



# The Voice of the Maltese

*(driven by the voice of its readers)*

Issue  
232

fortnightly magazine for the Diaspora

July 14, 2020



Welcome Back  
to MLA!

Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli, MIA CEO Alan Borg and Minister for Economy Silvio Schembri welcoming tourists at Malta International Airport

Malta on the way to complete recovery as it opens up fully for commercial flights and welcomes more visitors

(See story on page 13)





# Melbourne: new COVID-19 restrictions

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic may be stressful for people. It is still around, in some countries much more than others. The state of Victoria in Australia is a case in point.

In order to respond to the increase in case numbers, help keep the communities safe and to help reduce the risk of further transmission, as of July 1, new restrictions announced by Premier Daniel Andrews, are in place for Melbourne's hot zones.

Most of all, Victorians are being asked to use common sense when it comes to visiting friends and family, especially those who are more vulnerable. That means seeing only those you need to – if you need to.

Shopping centres and outdoor markets are required to apply the four square metre rule to limit the number of shoppers

One can visit a restricted postcode for four reasons: shopping for food and supplies,

care and caregiving, exercise, and study or work – if one cannot do it from home.

If you need to travel through one of the restricted postcode areas, you can, but you should plan your trip so that you don't need to stop in an impacted area unless it is for one of the four reasons.

Additional restrictions have also been put in place.

– you cannot have visitors to your home except for caregiving or compassionate reasons or receiving services.

– you can no longer visit friends and family who live at another household, except for caregiving or compassionate reasons or providing services.

– you cannot travel except for one of the four reasons outlined above.

Everybody accepts that fear and anxiety about such a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children.

Public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. However, these actions are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

o Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can sometimes cause the following:

o Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones, your financial situation or job, or loss of support services you rely on.

o Changes in sleep or eating patterns.

o Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.

o Worsening of chronic health problems.

o Worsening of mental health conditions.

o Increased use of tobacco, and/or alcohol and other substances.

(See message from the Victorian Government on page 5)



*Sometimes we let our worries get the best of us. Remember, the safest place to put your burdens down is on the floor next to your bed.*

## A great lesson on stress

A young lady confidently walked around the room with a raised glass of water while leading a seminar and explaining stress management to her audience. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'Half empty or half full?' She fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

She said: "As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up again tomorrow if you must.

\*Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

\*Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have

to eat them.

\* Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

\* Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

\* If you lend someone a small sum of money and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

\* It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

\* Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

\* Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

\* Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

\* The second mouse gets the cheese.

\* When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

\* Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

\* Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

\* We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.

\* A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

\* Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

# You can now virtually explore Malta's Underwater Museum

Through the 'The Virtual Museum-Underwater Malta' website, in the comfort of their own homes the public can now access 10 underwater archaeological sites that give a detailed description and videos that show the sites in great detail. The online museum ranges from old archaeological findings to sunken aircraft and submarines.

Launching the online underwater museum project, Professor Tim Gambin from the University of Malta explained that using virtual reality, people are now able to experience the underwater world, that to date, only divers or people in submarines were able to visit.

The project, an investment of €100,000 over three years, is funded by the Malta Tourism Authority with the University taking part in the project in terms of research, and Heritage Malta.

Prof Gambin said that the concept of the museum project highlights the importance of Malta's heritage found underwater. It appeals not simply to divers or history enthusiasts, but hopefully also attract the attention of the public that wishes to learn about Malta's underwater national heritage.

Advances in technology provide this astounding opportunity to explore the underwater world without getting wet! The use of powerful cameras and special underwater lights enables one to capture Malta's underwater cultural heritage in such a way as to make it accessible to everyone. It also allows the public to dive into history.

The creation of this digital record contributes to the continued effort for the preservation and protection of Malta's submerged cultural heritage for future generations. Although there still exist limitations brought about by depth, remoteness and legislation, this online platform brings underwater cultural heritage to the surface and into the homes of the general public.

Using 3D, virtual reality and other media, the aim of this website is to provide access to anyone wishing to share Malta's unique underwater cultural heritage.

Gambin said that there was a lot of work behind the project, and several people collaborated in a variety of ways in its realisation. It consisted of research and using different media and technology to bring the final

*One of the central principles of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage is that 'State Parties shall promote public awareness regarding the value and importance of underwater cultural heritage', a principle that is fully endorsed by The Virtual Museum – Underwater Malta.*



**The HMS Stubborn submarine that can be found at a depth of 57 metres north-east of St. Paul's Bay**

a shipwreck dating back to 2,700 years (during the Phoenician period) to World War II aircraft.

The sites: the submarine HMS Stubborn and aircraft JU88 both located off St Paul's Bay; British destroyer HMS Maori and supply vessel X-Lighter at Port of Marsamxett; the remnants of a Phoenician shipwreck outside Gozo's Xlendi; the Beaufighter and Fairey Swordfish aircrafts located off St Julian's; Marsaxlokk's B-24 Liberator aircraft; and Victorian-era cannons and S-31 Schnellboot outside Grand Harbour.

**The hull of the Schnellboot S-31 lying in two pieces outside the Grand Harbour at a depth of 65 metres**



**The wreck of the JU88 that was discovered in 2009 during an offshore remote sensing survey. The aircraft is well-preserved**

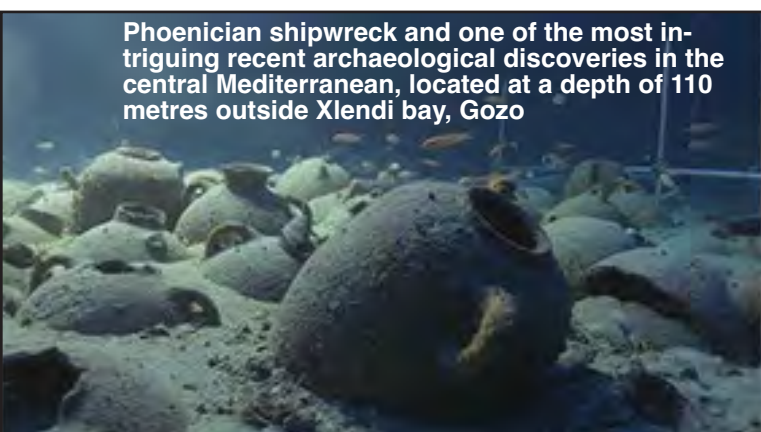
product that it is today.

MTA CEO Dr Gavin Gulia said that such a museum is bound to enrich the niche diving sector in Malta that in 2019 attracted over 100,000 tourists specifically to take part in diving activities. By means of this website, such tourists would be able to plan their trip in advance and entice more people to come to Malta.

He added that this is a first. Besides supporting Malta's cultural heritage, it would keep the people informed about the island's surroundings, be of great value to the diving sector, and bring accessibility to such sites.

The 10 sites in this virtual museum range from

**Phoenician shipwreck and one of the most intriguing recent archaeological discoveries in the central Mediterranean, located at a depth of 110 metres outside Xlendi bay, Gozo**





**Q.** I am in a relationship at present and have been so for a number of years. I have just inherited a large amount of money from my parents' estate and am planning to purchase a house. Should I purchase the house in my name only or should I include my partner's name on the deeds, as adding her name later may be costly?

**A.** A solicitor is better able to help you with this. While a shared ownership between partners provides a level of protection for the surviving spouse should something happen, generally there may be certain disadvantages in holding it in joint names such as loss of control, where if you want to refinance or sell the property you must have the other owner's permission.

Another disadvantage is permission if you require an overdraft facility on the property and finally the property may be exposed to the liability or debt of the joint owner. Also whether the property is used as an investment or as your residential home, when selling the property in future it would be two different outcomes.

**Q.** My father is 87 and moving into aged care. He does not have enough to pay the Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) but wishes to hold onto his home. He is on the full age pension at present and we were told that for two years his home is not treated as an asset by Centrelink and therefore he gets to hold onto his full age pension. If he decides to pay the Daily Accommodation Payment (DAP), is he able to take a reverse mortgage to cover these ongoing expenses?

**A.** He can take a reverse mortgage to cover

his daily accommodation payment. However, you need to consider whether this is his best option. In two years' time his home will become an asset and if he continues to hold onto it, he will most probably lose his age pension.

You should visit a financial planner who deals with people moving into aged care and the planner should be able to present a few options that are available and your father would then be able to make an informed decision.

**Q.** I am 73 and planning to move into a retirement village. This will cost me around \$750,000. I have just had an offer for my home and this should leave me with around \$450,000 of surplus funds. I am planning to invest \$300,000 into superannuation, which is using the downsizing strategy. My only concern is whether I will be able to access the funds in superannuation if I needed to do so, and whether my children are able to receive these funds after my death.

**A.** Anyone who is over the age of 65 has access to their superannuation funds. In your case all funds from super can be withdrawn

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



at any time and tax-free. Once you pass on, your beneficiaries will receive the remaining funds. The funds will be paid to the beneficiaries that you nominate which are either your children or your Estate.

**Q.** We are planning on purchasing a property in say 12 months' time. We have \$70,000 for the deposit sitting in the bank earning very little. We thought of investing the money in direct shares in the meantime in order to make some capital gains. This will, hopefully, in 12 months' time give us a larger sum of money to put towards the property. Do you agree with this plan?

**A.** Investing in direct shares needs a longer time frame. Direct shares normally need to be held onto for at least a period of 5 to 7 years to be able to see a reasonable result. If this were play money then investing in shares would be great. However, you need this money in 12 months' time, which is not a sufficient period to invest in direct shares. Your \$70,000 could reduce rather than increase and this is not what you are after.

**Q.** I am 61 years of age and have just retired. I am planning to withdraw \$160,000 from my superannuation fund to pay off my outstanding mortgage. In two years' time I should be coming into a large amount of money, which I could then re-invest in superannuation. Do you believe this is the best option?

**A.** I do believe that it is preferable to have no mortgage when you retire. However, currently interest rates on mortgage are quite low. Your superannuation could be earning a better return than current mortgage interest rates.

If you are going to be coming into money in a couple of years' time, you could pay the mortgage then and in the meantime hope that your superannuation would perform better than current interest rates. Withdrawing funds from superannuation now is also not very ideal as superannuation funds went through a rough period earlier this year and have not yet recovered all that they had lost.

## Investing or Retiring?

Understand your options. Talk to Fiducian.



Marie-Louise Muscat is fluent in Maltese and English and can assist you in:

- Wealth Creation
- Pre Retirement and Retirement Advice
- Maximising Centrelink Benefits
- Tax effective strategies in retirement e.g. sale of property
- Rearranging finances to minimise ongoing fees prior to entering Aged Care facilities



Marie-Louise Muscat  
CFP, Dip FP  
Senior Financial Planner

Call Marie-Louise for a  
complimentary consultation on:  
(02) 9231 2133



**FIDUCIAN**  
Financial Services

Marie-Louise Muscat is a representative of Fiducian Financial Services Pty Ltd  
ABN 46 094 765 134 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence 231103

[www.fiducianfs.com.au](http://www.fiducianfs.com.au)

# Updated information on the suspension of the Maltese language classes

The news that VCE/HSC/SACE was suspended was exclusively published in the last issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*. We have also highlighted the “good news” that the Maltese Language would still be taught throughout the Australian states. The demand, especially from 2nd and 3rd generation Maltese, is still there. The Maltese Community eagerly wants to learn about its Maltese Culture through the Maltese Language classes.

The Federation of Maltese Language Schools has since issued its second newsletter this year wherein it has given an overview of the situation across Australia

## News from NSW

The MCC Maltese Language School of NSW Language classes is going ahead, face to face at Horsley Park Public School on Saturday mornings. Fifty three students are registered for these classes.

*The Saturday School of Community Languages Centre* at Seven Hills has seven students studying Maltese, while seven students have registered at the *Dwejret il-Malti* centre of Blacktown. Maltese is taught mainly virtually online.

*Skola Maltija Sydney* – 36 students K-6, and 42 adults attend Maltese Language classes in Greystanes, Rouse Hill, Cobbitty and Cringila. This term, classes are virtually via ZOOM. Next term face to face classes will resume.

## News from Victoria

The MCCV Language classes in Victoria will start their second-semester Classes via ZOOM on Wednesday July 15 and Thursday July 16. To date there are over 35 students registered in both the beginners and Continuers classes. Classes will be held virtually online. They have proven to be popular and have also attracted students from the outer suburbs and regional Victoria. Students from states where no Maltese classes are being held can join these classes.

At time of publishing no data was available from the Victorian School of Languages.

In their newsletter signed by Edwidge Borg as President, they further explain the suspension of the provision of Maltese at Year 12.

The Maltese Community in various states has been appealing to the com-

munity for many years for them to send more students to sit for the exam. In the last three years the schools did not present a minimum of 15 students in one year as required to meet quota to retain the exam.

Petitions from Maltese organisations, schools, the Maltese Community Councils of NSW and Victoria, were made, and the President of the Maltese Community Council and the President of the Federation held meetings with the relevant authorities.

