



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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fortnightly magazine for the Diaspora

July 14, 2020

**100 years from the laying
of the foundation stone of
the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary**

A few weeks ago, the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary at Għarb in Gozo commemorated a historic occasion. It was one hundred years ago, on May 30, 1920 that the foundation stone of the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary was laid by then-Bishop Camilleri in the presence of Karmni Grima and a large crowd in attendance.

Pope Francis had been scheduled to be at this year's commemoration, pay a visit and pray at the Sanctuary in front of the miraculous painting of our Lady. His visit to the Maltese Islands was however cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(photo Charles Spiteri)

New Australian High Commissioner to Malta presents her credentials

Her Excellency Ms Jennifer Cartmill has been assigned as Designate High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia to Malta replacing Ms Julianne Hince who completed her posting to Malta last January.

On July 19, Ms Cartmill presented the letters of credence to Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Mr Evarist Bartolo. Later in the day the accredited Australian High Commissioner also presented the letters of credence to the President of Malta Dr George Vella at San Anton Palace, Attard.

relations that exist between the two countries.

The Australian Government has offered diplomatic representation in Malta since 1967. The first High Commissioner – between 1967 and 1972 – was Hubert Opperman, who Previous to his appointment, had occupied the post of Minister for Shipping and Transport, and later also Immigration.

Ms Cartmill is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and was most recently Director, Protection, Privileges and Immunities Section, Protocol Branch. She has previously served overseas as Third, then First Secretary, Australian Embassy in Warsaw (1990-1993). Ms Cartmill took leave without pay to accompany her spouse on postings to: Riyadh (2015-2018); Cairo (2012-2015); Kuwait (2004-2007); Hanoi (2001-2003); Beirut (1995-1997); and Damascus (1994-1995).

In Canberra she has served with DFAT as



President George Vella receiving the Australian High Commissioner to Malta's credentials

Director, Corporate Management Division (2018); Manager of ad hoc Projects for the Diplomatic Academy and the New Colombo Plan Section (2017-2018); Director, Diplomatic Academy (2016); Director, Australia Awards (2010-2011); Director, Australia-Indonesia Institute (2008-2010); Assistant Director then Director, Strategic Policy Section, Corporate Management Division (1997-1998); and in Western Europe Section, Americas and Europe Division (1993-1994).

Ms Cartmill holds a Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford (1988); and a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland (1984).

Ms Jennifer Cartmill will be the 17th diplomat to occupy the position of Australian High Commissioner to Malta.

On behalf of our readers, we welcome the new HC to Malta and wish her a fruitful and pleasant stay on the island.



Ms Jennifer Cartmill presenting her credentials to Minister Evarist Bartolo

At the meeting, the two personalities agreed on the importance of sustaining the strong political, commercial and people to people ties of Malta and Australia, in particular, due to the large Maltese Diaspora.

The President also highlighted the importance to maintain close cooperation with the European Union, particularly in strengthening the free trade agreement between Australia and the European market.

Ms Cartmill, also paid a courtesy call on Anglu Farrugia, Speaker of the House of Representatives who recalled the long-standing and positive



The Australian HC with Speaker Anglu Farrugia



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A New Honourary Consul for Malta in South Australia

RonBorg

Never let it be said that we are sexist in SA! Our new consul is of the feminine gender. Mrs Carmen Catherine Spiteri (pictured right) was appointed Consul for Malta in South Australia last June 26, to replace Mr Frank Scicluna OAM.

Who is Carmen Spiteri? After a brief but interesting interview with our new lady Consul, this is what she disclosed about her life;

She was born in Żejtun Malta in 1955 to Charlie and Theresa Bonnici who emigrated to Australia in 1957 when Carmen was just two and settled in Adelaide, where eventually they were blessed with two more children, a brother and a sister for Carmen.

Although at first, work was not readily available for her dad as a cook, he managed to get a job cooking at a guest house at Victor Harbour, a seaside resort about 80kms from Adelaide, about two hours bus trip from Adelaide, which seemed like a very long trek in those days!

After about a year, Charlie managed to find a job at Kelvinators the white goods manufacturer, so the family settled and progressed in the Adelaide suburbs.

Carmen started her primary schooling at St Joseph's at Hindmarsh and continued her Secondary schooling till the fourth year under the guidance of the Nuns. She says that the headmistress nun 'took her under her wing' and entrusted her with responsible jobs at the school, which included the production of the school newsletter, which she did with a sense of pride.

Her headmistress was impressed with Carmen's zeal, as she was instrumental in her obtaining her first job with Insurance Adjusters. Carmen also worked in a clerical line with a Finance Company, and Stratco, a hardware company where she jokingly claims she learnt a lot about water gutters!

Having enhanced her skills with computer studies, Carmen secured a job with the law firm, Tindall Gask Bently, where she worked for 33 years to the present day where she is an Administration Assistant.

In her youth, Carmen enjoyed playing netball, basketball and volleyball, but a highlight of her life occurred in 1977 when she married Venny to become Mrs Spiteri. Together they enjoy a family of three children, two girls and one boy.

In 2000 Carmen and her husband joined the committee of the Maltese Queen of Victories Band, where she served as secretary and for 13 years as its president. In 2016 she became secretary for the Maltese Chaplaincy Group, which organised Maltese Church festivities with the Maltese Chaplain Fr. Gabriel Micallef at the helm.

For six months she helped out as a temporary secretary, with the St. Catherine Society, and then became the secretary of the SA

Maltese Community Council, which she serves to the present day.

At age 17, Carmen visited Malta for the first time on a holiday with her nanna, aunt, and sister. She recalls they enjoyed their stay with her aunty in Żejtun. In 2012 along with her husband Venny they returned to Malta and thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Marsaxlokk. Then returned in 2017.

Carmen says endearingly, "catching a glimpse of our island below us from the aeroplane, and sometimes passengers also cheering, sends a chill down your spine!"

It was great for her to experience the *festa* atmosphere in Malta especially 'Santa Katarina in Żejtun'. It gave her a sense of pride about the country of her birth, whenever she overheard the tourists praise the joyful 'ambience'.

"Leaving always leaves tears in my heart. Leaving my aunts and cousins behind, and possibly not seeing some of them again."

Getting back to her new position as Maltese Consul, Carmen said she was nominated to the Maltese High Commissioner in Australia about a year ago. After accepting, the nomination, the recommendation was forwarded to the relevant authorities in Malta.

Following police checks, character references, and a multitude of forms that had to be filled, she was informed that she would become the Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia on the June 26 this year. Of course, there are still information packages and official certificates, to arrive from Malta.

Carmen told *The Voice* that she felt honoured at getting the nomination. She was so emotional she almost felt that "it was not real!"

Although this is quite a new and onerous task to digest immediately, Carmen aspires, in general, to make it her mission to assist the Australian/Maltese tourists in any of the things that 'niggle' them about their travels to and from Malta. She aims to promote Malta to one and all, something that she has been doing already with her friends and relatives.

In her closing statement, Carmen wished to thank her predecessor, Mr Frank Scicluna for his 17 years of service. She hopes she can give the Maltese Community good quality service, and that she is always available to listen and take responsive action whenever she can.



Asked what her role as the new Maltese Consul is, Carmen mentioned a range of services:

- To provide general or specific information regarding the Australian economy, culture, sports, education, and more.
- To provide information regarding the process of getting Australian citizenship.
- To provide specific contacts and information in Australia.
- Visa Services.
- Passport and related services.
- Attestation of documents.
- Emergency certificates.

Carmen and husband Venny with their three Children in the background



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

If I could be experiencing symptoms of Dementia, can I still make a Will?

by Paul Sant

When asked to draft a Will, lawyers will conduct an assessment as to whether the Will-maker has *testamentary capacity*. That means, being satisfied of a legal question that you have the ability to know and understand what instructions you are providing, the importance of a Will, and potential effects or consequences for your Estate, based on what you wish to do in your Will.

This assessment often occurs naturally during the course of your lawyer taking your instructions and giving advice in relation to what you wish to do with your Estate.

We have previously written an article about testamentary capacity. Recently, there have been discussions about how this question of law could be integrated with the medical profession's assessments of a person's mental capacity, as people live longer, and conditions that can affect or impair the brain, become more prevalent.

So, we thought we would revisit the topic, to address some realities that many of us may experience.

The current legal test for testamentary capacity

The case that first clearly articulated how to determine if a person has requisite mental capacity to execute a Will, *Banks v Goodfellow*, was decided 150 years ago, back in 1870. That test has not changed much over the years, so if your lawyer is satisfied that you are:

1. Aware of, and appreciate the significance of, a Will;
2. Aware, at least in general terms,

of the nature, extent, and value of your Estate – what assets you hold, and an idea of what they are worth;

3. Aware of those who may reasonably have a claim on your Estate, on what basis they may have a claim, and the nature of that claim – such as current or former spouses, children, grandchildren;

4. Able to evaluate and distinguish between respective strengths of the claims of such persons – acknowledging the difference of giving little provision from your Estate to an adult child who you have provided significantly for in your life time, and the strength of that claim, as opposed to leaving minimal provision from your Estate to an adult child that you recently had a falling out with, and who may bring a costly claim for family provision which could have some merit; then, you would be deemed to have the requisite capacity to execute your Will.

Medical or mental capacity?

In *Banks v Goodfellow*, the individual's capacity that was in question, was due to an instance of psychosis (and with further developments in medicine since, may likely have been schizophrenia).

The legal test that was developed was formulated based on a mental illness characterized by continuous or relapsing episodes of psychosis, where major symptoms include hallucinations, hearing voices, delusions, and disorganised thinking.

By contrast, Dementia is a collective term used to describe various symptoms of cognitive decline, such as forgetfulness. It is not a single disease in itself, but a symptom of several underlying diseases and brain disorders.

Dementia is a general term to describe symptoms of impairment in memory, com-



munication, and thinking.

The proportion of the population who may experience some form of Dementia, seemingly far surpasses the proportion of society who would experience a psychosis. So, should they be treated differently?

If I need to make or update my Will, should I get a medical certificate from my doctor to say I have capacity?

Lawyers have a tried and tested means of determining whether, in their legal professional opinion, you have testamentary capacity. Doctors, in their medical professional opinion, approach such a matter in a different way.

Ideally, both lawyers and doctors would work together to reach a legal determination (should your capacity be questioned) on a fully informed basis, and supported with medical information.

Currently, because the concept that is being assessed by lawyers and doctors, and the tests that each may apply in conducting such an assessment may differ, we suggest that you do not need to see your doctor if you intend to see your solicitor to update or make any Estate planning documents.

Where there's a will, there's a way

If you are thinking about using a Will kit to DIY, it is much safer to have a Will drafted by your solicitor, who will keep file notes in relation to any assessment, of your testamentary capacity.

If your solicitor has serious concerns as to your testamentary capacity, they should be able to provide a clear instruction to your treating doctor to obtain a medical assessment, that is suitable for the purposes of preparing your Will.

Conclusion

Life is not static, and situations can change. If you have separated from your partner, re-married, or need to update your Will, don't be afraid of doing so because one of your beloved adult children may have joked 'you're getting Dementia!' if you forgot to buy milk.

It is your lawyer's duty to assess your capacity, and I've been doing that for 40 odd years.

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



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Maltese Spoken



A radio broadcaster who is volunteering in mental health

Active in the Maltese community, especially in literature and performing arts, this month's selection for our personality feature, Ray Anastasi, is also a very well known community radio broadcaster and mental health care advocate.

Ray Anastasi

Seventy-three-year-old Ray Anastasi was born in Gzira, Malta, on January 29, 1947. In June 1963 he finished his education in Malta at the Lyceum, Hamrun, and then in July 1963 at the age of 16 together with his dad, arrived in Melbourne, Australia. Ray's dad started working at Victorian Railways and after a few weeks changed jobs to take up a position at Olympic Tyres. As to Ray, he started working at the Commonwealth Bank.

A year after they arrived in Australia, Ray's mum and six siblings joined Ray and his father in Australia. Two years later the family bought a house at St Albans and in 1967 Ray started his own family by marrying Marie-Louise Rizzo. They are blessed with three wonderful children, Denise, Janet and Robert and five grandchildren.

In October 1990, Ray became convener and presenter of a two-hour Maltese magazine-style programme on community radio Stereo 974 where his wife Marie-Louise and others assisted him. For 10 years, until January 2020, he coordinated, produced and presented various segments and special radio features.

Ray Anastasi told *The Voice of the Maltese*, "Presenting on STEREO 974 for more than twenty-nine years was a lot of hard work but an extremely rewarding experience for me and all the many presenters. The phone calls, the feedback, the encouragement and support from our listeners was, at times overwhelming, it kept us going".

Sadly, however, earlier this year, on January 16, due to financial, managerial, and logistical problems, Radio Station Stereo 974 ceased transmission.

Maltese Literature

Ray has also been an active member of the Maltese Literature Group (inc) since its formation by Dr. Joe Abela in 1975. The Maltese Literature Group recently celebrated 40 years as an incorporated association. He currently holds the position of the Association's treasurer.

Maltese Performing Arts

In 1985, as treasurer of the Association Ray joined the MPA (Maltese Performing Arts) and three years later became its President. Under his guidance, the MPA presented several very successful and popular Maltese productions. Perhaps the most popular with the Maltese community



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

being *Il-Hanut*: by Manwel Casha.

Ray also wrote, directed and presented several plays, song contests and variety shows and coordinated and participated in numerous Maltese Cultural Festivals organised by the Maltese Com-

munity Council of Victoria.

