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The Voice of the Maltese

October 27, 2020



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Maltese yacht Elusive 2, winner of this year's Rolex Middle Sea Race and (above), I love Poland, that took the monohull line honours, (see report on page 24)



Meta se nerġgħu lura għan-normal?

Waqt din il-mixja tal-COVID-19 li tant gabet u qed iġġib dwejjaq u diffikultajiet, hafna, l-aktar anzjani jistaqsu, meta l-affarijiet se jerġgħu lura għan-normal? Fil-fatt ta' min jistaqsi, imma meta fil-verità l-affarijiet kienu normali?

Meta kont għadni tarbija Franza kienet tefgħet bomba nukleari fin-Nosinhar tal-Paċifiku u kont għadni tifel meta 19-il sena ilu (fl-2001) żewġ ajruplani baqgħu deklin fil-World Trade Centre ta' New York li kawża t'hekk mietu kważi 3,000 ruh u 6,000 oħra sfaw feruti. Ajurplan iehor kien inkalja fil-Pentagon.

Dan kollu kien wassal biex l-Istati Uniti iddikjarat l-hekk imsejja "gwerri lit-terrorizmu". Ċert li kulhadd jaf x'kien ir-riżultat t'hekk, u li wkoll għadni nħossu l-effett tiegħu.

Meta minn teenager qbiżt għal żagħżuġherba' snin ilu, Donald Trump sar il-45 President tal-Istati Uniti; u ftit ilu nbeda l-moviment dinji, "Kull haġja tghodd", jew ahjar, kif laqquh, "Kull haġja sewda tghodd (Black Lives Matter); iż-żwieġ bejn persuni tal-istess sess sar legali; Awstraljan li għax hu ta' gilda bajda kien jahseb li hu xi superjuri, qatel 51 ruh, Musulmani, li kienu miġbura jitolbu f' moskea fi Christchurch, New Zealand: filwaqt li s-sajf li għadda n-nirien għamlu stragi fl-imsaġar fl-Awstralja u fl-ahħar xhur l-istess stragi seħħet f'xi stati fl-Istati Uniti.

Issa li kbirt ftit u sirt adult, feġġ il-koronavirus u l-pandemija COVID-19. It-theddid ta' mwiet kaġun il-bdil fil-klima, u l-mard u r-rażziżmu ma jispicċaw qatt.

Kif kiteb korrispondent f'gazzetta Ingliża dan l-ahħar, il-kolonjalizmu għallim lill-inidigeni madwar id-dinja "kif generazzjoni wara l-oħra tista' tibqa' haġja.

COVID-19 poġġiet fuq quddiem il-fallimenti tal-kapitalizmu – li tkun fqir hu meqjus li kundizzjoni ta' saħħa għall-qerriedi virus. Wera wkoll li r-rażziżmu hu sistematiku. Asjatiċi ġew ikkalpestiti u mġahjra. Foqra ta' gilda skura qed jiġu maqfula l-habs f'tebqa' tghajn...

Fl-Amerka ċ-ċansijiet li s-suwed jimirdu bil-pandemija huwa tlett darbiet akbar minn daww ta' gilda bajda, filwaqt li fl-Awstralja xi Musulmani ġew ingustament mogħtija l-htija għat-tieni mewġa tal-pandemija f'Melbourne biex hekk inholqot mibgħeda kontra l-Islamiċi.

Il-virus anke kixef id-difetti fl-istil tagħna ta' qabel; in-nuqqas ta' vjaġġi internazzjonali naqqas it-tiġiż fl-arja kif ukoll madwar id-dinja.

Teżisti l-biża' li l-pandemija se tnaqqas drastikament l-opportunitajiet għaż-żgħażgħ. Imma tradizzjonalment, affarijiet li jagħmlu "l-kbar" bħal xogħol full time, studju u x-xiri tal-ewwel dar minn dejjem kienu limitati, inkella impossibbli għal hafna, l-aktar u l-aktar meta tqis li fl-Awstralja ż-żgħażgħ għadhom ibatu mill-ahħar kirizi finanzjarja.

Dan l-ahħar mort ma' habiba ta' gilda skura li b'xorti tajba tinsab f'pożizzjoni li tista' tpoġġi depożitu fuq appartament ta' kamra tas-sodda wahda fil-punent tal-Awstralja. L-aġent, ta' gilda abjad, hadna naraw blokka ta' appartamenti f'Fairfield, xi 24 kilometru bogħod minn Sydney, fi NSW.

Hawn ta' min jgħid li Fairfield hija x'aktarx l-aktar belt multikulturali u kulturalment diversa fl-Awstralja fejn aktar min nofs l-abitanti mhumix imwiela l-Awstralja imma f'pajjiżi oħra, hafna minnhom f'pajjiżi fejn ma jitekallmux bl-Ingliż. Il-magħgoranza tagħhom, f'darhom jitekallmu bl-ilsien li trabbew fih, bl-aktar tnejn ko-

muni l-Gharbi u l-Assirjan Neo-Aramajk.

F'Fairfield hemm komunitajiet kbar ta' Irakeni u Assirjani, tant li l-midja sssejjah dil-belt 'Little Iraq' inkella 'Little Baghdad'.

Intant, meta għedt lill-aġent li l-kċina f'wiehed mill-appartamenti li rajna kienet l-aktar wahda spazzjuża li qatt rajt, u għogħot lil habibti li anke kellha l-ħsieb tagħmillu offerta biex tixtrih, wiċċ l-aġent bħal hmar. Biex jaqta l-qalbna qalilna li konna żbaljati u kkalkulajna hazin għax fil-fatt il-kċina kienet żgħira.

Biex jagħtina l-impressjoni li d-deċiżjoni tiegħu ma kinetx minhabba l-kular tat-tfajla, l-aġent komplja jgħidilna li wara kollox hu bl-ebda mod ma kien razzist!!

Jien u habibti tbissimna. Imbagħad l-aġent ma stahax jgħidilna li diġà kellu bejjiegh lest li se jixtri l-binja kollha kemm hi. Imbagħad issokta jgħid li wara li dal-bejjiegh jixtri l-blokka, forsi kien ikun lest li jikri l-appartament lit-tfajla.

Kif hallejniet habibti qaltli: "Jien għext haġti kollha fil-punent ta' Sydney. Ħadt tmien snin biex ingemmgha biżżejjed biex inkun nista' nagħmel depożitu. Depożitu biss! U issa? Miljunarju se jixtri l-blokka kollha u jikriha biċċa biċċa biex ikun jista' jisraq aktar flus mingħand nies ta' karnaġġon skur jew kannella? Dan FOTTIMENT; din mhix artna".

Hassejt għal habibti għax flim li qatt mhi se tkun f'pożizzjoni li tikkompeti ma' investituri sidien ta' binjiet fil-punent ta' Sydney, inhawi li x'aktarx li l-investituri qatt ma rifsu fuqhom, imma li mohħhom hu biss biex iħaxxnu bwiethom għad-detriment ta' min ma jiflaħx iħallas daqshom.

Mhemmx cans li l-affarijiet jerġgħu lura għan-normal meta r-rażziżmu, il-faqar, u l-mod li aktar ma jmur qed jkber, u d-diviżjoni tal-klassi, kif ukoll l-istennija ta' haġġiet qosra għal miljuni ta' Awstraljani u biljuni ta' nies ta' kulur madwar id-dinja ma jitiġiebux.

Il-pandemija COVID-19 uriet li d-dinja hi realtà, li popli indigeni minn dejjem għexu, u li mhemmx raġuni għall-imperializmu, il-kapitalizmu u s-supremazija tal-bojod.

Ma rridx li għall-25 sena li ġejjin jinhtiegħi nkun dejjem lest dejjem nistenna d-diżastri. Irrid li ngħix. Ma tahsbxu li wasal iż-żmien li d-dinja titpoġġa fi triq ahjar?

PeteMallia

* Dan l-artiklu mnebbah minn iehor ippubblikat f'The Guardian



Marching in hope of change in a worldwide movement

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

If my child is estranged from me, do I need to provide for him in my Will?

by Paul Sant

Many things can affect our intricate relationships with family members, such being the nature of close and personal emotional relationships. Family affairs can be joyful, strained, or both, and it is not uncommon for a family to experience estrangement.

Excluding a child from your Will due to estrangement may cause your estate to be involved in costly litigation which may reduce the overall amount your preferred beneficiaries are able to receive.

What is estrangement?

A simple definition of estrangement is the separation of people: a family member ceases contact with the family, and stops attending or being invited to family events. It may last for a year or two, or it may go on for decades.

Justice Basten gave a useful description: *"the condition which results from the attitudes or conduct of one or both parties"*.

In that case, the court was asked to determine whether \$10,000 of an \$800,000 estate was adequate provision for a child from whom the deceased mother had been estranged for 35 years.

Was \$10,000 enough?

Expressed as a percentage, \$10,000 equates to about 1.25% of the mother's estate of \$800,000.

First, the court found that it was enough: *"withholding love, support and almost complete rejection of the mother meant that the adult child abandoned and forfeited any moral claim on the deceased"*.

That decision was appealed. The estranged daughter was successful on the basis that the **estrangement could not**

completely extinguish the moral claim of an adult child on a parent's estate. The court ordered an additional \$50,000 to the daughter by way of family provision.

So, in this case and its circumstances, the court determined that 7.5% of the estate was adequate and proper for the estranged daughter's advancement in life.

Is there a magical mathematical calculation?

No: the fluidity of concepts like 'community values' together with the variables of each family and relationships within it make it impossible to take a 'one size fits all' approach. Each case will depend on its individual facts and circumstances.

The court has 16 categories it may consider when deciding whether to make orders for family provision, and what amount. Those most relevant in estrangement cases are:

1. Relationship between applicant and deceased person, including nature and duration;
2. Nature and extent of any obligations or responsibilities the deceased owes to:
 - a. The applicant
 - b. Any other family provision applicant
 - c. Beneficiaries of the estate;
3. Contributions (financial or otherwise) before and after the deceased's death that the Applicant did not receive adequate consideration for to the estate, deceased's welfare and family;
4. Provision made for the applicant during the deceased's life and from their estate;
5. Any evidence of the deceased's testamentary intentions;
6. The applicant's character and conduct (before and after death);
7. Conduct of any other person (before and after death);
8. Any other matter the Court considers relevant existing either at the time of death, or time of hearing.



Whose fault

There may have been one incident, or tension for an extended period of time, that led to a person living a life separate from the family. Who is at 'fault' for an estrangement will likely have a different answer, depending on who is asked.

The surrounding circumstances of an estrangement is one matter the court will consider if it is required to determine the amount of an estate that should be provided to a family provision claimant.

Nastiness

After an estrangement, if a person behaves callously, or acts with hostility, the court has noted that such negative behaviour justifies restraint when the court is determining what amount of provision to order.

However, there are cases where there has not been any such behaviour, and a claim was dismissed, due to other relevant factors.

How do I avoid an estranged child from making a claim on my estate?

You cannot. If you intend to make, or have made, a Will that largely or completely excludes out one of your children, it is important that you obtain legal advice.

Evidence of your thought process as a wise and just will-maker may be called for once you are gone.

Particularly as you will not be able to corroborate one or the other child's version of events, or confirm the accuracy of what the court is told you said, letters or statements written or signed by you may be submitted to the court for consideration in a family provision claim.

Conclusion

Today's community standards and moral obligations mean there are limited circumstances where a court will find that a parent is not required to leave anything to an adult child (or that leaving a very small percentage is adequate) who has 'drifted away' and become estranged.

Care needs to be taken and your intentions and thoughts properly documented.

Our team can help navigate your estate planning. We are available in Parramatta and the CBD.

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



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Maltese Spoken



My adventures in oral history: (part two) Recording the pre-War years



Barry York

Barry's uncle, Joseph Meilak after disembarking in Melbourne in 1924 (right), and (below) in 1986



I recorded my first proper oral history interview 36 years ago, in 1984. It was with my father, Loreto. He was keen to tell his story. Not everyone is like that.

I remember a 90-year-old Maltese bloke named Joe Preave in Mackay, Queensland, when I went up there later in 1984 and, while agreeing to be interviewed, he nonetheless felt that he had nothing worthwhile to say.

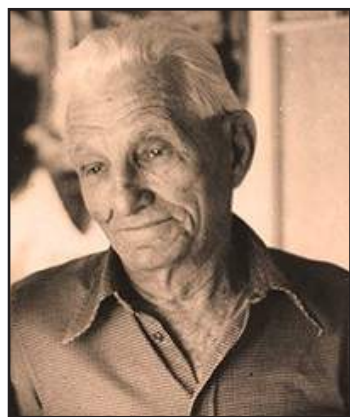
But once we started the tape rolling, Joe had an incredible migration story: disembarkation at Adelaide in 1914 and working his way 'up north' to the sugar fields 3,000 kilometres away. He finally reached Mackay in 1918, but the influenza epidemic was in full swing and, at each farmhouse he visited looking for work, a farmer was on the verandah with a shotgun to keep strangers at bay.

With each new interview, I developed more confidence and in the years 1984 to 1989, I recorded interviews with Maltese men and women in Melbourne, Sydney, Wollongong, Mackay, Adelaide, Canberra and Broken Hill. They came from various towns and villages of Malta and Gozo. I was helped along the way by the advice of Mark Caruana, to whom I am forever grateful.

My main aim was to record the memories of those who had migrated prior to World War Two. There were still many alive who were in reasonable shape and had come here in the 1920s and even a few of 1910s vintage but they were all diminishing rapidly. There was urgency about recording them.

