



# The Voice of the Maltese

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FRITZ

Two aerial views from opposite sides by *FITZ* that show parts of Cottonera, in particular the former No. 1 Dock at Malta Drydocks and the new Bormla. *Left* is the new building housing the AUM, and in the background the bridge between Bormla and Senglea

An aerial family photo of participants and guests at the IVth Convention for Maltese Living Abroad in 2015 at a welcome reception hosted by the then President of the Republic, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca at St Anton Gardens



## Convention...what Convention?

On assuming her new role as head, Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad MF&EA, Dr Antonette Calleja initiated a research study (assisted by Bernice Marie Zarb) to obtain a more robust understanding that captures a realistic snapshot of the present views of Maltese diaspora and gauge their levels of interest to better inform its future organization whilst finding methods to further connect.

*The Voice of the Maltese* is publishing this summary of the survey. Anybody requiring a full copy should contact members of The Council of Maltese Living Abroad. We also hope to raise awareness of this research and to attract further responses.

The research "an online survey" asked these questions:

- i. To what extent are the Maltese diaspora aware of the Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad?
- ii. To what extent are the Maltese diaspora willing to participate in future Conventions for the Maltese Living Abroad?
- iii. Can the Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad serve to better its links with the Maltese Diaspora?

A total number of 1,025 respondents dispersed across 31 host countries participated in this study.

From the total of respondents, 519 were males, and 506 females. Most of the respondents, 458, came from Australia, followed by the United Kingdom, 143, Canada, 125, United States of America, 96, Italy, 82 and Germany 51.

Respondents were asked whether they ever heard of the Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad. Most of the respondents, 819 never heard of the Convention.

Respondents that claimed to have attended the Convention were also asked how interesting they found the Convention. In this respect, 30 found the Convention interesting; 15 of them described it as highly interesting. On the other hand, three preferred to stay neutral whilst another three described it as somewhat not interesting.

The survey concluded that July was the preferred month to organise the Convention.

### Conclusions

In general, it was highly evident that the Maltese Living Abroad wanted to express their views and found the online

survey as a good start to express such. An overwhelming response was received with 1,025 participating by the end of the closing date, that is, within a period of eight days. Responses also included additional comments from 221 of the respondents.

Some were appreciative comments thanking the Unit for the initiative in gathering the views of those living abroad. Others gave constructive criticism especially pertaining to the Convention of the Maltese Living Abroad as well as the general features of the Maltese economy and its governance.

Recommendations from the Maltese diaspora such as alluring youths through social media, holding virtual meetings and organising the Convention in host countries were put forth. Other requests, which have also been the subject of discussion and previous decisions taken by the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, revolved on enabling access to Maltese bank accounts and for the Maltese diaspora to be able to hold Maltese Identity Cards. All in all, the feedback given has been most insightful and encouraging.

Malta's greatest assets have always been its human resources. Indeed, it, therefore, goes without saying that maintaining contact with the Maltese global diaspora and hence, the creation of a 'Greater Malta' is indeed possible and imperative.

List of other surveys already published as supplied to *The Voice* by Prof Maurice Cauchi of Melbourne:

- o Three generations of Maltese in Australia: A picture through surveys of the population': 2016. See [mauricecauchi.wordpress.com](http://mauricecauchi.wordpress.com) and related articles.
- o Second and Third Generation Maltese in Australia': Occasional Paper, Maltese Community Council of Victoria, 1991
- o The Second Generation in Australia: A survey of Maltese-background persons, MCCV, 2014.
- o The View from the Future: The Second Generation'. In: *Maltese Achievers in Australia*, MCCV, 2006, Chap 15, p 371 - and others related chapters.
- o Maltese Background Youth'. Victoria University, 1999
- o Survey: Needs of older Persons': MCCV 2010. See also: 'The Ageing Maltese: A minefield of need & neglect', Lawrence Dimech, La Valette Social Centre, 1992
- o Under One Umbrella: A History of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, 1958-2008, MCCV 2009
- o Maltese Migrants in Australia', MCCV, 1990

**Q. I am 60 years of age, single and have just lost my job. I have some money in the bank but this will not last long as I have an outstanding mortgage of \$180,000. I have around \$442,000 in superannuation. Am I able to take some money out of super to pay off or reduce my mortgage?**

**A. Since you are 60 years old and not working, you are able to withdraw as much out of superannuation as you wish. This will be a tax-free withdrawal because you are over 60. You can decide to pay off the mortgage in full and commence an account-based pension with the remaining funds to provide you with some income while you are unemployed. You can then continue to build up your superannuation once you are back in the work force.**

**Q. My father is in a nursing home. He has been there around 22 months. We still have not sold his house, as he does not want us to. In a couple of months Centrelink will treat this house as an asset and my father will lose the age pension. Is there anything we can do to provide dad with an income to pay his ongoing daily fees without the need to sell his house?**

**A. If the house is worth more than \$797,500, he will lose his pension as he will be treated as a non-homeowner but the house will become an asset like an investment property. You could decide to rent out the house and use the income to help with his daily expenses or if he does not want to rent it out, you could use a reverse mortgage.**

*Just withdraw small lump sums at a time*

*from the reverse mortgage to cover a few months of payments so that the interest on the funds withdrawn would not build up excessively.*

**Q. I am in my 70s and have no family of my own. I have a disabled brother who still lives on his own, but I have always provided for him as his only income is from a disability pension that only covers his daily needs. Am I able to leave my brother as my beneficiary in my account based pension?**

**A. Siblings are normally not able to be beneficiaries of one's superannuation. However, in your case your brother is disabled and he is also a dependent on you. You should however mention this in your Will and in this way the Trustees of your Superannuation fund will take this in consideration.**

**Q. I am a 60-year-old widow. I have been retired for about four years and do not plan to go back into the work force. I have an only daughter and she has two young children that she is bringing up**

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



**on her own. I am quite comfortable financially and I would like to pay for the children's schooling myself, which will be around \$10,000 per annum. Am I allowed to do this or will this impact on my age pension in the future?**

**A. If you have the spare income there is no reason why you could not help your daughter. You are not tied up to Centrelink at present and therefore what you do with your money is your own affair. If you gave her a lump sum just prior to turning age pension age, then for five years this lump sum will be treated as your asset by Centrelink when they come to calculate your age pension entitlement, but paying of school fees prior to that should not affect your age pension entitlement at all.**

**Q. We are in our 80s and we have an annuity of \$500,000 maturing in two months' time. This was invested for five years at 4.5% interest per annum with the interest paid monthly to us. We were told the new interest rates will be around 1.2% which for us is not sufficient income. What other options do we have apart from term deposits that are paying also very low interest?**

**A. I do not know your full situation so I believe you need to see a financial planner. However, at your age you would probably not want to invest very aggressively. You could invest in managed funds and select a defensive profile.**

*This would probably provide you with the required rate of income of 4.5% per annum and you could ask to have a monthly payment of this amount paid to you to replace the annuity income that you will soon be losing.*

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# Learning from the people

## – my adventures in oral history (part one)

**I**n 1984, when I commenced my PhD thesis into the early history of Maltese migration to Australia, I had no idea that it would open up a commitment to recording oral histories that has continued to this day.

**Barry York**

Oral history is the recording of an individual's memories and reflections of past experiences. It is also more than that, as the interviewer must have the trust of the interviewee and be prepared, through research, to make the most of the interview.

The result is a recording that can be preserved for the benefit of family members as well as researchers. Many of my recorded interviews are held at the National Library of Australia.

They will still be there a hundred years from now – the experiences of individual migrants in their own unique voices, talking about their life in Malta, the reasons for migration and choice of destination, the voyage, settlement and work experiences in Australia and sense of identity.

Their voices, through the recordings, will live on long after they, and I, have passed on.

Sadly, most of the Maltese migrants I interviewed are no longer with us. I recorded most of them during the 1980s, when it was not uncommon to find old-timers who had made the voyage from Malta in the 1920s. My focus was on those who had come here prior to World War Two, and in the few years after the War.

I remain grateful to Mark Caruana of Sydney, who was already recording such interviews in the early 1980s and greatly helped me with advice and initial contacts. Of course, being of Maltese background on my father's side also helped a lot – especially when I would mention his family nickname "Tan Nassi".

It was like a key that opened doors and won trust, even though I had to explain the complication that he had changed his surname from Meilak to York in 1947 and was born in Sliema, even though all his family came from Gozo.

In semi-retirement, I am trying to compile and annotate a catalogue of all my oral history recordings. The Maltese are the main theme but I also had some great times recording others at the request of the National Library, including many Polish migrants and a few celebrities.

As a wrestling fan in the 1960s and 1970s, it was a thrill to record Mario Milano's story, for instance, and also the legendary rocker from the 1950s, Johnny Devlin.

But the Maltese interviews, of which there are probably more than 300, are very special to me. I not only met fascinating individuals but visited places such as Broken Hill



**Barry York with his recording equipment in the 'fragile' carry-case**

(where Maltese had worked in the mines in the 1920s), Adelaide, Perth, Mackay (Queensland's sugar district where Maltese made their mark in the 1910s and 1920s), Wollongong (where they toiled in the steel works) and, of course, Sydney and Melbourne, especially the western suburbs where some of the early migrants, who worked with pick and shovel in quarries or established poultry farms and market gardens in the 1920s and 1930s, were still resident and agreed to be recorded.

The range of voices, their uniqueness, is captured as well as the stories. The pauses and hesitations, the tones and accents, the rhythm and pace of speech, are all there – preserved for posterity, keeping 'alive' those early Maltese migrants of a generation that is no longer with us.



**The Mackay Sugar terminal**

**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.**

# Twin brothers of Maltese descent standing for Brimbank City elections

**N**ineteen-year-old twin brothers, Thomas and Christopher O'Reilly, the grandsons of Maltese immigrants by the family name of Fsadni who emigrated to Brimbank (Melbourne) Australia, from Mgarr, Malta in the 1950s, are currently standing for election in the upcoming Brimbank City Council elections. Voting is being held during October and closes on October 23.

It's quite unusual for twins to contest an election together, and they are leveraging their Maltese heritage in their election material. They are standing as independent non-politically affiliated candidates.

The twins come from a diverse, working-class family. They are third-generation residents of Brimbank. Their *nanna*, (grandma) Bernarda, now 90, has achieved many great things in the community, while their mother, Tess, has been a fierce advocate in the community on a range of issues. Chris and Thomas plan on continuing with her legacy.

They believe that it is very important that young people can have a say about what happens in their community especially in their local councils. Chris is also an advocate for supporting the city's elderly and their carers. He says that with a 90-year-old grandmother, he knows how tough it can be, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During their secondary schooling years, the twins held a variety of leadership opportunities that they say taught them to be engaged and informed. They are also strongly



**Could-be Brimbank councillors, twin brothers Christopher (left) and Thomas**

committed to supporting all the diverse range of languages in their community, and their respective cultures. They believe this is just a small but integral part of what makes their community so special.

More recently Thomas served as a Brimbank Youth Councillor, where he has collaborated with like-minded people to advocate on a variety of is-

sues relating to mental health and sustainability initiatives.

In the past, the twins have also volunteered at local primary schools. Now, they are standing for council, as they want to play a part in creating a future that people are going to enjoy living in.

