



Issue  
235

# The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine for the Diaspora

September 1, 2020

Early 20th century photo of  
a Gozo boat heading towards  
the original St Elmo Bridge



The St Elmo steel footbridge to the breakwater  
at the entrance of the Grand Harbour in Valletta  
as seen from the rocks under Fort St Elmo.

The single-span arched truss steel footbridge  
constructed in 2011/12, stands on the site of an  
earlier bridge that had been built in 1906 and  
was destroyed during World War II in 1941.

FRITZ

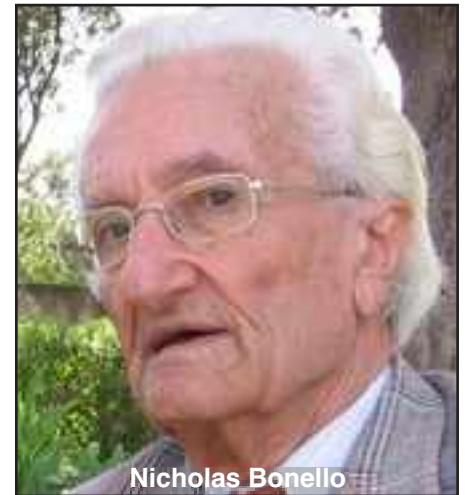




Charled Muscat



Joseph Forace



Nicholas Bonello

# A new High Commissioner in Canberra by New Year

**B**y the beginning of next year, 2021, Malta will have a new High Commissioner in Canberra. After seven years at the helm, by the end of this year, HE Charles Muscat will end his tenure as Malta's High Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand. Although this is not official yet, *The Voice of the Maltese* has acquired this information from reliable sources.

The current High Commissioner was born in Rabat Malta on July 30, 1944, and presented his credentials to the Governor-General Quintin Bryce in September 2013. He is married to Victoria nee Azzopardi. They have three children and six grandchildren. Charles Muscat is the third person to hold this position, having been appointed when he was already a permanent resident of Australia. Initially designated for three years, he served

with distinction for seven.

The first High Commissioner ever appointed from amongst the migrant population was Joseph Forace who served from 1971-1978. He was followed by Nicholas Bonello who served as a non-resident High Commissioner for Malta in Australia between 1986 and 1987. They are both deceased.

The Voice believes that the new High Commissioner will be arriving in Canberra early in the new year not without the pandemic restrictions.

The Malta Government has recently been reviewing diplomatic and consular postings around the world. This normally occurs when there is a change of Government. There have already been changes in Queensland, Western Australia, and Victoria while in South Australia there was a resignation and the appointment of a new

Honorary Consul.

In the meantime, the Council of Maltese Living Abroad has announced another resignation. Shane Delia (*below*), the well-known chef from Melbourne who was representing the other states of Australia (not NSW or Victoria), tendered his resignation for personal reasons. He served for two out of the three years as prescribed by the Act. His replacement is yet to be named.



Speaker Anglu Farrugia during the virtual conference

## Speaker Farrugia discusses counter-terrorism at 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

**S**peaker Anglu Farrugia participated in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament that discussed the theme of '*Counter-terrorism and violent extremism; the perspective of victims*', where he pointed out that the best way to stop illegal actions would be by implementing an effective information sharing system, through which, institutions would find it far easier to identify the global criminal infrastructure and address specific instances of trade-based money laundering. He suggested to parliamentarians to work together to put a stop to illegal actions that endanger the greater good.

He stated that funds generated from trade-based money laundering are currently going directly to finance terrorist

groups that spread violent extremism.

He further questioned why as of yet, no concrete mechanism stands between the United States and the EU to tackle the international plague of trade-based money laundering.

The conference was organised by the IPU in partnership with the Parliament of Austria and the United Nations.

At the end of the virtual conference, a declaration was adopted without amendments by the speakers of parliaments and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Gabriela Cuevas Barron, on 'Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet'.

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

# HomeBuilder Grant criteria finally locked in

by Paul Sant



**O**n June 4, 2020 the Commonwealth Government announced the HomeBuilder Grant, in the hopes that it would act as a lifeline to the construction industry. The grant provides eligible owner-occupiers (including first home buyers) with a grant of \$25,000 to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home.

Announcement of the grant caused much excitement amongst home owners and tradespersons alike, and the feedback seemed to indicate that builders have observed an upswing in enquiries and contracts.

## Where Can I find the details?

Although the Grant was initially announced and defined by the Commonwealth government, in order for it to apply across the nation each state and territory is required to enact its own legislation.

On July 31, the NSW government released

information about the formal eligibility criteria and application process adopted by NSW. On August 13, we received confirmation that application for the NSW version

of the Grant is now open.

You can find the details in relation to the HomeBuilder Grant at the website of your state or territories' revenue authority:

NSW	<a href="https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/grants-schemes/homebuilder">https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/grants-schemes/homebuilder</a>
Victoria	<a href="https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/homebuilder-grant-guidelines">https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/homebuilder-grant-guidelines</a>
Queensland	<a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/financial-help-concessions/homebuilder">https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/financial-help-concessions/homebuilder</a>
Northern Territory	<a href="https://www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/grants-and-concessions/homebuilder-grant">ps://www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/grants-and-concessions/homebuilder-grant</a>
South Australia	<a href="https://www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/grants-and-concessions/homebuilder-grant">https://www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/grants-and-concessions/homebuilder-grant</a>
Western Australia	<a href="https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/homebuilder-program-assist-renovations-and-new-builds">https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/homebuilder-program-assist-renovations-and-new-builds</a>
Tasmania	<a href="https://www.sro.tas.gov.au/about-us/covid-19">https://www.sro.tas.gov.au/about-us/covid-19</a>
ACT	<a href="https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/covid-19-assistance/homebuilder-grant">https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/covid-19-assistance/homebuilder-grant</a>

The HomeBuilder Grant will not replace existing state and territory benefits and programs as well as the Commonwealth's First Home Loan Deposit Scheme and First Home Super Saver Scheme.

## Am I eligible?

The basic criteria are as follows:

1. The "eligible contract" (see below for definition) must be signed between 4 June 2020 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive).
2. Construction must commence within three months from the date of the contract.
3. Construction cannot have commenced before 4 June 2020.
4. you must be a natural person (not a company or trust);
5. you must be aged 18 years or older;
6. you must be an Australian citizen;
6. your income must be below one of the

following two income caps:

- a. \$125,000 a year for an individual; or
- b. \$200,000 per annum for a couple.

## What is an eligible contract?

An eligible contract is a building contract to either:

1. build a new home as a principal place of residence, where the property value does not exceed \$750,000; or
2. substantially renovate your existing home as a principal place of residence, where:
  - a. the renovation contract is between \$150,000 and \$750,000, and
  - b. where the value of your existing property (house and land) is less than \$1.5 million (before the renovation).

An eligible contract can also be:

1. a contract to purchase a house and land package,

2. a contract to purchase an off-the-plan apartment;
3. a contract to knock down and re-build the dwelling; or
4. a contract to build a new home on a vacant block.

## Who is not eligible?

Owner-builders are **ineligible** for HomeBuilder.

Investment properties are **ineligible** for HomeBuilder

A building contract between related parties is **ineligible**. In negotiating a building contract, the parties must deal with each other at arm's length, without some special relationship, such as being a relative. The contract should be commercially reasonable and the price should not be inflated compared to the fair market price.

Constructing of stand-alone granny flats, swimming pools, tennis courts, saunas, stand-alone garages and other structures that are not connected to the dwelling and therefore do not improve the 'accessibility, safety or liveability' of the dwelling are **ineligible**.

Property owned or purchased by a company or trust are **ineligible**.

## How do I apply?

If you are eligible, you may either apply directly with your state or territory Revenue Authority, or an application can be made by your bank if you are in the process of obtaining a mortgage.

*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





# St Paul's Pro-Cathedral in Valletta can now be visited in a special virtual tour

One of the most recognisable buildings on the Valletta skyline is St Paul's Pro-Cathedral with its steeple a landmark notably visible in the Marsamxett Harbour. The cathedral was commissioned by the Dowager Queen Adelaide during a visit to Malta in the 19th Century when she found out that there was no place of Anglican worship on the island.

The landmark is due to the Cathedral's spire constructed with Maltese limestone in a neo-classical style rising over 60 metres. The cathedral has columns with cap-

itals of the Corinthian order while the capitals of the six columns of the portico are of the Ionic order. The internal dimensions of the building are 33.5 metres x 20.4 metres. Behind the main altar is a painting titled *Ecce Homo*, the work of A E Chalon, donated in 2014.

The Cathedral had to close its door to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is now opening its doors to Maltese and tourists through a new virtual tour project that has recently been launched with the assistance of the Malta Tourism Authority.

The tour can be accessed in the comfort of a person's laptop, tablet or phone, on <https://www.stpaulspromalta.org/cathedral-tour/>. It features 12 short videos, with an English-language narrator that

makes it feel like one is going around this glorious iconic Valletta landmark at Independence Square in Malta's capital with one's private tour guide.

The tour is also accessible on the 'St Paul Pro-Cathedral' App that can be downloaded free on any device. The plan is for the videos to have French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese narration shortly.

The cathedral was designed by William Scamp and was built between 1839 and 1844. Queen Adelaide laid the foundation stone on March 20, 1839. Her banner hangs above the choir stalls.

The church building is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands



The steeple, a landmark



The interior of the Cathedral

**The Australian Government is continuing to support families and businesses with a range of initiatives to help get through coronavirus, some of which include:**



## Increasing the instant asset write-off

Lifting the threshold to \$150,000 (from \$30,000) and making more businesses eligible to use it. This has been extended to 31 December 2020.

## JobKeeper payment

To help keep businesses in business and Australians in jobs as our economy reopens, the JobKeeper payment will be extended by six months to March 2021.

## JobSeeker

The Coronavirus Supplement will be extended until December 2020 to those on income support.

## Supporting apprentices and trainees

Wage assistance to help 90,000 small and medium businesses support their more than 180,000 apprentices. This program has been extended by six months to March 2021.

## Coronavirus SME guarantee scheme

Small business loan guarantee extended to June 2021 for loans of up to \$1 million, helping businesses access funding to adapt and innovate during the coronavirus crisis.

## Backing business investment

Offering businesses a time-limited 15 month incentive to invest, by accelerating depreciation deductions.



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## Alfred Asciak 1934 - 2020: A Tribute

# A life dedicated to giving, and bringing joy to other people

**O**n Sunday May 17 this year the Maltese Community in Melbourne was deeply saddened by the death of our dear friend Alfred Asciak endearingly known as "Freddie" to his many friends. Alfred's life was dedicated to giving and supporting numerous religious organisations and Maltese associations, and to bringing so much joy to so many people.

Before arriving in Australia Alfred lived with his family in Sliema. He had a strong devotion to the Salesians. Initially, his intention was to enter the priesthood. He loved to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. However, as he often said, "life was very hard and difficult after the war and so like some of my friends, I approached my father and he agreed to let me come to Australia".

His father had arranged for him to stay in Oakleigh on a farm run by the Salesians. Alfred arrived in Australia in 1949; he worked on this farm for seven years and said that he missed having his family around to talk to and to get advice when he needed to make some decisions.

This love of family and family life was central to Alfred and he always made time for his family, especially his beloved wife, Lillian. Alfred married the love of his life Lillian and had four children Michael, Allen, Jennifer and Wayne.

Alfred would often say that he and Lillian were blessed with their family. Their children all have families and Alfred was a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren and a great grandfather to one child.

### *A depth of devotion to his faith*

Alfred's depth of devotion to his faith was demonstrated by his dedication to the Missionary Society of St Paul, the Dominican Sisters of Malta, the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver and the Salesians.

Alfred ensured that religious celebrations, and there were many he helped organise and support, embodied the solemnity, beauty and the cultural relevance for the congregation.

He would decorate St Mary's Star of the Sea in West Melbourne, Il-Festa Ta' Marija Bambina, St Paul's Chapel in Parkville for Holy Week, and Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Nothing was too hard, every detail was planned and he would ensure that the holiness and beauty of the religious celebration embraced you.

He took pleasure in seeing the joy Il-Presepju would bring to families and how children would walk up to pray and adore Baby Jesus.

It is a difficult task to highlight some of Alfred's commitments, however the Maltese Ex Services Association and the Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Association of Victoria have to be mentioned.

