



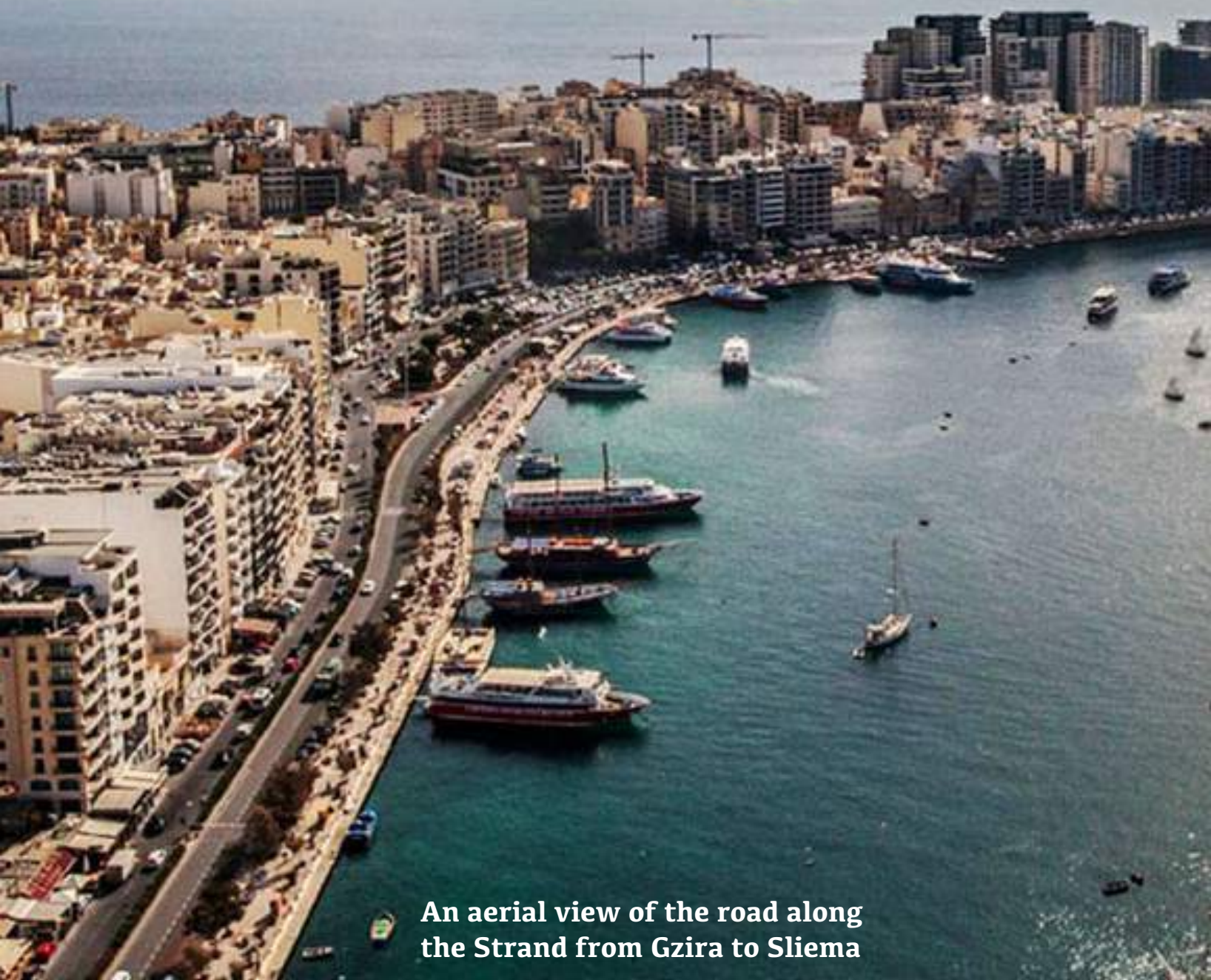
The Voice of the Maltese

We are for the Greater Malta

Issue
245

fortnightly magazine

January 26, 2021



An aerial view of the road along
the Strand from Gzira to Sliema

COVID-19 forces scaling down of celebrations

Tuesday January 26 is the 233rd Anniversary of Australia Day, the country's National Day that marks the arrival in 1788 of the First Fleet of British Ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales, and the raising of the flag of Great Britain. Australia Day is a public holiday.

Captain Arthur Phillip became the first Governor of the colony of New South Wales and the fledgling colony. Fifty years after the landing Australia's first public holiday was announced to celebrate Foundation Day the anniversary of the landing. The inaugural holiday became an annual event and has continued to be held on or around January 26th.

In Sydney, January 26th was referred to as "First Landing Day", and celebrated with anniversary dinners and later an annual regatta on the harbour. Then in the early nineteenth century, the anniversary used to be called 'Foundation Day' marked by sporting events all over the country.

By 1888, all the colonial capitals, except Adelaide, proclaimed 'Anniversary Day' a public holiday and celebrations occurred throughout the individual colonies.

On the 150th anniversary of white settlement in 1938, it was marked with official ceremonies around the nation, and eight years later the Commonwealth Government, States, and Territories agreed that there should be one national day - 'Australia Day' - under one banner and on the same day.

In the bi-centenary year, 1988, the highlight of the many celebrations commemorating Australia Day, was a re-enactment of the First Fleet's trip that departed from Portsmouth on May 13th 1788 and arrived in Australia in early January.

It was not until 1994 that all states and territories endorsed the celebration of Australia Day on the actual day, January 26, instead of the nearest Monday.

Australia Day normally consists of formal ceremonies around the nation along with local fun events, but this year, given the ongoing pressures of COVID-19, they are being scaled down.

In NSW the government is going ahead with celebrations of the day, but restricted. Only those who have managed to obtain tickets would be allowed to attend the WugulOra morning ceremony, while the



Australia Day Live event on Circular Quay will be closed to the public from 5 pm on. Sydney Harbour's traditional event roster will not go ahead either.

Other restrictions on other public and private gatherings in the state are also in place.

At midday, there will be a 21-gun salute held for the first time at Government House followed by a fly past of two fighter jets.

Frontline workers would also be personally thanked by the Governor and honoured in a tribute outside the Opera House.

One big change would be at the harbour. It would be eerily quite with the traditional parade and the tall ships race all cancelled.

However, the show will continue at night

H.E. Ms Jenny Cartmill High Commissioner for Australia in Malta

On Australia Day 2021, we're sending best wishes to everyone from the Australian High Commission in Malta!



It's disappointing that we aren't able to hold an event to celebrate this year, especially after the success of last year's on board the Australian-made Virtu fast ferry, St John Paul II. But health has to be everyone's top priority at the moment, so it can only be an e-event and e-toast for now.

Today prompts us to reflect on what it means to be Australian, to acknowledge our history, and to respect and celebrate the contemporary Australia we've become.

Last year's change in 'Advance Australia Fair' to emphasise our one-ness rather than our young-ness helps remind us all of the strength of our multifaceted community.

Indigenous Australians, as the traditional custodians of the land for over 60,000 years, have a fundamental role and unique status. The generations of migrants who joined them more recently have also enriched our society immensely.

Living here, we frequently meet Maltese whose close relatives took a real leap of faith to travel across the world to the unknown and we think of them especially today.

We look forward to celebrating properly together next year!

No Malta-born recipients on Australia Day Honours list

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia H.E. General Hon. David Hurley announced the Australia Day 2021 Honours List, recognising 845 Australians.

After verifying the database at the office of the official secretary of the Governor-General Canberra *The Voice of the Maltese* found no recipients for the award as having listed Malta as their country of birth. Others of Maltese descent can still be on the list.

Some of the first recipients are recognised, at least in part, for their contribution in support of Australia's response to the 2019-20 Bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic.

In his message, the Governor-General said that the recipients have not put their hand up to be recognised. Most would consider the achievements that they are being recognised for to be 'ordinary' or just what they do.

"Therein is the great strength of our system – recipients in the Order of Australia have been nominated by their peers, considered by an independent process and recognised by the nation. The sum of these contributions speaks to our nation's greatest strength – its people," the Governor-General said.

and the Australia light concert is going ahead with around a thousand seats for frontline workers. As in New Year's Eve, crowds will be banned along the foreshore.

Citizen ceremonies will take place although mostly for invites only or held online. The general message is to stay local.

Australia Day is never one of the dates on the calendar that is free from controversy. Despite restrictions, an Invasion Day protest, limited to 500 people under current regulations is set to go ahead in Sydney.

In a release, organisers said oppression-facing First Nations communities were too urgent not to proceed with a mass protest demanding change, even if it breaches the regulations. However, organisers have confirmed that they will have a COVID-19 safety plan, including mandating mask wearing and social distancing.

**Continued on page 3*

Chirelle Ellul Sciberras is to be the next Consul General for the State of Victoria

The state of Victoria is to have a woman as its next Maltese General Consul. Thanks to our reliable sources, *The Voice of the Maltese* has learned that Victoria's new Consul General will be Chirelle Ellul Sciberras.

Although her appointment is yet to be officially announced by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and officially approved by the Australian Government (a routine procedure), our sources indicate that Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras, accompanied by her husband Alan and their young daughter, is expected to be in place around May.

The "new" Consul General would be re-

placing HE Mario Farrugia Borg who has been appointed Malta's High Commissioner at the Canberra Chancery.

Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras is a career diplomat since 2013. She has also served for four years as First Secretary at the Malta High Commission in the UK.

She obtained BA Honours in European Studies in 2009, and a year later the MA in Diplomatic Studies. She is also the author of the book: *Europe: On the verge of Losing its Civilian Identity*, which is the thesis by which she obtained her BA at the time.

Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras ►
(picture from her Facebook page)



Mario Sammut named Latrobe City's 2021 Senior of the Year

Mario Sammut OAM (left), born in the village of Lija in Malta who emigrated to Australia around 38 years ago, and currently lives in Gippsland, has been selected as Australia Day 2021

Senior of the Year after being nominated for the award by the Latrobe City community for his "dedication and commitment to the people of Latrobe City".

The award to Mario is one way that the Latrobe City Council and the citizens of Latrobe can show their appreciation to people who are dedicated to serving the community.

Mario arrived in Australia in 1983, and for the past 32 years has been serving as Hon. Consul for Gippsland, that also incorporates Latrobe Valley. He is probably the longest serving Hon Consul in the whole of Australia.

He has worked under four Australia Prime Ministers, seven High Commissioners and soon, with the projected appointment of Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras (see leading article above) under seven Consul Generals.

For several years, he also formed part of the Morwell Community Health Centre, and Secretary and President of the Latrobe Valley Migrants Resource Centre. He is also a current member of the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad.

For the past 32 years, he has also been involved with the 3GCR Gippsland FM radio where he produces the

Maltese Festa, Maltese Museum nominated for Event of the Year award

Maltese radio programme and the Breakfast Show in the English language.

He is also doing voluntary work at the local council and involves himself in many local committees that include the Tourism and Major Events Advisory Committee, and the Latrobe City Cultural Diversity Committee.

When Mario first arrived in Morwell, the Maltese community already had its Maltese Association, however, in 1986, after being chosen as President of the association, with the help and the generosity of the Maltese community, he founded the Maltese Centre of Latrobe Valley. He still holds the position although for a few years he had to forego the position due to his work that took him away to Melbourne.

In 2012 he was awarded the OAM, and in 2016 was a member of the organising committee of the *Festa Maltija*. However, in 2018 he formed a new committee to organise the event. It won the Latrobe City Event of the Year at the Australia Day awards, and also last year's.

Along with Mario Sammut's brainchild, the Maltese Museum dedicated to Maltese culture and traditions which was inaugurated last year in Morwell, this year the Latrobe Valley *Maltese Festa*, has again been nominated in the Event of the Year Category in the Australia Day Awards programme. Both form part of the Maltese Centre.

Although the two events have not won this year's awards, the Latrobe City Council formally has recognised their service to the community and is presenting them with a special Latrobe City Australia Day medal.

Australia commemorating National Day during COVID

**from page 2*

In Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews recently warned people not to attend mass gatherings, whether in support or protest of Australia/Invasion Day. He said it wasn't about what they are gathering for, but about gathering in a safe way.

Throughout Queensland events and award ceremonies are being held, though restrictions are still in place in parts of the state.

Western Australia's COVID-19 restrictions are famously minimal, providing one is not trying to cross the border. However, gatherings and events will occur across the state.

South Australians have several options for Australia Day events. Pop-rock band Birds of Tokyo are headlining the state's signature Aus Day in The Arena event in Adelaide, with limited tickets to ensure the event is COVID-19 safe.

In Northern Territory, events both commemorative and celebratory will be taking place from the Top End to Alice Springs and beyond.

Canberra and surrounds likewise has some looser restrictions, but events of more than 200 people will need to make sure they're okay to proceed. The city is home to the Great Australian Picnic at Lake Burley Griffin, but attendance is by tickets only.

My Fifties: Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian

Joseph Lanzon

Our pastimes as kids in the Cottonera area

I did some of my courting on a bench near Cuvre Porte, outside Birgu (Vittoriosa), with magnificent panoramic views of Senglea, Valletta and the Grand Harbour. This bench overlooked a place of shrine known locally as 'Where they found the Lord'.

In 1837 a chalice with hosts was stolen from the nearby church of St. Theresa. It had created revulsion in a religious Malta. Intensive searches to find the chalice proved futile. However, a small boy playing at the entrance of Birgu found it. The thief was imprisoned, but in 1839 a fellow prisoner murdered him.

Comics infatuated me. I used to wait anxiously every Friday evening to buy the British comics. I loved *'The Beano'* with its characters of Lord Snooty, Biffo the Bear and especially Dennis the Menace; *'The Dandy'* with its Korky the Cat, Hungry Horace and especially big and strong Desperate Dan; and *'The Eagle'* with Colonel Dan Dare the spaceship pilot. Other comics that I and other kids bought some of the time, included, *Tiger, Lion, Valiant, Beezer, Topper, Wizard, Hotspur* and *Knockout*.

I also loved the American comics, especially *Classics Illustrated* with its famous stories; *Topix* which mainly portrayed stories of the life of Jesus; *Superman*, *Spiderman* and the cowboy comics. Today at the age of 84 I still love comics.

The Talkies

In the Fifties the cinema, which we used to call "Talkies" was practically the only entertainment. The main feature films on screen were preceded by short ones of the Three Stooges, Mr. Magoo, Tom and Jerry and, of course, the Pathe News.

Later, Cinemascope was introduced. It left filmgoers spellbound. However, then came the 3D films for which one had to wear special plastic spectacles. It was awesome! You felt you were right there in the thick of things.

As for film stars, who can forget Gary Cooper, James Stewart, Clark Gable, Paul Newman, Jack Palance, Peter Cushing, Doris Day, Ava Gardner, Jennifer Jones, Susan Hayward, Elizabeth Taylor, Kim Novak and Marilyn Monroe?

One day, my father came beaming from his Saturday visit to Valletta. He had gone to Petrolea the home store and saw the new unbreakable Pyrex dinner plates. To im-

press his customers with this invention, the shop assistant, had purposely dropped the plates on the floor and, they were still intact.

My father bought a set and returned home with a smile on his face. To impress us, he dropped a plate on the floor in front of us. It broke into a hundred pieces!

As residents of Cottonera, we had a choice of how to travel to Valetta, either by bus or by ferryboat. For the price of only two pence we could go to Senglea or continue the journey to Valletta. The boat was always packed with students, workers and shoppers. The boat trip was much more exciting, adventurous and faster than the bus.

From the landing place in Valetta we took the lift to Upper Barakka. The lift frightened me no end because when I looked down as we were on the way up, the ground seemed miles away.



The ferryboat that used to take passengers to Marsamxett from Birgu and Sliema

There was a ditty in Maltese that I still remember vividly. This is a liberal translation in English.

*"The ferry boat goes to and fro
From Cottonera to Marsamxett.
(or from Sliema to Marsamxett)
The captain with a smoking pipe in his
Mouth piloting the ferryboat.
Midway through the trip,
The captain felt sick.
There was nobody to assist him
So the sailors had to look after him"*

Our games as kids

In the fifties, children played with the *Meccano*; the *Subbuteo* table football game; the board games of *Snakes & Ladders*, *Ludo* and *Domino*, and collected *Dinky*, *Matchbox*, and *Corgi* model cars. We used to enjoy ourselves with stamp collecting and the collections of various pictures found in packets of red-tipped sweet cigarettes.

When it comes to outdoor games in our streets devoid of cars, we played *'Gwerrija Franċiża'* with two teams facing each other

and *'Xixu'* resembling a cricket match. We also kicked around small balls made of multi-coloured cloth costing a penny each.

Boys played with small coloured marbles (*boċċi*) and the girls had their beads (*żibeg*). There was no Internet at the time and we used to correspond by letters with pen friends, mostly from the UK, as recommended by our teachers to help us learn the use of the English language.

They also helped us learn how other people in different counties lived. For many years I had three such pen pals with whom I used to correspond with. Sometimes I wonder what happened to them.

Popular characters

In my youth in our area, there were three particular characters that, despite the passing of over 70 years, are still indelible in my mind. One of them was *'Jakkie the Lamplighter'*.

He worked at the Electricity Department and had the responsibility to switch on and off the streetlights in Bormla.

Jakkie used to open a small box in front of our house with a heavy key to switch on or off the street lighting. Sometimes he would forget to do it and we either remained in total darkness in the evening and night or the street remained all lit up during sunny days in the

morning.

Then there was *'Susie the Pot Mender'* who used to place herself at the end of our street and mend pots, pans, kettles and other utensils.

She was a robust woman with a strong manly voice. The children were terrified of her. However, she had a heart of gold.

It was said that on one particular occasion she risked her life to save a child from a burning house. While watchers and neighbours stood around afraid to enter the burning inferno, Susie unhesitatingly, bravely plunged in and after searching inside the house for some time, eventually came out carrying the child safely in her arms.

I also remember *'Karusu the goat herder'* leading his two goats with small bells around their necks come down our stepped street shouting "Fresh milk! Fresh milk!" Women would come out of their houses carrying tin mugs or small pitchers that he would fill up with warm foaming milk after milking the goats.

**Continued on page 5*

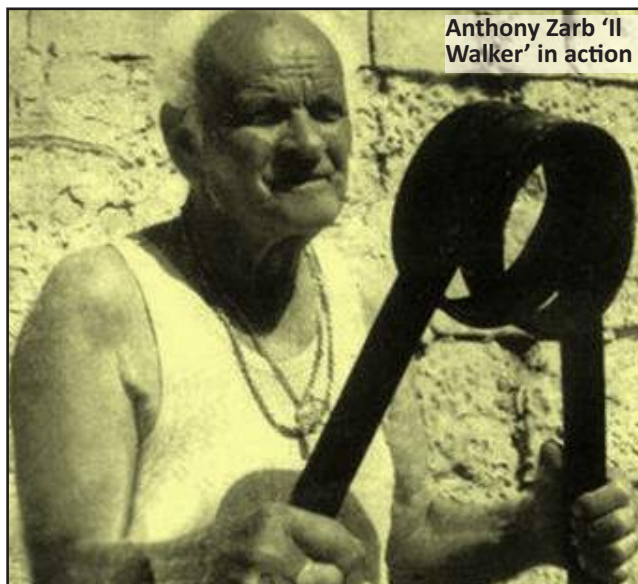
My fifties: Keen on football

**from page 4*

I loved football and used to go to the Empire Stadium in Gzira to watch football matches there. Of course, I supported St. George's, the team belonging to my hometown, Bormla. It was a mediocre team at the time, but it was one of the first football clubs in Malta in 1890..

