



The Voice of the Maltese

We are for the Greater Malta

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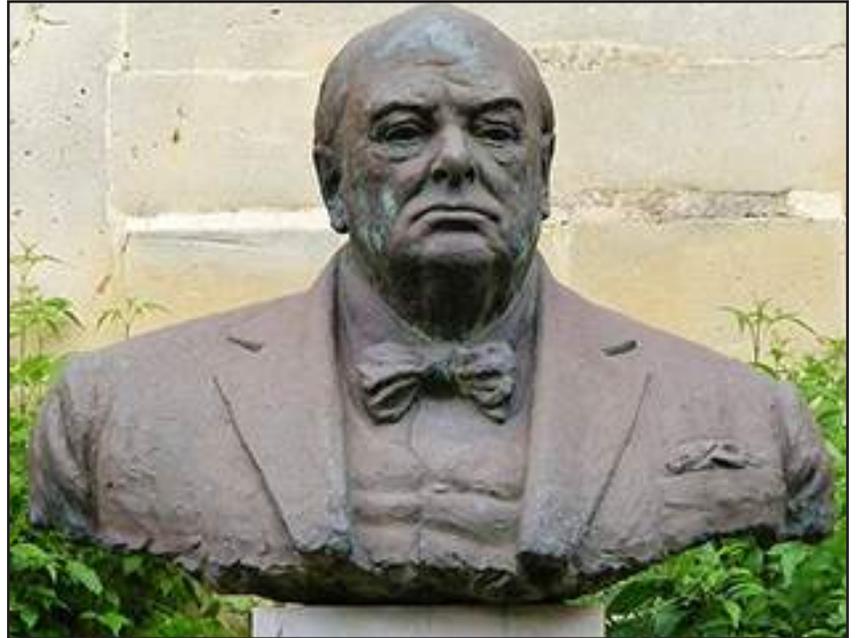
A panoramic view of the Mellieħa Parish Church and the surrounding area that includes Malta's most popular sandy beach, Mellieħa Bay, otherwise known as Għadira Bay in the background

Relationships - Churchill and Malta

Busting the Myth



Paul Calleja



(Part 1 of a three-part series)

The Winston Churchill bronze bust at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta-Malta sculptured by well known Maltese artist Vincent Apap

Shortly before Winston Churchill's eightieth birthday, a member of Malta's Judiciary, Justice Montanaro-Gauci, wrote to him to inform him of fund-raising for his birthday gift from Malta. The gift was a bronze bust of Churchill, crafted by eminent sculpturer, Vincent Apap. Today, this bust is found at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta.

Justice Montanaro-Gauci was generous with his praise of Churchill, attributing his efforts for the salvation of Malta and the Maltese during WW11. The Justice stated, "All people of Malta recognise the great debt we owe to you for the steps you took to ensure the protection of Malta...".

Some believe the Justice was careless with the truth by claiming "all Maltese" felt this way. They considered the gift to be inappropriate and undeserving. Which of these two extremes views is true?

The first thing all must acknowledge is that Malta avoided occupation by Fascist forces through British resistance and Churchill's uncompromising zeal. This is undeniably true, even when the valiant contributions of the Maltese military and civilian are considered.

But this truth is only a part of what is needed to adequately assess Churchill's worthiness of Malta's post-war praises and sense of indebtedness. The missing truth is inconvenient, yet central to this assessment, in that it explains why Churchill/Britain invested so much time, effort, resources and passion to defend Malta. Unsurprisingly, such information is frequently omitted, or understated, by British historians, who write the bulk of publications on Malta's wartime role.

Equally important of this missing truth, are explanations for Churchill's support of British wartime decisions that produced horrendous consequences for Malta when Churchill knew and expected these consequences in advance.

Finally, the missing truth questions impressions by many British authors, that Churchill had a warm and boundless affection for Malta and the Maltese.

Churchill's paramount motivation behind his WW11 endeavours is easily ascertained. Without question, Churchill always put the protection and advancement of Britain, its people and empire, first and foremost.

Churchill was a product of the age imperialism. It was a time when the subjugation people by foreign nations were viewed as glorious — the nation with superior number of colonies was the considered the most glorious — and that was Britain.

Churchill also viewed imperialism as noble for having introduced rules, regulations, social and administrative infrastructure that provided significant benefits to the subjugated. He, and his ilk, conveniently ignored the purpose that providing these facilities was principally to serve the interest of the imperialist nation. Benefits to the subjugated were unavoidable and unintended by-products.

Part 2 in the next issue



Winston Churchill visits war ruins in Valletta, Malta in 1943

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

Can I use a secretly recorded conversation in my estate or family law case?

by Paul Sant

In NSW the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007* (NSW) prescribes that it is an offence (which may lead to fines & imprisonment) to secretly record a private conversation. However, such recordings may be admitted into evidence where:

1. A principal party to the conversation consents to the listening device being so used, and
2. The recording of the conversation is **reasonably necessary for the protection of the lawful interests** of that principal party.

In addition to setting a framework and means for law enforcement agencies to gather information in criminal matters, the other purpose of the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007* is to “ensure privacy of individuals is not **unnecessarily impinged upon** by providing strict requirements around the installation, use and maintenance of surveillance devices”.

Recent case: *Rathswohl v Court* [2020]

Recently, the NSW Supreme Court was required to consider whether to admit into evidence, recordings made by a family provision claimant’s sister, and his deceased father, unbeknownst to the deceased.

The court considered a number of cases in the criminal, civil and family law areas that considered the question of whether to admit a recording, made without permission, into evidence.

Examples and general guidelines

Each case will always rely on its unique

facts and circumstances. Some general remarks made in cases include:

Thomas v Nash (2010): A mere desire to have a reliable record of a conversation is not enough.

Dong v Song (2018): The more tenuous (very weak or slight) the lawful interest, the less likely it will be objectively necessary to protect it through the means of a listening device.

Alliance Craton Explorer Pty Ltd v Quasar Resources Ltd [2010]: wanting to obtain an accurate record of a meeting, or a recording in contemplation of use should there be litigation in the future, is not sufficient to constitute a “lawful interest”.

Groom v Police (2015): a court should more readily accept recordings carried out for a person’s lawful interests in circumstances where that person had a genuine concern for their own safety.

Gawley & Bass (2016): it was reasonably appropriate to record a conversation where a parent was carrying out a lawful interest to protect their children from a risk of harm. The father had secretly installed a device at the mother’s premises and sought transcripts of recordings to be admitted into evidence.

The court admitted a transcript of one conversation into evidence. The father’s other actions in seeking to protect the children, including reporting the mother’s behaviour to child welfare authorities, supported his allegations and reason for taking steps to obtain corroborating evidence.

Balancing exercise

The court carries out a balancing exercise of the invasion of an individual’s privacy and

the significance of the lawful interests the person doing the invading is protecting.



If a mother or father are concerned about the safety of their children, the family courts may allow evidence that will substantiate that party’s version of events, being aware that where one party sets out allegations in written evidence, they are generally denied by the other party.

Going back to this recent case, the recording in question was made in a family context. The case involved an apparent disappearance of an earlier will of the deceased, which left his estate to his three children equally.

The deceased’s final will left his house to one daughter, who submitted video evidence of her father, saying he wished for her to have his house after he died. She then asked him, ‘what about my brother and sister?’

The deceased stated that the other children have their own houses. The Judge observed the father’s body language (bowed head, no eye contact, speaking quietly) and determined the video shows an act of *appeasement*, rather than an announcement.

In exchanges between parents and children, the Judge noted an elderly vulnerable parent’s preference to have a pleasant exchange and enjoyable meeting with their child, and say what they think the listener wants to hear, to avoid conflict or offending their child.

What happened?

The Judge noted that making a covert recording of a testator will not ordinarily reflect well on a person who has done so, but balanced the circumstances including the inability of requesting the police to issue a warrant to install a listening device, where such resources are restricted to criminal cases.

It was found that there was a valid legal interest being protected, and that:

- The contravention of the *Surveillance Devices Act* was not grave.
- The recording supported the existence of a serious dispute between the children about their father’s care and will, and was made with the purpose of obtaining admissions from the father.
- There was a risk of one child falsely enhancing claims on the father’s estate.
- The evidence was relevant and probative.

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





The photo taken in Melbourne in 1984 of John J Cole Malta's first Emigration Minister (*left*), with Loreto York first Maltese mayor of an Australian city. **BELOW:** Loreto in 1972 in mayoral robes



I took the photo (*above*) in Melbourne in 1984. It shows two Maltese migrants – John J. Cole and Loreto John York. The photo is historically significant because Mr Cole was the first Minister for Emigration in Malta after World War Two and Loreto (“Larry”) York – my father – was the first Maltese Mayor of an Australian city.

In 1989, I recorded my dad for the National Library of Australia’s oral history collection and in 1997 I interviewed John Cole for the collection. Their memories and reflections on their lives, which covered most of the C20th, are preserved for posterity at the National Library in Canberra. Both interviews may be accessed anywhere in the world via the Library’s on-line catalogue.

John Cole born in 1915, was from Paola. My dad was from Sliema. He was born in 1918. They had a lot in common and were pleased to meet and chat at Mr Cole’s home in Box Hill South. Both were supporters of the Labour Party in Malta and the Labor Party in Australia, and both were active trade unionists. In Melbourne, John Cole was in the Ironworkers Association and my dad was a shop steward for the Storemen & Packers Union.

John Cole worked as a schoolteacher and dockyard clerk in Malta and had been influenced by Reggie Miller, the General Workers’ Union founder. After the War, when a Labour government was elected in Malta in 1947, Mr Cole was made responsible for labour, social services and emigration.

The Malta-Australia Assisted Passage Agreement was the greatest achievement by government during his time as Minister. It was signed on May 31, 1948.

After the War many Maltese sought to emigrate and by 1949, 42,000 had registered with the Emigration Department. In 1947, there were 3,238 Malta-born people in Australia; in 1981, there were 57,000. The assisted passage scheme facilitated the migration of most of them.

An unusual aspect to the John Cole story is that in 1958 he too decided to emigrate to Australia with his wife and family. He remained in Melbourne until his death in

Two Maltese ‘firsts’



Barry York

2000. I last saw him in 1998 at the Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion, the heartland of Maltese settlement in the western suburbs of Melbourne. The Centre was packed to capacity with hundreds of people to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assisted passage agreement. He received a rousing reception.

My father’s achievements were not as important as John Cole’s but were significant in terms of paving the way for non-Anglo migrants to succeed in local government politics. It was not easy for a ‘wog’ (as my dad used to say) to become a Mayor in the early 1970s, even in a place like Brunswick, which had many Greek, Italian and Maltese residents.

Loreto had to face the prejudices of the time. In our oral history interview, he recalls how there was opposition to his appointment as Mayor from within his own Labor Party. A fellow Labor councilor had said, “If we let Larry become Mayor, then the wogs will take over Brunswick”.

Also, there were the difficulties in having to go to work, in a factory,

each day and then after work attend to Mayoral duties. Back then Mayors did not receive a wage. I remember my dad coming home from work in his overalls, covered in powder (he worked in a cosmetics factory), and quickly having a shower before changing into the grand mayoral robes for an official function.

My dad’s first language was Maltese but he spoke excellent English, plus some Italian and Greek. He had left school after only four years in Malta, as was common in his day. Reflecting on his achievements, he used to say, with a proud and somewhat wry smile: “Not bad for someone who only had four years’ education”.

Loreto died in 2009, aged 90. He never returned to his homeland but the ‘flower of the Mediterranean’ never left his heart.

Australia-Malta Assisted Passage Malta nomination form

PLEASE WRITE PLAINLY.
(Read instructions carefully)

M

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

IMMIGRATION.

PERSONAL NOMINATION—ASSISTED PASSAGE AGREEMENT WITH MALTA.

TO—
THE COMMISSIONER FOR MALTA IN AUSTRALIA,
108 QUEEN-STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.I.,
VICTORIA.

Form Malta 1.



Xandara li għinu fil-progress tal-Programm Malti f'Adelaide: XELLUG (mix-xellug): France Falzon, Carmen Debono, Gejtu Grech u Fr Peter Meilaq LEMIN: ((mix-xellug): Carmen Debono, Bernadette Buhagiar, Doris u John Mangion

Meta se nisimghu l-lehen Malti?

RonBorg

Din ta' fuq kienet il-mistoqsija fuq fomm l-emigranti Maltin li kienu stabbilew ruhhom f'South Australia fis-sebghinijiet mill-ewwel jiem tal-emigrazzjoni fil-bidu tas-snin hamsin.

Veru li konna nisimghu l-Malti f'xi klabbijiet soċjali Maltin ta' dak iż-żmien, jew fil-funzjonijiet speċjali reliġjużi meta konna ningabru għall-“eżerċizzji” fil-Katidral ta St.Patrick. Imma ma kienx hemm xandiriet bir-radju jew programmi televiżivi bl-ilsien nattiv tagħna.