I interviewed nine who migrated in the 1910s, 27 in the 1920s and eight in the 1930s. I also recorded some descendants, most notably Arthur Busuttin, whose father, Joseph, had been one of the Maltese on the 'Nuddea' in 1883, the first assisted group of Maltese to Australia.

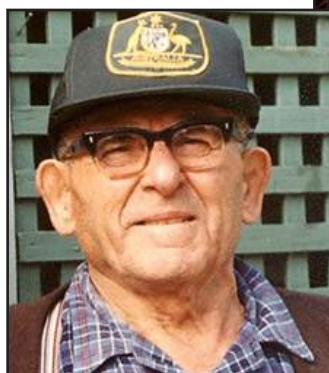
It was amazing to meet 1910s' migrants such as Angelo Camilleri (from Valletta), Jean Barrett (nee Rizzo) (of Senglea) and Christina Couch (nee Farrugia) (Kalkara), Joe Preave (Mellieħa) and Emmanuel Attard (Qala).



Arthur Busuttin (Mackay) 1984

As I mainly interviewed elderly people, it was sad when they died. I was sometimes called on to write obituaries, drawing on the oral histories. The first such obituary was in memory of Frank Fenech, who had migrated from Mosta to Mackay in 1923.

It is especially important to me that I recorded



my parents and some uncles and aunts. My uncle Joe Meilak migrated to Melbourne in 1924 laboured on road construction and then became a waterside worker. He was on the wharves for 40 years. He was born in

Ghajnsielem, Gozo, in 1904 and died in 1988 in Melbourne. Uncle Joe had a big impact on me. When I was a kid, he used to sit with me by his fish pond, under his grapefruit tree, the birds in the aviaries chirping away, and tell me stories of the 'old days'. I'm sure this influenced my later desire to record and preserve such stories. It was Joe, and his Australian wife, Daisy, who nominated my parents and me as migrants in 1954.

Our first accommodation was with them, and their three children, in Hawke Street, West Melbourne. Like most Maltese, Joe was a good union man and told me about the historic wharfies' strike of 1928 and the difficult years of the Depression. He was 'pinched' by police on one occasion when he waded into the water around Port Melbourne to collect coal that had fallen into the bay from coal boats. He would then take it home, dry it out, and they would use it for heating. Times were hard.

Many of my interviews are preserved at the National Library of Australia and some may be heard on-line via the Library's catalogue. Among them are the voices of a Maltese migration experience dating back more than 100 years. We can hear their voices, across that great distance of time, reminding us of how things were - and how things have changed.

End



Frank Fenech (Mackay) in 1984; and right: Christina Couch



Ron Borg:

Remembering: Wottí tar-Roti

I was just 12 going on 13 with a brother four years younger and a sister four years older than me, enjoying life at Abela street in Hamrun, Malta. My dad was a blacksmith working with the British Forces REME at their workshops at Blata l-Bajda. He earned a good wage as a tradesman, but being a good provider for our family, he supplemented his wage as a blacksmith in his own workshop where he carried out various metal-work repairs and made a variety of wrought-iron wares.

Dad thought me a lot about the metal trade even though I was still young. I took a keen interest and I felt important when he gave me a job to do in his workshop. Occasionally he would have me turning the manual blower that blew air into the hot coals of the forge, that made them glow red-hot to heat the metal that he wanted to shape with some heavy blows of the hammer on the anvil (*L-Inkwina*). He had such skills, and the way he could shape that hot steel in such a magical craftsman way impressed me.

He would make ornamental wrought-iron wash-basin stands (*trepied*), which were used in most houses to hold a wash basin (*fliskatur*), the water pitcher (*buqar*), and a soap holder (*sapuniera*). It was a practical yet ornamental stand.

Dad used to let me manually drill the rivet holes and rivet the pieces of metal together. I felt a sense of achievement in performing this work. But one day dad stopped this work and instead opened up a bicycle shop.

I was so proud to see the sign above our Bike shop, "Borg's Cycle Works", at the corner of "Strada Annunzjata and Victoria Avenue" not far from the Hamrun Primary School. To most people

who knew dad, he became known as *Wottí tar-Roti* (Walter the Bicycle Man). At this shop, we used to hire bicycles for the princely sum of one shilling per hour (*xelin is-siegha*). We also sold bikes, bike spare-parts and carried out bike repairs.

The business picked up and before long dad had thought me all there was to know about bike repairs. There was a lot to learn but I was eager to learn and soon picked it up, so much so that he used to buy brand new bikes completely disassembled (about 300 parts) and I would get the 'buzz' of assembling them together.

Dad became confident in my ability as a young bike mechanic' and very often left me by myself to run the shop, hiring bicycles, selling spares and carrying out most repairs for our customers. It felt good that he trusted me that I was able to help my dad run the shop.



Dad: Wottí tar-Roti... so skillful take off!

Working at the bicycle shop, gave me access to a lot of second-hand materials that I was able to give my young friends, like the old disused bicycle rims. The *Cirku* was well liked by all those who used to run and wheel these rims by pushing them with a stick along the stone pavement (*bankina*) making a hell of a racket, much to the disgust of the local residents!

I also used to supply my 'street urchin' mates with 'bullets', made up of bent up pieces of bicycle spoke wires that would be shot from their home made sling shots (*vleggá*) when they roamed their streets 'hunting' Sparrows (*gha-safar tal-bejt*)!

It was a good life, and the challenge of starting high school at the Lyceum made it a good adventure at the age of thirteen but all of a sudden, in 1960 my family left our homeland Malta and made our way to Australia on the ship *Flaminia*!

Like so many Maltese parents, mine made the sacrifice of leaving their beloved Malta for our benefit. It was a brave move that my parents – may they rest in peace – made for the future benefit of my sister, brother and me. I thank them for it.



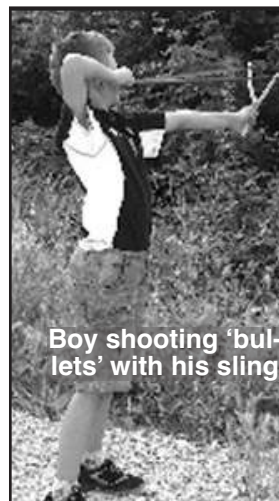
Our shop, Borg's Cycle Works

The added bonus was the pocket money he gave me which was usually spent on the Sunday matinee movies (*it-tokis*) at the local theatres, (the Trianon, the Hollywood, the Rex, or the Odeon).

There were times when dad would let me and a mate of mine take a bike to go for a ride. We usually used to cycle down by the flower fields of Santa Venera where we would also stop by the stables to watch the huge bulls from behind the steel bar gates, admiring in awe the fierce-looking beasts that would put the fear of God when they would point their threatening horns and bellow out! It was interesting but sometimes the putrid smell of the stables would get too much to bear and we would



A wash-basin stand (*trepied*)



Boy shooting 'bullets' with his sling



Kids playing with disused bicycle rims, iċ-Cirku

One of Australia's best-loved sopranos is of Maltese descent

Our selection for this month is Amelia Farrugia, regarded as one of the brightest stars of opera in Australia. She will be performing with tenor Joseph Calleja in his much-awaited "debut" in Australia touring Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Melbourne from September 1 to 13, 2021.

Amelia Farrugia

Amelia Farrugia, one of Australia's best-loved sopranos, studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. After winning many prestigious awards, including The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, she was engaged by Opera Australia as a soloist in leading roles.

She has since enjoyed a highly successful and varied Australian and international career in opera, music theatre, symphony concerts, recitals, corporate events, recording and television, large-scale outdoor events. Amelia also performed as a soloist in the Final Mass for World Youth Day for Pope Benedict XVI.

Amelia's auspicious debut solo recording, *Joie de vivre* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Alexander Briger, was nominated for a Classical Aria Award. In 2017 she appeared in the world-premiere of *DIVA!*

Combining career and motherhood, Amelia maintains freelance artist commitments while teaching at the Sydney Conservatorium High School and in her own singing studio, Sydney Sings. Among her duties as a generous supporter, patron and ambassador of various charities and organisations, Amelia is also an Australia Day Ambassador.

In 2021, Amelia will be performing on tour with in Australia with Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja.

Philip Farrugia, Amelia's father, was born in Żejtun in 1948 and came to Australia by ship in 1950. He was one of eight children.

In Australia he forged a successful career as a lawyer, establishing a law practice with his brother, Paul. He also raised four children and provided a wonderful education for them. He can speak a little Maltese as he grew up in a household where the language was regularly spoken.

Interviewed by *The Voice of the Maltese*, Amelia said "I wish I could say the same... the best I can offer is *Kif inti!* My *Nannu*, Saviour Farrugia was a carpenter who helped to build the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. He also built the family home in



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

Bankstown where he lived with my *Nanna*, Antonia Bonnici (née).

I have fond memories of them both; when he wasn't in the shed making a piece of furniture, *Nannu* was watching the Bulldogs against Parramatta.

He once made me a beautiful music stand for my birthday. You would find *Nanna* in the kitchen surrounded by kids, with a tea towel over her shoulder and *lasagna* in the oven. I remember the sound of her laughter. Whenever she could, she would sneak another ice block our way while Mum wasn't looking!

In 1998, Amelia had the greatest honour of performing in Malta's Teatru Manoel, Europe's oldest functioning theatre. This was a Christmas recital with a small ensemble of strings and piano. She was invited to perform by Mr Tony Cassar Darien.

By this stage, she had been performing as a principal artist with Opera Australia where she made her debut in 1994. The recital repertoire reflected this with a selection of classical songs, operatic arias and of course, Gounod's *Ave Maria!*

Amelia continued: "It was a joy to work with local Maltese musicians, and I was very moved to see lots of relatives and friends in the audience, in particular, my own family who had travelled from Australia to attend. I put a lot of pressure on myself and was very nervous, I was just finding my feet as an Opera singer".

In her very first trip to Malta at the age of eleven, Amelia remembers meeting all of her relatives and visiting from home to home, very warmly welcomed with lots of food and lemonade. She found the Maltese people to be warm, honest, hard-working and kind.

**continued on page 7*



Mons. Mario Grech se jinħater Kardinal

Madwar xahar u nofs wara li fil-15 ta' Settembru li għadda l-Papa Franġisku ħatar lill-Isqof Emeritu ta' Ghawdex, Mons. Mario Grech, bħala Segretarju Ġenerali tas-Sinodu tal-Isqfijiet minflok il-Kardinal Lorenzo Baldisser, issa l-Papa se jaħdtru wkoll Kardinal waqt il-Konċistorju fit-28 ta' Novembru li għej.

L-aħbar li Mons Grech se jinħatar l-ewwel Ghawdxi f'din il-kariga, hadha b'sorpriża. Inghatat mill-Papa wara t-talba tal-Angelus tal-Hadd li għadda waqt li hu kien qed jippassi għa f'Ruma. Fil-fatt sar jaf bl-aħbar f'telefonata minn Malta. Huwa se jkun fost 13-il Krdinal għdid li se jiġu kkonsagrati.

Mons. Grech, li kien ilu jservi serva bħala Isqof ta' Ghawdex għal 13-il sena, se jkun it-tielet saċerdot mill-Gzejjer Maltin li se jissieheb fil-Kulleġġ tal-Kardinali. L-ewwel wieħed kien Fabrizio Sceberras Testaferata fis-6 ta' April tal-1818. Warajh lahaq Grech iehor, Prospero, li kien patri Agostinjan mill-Birgu fit-18 ta' Frar tal-2012.

Mons Mario Grech twieled fl-20 ta' Frar tal-1957 u għandu 63 sena. Huwa wild George u Stella u tghammed fil-parroċċa tal-Qala, qabel ma fi ċkunitu familtu mar-run joqogħdu Kerċem.

L-ewwel passi fl-edukazzjoni tiegħu hadhom fl-iskola tas-Sorijiet Karmelitani

u wara fl-Iskola Primarja ta' Kerċem. Minn hemm għadda għall-iskola Sekondarja tar-Rabat Ghawdex, u fl-1977 beda l-Kors tal-Filosofija u iktar tard dak tat-Teologija fis-Seminarju ta' Ghawdex.

Wara l-ordinazzjoni tiegħu minn idejn l-Isqof Nikol Cauchi fil-Katidral ta' Ghawdex, fis-26 ta' Mejju 1984, intbagħat Ruma fejn kiseb il-Liċenzja fil-Liġi Kanonika u Ċivili fl-Università Pontifiċja tal-Lateran. Filwaqt li fis-snin ta' wara, kiseb ukoll id-Dottorat fil-Liġi Kanonika mill-Università Pontifiċja ta' San Tumas t'Akwinu.

Fiż-żmien li għamel Ruma, barra mill-hidma pastorali li wettaq fil-parroċċa tal-Assunzjoni fejn kien residenti, hadem ukoll fil-kamp tal-Liġi Kanonika fit-Tribunali tal-Knisja f'Ruma, kemm fil-Vigarjat kif ukoll fis-Sacra Romana Rota.

Meta mar lura Ghawdex għe assenjat diversi hidmiet pastorali fil-Kurja Djoċesana, fejn għal diversi snin kien l-Uffiċjal għar-Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi tal-Kurja, waqt li aktar tard, fl-1993, inhatar Vigarju Ġudizzjali għat-Tribunal Ekkleżjastiku



Mons. Mario Grech waqt laqgħa mal-Papa Franġisku fil-Vatikan

ta' Ghawdex, u fl-istess waqt Imhallef fit-Tribunal tal-Knisja f'Malta.

Fl-2004, Dun Mario sar Kappillan tal-Parroċċa tal-Madonna tas-Sokkors u San Girgor f'Kerċem, Ghawdex, u fl-2005 għe mahtur Isqof tal-gżira Ghawdxi fejn baqa' jservi sal-2019. Minn Ottubru tal-2019, kellu wkoll il-funzjoni ta' Pro-Segretarju Ġenerali tas-Sinodu tal-Isqfijiet.