Work/Career

After eight years with the Commonwealth Bank, in 1971 he changed jobs to join Ajax Insurance Company. soon after he was promoted to Chief Accountant and transferred to Sydney's head office. Eventually, he returned to Melbourne.

He also worked with Trustees Executors and Agency and Pivot Fertilizers until May 2000.

In 2001, Ray embarked on voluntary work with Orygen Youth Health, a youth mental health service provider. The voluntary work soon changed to work and education training. As a member of the Psychosocial Recovery Team, he worked at Orygen Youth Health until his retirement in 2013.

Ray's wife responded well to breast cancer, but son Robert suffered mental health problems. After all these difficulties, he managed to recover, got married, is the father of a three-year-old daughter and manages his own gardening services business.

Ray and his family, never gave up, and now the anguish and worry have been replaced by sheer joy and a sense of achievements.

The Australian woman that cracked the glass ceiling

Julia Gillard, the first Australian female Prime Minister, has spoken candidly about the turbulent days of her prime ministership, admitting there were times when she'd just have preferred "to be at home at rest".

In an interview with *Stellar* magazine, published in the *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sunday Herald Sun*, and later on ABC's Q&A, Gillard reflected on how she coped during what's still considered a particularly tumultuous time in Australian politics. She said she wouldn't "pretend" it had been an easy road.

The former Labor leader seized the role from Kevin Rudd and became Australia's 27th Prime Minister in a shock leadership spill in 2010 that eventually led to Rudd returning the favour in 2013 and inadvertently setting in motion a years-long trend of toppling sitting leaders.

"I was conscious there were all of these pressures on my shoulders; being Prime Minister for anybody isn't an easy job. And I had this added thread of gender," Gillard, 58, explained.

"I was conscious of that and sometimes very physically or intellectually tired, and you did feel like you were pushing yourself up and out into the world when you'd prefer to be at home at rest.

"But the most dominant side knew there were things we wanted to get done. Time is a precious thing while you're there, and it's never long enough for everything you want to do.

"So that driving sense of purpose was the bigger influence on me." She pointed out that a significant portion of the response to her taking over from Rudd in the leadership spill was done "through the prism of gender".

"The fascination with appearance – if someone did the research comparing column inches spent on my appearance in the days after to Malcolm Turnbull when he took over from Tony Abbott ..." Gillard said.

"(And) there was a sense, obviously, I became Prime Minister in circumstances where I asked for a ballot against a sitting Prime Minister. That had been done before by Paul Keating



Lawrence Dimech with the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard in March 2013 at Rooty Hills NSW

against Bob Hawke, and it has certainly been done since.

"But I think there was framing done around a woman and power that was also driven by gender assumptions and the stereotypes in the back of our brain; that we expect men to seek power, but we don't expect women to do it."

During the interview, Gillard also revealed her reaction to discovering Barack Obama and his team used to watch her now infamous misogyny speech whenever they were "really annoyed" at Tony Abbott – an anecdote recently revealed by the former US President's deputy national security advisor, Ben Rhodes.

"I was aware at the time that President Obama watched the speech – way back when I was prime minister he mentioned that he had watched the speech – but what I didn't know until Ben said that was it was something that was done repeatedly (laughs) when Abbott was in office," Gillard said. "I had no inkling, zero inklings when I did that speech that we would still be talking about it all these years later."

In September 2014 Gillard released her political memoir, *My Story*. She has been on the board of the mental health organisation Beyond Blue since December 2014 and its chair since July 2017. She was made an honorary fellow of Aberystwyth University in June 2015.

The Guardian newspaper readers voted Julia Gillard's 2012 'misogyny speech' as the most unforgettable moment of Australian TV history. The three years of her term as PM were marred by the onslaught of sexism and misogyny Gillard endured from the opposition, and especially the mainstream media.

'Boezju u l-Filosofija'

Il-pittura magħrufa bħala 'Boezju u l-Filosofija' (*Boethius and Philosophy*), kapolavur tal-pittur Taljan tal-istil Barokk Mattia Preti, li hadem kemm fl-Italja kif ukoll f'Malta, għad kif twasslet Malta wara li nxtrat mill-Gvern Malti fi Frar li għadda l-irkant magħruf bħala l-Old Masters Auction ta' Sotheby's, fi New York għal €1,323,000. Kienet tiffirma parti mill-kollezzjoni privata ta' J.E. Safra

Il-Ministeru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali b'hekk issokta jagħmel aktar sinjura l-Kollezzjoni Nazzjonali b'din il-pittura li issa giet uf-
ficialment imqiegħda taħt il-kura ta' *Heritage Malta* għall-benefiċċju tal-generazzjonijiet preżenti u futuri.



Malta tikseb lura kapolavur ta' Mattia Preti għal €1.3m

Joseph Cutajar

Din l-opra, bħal Mattia Preti nnifsu li twieled fil-belt żgħira ta' Taverna f'Calabria l-Italja fl-24 ta' Frar 1613 u miet fil-żgħira Maltija fl-età ta' 86 sena fit-3 ta' Jannar 1699, din l-opra, għandha rabta b'saħħitha ma' Malta. Il-'*Boezju u l-Filosofija*' kienet giet ikkummissjonata mill-Kavallier Fra Andrea di Giovanni fis-seklu 17 u għal għexieren ta' snin kellha post prominenti mdendla fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru fil-kapitali Maltija Valletta.

Għal ġimagħtejn shaħ, bejn is-17 u l-31 ta' Lulju, il-pittura kienet qed tintwera għall-ewwel darba fil-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, il-MUŻA fil-belt. Meta jitlestha x-xogħol estensiv ta' restawr li qed isir fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru, il-'*Boezju u l-Filosofija*' se terġa' titpoġġa hemmhekk.

L-akkwist ta' din l-opra, juri biċ-ċar l-im-penn tal-Gvern lejn il-harsien u t-tishih tal-wirt artistiku u kulturali ta' Malta.

Il-pittura fuq il-kanvas turi lil Boethius jiġi kkonsolat mill-Filosofija. Is-suġġett huwa mehud mill-ktieb *De Consolatione Philosophiae* (il-konsolazzjoni ta' Filosofija), miktub u bbażat parti minnu dwar hajjet il-filosofu Ruman Kristjan Boethius (circa AD 480-524)

Għal xi snin il-pittura bħal baqgħet mis-tura sakemm reġgħet feġġet f'irkant għexieren ta' snin ilu. Skont l-Amerikan Dr. John Spike, storiku tal-arti, kurator, u awtur li jispeċjalizza fiż-żmien ir-Rinaxximent Taljan u Barokk li hu wkoll kritiku tal-arti kontemporanja, u eks direttur tal-Biennale ta' Firenze, il-pittura mpittra

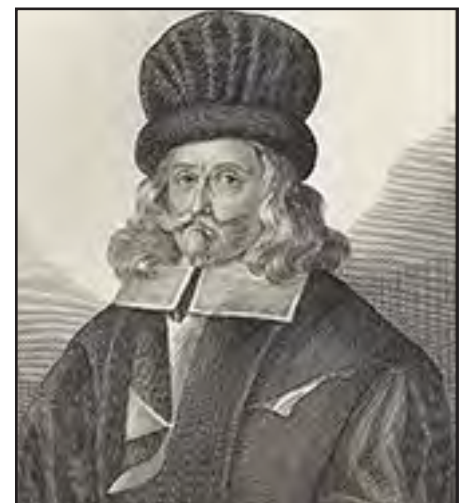
madwar l-1680 f'Malta, hija fost il-kapolavuri tal-ahħar snin u anke ta' hajjet Preti.

Preti, li qatta' tfulitu f'Taverna u seba' snin minnhom f'Napli hu wkoll magħruf bħala Il Cavalier Calabrese (il-Kavallier Kalabriż) minhabba li meta kien Ruma, il-Papa Urbanu VIII hatru Kavallier. X'aktarx li qabel mar Ruma fl-1630, fejn diġà kien hemm huh Gregorio, li bħalu kien pittur, iż-żagħżuġh Mattia trawwem u ha l-ewwel taħriġ fit-teknika mal-'*Caravaggist*' Giovanni Battista Caracciolo, li allura jista' jispjega l-interess li kellu tul hajtu kollha għall-istil ta' Caravaggio.

Huwa studja wkoll ix-xogħol ta' Guercino, Rubens, Reni u Giovanni Lanfranco. F'Ruma, pinga sensiela ta' affreski f'Sant'Andrea della Valle u oħra f'San Carlo ai Catinari. Sal-1653 baqa' bbażat Ruma, għalkemm bejn l-1644 u l-1646, seta' qatta' wkoll xi żmien Venezja. Iżda mbagħad fl-1660-61 mar lura Ruma.

Preti pinga affreski għal għadd ta' knejjes u palazzi fi bliet Taljani. Għal xi żmien hadem ukoll ma' Pier Francesco Mola, Gaspar Dughet, Francesco Cozza, Giovanni Battista Tassi (il Cortonese), u Guglielmo Cortese.

Huwa ġie u ssetilja Malta fl-1661 wara li kien inhatar Kavallier tal-Grazzja tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann u għex il-parti l-kbira tal-kmplament ta' hajtu hawnhekk jaħdem fuq l-akbar biċċa xogħol ta' hajtu, iżejjen is-saqaf tal-Knisja Konventwali tal-Kavallieri, il-Kon-katidral ta' San Ġwann fil-belt b'sensiela ta' pitturi kbar li juru l-hajja u l-martirju ta' San Ġwann Battista (1661-1666).



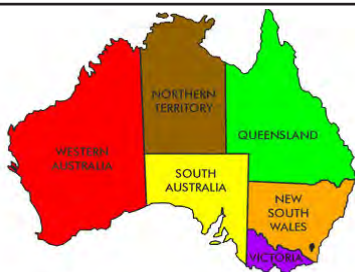
Il-pittur Mattia Preti

Anke qabel ma ġie jghix Malta, Mattia Preti kien diġà ingħata xogħol mill-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann, ordni li kien sieheb f'żoġħitu fl-1641.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li f'Malta wiehed isib hafna pitturi tiegħu, kemm f'kollezzjonijiet privati u wkoll fil-knejjes parokkjali u kappelli. Hawnhekk issokta jkattar il-fama tiegħu li ziedet ukoll tikber b'ordnijiet għax-xogħlijiet tiegħu minn madwar l-Ewropa kollha.

Tul hajtu Mattia Preti ipproduċa għadd kbir ta' xogħlijiet importanti, l-aktar rap-preżentanti "tal-istil eżuberanti tal-Barokk tard" li jinsabu f'hafna mużewijiet ewlenin, fosthom fil-belt Valletta, f'Napli, u fil-belt twelidu Taverna. Skont l-istoriku tal-arti Antonio Sergi, Mattia Preti pinga madwar 400 pittura.

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Dejjaqtuna, u veru x bajna!

Jim Bondin minn Parramatta, NSW jikteb:

Qrajt b'attenzjoni l-ittra miftuha li Joe Sultana minn Westmead NSW kiteb lill-Isqof il-gdid ta' Għawdex Dun Anton Teuma.

Praise for *The Voice*

Doris Cannataci from Sliema, Malta writes:

Thanks for Issue No. 232 of *The Voice*. Scrolling down I began to be relieved reading the heading about the update information on the suspension of the Maltese classes.

It is good to read that from next term certain face-to-face classes will resume, but on the other hand the news that the last VCE exams will end in 2021 is very sad. This does not augur well for those students who are willing to further their studies in the Maltese language and culture of our small country with its great and rich history.

It is indeed a pity for new Australian generations with Maltese roots to lose the knowledge and historical wealth of their ancestors. *The Voice* does its part in contributing with interesting articles about Malta's Heritage. The page dedicated to the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta is a case in point showing our civilization going back thousands of years BC.

Page 11 though, is very encouraging. What a beautiful photo and great message those 13 elderly Maltese, all with *The Voice of the Maltese* in their hands are sending you! They look so proud to feel Maltese!

One can feel the pulse of our expats when their SBS radio programme went off air because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us hope the SBS radio will resume his transmissions in due course.

Fil-għira ta' Għawdex zgur li m'hemmx nuqqas ta' vokazzjonijiet u għalhekk nit-tama li minflok li ta' spiss jiġu sacerdoti Għawdxin l-Awstralja għal xi btala jkun hemm xi ruh tajba li jaċċetta li jiġi fostna flok li jmur missjoni x'imkien iehor. Xogħol magħna wkoll ikun missjoni.

Minhabba nuqqas ta' sacerdoti Maltin fostna hafna Maltin qed jaqilbu mal-Jehova Witnesses.

Lill-kapijiet f'Malta kemm djoċezani u wkoll reliġjużi nfakkruhom li għandhom duty of care għax hafna minna ġejna hawn mhux biss bil-barka tagħhom izda wkoll imbuttati u zfurzati għax konna żejda. Issa daqshekk, dejjaqtuna u x bajna nisimghu hmerijiet.

Ahbarijiet imwassla kif għandu jkun

Paul Debono minn Fairfield NSW jikteb:

Kemm ilni l-Awstralja, issa snin twal, għalkemm inħobb inżomm ruhi agġornat b'dak li jsehh f'art twelidi Malta, ftit li xejn għadni nagħti kas il-politika Maltija - u ngħiduha. wisq inqas dik Awstraljana. Qabel ġejt hawn il-politika kont, kif jgħidu, nikolha bil-hobb.

Il-midja Maltija li tiddilettta bl-onlajn, l-aktar dik bil-lingwa Ingliża, sirt naħrabha għax faċli tinduna li ftit tkun fattibbli, u fil-fehma tiegħi hemm min li aktar jinteressah joscure l-pajjiż.

