentenced to up to 10 years' jail.

There are also new record-keeping offences to target employers who try to hide wage theft by falsifying or failing to keep proper account. The legislation establishes the statutory authority Wage Inspectorate of Victoria to investigate and prosecute wage theft.

Employers who make honest mistakes or who exercise due diligence in paying wages and entitlements will not be guilty under the laws.

But the Liberal Coalition and employer groups fear the laws duplicate the federal system, with scope for possible double punishment as the federal government is also developing its own laws to criminalise wage theft. At the same time, the Federal Fair Work Ombudsman similarly regulates employment issues without the threat of imprisonment. The new Victorian laws come into effect next year.

Collection plates at Church consigned to history

The Archdiocese Canberra-Goulburn will move to what will be a simpler form of collecting money for parishioners and parish staff. Out with the plate and in with technology, meaning tap and go terminals, direct debit and Qkr apps

The scrapping of collection plates has come about because of the coronavirus pandemic. The ACT Government banned plates for hygiene reasons. The Archdiocese is encouraging tap and go terminals where people can tap their credit card

and make a donation for a set amount.

The Qkr app involves parishioners downloading an app on their phone and choosing their payment amount. Direct debit programmes will continue to be promoted while collection points will allow for cash or planned giving envelopes. Will this new method be implemented across all catholic churches in Australia?



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

Hafna minn dawk midhla tal-ilsien Malti kienu jid-deskrivu lil Frans Sammut bħala l-paladin tal-kelma Maltija, li b'xogħlijiet tiegħu, hafna minnhom magħrufa sew, kabbar il-letteratura Maltija u "għannieha bl-iffen proża tat-tieni nofs tas-seklu." Hu dan wild Haż-Żebbuġ li llum se ngibu għall-Għarfien tal-qarrejja.

FRANS SAMMUT – l-paladin tal-kelma Maltija

Frans Sammut twieled f'Haż-Żebbuġ fid-19 ta' Novembru 1945 u ha t-tagħlim akkademiku tiegħu, l-ewwel fil-Kulleġġ ta' San Alwiġi f'Birkirkara, u aktar tard, bil-ghan li jilhaq għalliem, kemm fil-Kulleġġ tal-Għalliema (*St Michael's Training College*), l-Università ta' Malta fejn kiseb il-B.A., S.Th.Dip., u l-M.A., u l-Università ta' Perugia mnejn kiseb id-Diploma di abilitazione di insegnare l'Italiano all'estero b'teżi fuq Cesare Pavese.

Għal ghoxrin sena kien għalliem, u bħala sugġetti, għalliem b'mod speċjali l-Malti u t-Taljan f'livell sekondarju u post-sekondarju. Wara, għal seba' snin, kien assistent kap ta' skola, u għamel għaxar snin bħala kap ta' skola fis-sekondarji tal-Istat.

Studenti li għaddew minn tahtu jgħidu li kien strett hafna u dixxiplinat, imma meta kien jara studenti li jridu jitgħallnu bis-serjetà, kien itihom qalbu u jmur lil hinn minn xogħlu biex jara li jirnexxu. Kien raġel umli u taqta' u tiekol minnu, lest li jtik qalbu u jekk tagħmel habib minnu rari biex ma tiehux gost miegħu, l-aktar waqt xi ikla. Jingħad li l-ewwel kotba bil-Malti li heġgħewh jinnamra mal-kelma Maltija kienu tal-Poeta Nazżjonali Dun Karm Psaila. Kien minnhom li bosta snin wara xorob l-ewwel għerf tiegħu.

Fost l-ewwel premijiet tal-proża fl-età ta' 19-il-sena, rebah il-Konkors Novelli 1964 inniedi mill-Għaqda Kittieba Żgħażaġh.

Fl-1967, flimkien ma' għadd ta' awturi, fosthom Mario Azzopardi, Charles Casha, Charles Coleiro, Alfred Degabriele, Victor Fenech, Charles Flores, Oliver Friggieri, Raymond Mahoney, Albert Marshall u Achille Mizzi waqqfu l-Moviment Qawmien Letterarju. Kien ukoll l-ewwel segretarju. Bejn l-1977 u l-1975, kien ukoll ko-editor ta' *Il-Polz* li fih xandar kitbiet fl-antologiji ppubblikati mill-istess Moviment.

Bejn l-1960 u l-1980 kien kontributur regolari fil-gurnali u pprezenta programmi kemm minn fuq ir-radju kif ukoll minn fuq it-tv, fosthom *Il-Hoss wara x-Xbieh* u *Folji*.