In their view, COVID-19 and the upcoming Melbourne Airport Rail Link have given them the chance to observe what they have around them and act on what the community wants to create, positive changes within their municipality.

They believe it is important that all the residents can have a say on what's happening in their area and are heard when things aren't right.

Thomas says he wants to see a Brimbank that is more beautiful, safer and resourced: "I stand for an inclusive and transparent council that places community first; valuing amenities, services, sustainable developments and more open green spaces."

Christopher is standing for Grasslands Ward, while Thomas is running for Harvester Ward. Both want to be the voice of the local community for Brimbank, including the suburbs of Albion, Ardeer, Brooklyn, Derrimut, Sunshine, Sunshine North and Sunshine west.



**The twins' mother Tessa (left) and 90-year-old nanna Bernarda Fsadni**

Andrew McKinnon presents

# JOSEPH CALLEJA

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with **Amelia Farrugia**  
and **Piers Lane**

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In this, his eagerly anticipated debut Australian tour, the Maltese born singer described as the young Pavarotti will be joined by two of Australia's best-loved artists, soprano **Amelia Farrugia**, who is also of Maltese heritage, and internationally acclaimed pianist **Piers Lane**, in an unforgettable performance.

*"His rock-solid yet ever-malleable voice and blazing stage presence could light a thousand lamps."*



Amelia Farrugia



Piers Lane

## 2021 AUSTRALIAN TOUR DATES

### PERTH

Perth Concert Hall

**Wednesday 1st September 2021 – 7:30pm**

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with West Australian Opera

### ADELAIDE

Adelaide Town Hall

**Saturday 11th September 2021 – 7:30pm**

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with State Opera South Australia

### SYDNEY

City Recital Hall

**Sunday 5th September 2021 – 5:00pm**

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with Opera Australia

### MELBOURNE

Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

**Monday 13th September 2021 – 7:30pm**

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with Opera Australia

### BRISBANE

Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

**Thursday 9th September 2021 – 7:30pm**

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with Opera Queensland

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# A Jewish presence dating back to the Roman period

Malta had long been one of the best-kept secrets for a Jewish Heritage Experience, but recently this has changed and there's even a kosher food restaurant that was set up by Chabad around three years ago which is centrally located in St. Julian's.

Today, the Jewish community in Malta, although small in numbers (around 200), is quite vibrant. The majority of the contemporary Maltese Jewish community originate from Gibraltar, England, North Africa, Portugal and Turkey during the French and British rule from 1798.

During the early 20th century, since the islands did not have a Rabbi of its own, Rabbis would often be flown from Sicily to perform religious ceremonies. During World War II, Malta was the only European country that did not require visas of Jews fleeing German rule and numerous Maltese Jews fought Germany in the British Army during the war.

The history of the small Jewish Community of Malta goes back to the arrival of the Semitic Phoenician settlers over three thousand five hundred years ago. It is believed that they were accompanied by Israelite mariners from the seafaring tribes of Zevulun and Asher.

Jewish roots in Malta during the Roman period is evidenced by several Jewish Catacombs with drawings depicting the Jewish Menorah (candelabra) that can be found at the St. Paul's Catacomb site near Rabat.

The long Jewish history includes periods of enrichment as well as slavery, depending on who was ruling Malta at the time.

Research also indicates that Israelite seafarers may have arrived with Phoenician traders as early as the 9th century B.C.E. The first Jew known to have set foot on Malta in the Common Era was the apostle Paul of Tarsus (Malta's patron Saint St Paul), whose ship foundered there in 60 AD.

Greek inscriptions and menorah-decorated tombs indicate that Jews lived in Malta in the Roman era. In the medieval period there were about 250 Jews, engaging in commerce, farming and medicine. Under a succession of French and then Spanish conquerors, Jews were forced to pay heavy taxes, build fortifications and finance military campaigns, but they enjoyed special protection of the crown. In 1492, however, they were expelled, along with the Jews of Spain and Sicily.

One can still find reference to the Jews' stay on the Maltese islands. Points of special Jewish Heritage interest on Malta include old landmarks and street signs.

In the walled city of Mdina, seems to have harboured an important Jewish community until the expulsion edict of 1492. At the time the Jews made up almost one third of

the population and were regarded as citizens, occupying a comfortable position, having fields and properties in the countryside, there is a "Jewish Silk Market" and a "Jews' Gate".

There was also a smaller community of Jewish inhabitants at Birgu, the port. Even here, one can still find reference to the Jews' stay, while in the capital, Valletta, there is to this day a place known as "Jews Sally port" very near to where the Jewish Slave prison was to be found. There are also still "Jewish Caves" at Bingemma and "Jewish Caves" at Xatt il-Qwabar as the wharves of Marsa were previously known.

In neighbouring Gozo, the Jewish Community lived mostly in the suburbs of the Citadella, the small capital of this island. Their presence in Gozo is also indicated by the number of nick-



Inside the Ta' Xbiex Synagogue



A sign in Hebrew and English marking the site of the so-called old Jewish silk market at 3A Carmel Street in the old town of Mdina

names or names that still exist. For instance, "Għajn Lhudi" (Jew's Cave) near Wied Sansun (Samson's Valley), "Wied Sansun" (Samson's Valley) itself, "Għajn Lhudin" (Jewish Fountain), and "Misrah Lhudi" Jew's Square in Xaghra, though

there is no evidence exactly where it might have been.

Further names such as "Wied il-Gharab" in the areas around Xlendi, – that up to 1555 was still known as "Wied il-Lhudi" (Jew's Valley) and the hill known as "Ta' Gordan" are a good testimony of the Jewish Community's presence in Gozo.

Even the Island of Comino, currently inhabited by only one family, has Jewish roots. Comino is

where the well-known Jewish Mystic Abraham Abulafia lived from 1285 until his death in the 1290s.

During this period he compiled his *Sefer ha Ot* "Book of the Sign" as well as his last, and perhaps his most intelligible, work, the meditation manual *Imrei Shefer* "Words of Beauty".

In 1979 the old synagogue of the community in the capital city, Valetta, was destroyed, and in 2000 a new synagogue was dedicated.

There are three Jewish cemeteries in Malta that although kept locked, can be visited through prior arrangements with the local Jewish Community leader. The stories gleaned from the tombstone inscriptions, are a rich narrative that includes Jewish soldiers who fought in WWI and were buried in Malta.



Jews Sally Port in Valletta



# Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### fortnightly magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



Now you can also join us on facebook:

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

## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

### Il-hatra ta' kap ġdid tal-PN u l-ghaqda

Joseph Naudi minn Richmond Qld jikteb:

Ix-xena Maltija nsewija hafna, mhux biss permezz ta' dak li jigi ppublikat f'*The Voice of the Maltese*, imma wkoll minn fuq l-internet permezz tal-portals tal-gazzetti Maltin, u l-midja socjali. Għalhekk kien sodisfazzjoni insir naf li l-Partit Nazzjonalista ħatar kap ġdid fil-persuna tal-Avukat Bernard Grech.

F'dawn l-aħħar tliet snin kien hemm hafna disgwid fil-kamp Nazzjonalista u tilef hafna mill-fiducja. Deher ċar li l-kap ta' qabel tilef il-fiducja tal-maġġoranza tal-Membri Parlamentari Nazzjonalisti li hadmu biex xi hadd ieħor jehodlu postu.

Dak li l-inkwiet dghajjed lill-Partit Nazzjonalista bħala oppożizzjoni għax l-ebda

Gvern m'għandu jkollu oppożizzjoni mifruda. Li hemm tajjeb hi li l-kap nazzjonalista, t-tielet wiehed fi tliet snin ġie elett b'maġġoranza kbira.

Issa sinċerament nittama li Dr Grech iġib l-ghaqda fil-partit tiegħu li jidher li kienet intilfet għal kollox, għax mingħajr l-ghaqda l-ebda partit politiku ma jista' jirbah l-appoġġ tal-poplu.

Fl-istess waqt nifrah u niringrazzja wkoll lil Dr Joseph Muscat li wara sitt snin bħala Prim Ministru u 12-il sena Membru Parlamentari rriżenja. Dr Muscat għamel hafna ġid u kien l-iktar politiku popolari li qatt rat Malta.

### Hope Trump has learned his lesson

Michael Gatt from Elm Grove, Wisconsin, USA writes:

So now President Donald Trump and the US First Lady have contracted COVID-19 and contrary to the statements by medical specialists, after only three days in hospital, the 'superman' Trump has left to return to the Whitehouse saying that he has already recovered ignoring the fact that he is not entirely out of the woods yet.

I am not vengeful, but the fact that he contracted the coronavirus serves him as a reminder, perhaps he would get himself to at last think of himself as a human being while he campaigns for re-election (God forbid) as President.

This is the man who had been publicly mocking the use of facemasks as a protective measure against COVID-19 despite the consensus of public health officials, including his own advisers, that they effectively slow the virus.

Trump had even called out Biden for wearing a mask as recently as at the first presidential debate.

Don't take me wrong. I wished him and his wife a speedy recovery. No decent person should wish for anything else, but perhaps now he could learn something and start behaving, as a President should, at least for the next few days before the election. It could be too late for him, but a godsend for most of us.

He has done so much damage to the credibility of the country. As predicted, with his call to make America Great Again, he made many enemies of countries that the previous President had worked hard to build bridges with, namely Cuba, Iran and China to mention just a few.

### The only way to go

Thomas Spiteri from Fitzroy, Victoria writes:

I have spent a good part of my life examining the Maltese media both in print and on air. For the last four, I have been studying how *The Voice of the Maltese* has developed into a very effective publication not only as a news portal but also as an excellent voice for Malta overseas.

The Voice has achieved this by reporting Maltese internal politics in Maltese, highlighting achievements in the English language and by attracting the best writers.

It has avoided being a copy and past vehicle, reducing journalism to its lowest level with plagiarism, no shame whatsoever.

Keep your good reputation and aim always towards the intelligence of your readers.



### Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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# Fl-imghoddi Ottubru kien maghruf mal-Maltin bhala x-xahar tal-operetta

**L**il hafna f'Malta Ottubru jfakkkarhom ukoll fl-istagun tal-operetti. Miftakar sewwa stagun imballat bl-operetti fit-Teatru Manoel, meta kienu jigu l-operetti Taljani ta' Elvio Calderoni – imma dawn l-aktar fi zmien il-Karnival. Izda kont issib entuzjazmu akbar fil-kumpanija teatrali tal-Belt, immexxija minn George Micallef li halliena ftit ilu biex imur hdejn il-Mulej.

Ta' kull sena, George u martu, u l-kumpanija tieghu, kienu jipprezentaw operetta bi produzzjoni mill-aqwa fit-teatru Manoel. Ir-rappezentazzjoni ma kien ikun jonqosha xejn: kantanti tajbin hafna, orkestra zgħira u tajba, reċtar stupend, kostumi sbieħ, xeni tajbin. Kienet tkun hidma kbira ta' hafna xhur imwettqa fir-rappezentazzjoni fuq il-palk tat-Teatru Manoel, proprju f'Ottubru.

Ma' din il-kumpanija tal-Belt, kien hemm kumpaniji oħra, fosthom il-Kumpanija Maleth, li wkoll kienet tagħmel l-almu tagħha.