His passion for the Salesians and their work was highlighted by his constant support for the Don Bosco Opportunity Shop in Sydney Rd, Brunswick.

When it came to recycling Alfred was ahead of his time. He was always collecting things and delivering them to the shop. Alfred was a long-standing member of both Associations and he always made sure that important celebrations like ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day were marked with respect and dignity.

On both occasions he would personally make the most beautiful floral wreaths and have the regimental banners ready for the



members to proudly carry. He was proud to march with other members on ANZAC Day.

Following Mass celebrated on Remembrance Day, at St Paul's Chapel, a beautiful wreath made by Freddie was always ready to be placed in front of the George Cross Memorial outside the *Centru Malti* Parkville.

We all have memories of our dear Freddie, a walk around the *Centru*, a Christmas lunch for the elderly or a visit to the Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum.

When people give so much of their lives to caring and helping, it is important to say thank you to Lillian and family for sharing Alfred with us.

Alfred lived his values everyday. He was a true gentleman who practised his faith and was kind, compassionate, caring, and supportive. He always saw the good in people and never spoke an unkind word.

For us, his friends and family we can only pray and hope to bring some of Alfred's values into our lives.



# Memorji u nostalgia ...

## 20 sena mill-Olimpjadi ta' Sydney – is-sehem tal-Maltin

Lawrence Dimech

**G**haddew ghoxrin sena imma l-memorji ghadhom hajjin ... qisu l-bierah. Min qatt jista' jinsa dak l-eċitament u s-sens ta' kburiya, u fit-tmim, is-sodisfazzjoni li s-27 edizzjoni tal-Loghob Olimpiku tal-2000 fil-belt ta' Sydney, skont il-President tal KOI Antonio Samaranch kien l-ikbar u l-isbah?

L-Awstralja kienet diġa organizzata is-sit-tax-il edizzjoni tal-Loghob fl-1956 f'Melbourne fejn ukoll kelli x-xorti li nattendi. Anzi l-attrazzjoni tal-loghob Olimpiku f'Melbourne kienet l-intenzjoni oriġinali tiegħi li niġi l-Awstralja. Kelli x-xewqa li nattendi u niehu parti kif fil-fatt ghamilt, tant li diġa kelli l-biljetti (*ara biljett fin-nofs, taht*) għal ċerti avvenimenti qabel wasalt l-Awstralja. Izda dak episodju iehor.

Kont f'pożizzjoni tajba li nkun naf x'qed isir fit-thejija tal-partiċipazzjoni ta' Malta għal dan l-ewwel loghob tal-millennju lgdid. Kont għadni kemm spiċċajt mill-Konslu Generali. Pippo Psaila, id-direttur tal-isports tal-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti (KOM) kien talabni biex ngħin u nkun parti integrali mid-delegazzjoni Maltija li kellha tiegħu sehem.

Hdimna flimkien qabel il-wasla. Kelli niżgura l-arrangament dwar l-akkommodazzjoni fil-villaġġ Olimpiku f'Homebush Bay. Konna allogġjati fi Street 11 Appt 986 - Purple Dolphin. Kien hemm ukoll l-ghajjuna qawwija tal-komunità Maltija qabel

u tul iż-żjara tal-kontingent Malti speċjalment minn Leslie Cassar, dak iż-żmien rappreżentant tal-Air Malta fl-Awstralja.

Il-kontingent Malti kien magħmul mill-atleti Mark Bonello, Susanne Spiteri, Joe Tabone, Angela Galea, Laurie Pace, Frans Pace u Mario Aquilina flimkien mal-kowċis tagħhom.

Bħala uffiċċjali attendew ukoll, il-presidnet tal-KOM l-Imħallef Lino Farugia Sacco, Joe Cassar, Bertie Muscat, Peter Tortell, Profs Anglu Psaila u Dr K Micallef Stafrace. Ix-Chef-de-Mission kien Philip (Pippo) Psaila, ko-ordinatur mill-aqwa. Kien gie wkoll is-segretarju parlamentari ta' dak iż-żmien, l-Onor. Jesmond Mugliett. Kien prezenti wkoll f'Sydney Louis Grech, li dak iż-żmien kien kap tal-Air Malta, li wara sar ukoll ministru tal-Gvern.

Niehdu hsieb il-kontingent Malti fil-villaġġ Olimpiku mill-att amministrattiv kien hemm jien, mghejjun sewwa u b'effiċjenza minn Connie Grima.

Il-kontingent Malti wasal fil-villaġġ fis-9 ta' Settembru. Il-loghob uffiċjalment beda fil-15 ta' Settembru u ntemm



Kulhadd kellu l-ID. Biex tidhol kont tghaddi minn diversi sferi ta' sigurtà stretta u kultant anke intrussivi. Biex tohrog ma kellekx problema.

Kont tista' tohrog mill-binja tal-akkomodazzjoni u tibqa' fil-villaġġ izda biex tidhol lura ridt li terġa' tghaddi minn sigurtà stretta. Kien hemm min, bi żvista kien jnsa jgħorr miegħu l-ID bir-ritratt. Haww fejn kien ikollna l-problemi.

Gili xi atleti kienu jmorru sal-belt ta' Sydney u meta jiġu lura jsibu li nsew l-ID. Bla ebda mod u taht l-ebda ċirkustanza ma kienu jithallew jidhlu lura. Kien ikollna imorru fl-uffiċċju tas-sigurtà bl-ID tagħhom li kienu hallew warajhom u wara rapport u twissija konna ndaħhluhom lura.

\*Ikompili f'pagna 7



Pippo Psaila u Lawrence Dimech f'ceremonja tal-gheluq

fil-ewwel ta' Ottubru. Ma' Bertie Muscat u Peter Tortell mhux biss hdimna sewwa izda wkoll sirna hbieb.

Kont inkun hemm minn fil-ghodu sa fil-ghaxija. Problemi kienu jinqalghu ta' spiss izda Pippo kien ta' dixxiplina u dejjem gust. Fil-villaġġ kien hemm sigurtà stretta.



Il-wasla tal-kontingent Malti fil-Villaġġ Olimpiku



# Is-sehem tal-Maltin fil-Logħob Olimpiku ta' Sydney

*\*Ikompli minn paġna 6*

Imma darba kellna kważi kriżi meta wiehed mill-uffiċjali hareġ u meta ġie lura ma kellux l-identifikazzjoni. Ma qagħadx għal li talbuh u qanqal hafna kwestjonijiet mal-uffiċjali tas-sigurtà tant li kellu jindahal is-Sindku tal-Villaġġ.

Għamlulna rapport ikrah. Dak il-hin Pippo ma kienx fil-villaġġ għax attenda għal funerals u l-problema waqgħet f'hoġri. Kien persuna li kelli suddizzjoni minnha iżda malajr ikkalmajna s-sitwazzjoni. Id-identifikajtu bil-provi u dhalna lura, għalkemm it-tgergir kontra l-mod kif it-trattaw miegħu tas-sigurtà ma qata' xejn.

Ma kellux raġun għax tas-sigurtà għamluha ċara li lanqas il-Prim Ministru ma seta' jidhol mingħajr identifikazzjoni. Iżda sehibna ppretenda li għax f'Malta kien magħruf, allura l-Awstraljani kellhom ikunu jafuh ukoll.

Kellna sitwazzjonijiet oħra ta' thassib, bħal meta atleta riedet tikri mutur biex tmur Byron Bay (madwar 762km bogħod). Imma qatt ma kellna disgwid serju, anzi fost il-grupp irrenjat hiberija.

Barra l-kompetizzjonijiet u rebħ tal-mid-alji l-iktar li jqajjmu interess u spekulazzjoni huma ċ-ċeremonji tal-ftuħ u l-gheluq ta' kull Olimpjadi. Mhux biss min-naħa li tidher fuq it-TV iżda l-koordinazzjoni li



**Parti mill-kontingent Malti rilassati. Mix-xellug: Lewis Grech, L-imħallef Farugia Sacco, Leslie Cassar u s-Segretarju Parlamentari Jesmond Mugliett**

jkun hemm biex l-atleti u l-amministratturi jaslū halli jieħdu sehem u jimmarrjaw.

Kmieni fil-jum tač-ċeremonja tal-ftuħ kellna noħorġu quddiem fejn konna al-logġjati u meta missna ġejna meħuda mill-villaġġ sa Homebush fejn sibna eluf ta' atleti u oħrajn, kulhadd quddiem il-plakka u l-bandiera li tindika l-pajjiz. Ma mornix dritt lejn l-istadju ewlieni iżda f'post qrib (stadju ieħor) fejn stennejna s-sejha biex nimmarċjaw, għax il-pajjizi jiġu msejja wiehed wara l-ieħor alfabetikament, min-barra l-pajjiz tal-lokal u l-Greċja.

Stennejna ħin twil u sa anke tawna nieklu. Il-mument storiku wasal u Malta ġiet imsejja biex timmarċja. Taht il-bandiera Maltija, b'eċċitament u herqa kbira dhalna taht in-navi tal-Olympic Stadium.

Pass wara pass mid-dlam ta' taht il-mina tasal fit-tarf u f'daqqa waħda tara quddiemek eluf kbar ta' spettaturi u tisma' ghajta waħda ta' ferħ li mhux biss tim-blukkalek is-smiegh iżda titfghek fi stat mhux reali. F'kelma waħda tiffriza.

Min kif hrigna matul id-dawra quddiem l-ispettaturi sa kemm wasalna fil-post al-lokat għalina fin-nofs, fost ghajjat u eċċitament qawwi, naf li l-familja tiegħi u l-kumplament tad-dinja iffukati fuqna, ngħid is-sewwa ma nafx kif wasalt.

Ftit niftakar, donni kont f'holma. Bla dubju kont f'wiehed mill-isbah mument ta' hajti.

Mhix xi haġa komuni li tirrappreżenta lil pajjizek f'okkażjoni unika u storika bħal dik. Għač-ċeremonja tal-ftuħ ma tkunx fost l-ispettaturi fli stand iżda f'nofs il-grawnd taht il-bandiera Maltija tithallat mal-aqwa atleti tad-dinja.

Jimmarċja wkoll kien hemm Leslie Cassar li kien ta' ghajnuna kbira għall-kontingent Malti fi NSW. Konna l-unici zewġ Maltin lokali li ġejna mogħtija dan l-unur.

Ma kienetx l-unika okkażjoni għax l-istess esperjenza għaddejna minnha meta hadna sehem fič-ċeremonja tal-gheluq ta' dawn l-ewwel Olimpjadi tal-millennju l-gdid. Il-partecipazzjoni ta' Malta ta' seba' atleti, hames kowċis u tmien amministratturi qajjmet entużjażmu qawwi fost il-komunità Maltija l-aktar fi NSW fejn saru attivitajiet ta' merħba minn kwazi kull għaqda Maltija.

Il-kontingent Malti żar kull ċentru Malti u attenda għall-okkażjoni annwali reliġuza fil-Katidral ta' St Mary fil-festa tat-8 ta' Settembru. Bhas-soltu, ghoxrin sena ilu l-komunità Maltija wriet kemm bqajna tassew ulied Malta għalkemm ngħixu bogħod mill-kenn tas-swar ta' gżirtna.

**Id-delegazzjoni kollha Maltija f'Parlament House NSW flimkien mal-Onor. John Aquilina (bil-qiegħda fin-nofs)**



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



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## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# COVID-19: Back to square one

*Charlene Mifsud from Melbourne, Victoria. writes:*

**L**ike most people, most probably all over the world who had been used to spending holidays abroad, this year is different from any previous ones. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel some plans we might have had to take some leisure time in abroad, for my family and me personally, in my beloved Malta. Given the seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic we are unable to take the holidays we had planned.

However, I have the consolation that, thanks God, health-wise, none of my family has been affected. We have been strictly adhering to the restrictions by the health authorities and even managed to set our-

selves some goals that are helping us to concentrate on things that we normally ignore.

After years of spending money by hiring a professional to look after our front and back gardens, my husband has taken to gardening once again, and he is doing a great job of it as well. Years back, gardening were his hobby, but then with three kids and later four grandchildren around, his priorities changed. I too returned to my two main hobbies of crafts and cooking.

The breadth of the impact of COVID-19 is hard to comprehend; it helped us to concentrate on doing the things we used to love doing before the pandemic. It is very challenging, but we are succeeding in protecting ourselves and to stay safe in anticipation of better times to come. This knowledge is also keeping us sane.

