



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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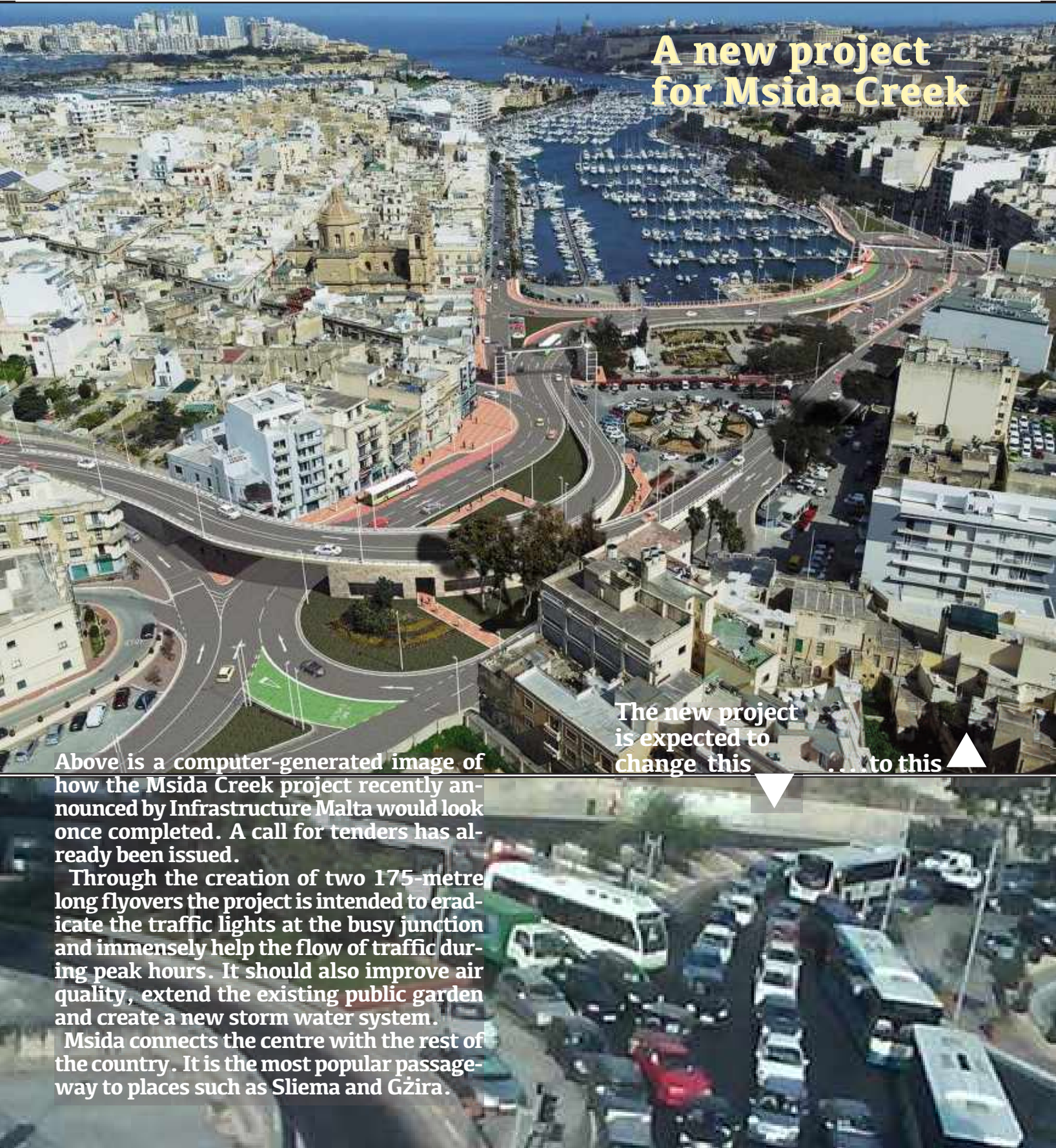
A new project for Msida Creek

Above is a computer-generated image of how the Msida Creek project recently announced by Infrastructure Malta would look once completed. A call for tenders has already been issued.

Through the creation of two 175-metre long flyovers the project is intended to eradicate the traffic lights at the busy junction and immensely help the flow of traffic during peak hours. It should also improve air quality, extend the existing public garden and create a new storm water system.

Msida connects the centre with the rest of the country. It is the most popular passage-way to places such as Sliema and Gżira.

The new project is expected to change this ... to this ▲



Kummentarju:

Il-qawwa tal-istampa miktuba

Dawn iż-żmenijiet tal-pandemija COVID-19 ġabu magħhom hafna ċaqleq u tibdil fil-hajja, speċjalment fost dawk vulnerabbli, li fost kollox sabu ferm aktar ħin liberu. Imma aktar minhekk qed isibu wkoll nuqqas ta' libertà'.

Minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet u għal aktar sigurtà biex ibieghdu l-imxija f'tit li xejn jistgħu joħorgu. Hemm ukoll nuqqas ta' komunikazzjoni ma' dak li s-soltu kien jagħmlhom hajjithom hafna iktar interessanti.

Ahna ta' The Voice of the Maltese bqajna għaddejnin, anke jekk taht ċerti diffikultajiet. Ahna ma nippruduċux biss pubblikazzjoni digitali iżda wkoll immexxu l-uniku maġažin stampat li jinbiegħ fl-Awstralja li hu indirizzat l-aktar lejn il-komunità Maltija.

Bqajna nistampaw b'hafna tbatija, imma ċ-ċirkolazzjoni effettwatna xi f'tit għax il-gruppi Maltin fejn is-soltu jiġi mqassam il-maġažin jinsabu kollha magħluqin.

Iżda haġa tal-iskantament kemm għad għandna komunità li tiddependi fuq l-istampa miktuba. Dan nistgħu nikkonfermawh għax qed nirċevu hafna telefonati jitolbu

għal kopji ta' The Voice. Sa anke kellna talbiet biex imwassluhom kopja d-dar għax ma jistgħux joħorgu.

Kellna wkoll djar tal-anzjani li talbuna kopji. F'każ minnhom wassalniellhom kull edizzjoni, u tant hađu pjacir jaqraw The Voice li sa kien hemm min, fost l-anzjani li ċemplilna biex juri l-apprezzament tiegħu. Fost dawn kellna waħda li b'entużjażmu qaltilna, "meta waslu l-kopji qisna konna rbahna l-lotterija".

Il-ġemgħat li jiltaqgħu fix-shopping centres ukoll ikunu qed jistennew il-kopji tal-maġažin. Il-maġġoranza tagħhom jippreferu jaqraw il-verżjoni stampata ta' The Voice.

Nirringrazzjawkom u nittamaw li ma ndumux ma nerġgħu lura għan-normal.

Nagħtu hajr lil dawk li abbonaw għax zdieđu b'għaxra fil-mija. Inwiegħdu wkoll lil dawk li s-soltu jixtru *The Voice of the Maltese* iżda ma sabuħiex li jekk iridu kopji b'lura (*back copies*) nistgħu nadduomlhom meta niltaqgħu mill-gdid. Il-kopji jmorru lura għall-harga 224 (Marzu 24, 2020).



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

Abuse in the form Coercive Control: Should it be illegal?

by Paul Sant

The most prevalent aspect of domestic violence is the gradual toxic build-up of coercive and controlling behaviour, with or without physical abuse. Even when physical abuse is present, coercive and controlling behaviour sets the scene and enables the continued perpetration of the abuse.

Research shows that the most devastating and long term consequences of family violence are caused by coercive and controlling aspects of the abuse. The resulting harm is both significant and enduring.

Gap in the legislation

At the moment coercive control has not been enacted as a separate offence in NSW or other state or territory in Australia, except for Tasmania, nor has it been integrated into existing domestic and family violence offences.

What are acts of coercion and control?

Coercive control is the use of intimidation, isolation and control, in order to restrict the freedom of the victim and intentionally destroy the victim's self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing.

It is difficult to neatly define a category of coercive and controlling acts, as the abuse is linked to the idiosyncrasies of the particular relationship in which it occurs. It is nuanced and multi-faceted. It can include:

1. psychological abuse;
2. financial abuse;
3. acts that emphasise the invisibility of the victim, and
4. isolation.

Psychological abuse

Psychological abuse is behaviour that

aims to cause emotional or mental harm. The behaviour is repetitive, and conducted with the intention of intimidating, controlling, or causing fear in the victim.

If you examine each small act in isolation, the act itself may not seem significant, however when the course of conduct is looked at as a whole the picture becomes much more sinister. Examples include:

- Embarrassing a person in front of others;
 - Name-calling;
 - Threatening to harm a person, their pets, family members or friends;
 - Treating a person badly because of characteristic they cannot change (such as religion, race, past, disability, gender, sexuality, or family);
 - Ignoring a person;
 - Intentionally confusing a person.
- This might include someone moving or changing things and then denying they have done this.

Financial Abuse

Financial abuse is perpetrated with the intention of controlling or intimidating the victim, causing mental harm, apprehension or fear. Acts of financial abuse include:

- forcing a person to hand over control of their assets and/or income;
- selling a person's property, or the property of their minor children, without their consent;
- stopping a person from earning their own income;
- preventing a person from participating in decisions regarding household expenditure or the sale of joint property;
- preventing an intimate partner from accessing joint bank accounts for the purpose of meeting normal



household expenses; and

- withholding or threatening to withhold financial support that is necessary for the maintenance of an intimate partner and/or their children.

Invisibility

Although it penetrates many parts of the relationship, it can persist undetected to outsiders. It can assume a variety of forms and does not leave physical evidence.

For victim-survivors, this increases their feelings of powerlessness and disconnection to wider social networks. For many survivors, coercive and controlling abuse were coupled with physical violence to create devastating consequences.

Should it be criminalised?

There is no definitive answer to this question yet. There is currently a movement towards criminalising coercive control by way of a new offence. The primary driver of the current push for new legislation is the recognition of the infliction of psychological harm as a key aspect of family violence.

Its prevalence, toxicity and severity is considered so widespread that domestic violence support specialists, frontline workers and legal professionals have joined to push for the re-examination of the case for new law.

However there is concern that the justice system is not ready for such a change. The challenges that will need to be considered include:

1. Will the threat of imprisonment deter perpetrators?
2. Will victims engage with police and the courts and how do we address existing barriers to access?
3. Are law enforcement officers adequately trained to identify coercive control?
4. What are the unintended consequences? Is there a risk of misidentification of the victim and/or systems abuse by the perpetrator?

It is a complex issue that has attracted the attention of numerous enquiries and law reform commission reports. Watch this space.

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



Co-option of Members in Malta's Parliament

In Malta the Nationalist party is in the throes of another leadership election merely three years after Adrian Delia was elected leader. His challenger is Bernard Grech who is backed by the so-called Blue Heroes or rebels, depending on whose side one happens to be.

An important fact is that Grech is in exactly the same position that Delia was in three years ago when he was elected leader: he is not a member of Parliament and if he wins the leadership contest he can only take-up the role of Leader of the Opposition through co-option.

Co-option came into being in order to make up for a quirk in our electoral system, the Single Transferable Vote system, but in recent years has been resorted to with astonishing frequency.

It is not easy to explain.

There are three pathways through which an individual can gain a seat in Malta's Parliament: first, by winning a seat at a general election; second, by election through a casual election; and third, through co-option.

The first is straightforward enough for one to understand since most MPs gain access to Parliament

general election. Hence, the voters' next preference on the relinquishing or resigning MP's ballot has already been exhausted.

This is because under Malta's electoral system an MP's or candidate's vote can only be transferred once. Hence the name the Single Transferrable Vote system. The electoral law, therefore, makes no provision for a bye-election.

But, the seat cannot be left vacant so the only way forward is co-option. The party from whose ranks the MP has resigned or died will now be invited to nominate a person from its ranks for co-option.

There are no restrictions as to whom it can nominate as long as the person being nominated is in no way disqualified under Malta's electoral law. In this sense they are free not only to nominate a person who had not contested the electoral district in question but may pick someone who has never contested an election before.

Procedure first used in 1969

Until 1969 this procedure had been hardly used and in fact only two MPs had been co-opted in this manner, a Mr John Raimondo and Dr J. Miceli. One reason for this was that governments tended to be minority or coalition governments and hence unstable. Sometimes, the length of a legislature was so short that reasons for resignations by individual MPs were few and far between.