Għal sitt snin shaħ, bejn l-1992 u l-1998, gie mahtur segretarju tal-Akkademja tal-Malti u mexxa lill-għaqda b'hegga kbira. F'Ottubru 1992, f'harga speċjali tar-rivista *Il-Malti* ippubblika "*Hidmet l-Akkademja b'Risq il-Malti*" li kienet tigbor fil-qosor l-istorja tal-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti sa dak iż-żmien.

Fi żmien il-gvern ta' Dr Alfred Sant (1996) Frans kien ukoll konsulent kulturali

u serva bħala segretarju fil-kummissjoni mwaqqfa minn Dr Sant, habib kbir tiegħu, dwar il-futur tal-familja Maltija.

Kien kittieb prolificu u sa mill-ewwel pubblikazzjoni tiegħu, serje ta' novella taht it-titlu *Labirint u Stejjer Ohra* wiehed jilmah iż-żerriegħa tal-ewwel rumanz psikoloġiku bil-Malti, *Il-Gaġġa* fl-1971 li fetah is-sensiela *Ktieb tax-Xahar* tal-Klabb Kotba Maltin. Sentejn wara, imsejjes fuq dan ir-rumanz, inhadem l-ewwel *feature film* kollu kemm hu bil-Malti li kien dirett minn Mario Philip Azzopardi.

Fis-sena ta' wara hareġ wara *Logħba bejn Erbgħa* (1972), u warajh, fl-1978 *Samuraj*. Kompla bi ktieb ieħor fl-1989, *Il-Qtil fi Sqaq il-Horr*, u sentejn wara, Paceville.

Frans Sammut hadem hafna wkoll biex jikkber l-għarfien għal Mikiel Anton Vassalli, tant li hareġ dak li hafna jqisuh bħala l-aqwa xogħol tiegħu, *Il-Holma Maltija – il-bijografija mistħajla ta' Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, li l-ewwel hjiel tagħha nilmħuh fid-dramm *Proċess Vassalli* (1980).

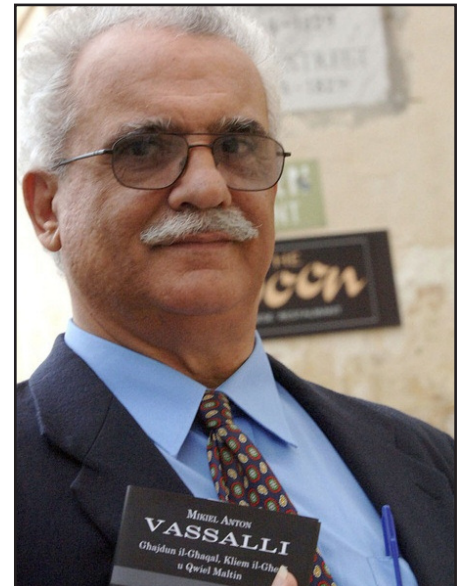
Trilogija dwar konflitt

Il-magħruf kittieb u studjuż tal-Malti Oliver Friggieri jistqarr li, "*Il-Gaġġa, Samuraj u Il-Holma Maltija, fl-istruttura tal-qiegh tagħhom, isawru trilogija dwar il-konflitt bejn il-wiehed u l-hafna... il-qosol tematiku ta' Il-Gaġġa, li minnha l-persunaġġ irid jahrab, ta' Samuraj li jespjora l-monologu, u ta' Il-Holma Maltija, irrikostruzzjoni tal-idealist ewlieni tal-istorja Maltija, Vassalli*".

Fost il-hafna kotba tiegħu, Frans Sammut għandu għadd minnhom li jagħfsu fuq l-istorja ta' Malta, fosthom: *Il-Mixja tal-Haddiem lejn il-Helsien* (1982) il-prekursur ta' *Ir-Rivoluzzjoni Franciża – il-grajja u t-tifsira* (1989), u *Bonaparti f'Malta* (1997).

Ippubblika wkoll *Dun Gorġ – il-bniedem tal-poplu* (2001) u *Alfred Sant: Il-Viżjoni għall-Bidla* (2008). *Harsa mill-Qrib lejn Hajjet San Filep u l-Kult Tiegħu*, li deher fl-2004 u *Grajjet Haż-Żebbuġ* (2001) – traduzzjoni tal-ktieb ta' Dun Salv Ciappara.