Kien hemm il-problema tal-lingwa fil-kanzunetti tal-operetta. Min jghid li l-kanzunetta għandha tibqa' fil-lingwa originali, u min li jekk l-operetta ssir bil-Malti allura l-kanzunetti wkoll għandhom ikunu bil-Malti.

## Operetti popolari

L-aktar operetti popolari kienu dawk ta' Franz Lehar, fosthom 'La Vedova Allegra', 'Il Conte di Lussemburgo' u 'La Danza delle Libellule', u dawk ta' Virgilio Ranzato, 'Il Paese dei Campanelli' u l-famuza 'Cin-Ci-La'. Magħhom ukoll 'Bajadera' ta' Kalman u 'Scugnizza' ta' Mario Costa, u hafna oħrajn. Insomma, repertorju mill-isbaħ ta' operetti popolari li kienu ta' attrazzjoni għall-udjenza Maltija. Kont urejt ix-xewqa li mill-gdid nergħu jigi rxuxat dan ir-repertorju. Izda jidher li l-kelma tiegħi waqgħet fuq widnejn torox!

Kont ukoll issuggerajt repertorju ta' operetti Maltin jew kif kienu jsejnhom fl-irhula tagħna vodvilli. Fl-imghoddi kien hawn diversi kompożituri Maltin li kienu jiktbu xi operetta jew xi vodvill għall-kumpaniji tal-lokal tagħhom.

Niftakar li kont issuggerajt lil wiehed responsabbli minn dan il-qasam l-operetti li kkompona Ġużepi Azzopardi (iz-Zna) li ktibt dwaru fl-aħħar ħarga. Issuggerajt biex wiehed iħares xi ftit lejhom u jipprezentahom fuq il-palk b'libsa addattata għaż-żminijiet tagħna. L-idea ingħogħot imma ma sar xejn.

## Il-vodvilli

Fis-snin sittin, fis-Sala Dun Mikiel Xerri f'Haż-Żebbug, il-kumpanija tas-sala parrokkjali kienet tipprezenta vodvilli li kienu ftit inqas minn operetta. Fost dawn kien hemm 'Santarellina' u oħrajn komiċi. Dak responsabbli minn din il-hidma kien il-mibki surmast minn Hal Qormi Ġużepi Ciappara.

Dan is-surmast kellu energija u entuzjazmu kbir. Kien jaf jaddatta sewwa l-pinna tiegħu għall-atturi tal-lokal u kellu l-hila jtella' livell tajjeb fil-prezentazzjoni. Is-sala kinenet tkun mimlija bil-biljetti jinbiegħu sa minn ġimgha qabel. Imma miet hu u miegħu miet kollox.



Il-mibki George Micallef

Meta kont nipprezenta l-programm 'Siesta' fuq ir-radju semmiegħ kien semmieli operetta Ingliża tal-kompożitur Sidney Jones, 'La Geisha', li qatt ma kien semagħha fl-original u li l-ewwel darba li kien raha u semagħha kienet fil-verżjoni Maltija ta' Sir Augustus Bartolo. Qalli li din l-operetta għandha atmosfera Ġappuniża u l-karattru ta' Geisha huwa karattru ħelu hafna. Kien qalli (f'Mejju, 1998) li dnub li din hija intilfet.

Das-semmiegħ, kien zied jghidli li din l-operetta bil-verżjoni Maltija dehret fit-tletinijiet kemm f'Malta kif ukoll f'Għawdex. Fejn saret dejjem kienet suċċess kbir.

## L-operetta 'La Geisha'

Niftakar lis-semmiegħ, is-Sur Miceli jghidli li hūh Alfred kien iżomm hafna rekords mir-riċerki li jagħmel u kien qallu li din l-operetta kienu ħadmuha fit-Teatru Rjal bejn it-3 ta' Marzu u l-11 ta' April tal-1937. Il-kumpanija dehret taht l-isem 'The Malta Amateur Light Theatrical Association'.

Kien ukoll qallu wkoll li ttellgħet ukoll f'Għawdex minn xi għalliema ta' dawk iż-żminijiet. Kienet saret bejn fid-29 t'Ottubru, u fis-7 ta' Novembru 1943.

Bint Sir Augustus Bartolo, is-Sinjura Amato Gauci, f'ittra li kienet bagħtitli fi Frar tal-1994, kienet tatni dak li kienet tiftakar hi ta' din l-operetta ta' Sidney Jones. L-introduzzjoni korali tagħha kienet hekk:-

*'Qed ibexbex f'dal pajjiż  
Hawn bilqiegħda niċċaċċraw  
Waqt li l-kikkra nirrangaw  
Telgħat ix-xemx, naqas il-kwiet  
Jum fuq jum ġie u reġa' mar  
U x-xemx tagħtina id-dawl' eċċ eċċ*

Meta kont indoqq fil-programmi mużikali tiegħi u xi passagħ mill-operetta, xi semmigħa ġieli kienu jghiduli kemm hassew mumentni sbieħ ta' nostalgija ... ta' meta kienu għadhom zgħażagħ jinnamraw u l-ghors tagħhom kien li jattendu xi operetta li dejjem kienet tkun marbuta ma' xi storja ta' mħabba.

Iż-żmien jghaddi u l-affarijiet tbiddlu, għaldaqstant l-operetta, li fl-imghoddi tant kienet tant tferrah 'il-pubbliku, tidher imwarrba.

# Perspettiva

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

kitba ta'  
**IVAN  
 CAUCHI**



## SOFA

**H**uwa fatt kurjuż u kultant umoruż, kif kelma f'lingwa waħda tinftiehem kompletament differenti f'ohra. Żgur li nħasset minn hafna emigranti Maltin f'pajjiżi b'lingwa tal-maġġoranza Ingliża, meta kkummentaw għall-ewwel darba fuq xi maltempata bix-xita, b'dawk ta' madwarhom jahsbu li qeghdin jirkellmu hażin.

Dan l-aħhar, l-akronimu SOFA ssemma kemm il-darba fuq il-midja Maltija, u ċertament mhux f'kontest ta' mod komdu fejn issorġi.

L-ittri ta' SOFA jirreferu għal *Status Of Forces Agreement*, ftehim bejn pajjiż wiehed li jrid jistazzjona jew jieh u l-forzi militari tiegħu f'pajjiż ieħor, li jistabbilixxi d-drittijiet u privileġġi tan-nies militari barranin fl-art li qed tilqagħhom. Dan it-tip ta' ftehim isir minn hafna pajjiżi inklużi l-Awstralja, u l-iprem fosthom hija l-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika li għandha xi mitt ftehim ta' dan it-tip.

Fil-fatt, l-Istati Uniti hija rrapportata li ilha tipprova tilhaq ftehim SOFA ma' Malta għal dawn l-aħhar ghoxrin sena, u dan l-aħhar tentattiv falla wkoll, għaliex il-ftehim li jidher kien lest li joffri l-Gvern Malti ma kienx biżżejjed għan-naħa Amerikana.<sup>1</sup>

Għaliex ftehim SOFA huwa daqshekk jahraq? Hemm diversi raġunijiet għal dan.

L-ewwel haġa, hemm affarijiet marbutin man-natura tal-ftehim innifsu. Ftehim SOFA ġeneralment ikopri kwestjonijiet legali marbutin mal-persuni li jiffurmaw parti mill-kontingjent militari u l-proprjetà li jżaw, kemm jekk ibbażati f'post u kemm jekk waqt iżjara.

Affarijiet ċivili jinkludu l-impjeg tas-suldati u nies oħra tal-kontingjent, jekk ikunux sugġetti għat-taxxa lokali eċċ u jekk ikun hemm xi ħsarat kif dawn jiġu kkompensati. Affarijiet kriminali jinkludu x'jiġri meta xi hadd jagħmel xi att bħal serq, vjolenza fiżika jew sesswali u anke qtil.

Il-kontroversja tqum mallewwel għax is-SOFA ġeneralment jispeċifika li l-qrati barranin, u mhux dawk lokali, ikollhom il-ġurisdizzjoni fuq tal-inqas xi atti kriminali li jkun twettqu min-nies tas-servizzi. Dan jolqot fil-laħam il-ħaj il-prinċipju tas-sovraniżmu tal-pajjiż li jkun qiegħed jilqa' għandu l-forzi militari tal-barrani, u huwa politikament kontroversjali.

Għal Malta, hemm ukoll il-fatt li jkollok forzi militari f'pajjiżek bi ftehim jista' jiġi mħares bħala kuntrarju għall-prinċipju kostituzzjonali tiegħu ta' newtralità, speċjalment meta l-pajjiż li qed jibgħat il-militar tiegħu huwa l-Istati Uniti li tista' tgħid li hija involuta f'parti sostanzjali tal-kunflitti l-kbar madwar id-dinja.

Fuq in-newtralità, kien interessanti, u pjuttost intelligenti, it-tentattiv tal-Gvern Malti (milli nista' nifhem, għax id-dettalji huma mistura) li joffri ftehim taħt il-programm tan-NATO (*North Atlantic Treaty Organisation*) jismu *Partnership for Peace* (PfP).

Malta kienet issiehbiet fil-PfP fl-1995 taħt Gvern Nazzjonalista, u din is-shubija kienet sospiza mill-Gvern Laburista ta' Alfred Sant



sena wara, li dakinhar kien jara din is-shubija li tmur kontra l-prinċipju ta' newtralità.

Fl-2008, Malta taħt il-Gvern Nazzjonalista ta' Gonzi reġa' talab li jerga' jqajjem is-shubija tiegħu fil-PfP, u dan kien milqugħ min-NATO f'it wara.<sup>2</sup> Gvern Laburista ta' warajh aċċetta li jkompli b'din is-shubija, u għalhekk jidher li m'għadux jara shubija fil-PfP bħala li tmur kontra n-newtralità tagħha.

Għaldaqstant, x'aktarx li l-gvern ikkalkula li l-oġġezzjoni tan-newtralità għas-SOFA bħala parti mill-PfP tkun limitata.

Hemm kwestjoni oħra taħraq madankollu. Din l-attività kollha madwar is-SOFA mal-Istati Uniti saret fl-istess żmien li kumitat ta' esperti tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, imsejjah MONEYVAL, li jqs x'qed isir fil-ġlieda kontra l-ħasil tal-flus u l-iffinanzjar tat-terroriżmu, għandu jerga' jevalwa lil Malta f'dawn il-jiem, u hemm ir-riskju li l-pajjiż ikun l-ewwel wiehed tal-Unjoni Ewropea li jkun meqjus li falla milli jimplimenta r-rakkomandazzjonijiet li sarulu fl-aħhar rapport tal-2019.<sup>3</sup>

Kien hemm min spekulat li l-iffirmar ta' ftehim SOFA ikun mod biex jinkoragġixxi lill-Istati Uniti tinfluenza lill-MONEYVAL biex ma tkunx daqshekk ħarxa ma' Malta. Inti thokkli tiegħi, u jien inhokklok tiegħek, xi f'it jew wisq.