Despite these efforts, the verdict from the VCAA has been declared. The last VCE Examination in this subject will be in 2021. From January 2022, Maltese will not be offered as a language subject. The following applies:

**2020** Last year for Year 11 enrolments in Maltese;

**2021** Maltese not offered at Year 11. Last year for Year 12 enrolments and Year 12 examination for Maltese;

**2022** Maltese not available as a VCE course.

Students will not be able to repeat Maltese at Year 12

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 fifteen students at VCE 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 in the VCE.

c. Tertiary or equivalent expertise is available to support the teaching and assessment of Maltese at this level.

## A message from the Victorian Government:

## Restrictions in place

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has announced that from July a number of postcodes have returned to Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions.

This decision was made in response to increasing evidence of significant community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in these postcodes:

- 3012 (Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray)
- 3021 (Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans)
- 3032 (Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Traralgon)
- 3038 (Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens)
- 3042 (Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie, Niddrie North)
- 3046 (Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park)
- 3047 (Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana)
- 3055 (Brunswick South, Brunswick West, Moonee Vale, Moreland West)
- 3060 (Fawkner)
- 3064 (Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park, Kalkallo)

If you live in these locations, there will again only be four reasons to be out:

- Shopping for food and supplies
- Care and caregiving
- Exercise
- Study or work – if you can't do it from home.

Wherever you can, you should do these things as close to home as you can.

If you do need to leave your postcode, those same restrictions – those same four reasons – travel with you.

If you live outside these locations, there's only four reasons to come into these communities: shopping for food and supplies, care and caregiving, exercise, and study or work – if you can't do it from home.

Eligible local businesses will be able access an initial \$5000 in support from the government.

Based on the most up-to-date advice of the Chief Health Officer, students will return to school after the school holidays.

For more information visit [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](https://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)

Staying Apart Keeps Us Together.

(See also: *Pandemics can be stressful* on page 2)



The Skola Maltija at Greystanes



# Dad was not a hero, but neither was he a coward

In my first-ever article for a publication of some standing in the June 16 issue (No. 230) of *The Voice of the Maltese*, I mentioned that my father used to explain to us what he and his family went through during the War (WWII) years and that he also used to recount to us siblings, not only the hardships but also some very funny anecdotes. I could not mention them in my first article, as it would have been much too long.

**Christine Muscat**

Since writing that article (titled: “Coronavirus not all gloom and doom! It also had its benefits”), I discovered how popular this magazine is with the Maltese community, but not only. I also learned that *The Voice* has also got quite a number of avid readers from other ethnic groups. I have been inundated with favourable comments; many have even tried to convince me to take up writing on a regular basis. But I don’t know if I can.

I appreciate their comments, but to be honest I don’t believe that I have what it takes to be a regular contributor. However, having started the ball rolling and, as my husband said, put my foot in it, I feel it my duty to accede to requests by some to explain what the funny anecdotes from the war – that I mentioned in my first article – were.

My dad was a very down-to-earth family man. He used to go out of his way to keep mum and us siblings happy. When it comes to money we were not rich, but we were never left wanting for anything that could give us an honest upbringing and a good education. He was very intelligent in many ways. Sometimes we used to think that the term DIY was invented for him.

When it comes to storytelling – true or fictitious – his wit and the way he told them used to keep us kids glued to our seats. Sometimes, my older sister would even invite other kids from our street to join us in these sessions, especially when it was time for dad to recall the war years, his experience, and what he used to tell us, jokingly, about “his contribution to saving Malta from the enemy”.

I remember him telling us that Malta was essential to the Allied war effort, but he did not put much effort into it himself. He was certainly no hero; instead, he used to describe himself, rather sarcastically, as a “coward”. Friends of his tell us that was only his modesty talking as he helped raise the spirits of many people, especially those close to him.

For some months during the war years, he was assigned to the British Army Medical Corps (well I think that was the name he gave us) and was stationed at Mtarfa (near Rabat).

Every morning he used to walk from Marsa to Mtarfa to help to maintain the needs of patients. He filled several roles at the Mtarfa Hospital, but he was always afraid that with Mtarfa being so closed to the Ta’ Qali airfield, one day he would fall victim of the war. He used to tell us that there were days when in the rare occasion that he encountered an exercise with war tanks by the British Army at Ta’ Qali, it put the fear in him, and he tried to avoid such occasions.

The only thing that he never regretted was that he was always well-fed and even used to take home to the family enough food (mostly canned). The family was never left wanting.

He had never been called to provide any defence of the island like other soldiers, some of them close friends, but he still always tried hard to figure out how he could avoid going to Mtarfa. Therefore he devised a plan. He sought the help of a nurse and managed to acquire some itching powder that he then poured on his body developing a rash.



**The British Army using a Light Tank Mk VI during an exercise at Ta’ Qali in 1942**

He then complained of itching and that he might have scabies. He was relieved of his duties.

Another of his “funny” anecdotes was when he explained to us that during the war, enemy pilots that were shot down over Malta and survived the ordeal by bailing out, were caught and placed in confinement, where, he said, they were very well treated. He and a few other Maltese soldiers were assigned the task of “looking after them” as guards, to keep them away from escaping.

Most of the guards, dad included, became very friendly with some of the prisoners but they never told them that they had no bullets to use with their shotguns they were carrying as a deterrent in case of trouble. Therefore if they misbehaved there was no way they could defend themselves. Isn’t that laughable?

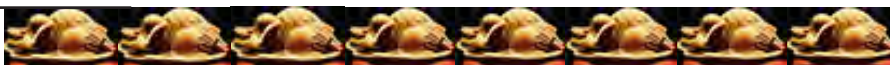
However, whenever he was called upon to help to clear debris at buildings destroyed by enemy bombs or recover injured persons or victims in such destruction he always volunteered. When he heard that the Royal Opera House in Valletta was destroyed by the Germans, he was even among the first to get to Valletta from Marsa to join other soldiers to help clear the debris.

In August 1942, in Operation Pedestal, one of the five ships to arrive in Malta was called Melbourne Star that anchored and discharged its cargo not far from one of the shelters; it stayed there for about three weeks. Dad mentioned that some of the kids used to be allowed onboard and a few of them took the opportunity to make their way to the officers’ mess pantry and grab some food to take home to their family.

It never seemed to bother the crew, and the day before it was going to sail, the ship’s captain organised “an open day” on the ship and the people were allowed to go onboard to meet the crew. Dad was one of those who availed themselves of the chance and even made friends with two crewmembers. He kept corresponding with one of them for years.

These are experiences that my father, who was always so grateful to have survived the war, always liked to talk about and used to describe as the few silver linings. He was certainly no hero and liked to joke, rather sarcastically, that he had no hand in defeating the enemy, even though (like everybody else) he had medals to show.

## Malta's Heritage sites



# The National Museum of Archaeology

Housed at the Auberge de Provence, in Republic Street, Valletta, the National Museum of Archaeology, with artefacts from prehistory, Phoenician times and a notable numismatic collection, is renowned as one of the most elaborately decorated Baroque buildings in Malta's capital city.

It is one of a number of other museums and sites in Valletta that are managed by Heritage Malta. The others are, the Palace State Rooms and Palace Armoury, MUŻA, Fortress Builders Interpretation Centre, and Fort St Elmo – National War Museum.

The Museum of Archaeology at the Auberge de Provence, a baroque building that was constructed in 1571 to serve as the official residence of the Knights of the Order of St John, designed by the Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar, who also directed the building of other most important sites in the early days of the capital.

During its history the building, which was subject to various alterations including the extensive reconstruction of the façade, was opened as the National Museum in 1958 by the then Minister of Education Agatha Barbara.

In 1974, the fine arts collection was moved to the National Museum of Fine Arts, newly established in the Admiralty House building in South Street, Valletta, and the National Museum was renamed the National Museum of Archaeology.

The museum was refurbished and upgraded in 1998. Artefacts were placed in climate-controlled displays so that the exhibition met with current conservation standards.

The sheer elegance of the time is still much alive in the richly painted walls and wooden beamed ceiling of the Gran Salon (below), the most ornate room in the building on the first floor. The Knights used it for business discussions, and as a

refectory and banquet hall, where they sat at long tables according to seniority.

This museum offers a spectacular range of artefacts dating back to Malta's Neolithic Period (5000 BC) up to the Phoenician Period (400 BC) and provides the visitor with a good introduction to the prehistory and early history of the Maltese Islands.

Thanks to a number of sections (six halls) the Museum acts as a catalyst to other archaeological sites in Malta. They are:

**The Early Neolithic Period Room** (5200-2500 BC) on the ground floor of the museum exhibits some of the most notable prehistoric artefacts from the Maltese islands, the earliest prehistoric tools and artistic representations, including decorated pottery from the Għar Dalam phase (5200 BC), from, Grey Skorba, Red Skorba and Żebbuġ phases and the earliest appearance of settlement on the island, up to the Tarxien phase (2500 BC).

It also includes, the 'Sleeping Lady' (from the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum), the 'Venus of Malta' (from Hagar Qim Temples), the Bronze Age daggers (from Tarxien Temples), and the Horus & Anubis pendant, together with the anthropomorphic sarcophagus, both of which date to the Phoenician Period.

There are other halls dedicated to different periods. The **Temple Period Rooms** (3800-2500 BC show examples of architecture, human representation and other items mentioned above, that date from the

Some of the artefacts at the Museum



Mgarr, Ġgantija, Saflieni and Tarxien phases of Maltese prehistory.

The temples built at this time are considered to be the world's first freestanding monuments and are listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List

At the **Bronze Age Hall** (2400 – 700BC) one can learn about the culture and rituals of new peoples that moved to the Islands c. 2,400BC.

The remains from the Bronze Age attest to a total break with the culture of the Temple Period. The richly decorated temples are replaced by fortified settlements, built into rocky natural defences that bear witness to more defensive newcomers.

At the **Cart-Ruts Room** there's a reproduction of the mysterious cart-ruts that are widespread throughout Malta and Gozo. Although some are thought to be Bronze Age, their precise period has not yet been established, and neither has their use.

The Phoenician Hall is an introduction to these highly accomplished artisans and seafarers who set up trading outposts throughout the Mediterranean and settled on the Maltese islands around 700 BC, and ruled until 218 BC.

The collection contains fine examples of pottery, jewellery and glassware produced by the Phoenicians, including an amulet made of solid gold consisting of two standing gods, Horus and Anubis.

On the top floor of the National Museum of Archaeology is the National Numismatic Collection.

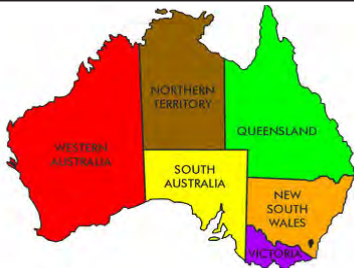
Stemming from a donation bequeathed by Prof. Salvatore Luigi Pisani (1828-1908) in 1899, the collection has continued to grow and now consists of more than 16,000 coins, commemorative medals and dies.

Works are currently in progress to include other halls that will be dedicated to the Punic, Roman, and Byzantine Periods in Malta.





# 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.

#### Editors:

**Malta:** Joseph Cutajar

**Australia:**

Lawrence Dimech: MOM, OAM, JP

email address:

maltesevoice@gmail.com

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



Now you can also  
join us on facebook:

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

## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# Sejha lill-Isqof il-gdid t'Għawdex Anton Teuma

Joe Sultana minn Westmead NSW jikteb:

**N**ifrah sinċerament lill-Isqof il-gdid ta' Għawdex Dun Anton Teuma. Frahna hawn fl-Awstralja li dan is-sacerdot umli gie mahtur f'din il-kariga, imma aktar minn hekk ghax għandu esperjenza hajja tal-emigrazzjoni. Dan ghax kont tgħix magħna f'Sydney. Jien ukoll, bhalek kont nahdem mar-Rheem.

Għandi ghax nifhem li int m'intix bħal daw k ta' Malta li qalulna li l-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja rridu sacerdot Malti

fostna minhabba li ma nafux bl-Ingliż". Nahseb int tifhem hafna ahjar l-għeruq tagħna mar-religjon u t-tradizzjonijiet kat-toliċi.

## Suspension of Maltese language classes shocking

Doris Cannataci from Sliema writes:

**I** was shocked to read the article on page 12 in the last issue of the magazine, "Maltese language courses to be suspended". In my opinion, it is a great pity for the present and future generations of Maltese descent.

James Cassar's article (The Personality of the Month) about him trying to learn about his heritage and search about his roots is a case in point; an urge to get to know about the culture and language of one's origin.

I do not agree with Charles Xuereb (*news item about monuments in Valletta on page 14*) reported saying "imma bil-kolonjalizmu nkunu qed niftahru b'rix haddiehor"

Monuments are part of our history. The George Cross shows the courage and bravery of the Maltese in time of unimaginable hardships and fear. Behind the George Cross there is the culture and faith of the Maltese during WWII.

The pilgrimages and prayers of the Maltese played a very important role during WWII; they were heard and answered.

The Santa Maria Convoy saved Malta when the OHIO tanker badly crippled entered Grand Harbour on the 15th August 1942 on the feast of Santa Maria; 8th September 1943, feast of Our Lady of Victory. Italy surrendered.