Aħbarijiet minn Malta kważi ma kienux jeżistu. Fil-fatt l-aħbarijiet mill-Ewropa kienu skarsi f'Adelaide, kemm fuq ir-radju u wkoll it-TV. L-uniku sors ta' informazzjoni Maltija li kellna kienet il-gazzetta Maltija, *The Maltese Herald*. Kienet tiġi min-Sydney u tintbġhatlek jekk kont abbonat, jew jekk ixxurtjat, kont issib għadd żgħir ta' kopji milli jifdal fil-hwienet tal-gazzetti li kienu jispiċċaw ta' malajr.

Għalina l-emigranti l-aħbarijiet minn Malta kienu biss permezz ta' telefonati personali lil hbieb u qraba minn Malta. It-telefonati kienu jiswew mhux hażin, u hafna drabi l-kwalità kienet fqira. Għal dawk li kienu xxurtjati li jkollhom *'short wave radio'* sors ieħor kien il-BBC.

Madankollu fil-bidu tas-sebghinijiet, dawk li kellhom *reception* qawwja fuq ir-radju setgħu jisimghu xi programmi Mal-

tin mill-istazzjonijiet 3ZZ u 3EA minn Melbourne. Persuna entużjasta kien Joe Monsigneur, pijunier ta' għadd ta' inizjattivi Maltin f'Adelaide.

Darba, għall-ħabta tal-1977 waqt li kien qed jipprova jsib l-istazzjon tar-radju tal-BBC biex jisma' r-riżultati tal-elezzjonijiet Maltin, Joe skopra programm Malti min-Melbourne u sema ħabib antik tiegħu, Joe Muscat (RIP) dak iż-żmien il-kap tal-Maltese Own Band ta' Victoria. Immedjatamente Joe ċempel lil Muscat u talbu l-għajnuna dwar kif seta' jistabbilixxi programm tar-Radju Malti f'Adelaide.

Joe Muscat heġġu biex jikkuntattja lix-xandara ABC f'Adelaide. Imbagħad tkellem mal-Kappillan Malti ta' Adelaide ta' dak iż-żmien, Dun Peter Pawl Meilaq kiseb sezzjoni ta' nofs siegħa fuq ir-Radju tal-Università, għal \$15.00 fil-gimgha.

Fil-bidu ġie fformat grupp biex imexxi l-Programm Malti, bi France Falzon jopera l-kontroll u jagħmel preżentazzjonijiet generali, Gejtu Grech jaqra l-aħbarijiet Maltin, Fr. Peter Paul Meilaq bħala l-prezentatur Reliġjuż, u Monsigneur jirrapporta dwar l-isports.

Fis-16 ta' Ottubru 1977 fuq il-frekwenzi tar-radju f'Adelaide instema' għall-ewwel darba l-hoss tal-lehen Malti. Kienet okkazjoni sabiħa għall-Komunità Maltija ta dan l'istat! Inizjalment il-grupp iffinanzja l-programm iżda l-Komunità Maltija tant kienet imxenqa għax-xandira, li gābret is-somma ta' \$1,000.

Wara fitit il-gruppi Etniċi li kienu fuq Radju 5UV, iffurmaw l-istazzjon tar-radju għid 5EBI FM fuq frekwenza ta 103.1 MHz f'Byron Place fil-belt minn fejn beda jixxandar u żviluppa l-programm Malti. Maż-żmien oħrajn ħadu post dawk li hallew, fil-waqt li fl-1989 instema' l-ewwel lehen famminili fuq il-pro-

gramm Malti ta' Carmen Debono.

Minbarra vokabularju Malti eċċellenti, Carmen gābet magħha wkoll l-esperjenza tar-reċtar fuq il-palk, (it-tejtratin) li għamlitha qarreja kkulurita tar-rumanzi fuq il-programm. Minkejja xi problemi ta' saħħa għadha fuq il-programm sal-lum.

L-idea tar-radju Malti qabdet sew fil-bidu tat-tmeninijiet fin *Northern suburbs* tfaċċa l-programm il-*Blue Grotto* fuq ir-radju komunitarju 5PBA li twaqqaf minn Joe Borg, Connie Vidal u oħrajn. Kien ukoll intlaqa' tajjeb mill-Komunitá Maltija ta' Adelaide għax offra programm ieħor f'jum differenti tal-gimgha, is-Sibt filgħodu. Il-programm xandar għal bosta snin sakemm Connie Vidal ma setgħetx tkompli, u sfortunatament intemm ukoll il-programm.

B'danakollu il-programm fuq 5EBI FM kompli jiffjorixxi b'xandara godda. Fil-fatt France Falzon kien iddikjara *"din hija l-aqwa haġa li grat lill-Komunitá Maltija tagħna!"* Il-membri godda fil-programm kienu bieżla, u nies bħal John Mangion ħa kors biex seta' jopera l-pannelli tal-kontroll halli jassisti lil Gejtu Grech.

Naturalment minħabba li t-tariffi għall-programm żdiedu b' mod konsiderevoli, l-aktar wara li x-xandiriet żdiedu għal tlett darbiet fil-gimgha, il-Ħadd u t-Tnejn filgħodu u t-Tnejn filgħaxija, ta' għajnuna kienu l-isponsors, bħall-Bank of Valletta u l-aġenta ta l-ivjaġġar Bernadette Buhagiar.

Fl-1999, Bernadette Buhagiar ingħaqdet mat-tim tar-radju. Għadha fuq il-programm sal-lum. Flimkien ma Carmen Debono ħolqu influwenza femminili sabiħa billi qraw stejjer romantiċi u pprezentaw ukoll xi riċetti kulinari. Wara nġhaqdet max-xandara Doris Mangion b'esperjenza tal-passat fit-tejtratin, li rnexxielha ssebbah il-qari tal-istejjer li qrat.

Mal-wasla tiegħu f'Adelaide bħala Kappillan Malti, f'Awwissu 1996, Fr. Gabriel Micallef OFM, beda jimla l-vojt tal-predeċessur tiegħu bil-qari tal-Evangeli u l-omeliji, kultant akkumpanjat minn Sr. Josephine Attard li kienet tikkumplimenta s-segment Spiritwali b'messaġġi reliġjużi.

*Ikompli f'pagna 9



Bernadette Buhagiar, Fr Gabriel Micallef u Ron Borg

A proud Maltese ... and an internationally renowned writer

The Voice of the Maltese chose a proud Maltese internationally known writer of ten novels with another on the way for this month's Personality. Dr Lou Drogenik (Zammit) lives in the state of Victoria, Australia

Dr Lou Drogenik

Lou Drogenik was born in Birkirkara (Malta) in 1941 during an air raid. Her Mum told her that as soon as she was born a piece of shrapnel fell on the roof and a stone landed on her bed. Terrified that they were all going to die, the midwife took a glass of water and baptised the little baby.

Lou's dad, a stonemason was working at the Ta' Qali airport digging shelters, and on his way home, someone told him that his house had been hit. He rushed home to find that not only was there a hole in the bedroom ceiling but that his wife had been delivered of a daughter.

Lou grew up in Birkirkara, the village where all her ancestors come from. Her family, from her mum's side a Schembri goes back to 1570, and the Zammit family also goes back to that time. They always lived in Birkirkara, and it is no wonder that this village is engraved in her DNA. It is evident in her novels as when she writes the streets, laneways and people are always there in her head.

Lou attended the government primary school, and the teachers she had were dedicated women who had a passion for teaching. They instilled in her a love of literature and encouraged her to continue studying.

In those days few girls finished primary school; education for girls was seen to be unnecessary as they would eventually end up marrying and raising a family. Lou went to high school in Mdina, that old, beautiful city, of narrow, winding streets. The junior school was opposite the Carmelite Church, and the senior school was in the former Banca Giuratale which now houses the National Archives.

Fond memories of teachers and friends came to her when she returned to those rooms to research the life of Salvatore Diacono for *Beloved Convict*, the book she was writing.

When Lou was growing up and life was difficult, her mum used to lament the fact that she didn't have a male's wings to fly away from the island. "Dad was very skinny, and I always thought that the bones jutting out beneath his shoulders were wings. I too wanted to have wings to fly away. I wanted to experience another life, see mountains and rivers, forests, and oceans. Malta's culture of patriarchy and patronage was suffocating me.

"In the early sixties, when the trouble between the Church and the Labour Movement began, I had the opportunity to come to Australia under the Single Women's Migrant Scheme. I arrived by plane in August of 1962" Lou Dro-



fenik told *The Voice*.

Lou continued talking about her early life: "Those early years of settlement were a great adventure. Everything was new and exciting. I married in 1964, and we have four children and eight grandchildren. I spent forty years working in the Education Department, years which flew past as if in a dream.

"I always used to write, short stories, poetry, and essays, but I never felt confident enough to send my work away. It was at university that I was encouraged to write. The first novel I wrote after I obtained a PhD (La Trobe University, Melbourne) was *Birds of Passage*"

That novel was very well received, and it is one of the books on the undergraduate reading list at Malta University. Dr Lou has written ten novels so far, and the eleventh will be published some time next year.

The Voice asked Dr Lou, which of her ten books is her favourite. "That is like asking a mother to tell you which child she likes best. Sometimes a book is easy to write, the words come quickly, and the sentences flow one after the other to form the narrative. Other times it is hard to get the characters to work. I love Maltese history; I love spending time researching in libraries and archives".

She said that the three novels that took a great deal of research locally and in Malta were *Of Cloves and Bitter Almonds*, *Beloved Convict* and *Love in the Time of the Inquisition*.

Continued on page 7

**PERSONALITY
OF THE MONTH
OF THE WOMAN**

TVoM's personality for November

Dr Lou Drogenik

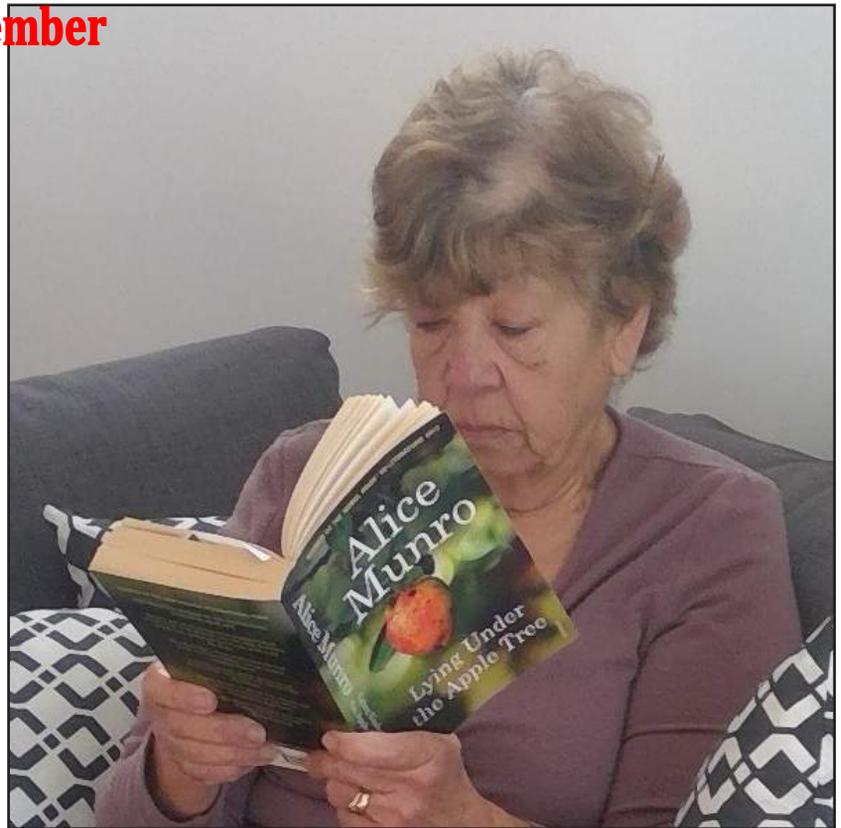
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These three novels are based on Maltese history, and those who read them in Australia observed that they didn't know that Malta had such an amazing history and that the Maltese suffered so much.

Dr Lou Drogenik confided with *The Voice* that in this time of isolation she often thinks of her Maltese ancestors who lived through times of plague and pestilence, of war and rebellion, times much worse than the one we are living through now.

"This thought encourages me to keep on researching and writing," she said.

Dr Lou is the recipient of three Malta National Book Council Awards: in 2008 for *In Search of Carmen Caruana* in the category of Novel or Short Story in English, in 2010 for *Cast the Long Shadow* in the category of Novel in Another Language, and 2017 for *The Confectioner's Daughter* in the category of Novel in Maltese or English. *Of Cloves and Bitter Almonds* and *Beloved Convict* were also awarded the Australian North Central Literary Award.