However, as we shall see, after 1969 co-option came to play a significant role in Malta's politics.

Between 1969 and 2011 four future Prime Ministers were to gain entry to Parliament in this way. The first of these was Eddie Fenech Adami who was co-opted to Parliament in 1966 following the demise of a PN MP who had been elected by a casual election.

Fenech Adami had failed to win a seat in Parliament and it was only the death of this MP that opened his way to membership. Within less than ten years he had become PN Leader having taken part in the rebellion against George Borg Olivier and in 1987 Prime



Eddie Fenech Adami (1969)

in this way. They are elected at a general election.

The second method, the casual election, comes into play when two elements are present. Under our electoral system a candidate can contest, and some do, on two electoral districts. If elected from both, however, s/he has to give up one of them. Once the candidate or his party decides which seat is to be relinquished, the Electoral Commission will then call on candidates who had contested the electoral district being relinquished, to send in their nomination for the vacated seat.

However, there is no new contest for the seat between these candidates for a casual election is not a bye-election. What will happen is that once the nominations have closed the Commission will open the votes of the candidate who had relinquished the seat and assign the next voter's preference to the indicated candidate. The candidate inheriting the most preferences will win the seat.

A casual election may also be required if a candidate elected at the general election resigns his seat or passes away. Here the Electoral Commission will initiate the same process adopted to fill a relinquished seat.

The problem arises, however, if the MP resigning his seat or has passed away had been elected in a casual election. When this happens there is nothing the Electoral Commission can do to fill the vacant seat.

The reason for this is that the candidates elected at a casual election were elected because they were the most popular next preference on the ballot of the MP originally elected during the



by Prof. Godfrey Pirotta



Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici (1983)

Minister for the first time.

The second was Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici who was co-opted to Parliament in April 1983. Mifsud Bonnici had been appointed Deputy Leader for Party Affairs of the Labour Party in 1981. He had accepted the post on condition that he would not be obliged to contest as a candidate at a general election but Mintoff had other ideas as he intended Mifsud Bonnici to be his successor.

**Continued on page 5*

Co-option of Members in Malta's Parliament

**Continued from page 4*

But given that Mifsud Bonnici had not stood for election his appointment as successor to Mintoff, who at the time was Prime Minister, was problematic. So to resolve this problem, in April 1983, a Labour Member of Parliament, who had been elected through a casual election, resigned his seat making Mifsud Bonnici's co-option possible.

Mifsud Bonnici was appointed Prime Minister in December 1985 when Mintoff announced his decision to relinquish that office, merely two years after being co-opted.

The third MP, who was eventually to become Prime Minister but made his first entry into Parliament by co-option, was Alfred Sant of the Labour Party. Sant had failed to gain a seat during



Alfred Sant (1987)

was elected leader of the MLP. Consequently, he was not in a position to take up his role as Leader of the Opposition until a sitting MP from his party made way for him.

The fact that four Prime Ministers obtained their seats through co-option demonstrates how useful this mechanism has proved to be in recent years.

And since, apparently, it has become almost a custom for political parties in Malta to elect leaders who are not sitting MPs this mechanism is bound to be used more frequently.

It is what again happened three years ago when Adrian Delia, an outsider, was elected as leader of the PN and is bound to happen again if Bernard Grech, another outsider, defeats Delia in the forthcoming leadership challenge On October 3, 2020.

But co-option also played an important part in the 1980s dur-

ing a tumultuous period in Malta's politics. On that occasion it was necessary to co-opt the entire Opposition Bench.

In the December 1981 General Election the PN had obtained a majority of votes but a minority of seats. It argued that since Malta's electoral system was one based on proportional representation it was the legitimate winner of the election and refused to take up its seats on the Opposition benches in Parliament.

Parliamentary Standing Orders lay down that an MP must not absent him/herself from Parliament for two consecutive months without permission and the Speaker, after a number of warnings, on April 26 1982 declared the seats vacant. No candidate submitted his nomination for the subsequent casual elections and therefore the seats remained vacant.

Nevertheless, discussions between the parties to find a solution arising from the 1981 election result continued and in March 1983 Dom Mintoff, as Prime Minister informed the House that the PN MPs were now ready to take their seats in Parliament. But, since their seats had been declared vacant a year earlier, this meant that the 25 PN MPs could not just walk into Parliament and take their seats.

The outcome was a resolution moved by Mintoff invoking the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Ordinance co-opting these dissenting Opposition MPs.

As noted above co-option will have to be employed once again in October 2020 if Bernard Grech wins the PN leadership race.

According to the latter this will not provide any obstacles as some sitting MPs have already promised to give up their seat to make this possible. But this does raise the question: why has it become necessary for Malta's political parties to look outside of the Parliamentary Group whenever the need for a new leader arises?

Does this mean that our electoral system is failing to elect leadership material to Parliament? These are questions worth pondering.



Joseph Muscat (2011)

An appreciation

I believe that expressing my, and perhaps also the other readers' appreciation and gratitude for the interesting articles that *The*

Voice of the Maltese manages to regale us with are in order. I also wish to thank wholeheartedly the production team of this magazine for giving us, the Maltese community, in particular, something to look forward to every fortnight.

The Voice has become a household name with many of us, especially as this is the only publication that the Maltese Diaspora, can closely associate with. This is a magazine that is professionally produced that has the interest of its Maltese readers at heart. It is where we as an ethnic community not only expect but also get regularly, the type of articles and the information that suits us.

I know for a fact that the magazine is also widely read in other countries, which like Australia opened their shores and welcomed Maltese migrants when the need arose, but as I have lived for most of my adult life and raised my family in Australia, I will reserve my judgement to what I know from experience.

I remember when the Maltese community used to have *The Mal-*

ttese Herald. It had its shortcomings but it was a publication that we were proud of. After its demise, we had nothing. After it, others tried to

fill in the blanks by publishing newsletters that however never succeeded to replace the void.

Then about seven years ago came *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine. It has been a godsend. The only drawback is its frequency (every fortnight), but despite this, we are kept updated and never seem to miss anything important. This is a great commitment.

The fact that *The Voice of the Maltese* is produced voluntarily is commendable. To have fellow Maltese sacrificing their time, and probably their coffers for the sake of giving the readers such a good upmarket product, and also help to strengthen the unity of the community, earns my respect.

I appeal to the other readers to do the same. I dare say the producers are making miracles to produce such a publication. There is no other publication like *The Voice* that looks after the interests of the Maltese community. We should recognise this.

Anthony Cassar (St Albans, Victoria)

Blessed with many talents

Our chosen personality for this month is a very active member of the NSW Maltese community. Godfrey Sultana is synonymous with perhaps the biggest Centre for the Maltese in Australia. His skills are diverse, including genealogy and uncovering individual family trees.

Godfrey Sultana

Godfrey Sultana was always active in the community, and before he left Malta he was an active member of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Youth Service Organisation (YSO), and Civil Defence. He also served three years of a four-year engagement with the Royal Malta Artillery (Territorials).

After raising a family, Godfrey again got involved in the Maltese community in the Western suburbs of Sydney. He was a founding member of the La Valette Home Visitation Scheme, For seven years President of the Maltese Welfare Group, Vice President and Assistant Secretary of the Maltese Community Council, and founding member, Treasurer and President of the Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS).

After formally retiring in 2000, Godfrey did work at La Valette as Community Development Officer (CDO), administered the Maltese Respite Care Services for the last twenty years and kept the books and helped in the administration of the Centre. He has served on various committees of La Valette including three years as Vice President.

In 2008 the Maltese Welfare (NSW) gave Godfrey the Quiet Achievers Award.

Family

Godfrey was born in Hamrun in 1944, right at the end of WWII. When he was about four, the family moved to St George's Bay in Birżebbuġa in the same street as Dowdall's Hotel. He lived there till he emigrated to Australia in 1964. He arrived in Sydney on his own one week before his twentieth birthday and spent his first six months in Sydney as a boarder at the De Piro House in Stanley Street with Fr George Scerri, Fr Edward Trapani and Brother Joseph Pantallersco.

Godfrey was later joined by his parents and four brothers and moved to Leichhardt. In 1965 his girlfriend, Antoinette Vella from Zabbar, arrived in Sydney and they were married at the end of 1966. Godfrey and Antoinette have two children, Patrick, a qualified mechanical engineer and IT Specialist, and Michelle, an accredited building and construction lawyer. She currently works for a French tunnelling company as a Corporate Lawyer.

At the last count, Godfrey and Antoinette had four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Education:

Godfrey was educated at the Birżebbuġa Primary School and in 1956 gained entrance to the New Lyceum in Hamrun. After completing the Oxford GCE exams, Godfrey applied as an Emergency Teacher, but before he was accepted he decided to migrate.

He tried to pursue his ambition to become a teacher and applied to CUSA House in Sydney, but that meant another



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

four years of study with no income.

After working there for a couple of years he started accounting studies with ICS (International Correspondence Schools) and before long was accepted as an external student at Mitchell College

of Advanced Education in Bathurst, now Charles Sturt University.

Employment:

Godfrey's first job after leaving the Lyceum, and whilst waiting for engagement as an Emergency Teacher, was as a proof-reader at St Joseph's Press (St Joseph Institute) in Hamrun, a job he held until he emigrated.

In Australia, his first job was as a paymaster with James Hardie at head office where he was responsible for preparing weekly wages for the group that included Spartan Paints, James Hardie Asbestos and James Hardie Ferodo. He then had a stint with Major Builders including Ronald Lyon, which specialised in multi-storey office buildings and Industrial estates.

One of the biggest projects he worked on was a unit complex in Hong Kong built on the side of an entire mountain. He then spent a few years with local builders A. V. Jennings, which at the time besides building domestic homes were heavily involved in new subdivisions in rural areas. All roles were in project management and accounting.

Godfrey then embarked on more ambitious projects with multi-nationals involved in heavy engineering, namely Power Stations in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand.

**Continued on page 7*

Ron Borg:

Remembering: Gaetano Kanta

If you remember the songs that we used to hear from that magical box of entertainment in Malta during the '50s and the '60s, the Rediffusion, you might also remember the singer-songwriter Gaetano Buttigieg, better known as *Gaetano Kanta*.

Gaetano was born in Hamrun on January 17, 1923. He got married to Censina in 1953 and they had 11 children, one of whom was also singer, another one a mother of two children singers as well.

As a 14-year-old pianist, he auditioned with Edward Tagliaferro and became a regular on programmes accompanying singers like Ray Ritardo, Victoria Briffa, The Four Links and Carmen Scerri.

The accomplished composer and musician Major Anthony Aquilina heard Gaetano singing and considered him worthy of becoming part of Mons Mikiel Azopardi's programme *Is-Siegha tal-Morda*.

At first, Gaetano sang English and Italian pop songs, but he also excelled in adapting Maltese lyrics to these songs, something that had only been done just a few, like the famed *Muskettieri* (Charlie Clews and Armando Urso).

Gaetano became quite popular on Rediffusion, with his often requested songs. In the sixties, he also took part on the children's programmes, *Iz-Ziju Salv u In-Nannu Pepp* produced by Salvinu Tellus and Guzi Mallia, and eventually was in-

involved in the Television programme, "Fuq minn tigi jkun Sultan".

He became ever so popular that he was quite often invited to perform at Parish halls all over Malta, accompanied on piano or accordion by Edward Tagliaferro.

Gaetano was quite innovative and talented. He also used to compose new original songs in Maltese, like "L'Akbar habib", and the hymn for the Hal Ghaxaq Primary school. But he excelled in adapting Maltese lyrics to English tunes, like, "Libsa Bil-Barnuż, a perfect adaptation in Maltese of the renowned Christmas Carol 'Jingle Bells'.

On listeners' requests, Gaetano published some 20 booklets with the lyrics of his songs that became very popular with Maltese emigrants as far as Australia and Canada.

He still enjoyed his singing in his early 70's on radio and television programmes, among them, "Pizzi Pizzi Kanna" presented by his daughter Maryanne Zammit.

Gaetano, who took the stage name of Gaetano Kanta, was honoured with an

award for his contribution to Maltese song at the *Festival L-Ghanja Tal-Poplu* in 2001, while the Marsa Local Council also honoured him by presenting him with the *Gieh il-Marsa* award.