Jien insibha diffiċli nemmen li kumitat ta' esperti li x-xogħol ta' analiżi finanzjarju tagħhom huwa tekniku ta' dan il-livell, jistgħu jkun persważi jibdlu l-ġudizzju tagħhom minhabba pressjoni korrotta li ssirilhom mill-Istati Uniti, li hija biss osservatur tal-MONEYVAL. Irrid ngħid li kemm il-Prim Ministru Malti Robert Abela kif ukoll kelliem għall-ambaxxata Amerikana ċadhu li teżisti holqa bejn il-MONEYVAL u t-tentattiv ta' ftehim dwar SOFA.<sup>4</sup>

Allaħares il-pajjiż huwa daqshekk iddisprat li jkun lest iqahħab il-prinċipji tiegħu biex ikollu rapport favorevoli minn kumitat barrani, minflok li jimplimenta t-tibdiliet neċessarji biex ikun ikkunsidrat ċittadin tajjeb fil-ġlieda kontra l-ħasil tal-flus. Kieku din kienet l-verità, kont inħossha insolenti u iktar gravi milli ftehim SOFA li seta' mar kontra l-kelma jew l-ispiritu tan-newtralità kostituzzjonali ta' Malta.

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# Sir Themistocles (Temi) Zammit:

*A Maltese archaeologist and historian, professor of chemistry, medical doctor, researcher and writer*

Malta has always produced prominent people in the medical profession, whatever their specialisation. One such was Sir Themistocles (Temi) Zammit who along with others discovered how undulant fever (brucellosis) in the blood of goats is passed on to humans through infected milk.

Described as a true Renaissance scholar, Sir Temi who was born in Valletta on September 30 1964 and died on November 2 1935, was successful in many fields. He was mainly a medical doctor but he was also a researcher, historian, professor of chemistry, archaeologist and writer.

He also served as Rector (1920–26) of the Royal University of Malta and first Director of the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

During his time, extreme poverty in Malta alternated with periods of economic prosperity that were often brought about by war.

The social, economic and religious conditions he experienced were later to serve as the setting of many of the short stories he wrote in Maltese.

Coming from a very humble family background, Sir Temi graduated in medicine from the University of Malta, and specialised in bacteriology in London and Paris. Soon after returning to

chemistry at the University of Malta in 1905 until his appointment as Rector, 1920–26. Author of several literary books in the Maltese language, he was conferred the DLitt Honoris Causa by Oxford University.

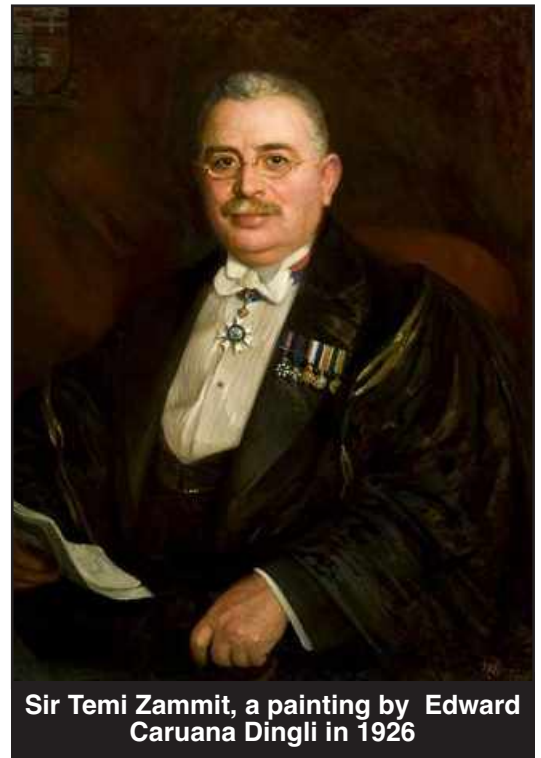
He was knighted in 1930, having previously been admitted as a Companion to the Order of St Michael and St George.

During all this time, his interest in Malta's ancient past grew – he published a history of the Maltese islands and burst onto the island's archaeological scene at the beginning of the 20th century, continuing to dominate it right up to his death in 1935.

Between 1915 and 1919 he completed the excavation of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and methodically excavated a number of archaeological sites and tombs, including the megalithic Tarxien Temples, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, which have since been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

A permanent display of some of his findings may be viewed at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. He used to sign most of his works with his initials T. Z.

The main Assembly Hall of the University of Malta was named after him. He also appears on a commemorative 1973 Maltese pound coin.



Sir Temi Zammit, a painting by Edward Caruana Dingli in 1926

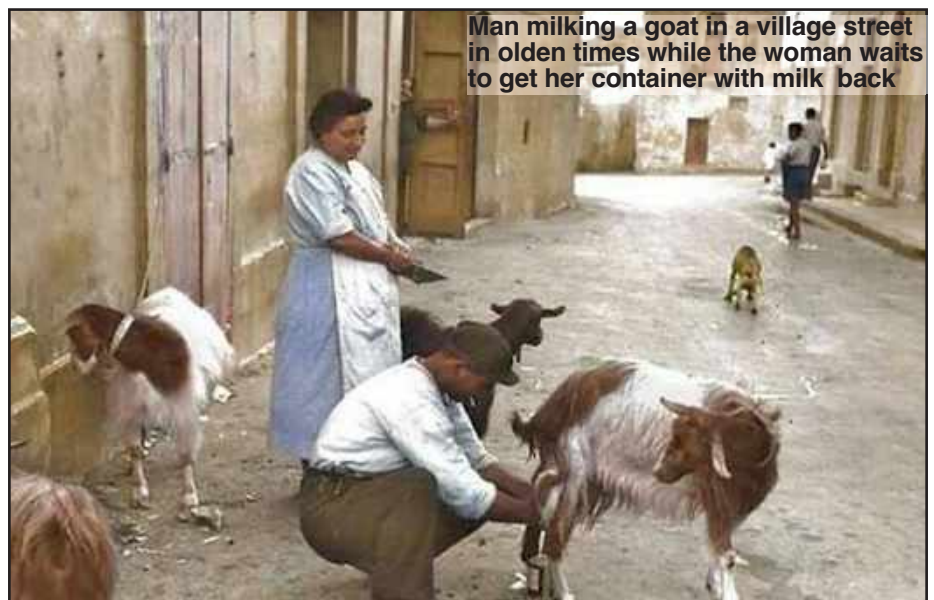


Bust of Themistocles Zammit in the Malta National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta

Malta, in 1904, he was appointed member of the Mediterranean Fever Commission.

His 1905 discovery of contaminated milk as the vector for transmission to humans of Brucellosis melitensis present in the blood of the goat greatly contributed to the elimination from the islands of undulant fever. His discovery and scientific approach to archaeology further enhanced his international reputation and earned him a knighthood.

Sir Temi Zammit became professor of



Man milking a goat in a village street in olden times while the woman waits to get her container with milk back



## Roundup of News About Malta



# Prime Minister, US Secretary of Defence discuss strengthening of bilateral relations

**P**rime Minister Dr Robert Abela recently hosted US Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper at the Auberge de Castille in Valletta, during which they discussed a number of issues including bilateral relations and how this relationship can be further strengthened.

Discussions also focused on migration challenges, as well as, separately, cooperation between the Armed Forces of Malta and the United States military. They highlighted that the United States military would provide formative and technical training to Maltese soldiers.

Apart from assisting Malta in the military, where there are excellent military-to-military relations, the United States of America currently assists the Armed Forces of Malta in professional



Prime Minister Robert Abela (standing) with the US Defence Secretary

training, including with the Special Operations Unit. In fact, every year a number of Maltese officers and soldiers attend spe-

cialised training in America. Special teams also provide training in Malta to reach more Maltese soldiers.

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo and Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement Byron Camilleri were also present at the meeting.

Mr Mark T. Esper later also met the President of Malta George Vella at Sant'Anton Palace where the President emphasised the need to attain security and stability in the Mediterranean region.

Relations between Malta and the United States of America, and cooperation in important fields such as migration, customs, and counterterrorism, and the evolving situation in Libya and the Eastern Mediterranean were other issues discussed.



## Joseph Muscat quits Parliament

**M**alta's former Prime Minister Joseph Muscat resigned from the House of Representatives on Monday October 4, after serving 12 years in Parliament – six years and 10 months as Prime Minister.

In a short speech in Parliament, Dr Muscat said he sent his resignation letter to the Speaker without informing his MP colleagues with his intention.

He said that he is proud for having served in Parliament twice as Prime Minister, once as Opposition Leader and three times as Parliamentary Member. He added that he is proud of the service he gave and his contribution to the country, even if he would have wished to do even more.

When he resigned his prime ministership in January, he had intimated he would resign from Parliament within a short while. He was elected to Parliament in October 1, 12 years ago, shortly after he was elected leader of the Labour Party. He was elected as Prime Minister in 2013 and 2017.

## Small states are most vulnerable to Covid-19

**M**inister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna was keynote speaker at the Commonwealth Extraordinary Small States Finance Ministers IFI Meeting on COVID-19, that virtually brought together Finance Ministers from small states and international financial institutions like World Bank Group and IMF.

Minister Scicluna mentioned issues that are critical and especially affect small states. He said that small states are most vulnerable, and the impact is the most devastating, much more than other countries.

He reiterated the positive outcomes Malta experienced in recent years in relation to the national debt, in that for 35 years, it was constrained to meet each year's budget expenditure by resorting to borrowing that contributed to a debt burden that went over and above 70% of Malta's GDP.

He added that this was Malta's scenario until seven years ago, but during the last three years, it turned the deficit into a surplus and the national debt has gone down to 43% by higher economic growth, added by a series of economic reforms.

## Malta supports the 'Montreux Document'

**M**alta has become the 57th state to officially declare its support for "The Montreux Document on Private Military and Security Companies". The process was undertaken through Malta's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Chris Grima.

The Document is the result of an initiative launched by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2006.

The document's main objective is the promotion and respect for International Humanitarian and Human Rights laws whenever private military and security companies are present in armed conflicts.

## Malta wins bid to host Europride 2023

**M**alta Pride has been selected to host EuroPride 2023 after the bid from Allied Rainbow Communities/Malta Pride received 54% of the vote of members of the European Pride Organisers Association, beating Belfast Pride and Rotterdam Pride.

The President of the European Pride Organisers Association, Kristine Garina, said: "Congratulations to Malta Pride for their victory, and for a bid that highlighted diversity and human rights and focused on refugees, migrants and other intersections within the LGBTI+ community. I look forward to visiting Malta for EuroPride in three years' time!"



## Roundup of News About Malta

# The workers a priority for Government

The Government's priority remains the workers particularly those in the lower scales, that is why, in the coming Budget for 2021 to be presented in Parliament on October 19, Prime Minister Robert Abela (*right*) has already announced the continuation of the wage supplement.

In a meeting with the representatives of the General Workers' Union and later the Association of Developers, the Prime Minister maintained the need for further measures to safeguard employment and said he favoured a mandatory partnership between workers and a trade union.

He said that the Government is balancing the rights of workers and the needs of the employers, and added that peace of mind for all is a highly important and crucial theme for the Government, that is why it would continue with wage supplements.

In his meeting with the Malta Developers' Association the Prime Minister said this Association works professionally as it takes a wider view of things not only in matters that benefit its members but also enjoyed by the country as a whole.