As a Maltese citizen I am very proud of the George Cross and of our historical monuments.

## Melbourne, we are behind you

Joe Spiteri from Marrickville NSW writes:

**W**e are behind you and pray for you. Melbourne with 5 million people in lockdown is a deep shock to all residents of Australia as we are one nation. This is a wake-up call to the other states. Be careful, obey the rules; no one is indestructible.

Do not travel interstate for the next weeks. We are in this together. We can beat it if we stick together and obey the rules as issued.

## Nostalgia indeed

Tony Felice from Kleinburg Ontario Canada writes:

**T**he memories you evoke with your articles "Memorji u Nostalgija" truly hit home, they brought back, in my mind a picture of the suburbs of Newtown, Redfern, Surry Hills and us, a few Maltese immigrants (kids mostly) busily trying to stake a claim as part of the community in our found land.

The Voice is right, we were driven by boredom, but we did keep busy and out of trouble. With the Malta Eagles, which we founded and other community involvement which still exists today, we did make a mark.

I could go on and on. Instead, I will continue to be thankful for your dedication to keeping these memories alive. I have left Sydney and now live in Canada, but the memories are still vivid in my mind even though we are separated by thousands of miles.



## Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

For issues concerning:

Ageing and disability - community services - education - environment - health - housing - planning - Police - transport - water

P: (02) 9756 4766

E: prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au

2679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164



**K**emm niftaħru bl-ikel u l-kċina Maltija hux? Bir-raġun! Nistqarr mal-qarrejja ta' *The Voice of the Maltese* li bħal hafna mill-Maltin dan l-ikel ma nibdlu ma' xejn, speċjalment, ngħid għalija, dak li kienet issajjar ommi. Meta ngħid hekk, il-mara tiegħi f'it tiegħu pjaċir, u bir-raġun, għax hi wkoll issajjar ikel bnin. Imma meta nkun qed ngħid hekk, inkun aktar qed nitkellem dwar dak li nħoss go fija, u b'ċerta nos-talġija.

Illum se nisvija f'it mit-tagħrif tiegħi imma xorta waħda se nittratta dwar il-kultura u d-drawwiet tradizzjonali Maltini. Din id-darba se nikteb dwar l-ikel, u hafna mid-drawwiet fil-kċina Maltin u dwar platti bnini li kwazi l-ommijiet kollha kellhom hila jservu fuq l-imwejjed tal-familji. Fl-istess waqt se nkun aktar personali għax l-aktar li nsemmi hu dak l-ikel li ommi Marija, illum mejta, rabbiet bih lili u lill-bqija tal-familja.

Hemm hafna xi ngħid, għax il-kultura Maltija f'dan is-settur kienet, u sa ċetu punt għadha tassew rikka. L-ikel Malti mhux biss pastizzi u qassatat, u l-hobż Malti biż-żejt. Għalhekk se naqşam dan l-artiklu f'żewġ partijiet. Nibdih illum u ntemmu f'il-ħarġa ta' wara.

Donni bħal niftakar f'dawk il-jiem ta' meta konna għadna zġħar, immorru nigru d-dar wara l-iskola u dritt nerħulha lejn il-kċina biex nifthu dawk l-għotjien tal-borom u nnaqqru milli tkun gejjiet ommi.

Niftakarha sewwa taqli x'aktarx l-aktar ikla tradizzjonali Maltija, il-fenek nhar ta' Hadd filgħodu u jien u ħuti b'dik il-biċċa hobż inbillu fil-greji fit-taġen. Dik il-biċċa lahma zġħira tal-fenek, maż-zebbuġa jew biċċa fwied tiegħu kienet tinzilli għasel.

Kont niggosta nara lil ommi (Alla jahfrilha) toqgħod attenta xi tqassam għax inkella meta jasal nofsinhar f'it li xejn ikun fadlila xi tqassam. Kien xenarju mill-imghoddi ta' żmien tfulitna u nahseb li min qed jaqra dan l-artiklu, hu wkoll jiftakar fit-tifkriet ta' tfulitu l-aktar ... f'it ikun hemm varjanti minn dak li ktibt biex nintroduci l-artiklu tal-lum. Fejn għandu x'jaqşam il-fenek kien hemm ukoll l-istuffat tal-fenek, u l-għagin biz-zalza tiegħu.

Il-kċina Maltija tal-imghoddi, ta' aktar minn sittin sena ilu żmien li jien niftakar sewwa, il-ħaxix kien abbundanti u forsi wkoll orħos għax hafna kienu dawk il-familji bir-raba' tagħhom jew b'xi gnejna d-dar, allura l-bejgħ tal-ħaxix kien abbundanti u rħis.

### Is-sopop

Għal din ir-raġuni s-sopop kienu jiġu pprezentati fl-ikla Maltija b'mod l-aktar naturali. Niftakar sewwa dik il-minestra tal-ħaxix, b'dik il-pastarda u kaboċċa se jtiru bil-friskezza tagħhom. Ommi ma nafx, kienet iżżid xi haġa li kienet tagħmel it-togħma tal-minestra unika (għallinqas fil-fehma tiegħi). Niftakar ukoll il-kawlata li fiha f'it kont nara differenza mill-minestra tal-ħaxix. Izda hej, b'dak ix-xikel tal-majjal u biz-zalzett tal-Malti kienet tagħmilha tassew unika.

Lill-ommi kont nismagħha tghid mal-girien li mal-minestra thobb titfa' dik id-daqsxejn ta' ... (ma nafx x'inhi) ... halli t-tfal jikluha, u tghidx kemm jilagħquha. Min jaf x'kienet titfa'!

Imbagħad xi ngħidu għal dik is-soppa tal-kirxa? Mamma tiegħi! Kienet soppa kollha ħaxix u mimlija biċċiet tal-kirxa li nkun naddafthielha jien stess. Illum qajla tara dik il-kirxa



## L-IKEL T'OMMI: ma kont nibdlu ma' xejn (1)



ta' żmieni, varjata ... xugamani u interjuri oħra kkuluriti. Kemm kienet tagħmel soppa tal-kirxa tajba ommi!

Kienet ukoll thobb tagħmel is-soppa tal-armla b'dawk il-gbejniet friski, bil-ful imqaxxar jgħum fil-wiċċ tal-platt iduru mal-pizelli, biċċiet tal-basal u xi biċċiet tal-bajd imqatta' u maħlul li kien iżid mal-benna.

### L-aljotta

Niftakar sewwa wkoll l-aljotta, li generalment kienet tagħmilha nhar ta' Ġimgħa (u anke l-Erbgħa) meta ommi kienet issajjar dak il-ħut frisk li kien jinxxtamm sa mill-bieb ta' barra. Mal-aljotta ommi kienet titfa' wkoll in-nagħniegħ frisk li kien ikollha minn xitla li kellna fil-bitha. Dik it-togħma tan-nagħniegħ kienet tbiddel il-palat.

L-istuffat aħmar aħmar tal-majjal u taz-zalzett ta' Malta, jew xi platt għagin jaqşam biz-zalza mħawra, ukoll kienu jsibu posthom fuq il-mejda tal-ikel. Izda tghiduli xejn, dak il-mazzit moqli roti kif kienet tagħmlu ommi bil-bajda u f'it patata moqlija miegħu, għadu sal-lum iħawwadli l-garigori ta' moħħi.

Fejn jidhlu z-zlazi ommi kienet tagħmel hafna differenti, tat-tadam, zalza pikkanti, zalza għall-ispagetti, zalza tal-inċova u t-tonn taż-żejt ... insomma, dejjem tesperimenta għax kienet diletanta hafna tal-kċina u t-tisjir.

(Ikompili fil-ħarġa li jmiss)





# 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**



# Il-pronom personali u l-ġens

**D**an l-aħħar kont qed nikteb dwar l-ilsien Malti, u ppermettuli nkompli fuq it-tema. Hemm suġġett partikulari li ilu fuq mohħi, u dan huwa l-pronom personali.

Wahda mill-ewwel diskussjonijiet li jkolli ma' studenti tal-Malti fl-Awstralja, speċjalment għal dawk li għalihom dan huwa suġġett kompletament ġdid, u anke għal xi wħud li għalihom mhux, hija dwar il-pronom personali.

Iktar speċifikament, wiehed irid bilfors japprezza li filwaqt li l-Ingliż għandu *he* (fil-Malti hu/huwa) u *she* (hi/hija), l-Ingliż għandu *it*, li jirreferi, per eżempju, għal oġġett u kultant għal animal, mentri fil-Malti m'għandniex ekwivalenti.

L-istudenti jkunu kurjużi li jiskopru li kwalunkwé oġġett fil-Malti jrid ikollu ġens (jew ġeneru), u għalhekk mejda hija femminili filwaqt li siġġu huwa maskili. L-istess xemx hija femminili fillwaqt li l-qamar huwa maskili.

Il-mistoqsija mallewwel tqum kif wiehed ikun jaf liema ġens ikun oġġett partikulari. It-tweġiba aktarx tkun li wiehed irid ikun iltaqa' magħha l-kelma u għalhekk ikun sema' l-pronom li jintuża għaliha, jew ikun sema' xi aġġettiv jew verb marbut magħha, li naturalment irid ukoll ikollu l-istess ġens, u għalhekk jiehu l-għarfien tal-ġens partikulari tal-kelma.

L-interess li għandi jien huwa kif il-pronom personali Malti għad jiżviluppa 'l quddiem biex jirrifletti xejriet lingwistiċi li qed isefħu madwar id-dinja biex jakkomodaw identitajiet ta' ġens li ilhom jeżistu minn żminijiet bikrin tal-istorja tal-bniedem, imma li għal minoranza kienu, jew għadhom, xi ftit jew wisq moħbijin jew baqghu siekta f'ambjent ta' diskriminazzjoni u anke persekuzzjoni tal-maġġoranza u l-awtoritajiet ċivili, politiċi u reliġjużi tas-soċjetà.

Qed nirreferi għall-persuni li jidentifikaw rwiehhom ma' mill-inqas wahda mill-ittri tal-akronimu LGBTIQ, li huma nies fuq l-ispettru shiħ ta' ġens (li mhumix binarji) u/jew sesswalità (li mhumix eterosesswali).

L-ittri tal-akronimu jirreferu għal *lesbian* (lesbjana, jiġifieri mara li tingibed sesswalment lejn mara oħra), *gay* (omosesswali, jiġifieri persuna tingibed lejn persuna oħra tal-istess sess, l-iktar li tintuża għall-irġiel), *bisexual* (bisesswali, persuna li jingibed għal persuni taż-żewġ sessi), *transgender* (persuna li thoss li għandha ġens differenti minn dak attribwit lilha mat-twelid), *intersex* (dawk li għandhom karatteristiċi fiżiċi li ma jaqblux ma

dawk li wiehed jistenna minn persuna maskili jew femminili) u *queer* (li tista' tintuża biex tinkludi dan kollu).

Illum f'ambjent iktar miftuħ fejn id-drittijiet ċivili ta' dawn il-minoranzi ġew miżjuda f'diversi pajjiżi, inkluzi Malta u l-Awstralja, qed jiġi nnutat kif persuni LGBTIQ qed jirreferu għalihom infushom.

Eżempju wiehed kien artiklu fuq il-*MaltaToday*<sup>1</sup>, fejn l-attivista Mina Tolu tkellmet dwarha nnifisha. Hi qalet li twielded mara, imma m'għadhiex tidentifika bħala mara u lanqas tidentifika ruħha bħala raġel. Thares lejha nfisha bħala 'mhux binarja', jiġifieri la maskili u lanqas femminili.

Għalhekk, tkompli tgħid li l-pronomi li nużaw normalment, hu jew hi, ma japplikawx għaliha, u tippreferi li jintuża *they* (huma) minflok, li huwa pronom li jintuża fil-plural u mhux fis-singular.

Ippermettuli nerġa nikteb żewġ sentenzi minn ta' qabel b'mod li bih nuri li nirrispetta l-għażla ta' pronom ta' Mina (b'li ktibt għal dan m'urejtux) u nuri d-diffikultà li tinholoq:

"L-attivisti Mina Tolu tkellmu fuqhom infushom. Huma qalu li twieldu mara, imma m'għadhomx jidentifikaw ruħhom bħala mara u lanqas jidentifikaw ruħhom bħala raġel. Iharsu lejhom infushom bħala 'mhux binarji', jiġifieri la maskili u lanqas femminili."

Jien għandi simpatija lejn Mina u tant oħrajn li qed jgħixu realtà li mhux huma għażlu, u qed jgħidulna sinċerament dak li qieghdin iħossu.

Il-kurżità li għandi hija kif il-lingwa Maltija se tiffirma madwar il-htieġa li jiġu nkluzi dawn il-persuni fil-hajja u fit-taħdit ta' kuljum, anke l-konjugazzjoni tal-verbi tiddependi fuq il-pronom personali, mhux bħall-Ingliż.