Gaetano passed away on February 23, 2004. He was 81. The packed church for his funeral, complete with several concelebrants, was a testimony of the respect and admiration he had earned during his life. It was said, "Above all, Gaetano was an exemplary Christian who always put sound moral values and family above all else"



Personality of the Month for September

Godfrey Sultana

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He spent more than two decades working on multi-million dollar projects for companies like Babcock and Wilcox Aust., International Combustion Aust. Ltd (ICAL), Bailey Meters, Elsad Bailey, Transfield and ABB and was responsible as the Contracts Accountant for all major projects by the said companies.

ICAL employed him solely for a \$400 million project in Western Australia for one of the Power Stations there.

Godfrey travelled all over Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand regularly to check on projects he was in charge of.

Hobbies:

He has several hobbies. They included stamp and coin collecting, and photography. For the last thirty years, he has been heavily involved with Genealogy. Now, this is a paying hobby.

Besides uncovering individual family trees, he also does work for the Public Trustee in various states and is also a consultant to Who Do You Think You Are?

Godfrey Sultana was the main researcher on the Adam Hills episode and did some research on the Troy Cassar-Daley episode. He is currently working on another important project for another organisation.

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The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Malta m'għandix aktar wisgha

Alex Camilleri minn Perth WA, Awstralja jikteb:

Qatt ma jien se neħodha kontra r-refuġjati li minhabba l-kundizzjonijiet inumani jasiu jagħmlu saġrifċċju u jhallu lil familjoni biex imorru jsibu xi pajjiż li fih jistgħu jgħixu ta' veru bnedmin.

Ma neħodhiex kontribom minhabba li missieri, illum mejjet, kien jirakkuntali minn xiex għadda hu u żewġ ħutu wara li hallew Malta biex ġew l-Awstralja jfittxu l-ġenna (kif kienu jgħidulhom), imbagħad sabu tant diffikultajiet u tbatija. Kont ninteressa ruhi nisimghu jgħidli minn kemm tbatija għaddew qabel bil-għaqal ta' Maltin li kienu, stinkaw biex holqu għalihom haġja deċenti, u wara anke bnew familja u rabbew lilna.

Kritika ħarxa b'għan politiku

John Brincat minn Brunswick, Victoria jikteb

Aħna li ngħixu fl-istat ta' Victoria ninsabu għaddejina minn kalvarju. COVID-19 laqitna ferm iktar minn stati oħra fl-Awstralja għalkemm l-ikbar żball kien fil-bidunet fi NSW bil-cruiseship ir-Ruby Princess.

Kissruna, irċevejna kritika ħarxa, hafna minnha mhux ġustifikata, fil-biċċa 'l kbira b'motovazzjoni politika, għax f'dan l-istat inzerza li hawn Gvern Laburista. Ma nafx x'ma għajruhx lill-Premier Daniel Andrews. Qalulu li hu Hitler, li hu dittatur, insomma kritika ħarxa bla bżonn.

Sar żball kbir u ntilef kontroll fil-lukandi, imma waqt li qed nikteb jidher li li State tagħna fl-aħħar jiem għamel qabza kbira lejn in-normal.

Hu biss għall-għaqal tagħhom li jien u ħuti ninsabu komdi illum u aħna wkoll stajna nrabbu familja, li grazzi għall-Bambin ma noqosha xejn. Nittama biss biex dan il-qrriedi virus jitlaq għal dejjem u jhallina ngħix haġja trankwilla.

Dan li għedt biex nidhol għas-suġġett proprju. Hafna drabi nħossni mweġġa' naqra dwar l-immigranti illeali li jaqsmu l-Mediterran u xi nies li x'aktarx ikunu mix-trija, bix-xwini tagħhom jippruvaw idahhluhom f'Malta, l-iżgħar pajjiż fl-Unjoni Ewropeja biex itihom kenn.

Jien insegwi sew x'qed jgħri u naf li għalkemm ma tiflaħx, Malta, flimkien mal-Italja, qed jerfegħu hafna mill-piż ta' dawn l-immigranti. Filwaqt li mbagħad issib is-26 pajjiż iehor membru tal-UE li lanqas biss jimpurtahom.

Malta hi żgħira wisq biex taċetta tkun daqshekk ħanina, u nahseb li lanqas kieku trid ma tista'. Malta hija fost l-aktar pajjiż fl-Ewropa li għandu densità ta' popolazzjoni. Allura kif jista' jkun li toffri l-ispażju li m'għandix lil dawn in-nies.

Waqt li qed nikteb l-Unjoni Ewropeja kienet qed tiddiskuti kif il-membri KOLLHA jistgħu jkun solidali u jaqsmu bejniethom dawn l-immigranti. Malta l-punt tagħha għamlitu. Issa sta għall-oħrajn li juru l-irgħulija. Dan mhux każ ta' flus imma ta' wisgha.

Nattama li ma ndumx ma nisma' li ntlahaq ftehim li jkun tajjeb kemm għall-immigranti, imma wkoll għal Malta. Wara kolloxx Malta sehemha għamlitu, u anzi tat aktar milli wiehed jistenna.

(Ara paġni 12 u 14 biex tkun taf l-aħħar deċiżjonijiet dwar l-immigrazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni Ewropeja wara l-laqgħa importanti ta' nhar l-Erbgħa li għadda fejn giet immedija riforma importanti fir-regolamenti tal-Unjoni Ewropeja dwar il-migrazzjoni u saret proposta ta' solidarjetà).

Time to open up a bit?

Joseph. Borg from Hurstville NSW writes:

Irecently had the opportunity to talk to a few of my Maltese friends active in our community about the current situation. They expressed doubts as to how quickly our community can get back to normal.

I believe that our leaders have kept the community shut-down too much. Not that I blame them for the restrictions, as they have to shield us from this pandemic and need to be very careful to get out of it with the least damage. However, I think it is time to relax a little.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Memorji u nostalgia ...

L-iskema tad-djar għall-Malti fl-Awstralja

Lawrence Dimech

Meta nharsu lejn l-istorja tal-emigranti Maltin fl-Awstralja, naraw li kellhom jikkumbattu mewġiet qawwija biex kisbu d-drittijiet tagħhom, kemm meta ffrontaw il-Gvernijiet Maltin u anke dawk Awstraljani. M'hemmx dubju li l-aktar żewġ akkwisti għall-Maltin fl-Awstralja kienu ċ-ċittadinanza doppja u l-ftehim reċiproku bejn Malta u l-Awstralja fejn jidhlu is-servizzi soċjali.

Il-kostituzzjoni tal-Indipendenza ta' Malta fl-1964 għamlitha ċara li dawk li kisbu ċ-ċittadinanza Awstraljana tilfu dik Maltija. Kellha tkun battalja harxa ta' madwar 35 sena biex il-Gvern Malti reġa' tagħna lura d-dritt li nistgħu nżommu ż-żewġ ċittadinanzi. L-Awstralja wkoll għarfet id-dritt ta' ċittadinanza doppja.

L-akkwist l-iehor li tassew serva ta' għajna kien meta fl-2005 Malta u l-Awstralja agġornaw ftehim reċiproku biex dawk li jkollhom id-dritt tal-pensjonijiet/servizzi soċjali/saħħa jkunu jistgħu jirċevuhom fiż-żewġ pajjiżi fejn ikunu jgħixu. Oriġinarjament, l-ewwel ftehim kien sar fl-1991.

Illum irrid infakkar f'akkwist iehor li ftit

TAHT: Il-Prim Ministru Giorgio Borg Olivier jikkonferma mal-gurnalisti meta kien żar l-Awstralja fl-1966



jissemma izda li kellu sinifikat u kien ta' hteġa kbira fiż-żmien li gie implimentat. Qed ngħid għall-sskema ta' għajna mill-Gvern Malti biex l-emigranti jkunu jistgħu jixru djarhom.

Sintendi, minn meta giet imhabbra "l-iskema ta' Djar għall-emigranti Maltin" għal meta mbagħad giet implimentata, għaddejna minn hafna skossi.

Smajna b'din l-iskema għall-ewwel darba f'Settembru 1963 meta l-Ministru tax-Xogħol u l-Għajna Soċjali li kien ukoll inkarigat mill-emigrazzjoni ta' dak iż-żmien (illum mejjet) Dr Alex Cachia Zammit kien għamel żjara fl-Awstralja u qalilna li l-Gvern se jahdem fuq din l-iskema.

Meta l-Perit Dom Mintoff żbalja

Mir-rapporti fil-gurnali Maltin ta' tliet snin wara l-Gvern Nazzjonalista kien għadu qed jistudja din l-iskema. In-naħa Laburista f'it tawha mportanza.

F'Novembru tal-1966 fl-ewwel żjara li qatt saret fil-kontinent Awstraljan minn Prim Ministru ta' Malta, Dr Giorgio Borg Olivier habbar li sehem tal-Gvern Malti kien se jkun ta' £637,500.

Fl-1967 twaqqfet il-Maltese Co-Operative Building Society

u hargħu flus ukoll mill-banek Awstraljani. F'Awwissu 1967, il-Kummissarju ta' dak iż-żmien, Dr A.A. Pullicino kien qal li din l-iskema issa bdiet u se sservi lill-Maltin fl-istati ta' NSW u Victoria biss. Qal li l-iskema kellha tibda b'fondi ta' \$A4 miljun u lli -Maltin setgħu jisselfu madwar \$8,000 fuq tul ta' 29 sena b'imghax ta' 5.5%.

L-iskema spiċċat taħt il-harsien ta' għaqda kattoлика bl-isem ta' Hibernian/Maltese Home Loans. Il-prezz biex tibni dar dak iż-żmien kien bejn \$5,000 u \$7,000 dollaru, u l-aktar li stajt tissellef kien ta' \$8,250.

Fil-politika Maltija dejjem ikun hemm li min skemi bħal dawn janalizzawhom minn lenti partigġjani. The Maltese Herald, li dak iż-żmien u tul iktar minn ham-sin sena, kienet tarka u lehen sod għall-Maltin, appoġġjat din l-iskema ta' għajna.

Il-Perit Duminku Mintoff f'meeting f'Birzebbuga kien qal li l-Gvern Nazzjonalista ċcaqqiaq dwar din l-iskema minhabba ittra li kien kiteb ir-rappreżentat tal-partit Laburista fl-Awstralja Joseph Forace.

F'artiklu li jien kont ktibt f'It-Torca tas-27 ta' Awwissu 1967 intitolat MINTOFF ŻBALJA, kont fissirt li l-mexxej Laburista kien "qal hmerija" għax dak li kien kiteb Forace kien wara li l-iskema kienet diġa bdiet tiġi implimentata.

Veru li kien hemm hafna dewmien bejn l-ewwel indikazzjonijiet u meta finalment bdiet taħdem l-iskema izda kull ringrazzjament għandu jmur fejn kien xieraq.

Dan juri biċ-ċar, li anke hamsa u tletin sena ilu, qatt ma bżajna niddefendu l-verità fejn jidhlu d-drittijiet u l-bżonnijiet tal-emigrant Malti fl-Awstralja.



L-ewwel dar li nbni taħt l-iskema kienet fis-sub-borg ta' Lalor Victoria. J.J. Tabone jidher mal-familja ta' Charles Scicluna kif dahlu fid-dar.

Perspettiva

Għan

Min hu Malti u ma semax b'Għan? Mit-tfulija, f'xi waqt mit-tagħlim tal-lingwa jew il-letteratura Maltija tiġi moqrija l-hrafa ta' Għan u l-bieb (*karikatura lemin*), li tispicča taqşam lill-klassi kollha bid-dahk! Aktarx jgħaddi minn mohħok meta tismagħha l-ewwel darba "imma kemm trid tkun sempliċi biex ma tifhimx x'riedet tgħidlu ommu lil dan il-karattru tfajjel, meta qaltlu biex jgħbed il-bieb warajh?"

Jekk ma tkunx smajtha l-iskola, żgur tisma' dwarha fi bnadi oħra, għax hija ɔajta popolari meta xi hadd jgħidlek biex qabel ma titlaq mid-dar, "agħmel bħal Għan".

L-istorja hija ħelwa u ma tixjiegħ qatt. Ftit snin ilu kont qed ngħallem il-Malti lil xi studenti, u kont qed nuża ktieb ta' Victor Vella li ma naqasx li kellu dan ir-rakkont¹. Ma nistax ninsa r-reazzjoni tal-istudenti li apprezzawh ma ngħidilkomx kemm, speċjalment waħda bl-isem ta' Carol li ġieli għadha tfakkarhieli sal-lum.