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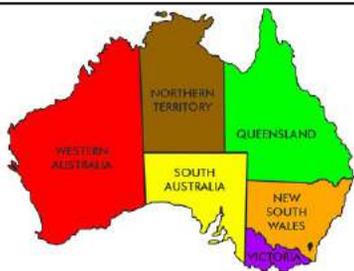
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Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



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 ...

I am for 'The Greater Malta'

Tony Costa from Kew Victoria writes:

Good on Anita Meli in her letter in the November 10 edition of *The Voice of the Maltese*. Yes indeed, let us promote "the Greater Malta" concept.

Malta is a small country, but for a number

of reasons some of its people made their second home elsewhere. We have made Malta Greater as we have built little Malta in Melbourne, in Sydney, in London in Toronto and San Fransisco, to name but just a few.

These courageous people who left their home country to seek a better future remained Maltese in mind and spirit. They built another Malta wherever they went.

Do we really need a High Commission?

Mary Smith from Durham, Toronto, Canada writes:

I applaud those from my community that are trying to pressure the Malta Government to open a High Commission in Canada. But did it occur to them that a HC would be located in Ottawa some 451km from Toronto as HCs are located in capital cities?

With the limited resources available to Malta even if they decide on an HC they will not afford a consulate in Toronto. Would we be serviced better? I wonder? Do we need a High Commission or is there a hidden agenda behind this latest manoeuvre?

Good riddance to Trumpism

Michael Gatt from Elm Grove, Wisconsin, USA writes:

The United States of America has been reduced to a Third World country, thanks to Donald Trump. The outgoing President has let power go to his head after four years at the Whitehouse and though he is a now a loser finds it very hard to come to terms with reality and concede defeat to a better man, Joe Biden.

Donald Trump's attitude is making the US resemble a third world country, or one of those in the east of Europe whose leaders are so attached to their seats of power that they do not care at all about democracy and despite getting rejected by their people cling on to power.

President Trump cannot accept the fact that in just over two months he would return to just being plain old Donald Trump.

The US liked to describe itself as the cradle of democracy. But Trump has changed all that. He is not only a sore loser but I have now read that there are at least a half dozen ongoing cases involving him, and placing him in various levels of legal jeopardy. We are so relieved that see the end of Trumpism.

Tlifna kollox!!

Josie Borg minn Sunsine, Victoria jikteb:

Aħna li ngħixu barra tlifna hafna mis-saħħa li kellna f'Malta. Halli nagħti eżempju.

F'Malta għe pprezentat l-aħħar baġit għall-2021. Saru diskorsi fuq diskorsi, imma kien hemm xi hadd li semma lill-Maltin ta' barra? Kien hemm xi hadd li semma d-diffikultajiet li għandna ma' Malta?

Mank smajna nofs kelma Xejn li xejn! Imsomma anke l-ftit konnessjoni li kellna osfrot anke jekk għad għandna s-CMLA.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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The Voice, u mn'alla

John Agius minn Taree NSW jikteb:

Jien anzjan u noqghod fi nhawi xi fit izolat. F'dawn iż-żmienijiet tal-pandemija alla hares ma kienetx *The Voice of the Maltese* għalija għax tnessini hafna mill-problemi.

Ninsab tassew grat għax abbonat u nirċeviha bil-posta, dejjem fil-hin. Naf kemm hu diffiċli li tiprintjaw dan il-magazin u tim-pustawh meta bħalissa hawn daqstant restrizzjonijiet. Forsi qarreja oħra fit li xejn jagħtu kas dan.

Grazzi mill-qalb, haqqkom midalja, għax qed tagħmlu sforz, u ma toqogħdux biss wara l-kompjuter.

PAWLU CACHIA – kittieb u poeta ta' ħila ... miet ta' etá żgħira

Kull sena meta fix-xahar tal-mejtn, Novembru nżur il-Knisja ta' San Pawl fir-Rabat nagħmel talba qasira għall-eks ħabib u eks kollega Pawlu Cachia li miet meta kien għad kellu biss 27 sena. Tista' tghid li konna bdejna t-triq tal-karriera kwazi flimkien: hu beda bħala ġurnal-ist mat-Telstar u jiena kont fin-newsroom tat-Times of Malta.

It-tnejn konna nħobbu dak li hu Malti u ta' spiss konna niltaqgħu fl-uffiċċju tiegħu biex nitkellmu. Wara xi snin it-tnejn sibna ruġna fix-Xandir Nazzjonali, hu fit-taqsimata tal-Aħbarijiet u jien f' dik tal-programmi tar-Radju.

Niftakar lil Pawlu jinnamra ma' waħda mit-taqsimata tal-programmi tar-Rediffusion. Rajtha ftit stramba għax kont nafu għal snin bħala membru tal-Mużew tar-Rabat. Misken ma damx jinnamra għax il-mewt hasditu għal għarrieda fl-24 ta' Jannar 1974.



Kienet aħbar xokkanti għax lil Pawlu kulhadd kien iħobbu u ċajta kien jaf jeħodha. Kien maħbub ħafna.

Kont insegwih ħafna. Kellu programmi speċjali li kienu jixxandru fl-aqwa ħin tal-ġurnata fuq ir-Rediffusion. Tant kienu tajbin li wara xi snin, id-dirigenti tax-Xandir reggħu rrepetewhom b'xi ftit tibdilt.

Dawn il-programmi marbutin mal-ħajja Maltija ta l - i m g ħ o d d i

kienu jeħdulu ħafna xogħol. Kien jaf sewwa l-Malti u l-istorja ta' pajjiżna, u kien iħobb ħafna r-Rabat, fejn twieled fil-31 ta' Ottubru 1946.

Pawlu kien ukoll membru tal-Għaqda Letterarja Maltija u l-Malti tiegħu kien mifruq fuq diversi oqsma, bħal poezija u kitbiet oħra. Kellu kitba mexxejja, sabiħa u b'Malti li jiftiehem sewwa. Il-kitba tiegħu kien fiha valur letterarju qawwi.

Fost l-innijiet marbutin ma' San Pawl fir-Rabat, hemm dak magħruf bħala ta' Gardenio Botti - 'Inno San Paolo' li



għandu wkoll il-versi bil-Malti miktubin mill-poeta Pawlu Cachia: 'Ejjew ilkoll ingħajtu ferħanin. Illum flimkien għax aħna wlied Rabtin. Dan hu jum kbir ... eċċ, eċċ... '.

ħafna mill-kitbiet ta' Pawlu deħru fil-gazzetti u xxandru fil-programmi letterarji minn fuq ir-Rediffusion. Kien ukoll iħobb ko-awtur tal-ktieb 'Kalejdoskopju' (1969). Kien ukoll iħobb ħafna l-Milied, tant li hu l-awtur tal-ktiejeb 'Il-Ferħ tal-Milied' (1969) u l-ieħor 'Madwar il-Milied' (1970).

Pawlu Cachia kiteb ukoll żewġ rumanzi, 'Żerniq it-Tama' u 'Fl-Aħħar Tirbaħ l-Imħabba'. Rebaħ ukoll diversi konkorsi letterarji u ssemma b' tiffir f' oħrajn. Pawlu kien ħa ħsieb ukoll il-kitba ta' żewġ programmi letterarji mxandra fuq ir-Rediffusion: 'Deħriet Mill-Kitba' u 'Kittieba u Poeti tal-Malti'. Izda l-mewt għal għarrieda tiegħu qaċċtet warda sabiħa mill-ġnien Rabti.

Pawlu Cachia miet fl-aqwa ta' żogħżitu, izda x-xogħlijiet li ħalla jagħtu gieħ lill-kitba Maltija.

Agħti O Mulej
 il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem
 lir-ruħ għažża ta'
PAWLU CACHIA
 li ttajjar għal ħdanek
 fl-eta' hekk żgħira ta' 27 sena
 fl-24 ta' Jannar, 1974
 Halla jikbu t-telfa tiegħu lill-
 Ommu, Missieru, Hutu,
 Nzaputijiet, Qraba u Hbieb.
R. I. P.

GESU, MARIA, GUZEPI

Il-lehen Malti fuq ir-radju f' Adelaide/ikompli minn pagna 5

Minħabba l-iskedi impenjattivi tiegħu f'kunflitt mal-hinijiet stabbiliti fl-istudjo, Patri Gabriel beda jirrekordja minn qabel il-Vanġelu u l-Omeliji. Hu mar lura Malta f'Ottubru 2019 imma għadna nużaw dawn l-omeliji rrekordjati ta' kull ġimgħa.

L-aħħar membru li nġhaqad mat-tim fuq ir-radju Malti fuq 5EBI FM kont jien fis-6 ta' Jannar 2019 wara li ġejt mitlub nimla l-vojt fl-istaff. Ma kelli esperjenza fuq dan il-programm tar-radju qabel, imma kont għamilt xi żmien fuq programm ieħor ta' radju Malti u kelli wkoll ftit snin fuq il-

Community TV Ch 44 bħala prezentatur. Inni wkoll mużiċist attiv fil-banda *Our Lady Queen Of Victories* ta' SA għal 38 sena u għadni nieħu gost fiha s'issa. Aċċettajt l-isfida. Issa zgur li għaddejt il-perjodu ta' *probation* għax wara sena u 10 xhur ta' servizz għadni hemm

Huwa sentiment sabih li naqsam is-sodisfazzjon li jagħti dan is-servizz lill-Komunità Maltija ma' shabi, Bernadette Buhagiar b'kontribut kontinwament għal xi 21 sena u Carmen Debono għal madwar 31 sena. Irrid nammetti li dik li trid tqum

fis-6 am kull nhar ta' Ħamis biex issuq lejn l-istazzjon tar-radju mhix faċli, imma naqbel mal-kollegi tiegħi li jkollna sens ta' sodisfazzjon kbir meta s-semmiegħa jirringrazzjawna u jagħtuna l-prosit fuq it-telefon, permezz ta' l-emails jew xi ittra.

Naturalment id-donazzjonijiet għall-programm huma dejjem milqugħa bil-qalb! Nonqos jekk ma nagħtix ħajr lill-pijunieri ta' dan il-programm tar-Radju Komunitarju Malti, u lil dawk kollha li zammewh għaddej għal dawn l-aħħar 43 sena! Grazzi ħafna għal l-inizjativa tagħhom!

Perspettiva

Bejn ħajja u mewt

Il-mewt hija realtà primarjament tragika – staqsi lil kull min tilef lil xi hadd għażiż, probabbilment ilkoll kellna din l-esperjenza ta' dan in-nuqqas li jidhol habta u sabta f'ħajjina.

Apparti t-traġedja, il-mewt kif ukoll x'jiġri warajha, hija ukoll affaxxinanti, jekk mhux iktar, għal diversi raġunijiet. L-ewwel haġa li tiġni f'rasi hi kif il-bniedem jipprova jagħmel sens minnha. U dan jiddependi fuq it-tweemminijiet u l-attitudnijiet soċjali tiegħu.

It-tliet reliġjonijiet il-kbar Abramiċi, jiġifieri l-Kristjaneżmu, il-Gudaizmu u l-Islam, it-tlieta jemmnu xi ftit jew wisq f'post spiritwali fejn ir-ruħ tal-bniedem tmur tghammar wara l-mewt, u wkoll fir-resurrezzjoni.

Il-Hindu jemmnu li kull ħlejqa għandha ruħ, mhux biss il-bniedem, u li wara l-mewt, ir-ruħ terġa' tiġi irrinkarnata f'xi ħlejqa oħra, u allura l-ħajja u l-mewt huma parti minn ċiklu.

Il-Buddisti wkoll għandhom l-istess idea taċ-ċiklu kontinwu tal-ħajja u l-mewt li tintemm meta l-bniedem ikun fi stat imdawwal ta' nirvana, imma dan iċ-ċiklu jseħh permezz ta' enerġija u mhux ruħ li ma jemmnu fiha.

Fil-formazzjoni ta' ħajti, bħal ta' tant Maltin u Insara oħra, ir-resurrezzjoni jew il-qawmien mill-imwiet kienet suġġett dejjem fuq quddiem fil-ħajja reliġjuża u soċjali.

Il-festa tal-Għid hija bbażata fuq il-mewt u l-qawmien ta' Ġesù fit-tielet jum, u r-resurrezzjoni hija kkunsidrata bħala miraklu kbir, u dak ta' Ġesù kkunsidrat bħala l-qofol tal-fidi għax biha rebaħ il-mewt u ta l-ħajja lill-mejtin.

Ta' Ġesù mhix l-unika storja ta' resurrezzjoni li tezisti fit-testament il-ġdid, hemm ukoll dak ta' Lazzru li kien ilu midfun erbat ijiem¹, u tat-tifla ta' tna-x-il sena ta' Jairus, mexxej ta' sinagoga, li mhux magħruf kemm kienet ilha mejta², kollha b'intervent meqjus mirakoluż ta' Ġesù nnifsu.