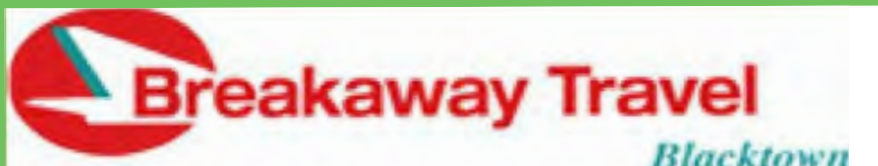
Irid inżid li dan huwa wiehed biss mill-ħafna pronomi li qed jissemmew, bħal *fae*, *per*, *ve*, *xe*, *ze* u oħrajn.<sup>2</sup>

Nimmaġina, nispera, li hemm min fil-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti jew id-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Università ta' Malta qed isegwi dan is-suġġett u li eventwalment jinħarġu linji gwida ta' kif għandhom jintużaw u jinkitbu.

## Referenzi

1. [https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/interview/93389/mina\\_tolu\\_respecting\\_my\\_gender\\_pronouns\\_means\\_people\\_see\\_me#.XwRZ-N9fjRY](https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/interview/93389/mina_tolu_respecting_my_gender_pronouns_means_people_see_me#.XwRZ-N9fjRY), retrieved 8/7/2020

2. <https://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/support/gender-pronouns/>, retrieved 8/7/2020



website: [www.breakawaytravel.com.au](http://www.breakawaytravel.com.au)

**Breakaway Travel 94 corner of Main & Campbell Streets, Blacktown NSW**

..... for all your travel needs.

**A proud sponsor of  
 The Voice of the  
 Maltese**

**Tel (02) 9622 7799**

[blacktown@breakawaytravel.com.au](mailto:blacktown@breakawaytravel.com.au)





## Min jaqra *The Voice of the Maltese*?

**M**hux xi sigriet li l-magazin *The Voice of the Maltese* jinqara minn eluf ta' qarreja f'ghadd ta' pajjiżi fid-dinja fejn hemm jghixu l-Maltin – anke mhumiex - inkluż f'Malta stess minkejja li meta bdiet tohroġ kienet aktar mahsuba għall-Maltin ta' barra.

Fil-biċċa 'l kbira l-qarreja jirċevuh b'x-ejn permezz ta' email. Filwaqt li fl-Awstralja speċjalment, hemm għadd kbir li jippreferu jaqraw il-verżjoni mitbugħa (iprintjata) għax hija l-uniku 'gazzetta' stampata għall-Maltin f'dan il-kontinent.

*The Voice* mhix newsletter minn dawk li johorġu onlajn biss minn xi għaqdiet jew individwi. Hija fil-veru sens tal-kelma *magazine* (rivista) li jista' jinx tara u mqas-sam f'hafna ċentri tal-Maltin, libreri u anke xi hwienet tal-gazzetti (*newsagents*).

Hemm għadd kbir ta' qarreja abbonati li jirċievu *The Voice* id-dar bil-posta f'envelopp magħluq u personalizzat. F'*The Voice* ma nistennewx lill-qarreja jiġu għandna imma hafna drabi nfittxu lill-Maltin ahna, kemm fiċ-ċentri tagħhom kif

ukoll f'kull fejn jiltaqgħu.

Il-Maltin avvanzati fl-età jiftakru sewwa d-drawwa meta kienu jiltaqgħu u jintasbu fuq xi bank fil-pjazez jew fuq iz-zuntier tal-knisja f'Malta. Jidher li sa ċertu punt hafna għadu din id-drawwa magħhom ukoll fl-Awstralja fejn insibu ġemgħat ta' Maltin li jin-gabru mhux biss fiċ-ċentri organizzati iżda f'xi *shopping centres*, mhux darba fix-xahar jew fil-ġimgha iżda ta' kuljum, dejjem lesti biex jghidu tagħhom, l-aktar fuq kull suġġett li jolqot lill-komunità Maltija, imma mhux biss.

Fost dawn hemm dawk fl-istampa, fejn jidher għadd ġmielu ta' Maltin li jiltaqgħu kull jum preċett fis-*shopping Centre* ta' Greystanes.

Qabel kont issibhom quddiem, fid-dahla tal-istabbiliment, iżda min-

habba l-COVID-19 sabu post alternattiv, fil-beraħ fuq in-naħa ta' wara fejn gie mehud dan ir-ritratt, kollha ferhana jaqraw *The Voice of the Maltese*, l-unika pubblikazzjoni stampata għall-Maltin li tista' tinx tara fl-Awstralja.

Meta nitkellmu jew nanalizzaw il-komunità Maltija donnu li hafna ninsew lil anzjani bħal dawn li l-uniku tiġdid razzjali u komunitarju li jsibu hu dawn il-ftit siegħat flimkien ta' nostalġija fl-libertà assoluta mingħajr direzzjoni ta' hadd.

## Il-knisja ta' San Pawl fir-Rabat se tingħata titlu ta' Bazilika

**I**l-Knisja ta' San Pawl fir-Rabat Malta se tiġi mghollija għad-dinjità ta' Bazilika Minuri. Dan se jsehh wara talba tal-Arċisqof ta' Malta, Mons Charles J. Scicluna lill-Vatican.

L-aħbar ingħatat mill-Arċipriet Kanonku Louis Suban f'quddiesa solenni fil-festa liturġika tal-martirju tal-Appostlu San Pawl.

Il-Kanonku Suban qal li dan it-titlu jfisser għarfien internazzjonali li l-knisja hi magħquda intimament mal-hajja ta' San Pawl. Fil-fatt, taħt il-knisja hemm ukoll il-grotta li tradizzjonalment jingħad li għex fiha San Pawl meta gie Malta fis-sena 60 Wara Kristu, u li hija ferm popolari kemm mal-Maltin kif ukoll mal-barranin li jżuru l-gżira.

It-titlu ta' Bazilika se jingħata uffiċjalment, fl-20 ta' Settembru, waqt quddiesa solenni li se titmexxa mill-Arċisqof. Fiha se jinqara d-digriet tal-Papa Frangisku li li bih din il-Kollegġjata se ssir Bazilika. L-għada mbagħad l-istatwa titulari ta' San Pawl se tinhareġ f'pellegrinagħ mat-toroq tar-Rabat.



### CatholicCare Home Care Services

Do you know any seniors in our community who could use a little help at home?

CatholicCare home care services can help seniors to enjoy living independently in their own home with comfort and confidence.

 CatholicCare

Call CCareline to find out more.

**CCareline 131819**

[CatholicCare.org](http://CatholicCare.org)





## Roundup of News About Malta



**Faiez Mustafa Serraj of Libya at the inauguration of the Malta-Libya Centre with Prime Minister Robert Abela (on left); and (right): being greeted by Malta President George Vella at Sant'Anton Palace**

# Criminal human trafficking tops agenda during Malta-Libya talks

**E**nhanced cooperation between Malta and Libya and the fight against criminal human trafficking topped the agenda of talks between Prime Minister Robert Abela and the Libyan President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord Faiez Mustafa Serraj who was in Malta on an official visit.

Malta also stressed on the need for more external border protection to mitigate human smuggling and loss of life in the Mediterranean.

Present for the talks on Malta's side were Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

Evarist Bartolo and Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement Byron Camilleri. Serraj was accompanied by his Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Taher Siala, Minister for the Interior Fathi Ali Abd-AlSalam Bashagha.

During his stay, the Libyan leader was also hosted by the President of Malta George Vella at the Sant'Anton Palace. In their meeting, President Vella underlined the mutual bilateral interest in achieving peace and stability in the region.

He told that Serraj that his visit to Malta was an opportunity for both countries to

strengthen their relations and to renew co-operation on migration and security in the Mediterranean.

It could also reinforce the friendship that has been ongoing for decades between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

During Serraj's visit the two leaders also inaugurated at Belt is-Sebh the Malta-Libya Coordination Centre.

## 'Malta to record the least negative economic growth in the Euro Area'

**I**n its Summer 2020 economic forecast, the European Commission said it expects Malta's GDP is set to record the least negative economic growth in the Euro Area (EA) this year, and next year, the growth rate is expected to be higher than the EU and EA average.

The European Commission notes that although measures Malta took to contain the spread of COVID-19 had a negative impact on growth, with Malta's GDP set to contract by 6% this year the numerous financial aid packages provided by the Government are expected to help cushion the economic impact, and the easing of restrictions is expected to push GDO annual growth to 6.3% in 2021, thus exceeding the EU and EA averages.

Inflation is expected to decrease 0.8% in 2020 and remain at a relatively low level of 1.2% next year.

The pandemic measures are expected to cause the economy to swing from growth of 7.3% in 2018 and 4.7% in 2019 to a contraction of 6.0% in 2020.

Malta's reliance on the tourism sector as well as the country's partial lockdown and the disruption to international supply-chains was cited as being the main drivers of economic disruption related to COVID-19.

It said that as a result, investment and net exports are expected to be severely hit by the crisis, as well as private consumption. However, recent economic indicators, in particular in the construction and manufacturing sectors suggest a modest recovery.

In his reaction Minister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna said he was pleased to note that the Commission sees the main driver of the recovery coming from investment, supported by the recovery packages announced by the Government.

## Fitch credit agency confirms Malta as A+ with stable prospects

**M**alta has maintained its classification among A+ countries in the recent report published by the international agency Fitch Ratings. It confirmed that despite the pandemic's negative impact that is being continuously revised upwards around the world, Malta's rating prospects have remained stable.

The Government said in a statement that similar to those of IMF and the European Commission, Fitch's experts predict that despite the country's dependency on industries such as tourism, the impact of COVID-19 on Malta would be less than that of the euro zone.

They maintain that the country's economic performance will be 2.1 percentage points better than the euro zone average in 2020. In their previous updating Fitch experts were uncertain on their prediction on Malta, but said that now they believe risks to be more balanced". The pandemic impact will be temporary and not affect the country's economic potential.



## Roundup of News About Malta



# Signs that tourism is on way to recovery

**M**alta's International Airport will reopen fully for commercial flights on Wednesday July 15 and approve other European 'safe' countries to the initial 22 as more airlines have been given the go-ahead to join the July 1 list of destinations and help reignite their commitments to fly to and from Malta on a daily schedule.

After the closure for over three months of Malta's International Airport for commercial operations, on July 1 along with the Malta Tourism Authority Air Malta took up the challenge to try and fulfil its role in helping to revive Malta's tourist industry that had stagnated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since then Malta's national carrier has also been busy not only to service its destinations, but also slowly begin to restore its network.

In the meantime, Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said that although the international situation is still very unpredictable, signs for recovery are most encouraging.

In the first week since the re-opening of the airport for commercial flights, 20,000 passengers have passed through MIA and there are confirmed bookings for hotels for the coming weeks.



Il-Ministru tat-Turiżmu Julia Farrugia Portelli flimkien mas-CEO Stephen Xuereb fill-Valletta Waterfront

Influential publications have also been reporting that Malta is a safe destination post COVID-19. The Public Health Act regulating the pandemic-imposed travel ban was amended and travellers can now fly to a further 28 countries adding to the list of 'safe' travel destinations. In line with the addition to the list Air Malta is once again starting operations. They include the United Kingdom, Belgium, Bulgaria and Netherlands. The ban has also been lifted to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. On July 18 Air Malta will also restart scheduled services to the Spanish capital, Madrid.

During a visit to the Valletta Waterfront where she witnessed the Valletta Cruise Port management's €2 million investment, including new tenting that has been specifically designed to respect the historic aspect and aesthetics of the place, Minister Farrugia Portelli stated that it is hoped that next month Malta would also see the first visits from cruise liners. The Port's CEO Stephen Xuereb said that the ultimate aim is to offer a quality experience to clients, both Maltese and foreigners.

### PN MPs lose trust in leader -Delia determined to stay on

**O**n the political front, the Nationalist Party Leader, Adrian Delia lost a confidence vote by his party's Parliamentary Group (19 against 11) that has now nominated Theresa Comodini Cachia as his replacement.

However, after the vote, Delia vowed to stay on as party leader, insisting that he was still Opposition leader. He said he was elected as leader directly by the party membership (the *tesserati*) and it is only they who could dislodge him.

A final decision as to whether Delia could still occupy the position now rests with the President of the Republic who is deliberating on the position according to the Constitution.

Rebel Nationalist MPs are insisting that the President of the Republic managed to confirm that a majority of MPs had declared to him they had no trust in Delia.

In the end, we could even have the anomaly that the leader of the biggest party in opposition would not be the leader of the Opposition.

Meanwhile, according to reports, during an executive meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Delia could press for the formation of a board of discipline to discuss the rebels' actions. Some are even suggesting they should be kicked out of the PN.

This is a developing story. No decision had been taken at the time of publishing.

(Full report on pages 14 and 15)

## Prof Gauci and public health frontliners nominated for European Citizens' Award

**M**alta's six MEPs have nominated Malta's public health superintendent Prof. Charmaine Gauci (*right*), her team and all professionals and volunteers in health care, which represented the hundreds of frontline healthcare workers and volunteers in Malta and Gozo for the European Citizens' Award. They worked very hard for the containment of the virus pandemic.