Fil-fatt, dan ir-rakkont huwa biss wiehed minn ħafna rakkonti bbazati fuq il-ħajja u l-filosofija ta' Nasreddin Hodja. Dan kien persunaġġ Tork li għex fis-seklu tlettax, imwied f'Sivrihisar u miet f'Akşehir, fit-Turkija. Wara perjodu ta' studju, Nasreddin kien sar imam Musulman u wkoll magistrat tal-qorti tax-Xarija.²

Nasreddin kellu sens ta' umoriżmu, ottimiżmu u sarkażmu, u b'kuraġġ kien jikkellem dwar l-ingustizzji u d-dizonestà. Hemm eluf ta' stejjer u ħrejjef li huma marbutin b'xi mod miegħu, u huwa impossibbli li dawn kollha kienu ntqalu jew inkitbu minnu.

Fil-fatt, hemm diversi tradizzjonijiet mibnija madwar dan il-persunaġġ. Fil-Mediterran, stejjer marbutin ma' tfajjel sempliċi nsibuhom fit-Toskana (Giucca), fi Sqallija (Giufà), fil-Kalabrija (Iogà) u Sardinja (Giafà), bl-istejjer ta' Għan ta' Malta jixbħu l-iktar dawk ta' Sqallija.³

Huwa possibbli li l-karattru ta' Għan wasal Malta meta marru hemmhekk l-Għarab minn Sqallija, jew inkella direttament mid-dinja Iżlamika li tirreferi għalih bħala Goha, Ġiha jew Hoġa.⁴

It-tradizzjoni ta' Nasreddin mhix limitata ġeografikament għar-ġuni msemmija, imma wkoll f'oħrajn tal-Mediterran bħall-Greċja u l-Albanija, fil-Lvant Nofsani bħall-Persja (Iran), l-Armenja, l-Ażerbajġan u fost il-Kurdi, u fl-Asja (ir-Russja, iċ-Ċina, l-Indja u l-Indoneżja).⁵

B'firxa tant wiesgħa tal-messaġġ u l-ħsieb ta' dan il-bniedem, wiehed jista' jifhem kif tradizzjonijiet ta' stejjer tiegħu setgħu nbnew u żviluppaw fil-kotra l-kbira li jinsabu llum, u anke kif tradizzjonijiet oħra jeżistu ta' minn fejn kien.

Mhux l-istejjer kollha huma ta' wiehed sempliċi jew iblah. Ikkunsidraw din l-istorja qasira, li fiha daqsxejn għaqal.⁶

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

kitba ta'
**IVAN
CAUCHI**



Nasreddin kien qed jiehu l-gheneb lejn is-suq fuq ħmar. Gruppi ta' tfal żgħar talbuh bil-ħniena għall-gheneb, imma hu tahom biss f'it kull wiehed. Għajtu "kemm inti xhih!" "Lanqas xejn" wegibhom. "Qed nagħmel hekk għax l-gheneb kollha l-istess jintogħmu. Jekk idduq waħda, tkun taf x'togħma għandhom kollha. Għalhekk xorta waħda jekk tiehu waħda jew tiehu ħafna."

Tassew, hemm x'titgħallem minn Għan!

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Is-Surmast Ġużeppi Azzopardi

Kompożitur tal-imghoddi b'marċi mill-aqwa

Fost id-drawwiet fil-festi tradizzjonali fl-irhula u l-ib-
liet, Maltin hemm il-baned li fihom jispikkaw ċerti
marċi, ġieli miktuba għall-okkażjoni minn surmastri-
jiet bravi. Fost il-marċi hemm wiehed li 'jitektanta' minn
kulhadd u kullimkien f'Malta, (l-aktar miż-żgħażaġh). Dan
isir kemm waqt il-festi kif ukoll f'attivitajiet politiċi,
okkażjonijiet oħra festivi, u anke sportivi. Dan huwa kom-
pożizzjoni tas-Surmast Rabt Ġużeppi Azzopardi.

S'issa dan il-marċ li wkoll huma midhla sew tiegħu l-ko-
munitajiet Maltin li jgħixu barra, għadu mingħajr lirika.
Min 'ikantah' kull ma jghid hu biss, 'ta - tata - ta - tiiiiiii ...
raaaaaa' ... u jkompli.

Li jiddispijaci li hafna ma jafux li dan il-marċ għandu l-
isem *Coronation*. Is-surmast Az-
zopardi li kitbu qatt ma kien
jidderiegi baned ta' kazini, għal-
kemm kien midhla sewwa tal-
banda Konti Ruggieru tar-Rabat.

Fir-Rabat dan is-surmast kien
magħruf bħala 'Ġużeppi ż-Żnaj'.
Kien jaf idoqq hafna l-pjanu, u l-
marċi tiegħu kien jiktbhom fuq
il-pjanu li kien l-għajxien tiegħu u
ta' familtu. Xogħlu kien li jdoqq
il-pjanu f'wiehed mill-klabbijiet
fil-belt Valletta, u li jgħallem il-
pjanu. Kellu wkoll orkestrina.

Mill-ewwel sirt midhla tal-marċi
tiegħu għax il-banda Konti Rug-
gieru (li kont niffirma parti min-
nha) dejjem iddoqq marċi tiegħu,
u bis-saħħa t'hekk sirt naf hafna
mill-marċi li kkompona.

Niftakar pereżempju l-marċ
tiegħu fuq stil ta' mużika Ciniża,
PIU in Chun King, li ġie msemmi
għal mużicista tal-banda Rabtija li
kien magħruf bħala l-PIU u li fl-
aħħar spicċa l-katubier tal-banda.
PIU in Chun King huwa marċ
tasew sabiħ u differenti minn
oħrajn, kif fil-fatt huma l-marċi
kollha ta' Azzopardi.

Qed ngħid differenti għax ghan-
du marċi bi stil Spanjol (bħal,
Arena, *Eviva Grande Spagna* u
oħrajn); dawk bi stil Naplitan
(bħal, *Napoli*, *Vesuvio* u aktar); bi stil Ċiniż, bħal *Chinese Rose*;
bi stil Gharbi l-*Arabian Night*, *Cairo* u aktar. Għandu wkoll
marċi sud-Amerikani bħal *Carnival di Rio* jew il-famuż
Christopher Columbus (ukoll wiehed mill-aqwa tiegħu).

Kollha kemm huma ġew miktuba bis-sens, għax qabel jik-
teb il-marċi Azzopardi kien jagħmel studju profund tar-
ritmi tal-pajjiżi li kien jassoċja magħhom il-marċi. Wara
kien kapaci jsarraf dawn ir-ritmi b'melodiji f'posthom u
fil-istess hin festivi. Mhix ċajta!

Niftakar lill-habib tiegħi (illum mejjet) Pawlu Tonna Ta'
Santu, li dejjem kien jiffirma parti mill-kumitat tal-banda
Konti Ruggieru, jghidli li fl-arkivju mużikali tas-socjetà
tagħhom għandhom hafna marċi ta' Azzopardi. Bħal hafna
socjetajiet mużikali oħra, dawn ma tantx iħobbu jsellfu par-
titure mużikali.

Il-marċ 'Coronation'

Il-marċi *Coronation* u *Columbus* hargu baxx baxx u spicċaw
għand il-baned kważi kollha ta' Malta. Illum hafna huma



l-baned Maltin li qed idoqqu
marċi ta' Azzopardi.

Azzopardi ikkompona l-marċ
Coronation fl-okkażjoni tal-Inku-
runazzjoni tar-Regina Elizabetta
II. Dan fil-fatt hu wiehed minn
għadd ta' marċi Imperjalisti oħra
tas-surmast. Fost l-oħrajn hemm
ukoll dak imsejjaħ *Prince Charles*,
Welcome the Royal Family, u
Golden Eagle.

Huwa kiteb ukoll xi marċi,
uħud funebri għall-banda La
Valette, li kien ukoll midhla
tagħha, bejn għax għamel żmien
joqgħod il-Belt (ommu Beltija) u
bejn għax kien Pawlin sa mit-
tnissil tiegħu.

Ġużeppi tweled ir-Rabat, il-kbir
fost tmien ulied, fit-8 ta' Marzu,
1908. Missieru, li kien ukoll ban-
dist mal-banda Konti Ruggieru,
kien l-ewwel għalliem tiegħu fil-
mużika. Wara kompla mas-Sur-
mast Giuseppe Vitaliti li wkoll
kien is-surmast tal-istess banda.
Il-kompożitur hareg idoqq mal-
banda Konti Ruggieru u kkom-
pona l-ewwel marċ tiegħu meta
kien għad kellu biss 16-il sena.

Minhabba u l-hila tiegħu fid-
daq tal-pjani, ta' zagħżuġh, mar
jistudja l-pjanu u t-teorija l-In-
gilterra. Ma tantx dam hemm

għax qalbu kienet taħarqu għar-Rabat. Fil-karriera tiegħu
mar ukoll jgħix l-Amerika fejn ikkompona l-marċ *New York
City!* Fil-fatt is-Surmast Azzopardi miet l-Amerika, fit-18 ta'
Diċembru, 1968 meta kellu kważi 60 sena.

Agostina l-Ballerina'

Għandi ammirazzjoni kbira lejn il-marċi ta' Azzopardi,
imma x-xewqa tiegħi hija li nisma' l-mużika tal-għadd ta'
vodvilli li kkompona. Kien anke ikkompona l-mużika tal-
operetta f'zewġ atti bl-isem *Agostina l-Ballerina*, bi kliem ta'
Carmelo Azzopardi, li jigi zijuh stess.

Din l-operetta ttellgħet għall-ewwel darba f'Jannar, tal-
1953 fit-teatru li kellu l-kazini Konti Ruggieru u giet eseg-
wita mill-Għaqda Drammatika *Golden Rose*.

Darba kien ċempilli xi hadd mill-Kultura u ssuġġerjtu
din l-operetta. Kien jaf sewwa bil-marċi ta' Azzopardi għax
hu wkoll dilettant tal-baned Maltin. Jidher li s-suġġeriment
għogbu. Izda x'gara eżatt wara ma nafx, biss jidher li ma
sar xejn!



Roundup of News About Malta



European migration pact proposes flexible solidarity



EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announcing the pact

At a meeting last Wednesday the European Commission unveiled a new pact on Migration and Asylum that includes mandatory solidarity on migration that Malta and Italy in particular, have long insisted on. The pact has still to be approved by the Council and the European Parliament.

The new pact announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reflects a just and reasonable balance between responsibility and also solidarity among member states and puts an obligation on them to show solidarity in times of crisis. It argues for a flexible system of the contribution that relies on the willingness of member states.

However, some East European states, particularly Hungary and Poland, are strongly opposing relocation mechanisms.

The Commission pointed out the need for countries to help stabilise the overall system by supporting other states ensure the EU fulfils its humanitarian obligations "in times of stress".

It suggests a system ranging from the relocation of asylum seekers from the country of first entry to taking over responsibility for returning individuals with no right to stay, or various forms of operational support.

The new pact also deals with the management of the EU's external borders by proposing streamlined procedures on asylum and return.

For the first time, the proposed integrated border procedure will include a pre-entry screening covering identification of all people crossing the EU's external borders without permission or having been disembarked after a search and rescue operation.

This will also entail health and a security check, fingerprinting and registration in the Eurodac database after which individuals can be channelled to the right procedure. Swift decisions will then be made on whether asylum should be granted or if the individual should be returned.

The Commission is calling for an effective return policy and an EU-coordinated approach to returns of those migrants who are not eligible for protection, and in the hope of addressing migrant smuggling, also proposes "mutually beneficial partnerships with key third countries of origin and transit".

Ursula von der Leyen said that the commission has set out to restore the citizens' confidence in their capacity to manage migration as a Union.

"It is now time to rise to the challenge to manage migration jointly, with the right balance between solidarity and responsibility," Von der Leyen said.

She said the proposals would secure permanent and consistent solidarity for a member state, and that "The proposals will focus on not if member states will contribute, but how they can contribute."

Malta commemorates 56th Anniversary of Independence

The COVID-19 pandemic did not preclude Malta from commemorating the 56th Anniversary of its Independence on September 21. One of the island's five National Days that reminds one of the birth of Malta as an independent and sovereign state after centuries of foreign rule was still celebrated with some pomp by the high authorities in the morning, but popular events normally organised by the National Festivities Committee had to be abandoned.