Għalhekk napprezza hafna l-paġni dwar l-ahbarijiet dwar Malta li twasslu f'dan il-magazine għax jipprezentaw il-fatti, fil-fehma tiegħi ġusti, bla kantunieri u mingħajr kummenti li jweġġgħu lil xi naħa jew ohra.

Kif wara kollox għandu jkun.

Did the Queen know?

J. Tonna from Bondi NSW writes:

Did the Queen know that Sir John Kerr, Dher Governor-General was going to sack a Prime Minister elected democratically by the people of Australia?

The letters regarding the sacking of PM Whitlam opened after such a long time clearly show that Kerr was in contact with the Palace. His intention was known.

The Queen is a very experienced monarch and playing the card of "I did not know" did not convince many. It only opened the issue of why should we have a head of state residing in London? It is time for Australia to be declared a republic?



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Festival tan-Nar li qata' l-ghatx tad-dilettanti

Ftit ilu fil-paġna tiegħu dwar Kultura u drawwiet Maltin, Peter Paul Ciantar kiteb dwar 'Il-logħob tan-nar fil-festi Maltin' u li minhabba li l-festi tradizzjonali fl-ibliet u l-irhula Maltin din is-sena ma sarux kaġun tal-imxija tal-COVID-19 hafna hassew in-nuqqas tan-nar fil-festi, element li ilu snin twal jiffirma parti integrali u qawwija tal-festi fil-Gżejjer Maltin.

Imma l-logħob tan-nar ma jsirx biss fil-festi religjużi, għax jiġi pprezentat ukoll f'okkażjonijiet u festi nazzjonali. Kull darba tintwera l-hila kbir tal-pirotekniki Maltin, li nsibuhom bħala "dilettanti tan-nar" imma fil-fatt huma surmastrijiet f'din is-sengħa għax biex jilħqu l-livell u jingħataw il-liċenzja jridu jgħaddu minn għarbiel.

Anzi daż-żmien u ta' kull sena, l-aktar fis-sajf, jinholqu hafna okkażjonijiet, l-aktar minn Festival Malta u l-Awtorità tat-Turiżmu biex l-ispettaklu li kapaċi johlqu juruh lill-barranin, tant li sar attrazzjoni turistika.

Il-hila tal-Maltin qed ukoll tikseb għarfen internazzjonali grazzi għall-partecipazzjoni f'kompetizzjonijiet internazzjonali kemm barra, kif ukoll f'Malta

u Ghawdex.

Okkażjoni li dawh li jhobbu l-ispettaklu tan-nar kienu qed jistennaw bil-herqa din is-sena kien l-*International Symposium of Fireworks*, li iżda minhabba l-pandemija kellu jithalla għas-sena li ġejja.

B'danakollu, id-dilettanti ma thallewx sajmin għax għal erbat ijiem, fl-aħħar jiem ta' Lulju sas-7 ta' Awwissu qed isir id-19-il-Festival Internazzjonali tal-Logħob tan-Nar li qed jiġi organizzat mill-Ministeru għat-Turiżmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur flimkien mal-Awtorità għat-Turiżmu. Fih qed jiehdu sehem sitt kumplessi tan-nar barranin u wiehed lokali.

Sa minn nhar il-Gimgha li għadda 24 tax-xahar fix-Xagħra Ghawdex, u t-Tnejn (27) u l-Erbgħa 29 f'Malta, fl-Imqabba, saru jew qed isiru attivitajiet li qed jaqtgħu l-ghatx tad-dilettanti qabel imbagħad fis-7 ta' Awwissu fil-Port il-Kbir isir il-Gran Finali.

Il-kumplessi barranin fil-festival huma mir-Renju Unit, l-Isvizzera, Franza, l-Ukrajna u tnejn mill-Italja. Il-kumpless lokali huwa l-post tan-Nar Sant'Andrija ta' Hal-Luqa. Il-wirjiet kompe-



ikunu akkumpanjati minn spettkli ta' nar provduti minn diversi kmamar tan-nar Maltin u Ghawdxin.

Flimkien mal-pirotenika qed isiru attivitajiet oħra li qed jingħogbu hafna, fosthom wirjiet piro-mużikali fil-qasam kompetittiv akkumpanjati minn wirjiet pirotekniki Maltin.

B'kollox se jkun saru madwar 37 wirja imtella' minn kmamar tan-nar Maltin u Ghawdxin. Biex jiġu mhegga dawn il-kmamar, kull partecipant qed jingħata €15,000 bir-rebbieħ jingħata wkoll premju addizzjonali ta' €4,000. Hemm ukoll premjijiet oħra għal min jikklassifika fit-tieni u fit-tielet post.



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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**



Malta fil-preistorja

Wiehed mis-suggetti l-iktar interessanti ta' pajjiż twelidi huwa l-istorja tiegħu, li għandha għana liema bħala, u li l-istudenti Maltin jitgħallmu mill-bankijiet tal-iskejjel. Għaliya l-iktar parti affaxxinanti, u li diżgrazzjament l-inqas li kienet trattata fid-dettall, kienet il-preistorja.

Jiena nifhem id-diffikultà li titkellem dwar perjodu ta' żmien meta l-kitba ma kinetx teżisti, u d-diffikultà li għandna li nkunu nafu x'għara fil-passat ta' tant eluf ta' snin ilu, meta litteralment hafna hjiel huma midfuna taht l-art, saru parti mill-blat jew jinsabu taht il-baħar!

Dan l-aħħar ġew f'idejja xi kotba dwar is-suggett li tgħidx kemm qed niehu gost naqrahom. Wiehed minnhom¹ jitratta l-evidenza għall-preżenza f'Malta tal-bniedem fil-kultura Magdalenjana (20 elf sa 10 elef sena ilu), fl-aħħar parti tal-Paleolitiku (minn tliet miljun sa 10 elef sena ilu kkratterizzat mill-użu ta' għodod tal-ġebel). Dawn kienu bnedmin fl-Ewropa assoċjati mal-kaċċa taċ-ċriev u mammali kbar oħra lejn l-aħħar taż-żmien tas-silġ, fejn daww il-hlejjaq li ma jissaportux il-kesha emigraw mill-Ewropa tat-tramuntana lejn in-nofsinar.

Gruppi ta' dawn l-annimali u possiblament il-bniedem aktarx qasmu lejn Malta fl-aħħar żewġ żminijiet tas-silġ. Huwa maħsub li f'ta' qabel tal-aħħar (Riss, 180-130 elf sena ilu), il-livell tal-baħar naqas b'50 metru tant li f'forma pont bejn Sqallija u Malta, u f'ta' l-aħħar (Würm, 70-10 elef sena ilu) naqas b'90 metru tant li l-pont minn Malta estenda wkoll sal-Italja.

Fil-fatt, mhux biss f'dalijiet ta' ċriev ġew misjuba f'Malta, imma wkoll ippopotami, iljunfanti, volpi, orsijiet u lupi, f'Għar Dalam primarjament, imma wkoll fost l-oħrajn fl-Imqabba, il-Mellieħa, il-Qrendi u Haż-Żebbuġ f'Malta, u d-Dwejra u Wied il-Għasri f'Għawdex.

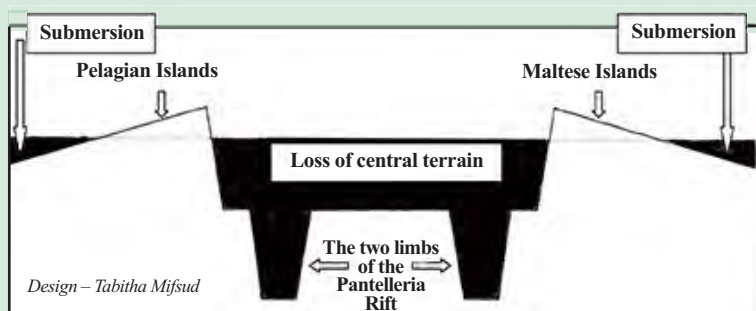
Aktar affaxxinanti kienet is-sejba f'Għar Dalam, mal-faxx li jinkludi l-fdalijiet tal-annimali msemija qabel, ta' dras umani b'kundizzjoni msejja taurodont, fejn il-hofra fiċ-ċentru tas-sinna tkun għolja iktar mis-soltu u l-għeruq tas-sinna jkunu iktar baxxi mis-soltu.

Din hija karatteristika tad-dras tal-ispeċje umana *Neanderthal*. Fl-annimali, din il-kundizzjoni tinstab fl-ungulati, mammali bi dwiefer kbar bħaż-żwiemel, baqar u oħrajn li peress li ġeneralment huma erbivori, iridu jomogħdu sew il-hxejjex u weraq li jieklu.

Fil-każ tal-bniedem *Neanderthal*, huwa maħsub li dawn is-snien kienu utli biex jomogħdu l-ġlud tal-annimali fil-produzzjoni neċessarja tal-hwejjeġ.

Ktieb iehor interessanti ferm kien dwar il-konklużjoni li Malti hija waħda mill-fdalijiet li baqa' tal-gżira magħrufa bħala Atlantis.²

Din il-gżira hija msemija Atlantika mill-filosfu Grieg Platon. L-awturi jispjegaw li għalkemm l-isem illum huwa assoċjat mal-oċean tal-istess isem, fl-imghoddi diversi kittieba tal-antik bħal Seneca u Cicero kien jirreferu għall-baħar Mediterran bħala dak



Sors: Echoes of Plato's Island - The Pantelleria Rift and Tilting
 Atlantiku.

It-teżi tal-awturi hija li l-kobor tal-lum ta' Malta hija żgħira wisq biex issostni l-ammont kbir u estensiv tal-arkitettura megalitika tagħha, u x-xibka kbira ta' gandotti tal-karrettun (*cart ruts*) li għadhom jinkixfu sal-lum, uħud minnhom jaslu ta' xifer l-irdum u jintemmu hesrem, u oħrajn jibqgħu sejrin fil-baħar.

Dan kollu jindika li l-massa tal-art Maltija fil-passat kienet hafna ikbar milli hi llum, hafna minnha tbaxxiet taht il-livell tal-baħar, fejn intilfu gandotti kif ukoll mill-inqas tempju wiehed f'Xrobb l-Għagin.

Xejn xejn, il-preżenza ta' gandotti fuq Filfla jindika li kien hemm art kontinwa minn Malta sa din il-blata xi erba' kilometri 'l bogħod.

Hemm ukoll similiaritajiet fil-flora u l-fawna mal-gzejjer Pelagiċi (Lampedusa, Pantelleria, Linosa, Lampione). Dawn jinkludu pjanti li ż-żerriegħa tagħhom ma tittikilx mill-għasafar u ma titferrixx bir-riħ. Jinkludu wkoll diversi speċji relatati ta' gremxul, li kull speċje tinsab fi grupp ta' gzejjer imma mhux f'oħrajn. Dan jindika massa ta' territorju ikbar fil-passat, li inqasam u rriżulta fl-evoluzzjoni ta' sub-speċje tal-gremxul.

Huwa maħsub li l-ixkaffa kontinentali Afrikana li qed tagħfas fuq dik Ewro-Asjatika qed twassal għar-rassa sseħħ lejn il-majjistral l-iktar minn bejn Malta tal-preżent u l-gżira ta' Linosa, tippressa lejn Pantelleria, b'dawn it-tnejn tal-aħħar isiru vulkani. L-art ta' bejniethom tqacċet u niżlet taht il-baħar, bil-gzejjer Maltin jispicċaw imilu lejn il-grigal u daww Pelagiċi lejn il-lbiċ. Il-kataklizma seħħet f'xi żmien minn 5000 q.K. 'l hawn.

Dan kollu juri kemm l-istorja ta' pajjiż missirijietna huwa saħansitra iktar affaxxinanti milli tgħallimna fi tfulitna, u kemm għandna nħossuna kburin bil-post minn fejn ġejna.

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Ommi kellha l-pitazz tagħha tar-riċetti miktubin bil-lapes. Kien pitazz, imqatta' u kollu tbajja' tal-ikel. Stajt tarah jgħri minn kexxun għall-iehor.

Xi tiegħa kultant ukoll lanqas ma kinet tonqos. Kont niehu pjaċir nixrob dak il-brodu magħqud tagħha. Kont nippreferih aktar mil-laħam tagħha. Kienet tagħmillu xi karfusa u tursina mqattgħin li kienu jbiddu t-togħma tiegħu. Mal-brodu tat-tiegħa kienet iżżid l-interjuri tagħha nodfa bil-melħ u dak il-bajd isfar li kien ikun f'żaqq it-tiegħa.

Il-laħam tat-tiegħa

Fil-veritá l-laħam tat-tiegħa ffit kont niggustah. Ommi kienet tippreżentali l-koxxa, waħda lili (bhala t-tifel il-kbir) u l-oħra lil missieri (Alla jahfirlu). Kien ikollha l-laħam tagħha aktar tari. Għadni sal-lum, mit-tiegħa l-koxxa biss niehu.

Fi żmien it-tadam kienet tagħmlilna l-balbuljata u żżid il-bajd frisk, basal imqatta' rqi, ġobon maħkuk u bżar u melħ. Fi żmien il-qaqoċ, kienet timlieh b'tursin imqatta', frak tal-hobż, inċova, tewm, żebbuġ u ma nafx x'aktar.