Dr Abela pointed out that the proposal made

by the MDA that stamp duty be reduced from 5% to 1.5% during the pandemic had immediate results and had left an impact on employment. Unlike in other countries where unemployment had registered an increase, in Malta this has been reduced by 0.4%.

In his reaction MDA President Sandro Chetcuti mentioned a study carried out last year and now updated to the pandemic showed, that up to 2019 employment in the building industry had risen from 43,000 to 50,000. He said the reduction of stamp duty had immediate results as it led to a record number of conventional agreements.



## Venice Commission favours reforms

The Venice Commission has acknowledged and commented favourably on six of the ten reforms enacted unanimously in Parliament with the Opposition amending Malta's Constitution.

In its comments, the Venice Commission pointed out the speed of this legislative process, with the government noting that discussions on constitutional and institutional reforms had been ongoing since at least 2010.

The Commission acknowledged

the work of the administration of the Prime Minister, Robert Abela, delivering reforms that had been on paper and a topic of discussion for many years and securing unanimous agreement for their implementation.

Key among them are the prerogatives always held in the Prime Minister's hands, that included the appointment of the Chief Justice, judges, and the selection of the Commissioner of Police.

The government reiterates that work on other reforms agreed with the Venice Commission would continue in Parliament in the coming days and be complemented by other initiatives that would further strengthen the rule of law and good governance in Malta.

## 'Time to change the way we talk and think about Africa'



In a message he conveyed during the informal virtual meeting of EU Development Ministers held recently, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo (*left*) said it was time to change the way we talk and think about Africa and, more than that, to change how we behave towards Africa.

Minister Bartolo underlined the need to build a stronger and equal partnership with Africa and to also cooperate on the top priorities set by Africans themselves. "Every effort needs to be made to make it

possible for African countries to create wealth and jobs," the Minister said.

Meanwhile, Minister Bartolo met in Malta with a group of politicians from different parts of Libya who, after nine years at war, agreed to meet in Malta to discuss national unity and reconciliation.

Minister Bartolo called on them to work together, forgive each other and build national unity with the same resolve they need to rebuild airports, power stations, electricity and water services, hospitals, schools and homes that were destroyed by the war.

He hoped that their work would sustain similar efforts towards a united, Libyan-led country wherein its wealth is used for the benefit of all the Libyans.

He reiterated that any initiative for peace and unity in Libya should be guided by the United Nations' and the Berlin process, and no initiatives should be taken that would disrupt and spoil the delicate and difficult work which led to the agreed and observed a ceasefire for a Libyan revival and the end of the long-endured suffering of the Libyan people.

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# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Dr Bernard Grech jingħata l-gurament tal-ħatra ta' Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni mill-President Dr George Vella

## Kap ġdid ...

**K**if kien mistenni l-Avukat Bernard Grech għeleb bis-shiħ lill-eks kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista l-Avukat Adrian Delia, fl-elezzjoni ta' bejniethom għal kap tal-istess partit. Hu għe elett mit-tesserati bi 12,663 vot jew 69.3% tal-voti eligibbli, rebha pjuttost kbira fuq Delia li kiseb 5,62, li hu percentwal ta' 30%.

Ovvjament hafna minn li jappoġġjaw il-Partit Nazzjonalista, u sezzjoni tal-midja Maltija, fil-kap il-ġdid qed jaraw, biex ngħidu hekk, it-twelid mill-ġdid tal-PN li fl-aħħar snin, flok stejquer mit-telfiet kbar li garrab sa mill-elezzjoni tal-2013, u baqa' sejjer lura biex tilef bi kbir elezzjoni wara oħra, u xi wħud bil-kemm ma bdewx iqisuh bħala irrelevanti. Attwalment l-istess nies bdew jaraw lil għaqdiet bħal dik tal-NGO ir-Repubblika u s-Socjetà Ċivili bħala l-vera oppożizzjoni għall-Gvern.

Hafna kienu jifgħu hafna mill-htija ta' dan għall-aħħar tliet snin, fuq Adrian Delia, (għalkemm fil-fatt, in-niżla kienet ilha li bdiet) għax ma rnexxielux jgħaqqad il-partit. Nahseb li dan ma kienx biss tort tiegħu, iżda wkoll għax ma kellux l-istoffa ta' mexxej politiku.

Allura fi Grech, li issa żgur li se jkollu l-appoġġ ta' daww id-deputati Nazzjonalisti li rbellew kontra Delia, qed jistennewh jgħaqqad il-PN u 'jibnih mill-ġdid' f'partit rebbejha, kif qal Grech innifsu: *"Illejlja flimkien għamilna l-ewwel pass. Pass biex dan il-partit verament ngħaqqduh, inggedduh u flimkien – nirnexxu."*

Sinifikanti wkoll li anke l-President tar-Repubblika, l-ET George Vella, fid-diskors tiegħu wara l-ghotja tal-gurament tal-ħatra lil Grech bħala Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni semma l-kwestjoni tal-għaqda fil-Partit Nazzjonalista. Awgura suċċess lil Grech u lill-PN filwaqt li awguralu wkoll li tassew jirnexxi fil-wegħda tal-għaqda, u kompli:

*"Se nserrah fuq il-ħidma tiegħek biex tonqos il-pika politika xi ftit. Il-battibekki politiki se jibqgħu magħna imma għandhom isiru b'dinjità u bir-rispett. Kummenti dispregġjattivi għandhom jitwaqqfu għax m'huma qed jagħmlu l-ebda ġid lid-demokrazija."*

Il-President fakkar li Oppożizzjoni b'saħħita hija meħtieġa f'kull pajjiż, inkluż f'Malta u m'għandhiex toqgħod lura dwar materji ta' natura nazzjonali u anke kontroversjali.

## Il-midja dwar il-kap il-ġdid

**W**ara li Grech sar uffiċjalment Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni u wara li wiegħed li se jaqdi dmiru lejn il-pajjiż, sintendi nkiteb hafna dwar il-ħatra tiegħu.

Nislet biss xi kummenti mill-editorjali ta' *The Times* u *The Independent*.

Skont *The Times* (04.10.2020) l-ikbar sfida għal Grech mhix biex jimpresjona lil daww li jappoġġjawh, imma li jikkonvinċi lil daww li ma fdawhx u jurihom li marru żmerċ meta ma vvutawlux. U jinhtieg li jagħmel dan mill-aktar fis billi jiddjaloga magħhom, u fuq kollox billi jagħti aktar spazju liż-żgħażaġh fil-partit.

Grech għamel tliet wegħdijiet: li jgħaqqad il-partit, li jibdlu f'moviment progressiv billi jkun inklussiv u billi jagħti viżjoni kredibbli għall-pajjiż.

L-ikbar problema ta' Delia hi, li hafna ma jafux x'inhuma l-għanijiet tiegħu (*"what he stands for"*) billi l-kampanja elettorali tiegħu kienet mibnija fuq ir-retorika politika, bla ma spjega l-pjanijiet u l-policies tiegħu għall-futur tal-pajjiż.

Biex Grech iirnexxi *"Grech needs to have the best possible people around him, especially young, progressive minds. It is only by having the right set-up that the Nationalist Party can start making inroads, a task where Adrian Delia failed miserably,"* temm jingħad fl-editorjal.

Min-naħa tal-*Independent* (06.10.2020) l-editor qal li Grech għandu triq diffiċli quddiemu u se jkun diffiċli hafna għalih li jegħleb lill-Partit Laburista, iżda jekk il-Partit Nazzjonalista jispera li jagħmel progress sal-elezzjonijiet li jmiss, Grech irid jiehu azzjoni immedjata (*"he will have to hit the ground running."*)

Biex dan il-progress isir, l-ewwel haġa li trid issir hi: li jgħaqqad il-Partit. Iżda Grech ma jistax jiffoka biss fuq il-bini mill-ġdid tal-partit, imma li jara li l-PN jigbed lejha aktar nies billi jiffoka dwar affarijiet li huma ta' importanza nazzjonali.

L-Editor sostna li m'hemm kważi l-ebda ċans (*"There is near to no chance"*) li l-Partit Nazzjonalista jirbaħ l-elezzjoni li jmiss, imma b'mexxej ġdid hemm ċans li jitnaqqas id-distakk bejn iż-żewġ partiti. U dan se jpoġġi lil Grech taħt il-lenti.

L-Editor wissa li għalkemm il-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni hija ta' importanza kbira, imma huwa diffiċli li partit mingħajr proposti ċari jiġi elett biex imexxi l-pajjiż.

U jemfasizza *"...the party will need to create a clear vision for the future, and this would require concrete proposals and not vague rhetoric."*

**I**ngħatat importanza kbira, ikemm qabel l-elezzjoni kif ukoll wara, għall-htieġa li jkun hemm l-għaqda fi hdan il-PN biex dan jirnexxi.. xi haġa li kienet nieqsa ferm fl-aħħar snin.

Tant kienet inholqot frazzjoni bejn l-fazzjonijiet li wara l-elezzjoni Grech innifsu stqarr: *"Nirringrazzjakom minn qalbi li f'dajtuni u fl-aktar mument diffiċli meta kien hemm l-istalletti u l-iskieken ma qta-jtux qalbkom minni u ma f'dajtuni."*

## Appoġġ u Għaqda

Xi haġa riflessa wkoll f'dak li qal l-eks-kap meta ammetta t-telfa, *"Irridu nieqfu ninnhlew f'taħbit bejnietha. Illum qed inwiegħed il-lealtà tiegħi lejn Bernard Grech"*.

Bħal Delia, oħrajn f'karigi għolja taħt Delia, fosthom iż-żewġ deputati mexxejja, li stqarrew li kienu se jappoġġjaw lil Grech billi jzommu l-karigi tagħhom

L-istess għamel id-deputat Edwin Vassallo wiegħed minn li hadem għal Delia, li fil-midja soċjali kiteb: *"Il-lealtà tiegħi hija dejjem lejn il-vot tat-tesserati. Għalija fis-semplikità tal-ħajja l-fehma tiegħi dejjem kienet u tibqa' waħda: lealtà lejn il-kap tfisser lealtà lejn il-partit. Għalhekk bħal dejjem inwiegħed il-lealtà tiegħi lejn il-kap il-ġdid bħala lealtà lejn il-partit."*

\*Ikompili f'paġna 15

# Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Appoġġ u ghaqda

\*Minn paġna 14

Imma filwaqt li jidher li Grech diġà irnexxielu jiġbor lid-deputati nazzjonalisti kollha warajh, kien hemm partitarji oħrajn li ma aċċettawx il-hatra tiegħu u wrew dan billi jew irriżenjaw mill-karigi li kellhom jew li baġitu lura t-tessera tal-partit għax sostnew li Delia kien ittrattat hażin mill-klikka li dejjem riedet takhem lill-PN taht idejha.

Fost dawk li irriżenjaw kien hemm għadd ta' Kunsilliera li kienu jirrappreżentaw lill-PN f'diversi f'kunsilli lokali. Fost dawn spikkat ir-riżenja ta' Louise Tedesco li mhux biss irriżenjat minn kunsilliera tal-PN fil-Hamrun imma wkoll mill-irwoli kollha tagħha fuq *Net Television* fejn kien ilha taħdem sa mill-bidu tiegħu.