Fil-ħajja ta' kuljum, huwa meqjus fatt kurjuż meta tinstema aħbar, mhix komuni imma lanqas daqshekk rari, li xi hadd reġa' beda jferfer waqt li kien qed jittiehed lejn id-difna jew il-kremazzjoni. Tista' timmaġina x-xokk jinhass minn dawk li jkunu prezenti, filli jibku xortihom li tilef xi hadd għażiż, u filli jaraw dak li għalihom huwa miraklu jseħh quddiem għajnejhom.

Naturalment, wiehed malajr jista' jiġi il-ħsieb li forsi d-dikjarazzjoni tal-mewt innifisha ma kinetx magħmula bil-galbu.

Tradizzjonalment, il-bniedem kien ikkunsidrat li jkun miet meta ma jinhasslux iktar il-polz (it-taħbit tal-qalb) u ma jinhassx in-nifs. Dawn mhumiex metodi preċiżi, speċjalment jekk il-bniedem ikollu dawn il-funzjonijiet tiegħu dgħajfa, u għalhekk faċli li jsir żball.

Apparti dan, illum proċeduri ta' CPR (*cardioplumunary resuscitation*) – kumpressjoni tas-sider flimkien ma' ventilazzjoni sfurzata tal-pulmuni mill-halq, kif ukoll id-defibrillazzjoni jistgħu jergħu jqajmu dawn il-proċessi jekk magħmulin f'qasir żmien (ftit minuti) wara li jkunu waqfu.

Illum, il-mewt tkun meqjusa li seħħet meta ma jkunx hemm iktar

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:

<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

Kitba ta' **IVAN CAUCHI**



attività fil-moħħ b'mod permanenti, li jitqies li jfisser li l-bniedem ma jibqax konxju, u allura jinghad li l-moħħ miet (*brain dead*).

L-Ingliża Audrey Mash flimkien ma' membru mit-tim li fl-2019 "reġa' taha l-ħajja"

Il-permanenza ta' dan l-istat huwa importanti, għax bniedem jista' jkun f'dan l-istat waqt koma li tista' tkun reversibbli, meta jkun taħt l-influenza temporanja ta' xi drogi u xi kundizzjonijiet mediċi oħra.

Stat interessanti hafna relatat ma' dan huwa l-*hypothermia*, fejn it-temperatura tal-ġisem tkun taħt 35C. F'kazijiet severi, il-qalb tibda tħabbat iktar bil-mod, u tista' wkoll tieqaf, imma dan l-istat huwa reversibbli, anke wara hafna sigħat.

Eżempju wiehed kien dak ta' mara Ingliża, Audrey Mash, li inqabdet f'maltempata tas-silġ fi Spanja f'Novembru 2019. Meta fl-aħhar waslu sa hdejjha, sabuha b'temperatura ta' 18C u mitlufa minn sensiha. Meta wassluha l-isptar, imexxielhom li jirxuxtawha anke wara li qalbha kienet waqfet għal sitt sigħat.³

Każ iktar straordinarju kien dak ta' sebat itfal Daniżi li fl-2011 waqgħu f' ilma ingazzat ta' 2C, u qalbhom waqfet ukoll għal madwar sitt sigħat, imma ġew kollha rxuxtati mingħajr ma jidher li kien hemm konsegwenzi fit-tul.⁴

Dan huwa r-riżultat ta' rifless li l-bniedem u xi annimali oħra għandhom (għalkemm iktar dgħajfef) komuni mal-mammali akwatiċi, bħad-delfini u l-foki, fejn il-vini jidjiequ, ir-rata tal-qalb tonqos u l-ossigenu jiġi pprioritizzat lejn il-moħħ u l-qalb. Dan isehħ meta l-ġisem iħoss il-kesha u l-innifsejn ikunu mxarra, u jippermetti l-ghadis għal hinijiet twal.

Tassew li d-definizzjoni tal-mewt għad baqagħlha x'tevolvi!

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Australia's worst industrial accident 50 years ago



The 1970 collapse of the West Gate Bridge

Every year, since the collapse of the West Gate Bridge in Melbourne on October 15, 1970, Australia has commemorated the worst industrial accident in its history at the West Gate Bridge Memorial Park. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this year's commemoration was cancelled.

The collapse on that fateful day claimed the lives of 35 construction workers, among them two Maltese workers, Anthony Falzon and Victor Gerada. Eighteen other workers survived, though injured and some of them even returned to work on the rebuild of the bridge.

Many of those who perished were on their lunch break beneath the structure in workers' huts, which were crushed by the falling span. Others had been working on and inside the span.

The West Gate Bridge, one of the busiest road corridors in Australia, is a 10-lane dual-carriageway freeway, carrying five lanes of motor vehicle traffic in each direction.

According to VicRoads the freeway corridor (including the bridge itself) carries a very high volume and occupancy of traffic: a total of between 180,000–200,000 cars, trucks, and motorcycles use it per day. This makes the Bridge and Freeway one of the busiest road corridors in Australia.

The collapse: At 11.50 a.m. on October 15, 1970, the 112-metre span between piers 10 and 11 collapsed and 2000 tons of concrete and steel and more than 50 men plunged into 50 metres to the ground and into the Yarra River mud below with an explosion of gas, dust and mangled metal that shook buildings hundreds of metres away. Nearby houses were spattered with flying mud.

The roar of the impact, the explosion, and the fire that followed could be clearly heard over 20 kilometres away.

The following morning, Sir Henry Bolte (Premier of Victoria) announced that a Royal Commission would be set up immediately to look into the cause of the disaster. The Prime Minister, John Gorton, said: "I am sure the whole of Australia is shocked and saddened by the serious accident at West Gate Bridge.

"Please extend my deepest sympathy to all those families to whom this tragic event has brought such grief".

The Royal Commission into the collapse concluded July 14, 1971.

It attributed the failure of the bridge to two causes: the structural design by designers Freeman Fox & Partners, and an unusual method of construction by World Services and Construction, the original contractors of the project.

Six twisted fragments of the collapsed bridge can be found adorning the gardens in the engineering faculty of Monash University, Clayton campus. It is said by students that they are to remind engineers of the consequences of their errors. Monash University ac-

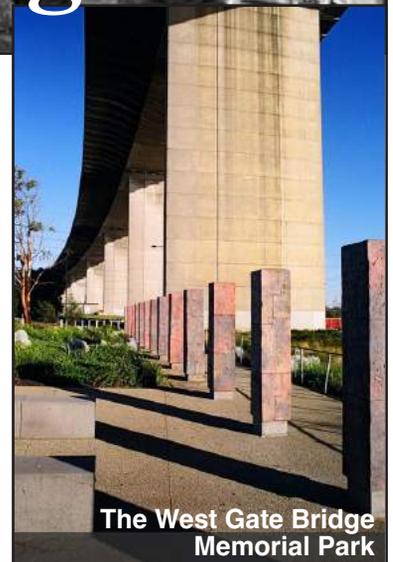
quired these when asked to participate in the investigation of the collapse.

Construction resumed in 1972, with World Services and Construction continuing to fabricate the boxes and to carry out their sub-assembly, but with John Holland Group completing the construction of the steel portion of the bridge.

The bridge was completed in 1978. After ten years of construction, the bridge, a part of the larger West Gate Freeway, cost \$202 million.

The mighty West Gate Bridge spans the 2.5 km of Yarra River that separates Melbourne's western suburbs from its CBD. It is one of Australia's biggest cable-stayed girder bridges. With its distinctive curving shape, the West Gate is instantly recognisable as one of the city's iconic structures.

On the 34th anniversary of the tragedy on October 15, 2004, the West Gate Bridge Memorial Park was opened. It is located on the actual site of the Bridge's collapse and is evocative of the tragedy of workplace accidents while honouring the notion of work.



The West Gate Bridge Memorial Park



The collapse of the bridge into Yarra River



Roundup of News About Malta



Finance Minister resigns to take up post as Governor of Central Bank



After seven years in the post, Professor Edward Scicluna (*left*) is to resign from Minister of Finance and from member of the Maltese Parliament to take up the position of Governor of the Central Bank on New Year's Day (January 1, 2021).

He will replace current Governor Dr Mario Vella who, following approval by the European Central Bank, will resign on December 31 to be appointed Special Commissioner for Economic, Financial and Trade Relations with the United Kingdom.

This in view of the fact that, on January 1, the transitional period of Brexit will come to an end and new regulations will come into

force in different sectors that will have a significant impact on Malta.

While proposing Prof Scicluna to the European Central Bank, the Government thanked the Minister Scicluna "for his impeccable work as Minister for Finance over the past seven years, moving from a situation of an excessive deficit procedure before 2013 to the best European economy."

The Government said that Scicluna's leadership of the country's finances was instrumental to the presentation of successful budgets that created and distributed wealth and changed for the better the lives of thousands of Maltese and Gozitan families.

The Government also thanked Dr Mario Vella for the important work he has done as Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, providing strategic direction for this crucial institution of our country.

The Government congratulate both personalities on their new roles and said it was looking forward to their further contributions to benefit Malta and Gozo.

Creditreform confirms Malta's A+ rating with a stable outlook

Just days after receiving the green light by the European Commission on Malta's 2021 Budget and the health of the economy, Malta has received another positive endorsement by the German Creditreform Rating agency confirming Malta's A+ rating with a stable outlook. It is also forecasting that the country's economy would remain stable.

The agency said that Malta has a track record of "vivid economic growth well above that of the euro area over recent years" and pointed out that Malta's resilience is a result of its diversification in the economic sector.

It said, "thanks to wage subsidies to safeguard employment, the fallout from the corona crisis on the labour market has been limited" and pointed out that several digital sectors had improved their business.

Creditreform said that since the pandemic started Malta fared better than its European counterparts, especially in the first quarter and it further forecasts an economic recovery in 2021.

The report noted the "generally high quality of the institutional framework", adding that "government seems committed to delivering on the continued effort required to satisfyingly deal with rule of law and anti-money laundering".

The German experts are convinced that fiscal indicators would improve and that, Malta's financial situation is "relatively benign in the euro area context".

The experts said that this situation should lay the foundation for a timely economic recovery, and that the weight of the national debt would not exceed 60 per cent of the GDP and that it would diminish once the pandemic is over.

European Commission approves Malta's budgetary Plan for 2021

The European Commission has approved Malta's 2020 Draft Budgetary Plan for 2021 with the EU experts stating that most of the measures set out in the plan of Malta are supporting economic activity against the background of considerable uncertainty the measures would bolster economic activity during this difficult time of uncertainty.

The EU Commission's economists approved the plan a month after it was presented by the Minister for Finance, Edward Scicluna, his last before resigning to take up the position of Governor of the Central Bank.

It indicated it found it to be compliant with the requirements for 2020 with many of the measures intended to bolster economic activity against a background of uncertainty created by the pandemic.

In its analysis, the calculated that direct aid by the government amounts to 5.8%, along with 1.5% of the GDP being received for tax deferrals, and 2.8% in subsidised debt, and that the retained and new measures amount to some 2.2% of GDP and are concentrated on the expenditure side".

The report also noted the strong Government investment in the environment to incentivise circular economics to help Malta attain EU environmental targets including the wage supplement, the vouchers scheme, and a reduction in stamp duty along with the improvement of family benefits and pensions.

The EU experts concluded that the Government estimates on the National debt are on the same lines as its forecasts and would not exceed 60% of national wealth.

The Ministry for Finance welcomed the EU's assessment.

Enforcing the concept of the right to disconnect

In a meeting with the leaders of Malta's largest trade union, the GWU, the Minister within the office of the Prime Minister, Carmelo Abela said that Malta aspires to be one of the first in Europe to succeed in legally enforcing the concept of the right to disconnect, and in the near future expects to have a legislative framework on remote working.

The Minister said that discussions on the first draft of a legislative framework that regulates these two areas are ongoing, and that this is a win-win situation for all and for the country's aspirations for the coming

years that goes beyond this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. These legal regulations would introduce more flexibility for employers and workers themselves while also benefiting the country's economic competitiveness.

While pointing out that Malta has always been at the forefront to protect workers' conditions, he referred to the establishment of the minimum wage, with Malta being one of the first countries in the European Union to introduce the national minimum wage years ago.

Roundup of News About Malta

Chris Fearne joins specialised health group of global leaders

Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Chris Fearne has been chosen to form part of a new high-level global leaders group, One Health Global Leaders Group (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance.

The heads of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Group during the

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week held November 18-24.

The Group, providing political leadership to address this critical global challenge, is tasked with issuing guidelines, advocate for urgent action to combat antimicrobial resistance across all sectors and ensure the

availability of important medicines for the future.

Group members include heads of government, government ministers, leaders from private sector and civil society. The group is co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Barbados and Bangladesh.