B'waħda kull wieħed kont timtela'. Magħha kien ikolli xi kisra hobż friska, nimlieha kunserva, ġardiniera tal-kwart u xi daqsxejn tonn taz-żejt. Kienet tinżilli għasel. Kemm nixtieq li nerga' nsib dik it-togħma! Donnha li ommi kienet tagħmel il-mirakli għax bix-xejn.

Konna familja ta' tmienja u kollha fl-aqwa tagħna ... nieklu kulma naraw. Darba minn taht l-ilsien ommi qalet: "Dawn it-tfal tiegħi għad jieklu lili! X'waħda din!"

Il-bigilla u l-bebbux

Xi ngħidu għall-bigilla shuna biż-żejt, jew ikla bebbux bl-aljoli jew biz-zalza jew il-forn? Inkella xi dixx patata l-forn bil-majjal, xi timpana kollha kapuljat u rkotta (jew gbejniet) bl-għagina fil-wiċċ? Bl-għagina f'nofs it-torta kienet tifforma rota halli tingħaraf li hija tagħha meta teħodha l-forn.

L-ikel mill-forn ta' hdejna

Kienet l-għaxxa tiegħi mmur ingib l-ikel mill-forn ta' hdejna nhar ta' Hadd. Izda l-gost tiegħi kien li nara xi jkun hejja haddiehor. Xi drabi kont nintilef fuq l-ikel tal-oħrajn u tiegħi u ninsa li fil-but tal-qalziet ikolli dik il-landa żgħira bin-numru li pariggu kien ikun id-dixx tagħna. Ir-riħa tal-ikel hierġa mill-forn kienet taqsamli qalbi!

Insemmi wkoll il-qarabaghli u bringiel il-forn, xi dixx ross inkella serduq jew ħasi mbas-kat b'riglejħ 'il fuq, jew xi torta tal-gbejniet kbira. Kienu jmissuli qalbi u moħħi!

U l-pudina tal-hobż? Kemm kienet tkun tajba, l-aktar meta tkun ffit kiesha. Ommi kienet iġġemma' l-bicċiet tal-hobż f'bas-ket halli meta jkollha biżżejjed tagħmlilna pudina mħawra daqs sufflè. Fiha kienet thobb tpogġi dawk it-togħmiet halli taqta' sewwa t-togħma tal-hobż.

Il-ftira shuna

Żgur li tifkruh il-qawl li "il-ftira shuna tajba". Hekk hu, speċjalment imħawra li kienet tagħmel ommi. Ara dik ma nsejthiex u meta binti (illum miżżewġa bit-ftal) tistaqsini dwarha pront kont niftakar f'dawk l-ingredjenti, fosthom il-fazola kbira mxarrba minn xi jumejn qabel, eċċ., eċċ.

Ommi dejjem kienet issib hin tisma' xi riċetta Carmen Carbonaro minn fuq ir-*Rediffusion*. Kont tiehu dawk in-noti kif



L-IKEL T'OMMI: ma kont nibdlu ma' xejn (2)



taf hi u tipprova tagħmillhom.

Darba mir-riċetta ta' Carbonaro kienet għamlet il-biskuttini tal-lewż morr. Ghosfru f'minuta, kulhadd jidhol inkiss inkiss jiehu waħda. Malli wasal missieri mix-xogħol ma sab xejn mat-té. Tbissem u qal, "Mela la spicċaw kmieni ġew tajbin, Marija!"

U l-biskuttini 'tar-raħal' bit-togħma unika tagħha. Naħseb li kienet iżżid xi qatra anizett magħhom għax ommi kienet thobbu, anke jien! Mhux darba jew tnejn kont inlegleg xi nofs grokk. Imma kont ninqabad għax l-anizett ta' dari, magħqud u grass sewwa, kien iħoll il-qlob.

Haż-Żebbuġ fejn konna noqogħdu kien magħruf sewwa għall-anizett tajjeb, bħalma ż-Żebbuġin konna magħrufa għall-qubbajt tal-festa.

Helu staġunali

Il-kwareżimal tal-antik għal żmien il-Gimgha l-Kbira (li kienet taħbih f'xi landa tal-helu); jew inkella dak il-kejk tal-Milied (mimli konfettura); xi nofs tużżana figolli tal-Għid (mimlija lewż u mzejna á la ommi), dan kien kollu helu staġunali li nistennaw minn sena għall-oħra. Ommi dejjem kienet taħbi minn dan il-helu f'xi landa tal-helu fid-dresser (jew armarju) għax inkella 'vigu vigu' kulhadd jigbed xi waħda bil-moħbi u meta tmur tfittex ma ssib xejn.

U xi ngħidu għar-ravjul kbir mimli gbejniet friski bit-tursina mqatta' rqiqa; dik it-torta tal-lampuki, l-oħra tal-ispinaci bil-qargħa hamra; dawk il-pastizzotti; inkella dik l-ikla bil-bakkaljaw biż-żejt u ż-żebbuġ kif kienet tagħmlu ommi? Ma ninsihom qatt. Naħseb li t-togħmiet tagħhom jinżlu miegħi jew inkella ngorrhom miegħi lejn l-eternitá.





Roundup of News About Malta

Malta allocated €2.25 bn. from EU Budget for next seven years

Malta has managed to secure an exceptional result in its negotiations in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) on the EU Budget in Brussels, as it managed to obtain a €2.250 billion for the next seven years (2021-2027). The largest ever allocation earmarked for Malta came at the end of long and most intense negotiations led for the island by Prime Minister Robert Abela. The allocation is almost double Malta had obtained in February 2013 for the period 2014-2020.

At the end of four days of negotiations by the EU's 27 members, Abela said that Malta's share is even more significant when taking into account the UK's withdrawal from the Union and its economic growth in recent years, which means that its over the last seven years its GDP per capita compared to the EU average, has improved remarkably.

The UK's withdrawal will lead to a loss of €75 bn to the Union budget during the next seven years.

Malta's package includes €1.923 billion from the EU's budget (core MFF), as well as €327 million from the grants of the newly established Recovery Instrument, known as Next Generation EU. Malta's economic growth means that its GDP per capita compared to the EU average has improved remarkably over the last seven years.

During five days of meetings and intense discussions (July 17-21), with European Council President Charles Michel and other Heads of States Malta's Prime Minister explained the specific issues pertaining to Malta. He reasoned that despite its strong economic performance in recent years, as a small island Member State, Malta, has unique challenges that are different from those of other Member States. He pointed out that Malta should not be penalised for its efforts in recent years to keep unemployment low. He proved to be a top negotiator.

The overall deal for Malta means that it has secured a total of €842 million in funds under the core Cohesion Policy.

The largest allocation ever earmarked for Malta



Prime Minister Robert Abela

This amount, that does not include a further €92 million additional funds for Re-

Package means that Malta's net balance from the EU budget will also remain significantly positive for the coming years.

actEU (Cohesion Policy) from the Recovery Instrument. It is at least €66 million more than what Malta obtained in February 2013. For agriculture, Malta obtained €191 million. All this was possible due to a special allocation secured by Prime Minister Abela that was granted to Malta to support efforts in this area.

In total, under the traditional EU policies of Cohesion Policy and Agriculture, which account for around 60% of the total EU Budget, Malta obtained €1.125 billion, compared to €793 million that it would have obtained under the Commission's proposal of 2018.

The Government has decided to earmark a minimum of 10% of the allocation

under Cohesion Policy and Agriculture for Gozo, thus ensuring that the sister would receive more funds overall than the previous agreement.

This package means Malta's net balance from the EU budget will also remain significantly positive for the coming years.

Other key instruments and programmes for Malta include Erasmus+; migration, borders and security funds; and environmental programmes. Overall, the indicative allocation which Malta will receive is estimated to be €1.923 billion. Over and above, Malta is to benefit from €327 million in grants from the Recovery Instrument to assist in the recovery effort.

Special (additional) allocations include: €200 million in Cohesion Policy (€100 million for Island Member State), €50 million for growth and jobs and €50 million from ReactEU to address COVID 19 related expenditure, and a further special allocation of €50 million for Rural Development. There are also two special allocations under the migration and border management funds increasing the fixed amounts to €25 million each.

Malta will not be subjected to any new European taxes under EU budget and coronavirus recovery funds package which has just been negotiated.

The PM said success was achieved through solid and convincing arguments around the conference table. The Malta delegation started from the point of being a catalyst to support a final agreement between the 27 Member countries. It had planned its strategy on persuasion and conviction and its eventual success had been achieved through sound arguments and its determination that while maintaining Malta's right, not to give up.

He thanked all those involved in months of complicated and very difficult negotiations that led to Malta's final package, emphasising that the Government would do its utmost to see that the outcome is translated into programmes and projects to consolidate further investments in Malta's economy and its citizens.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta's wants to be friends with all the countries

In a telephone conversation with the Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Foreign and European Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo (pictured right) reiterated Malta's neutrality and that it wants to be a friend with all countries.



Therefore, wherever there is conflict and disputes, it calls for peaceful resolution and for the common good to prevail.

The two ministers spoke about the situation in Libya and the Mediterranean and agreed on the need for peace in Libya so that Libyans can find common ground between themselves to solve their problems through political solutions and not warfare.

Minister Bartolo called for a united Libya with the Libyans themselves running their own country for the good of their people. He held that Libya should be helped in the fight against human trafficking and irregular immigration, and added that the Central Mediterranean route towards the Southern European border is completely open and that the European Union is not protecting itself.

€4.5m for 2 schemes aimed at attracting quality events

The Malta Tourism Authority is to be providing €4.5m in the form of sponsorships for two schemes aimed at attracting quality events to Malta.

Announcing the launching of the schemes, Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection, Julia Farrugia Portelli said that a new mechanism was being introduced in granting the sponsorships

that would provide both seriousness and transparency with clear criteria and objectives as to how the selection would be made and the number of sponsorships.

MTA Chief Executive Johann Buttigieg explained that one of the new schemes launched is for major events that would take place over a day or a number of days and for which the sum of €2m was being allocated.

The other scheme worth €2.5m is aimed at increasing the number of tourists in the community including those through activities in towns and villages, among others. The schemes are open for Local Councils as well as associations, non-governmental organisations and private entities.

84,000 passengers through MIA in first weeks of July

In the first three weeks since July 1, when it was partially reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic closure, around 84,000 made use of the Malta International Airport. They included passengers arriving and departing from the airport. More countries were added to the list of safe countries on July 15.

DBRS agency confirms Malta's A (High) rating

DBRS international agency has confirmed Malta's A(High) credit rating with stable trends. The agency observed that the recent years' economic and fiscal policy performance of the country left Malta in a good situation to mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic risks.

The agency's economists stated that the partial lockdown and travel restrictions, intended to contain the pandemic, will likely result in a temporary recession for Malta during this year, but the country would still be expected to recover with the gradual opening of the economy.

New project set to make MFSA a forward-looking authority

A mechanism whereby operators can apply to test their innovations within this sandbox for a specified period of time and under certain prescribed conditions has just been launched by Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services and Digital Economy Clayton Bartolo. It is to be known as the MFSA FinTech Regulatory Sandbox.

The regulatory environment being created will further position the Malta Financial Services Authority as a forward-looking authority by providing legal certainty to industry players, whilst ensuring effective investor protection, market integrity and financial soundness in the FinTech environment.

Welcoming the launch of the sandbox, the Chief Officer for Strategy, Policy and Innovation within the MFSA noted that financial services start-ups and incumbents view it as a much-needed tool to help in the adoption of innovative solutions within their entities in an orderly

manner, whilst enabling them to offer value-added products and services to their customers.

It will also enable the MFSA to enhance its understanding of ever-changing technological innovation and increase its technical know-how in order to enable the necessary policymaking towards further growth of the financial services industry in a sustainable manner.

The project has also been described as a milestone towards creating a holistic long-term approach to catalyse innovation, growth and competition in the financial services market, complementing the Virtual Financial Assets Act, and further positioning Malta as an international FinTech Hub and a global thought leader.

Clayton Bartolo stated that the initiative would continue to contribute intrinsically towards competitiveness and economic activity and that it would reaffirm Malta's reputation as a forward-looking jurisdiction that is open to innovation.

Govt. publishes Constitutional and Institutional reforms bills

The Government has published all the ten bills concerning the comprehensive institutional and constitutional reforms it has proposed following a structured dialogue with the Venice Commission.

Justice, Equality and Governance Edward Zammit Lewis conducted and managed to conclude the debate within the House of Representatives, of the first set of four reforms that are now at the committee stage of the Parliamentary legislative process.

They concern the appointment of the President of the Republic, the Judicial Appointments and Judicial discipline and removal respectively, and the Permanent Commission Against Corruption, which has already been discussed before the Permanent Committee for the Consideration of Bills.

The remaining six bills deal with the strengthening of the

institutions and public administration, namely: Office of the Attorney General; Office of the Ombudsman; Office of the Auditor-General; Appointment of the Principal Permanent Secretary and the Permanent Secretaries; Appointment of persons in senior positions, and Appointment of Persons of Trust.

The Minister his commitment to having all these bills passed without further delays, hopefully through Parliamentary unanimity. The Minister further stated that this is exactly the moment when all members of the House of Representatives can and should be on the right side of history. He said he was pleased to note that all the Maltese government's efforts were fully recognised by the Council of Europe, by the European Commissioner for Justice and, moreover, by the President of the European Commission.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Inkwiet fil-Kamp Nazzjonalista Intlaħaq kompromess



Adrian Delia, il-kap
PARTIT NAZZJONALISTA

Mix-Xena Politika

Wara laqgħa storbuja ta' madwar sitt siegħat, fejn jidher li kultant it-temperament għola sewwa, l-Eżekuttiv tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, lahaq kompromess dwar il-mod kif se jimxi biex forsi jtaffi l-kriżi ta' bħalissa tal-partit.