At the interval, during matches of some importance, the Police or the Armed Forces band marching around the pitch entertained us.

Other entertainment, especially if Valletta were one of the clubs performing, or during other important match, a man from Valletta, Anthony Zarb, otherwise known as Il-Walker provided other entertainment. Il-Walker was a popular character.



Anthony Zarb 'Il Walker' in action

He would come onto the pitch dressed in shorts and vest to display his strength by bending iron rods. In spite of his age he used to wrap up his show by running around the ground to the boos from a section of the crowd, and the cheers of others. He was an affable person and was loved by all.

He reminded me of Desperate Dan, a strong character from the 'Dandy' comics.

Heritage Malta webinar recounts Obscure tales in Mdina and Rabat

On Tuesday, January 26, Heritage Malta is organising an interesting webinar titled Obscure tales about Mdina and Rabat that will enable viewers to embark on a virtual tour and wander down murky alleyways and dark catacombs, inside grand palaces and beautiful churches, each with a story to tell.

The webinar will be full of stories of bloodshed that left its mark on the history of our country, or even changed its course. "Malta Oskura: Rabat and Mdina," will be in Maltese, with English subtitles. It will consist of a 20-minute virtual tour to be followed by a question and answer session. It starts at 8.30 p.m. (Central European Time (CET))

To register one should go to the link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RyQQecoLQEI-p5PpHJJtoQ](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RyQQecoLQEI-p5PpHJJtoQ)

The virtual tour will later be available to download against payment.



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High Commission of Malta - Canberra

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Introduced ways to benefit community

Everybody wants to be able to leave a legacy for those who come after. Some begin to think in these terms only later in life, whereas George Saliba OAM of Melbourne was encouraged to think about such issues at a younger age.

George Michael Saliba

Testimony to George's sheer determination is his involvement in setting up the Malta Amateur Football Association (MAFA) while still in his late teens in 1955 in Malta. Today, the MAFA is the second biggest football body in Malta.

George, born in Senglea, Malta in 1936, carried this enthusiasm with him to Australia, where he was determined to make a difference in a way that would benefit his new community.

He arrived in Melbourne, Australia with his wife Lena in 1958 and settled in Newport. They have been married for 62 years and have two children and two grandchildren.

George's working career in Australia spanned from his arrival in 1958 till his retirement in 1995. During this time he worked his way up from electrical fitter to Divisional Manager at Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company.

In 1983 he was offered a position at the Public Transport Commission as Senior Electrical Training Officer which he occupied till his retirement.

In 1973 George Saliba, whose hobbies include playing golf, following soccer and Aussie rules, was one of the founding members of the Newport Maltese Association and was the Association's first President-elect, a position he held for 22 years. During this period of time, he worked vigorously to make the Newport Maltese Association what it is today, one of the pillars on which the Maltese Community of this state is built.

In 2003, George was also appointed co-ordinator of the Association's Seniors Group that has 400 members on a regular basis every Wednesday to socialise and join in various competitions and activities.

For 16 years, after being elected for the position, and until his retirement, George served as Senior Vice President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. At the same time he also chaired the Management Committee and acted as Coordinator-Maltese Cultural Festival.

In 2002 he was petitioned by members of the MCCV executive to stand for the Vice Presidency and for the next six years, once again held that position.

Fundraising for the Maltese Community Centre Building Project at Parkville, Victoria was always a top priority. Through his leadership and sheer determination, the Newport Maltese Association raised in excess of \$300,000 for the building fund, an achievement unmatched till today.

One of the earliest fundraising activities that George helped create for the Maltese Community in the state of Victoria was the "Miss Maltese Community of Victoria Quest". During its run of 15 years, the quest raised \$400,000 for the Maltese Community Centre building fund.

In 1980, George was instrumental in helping to organise the first-ever Maltese Song Festival and went on to present the 1981 and 1982 festivals at the Melbourne State Theatre, and the 1983 Festival at the Melbourne Town Hall. These activities were met



George Michael Saliba with his wife Lena. They arrived in Australia in 1958

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with great success, and many new Maltese/Australian talent was discovered.

As part of the "Melbourne International Festival 1997" George worked alongside

Professor Tony Sagoma of the Melbourne University to organise an exhibition titled "Islands in the Sun, Cultural Contact in the Maltese Archipelago". The exhibition, which ran for seven weeks, displayed a large range of Arts and crafts by Maltese artists to the general public

George has always been a lynchpin in the organisation of the annual "Maltese Cultural Festival". He coordinated the opening of the first Festival at the City Square in Swanston Street, Melbourne Victoria (1977) to promote Maltese culture among other nationalities, and has been involved with the Festival since its inception.

Since becoming President of the Newport Maltese Association, George was in continuous service to the community both as a committee member at Newport and as an Executive Member of the MCCV. Much that has been achieved at both levels has been the result of his tireless efforts and his strong commitment to advance the interest of the community. He has provided great leadership and inspired many committee members to excel in their efforts.

For the past 47 years, he has worked very hard on activities aimed at developing the Maltese Community in every aspect with some outstanding results to his credit. His dedication to making a better world for members of the community, especially among the elderly citizens, is as strong as ever.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Community Service, in 1999 at the Victoria University, St Albans Campus, George Saliba was awarded the "Manuel De Vilhena Award" under the patronage of then Prime Minister of Malta Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami.

In November 2007, he was presented with an award for "Excellence in Multicultural Affairs" by the Governor of Victoria Prof. David De Kretser, AO at Government House. In September 2011, in recognition of valuable contributions to the Maltese Community, he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) by his Excellency the Governor of Victoria, the Honorable Alex Chernov AO, QC at Government House.

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

HOLD THE PHONE! Modern communications and family law matters

by Paul Sant

After you and your partner have separated, you might be tempted to send them a text message 'venting' about any number of things, or send them an email, telling them what you really think. You may feel the urge to write a post on social media.

We encourage you to pause before hitting the send button. If you might end up in court to litigate over time with your children, a property settlement, or both, it is wise to resist those temptations.

The same applies if your child is going through a separation – an email you send or Facebook post you write or share, even with the best intentions to defend or protect your child, could end up before a Judge!

Texting and emailing with your former partner

We recommend trying a 'less is more' approach, in regards to written communications via text message or email with your former partner. Contain communications to only essential matters.

Written words can be misunderstood, without hearing a tone of voice or seeing body language. Try to be mindful of how your communications may come across when read by your former partner.

You must be mindful that any communication you have with your former partner is likely to be shown to their lawyer, and could end up in front of the Judge who is making decisions about your children and/or financial future.

Social media

If you have made a decision to leave a broken down relationship, it might feel empowering to write a post about it. However, stop and ask these questions before you click post:

Do I have mutual contacts with my ex? Is my account public? Who am I sharing this with? Why? Are there potential negative consequences? Would it be more helpful to talk to someone?

Be selective in who you share written communications with. Nearly all data is recoverable, even if you delete it. If the recipient did not, it will remain in existence.

If it was posted on social media or a messaging application, the organisation such as Facebook or Twitter usually retain ownership of your "publication". Documents that exist can be subpoenaed. An emotional post could end up being evidence in court.

Not only can tweets, Facebook posts, images with amusing quips, or 'memes' shared on your Instagram story referring to or tagging your ex in, end up as evidence in family law proceedings. Social media posts might even result in going to court for defamation.

Defamation case study: Dabrowski v Greeuw (2014)

A separated wife in Western Australia wrote this post in December 2012 on her public Facebook account: *'separated from Miro Dabrowski after 18 years of suffering domestic violence and abuse. Now fighting the system to keep my children safe'*.

Her former husband was a schoolteacher. After his brother told him about the post, he took Ms Greeuw to court for defama-

tion.

Ms Greeuw relied on justification in defending the defamation claims. The Judge held that there was no independent evidence to support the defamatory imputations about her former husband that were found to have resulted from her post:

1. Ms Greeuw was subjected to domestic violence at the hands of Mr Dabrowski over a period of 18 years;
2. Ms Greeuw was abused by Mr Dabrowski over a period of 18 years;
3. Their children are not safe in the presence of Mr Dabrowski.

Ms Greeuw also told the Judge she was unfamiliar with Facebook and did not realise her post had been set to public, meaning that anyone around the world could view it.

The Court ordered Ms Greeuw to pay \$12,500 in damages to her former husband. The husband sought a higher amount, due to his role as a teacher and affect of the post on his reputation.

The Judge found that no financial loss was suffered. The post was made in the context of a relationship breakdown, and was removed after about 6 weeks.

Moral to the story

In Australia, defamation laws vary between States. There is certainly no automatic entitlement to money, and succeeding with a defamation claim is not simple.

If your former partner has posted about you, legal advice unique to your situation may focus on having the post removed, not on actually pursuing defamation in court.

Alternative method

It is as quick and easy to send or share something, as it is for written words to be taken out of context, or used against you in future. Pick up the phone and call a friend.

If you are feeling overwhelmed, you can discuss underlying issues in a safe and healthy manner through 24/7 telephone counselling services: 1800 RESPECT; Lifeline on 13 11 14.

If you wish to move on and finalise matters after separation, call a family lawyer. My office number is in the advert on the left.