Minister Chris Fearne

The group will harness the leadership and influence of these world-renowned figures to catalyse global attention and action to preserve antimicrobial medicines and avert the disastrous consequences of antimicrobial resistance.

Lights up in Valletta for festive season



As part of its ongoing efforts to decorate Malta's capital Valletta for the festive season, the Valletta Cultural Agency (VCA) has set up a 12-metre Christmas tree decorated with around 5,000 LED lights in front of the House of Parliament at Freedom Square.

Apart from the tree, together with the Valletta community and its business organi-

sations, VCA also decorated the capital's main streets, Republic, Merchants, Archbishop and Strait Street.

Inaugurating the decorations, Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera said that whilst adhering to the directions issued by the health authorities during these months of restraint as a result of the pandemic, it was lighting up the city to boost the Christmas spirit so the general public could enjoy it.

On Wednesday (November 25), the Valletta Cultural Agency will also be setting up the crib in Pjazza de Valette, and on December 8 set up special projections to light up the facades in St George's Square.

50th anniversary of the founding of OIF

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo referred to the common values that Malta embraces together with the other countries in the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) during a virtual event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding.

He emphasised the importance of promoting the values of solidarity, democracy and respect for diversity of cultures and languages on which OIF is based, as well as the French language that unites many nations and serves as an important bridge in Malta and beyond.

The event involved students from the Department of French at the University of Malta who read out literature penned by Prof. Joe Friggieri and Dr Immanuel Mifsud, which was aptly translated into French. Their verses were complemented by melodic tunes on the harp of musician Jacob Portelli.

The event, live-streamed on the ministry's official Facebook page, included a short video summarising the messages of the ambassadors of countries that are accredited to Malta and that are members of the OIF.

People with autism to benefit from B'buġa site

Gnien l-Ewropa in Birzebbuga is to become the first playground equipped to be more accessible to people who fall under the wide spectrum of autism. The investment of €100,000 would incorporate an inclusive playground that can be used for therapeutic purposes, aimed at ameliorating their quality of life.

During a visit he made to the garden along with the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi the Prime Minister's wife, Dr Lydia Abela, and members of the local Council, Minister for Education and Employment Owen Bonnici said that just as we believe that no stu-

dent should fall behind in our education system, we also believe that education is not only academic, but recreation that also plays an important part in one's life.

This project, which will be implemented by the Birzebbuga Local Council and co-financed by European funds, would also lead to the embellishment of this open space, in the area known as Tal-Papa.

Dr Abela remarked that a scheme named 'Sens-ability' was recently also launched so that people who are autistic can benefit from funds to acquire a sensory room in the comfort of their home.

The Ministry for Education would be funding part of this project that would also be co-financed from European funds.



Announcing the investment of the playground project at Birzebbuga

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Robert Abela jħabbar bidla fil-kabinett

Għaxar xhur wara li ġie magħżul bhala l-Prim Ministru ta' Malta, nhar is-Sibt li għadda Robert Abela wettaq bidla (*reshuffle*) fil-kabinett li sa ċertu punt wasal ukoll għaliha wara ż-żewġ *co-options* fil-Parlament Malti, u wara li l-Ministru għall-Finanzi ġie rakkomandat biex jinħatar Gvernatur tal-Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta (*ara pana 12*).

Fi stqarrija ntqal li l-bidliet se jissoktaw jikkarakterizzaw il-kabinett bhala wiehed ta' talent u maqgħud, b'element qawwi ta' żgħażaġh u bil-partecipazzjoni tan-nisa kollha fil-Grupp Parlamentari tal-Gvern.

Intqal li l-prijorità tal-Prim Ministru f'dawn id-deċiżjonijiet kienet li l-pajjiż ikompli miexi b'saħħtu l-quddiem billi jwettaq iktar bidliet u riformi li jtejbju l-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-Għawdxin u Maltin.

F'diskussjonijiet imfissra bhala produttivi li Dr Abela kellu mal-Ministri u s-Segretarji Parlamentari, emfasizza l-ħtieġa li l-Gvern ikompli jwieżen lil dawk li l-aktar għandhom bżonn, isahħaħ ix-xogħol u



Miriam Dalli

johloq klima ta' investment, u jhejji lil Malta għall-futur.

It-twettiq fil-kabinett huwa maħsub li jista' jkompli jindirizza u joffri serħan il-mohħ lill-familji, lill-haddiema u n-negozji minħabba li dan huwa "kabinett li hu kburi b'dan il-pajjiż u li jemmen fil-poplu tagħna".

Fost it-tibdil li sar, l-uniku membru fil-kabinett li tilef postu huwa Silvio Parnis li kien Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Anzjani u l-anzjanità Attiva, fil-waqt li ż-żewġ membri li ġew *co-opted* fid-19 ta' Ottubru li għadda, Miriam Dalli u Clyde Caruana, ingħataw ir-responsabbiltà ta' Ministeru.

Miriam Dalli ġiet f'data bil-Ministru għall-Enerġija, l-Intrapriża u l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli, fl-waqt li Clyde Caruana ġie maħtur bhala l-Ministru għall-Finanzi u x-Xogħol.

Justyne Caruana irritornat u ġiet maħtura bhala l-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni

Sandanittant, minflok Clyde Caruana li kien il-Kap tas-Segretarjat fl-Uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru inħatar Glenn Micallef.

↔ Clyde Caruana

Il-kabinett il-ġdid:

Robert Abela - Prim Ministru.

Chris Fearne - Deputat Prim

Ministru u Ministru għas-Sahħa.

Evarist Bartolo - Ministru għall-

Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej.

Michael Farrugia - Ministru

għall-Anzjani u l-Anzjanità At-

tiva.

Owen Bonnici - Ministru għar-

Riċerka, Innovazzjoni u l-Koor-

dinazzjoni tal-Istrateġija wara

Covid-19.

José Herrera - Ministru għall-

Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-

Gvern Lokali.

Carmelo Abela - Ministru fl-

Uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru.

Ian Borg - Ministru għat-Tras-

port, l-Infrastruttura u l-Proġetti

Kapitali.

Michael Falzon - Ministru għas-

Solidarjetà u l-Gustizzja Soċjali,

il-Familja u d-Drittijiet tat-Tfal

Edward Zammit Lewis - Min-

istru għall-Gustizzja, l-Ugwal-

janza u l-Governanza.

Anton Refalo - Ministru għall-

Agrikultura, is-Sajd, l-Ikel u d-

Drittijiet tal-Animali.

Roderick Galdes - Ministru

għall-Akkomodazzjoni Soċjali

Justyne Caruana - Ministru

għall-Edukazzjoni.

Silvio Schembri - Ministru

għall-Ekonomija u l-Industrija,

Julia Farrugia Portelli - Min-

istru għall-Inkluzjoni u l-Kwal-

ità tal-ħajja.

Aaron Farrugia - Ministru

għall-Ambjent, it-Tibdil fil-

Klima u l-Ippjanar.

Clint Camilleri - Ministru għal

Għawdex.

Byron Camilleri - Ministru għall-Intern, is-Sigurtà Nazzjonali u l-Infurzar tal-Liġi.

Clayton Bartolo - Ministru għat-Turizmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumaturi

Miriam Dalli - Ministru għall-Enerġija, l-Intrapriża u l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli.

Clyde Caruana - Ministru għall-Finanzi u x-Xogħol.

SEGRETARJI PARLAMENTARI

Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi - Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej fl-Uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru.

Rosianne Cutajar - Segretarju Parlamentari għad-Drittijiet Ċivili u r-Riformi fi hdan il-Ministeru għall-Gustizzja, l-Ugwaljanza u l-Governanza.

Clifton Grima - Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Isport, Rikreazzjoni u Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji fil-Ministeru għall-Inkluzjoni u l-Kwalità tal-ħajja

Chris Agius - Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Kostruzzjoni fi hdan il-Ministeru għall-Ambjent, it-Tibdil fil-Klima u l-Ippjanar.

Alex Muscat - Segretarju Parlamentari għaċ-Ċittadinanza u l-Komunitajiet fi hdan il-Ministeru għall-Intern, is-Sigurtà Nazzjonali u l-Infurzar tal-Liġi.

Deo Debattista - Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur u l-Indafa Pubblika fi hdan il-Ministeru għat-Turizmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur.



Skont diversi persuni li jikkummentaw fil-midja lokali l-Gvern ma kienx dahħal miżuri biżżejjed biex iwaqqaf l-imxija u kważi ta' kuljum jiktbu biex jittieħdu aktar miżuri. Oħrajn isostnu li l-Gvern irnexxielu johloq bilanċ fil-ġlieda tiegħu kontra l-COVID-19 u wkoll li jsalva kemm jista' jkun l-impjegji u jżomm ir-rota ekonomika mixja.

Ftit kienu jaħsbu li kien hemm min hu tant kontra dawn il-miżuri li sa ħa passi legali kontrihom.

Dan gara meta 62 persuna fethu protest gudizzjarju kontra s-Supretendent tas-Sahħa Pubblika Charmaine Gauci, fejn saħqu li dwar il-każi tal-koronavirus qed jinholoq "paniku nazzjonali" li mhux ġustifikat.

Fil-protest haduha wkoll kontra l-ilbies tal-maskri. Qed jishqu li mingħajr dikjarazzjoni ta' Stat ta' Emergenza, ir-restrizzjonijiet li ġew imposti huma illegali.

Skont il-grupp, il-COVID-19 mhux aktar serju mill-influenza u mard iehor, u fil-każ ta' dan il-mard, id-Dipartiment tas-Sahħa qatt ma kien jipubblika tagħrif ta' kuljum dwar kemm persuni

COVID-19: Issa din isbaħ!

jkunu mardu jew mieta.

Propju għalhekk li fil-protest gudizzjarju qed jappellaw lil Gauci biex tirrevoka deċiżjonijiet, li fi kliemhom, "ma jagħmlux sens" u qed jiksru d-drittijiet fundamentali tal-persuna, fosthom l-użu tal-maskri fil-pubbliku, iż-żamma ta' distanza, l-għeluq tal-barrijiet u l-każini... fil-qosor kull miżura li qed tittiehed.

ħaga li wiehed kien jistenna hi li fost kulhadd, it-tobba u l-*front-liners* hargu qatta' bla habel kontra dawn in-nies li skonthom ma jifhmux il-perikli serji ta' din il-pandemija.

Imbagħad minn sħarriġ li sar mill-*Maltatoday* instab li l-maġġoranza ta' dawk intervistati huma għal kollox kontra kwalunkwe *lockdown*. Minn dawn, 53% qalu li kontra, 37.6% favur u 9.1 ma jafux.

Diffiċili toghġob lil kulhadd. Imma f'każijiet bħal dawn mhix kwestjoni lil min toghġob, imma biss li tagħmel mill-aħjar biex kemm jista' jkun thares ħajjet in-nies.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Il-problema tal-iskartar

L-iskartar tal-istudenti li jattendu l-iskola hija problema li ilha magħna s-snin, għalkemm dan l-aħħar, wara diversi inizzjattivi u miżuri li ttiehdu mill-awtoritajiet, dan kien qed jonqos. Biss jidher li refa' rasu mill-ġdid wara li faqqgħet il-pandemija.

Il-Gvern haqq, li biex ma jimponix fuq il-ġenituri, sakemm iddum din l-imxija, ma jiehux azzjoni legali kontra dawk il-ġenituri li ma jibagħtux lil uliedhom l-iskola.

Is-sistema f'Malta hi li min ma jibgħatx lill-uliedu l-iskola għal aktar minn tlett ijiem f'xahar, u ma jipprezentax ċertifikat tat-tabib, jingħata multa.

Sfortunatament dan wassal li jew għax jibzġhu mill-imxija, jew minhabba traskuraġni, jew xi raġuni oħra, xi ġenituri, mhumiex qed jibagħtu lill-uliedhom l-iskola.

Infatti minn s'fharig tad-Dipartiment tal-Edukazzjoni nstab li bla ma għandhom raġuni valida, 11.5%, jiġifieri 3,558 student fl-iskejjel tal-Istat mhumiex jattendu fl-iskejjel. Atwalment hemm għadd ieħor li mhumiex jattendu imma dawn għax huma meqjusa vulner-

abbli jew jgħixu ma xi hadd li huwa vulnerabbli.

Din is-sitwazzjoni gabet il-kundanna tal-Kummissarju tat-tfal li sostniet li dan huwa inkwetanti għaliex ifisser li hemm għadd ta' tfal li m'huma jirċevu l-ebda tip ta' edukazzjoni mill-edukaturi.

Il-Kummissarju sostniet li "l-iskejjel qed jagħmlu hilitom sabieq jimplimentaw il-linji gwida tal-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa u għalhekk il-ġenituri u dawk li jieħdu hsieb it-tfal għandhom jagħtu priorità lill-attenzenza tat-tfal fl-iskejjel u mhux lil-attivitajiet oħra bħal li jmorru jixtru jew attivitajiet ta' divertiment."