Il-mexxej preżent Adrian Delia ipprova jiehu l-inizjattiva f'idejha meta mhux biss sejjah laqgħa tal-Eżekuttiv, imma ressaq ukoll mozzjoni għall-approvazzjoni tal-istess Eżekuttiv.

Permezz tal-mozzjoni talab li ssir votazzjoni

fost it-tesserati (il-membri) tal-partit biex jiddeċiedu jekk iridux ikompli jmessxi.

Dawk li qed jopponuh id-diskrivew dan bħala tentattiv biex Delia jtell-laq wahda u kienu pronti resqu mozzjoni differenti biex il-Kunsill Ġenerali jiġi mitlub jisfiduċjah u minflok issir elezzjoni għal Kap Nazzjonalista ġdid.

The Times qalet li f'waqt minnhom id-



deputat Beppe Fenech Adami qal li aktar hemm Laburisti milli Nazzjonalisti li jixtiequ lil Delia li jibqa jmessxi lill-PN. Sadanittant dawk favur Delia staqsew x'se jiġri mir-"ribell" jekk Delia jibqa' mexxej.

Fl-aħħar, wara hafna battibekki ntlaħaq kompromess unanimu li d-deċiżjoni tifhalla f'idejn il-Kunsill Ġenerali.

Fuq mozzjoni mressqa minn Adrian Delia l-Kunsillieri tal-Partit Nazzjonalista se jinfalbu jagħtu l-fehma tagħhom għad-domanda dwar jekk il-membri tal-Kunsill Ġenerali jiġux mitluba jagħzlu jekk fil-Konvenzjoni Ġenerali t-tesserati tal-partit għandhomx jikkonfermaw lill-Kap tal-partit inkella jeleggu l-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Il-Kunsill Ġenerali tal-partit se jitlaqqa' nhar il-Gimgha 31 ta' Lulju 2020 u l-votazzjoni se ssir l-għada s-Sibt l-1 ta' Awwissu.

Sadanittant il-mexxej Nazzjonalista ta' bħalissa, Adrian Delia qal li jekk il-Kunsill jagħzel li għandha terġa' ssir elezzjoni għal kap tal-partit, u se jerga' jippreżenta ruhu

L-UE - Morna tajjeb

Bla dubju li Malta marret tajjeb fid-diskussjonijiet li saru fl-aħħar jiem bejn il-mexxejja tal-Unjoni Ewropeja dwar it-tqasim tal-baġit għas-seba' snin li ġejjin. Din d-darba Malta kienet qed tiffaċċja żewġ fatturi li setgħu jtellfuha milli tikseb finanza qawwija mill-UE.

L-ewwel kellek, fattur li attwalment kien jolqot lill-pajjiżi kollha membri tal-UE... it-tluq tal-Ingilterra mill-UE... pajjiż li halla toqba kbira fil-finanzi tal-UE - telf ta' €75 biljun għall-Baġit tal-UE għas-seba' snin li ġejjin - billi l-Ingilterra kienet fost l-akbar kontributuri għall-fond Ewropew.

It-tieni kien il-fatt li f'dawn l-aħħar seba' snin Malta għamlet passi ta' ġgant fl-ekonomija u flok tippremja lil min ikun bil-għaqal u jaħdem biex ikollu ekonomija soda, billi tati aktar flus lil min iħaddimhom tajjeb, l-Unjoni Ewropeja tispicċa tnaqqaslu.

L-UE issostni li la l-pajjiż mixi tajjeb m'għandux bżonn għajnuna allura tiffoka l-għajnuna fuq pajjiżi li ekonomikament se jrinfażin... bħall-Italja li tinsab f'qagħda finanzjarja diżastruża u li li belgħet parti kbira mill-kejk li qassmet l-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Dan wassal biex, qabel ma bdew it-taħdidiet, kien hemm min bas-sar li Malta tista' tiġi f'sitwazzjoni li tingħata anqas fondi milli ngħatat seba' snin ilu.

Għalhekk kien floku l-kumment li għamel il-Prim Ministru Malti, meta, wara li thabbret l-ghotja li kisbet Malta, €2.25 biljun, stqarr li dan kien "riżultat mill-aktar pożittiv għal Malta".

(Ara rapport dettaljat fil-paġna 12)

Xejra Politika

Jidher li l-ewwel reazzjoni għar-riżultat miksub fi Brussels kien wieħed pożittiv... tal-inqas fejn tidhol is-somma miksuba. Izda mbagħad bhas-soltu giet imdeffsa l-politika, u sintendi kull Partit

ipprova jiehu kredtu għall-kisba ta' dawn il-fondi. Filwaqt li min-naha tal-Gvern l-emfasi kienet fuq il-hidma qawwija li saret biex Malta kisbet somma ferm akbar minn dik of-fruta fil-bidu, l-għajta tal-Oppożizzjoni kienet, li l-flus ġew bis-saħħa tal-Partit Nazzjonalista għax kien hu li dahhal lil Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Il-Kap tad-delegazzjoni tal-PN fil-Parlament Ewropew, Roberta Metsola, saħqet li kienet rebħa għall-PN li dejjem emmen fil-fondi u fil-proġetti Ewropej, u dejjem ra li dawn l-fondi jkun mmirati biex itejbu hajjiet il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin.

Riżultat tal-Covid-19

Għall-ewwel darba f'hafna snin, fil-qasam tat-traffiku, seħħ il-maqlub tas-soltu. F'Malta m'dorrijin li kull darba li l-Uffiċju tal-Istatistika jtkellem dwar it-trasport dan jgħidilna kemm żdiedu l-vetturi liċenzjati fit-toroq.

Izda fl-aħħar statistika, li tkopri minn April sa Gunju, tatna sorpriża. Din id-darba qaltilna li l-għadd ta' vetturi fit-toroq Maltin naqas.

Ir-rapport juri li fit-tieni kwart tas-sena, l-ammont ta' vetturi liċenzjati naqas b'1,978. Sal-aħħar ta' Gunju kien jammonta għal 395,413 maqsum b'76.9% karożzi tal-passiġġieri, 13.9% kumherċjali u 8.1% muturi.

Dan filwaqt li l-vetturi liċenzjati godda tul dawn it-tliet xhur kienu jammontaw għal 2,157 - bi ftit inqas minn 59% ikunu karożzi tal-passiġġieri. Tul dan il-perjodu kien hemm medja ta' 40 vetturi liċenzjati għidida kuljum.

Tgħid dan riżultat ieħor tal-Covid-19?

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

X'ironija hu!!

Meta kulhadd għadu qed jgħamel xi safra, harget l-aħbar li meta mistoqsija kien hemm aktar Maltin li wiegħu li jaffordjaw vaganza ta' ġimgħa barra minn Malta.

Infatti, ċifri tal-Eurostat juru li fil-waqt li fl-2009 kienu 64% li ma affordjawx iħallsu għal ġimgħa vaganza, fl-2019 dawn niżlu għal 30%.

Dan kien it-tieni l-ikbar tnaqqis fost il-pajjiżi tal-UE wara l-Latvja li r-rata tagħha naqset b'35%.



Tort tal-Gvern?!

Aħbar li hasdet lil hafna kienet dik li Melvin Theuma, ix-xhud ewlieni fil-każ ta' Jorgen Fenech, li hu mixli li kien il-mandant fil-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, instab ferut serjament b'daqqiet ta' sikkina fil-kamra tas-sodda tal-appartament tiegħu.

Ftit wara f'konferenza stampa l-pulizija habbret, li skont l-istħarriġ li għamlu kien hemm x'juri, u fil-fatt l-istess Theuma ammetta li l-feriti li kellu għamilhom fuqu hu nnifsu.

Imma tliet deputati Nazzjonalisti, Beppe Fenech Adami, Jason Azzopardi u Karol Aquilina għaġġlu hargu stqarrija fejn tefgħu t-tort ta' dak li seħh fuq il-Gvern. Sostnew li l-istat falla milli jipprotegi l-ħajja ta' Theuma. Sahansitra talbu r-riżenja tal-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Interni Byron Camilleri.

Il-Gvern sostna li l-pulizija kienet offriet il-protezzjoni kollha b'żewġ pulizija jgħassu mad-dar ta' Theuma il-hin kollu. It-tielet pulizija li kien ikun ma' Theuma fid-dar tiegħu ġie rtirat wara li l-avukati tal-ferut sostnew li dan kellu jiġi rtirat biex tinzamm il-privatezza tiegħu. Theuma bħalissa jinsab stabbli.

Interessanti li anke f'dan il-każ harget beraħ il-firda li hemm fil-PN għax fil-waqt li l-kap Adrian Delia fi stqarrija appella għall-prudenza u l-kawtela, u qal li kien se jitlob lill-grupp Parlamentari tiegħu biex jiltaqa' halli jiżen, jara u jiddiskuti dawn il-mumententi traġiċi biex ikunu jistgħu jingħaqdu fl-interess nazzjonali, bla stennew il-laġġha t-tliet deputati msemmiya hargu stqarrija fejn sostnew li l-istqarrija tal-Gvern kienet waħda biex il-Partit Nazzjonalisti jirkeb fuq dak li ġara.

Biex tkompli taqgħad meta aktar tard saret il-laġġha tal-grupp Parlamentari Nazzjonalista, dawk li qed jehduha kontra Delia, sostnew li l-laġġha msejja biex tiddiskuti l-każ ta' Theuma, minflok, kellha tiddiskuti l-vot ta' sfiđuċja fil-mexxej tal-partit. Meta l-kap qal li ma kienx lest li tiġi diskussa t-tmexxija tiegħu, qabdu u telqu l-barra u sfrattaw il-laġġha.

"Maltese Gemgem"

Fi żmien il-kolonjal-izmu Gvernatur kien laqqam lill-Maltin "Maltese Gemgem". Kien isostni li għal xi Maltin, tagħmel x'tagħmel dejjem issibil min igorr dwar xi haġa jew oħra.

Donnu li din l-attitudni tal-Maltin għadha magħna, għax issib min jivvinta fuq xhix igemgem.

Il-qrid dwar il-barranin li għandna jgħixuf ostna ma jonqosx.... qrid li kultant isir bir-raġun għal-kemm imbagħad xejn ma niddejjqu, li ,per eżempju, il-ġbir tal-iskart isir minn barranin u mhux minn Maltin, għax il-Maltin ma tantx huma lesti li jagħmlu dak ix-xogħol.

Allura fil-waqt li hafna jilmientaw mill-ghadd kbir ta' barranin f'pajjiżna, fl-istess hin b'għemilna nappruvaw dak li jagħmlu għalina l-barranin, kif jgħid tajjeb min kiteb dak tal-lemin fuq:

Il-Malti ma jridx għarab u Torok f'pajjiżu, imma jmut għal naqra doner kebab.

Il-Malti ma jridx l-Isqallin gejjin hawn, imma hemm dolceria wara l-kantuniera jagħmlu espresso gmielu u l-kannoli tajbin għasel.

Il-Malti ma jridx barranin f'daru, imma biex ikahhal il-ħajt iqabbad erba' Niger-jani.

Il-Malti ma jridx jitlef it-tradizzjonijiet imma m'għandux hin imur għand il-furnar u għand tal-merċa, u jixtri kollox min-għand il-LIDL.

Il-Malti jrid pajjiżu nadif, imma mbagħad ikun hu stess li jarmi barra.

Il-Malti jrid li l-barranin igibu ruħhom sew, imma jiġi fl-idejn ma' Malti ieħor għax ma ċedilux mar-roundabout.

Il-Malti jibza' jitlef ilsien twelidu, imma lil uliedu jkellimhom bl-Ingliż.

Il-Malti jobgħod il-kritika, imma għandu bżonn jiġhem li hu stess huwa parti mill-problema.

Għawdex għoddu rkupra

Jidher li l-ewwel li se jirkupra l-ekonomikament mill-pandemija tal-COVID-19 hu Għawdex. Anzi hafna jsostnu li diġà beda jseħh. Il-fatt li l-Gozo Channel qed jerġa' jibda jaħdem b'erba' vapuri, ir-roħs għal min jaqsa bejn Malta u Għawdex – minbarra li l-anzjani jagħmlu dan b'xejn, qed iħalli l-effett tiegħu.

Il-postijiet tal-akkomodazzjoni qed jimtew sew, l-istess il-bajjiet, fil-waqt li r-ristoranti qed ikunu mimlijin f'hafna jiemi tal-ġimgħa.. u dan meta f'nofs Awwissu jistennew ruxmata ta' Maltin fi żmien li l-fabbriku jagħlqu għall-btajjel.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

PM Whitlam sacking in 1975 and the Queen

The National Archives of Australia released about 200 letters between the former governor-general and the Queen about the dismissal of the Whitlam Labor government in 1975.

In a letter to the Queen after he sacked Mr Gough Whitlam, Sir John Kerr wrote: "I should say I decided to take the step I took without informing the palace in advance because, under the constitution, the responsibility is mine. I was of the opinion it was better for Her Majesty not to know in advance, though it is, of course, my duty to tell her immediately."

The letter included three attachments: the dismissal letter to Mr Whitlam, a legal opinion from the then chief justice Sir Garfield Barwick, and a letter from the then opposition leader Malcolm Fraser.

However, other letters show Sir John discussed the possibility of dismissing Mr Whitlam in the months preceding the event.