The Malta Armed Forces were an integral part of the celebrations with the usual band marches in the streets of Valletta. They also formed a Guard of Honour to greet Prime Minister Robert Abela and President George Vella, who, after the national salute, inspected the Guard of Honour.

A Pontifical Mass at St. John's Co-Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna and attended by the country's highest authorities followed. A homily by the Archbishop that reflected on seven principles in the Church's social teaching was the main focus and the ceremony ended with the singing of the Te Deum.

At the end of the church service, President George Vella, Prime Minister Robert Abela and the Leader of the Opposition Adrian Delia met in Floriana where they paid tribute to an Independent Malta by placing bouquets of flowers on the monument marking the event on September 21, 1964, that marks the day when Malta ended 150 years of British rule.

President of Malta, George Vella laying flowers on the Malta Independent monument





Roundup of News About Malta

The Maltese Public Service ranks first for e-government in Europe

Malta has once again classified in first place among 36 countries that include all the EU member states, as well as Iceland, Norway, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, for the online public services that it provides.

Malta classified first in all the criteria upon which this exercise – called e-government benchmarking – is based, and which is done each year by the European Commission.

It classified in top place in the quality and design of the service itself, as well the ease with which its clients can use it. Maltese online services attained 99% of the possible points, which is 12.5 percentile points higher than the European Union average.

It is also best in the transparency adopted in the services provided, and the accessibility of online services, even when citizens are far away from their country, with 87% of the possible points, as well as 89% of the possible points when it comes to accessibility for businesses beyond Malta's

shores.

The Public Service obtained 100% of the possible points when it comes to technical elements considered important for the delivery of online government services.

In 2014, the Public Service embarked on its renewal with aimed at delivering better services to the people, with its first vision being that of 24/7 accessibility. This implementation resulted in the setting up of servizz.gov, an agency through which the government delivers its services.

Over the past five years a €150 million investment in technology has been made. Another €40 million are being invested in projects that are currently underway.

Meanwhile, during The Public Service Week 2020 held last week, with the theme 'Public Service Always At Hand', after visiting a number of work places, Principal Permanent Secretary Mario Cutajar said that the strong investment in technology that has taken place in recent years in the Public Service, as well as the sharp leap in

public trust in governmental services, are being reflected in a number of sectors, including the Police Corps and the Armed Forces.



Malta ratifies the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo signed the Instrument of Ratification for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) that was deposited at the United Nations in New York on September 21 by Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN at a time when the United Nations was commemorating its 75th Anniversary of its foundation, and the International Day of Peace.

In so doing, Malta becomes one of the first 50 states to ratify the treaty, which is the minimum number of signatures and ratifications required for the treaty to enter into force. The ratification occurred as Malta was commemorating the 56th An-

niversary Independence Day.

This development follows rapidly on Malta's signing of the treaty on August 24 last, whereby the island became the 84th UN member state to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The treaty has the ambition to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons that is also a guiding principle of Malta's foreign policy.

The ratification of this treaty stands in testimony to Malta's unwavering commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and global disarmament that remain crucial to securing a safer future for all and for future generations.

Napoleon's 1798 letter

Heritage Malta has added another jewel to its national collection by purchasing a letter with orders by Napoleon Bonaparte to General Desaix to start planning the invasion of Malta in 1798.

The letter that sheds light on Napoleon's strategic mind when he instructed his general to invade the Maltese islands was bought at a Sotheby's auction for €60,000.

CCF's telethon collects over €1 million

A total of €1,010,985 were collected during a 12-hour telethon, 'Ghinuna Nghinukom' (Help us to help you), organised by The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation that was transmitted on all the local television stations, in a bid to compensate for the shortfall in donations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of the restrictions intro-

duced to curb the spread of the virus, annual fund raising events that used to help fill up the national charity fund's coffers had to be cancelled, depriving the MCCFF of valuable funds to support those in need.

At the end of the telethon, President of Malta George Vella and Mrs Vella thanked the Maltese people for being so big-hearted, as well as the team that organised the event.

Joseph Calleja in an online performance October 24/25

As the Metropolitan Theatre in New York is closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of Malta's biggest celebrities, tenor Joseph Calleja who was selected to serve as the island's first cultural ambassador in 2012, will be performing online in an exclusive 60-minute programme on October 24. This will be a special 'Pay Per View' Celebrity Recital at St John's, the island's 16th-century Co-Cathedral.

The performance will

be one of a series to be co-produced by Joseph's agent. He will be joined by soprano Diana Damrau. This outstanding soprano-tenor pairing will present a programme of popular arias and duets. They will sing live accompanied by piano.

The performance will be aired at 1pm New York time, and 7pm European time. The time in Sydney will be 4am on Sunday 25th of October. It can be watched live for the price of \$20.00.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Il-migranti - sinjal ta' tama

Għadu kif tħabbar li l-Unjoni Ewropeja waslet biex tpoġġi għall-approvazzjoni tal-pajjiżi msieħba proposta dwar il-problema tal-immigrazzjoni, li fost kollox se tagħmilha obligatorja li l-membri kollha jerfgħu parti mill-piż tal-problema billi jiehdu għadd ta' immigranti li jkunu dahlu f'pajjiżi oħra tal-UE. Dawk li ma jaċċettawx li jiehdu l-immigranti jridu jħallsu biex ipattu għal dan.

Nahseb hafna bħali jemmnu li hawn hu l-iżball: li xorta se tiffalla toqba biex membri ma jaċċettawx immigranti f'pajjiżhom għax ikunu lesti jħallsu biex jzommuhom boġħod minn pajjiżhom.

Imma l-flus ma jsolvux il-problema ta' pajjiżi bħala Malta, li mhix tfitex il-flus imma li ma tibqax taċċetta immigranti aktar milli tiflaħ.

Għalkemm veru, kif qal il-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropew, Evarist Bartolo, dan huwa "bidu tajjeb" biex forsi tissolva l-problema, imma xorta għadna ferm boġħod mis-soluzzjoni.

Sadanittant il-Prim Ministru ħabbar li dis-sena f'Awwissu kellna żewġ terzi inqas ta' wasliet ta' immigranti irregolari meta mqabbel mas-sena l-oħra. Qal kif l-obbligu li jkunu salvati l-hajjiet qatt ma gie abbandunati iżda hemm nuqqas kbir ta' solidarjetà mill-istati membri tal-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Stqarr li mhux se jkun qed jaċċetta li dan il-piż jerfgħu il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin biss. Sostna li Malta llum hija mimlija u ma tistax tieħu iżjed im-migranti. Spjega kif huwa surreali li għandek il-kandidat tal-establishment għal kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li qed jgħid li Malta mhux veru full-up. Abela insistia li l-prinċipju se jibqa' n-nuqqas ta' wasliet.

Qal li problema ewlenija hija li għandek gemgħat kriminali li qed jittraffikaw l-umani, u stqarr li l-Libja trid tiġi mgħejjuna tirraġa s-sitwazzjoni preżenti.

Nistennu u naraw x'se jiġri.

(Ara wkoll paġna 12 dwar il-patt propost mill-Kummissjoni Ewropeja).

Jigu milquta l-anzjani

Sfortunatament, filwaqt li matul l-ewwel xhur, Malta rnexxielha tik-kontrolla tajjeb il-imxija tal-koronavirus, tant li kien hemm żmien meta lanqas kellna każ wiehed, fl-aħħar xhur l-għadd żdied sewwa.

Biex taqgħad perċentwal għoli minn dawk effettwati huma anzjani, l-aktar nies vulnerabbli, u dan irriżulta fl-għadd ta' mwiet ta' nies effettwati minn dan il-virus f'din il-pandemija li spara l-fuq. Sat-Tnejn l-imwiet kienu telghu għal 32.

Jidher li l-maġġoranza tal-anzjani milquta u li tilfu ha-jjithom ġejjin minn erbat idjar privati tal-anzjani, partikularment minn dik ta' San Ġużèpp fil-Fgura, fejn skont l-aħħar figuri minn 278 residenti, 113-il anzjan irriżultaw pożittivi għall-Covid-19.

It-tajjeb li skont it-tmexxija tad-dar, il-maġġoranza tal-anzjani bil-virus m'għandhomx sintomi. Ma dawn hemm ukoll 29 fost il-haddiema tar-residenza li wkoll laqtu l-virus.

Għalkemm il-manijer tal-kumpless jinsisti li s-sitwazzjoni hi taht kontroll, xi whud minn dawk li għandhom qrafa f'din id-dar sostnew li r-riżultati kienu qed jinżammu mistura mill-istess qrafa. Ir-Residenza iżda



qed tinsisti li qed jinżamm kuntatt mal-qrafa u jinfu-

mawhom minnufih kif jirċievu r-riżultati.

Il-ftuħ tal-iskejjel pospost b'gimgha

Sadanittant saret u qed Sissir diskussjoni qawwija dwar il-ftuħ tal-iskejjel li kellhom jinfethu l-bierah it-Tnejn 28 ta' Settembru, wara li saru hafna arangamenti ta' sigurtà. L-Unjons tal-għalliema kienu qed jgħidu li minhabba l-għadd għoli ta' infezzjonijiet, l-iskejjel aħjar jifthu aktar tard.

Xi ġenituri wkoll kienu qed juru t-thassib tagħhom dwar jekk għandhomx jibagħtu lill-uliedhom l-iskola jew le.

Għalhekk nhar il-Gimgha l-awtoritajiet habbru li issospendew il-ftuħ b'gimgha u l-55,000 student u studenta u

9,000 edukatur mhux se jib-dew fl-istess jum.

L-edukaturi bdew jidhlu fl-iskejjel mill-bierah it-Tnejn filwaqt li l-istudenti se jidhlu fl-iskejjel fi gruppi differenti mis-7 ta' Ottubru sal-14 ta' Ottubru, biex b'hekk il-prattici l-godda ta' protokoll jilhqqu jindraw bil-mod il-mod. B'danakollu sal-14 ta' Ottubru l-iskejjel, kemm statali, tal-Knisja u privati jridu jkunu bdew kollha.

F'dawn iċ-ċirkustanzi ġew ukoll sospizi r-regolament tal-attendanza ta' bilfors. Il-ġenituri se jkollom l-għażla jekk jibagħtux lil uliedhom l-iskola jew le. Sadanittant għal dawk li jibqgħu d-dar se jsiru lezzjonijiet online.

Il-Prim Ministru qal li hu akbar ta' dannu minn tal-koronavirus għat-tfal meta ma jintbagħtux l-iskola.

Hi sitwazzjoni xi ftit diffiċli għal min imexxi l-qasam tal-edukazzjoni u l-iskejjel. Sar risk assessment u l-iskejjel kollha jinsabu konformi mal-protokoll tas-saħħa



Il-kelma "Qahba" mhix aċċettabbli

Wara libell li l-membri parlamentari Laburista u Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Ugwaljanza Rosianne Cutajar, fethet kontra Godfrey Leone Ganado u Rachel Williams, li offendewha meta fuq Facebook Leone Ganado għajjarha qahba, il-Qorti Maltija iddeċidiet li l-kelma "qahba" mhix aċċettabbli.

F'kumment fuq il-paġna ta' Facebook tagħha, Cutajar sostniet li l-Qorti qalet li dan mhux aċċettabbli fil-konfront ta' kwalunkwe

mara jew tfajla.

"Il-messaġġ hu ċar, l-ebda mara m'għandha taċċetta dan it-tip ta' lingwaġġ," sostniet Cutajar (*stampa fuq il-lemin*).

"Kull min jafni jaf li naċċetta kull tip ta' kritika għax għandi rwol politiku. Ejja niddibattu, ejja ma naqblux iżda ejja ma niddeġenerawx f'lingwaġġ sessist ta' din it-tip jekk verament irridu iżjed nisa fil-politika," saħqet Rosianne Cutajar.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Ninsabu fl-elezzjoni għal kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista

Sakemm taqraw dan l-artiklu tkun diġà bdiet il-votazzjoni għall-elezzjoni tal-Mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li se tkun mifruxa fuq hamest ijiem, sat-3 ta' Ottubru.

Sintendi bħalissa l-kampanja elettorali taż-żewġ kandidati tinsab fl-aqwa tagħha, biż-żewġ kandidati jiffukaw hafna fuq l-għaqda fil-partit, li f'dawn l-aħħar snin kienet imxellfa sewwa. Imma xorta ma naqsux il-batibekki, hafna drabi ndiretti, bejn iż-żewġ kandidati.