Sar appell lill-Awtoritajiet biex isir dak kollu possibbli halli id-dritt tat-tfal kollha għall-edukazzjoni jiġi mħares. Il-problema hi li jekk bla l-koperazzjoni tal-ġenituri ftit li xejn jista' jsir hlief li l-ġenituri li ma jibagħtux lil uliedhom l-iskola jiġu mmultati.

Imma fis-sitwazzjoni ta' bħalissa mhux għalkemm iġġiegħel lill-ġenituri li bilfors jagħmlu dan. Fuq kollox hemm min ġenwinament jibza' li jekk jibgħat lil uliedu l-iskola jista' jittiehed.

Fil-Parlament Ewropew Metsola Viċi President

Nifirhu lil Roberta Metsola, Membru tal-Parlament Ewropew, għall-hatra tagħha bħala viċi President tal-Parlament Ewropew wara li giet innominata mill-Partit tal-Popolari Ewropej, li jhaddan fih il-PN. Ma kienx hemm aktar nominazzjonijiet u nhatret b'vot unanimu.



Roberta Metsola

Sfortunatament anke din il-hatra qajjmet diskussjoni politika partigġjana billi gie nnotat li filwaqt li l-President, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni u oħrajn ferħu lil Metsola, il-Prim Ministru ma għamilx hekk.

Mistoqsi għaliex, Robert Abela fakkar li Metsola hija waħda mill-aktar persuni li kkritikat bl-aħrax il-Programm ta-Ċittadinanza b'investiment (IIP) ta' Malta.

Abela saħaq li jifrah b'kull suċċess li jagħmel kull ċittadin iżda li fil-każ ta' Metsola għandu riserva waħda, jiġifieri fuq dak li sejjahlu bħala "assedju" li għamlet kontra l-IIP.

Jidher li Metsola hadet għaliha. Stqarret li fil-waqt li ma kienetx qed tistenna l-awgurju tal-Prim Ministru, bir-reazzjoni tiegħu Abela wera kemm mhux kapaci joghla 'l fuq mit-twemmin politiku tiegħu.

Kien hemm ukoll min gibed l-attenzjoni għall-fatt li filwaqt li meta f'dawn l-aħħar snin il-Gvern ressaq xi nies għal hatriet fl-Unjoni Ewropeja, fosthom il-Kummissarji, l-MEPs Nazzjonalisti għamlu l-bsaten fir-roti biex ifixxlu dawn il-hatriet, imma l-MEPs Laburisti ma għamlux l-istess fil-każ tal-hatra ta' Metsola.

Finalment, in-naħa tal-Gvern ferħet lil Metsola waqt seduta tal-Parlament, permezz tal-Whip tal-Gvern, Glenn Bedingfield. Waqt f'isem il-Gvern ferħilha għall-hatra qal li jittama li Metsola tuża l-kariga prestiġjuża tagħha biex tghin lil Malta.

Jagħmlu suċċess

Dwar l-iskejjel tajjeb li nsemmu s-suċċess li qed jagħmlu dawk Maltin anke fil-fora internazzjonali.

Fost kollox insemmi s-sehem ta' studenti Maltin fil-kompetizzjoni Internazzjonali *Supertmatik Mental Math International Competition* 2019/20.

Din hija kompetizzjoni għal studenti ta' bejn is-sitta u l-hmistax-il sena mill-pajjiżi tad-dinja kollha li hija bbażata fuq il-hila mentali fil-matematika (*mental maths skills*).

Kif jidher fil-grafika ta' hawn fuq l-istudenti Maltin kisbu riżultati mill-isbaħ.

Għal dawk li forsi jifixxlu meta jaraw diversi skejjel jibdwew bl-istess isem tajjeb ngħid li f'Malta għandna tliet setturi ta' skejjel: dawk tal-Istat (imsejja tal-Gvern), tal-Knisja u dawk Indipendenti (ta' xi għaqda jew persuna privata).

L-iskejjel tal-Istat huma miġbura fi gruppi; kull grupp jissejjaħ Kullegġ u kull kullegġ (barra dak ta' Għawdex li hu msejjaħ *Gozo College*) igib isem ta' qaddis jew qaddisa.

Fil-lista ta' riprodotta l-iskejjel kollha msemmija huma tal-istat minbarra waħda,

Student	School	Position	Category	Participants
Zachary Tanti	St Nicholas College, Dingli Primary	1	2	3780
Katrina Montebello	St Benedict College, Secondary School	1	8	7630
Nathan Tedesco	St Nicholas College, Attard Primary	2	3	4270
Nathan G Bonello	St Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary	3	2	3780
Zack Cachia	St Benedict College, Għaxaq Primary	3	3	4270
Bianca Spiteri	San Gorg' Preca College, Paola Primary	3	5	7140
Martin Muscat	St Albert the Great College	4	3	4270
Cody Buhaġiar	St Albert the Great College	4	7	8120
Elyshia	St Albert the Great College	5	2	3780
Kurt Scicluna	St Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary	5	3	4270
Gużeppe Schembri	St Benedict College, Kirkop Middle Sch	5	6	6020
Kieran Curmi	St Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary	6	4	4340
Kaden Camilleri	St Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary	8	4	4340
Daniele Cardona	St Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary	9	2	3780
Liam Fenech	St Nicholas College, Attard Primary	9	3	4270

ta' St Albert the Great li huwa kullegġ fi hdan l-iskejjel tal-Knisja.

Maltese Funerals

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A quick glimpse at Australia



The PM on climate change and US new direction



Prime Minister Scott Morrison (*above*) said US President-elect Joe Biden's election won't sway Australia's position on climate change policy but has welcomed the United States return to the Paris Agreement.

"Australia will always set its policies based on Australia's national interests and the contributions that we're making in these areas," he told reporters.

"The United States will make their decisions based on their interests and their capabilities and how their economy is structured, and we'll do the same." The net-zero by 2050 goal is supported by Labor, all states and territories and more than 70 countries.

Labor's foreign affairs spokesperson Penny Wong warned Australia is becoming "increasingly isolated" on climate change. "The reality is Scott Morrison is isolated on climate change," she told reporters.

"He is frozen in time while the planet is warming and whilst friends, allies and economic opportunities pass us by."

Mr Joe Biden (*above*) has also vowed to eliminate carbon emissions from the electricity sector by 2035 and spend \$2 trillion over four years on a clean energy and infrastructure plan.

The Murdoch media "cancer on our democracy" Remembrance day 2020 celebrations smaller but still very important

More than 500,000 people have signed a record-breaking petition launched by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd calling for a royal commission into Murdoch's media outlets in Australia including News Corporation.

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young's push to establish an inquiry into media diversity in Australia will go ahead after being backed by the Senate. A motion by the Greens senator went ahead without opposition from the federal government on Wednesday.

The review is set to focus on the dominance of the Murdoch media empire, the influence of media concentration on democracy and challenges faced by news outlets in the modern digital landscape. Another former prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has also publicly supported Mr Rudd's petition.

Mr Rudd has labelled the Murdoch media empire a "cancer on our democracy" calling for a "national conversation" into the power and influence of its media concentration and conservative political agenda.

According to Mr Rudd, 70 per cent of Australia's print readership - and Mr Murdoch owns virtually every newspaper in Queensland -. The newspapers owned by Murdoch's News Corp include The Australian, the Daily Telegraph, the Herald Sun, and the Courier Mail.

Overseas, it owns publications such as The Wall Street Journal and the New



Kevin Rudd

York Post in the United States, and The Sun and The Times in Britain. Mr Murdoch also controls Fox Corp.

Remembrance Day 2020 marks the 102nd anniversary of the guns falling silent on the Western Front on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month at the end of the Great War. After COVID-19 disrupted Anzac Day commemorations, Remembrance Day services were smaller this year due to social distancing rules.

But across the nation, Australians still stood at 11am for a minute of silent reflection for the men and women who lost their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping efforts.

During the Great War, 1914-1918, over 61,000 Australians were killed serving their nation. A further 155,000 were wounded. All were volunteers. This was a huge human cost, particularly for a nation with a population at that time of just under 5 million people. Total casualties worldwide are believed to number around 20 million people. Such statistics, and the suffering they represent, are almost incomprehensible.

The Armistice, which marked the conclusion of the war, took effect at 11 am on November 11, 1918.

It has become a tradition to pause at this time each year to prayerfully reflect on the nature of these sacrifices and the sacrifices made by the thousands of Australians who have fallen in subsequent conflicts in many different parts of the world.





A quick glimpse at Australia



Calls for a change to the National Anthem

The NSW Premier Gladys, Berejiklian (pictured left) has joined calls to change the lyrics of Australia's national anthem from "we are young and free" to "one and free" to reflect Indigenous Australians as the longest living culture in the world.

Speaking to ABC News, Ms Berejiklian said: "it's about time" to recognise the 60,000 years of Indigenous history on this continent. "I feel for Indigenous Australians who don't feel the national anthem reflects them and their history," she said.

"And I think if we say, 'We're one and free', it acknowledges that we're not really young as a continent. We're tens of thousands of years old when it comes to human inhabitants."

Ms Berejiklian said it would not be the first time the anthem had been changed. The first line of the anthem, for example, has been changed from "Australia's sons let us rejoice" to the current lyrics, "Australians all let us rejoice".

Many times there have been calls fin Malta for the Maltese National Anthem to change the words "Agħti kbir Alla, id-dehen lil min jahkimha" but, we are still stuck with the word "jahkimha".

\$100 vouchers for adults in NSW

Unveiling the NSW state budget, NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet revealed a projected \$16 billion deficit as the state looks to spend its way out of a COVID-19 recession. Every adult in NSW would soon receive \$100 in vouchers to spend in the struggling dining and entertainment sectors hit hard by COVID-19.

As part of the state's 2020/21 budget, Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the \$500 million scheme was designed to encourage people to shop and spend with small businesses and support the local community during the post-Christmas lull.

The Out & About voucher scheme will mean every adult resident receives four \$25 digital vouchers – two to be used for eating at restaurants, cafes, clubs and other foodservice venues, and two for entertainment activities such as cultural institutions, performing arts, cinemas and amusement parks.

Each voucher will only be able to be used once, and cannot be combined. The vouchers cannot be spent on alcohol, gambling, cigarettes, or retail products and could be restricted to weekday use.

(For observers of the Malta scene, this should sounds familiar. The Maltese government issued vouchers to the equivalent of €100 to every person over 16 during the "first wave of COVID 19, and announced a similar measure in its 2021 budget).

Harsher weather conditions expected for Australia

Australia's leading climate scientists have urged the nation to brace for more extreme weather events as average temperatures have increased by 1.44 degrees since 1910 and last year was the hottest year on record.

The country was devastated by record-breaking bushfires last summer, but scientists say most parts of the country should now be bracing for flooding over the coming months.

Delivering their sixth biennial State of the Climate report on Friday, researchers from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO confirmed Australia's climate is continuing to heat up.

Vaccine plant for Melbourne

A new flu vaccine manufacturing plant will be built in Melbourne to guard against future pandemics and provide antivenoms for some of Australia's most deadly creatures.

The federal government struck a \$1 billion, 12-year deal with CSL subsidiary Seqirus for long-term access to influenza and fever vaccines. The company will invest \$800 million to develop a hi-tech vaccine manufacturing facility near Melbourne airport to replace its more than 60-year-old Parkville site.

Work on the plant will start next year with the site expected to be operating by mid-2026 and more than 500 jobs expected to be created.

The existing deal with Seqirus was due to expire in 2024/25, potentially putting Australia at risk of needing to source critical medical products from overseas. The new agreement runs until 2036.



Michelle Rowland MP
Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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

Nhar is-Sibt li għadda miet il-magħruf kittieb u għalliem, il-Prof Oliver Friggieri, kittieb ta' xogħlijiet letterarji fosthom poeziji, rumanzi u studji letterarji, kritiku u ħassieb. Allura ma jistax jonqos li illum niffukaw dwar ħajjet dan il-persunaġġ maħbub minn kull min kien jafu u mill-istudenti tiegħu għal dak kollu li ta lil-letteratura Maltija.

OLIVER FRIGGIERI - kien ġgant tassew tal-letteratura Maltija

Kienet aħbar li hasdet lil kull min jafu dik tal-mewt tal-Prof Oliver Friggieri li miet fl-età ta' 73 sena nhar is-Sibt li għadda, 21 ta' Novembru. Imwield il-Furjana fis-27 ta' Marzu 1947, dan il-ġentlom stinka biex sar wiehed mill-akbar kittieba li qatt kellha Malta u t-titlu ta' Ġgant tal-Letteratura Maltija tassew li jixraq.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li tant kittieba oħra Maltin mhux biss urew is-soghba tagħhom pubblikament imma wkoll fahħru s-sehem kbir li ta, kemm fil-qasam tal-kitba u wkoll bħala għalliem. Mhux ta' b'xejn l-eloġji.