There was a letter from Sir John to the Queen dated 12 September 12, 1975. "I'm also keeping my mind open as to the constitutional issues. If the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition get into a battle in which the Senate has defeated the budget, the Prime Minister refuses to recommend a dissolution, my role will need some careful thought," Sir John wrote.

The Queen's secretary Sir Martin Charteris wrote back to Sir John referring to the practice that if a parliament refused supply - legislation allowing money to pay for government - it was constitutionally proper to grant dissolution of the parliament.

Sir Martin later wrote back to Sir John, a week before the dismissal, acknowledging he had "reserve powers".



Press getting Gough Whitlam's reaction after his dismissal

The JobKeeper scheme: It is tougher to qualify

JobKeeper will be extended for Australians until March 2021 and shift to a new two-tiered payment that is tougher to qualify. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that the JobKeeper will be extended at a lower rate when the original \$1500-a-fofortnight scheme ends in September but will remain at a rate of \$1200 a fortnight until March, down from \$1500 a fortnight.

But a new, part-time rate for part-time workers will now get \$750 a fortnight from September.

The largest one-off fiscal measure in Australia's history, JobKeeper was designed to

be delivered quickly as thousands of businesses across Australia faced public health restrictions and shutdowns.

ATO says more than 960,000 organisations have been processed for payments covering around 3.5 million individuals.

The Treasury report found there was no evidence of widespread business closures which are currently well below average, due to JobKeeper in combination with mortgage honeymoons and other relief.

Queensland Nationals senator Matt Canavan, who before the coronavirus pandemic was among a growing number of Coalition MPs calling for an increase to Newstart, said he not sure Australia could afford a "long-term increase in the dole, given the size of our post-COVID debt".

Opposition Social Services spokeswoman Linda Burney said a temporary increase beyond September was a step in the right direction but a permanent lift was required to "help keep people out of poverty and into secure work".

Australia welcomes HK students

People from Hong Kong currently in Australia will be allowed to stay in the country for five more years and offered a pathway to permanent residency after China imposed a controversial security law on HK.

The new law enacted recently could attract some 10,000 international students and many more, as they will be able to bring as well family members.



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Unemployment at an 18-year high



Unemployed waiting in line at Centrelink

There are concerns about the long-term health of the economy after the nation's jobless rate hit an 18-year high. Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics revealed more than 838,000 jobs have disappeared in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. After shedding 607,000 jobs in April, another 227,700 went in May.

There are now 927,600 people officially designated as unemployed, the highest

number since December 1993, with the official jobless rate at 7.1 per cent. The last time it was this high was October 2001.

Adding the 927,600 unemployed to another 626,000 people who have left the labour force altogether, the ABS noted this combined group took the effective unemployment rate to 11.3 per cent. That would be the highest level since the bureau started monthly jobs statistics in 1978.

The Morrison Government's decision on

the future of the Jobkeeper and Jobseeker payments must deliver an outcome that adequately supports those who are vulnerable according to Catholic Social Services Australia.

Both CSSA and the St Vincent de Paul Society's National Council called on the Federal Government to establish an independent panel to advise it on revisions to Social Security payment rates that were originally designed to keep people out of poverty.

The Church and the Queensland economy

A ground-breaking study shows the Brisbane Archdiocese makes a \$2.5 billion contribution to the Queensland economy through its parishes, schools and agencies. It is the first time a socio-economic study of this size and scope has examined the community role of the Church, stretching across south-east Queensland, taking in 17 local government areas, 24 federal and 70 state electorates.

Information is broken down into easy to read infographics that quantify the direct contribution and flow-on benefits from spending and employment through its social services and education agencies across its 98 parishes, 144 Brisbane Catholic Education schools with 72,492 students, and more than 27,000 participants in early education care.

There are 12,992 aged care and disability clients, support for 8362 seniors to live well in their home and community, support to 23,000 people affected by domestic violence and help for more than 4,000 people living with mental illness.

Australia is facing largest deficit since World War II

Australia's Federal Treasurer John Frydenberg says Australia faces its most massive budget deficit since World War II as the coronavirus crisis wreaks havoc on the country's finances.

Giving the federal government's economic update, Mr Frydenberg (right) also revealed that unemployment is expected to peak around 9 per cent in December.



He said that the federal government recorded a deficit of \$85.8 billion in 2019-20, which is projected to blow out to \$184.5 billion in 2020-2021 as a result of record spending.

"The impact of the coronavirus has led to a significant decline in tax receipts and a large increase in government payments," he said.

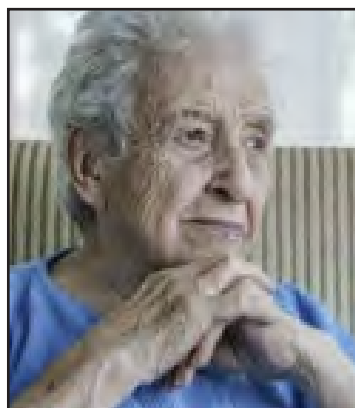
Net debt was at \$488.2 billion at 30 June - or 24.6 per cent of GDP - and will hit a record \$677.1 billion the following year, more than a third of the economy's size.

National GDP was being propped up by fiscal support to the tune of \$289 billion, or 14.6 per cent of GDP. Mr Frydenberg said Australia "had fared better on the economic front during the crisis than almost any other counter in the world".

"Despite our increased debt levels, they remain lower than what many comparable nations went into this crisis with," the treasurer said.

Waiting for at-home care packages

Update figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show 103,599 Australians were waiting for a home care package they had been approved for at the end of March, meaning the waitlist had shrunk by just 838 places since the end of December 2019.



Last year, the aged care royal commission's interim report blasted the waiting list for at-home aged care as "a cruel and discriminatory system", after finding some Australians who required the highest level of in-home care, level 4, could wait "for a year and often longer" for an approved package.

After the interim report's release, the Morrison Government announced it would spend \$496.3 million for an additional 10,000 home care packages, to be rolled out from December 1, 2019. Earlier this month, it announced a further investment of \$325.7m toward 6,105 home care packages.

Ian Yates, the chief executive of the Council on the Ageing, said the minimal reduction in the waiting list was "unacceptable", especially when wait times of over 12 months are considered.

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

Il-kittieb tal-lum kellu haġja mill-aktar impenjattiva. Valentin Barbara (Ġużeppi) kien kittieb, għalliem, u wkoll saċerdot, li l-ħabib tiegħu Frank Zammit, jikkwotah jgħid li kien thajjar isir patri "wara li kien jara l-kappa sewda

ta' żewġ patrijiet Dumnikani li kienu ta' sikwit iżuru l-familja tagħhom fl-istess triq fejn kien jgħix, tperper marrih". Qatta' haġtu kemm f'Malta u wkoll fl-Awstralja fejn kien neża' ċ-ċoqqa u żżewweġ.

VALENTIN V BARBARA – Patri u kittieb li spicċa sekular fl-Awstralja

Valentin kien l-isem li nghata Ġużeppi Barbara (Fra Valentin Vincenz) meta fl-1936 kien beda n-novizzjat tiegħu mad-Dumnikani fir-Rabat, Malta. Sadakin-har kien magħruf bl-isem li tawh il-ġenituri tiegħu Grezzju u Katarina meta twieled f'Bormla fid-29 ta' Marzu tal-1920. Kien it-tieni wild tal-koppja. Warajh kellhom tlett itfal oħra.

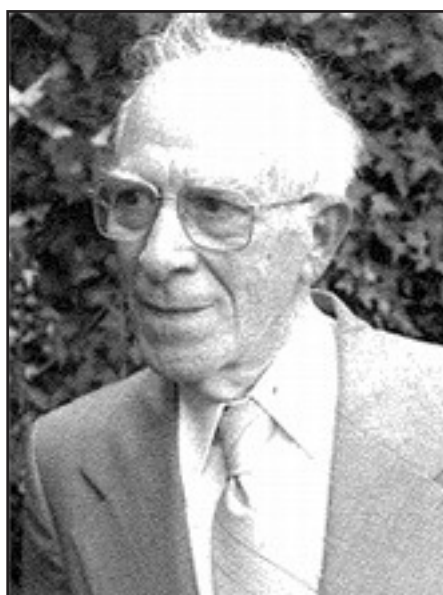
L-ewwel edukazzjoni tiegħu Ġużeppi hadha fl-iskola tas-sorijiet Franġiskani f'Bormla. Wara għadda għall-primarja u ta' għaxar snin, fl-1930 daħal il-Liċeo fil-belt Valletta. Kien imur il-belt ta' kuljum bid-dgħajsa jew il-lanċa. Għal xi żmien kien ukoll jattendi għall-lezzjonijiet reliġjużi tal-MUSEUM. Imma mbagħad thajjar għall-palk u sieheb lill-kumpannija tat-teatrin tal-Kantur ta' Bormla.

Kien jistqarr li l-istudju formali qatt ma hamlu, imma għalkemm minhabba f'hekk tilef xi opportunitajiet kelli moħħu tajjeb u grazzi għall-għalliema tajbin li kelli fil-Liċeo kelli trawwmet fih hegga kbira għat-tagħlim. Imma minhabba li ttraskura l-istudju xejn ma mar tajjeb fil-Liċeo tant kelli jirrepeti r-raba' klassi.

Sa dak iż-żmien kien diġà wahħalha f'moħħu li jsir patri, allura ma tantx hadha bi kbira, imma t-tbeżbiża rabbiel u l-għaqal. Ta' 15-il sena, bidel l-iskola u daħal fis-St. Paul's School, fi Triq l-Ifran, il-Belt fejn għamel il-hames klassi u beda jiġi 'l quddiem fi kważi kull eżami. Kien wasal jirrealizza li kelli talent u rmieh. Imma fehem il-proverbju li kull deni tiegħu b'għid, u sostna li kieku mar l-università x'aktarx li kien jaqbad xi rotta oħra u jitlef is-sodisfazzjon li gawda bix-xogħol li għamel tul haġtu.

Fil-konvent tad-Dumnikani tghalllem iddoq l-orgni u fost karigi oħra sakemm dam magħhom, beda jaqdi dmiru bhala organist. Fid-19 ta' Diċembru 1942, minkejja li kien taħt l-età biex iqaddes, ta' 22 sena kiseb dispensa speċjali u gie ordnat saċerdot.

Għaraf li kelli t-talent tal-kitba u f'inqas minn xahar wara li qaddes kiteb l-ewwel poezija tiegħu "Lil Dun Karm". Kien jgħid li theghegħ għall-kitba, l-aktar għall-poezija bil-Malti mill-kitbiet ta' Dun Karm, Gużè Chetcuti u Karmenu Vassallo. Kien ukoll daħal għal xi konkorsi u mar tajjeb hafna. Hekk li gie nnutat mill-kunsill tal-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti (L-Akkademja tal-Malti), li hatru membru akkademiku. Aktar



'il quddiem ingħata post fil-Kunsill.

L-ewwel xogħol letterarju serju li kiteb kien it-traduzzjoni ta' "Gulju Ċesri" ta' William Shakespeare. Meta s-superjuri tiegħu ndunaw bit-talent li kelli bdew jgħabbuh bix-xogħol.

Fi żmien it-Tieni Gwerra kiteb wahda mill-isbah poeziji, "Nistrieħu Ftir", imma ma tantx niżlet tajjeb mal-Provinċjal li wissieh biex "ma jiktibx poeziji pessimisti bħal dik". Min-naha l-oħra l-Pirjol tal-kunvent fehem altar Valentin x'ried jgħid b'dik il-poezija u naqqaslu ftit mix-xogħol li kien mgħobbi bih.

F'Jannar tal-1947 ingħazel għal kors fl-Istituto Pontificio di Musica Sacra f'Ruma. Hass li ma kienx imhejji biżżejjed għal kors ta' dak il-livell, iżda obda u mar. Ma tantx qata' figura tajba fit-tentattiva, imma xorta kiseb Baċellarat fil-Kant Gregorjan.

Is-sena ta' wara beda jgħalliem il-Malti fil-Kulleġġ San Albert il-Kbir fil-Belt, u aktar tard sar l-editur tar-rivista "r-Rużarju". Fl-istess waqt baqa' jikteb u sal-1953 lahaq it-traduċa u ppubblika l-ewwel tliet kotba tal-"Istqarrijiet" ta' Santu Wistin.

Wiehed mil-hbieb li kelli kien Rużar Briffa. Flimkien ma' xi oħrajn ikkonvinċew lil Briffa jippubblika l-poeziji. L-awtur inkari-għal idurlu l-poeziji għall-ortografija u jlesti-homlu għall-istampa. Fis-6 ta' Diċembru 1960 Valentin ha l-ewwel kopji tal-ktieb lil Rużar li kien kuntent hafna b'dak li ra. Tlett

snin wara Rużar Briffa miet.

It-Tieni Konċilju Vatikan fetaħ kapitlu għid fil-hajja reliġjuża u akkademika ta' Valentin. L-inkluzjoni tal-Malti fil-knisja għablu hafna xogħol, u wkoll hafna sodisfazzjon. Inhatar membru tal-kummissjoni tat-tradutturi li bdew xogħol immedjat fuq il-Missal u l-Liturġija tal-Kelma. Ittraduċa r-rit tas-Sagramenti kważi wahdu, kif ukoll il-Brevjar. Ha hsieb ukoll l-istampar.

L-Arċisqof Gonzi tant kelli fiduċja f'Patri Valentin, li malli waqqaf is-senat presbiterjali hatru President ta' wiehed mid-distretti u għabbieh b'aktar xogħol, tant, li fil-bidu tas-sebghinijiet stqarr li kien li dak ix-xogħol kollu beda jagħmel tiegħu.