Ma naqsitx ir-referenza għan-nuqqasijiet fil-konfront tal-ħlas tat-taxxi taż-żewġ kandidati, fejn il-midja (mhux dik tal-Partit Laburista) komplet tikxef li Delia għad

għandu jhallas ammont konsiderevoli ta' taxxa - li hu jgħid li dan il-ħlas ma sarx minhabba li hemm kwestjoni li għandha x'taqsam mas-separazzjoni tiegħu minn mal-mara li għadha ma gietx solvuta u kompli.

Qal: "Qatt ma kelli issues ta' evażjoni ta' taxxa. Qatt ma kelli issues illi t-taxxa tiegħi ma ddikjarajt hex kollha."

Din kienet botta fina lejn ir-rival tiegħu Bernard Grech li, skont rapport ta' The Times, sentejn ilu kien gie mistharreg dwar dħul mhux iddikjarat lill-awtoritajiet tat-Taxxi fuq diversi snin.

Huma kummenti li ma tantx jawguraw tajjeb biex ikun hemm l-għaqda fil-PN li l-istess żewġ kandidati qed jippridkaw dwarha.

Arrestat Keith Schembri

Aħbar li ddominat l-midja lokali fl-aħħar jiem kien l-arrest ta' Keith Schembri, l-eks Kap tal-Istaff fl-Ufficiju tal-eks Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat.

Għalkemm dan issemma' hafna fl-inkjesta u fil-kumpilazzjoni dwar il-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, l-arrest tiegħu ma kienx b'konnessjoni ma' dan il-każ, imma dwar allegat tixhim konness mal-iskema ta' ċittadinanza b'investiment, jew dik li hafna jirreferu għaliha bħala l-bejgħ tal-passaporti.

Zmien ilu l-eks-Mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Simon Busuttil, kien talab li ssir inkjesta dwar allegazzjoni ta' tixhim li fiha allegatament kienu nvoluti Keith Schembri u Brian Tonna li jmessi l-kumpannija Nexia BT li, fost kollox, kellha l-liċenzja biex tressaq barranin li jkunu interessati li japplikaw għal din l-iskema.

Ir-rapport tal-inkjesta hareġ dan l-aħħar u qala furur shih billi l-Avukat Ġenerali, li għadha kif inhatret, irrifjutat li tippubblika r-rapport jew li tati kopja lil Busuttil.

Attwalment, bil-liġi l-Avukat Ġenerali m'għandha l-ebda obbligu li tippubblika r-rapport, għalkemm jistgħu jiġu mitluba biex jiġu pprezentati lill-qorti dawk il-partijiet li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma akkużati meta jitressqu xi mixlija b'xi reat li johroġ mir-rapport.

Izda f'tit jiem wara l-Avukat Ġenerali xorta hadet azzjoni dwar ir-rapport billi talbet lill-qorti tiffriża l-assi ta' Schembri u Tonna, tal-kumpanniji mdahhla fihom u anke xi familjari. Attwalment ġew iffrizati l-assi ta' madwar 91 kumpannija u persuni.

Sadanittant, aktar tard il-Pulizija arrestaw wkoll lil Schembri u Tonna, u fil-fatt il-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija svela li pulizija arrestaw erba' min-nies u ġew elevati xi dokumenti minn diversi postijiet fejn saru tiftixijiet.

Qal ukoll li għadu għaddej l-istharriġ dwar allegazzjonijiet ta' korruzzjoni, u li l-erba'

persuni arrestati jinsabu fuq *police bail* għal perjodu ta' tliet xhur li jista' jiġi estiż.

Sintendi dan wassal għal reazzjoni qawwija, l-aktar mill-Partit Nazzjonalista u iżjed minn dawk qrib Busuttil, bid-deputat tal-PN Jason Azzopardi jgħid li dak li qed jiġri hu bis-saħħa tal-pass li Busuttil u hu hadu, f'April u Mejju 2017.

Qal: "Kem m'għajruna, insultawna, heddewna u iżolawna. Riedu jiskreditawna, elementi korrotti fiż-żewġ partiti u lil hinn, biex mingħalihom jaqtgħu qalb Simon, lili u lil David Casa, lill-familja Caruana Galizia, lil deputati oħrajn, lis-soċjetà civili li qatt ma waqfet tgħajjat għall-ġustizzja u l-verità."

Kif kien mistenni, il-ġurnalisti ma naqsux li jiffaċċjaw lill-Prim Ministru dwar dawn l-avvenimenti u talbu r-reazzjoni tiegħu, bil-Prim Ministru jwieġeb li dak li qed jiġri juri biċ-ċar li l-istituzzjonijiet ta' pajjiżna qed jahdmu b'mod robust u hadd ma jista' jikkritika l-istituzzjonijiet li għandhom xi indhil jew li qed jiġu influwenzati minn xi hadd.

Mistoqsi jekk wara dak li sehħ kienx



Keith Schembri

hemm il-ħsieb li proġetti nvoluti jiġu mhassra, Dr. Abela saħaq li l-proġetti li servew ta' ġid għall-pajjiż fosthom il-programm ta' ċittadinanza b'investiment m'għandhomx jitwaqqfu minhabba individwi "għaliex il-koll nafu li mingħajr dawn il-proġetti, pajjiżna ma kienx jista' jwieżen lill-familji u n-negozji matul l-imxija tal-coronavirus," qal.

Għad irirdu nisimghu aktar dwar dan.



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A quick glimpse at Australia



Should elders pay more for aged care?

In a submission to the aged care royal commission, Federal Treasury calls for older Australians to contribute more of their own funds to their aged care, whether in-home or in a nursing home.

The commission asked Treasury for its views on how the nation's fast-growing aged-care bill should be paid, including whether the full value of a home should be included in the current means test (presently it is limited to \$170,000) to determine government-funded costs in nursing homes.

Including the family home in means-testing for aged care has long been favoured by policy analysts, but remains a heated political issue. Many older Australians have an emotional connection to their home and don't see it as simply an asset similar to shares and superannuation.

The Treasury submission also called for greater levels of individual contribution to aged care.

New technology roadmap

The federal government's technology roadmap aiming to steer the nation's transition to reducing carbon emissions has earmarked five priority technologies for investment, with "clean" hydrogen, energy storage, "low carbon" steel and aluminium, carbon capture and storage and soil carbon to be prioritised.

Mr Taylor fronted the National Press Club to unveil the roadmap, arguing the

plan will ensure Australia can cut emissions while ensuring economic prosperity.

"The only pathway to global emissions reduction while strengthening prosperity is through developing low-emissions technologies at lower costs than higher emitting alternatives," he said.

The federal government said it expected to invest more than \$18 billion in new energy technologies over the next ten years.



Another option for the vaccine

Australia is now at the front of the queue to access coronavirus vaccines, when they become available, after joining a global pool backed by the World Health Organisation.

The COVID-19 facility known as COVAX gives Australia access to a large portfolio of vaccine candidates and manufacturers across the world.

Australia has committed an initial \$123.2 million to be part of the facility's purchasing mechanism, making it eligible to receive offers to buy vaccines when they become available. US and China absent from WHO's global coronavirus vaccine distribution plan

This opens up supply options in addition to Australia's current vaccine supply agreements with Oxford University/AstraZeneca and the University of Queensland/CSL.

Permanent Migration is down

Australia's permanent migration intake has fallen to its lowest level in at least ten years as the coronavirus pandemic causes visa processing delays and major disruptions to international travel. New figures reveal the number of permanent visa approvals reached 140,366 in the 2019/20 financial year to June 30.

The number of approvals falls well below the Government's planning ceiling of 160,000 and is down from the 10-year average of 175,000 permanent visas each year.

By comparison, there were some 160,000 permanent visas issued in the last financial year before the coronavirus pandemic. The permanent migration intake covers skilled migration pathways, family migration pathways, and a small number of special eligibility visas.



Parked the wrong way

A woman accidentally crashed her car into the Hamilton Road Fairfield NSW office of Shadow Health Minister Chris Bowen, member for McMa-

hon while trying to park. Luckily, there was no-one in the office waiting room at the time. Chris Bowen was Federal Treasurer when Labor were in power. His wife Rebecca is of Maltese descent.

Archibald Prize goes indigenous

For almost a century, an Indigenous artist has never won any of the prizes on offer in the prestigious Archibald Prize, until now.

Western Australian born, Sydney based artist, writer and actor Wongutha-Yamatji, was awarded the 2020 Archibald Prize - a cash prize of \$1,500 - for his self-portrait, Meyne.

The Packing Room Prize is awarded to best entry judged by the Art Gallery of New South Wales staff who receive, unpack and hang the entries.

Artist and Western Arrernte man Vincent Namatjira became the first aboriginal artist in the 99 year history to win the Archibald Prize (\$100,000 prize), for his portrait of Indigenous footballer and community leader Adam Goodes.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Bishops call for ethical development of vaccine



Archbishop Comensoli

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli the chair of the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement met federal Health Minister Greg Hunt earlier this month to discuss and urge the provision of "ethical uncontroversial" COVID-19 vaccines.

"The development of a vaccine is vital in order to save human lives and bring the pandemic to an end. Nevertheless we have to be mindful of how vaccines are developed and discourage research that fails to respect the dignity of unborn human life," Archbishop Comensoli said.

"That is why Catholic bishops around the world are advocating for ethical development of vaccines."

He said where there is a choice, "we encourage people to use a vaccine that has not been developed using human foetal cells

deriving from abortion. The bishops accept that the use of an ethically compromised vaccine is acceptable if no other option is available, in order to protect lives."

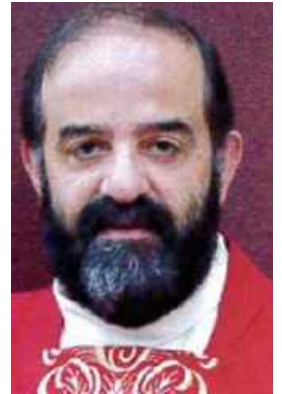
The federal Government has announced agreements with two groups working on a vaccine at this stage. These are the Oxford University AstraZeneca (AZD1222) and the University of Queensland/CSL Limited (V451) vaccine projects.

Archbishop Comensoli said while the Oxford vaccine is being developed using aborted foetal cell lines, "it is our understanding that the V451 project does not use cell lines taken from an aborted child but uses a human ovarian cell line. For this reason, it appears to be an ethically acceptable option."

It is the first statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the COVID-19 vaccine issue, following Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP's earlier public statements raising concerns about the use of aborted foetal cell lines in the development of vaccines.

Ban on last rites

The Victorian Government has banned faith leaders from visiting patients at home, in a hospital or a care facility "for last rites or to perform other religious ceremonies in person".



The rules also state that, "last rites ... can be provided using video or live streaming".

That is impossible, Mons: Charles Portelli (*above*), parish priest of St Mary of the Assumption Parish, Keilor Downs – a COVID-19 hotspot, said, adding that providing the sacraments to the dying was one of a priest's most serious obligations, and it can only be done in person.

Mons. Portelli said the Andrews Government's restriction on administering the last rites, especially during a pandemic in which more than 700 Victorians had died, was an attack on "the free practice of religion".

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

Fil-harġa Nru 203 (7 Mejju 2019) tal-magazine *The Voice of the Maltese* konna semmejna għall-ewwel darba lil Patri Mikiel Fsadni OP bħala dak li fl-1966, wara riċerka sab il-poezija 'Il-Kantilena' ta' Pietru Caxaro. Imbagħad

sentejn wara, flimkien mal-Professur Godfrey Wettinger xandruha. Hu kien ukoll devot kbir tal-Madonna tal-Għar u baqa' magħruf bħala awtur ta' għadd ta' kotba, fosthom uħud reliġjużi li baqa' jissemma għalihom.

PATRI MIKIEL FSADNI – awtur u riċerkatur devot tal-Madonna tal-Għar

Patri Mikiel Fsadni twieled il-Birgu fil-15 ta' April 1916 minn Joseph u Giovanna née Cassano. Tul hajtu baqa' magħruf sew għall-imhabba tiegħu lejn din il-belt fil-Kottonera u ddedika hafna mill-ktibeit tiegħu għaliha.

Wara li ħass is-sejha għas-saċerdozju, fl-1933 dahal bħala novizz fil-Kunvent tad-Dumnikani tar-Rabat u għamel l-ewwel professjoni fil-21 ta' Ottubru tas-sena ta' wara. Sitt snin wara, fil-11 ta' Ġunju 1939 gie ordnat saċerdot.