The Voice of the Maltese ninghaq mal-Gvern Malti, mal-President ta' Malta George Vella, il-Partit Laburista u dak Nazzjonalista, kif ukoll mal-Isqfijiet ta' Malta u Ghawdex biex nawguraw lil Mons Grech l-isbaħ xewqat.

TVoM's personality for October:

Amelia Farrugia



Amelia with her parents, mum Patricia and dad Philip

**continued from page 6*

"We were embraced as one of the extended family. It was a very special Christmas, although I was surprised it was so hot... I had been expecting a white Christmas!"

Amelia mentioned the great support she had over the years from a number of distinguished Maltese people, especially Mr Leslie Cassar, and former Consul General Lawrence Dimech.

She performed a number of times for President Edward Fenech Adami, most memorably singing a recital in his home. She was also very proud of her dad when in 2009 he was awarded the Quiet Achievers Award at the Annunciation Hall Blacktown. On that very appropriate occasion organised by Maltese Welfare (NSW), Amelia was the special guest artist and entertained the audience.

Amelia said that it had been a very long time since she had the chance to visit Malta. "I hope to travel back soon. In the meantime, I'm so excited to be performing in upcoming concerts with the great Maltese tenor, Mr Joseph Calleja.

Joseph and Amelia will be touring five cities around Australia, singing a variety of beautiful arias and songs. "This is a dream come true for me, as Joseph has attained the greatest heights on the operatic stage, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Malta must be so proud and if you haven't heard him, make a date as soon as you can. I certainly can't wait to meet him" concluded Amelia Farrugia.

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-ofthemaltese>

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Convention, what Convention?

Is it the diaspora or “the Greater Malta”?

The survey initiated by the Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad, published in summary form, in *The Voice of the Maltese* on the October 13 issue as expected attracted various comments from our readers.

It is not possible to publish all emails received due to space limitation. These are some of the comments extracted from the many emails we have received:

- That was the kiss of death to the Convention. Who were the real people surveyed?
- Excellent to initiate a survey but to move forward; we need to understand the past.
- I am keen to see the other survey initiated by Mr S. Delia and supported by CMLA, was it ever published?
- It is very clear that the Maltese in Australia are by far the most interested in their communities.

• Well done to the Directorate. A survey is always important to gauge the level of interest and to find methods to further connect.

• Indeed, let us use the phrase “Greater Malta” rather than “Diaspora”

• The conventions were never free to all. One needs to be an active member of the Maltese community; otherwise, how can one militate or understand the needs?

• I remember that the 2000 convention was specifically targeted for leaders of associations of Maltese abroad and of Maltese origin.

• A pertinent missing question was: will you attend if you do not receive the government’s subsidy?

• There were praises for the initiate of the Directorate; however, others wrote: most surveys are aimed at getting outcomes desired.

So proud to be Maltese

Mario Grech from Brisbane Qld writes

Thank you *The Voice* for a most interesting publication that people like me, who are vulnerable, and therefore forced to stay locked at home for fear of getting infected with the COVID-19 virus and falling victim of the pandemic, have something to read and to occupy ourselves especially by reading about Malta.

I always want to know what happens in my beloved Malta, that I hope to visit again when normality returns, from a media that does not seem to have any political agenda. I am so proud to tell anybody who asks about my roots that I am Maltese.

Co-option of Members in Malta’s Parliament

Lawrence Camilleri from Birmingham, UK writes:

I found the article by Prof. Godfrey Pirota titled: Co-option of Members in Malta’s Parliament (*The Voice* No. 237) one of the most interesting features ever published on *The Voice of the Maltese*.

I think that is why this magazine, particularly targeting the Maltese communities living outside of Malta, and anybody who is lucky enough to be a reader of this publication is so highly regarded.

I remember far back reading other articles by the same author on *The Voice*. They always intrigued me, but his latest contribution is by far the most important as it points out political information that only researchers of history like him are able to provide.

I hope this turns out to be the return of the professor as a regular contributor to the magazine, because such articles enrich our knowledge of our Maltese homeland from another perspective.

Thank you Prof. Pirota, and thank you *The Voice*



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Please note:

Like most other countries in Europe, especially members of the EU, on Sunday, (October 25), clocks were set back one hour as Daylight Saving Time (DST) has ended.

Kompożituri ta' fama li żaru l-Banda La Valette tal-belt

Fil-imghoddi, u aktar illum, l-għaxxa tiegħi hi li nidhol fil-każini tal-banda u nħares lejn il-lapidi u r-ritratti antiki. Jiddispijaini hafna meta nara ritratti ta' valur bla kitba jew spjega taħthom. Dejjem ngħaddi s-suggeriment biex dan isir inkella għad jasal żmien li l-membri l-godda ma jkunju jafu xejn dwarhom.

Il-lapidi wkoll huma ta' interess iżda dawn fuqhom, fi ftit versi hemm miġbura l-istorja kollha tal-inawgurazzjoni tal-lapida. Naffaxina ruhi xhin nidhol fil-Kažin tal-Banda La Valette fi Triq ir-Repubblika, il-Belt, u fuq ġewwa, ma' wahda mill-arkati nara lapida importanti hafna. Din tiġbor fiha l-ismijiet ta' kompożituri kbar u ta' fama internazzjonali li żaru da nil-kažin.

Ottorino Respighi

Dak li għaliya hu wiehed mill-ġganti tal-orkestrazzjoni fl-Italja, Ottorino Respighi, nhar il-Milied tal-1933, tliet snin qabel mewtu f'April tal-1936 kien żar din il-Banda. Meta gie Malta, Respighi kien diġà famuż u magħruf għal xogħlijiet kbar bħal *Pini di Roma*, *Fontane di Roma*, *Feste Romane* u xogħlijiet mużikali oħra.

Imwieled Bolonja hu studja l-kompożizzjoni mal-famuż Rimsky-Korsakov li d-dinja kollha tammira il-mużika tiegħu.

Riccardo Zandonai

Żar ukoll il-Kažin La Valette kompożitur ieħor Taljan, Riccardo Zandonai, li ikkompona diversi opri, u li ismu hu marbut l-aktar mal-opra *Francesca da Rimini*. Hu żar il-Banda fit-13 ta' Diċembru tal-1931. Kien fl-aqwa tiegħu meta kellu 48 sena. X'aktarx li gie Malta biex jara l-opra tiegħu stess *Francesca da Rimini* fit-Teatru Rjal' u ha l-opportunità li jżur formalment il-Banda La Valette.

Mons. Licinio Refice

L-istess jingħad għal Licinio Refice - monsinjur u kompożitur Taljan magħruf għall-ewwel opra tiegħu *Cecilia* li tirrakkonta l-istorja ta' din il-qaddisa, patruna tal-mużika. Din l-opra kienet marret *inscena* f'Ruma fl-1934 u kisbet suċċess kbir.

Refice kien gie Malta u żar ukoll il-Banda La Valette sena wara, fit-22 ta' Novembru, 1935. Kien miet fl-1954 f'Rio de Janeiro, il-Brazil, waqt il-provi tal-opra tiegħu *Cecilia*. F'din ir-rappreżentazzjoni s-Soprano Renata Tebaldi kienet interpretat il-karattru ewlieni ta' Cecilia.

Giuseppe Mulè

Fil-5 ta' Novembru tal-1933 żar il-La Valette kompożitur ieħor Taljan, Giuseppe Mulè. Kellu 48 sena u kien fl-aqwa tal-karriera tiegħu meta gie Malta. Hu kien ukoll direttur tal-orkestra, ikkompona sinfoniji u mużika *da camera*, dik għall-palk, seba' opri, u hames partituri tal-films u oratorju. Imma ismu baqa' marbut l-aktar mal-famuż *Larg'* għall-vjolonċell u l-pjanu.

Dan il-*Largo* ta' Mulè kien il-passaġġ mużikali sabiħ li bih kien jiftaħ l-Istazzjon Nazzjonali tar-Radju tar-Rai fl-Italja. Ibnu kien il-magħruf attur Taljan Francesco Mulè.



Peter Paul Ciantar



Il-lapida bis-surmastrijiet barranin fil-La Valette

Alessandro Vessella

Id-data l-aktar antika fil-lapida tal-Kažin La Valette hi ta' Alessandro Vessella li gie Malta fl-10 ta' Ġunju, 1922. Hu wkoll żar il-Banda La Valette. Dan is-surmast bravu u ta' fama kbira fl-Italja ma kienx biss magħruf bħala surmast tal-banda iżda ta' organizzatur u riformatur. Anke ta' kompożitur u arrangatur tal-mużika għall-banda.

Vessella, minn Ruma kien awtorità fl-Italja fejn tidhol il-banda. Meta rifes Malta kellu xi ftit aktar minn sittin sena. Meta halla Malta kien wiegħed lis-Socjetà Banda La Valette li jsi-bilha surmast addattat għall-htigijiet tal-banda f'dawk iż-żminijiet.

Fil-fatt, meta wasal Ruma hadem biex id-direzzjoni tal-La Valette tiġi fdata f'idejn Mro Gardenio Botti.

Gardenio Botti

Grazzi għal Vessella bdiet ir-rabta kbira li s-Surmast Gardenio Botti għandu mal-Banda La Valette li ikkomponielha innijiet sbieħ u immortali. Fost dawn hemm l-innu *San Paolo*, l-innumarċ *Fior del Carmel* u l-magħruf marċ *Letter A*.

Naturalment, ikkompona aktar, fosthom marċi funebri għal din il-banda. Huma kompożizzjonijiet li juru li kien surmast u direttur mużikament avvanzat hafna. Mhux ta' b'xejn li kien igawdi stima kbira fl-Italja.

Issa din ta' surmastrijiet barranin jidderiegu l-baned Maltin fl-imghoddi kienet komuni hafna. Dawk li ġew Malta kollha kellhom stoffa mużikali qawwija u kollha kienu ta' ispirazzjoni għal-dawk Maltin.

Gardenio Botti

Intemm dan l-artiklu b'Ettore Mattioli li kien ukoll surmast tal-Banda La Valette, u kellu wkoll baned Maltin oħra. Kien surmast tal-Banda La Valette fid-19 ta' Novembru, 1919. Fost il-marċi tiegħu hemm wiehed mill-isbaħ, marċ funebri bl-isem *Nenia*. Mhux kulhadd japprezzah, iżda huwa marċ tajjeb hafna li juri s-sengħa kbira tiegħu fil-kompożizzjoni.

Fil-lista ta' personaggi magħrufa fuq din il-lapida, dan l-aħħar tpogġa wkoll l-isem ta' Antonio Oddo li żar u d-de-riegħa l-Banda La Valette fis-17 ta' April tas-sena l-oħra.

Perspettiva

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

Kitba ta' IVAN CAUCHI



Il-prostituzzjoni f'Malta

Bhalissa hemm daqsxejn ta' għagħa f'Malta dwar is-suġġett tar-ras ta' dan l-artiklu. Il-prostituzzjoni fil-pajjiż huwa biss wiehied mil-lista ta' hwejjeġ soċjali li l-gvern Laburista Malti xejn ma qagħad lura milli jaqbad minn qrunu.

Dan għaliex inhatar Kumitat Tekniku għar-Riforma tal-Prostituzzjoni li qiegħed jikkunsidra x'rakkomandazzjonijiet jagħmel lill-Gvern Malti wara li konsultazzjoni pubblika li għamel dwar is-suġġett li temm f'Ottubru 2019.¹

L-għan tal-gvern huwa li jipprotegi lill-haddiema tas-sess mill-esplorazzjoni filwaqt li tissaħħa il-għieda kontra it-traffikar tal-persuni.²

Is-Segretarja Parlamentari Rosianne Cutajar kienet sqarret li dan il-kumitat qed jibni qafas legali li għandu jiddekriminalizza x-xogħol tas-sess. Bhalissa, il-prostituzzjoni f'Malta diġà huwa teknikament legali, imma l-itlajjar fit-toroq u l-briedel mhumiex.

Pajjiżi u reġjuni differenti għandhom oqsma legali differenti. Fl-Awstralja, per eżempju, hemm stati bħal South Australia, it-Tasmania u West Australia li għandhom liġijiet simili għal ta' Malta fuq naha, u stati bħal New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory u Australian Capital Territory fejn l-industrija hija dekriminalizzata, bħal ma jidher li hija l-intenzjoni ta' Malta.

X'imkien fin-nofs hemm Victoria, fejn l-itlajjar fit-toroq biss baqa' llegali.³

Dan huwa suġġett diffiċli. Jingħad li l-prostituzzjoni hija l-eqdem professjoni, u f'Malta hemm evidenza tal-preżenza tagħha talinqas sa minn żmien il-kavallieri.

Huwa magħruf li min huwa nvolut fil-prostituzzjoni jiffaċċja stigma, diskriminazzjoni u nuqqas ta' drittijiet, nuqqas ta' servizzi tas-saħħa u gustizzja.

Qafas legali ta' kriminalizzazzjoni jfisser li x-xogħol tas-sess, mhux ma jsirx, imma jsir minn taht, minhabba l-biza' ta' konsegwenzi kriminali u abbużi oħra, li hafna drabi jfisser li meta jkun hemm il-bżonn legittimu ta' servizzi, dawn ma jintalbu minhabba din il-biza.

Hemm diversi persuni u organizzazzjonijiet, speċjalment dawk li jiġġieldu kontra t-traffikar tal-persuni, li jipproponu l-mudell Nordiku bħala qafas legali. Il-mudell Nordiku huwa hekk imsejjah għax inbeda fl-Isvezja, imbagħad fin-Norveġja, l-Islandja u xi pajjiżi oħra.