We are going through a second wave, but if we are careful, my instincts tell me that common sense that prevailed previously will prevail once again.

## Stirring the feelings and the emotions

*Ron Borg from Adelaide, South Australia writes:*

**V**ery often we read stories and articles in newspapers and newsletters, but I think none are so engaging as those that express strong emotions by their authors. Two such items appeared in the last edition of *The Voice of the Maltese*.

Lawrence Dimech's nostalgic reminiscence about Lino Vella in the fifties certainly painted a vivid picture of the feelings of many a Maltese migrant that emigrated to a foreign shore.

Also, Peter Paul Ciantar's write up about the traditional *Ghana Malti*. It conveyed the expressionism that the Maltese *Ghannejja*, like il-Budaj and Indri il-Pupa, were able to impart with their *Ghana*. It is great to be able to read such emotive articles that can stir our feelings and imagination.

## Quo Vadis SBS TV?

*Tony Mangion from Sunshine, Victoria, writes:*

**Y**ou may not realise how much we miss *The Voice* magazine. It was indeed a blank weekend when on Sunday August 23 we had no magazine and no SBSTV news from Malta.

This no news from Malta on Sunday SBSTV is getting so tedious. It is happening much too often.

SBS keep telling us that when there is an international sports event on, that takes priority. This is the same channel that has taken the UK Premier League and the A-League off air. This year they even deprived us of transmission of the FA Cup Final from Wembley Stadium.

To deny us of our half-hour slot on Sunday is a slap in the face for the Maltese community. What else are we going to lose? This is occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst period in our State when news becomes even more important than usual.

*Quo Vadis indeed SBS?!*

## We need to heed the advice

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic is here to stay. But we must not let it run our lives. We must not take it lightly. We need to listen, and heed the advice of the health authorities, otherwise it will ruin our lives, literally.



## Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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# Il-Kanonku Mikiel Attard u Santa Katarina tad-Dahla limiti tar-Rabat

**D**aż-żmien, u issa ilu fti tas-snin mhux hażin, fit-triq, fil-biċċa 'l kbira tas-sacerdoti bħal abbandunaw is-suttana u minflok jilbsu b'mod ċivili, b'xi libsa ntrira, glekk u qalziet u b'xi qmis skura minn taht. Mhux hekk Dun Mikiel Attard li kien kanonku r-Rabat Malta. Dan baqa' jilbes is-suttana sa ma miet, fit-22 ta' Mejju 2010.

Dun Mikiel Attard (Ta' Venuta), iben sagristan fil-parroċċa tar-Rabat, kien magħruf bħala raġel umli u iddedikat għall-konfessjonarju għall-qrar. Hu kien ukoll responsabbli għall-Kappella sabiha ta' Santa Katarina tad-Dahla, qrib il-lokal tar-Rabat, u l-kantur fil-parroċċa tar-Rabat.

Fil-festi ewlenin kien jintlema minn hin għal hin hiereġ fuq l-altar bil-virga fuq spalltu jagħti n-nota liċ-ċelebrant halli dan jintona man-nota tiegħu. Kien jieħu din il-hidma b'serjetà kbira. In-nota liċ-ċelebrant kien iktantaha minn taht l-ilsien u l-migemgħa ma kinetx tisimghu jagħmel dan.

Donnu li din ta' leħnu u l-kant kienu fih għax anke fil-quddies kantata tal-Hadd filgħodu, mill-qassisin kollha miġbura wara l-altar magħgur, kont tisimghu jkanta l-kant Gregorjan (sic!). Donnu li leħnu kien jordom lil tal-oħrajn.

Niftakar sewwa li meta kienet tkun riesqa l-festa ta' Santa Katarina tad-Dahla, peress li kien responsabbli mill-kappella, kien isejjaħli fl-Oratorju tal-Knisja tar-Rabat jitlobni nagħmillu xi avvizi għall-festa fuq Radju Malta. Pront kien joħroġ il-flus mill-kartiera u jgħidli, "Ara x'tonfoq."



Il-Kappella sabiha ta' Santa Katarina tad-Dahla fil-limiti tar-Rabat



Il-Kanonku  
Dun Mikiel Attard

Fil-fatt, sa mill-ewwel sena tiegħu (1953) li kien responsabbli mill-Kappella ta' Santa Katarina Dun Mikiel kien kabbar bis-shiħ il-festa ta' Santa Katarina u għad li jgħid li b'diet issir b'aktar solennità.

Għall-bidu, il-festa kienet issir fil-gurnata liturgika tal-qaddisa fil-5 ta' Novembru, imma wara, bħal hafna mill-festi tal-irhula, anke bit-thabrick



Peter Paul Ciantar

ta' Dun Mikiel, b'diet issir fl-aħhar Hadd ta' Settembru, f'temp ferm aħjar.

Minhabba f'hekk il-festa, l-aktar dik ta' barra, kibret sewwa, u minbarra s-sehem tal-Banda Konti Ruggieru tar-Rabat, kienet tiehu sehem fiha wkoll il-Banda Santa Katarina taż-Zurrieq. Qabel kienet tiehu sehem il-Banda St Patrick.

Naturalment, kif wiehed jistenna, iż-Żurrieq ukoll jistennew din il-festa li ssir f'dan il-post f'kampanja tant sabiha fil-periferija tar-Rabat.

Dun Mikiel Attard dam responsabbli tal-kappella għal 45 sena shaħ, sas-sena 1998 sakemm setgħet ittiħ saħtu. Għalkemm qatt ma kellu xi nomina uffiċjali ta' rettur tal-kappella, fi żmien fil-kappella sar wisq iżjed milli qatt sar fl-imghoddi.

Anzjani mill-akkwati kienu qaluli li jiftakru sew lill-Kanonku Mikiel Attard imur fil-kappella l-Hamis ta' qabel l-ewwel Ġimgħa tax-xahar u

jkun disponibbli għall-qrar. Kien jorqod fis-sagristija tal-knisja u l-ghada jqum jiċċelebra l-quddies fl-4 a.m. Nhar ta' Hadd kien iqaddes fis-6 a.m.

Minbarra l-quddies tal-Hadd, fil-Kappella tad-Dahla kienu jsiru wkoll (u għadhom isiru sal-lum) il-funzjonijiet ta' żmien il-Milied .... u jkomplu b'dawk fi żmien ir-Randan b'kors ta' eżerċizzji għal kulhadd, u anke Via Sagra fit-triq.

Naturalment, il-qofol tal-kappella, meta tkun armata hu fil-jiem tal-festa ta' Santa Katarina. Hawn tispikka l-aktar is-sbuħija tal-istatwa tal-qaddisa li wkoll saret fi żmien Dun Mikiel fl-1958.

L-istatwa nħadmet minn Ġormu Dingli (tar-Rabat) u giet immudellata fuq dik taż-Zurrieq tal-iskultur Mariano Gerada. Willie Attard kien għamel l-isgraffita għal din l-istatwa tad-Dahla, filwaqt li iżjed tard, Charlie Azzopardi ħadem in-niċċa u l-bradella tagħha.

Forsi ftit jafu li minbarra l-hidma pastorali fil-kappella, il-Kanonku Attard ħadem ukoll bis-shiħ mal-awtoritajiet ċivili biex fiż-żona jiddaħħlu wkoll l-ilma u d-dawl elettriku. Fil-fatt, fl-1984 saru wkoll is-servizzi sanitarji meħtieġa f'din il-parti rurali marbuta mal-kampanja tar-Rabat.



# 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**



**X**'sena qed ngħaddu minnha, hux? Lejn tmiem ta' qabilha, kon-na bdejna nisingħu b'virus gdid, infettiv u qattiel, bir-rapporti johorġu biss minn post wiehed fid-dinja - Wuhan fiċ-Ċina. Forsi whud minnkum, u jien ukoll, hsibna jew ittama-jna b'mod fierah li l-effetti jirnexxielhom ikunu mrażza f'dak il-post ġeografiku.

Ma tantx domna biex indunajna li mhux ir-rapporti biss kienu herġin minn dak il-post, u forsi minn xi postijiet ohra wkoll li ma nafux bihom. Dan għaliex fid-dinja tal-lum, (jew tal-bierah biex inkun preċiż), il-komunikazzjoni u t-trasport huma verament globali, u fl-istess żmien kienu qed itiru hafna nies bil-virus imma mhux neċessarjament b'sintomi, minn hemm għal kull rokna tad-dinja, direttament jew indirettament.

Illum wasalna fejn wasalna, b'miljuni ta' nies infettati, u mijiet tal-eluf mejtin, u haġa tal-ghageb, l-ikbar għadd ta' infezzjonijiet u mwiet jinsabu fl-iktar pajjiż b'saħħtu ekonomikament, teknologikament u militarment, jiġifieri l-Istati Uniti tal-Amerka.

Il-mexxejja ta' dan il-pajjiż għadhom sal-ġurnata mqaddsa tal-lum itaptpu lilhom infushom fuq daharhom u jiftaħru x'suċċess qed ikollhom fit-trażzin tal-marda. M'hemm għalfejn insem-muhom b'isimhom dawn l-idjoti.

Hafna pajjiżi għaddew mill-ewwel burraxxa, imbagħad giet itieni mewġa. Il-maġġoranza tal-pajjiżi tfew partijiet sostanzjali mill-ekonomiji tagħhom sabiex it-tifrix komunitarju tal-COVID-19 jitrażzan, u f'nuqqas ta' vaċċin, din flimkien ma' miżuri ta' prekawzjoni bażiċi bħad-dbegħid minn xulxin, l-ħasil tajjeb tal-idejn, l-ilbies tal-maskri u l-iżolament huma l-uniku arma li għandna biex nippruvaw ma nitteħdux, jew jekk ahna infettati ma ninfettawx lil haddiehor.

Xogħol fuq il-vaċċini qed isir f'hafna laboratorji u istituti tal-medicina madwar id-dinja. Sal-25 ta' Awwissu 2020, kien hemm 31 vaċċini li kienu f'xi istadju kliniku, jiġifieri li qieghdin jigu ttestjati fuq in-nies, sitta minnhom qieghdin fit-tielet stadju, dak fejn il-vaċċin kandidat jintuża fuq għadd kbir (eluf) ta' voluntieri biex jiġi stabbilit jekk humiex effikaċi u jekk mhumix perikolużi.<sup>1</sup>

Apparti minn dawn, hemm ukoll 142 kandidat ieħor li għadhom fl-istadju ta' qabel, jiġifieri fejn it-testijiet isiru fl-animalli.

B'dan ix-xogħol kollu, hemm it-tama li talinqas wiehed mill-vaċċini jinstab effettiv li i jista' jingħata b'sigurtà, imma dan mhux garantit. Il-virus tal-HIV (*human immunodeficiency virus*), li rapporti dwaru ssemmev għall-ewwel darba fl-1981,<sup>2</sup> għadu sal-lum m'għandux vaċċin, imma teżisti terapija (ART - *antiretroviral therapy*)<sup>3</sup> li tippermetti lil dawk infettati li jkomplu jgħixu, filwaqt li l-

## Għajjejna



kura għadha qed tiġi riċerkata<sup>4</sup>, kwazi 40 sena wara!

Ikun straordinarju jekk jinstab vaċċin imqar sena biss wara s-sejbien tal-COVID. Il-President tar-Russja Vladimir Putin ma qagħadx lura milli jinki lill-Amerikani meta semma lill-vaċċin kandidat mill-Istitut ta' Riċerka Gamaleya, wiehed mill-31 kandidat imsemmi qabel, bħala Sputnik V, referenza ovvja għall-fatt li r-Russji kienu għaddew lill-Amerikani fl-ewwel satellita li kienet ittellgħet fl-ispażju.

Hemm il-biża' li dan il-vaċċin għadu ma għaddiex minn biżżejjed testijiet qabel ma

jibda jintuża b'mod wiesgħa fil-popolazzjoni ġenerali Russa.<sup>5</sup>

In-nies għajjew. Għajjew jiftakru li jridu joqogħdu attenti. Xebghu joqogħdu lura, whud jissakkru god-dar u/jew fis-subborgi tagħhom, jahdmu mid-dar (jekk għad għandhom impjieg).