Irriżenja wkoll il-President tal-Forum tal-SMEs tal-PN, Andre Grech, li kien wiehed mit-tim tal-kampanja ta' Adrian Delia.

U-rabja ta' wħud minn dawk li warrbu kienet tant kbira li saħansitra marru jisfogaw ir-rabja tagħhom fuq ir-radju u t-televiżjoni tal-Partit Laburista. Biss wiehed irid jara jekk din kienetx ir-rabja tal-mument jew jekk wara kollox meta jikkalmaw l-affarijiet jerġgħu lura fi hdan il-Partit Nazzjonalista.

## Mal-hatra ta' Grech bħala kap tal-PN, ...u mal-Prim Ministru

il-mexxej tal-Partit Laburista u Prim Ministru, Robert Abela stiednu jiltaqgħu fiċ-Ċentru Nazzjonali tal-Partit Laburista... drawwa li kien bdiha l-eks mexxej Laburista ta' qabel Joseph Muscat.

Grech aċċetta, iżda qal: "*Nilqa' l-istedina ta' Robert Abela ... se nitlob laqgħa uffiċjali f'Kastilja*", fejn qal li ried jiddiskuti mal-Prim Ministru l-kuntratt tal-electrogas, il-pandemija u l-proposta tiegħu għal konferenza nazzjonali dwar il-popolazzjoni u l-immigrazzjoni.

Iżda l-proposta f'it li xejn intlaqgħet tajjeb minn Robert Abela li f'battuta wieġeb, "*ma narax li huwa aċċettabbli li kap tal-oppożizzjoni jimponi lilu nnifsu u jistieden lilu nnifsu f'Kastilja. Grech jidhul Kastilja meta jirbaħ l-elezzjoni.*"

Il-batibekki komplew wara li Grech ħa l-ġurament bħala deputat u kellu laqgħa ma' Robert Abela fl-Uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru fil-Parlament. Imma dik li s-soltu kienet tkun waħda ta' kortesija jidher li spiċċat f'waħda mhux daqshekk kordjali.

Fi tmiem il-laqgħa l-Prim Ministru xehla lil Grech li qed ifixxlu fil-hidma tiegħu fl-Unjoni Ewropea meta jgħid li Malta mhix *full-up*. Il-Prim Ministru sostna li Malta hi *full up* u li hu qed jaġixxi f'dan ir-rigward billi, fost oħrajn, ma jhallix dghajjes ta' im-migranti irregolari jtitlqu mil-Libja.

"*Jiena qed naġixxi fuq l-immigrazzjoni u int fixkiltni!*" qal Abela lil Grech. "*Irtira dan il-messaġġ u nitilqu mill-punt li Malta ma tiflahx aktar għall-pessjoni immigra-torja,*" komplja jgħidlu.

Sostna li bil-konferenzi, mhux se jinstabu soluzzjonijiet. "*Aħna qed inżommu lin-nies milli jtitlqu mil-Libja. Lin-nies tal-Hamrun, tal-Marsa u ta' San Pawl il-Baħar x'se ngħidulhom? Li qed niddiskutu?*" saħaq il-Prim Ministru.

Abela qal li d-dghajjes bl-immigranti mhux b'kombinazzjoni li mhumie x jigu



## Battibekk

Iżda forsi l-aktar inkwetanti għal Bernard Grech mhux ir-riżenja ta' f'it kunsilliera u tat-tesserati imma kif se jgħaqqad id-deputati li tant għaddew battuti lil xulxin waqt l-kampanja elettorali... polemici li baqgħu għaddejjin saħansitra sa wara l-hatra ta' Grech.

Infatti x-xrar beda jtir mill-gdid bejn Adrian Delia (*fug*) u Jason Azzopardi li kien wiehed mid-deputati li hadem biex Delia jitwarrab.

F'kumment li għamel, wara li l-Prim Ministru ma qabilx li jiltaqa' ma Grech f'Kastilja, Azzopardi staqsa lill-Prim Ministru Robert Abela għaliex kien lest jiltaqa' ma' Adrian Delia darbtejn f'Kastilja u issa mhux lest jiltaqa' ma' Grech għaladarba jiehu l-ġurament bħala Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni.

Immedjatament it-tweġiba ta' Delia li fuq *Facebook* talab lil Jason Azzopardi jieqaf jigdeb. "*Il-hsara li tibqa' tagħmel lill-Partit Nazzjonalista qed jaraha u jagħrafha kul-hadd. Tibqax tivvinta, ieqaf igdeb*". Delia sostna li Azzopardi mhux se jirnexxilu jgħiddu "*mal-Kap tagħna*".

Mhux ta' b'xejn li wara li ħa l-ġurament ta' Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Grech stqarr li mhu se jhalli lil hadd juża l-pożizzjoni tiegħu fil-partit biex jattakka jew jiddefendi mill-attakki u sostna li fejn ikun hemm bżonn juża d-dixxiplina.

Jekk Grech jirnexxielu jagħmel dan ikun għamel pass għmielu biex jikkura gerha kbira li għamlet tant hsara lill-partit

Malta, imma bil-hidma tal-Gvern. Anke sfida lil Grech biex jekk jaf b'xi korruzzjoni jmur għand il-pulizija, u mhux jikteb u jagħmel akkużi.

Min-naħa tiegħu, f'kummenti mal-ġurnalisti fi tmiem il-laqgħa Bernard Grech sostna li din kienet "*laqgħa kordjali*" għalkemm sostna wkoll li l-Prim ma fehemx il-punt li kien qed jipprova jagħmel hu. Xlieh li mar fuq "*monologu*" dwar l-immigrazzjoni u fakkar li meta ċ-*Chief of Staff* tiegħu, kien imexxi l-*Jobs Plus*, kien jishaq li s-suq tax-xogħol Malti jinhtieg eluf ta' barranin.

"*Qed nitkellem dwar is-70,000 jew 80,000 immigrant li wara kollox għab Gvern Laburista. Għalhekk il-konferenza nazzjonali għandha tistudja l-impatt ta' dawn il-haddiema u tara jekk wara kollox għadhomx ikunu hawn jew le. Tevalwa l-piż li huma fuq is-servizzi...*" sostna Grech.

Dwar l-Electrogas qal li l-Prim Ministru donnu nesa' li hemm rapport tal-Awditur Ġenerali li jgħid illi hemm nuqqasijiet serji f'dan il-kuntratt,

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A quick glimpse at Australia

## Historic 2020 Federal Budget

**F**ederal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg (pictured right) has handed down tax cuts of \$11.5 million to workers in a \$17.8 billion plan to jolt the economy out of the first recession in 30 years. The bottom line is that the budget this year will have a \$213 billion deficit that will take a generation to pay. It will be \$1.7 trillion in gross debt by 2031.

The overall view is that the Liberal/National Coalition has done a reasonable job through during this coronavirus turbulence. Highlights from the budget:

\*One of the biggest and boldest moves in the government's budget is a plan to bring forward personal tax cuts for some 11 million Australians.

\*Young Australian jobseekers should benefit from the government's JobMaker hiring

credit, which Treasury says will support around 450,000 jobs.

\*The government is also offering a 50 per cent wage subsidy for all businesses that take on new apprentices between October 5, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

\*Age pensioners will get \$250 economic support payments in December and March, after previously getting \$750 payments in April and July.

\*A four-year \$1.6 billion funding boost for an extra 23,000 home care packages will also benefit seniors who want to keep living at home.

\*The federal budget assumes that a "population-wide vaccine program" for the coronavirus would be "fully in place by late 2021" and second, that international travel has a "gradual recovery" by late next year.



## Aged Care preparations were "insufficient"



Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck

**T**he Federal aged care commission released a special report outlining urgent measures needed to safeguard the sector and improve residents' quality of life.

It found measures implemented by the federal government on advice from the peak health emergency decision-making committee were "in some respects insufficient to ensure preparedness".

"Confused and inconsistent messaging from providers, the Australian government, and state and territory governments emerged as themes in the submissions we have received," the report read.

"All too often, providers, care recipients and their families, and health workers did not have an answer to the critical question: who is in charge? At a time of crisis, such as this pandemic, clear leadership, direction and lines of communication are essential."

Senior cabinet ministers promise big changes in aged care after this damning report. The aged care royal commission has made six urgent recommendations to fix deplorable conditions at some nursing

homes during the pandemic.

The government has been urged to fund more staff to allow family and friends to visit residents, and at least one infection control expert should be deployed to every nursing home to prevent more deaths.

The government has also been told to increase funding for allied and mental health services in aged care and develop clear protocols around sending residents with coronavirus to hospital.

Coronavirus has killed more than 660 people in aged care during the pandemic. Finance Minister Mathias Cormann has apologised for the Commonwealth's failures.

Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck said the government supported all six recommendations made in the report, stating "substantial progress" has already been made on four of them.

"Every single mortality and death in aged care as a result of COVID-19 is an absolute tragedy and again, we extend our condolences to all of the families who have lost loved ones," he told reporters.

## Summertime in Australia

**M**ost Australians have been enjoying an extra hour of sunlight since Sunday October 4 after daylight saving started in parts of the country when clocks went forward one hour at 2 am local on that day in NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory do not have daylight saving.

The change means Sydney and Melbourne are an hour ahead of Brisbane, 90 minutes in front of Darwin and three hours ahead of Perth.

Most smartphone devices and computers automatically adjust the time.

Daylight saving in Australia ends on April 4, 2021. Malta will change to winter time on October 25.

## Faster tests – but money needed

**S**ome 120 million rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 will be made available to low- and middle-income countries over a period of six months and will be priced at a maximum of \$5 per unit, the World Health Organization said - if it can find the money.

The WHO said the \$600 million scheme would enable low- and middle-income countries to close the dramatic gap in testing for the new coronavirus, which has now killed more than a million people since first being recorded in China in December.

The quick tests, to be distributed across 133 countries over the next six months, are not as reliable as the regular PCR nasal swab tests but are far faster, cheaper and easier to carry out.

These tests provide reliable results in approximately 15 to 30 minutes, rather than hours or days, at a lower price, with less sophisticated equipment. Although they are a bit less accurate, they're much faster, cheaper and don't require a lab.



## A quick glimpse at Australia

# University funding challenged



**T**asmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie (picture) has said the government's controversial university funding reform bill deserves to fail as it unfairly penalises poor students.

In a scathing statement, Senator Lambie announced she would not support the Jobs-Ready Graduates bill, which requires one more crossbench vote to pass the Senate.

The proposed reforms would more than double the cost of some humanities degrees while reducing the cost of science and engineering courses, and remove access to government-supported places for first-year students who fail more than half their subjects.

The bill increases fees for some courses, including humanities, to fund fee cuts for other courses such as sciences and an overall cut in the government contribution from 58% to 52%.

"I'll be damned if I'm going to be the vote that tells the country that poor people don't get dream jobs," Senator Lambie said in the statement.

"This bill makes university

life harder for poor kids and poor parents. And not only does it not have the same impact on wealthy families, it even gives them sweetheart little discounts."

She added, "They make it cheaper for rich families to go to university, and don't help poor families to do the same."

She wanted "everyone to get a chance at being what they want to be".