This year, the European Parliament encouraged nominations for people helping with the COVID-19 pandemic, and Prof Gauci and her team fit in completely. During the pandemic she became a household name in Malta with her daily updates that kept people informed and at times even managed to impart peace of mind to the community.

The European Parliament awards the European Citizens' Award annually to an individual or organisation that has excelled in their contribution to society.

Putting forward her name, MEPs Miriam



Dalli, Alfred Sant, Alex Agius Saliba and Josianne Cutajar (LP) and Roberta Metsola, David Casa (NP) said that Prof Gauci deserves recognition for demonstrating great leadership skills and that together with her team of dedicated professionals and the many volunteers, the

Maltese Islands were able to react effectively to the pandemic.

They added that Prof. Gauci and her team are witness of Maltese and European values in the promotion of an approach based on science in the health care and other measures aimed at containing the virus pandemic, and therefore they deserve to be recognised with the European Citizen's Award which honours persons and organisations who excel in their contribution to society.

**There are currently only five active cases of coronavirus. Since the start of the pandemic in March, Malta registered 674 infections, including nine people who died, while 660 recovered.**



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Inkwiet fil-Kamp Nazzjonalista - Jista' li l-Mexxej jibqa' imma ma jkunx hu l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni imma mara

**F**'gimgha iddominata mill-politika fiż-żewġ kampijiet tal-partiti ewlenin, li jidhru li huma iffaċċjati minn għadd ta' problemi, l-aktar li spikka kien il-kobba mhabba mahuqa fil-kamp tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li jidher li tista' twassal li jkollna l-anomaliya li għalkemm il-mexxej tal-partit jibqa' jmxexxi, imma ma jibqax hu l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, imma tkun mara.

**Wara li l-President George Vella aċċerta li l-maġġoranza veru ma jridux lil Delia, issa qed jistharreg xi tgħid il-Kostituzzjoni dwar dan.**

Din storja li għad qed tiżviluppa u ġejja mill-fatt li l-kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Adrian Delia tilef vot ta' fiduċja fil-Grupp Parlamentari tiegħu b'19-il kontra 11. Imma għamilha ċara li la kien t-tesserati li laħhquq bħala l-kap għal leġislatura shiha, huma biss it-tesserati li jistgħu jneħhu.

Sadanittant, "shabu" qed isostnu li la ġie sfiducjat m'għandux jibqa' jzomm il-kariga ta' Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, għalhekk irid jiġi magħżul xi hadd ieħor li jmxexxi l-oppożizzjoni fil-Parlament. Hekk skattat il-hidma biex jingħazel ix-xihadd mill-maġġoranza u li nnominat lil Dr Therese Comodini Cachia biex tkun hi l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni minflok Delia. Jekk dan isehh, Comodini Cachia ssir l-ewwel mara li qatt giet nominata għall-kariga ta' Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni fil-Parlament.

Chris Said, li kien hu li mexxa l-vot ta' sfiducja, issekondat minn Comodini Cachia, nhar il-Hamis li għadda, flimkien ma' Claudette Buttigieg marru l-Palazz ta'

### Mix-Xena Politika

Sant'Anton jgħarrfu bid-deċizzjoni lill-President tar-Repubblika George Vella halli jibda x-xogħol biex jesejwixxi x-xewqa tagħhom.

Skont il-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta, il-fakultà li jahtar jew inehhi l-Prim Ministru u/jew il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni hija biss tiegħu. Għalhekk f'dan il-każ, u qabel jibda l-proċess biex Comodini Cachia tingħata d-dritt u l-guament tal-kariga kostituzzjonali, ried jiżgura li l-Kap preżenti tal-Oppożizzjoni tilef il-fiduċja tal-Grupp Parlamentari. Biex jagħmel dan beda jsejjah kull membru tal-grupp fil-Palazz halli jikseb il-konferma.

Sadanittant Delia, qed jinsisti li se jibqa' l-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, u wkoll il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni. Hu wkoll issejjah il-Palazz għal laqgħa mal-President fejn għamel l-isbah siegħa hemm ġew.

Wara qal li għarraf lill-President li ddeċieda li jonora l-mandat li tawh it-tesserati bħala Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista.

"Kulhadd irid jerfa" r-responsabbiltà tiegħu. Kull deputat li se jmur għand il-President ta' Malta jrid jiddeċiedi jekk iridx inehhi l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni jew le. Kull deputat irid jifhem li jekk jitneħħa l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni xorta jfisser li l-Kap tal-Partit id ikun il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni," qal.

Skont artiklu 90 tal-Kostituzzjoni, il-President ta' Malta għandu s-setgħa jneħhi lill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni jekk ma jibqax ikollu l-appoġġ tal-maġġoranza tad-deputati tal-



Oppożizzjoni, u jahtar minflok lil deputat fil-kamp tal-Oppożizzjoni li jkollu l-appoġġ tal-maġġoranza tal-istess deputati.

Il-kwestjoni sa tista' anke tasal li tiġi deċiża mill-Qorti Kostituzzjonali.

Id-deċizzjoni tad-deputati Nazzjonalisti għabt għadab minn sezzjoni ta' partitarji li jappoġġjaw lil Delia u sa anke għajruhom tradituri. Hemm min, fosthom uħud mid-deputati li wrew fiduċja f'Delia, li qed iheggu li jitkeċċew mill-partit.

Jekk Delia ma jitleqax, nhar it-Tlieta jitleqqa' l-Kumitat Eżekuttiv halli jiddeċiedi t-triq 'l quddiem.



Dr Therese Comodini Cachia

## Imma x'wassal għal dan kollu?

**W**ara, li l-kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Adrian Delia għadda mid-disfatta tal-istharreg ta' *The Sunday Times*, l-Hadd 5 ta' Lulju, l-istess gazzetta ppublikat xi *chats* li allegatament għaddew bejn Adrian Delia u Jorgen Fenech, il-mixli li kien l-mandant fil-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia.

Fost iċ-*chats* Fenech jgħid lil Delia "*aħna dejjem warajk jiġri x'jiġri*" u f'każ ieħor jitolbu jmur għall-ikel miegħu, b'Delia jaċċetta u jgħidli li l-konsulent tiegħu (eks) Pierre Portelli se jirraġa l-ikla. Dan meta kien diġà żvelat li Fenech huwa sid il-kumpanija ferm fl-aħbarijiet *17 Black* u meta f'it tal-jiem qabel, Delia kien qal li ma kellu l-ebda relazzjonijiet rilevanti ma' Fenech.

Dan kollu wassal biex għadd ta' deputati Nazzjonalisti sfidaw lil Delia u f'it wara li

harget din l-aħbar iltaqgħu jiddiskutu s-sitwazzjoni. Għalkemm ma harġu l-ebda stqarrija deher ċar li kienet qed tinhema riżoluzzjoni biex jekk Delia ma jwarrabx minn jeddu, jwarrbuh huma.

Delia għal darb'ohra iffaċċja l-possibbiltà li jiġi sfiducjat mill-istess deputati tal-Partit li jmxexxi.

Kif kulhadd jaf, Delia ilu sa minn meta nhatar Kap tal-PN u tal-Oppożizzjoni jiffaċċja ċerta oppożizzjoni min parti mis-segwaċi tal-istess partit, u mhux darba li kellu jiddefendi ruħu. Sahanitra kellu jitlob vot ta' fiduċja li kien rebah. Iffaċċjat mill-aħbar sitwazzjoni Delia sejjah laqgħa tal-grupp Parlamentari biex tiġi diskussa dil-kwestjoni.

(ikompli f'paġna 15)

# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Sfiduċċat imma xorta se jibqa'

**P**ropju jumejn wara li ltaqa' l-grupp Parlamentari tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, laqgħa li hadet hames siegħat u ntemmet fis-sagħtejn ta' filgħodu, Delia għamel minn kollox biex jiddefendi ruħu. Hu oppona li jittiehed vot ta' fiduċja u ried li jekk jittiehed isir bil-miftuh.

Imma Chris Said, li kien ikkontesta u tilef l-elezzjoni għal Kap tal-partit xorta ressaq il-mozzjoni li kienet tgħid "Għandek fiduċja f'Adrian Delia bħala Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni?"

Il-vot ittiehed sigriet u r-riżulta f'19 le u 11 Iva (ivvutaw ukoll iż-2 MEPs Nazzjonalisti)

Imma l-vot ma solviex il-problema, anzi kompli habel il-kobba għax mmedjatement wara l-vot Delia stqarr mal-midja: "Se nkompili niġġieled il-korruzzjoni u l-kriminalità. U se nkompili naħdem b'aktar enerġija u determinazzjoni."

Qal li filwaqt li jirrispetta d-deċiżjoni tal-Grupp Parlamentari, fakkar li l-mandat mogħti lilu ingħata mit-tesserati, u dan ingħatalu għal leġislatura shiha. Qal li huwa propju minħabba f'hekk li se jissokta jmxexxi l-PN.

Minkejja li sarulu diversi appelli, Delia baqa' jwebbes rasu li giet imfissra bħala sfida ċara tal-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista lil dawk id-deputati tal-Partit tiegħu li vvutaw kontri.



## Adrian Delia jgħid li għadu l-kap tal-Partit u tal-Oppożizzjoni

Fuq il-Facebook tiegħu, Adrian Delia kiteb li hu għadu l-Kap tal-Partit u wkoll il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, għax kien ġie elett bħala l-kap tal-partit biex flimkien jimplementaw dak li sejjah bħala "il-mod għdid" u li s'issa ppruva hafna drabi biex dan isehh.

Issokta jtenni li hu għadu hemm u filwaqt li ma jistax jgħid li ma wegġax bl-aħħar żviluppi li għadu b'idejhom ċerti individwi, bħal hafna jinsab ukoll irrabjat.

Għamilha ċara li se jittiehdu azzjonijiet fil-hin opportun u fi hdan l-istrutturi tal-partit. Sadanittant se jibqa' miftuh għal dawk kollha tal-grupp li għalissa għadhom parti mill-PN biex jiddiskutu u jirrikonċiljaw.

"Jien mhu se naqta' qalbi qatt, minix se nabbanduna lilkom jew lill-partit. Flimkien se negħbu lil dan l-ostaklu, b'saħħitna aktar minn qatt qabel," qal Delia

## ... u għan-naħa tal-Gvern

**P**propju waqt li l-midja lokali u hafna kienu iffukati fuq li qed jiġri fil-kamp Nazzjonalista, hareġ ir-rapport tal-Awditur Generali dwar il-kuntratt li l-Gvern Laburista kien għamel mad-Ditta Vitals Global Healthcare biex imexxu tliet sptarijiet tal-Gvern

Skont ir-rapport kien hemm nuqqasijiet serje tant li kellu jwassal biex din il-kumpannija tiġi skwalifikata mill-proċess tal-għażla. L-awdatur pponta wkoll subgħajh għan-nuqqasijiet lejn Konrad Mizzi, dakinhar Ministru tas-Saħħa, li allegatament ha ċerti deċiżjonijiet bla ma nforma lil shabu l-Ministri u l-Kabinett.

Sintendi dan għab kritika qawwija kontra l-Gvern, l-aktar mill-Oppożizzjoni u l-kap Adrian Delia li għamel kampanja qawwija, sa fetah kawża fil-qorti biex il-kuntratt jithassar u l-Isptarijiet jaqgħu mill-għdid f'idejn il-Gvern.

Quddiem din il-kritika l-Gvern hareġ stqarrija jostni li r-responsabbiltà politika marbuta ma' din il-konċessjoni diġà ntreġget bit-talba għar-riżenja u l-eventwali tkeċċija ta' Konrad Mizzi li kien responsabbli mill-proġett.

Fl-istess hin il-Gvern sostna li fl-ispirtu tar-riformi importanti li qiegħda twettaq din l-amministrazzjoni fil-qasam tal-governanza t-tajba, se jkun qed jassigura li fil-futur, proċessi ta' kompetizzjoni kif imsemmija mill-awdatur ma jirrepetux ruħhom.

Sadantant Mizzi irribatta billi qal, "jien ma ffirmajtx dan l-Memorandum of Understanding u qatt ma kelli aċċess għalih." Issokta jgħid li kienu l-Malta Enterprise li "ipprezentaw il-proġett maħsub fl-MOU

lill-Ministeru għas-Saħħa." Mizzi spjega li dak iż-żmien, kien informa li l-proposta li kienet iddiskutiet mal-investituri "ma kinix tagħmel sens fid-dawl tal-htiġijiet tas-saħħa pubblika."

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Prim Ministru stqarr li fejn sar hażin huwa se jibqa' konsistenti u mhux se jahrab dan. Qal li bħala Prim Ministru mhux sodisfat bil-konkluzjonijiet tal-Awditur Generali fuq il-ftehim tal-VGH. Stqarr li kieku kien iffaċċjat bi proġett simili kien jimxi b'mod differenti.