Minbarra kittieb u għalliem, Frans Sammut kien ukoll preżentatur ta' programmi għar-radju u aktar tard tat-televiżjoni, fosthom *Il-Hoss wara x-Xbieha u Folji*. Kellu lehen li jsaħhrek u jiġbed lis-semmiegħa. Kien beda f'żgħozitu fis-sittinijiet fuq ir-*Rediffusion* bil-programm *Beat u Letteratura*.



Bħala teledrammi, jibqa' jisemma hafna, dak li gie trasmess fuq it-televiżjoni f'Jannar tal-1975 *Il-Lejl tal-Lupu, Il-Vikingi ta' Wied iż-Żurriq* (imxandar f'Gunju 1979), u traduzzjonijiet, fost oħrajn, *Iz-Ziju Vanja* ta' Anton Čekov (1969) mill-Ingliz, *Il-Proċess ta' Gesù ta' Diego Fabbri* (1971) mill-original ta' Joe Friggieri, *Fedra* ta' Racine (1978) mill-original u *Erwieh għall-Qiegha* ta' Maksim Gorki (1979) mill-Ingliz; *L-Atti tal-Appostli – opra miktuba għall-ghana u l-kummentarji dwar The Da Vinci Code* (2006) u *Għala Le għall-UE* (2003).

Minbarra Labirint u stejjer oħra, Sammut ġabar il-bqija tan-novelli tiegħu f'*Newbiet* (1998) u *Hrejjes Żminijietna* (2000). Fl-2002 editja u hareġ *Lexicon ta' Mikiel Anton Vassalli, facsimile ta' Ktieb il-Kliem Malti*, u fl-2006 *Għajdun il-Għaqal, Kliem il-Għerf u Qwiel Maltin*, u traduzzjoni ta' Motti, *Aforismi e Proverbi Maltesi ta' Vassalli* (1828). Fl-2009 ittraduċa *Piccolo Dizionario* ta' Vincenzo Azopardi.

Fir-riċerka tiegħu dwar Frans Sammut, Joseph P. Borg jislet silta minn intervista li l-awtur ta' lir-rivista *Il-Hsieb* fejn ġabar l-għerug tal-hsieb kollu tiegħu: "*lili tinteressani l-qagħda tal-bniedem f'did-dinja, u fuq kollox il-bniedem f'dil-Gżira tagħna. Dil-qagħda għandha bosta aspetti, u jien nagħmel hilti biex niflihom sew, mhux biss fil-wieċ, fid-dehra, iżda u fuq kollox fl-għerug tagħhom. Jiena ghomri u żmien niftex fid-dagħbien tal-eżistenza. Il-hajja odissea. Xi darba nergħu lura fi hdan Penelopi*".

Frans miet wara marda qasira fl-għomor ta' 66 sena nhar l-4 ta' Mejju 2011.

Maltese duo finalists in Australia's Independent Country Music Awards

After winning the I C M A Most Popular Country Music Duo of the Year in 2019, Thomas and Tessa Librieri (aka Destiny Band Oz) are once again finalists in the coveted Independent Country Music Awards of Australia.

The annual awards, which are a credit to the organisers and sponsors and are now open for the public vote that commenced on June 10 and ends at 6 p.m. on August 10.

Based in the Latrobe Valley of Gippsland east of Melbourne, Destiny Band Oz is a finalist in two categories: *Most Popular Country Music Duo* for their original song 'Great Courage', and *Most Popular Country Music Video* for their original song, 'Peace of Mind'.

Anybody can vote, but can only cast one vote once per device i.e.: phone, computer, tablet etc. Destiny Band Oz are seeking our readers' and the Maltese community's support. Therefore spare a few moments? Go to <https://www.indiecountrymusicaustralia.com/vote-now.php>, and scroll down to the white voting box on the right hand side of the web page and click on your choice.

Here is some information about Destiny Band Oz's nominated songs:

Peace of Mind was written, sung and rhythm guitar by Tessa Librieri, bass, lead and slide guitar by Thomas Librieri; drums and percussion by Darryn Farrugia, piano and sound engineering by Chris Gale. Video production is by Mark Piepers of Mary-Mark Media.

Everyone has a place or activity where they can find their 'peace of mind' and for Tessa Librieri of Destiny Band Oz, it's spending time with her horses and being in the Australian countryside away

from everything!

She was absolutely thrilled that *Peace of Mind* went to #1 on the Country Songs Top 40 Australian Airplay chart after its release last August and then stayed at #1 for four weeks in a row! It also went to #1 on the Official Tasmanian Top 40 Country chart and went to #2 on the International Joyce Ramgatie Mainstream Top 40 Radio Airplay Chart.