Hemm min jisfida l-ordijiet li jsiru fl-interess tas-saħħa pubblika, anke b'riskju għal saħħithom personalment u anke l-biża' li jlaqqu xi ċitazzjoni shuna shuna.

L-attenzjoni xi ftit jew wisq bdiet iddur fuq dik il-haġa li tista' tagħti xi xaqq ta' dawl fid-dlam tal-lum, ċjoe vaċċin. Digħa bdew il-polemiċi dwar jekk vaċċin li jkun rakkomandat, għandux jittiehed.

Hemm naturalment dawk li huma kontra kull vaċċin (*anti-vaxxer*). Imbagħad hemm dawk li huma kontra vaċċin li ġie żviluppat minn xi linja ta' ċelluli li kienet parti minn abort, bħal ma hu l-vaċċin tal-Università ta' Oxford, wiehed mis-sitta l-iktar avvanzati fit-testijiet u li l-gvern Awstraljan għandu ftehim għalih.

L-oġġezzjoni saret mill-knejjes Anglikani, dik Kattolika u l-Ortodossa Griega, fittra lill-Prim Ministru Awstraljan Scott Morrison għalkemm mhux ċar li se jipprojbixxu lill-fidili tat-twemmin milli jkunu vaċċinati jekk il-vaċċin ikun 'moralment kompromess' u jitolbuhom jistennew ieħor li ma jkunx.<sup>6</sup>

Ahna li qed ngħixu f'dan il-perjodu, m'ahnix se ninsewħ kif gieħ u lahaq!

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**T**he article by Ron Borg in which he gave his version about the plan for the invasion of Malta, titled *Operation HERKULES* that was hatched by the Germans and Italians, that thankfully never came, generated a lot of interest among our readers, and rightly so.

As an overview, it is worth recalling that in 1942, in the midst of World War II, the European Axis forces had most of Europe under their control, ruling with iron fists.

The Germans had conquered France, the Low Countries, Poland, and the Balkans, and were battling it out with the Soviets, while the Italians had to keep their control

of North Africa firm, and were pushing the British back into Egypt.

Enter *Operation Herkules*, the plan for the invasion of Malta drawn up in 1938 after the 2nd Italo-Ethiopian War. The Italians wanted to seize Malta to cut off British supply to Egypt and their Middle Eastern colonies.

With the Germans now in the war, and seeing how frequent the Mediterranean convoys' movements are, the Italians believed it was the perfect time to strike.

However, in our timeline, the Italian Royal Navy disagreed with many of the generals' ideas, and didn't want to waste

their ships on an invasion of a tiny island, so the operation was cancelled.

In this issue of *The Voice*, Joseph Buttigieg from Toongabbie NSW, another avid reader of the magazine, who is well versed on the war years, gives other versions about the "Operation" put forward by two other authors in particular, namely Ernle Bradford, the noted 20th-century British historian specialising in the Mediterranean world and naval topics, and James Holland, an English historian, author and broadcaster who specializes in the history of World War II.

Now Read on....



**I**t was interesting to read Ron Borg's version of 'Operation Herkules' during the Second World War in Malta. The English Author, Ernle Bradford who wrote "Siege: Malta 1940-1943, had another version of the intended land invasion of Malta.

James Holland who wrote 'Fortress Malta' also reasoned that if the Italians tried to invade, they should have done it at the outbreak of war because at the time there were only four trained in-

fantry battalions on Malta, and although in May the following year, the 8th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment arrived, they had less than four thousand fighting men.

In addition, there was the King's Own Malta Regiment and with one whole company of the 2nd Battalion made up of Boy Scouts, it was hardly inspirational.

According to Ernle Bradford, the Italian plan 'Operazione C3: Malta was little more than a pipe dream. It called for some forty thousand trained troops, landing craft, paratroops, air cover of five hundred planes and the naval superiority they had in the area. But the Italians had relatively few motorised barges, not enough to land all the troops on the island.

The Germans expected the invasion to take place at the beginning of the war, but no one in the Italian High Command ever imagined that this was possible!

According to Ernle Bradford, the only suitable places for landing were on the northeast coast in the areas of Mellieha and St. Paul's Bay, but these beaches were so well defended that it would have been suicidal for the Italians if they landed on our shores.

The other place they could have landed was in the big open bay of Marsaxlokk in the south. But once again this 'South Harbour' with its sloping ledges or rock surrounded by immediately rising ground, would have been a death trap and the Italians were shaking their heads in despair. Therefore they decided that the only way to neutralise Malta would be an invasion from the air.

It was reasoned at the time that heavyweight of bombing, coupled with mining of the approaches, so that no shipping could get through to relieve it, would be seen as the only answer to the problem. Even that plan wasn't going to be easy because of the patchwork of tiny fields and terraces, all lined and crisscrossed with silvery-grey dry-stone walls that made landing impossible.

Ernle Bradford was right when he wrote that the Luftwaffe pilots thought they had nothing to fear when they invaded Malta from Sicily and felt disdain for such a humble mission targeting an island with a few British soldiers and inhabited by peasants.

However, their losses taught them absolute respect for the word 'fortress' and an understanding of its meaning.

Those readers who are interested in reading about the *Battle of Malta* should pick up a book by Tony Spooner titled *Warburton's War*. This is the story of the life of Maverick Ace pilot, Adrian Warburton, who fearless in the air shot down nine enemy aircraft and won fame in Malta for his invaluable photoreconnaissance work at Taranto, Sicily and North Africa.

Joseph Buttigieg



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## Roundup of News About Malta



The Cabinet meeting at the Chamber.  
Inset: Prime Minister Robert Abela

# Prime Minister shares Economic Vision during meeting at the Malta Chamber

Prime Minister Robert Abela presented the Government's vision concerning the future of Malta's economy during a historical cabinet meeting held at the Exchange Buildings of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise, and Industry. During the historical cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister spoke about his economic ambitions for Malta for the coming years, which, he said, would be based on five pillars that would serve as an economic model for the future. They comprised good governance, economic growth for a better quality of life, education for a long-term healthy economy, infrastructural improvements, and the quality of air (for the island to be carbon neutral by 2050 with intermediate targets every ten years).

The Chamber President David Xuereb praised the Government's vision. He said these principles matched exactly the Chamber's.

The Prime Minister noted that the model is based on the two billion euro acquired by the Government from the EU Budget over the coming seven years.

He said that despite Malta having to focus on the continual changes caused by the pandemic in the last seven months, he still felt the need to share the Government's vision over the coming years.

The Prime Minister said that the first point of basic principle was that good governance was empirical to a healthy economy, and with regards to commerce and business, having a level playing field could only be accomplished through transparent governance. This was supported by the first result achieved during the past six months.

When it comes to economic growth for a better quality of life, Dr Abela stated that it was futile to have economic growth, if society is not living better. He added that it was vital that sustainable economic growth leads to quality work, more quality time for families and more compassionate society to achieve overall equality.

He maintained that the Covid-19 pandemic provided the right opportunity to re-think and re-strategise more comprehensively. Hence, together with the Ministry of Tourism, the focus would be shifted on attracting quality tourists who appreciate Malta culturally and historically.

Another pivotal element for an efficient economy was a strong educational system, the Prime Minister said. He added that an educational reform would take place to prepare students in subjects such as Life Sciences, robotics, coding, IT infrastructure, software development, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Quantum, Cyber Security and Industry 4.0 which were the backbone of the Government's vision for the economy.

He said that support would be given to educators as well as students to modernise the educational infrastructure.

### *Malta's infrastructure*

Another principle the government is following is the strengthening of infrastructure, that is, the construction of roads all around the Maltese islands, better transport systems and digital infrastructure. The Prime Minister stated that serious discussions and studies are needed to make even more efficient the public transport system.

Dr Abela pointed out that the project to have a stronger second fibre-optic cable connecting Malta and Gozo was nearing completion that could help to attract new industries to Malta's sister island.

The Prime Minister said that the final point of principle, relating to Malta becoming completely Carbon Neutral by 2050 (with intermediate goals in 2030 and 2040), might be the hardest challenge yet, as in he believes that the environment was the most crucial element needed to achieve a better quality of life. He pointed out the need to get the sharpest minds in Malta to work on such a project that would span over six legislatures.

Dr Abela also addressed the need to include more women within his economic vision. He said he wanted to see more women within high economic roles making decisions. Not because they are women, but because they are competent and can give a different perspective.

The Prime Minister concluded his presentation by stating that COVID-19 did not alter his views towards Malta's economic future. It merely strengthened this overall strategy that can only be achieved through better governance, a stronger social model, and a healthier environment.



## Roundup of News About Malta



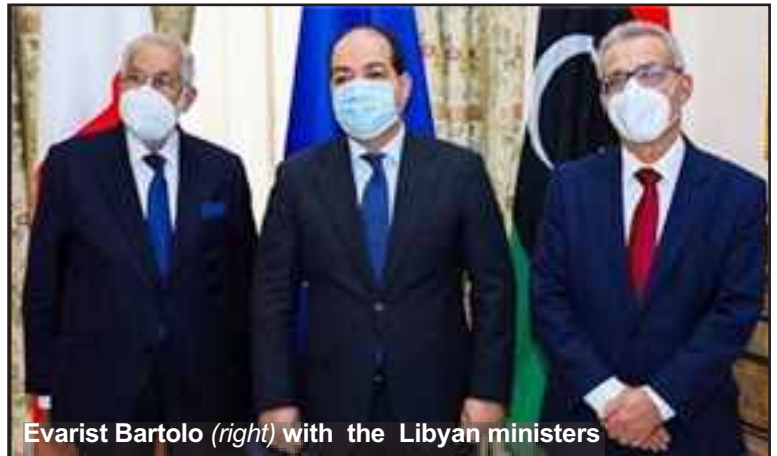
**M**inister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo expressed Malta's full support for the declarations by Libya's rival administrations, the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the House of Representatives in Tobruk to immediately cease all military activities in Libya. The ceasefire in Libya's long-running conflict and the call for the lifting of an oil blockade by rival authorities based in the east of the country was announced by GNA Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj.

In his meeting in Malta with two high officials from the GNA, Libya's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Mateegh, and the North African country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Taher Siala, Minister Bartolo expressed Malta's full support for the two declarations by the respective factions to immediately cease all military activities in Libya.

Both sides discussed at length the critical importance of inter-Libyan dialogue and the inclusion of all actors, including youth and women. The important role of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the Central Bank of Libya to address the economic challenges and the needs of the Libyan People was also emphasised.

Throughout the discussions, Malta also reiterated its support for a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political solution, and its readiness to serve as a channel of communication towards this end.

The unification of Libya remains imperative for the well-being



Evarist Bartolo (right) with the Libyan ministers

## Malta fully supports ceasefire between Libya warring factions

and benefit of the Libyan people. In this spirit, the resumption of the negotiation process within the framework of the UN-led Berlin Process is the way forward.

The Libyan delegation was also received by President of Malta George Vella at Sant'Anton Palace where discussions focused on

the latest developments in Libya and the need to ensure the economic development and social progress of that country and the Libyan people.

Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled long-time leader Muammar Al Qathafi, who was later killed. The country has since split between rival east- and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

Analysts of the Libya scene state that the surprise ceasefire announcement offers a glimmer of hope for peace, however, caution scepticism after years of violence.



## High honour for Maltese in ITLOS

**F**or the second term running, Malta's Professor David J. Attard has been elected as Judge to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) by virtue of the highest number of votes (160) amongst the candidates.

The voting was made during the meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Professor Attard (pictured), who has dedicated over thirty-five years to the service of the codification and progressive development

of the law of the sea, was elected as Judge for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), which also include Australia and Canada. He was first elected to the Tribunal in June 2011 and also served as the V/President of the same Tribunal.

He has held the position of the Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) since 1992. Under his expert directorship, over a 1000 government lawyers and officials hailing from 146 states have graduated in International Maritime Law Institute.

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo extended his congratulations to Professor David J. Attard and conveyed his appreciation to the officials within the Ministry and the Malta Missions abroad.

## Malta allotted EU funds to alleviate COVID-19 pressure on employment

**M**alta is amongst the first tranche of countries to be allocated funds by the European Union, amounting to EUR 243.6 million in loans, as part of the Council's implementing decision on the European instrument for temporary support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE).

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Malta is supporting employment and enterprises through various schemes and SURE is meant specifically

to assist in alleviating the pressure placed on public finances that emerged from the increase in public expenditure required in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

SURE is an instrument that provides financial assistance to European Member states of up to €100 billion in the form of loans from the EU. It has been created to fight the negative economic and social consequences of the outbreak.