Il-PM tenna li l-Gvern se jitgħalliem mill-iżbalji u mhux se jerga' jirrepetihom inkella ma jistax jiġi meqjus bħala Gvern kredibbli li se jkompli jkattar il-gid.

Għad irridu nisimgħu hafna aktar dwar din il-kwestjoni.

## Mhux lakemm inehhuh

**S**kont il-Kostituzzjoni, wara l-vot ta' sfiduċja tad-deputati tiegħu, Delia jista' jibqa' kap tal-partit imma mhux li jkompli jmxexxi l-Oppożizzjoni għax ġie sfiduċjat mill-membri tal-Oppożizzjoni. Fejn jidholl il-partit, Delia ġie elett mit-tesserati u jrid jitneħħ minnhom, jew kif jgħid l-Istatut tal-PN, mill-Kunsill Generali.

Fl-istess Statut jingħad li jekk jittiehed vot ta' sfiduċja fil-mexxej tal-partit, ma jistax jerga' jittiehed vot ieħor qabel sentejn... u proprju kien ftit tax-xhur ilu li Delia qagħad u rebah vot ta' fiduċja.

Hekk il-Partit Nazzjonalista qed jiffaċċja l-possibbiltà li jispicċa b'Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni li jmxexxi lid-deputati fil-Parlament, u b'Delia bħala l-mexxej politiku tal-partit... sitwazzjoni li teżisti f'xi pajjiżi Ewropej, imma qatt f'Malta.



### Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



**Richard Spiteri**  
0407 202 167  
(02) 9659 0900

**Castle Hill  
Seven Hills  
Windsor and  
all suburbs**

**"Let Our Family  
Help You Through"**

—

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





## A quick glimpse at Australia

### Australian Defence against "a more dangerous world"

**T**he Australian government is promising to give Defence \$270 billion over the next decade - up from \$195 billion pledged in 2016 - under the 2020 Defence Strategic Update and Force Structure Plan. Speaking in Canberra Prime Minister Scott Morrison unveiled the policy to prepare the nation's military against what he has called a "more dangerous" world.

"The simple truth is this: even as we stare down the COVID pandemic at home, we need to also prepare for a post-COVID world that is poorer, more dangerous and more disorderly," he said.

The federal government will develop capabilities in areas such as long-range missiles, cyber and surveillance systems and refocus its attention on the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Scott Morrison also pointed to rising territorial claims on the disputed border between India and China, the South China Sea and the East China Sea in his speech.

Head of the National Security College at the Australian National University, professor Rory Medcalf, told SBS News the plan to protect Australia demonstrated the deteriorating strategic environment at hand. "It's going to be a pretty sobering wake up to the Australian public," he said.

He went on to say, "Not a lot of Australians spend their time thinking about do we need a military that's capable of deterring or even potentially fighting against the Chinese military and that, of course, is partly what this is all about."



The Femington public housing towers under surveillance

## Pauline Hanson at it again

**S**enator Pauline Hanson, leader of the One Nation Party, labelled residents under lockdown in the nine public housing estate towers because of Covid-19 as "drug addicts" and "alcoholics" who can't speak English, in an interview on Channel Nine's *Today Show*.

After widespread backlash, Channel Nine released a statement by Darren Wick, Nine's Director of News and Current Affairs to announce that Senator Hanson won't be joining the *Today Show* in the future.

Hanson referenced to the Victorian government's financial assistance of a one-off

\$1,500 payment for residents under lockdown in the public housing towers to aid those who cannot leave for work.

She suggested that residents hadn't adhered to social distancing rules because they don't speak English - which is currently unproven. "If they're from war-torn countries, which some of these people are, they know what it's like to be in tough conditions," Hanson said.

The outspoken senator was met with widespread criticism for her comments and Labor leader Bill Shorten even refused to say her name as he condemned her comments.

## Australia, the refugees and the UNHCR report

**F**orced displacement caused by conflict, persecution and violence is now affecting more than one per cent of humanity or one in every 97 people, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission's (UNHCR) Global Trends report, released some days ago, revealed an unprecedented 79.5 million people were

displaced at the end of 2019 - the highest total the aid agency has ever recorded.

Within that total, 26 million people are deemed refugees, 46.7 million are internally displaced, and 4.2 million are considered asylum-seekers. An estimated 40 per cent of those displaced worldwide are children below 18 years of age, tens of thousands of whom are said to be unaccompanied.

In 2019, 73 per cent of refugees lived in neighbouring countries, nearly all of which are considered developing. Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, taking in 3.6 million people; Colombia hosted 1.8 million people, followed by Pakistan, Uganda and Germany.

The Syrian war, which is now in its ninth year, accounts for more than 13 million refugees alone, a sixth of the world's total. As for Yemen, which many in the international community call the 'forgotten crisis', 3.6 million citizens are currently internally displaced - one of the highest country totals in the world.

Australia welcomed 11 per cent of all resettled refugees in 2019. The intake was just over 18,000, the second-largest in the Asia Pacific region behind Malaysia.





A quick glimpse at Australia

# COVID-19 – horrific situation in the state of Victoria

**F**ive million Melbourne residents are locked up for six weeks in a bid to contain the new surge of covid-19. The Premier, Daniel Andrews warned Victoria was “on the cusp of something very, bad.” Furthermore, the alarming surge in Victoria's coronavirus cases has prompted an emergency meeting of medical officials from around Australia and an unprecedented lockdown of nine Melbourne public housing towers.

For the first time in 100 years the borders between Victoria and NSW are closed. Enforcing the closure of the border was a mammoth task. Hundreds of Australian

Defence Force troops are being deployed to patrol the 55 travel checkpoints along the Victoria-NSW border.

Victoria's chief health officer Brett Sutton said there was an obligation across the entire state for people to minimise their interactions with each other.

Lockdown and the threat of a second wave of coronavirus in Melbourne have not escaped global attention, with a number of media outlets reporting on the city as one of a host of those experiencing a potential second peak of the virus.

One headline heading read “Panic grips Australia” with another warning “Some (Melburnians) will die”. There were reports in The New York Times, BBC and others, however, Australia had been considered to have managed the pandemic well, so far recording a total of around



8,000 cases and 100 deaths in a country with a population of 25 million.

Social media has been blamed again for misinformation. A number of social media posts have gone viral that question the existence of the virus or try to minimise its impact. Some are saying there is “no pandemic” and test kits are unreliable, contaminated and inflated death counts. The refusing of tests in Victoria was an example of social media misinformation.



## Cardinal Pell to publish prison diary

**C**ardinal George Pell is set to publish his prison diary musing on life in solitary confinement, the Church, politics and sport. Catholic publisher Ignatius Press says the first instalment of the 1000-page diary would likely be published in 2021.

We've already read the first half of the journal and it is extraordinary,” Fr Fessio wrote. “I think it's going to be a spiritual classic.”

Cardinal Pell served 13 months in prison before the High Court in April acquitted him of sexual abuse charges involving two choirboys at Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral during the 1990s.

Cardinal Pell “proclaimed Christ and the Church's moral teachings without fear and with full knowledge of what the cost would be. And he paid the price with good humour and, like Christ, a love of his enemies,” Fr Fessio added.

## Downturn affects mature-age

**N**early a third of people who have lost work or had hours cut as a result of the pandemic are aged 51 to 65 – fuelling “rapid growth” in the number of mature-age, low-income Australians who may fall through the cracks of government support, according to one paper prepared by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Nous Group, an international management consultancy firm.

In a separate study, the Australian National University found the proportion of Australians not able to meet their regular housing costs jumped from 6.9 per cent in April to 15.1 per cent in May, with young people the hardest hit.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence paper estimates nearly 400,000 Australians aged 51 to 65 have either lost work or had their hours cut as a result of the downturn.



**Michelle Rowland MP**

Shadow Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



Level 1, Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

(02) 9671 4780

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

MRRowlandMP

www.michellerowland.com.au



## Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

Għaliex kliem Malti ġieli jinkiteb bl-*ie* u ġieli bl-*i*?

**M**inn xi daqqiet wiehed jiġuh dubji dwar kliem li jinstema' l-istess u li ġieli jinkiteb mod u xi drabi oħra mod ieħor. Fost dawn hemm kliem bħal, **ried** u **hsieb**.

Fil-fatt kelma tista' tinkiteb kemm bl-**ie** f'ċerti każi u mingħajrha f'oħrajn għaliex tkun inbidlilha s-sitwazzjoni u tkun ġiet f'ambjent differenti (eż. *hsieb* – *hsibijiet*; *ried*, *riedet* – *ridt*, *riduni*, *ma riditx*).

Tajjeb li wiehed isir jaf xi rqaqat dwar l-**ie**. Fil-Malti hemm il-vokali **ie**, li hija

meqjusa bħala vokali għad li magħmula minn żewġ sinjali. Għalkemm illum fil-Malti standard x'aktarx inlissnuha bħala **i** twila, bqajna niktubha **ie** kif kienet tin-stema' fl-imghoddi.

Jidher li din il-vokali żviluppat mill-vokali **a** twila tal-Għarbi, għax hafna kliem Malti li għandu l-**ie**, fl-Għarbi msibuh bl-**a** twila (eż. *Għ. Salam, kitab, M. sliem, ktieb*). Anke fil-Malti stess, l-**a** twila u l-**ie** ġieli jkunu varjanti ta' xulxin, tuża liema trid (eż. *Tuffihat/tuffihiet, gab/gieb*).

Meta l-aċċent jiċċaqlaq minn fuqha u jimxi lejn tarf il-kelma, ma tistax tibqa' twila u allura ssir **i** qasira jew **e** qasira (eż. *missier* > *missirijiet*, *hsieb* > *hsibijiet*, *hiereg* > *her-gin*, *riedu* > *ridu-ni*, *bierek* > *berikna*, *mietet* > *mitit-li*).

Dan iċ-ċaqliq tal-aċċent lura jista' jiġri aktar minn darba fl-iżvilupp ta' kelma, u kull darba l-**ie** titlef it-tul, terġa tinħataf u tiqsar (eż. *nieda* – *ned-iet* – *nedit-ilhom*).

## Epigrammi umoristiċi ta' Anton Buttigieg

BIEX TKUN HIENI

Qabel tizzewweg iftaħ għajnejk sewwa, oqghod attent li jkunu mituhin, meta tizzewweg żommhom sew magħluqa, inkella almenu nofshom magħluqin

## Snajja antiki Maltin:



## Il-qalfat

**D**aż-żmien fil-Gzejjer Maltin, anke jekk ftit, imma għadek issib IL-QALFAT, l-aktar f'Għawdex. Dan hu persuna li b'hila kbira jagħmel il-qofof Maltin, xi bixkillja, nassa għall-ħut, jew palju bil-qasab.

Fuq ix-xellug: Il-qalfat, u (fuq): il-bixkillja

Fix-xogħol tiegħu qisu qed jinseg imma minflok bil-ħajt, bil-qasab u b'sengħa kbira, l-ewwel jillixxa l-qasab li għadek issib jikber f'xi widien, imbagħad jgħawwiġhom u jdaħħalhom f'xulxin bla ma jaqsamhom ħali jifforma l-oġġett li jkunu ordnawlu n-nies.

## Il-ballata

**F**il-antik, f'xi rhula Maltin fejn a kien hemm biedja u lan-qas sajd, xi nisa ta' mingħajr skola kienu jsibu jagħmlu xogħol ta' BALLATA. Minkejja li kien iebes, imma kien mezz li bih jaqilgħu l-għajxien għalihom u għall-familja. Ix-xogħol tagħhom kien li fi gruppi ta' bejn erbgħa u sitta, jmorru jballtu l-bjut tad-djar.

Dan kien isir wara li jittlesta il-bini u jibda x-xogħol tas-soqfa. Biex jagħmlu dan kienu jużaw il-marzeppa - għodda li kellha manku u b'qiegħ ċatt – li biha jballtu f'uniformità, qabel jingħata l-hekk imsejjah "provizjon".

Dan il-provizjon kien ikun taħlita ta' ġir abjad u deffun li bih jinkesa l-bejt kollu. Wara mbagħad kien jibda x-xogħol bil-kazzola biex biex jillixxawh. Meta jlestuh kienu jiksuh bit-tiben halli x-xemx ma tibla l-umdità kollha.

## Idfnuni f'Wied il-Mistra...

Poeżija ta' PaulPBorg

Idfnuni f'Wied il-Mistra fi tmiem żmien  
w aħbuni f'raba' saqwi kollu frott,  
halli fil-hemda sierda nistrieħ hieni,  
idfnuni...

W insew li qatt imxejt it-trejqa dejqa  
bejn l-gholliq u l-harruba taht is-sies  
lilhemm mir-raba' tafla kollu xewk,  
insew...

U meta l-bini jasal f'Wied il-Mistra  
biex jeqred bidwi gwejjed u mibluġh  
u 'l kliemu w ta' għajietu l-ferh u d-dmugh,  
u jwitti t-trejqa dejqa u imdella  
bejn l-gholliq u l-harruba taht is-sies  
u t-tarmak jasal sewwa sew fuq qabri,  
tghidulix...