Ahead of the federal budget Education Minister Dan Tehan had promised universities an extra \$326 million in funding for more domestic places.

He said the bill would encourage students to pick job-ready subjects and leave universities no worse off, while deterring those who amass debts by over-enrolling in subjects

## Second chance to sue the Church

**T**he Supreme Court heard the former altar boy who was abused between the ages of 11 and 14 by the late priest Daniel Hourigan in Gippsland from 1977 to 1980. Hourigan died in 1995.

The survivor, referred to as WCB, lost his childhood and suffered post-traumatic stress disorder for more than 40 years, the court was told. He sued the Bishop of the Sale Diocese for "personal injury suffered" in 1996 and settled for \$32,500.

A judge set aside the settlement, believed to be a landmark case in Victoria, because of recent legal changes and found the case should be reconsidered.

The judge found the settlement was not a "reasonable assessment of the plaintiff's loss and damage in 1996 or adequate compensation by today's standards".

In a statement, WCB said the ruling was a second chance for him and other survivors to make their case for more compensation. The case is expected to go to trial in November.

## More scandals at the Vatican

**T**hree prominent Italian newspapers have reported that Cardinal Giovanni Becciu, a rival of Cardinal George Pell, was suspected of paying the money to influence the failed case against him.

Italian newspapers reported that Cardinal Becciu is suspected of arranging for €700,000 (\$1.1m) to be sent to unnamed people in Australia to ensure unfavourable evidence against Cardinal Pell

Mr Robert Richter QC said the allegations were serious and should be investigated by authorities with the capacity to track money.

Victoria Police has not received a complaint about the money transfers, which have further scandalised the Vatican and coincided with Cardinal Pell's return to Rome.

Cardinal Becciu has strongly denied any wrongdoing.

Cardinal Pell was jailed for more than a year after being wrongly convicted of abusing two Melbourne choirboys in St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne in the mid-1980s. The High Court quashed the conviction in April and Cardinal Pell was freed.

Cardinal Becciu was forced to resign by Pope Francis last month, as Vatican investigators sifted through his spending record at the Secretariat of State.



Cardinals, Becciu and George Pell



## Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



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## Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

# Il-bidu tal-kitba bl-ilsien Malti

F'dan l-artiklu se nagħtu ftit tagħrif dwar kif evolviet il-kitba u l-letteratura Maltija li ta' min jghid ma kienx faċli li timxi 'l quddiem.

Minhabba li l-ilsien Malti żviluppa wara li l-Konti Ruġġieru temm il-ħakma Għarbija f'Malta lejn tmiem il-11-il seklu, ftit kien hemm interess biex l-ilsien Malti jiġi żviluppat fil-forma ta' lingwa miktuba.

Għall-bidu kienu biss il-kleriċi, l-aris-tokratiċi u s-sinjuri l-kbar li kienu kapaċi jiktbu u jaqraw, u ħafna drabi, biex jikko-munikaw, kienu jagħmlu dan bil-Latin.

Matul is-sekli, l-użu tal-ilsien Malti kien ħafna drabi jiġi skoragġit. Fi żmien il-ħakma tal-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann, għall-kitba tad-dokumenti uffiċjali u l-korrispondenza kienu jintużaw jew it-Taljan inkella l-Franċiż.

Ta' min jghid ukoll li taht il-ħakma Ingliża, kif wiehed seta' jistenna, permezz tal-edukazzjoni, dawn ippruvaw kemm jistgħu jinkoraġġixxu l-użu tal-Ingliż, bit-Taljan jiġi meqjus bħala t-tieni lsien influwenti.

Kellna nistennaw sal-1936 sakemm il-Malti sar rikonoxxut bħala l-ilsien uffiċjali tal-gżejjer Maltin. Kien grazzi għal nies bħal Mikiel Anton Vassalli, li baqa' magħruf bħala 'Missier l-Isien Malti' li fis-seklu 19 sar sforz biex l-Malti mitkellem jiġi tradott għal dak miktub, anke jekk jingħad li sa mis-seklu 15 diġà kien hemm x'juri li kien hemm xi Malti miktub.

Storikament, l-iżvilupp ta' xogħlijiet letterarji bil-Malti ġew imfixkla mid-drawwa li kkaratterizzat lill-kultura Maltija li jintużaw żewġ lingwi differ-

enti.

Jingħad li l-eqdem kitba letterarja bl-ilsien Malti hi l-poeżija miktuba minn Pietru Caxaro, *Il-Kantilena* (circa 1470 – 1485), magħrufa wkoll bħala *Xidew il-Qada*. Wara mbagħad giet kitba minn Gian Francesco Bonamico, fil-forma ta' sunett b'tifhir lill-Gran Mastru Nicolò Cotoner, *Mejju gie' bl'Uard, u Zahar għall-ħabta tal-1672*.

L-eqdem dizzjunarju tal-ilsien Malti kien dak miktub minn Francois de Vion Thezan Court (circa 1640), filwaqt li fl-1970 poeta Għawdx li mhux magħruf, kiteb *Jahasra Mingħajr Htija*.

Fl-1718 fost ix-xogħlijiet ta' Johannes Heinrich Maius f'*Punicae in hodierna Melitensium superstitis* dehret it-traduzzjoni bil-Malti tat-talba tant magħrufa, *Il-Missierna*.

### L-ewwel proża bil-Malti

Bejn l-1739 u l-1746 Dun Ignazio Saverio Mifsud, ippubblika kollezzjoni ta' priedki reliġjużi li baqgħet magħrufa bħala l-ewwel proża Maltija (*fuq ix-xellug*).

Għall-ħabta tal-1749 giet miktuba poeżija minn awtur mhux magħruf, *Fuqek Nithaddet Malta*, li kienet tittratta r-rewwixta tal-iskavi f'dik is-sena.

Imbagħad tliet snin wara, fl-1752, tagħlim kateketiku bl-isem ta' *Tagħlim Nisrani* ta' Dun Franġisk Wizzino, ġie ppubblikat kemm bil-ilsien Malti kif ukoll dak Taljan.

Filwaqt fl-1760, għall-okkażjoni tal-Karnival giet ippubblikata kollezzjoni ta' versi komiċi minn Dun Felice Demarco bl-isem ta' *Żwieġ la Maltija*.

Il-patrijott Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764-1829) faħħar il-qawmien tal-letteratura Maltija u fissirha bħala "waħda mill-patrimoji antiki...tan-nazzjon il-gdid".

Bejn l-1798 u l-1800, meta Malta kienet taht il-ħakma Franċiża giet ippubblikata traduzz-



**Mikiel Anton Vassalli, li baqa' magħruf bħala 'Missier l-Isien Malti'**

zjoni bil-Malti ta' *L-Għanja tat-Trijonf* minn Citizen La Coretterie, Segretarju tal-Kummissarju tal-Gvern Franċiż. Din giet ippubblikata fl-okkażjoni ta' Jum Bastilja.

L-ewwel traduzzjoni bil-Malti ta' parti biblika, *il-Vanġelu ta' San Ġwann*, kien ippubblikat fl-1822. It-traduzzjoni kienet saret minn Gużeppe Marija Cannolo fuq inizzjattiva tas-Socjetà Biblika ta' Malta.

Huwa mifhum li l-ewwel gazzetta bil-Maltija kienet *l-Arlekk in Jew Kawlata Ingliża u Maltija* fl-1839. Fost l-artikli kien hemm xi poeżiji dwar *L-Imhabba u Fantasiya*, u sunett.

L-ewwel poeżija epika bil-Malti kienet, *Il-Gifen Tork*, ta' Giovanni Antonio Vassallo li giet mitbugħa (ippubblikata) fl-1842. Imbagħad segwew, *Hrejjef bil-Malti* fl-1861, u *Hrejjef u Čajt bil-Malti* fl-1863.

L-istess awtur kien ukoll ippubblika l-ewwel ktieb dwar l-istorja bil-Malti bl-isem ta' *Storja ta' Malta Miktuba għall-Poplu*, fl-1862.

Imbagħad sena wara giet ippubblikata l-ewwel novella bil-Malti, *Elvira* jew *Imhabba ta' Tirann* minn awtur Naplitan, Giuseppe Folliero de Luna.

Fl-1889 Anton Manwel Caruana kiteb in-novella li forsi hi l-aktar magħrufa fost dawk tal-imghoddi, *Inez Farruġ*. L-awtur immudella din in-novella fuq in-novella tradizzjonali storika Taljana, *I Promossi Sposi*.

**Il-Priedki bil-Malti ta' Ignazio Saverio Mifsud**



## The Ġgantija Temples



# Gozo boasts one of the world's oldest man-made structures

**T**he Ġgantija Temples on Malta's sister island, Gozo is not only one of the oldest man-made free standing structures in the world but also among the world's most important and mysterious archaeological sites, preceding even Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.

The complex consists of two temples built side by side and surrounded by a single boundary wall that date back to between 3600 and 3200 BC and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

We often talk about and marvel at ancient monuments and structures, which are remnants of a fascinating past, and provide us with a glimpse of what our ancestors' life looked like a long time ago.

When our early human ancestors finally began settling down, they began constructing permanent structures to live in. They constructed these old buildings with robust materials and lasted for centuries.

They may not boast of intricate architecture, but many of them date back to the beginning of civilization.

Some of the megaliths of the Ġgantija Temples exceed five metres in length and weigh over fifty tons. The name of the temples refers to the Maltese word for giant, (ġgant.) It is believed that the site of the temple is associated with a race of mysterious giants. Giants were believed to have constructed these prehistoric temples.

They represent a phenomenal cultural, artistic and technological development in a very early period in human life. Notwithstanding their age, the temples survive in a considerably good state of preservation. This is noticeable in the boundary wall which is built in rough Coralline Limestone blocks.

The hard-wearing Coralline Limestone is used extensively at Ġgantija, and is one of the reasons behind the preservation of the monument. The softer Globigerina Limestone was reserved for inner furnishings, such as doorways, al-

tars and decorative slabs.

Each temple consists of a number of apses flanking a central corridor. There is evidence of the internal walls having been plastered and painted over, as proven by two plaster fragments with red ochre, now on display at the Ġgantija Temples Interpretation Centre.

Remains of animal bone discovered in this site suggest some sort of ritual involving animal sacrifice. The use of fire is shown by the presence of stone hearths. A number of libation holes in the floor may have been used for the pouring of liquid offerings.

It is probable that during ceremonial activities, the congregation would have assembled outside the temple complex, since the same temple builders purposely raised the large forecourt in front of the two temples.

The Ġgantija temples were built when metal tools were not being used in this part of the world and even the wheel had not yet been invented. Marks on some of the stones show that the huge slabs were moved with ball bearings or pulleys.

However, archaeologists still aren't quite sure what the temples were used for. Evidence of animal bones has been found here which suggests the site was used for animal sacrifice. In fact, here one can even find images carved into the stone of goats, sheep, and pigs.

Today, buildings such as the Ġgantija Temples have become vital archaeological sites and what makes them even more special is that many of them were simply meant to be used by living people.

Entrance to the Ġgantija Temples in Xagħra is from a newly constructed Interpretation Centre that provides visitors with the opportunity to explore various aspects related to life in the Neolithic Period.