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




PAUL SANT
(SOLICITOR)

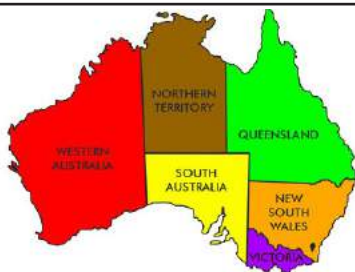
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Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



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.



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

“Invasion Day”: but who was it that invaded Australia?

Joseph Buttigieg from Toongabbie NSW writes:

There's no doubt that on Australia Day there will be people marching in protest calling it 'Invasion Day'.

Someone should ask these people the question: Who invaded Australia? Was it the Aussies living here today or maybe all

of us migrants who came to this country to give the Aussies a helping hand and make Australia Great?

The answer is simple: It was England who decided to set up penal colonies in this country, so if these people marching in protest want to vent their frustrations, perhaps they should go to Canberra and wave their placards to the British Embassy.

Let's imagine for a moment that I was a Jew in Germany during the war, so on my way to the gas chambers, do I curse my parents for bringing me into this world as a Jew? They say give someone an inch and he'll take a mile.

First we were forced to say 'sorry' now we changed the wording in the national anthem to say 'one' instead of 'young', so what's next – change the constitution I guess, to say what?

When Jesus Christ was condemned to death and the Jewish mob cried out 'crucify Him, crucify Him, His blood will be upon us and our children', Should us Christians demand the State of Israel to say 'sorry' for condemning Jesus to the cross?

I went for a holiday in the Northern Territory about a year ago and saw Indigenous people everywhere. They all looked happy with their lives mingling with the locals and doing the shopping like everyone else.

Many of them were well dressed and with mobile phones glued to their ears and driving late model cars like the rest of the locals.

What is it with SBSTV?

Mark Meli from Lalor Park NSW writes:

When you prefer a normal basketball USA game to community news, it is a clear sign that Viceland SBSTV has lost the plot.

On Sunday 10th January, we again started the year on the wrong note. There was no Maltese programme.

But what is highly offensive is that SBS broadcast no explanation. Is it too much to ask? What is wrong with these people? Kick the lot of them out. They do it so often that they have neutralised the critics, but not this one.

Shame on you SBSTV!

Only in The Voice

John Desira from Gympie Bay NSW writes:

I must congratulate you on your last two editions. The Maltese community is proud of your magazine. So many important people are putting their endorsement, from Prime Ministers to Ministers, especially the newly appointed Minister for Immigration.

Congratulations to Mark Buttigieg MLA for acknowledging his ancestry with so much pride. Well done!

Il-Kummissjoni Emigranti u l-bidla fid-direttur tagħha

Jason Vella Middle Park, Victoria jikteb:

Qrajt b'dispijaċir li Mons Alfred Vella spicċa minn Direttur tal-Kummissjoni Emigranti ta' Malta. Ahbar li f'dawn in-nahat waslitilna hames xhur wara. Illum din il-kummissjoni tidher aktar mitfugha fuq ir-refuġjati għax jekk tmur fl-uffiċċji tagħhom il-belt ikunu mimlija bihom.

Izda meta l-Arcisqof jgħidilna kemm għandu nuqqas ta' saċerdoti mhux ahjar li kieku hatar xi lajċi bħala direttur milli saċerdot? Forsi wkoll wasal iż-żmien li jahseb fina.

Nistenna li jiftakar f'dawk li ilhom l-Awstralja 30 sena u ma jafux bl-Ingliż. Nahseb li jkun ahjar li kieku jikkommunikaw f'itkar mill-qrib mal-Kummissjoni Emigranti dwar dan.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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L-organista Dun Karm Xerri u l-kunċerti tiegħu fil-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann

L-interess tiegħi fil-mużika beda ta' età żgħira. Naturalment, l-ambjent tal-familja, li n-naħa ta' missieri kienu dejjem imdahhla fil-mużika, kien ta' siwi, imma llum ngħid li l-ewwel imħabba kienet meta kont nattendi l-kunċerti tal-organista Dun Karm Xerri tan-Naxxar fil-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann.

Niftakar li wara l-kunċert, Dun Karm (kif kien magħruf, għax kien ukoll Monsinjur Onorarju) kien joħroġ quddiem il-bieb ta' San Ġwann, u b'mod l-aktar umli kien iwieġeb għall-apprezzament tal-udjenza tal-kunċert tiegħu. Insostni li dawn il-kunċerti ta' Dun Karm kienu żiedu hafna l-apprezzament tal-mużika l-aktar lejn id-daqq tal-orgni, f'Malta.

Dawn il-kunċerti stimulaw fija aktar l-apprezzament lejn il-mużika u lejn dan l-istrument fenomenali tal-orgni fil-Knisja li jinħtieġ artistrija kbira biex l-organista joħroġ il-ħsejjes sbieħ tiegħu.

Jiena għamilt żmien nippreżenta minn wara l-altar magħgur tal-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann dawn il-kunċerti fuq l-orgni, al-organista Joseph Caruana taż-Żejtun, u niftakar ukoll organista ieħor, Anthony Spiteri magħruf bħala 'it-Toti', jgħidli li kieku n-nies preżenti għal xi kunċert tal-orgni jaraw lill-organista jdoqq dan l-istrument, l-orgni u l-organista jkunu aktar apprezzati. Dan għall-fatt li l-orgni huwa dak l-istrument moħbi u ma tara xejn ħlief dawk is-sfatar kbar u żgħar tiegħu mwahhla mal-faċċata.

L-orgni tal-Knisja Santa Katerina ż-Żejtun

Insemmi l-orgni tal-Knisja Parrokkjali Santa Katerina fiż-Żejtun, fejn permezz ta' kamera quddiem il-mużiċista, li tit-trasmetti l-istampa għal fuq l-iskrin fuq l-altar magħgur, wiehed jista' tara sewwa lill-organista li jkun qed idoqq.

Meta kont iż-Żejtun nippreżenta kunċert ta' Caruana apprezzajt bis-ših dan. Wara għaraft ukoll li fiż-Żejtun hemm interess aktar minn parroċċi oħra lejn dan l-istrument li huwa r-"Re tal-istrumenti".

L-orgni jimla knisja b'dak il-ħoss divin li jwasslek sal-Bieb tal-Ġenna. Wara kollox, huwa magħruf bħala *church instrument*, strument tal-knisja.

F'Malta hemm hafna orgnijiet sbieħ, ta' valur u tajbin, iżda jahasra hafna minnhom ma jiffunzjonawx. Dan forsi minħabba li ma jkunx hemm il-bniedem - l-organista - li jiehu interess personali f'dan l-istrument għax jekk ma jin-daqqx l-orgni jiġġammja u ssirlu aktar ħsara milli gid.

L-organisti Franciżi

L-għan ewlieni tiegħi f'dan l-artiklu hu li xtaqt nagħti tis-lima lill-organista Dun Karm Scerri tan-Naxxar. Xtaqt nagħmel hekk minkejja l-apprezzament tiegħi lejn dan l-istrument favorit tiegħi, tal-orgni, għalkemm l-istrumenti



mużikali huma kollha sbieħ.

Fil-fehma tiegħi l-aħjar organisti fid-dinja huma dawk Franciżi. Biex insostni dan l-argument tiegħi, meta kont qed infittex xi tagħrif dwar l-organista Dun Karm Xerri li twieled

fl-1905, kien mar Franza meta kien għadu tfajjel ta' erbatax-il sena. Kien ordnat qassis fi Franza (Gunju 1930) u fi Franza tharreg tajjeb fil-mużika sagra, l-aktar fid-daqq tal-orgni.

Mhux biss, imma kien ukoll organista fis-Seminarju u fil-Katidral ta' Lucon fejn hemm orgni ta' valur kbir li fih storja ta' importanza kbira. Dun Karm kien l-organista tiegħu, u rrid ngħid, li mhix haġa faċli li tokkupa post bħal dan f'katidral hekk importanti jekk ma tkunx Franciż.

Dan biex nuri li Dun Karm trabba sewwa f'ambjent tal-orgni għax il-Franciżi jiġġennu għad-daqq tiegħu. Tidhol xhin tidhol f'xi katidral Franciż il-hin kollu, b'mod sottili hafna iżda b'effett kbir, tisma' għaddej id-daqq l-orgni, u li mill-ewwel idahhlek f'xena li bla trid iġġieghlek thoss li dħalt fit-tempju tal-Mulej.

Dun Karm ta sehem kbir fil-qasam tal-orgni f'Malta. Kienu hafna l-organisti Maltin li tgħallmu miegħu. Kien ukoll strumentali biex ikollna orgni għdid fil-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann. Kulhadd jaf bil-ħoss u l-ħlewwa kbira ta' dan l-orgni li jagħmel lill-Kon-Katidral tagħna

maestuz kif tassew jixraq.

Dun Karm li kien ukoll *Maestro di Cappella* u ħadem bla heda għall-mużika sagra f'Malta wkoll ikkompona xi xogħlijiet, fosthom l-oratorju tiegħu '*San Gregorio Magno*'.

Għall-hidma li wettaq kemm fi Franza kif ukoll hawn Malta, fl-1960 Dun Karm gie onorat bit-titlu ta' '*Chevalier des Palmes*'.

Huwa miet fil-5 ta' Marzu, 1981, fl-età ta' 76 sena u gie midfun fiċ-ċimiterju tal-istess raħal fin-Naxxar u biex it-tifikira tiegħu tibqa' dejjem haġja, f'April 1987 giet imsemmija għalih triq qrib fejn twieled u għex għal hafna snin Huwa kien jgħix fi Triq San Gorg, in-Naxxar.