This source of financial assistance targets specifically policies related to the preser-

vation of employment, mainly short-time work schemes and related measures.

Minister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna expressed satisfaction at this development as Malta has supported the SURE instrument throughout all its stages of discussion. Such an instrument financed by the European Commission, through the borrowing from financial markets, is the first of its kind.

Malta welcomed the increased and timely cooperation that has led to this action.



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Il-COVID-19 u Malta

**W**ara s-suċċess inizzjali fil-kontroll tal-imxija ta' COVID-19, bħall-pajjiżi l-oħra Malta, ntaqet mit-tieni mewġa tal-pandemija, din id-darba b'saħħa akbar minn qabel bl-ghadd tal-infettati jum wara l-iehor ikunu oghla minn tal-ewwel fażi. IMMA fl-aħħar jiemi l-ghadd reġa' beda jonqos sew.

Hafna mit-tort tat-tieni mxija ntefa fuq il-fatt, li meta nfethu l-libien għall-attivitajiet ġew aċċetati wkoll dawk tal-massa, u ngħata permess ta' xi marċi f'jum il-festi titulari ta' xi bliet u rħula.

Fil-fatt l-ikbar ġemgħa tal-nfettati ġie minn *party* f'wahda mil-lukandi kbar Maltin u l-marċ tal-Festa ta' Santa Venera.

Dan wassal għal kritika qawwiya lill-Gvern, u partikularment lill-Prim Ministru u l-Ministru tat-Turiżmu, li ġew mixlija li fethu jdejhom wisq biex jgħinu

lill-industrija tat-Turiżmu u l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż.

Saħansitra kien hemm l-Għaqda Repubblika, u individwu jitolbu għal inkjesta Maġisterjali fuq il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela. Dan barra x-xita ta' kummenti li deheru f'diversi ġurnali lokali.

Min-naħa l-oħra l-midja li tappoggja lill-Gvern sostniet li l-miżuri li ha l-Gvern saru wara konsultazzjoni mas-Supretendent tas-Saħħa Pubblika u bi qbil fuq hafna punti mal-imsieħba soċjali b'rabta mal-miżuri ta' prekawzzjoni dwar l-imxija. Hawn, l-unika għaqda li ma qablitx mal-miżuri kollha kienet l-Għaqda tat-tobba, il-MAM.

Min-naħa tal-Gvern qed jgħid li l-imxija tinsab taħt kontroll u anke sostna li mxebbah ma' pajjiżi oħra tamparna speċjalment, bħal-Lussemburgu, ninsabu f'qagħda ferm aħjar.

## Azzjonijiet industrijali u miżuri ta' prevenzjoni

**I**nfatti l-MAM mhux talli kkriikat lill-Gvern u partikularment lill-Prim Ministru billi tefgħet it-tort kollu fuq il-Gvern, li minkejja li ha xi miżuri ma waqqafx għal kollox l-attivitajiet tal-massa. Minhabba f'hekk waslet hadet azzjoni industrijali u waqqfet hafna mis-servizzi li jagħtu t-tobba fl-Isptarjiet, fil-bereġ u ċ-Ċentri tas-Saħħa.

Aktar tard meta saru xi regolamenti godda l-MAM naqqset xi azzjonijiet u neħhiethom għal kollox meta l-Gvern dahhal l-aħħar miżuri fejn inqatgħu għal kollox l-attivitajiet tal-massa u ttiehdu aktar miżuri biex kemm jista' jkun titnaqqas ir-rata tal-infezzjoni.

Il-miżuri ewlenin tal-Gvern huma:

- L-ebda stabbiliment ma jista' jippermetti nies bil-wieqfa;
- Jingħalqu kompletament discos u night-clubs;
- Jingħalqu l-bars u l-każini hlief il-parti tal-istabbilimenti fejn iservu l-ikel, bil-limitazzjoni li jistgħu jiġu servuti biss klijenti bilqiegħda u li jordnaw l-ikel. Mhux permess li jiġi servut xorb f'barrijiet hlief lil dawk bil-qiegħda.
- Għall-ebda ċirkustanza m'huma permessi boat parties.
- Mhumiex permessi ġemgħat ta' iktar minn 15-il persuna fi spazji pubbliċi. Din se tapplika għall-knejjes, postijiet sagri u funerals, fid-dawl li dawn huma diġà regolati bi protokol ta' distanza soċjali stretta
- Se jithallew isiru tiġijiet bilqiegħda (sit-down) biss, madanakollu ż-żfin mhux se jkun permess.

## €170 m. f'pagi lil 81,000 ħaddiema tal-pivat mhedda bil-pandemija

**F**'intervista li kellu fuq it-televiżjoni l-Hadd, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela qal li l-Gvern dejjem fittex bilanċ bejn il-harsien tas-saħħa tal-poplu u l-iżvilupp ekonomiku, u svela li s'issa minhabba l-pandemija COVID-19, il-Gvern diġà hallas €170 miljun f'suppliment ta' pagi lil aktar minn 81,000 impjegjiet fil-pivat li kienu qed jiġu mhedda li jispiċċaw bla xogħol kaġun tal-pandemija.

Issokta jgħid li din l-għajjnuna wasslet biex għal hames ġimgħa wara xulxin seta' jonqos il-qgħad li kien qed jiġi mhedded u ma esludix li se tkompli tingħata għajjnuna lil min jinhtieġa b'riżultat tal-COVID.

Qal li hu qatt ma aċċetta tbassir li se jintilfu eluf ta' impjeggi u lanqas li se jkun hawn eluf ta' mwiet bil-Covid-1. Kien għalhekk li saret hidma minn qabel biex l-imxija tkun ikkontrollata mill-aspett ta' saħħa, kif ukoll biex il-ħaddiema ma jaslux li jtitilfu hobżhom.

Semma wkoll għadd ta' skemi ta' għajjnuna li l-Gvern nieda fl-aħħar ġimgħat diretti lejn in-negozji, fosthom ir-roħs b'mod sostanzjali tal-kontijiet tal-elettriku, u qal li se terġa' titnieda dalwaqt skema oħra mahsuba biex tgħin lin-negozji fil-ħlas ta' kirjiet kummerċjali.

Il-Prim Ministru ikkonferma dak li habbar il-jum ta' qabel id-Deputat Prim Ministru dwar li Malta diġa' għandha allokazzjoni ta' 330,000 doza ta' tilqima għall-Covid-19. Din, qal, kienet frott deċiżjoni tal-Kabinet meħda sa minn Ġunju li għadda meta alloka miljun ewro biex Malta tkun minn tal-ewwel li malli jkun żviluppat Malta tikseb il-vaċċin kontra l-pandemija. Il-mira tal-Gvern hi li l-pajjiż ikollu vaċċin għall-popolazzjoni kollha.

# Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Aktar dwar il-COVID-19 u Malta

# Figuri u statistika

**S**intendi, waqt krizijiet bħal dawn ma jonqsux il-figuri, l-istatistika, il-persentaġġi u mitt elf haġ'ohra, u kif jingħad, filwaqt li l-istatistika hi fattwali, fl-istess hin tista' tiġi nterpretata skont il-ħtiġijiet ta' dak li jkun.

Hekk qed jiġri f'Malta u f'pajjiżi milquta mill-imxija. Il-problema li hafna drabi l-istatistika tintuża biex il-gvernijiet ta' pajjiżi jiehdu ċerti deċiżjonijiet... u bħalissa l-aktar deċiżjonijiet marbuta mal-sstatistika huma daww d'war l-ivjaġġar.

Minhabba din l-istatistika ċerti pajjiżi qed jagħluq l-bibien għat-turiżmu lejn pajjiżna. Sfortunatament id-deċiżjonijiet jidher li qed jittieħdu fuq bażi ta' perċentaġġi ikkalkulati fuq kemm hemm każi ta' COVID-19 attivi għal kull 100,000 persuna fil-pajjiż.

Dan hu ta' żvantaġġ għal pajjiżi żgħar bħal Malta, għax l-inqas ċaqliq jgħolli u jbaxxi bil-qawwi l-perċentwal, filwaqt li f'pajjiżi ta' miljuni ta' abitanti jrid ikun

hemm veru ammont konsiderevoli ta' nies infettati biex ikun hemm xi ċaqliq.

Allura skont din l-istatistika, Malta, li sakemm qed nikteb għandha 539 każ attiv, tinsab fit-tieni post tal-aktar pajjiżi li milquta mill-Covid-19, meta per eżempju l-Italja b'15,360 każ u għad ta' mwiet tinsab lejn f'qiegħ il-klassifika.

L-istatistika ma tqisx l-għadd ta' testijiet li jsiru.. għax fuq kollox aktar ma jsiru testijiet aktar hemm possibbiltà' li l-għadd tal-infettati jikber.

Attwalment Malta hija waħda mill-aktar pajjiżi li qed tagħmel *swabs*. Imxebbha ma pajjiżi tal-Unjoni Ewropeja, l-ittestjar f'Malta jlahhaq tliet darbiet iżjed mal-medja Ewropeja u għoxrin darba aktar minn dak irrikmandat mill-Għaqda Dinjija tas-Saħħa (WHO). F'Malta mietu 11.

Skont is-sit [ourworlddata.org](http://ourworlddata.org) - jekk imxebbha mal-pajjiżi tad-dinja - ir-rata tal-ittestjar f'Malta kienet ta' 4.81 test għal kull 1,000 persuna li tpoġġi lil pajjiżna fit-tielet post fid-dinja f'dak fli huma testijiet li qed isiru minn fost il-popolazzjoni. Skont l-ECDC b'rata ta' każi pożittivi ta' 1.78 Malta tinsab fit-12-il post mill-pajjiżi tal-Unjoni Ewropea. F'Malta s'issa saru qrib aktar minn 190,000 *swab test*.

Fl-aħħar jiem, it-total ta' testijiet qed ġeneralment qed jaqbeż l-2,000 persuna kuljum. Għali anke tela' għal fuq it-tlett elef f'jum wiehed. Wara jiġi New Zealand, l-Istati Uniti u r-Renju Unit.

Fi statistika ohra (*fuq*) din id-darba fejn ir-rata tal-infettati hi mxebbha mal-għadd

	Country	Total cases per 1M Population	Total cases per 100 of persons tested
1	China	59	0.09
2	Jordan	126	0.20
3	New Zealand	314	0.32
4	Lithuania	840	0.41
5	Australia	867	0.44
6	Uganda	29	0.44
7	Thailand	48	0.45
8	Georgia	320	0.49
9	Cyprus	1,057	0.53
10	Latvia	686	0.60
11	Hong Kong	557	0.60
12	Rwanda	167	0.70
13	Malta	2,583	0.79

ta' testijiet li jsiru nsibu storja differenti fejn Malta tinsab fit-13-il post mill-inqas li hemm nies infettati (0.79 għal kull mija).

Mhux ta' b'xejn li darba professur magħruf kiteb: "*Statistics are like bikinis. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital.*"

## MEP influwenti

**I**d-deputata Nazzjonalista fl-Unjoni Ewropeja, Roberta Metsola, li għal xi żmien issemmiet fit-tigrija għall-ħatra tal-mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, dan l-aħħar kienet fl-aħbarijiet għal raġuni differenti billi għet nominata bħala waħda mill-aktar hames MEPs politiċi influwenti fuq id-demokrazzija u affarijiet interni, tal-Parlament tal-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Fuq Facebook Metsola qalet li tinsab sodisfatta li għet imsemmija minn *VoteWatch* bħala waħda mill-ewwel hames MEPs l-aktar influwenti. Qalet li sabih li l-hidma tiegħek tkun rikonoxxuta, iżda wkoll dan ifisser li għandha responsabbiltà li tibqa' taħdem u li minn kull deċiżjoni li tittieħed dejjem ikun hemm l-aqwa gwadan għall-poplu Malti u Għawdx.

Wara din l-aħbar kien hemm min ikkummenta li kien hasra li hi rtrirat mit-tigrija għat-tmexxija tal-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Minjaf 'il quddiem tithajjarx tidhol għat-tigrija meta wiehed jiehu f'kunsiderazzjoni li wara l-elezzjoni ta' sentejn ohra, skont l-istatut il-ġdid tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, trid terġa' ssir l-elezzjoni tal-Kap tal-Partit anke jekk il-partit jirbaħ l-elezzjoni.