Huwa intenzjonat li jnaqqas id-domanda għall-prostituzzjoni u jċekken l-industrija tagħha, billi fuq naha waħda jiddekriminalizza l-bejgħ tas-sess imma jikkriminalizza x-xiri tiegħu.⁴

Jien il-problema li għandi b'dan il-mudell Nordiku huwa li jekk ix-xiri tas-sess jibqa' jew jsir att kriminali, il-persuni li qegħdin joffru s-servizz tas-sess xorta waħda jkollhom it-tendenza li ma jipprezentawx ruħhom jekk ikollhom bżonn ta' servizz.

Ukoll is-servizz tas-sess ikollhom inċentiv li joffru bil-moħbi, għax jekk il-post minn fejn joperaw ikun magħruf, ikun faċli hafna għall-pulizija biex jgħassuh u jaqbad lil min ikun mar għas-servizz. Fi



kliem iehor, il-haddiem jew haddiema tas-sess ikunu tilfu l-klijent jew klijenta tagħhom.

Dawk li jipproponu l-mudell Nordiku forsi jaħsbu li dan tajjeb, mhux hekk hi l-intenzjoni? Jien nista' qsi jekk hux hekk iridu l-haddiema tas-sess infushom, wara kolloxx huma qegħdin fiha, u hafna drabi huma jkun li jibgħu siekta minhabba l-biza' tal-konsegwenzi.

Huwa fatt li hafna persuni jidhlu fix-xogħol tas-sess għal raġunijiet finanzjarji, biex imantnu t-tfal jew il-familji tagħhom, jew biex jiffinanzjaw hajjithom.

Id-dokument ta' konsultazzjoni tal-gvern Malti jsemmi wkoll fatturi oħra bħall-faqar, in-nuqqas ta' saqaf fuq ir-ras, abbuż, vizzji tad-drogi u/jew alkohol, u flahharnett, imma mhux l-inqas, oħrajn jiġu mgeghlin.

Il-liġi li nixtieq nara jkollha tliet aspetti ewlenin. L-ewwel tkun li min jixtieq joħroġ mill-industrija jingħata l-ghajnuna kollha li jagħmel dan u jinholqu opportunitajiet apposta għalihom.

It-tieni tkun li dawk li jinsabu f'din l-industrija kontra r-rieda tagħhom isibu l-protezzjoni li għandhom bżonn u min sfurzahom jehel konsegwenzi.

It-tielet, li dawk li jridu jagħmlu dan ix-xogħol, jingħataw l-ispazju legali li joffru s-servizzi tagħhom bil-kwint lill-klijenti tagħhom mingħajr biza' ta' persekuzzjoni lil ebda naha, u għalhekk jiġu legalment aċċettati bħala membri shaħ tas-soċjetà.

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Political corruption in the State of NSW

Gladys Berejiklian, 50 years old, the Premier of the State of New South Wales since 2017 has become ensnared in the sensational ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) hearings into alleged corruption by former MP Daryl Maguire – and suddenly finds her future very much in doubt.

Daryl Maguire admitted to using his parliamentary office and resources to conduct private business dealings, including receiving thousands of dollars in cash as part of a visa scam.

Meanwhile, Ms Berejiklian, who has denied any wrongdoing by maintaining a personal relationship with Maguire even after he was forced to resign as MP, has faced calls from the Opposition for her to resign. At the very least, her reputation will be seriously tarnished by the explosive revelations. This saga is ongoing.

Writing in SBS News David Clune, an Honorary Associate in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney takes us back to the history of corruptions in the State of NSW.

Corruption has been ingrained in the political culture of NSW, from the days of its founding in the 19th century. This is the very reason the Independent Commission Against Corruption was formed in 1988 – and why it remains a vital watchdog over the inner workings of state government.

A corrupt old town

Before NSW began governing itself in 1856, the colony was run for many years by the upright, dedicated and incorruptible Colonial Secretary Edward Deas Thomson. With a fully elected parliament and premier, however, things changed. And democratic politics attracted corruption from the beginning.

Historian John Hirst said that after 1856, “to conservatives it appeared as if the government had been debased into a giant sys-

tem of corruption with needy ministers and members bound together by their joint interest in plunder”.

Politics then (and now) was a honey pot: needy, greedy ministers and MPs were always looking to benefit from public works, jobs, development and government contracts, as well as through the manipulation of the criminal justice system.

Sydney has traditionally been thought of as a corrupt old town. Whether this was because of its buccaneering origins in the convict era or because it was where all the action took place has long been an open question.

The colony’s early days set the stage for a long history of political and public corruption. Among the more notable episodes:

- A royal commission in 1905 revealed Lands Minister Paddy Crick had been involved in large-scale extortion and corruption, leading to his resignation
- The corrupt dealings of Agriculture Minister WC Grahame led to his resignation in 1920
- The 1951 Maxwell Royal Commission revealed widespread police involvement in corruption and the “sly grog” trade
- The term of Liberal Premier Bob Askin (1965–75) saw rampant corruption at the highest levels of politics and the police
- During Labor Premier Neville Wran’s time in office (1976–86), the corrective services minister and chief magistrate were tried and subsequently imprisoned for corruption
- And in the late 1990s, the Wood Royal Commission revealed entrenched, systemic corruption in the police force.

In response to the storm of corruption allegations in the Wran years, Liberal Premier Nick Greiner created the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The new body had wide powers, a broad anti-corruption brief and iron-clad independence.

An early victim

Ironically, Mr Greiner was an early victim of the new body. In 1992, it found him guilty of corruption for appointing renegade Liberal MP Terry Metherell to a senior public service position to allow the government to regain his safe seat.

The finding was overturned by the courts on appeal and most today would agree that Mr Greiner had acted corruptly in only a technical sense. (He had not benefited personally and in the pre-ICAC era, this would have been seen as an astute bit of politics.)

Mr Greiner’s downfall was a vivid indi-



New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian and former MP Daryl Maguire cation of the seismic shift that had taken place in NSW politics to try and rid the state of corruption.

ICAC itself comes under scrutiny

In 2012-13, ICAC investigations exposed former minister and power-broker Eddie Obeid’s extraordinary influence on the Labor governments of Morris Iemma and Kristina Keneally and the insidious tentacles of the Obeid family’s covert business empire.

Then, in 2014, Liberal Premier Barry O’Farrell resigned after falsely denying to ICAC he had received a bottle of expensive wine from an associate of Obeid’s, who was lobbying for a valuable government contract.

Mr O’Farrell admitted to a massive failure of memory but was cleared of any wrongdoing by ICAC. Nonetheless, he took the honourable course and resigned.

In recent years, ICAC itself has come under scrutiny. In 2015, it was accused of overreach, particularly in its pursuit of Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor Margaret Cunneen.

David Levine, ICAC’s inspector and a former judge, harshly criticised the commission’s investigation of Ms Cunneen, calling it “unjust, unreasonable and oppressive”.

Reforms are brought in, but are they enough?

As a result, ICAC was restructured in 2016. A panel of three – a full-time chief commissioner and two part-time ones, replaced the existing single commissioner.

A decision to proceed to a compulsory examination or public inquiry needed majority approval of the three commissioners. More emphasis was placed on procedural fairness in inquiries. And the highly respected Supreme Court judge Peter Hall replaced Megan Latham as chief commissioner in August 2017.

Mr Levine had also proposed abolishing public inquiries, which he said had resulted in the undeserved trashing of reputations. He recommended an exoneration protocol for those who had a finding of corrupt conduct made against them but were acquitted in court, and judicial review of ICAC decisions.

These recommendations were rejected at the time, but they may be worth reconsidering – particularly if the inquiry into Maguire’s actions unfairly jeopardises Ms Berejiklian’s premiership.



Ex-Liberal Premier Nick Greiner



Roundup of News About Malta



More than €200 million voted to safeguard jobs



Between March and the end of September the government has paid more than €233 million for the Wage Supplement involving a total of 85,000 workers (78,357 in Malta and 4,201 in Gozo). The number of businesses receiving aid by way of the Wage Supplement amounted to 16,894.

This was stated by Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses Silvio Schembri (*left*) as he outlined the details pertaining to the aid and the schemes that were introduced in recent months in order to protect businesses, to safeguard several jobs, as well

as to present the way forward for businesses.

The Minister said that the Budget for 2021 is the most extensive budget ever presented in the history of Malta as more than €200 million have been voted to safeguard jobs through the Covid Wage Supplement.

“During this extraordinary time, we have ensured that our businesses are sustained, reaffirmed the confidence we have in them, compelling them to take a step further and invest. In this, we shall remain standing shoulder to shoulder with them and our workers”, Minister Schembri said.

Abela's first and Scicluna's ninth

Budget 2021 presented in the house of Representatives by Financial Minister Edward Scicluna – his ninth – the first one under Prime Minister Robert Abela's watch, and in times of a pandemic, has been hailed by most of the social partners as positive and a step in the right direction.

The estimates for 2021 were presented under the theme of *Maltin b'Saħħitna 'l Quddiem* (Maltese strongly going forward).

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has violently hit most countries' economies, the right decisions taken during the past few years, have helped Malta to soften the blow allowing it, not only to be in a position to present another budget for 2021 without raising or introducing any taxes, but to introduce measures in support of families and businesses amounting to over €7 billion.

Malta's deficit will balloon to 9.4% this year, but the country's low level of national debt means that it is in a good position to weather

the negative impacts of the pandemic. The deficit is projected to fall to 5.9% next year.

It was hailed as a budget with social initiatives that in difficult times would inspire a feel-good factor across all society, while Prime Minister Robert Abela (*right*) described it as the best ever. Opposition leader Bernard Grech described it as “a budget that does not plan ahead; it plans for today but forgets about tomorrow”.

(read comments about the budget by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the social partners and the media in Maltese on pages 14 and 15)



Despite COVID-19 year 35 companies attracted as Foreign Direct Investment

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, during this year, Malta Enterprise has attracted 35 companies to Malta as Foreign Direct Investment.

This was stated by the Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses Silvio Schembri while he was addressing the conference entitled 'Future Realised', hosted by EY.

He said that this is indeed an encouraging result, as it means that Malta Enterprise has already attracted three more FDI than last year, when the number stood at 32.

The companies vary from manufacturing to digital games, artificial intelligence and blockchain.

He said, “Our firms have not solely been resilient, they have also shown remarkable adaptability. Key amongst them is our manufacturing industry, wherein some firms even managed to switch their production lines to other products to accommodate new demand.

Minister Schembri reiterated Malta's long-term economic vision based on five main pillars; economic growth, education and employment, better infrastructure and investment, sustainability and carbon neutrality by 2050 and, good governance, law and order.

Malta reiterates Citizenship is a member state competence

Weeks ago, the Government announced that the Malta Individual Investor Programme would be coming to a close. In fact, the agency that operates the IIP has, since last August, stopped receiving new applications, and will also be closing in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, a week ago, the expert group established by the European Commission on citizenship and residence by investment legislations found in most European member states has raised some concerns, and Malta has taken note of its concerns.

However, the government, through the Parliamentary Secretariat for Citizenship and Communities reiterates that citizenship is a member state's competence, whereby every European country decides on its own who are the individuals that it believes should receive citizenship.

Malta has said that while taking into consideration the European Commission's concerns and recommendations, it would be implementing new residence regulations that may lead to citizenship.

Since the IIP's inception, around 1,460 families have been approved for a Maltese passport, and just over 500 were not approved.

Through the programme, the National Development and Social Fund invested in social housing, healthcare equipment, and upgrading of health centres, and also supported the Maltese economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, saving both lives and jobs.

The new regulations will ensure the highest standards in the sector of residence by investment. They include that individuals can only apply for citizenship after three years of residence or by exception through higher investment after one year.

Furthermore, individuals would be allowed to apply for citizenship only after a thorough due diligence assessment has been conducted.

The government will keep on publishing the names of all persons who obtain Maltese citizenship and also start to publish the names of all persons deprived of Maltese nationality.



Roundup of News About Malta

Minister Bartolo on: 'Counter terrorism efforts under pandemic conditions'

A virtual webinar titled 'Counter Terrorism Efforts Under Pandemic Conditions' was held under the auspices of the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo (right) and his Turkish counterpart Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

The online seminar was organised by the Turkish Antalya Diplomacy Forum in co-operation with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), which is based in Malta.

In his address to the seminar, Minister Bartolo reiterated that the threat of terrorism continues to evolve, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has added yet another layer of complexity, as terrorist organisations shifted their activities to adapt to taking advantage of the pandemic's wide-ranging impacts.

He added that the prosperity and well-being of citizens depends on them being safe. In this regard, he held that ensuring the safety of societies and their citizens couldn't be achieved through unilateralism.

"It is easier to wage war and win it rather than to restore peace" and that, "rather than preach and point accusing fingers, we must support the difficult work for building resilient states," Minister Bartolo said.

Referring to the situation in Libya, he lauded Prime Minister Serraj and Minister Fathi Bashagha for their brave actions in dismantling networks of organised crime

there. He said that shortsighted regime change destroys order and creates a failed state in which institutions collapse and terrorists thrive.

He concluded by saying that the international community should come closer together to tackle the threat of terrorism, as it is only collectively that states can sufficiently safeguard their security against lasting threats such as terrorism.

Other participants included, the Ministers from the Netherlands and Kuwait, the representative of IIJ and the Ambassador of ADF.

5+5 Ministerial meeting

Later in the week Minister Bartolo also co-chaired the 16th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the 5+5 Western Mediterranean Dialogue that was hosted virtually by Tunisia. The overall theme of the meeting was 'Together for collective security and partnership in the Western Basin for the Mediterranean'.