Halluni mejjet u mistrieħ fil-Mistra  
fil-qabar taht it-tarmak b'vilel sbieħ,  
halluni...

Nizzluni fil-fond aktar, 'l isfel aktar  
u aktar 'l isfel f'qiegħ is-saqwi niedi  
'il bogħod 'il bogħod fil-blat u l-hrib tas-snin  
gol-umdità qalb hanzir l-art mikdud  
biex nibqa' nismal-qasab twil u xih  
jiċċaqlaq u jixxejjer mal-irjeh.

U nibqa' nxomm ir-riha tal-imdemmel,  
tal-bhajra u tat-tuffieħ u l-ilma għaddej.  
U nibqa' nara l-hmar idur fis-sienja  
ċirku giddieb li ma kien qatt etern.

U lill-qattusa mghaffga minn karozza  
fuq it-tarmak ta' fuqi tghidulhiex  
x'hemm midfun taħtha f'qiegħ il-blat u ż-żmien.  
Idfnuni f'qiegħ il-Mistra fi tmiem żmien  
w aħbuni f'qabar, għada, taht it-tarmak.  
Aħbuni f'dell in-nannu u l-mohriet,  
il-bhur ibejjet, il-ful u it-tewmiet.  
Halluha bieżla l-bhima sax-xemx niezla,  
halluh lin-nannu jbandal il-hatufa  
halluh lil drieġh is-sikka jradda' l-art  
u fuq ir-rih tal-Wied lil hemm mix-Xifer  
halluha x-xemx tinbixni mill-harrub  
tongħos imheddla b'lehen il-werzieq.

Tmissuhx il-mewġ jibewwes maċ-ċaġhkiet  
b'zegħil immelles b'nar fid-dawl ta' qamar  
fuq żewġt iqlub jinqalbu fi Rдум il-Bies.  
U lid-demel tal-bhejjem tal-Qantara  
u tal-Imbid, halluh mal-ward jitqabad  
fil-bogħod taż-żmien fil-qiegħ tal-Wied tal-Mistra.  
Halluh lid-dell tat-tfajjel b'nokkli suwed  
jiġġerra mal-irdum u mal-widien;  
la tghidulhomx li jien midfun hawn taht;  
la tfakkruhomm li jien midfun taht vilel  
sbieħ u tarmak li jinten għewwa l-Mistra  
la tghidulhiex lin-nahla mghaxxa tfittex  
għalxejn lis-sagħtar fuq it-tarmak ċatt,  
li jien midfun hawn taht go qiegħ il-Mistra...

Aharqu bennet l-gheneb it-tifikira  
imrikkeb fuq il-qasab f'Wied il-Mistra  
u t-tin misjur fuq is-sejjieħ maqsum  
għal għajn ix-xemx mit-tfajjel kollu nokkli,  
aharqu...

Aharqu fuq it-tarmak ta' fuq qabri  
u l-vilel f'Wied il-Mistra fi tmiem żmien.  
Aharqu għada, tiddejjux, aharqu  
d-dmugh li bkejt u l-bzieq fix-xejn li hlejt.  
Lill-Bur u s-Sarg u r-rih hafif mill-Griebeġ  
u lill-Bajjad li kien, u t-Taqtigħat  
lix-xagħra ta' Stoppin u lill-Isqaq  
la tghidulhomx min hemm midfun hemm taht;  
halluhom jinksew bini u triqat...  
Halluhom jiksuh qabri b'tarmak iswed  
halluhom, l'hekk iridu il-bnedmin...

# Much-loved Australian theatre star Michael Falzon dies aged 48

RonBorg

After being diagnosed with an aggressive rare form of Cancer last year, Michael Falzon, the much-loved Australian musical theatre/rock tenor, actor, and producer, has lost his battle with Cancer and died on Tuesday June 23 at the age of 48. His classical violinist wife, Jane Cho, survives him.

Falzon was the third of six children born to a Maltese father and an Australian mother. His family moved to Brisbane from Sydney in his early teens. He attended Kelvin Grove High School in Brisbane, known for its drama department, where he was an active member of the school choir and musical productions.

Upon graduation, he intended to study English and Psychology at the University of Queensland, but deferred to focus more on performance.

Michael started singing professionally in Brisbane with Vocal Point, an 8-part group, which specialised in close harmony, performing both nationally and internationally. It was through his work with Vocal Point that in 1994 he was invited to audition for *The Pirates of Penzance*. Falzon's appearance in the QPAC and EssGee Entertainment production marked the start of his professional career and he toured with the company to New Zealand.

He returned to EssGee, the professional performing and publishing company in Australia as a sailor in *HMS Pinafore*,

after performing in *Hello Dolly* in 1995 for The Gordon/Frost Organisation. Falzon also toured internationally with the Really Useful Company, which was set up by Andrew Lloyd Webber, in the production, of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

He credited the Harry M. Miller arena production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, starring John Farnham and Jon Stevens in 1992, as inspiring him to a career in musical theatre. In June 2015 Falzon had the opportunity to perform in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, playing the role of Judas at AIS Arena in Canberra.

His career encompassed intimate cabaret performances including Michael Falzon and Trio, and Michael Falzon – Plugged In! Through to arena performances in Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of *The War of the Worlds*, both in Australia and in Europe.

Michael was also known for TV and film roles including the 2000 cult short film *Computer Boy*, a parody of the successful film *The Matrix*. He was cast in the role of Neo and won a Melbourne Underground Film Festival award for Best Actor.

During this period he formed a production company (SMA Productions) with other entertainer colleagues providing event entertainment packages all over the world. He split his time between performing, and managing his production company Good Egg Creative.

Falzon's musical theatre career kick-started in 2003. He was hand-picked by Ben Elton and Queen to perform in the musical *We Will Rock You* throughout Australia, Asia and Europe, and was the first *Galileo* outside the UK (in Melbourne, 2003) as well as the first in an arena production (Dublin O2 Arena in 2010). He repeated his perform-

ance in Japan and the UK.

He performed with symphony orchestras around Australia, and in 2013 joined the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra to record *I Dreamed A Dream: The Hit Songs Of Broadway* for ABC Classics. In 2016 he featured on the cast recording of *Atomic (The New Rock Musical)* singing the role of physicist Leo Szilard.

Other theatrical credits early in his career include, *The Wharf Revue* (STC), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Floyd Collins*, *Rock of Ages*, *Side by Side* by Sondheim, *Chess*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The War of the Worlds*, and *Alive on Stage* with Australian, NZ, and UK and European arena tours.

In 2019, Falzon was diagnosed and began treatment for a rare and aggressive form of germ cell cancer that forced him to cancel all appearances for the remainder of the year. He lost his battle last June.

Paying tribute to Falzon, Australian singer and TV Channel Nine presenter David Campbell, referred to him as a "vital member of this industry". While a multitude of Australian stage theatre and Television artists said, "We have lost a great and vital member of this industry. He was a leading man and a producer who loved the arts and what we do. Michael had a smile that could light up a stage and the first ten rows!"

In a tweet, Ian Phipps said, "Vale Michael Falzon, you fought valiantly until the last, my friend. Your beaming smile, huge talent and incredible positivity will be missed by so many friends, family and fans. We are better for having known you."



Michael Falzon as Magaldi in *Evita* for Opera Australia





## Irrestawrat l-inkwadru tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu

**L**-inkwadru li minnu l-Madonna ghamlet "Is-Sejha" lil Karmni Grima ghat-talb f'għieh it-tlett ijiem li għisimha kien fil-qabar, kif hemm imniżżel fuq l-istess inkwadru, impitter minn Bartolomeo Amodeo Perugino, għadu kif gie rrestawrat u nawgurat taht il-presidenza ta' l-ET Ġorġ Vella, President ta' Malta, u l-Isqof Mons. Mario Grech, Amministratur Appostoliku għal Għawdex, kif ukoll mistednin ohra distinti,

Tul is-snin l-inkwadru sofra hafna maltrattament, fost kollox dgermet bil-mijiet ta' eluf ta' xemgħat li nteghlu quddiemu mid-devoti. Sofra wkoll meta ntmess minn restawraturi fi żmien li x-xogħol kien isir minn diletanti. Minhabba f'hekk hteglu restawr professjonali li sar fil-laboratorju Atelier del Restauro, Malta.

Wara diskors ta' merħba mill-Isqof Grech, l-istoriku tal-arti Dr Sandro Debono ghamel espożizzjoni storika-artistika tal-inkwadru, fil-waqt li Valentina Lupo, id-direttriċi tal-Atelie ipprezentat studju illustrat dwar il-proċess ta' restawr.

Fit-tmien, ir-Rettur tas-Santwarju Ta' Pinu, Dun Ġerald Buhaġiar, ghamel talba li giet miktuba apposta għal-okkażjoni.

Jacob Portelli daqq b'cejjeċ fuq l-arpa u sar kant mill-Kor Stella Maris immexxi minn Mro Carmel P. Grech u b'Ivan Attard fuq l-orgni.

L-inkwadru reġa' kiseb il-kuluri originali tiegħu u wiċċ il-Madonna jidher mill-ġdid fil-glorja u s-sbuħija tiegħu.

**Mill-Ġżira  
Għawdxija**  
Charles Spiteri



## Tigi nawgurata Dar Beatu Nazju Falzon

**W**ara quddiesa konċelebrata mmexxija mill-Isqof George Bugeja ofm, fil-parkeġġ tal-kunvent Sant' Antnin, f'Għajnsielem, il-Ministru Provinċjal tal-patrijiet Frangiskani, Patri Richard Stanley Grech ofm, inawgura u bierak Dar Beatu Nazju Falzon li fiha hemm ukoll kappella (*lemin*).

Il-Ministru Provinċjal gie pprezentat b'tifkira tal-okkażjoni mill-gwardjan tal-kommunita' f'Għawdex, Patri Joe Caruana. Prezenti kien hemm ukoll il-perit u l-kuntrattur inkarigati mix-xogħlijiet, Edward Scerri u Saviour Tabone risnettivament



## Il-Mużew il-Ħaġar

**I**l-mużew *Il-Ħaġar*, ta' Pjazza San Ġorġ, (*xellug*) Victoria, reġa' fe-taħ wara l-waqfa ta' tliet xhur minhabba l-imxija. Għall-okkażjoni, ippreseduta mill-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, ittellgħet wirja temporanja ta' xi donazzjonijiet minn artisti lokali u wkoll barranin.

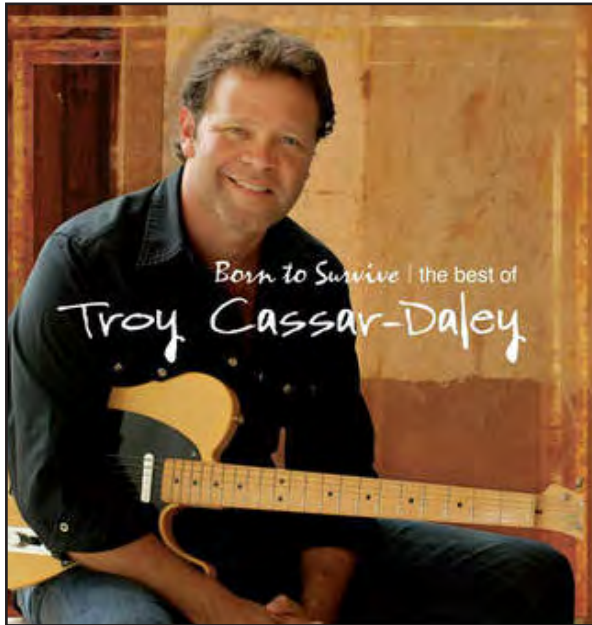
**F**il-vetrina filatelika fil-mużew il-Ħaġar, f'Victoria, intramat wirja konnessa mal-artist Edward Caruana Dingli bid-diversi bolli b'xogħolu sa mill-1922. L-okkażjoni kienet bolla li għadha kif harġet u li turi xena Għawdxija tiegħu. Il-kantuniera tal-istatwa magħrufa bhala "San Ġorġ tal-Ħaġar" fiċ-ċentru l-antik tar-Rabat.





Troy Cassar-Daley on TV

# Caught between two cultures which he carries with pride



## Who is Troy Cassar-Daley?

**T**roy Cassar-Daley (born 18 May 1969) is an Australian country musician, born in Surry Hills NSW. Over 30 years he released eleven studio albums. Throughout this time he has received several awards including four ARIA Music Awards, 37 Golden Guitars, nine Deadly Awards (Australian Indigenous Artist Awards), four Country Music Association of Australia Entertainer of the Year awards and two National Indigenous Music Awards.

In 2017 Cassar-Daley was the 50th inductee into the prestigious Australian Roll of Renown. At a very young age, he moved with his mother to Grafton in north-eastern New South Wales. At eleven, went to the Tamworth Country Music Festival and returned the next year to busk on the streets.

At age 16 Troy and his band, Little Eagle were touring the North Coast of New South Wales and he made the top 10 in Tamworth's Star Maker quest.