## Il-vaċċin: Malta hasbet li tiġi allokata 330,000 doża

**F**'każ li fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin jiġi żviluppat il-vaċċin għall-COVID-19, Malta diġà għandha allokat 330,000 doża.

Dan qalu d-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa Chris Fearne li spjegja li dan ifisser li Malta tkun fost l-ewwel pajjiżi li tkun lesta li mill-ewwel; tipproteġi l-vulnerabbli u l-frontliners.

Zied jikkonferma li wara mistenni jkun hemm ukoll dozi għall-poplu kollu.

Dan waqt li bħalissa madwar id-dinja kollha għaddejjha hidma intensiva biex jinħadem vaċċin li jkun effiċjenti u sigur biex iwaqqaf l-imxija.



## Maltese Funerals

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tagħna tgħin lill-  
familja tiegħek**





A quick glimpse at Australia

## New Covid-19 vaccine – ethical dilemma?

**A**rchbishop Anthony Fisher, Sydney Anglican Archbishop Dr Glenn Davies and Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios raised concerns about the deal with AstraZeneca that would ensure Australians would be among the first in the world to receive the Oxford University COVID-19 vaccine if human trials are successful.

They are concerned with the ethics of using foetal cells in a potential coronavirus vaccine and asked the Government to pursue similar arrangements for alternate vaccines that are not “morally compromised”.

The letter had three demands of the Government: That the Oxford vaccine not be made mandatory, that people who decline it for religious beliefs not be punished, and that the Government ensure a different “ethically uncontroversial” vaccine also be made available. They stated the churches are not anti-vaccination, but pray for a vaccine that is not ethically tainted may be found.

Monash University head of microbiology Professor Stephen Turner said human embryonic kidney 293 cells – which are being used in Oxford’s vaccine research – had been widely used in cell biology research for decades. The cell line was originally derived from cells grown in tissue culture taken from an aborted female baby.



## Qantas Airline – wings clipped

**A**ustralia’s largest airline, Qantas, says it is unlikely to restart its international travel network before July 2021. The airline has already suffered a \$4 billion revenue hit from the COVID-19 crisis, reporting an underlying profit before tax of \$124 million for the 2019/20 financial year – a 90.6 per cent de-

cline – compared to \$1.33 billion the year before.

A week ago Qantas Airways Ltd also said it planned to cut up to 2,500 jobs by outsourcing its Australian ground handling operations to lower costs.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said the second half of the financial year was the toughest set of conditions the national carrier had faced in its 100-year history. But he remains positive about the outlook for Qantas and its Jetstar subsidiary following its restructuring and once restrictions are eased domestically and internationally.

“The Flying Kangaroo wings are clipped for now, but it’s still got plenty of ambition and we plan to deliver on it,” Mr Joyce told reporters.

## Australian Post letters deliveries delay

**A**ustralia Post isn’t immune to the impacts of COVID-19, and old fashioned letters stand to be the first casualty. In the face of the pandemic, the national service is being overhauled to cope with the immense increase in demand.

Like many businesses, Australia Post has had to make some tough calls to keep their service running – and letters have drawn the short straw. Soon there will only be a letter delivery every second day most areas.

Australia Post CEO Christine Holgate said,

“We’ve almost had 10 years put into one month.”

With many Australian businesses now in hibernation, the rate of letters being sent has dropped by as much as 50 per cent. Parcel deliveries, on the other hand, have sky-rocketed.

The changes being made that were announced are enabling the Postal Services to retrain 2000 posties,”

The cost of the local postage stamp has gone up recently and this excuse can lead to the death of the letter, because once we’ve lost daily delivery we’re not going to get it back.



## Defends seal of confession

**A**rchbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB has defended the seal of confession before a West Australian parliamentary committee of inquiry. “I understand why people are confused, or even dismayed by my insistence on upholding the principle of the absolute confidentiality of confession, as it is practised in the Catholic Church.

“However, sins are not confessed to the priest, but to God,” Archbishop Costelloe said. “The priest, therefore, has no right or authority to disclose anything that takes place in this intimate encounter with God.

“To make the free practice of an essential aspect of the Catholic faith illegal seems to me to be something that modern secular societies have always understood to be beyond the limits of their authority.”

**T**he cedar symbol of Lebanon adorned the sails of the Sydney Opera House, with photos of the moment shared by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian. The Lebanese cedar has been projected onto the Sydney Opera House to pay tribute to those impacted by the Beirut explosion.

The Australian Government has so far pledged \$5 million in aid to the country. International donors, Malta amongst them,

have pledged \$4.1 billion worth of aid to Lebanon following the blast.

The green and red colours of the Lebanese flag also shone over the facade at Sydney Town Hall and Melbourne Town Hall. The Lebanon Cedar takes centre spot on the national flag of Lebanon and is derived from the Cedus libani tree commonly found in mountains across the country.

The tree is referenced several times in the Christian bible and is considered a symbol of holiness and peace.



## A quick glimpse at Australia

## Vaccine – as mandatory as possible?

The Federal Government of Australia announced it had signed an international deal to produce an Oxford University vaccine if trials succeed.

Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has refused to rule out a proposal to strip welfare from people who refuse a coronavirus vaccine. "Our first goal is to encourage as many Australians as possible," Mr Hunt said.

"I'm confident that with a vaccine that can save lives and protect lives, and give people hope and give people their freedom back ... that a very large number of Australians will take it up [But] we reserve the right, subject to medical advice, to take steps that might assist."

Both Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Mr Hunt have recognised that people in the community may be hesitant to take up the vaccine.

Mr Morrison initially said on radio that a vaccine to the virus - once secured - would be made "as mandatory as possible". But Mr Morrison later stepped back these assertions, clarifying his comments, "It is not going to be compulsory to have the vaccine ... there are no compulsory vaccines in Australia."

The legal question is, can the Government mandate vaccination? The right to bodily integrity is a fundamental legal principle in



**Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt**

Australia. This means a person cannot be subject to medical treatment without consent.

However, there are exceptions to this under state and territory public health laws. For instance, sections 116 and 117 of the Victorian Public Health Act permit public health orders to compel people to undergo a medical examination, testing and treatment without consent if it is required to address a public health issue.

There may be a legal argument here that a vaccination is not "treatment". But that could be dealt with via an amendment to the legislation. There is a strong case for requiring particular workers (for example, those in aged care facilities) to be subject to mandatory vaccinations. However, many other workplaces in Australia may also require COVID-19 vaccination certificates under Occupational Health and Safety policies.

The legal dynamics here are different to a government-mandated vaccination if it is required as a condition of employment (which is a private law matter).

## Ruby Princess inquiry slams NSW Health

After three weeks of hearings, the Special Commission of Inquiry commissioned by the NSW government found that authorities made a litany of errors in their handling of the ill-fated Ruby Princess cruise ship, including NSW Health's "inexplicable" and "unjustifiable" decision to assess the vessel as low risk.

The Ruby Princess owned by Carnival Cruises visited five New Zealand ports in early March before returning to Australia. It docked in Sydney on March 19 despite signs of illness on board, about 2700 passengers and numerous contagious people disembarked at Circular Quay. The ship has been linked to hundreds of cases and more than 20 coronavirus-related deaths across Australia.

In the scathing 330-page report by commissioner Brett Walker to the NSW Government, the eminent barrister reserved his harshest criticism for NSW Health. Reflecting on the "sorry episode", Mr Walker laid bare multiple failings during the "sorry episode".

He found that all passengers on board should have been tested for Covid-19. He said it would be "unhelpful" to make recommendations as they would not amount to much more than "do your job". "There are no 'systemic' failures to address, put simply, despite the best efforts of all, some serious mistakes were made."

The commission said 663 Australian passengers went on to contract Covid-19, together with 191 crew members.

The inquiry said the total number infected with Covid-19 may never be known due to over a third of the passengers returning overseas.

## Lack of cultural diversity on TV

Who Gets To Tell Australian Stories? A report analysed 81 news programmes over two weeks in June 2019, equating to approximately 19,000 news and current affairs items across free to air television.

The study revealed that when it came to on-screen appearances, only six per cent of reporters, presenters and commentators had either an Indigenous or non-European background, with more than 75 per cent being of Anglo-Celtic background..

The exception was SBS, where 76.6 per cent of on-air reporters, commentators and presenters were of non-European background.

When it came to on-air representation, the Nine Network was the least diverse of the commercial networks, with 88 per cent of on-air talent being Anglo-Celtic.

No more than five per cent of presenters, commentators and reporters on all free-to-air commercial networks were identified as having a non-European background, while at the ABC the number sits at 9.1 per cent.



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

Wieħed mill-aktar kittieba u edukaturi popolari f'Malta fi żmien kien Gużé Chetcuti, li f'karriera twila ta kon-tribut kbir mhux biss lil-letteratura Maltija bl-għadd ta'

kotba li kiteb u li dejjem intlaqgħu tajjeb mill-qarrejja, imma li wkoll kienu tajbin biex gew anke maqluba għall-palk. Kien ukoll għalliem, u bniedem karizmatiku.

# GUŻÉ CHETCUTI – awtur, poeta, edukatur u drammaturgu popolari

Gużé Chetcuti jibqa' magħruf bħala wieħed mill-pilastru tal-letteratura Maltija. Kien fost dawk li l-aktar taw sehem biex jtkattar l-ilsien Malti, u baqa' tul haġtu kollha jagħti kontribut. Donnu li meta twieled f'Bormla fil-11 ta' Awwissu 1914 kien predinastat li jagħmel il-ġid fil-qasam tal-edukazzjoni u speċifikament fl-ilsien Malti.

Gużé ha l-ewwel studji tiegħu fl-Iskola Ċentrali ta' San Albert fil-Belt Valletta u minn hemm għadda għall-Kulleġġ tal-Għalliem li dak iż-żmien kien ukoll fil-Belt. Fl-1936 dhaġl għalliem fl-iskejjel primarji u wara f'it u nġhata l-kariga ta' store officer mad-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa. Fl-1937 ġie mahtur membru akkademiku.

Kif faqqgħet il-gwerra fl-1940 issieheb mal-istaff editorjali tal-uffiċċju tal-informazzjoni u kien traduttur tas-*Service Bulletin* u l-*Malta Review*. Kien ukoll Segretarju tal-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti (illum l-Akkademja tal-Malti) meta l-poeta nazzjonali Dun Karm, u warajh, il-Professur Gużé Galea, kienu Presidenti. Tul il-gwerra kien anke wieħed minn tliet xandara uffiċjali.

Xi snin wara li ntemmet il-gwerra, fl-1956, Gużé ssieheb mad-Dipartiment tal-Edukazzjoni, fejn dam sal-1974. Hawnhekk għalliem il-Malti fil-Liċeo u għal sentejn, kien lektur tal-Malti fil-Kulleġġ tal-Għalliem, il-*Mater Admirabilis Training College* f'Tal-Virtù u wkoll fl-*Upper Secondary School (Sixth Form)*.

Għamel ukoll żmien għalliem tal-emergency teachers' maturity course u għal haġna snin kien eżaminatur tal-Malti f'eżamijiet taċ-Ċivil.

Bejn dawn is-snin, fl-1939, flimkien mat-tabib Gużé Bonnici u l-Avukat Anton Buttigieg, waqqfu x-Xirka għat-Tixrid tal-Il-sien Malti. Huwa haġdem għall-Malti u għal-letteratura Maltija fi żminijiet diffiċli haġna, mhux biss fi żminijiet meta li thobb il-Malti kien meġjus bħala xi diżunur imma anki fi żmien it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija.

Kien ukoll sub-editor tar-rivista letterarja *Il-Malti*, għal snin twal ta l-ghajnuna tiegħu fil-pubblikazzjoni tar-rivista letterarja *Lehen il-Malti* tal-Università ta' Malta, kien Viċi-President (1990 - 1992), u wara wkoll President Onorarju (1998 - 1999), u wkoll President tas-sotto-kumitat fi kwestjonijiet ta' ortografija, membru Onorarju tal-Għaqda Poeti Maltin, u mem-



bru fil-Kunsill u Segretarju tal-Malta Drama League.

Dawk li studjaw mill-qrib ix-xogħlijiet ta' Gużé Chetcuti jgħidu li l-proża tiegħu "hija waħda realista" u li "uża l-letteratura biex fuq kollox mexxa 'l quddiem il-kawża tal-fqir u ta' bla skola".