Għalkemm beda l-professjoni saċerdotali fir-Rabat, f'it wara ittrasferixxa lejn il-Birgu u nfatti fi żmien it-Tieni Gwerra dinjija kien jgħix mal-komunità Dumnikana tal-Kunvent tal-Lunzjata hemmhekk. Kien ukoll fost il-patrijiet li f'Jannar tal-1941 esperjenzaw ħsaa kbira fil-kunvent li iġġarraf f'attakk tal-ghadu fuq il-vapur MS Illustrious fil-Port il-Kbir.

Minhaba f'hekk il-partijiet kellhom joħorgu minn dan il-kunvent u jevakwaw għal dak fir-Rabat. Huma baqgħu jgħixu hemm sakemm wara nizlu jaqdu d-dmirijiet tagħhom f'dar f'Birkirkara qabel imbagħad irhewla lura lejn il-Birgu, fejn bdew jużaw parti mill-Palazz tal-Inkwizitur.

Kif intemmet il-gwerra Patri Fsadni reġa' ntbagħat iservi fil-Kunvent ta' Santa Marija tal-Għar fir-Rabat fejn baqa' jgħix sa sitt xhur qabel miet fl-età ta' 97 sena. Lahhar sitt xhur qabel il-Mulej sejjahlu għal għandu tliet ijiem wara għeluq sninu, fit-18 ta' April 2013, qattagħhom jirċevi l-kura f'Villa Messina. Kien l-ixjeħ fost il-patrijiet li qatt kellha l-provincja tad-Dumnikana Maltija.

Patri Fsadni kien magħruf hafna kemm fost shaħu u wkoll barra l-kunvent għas-snin twal ta' riċerka li kien jagħmel dwar il-kunventi li wassluh biex jippubblika għadd ta' monografiji dwarhom, fost kollox dwar l-iktar tlieta antiki.

Ir-riċerka tiegħu wasslitu wkoll għas-sejba tal-Kantilena, li sabha waqt li kien qed jirriċerka dwar hwejjeġ storiċi fl-atti notarili ta' Brandano de Caxario, miżmuma f'registru tal-1533 sal-1536.

Karattru sod u determinat

Dan il-patri, magħruf ukoll għall-karattru sod u determinat tiegħu li kien irid jagħmel kollox perfett, ma kienx bniedem li jaqta' qalbu malajr anke meta kienet qed tonqoslu saħtu lejn tmiem hajtu. Kien ukoll devot kbir lejn il-Madonna tal-Għar u hadem hafna biex id-devozzjoni lejha tinxtered, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra.

Minn wara l-inkurunazzjoni solenni tax-xbieha fl-1957 hadem anke għadd kbir ta' xbihat tal-ġibs tal-Madonna u santi u kwadri, tagħha. Kien ukoll jgħbor, mingħand il-fidili r-rakkonti tagħhom ta' grazzji li jkunu qalghu bl-interċessjoni tal-Madonna tal-Għar, u ippubblika kotba kemm bil-Malti kif ukoll bl-Ingliż dwarha.

Għalkemm il-mard kien jimpedih milli jkun attiv fil-ministeru saċerdotali, Patri Mikiel kellu wkoll imhabba kbira għall-hajja tal-kunvent u tal-komunità. Kien jin-teressa ruħu f'kull attività li jkunu hemm fil-knisja. Sa-kemm, seta' baqa' jingħaqad mal-patrijiet għat-talb.

Huwa hadem ukoll hafna, għall-iżvilupp tal-Letteratura u l-Kultura Maltija, b'mod speċjali bis-sejba, fl-1966, flimkien mal-Professur Godfrey Wettinger, tal-Kantilena ta' Pietru Caxaro. Kien ukoll ippubblika r-riċerka li kien għamel dwar wirt arkitettoniku partikolari Malti: *il-Giren* (FSADNI, Mikiel OP: *IL-GIRNA, Wirt Arkitettoniku u Etniku Malti*, Pubblikazzjoni Dumnikana, 1990), liema xogħol gie wkoll tradott u ppubblikat fil-Lingwa Ingliża.

Kien ukoll dilettant tal-fotografija u meta



taha għall-kitba kien xtaq li pubblikazzjonijiet tiegħu jkunu mżewqin b'xi ritratti li hu stess kien ikun jgħbed u wkoll żviluppa. Din il-hila waslet biex fl-1988 anke rebah l-ewwel premju fil-qasam tas-slaġs immedija mill-Ministeru tat-Turiżmu u s-Socjetà Fotografika.

Għal xi żmien ghen lil San Ġorġ Preca, fundatur tas-Socjetà tal-M.U.S.E.U.M. fil-kitba tar-Regola għas-Socjetà tiegħu, partikolarment fit-taqsimha dwar it-tmexxija.

Ir-riċerki u l-pubblikazzjonijiet tiegħu, wassluh jingħata għadd ta' unuri, fosthom fl-1975 meta ngħata l-premju Rothmans għal-Letteratura. Fl-1990 ingħata l-Midolja tad-Deheb fil-premjijiet letterarji tal-Gvern ta' Malta u segwa fis-7 ta' Settembru 2000 b'Ġieh il-Birgu. Imma l-akbar unur li rċeva kien bħala Membru tal-Ordni tal-Mertu tar-Repubblika ta' Malta fit-13 ta' Diċembru 2008.

Patri Mikiel Fsadni baqa' attiv kif seta' sakemm miet fl-età ta' 97 sena fit-18 ta' April 2013. Il-funeral tiegħu sar jumejn wara fil-knisja tal-Madonna tal-Għar fir-Rabat.

Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Il-qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi sugġett huma mhegga li ma jhallux għall-aħħar. Indirizzaw l-emails lil maltesevoice@gmail.com.

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



Mark Caruana receives OAM Medal at Government House

Eight months after being announced by the Governor-General and Chancellor of the Order, H E General, David Hurley AC as one of the 1,099 recipients of the Order of Australia, and among the 549 recipients of the Medal (OAM) on the occasion of Australia Day 2020 (January 26), along with other awardees, Mark Caruana OAM has actually received the medal.

It took this long for the presentation because the Covid-19 pandemic this year made the ceremonies more restrictive.

Mark Caruana OAM, a well-known personality and migration researcher and historian from NSW received his medals at Government House Sydney last week from the Hon Justice Margaret Beazley QC, AO the 39th Governor of the State of NSW, who was

Mark Caruana OAM proudly showing his Order of the Australia Medal after the presentation

appointed to this position in May 2019.

Mark Caruana, who was accompanied for the ceremony by his wife Antoinette and son Adrian described the ceremony as memorable and indeed impressive although interrupted by present health restrictions.

Patrick Bartolo OAM, the other member of the Maltese community in NSW, who also received the OAM on Australia Day 2020, attended an earlier ceremony at Government House accompanied by his family.

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

Message from Kerrynt Tutt, General Manager Home Care, CatholicCare:

We hope that everyone in the Maltese community are keeping safe and well, as the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for many. At CatholicCare, our Home Care team is working hard to provide practical support tailored to the needs of seniors. As such, we are particularly mindful of seniors in our local community right now.

"We are able to assist you in staying in your own home and to be healthy, happy and to enjoy life, as we navigate the challenges ahead together," said Kerrynt Tutt, General Manager, Home Care, CatholicCare.

CatholicCare's Home Care team will work in partnership with you to provide practical assistance and help you navigate the challenges of the in-home aged care system in order to meet your individual needs during COVID-19, so that you can remain independent and feel supported.

Ms Tutt added that as our community begins to venture back to normal life, she wants to assure you that CatholicCare seniors services will not be relaxing any of our high standards.

"Our Home Care staff and clinical care team remain vigilant about their infection

CatholicCare wants to help during this challenging time

control and will take any precautions necessary to protect the health and safety of both staff and client when visiting your home."

If you would like more information about the options available to you or would like to enquire on behalf of a friend or family member, help is only a phone call away.

Call CCareline on **13 18 19** to speak with a friendly and caring team member over the phone or to arrange for a CatholicCare Home Care Specialist to come and visit you in your home.

connect@catholiccare.org
catholiccare.org

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The Voice of the Maltese is not just a news portal: We believe in freedom of expression and also fight for your rights. We are read in the right places.

L-Isqof Mario Grech issa uffiċjament mahtur Segretarju tas-Sinodu tal-Isqfijiet

Lil-QT il-Papa Frangisku, nhar it-Tlieta 15 ta' Settembru hatar uffiċjalment lill-Mons. Mario Grech, Isqof emeritu ta' Ghawdex, bħala Segretarju Generali tas-Sinodu tal-Isqfijiet biex jiehu post il-Kardinal Lorenzo Baldissari.

Tal-ahħar serva f'din il-kariga sa mill-21 ta' Settembru 2013. F'dan iż-żmien saru erba' Sinodi, li fi tlieta minnhom ha sehem ukoll l-Isqof Grech bħala Isqof ta' Ghawdex u President tal-Konferenza Episkopali Maltija.

Mons. Grech esprima gratitudni u ammirazzjoni lejn il-predeċessur tiegħu l-Kar-



dinal Baldissari, u fisser ix-xewqa tiegħu li jimxi fil-passi tiegħu.

L-isqof emeritu Mario Grech (it-tieni mil-lemin) flimkien mal-Papa u dinjitarji fil-Vatikan



Jagħlaq l-Istaġun tal-Festi

L-istaġun tal-festi f'Ghawdex għalaq l-il-Hadd 20 ta' Settembru, bil-festa b'għieh u qima lill-Madonna tal-Grazzja, meqjuma fis-Santwarju tal-Patrijiet Franġiskani Kappuccini, fir-Rabat, Ghawdex.

L-Isqof novell Mons Anton Teuma mexxa l-quddiesa solenni tal-festa konċelibrata, waqt li Patri Philip Cutajar, Kapuċċin għamel il-panigierku tal-okkażjoni.

Il-kant tmexxa mill-Kor Djoċesan taż-żgħażaġh, immexxi minn Dorianne Portelli. Filgħaxija tkanta l-ghasar tal-Madonna u sar l-bews tar-Relikwija u nġhad ir-rużarju meditat bil-kant. Anima l-kant u d-daqq fuq l-orgni Anthony u Moses Galea

Minhabba l-imxija tal-COVID-19 il-festi estern, fosthom il-pellegrinaġġ tradizzjonali bir-roti u l-muturi mis-Santwarju tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu sas-Santwarju tal-Patrijiet Franġiskani Kapuċċini jingħataw tifikira tal-okkażjoni ma sarux

Wirja: 'Every Road is a River'

It-titlu huwa ta' wirja li qed tittella' fis-sala tal-wirjiet, fil-bini tal-Ministeru għal Ghawdex, fir-Rabat. Mary Portelli min-Nadur, xtaqet turi li l-mużajk jista' jintuza biex wiehed jespri mihsibijiet u emozzjonijiet bħal fi kwalunkwe midjum.

Il-materja prima mhix żebgħa (għalkemm użat l-acrylics), imma bicciet tal-blat, ċaqquf, madum, hgieg, oġġetti misjuba, riciklati, jew mix-trija, u mitt haġ'ohra.

L-ambjent u l-emozzjonijiet jiddominaw ix-xogħlijiet li Mary ghandha f'din il-wirja. Tgħid li tixtieq li b'mod sottili (u xi drabi anke dirett), tqajjem kurżitá, tistimula l-hsieb, u taqsam dak li thoss.

Għall-wirja Mary stiednet artist Pakistana biex tesibixxi xi xogħlijiet tagħha. Iltaqghu f'Artist-in-Residence Programme tal-Valletta 18 Foundation u Fondazzjoni Kreattività. Ix-xogħol tal-mużajk li hadmu flimkien, 'Nine Doors', qed jiġi esibit waqt din il-wirja.

Sfortunatament, bħalma l-Covid-19 affetwa hafna artisti, Rabia wkoll sabet ruha f'diffikultá biex tibgħat l-arti tagħha bl-ajru. Għalhekk fil-wirja insibu kopja tal-qies tal-arti ta' Rabia.

Għax bħal fil-wirja, 'Every road is a River', ma nafux triqitna fejn se twassalna. Jista' hemm affarijiet li għall-ewwel narawhom strambi, għax mhux tas-soltu, imma fl-ahħar mill-ahħar jissarf u f'esperjenzi sbieħ.