In 1986 he won the "Search for a Star" competition and then toured with Brian Young for seven months in which he began to develop his song-writing skills.

On his return home he replaced James Blundell as leader of the country music band The Blue Heeler Band.

Troy is married to radio and television presenter Laurel Edwards. They have two children.



Troy with his wife Laurel and their young kids

**T**elevision produces many interesting documentaries. Some are more telling than others, especially those dealing with our diverse national identity. One such programme is the much-loved genealogy series on SBSTV 'Who do you think you are', aired nationally on Ch 30.

After previously featuring famous persons of Maltese descent like Adam Hills in 2003 and Shaun Micallef in 2012, last week's programme focussed on Troy Cassar-Daley. We were able to witness an emotional and intimate segment as the 51-year-old pieced together the puzzle of his family, of a Maltese father and an aboriginal mother.

The programme, which was divided in two parts, started with Troy's Maltese ancestry.

His grandparent's migration to Australia and living in Surry Hills NSW, and prior to that, their wartime experience in war-torn Malta where their home was bombed and destroyed.

The programme took us on a journey to various places in Malta, especially the parish church of San Gjejtano and Triq Azzopardi in Hamrun, and even to an air-raid shelter.

Troy's father is Tony (Anthony) Cassar, born in Marsa, now deceased.

His grandparents, Emmanuel and Marianna were both born in Hamrun although both families originally hailed from Gozo.

The second part of this fascinating programme was about the other side of Troy's aboriginal family, his mother Irene and the terrible way his ancestors the aboriginals were treated in Australia.

Finally Troy proudly said that he is happy and his soul content for having taken this journey between two worlds.



Troy with his father Tony

*\*This Maltese episode was partly researched by Godfrey Sultana for Warner Bros. International Television*



**Ebejer & Associates Lawyers** Pty Ltd.

We offer legal services in Melbourne (Lt Collins Street) and Werribee.

Family law is our specialty.

- wills, powers of attorney,
- manage deceased estates, and provide
- purchase and sell property
- purchase and sell businesses.
- divorce, children, property,
- child support, intervention orders.
- Maltese Wills, Powers of Attorney
- Maltese Property matters.

Marlene Ebejer (speaks Maltese) is an accredited family law specialist

Phone: 03 9741 1722

[www.ebejerlawyers.com.au](http://www.ebejerlawyers.com.au)

email [reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au](mailto:reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au)

*We get to the point, provide the right advice and get the work done at a reasonable price.*



## Carmen Spiteri is New Hon. Consul in South Australia

The Malta High Commission (MHC) in Canberra has announced the appointment of Mrs Carmen Spiteri as the new Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia.

The office of the new Honorary Consul in South Australia is located at 12 Harvey Street, Marleston, Adelaide, South Australia 5033. For appointments one may send an [email to ccs2655@gmail.com](mailto:ccs2655@gmail.com), or call at 08 8297 5355 or 0401136673.

Welcoming the appointment of Mrs Spiteri, the MHC said it looks forward to working closely with her in promoting the interests and protecting the rights of the Maltese in South Australia.

## Maltese SBS radio programmes off air due to COVID-19

As we were getting over the shock of the Maltese Language being eliminated from HSC/VCE/SACE, we switched on to listen to the Maltese Programme on SBS Radio and found that the service is off air.

The Voice immediately requested an explanation from SBS and found out that the SBS studios in Melbourne were in lockdown due to a positive Covid-19 case in the building. This eased our discomfort as we thought we are in the same battlefield with Maltese News on SBS TV, when quite often, the Maltese News is replaced by sports coverage or other programmes, deemed by SBS as being more important.

The Maltese Programme on SBS Radio has been at the forefront of keeping the Maltese community informed with the latest news and updates on COVID-19. Having these programmes replaced or taken off air

would be the final blow for the community.

We understand that the health and well being of all of those involved in producing these programmes together are paramount. However, it is also important for SBS to understand that these radio programmes and The Voice are vital sources to disseminate information to our ageing Maltese community.

A listener who queried the disruption with SBS was directed to the content online. Glancing through the online content, he was amazed to find whole articles and many other podcasts about COVID-19 in Maltese, but unfortunately, this information does not reach the majority of the Maltese community.

One suggestion is, that when emergencies like this occur, instead of international music, a se-

lection of Maltese music by Maltese Australian artists is played. This would be an opportunity to listen more Maltese music, when we are not privileged like other communities who have their own music channel or broadcasting 24 hours daily, with the luxury of listeners requesting their favourite music.

As sad as it is that the pandemic closed down the Maltese Programmes, this serves us as a reminder as to what it is like not having a service on SBS Radio. It rings back the pain and sadness of the severe losses in service since 2013.

The State of Victoria is practically in shutdown for six weeks.

### High Commission for the Republic of Malta



## Postponement of resumption of consular services at the Consulate General in Melbourne due to COVID-19 revamp

In view of the current situation with increase in Covid-19 positive cases in the state of Victoria, and the lockdown in effect in 10 identified post-codes (*see page 5*), the reopening of the Consulate General in Melbourne to appointments from the general public is postponed from July 6 up to a future date.

This arrangement will be reviewed towards the end of July 2020, taking into consideration advice from the Victorian government.

Until we welcome applicants at our office in Melbourne again, we encourage you to get in touch with our office by email: [maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt) or by telephone: (03) 9670 8427 (Monday to Friday between 08:30-16:00hrs), as soon as possible so as to coordinate obtaining the required documentation for applications.

Once the office is re-opened to the public, applicants who have expressed their interest will be re-contacted to book an appointment.

Our priority is safety, protection and precaution of our members of staff and applicants alike. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.



### Vale Vittoria Teuma

Vittoria Teuma, aged 94, passed away peacefully at home on June 24. Vittoria was well loved by family and friends and leaves behind a wonderful legacy: mother of 12 with 34 grandchildren and 40 great grandchildren.

Originally from Xaghra, Gozo, the fourth eldest of 13 children who lost her own mother when she was 12 years old, Vittoria was once described as a shining example of perseverance in hardship and resilience.

Vittoria became a widow at age 50 when her beloved husband, Joseph, died in 1976. Vittoria is the last of the 13 siblings to be called to new life.

A well loved resident of Greystanes, Vittoria regularly attended the local seniors group. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Vittoria was a cousin of the newly appointed bishop of Gozo.



### MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.

Established in 1999

## Learn Maltese!

Our trained and experienced teachers are qualified in language teaching and have Maltese study credentials.

Classes available for students from 6 yrs to adults at all levels of ability in the Maltese language.

Classes are held at Horsley Park Public School

Saturday mornings 9.00 – 11.15 am.

TERM 3 COMMENCES WITH ON-SITE CLASSES ON SATURDAY AUGUST 1

For more information email: [malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com](mailto:malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com)  
Mobile: 0416 119 100

# Community News

## Joseph Calleja - The Maltese tenor's performances rescheduled for 2021

Due to ongoing restrictions on mass gatherings, the Andrew McKinnon Presentations, the organisers of Joseph Calleja - The Maltese Tenor's performances in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Sydney have announced that they will not proceed as scheduled this year.

Instead, they will be presented next year on dates yet to be announced. Ticket-holders, are being given the option to either retain their tickets, which will now be applicable to the new performance date, or request a full refund.

## La Valette Centre is open once again

La Valette Social Centre at 173 Walter Road Blacktown NSW is now open for business having been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Centre is strictly adhering to the current COVID-19 rules, including the 50-person limit and social distancing.

Charlie's Family Restaurant at LVSC is currently opening on Thursdays for lunch and on Saturdays for dinner with a limited menu.

Face-to-face Flexible Respite on Thursday's is also on.

For further information one should get in touch with the centre on telephone 9622 5847.

## Important Notice

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

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

### Avviż lill-qarrejja

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

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

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

Biex dan isir wiehied l-ewwel jibgħat email lil [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com) fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-flas ta' abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumix kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna u jkun moqdijin.



## Events for 2020

**Sunday October 18:**  
Fete

**Saturday November 14**  
Dinner Dance

**Sunday December 6**  
Festa San Nikola

## Tune in to Radio and Television

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

**MELBOURNE:** on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on [www.3zzz.com.au](http://www.3zzz.com.au). Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

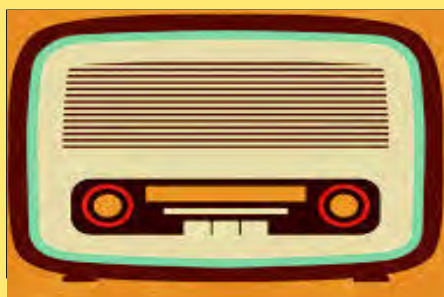
**MELBOURNE:** on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

### On SBS Radio

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

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

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



**SYDNEY:** listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also *On Demand* on l-Internet: [www.893fm.com.au](http://www.893fm.com.au)

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

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

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

days and Sundays at 8am.

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

Web streaming:  
[www.coastfm.org.au](http://www.coastfm.org.au)

**SBS MALTESE NEWS:** L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

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

**Maltese Community Radio Adelaide:** Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm. Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email [bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com](mailto:bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com) Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email [ronborg@mac.com](mailto:ronborg@mac.com)

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





## A-League restarts July 16 after fiasco

**A**fter a forced break for three months due to COVID-19, football enthusiasts in Australia are keenly looking forward to the Hyundai A-League restart this coming Thursday July 16, and to ultimately finish off what was started last October. The priority of the organisers is to be in a position to crown the A-League Premiers and Champions for this season.

The current border controls means that some of the match day venues had to change, however the FFA managed to secure venues in both a NSW Hub model and a hybrid hub model which has most games in NSW but allows for a few games in other states.

After what has been described as the A-League's Victorian travel fiasco, players and staff (totalling 120) from three Melbourne clubs, Melbourne Victory, Western United and Melbourne City, arrived in NSW on Saturday morning, but had to head straight into a 14-day quarantine period before completing their remaining 2019-20 fixtures.

During their quarantine period, the players will be allowed to train but cannot play any matches. Thursday's match between Victory and Western United will have to be re-

arranged, which means Friday's match between leaders Sydney FC and Wellington Phoenix at Jubilee Stadium will be the first fixture played.

The Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season will be completed with 27 matches in 28 days between Thursday July 16 – August 12 in six venues in NSW and Queensland with the potential for more venues to added

subject to government regulations

These are the venues: NSW: ANZ Stadium, Bankwest Stadium, Central Coast Stadium, McDonald Jones Stadium and Netstrata Jubilee. Queensland: Cbus Stadium.

The Hyundai A-League 2020 Finals Series is scheduled to begin on Saturday August 15, and the 2020 Grand Final is set for Sunday August 23.

## Former Floriana striker Billy Dalli dies aged 82

**F**ollowers of the Malta football scene, particularly Floriana supporters were saddened by the news on July 2 that former Malta and Floriana FC striker Billy Dalli died at his residence in Melbourne, Australia. He was 82.

Billy, whose real name was Alfred, made his First Division for Floriana at the age of 17 in the 1956/57 season. He also made one appearance for Malta's national team in the home friendly 1-1 draw against Norway on November 5, 1961.

Billy scored 53 goals in official competitions for Floriana and won several honours during the Greens' golden years.

In 1963, at the age of 24, a year after his marriage to Doris Gatt, he moved to Australia and settled in Melbourne. He continued his footballing career in the Victoria State League with Sunshine George Cross. He found the going tough and had to call it a day after only



two seasons with bronchitis.

He leaves to mourn him his wife Doris, his three children, Jason, Tanya and Marco and grandchildren, and a lot of friends.

The Voice extends its profound condolences to his family

Billy Dalli was featured in an exclusive article in issue No. 90 (December 9, 2014) of *The Voice of the Maltese*.

## England World Cup winner Jack Charlton, dies aged 85

**J**ack Charlton, a World Cup winner with England and a former Republic of Ireland manager, died at his home in Northumberland on July 10 at the age of 85.

Jack, the elder brother of Manchester United's Bobby, played 35 times for England as a central defender, including all six matches at the 1966 World Cup.

He spent his entire playing career at Leeds United after joining them in 1950. And went on to make a record 629 league appearances, in which he won several major honours, including the First Division title in 1969, the FA Cup in 1972 and two Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

After retiring as a player he became a successful manager. He started with Middlesbrough, but is arguably best remembered as a manager for his work with the Republic of Ireland. He took them to their first major finals by qualifying for Euro 1988 and followed that by reaching the 1990 and 1994 World Cups. Ireland got to the quarter-finals in 1990 before losing to Italy.



## Floriana FC celebrate their 26th Championship victory

**F**loriana FC supporters recently officially celebrated the winning of their 26th League Championship following the presentation of the Premier League championship trophy by MFA president Bjorn Vassallo.

The Greens had been declared Champions on May 25 when with six more matches to go to the end of the season, and following the stoppage of the 2019/20 season due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the MFA decided in their favour. At the time, Floriana, were leading the league ladder by three points from Valletta.

They had been waiting for 27 years to repeat their feat. Their supporters were deemed right to commemorate their victory in the streets of their home town, and in a carcade around Malta.