Other attendees included the foreign ministers of the 5+5 countries – Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Portugal and Spain. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell also attended as representatives of observer institutions.

Minister Bartolo spoke about the importance of dialogue in the



Mediterranean to foster cooperation, particularly in the current circumstances when all countries are challenged by the pandemic. He also reiterated Malta's support for initiatives facilitating peace and stability in Libya as a primary objective of Malta's foreign policy. In this context, Malta was being proactive with all Libyan interlocutors to create the conditions for dialogue.

Referring to the Middle East Peace Process, the minister reiterated Malta's consistent position in favour of a two-state solution, and in compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions and the internationally agreed parameters.

Bonds to finance green economy projects

In meetings with Luxembourg Environment Minister Carole Dieschbourg and the Finance Ministry in Luxembourg, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning Aaron Farrugia discussed the structures necessary for the country to make use of green bonds for projects that promote quality of life, environmental health and sustainable projects.

This is by way of following up on the announcement in the Budget for 2021 that the Malta Stock Exchange would be offering an attractive package to investors for green bonds to finance green economy projects.

Minister Farrugia explained that these projects, which are infrastructural in nature, need to be beneficial to all; protecting the environment, mitigating the

effects of climate change including emissions, and creating new green jobs.

Green bonds are a way to finance sustainable and environmental projects such as renewable energy projects, clean transport, energy-efficient buildings and waste management initiatives. Green bonds abide to the rules laid out by the Climate Bonds Initiative.

The Ministers discussed how, just a few weeks ago, Luxembourg became the first European country to launch its Sustainability Bond Framework. This innovative framework, which meets the highest market standards, is also the first in the world to fully comply with the new recommendations of the European taxonomy for green financing.

Minister Farrugia said that green bonds coupled with the investments being made, as well as the Resilience and Recovery Fund, would lead Malta to its ecological transition towards the Malta of tomorrow.

Miriam Dalli and Clyde Caruana sworn in as new Labour MPs

Before the presentation of the Budget 2021, by Malta's Finance Minister Edward Scicluna, two new Labour MPs Dr Miriam Dalli and Clyde Caruana were sworn in as Parliamentarians.

Miriam Dalli, a lawyer by profession, served in the European Parliament in the past six years. She was co-opted to fill in for former Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, while Clyde Caruana fills the seat vacated by backbencher Etienne Grech.

Caruana, an economist, served as chief of staff in the Office of the Prime Minister and headed JobsPlus.

Miriam Dalli is reported telling *Playbook* "I was called to contribute actively back home in Malta, and I couldn't say no to my country."

She went on: "I am proud of the work I did in the past years with the S&D in the European Parliament. I will continue pushing for a progressive agenda wherever I am."

"I am looking forward to this challenge because I want to make sure that what we fought hard for in the European Parliament becomes a reality in our member states."

Minister Aaron Farrugia (right) during his meeting



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Il-baġit tal-2021 *Maltin b'saħħitna 'l quddiem*



Il-Mnistru tal-Finanzi Edward Scicluna waqt il-qari tal-estimi għall-2021

Meta ġie biex jippreżenta l-baġit għall-2021 f'mument insolitu minhabba l-pandemija COVID-19, l-Gvern għażel it-tema ta' Maltin b'saħħitna 'l quddiem, filwaqt li wara li l-Ministru tal-Finanzi Edward Scicluna qraha fil-Parlament – id-disa' wiehed tiegħu – il-Prim Ministru fissru bħala l-aqwa wiehed fl-istorja tal-pajjiż u li jifrex it-triq għal mill-inqas għaxar snin oħra.

Il-baġit għas-sena d-dieħla se jiswi lill-Gvern €7biljun, u l-Prim Ministru Abela qal li dan u hu wiehed ta' serħan il-moħħ, tama u kuragg li jħares lejn iċ-ċirkostanzi tal-preżent u li ġie ippreżentat f'kuntest tal-ikbar kriżi dinjija mill-aħħar gwerra 'l hawn.

Skont hu, il-miżuri se jgħinu biex Malta tibqa' għaddejja waqt dan iż-żmien ta' sfida b'miżuri li jgħinu lill-oqsma kollha tas-soċjetà.

Kuntrarju għal pajjiżi oħra mhux qed idahhal miżuri ta' awsterità jew taxxi u qed jagħti aktar minn mitt miljun Ewro

fmiżuri lill-familji u n-negozji.

Sadanittant, il-Ministru Scicluna qal li l-akbar sodisfazzjon tiegħu hu li bhatmjenja ta' qabel, l-baġit, kien magħmul b'mod ekonomiku u mhux finanzjarju biss.

Hemm għadd ta' miżuri li ntlagħu b'sodisfazzjon kbir u fil-fatt, l-imsieħba soċjali u l-korpi kostitwiti kelliom reazzjoni pożittiva għall-miżuri mħabbra. Laqgħuh tajjeb ukoll il-ħaddiema, in-nies tan-negozju, il-pensjonanti li ġew se jiġu mogħtija żieda ta' €5 fil-ġimgħa (€260 fis-sena). Fil-fatt hemm ipplanati 35 miżura soċjali li għalihom hemm ivvutati rekord ta' €2 biljun.

Minn din l-għajnuna li mistennija jgawdu famijli, tfal, pensjonanti u persuni vulnerabbli tfigħer żieda ta' 90 miljun ewro fil-baġit tas-sena d-dieħla, meta mqabbel mal-benefiċċji soċjali mogħtija din is-sena. Din iż-żieda se tkun riflissa fi €3 miljun iktar f'children's allowance, li minnha se jibbenefikaw 'il fuq minn 40,000 familja.

Għawdex ukoll se jmur tajjeb tant li l-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Assoċjazzjoni tat-Turiżmu qal li l-miżuri se jiddiversifikaw l-ekonomija Għawdxija.

Imma minkejja l-pożittività li wrew il-korpi kostitwiti, kien hemm minnhom li wkoll sabu x'jikkritika, filwaqt li l-Partit Nazzjonalista fl-Oppożizzjoni, kif wara kollox wiehed jistenna, xejn ma laqgħu tajjeb.

... il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni

Naraw x'intqal dwar il-baġit ...

Il-Prim Ministru u ...

Hekk kif intemm il-qari tal-estimi fil-Parlament fost l-ewwl li tkellmu dwaru kien, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Bernard Grech. It-tnejn li huma taw il-kummenti tagħhom waqt konferenzi stampa separati.

Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela (*Stampa lemin fuq*) stqarr: "Affaċċjati minn kriżi ekonomika bla preċedent minflok għamilna bħalma kien għamlu amminis-trazzjonijiet qabilna li qagħdu lura u ħadu miżuri ta' awsterità, aħna ppreżentajna l-aqwa baġit fl-istorja ta' pajjiżna."

Abela sostna li fl-isfond ta' pandemija li ħarbtet id-dinja, il-finanzi tal-Gvern huma mfahħra minn esperti internazzjonali u b'saħħithom u b'hekk kien possibbli li jithabbar baġit ta' dan il-kobor

Qal: "Dan hu baġit tliet darbiet ikbar minn baġits oħra, anke fiż-żminijiet fejn pajjiżna kien qiegħed igawdi mminn surplus, u dan mingħajr ma tiġi inkluża s-suppliment tal-paga. Meta Gvern Nazzjonalista, huwa u jiffaċċja kriżi ekonomika ħafna iktar ratba minn din tal-lum, mar lura fuq kelmtu u żied it-taxxi, aħna mhux talli lhaqna l-weħda tagħna, iżda rnexxielna naqbu l-aspettattivi originali tagħna. Dan huwa baġit li ma ntroduċa l-ebda taxa għida."

"Fil-baġits li għaddew tajna u tajna imma qgħadna attenti u dan il-galbu jfisser li fis-sitwazzjoni preżenti tajna nagħtu aktar milli qatt tajna qabel."

Sostna li quddiem din il-pandemija l-

Gvern se jagħti lill-pensjonanti żieda tliet darbiet dik tal-ġholi tal-ħajja. "Baġit bla ebda taxa. lanqas ċenteżmu wiehed f'taxxi. Magħna taf fejn qiegħed."



zjoni fil-pajjiż illum hija kawża ta' tmexxija ta' xejn mhu xejn ta' Robert Abela."

Saħaq li l-baġit fih proposti pożittivi iżda hemm oħrajn riċiklati. Zied jgħid li f'dan il-baġit il-Gvern nesa l-għada u nesa jindirizza l-problemi li ninsabu fihom u dawk li se niffaċċjaw fil-futur immedjat.

Kompla li l-Gvern qed jibza' jiffaċċja r-realtà tas-settur tas-saħħa, tat-turiżmu u l-qagħda finanzjarja ta' eluf ta' familji Maltin. Grech saħaq li fil-baġit li ġie ppreżentat ma kien hemm xejn dwar kif se jkun indirizzati l-kontijiet tad-dawl u l-ilma, kif se tkun indirizzata l-problema ta' 83,000 persuna f'riskju ta' faqar, xejn dwar pjan biex in-negozji Maltin u Għaw-

Min-naħa tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Bernard Grech (*xellug*) qal li "dan huwa baġit ta' Gvern li għajja. Baġit li ma jgħisibx għal għada. Gvern bla pjan fit-tul li ma fhemx li s-sitwazzjoni fil-pajjiż illum hija kawża ta' tmexxija ta' xejn mhu xejn ta' Robert Abela."

Saħaq li l-baġit fih proposti pożittivi iżda hemm oħrajn riċiklati. Zied jgħid li f'dan il-baġit il-Gvern nesa l-għada u nesa jindirizza l-problemi li ninsabu fihom u dawk li se niffaċċjaw fil-futur immedjat.

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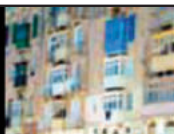
dxin jibqgħu jlaħħqu mal-isfidi li għandhom u lanqas dwar Għawdex.

Qal li l-Partit Nazzjonalista huwa l-partit bl-ideat u b'vizjoni, mentri dak Laburista, l-uniku pjan tiegħu huwa li jirbaħ l-elezzjoni ġenerali li jmiss. Huwa zied jgħid li l-Gvern Laburista m'għandux idea kif jgħid li nesejja għda fl-ekonomija.

Saħaq li l-baġit mhux joffri soluzzjonijiet għall-kriżi li għandna u fakkar kif dan il-baġit isemmi numru ta' miżuri li ppropona l-PN. Qal: "Aħna rridu ekonomija li tahdem għan-nies. La dan mhux jagħmlu l-Gvern se nkunu qed nagħmluh aħna."

"Il-Gvern kellu jserrah moħħ il-Maltin li huma inkwetati bil-pandemija, kellu jippreżenta proposti ta' kif se jwaqqaf l-imxija, kellu jserrah moħħ il-ħaddiema li jaħdmu fis-settur l-iktar milqut mill-COVID."

'Għall-Prim Ministru l-baġit kien l-aqwa wiehed fl-istorja; għall-Kap tal-PN kien baġit ta' Gvern li għajja'



Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



‘Baġit fi żmien il-Gwerra’

L-Editur tal-*Malta Today* sejjah il-baġit 2021 “*A wartime Budget*” li gie f’ċirkustanzi li qatt ma kellna bhalhom.. ċirkustanzi fejn il-poplu hu aktar moħħu fuq dak li qed jġri fil-qasam tas-saħħa milli dak ekonomiku.... għalkemm sintendi l-interess ta’ kif il-baġit kien se jolqot lil dak u lill-iehor kien hemm.

Jidher li kollox ma kollox il-baġit irċieva kummenti pożittivi, għalkemm sintendi ma naqsux ukoll xi kummenti negattivi, l-aktar mill-Oppożizzjoni, li tistenniha.

L-editorjali

L-edituri qalu tagħhom ukoll. Bit-titlu *A wartime Budget* il-*Malta Today* qalet li għalkemm il-baġit jidher li haseb biżżejjed biex jagħti spinta għall-ekonomija, jista’ ma jkunx biżżejjed biex jirnexxielu jagħmel dan jekk il-kriżi titwal. Bhal ma jgħi fi żmien il-Gwerra il-baġit jipprova jgħolli l-moral tal-poplu. Mingħajr ma żied it-taxxi, il-Gvern irnexxielu li jpoġġi €100miljun fi bwiet il-poplu.

Għalkemm jista’ jkun li l-Baġit ma jkunx biżżejjed jekk l-epedimija tul, “*Nonetheless, it should be enough to raise morale, and inject some much-needed consumer confidence; and that, ultimately, is the role of a wartime budget, too,*” itemm l-editor

Il-*Malta Independent: A sound Plan for the Covid-19 era*. Tgħid li kien baġit pożittiv, bla taxxi u hafna inċentivi ekonomiċi u soċjali “*Perhaps one would have liked to see more measures related to sectors like the environment, culture and others.*”

Bit-titlu *Budgetary push for the economy* ta’ *The Times* tikteb li hadd ma kellu xi dubju li l-baġit ma kienx se jkun wieħed li jitratta l-impatt tal-Covid-19.

Kif sar fl-aħhar snin, thabbru miżuri li jippromwovu l-ugwaljanza soċjali. Haseb ukoll biex isalva l-impjeggi kif ukoll inizzjattivi biex ikun hemm aktar konsum u investment. In-nefqa fis-settur tas-saħħa tlaħhaq il-€120 miljun.

In-nefqa ta’ €6 biljuni hija għolja imma meħtieġa fis-sitwazzjoni li ninsabu u l-Gvern jkun għustifikat jekk jissellef il-flus.