Bħala eżempju jhobbu jsemmu li fir-rumanzi tiegħu, l-awtur juri ċar il-konsegwenzi tal-faqar fuq il-bniedem. Isostnu li rumanzi bħal *It-Tnalja*, *L-Isqaq*, *Il-Kerrejja* u haġna novelli oħra għandhom jittqiesu bħala manifest ċar u realistiku dwar soċjetà fil-qabda ta' bidla soċjali li halliet il-vittmi. Jgħidu wkoll li Chetcuti kien ir-ritrattist u d-difensur letterarju tagħhom.

Ir-rumanzi u d-drammi ta' Chetcuti taw xhieda tal-ħajja popolari f'Malta. Bosta mill-kitbiet letterarji tiegħu jibqgħu jittqiesu fost il-kapolavuri tal-letteratura Maltija. Fihom l-awtur wera ruhu wkoll kittieb imnebbah mill-valuri tal-ġustizzja soċjali u tal-karità Nisranija.

Chetcuti kien ukoll esponent importanti tal-poeżija romantika f'Malta. Il-kritiċi jgħidu li "*għanna ġmiel il-pajiz u haġb il-bdiewa u l-ħajja sempliċi*". Kiteb dwar *l-imħabba u setgħetha*. *L-inkwiet u l-ferħ tal-ħajja*. *Il-pattirijottizmu u l-fidi*. *L-iffen poezijsi tiegħu żammew bilanċ delikat bejn il-qawwa tal-kelma Maltija u l-ħegġa tal-istħajil Mediterraneju*".

Fost l-għadd kbir ta' kotba li haġru mill-

pinna ta' Chetcuti hemm "*Id-Dawl tal-ħajja*", "*L-Isqaq*", "*Poeti Maltin*", ix-xogħlijiet għall-palk jinkludu "*Il-Kerrejja*", "*Imħuħ Morda*", "*Manwela*", u "*1919*", kif ukoll bosta studji kritiċi, novelli, traduzzjonijiet, kitbiet ta' taħriġ fil-grammatika Maltija, kif ukoll il-kotba awtobiografiki li fihom laqqa' lill-qarrejja ma' bosta awturi ta' żmien kif ukoll m'ohrajn minn generazzjonijiet li ġew wara.

Xogħlijiet ta' Chetcuti nqalbu wkoll għall-Ingliz u l-Għarbi.

Il-poplu Malti għaraf hidmietu meta fl-1996 għażlu biex ikun membru tal-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu, filwaqt li l-Għaqda Poeti Maltin ipprezentatu biċ-Ċittà di Valletta fl-1986. Fl-1996 huwa nġhata wkoll il-ġieħ ta' Membru tal-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu (MOM).

Gużé Chetcuti miet nhar it-Tlieta, 18 ta' Lulju 2006 fl-età ta' 91 sena.

Fl-aħħarnett ta' min li nikkwotaw x'qal dwar Chetcuti meta miet, il-kittieb Charles Flores: "*Miet l-aħħar Ggant Letterarju*". Barra minhekk, Monsinjur Victor Grech, Direttur tal-Caritas li kien mexxa ċ-ċerimonja funebri fil-Knisja ta' Stella Maris, waqt l-omelija tiegħu sejjah lil Gużé Chetcuti "*Warda tal-Letteratura Maltija*".

### Lil Art twelidi

Lil Art Twelidi  
Int żgħira O Malta  
Int żgħira u sabiħa  
Daqs żonqra qawwiġa  
Daqs blata int sabiħa

Inħobbok ja Malta  
Avolja hallejtek  
biex f'art oħra nitlaq  
'ma qatt le qatt ma nsejtek

Il-bżonn biss li għalni  
Warajja nhallik  
Ma ċerta li bhalek  
Imkien qatt ma nsib

Mill-bogħod insellimlek  
ja gżira sabiħa  
Sa nagħlaq għajnejja  
mħabbti lejki shiħa

Rafela Pollacco  
1961- Sydney

## The MMG Concert Band of Victoria

# Two bands now working in unity as one



The MMG Concert Band of Victoria (MMGCBV) was established in early 2018, following the amalgamation of two Maltese bands, the St Albans Melita Band established in 1984 and the Malta Gozo Concert Band that was established in 1981. The amalgamation followed discussions regarding the decline of the Maltese Culture in the Victorian Community.

It was hoped that the two bands working in unity, for the Maltese culture would give 2nd and 3rd generation Maltese people, a place still to come together and participate. The bands that were once rivals have both shown great leadership. At their Gala Night, it was described as asking Carlton and Collingwood to join clubs, in Australian Football.

The amalgamation was in the best interest of the music and the arts aspect to the Maltese Culture in the state of Victoria. It has been more successful than most would have anticipated. In its repertoire, the band plays Maltese, popular and other cultural music for the broader community.

So far during the first two years of its inception, the band has seen many retired players re-join the fold, three generations of musicians in one family play together, the formation of its Music School with 22 students - ranging from five to 60+ years - the 2019 Gala Night and a family Christmas Spectacular event that had over 350 people attend

each event, both showcasing new musical pieces for all to enjoy.

The MMG Concert Band of Victoria's vision is to be able to continue to grow the Maltese music culture in the community.

The committee is made up of a group of 10 passionate members and musicians from various backgrounds and ages who work hard to ensure that the band continues to be successful now and into the future. It performs at many Maltese patron saints celebrations in Victoria, along with other cultural/community festivals that include the Italian and Indian community performing their very own cultural music.

### *A unique service*

The MMG Concert Band's music school offers a unique service that accommodates and provides music lessons for free to all the members of the community, including free instrument hire to their students. It has volunteer teachers that support young and old in learning woodwind, brass and percussion instruments and when they are ready to perform, gives them the opportunity of joining the Concert Band.

The band's aim is to continue to help the school to foster music and ensure it is preserved for our future generations to enjoy. The band has two conductors, Tanya Schembri and Harrison

Merrifield who have been long-standing members of the Maltese community in Victoria.

Both conductors were introduced and taught by the bands they had come from. They are both strong and confident leaders in the community, and as a part of MMG Concert Band, they work together to raise the bar on the musical ability of the band.

The MMGCBV is always looking for like-minded passionate musicians of any musical ability to join it. Anybody interested should get in touch to arrange a meeting with the team.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the band had to suspend rehearsals. However, lessons continue via zoom, the same as members do on Wednesday night for their chats at rehearsal time.

On the first Anniversary of 'Il-Mes-sagg', also known as 'Ma tagħmlu xejn' the band recently came together through the virtual world to perform this very popular Maltese song. It has been well received by the community.

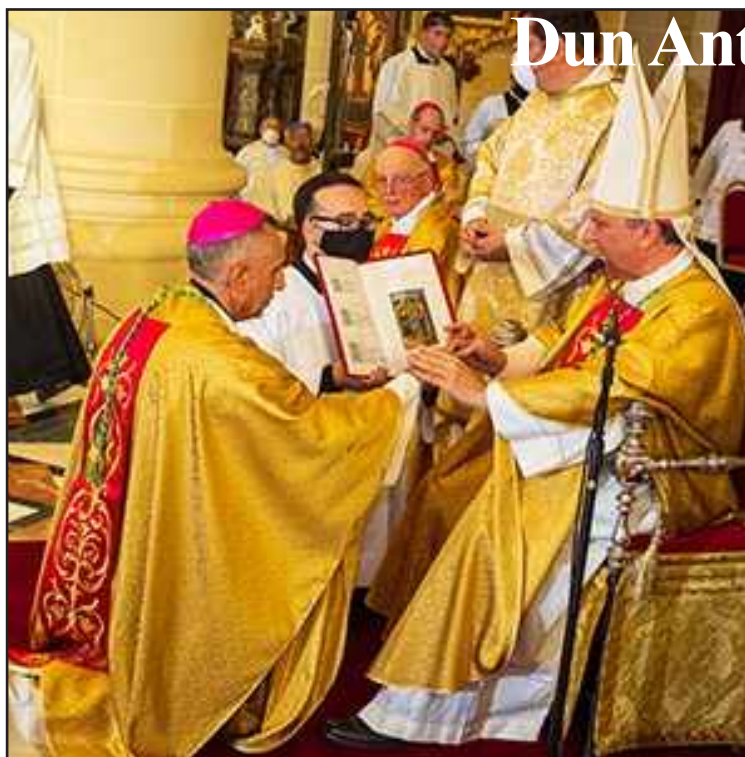
To view, one should head to this link on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpacFwwGnA4>

Another virtual performance will soon follow. Readers are requested to like their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MMGConcertBandofVictoria>, follow their Instagram: @mmgconcertbandofvictoria, or subscribe to their YouTube channel – MMG Concert Band of Victoria.





## Dun Anton Teuma ikkonsagrat id-9 Isqof t'Ghawdex



Nhar il-21 ta' Awwissu fir-Rotunda ta' San Gwann Battista fix-Xewkija, Dun Anton Teuma gie kkonsagrat bhala d-disa' Isqof ta' Ghawdex, mill-Isqof Mons. Mario Grech (*fug*) fil-preżenza tan-Nunzju Appostoliku Alessandro D'Errico u l-Arċisqof ta' Malta Charles J. Scicluna waqt ċerimonja li fiha hađu sehem ukoll, l-Isqof Awżiljarju Joseph Galea Curmi u l-Isqof ta' Ġibiltà Carmelo Zammit.

Għaċ-ċelebrazzjoni attendew ukoll l-ogħla awtoritajiet tal-pajjiż, fosthom il-President ta' Malta Dr George Vella u s-sinjura tiegħu, il-Prim Ministru Dr Robert Abela, Ministri u membri parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-kamra.

Għall-okkażjoni jkun hemm ukoll omm Dun Anton, it-tliet hutu, familjari, qrafa u l-hbieb tiegħu.

Il-Mandat Appostoliku mibgħut mill-Papa

Franġisku ntweru lill-poplu ta' Alla min-Nunzju Appostoliku. Dritt wara, Dun Mario Mercieca, l-iżgħar saċerdot tad-Djoċesi, li kien wiehed miż-żewġ presbiteri assistenti tal-Isqof-mahtur, flimkien ma' Mons. Ġużeppi Attard qara l-Vanġelu.

Meta ntemm ir-Rit tal-Konsagrazzjoni Episkopali, l-Isqof Teuma kompli jippre-siedi l-Liturgija Ewkaristika sat-tmien, u wara, għall-ewwel darba indrizza lill-poplu bhala Ragħaj Spiritwali tad-Djoċesi u għamel ir-ringrazzjamenti tiegħu.

B'referenza għall-motto magħżul minnu stess, l-Isqof Anton qal li l-missjoni tal-Knisja hi li tilqa' lil dak il-Barrani tat-triq ta' Għemmaws, li mhux hliel Kristu nnifsu li jagħmel lilu nnifsu preżenti fil-fqir, l-

imwarrab u d-dghajjef.

L-Isqof Teuma mistenni jagħmel l-Ingress Solenni fil-Katidral tal-Assunta, is-sede uf-  
fiċjali tal-Isqof ta' Ghawdex, fis-16 ta' Set-  
tembru, li jahbat jum l-anniversarju  
mit-mit-twaqqif tad-  
Djoċesi fl-1864.

Mill-Gżira  
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



## Il-Festa ta' Santa Marija fil-Katidral

Il-pandemija tal-COVID-19 dis-sena ef-fettwat iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet li dejjem isiru f'Ghawdex f'jum Santa Marija fil-15 ta' Awwissu, imma fil-jiem ta' qabel fil-Katidral xorta saru kważi ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet kollha, b'xi tibdil żgħir.

Il-quddies kollu ta' jum il-festa sar fil-pjazza tal-Katidral. Għal dan il-għan bejn il-5.00 am u s-1.00 p.m inharġet l-istatwa ta' Santa Marija fil-bieb tal-Katidral. Filgħaxija l-Banda Ċittadina Leone, laqgħet l-istatwa ta' Santa Marija fil-bieb tal-Katidral bid-daqq tal-innijiet.

Wara, Mons. Isqof Mario Grech (*xellug*) mexxa t-talba tar-rużarju, invoka t-talba tal-Papa Franġisku kontra l-pandemija u ta l-Barka Sagramentali.