One can watch the 'Peace of Mind' Official Music video on the ICMA website or by going to: [Peace of Mind Official Music Video by Destiny Band Oz](#)

Great Courage was written by Thomas Librieri originally in Maltese. It is about his parents emigrating from Malta to Australia in the late 1940s and is a touching tribute to his mother's great courage in travelling alone and so far from everything she had known, at such a young age.

It is really a beautiful song and quite moving. Lead vocals, bass and lead guitar by Thomas Librieri, backing vocals

and English lyrics written by Tessa Librieri. Piano by Ron Armstrong, drums by Darryn Farrugia, sound engineering, strings and video production by Chris Gale of Rezonate Music.

The single was released in January 2020 and Thomas was chuffed that the song went to #3 on the International Joyce Ramgatie Mainstream Top 40 Radio Airplay Chart and #4 on both the Country Songs Top 40 Australian Airplay chart and the Official Tasmanian Top 40 Country chart. It is also a finalist in the country song section of the LDM Radio Music Awards (New York).

Destiny Band Oz won the Best Group in the RTRC World Indie Network Awards for *Great Courage* earlier this year. (Sadly Thomas' mum passed away in February 2020 but she was so proud and overjoyed that this song was written in her honour).

One can also watch the *Great Courage* official music video on: *Great Courage* music video by Destiny Band Oz. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG7s0Eh3Jfk>

Both songs are from Destiny Band Oz's 'Changes' album (which incidentally won the Traditional Country Music of Australia Top 10 Album of the Year in Tamworth 2019).

In the meantime, Destiny Band Oz's is releasing its latest single Tuesday June 30.



**Destiny Band Oz
needs your
SUPPORT: give
it your VOTE**



In-Nunzju Apostoliku Mons. Alessandro D'Errico jhabbar l-għazla ta' Dun Anton Theuma (lemin) bħala l-Isqof il-ġdid u s-suċċessur tal-Isqof Mario Grech (xellug)



Dun Anton Theuma, eks welder f'Parramatta maħtur l-Isqof il-ġdid tal-gżira Għawdxija

Fis-17 ta' Ġunju, fis-Santwarju Nazżjonali tal-Madonna ta' Pinu, in-Nunzju Apostoliku għal Malta Mons. Alessandro D'Errico Mons habbar li Dun Anton Theuma għe maħtur bħala d-disa' Isqof tad-Djoċesi Għawdxija. Tkellm ikoll dwar il-kwalitajiet li wasslu lill-Papa Frangisku jagħzlu għal din il-kariga.

F'ċerimonja simbolika, l-Isqof ta' Għawdex Mario Grech, li min-naha tiegħu se jinhatar Segretarju Ġenerali tas-Sinodu tal-

Isqfijiet, ta salib pettorali li Dun Anton bħala sinjal li qed jgħaddilu s-suċċessjoni. Das-salib, Grech kien irċevih mingħand il-predeċessur tiegħu Mons Isqof Nikol Cauchi. Libbsu wkoll l-karlotta.

Hafna fl-Awstralja żgur li jiftakru lil Dun Anton ta' 56 sena, li huwa mix-Xagħra, minhabba li matul is-sena intermedjarja, haċem bħala welder f'Parramatta, l-Awstralja fil-Fabbrika Rheem li tispeċjalizza f'sistemi tal-mishun. Hemm kiseb il-liċenzji ta' welder u ta' electrician.

Huwa għe ordnat saċerdot fil-25 ta' Ġunju 1988 mill-Isqof t'Għawdex ta' dakinhar, Mons. Nikol G. Cauchi.

Bħalissa, l-Isqof magħżul huwa d-Direttur tal-Istitut tal-Familja Papa Ġwanni Pawlu

II, responsabbli mill-kura pas-

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



torali taż-żona madwar l-Istitut, kif ukoll għalliem fis-Seminarju Maġġuri. Huwa għamel ukoll madwar 10 snin jaħdem f'parroċċa f'Ruma.

Sakemm issir l-ordinazzjoni u l-ingress tal-Isqof il-ġdid, l-Isqof Mario Grech se jibqa' jservi bħala Amministratur Appostoliku.

Skola primarja ġdida fir-Rabat

Beda x-xogħol fuq is-sit fejn għandha l-tinbena l-iskola primarja l-ġdida fir-Rabat, Għawdex, li se tkun fil-kampus edukattiv li diġà jeżisti f'din il-lokalità.