Oliver se jibqa' mnaqqax f'moħħ u fi qlub ta' dawk kollha li kienu jafuh, kemm minhabba kitbietu u wkoll għax għaddew minn taht idejgħu bħala studenti, filwaqt li permezz ta' kitbietu halla legat li se jibqa' jitgawda minn dawk kollha li għandhom għal qalbhom l-ilsien Malti.

Oliver beda l-istudji tiegħu fl-Iskola Primarja tal-Furjana, issokta fis-Seminarju tal-Arcisqof, li wkoll kien fil-Furjana u kompli fl-Università ta' Malta

Fl-1968 huwa ġab il-Baċcellerat tal-Arti fil-Malti, fit-Taljan u fil-Filosofija, fl-1975 il-Masters, u fl-1978 id-Dottorat fil-Letteratura Maltija. Kiseb ukoll dottorat mill-Università Kattolika ta' Milan.

Bejn l-1988 u l-2002 Il-Professur Friggieri kien Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università. Fl-1990 sar Professur u minkejja li saħtu ma tantx kienet qed ittih baqa' xorta waħda jattendi l-Università.

Tul ħajtu kiteb għadd ta' kotba li ħafna minnhom jibqgħu l-wirt tiegħu lill-ġens Malti. Ħafna minnhom ġew ukoll maqluba għal diversi lingwi fosthom l-Ingliż, it-Taljan, il-Macedonu, is-Slo-ven, l-Għarbi u r-Russu.

Kemm bil-kitba u wkoll bit-tagħlim

tiegħu l-istudenti li għaddew minn taht idejgħu baqgħu dejjem japprezzaw mhux biss lilu imma wkoll l-ilsien Malti u huma ħafna dawk il-kittieba li ħassew-hom ispirati minnu biex jgħożžu l-letteratura Maltija.

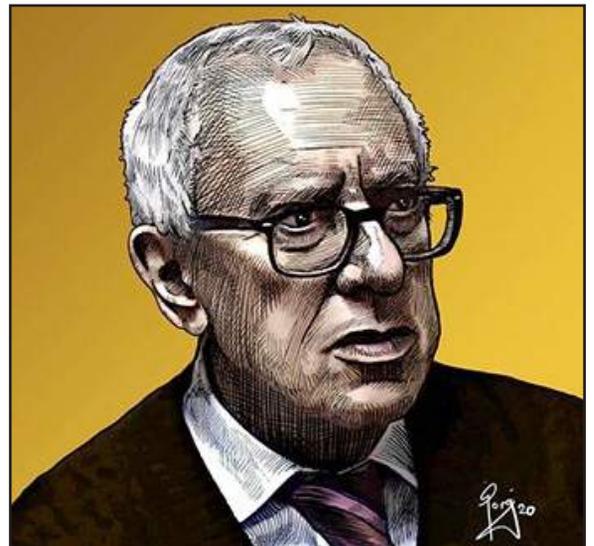
Il-Professur Friggieri se jibqa' miftakar ħafna ċertament permezz tal-21 ktieb li ppubblika tul ħajtu, fosthom ukoll rumanzi. Kotba bħal *Fil-Parlament ma jikbrux ffuri*, *It-Tfal jigu bil-Vapuri*, u *Stejjer għal Qabel Jidlam* huma fost l-aktar popolari, imma hu ippubblika wkoll 250 studji u rivisti akkademici.

Ktieb ieħor ferm interessanti kien dak li kiteb fl-2008, *Fjuri li ma Jinx-fux* li kienet l-awtobiografija tiegħu.

Kien kittieb prolificu u fost xogħlijiet kelli d- *Dizzjunarju ta' Termini Litterarji* u l-lirika ta' għadd ta' xogħlijiet mużikali, inkluż l-ewwel oratorju li qatt inkiteb bil-Malti, *Pawlu ta' Malta*, għall-mużika ta' Charles Camilleri.

Is-sehem tiegħu fil-letteratura wasal biex fl-1999 jingħata l-midalja ta' membru tal-Ordni tal-Mertu. Fost unuri oħra li ppremjaw is-sehem tiegħu, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra minn xtutna, fl-2016 Friggieri ngħata l-midalja tad-deheb mill-Akkademja tal-Malti filwaqt li sentejn wara, fl-2018 kiseb l-unur għall-karriera fil-Premju għall-Arti.

Skont l-Għaqda tal-Maltin, Friggieri kellu ħafna għal qalbu l-istudenti u kien jemmen fihom, tant li meta kien Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università, ra li l-



Tpingija tal-karikaturista Gorg Mallia, eks student ta' Oliver Friggieri

Għaqda verament tkun tal-istudenti, fuq inizzjattiva tiegħu lahaq l-ewwel president student, u kien iqawwilhom qalbhom u jgħegħilhom jemmnu fihom infushom billi jurihom kemm hu stess jemmen fihom u anke minhabba f'hekk l-istess studenti kienu jhobbuh u jammirawh ħafna.

Fl-2013 il-Professur Oliver Friggieri ġie mahtur Chairman tal-Fondazzjoni Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali Maltin.

Il-Gvern ta' Malta sellem il-memorja ta' Friggieri, u fessru bħala "wiehed mill-ikbar awturi li qatt kelli pajjiżna." Ġie deskritt ukoll bħala "patrijott Malti li ħabb u ċcelebra l-identità Maltija."

Il-President George Vella, l-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna, kif ukoll il-Partit Laborista u dak Nazzjonalista fi stqarrijiet separati wrew sogħba għat-telfa tiegħu.

Funeral mill-istat

Fi stqarrija, il-gvern qal li b'għarfien għall-kontribut straordinarju li l-Professur Friggieri wettaq b'risq pajjiżna u niesu tul il-karriera tiegħu se jkun hu li jorganizza l-funeral tiegħu.

L-Uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru ltaqa' mal-familja tal-Professur biex flimkien magħhom isiru l-arrangamenti u jiġi organizzat il-funeral. Imma għadhom ma thabbrux dettalji aktar ta' meta dan se jsir.



War veteran dies aged 97

War veteran Carmel Calafato, who during World War II served in Africa, Italy and France and Germany with the British and whose life “was built on love, bravery and determination” died on November 16 at the age of 97. Carmel fractured his legs some time ago and never completely recovered.

In an interview on TVM last April, Carmel, from Msida, said he had joined the British Army specifically to meet his brother, also a recruit with the Allies. Carmel who was married to his first love, Francesca, recounted that before he left for war he made a pact.

At the time Carmel had said, “War is hell. War is a reflection of hell, a reflection of hell”. He went on to say that the letters that Francesca used to send him encouraged him to keep going, that, and the promise he made to Francesca.

“We promised each other that if I stayed alive, as soon as I returned we would get married”.

Francesca also told him not to forget to write to her and that she would wait for me. “And she did,” he added.

When the war ended he was stationed in Hanover, Germany for eight months, but upon his arrival to Malta the first thing he



did was marry Francesca whom he described as his psychological refuge in his hours of fear and terror in the midst of a world war.

Federal Government loses huge class action

Victims of the botched “robodebt” welfare debt recovery scheme will share \$112 million in extra compensation after the Commonwealth settled a class action brought on behalf of thousands of the victims.

As part of a \$1.2 billion settlement, the Federal government has agreed to pay \$112 million in compensation and legal costs to up to 400,000 people who were affected by the scheme and drop \$398 million in debts it had claimed. It has not accepted any liability.

Labor said it should not have taken a class action to trigger compensation and redoubled its push for a royal commission to establish who in the government knew about the scheme’s flaws.

The “unlawful” robodebt scheme forced welfare recipients to repay hundreds of millions in alleged debts that the government calculated they owed through what was ultimately revealed to be a flawed method.

In a brief hearing in the Federal Court in Melbourne, lawyers for Centrelink said the parties had reached an agreement, which will require the court’s approval. The government also agreed to drop \$398 million in claimed debts, law firm Gordon Legal said in a statement.

The robodebt scheme was scrapped in May, with the Commonwealth announcing it would pay back \$721 million to about 373,000 people, which is included in the \$1.2 billion.

In June, Prime Minister Scott Morrison apologised for any “hurt or harm” people suffered as a result of the scheme.

Robodebt is the common name given to the Online Compliance Intervention, an automated debt recovery programme that was introduced by the federal government in

mid-2016.

The robodebt system was originally introduced in an attempt to ensure recipients of Centrelink benefits were not under-reporting their income and, as a result, over-receiving welfare payments.

The system that was introduced in 2016 really came into action when the automated process detected a discrepancy between the income reported by a Centrelink recipient and the income reported by their employer.

The money is set to flow to victims in 2021.

Maltese Welfare NSW new committee

Nathalie Gatt elected first female president

The Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc. has elected the first female president in its 43 years in existence. Nathalie Gatt, a well-known radio broadcaster from the Central Coast, was elected president at the group’s AGM held recently at the La Valette Centre.

Lawrence Dimech, who held that position for the last 20 years, proposed Ms Gatt to replace him.

The persons elected to form part of the committee: President: Nathalie Gatt; V/President: Lawrence Dimech; Secretary: Frances Montesin; Treasurer: Lawrence Gatt Members: Lino Vella, Marlene Dimech, Elettra Brown, Sandra Grech, Emanuel Camilleri and Carmen Barbara

The Group can be contacted by email at: secretarymaltesewelfareNSW@gmail.com. Website www.maltesewelfare.com.au

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Il-Ministru Clint Camilleri jpoġġi kuruna fuq il-monument tal-gwerra fil-Jum tat-Tifkira



Il-Forzi Armati jagħtu gieħ lill-monument tal-gwerra Kristu Re fit-Tokk

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija
Charles Spiteri



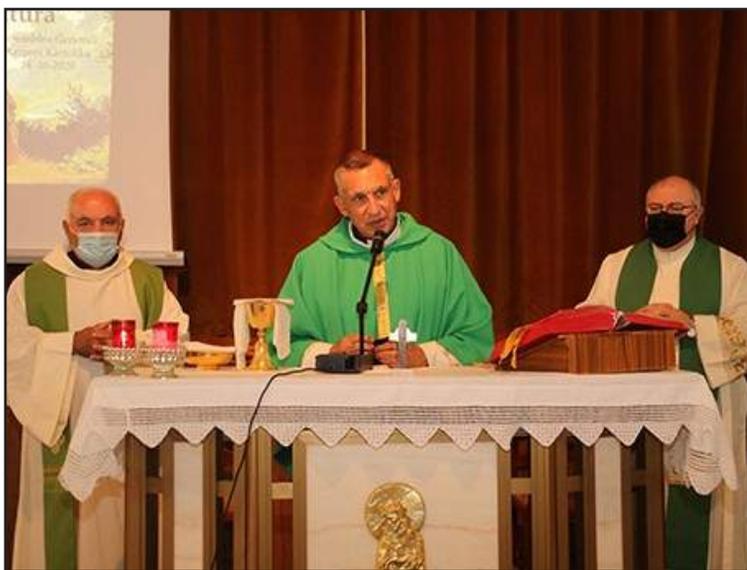
Is-servizz kommemorattiv ta' Jum it-Tifkira

fejn pajjiżna jingħaqad mal-pajjiżi oħra tal-Commonwealth b'gieħ lill-vittmi taż-żewġ gwerrers dinjija tas-seklu l-iehor, sar fil-11 ta' Novembru fi Pjazza Indipendenza, (It-Tokk), bil-qofol tal-attività issir quddiem il-monument tal-gwerra, "Kristu Re".
 Fil-preżenza fost l-oħrajn tal-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, saru ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet li ilhom isiru mill-1921. Sar ukoll id-dhul tal-istakkament tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta, l-introduzzjoni min-Nutar Paul George Pisani, u nqrat silta mill-Evangġelu dwar dan il-jum ta' tifkira. Il-Ġwardjan tal-Patrijiet Franġiskani Konventwali, Patri Joe Xerri wkoll għamel talba għall-vittmi taż-żewġ gwerer Mat-tokki tal-11 am, il-hin li jfakkar il-11-il siegħa u l-11-il xahar

tas-sena, indaqq il-*Last Post* u r-*Reveille*, sar it-tqegħid ta' fjuri u kuruni quddiem il-monument tal-gwerra, kemm mill-Ministru Camilleri u wkoll rappreżentanti ta' diversi kumitati u għaqdiet, u tal-Forzi Armati.
 Ċerimonja simili saret fil-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Għajnsielem il-Hadd 8 ta' Novembru. L-Arcipriet, il-Kanonku Frankie Bajada iċ-ċelebra quddiesa u wara saret ċerimonja kommemorattiva quddiem il-monument tal-gwerra. Sar ukoll diskors mis-sindku Kevin Cauchi, t-tqegħid tal-fjuri u bukketti madwar il-monument.