L-għaqda Vampa Organisations sellmu lill-istatwa fil-bieb tal-Katidral bil-hruq tas-salut, kaxxa infernali u nar ta' binhar. Fit-8.30pm, Mons. Isqof-mahtur Anton Teuma qaddes, l-ahhar quddiesa fil-pjazza, segwita mid-dhul trijonfali tal-istatwa ta' Santa Marija lura fil-Katidral, u wara nharaq il-logħob tan-nar





# Papal honour to our man in Gozo, Charles Spiteri



**A**t the end of the Ceremony of the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Loreto in Ghajnsielem, Gozo, Bishop Mario Grech, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Gozo, presented the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” to Charles Spiteri.

This Award is granted by His Holiness the Pope to members of the Church who have distinguished themselves in their service to the Church in some specific sphere of society.

In a short address on the occasion, Bishop Grech said that Charles has over many years given a service in the field of journalism to Gozo, to the Gozitan Society and in particular to the Gozo Diocese.

Charles Spiteri has engaged in this activity since the days when communication was hard to achieve and was not at everyone’s fingertips as it is today.

Over the years, by his contribution to various social media, Charles has promoted the activities of the Gozo Parishes and of Gozitan Catholic Lay Organisations and brought them to national awareness. He always gave this service voluntarily, with commitment, and often with persistent requests, first to get the information and then to procure space for it in the press.

For decades, Charles Spiteri, who is currently also The Voice of the Maltese correspondence in Malta’s sister island, has been a correspondent of “*Il-Hajja f’Ghawdex*” the monthly organ of the Gozo Diocese.

Considering this steadfast dedication, Bishop Mario Grech made the award to him on the request of His Holiness Pope Francis.

## Festa Marija Bambina in Melbourne cancelled

**T**he celebrations of the Feast of Marija Bambina (Il-Vittorja) that was scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 13, at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Each year, Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group (RMASG) organised the event on behalf of the Fathers of the Missionary Society of St. Paul in Victoria. But after discussion with the Fathers of the MSSP, and the present restrictions by the Victorian Government it was agreed and in the interest of the safety, to cancel the feast.

Speaking to Fr Edwin Agius and Fr Lonnie Borg, both said they were sure the Maltese Community would keep the devotion to our Lady of Victory alive in their hearts and say special prayers on the day.

One hopes this pandemic could be over soon so the event could be celebrated again next year.

For the same reason, Reskeon has also cancelled their Bambina (Vittoria) Dinner Dance due on September 12



## First 25 professionals awarded a conservator-restorer warrant

**I**n a ceremony held at the Museum of Archaeology, Minister for the National Heritage, 25 professionals working in the field of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage were presented with warrants.

It is the first time that such warrants are being issued by the Board of Warrants of Restorers-Conservators that regulates the works related to the activities of conservators and restorers as also stipulated in the Cultural Heritage Act, Chapter 445.

Making the presentation, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera (*pictured*) said that this was a very significant step in the field of cultural heritage, as through these warrants, “we are beginning the process of giving formal and prestigious recognition to all those who work as conservators and restorers of cultural heritage”.

The Minister pointed out that cultural heritage is an essential element of any society, and therefore the preservation of the same heritage is necessary to be entrusted to capable, competent and professional people. He stated that the work done on prestigious and valuable heritage should be regulated and thus entrusted to individuals who are professionally doing this work and ethical context.







The new Michelle Rowland MP

## Michelle Rowland MP's amazing transformation

Politicians do not usually hit the headlines when they are advocating ways to better health. But Michelle Rowland MP the Shadow Minister for Communications and popular federal member for the electorate of Greenway has revealed to the readers of *The Voice of the Maltese*, her battle with the bulge.

Ms Rowland, 48, considered to be one of the rising stars within the Labor ranks decided to shed a few kilos as she was feeling run down. At 100kg and being a mum of two young daughters, it was time for her to diet and start exercising.

The result was a complete success. The transformation was amazing. She dropped almost 50kg.

The transformation was evident for all those that were watching Q&A on ABCTV on August. 17. The MP looked healthy, well and with more energy and "mental clarity" than before.

Unlike some of her colleagues in Canberra, Ms Rowland wanted

to lose weight through diet, will power and consistency, not through surgery.

Labor's communications spokeswoman, has her main office in Main Street Blacktown NSW, the centre of the Maltese community in those parts of the Western Suburbs.



Michelle Rowland MP 100kg ago

*Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) is looking for the next generation of diverse Australian writers*



## Emerging Writers' competition

SBS is inviting aspiring writers from diverse backgrounds to share their stories and have their voices heard with the launch of the SBS Emerging Writers' Competition. Are you, or do you know an aspiring writer in the Maltese speaking community in Australia?

An initiative from SBS Voices, SBS's online platform which champions the voices of diverse and often underrepresented Australians, the competition has been created to support the discovery and development of emerging talent and contribute to greater diversity in Australian storytelling.

Entries opened August 15 and SBS is to keep them open until September 15 2020.

The SBS Emerging Writers' Competition is searching for the next generation of bold new voices that reflect the diversity of contemporary Australia, providing them with a platform to share their unique experiences and perspectives.

Your memoir piece may be poignant, hu-



morous or a mix of both. The important thing is that it's your story, and no one else's.

Tips can be found here: <https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/voices/culture/article/2020/07/29/tips-entering-sbs-emerging-writers-competition>.

Writers aged 18 and over are being invited to submit a memoir piece of 1,000-2,000 words on the topic of 'Growing up in diverse Australia'.

The winning submission will be awarded a \$5,000 prize to further their storytelling future, as well as having their story published on SBS Voices.

### How to enter:

During the Competition Period, entrants must go to [www.sbs.com.au/writers](http://www.sbs.com.au/writers) and follow the directions to complete the online entry form.



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- Maltese Property matters.

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

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# Community News

## Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

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

### On SBS Radio

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

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



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

*On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-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](http://sbs.com.au/maltese) (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

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

days and Sundays at 8am.

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

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

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

## Important Notice

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

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

### Avviż lill-qarrejja

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

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

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdw 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

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

### Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Il-qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga li ma jhallux għall-ahhar. Indirizzaw l-emails lil [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com).

L-ittri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom: *Letters to the editor*.

## Please Note:

If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to:

[Maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:Maltesevoice@gmail.com)



### Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

L-MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjoni jiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-ilsien Malti fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

L-applikanti għandu jkollhom għarfen sew tal-Malti kemm miktub kif ukoll mitkellem.

Ibghat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill:

[admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au)

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



### Events for 2020

*Sunday October 18:*  
Fete

*Saturday November 14*  
Dinner Dance

*Sunday December 6*  
Festa San Nikola





## Hibs only club to win in Europe comp

**H**ibernians managed to keep Malta's flag flying in Europe when they became the only club to win their first qualifying round commitment in the 2020/21 UEFA club competitions. They beat Vaduz 2-0 with a brace by Jurgen Degabriele in Liechtenstein in the Europa League.

The other two Maltese representatives in Europa League, Valletta and Sirens, and Floriana in the Champions League, all lost their matches.

Hibernians are now in the draw for the second qualifying round to be played on September 17.

They will be joined by Floriana who lost their home Champions League tie against CFR Cluj of Romania 2-0 but will now play in the second round of the Europa League. The Romanians dictated play in the first half but Florian held out. When it looked as if the locals were in for a better second half, they suffered an early goal and then a second in stoppage time.

Also in the Europa League, Valletta were a great disappointment when they suffered a



**Floriana (in green strip) against CFR Cluj**

shock 0-1 home defeat against Bala Town of Wales. Valletta also missed a penalty.

On their debut in Europe, Sirens came very near to causing an upset against CSKA in Bulgaria, but in the end lost to a goal in added time by 1-2. They missed a penalty by Maxuelli who then made amends by putting them ahead (69').

CSKA drew level on 75 minutes and then clinched the win with a goal by in added time.

## 2 matches in 3 days for Malta in UEFA Nations League

**I**n the next few days Malta's national football team has a number of commitments pertaining to the next edition of the UEFA Nations League Group D1 campaign. Malta plays against Andorra, Latvia and the Faroe Islands between September 3 and October 10.

Italian Devis Mangia will make his debut as the team's head coach against Faroe Islands away at Torshavn. Three days later, on the sixth, Malta hosts Latvia at the National Stadium, and on October 10 travels away to face Andorra.

Meanwhile, Birkirkara FC's Italy-born defender Enrico Pepe and midfielder Teddy Teuma who plays for Belgian club Royale Union Saint-Gilloise, have been awarded Maltese citizenship and are available for selection.

## Bayern Munich crowned kings of Europe for sixth time

**A**t the end of a tight and tense match with a few chances for either team, Germany's Bayern Munich were crowned kings of Europe for the sixth time by beating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 to win the UEFA Champions League final. They were deserved victors.

Ironically, the winning goal was headed in by Kingsley Coman who had kicked off his footballing career as an eight-year-old at

PSG, his hometown club. His goal put his club en route to a treble of trophies this season and a sixth triumph in this tournament.

More dramatically, it was coach Hansi Flick's first job in top-flight management. The 55-year-old accepted the job last November.

Playing an attractive, high-pressing game, Bayern registered 33 wins and just two defeats in 36 matches in all competitions.

It was a first appearance for PSG in the final, and Bayern's 11th.

## Mixed fortunes for Parramatta Eagles

**S**ince the last issue, Parramatta Melita Eagles played four NPL 4 NSW Men's league matches, including the pre-arranged Round 4 clash at Hawkesbury City in midweek. They had mixed fortune, but at the weekend managed a much-needed 2-1 victory over lowly **Camden Tigers** at Melita Stadium that puts them back on trek and bounces them back to the middle of the table with 10 points.

The Eagles were the better team and Clement Waoci put them ahead (22 mins) and then hit the upright. Camden levelled (68th) when goalkeeper Nikola Bratic was beaten from the rebound after he saved a penalty. Ali Dulleh netted a winner on (77).

This victory followed a 1-2 away loss to **Hawkesbury City** in the rescheduled 4th Round match. Elliott and a Ramiz Gorja own goal scored for City while Clement Ebahece Waoci got Eagles' consolation.

In Round 5, Parramatta defeated **Prospect United** 2-0 at the Melita Stadium in the match regarded as the newest Maltese Derby with goals from Ali Dulleh (2nd minute) and Michael Martinovic (85th).

The following weekend in Rd 6 the Eagles fought out a 2-2 draw away to **South Coast Flame**. The hosts took the lead through Ali Dulleh. Justin Smith and a Matt Mazeveski penalty put Flame back on top, only for Clement Ebahece Waoci to rescue a point on 62 minutes for Parramatta.

## Record 5th A-League win for Sydney FC

**S**ydney FC made it a record fifth A-League championship victory by beating Melbourne City 1-0 in the final with a Rhyan Grant extra time goal. It also secured them back-to-back championships. They are the first to win five titles in the competition's history

## Also a sixth Europa League title for Seville

**T**he other top UEFA club competition, the Europa League was won by Spain's Seville, also for the sixth time. They beat Inter (Italy) 3-2 in a thrilling final.

The drama started when Seville defender Diego Carlos fouled Romelu Lukaku for an Inter penalty that the Belgian striker scored. It ended when

Lukaku deflected Carlos' bicycle kick into his own net.

Then Luuk de Jong scored from two headers for Seville to put them ahead, while Diego Godin levelled for the Italians at 2-2 in the 35th minute.

With extra-time looming, Lukaku stuck out a leg to Carlos' overhead kick and diverted the ball into his own goal.

## Vale 21-year-old Luke Gardoni

**P**arramatta Melita Eagles is mourning the loss of Luke Gardoni, a former Under 20 player from their 2018 NSW NPL2 season who died on August 20 at the age of 21 after a suffering a cardiac arrest on the field five days earlier representing a local club.

In a post on the club's Facebook page, the PMESC president David Frendo that Luke's impressive performances had earned him a call up to represent the club's 1st Grade side for a match against Western Sydney Wanderers FC.

He said that while representing Castle Hill United FC in a Hills Football Premier League competition match on Au-

gust 15, Luke sadly suffered a cardiac arrest. An immediate CPR and quick paramedic response appeared to have saved Lu-ke's life, but sadly, on the 20th, they received the devastating news of his passing way yesterday afternoon. He had just turned 21 this month.

We offer Luke's family and friends deepest sympathy.