Fil-binja tal-iskola l-ġdida se jkun hemm ukoll *kindergarten*, ċentru għall-harsien tat-tfal u bosta faċilitajiet sportivi.

Bħalissa qed isir xogħol tal-iskavar tal-art, taht is-sorveljanza tal-arkeologi minhabba fdalijiet arkeologiċi li nstabu fl-istess sit.



Ordinazzjoni Presbiterali u Djakonali

Nhar is-Solennità tal-Qalb ta' Ġesù, fis-19 ta' Ġunju, fuq iz-zuntier tas-Santwarju Nazżjonali tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu,

saret Ordinazzjoni Sagra ta' Dun Mario Mercieca għall-Presbiterjat (fin-nofs), ta' Fra Etienne Gilson ofm. Conv (xellug) u Andrew Grima għad-Djkonat (lemin).

Minkejja l-pandemija 3ZZZ xorta baqa' jxandar il-programmi Maltin

Meta bdew ir-ristrizzjonijiet tal-COVID-19 saru hafna tibdiliet fil-hajja normali taghna. Hafna postijiet u stabbilimenti ghalqu, inkluzi l-knejjes. Dan effettwa wkoll ghadd ta' radjijiet kemm kummerċjali u wkoll komunitarji.

Wassal ukoll biex ghadd ta' xandara ta' programmi minn stazzjonijiet kummerċjali ma baqghux ixandru mill-istazzjon imma minn djarhom. Fost dawn hemm il-programmi Maltin f'Melbourne wara li fis-27 ta' Marzu li ghadda l-amministrazzjoni tar-Radju Komunitarju f'Melbourne 3ZZZ hareġ direttiva li waqt il-pandemija l-programmi "live" mill-istazzjon kellhom jiegfu.

Paul Vella, li flimkien ma' Mario Sammut, Paul Vella u Liz Phillips, jipproduċu programmi ghall-Maltin, qal lil *The Voice*, li minflok, fil-hin allokat ghal kull wiehed mill-programmi kienu jew jixxandru ohrajn antiki, inkella jinstab mezz kif ix-xandara jirrekordjaw programmi godda u jibaghtuhom lill-istazzjon b'mod elettroniku.

Minflok li jhallu lis-semmiegha jisimghu programmi antiki, x-xandara bdew jirrekordjaw programmi godda, fi studio temporanju d-dar taghhom u jibaghtuhom lill-istazzjon.

Fost dawn, ghall-ewwel, Paul Vella beda jirrekordja tliet programmi separati, ghal nhar ta' Tnejn, il-Gimgha u s-Sibt b'kanzunetti popolari Maltin.

Jidher li dan intlaqa' sew mis-semmiegha ghax il-kummenti taghhom kienu favorevoli u wrew li jhobbu hafna l-kanzunetti Maltin.

Ghall-ewwel fuit gimghat il-programm tat-Tnejn baqa' bil-kanzunetti Maltin filwaqt li dak tal-Gimgha beda jxandar il-qari u t-tifsir tal-Vangelju tal-Hadd li jkun geġ, kif ukoll novella ta' Mary Meilak moqrija mill-Kavallier Joe M. Attard mir-Rabat, Ghawdex.

Nhar ta' Sibt baqa' ddedikat ghal kanzunetti Maltin, u xi dedikazzjonijiet li Paul kien jirċevi minghand is-semmiegha permezz ta' messaggi jew telefonati jiem qabel il-programmi jigu rrekordjati.

Sibt minnhom Paul kien irrekordja wkoll intervisti max-xandara l-ohra, Liz Phillips u Mario Sammut. Liz Phillips kienet taghti taghrif kurrenti, filwaqt li flimkien ma' Paul

kienu jaqsmu bejniethom xi ċajtiet.

Min-naħa ta' Mario Sammut dan jaqsm mas-semmiegha dak li s-soltu kien jagħmel fuq il-programm tieghu, jiġifieri l-irkejjen ta' taghrif li ma ssibux fl-ahbarijiet ta' kuljum, u l-istorja komika li ilu għaddej biha s-snin.

Fil-programmi tas-Sibt, il-kantant komiku Joe Demicoli u l-mara tieghu Sonia jibagħtu minn Malta programm speċjali ta' 15-il minuta. X haġa li tinzel tajjeb hafna mas-semmiegha tant li wara kważi kull programm l-istazzjon jirċevi hafna kummenti b'apprezzament li minkejja l-problemi tal-pandemija, ix-xandara xorta baqghu ixandru programmi nteressanti għalihom.