X’qalu l-għaqdiet dwar il-baġit

Wara kull baġit il-midja tati importanza kbira dwar dak li jgħidu dwaru l-mexxejja tal-għaqdiet tal-haddiema u ta’ min iħaddem għax iqisuh miżien tajjeb.

Biss fl-istess hin l-midja lokali, kemm stampata kif ukoll elettronika taż-żewġ partiti politiċi għandha t-tendenza, li min-naħa tagħha tiffoka r-rapporti l-aktar fuq dak li jaqbel mal-aġenda tagħha.

Naraw x’irrapportaw li qalul-Għaqdiet:

Hawnhekk kwazi kien hemm qbil bejn il-għurli kollha dwar li qalet il-*Malta Union of Teachers*. L-*illum*: “Baġit li jagħraf l-isfidi tal-pandemija iżda limitat hafna fil-qasam edukattiv”; L-*iNews*: “MUT: Baġit limitat fl-edukazzjoni għalkemm imbagħad, il-*Onenews* jagħti stampa oħra: “Gvern b’konsistenza fl-ippjanar tal-bini tal-iskejjel li baqa’ għaddej sena wara sena – l-MUT”.

Il-General Workers Union kellha kummenti pożittivi li ġew riflessi mill-għurli kollha. Il-*Malta Today*: “*GWU: Budget gives security, stability and peace of mind*”; In-*Net News*: il-GWU tilqa’ b’mod pożittiv il-miżuri mhabbra fil-baġit, bil-*Onenews* tgħid li “Il-Gvern qed jistieden l-investitur privat biex flimkien ikollna tkabbir - Il-GWU”

Iżda min-naħa tal-Unjon Haddiema Maġġudini, għalkemm fahhret diversi miżuri ikkrtikatu għax sostniet, skont in-*Net news*: “Baġit b’nuqqas ta’ innovazzjoni fil-miżuri mressqa – UHM”. Imbagħad il-*One news* pattiet billi ffukat fuq: “Il-UHM tilqa’ diversi miżuri tal-baġit f’fathom l-estensjoni tal-*Wage Supplement* u l-*in-work benefit*” u “Il-Unjon Haddiema Maġġudini laqgħet b’mod pożittiv diversi miżuri li ġew imhabbra fil-baġit.”

Dan hu l-mod differenti kif l-akbar żewġ unjoni iħarsu lejn il-baġit, u jista’ wkoll jirrifletti lejn fejn ixaqilbu l-istess unjoni.

Għaqda oħra sodisfatta kienet l-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tal-Iżvillupaturi bin-*Net news* tgħidilna: “L-MDA tilqa’ l-inizzjattivi mhabbra fil-baġit” filwaqt li *illum* tiffoka fuq “Pass l-quddiem biex is-suq tal-propjeta’ jkompli jikkontribwixxi għall-iżvilupp sostenibbli – MDA”.

One News marru lil hinn min hekk. Ikkwotaw dak li qalet Marthese Portelli CEO tal-MDA “Nilqgħu b’sodisfazzjoni li l-Gvern laqa’ l-proposti li tfasslu bi hsieb.”

Is-Settur turistiku jidher li wkoll laqgħa tajjeb hafna l-baġit bl-*iNews* tirrapporta lill-President tal-MHRA jgħid: “Il-hruġ mill-gdid tal-*vouchers* jixhed li l-Gvern

sema’ mill-MHRA”; filwaqt li l-istess Għaqda sostniet: “Baġit li jgħin lit-turizmu jgħix”. Il-*Maltatoday* qalet: – MHRA: *Budget that helps tourism industry survive*. L-*iNews* qalet ukoll li l-MHRA kuntenta għax “Bis-suppliment li se jagħti l-Gvern nistgħu inżommu l-haddiema fix-xogħol”.

Il-hruġ mill-gdid tal-*vouchers* għogħot ukoll lill-Kamra tal-Kummerċ Għawdxija bil-*One news*: tikkwotaha: “Nistennew li l-*vouchers* ikollhom impatt pożittiv f’Għawdex”, u lill-Paul Abela, *Chamber* Kamra tal-SMEs jgħid li permezz ta’ din l-iskema, l-inċentivi li kien dahhal il-Gvern u għajuniet oħra li ta l-Gvern: “Salvagna hafna impjeggi u anki negozji”. L-istess Kamra imbagħad ilmentat għax ma tnaqqsiex ir-rata tal-VAT.

Il-*Maltatoday* irrapportat lill-*Malta Chamber of SMEs* tgħid: “*Thumbs up for wage supplement but no VAT cut*”. Filwaqt li n-*Net News* irrapportawhom jgħidu: “B’żonn ta’ aktar inċentivi tat-taxxi biex ikun hemm investmenti godda”. Iffokaw ukoll dwar li qalet il-Kamra tal-Kummerċ: “Baġit-vag dwar l-irkupru tal-ekonomija”

Ir-reazzjoni tal-For.U.M (li jgħorbi fih għadd ta’ jnjonis Maltin) kellu reazzjoni mħallta. *Netnews* iffoka fuq li qalu: “Apprezzata l-għurata *leave*, iżda tibqa’ mhux imwettqa l-wegħda li s-*sick leave* jista’ jintuza meta t-tfal ma jifilhx”.

Imbagħad *illum* tagħzel il-pożittiv u tgħid li l-FOR.U.M fahhret il-baġit: “Li jagħraf id-diffikultajiet imma ma jzidx piżijiet” – L-istess għamlet il-*Maltatoday*: “*No new burdens on workers.*”



Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



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familja tiegħek**



A quick glimpse at Australia



A bus calling for Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews to be sacked seen driving past Parliament house in Melbourne in protest of Stage Four lockdown

Let us OUT protest

A bus plastered with signs calling on Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews to be sacked was seen motoring about Melbourne in protest of Stage Four lockdown. The large coach was spotted driving past Victorian Parliament House on Spring Street where the premier holds his daily press conferences.

The protest bus (pictured), which has a sign pleading 'LET US OUT' on one side and 'LET US WORK' on the other, is visiting Labor MPs across locked down Melbourne.

It has been seen travelling across inner-Melbourne, driving through St Kilda and along the Port Phillip Bay. It is understood the bus company behind the protest was put out of business by the restrictions that have crippled the state.

Across Melbourne, signs of unrest among the community continue to emerge, with a banner spread

across Kings Way - a main Melbourne arterial - calling the lockdown a 'Dan-made Disaster'.

Similar placards and posters have been popping up along roadsides, with people wearing protest t-shirts and plastering their cars with stickers calling on Mr Andrews to end the lockdown.

Speaking to the media after his office was vandalised, a jubilant Mr Andrews said Victorians should feel proud for decreasing the state's caseload so dramatically over recent weeks.

Tanya Plibersek Labor MP lashed out at her Liberal counterparts for their relentless attacks on the Victorian Premier. "What he's done - he hasn't done for popularity. He's done it because he's considered it the right thing to do." She said.

Demand for mental health skyrockets

More than a million Australians have sought mental health treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, new data shows.

In Victoria, ongoing lockdowns have sparked a social crisis, with a 30 per cent rise in cases in the past four weeks.

Commonwealth health department figures reveal that in September and October, 350,884 Victorians sought access to Medicare-funded GPs, psychiatrists, psychologists and counselling treatments. This was a 31 per cent increase on the same period last year and three times higher than the national av-

erage. A federal health official said the "jurisdictional" difference in relation to Victoria was "stark".

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the data was of significant concern. He said nationally, since March 16, there had been a 15 per cent increase in the number of Medicare-subsidised mental health services delivered, with 7.4 million services provided and \$819m paid in benefits.

Mr Hunt said the Government's \$2.4 billion telehealth package was making it easier for those suffering anxiety or depression to seek help.



Betrayed by her lover

The premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian (*above*) admitted she "stuffed up", but as we went to press she was still holding on with the support of all her Government. Ms Berejiklian said she has always been a private person, and the scandal had become a "personal nightmare."

Ms Berejiklian was dragged into the saga when her boyfriend ex-MP Daryl Maguire appeared before ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption).

During an interview with a leading newspaper, the premier admitted that it was a brutal week of ICAC hearings with humiliating revelations about her love affair. She said she was in love, but ended the relationship only recently. The 50-year-old spinster has now all-but given up on romance.

Mr Maguire had embarrassed her and left her feeling "silly". She will never speak to him again.

(See page 11 for the history of corruption in NSW)

Labor maintains dominance in Capital Territory

In the Australian Capital Territory's election, the Labor Party maintained its dominance in Canberra with Andrew Barr again as Chief Minister. He leads his party into 20 years of Labor Government in the ACT. The ALP will govern with the help of the Greens.

"I want to acknowledge that a democracy only works if you have a strong

opposition," Andrew Barr said. "Tonight also has seen a very strong result for the ACT Greens. I've spoken to Shane Rattenbury, and we will sit down, Yvette and I, with Shane and his team, over the coming week to put together a new government for this city.

"But it will be a government that will be led by ACT Labor," Barr said.



A quick glimpse at Australia

English language test for migrants

The introduction of an English language requirement for Australian partner visa applications in 2021 has left prospective migrants “freaking out” and migration agents scrambling after the unexpected change was included in the last federal budget.

Labor, multiculturalism advocates and demographers have criticised the decision as unfair and reminiscent of the White Australia Policy, while Prime Minister Scott Morrison described it as “pro-migrant but also pro-Australia”.

Acting Immigration Minister Alan Tudge said the changes would improve “social cohesion” and ensure more migrants are able to get jobs in Australia, with further details of the requirement to be announced over the next few months.

Australia's migration system can largely

be split into five groups: visitor visas, humanitarian visas, study and training visas, family and partner visas, and working and skilled visas. Visas in the study and skilled streams already have some level of English language requirement, which changes depending on which visa within the stream you are applying for.

For example, a training visa (subclass 407) requires the applicant to have “functional” English while someone applying for an Em-

ployer Nomination Scheme visa (subclass 186) needs to have “competent” English.

For some visas, partners or dependents of the main applicant will also need to meet an English language requirement or pay additional fees, up to \$9,000 in some cases, instead of meeting the requirement.

Citizens of the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Canada and New Zealand are not required to undergo a test to prove they are English speakers.



Abortion for South Australia

Abortion would be decriminalised in South Australia under legislation introduced to the State's Parliament. Under current legislation, an abortion performed in the state under certain conditions – such as without the approval of two doctors or outside a prescribed hospital – is an offence.

Attorney-General Vickie Chapman said the Termination of Pregnancy Bill would remove provisions under the 1935 Criminal Law Consolidation Act, and bring South Australia into line with the rest of

the nation.

Under the bill, the approval of two medical practitioners will be required only for an abortion after 22 weeks and six days gestation. The current requirement of a minimum two-months residency in the state in order to terminate a pregnancy will be removed.

The only continuing criminal offence will relate to a seven-year imprisonment penalty to anyone who is not qualified to perform or assist an abortion.



Jacinda for New Zealand

Jacinda Ardern, the Labor party leader of NZ has recorded a historic landslide victory and a second term in office. Labor will have an outright majority since proportional voting started in 1996.

She could get 67 seats in the 120-seat Parliament, a feat rarely achieved. She said NZ has shown that the Labor Party its greatest support in at least 50 years.

The 2020 New Zealand general election determined the composition of the 53rd Parliament. Voters elected 120 members to the House of Representatives, 72 from single-member electorates and 48 from closed party lists.

Two referendums, one on the personal use of cannabis and one on euthanasia, were also held. Results will be announced at the end of this month.



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

illum minflok il-bijografija dwar xi kittieb Malti qed niddedika l-paġna lil Dun Karm Psaila f'xahar iddedikat lil minħabba li l-Poeta Nazzjonali twieled, u anke miet fih.

Qed nagħti mhux il-bijografija tiegħu. Dik nagħmilha aktar 'l qudiem, imma se nagħti xi tagħrif ieħor dwar ħidt-

mietu, għalkemm mhux possibbli li tgħid kollox għax tkun tinħtiegħ l-ispazju tal-magazine kollu. Fil-ħarġa 212 ta' *The Voice* kont ktibt xi haġa dwaru, fosthom kollox li l-ewwel poezija bil-Malti tiegħu kienet iġġib l-isem ta' Quddiem Xbieha tal-Madonna.

Tislima lill-Poeta Nazzjonali Dun Karm

Ottubru huwa marbut mat-twelid u l-mewt tal-poeta nazzjonali Dun Karm li twieled f'Haż-Żebbuġ nhar it-18 ta' Ottubru 1871 u miet f'San Giljan nhar it-13 ta' Ottubru 1961.

Il-Kumitat Festi Nazzjonali permezz ta' *Festivals Malta* flimkien mal-Akkademja tal-Malti fakkar lill-poeta nazzjonali b'attivitajiet apposta, imma minħabba ċ-ċirkostanzi ta' bħaliġ li minħabba fihom ma jistgħux isiru attivitajiet fejn jingemgħu n-nies, *Festivals Malta* ikkordina u iffinanzja sett ta' dokumentarji qosra li trattaw diversi aspetti minn ħajjet il-poeta.

Id-dokumentarji ferm interssanti xxandru matul ix-xahar fuq TVM wara l-aħbarijiet tat-8.00 p.m. Wieħed jista' jsegwi dawn is-slots informattivi fuq il-paġna ta' *Facebook* ta' *Festivals Malta*, u d-dokumentarji fuq : <https://www.facebook.com/watch/1991792094381620/397238128075229>.