(Ara wkoll artiklu ieħor dwar l-orgni fil-paġna 19, din iddarba dwar l-orgni l-għdid fil-knisja t'Għajnsielem fil-gżira t'Għawdex)



Perspettiva

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

kitba ta'
IVAN
CAUCHI



Veġetarjan jew vegan?

Il-veġetarjanizmu hija l-prattika tal-bniedem fejn ma jiekolx laħam (la laħmar, la abjad, la ħut u lanqas frott il-baħar), filwaqt li min hu vegan iżid ma din il-lista pprojbata prodotti tal-annimali, bħall-bajd u l-ħalib u prodotti derivati bħall-ġobon, u għalhekk huwa iktar strett.

Huwa suġġett interessanti għall-bniedem, għax dan huwa storikament omnivoru u mhux erbivoru. Il-prattika tal-veġetarjanizmu huwa magħruf li bdiet mijiet ta' snin q.K. fl-Indja, minn twemmin ta' non-vjolenza lejn kull hlejja. Sal-lum, din ir-raġuni hija l-iktar komuni li tingħata mis-segwaċi ta' din il-prattika.

Kont il-tqajt mal-veġetarjanizmu f'żoġġ-żiti f'żewġt iħbieb tiegħi, wiehed vegan minħabba prinċipju ta' non-vjolenza lejn l-annimali, u iehor veġetarjan għall-istess raġuni imma wkoll minħabba l-istil axxetiku tal-ħajja tiegħu.

Jien omnivoru kont u għadni, biss ammirajt u nibqa' nammira d-dedikazzjoni ta' daww li jagħmlu din id-dixxiplina f'ħajjithom, għax trid tagħmel sforz iktar mis-soltu meta l-għażliet tal-ikel tiegħek huma iktar limitati u trid tkun konsistenti.

Raġunijiet oħra għaliex wiehed jiehu din id-direzzjonijiet f'ħajtu jeżistu wkoll, u dawn jinkludu s-saħħa, l-ambjent, il-kultura u oħrajn. Minn dawn, is-saħħa hija għaliha l-iktar interessanti u importanti.

Id-dieti ta' veġetarjani u vegani ġeneralment ikollhom varjetà



Platt ta' lkel veġetarjan

ta' frott, ħaxix, ġewż, żerriegħa, ċereali u legumi, u derivati tagħhom li jissostitwixxu l-laħam. Dawn id-dieti jista' jkollhom benefiċċji għas-saħħa, bħal tnaqqis tat-toqol tal-ġisem, livelli iktar baxxi tal-kolesterol (kemm ta' densità għolja - it-tajba, u l-baxxa - il-ħażina) u tnaqqis tar-risku ta' mard tal-qalb.¹ Ir-riskju ta' dijabete jkun ukoll im-naqqas.

Madankollu, hemm ukoll żvantaġġi, per eżempju l-pjanti ma jkollhomx il-vi-

tamina B12 b'mod naturali bħal ma għandhom il-bajd u l-prodotti tal-ħalib. In-nuqqas ta' din il-vitamina jista' jwassal għall-anemija. Għalhekk, ma' dawn id-dieti ġeneralment ikun irrakkomandat li jkun miżdud il-B12 bħala suppliment jew ikel fejn dan ikun fortifikat bih, speċjalment għall-vegani.

Dawn id-dieti jista' wkoll iwasslu għal nuqqas ta' densità fl-għadam. Fil-fatt hemm studju li sab li l-vegani kelli iktar mid-doppju tal-inċidenza ta' ksur tal-ġenb tal-omnivoru, għalkemm jista' jkun hemm fatturi oħra li kkontribwew għal dan.²

Hemm kunsiderazzjonijiet oħra wkoll, u huwa magħruf li jrid isir ħafna iktar riċerka dwar dan is-suġġett biex ikun hemm konklużjonijiet iktar ċari dwar il-benefiċċji jew il-biżżeġġ ta' dawn l-għażliet tal-ikel tal-bniedem.

Jien għalkemm nistqarr li nħobb l-annimali, m'iniex miġbud lejn il-prattiċi tal-veġetarjanizmu jew il-veganizmu. Ir-raġuni li nagħti hi li l-hlejja kollha, bil-bniedem u mingħajru, kollha għandhom posthom fil-katina tal-ikel tan-natura, fejn annimal irid jinqat biex annimal iehor karnivoru jiekol (u dan huwa l-każ ukoll f'partijiet mill-ħajja jekk l-iehor ikun omnivoru).

Il-bniedem mhu xejn ħlief ħolqa oħra f'din il-katina, kif dejjem kien minn meta evolva.

Għawnhekk nagħmel distinzjoni ċara u nħożż sinjal dritt qabel ma naslu għall-qtil ta' annimal bħala gost jew sport, li għaliha mhux aċċettabbli.

Minkejja l-għażliet personali tad-dieta tiegħi, nirrispetta 'l min jagħmel għażla differenti fid-dieta tiegħu.

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Platt ta' lkel vegan



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HE Charles Muscat was a stable influence on Maltese Community

On December 31, 2020 Mr Charles Muscat completed his tenure as Malta High Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand to return to being a private citizen in Canberra where he has always lived with his wife Victoria and his family.

Mr Muscat occupied the office of High Commissioner for seven years after getting appointed to serve by the Maltese government in 2013. A year later he was called upon to also add New Zealand among his responsibilities.

As his appointment as High Commissioner, was regarded as political, some were sceptical of his suitability, however, during his tenure he proved them all wrong.

Although for many years he was previously the official representative of the Malta Labour Party in Australia, as a Maltese migrant living in Australia I must say that he never compromised his integrity and throughout his period in the office carried out his duties very diligently.

Since he presented his Credentials to then Governor General of Australia Dame Quentin Alice Louise Bryce seven years ago and to the Governor of New Zealand Sir Jerry Mateparae a year later, Mr Charles Muscat was always ready to help and guide anyone who sought his assistance.

Besides attending to his daily duties as High Commissioner represent the Government of Malta, he hosted several Maltese-Australian groups at the Canberra Chancery, and accompanied by his wife Victoria attended several special Memorable Days in the Australian calendar in various States.

Mr Charles Muscat attended and represented Malta at every Foreign National Day, and every year on Remembrance Day he also always made it a point to attend and place a wreath at the National War memorial in Canberra. He also attended every occasion the annual National Multicultural Festival in Canberra, and visited most Australian states.

Mrs Muscat herself also attended and represented Malta at several receptions organised by the Ambassadors/High Commissioners Ladies' Auxiliaries.

As High Commissioner, Mr Muscat hosted receptions to mark Malta's hosting of CHOGM in 2015, and under his watch, the Chancery annually also hosted receptions commemorating Malta's National Day.

During his term in office Mr Muscat also received High-level delegations from Malta that included Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro, President of the Republic of Malta.



Mr Charles Muscat presenting his credentials as High Commissioner for the Republic of Malta, to then Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce, at Government House in Canberra on 23rd September 2013

In February 2018, Mr Muscat also welcomed then Malta Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat who was accompanied by his wife Michelle and Ministers Carmelo Abela and Parliamentary Secretary Clifton Grima who visited Australia to attend the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast.

In July 2019, he made an official visit to the Maltese Community Centre in the Latrobe Valley in Morwell, Victoria, to inspect the progress of the building of the first Maltese museum in Australia.

Proof of the high esteem Mr Muscat enjoyed as High Commissioner is the amount of messages of congratulations for a job well done he received on the termination of his office from a large number of the Maltese Community.

We thank Mr Charles Muscat for his help during his term of office and wish him well for the future.

Paul Vella



Mr Charles Muscat and his wife Victoria (fourth from left) hosting guests at the Chancery in Canberra on National Day 2018



Roundup of News About Malta



190 projects generating 1,900 new jobs during year of the pandemic



Malta Prime Minister Robert Abela

Carnival 2021 off to be celebrated only virtually

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted most mass activities world-wide. Malta is no exception. This year, Carnival activities synonymous with five days of complete madness, bright colours, competitions, events and fun, during one of the most anticipated events of the year had to be called off because of the pandemic.

Instead, this annual activity this year will be celebrated virtually, and instead of the competition of colourful, gigantic floats accompanied by parades of dancers dressed up in grotesque masks and costumes in the main streets of Malta's capital, Valletta and the suburb of Floriana, the activities scheduled for February 12 to 16 are being transmitted on television and social media.

To revive the carnival atmosphere floats are being installed on central roundabouts and other spots around the island.

The traditional spontaneous carnival activities in some Maltese villages, and in particular in Nadur, Gozo in which people join in the merry-making, have also been cancelled.

Carnival celebration in Malta can be traced back to the 1400s. The Knights of the Order of St. John celebrated Carnival in grand style and introduced strength competitions and carnival balls to Maltese traditions, a tradition that survived throughout all these centuries.

Malta Enterprise approved a total of 190 projects - an investment of €140 million that shall lead to the creation of 1,900 new jobs. In the next few months, 38 of the new projects, with an investment of €77 million that originated from the Foreign Direct Investment will generate around 900 new jobs.

Prime Minister Robert Abela made the announcement by at the end of a Business Breakfast themed, 'Towards a New Prosperity' that was attended by the country's leading businessmen and social partners.

He said that in the year of the pandemic, when businesses abroad were losing confidence and companies had started to shut down, the very opposite occurred in Malta with Malta Enterprise approving an average of a new project every two days.

He added that 27 new projects by foreign investors that are already operating in Malta

and Gozo were approved, while another 119 projects by Maltese and Gozitan businessmen wish to expand.

He pointed out that foreign investors are interested in being part of the economic regeneration as they are aware of the government's stand.

Finance and Labour Minister Clyde Caruana, also addressed the event, stated that the damage caused by the pandemic was 50 times stronger than that of the recession that hit the world in 2008.