Il-popolarità tal-muzajk

Qed dejjem tikber il-popolarità tal-muzajk. Dan jidher ukoll fiċ-ċimiterji, fosthom dak tal-Ħniena Divina fi Triq Għajn Qasab fin-Nadur fejn hemm għadd ta' eżempji, fosthom fid-dahla, fuq salib ta' magenb il-kappella, wara l-artal tal-istess, kif ukoll fuq il-lapidi tal-oqbra.
 Lapida li tispikka hi dik ta' Ġesu' tielgħa s-sema minn fuq il-wied tar-Ramla (*taħt*) fejn hemm mibni dan iċ-ċimiterju. Il-muzajcista Mary Portelli wżat hġieġ biex, fuq xewqa tal-familja Muscat, ibbażat il-figura ta' Kristu fuq disinn ta' Lazzaro Pisani (li ntuża biex saret tieqa tal-istained glass fil-knisja tan-Nadur).



Il-bidu tas-Sena Soċjali tal-Azzjon Kattolika

Minkejja r-restrizzjonijiet mill-pandemija, l-Assemblea fil-bidu tas-Sena Soċjali tal-Azzjon Kattolika f'Għawdex saret fid-Dar Ċentrali fil-preżenza ta' delegazzjoni minn Malta mmexxija mill-President Ġenerali Josef Debono.
 F'kelmtejn għall-okkażjoni l-Isqof Mons Anton Teuma heġġeġ lill-membri f'hidmiethom, esprima ringrazzjament għall-isforzi f'li jitwettaq u "wiegħdhom" li dalwaqt jipprezentalthom dmirijiet biex isahhu sehemhom għall-gid tal-Knisja u tas-Socjeta'.
 Fuq: L-Isqof t'Għawdex Anton Teuma (fin-nofs) waqt il-kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni. Jidhru wkoll miegħu s-sacerdoti konċelebranti waqt iċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-quddiesa, id-delegat għall-Katekezi tal-Adulti Mons Gużepi Attard (xellug) u Dun Noel Saliba.



Searching for their roots in Malta

Looking back at the history of football in New South Wales, the Maltese community cannot go past the Melita Eagles later known as Parramatta Melita Eagles (founded in 1956). Their achievements are enshrined in our memories.

The Eagles have performed above their weight when you consider they were competing against far larger ethnic communities like the Italians, Greeks, Yugoslavs, Polish, Jews, Dutch etc. They have also left us a legacy, naming their home ground as Melita Stadium.

Taking a Maltese-Australian team to play in Malta was always on the agenda, many attempts were made but distance and expense keep this dream from becoming a reality. Between November and December 1998, the inaugural sporting and education tour of Malta, the first-ever experiment of its kind eventuated.

Vince Balzan, the soccer administrator, mooted the idea of a tour because at the time Melita Eagles FC had many registered players of Maltese descent that would have loved to go back to their roots.

In just four months the sub-committee raised funds that according to Lawrence Gatt, the hard-working treasurer amounted to \$58,000, a substantial sum some 32 years ago. He also emphasised that financial support came from most of the Maltese community, not just the sporting arena. Apart from the players and administrators, the tour also attracted 30 supporters to travel to Malta as well.

The official party consisted of club President: Doris Drewery, Coach: Vince Balzan, Manager: George Ellul, Physio: Ann

BELOW: The organising committee that was formed to raise funds and assist in the planning of the tour.

Standing (from left): Charles Muscat, Ann Aquilina, Lawrence Gatt, Dorothy Muscat. Sitting: Nathalie Gatt (secretary) Lawrence Dimech, Lee Xerri, Doris Drewery, Diane Vella.

The Melita Eagles squad of 18 players that visited Malta in 1998



Aquilina, and Lawrence Dimech Consul-General. Ann Aquilina was the wife of the then NSW Minister for Education. Their son Bede was one of the 18 players in the squad, all of Maltese descent and under 20

also made to Dr Louis Galea, the Minister of Education in Floriana and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Prof Guido DeMarco, in Valletta.

The Maltese-Australian Association gave them a reception at the British Legion and at the La Valette Band Club and gifts were exchanged between the mayors of both cities. Here they met former Malta internationals Joe Cilia and Ray Farrugia, who both also played for the Eagles.

Special industrial tours were organised, to the Farsons Brewery and the Malta Drydocks where a wreath was placed in memory of workers who lost their lives on the job.

The Australian High Commissioner in Malta, Colin Willis gave the contingent a surprise reception at the official residency at San Pawl tat-Targa. Members from the Malta Olympic Committee such as its President, Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco, and the Secretary, Joseph Cassar, as well as other well-known Maltese dignitaries were also present.

The cultural aspect of the tour was given priority, and many historical sites were visited, including the feast of the Immaculate Conception in Cospicua. The Bank of Valetta, part sponsors of the tour, left no stone unturned to make the visit a success. Their social club also hosted the Eagles group to a reception.

Lawrence Dimech with his vast contacts and experience co-ordinated many tours with the assistance of the Ministry of Education, NTOM, Public Transport Authority and other individuals like Harry Zammit Cordina and George Micallef.

The sporting itinerary of the tour rendered some disappointments because of the inclement weather, in particular the cancellation of the games against Gozo XI.

Visits were

**Continued on Page 22*



A Lookback:

Melita Eagles FC's visit to Malta 32 years ago

**continued from page 21*

The cancellation disrupted somewhat the itinerary as the tourists had already arrived in Gozo. However, the then President of the GFA now MP, Chris Said entertained the contingent to breakfast at a hotel in Xlendi Bay.

Though the weather played havoc with the rest of the itinerary, some matches were played. They included vs. Hamrun Spartans 3-1, vs. Malta U17 1-4, vs. Malta U18 4-1, vs. St Andrews 1-0, vs. Island Hotel Group 3-1 and vs. BOV 2-3.

Malta's FA hosted the contingent to a dinner at the Dragonara Casino where both coach Ronnie Attard and Norman Darmanin Demajo on behalf of the association augured well for future co-operation between Malta and Australia.

On its arrival, the contingent initially stayed in San Giljan then moved to the Bugibba Hotel Complex courtesy of IHG and Reno Calleja, and in nearby flats.

This mammoth achievement inspired our youths of yesteryear to discover their roots, a lesson relevant today as it was 32 years ago.

**Research supplied by Lawrence Gatt*



Ann Aquilina, wife of the Minister for Education of NSW presenting a gift to then Prime Minister of Malta, Eddie Fenech Adami



Jidher li rgajna resqin lejn in-normal

Wara waqfa ta' aktar minn hames xhur kawzata mill-pandemija COVID-19 li hakmet ukoll l-Awstralja, u li minhabba f'hekk l-għaqdjet tal-Maltin kellhom iwaqqfu l-attivitajiet tagħhom, l-aktar fejn għandhom x'jaqsmu laqgħat fi gruppi, issa bil-mod il-mod bdejna resqin lejn in-normal.

L-aktar effettwati mill-waqfa huma l-gruppi li jieħdu hsieb l-anzjani ta' età li minnhom għandna f'hafna fis-subborgi fl-Awstralja. Ta' *The Voice* attendejna għal-laqgħa speċjali li saret dan l-aħħar taħt il-pergola f'Central Gardens fi Greystanes.

Minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet tal-COVID-19 il-grupp tal-MCC im-mexxi minn Marisa Privitera li s-soltu jiltaqa' fis-sala San Gorg

Preca, knisja ta' l-OLQP, reġa' ha l-hajja u laqqa' lill-anzjani fil-miftuh. Jidher li din l-inizjattiva li jiltaqgħu fil-ġnien kienet waħda ta' success.

Minhabba li kienet qorbot it-tifkira magħrufa bhala *Remembrance Day* (11 ta' Novembru), li hafna jafuha bhala tal-*Poppy Day*, li tfakkar dawk is-suldati li mietu fl-ewwel gwerra dinjija, Anna Buhagiar qrat poezija ta' Ruzar Briffa dwar is-suldat Malti fil-gwerra.

Issa diġà bdew l-arranġamenti biex isiru l-laqgħat tal-Milied u kemm dan il-grupp kif ukoll dawk li jiltaqgħu f'Landillo behsiebhom jiċċellebraw il-Milied f'postijiet li se jithabbru dalwaqt.

Grupp ta' anzjani kurenti fil-laqgħa li kellhom taħt il-pergola f'Central Gardens fi Greystanes



Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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 I-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also *On De-*



mand on I-Internet: www.893fm.com.au
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am
Il-Ħadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, taġrif, 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 Thursdays 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

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF

A Solid Gold: music programme with English and Italian timeless favourites Fridays 11.00am to 1.00 pm.

Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm

Also listen on "Tune in" by downloading app and search for the station 2GLF ~ 89.3 Fm - by *Marthese Caruana*



The Maltese Community Council



The umbrella body of Maltese Associations in N.S.W.

MALTESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS

The Maltese Language School of NSW is inviting interested applicants to join our team of casual teachers to teach the Maltese language. If you are a fluent Maltese speaker and passionate about the language, we would like to hear from you. Successful applicants will be provided training and support. This is a paid position.

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Lessons are held every Saturday morning and classes run as per the NSW school terms.

The Maltese Language School of NSW is a division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW
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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.)

L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiet tagħha, 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.



So close as unbeaten run stretched to seven matches

Malta's national football team stretched its unbeaten run to seven matches and came within whiskers of winning UEFA Nations League Group D1 when it met Faroe Islands at the National Stadium. But in the end, after a hard-fought game, it failed to give the players and the nation the satisfaction of victory, as it could not go beyond a 1-1 result.

The final outcome was a disappointment, however, all Malta lauded the players' efforts and the marked improvement the national team has made in this seven-match run. It wasn't just the results or the physical accomplishments. Technically, the players under coach Devis Mangia have shown great progress, enough to win the admiration of the supporters.

The positive run, a record for the national team, included four victories and three draws and a total of 13 goals scored. Malta finished the Nations League campaign in the runner up position with nine points, three behind the winners of the group, Faroe Islands. It is the highest ever position and total of points in a qualifying group of an international competition for Malta.

The match against the Faroes, the 10th meeting between them and the sixth in the last three years, was Malta's third international on home soil in six days. It started with the friendly international against Liechtenstein, which Malta won 3-0 with first half goals by Michael Mifsud, Steve Borg, and a J.P. Farrugia (penalty).

Prior to kick-off, MFA president Bjorn Vassallo presented Michael Mifsud who was making his 143rd and final appearance for the national team, a memento. It was the perfect send-off for the 39-year-old striker who was also handed the captain's armband, and in a fairytale ending he scored his 42nd goal, which is an all-time record.

Three days later Malta secured a 3-1 de-

served victory over Andorra in a UEFA Nations League Group D1. They came from a goal down scored by Marc Rebes, levelled from a Garcia (og) 10 minutes into the second half and achieved victory with other tallies from Jurgen Degabriele and Shawn Dimech.

In the tie against Faroe Islands Malta played second fiddle in the first half but in the second were by far the better team and after having a goal by Luke Gambin disallowed for offside, forged ahead through Matthew Guillaumier (54th min). On 69 minutes the visitors levelled through sub-



MFA president Bjorn Vassallo presenting Michael Mifsud with a memento before his final (143rd) international match for Malta

stitute Ari Jonsson.

Malta dominated the final 15 minutes and pressed for the winner but goalkeeper Getsson denied Joseph Mbong and Guillaumier with fine saves.

Victory not only gave Faroe Islands victory but also promoted them to the competition's Group C

Malta Premier League 2020/21

Top spot now shared by Hibs and Gzira

The Premier League returned last weekend after the break for the international matches, with top of the table clashes between Gzira United v Sliema Wanders and Hibernians v Hamrun Spartans, and two other intriguing matches involving champions Floriana v Balzan and Valletta v Gudja.

As it turned out, Gzira defeated Sliema in a balanced encounter by 3-2, while Hibernians and Hamrun figured in a 2-2 draw. As such, after eight matches Gzira and Hibernians share the top the league ladder with 17 points, followed closely, only a point behind by, Sliema Wanderers.

Hamrun, who have dropped nine points in their last four matches that started with the

loss against Birkirkara and followed it with three successive draws, slipped to fourth a point behind.

Floriana and Balzan drw 0-0 and the champions now share sixth place with Valletta in 12 points.

Promoted Żejtun and Gudja keep surprising the pundits with Gudja holding Valletta to a scoreless draw to take fifth place on 14 points two ahead of Valletta who have a game in hand.

Żejtun Corinthians managed their biggest win thus far by beating Sirens 4-0. Mosta also keep improving and beat now bottom team Senglea 3-1.

DAY 7 RESULTS	
Hibernians v Hamrun	2-2
Gzira U v Sliema W.	3-2
Gudja U v Valletta	0-0
Balzan v Floriana	0-0
Żejtun v Sirens	4-0
Sta Lucia v Lija Ath	3-2
Mosta v Senglea	3-1