Bhala apprezzament tal-Knisja għal dak kollu li kien qed jagħmel, f'Gunju tal-1974 Gonzi irrakkomandah lill-Vatikan għad-dekorazzjoni prestiġjuża *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (PEP). Tliet xhur wara, fit-22 ta' Ottubru Patri Valentin mar iqatta' ftit tax-xhur ta' mistrieħ fl-Awstralja fejn seta' anke jgawdi 'l hutu u l-familja tagħhom.

Wara xi żmien, biex ma jibqax ta' piż fuq wahda minn hutu, sab xogħol ta' assistent skriwan fil-Posta. Ftir wara kiseb id-dispensa. Wara li neża' Valentin Barbara sar sekular u persuna importanti fost l-emigranti Maltin fi New South Wales, fl-Awstralja.

Għalkemm fl-Awstralja l-eks patri sar magħruf bhala Joe Barbara, xorta baqa' jżomm l-isem li bih kien jikteb, Val. V. Barbara. Bħal ha r-ruħ u beda jithallat mal-komunità. Fil-5 ta' Marzu 1977 iżżewweġ lil Agnes Leong u marru jgħixu fi Blacktown. Ftir wara kellhom tarbija, li b'xorti hażina mietet ftit sigħat biss wara li twieldet. Lahqu għammduha u tawha l-isem ta' Katerina.

Valentin (Joe) tant daħal fil-komunità li għaqquad kumpannija tat-teatrin, issieheb fil-programm Malti tar-radju tal-SBS f'Sydney u beda jipproduċi u jxandar programmi tal-letteratura Maltija. Jingħad li f'20 sena fl-Awstralja wettaq ferm aktar xogħol letterarju milli f'Malta.

B'apprezzament għal hidmietu b'risq il-letteratura u l-kultura Maltija, fl-1993 l-Għaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' NSW, ipprezentat lil Valentin V. Barbara l-Premju Kulturali Malti.

Wara tant snin ta' hidma intensiva u marda qasira, fis-6 ta' Mejju, 2004 fl-età ta' 84 sena, (Joe) Val. V. Barbara, halla din id-dinja mdawwar mill-familjari tiegħu u xi hbieb.

10 presepji Maltin se jiġu esebiti f'Mużew prestigġjuż f'Washington

Wara li l-presepju tal-Milied Malti diġà ġie esebiti lill-pubbliku barra l-pajjiż, fosthom fil-Vatikan, f'Betlem u fi Vjenna, issa d-dilettanti li jibnu l-presepji għandhom iċ-ċans li juru hilitom ukoll f'Washington, l-Istati Uniti minhabba li bl-inizjattiva tal-Gvern Malti, 10 presepji mibnija Malta se jiġu murja fil-Mużew tal-Bibbja (Museum of the Bible) istituzzjoni globali u edukattiva f'din il-belt li l-għandha l-għan li tqajjem għarfien għall-bibbja.

Il-mużew, li sewa \$500 miljun infetħa f'Novembru tal-2017 f'binja ta' 131,064 metru kwadru u jinsab tlett binjiet biss bogħod mill-Capitol Hill f'Washington. Fih hemm esebiti artefatti affaxxinanti bi storja ta' 4,000 sena. Kemm ilu li nftaħ, il-Mużew diġà żaruh nofs miljun persuna.

Dawk il-Maltin li jinteressahom li jibnu presepju jridu jlestuh sa xahrejn oħra għax imbagħad fil-15 ta' Settembru trid issir l-għażla finali. L-10 li jingħażlu jingħataw iċ-ċans jesebuh fil-Mużew għal hames xhur shaħ – bejn Novembru u Marzu tal-2021. Il-presepju irid jkun ikollu xeni tradizzjonali Maltin inkella jkun bibliku. Jista' jkun ta' kull materjal hliet affarijiet bħas-sagħatar u l-gagazza li huma protetti bil-liġi.



Wiehed milli hadem bis-shiħ biex Malta tkun rappreżentata f'dan il-post prestigġjuż, imfissra bħala opportunità tad-deheb għall-presepisti Maltin, huwa l-Ambaxxatur Malti għall-Istati Uniti Keith Azzopardi.

L-iżgħar presepju irid ikun 1.5 metru wiesgħa u tul, u metru għoli; filwaqt li l-akbar żewġ metri u wiesgħa, b'2.1 metri għoli.

Ma' kull presepju magħżul presepist se jingħata iċ-ċans jitle' Washington, kolloxx imħallas, filwaqt li l-isbaħ presepju jkseb post permanenti fil-Mużew.

Fi kliem id-Direttur tad-Direttorat tal-Kultura Mario Azzopardi din tista' tkun opportunità tajba għal Malta biex tiġbed lejha turizmu religjuż mill-Amerika.

SBS Radio is on again

In our last issue of The Voice of the Maltese we reported that the Maltese radio programmes on SBS Radio were off air due to the Covid-19 restrictions in Melbourne. We are happy to announce that the Maltese programmes are back on air. They were only off air for one week.

Melbourne's 98.9 North West FM to resume transmission August 3

The Voice is pleased to announce that after an absence of four months due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19, the Maltese programme on 98.9 North West FM which is produced by well-known broadcaster Emmanuel Brincat will restart again on August 3.

All the regulars will be back on the programmes, from Malta Daniel Vella, Tony Micallef and Lino Bartolo, from Victoria, Charlie Xerri with Sports, from NSW, the co-editor of The Voice Lawrence Dimech, and poet author and broadcaster Victor V Vella.

All are happy to be back. Support the Maltese Programme on 98.9 North West FM.

Urgent appeal by FOPH to all the Maltese Associations in Australia

Due to the COVID-19 Global pandemic, *Id-Dar tal-Providenza* in Malta is unable to organise its usual fundraising events and activities as a ban has been imposed on mass events. Unfortunately, there is even more bad news as the director of this home, Fr Martin Micallef, was recently forced to take a break from his duties till the end of the year to receive treatment for cancer.

Id-Dar tal-Providenza looks after more than 130 people with severe disabilities and special needs on a 24/7 basis and ages vary from 6 to 84 years of age.

Friends of Providence House is appealing to Maltese associations and business to donate directly through any CBA bank in Australia or alternatively to **contact** the coordinator, Jim Borg on Mb: **0418 825 591** for more information or if one wishes to make a cash donation, to request a donation envelope.

The official bank details are as follows: **Commonwealth Bank of Australia Name of Account:** Friends of Providence House NSW BSB: 062 416 **Account No:** 1019 9448

Donors are being requested to put the name of their Association as reference. If one wishes to obtain an official receipt he should contact the Secretary via email at foph@bigpond.com advising the date and amount of the donation.

FOPH sincerely thanks everybody for his or her support.

Marisa Previtera (Secretary)



Il-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija Angelo Gafà jpoġġi kuruna fuq il-qabar tal-ufficjali tal-pulizija mejtin.

Il-206 sena mill-bidu tal-Korp tal-Pulizija

Fl-okkażjoni tal-206 anniversarju mill-bidu tal-Korp tal-Pulizija, fil-kappella taċ-Ċimiterju ta' Santa Marija fir-Rabat, Ghawdex, l-Amministratur Appostoliku għal Ghawdex, l-Isqof Mario Grech mghejjun mill-kappillan tal-korp tal-pulizija f'Ghawdex Monsinjur Paul Cardona, iċċelebraw quddiesa b'tifkira tal-membri mejtin. Il-kongregazzjoni tmexxiet mill-Kummissarju l-gdid tal-Pulizija Angelo Gafà.

Wara, l-Isqof Grech bierek il-qabar tal-korp, imbagħad segwit iċ-ċerimonja tat-tqegħid tal-kuruni tal-fjuri, fejn spikka l-element ta' rispett għal dawk kollha li servew fil-korp tul is-snin.

Iċ-ċelebrazzjoni ntemmet bil-daqq tal-Last Post u minuta ta' silenzju, minn membri Maltin tal-Banda tal-Pulizija.

Prezenti kien hemm ukoll l-ispetturi Charles Bernard Spiteri u Josef Gauci, is-Supretendent Maurice Curmi, id-Deputat Kummissarju Carmelo Magri, l-Assistent Kummissarju Martin Sammut, l-eks-Supretendent Ray Zammit f'isem l-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Pulizija rti-rati, il-Ministru Clint Camilleri, il-Magistrat Joe Mifsud u l-Kappillan tal-Korp f'Malta, il-Kapučin Raynond Bonnici.

Festa b'differenza

Saret festa b'differenza ad unur il-Madonna tas-Sokkors meqjuma fil-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Kerċem, li giet iċċelebrata b'quddiesa solenni mmexxija mill-mill-Amministratur Appostoliku għal Ghawdex, l-Isqof Mario Grech li wassal ukoll il-messaġġ tiegħu tal-okkażjoni, bis-sehem tal-Kor San Girgor taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro. Carmel P. Grech.

Filghaxija sar pellegrinaġġ ta' talb u radd il-ħajr u l-poplu ġie mhegġeġ jibqa' jitolb biex bl-interċessjoni tal-patruni ta' Kerċem il-Mulej, iżid jehles lid-dinja mill-pandemija tal-koronavirus.

Għall-okkażjoni nharġet ukoll ix-xbieha devota tal-Papa San Girgor il-Kbir, li lejha irrikorrew l-antenati tagħna f'ċirkustanzi simili għal dawk li għaddejjin minnhom bħalissa.

Fil-Pellegrinaġġ hadet sehem il-Banda San Girgor, b'daqq ta' marċi reliġjużi. Fit-tmiem, iz-zuntier tal-Knisja inghatat il-Barka ta' Ġesu' Ewkaristija

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Il-purċissjoni bl-istatwi tal-Madonna tas-Sokkors u tal-Papa San Girgor il-Kbir



Il-Isqof Teuma jiċċelebra l-festa ta' San Ġorġ

Fid-19 ta' Lulju fir-Rabat, giet iċċelebrata l-festa ta' San Ġorġ, il-181 sena mindu l-istatwa titolari bdiet tiġi meqjuma fil-bażilika. Fil-ghodu l-Isqof elett Mons Anton Teuma, flimkien mal-kapitlu tal-bażilika u l-kleru, mexxa Quddiesa Pontifikali. Wara nofsinhar l-Arċipriet Mons Joseph Curmi mexxa iċ-ċelebrazzjoni solenni tat-Tieni Għasar tas-Solenità filwaqt li mbagħad inharġet l-istatwa ta' San Ġorġ tul purċissjoni mat-toroq ewlenin tar-Rabat. Il-Banda La Stella, sellmet lill-qaddis.

The power of books to create empathy and understanding

Children's books have the incredible ability to foster empathy, tolerance and understanding. When we read, we are drawn into the characters' lives and see the world from their point of view. This is especially important in fractured times.

Deborah Abela is a Maltese Australian author. She trained as a teacher and has written twenty-seven internationally published and awarded kids' books. Three of them have been translated and published in Malta by Merlin Publishers.

Teresa was inspired by her father's birth in a shelter in Rabat, Malta in 1942 and migration to Australia and was launched by then President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca in 2016.

In 2019, Deborah and her publishers launched *L-Ispettaklu Stupend Żanżan Kelma* about a shy, anxious girl who, with the support of her family, faces her fears and enters a spelling bee.

This August her picture book for young children, *Bear in Space* will be released in Australia and as *Ors Fl-ispazju* in Malta. It was produced in collaboration with Marjorie Crosby-Fairall who has done the illustrations. Marjorie has illustrated over twenty children's books and has been published internationally. Her awards include the CBCA Eve Pownall Award. This is Deb and Marjorie's first collaboration.

Ors Fl-ispazju was inspired by a real bear that was rescued from poachers in Cambodia and sent to Taronga Zoo in Sydney to be looked after. In her book, bear is different and feels he doesn't belong, so he

disappears into books, especially about space.

When he builds a rocket, the other bears laugh, but when he flies into space, no one teases him or calls him names, but soon he's lonely, until something extraordinary happens.

Deborah told *The Voice of the Maltese* that over the last 20 years as an author, she has met lots of children who feel like Bear. "What I wanted to explore in this book is how being different shouldn't divide us but bring us together, because we all have something unique to share, she said.

"*Ors Fl-ispazju* is about being different and the importance of having friends who love you just the way you are."

You can watch the Video for Teresa on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g1l0DfCil8&feature=emb_logo.

Video for *L-Ispettaklu Stupend Żanżan Kelma* is on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=43&v=p3Z9zqeYZE&feature=emb_logo.