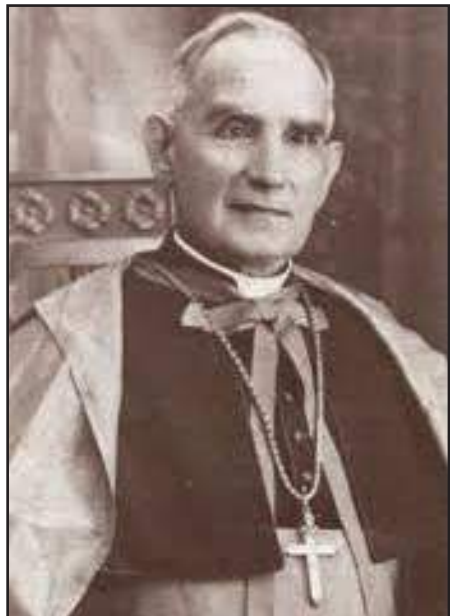
Sadanittant, nhar is-16 ta' Ottubru, il-poeta Nazzjonali tfakkar b'ċerimonja ċkejkna ta' tqegħid tal-fjuri mal-monument tiegħu fil-Furjana li għaliha attenda u poġġa kuruna l-Ministru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali José Herrera (*lemin*).

Għal xi żmien, madwar il-monument, *Festivals Malta* tellgħu l-bnadar Maltin biex ifakkru aktar lill-pubbliku dwar dan il-wirt nazzjonali li jseddaq l-għaqda fost il-Maltin



Dun Karm Psaila u d-dizzjunarju Malti-Inglist

Dun Karm Psaila huwa mahruf bħala wieħed mill-aqwa poeti ta' kull żmien u rikonoxxut bħala l-poeta Nazzjonali. Fost kollox kiteb ukoll il-versi għall-innu nazzjonali ta' Malta.



Imma s-sehem ta' Dun Karm fl-iżvilupp tal-Malti imur lil hinn mill-kitba tal-letteratura għax fl-1928 kien inhatar President tal-Għaqda tal-Kitteba tal-Malti.

Tmien snin wara ġie fdat mill-Gvern biex jaħdem fuq dizzjunarju Inglist-Malti li kien imsejjes fuq id-dizzjunarju Inglist li hafna minna konna nsewgu il-*Concise Oxford Dictionary*. Kien għamli bejn l-1947 u l-1955.

Dun Karm hu mahruf bħala haddiem għaqli tal-kelma li kien ukoll għarbiel rett tal-lingwa. Interessanti l-fatt li qabel l-1912, Dun Karm kiteb biss bit-Taljan.

Fl-1947 kien hareġ l-ewwel volum tad-dizzjunarju Malti-Inglist, filwaqt li erba' snin wara, fl-1951 ġie mitbugħ ukoll it-tieni volum, u fl-1955 hareġ l-aħħar volum biex id-dizzjunarju kien komplut.

Erbgħin sena wara hareġ ukoll id-dizzjunarju ta' Dun Karm kif imkabbbar minn Gużé Diacono.

Id-differenza bejn id-dizzjunarju ta' Dun Karm u dawk li harġu qablu kienet, fost kollox, il-prezentazzjoni, li kienet tolgot l-għajn. Kien ukoll dizzjunarju aktar shiħ minn ta'

qablu, minħabba li Dun Karm ta aktar atenzjoni għall-idjoma fiż-żewġ lingwi, kif ukoll l-espressjonijiet u kliem jew kitba li tiehu ħsieb it-tifsir tagħha mix-xebħ (allegorija). Kien ukoll jispjega fejn u kif jintużaw aktar ċerti kliem.

Skont il-magħruf kittieb u lexikografu Gużé Aquilina (illum mejjet) kien qal li mqabbal ma dizzjunarji oħra ta' qablu, dak ta' Dun Karm tejjeb sew fuqhom, fosthom fuq dak ta' Busuttil li kien hareġ għall-ħabta tal-1900.

Imma Aquilina jinnota li Dun Karm halla barra ċertu kliem li ma kienx komuni waqt it-tahdidiet imma li jekk ridna li l-Malti jis-sokta jinfirx f'oqsma differenti, fejn jista' juża kliem imsejjes, kien inevitabbli li jiddaħħal fid-dizzjunarju. Bħala eżempju wieħed jista' jsemmi l-kelma film, li għaliha Dun Karm juża, "dak li turi l-pellikola.

B'danakollu ħassieba tal-ilsien Malti jsostnu li d-dizzjunarju ta' Dun Karm jibqa' l-aħħar holqa importanti fid-dizzjunarji bilingwi qabel ix-xogħol monumen-tali ta' Gużé Aquilina.



Vjal Santu Wistin leading to St Mark's church in Rabat

Properties, monuments, visual corridors in Rabat given high protection status

Thirty-three properties and monuments in Rabat, which include the Church dedicated to St. Mark and its adjacent monastery, a number of unique residences and statues located along Vjal Santu Wistin, Triq il-Muzew, Is-Saqqajja and Triq Santu Wistin, have been given a Grade 1 or Grade 2 protection status for their architecture and heritage value.

The grading was done by the Planning Authority in close collaboration with the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage.

Grade 1 scheduling is the highest level of protection available and applies both to the listed building and its immediate surroundings, preventing alterations. In Grade 2 scheduled buildings can have moderate alterations.

The Church dedicated to St. Mark and its adjacent monastery, which fall under the religious order of the Augustinians, was given the highest protection status as Grade 1 properties.

The construction of the Church, is based

on a design the famous Girolomo Cassar, started in 1571. It was completed by 1588.

Although along the years some changes to the interior design have been carried out, the original structure is still that of Cassar. The Church is decorated with a portico, which enriches its harmonious façade.

Girolomo Cassar seems to have designed the façade of the Church on Renaissance examples he had seen during his study in Naples and Rome. Inside, the church has a simple architectural layout that includes a nave, two side aisles and a choir apse.

The Church is roofed over the wide nave with a barrel vault, which is one of the earliest in Malta and is considered to have served as a prototype for Cassar's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

The adjacent Augustinian monastery, which has undergone considerable restructuring since it was originally built, is the design of architect Andrea Belli.

The facade of the convent is a highly ornate baroque one, with an emphasis being drawn onto the main entrance, through columns, extensive sculpture and an elliptical balcony.

There are four limestone statues located within the semi-circular piazza in front of the church at the beginning of Vjal Santu Wistin, also being scheduled as Grade 1, representing St Nicholas of Tolentino, Our Lady of Consolation, St Anthony the Abbot and St Augustine.

All the original statues are the work of Censu Sammut, a master sculptor with ties

to the Dimech family of sculptors.

In Vjal Santu Wistin, a number of residences have been scheduled as Grade 2 buildings for their architectural and historical merits.

All the properties have an extensive front garden and provide a very rare and open streetscape especially when considering that streetscapes within Urban Conservation Areas normally consist of traditional and narrow roads characterised by a series of facades/frontages.

The garden walls of all the properties all have the same design and material and are mainly characterised by neogothic pilasters and iron gates. Built in the late 19th century, these residences all carry fine examples of traditional ornate facades with traditional timber elements.

The properties along is-Saqqajja are mainly characterised by a Victorian influence. Three of the properties along this street are built in a Tudor revival style with neo-gothic influences, typically found in Victorian Britain and very rare within the local context.

This style is characterised by the presence of bay windows that are visible on the facade. These houses, which were designed by Andrea Vassallo, were designed to stand out particularly with the introduction of elaborate architectural detailing present on the facades.

An important characteristic within this area and which is now also protected is the visual link between Vjal Santu Wistin and Triq Santu Wistin, which interconnect through the semi-circular piazza in front of St. Mark's church.

While the avenue serves as an important link between the centre of Rabat and the main gate of Mdina, the part of Triq Santu Wistin from is-Saqqajja is one of the oldest stretches leading into Rabat.

St Mark's church in Rabat, Malta ... given protection status



Mill-Gżira Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Kxif ta' bust

Fil-kwartieri tal-Victoria Scout Group, fir-Rabat, Għawdex, saret ċerimonja ta' kxif ta' bust ta' Joseph G. Grech li kien il-fundatur u l-ewwel Group Scout Leader tal-grupp.

Is-Sur Grech li miet hesrem nhar is-6 ta' Settembru 2018 kien magħruf bħala Skip. Skipper huwa l-isem li l-iScouts jużaw għas-Scout Leader tagħhom.

Il-bust fil-bronż sar mill-iskultur żagħżuġ Għawdxij Manuel Farrugia u nħadem fil-funderija Taljana Domus Dei 1963. Il-bust tbierrek mill-Isqof t'Għawdex, Mons. Anton Teuma.

Fid-diskorsi tagħhom iċ-Chairman tal-Kunsill Michael Grech, il-Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba u l-librar tal-Group Carm Cachia semmew episodji mil-hajja tal-iSkip, li serva bħala Group Scout Leader mill-1963 sal-1990 meta lahaq Chief Commissioner tal-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tal-iScouts.

Matul l-10 snin f'din il-kariga qatt ma nesa l-grupp tiegħu. Wara li temm mill-karigi f'Malta, inhatar membru fil-Kunsill tal-Group u kien membru habrieki. Aktar tard inhatar bħala l-ewwel Patron tal-Victoria Scout Group.

Waqt l-okkażjoni t-Teżorier tal-Group, Gino Mizzi ppreżenta ċekk lill-isqof biex jintuża għall-karità, fil-waqt li wara, Carm Cachia ippreżenta kopja tal-ktieb tiegħu li fih irrakkonta l-istorja tal-ewwel 50 sena tal-Group, lill-Ministru, lill-Isqof u lill-iskultur.

Preżenti kien hemm ukoll il-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, l-Isqof t'Għawdex Mons Anton Teuma, iċ-Chief Commissioner tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-iScouts Maltija, Reuben Lanfranco u Anton Pisani rispettivament, is-Sindku tal-Belt Victoria Josef Schembri u l-Patron tal-Group Mr Giovan Pace u membri tal-familja tas-Sur Grech.

LEMIN: Waqt il-kxif tal-bust. Mix-xellug: Lorrie Saliba, l-Isqof Mons Anton Teuma, il-Ministru Clint Camilleri u iċ-Chairman tal-Kunsill Michael Grech



Ċentru Pastoral iġdid fin-Nadur

Għadu kif tlesta proġett komunitarju ieħor, iċ-Ċentru Pastoral i Papa Gwanni Pawlu II fin-Nadur li ġie mbierrek mill-Isqof Anton Teuma.

Din hija binja li se taqdi għadd ta' funzjonijiet, fosthom ċentru għaž-żgħažgħ, l-uffiċċji parrokkjali, ir-radju komunitarju u l-mużew parrokkjali.

Il-proġett il-ġdid jinkludi estensjoni li rduppat l-ispazju tal-art eżistenti fil-waqt li esternament inholqot faċċata li ttrispetta l-karatteristiċi tal-UCA. Hemm ukoll għadd ta' swali u ġnien fuq is-saqaf tat-tieni sular b'veduti tal-knisja u l-Port tal-Imġarr.

Preżenti għall-ftuħ uffiċjali kien hemm ukoll il-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, il-Membru Parlamentari Ewropew Dr Josianne Cutajar, il-perit inkarigat mix-xogħol Edward Scerri, rappreżentati tal-Kunsill Lokali tan-Nadur, u l-Kapitlu u l-kleru tal-Bażilika ta' San Pietru u San Pawl.

Fuq: L-inawgurazzjoni taċ-ċentru. Mix-xellug: l-Arċipriet Jimmy Xerri, Mons. Isqof Teuma, id-Direttur taċ-ċentru u Viċi-Parrokk Fr Mark Bonello, u l-abbati Lucas Portelli



Inawgurat il-proġett tal-mini ta' Santa Luċija

Nhar il-Hamis li għadda ġew miftuha għat-trafiku l-mini ta' Santa Luċija (Santa Luċija underpass) li skont il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela li inawgura, dan hu proġett li kien mistenni u mixtieq minn hafna nies li jgħixu fin-Nofsinar tal-pajjiż, u li se jkun qed inaqqas aktar minn 30% l-hin tal-ivvjaġġar.

Il-ftuh sar fil-preżenza tal-Ministru għat-Trasport, l-Infrastruttura u l-Proġetti Kapitali Ian Borg u s-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi.

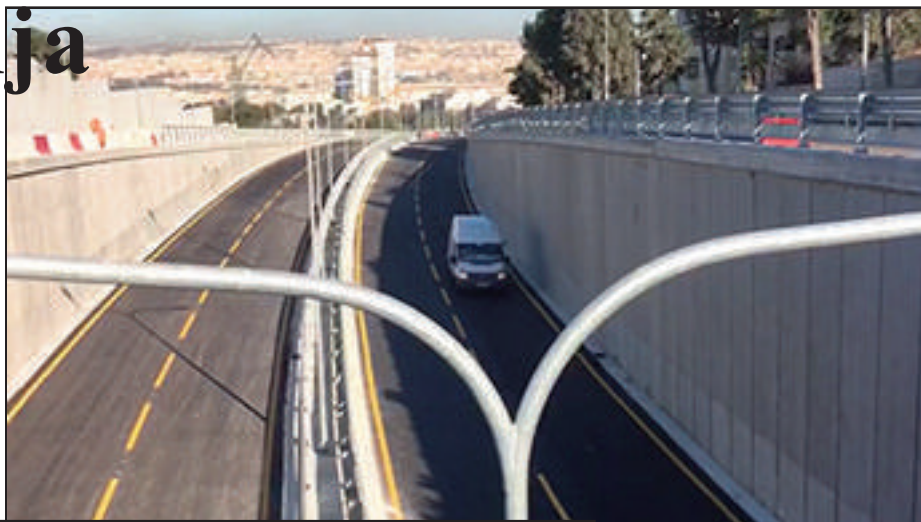
Il-mini se jnaqqsu d-dewmien u wkoll l-emissjonijiet kawża tal-kongestjoni.