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Inawgurata pintura ta' Stella Maris fiz-Żebbuġ Ghawdex

Fil-kappella tad-Dar tal-Irtiri Stella Maris li s-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl ghandna fiz-Żebbuġ, Ghawdex, recentement giet inawgurata pintura li turi l-Madonna taht dan it-titlu. Il-pittura, xoghol l-artista Mary Rose Saliba, miż-Żebbuġ stess, hi mahduma bi stil kontemporanju li tista' tisfejja *low relief*.

Saliba hadmet il-kompożizzjoni b'mod li meta wiehed jieqaf quddiem din il-pittura jhossu mistieden jipparteċipa fl-istorja li qed tiżvolgi quddiemu.

Id-delikatezza fil-pinzellati li jsawru wiċċ il-Madonna joħolqu kuntrast mad-daqqiet b'saħħithom li bihom hu mpitter il-baħar imqalleb, simbolu tat-turbulazzjonijiet u t-tfixkil tal-hajja.

Id-daqsxejn ta' dghajsa maqbuda fil-maltempata tirrapreżenta l-hajja tal-bniedem. Il-mewġ imqalleb jinbidel f'baħar kalm



Mary Rose Saliba

aktar ma wiehed jersaq lejn ix-xbieha materna ta' Marija. M a r i j a . B'hekk il-k w a d r u jfakkarna li aħna, li kulant inhos-suna se nġherqu, in-sibu l-ghaj-nuna u l-faraġ



meta nersqu lejn Marija.

Ġesù tarbija, rieqed fl-idejn protettivi tal-omm, hu nofsu mgharraġ fl-ilma. Dan juri ċar safejn twassal l-imħabba t'Alla għalina biex jifdina u jsalvana.

Dar Stella Maris inbniet fil-bidu tas-snin sebgħin tas-seklu li għadda; issemmiet għal post iehor li Socjetà, kellha f'Għajnsielem.

Fr Norbert Bonavia

Xena tassew rari

Mhix haġa tas-soltu li tara elikopter jillandja fuq l-gholja Ta' Dbiegi f'Għawdex, li taħtha jinsab il-Villaġġ tas-Snajja li ha l-isem tal-gholja. Minn hemm it-triq tiehu lejn l-irħajjel pittoresk ta' San Lawrenz li fost l-attrazzjonijiet tiegħu għandu l-bajja tad-Dwejra bl-Inland Sea u l-Ġebli tal-General li hafna Maltin u turisti jżuruhom matul is-sena.

Il-fotografu/korrispondent ta' The Voice, **Charles Spiteri** irnexxielu jaqbad fir-ritratt il-helikopter jinżel fuq din l-gholja ta' 190 metru li minn fuqha wiehed jista' jara xena panoramika mill-isbaħ, 360° dawramejt tal-gżira Ghawdxija.

Din l-gholja hi popolari max-xabbata li f'Għawdex isibu għoljiet għall-avvenura tagħhom.



The importance of Australian Citizenship

Since 1949 over 5 million people have become Australian citizens

Update to the test

Australia's citizenship test is getting its first update in more than a decade, with a focus on Australian values. Announcing the changes, Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, Alan Tudge said: "Our Australian values are important. They have helped shape our country and they are the reason why so many people want to become Australian citizens".

The new questions, which will be included on Australian citizenship tests from 15 November, "require potential citizens to understand and commit to our values, like freedom of speech, mutual respect, equality of opportunity, the importance of democracy and the rule of law," Mr Tudge said in a statement.

We are asking those who apply for citi-

zenship to understand our values more deeply before they make the ultimate commitment to our nation."

What kind of questions will be on the new test?

The updated citizenship test will comprise of 20 multiple choice questions, including five new questions on Australian values. The applicant will be required to correctly answer all five of the questions on values, with a mark of at least 75 per cent overall, to pass the test.

There will be no changes to the English language or residency requirements for citizenship. Generally, permanent residents can live, work, and study permanently in Australia, but they are not entitled to an Australian passport.

Permanent residents do not have an automatic right of entry to Australia and must have a valid permanent visa to return to Australia as a permanent resident. Citi-

zens can leave and re-enter Australia as many times as they want.

Citizens can also vote in federal, state or territory elections, can vote in a constitutional referendum or plebiscite, can seek election to parliament and can register the birth of their children in another country as Australian citizens.

Citizens can also ask for help from an Australian embassy or consulate if they are in trouble overseas.

How many people become Australian citizens each year?

More than five million people have become Australian citizens since it was introduced in 1949. Over the past five years, more than 686,000 people have been granted Australian citizenship, including a record 204,000 people in 2019-20.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 84,000 people across Australia have received Australian citizenship through online ceremonies.

A record number of migrants became Australian citizens in 2019-20 despite coronavirus disruption.

The top five countries of origin granted citizenship are currently India, the United Kingdom, China, the Philippines and Pakistan.

More information about settling in Australia can be found in the *SBS Settlement Guide*.

Resumption of in-person appointments At Consulate General in Melbourne

The High Commission in Canberra is pleased to advise that the Consulate General in Melbourne will reopen to in-person appointments on Monday October 5.

Our offices have been closely monitoring updates from the Government of the State of Victoria in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The reopening of the Consulate General in Melbourne to the public will require the strict observance of the COVID-19 precautionary measures, as follows:

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

In-person appointments relating to applications for passport and citizenship, and other consular services, including the witnessing of signatures and identity, will be accepted by APPOINTMENT ONLY, so as to ensure that social-distancing is enforced for the safety of the public and members of staff alike.

To make an appointment, one must contact our Consulate General in Melbourne on: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt. Tel: (03) 9670 8427.

Persons who have expressed their interest in the past months, when our Consulate General was operating remotely not from office, will be contacted to re-book an appointment.

The timeframe of application processing has been impacted by the current restrictive measures and are taking longer. Applicants must leave ample time to renew their passports.

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



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Il-festa ssir xorta ... b'ħafna ristrizzjonijiet

Il-festa tradizzjonali ta' Marija Bambina ċelebrata fil-paroċċa ta' Greystanes NSW għaddiet minn ħafna mument diffiċli. Fosthom kien hemm l-isem ta' l-istess parroċċa li nbidel minn Our Lady Queen of Victories għal Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Tul il-65 sena mill-ewwel darba li saret din il-festa kien hemm interruzzjonijiet meta l-festi ta' barra ġew imħassra minħabba x-xita u anke jum il-festa ġie mibdul minħabba il-final tar-rugby league.

Izda dis-sena l-COVID-19 fixklet mhux biss il-festi ta' barra kompletament imma wkoll iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet reliġjużi li ġew imqassma ma' tmiem il-ġimgha tas-26/27 ta' Settembru, għalkemm il-festa ilha żmien ma ssir f'dawk il-jiem.

L-sitatwa sabiha tal-Madonna xorta ġiet mahruġa min-niċċa u mqiegħda fil-post prominenti fil-knisja.

Saret ukoll il-quddies tal-Ħadd mill-kappillan Paul Marshall bl-



attenzenza tal-membri kollha tal-kumitat tal-festa (*stampa fug*).

Kien hemm xi restrizzjonijiet skont dak li jridu l-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa, għalhekk l-attenzenza kienet żgħira u ikkontrollata.

Il-festi ta' barra ġew imħassra kompletament.

Community News



La Valette Social Centre



La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

The Centre is now open again two days a week, Thursdays, Saturdays

The Centre is a registered Covid-Safe Venue and all special requirements are in force including social distancing, restricted numbers, temperature taking, patron register and Covid-Marshall.

Flexible Respite is operating normally but Centre-Based Respite is restricted due to low numbers that can be transported.

Charlie's Family Restaurant is open Thursdays and Saturdays for lunch and dinner.

Bocci pitches are operating again with some restrictions.

Bingo: Saturday only at 8.00pm preceded by short Maltese movie at 7.30pm.

MASS: Thursday: 10.15am; Saturday: 5.30 p.m.
(subject to availability of a priest.)

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 ippublikat.

Fil-fatt huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li bdew japprofittaw ruħhom minn dan u abbonaw ħalli anke jibdew jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi ħlas.

Għalhekk dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdew jirċevu kopja pprintjata tal-magazine kull darba li joħroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jzommuha f'idejhom, huma mhegga biex jabbonaw għal sena sħiħa ħalli jagħmlu żgur li jkollhom kopja kull darba.

Biex dan isir wiehied għandu l-ewwel jikkomunika b'email ħalli jagħmel it-talba lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta' abbonament għal sena iostat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhu-miex kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna.

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

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



All events for 2020 have been cancelled



FFCMEDIA

The Floriana players caught in a dramatic moment hoping and praying for success in the shoot-out

Floriana miss out on history in a shoot-out

Malta Champions Floriana came within whiskers of making history in a UEFA club competition on Thursday. They had the chance to become the first Maltese club to reach the play-off round of the Europa League when they faced Estonia's Flora Tallinn in the third qualifying round of the Europa League. But after 120 minutes (with extra time), they bowed out by 2-4 after a penalty shoot-out.

It was heart-breaking. After a cautious first-half performance

in which they controlled their opponents who dominated most of the play, in the second half and for the rest of the game they created the better scoring opportunities without scoring. In extra time they also controlled their opponents. But they were found wanting in the penalty shoot-out that decided the outcome as they only convert twice against the Estonians' four.

Flora Tallinn now face Dinamo Zagreb, in Croatia in the play-off round for a place in the group stages of the competition.

Premier League 2020/21 in Malta kicks off

Defeat for Champions on second day

The start of the Premier League in Malta produced very interesting results. If anything, the first two rounds have shown that it could be a very balanced campaign, that Champions Floriana, losers on Day 2 are bound to find it difficult to defend their title, and that Valletta are set to prove themselves, hot championship contenders.

Floriana beat Gzira on the first day but then lost to Hibernians, who began with a loss against Sliema. Valletta have beaten teams, that liked them could be title challengers. They first saw off Birkirkara and then Balzan.

Other results worth considering are Hamrun's. They were top scorers against last season's surprise team Sirens, and then managed another convincing win over Santa Lucia. Sliema could not have wished for a better start. They beat Hibernians on the first day but were then held by Sirens who were themselves soundly beaten by Hamrun Spartans in their opening game.

If the first results are anything to go by, then Birkirkara could be in for a tough season. They lost both their opening matches. After the loss to Valletta, they hoped for a revival when they faced Mosta. Instead, they suffered an even heavier defeat, by conceding three goals without reply.

Day 1	
Mosta v Gudja Utd	2-2
Żejtun C. v Sta Lucia	2-2
Sliema W v Hibernians	3-1
Floriana v Gzira Utd	2-1
Lija Ath v Senglea A.	4-0
Balzan v Tarxien R.	1-0
Valletta v Birkirkara	4-2
Hamrun S. v Sirens	5-1

Day 2	
Sirens v Sliema W.	0-0
Senglea A. v Żejtun C.	1-1
Valletta v Balzan	1-0
Gzira Utd v Tarxien	1-1
Gudja Utd v Lija Ath.	2-0
Mosta v Birkirkara	3-0
Hibernians v Floriana v	3-1
Hamrun S. v Sta Lucia	4-1

41st Rolex Middle Sea Race edges even closer - 71 entries thus far

On the surface, all looks well for the 41st Rolex Middle Sea Race, scheduled to start on October 17 from Valletta's Grand Harbour.

Despite the ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 79 boats representing 21 countries are currently registered. Given the circumstances, this is a diverse and attractive fleet with some fascinating entries.

The organisers, the Royal Malta Yacht Club (RMYC) continues to take nothing for granted. The shifting global picture still presents a huge hurdle before the Saluting Battery cannons signal the start of the race.

In terms of preparations, the RMYC is well advanced. The COVID-19 Task Force is drawing expertise from several individuals including, importantly, some with front-line experience of managing the public health response in Malta.

Parramatta Eagles miss out on finals finishing Covid-hit season with draw

Parramatta FC Eagles missed out on the finals of the NPL 4 NSW after drawing 1-1 away against Hurstville FC on Saturday. Parramatta finished the league in eighth place with only 11 points.

Parramatta, who were without a game in Round 10, found themselves a goal down in the first minute but levelled the score from a

Clement Wacci freekick after 48 minutes. Three minutes later they were down to 10 men when Simon Christopher was red-carded.

However, Parramatta were still delivering and in the 58th minute were denied the lead when Ali Dulleh's 18-metre effort smashed against the crossbar. Till the end play was shared for a drawn result.