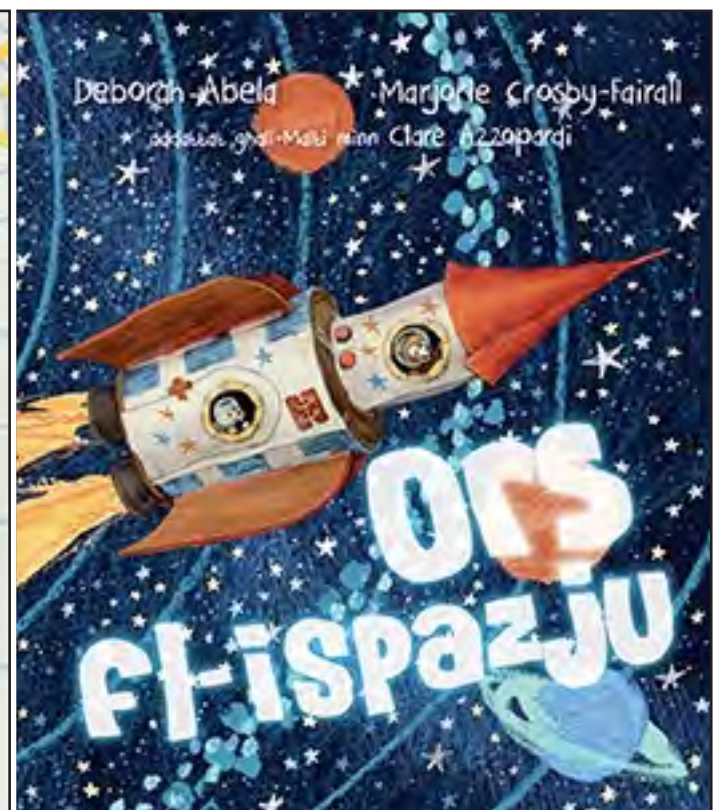
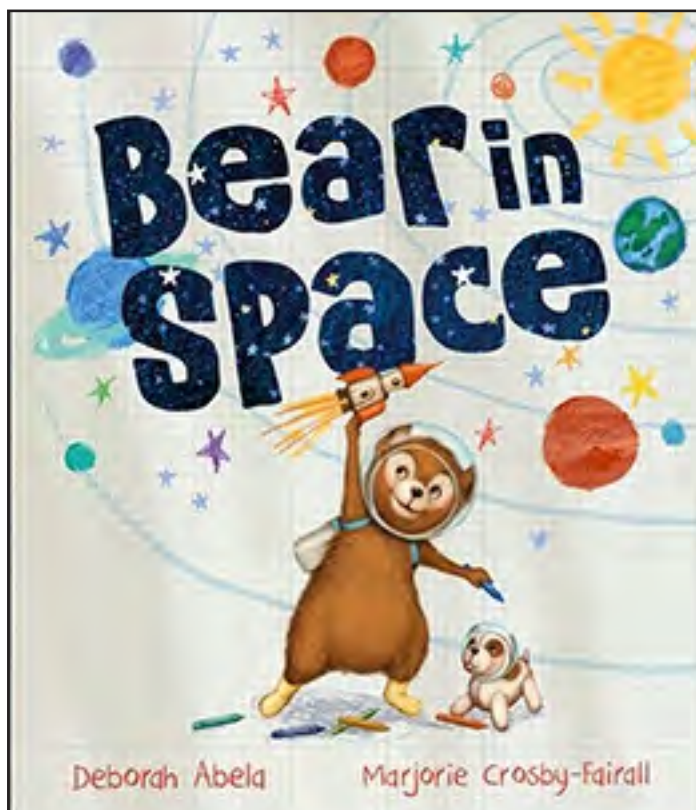
Video for *Bear in Space*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UaUYK2cNKE>.

Among Deborah's other books are her cranky climate change trilogy, *Grimsdon*,



New City and Final Storm, Teresa, A New Australian and The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling bee and The Most Marvelous Spelling Bee Mystery.

Above: Author Deborah Abela. Below: the front covers for the *Bear in Space* book (left) and the one for the Maltese version, *Ors Fl-ispazju*.



Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

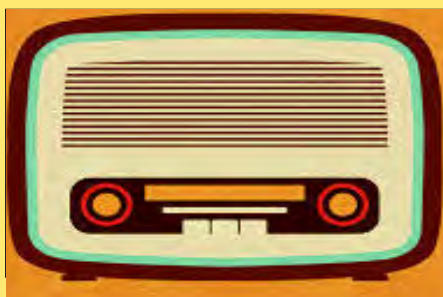
MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

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

On SBS Radio

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

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.



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

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

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

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

days and Sundays at 8am.

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

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

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

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

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

Important Notice

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

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

Avviż lill-qarrejja

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

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

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

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Events for 2020

Sunday October 18:
Fete

Saturday November 14

Dinner Dance

Sunday December 6

Festa San Nikola

Sports: on 2 pages

Tennis has had a golden generation – *but not a golden era*

by John William Devine

(Lecturer in Sports Ethics and Integrity)

It is an established wisdom in boxing that “styles make fights”. The best fights involve opponents of contrasting skills and abilities. Classic rivalries such as Muhammad Ali v Joe Frazier and, most recently, Tyson Fury v Deontay Wilder pitted “boxers” (technicians who rely on boxing craft) against “punchers” (street fighters who rely on punching power).

What is true in the boxing ring is also true on the tennis court: many of the greatest tennis rivalries have also comprised players of markedly different styles. Björn Borg v John McEnroe, Chris Evert v Martina Navratilova, and Pete Sampras v Andre Agassi all matched up a serve-and-volleyer against a baseliner.

These rivalries ran deeper than the closeness of their contests. They showcased two fundamentally different philosophies.

A golden era?

We are told that this is a golden era for tennis. In many ways, this is readily apparent. Tennis athletes have never been fitter, rivalries have never been more intense, and four players of this era – Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams – have a legitimate claim to be the “greatest of all time”. This has truly been a golden generation of tennis players. But it has not been a golden era for tennis.



Wimbledon, 2003: the start of a golden generation: Roger Federer and Serena Williams

The ethics of how sports are allowed to develop and what should count as “progress” are central preoccupations of my academic research in the philosophy of sport. A golden era for a sport should showcase the full spectrum of skills and abilities – of excellences – that the sport makes possible.

By contrast, in this tennis era, the spectrum has narrowed so that all viable playing styles

are fundamentally anchored to the baseline. Serve-and-volley tennis has disappeared, and all realistic grand slam title contenders are baseliners of one kind or another. The sport is more uniform in how it is played than at any other point in the professional era.

This narrowing of excellence is a problem because it limits how a player can express themselves. Sports present obstacles for players to overcome using their skill, guile, tenacity, and physical prowess. Constraints created by the rules and by one's opponent place obstacles in the way of scoring a goal, shooting a basket, or hitting an ace.

The demise of serve-and-volley tennis over the last two decades has shoehorned tennis players into choosing from among a small group of playing styles and it has effectively excluded those whose skill set does not fall within the smaller cluster of excellences that remain relevant in the sport. By narrowing the spectrum of viable strategies, the sport is diminished, not only as an avenue for testing and showcasing a variety of different excellences, but also as an avenue for self-expression.

Serve-and-volley tennis

Serve-and-volley tennis is inherently confrontational. It narrows the physical space between opponents as one approaches the net, it quickens the exchange of shots, and it poses a challenge to “hit past me or through me”. The best serve-and-volleyers are relentless – they return to the net point after point, laying down the same challenge anew.

The beauty of this style lies precisely in its lack of surprise. It was entirely predictable that Pete Sampras or Martina Navratilova would attack the net after their serve. Everyone, especially their opponents, knew this. And they knew that their opponent knew this. But they did it anyway. Like a football goalkeeper, they challenged their opponent to defy the odds and find that tiny spot beyond their reach – point after point.

However, net play is now a dying art. No serve-and-volleyer, male or female, has won a grand slam since Sampras's last US Open victory in 2002. Lighter, more powerful rackets, polyester strings, and the introduction of slower court surfaces and balls have shifted the odds heavily in favour of the baseliner and against the net rusher.

Polyester strings, in particular, have made it easier than ever before for players to gen-

erate enormous spin. This spin in turn allows the baseliner both to dip the ball sharply over the net at the volleyer's feet and to find previously impossible angled passing shots.

The sight of Djokovic or Williams straining every sinew to reach the ball and then, at full stretch, hitting a sharp-angled passing shot for a clean winner is perhaps the defining image of modern tennis.



Achieving a balance of excellences

Any complex sport must allow different styles of play to flourish. Within the possible arrangements of the rules, there is an ideal balance – an *equipoise* – that allows a variety of styles a realistic prospect of success. When a sport achieves such a “balance of excellences”, one style is not favoured to the extent that others are rendered redundant.

However, tennis authorities have allowed the development of equipment to run ahead of reflection on their effects, so that one of the sport's fundamental playing styles has become an historical curiosity, not the foundation of a serious game plan. Approaching the net is now used as little more than an occasional surprise play. Stewards of the sport have failed in their duty to manage its evolution so that all of the excellences that define the game are preserved.

Serve-and-volley tennis was not a feature of the sport from its inception, and it only came to prominence in the 1950s. However, it presented a genuinely innovative way to explore court geometry. Such innovation should not be consigned to the scrapheap.

This is a golden generation of tennis greats who have brought baseline play to a point of perfection, but this era boasts strikingly little diversity in playing styles.

Perhaps we have gone too far for a recalibration, but swimming has banned full body 100% polyurethane suits, and golf has banned the anchored putting technique, so why can't tennis reconsider rackets, strings, courts and balls so that net rushers once again have a fighting chance?

Sports: on 2 pages

Malta friendlies Oct., Nov.

Malta will be playing two football friendly matches against Gibraltar (in October) and Liechtenstein (in November). The football associations of the respective countries reached the agreement after the International body, FIFA, extended this year's October and November international windows to cover three matches.

All international matches that had been scheduled to take place last March and June were postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the lead-up to the UEFA Nations League double away header against Andorra and Latvia in October, Malta will host Gibraltar on October 7 at the National Stadium. Malta and Gibraltar were due to meet in a friendly match in March but the game did not go ahead due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The friendly against Liechtenstein is scheduled for November 11, three days before the home match against Andorra.

Malta will conclude its UEFA Nations League Group D1 campaign with another home game, against the Faroe Islands on November 17, 2020

Flying restart for Eagles: then shot down

Parramatta FC continued where they left off in the NPL4 before the stoppage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in March by convincingly winning the first match on the restart, 4-1 against Granville Rage at Melita Stadium; then lost the next on Saturday away at Western NSW by 1-0.

Against Granville, Parramatta Melita Eagles took a 12-minute lead through Clement Waoci, while Ali Dulleh added a second on 39 to take them to half time enjoying a 2-0 lead.

Their captain, Christopher Godoy Bascur, added a third goal (53rd minute), before the visitors pulled one back (65th minute) but Gabriel Gomes (85th) wrapped it all up with a fourth tally.

In the second match, Parramatta suffered their first loss in 2020, going down to a controversial goal in the 34th minute away to Western NSW FC.

The Eagles enjoyed most possession throughout the match and on 67 minutes had a goal disallowed while Gabriel Gomes struck the underside of the crossbar.

At the end it was a great disappointment for the Parramatta players who now need to regroup for the next clash with University of NSW FC on Sunday, August 2.

*To Parramatta's disappointment, due to COVID-19 the first two victories back in March have been scrapped as all clubs have restarted the season with nil points.

Only 11 clubs are now competing in this division, since newcomers Newcastle Jets FC, have been temporarily promoted to NPL2.

A Finals Series will be taking place, however, there will be no chance of promotion for the Eagles. However, they are still keen to win this competition in 2020.

MOC looking for athletes eligible to represent Malta

The Malta Olympic Committee (MOC), the organisation responsible of sending athletes to represent Malta in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and others, such as the Games of the Small States of Europe, is always in search of athletes who possess a Maltese Passport or who are eligible for a Maltese passport through ancestry, who can make it to Team Malta.

The MOC is currently mainly looking for sportsmen who could represent Malta in athletics, swimming, sailing, judo, table tennis, tennis, basketball, 3x3 basketball, squash and shooting (indoor & outdoor).

It helps with technical funding to Malta's elite athletes and also supports them comprehensively with their technical needs such as anti-doping education, functional diagnostic laboratory (scientific) services, gym use, funds for training camps, etc.

More information can be found on its MOC's website: www.nocmalta.org.

Former Socceroos captain Jedinak retires



At age 35, Asian Cup-winning Socceroos captain Mile Jedinak has called time on his decorated playing career scotching hopes of a final hurrah in the A-League.

The former Central Coast Mariners, Crystal Palace and Aston Villa midfielder who had not played since May 2019 made his retirement official on social media. *He thanked his family for the role they have played during his career and told his sons to "dream big and never stop chasing your dreams".*

"I was a young boy from Western Sydney with a dream to play professional football," he posted on Instagram, adding, "My journey to reach that goal was full of so many experiences, challenges and memories that will always be cherished."

"I want to thank all the clubs I represented or allowing me the opportunity to do so ... It is now time for a new chapter."

Jedinak was released by Aston Villa at the end of national career in October 2018.

His greatest triumph came as Socceroos skipper for their historic Asian Cup triumph on home soil.

Jedinak commenced his professional career with Sydney United and Central Coast Mariners before securing an overseas move to Turkish club Genclerbirligi. He later joined English clubs Crystal Palace and Aston Villa, amassing more than 200 appearances and helped both achieve promotion to the Premier League.

A-League: Sydney FC enjoy 11-point lead

Following are the results since the resumption of play in the Hyundai A-League, with leaders Sydney FC first defeating Wellington Phoenix 3-1 thanks to two goals by young Trent Buhagiar, and then surprisingly suffering a 1-2 home loss against Newcastle Jets.

However they hold on to an 11-point lead in the league ladder over Wellington.

Other results

Perth Glory v. Central Coast	1-0
Brisbane Roar v Adelaide U	0-1
Perth Glory v Wellington	1-2
Central Coast v Newcastle	0-0
Wellington v Adelaide U	1-1
Melbourne V v Western U	1-2

the 2018-19 campaign and was linked with a return to the A-League with incoming expansion team Macarthur FC. As recently as May he said that he still had a "desire to play".

Jedinak has been working as a coach at Villa's academy, and coaching may be where his future now lies.

After his national team debut for Australia in 2008, featuring at three World Cup tournaments - two of them as captain, Jedinak scored 20 goals before he ended his inter-