Ix-xandara Maltin fuq ir-radju tal-komunità 3ZZZ f'Melbourne. Wara (mix-xellug): Liz Phillips, Paul Vella u Salvina Vella. Fuq quddiem: Mario Sammut

Permezz ta' *The Voice*, it-tliet xandara Maltin ta' 3ZZZ xtaqu min-naħa taghhom jirringrazzaw lis-semmiegha li wara kull programm, permezz ta' SMS, email jew telefonati, juru l-apprezzament taghhom.



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Racism in sports in Australia addressed in amazing clarity by a soccer player

In our view, Q&A, is one of the best current affairs programmes on the ABC. It is an Australian television panel discussion programme, presently hosted by Hamish Macdonald. It was for many years hosted by top journalist and broadcaster, Tony Jones,

The show usually broadcasts on Monday nights at 9:35, and has run since 2008. Its format is similar to Question Time on the BBC and Questions and Answers on RTE.

This latest episode we look at, broadly examined the future of the sport in Australia, but the heart of the discussion focused more specifically on our various sporting codes' failure to fully eliminate racism.

The panel featured interim NRL CEO Andrew Abdo, Richmond Football Club CEO Brendon Gale, sports broadcaster and journalist Tracey Holmes, Australian netball and AFLW star Sharni Layton, and A-League former star player and now Adelaide United's Director of Football Bruce Djite.

The same underlying question popped up several times – why, when organisations like the NRL and AFL have consistently said “the right things” about racism, does it still persist?

Bruce Djite offered the most compelling answer. He pointed to a “lack of cultural competence” in the hierarchy of Australia's sporting codes, which has slowed down the rate of progress.

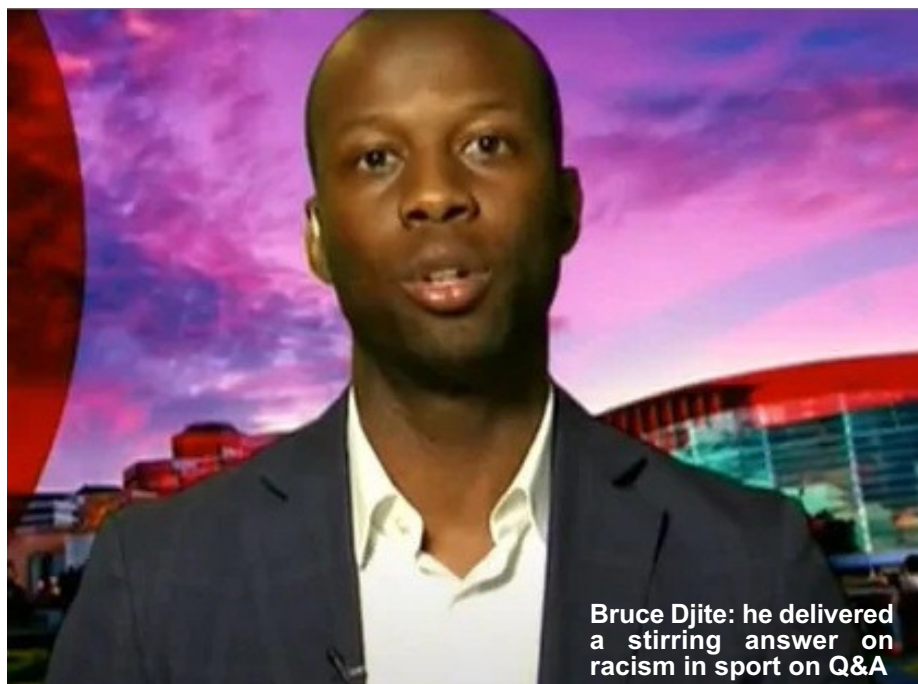
“It doesn't matter if it's about racism. I tell you now if there was an Indigenous person on the AFL Commission, or as AFL CEO, during the time where Adam Goodes was getting racially vilified, it would have had a different reaction. The guy might still be actively involved in the sport,” said the former A-League star.

“If there were more women in high powered positions, entrenched in the sporting game, (women's sport) would have greater media coverage; it would have greater investment.

“Without the people with the context knowledge – you can read all the content, you can be across it all you like, you can read a thousand books – if you haven't felt it and don't have that context knowledge, then you don't get it. It's impossible.

“It's like me trying to understand what it's like to be a female. I can listen. I can learn. But I can never feel what it's like. I will never have that context knowledge.