He said that at European level the discussion is currently focussed about how respective governments should increase taxes, however, the Maltese Government will not go down that road as the business industry cannot cope with more after the pandemic.

He reiterated that the Government will continue to support businesses to help them remain innovative.

Economy Minister Silvio Schembri stated that the Government will be presenting a new economic plan for the next ten years that would be open for consultation.

Energy Minister Miriam Dalli referred to the need for more investment in renewable energy and stated that the country needs a nonpolluting economy.

She said that she recognised the challenges, and said that there is a commitment for more incentives for people to invest in clean energy.

The promotion of Malta's educational sector abroad

During a virtual discussion with representatives of ChinaEU about the promotion of Malta's educational sector abroad, Minister for Education Justyne Caruana (right) delved into the wide range of possibilities and opportunities in Malta to attract potential Chinese students.

While she mentioned the excellent services provided by Malta's educational institutions, various other possibilities were also discussed by which Chinese students could be attracted to further their education studies in the country. They included summer schools, the extensive prospectuses offered by the local institutions, and other sectors.

ChinaEU President Luigi Gambardella agreed with Minister Caruana that education is one of the leading sectors that contributes to the economic growth and serves as a vital link with industries in the country.

ChinaEU, a non-profit international association based in Brussels was set up as a forum to foster public-private partnerships, business cooperation, and joint investments in digitization processes and hi-tech fields by European and Chinese companies.



Minister Justyne Caruana



Roundup of News About Malta



Farsons investing €50m in Trident Park project

The historic Simonds Farsons Cisk building commonly known as Farsons that housed the famous brewery at Mriehel is undergoing a complete overhaul as it is being transformed into a modern brewery and business park. An investment of €50 million is being transformed into the Trident Park project.

Work is progressing right on schedule. When completed, it will welcome around 1,500 workers. Half of the space would accommodate offices, gardens and recreational spaces.

Farsons were established in 1928. Giving

Prime Minister Robert Abela and Ministers Silvio Schembri and Aaron Farrugia a tour of the refurbished brewery, Group chairperson, Louis Farrugia explained to them the latest technology it would be using and updated them on the group's other investments.

Prime Minister Abela remarked that the way Farsons company evolved during the years is a perfect model on how businesses in Malta should aspire to achieve the highest level of success. He noted that the company appreciated the financial assistance given by the government with the salary supplement.

Habitat restoration projects in Comino

A total of number of native 13,878 trees and shrubs has been planted on a landscape-level habitat restoration project by *Ambjent Malta* in Comino, which forms part of the Natura 2000 network.

Aaron Farrugia the minister in charge of the Environment explained that the conservation of our islands' habitats is crucial in protecting biodiversity, all our species, and ecological processes important for the sustainability of our environment.

He said that the project consists of the removal of invasive alien species and the planting of indigenous vegetation according to the site-specific characteristics of the Island, including its phytosociology.

The project is intended to encourage natural regeneration in the restored sites and possible regeneration in adjacent areas and biotopes.

In addition, the restored habitats will also potentially serve as stepping-stones and refugia for migratory species such as birds.

Ambjent Malta will routinely monitor and maintain these plants for at least the first five years since planting, to ensure that they have established in the area.

€32.8m. investment for international research hub

A new state-of-the-art Resource Centre at the MCAST, part of a €32.8 million European Union co-funded project and the college's strategic plan for vocational education research, will open its doors to the staff and students at the college in October.

The Centre, which includes a new library, flexible learning spaces and an auditorium, will continue to establish the college as a centre of excellence as it heightens the college's drive in research and innovation.

The announcement of the project was made by the Minister for Education Justyne Caruana and the Minister for Research, Innovation and the Co-ordination of Post COVID-19 Strategy Owen Bonnici.

Minister Bonnici said this investment will serve to help place MCAST as a leader in international applied research.

He said it would be creating an international hub to help researchers develop solutions for society's pressing problems and opportunities for industry, and also continue to secure international collaboration with universities, higher education providers, industry partners and research laboratories.

Minister Justyne Caruana said that, as the MCAST student population and the need for skilling continue to grow, improving resources and accessibility are a high priority and the impetus for continued investment. "We should create dynamic learning spaces where lecturers and students can be inspired to collaborate and create, she said.

The aim is for strategic industry partners

and the public to use the services offered by the college.

MCAST Principal and CEO Professor Joachim James Calleja pointed out that the College is currently participating in 19 international projects with an investment of over €2.5 million.

"With the new infrastructure, we can continue to grow internationally and establish MCAST as a centre of excellence in vocational education and training," he said.

The building on the centre is designed and built to maximise efficiency and functionality.



Santa Luċija underpass inaugurated

The Santa Luċija underpass project, an investment of €20-million, which is part of the wider Marsa Junction project was inaugurated on Sunday by Prime Minister Robert Abela and Ian Borg, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects in the presence of Parliamentary Sec-

retary for EU funds, Stefan Zrinzo Azzopard

The project, that provides a roundabout above the underpass provides an uninterrupted connection between Santa Luċija Avenue and Tal-Barrani. It will also improve access for residents in Santa Luċija, Paola and Tarxien.

Prime Minister Robert Abela said that the underpass project forms part of the Government's vision for the next 10 years, to assist in improving the quality of life. He pointed out that the project, completed in the projected time, is at the centre of the Government's efforts on capital projects.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Roby Zomer, direttur Direttur Maniġerjali ta' MGC Pharma

Medicina minn Malta biex tintuża kontra l-COVID-19

Malta tista' tkun wahda mill-pijunieri fl-iżvilupp ta' medicina għal min jimrad bil-Covid-19. Infatti bħalissa Kumpanija mgħrufa tal-famaċewtika f'Malta għaddejja b'riċerka klinika maħsuba biex tiżviluppa faċilità ċertifikata ta' GMP f'doża likwida halli tintuża kontra l-infjammazzjoni mill-COVID-19.

Il-prodott li għaddejja r-riċerka fuqu hu ArtemiC. Biex qed issir din ir-riċerka, permezz tal-Malta Enterprise l-IGvern Malti għen lil din il-kumpanija b'għotja ta' '\$5 miljun.

Skont il-ko-fundatur u Direttur Maniġerjali ta' MGC Pharma Roby Zomer, "Għandna opportunità tremenda li nistabbilixxu hub Ewropew għal dan il-prodott kontra l-infjammazzjoni mill-COVID-19. Dan il-prodott li qed naħdmu fuqu, ArtemiCTM, qed ikollu riżultati pożittivi hafna".

Jingħad li l-kumpanija diġà sabet pajjiżi li lesti jixtru l-prodotti, fosthom l-Iżrael, ir-Russja u xi pajjiżi Baltiċi.

Tassew sfortuna:

Hi sfortuna li l-politika tiddeffes f'din il-kriżi. Minix nirreferi biss għall-polemika fejn l-awtoritajiet jgħidu li t-tilqim kontra l-COVID-19 miexi b'ritmu tajjeb, u l-oppożizzjoni, u l-Għaqda tat-Tobba jgħidu l-maqlub.

Imm'issa ma titwemminx li wasalna f'punt fejn dik li kienet meqjusa l-eroj fl-arena tal-COVID-19, qed tiġi mżebelha minn sezzjoni tal-poplu. Hemm xamma qawwija li dan kollu minhabba xi deċiżjonijiet li ħadet dwar il-miżuri li jgħidu l-Awtoritajiet dwar din l-imxija.

Is-Supredentent tas-Saħħa Pubblika il-professoressa Charmaine Gauci, li fl-ewwel xhur kulhadd kien ifaħħar hidmietha waqt il-kriżi, meta dan l-aħħar qablet ma xi miżuri tal-Gvern, fos-

thom il-ftuħ tal-Iskejjel, kien hemm min hareġ b'qawwa kontriha, fosthom Kristina Chetcuti, l-partner tal-eks Kap tal-PN Simon Busuttill. Minhabba f'hekk, l-attakk ġie ittimbrat li kien indirettament ġej mill-Partit Nazzjonalista

F'artiklu miktub fuq it-*Times*, xliet lill-professor li mhux tgħid l-affarijiet kif inhuma waqt l-aġġornamenti mediċi ta' kull ġimgħa dwar is-sitwazzjoni tal-imxija f'Malta, u li qed tagħmel diskorsi pompużi u bla sustanza.

Sahansitra sostniet li l-professoressa Gauci hi pupazz tal-Gvern u li qed tiehu miżuri finta għall-ġid tas-saħħa tal-poplu ta' dan il-pajjiż.

Imma forsi l-aħħar kien li l-artikolista indirettament tefgħet ċertu dubbju fuq il-vaċċin ta' kontra l-COVID-19, li jista' forsi jgerrex lil xi nies milli jgħidu t-titqiba.

Propjetà:

Meta faqqgħet l-imxija tal-Koronavirus, dawk li jgħidu hsieb il-bejgħ u l-kiri tal-propjetà kienu harġu jilmentaw li kien se jonqsilhom ix-xogħol u saħansitra talbu lill-Gvern jgħinjom, kif kien qed jagħmel lil azjendi ohra.

Imma jidher li ġara bil-maqlub għax skont stqarrija tal-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tal-Iżviluppaturi (MDA), fl-aħħar xhur l-industrija tal-propjetà rnexxielha taqbeż l-aspettattivi li ma tihux daqqa ta' harta kawża tal-pandemia, tant li statistika ppubblikata turi li bejn Jannar u Diċembru 2020 is-suq Malti tal-propjetà rreġistra 13,867 konvenju, b'total ta' bejgħ ta' iktar minn €3 biljun.

Dan ir-riżultat hu aħjar minn dak tas-sena ta' qabel, għax fl-2019 kienu ġew irreġistrati 13,243 konvenju. L-istatistika turi li Diċembru li għadda kien l-aqwa wiehed mill-2017, bil-valur tal-bejgħ ikun mat-€382 miljun.