The centre is also home to a selection of the most significant finds discovered at various prehistoric sites in Gozo.

## Ghotja ta' AEds lil 14-il Kunsill

**F**'cerimonja li saret f'ristorant ix-Xagħra, nhar il-Ġimgha 2 ta' Ottubru, id-Dama Carmen Bellamy, Fundatriċi Ċerpersion tal-Gozo CCU Foundation, ippreżentat Automated External Defibrillator (AED) lil kull wieħed mill-14-il Kunsill Lokali f'Għawdex, biex dan jitwāħħal f'post li l-aktar ikun iffrekwentat min-nies fil-lokalitajiet.

L-ghan hu, biex f'każ ta' emergenza, dan l-apparat ikun jista' jintuża biex jigu salvati aktar haġġiet tan-nies.

Waqt il-prezentazzjoni saru diskorsi tal-okkażjoni kemm mill-President tar-Reġjun Għawdex, l-Avukat Samuel Azzopardi kif ukoll mid-Dama Bellamy.

**Lemin: Id-Dama Bellamy tippreżenta wieħed mill-AED lis-Sindku ta' Kerċem Mario Azzopardi. Fin-nofs l-Avukat Samuel Azzopardi**



## Ċerimonja qabel tibda l-iskola



**F**il-knisja ddedikata lil Sant'Antnin f'Għajnsielem, saret ċerimonja simbolika im-mexxija mill-Patrijiet Frangiskani li għaliha attendew tfal tal-iskola bil-basktijiet u oġġetti oħra relatati mal-iskola.

Għall-okkażjoni għet iċċelebrata quddies minn Patri Gwann Azzopardi, OFM, li talab u bierak lit-tfal qabel ma bdiet l-iskola. It-tfal u dawk kollha preżenti ngħataw biro b'messaġġ, minn Patri Gwardjan Marcello Ghirlando OFM.

Il-ċerimonja kienet animata minn Loredana u Albert-Lauren Agius.

## Mill-Ġżira Għawdxija

**Charles Spiteri**



**B**hala parti mill-proġett *Feel the Magic*, il-baritonu Charles Buttigieg esegwixxa kuncert ta' mużika ta' *Arie da camera* ta' Tosti u Verdi u arji naplitani famużi f'kuncert *Feel the Magic of Napoli* li sar fil-bitha ewlenija tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex.

Charles Buttigieg, li bħalissa jinsab għaddej bl-istudji tiegħu fil-Curtis In-

stitute fl-Amerika, kien akkumpanjat fuq il-pjanu mis-Surmast Dr John Galea, il-persuna li skopra t-talenti tal-baritonu meta kien għad għandu 10 snin.

Il-Proġett *Feel the Magic* 2019-2021 huwa meġġun mill-Gozo Cultural Support Programme flimkien mal-Kunsill Malti tal-Arti.





## A €45m. investment

**O**n October 10, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the presence of Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli, Hyatt Regency Malta officially opened the doors to the first 5-Star superior hotel licensed on the island, located in the heart of St Julian's, Malta's premier resort. It has already started welcoming guests.

This €45 million investment combines modern architecture with Maltese heritage, morphing the past and present seamlessly.

The hotel offers 150 bright, premium guestrooms, including 12 suites. It also offers a full range of services and amenities that include an indoor and rooftop swimming pool, spa by Carisma Spa & Wellness, Hyatt StayFit Gym with state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment, and three bars and restaurants.

Business travellers at the hotel will furthermore benefit from 479 square metres of flexible meeting, event and exhibition space that can accommodate from 10 to 200 guests.

The Hyatt Regency Malta is an ideal *pied-à-terre* from which to explore the island's eight thousand years of history. It is set within walking distance from some of the finest lifestyle alternatives in the city and a mere stone's throw away from the pristine beach on St George's bay.

It has already employed over 100 workers.

This new hotel in Malta strengthens Hyatt Regency brand's portfolio in Europe, as it is the 23rd Hyatt Regency-branded hotel on the continent. It also owns hundreds of other renowned hotels worldwide.

It is indeed a challenge during this pandemic, but shows the faith the owners have in Malta.

## Blue economy very important

**T**he blue economy sector contributes approximately 15% of Malta's overall economy and generates over 27,000 jobs. Not only that, but 83% of blue economic value added is generated by coastal tourism.

This was stated by the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning Aaron Farrugia at the Fourth Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, organised by The Economist in Athens. The session was titled Innovation and Business Opportunities in the Blue Economy Sector.

The minister said that as a maritime nation, Malta, fully acknowledges and embraces the potential benefits of a sustainably managed blue economy, and that it is in this context that Malta has identified and designated 30% of its waters as marine protected areas whilst strengthening its regulatory and enforcement capacity in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

## Virtual OLQP Festa 2020

**T**he Catholic Parish of Greystanes NSW together with the Festa committee was very creative in celebrating il-festa ta' Maria Bambina for the 55th year on September 26/27 under difficult circumstances.

It was a Virtual Festa. Parishioners were invited on face-book to participate. An innovation was the way the main altar was decorated, with flags representing the many nations where the parishioners originated from.

Although the FESTA has a Maltese theme as this church was built by donations from the Maltese community, it is now a festa for all parishioners. It represents the multicultural nature of the Greystanes suburb.



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### Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Il-qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga li ma jhallux għall-aħħar. Indirizzaw l-emails lil

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

L-ittri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom:

**Letters to the editor.**

# Community News

## Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

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

### On SBS Radio

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

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



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

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

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

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

days and Sundays at 8am.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 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.)

**The Annual General Meeting is on the 30th October 2020 at 7.00 pm**  
La Valette is a Covid-Safe organisation.



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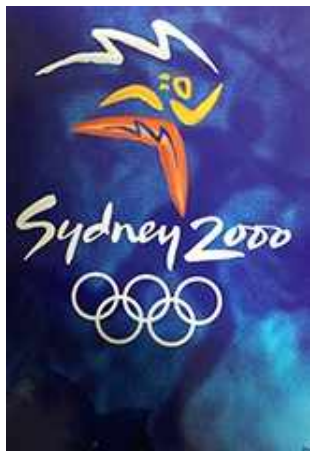


**All events for 2020 have been cancelled**

## L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiettagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma m'hegga biex jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: [www.tvn.com.mt](http://www.tvn.com.mt). għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.

# Sports on two pages



The Sydney Malta Olympics Welcoming Committee 2000

## Look back to Malta’s participation in the 27th Olympiad in Sydney in 2000

The feature story about Malta’s participation in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games twenty years ago in the September 1 (No.235) issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*, evoked many memories and emotions, especially with members of the Maltese community who still remember the enthusiastic welcome vividly it gave to the Maltese Olympic contingent.

A number of readers have sent us photographs and highlighted many memories of that 27th Olympiad held from September 15 to October 1, 2000. Therefore by request, we are publishing more images sent in by the readers.



Members of the Maltese community in their volunteers’ uniform (above); and (below): Function at Balmoral Hall in Blacktown



Connie Grima holding the banner



Below: MOC officials in their visit to the Melita Stadium South Granville



# Sports on two pages

## Malta earns point in drab away tie against Andorra

Malta gained its second point in Group D1 of the UEFA Nations League following a lustreless scoreless draw at the Estadi Nacional stadium against Andorra.

So after meeting all the teams in the group once, Malta now stands third on two points with a better goal difference than Andorra. Faroe Islands stand top with seven points, while Latvia, Malta's hosts in the next match on Tuesday, stand on three points.

Malta controlled the first half but rarely looked like scoring against a stubborn defence, while Henry Bonello in goal had an easy 45 minutes.

Malta still held the upper hand in the second half but without any clear scoring opportunities and though they had more of the play the sharing of the spoils was a just result.

Malta need improve when they next face Latvia who drew 1-1 against the Faroes.

### Another loss for the Under 21s

Malta's Under 21 fought hard against Denmark at the Centenary Stadium but lost 3-1 against Denmark to stay bottom with a point from three games.



A Malta attack (white strip) is foiled by the Andorra defenders

### Premier League 2020/21 in Malta kicks off

## Hamrun only team with a 100% record

This early in the 2020/21 Premier League season, after only three matches played, Hamrun Spartans enjoy the privilege of being the only team with a hundred per cent record. Not only that, but they could prove the dark horses. Though they have not yet met any of the top guns, they are showing that they have what it takes to seriously challenge for the title.

Gozitan businessman Joe Portelli seems to have infused a lot of enthusiasm and poured in the money for the Spartans to buy new players that are serving them so well under coach and former Hamrun player Stefan Sultana.

Hamrun are really showing promise. They not only are league leaders but also top scorers with 10 goals. They had started the campaign with an impressive 5-1 victory over Sirens, then scored four in a 4-1 win over Sta Lucia and wrapped it all up before the break for the international team's commitments with a 3-0 success over Senglea on the day that Valletta were handed a 3-1 defeat by Gzira.

After last season's poor showing, thus far, Sliema are doing well and currently share the runner up spot with newly-promoted Gudja United, two points below Hamrun Spartans.

Day 3		Defending
Hamrun S. v Senglea	3-0	Champions Floriana, Valletta
Gzira U v Valletta	3-1	and Hibernians
Floriana v Sirens	3-2	have all been on
Sliema W. v Sta Lucia	3-1	the losing side
Mosta v Balzan	3-3	once from the
Gudja U v Zejtun C.	1-0	three outings, but all three are rightly still
Birkirkara v Lija	0-0	considered as title contenders.
Hibernians v Tarxien	1-0	

Balzan and Gzira are settled in mid-table having already dropped five points from a loss and a draw, while much more was expected from Birkirkara who are still without a win.

Sirens, who did so well last term, share the bottom reaches with just a point from a possible nine along with Birkirkara, Tarxien, Sta Lucia and Sirens.

### Lolly Borg dies at age 88

Former Malta and Floriana midfielder and coach, Lolly Borg, who was a member of the national team that featured in the first official international match on February 24, 1957 against Austria at the Empire Stadium in Gzira, died on Friday. He was 88.

Lolly made seven further appearances for the national team after that historic game and scored one goal, in the 1-0 victory over Tunisia.

## Nwoko, Caruana hand Magia first win as Malta coach

A goal in each half by Kyrian Nwoko and Triston Caruana enabled Malta to beat Gibraltar 2-0 in an international friendly at the National Stadium ahead of the two away UEFA Nations League matches against Andorra and Latvia. The confidence-building victory was also Italian coach Devis Mangia's first win as Malta's national coach.

It was a well-deserved win for the hosts' experimental team with Mangia handing a debut to four players, namely goalkeeper Jake Galea, defender Samir Arab and midfielders Shaun Dimech and Joseph Muscatt.

Malta dominated the match for much of the opening half and drew ahead after only eight minutes through a Kyrian Nwoko headed goal from a Ryan Camenzuli freekick.

It was unfortunate for Nwoko and the Malta team that the scorer had to leave the field in the 38th minute because of a pulled muscle. It looked unlikely that he could recover ahead of the match against Andorra.

Though in the second half Gibraltar had more possession, Malta could still have added to their tally but wasted scoring opportunities, until the 90th minute when substitute Triston Caruana doubled the score with another header from a perfect cross by Jake Grech.