“So while there's intelligent people, extremely smart people, extremely influential people in the hierarchy, as players, as



Bruce Djite: he delivered a stirring answer on racism in sport on Q&A

administrators – if they don't have the context knowledge, if we don't entrench these people in the hierarchies of our sports, then change may come. But it will come much slower, with many more regrets, then if these people with those lived experience were in those positions.”

Macdonald then threw to Mr Djite, asking why sport administrations had failed to “produce the results” of stamping out racism, despite offering good rhetoric.

Racism starts with education

“Look, there's no doubt that racism exists. At times it's more dormant than others. In this current period, we are in the very divisive phase,” Mr Djite said. “People are more willing and able to come out and actually say what they're thinking. At other times, where things are more calm, people have the same thoughts but they're not articulating them. But the racism is still there.

“I think it starts with education. I really do. It's only been the last couple of weeks when this Black Lives Matter movement has really come to Australia. And we start talking about Aboriginals and the Indigenous and what they've been through.

“I think sport is in a particular place where it's able to improve society, and society cannot be improved if you are not giving a hand up to help the people who have been left behind.

And it's time for the platitudes to stop and for action to be taken. And for organisations to be judged on the actions they take, not the words that they speak.”

Layton argued that clubs and larger organisations should publicly acknowledge the racism that's occurred on their watch, and apologise to the players.

“I love seeing the AFL and the NRL taking a knee during the last two games. I wish it didn't take Black Lives Matter for us to be paying attention to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and I hope we do continue to use this momentum, but also remember to keep taking action rather than saying all of these words that we're wanting to represent and change things,” she said.

“We need to be stamping (racists) off social media. We need to be taking away those memberships and definitely not standing for that.

“This is my own personal opinion but I really believe that there needs to be an apology as well, and a public apology, because by doing that – those players that have spoken out have had to be so brave and they have copped so much for such a long time now.

“For those larger organisations to be able to come out and say this actually did go on and we're sorry, that is the bravest and courageous thing you can do for those players at this current point in time.”

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

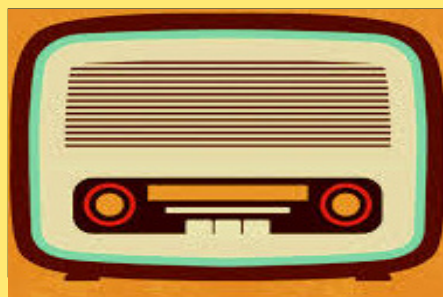
MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio

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

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

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



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

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 Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

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

Maltese centres to re-open Thursday

La Valette Social Centre at 173 Walter Road Blacktown NSW will open its doors for business as from Thursday July 2 after having closed due to the pandemic. The Centre will open strictly with the Covid-19 current rules. The 50-person limit and four square-metre rule apply.

Charlie's Family Restaurant will be open from Thursday for lunch and Saturday for dinner with a limited menu.

Respite started face-to-face Flexible Respite last week, and the bus will be operating again on Thursday July 2.

Until further notice, there will be no Mass at the Centre. No entertainment or Bingo. Bocci is limited to 10 people.

The Hamrun Club at 100 Jackson Street Marsden Park will reopen on Sunday July 7 from 4 to 9 pm in accordance with Government restrictions.

As we went to press we have had no notices from other Maltese centres around Australia regarding their re-opening.

Important Notice

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

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

Notice to MCA members and friends

As you know on Monday March 16, we at the MCA had to cancel the Ludwig Galea concerts that were due to take place during the following weekend because of the Corona Virus Pandemic and in the best interest of the community.

For the very same reasons we also suspended until further notice all MCA activities. However, to ensure that the work of the MCA still gets done, the Management Committee meetings were still held by means of the Internet, through Video Conferencing.

Whilst hoping that this pandemic will soon pass, and we start to return to normality thus allowing us to safely organise functions such as a Mass of Thanksgiving and an AGM, later this year, we are also planning our activities for 2021.

Until then, we ask for your understanding. In the meantime, thank you, stay safe and take care.

Charles N Mifsud (President)



Events for 2020

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

Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

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



Australia and New Zealand celebrate successful bid to host Women's World Cup 2023

FIFA's decision to award the hosting of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup to Australia and New Zealand is being hailed as a historic moment for women's sport in the region.

The decision was welcomed with joy and relief in the neighbouring countries by governments, officials and players as they celebrated after the nations awoke to the news on Friday that their joint bid had won the race.

The tournament is regarded as an important and timely boost for Australia and NZ as it enhances the truly global nature of football.