Jidher li l-inizjattivi li ha' l-Gvern f'dan il-qasam, fosthom tnaqqis fuq it-taxxa li tithallas meta jsir ix-xiri tal-propjetà, halla l-effett tiegħu.

Thassru:

Il-pandemija qed tkompli tharbat l-attivitajiet popolari, fosthom il-Maratona li ssir ta' kull sena fi Frar li fiha jgħidu sehem eluf ta' atleti Maltin u barranin. Izda forsi l-aktar avveniment li se jinhass huwa t-thassir tal-Karnival (*Ara paġna 12*).

Madanakollu jidher li dan it-thassir mhux se jeffettwa l-mawriet tal-Maltin waqt dawn il-festi lejn Għawdex. Qabel, l-attrazzjoni ewlenija f'Għawdex kienet tkun il-Karnival spontanja tan-Nadur, li fil-fatt diġà thassret.

Imma qed jingħad li eluf ta' Maltin xorta wahda bbukkjaw diversi residenzi f'Għawdex biex iqattgħu il-jiem tal-btajjel tal-Karnival hemmhekk. Din xi haġa li qed tinkwieta lil hafna minhabba l-biża' li kif sehh fil-jiem tal-Milied u l-Ewwel tas-Sena, fejn għadd ta' Maltin użaw il-mawra tagħhom f'Għawdex biex organizzaw okkażjonijiet soċjali fil-privat, u li sfortunatament wasslu biex wara l-festi l-għadd tal-infezzjonijiet tal-pandemija ždied sewwa.

Sintendi dan qed jinkwieta lill-awtoritajiet tant li thabbar li qed isiru thejjiet biex kemm jista' jkun jiġu evitati attivitajiet simili li jistgħu jwasslu biex l-infezzjoni žżid tinxtered.

Li ma nafx kif l-awtoritajiet jistgħu jikkontrollaw x'jiġri fl-appartamenti, *farmhouses* eċċ li nkrew għal dawn il-festi.

Minn ta' quddiem:

Statistika ppubblikata fil-gazzetta internazzjonali *Financial Times*, sturi kif Malta hija fost l-aqwa seba' pajjiżi fid-dinja li l-aktar li s'issa, ras għal ras, hi fost l-aktar li laqmet nies għal kontra l-COVID-19.

L-istatistika hija tas-sit *Our World in Data*, li warajha hemm l-Università ta' Oxford, u tinhadem skont l-ammont ta' tilqim tal-ewwel

doża tal-vaċċin għal kontra l-pandemija għal kull 100,000 persuna.

L-aktar tliet pajjiżi li skont l-istatistika tlaqqmu kontra l-pandemija huma l-Iżrael, l-Emirati Għarab Magħquda u l-Bahrejn.

Malta ġiet ukoll ikklassifikata fit-tieni post fl-ghoti tat-tilqim fil-pajjiżi tal-Unjoni Ewropeja, bid-Danimarka fl-ewwel post.

Malta hi wkoll minn ta' quddiem fejn tidhol ir-rieda tal-poplu li jgħidu t-tilqima. Infatti skont l-aħħar stħarriġ li sar mill-*Eurobarometer* huma biss erbgha fil-mja tal-Maltin li mhux lesti li jgħidu t-tilqima.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Co-option toħloq diskussjoni

Forsi din il-legislatura kienet wahda li matulha saru l-aktar bidliet ta' membri tal-Parlament, wara li dawkl li gew eletti originarjament, għal xi raġuni spiċċaw minn membri parlamentari.

Skont is-sistema elettoral Maltija meta membru jispiċċa mill-Parlament issir elezzjoni każwali, li tiġi ikkontestata mill-kandidati li jkunu hargħu fl-elezzjoni ġenerali fl-istess distrett. Imma jekk il-kandidat li jkun spiċċa jkun gie elett permezz ta' elezzjoni każwali, ma ssirx elezzjoni każwali oħra, u l-partit li jkun ikkontesta miegħu jahtar hu lil min irid biex jimla l-post.

Elezzjonijiet jew *co-options* bhala dawn is-soltu f'it iqaġmu diskussjoni. Imma din idarba wara r-riżenja tal-Ministru Edward Scicluna biex inhatar imexxi l-Bank Ċentrali.

Il-midja tat aktar mportanza mis-soltu lil din l-elezzjoni każwali għax spekulat li l-akbar ċans li jirbaħ kien Charles Azzopardi, li għalkemm fl-elezzjoni ġenerali kien ikkontesta mal-PL, wara li ma thallix jikkontesta l-elezzjonijiet tal-Kunsilli Loka-



Oliver Scicluna .. maħtur Parlamentari

li f'isem il-PL tant hadha bi kbira li tressera għall-hajtu mal-PN, u għalhekk kien hemm ċans li jekk elett imur mal-Oppożizzjoni.

Saret l-elezzjoni każwali bejn tliet kandidati u Azzopardi safa eliminat mill-ewwel.

Rebaħ Gavin Gulia, eks-membri Parlamentari tal-Partit Laburista u li kien qed iservi bhala Chairman tal-Awtorità tat-Turiżmu.

L-istorja ma spiċċatx hemm. Immedjatement li ha l-gurament, Gulia irriżenja għax gie mitlub mill-Gvern biex fis-sitwazzjoni li qegħdin fiha, kien ikun aħjar li jibqa' jmexxi l-Awtorità. Hu laqgħa t-talba tal-Gvern u allura fetaħ il-bieb biex jinhatar xi hadd iehor min flok permezz b'*co-option*.

Il-mossa holqot diskussjoni qawwija bl-Oppożizzjoni u xi artikolisti jikkritikaw lill-Gvern għaliha. Il-kap tal-PN Bernard Grech qal b'hekk il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela wera li "jinteressawh biss l-interessi partigġjani tiegħu u tal-Partit Laburista", u li "waqqa" għaž-zufjett l-oghla istituzzjoni b'deputat parlamentari tiegħu jriżenja f'tit sekondi wara li ha l-gurament tal-hatra." Sostna li Abela qed jimmanipula s-sistema demokratika biex idahħal fil-Parlament lil min irid hu u mhux lil min elegġa l-poplu.

Min-naha tiegħu l-Prim Ministru sejjah anti-demokratika l-offerta tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni lil Azzopardi biex minkejja li l-kien kiseb il-voti mingħand dawkl li vvutaw favur il-PL, jekk jelett, jingħaqad man-naha tal-Oppożizzjoni.

Fakkar ukoll li kemm l-istess Grech, kif ukoll il-kap ta' qablu, ukoll inhatru permezz ta' *co-option*.

Attwalment, fl-2017 seħħ kważi l-istess. F'mossa ċara biex Adrian Delia, li kien għadu kif inhatar kap tal-PN jiehdu postu fil-Parlament, d-Deputat Nazzjonalista Jean Pierre Micallef, irriżenja u postu hadu Peter Micallef li kif rifes fil-Parlament irriżenja halli f'flok jidhol Delia b'*co-option*.

Sadanittant post Gavin Gulia fil-Parlament hadu Il-Kummissarju għad-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità Oliver Scicluna li kien gie maħtur bhala l-ewwel Kummissarju għad-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità f'Gunja tal-2016.

Reshuffle oħra kontroversjali

Il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni għamel ir-reshuffle fil-partit tiegħu wara li kien gie kkritikat, li minkejja li għadd iż-żmien mill-hatra ta' kap tal-PN u tal-Oppożizzjoni halla kollox kif kien fejn jidhlu tal-kelliema li jissejju *s-shadow cabinet*.

Grech kien isostni li ma kellux għalfejn jahtar *shadow-cabinet* ġdid, u anke ikkonferma dan f'intervista fuq programm ta' diskussjoni tal-gazzetta *Maltatoday*.

Imma propju tlett ijiem wara habbat tibdil fil-kelliema tal-Oppożizzjoni, li l-gazzetta *illum* fissritu bhala "*Tibdil minimu fl-ewwel reshuffle ta' Bernard Grech*" għax il-maġġoranza tiegħu baqgħu jzommu l-istess rwoli li kien f'dalhom Adrian Delia u hadd mill-kelliema attwali ma tilef postu.

Forsi li spikka, minhabba l-parti promnenti li kellu fir-ribelljoni kontra Delia kien Jason Azzopardi li tilef il-portafoll tiegħu bhala kelliem għall-ġustizzja.

Hafna stennew lil Grech jagħmel bidla aktar qawwija imma jidher li kif qalghet il-*Maltatoday*, ċeda għall-pressjoni li kellu: "*Bernard Grech caves in, most PN MPs hang on to shadow portfolios*" hekk li ċerti bidliet imbassra li kellu jagħmel, gew irtirati.

Fost li kienu qed jissemmew li se jinbidlilhom ir-rwol tagħhom kien hemm it-tabib Stephen Spiteri, (responsabbli mis-settur tas-saħħa) u Robert Arrigo (inkarigat mit-Turiżmu). Jidher li kien hemm rezistenza għal dawn it-tibdiliet, bil-midja tirrapporta li l-kostitwenti tat-Tieni Distrett, ta' Spiteri, ipprotestaw u heddew li jirriżenjaw.

Il-Partit Nazzjonalista qal li l-eks kap tal-partit, Adrian Delia għažel li ma jkunx parti *shadow portfolio*.

L-Għaqda *BirdLife* ikkritikat il-fatt li Grech nehħa mill-karigi tagħhom iż-żewġ deputati li kienu favur l-ambjent, u biex tkompli tagħhad, fl-ewwel laqgħa li kellu Grech wara li nehħa żewġ deputati favur l-ambjent, kien mar jiltaqa' mal-Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi u Konservazzjonisti, i-FKNK.