Sa ftit qabel is-sajf tal-2019, ir-roundabout

kienet tehel hekk kif kienet tghaqqad għadd ta' rotot u ta' toroq essenzjali għar-residenti tal-inhawi. Illum, dan l-iżvilupp qed effettivament jelimina minn mar-roundabout il-karozzi ġejjin mill-Marsa Junction u sejr in lejn Tal-Barrani.

Id-disinn ġdid se jtejjeb ukoll is-sigurtà għar-residenti li jkunu jridu johorġu mill-irhula tagħhom biex jingħaqdu mar-rotot ewlenin li jil-tagħu f'din il-junction.

Minbarra din l-infrastruttura ta' kwalità aħjar għall-vetturi, il-proġett jinkludi wkoll għadd ta' faċilitajiet għal mezzi alternattivi, fosthom rikostruzzjoni tal-jogging track fil-



għat-Trasport, subway pedonali li qed tinbena mill-ġdid u li se tkun aċċessibbli għal kulhadd u għar-roti kif ukoll korsija pedonali u għaċ-ċiklisti li se tkun qed tghaqqad netwerk sigur bejn Haġ Luqa, Santa Luċija, Haġ Tarxien,

investit fis-settur infrastrutturali.

Il-proġett se jkun qed jiffirma parti mill-dak ferm akbar ftit il-bogħod, tal-Marsa, li fih seba' pontijiet u li mistenni jkun lest sa tmien dis-sena.

Raħal Ġdid u l-Marsa.

Il-Ministru Borg fisser il-jum tal-ftuh tal-proġett bħala wieħed importanti li mhux biss ta' prova oħra ta' gvern impenjat li jwassal proġetti ta' kwalità, iżda li se jkompli taffi l-isfidi li jiltaqgħu magħhom in-nies li jgħixu jew jahdmu fin-Nofsinar ta' pajjiżna. Qal li fi ftit iktar minn sena il-mini tħaffru u tista' tgħid kważi lesti.

Skont is-Segretarju Parlamentari Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi l-proġett tal-mini, iffinanzjat b'fondi Ewropej, għandu allokat għalih ftit aktar minn €18-il miljun mill-fond ta' koeżjoni li ġie

Il-President ta' Malta dwar il-pandemija

F'i sqarrija, il-President ta' Malta, George Vella qal li kif kien mistenni, u kif sfortunatament qed isehh madwar id-dinja, il-pandemija tal-COVID-19 reġġet refgħet rasha, u minkejja l-miżuri kollha u deċiżjonijiet mehuda mill-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa qed ukoll iddur f'Malta, bl-għadd ta' nies milquta dejjem jiziedu.

Il-President George Vella qal segwa l-andament ta' din l-imxija mill-bidu tagħha, u qal li din ta' bħalissa f'Malta hija inkwetanti u qed tohloq thassib, inkwiet, u ansjetà fis-setturi kollha tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx. Qal li l-pandemija qed ikollha impatt fuq is-saħħa fiżika, mentali, u l-aspetti soċjali u ekonomiċi tal-hajja taċ-ċittadin. Ihoss li sitwazzjoni bħal din għandha twassalna biex ikoll nġibdu habel wiehed, u noffru kooperazzjoni shiha fuq il-livelli kollha.

"Tajjeb li nikkritikaw in-nuqqasijiet b'mod kostruttiv, u tajjeb ukoll li nirrakomandaw prattici tajba li taw riżultati inkoraġġanti f'pajjiżi oħra," qal, madankolu jhoss li xejn m'għandu jfikk l-is-forzi kollettivi tagħna fil-ġlieda kontinwa kontra dan il-virus.

Konxju tas-sagrifiċji kemm mill-poplu ingenerali biex josserva u jwettaq id-direttivi mogħtija mill-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa, minn dawk kollha mgħobbija bir-responsabbiltà li jharsu s-saħħa pubblika, u dawk li mistennija jdur bil-pazjenti milquta mill-marda.

Il-President Vella qal li japprezza ferm ix-xogħol kontinwu tal-car-ers fid-djar tal-anzjani u ta' dawk li x-xogħol tagħhom iġibhom wiċċ

imb'wiċċ mar-riskju li jiehdu l-virus.

Settur li jinkwieta hafna lill-President hu tan-nies vulnerabbli, fosthom l-anzjani, li mill-bidu raw hajjithom tin-qaleb ta' taht fuq.

Innota bi pjaċir it-tibdil li ġie permess mill-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa dwar kif il-qraba u l-hbieb jagħtu l-aħħar tislma lill-għeżiż tagħhom li jkunu tilfu hajjithom minhabba l-COVID-19.

Huwa sellem lil dawk b'din il-marda u esprima solidarjetà ma' qrabathom għall-mod kif kellhom jitbiegħdu mill-għeżiż tagħhom meta l-aktar li xtaqu jkunu qribhom biex ikunu ta' wens u kuraġġ.

Għamel kuraġġ lill-poplu kollu biex nohorgu minn din l-imxija bl-inqas hsara possibbli, u appella għat-tharis tas-saħħa mentali u li jiġu obduti d-direttivi tal-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa. Fl-istess waqt hegġeg biex jinżamm is-sens ta' tama haj u li wiehed iħares 'l quddiem lejn ġejjieni lura għan-normalità.

Wera x-xewqa li l-poplu jgedded id-determinazzjoni tiegħu biex jiggieled din it-theddida għax mhux fil-bogħod iċ-ċans kbir li jasal il-vaċċin li jkun effettiv, u li jgħin biex tigġieled il-pandemija.

Il-President awgura li l-awtoritajiet li jsibu il-bilanċ delikat fit-tharis ta' saħħet il-poplu, u jassigura it-tiġdid ekonomiku tal-pajjiż.



Incidence of dementia among CALD projected to increase

According to a FECCA study, the incidence of dementia within the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) population is projected to increase more than threefold from 2010 to 2050, from approximately 35,000 cases to 120,000. Currently there is very little understanding of how dementia can be addressed in the CALD community as they are often excluded from research.

That is a problem because it means we lack direct knowledge of their needs and experiences, and it also means our research lacks scientific rigour by excluding 30% of the older population.

The idea of choice and control for CALD consumers was another issue reinforced during the recent Older Persons Advocacy Network's webinar 'Safe and Inclusive Care'. What is consent for those people who have a fear of authorities, for example, and wouldn't be able to ask questions and seek clarification?

Also crucial is the need for programmes to improve health knowledge – only one in four Australians from CALD backgrounds has adequate health literacy. That means adherence to a medication regimen can be affected by a belief in complementary medicines, or patients may feel shame that such

bad luck has befallen their family following a diagnosis.

There is, in fact, a higher rate of medication mismanagement in some cultural groups as a result of the blending of traditional and western treatments.

To help, Dementia Australia has released a collection of moving short films in different languages as part of the 'It's not a disgrace...it's dementia' series. They feature carers of people living with dementia speaking in their own language, and healthcare workers providing important advice.

Mary Patetsos,
(FECCA Chairperson)

Imut Patri Emmanuel Gatt - serva għal 40 sena fil-parroċċi ta' Kellyville u Warrawong NSW

Il-Mulej sej-jah miegħu lil Patri Emmanuel Gatt OFM Conv. Kellu 76 sena. Huwa trabba f'Bur-marrad u kien or-dnat l-ewwel saċerdot mill-istess parroċċa fl-istess sena li din il-Knisja ta' Bur-marrad saret parroċċa.



Patri Emmanuel kien qed iservi fil-parroċċa ta' Marija Addolorata f'San Pawl il-Baħar.

Huwa kien ukoll magħruf sewwa fl-Awstralja fejn għal 40 sena serva l-aktar fil-parroċċi ta' Kellyville u Warrawong NSW.

Il-funeral tiegħu sar fil-parroċċa ta' San Pawl il-Baħar nhar il-Gimgha li għadda.

Il-Mulej jagħtih il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem.



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Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

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

On SBS Radio

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

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



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

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Fladd 11.00 am: l-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 (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

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

days and Sundays at 8am.

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

Web streaming: www.coastfm.org.au

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-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 Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

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



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.

Changes at La Valette SC

There are significant changes in the new committee of the La Valette Social Centre of Blacktown NSW. Although the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for October 30, there will be

no contestations for the major positions.

The following will be elected unopposed.: President: Godfrey Sultana; V/President: Antoinette Caruana; Secretary: Antoine Mangion; Treasurer: Francis Fitzpatrick

Full report in the next issue of The Voice



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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. għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.

Sports on two pages



This is what victory in Latvia meant for the Maltese players and coaches

Late goal earns Malta first competitive away victory in seven years

It had been long in arriving, but when it did, after six years the celebrations were never-ending. In Riga, Malta beat Latvia 1-0 to win their first competitive match in seven years, since the win in Armenia in 2013.

It was Malta's first-ever victory in the Nations League, obtained with a Steve Borg headed tally deep into added time.

Victory was regarded as such a feat that it was even reported on the main news bulletins of every TV station in Malta soon as it happened.

It was a most deserved victory (on October 13). It allowed them to moved up to the second position in Group D1 of the competition. With two matchdays to go, both at home, against Andorra and Faroe Islands, next month Malta entertains hopes of obtaining the best placing in a competition.

Four Sirens FC matches postponed due to Covid

Premier club Sirens FC's fixtures until the end of this month have been postponed. The postponed matches are those against Tarxien Rainbows FC (Oct. 17), against Valletta FC (on Oct 21), Mosta FC (Oct. 25)) and Lija Athletic FC (Oct. 31).

The rescheduling of these fixtures is in accordance with the mandatory 14-day period for players currently in self-isolation or quarantine plus a seven-day training period prior to affected club's first match post-COVID-19 recovery as laid out in the Malta FA's Return to Play Protocol.

At a glance:

*With the 1-0 win over Latvia, Malta are now unbeaten in three consecutive competitive games for the first time – the other two matches were at home to Latvia 1-1 and away to Andorra all in the UEFA Nations League. It was also the third with the same scoreline away from home.

Premier League 2020/21 in Malta

No unbeaten teams;

The Football Premier League continues to produce a number of surprises this early in the season with only five rounds of matches have been played. Hamrun's run of four wins was halted when they lost to Birkirkara, while Sliema also lost their unbeaten record with defeat against Gudja. It means that no team is unbeaten.

With three rounds played since the last issue of *The Voice*, and with Hamrun Spartans playing late on Monday making it impossible for us to publish the result, we have two teams sharing the top of the league ladder, Gzira and Hibernians, who have registered four victories on the trot. Both stand on 13 points.

Hamrun came a cropper against Birkirkara on Day 5. Prior to their 2-0 victory, Birkirkara had only collected one point from their first four outings, and had previously lost 2-3 against newly promoted Zejtun for the Corinthians' first-ever victory in the top division. Zejtun also held their own in the next matches, especially the scoreless draw with Balzan.

Before bowing out to Gudja in a 0-2 defeat, Sliema were the only unbeaten side among the 16 Premier League teams.

After losing to Sta Lucia on Day 4, defending Champions Floriana returned to winning ways with victories over bottom

Elusive 2 repeats RMSR success

The Maltese First 45 Elusive 2, repeated last year's success to win the 41st edition of the Rolex Middle Sea Race organised by the Royal Malta Yacht Club. It also becomes the first boat to win back-to-back races since Nita IV, which won three times between 1978 and 1980.

The Maltese yacht, slipped across the line in a fading breeze to take the lead by just over one and a half hours.

The crew of the Beneteau First 45, jointly skippered by Maya, Christoph and Aaron Podesta, had achieved something no boat had managed since 1980 - winning back-to-back races. The Podesta family chapter in the legend of the race, began by father Arthur back in 1968, continues to grow.

Meanwhile, in a fairy tale ending, two 70-foot ocean-racing maxis, both from Poland fought it out for the monohull line honours title with the winner only decided in the final few miles.

In the end, I Love Poland, owned by the Polish National Foundation and skippered by Grzegorz Baranowski won the accolade from the largely Corinthian crew from the Yacht Club Sopot near Gdansk. I Love Poland took the gun by a mere three minutes after four days of racing.

Fifty yachts started the 606 nm classic off-

Hibs hit eight goals

DAY 6		DAY 5	
Hibernians v Lija A	8-1	Gudja U v Sliema	1-0
Gzira v Zejtun C	2-1	Birkirkara v Hamrun	2-0
Floriana v Gudja	2-1	Gzira Utd v Lija A.	3-0
Valletta v St Lucia	1-1	Sta Lucia v Tarxien	2-0
Tarxien v Senglea	5-0	Balzan v Zejtun C	0-0
Mosta v Sirens	pp	Floriana v Senglea	1-0
Balzan v Hamrun	(Mon)	Hibernians v Mosta	3-2
Birkirkara v Sliema	day	Valletta v Sirens	pp

team Senglea and Gudja.

Despite the ups and downs, there are few changes to the top positions in the league ladder with Hamru Spartans losing their position to Gzira and Hibs who now enjoy a point lead 13 to 12. Floriana also share the position with Hamrun. Next come Sliema Wanderers with a game in hand, and Gudja.

Gzira went on a scoring spree against Mosta, beating them 6-1, but Hibernians went two better by deating Lija 8-1 for the season's biggest win so far. Incidentally, one of Gzira's scorers was midfielder Andrew Cohen who was making his 500th Premier League appearance. He made his debut 10 years ago with Hibernians.

On Day 6 Valletta were hed to a 1-1 draw by Sta Lucia and both now stand on eight points along with Balzan. Senglea and Sirens are the wooden spoonists.