The losers are Columbia who were the other bidders to organise the event.

UEFA sets finals for August

Most sports disciplines have suffered huge difficulties as a result of the pandemic, but one of the most important organisations, the European Football Union, UEFA, has decided to resume almost all of its football competitions in August.

After postponing EURO 2020, the organisation has now set the calendar and venues for club and national team competitions.

UEFA Champions League 2019/20
August 7-8: Remaining Rd of 16 second legs
August 12-15: Quarter-finals (Lisbon)
August 18-19: Semi-finals (Lisbon)

August 23: Final (Benfica Stadium Lisbon).

UEFA Europa League 2019/20
August 5-6: Round of 16 (in Germany)
August 10-11: Quarter-finals (Cologne, Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Gelsenkirchen)
August 16-17: Semi-finals (Germany)
21 August: Final (Cologne).

The 2020 UEFA Super Cup will be played at the Puskás Aréna in Budapest on September 24.

UEFA has also decided the calendar and venues for the remaining matches of the Women's Champions League 2019/20 and the UEFA Youth League 2019/20.

2019/20 A-League season to be completed Aug. 16-31

The remainder of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season will resume on July 16 and extend through to, at latest, August 31. It follows an agreement reached between FFA and Fox Sports Australia on a new broadcast deal.

The Hyundai A-League resumes on Thursday, July 16 with Melbourne Victory taking on Western United at AAMI Park in Melbourne.

The deal ensures that fans and members will be able to enjoy the exciting conclusion to the current Hyundai A-League season, and also provide immediate certainty for clubs, players, coaches, officials and, fans, for the remainder of this season, as the next.

Formula 1 Season resumes July 3-5

After Formula 1 racing was put on hold because of the coronavirus outbreak, and as the world is starting to return to a new normality, the FIA has worked to put together a plan to allow the F1 season to begin safely. It begins with an initial eight-race calendar, starting in Austria on July 3-5.

So there are only a few more days to go to the start of the quirkiest of the new Formula 1 season. When the lights go out, the teams and drivers who would be fighting for the titles could be the same as last season.

Most commentators expect a three-way fight between Mercedes, Red Bull and Ferrari for the drivers and constructors' World Championships.

Reigning champions Mercedes and Lewis Hamilton expect great challenges from Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

After the July 3-5 GP, Austria will also host the next one the following week, on July 10-12.



Man. Utd's Rashford hailed as a hero on and off the field

Manchester United's 22-year-old England striker Marcus Rashford has proven to be a hero on the field, and off it after persuading British PM Boris Johnson to do a U-turn with his highly personal campaign that forced the change in Johnson's about free school meals over the six-week summer period.

Rashford's phone conversation with the Prime Minister, led to the decision of a one-off £120 million fund that would benefit some 1.3 million children in England over the period.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson praised Rashford for his highly personal campaign. Meanwhile, the footballer thanked the PM and said, "we understood each other and I'm just grateful that the Prime Minister did change his decision and he understood. It's a nice feeling but I'm just happy that people's lives, and people's summers especially, have been changed for the better."

The Man. Utd. player is now also

planning his next move to help struggling families all year round, and he now wants to learn "how we can help them best" in the future.

"I don't want this to be the end of it because there are definitely more steps that need to be taken. So we just need to analyse the response."

Marcus Rashford paid an emotional tribute to his mum, Melanie (above) after the government U-turn. His conversation with Johnson came after he had written an open letter a day earlier asking the Government to reverse its decision not to award free school meals vouchers to vulnerable children outside term time.

On that same day, a Department for Education spokesman had said that the scheme was not being extended. It would not continue beyond summer.

Rashford is one of five children in his immediate family and has been working hard to help those in a similar situation to the one he grew up in as a youngster

ASA Message to competitive swimmers of Maltese origin

As part of an exercise it is carrying out to update its records, the Aquatics Sports Association (ASA) of Malta is trying to establish contact with competitive swimmers of possible Maltese origin. The aim is to collect results information and be able to follow their performance with the possibility of maybe providing support and opportunities to further improve.

If any of our reads are aware of any competitive swimmers who might have Maltese origins, the ASA would love to hear from them. Therefore feel free to forward this message to whomever you think might assist.

David Bonello, the Secretary of the ASA's Swimming Technical Committee told *The Voice* that anybody needing any clarification, should get in touch with the ASA, by Email: stcsecretary@asaofmalta.eu or phone: Tel | +356 21322884; Mob: +356 99461366.