Il-*BirdLife* qalet li m'hemm xejn hażin b'-daqshekk, anki jekk Grech qed igibha fit-tul biex jiltaqa' ma' għaqdiet mhux governattivi oħra favur l-ambjent, fosthom dik tagħhom. Imbagħad fl-istess nifs qalet li ma tistax tifhem dak li qal Grech meta stqarr li ried jagħmel minn kollox biex jnehħi l-impressjoni hażina li għandhom in-nies dwar il-kaċċaturi.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Euthanasia debate in Australia

Both the Northern and the Australia Capital Territory are unable to rule on the controversial issue of euthanasia due to a 1997 private member's bill introduced by Victorian Liberal MP Kevin Andrews, but the States can.

But Michael Gunner the Chief Minister for the NT (*pictured right*) said the sensitive issue should be a matter for Territorians to debate and vote on, "not Canberra politicians".

He has written to both Prime Minister Scott Morrison as well as the Opposition Leader and Labor ally Anthony Albanese demanding the federal law be changed.

Euthanasia was legal in the NT between 1996 and 1997 before the Howard government stepped in and took the power away from the jurisdiction.

The territory's opposition leader, Country Liberal Party's Lia Finocchiaro, confirmed the party supports the bid.

Meanwhile, the South Australian Parliament is also considering euthanasia legislation.

Proposed new laws to regulate access to euthanasia in the state were introduced to Parliament by Labor MPs Kyam Maher and Dr Susan Close in December.

Under the proposed SA law, access to euthanasia will be given

to a person living in SA for at least 12 months, who is aged 18 or more, and is diagnosed with an incurable disease, illness or medical condition that is advanced, progressive and will cause death within weeks or months and is causing suffering that cannot be relieved.

Lobby groups for and against the bill have begun contacting local MPs for support.



Facts or misinformation?

Archbishop Wilson dies – He was 70 years old



Defending Liberal MP Graig Kelly for spreading misinformation and unproven coronavirus treatments, then Acting Prime Minister of Australia, Michael McCormack (*left*) told the ABC, "Facts are sometimes contentious and what you might think is right – somebody else might think is completely untrue – that is part of living in a democratic country."

McCormack went on to say, "I don't think we should have that sort of censorship in our society." Labor's health spokesperson Chris Bowen has strongly criticised Mr McCormack's defence of Mr Kelly.

Bowen said he was concerned as Kelly was spreading "dangerous" misinformation. "He has engaged in a systemic and deliberate attempt to undermine our medical health professionals," Bowen said.

Archbishop Philip Wilson, who served as Bishop of Wollongong and Archbishop of Adelaide during 45 years of priestly ministry, died in Adelaide, aged 70.

Born in the Hunter region of NSW, a young Philip Wilson studied at St Columba's College, Springwood, and St Patrick's College Manly before being ordained a priest of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Ordained Bishop of Wollongong in 1996, he was seen as an important figure in introducing reforms to help the Church respond to the issue of child sexual abuse.

In 2001, he was appointed Archbishop of Adelaide, a post he held until his resignation in 2018. He served as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for two terms, from 2006 to 2010.

Massive miscalculations, money transfers between Australia and the Vatican

Austrac told a Senate estimates committee before Christmas that \$2.3 billion had been transferred to Australia from the Vatican City in answer to questions about money laundering and allegations that funds were transferred to adversely affect the trial of Cardinal George Pell.

It was calculated that \$2.3 billion was transferred in more than 40,000 transactions between 2014 and 2020, with a peak of \$581 million in 2017.

After weeks of working with the Holy See's financial intelligence unit, Austrac has confirmed there were only 362 transfers

from the Vatican to Australia during that time, with a total value of \$9.5 million.

The original Austrac figures also showed \$117.4 million was sent from Australia to the Vatican, likely part of an annual fund for charities, during the same period. The revised figures show that between 2014 and 2020, there were 237 transfers from Australia to the Vatican totalling \$26.6 million.

A computer coding error is believed to be the source of the miscalculation, with fi-

nancial transfers to Italy included in transfers to the Vatican City State.

Austrac confirmed that despite the massive miscalculation on the total of the transfers, investigations were continuing into specific suspicious transfers from the Vatican to Australia.





A quick glimpse at Australia



Workers at a railway station in Wuhan, all dressed to fight COVID-19

WHO in China where it all started

Ten experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) are in China Wuhan, visiting Wuhan where the COVID-19 outbreak is believed to have originated. Earlier in the month the team was denied entry. Chinese authorities, via state news outlet the Global Times, said local health authorities have accompany the experts to Wuhan.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he looked forward to working with Chinese officials on the "critical mission" to identify the source of the virus, which has so far killed more than 2 million people worldwide, and how it spread to the human population. There have also been close to 95 million confirmed cases worldwide.

University of Sydney Professor Dominic Dwyer is among the team sent to China, 17 years after he worked on a similar WHO investigation into the SARS outbreak. But a health expert affiliated with the WHO said expectations should be "very low" that the team would be able to reach a conclusion on the source of the virus from their trip.

Australia led widespread calls for an independent probe into the origins of the virus, later backed by a coalition of 137 countries, amid allegations of a cover-up by Chinese Authorities at a meeting of the World Health Assembly in May.

The first case of the then-unnamed coronavirus was detected in Wuhan, in China's western Hubei province, on the first day of 2020. The virus quickly spread through the city, forcing the region into lockdown.

Gender non-binary option in the census

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released new guidelines on sex, gender and sexual orientation seeking to improve data collection on diverse gender identities.

An option to identify as a non-binary gender will be available in the census for the first time this year as part of new Australian Bureau of Statistics guidelines aimed at improving data on gender diversity.

The change comes after the 2016 census included the option to identify as "other" as opposed to female and male but required the responder to take additional steps for this option to be available.

As a result, only 1,260 people across Australia opted to identify as gender diverse, which the ABS later noted was "not considered to be an accurate count".

In 2021, the census will instead ask the responder to identify as "male", "female", or "non-binary sex", with respondents able to select both non-binary and another gender expression.

It is worth noting that according to UN data, at mid year in 2020 Australia's population was estimated at 25,499,884 people. Australia population is equivalent to 0.33% of the total world population.

Call to increase the JobSeeker

Australia's peak social services group is again urging the federal government to raise the long-term rate of JobSeeker, with the payment set to drop back to \$40 a day in April. The unemployment support is currently being boosted by \$150 a fortnight but the higher rate is slated to finish on 31 March.

Services Australia's website reads: "From 1 April 2021, your payment will change to the normal JobSeeker payment rate for your situation". According to a payment rate chart on the government agency's website, that means single Australians with no children will receive \$565.70 per fortnight.

The Australian Council of Social Service's senior advisor Charmaine Crowe said people were struggling on the payment, even with the \$150 fortnightly increase. She applauded the government for increasing JobSeeker last year, at the height of widespread coronavirus lockdowns.



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Il-kitba bil-Malti



Tfajjel ta' disa' snin bl-awtizmu jikteb dwar "Il-mawra tiegħu fl-ispazju"

Jekk tassew wiehed irid, ikun kapaċi jegħleb kull tfixkil u jasal fejn irid. L-istess fil-kitba bil-Malti. Xhieda ta' dan hu dak tat-tfajjel Beppe Caruana ta' disa' snin (*jidher fuq*) li minkejja li għandu l-kundizzjoni tal-awtizmu kiteb il-ktieb, *Il-mawra tiegħi fl-ispazju*, li fih juri dak li jimmaġina.

Minhabba d-diffikultà tiegħu li jittellem, fil-ktieb li gie mniedi, mill-President emeritu u l-President tal-Malta Trust Foundation Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Beppe ried jgħaddi messaġġ lil tfal oħrajn bħalu.

F'kitbietu Beppe ma jhallix il-kundizzjoni tiegħu xxekklu, anzi jirnexxielu li minkejja li ma jistax jittellem, xorta juri l-emozzjonijiet tiegħu u jgħajjat u jċapċap bla ma jsib lil hadd jiċċassa lejha.

Skont ommu Olivia, permezz ta' sistema ta' komunikazzjoni, Beppe juri l-ittri ta' kull kelma li jkun irid jgħidilha.

Permezz tal-istorja fil-ktieb it-tifel qed juri li minkejja li xi kultant jidher aljenat, ikun jaf sew x'qed isehh madwaru.

Skont ommu, b'diet tinduna bil-hiliet tiegħu mill-metodu li kien juża magħha u skopriet li kien jifhem bil-Malti tajjeb hafna. Wara beda juri min hu, u d-diffikultajiet tiegħu, fosthom xi tfixxer li jkolluk l-awtizmu.

Kien minn hemm li nibtet ix-xewqa tiegħu li jikteb il-ktieb, u ommu għamlet minn kollox biex, l-ewwelnett temmen fih u tghinu. "Ma tridx tara li għax it-tifel tiegħek għandu kundizzjoni taħseb li ma għandux abbiltajiet," qalet. Saħqet li, "Trid temmen f'uliedek".

Fil-fehma tagħha Beppe għandu hafna x'jikkomunika u jagħmel hafna iktar b'sens minn hafna nies li jgħidu hafna.

Waqt it-tnedija tal-ktieb, il-President emeritu Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, qalet li l-ktieb ta' Beppe huwa eżempju ċar tal-



hiliet kbar ta' tfal bħalu u li dan jgħin biex titkisser l-istigma li hemm madwar id-dizabbiltà.

Preżenti wkoll għall-okkażjoni kien hemm il-Ministru tal-Edukazzjoni Justyne Caruana li qalet li l-ktieb huwa prova ċara ta' kemm hu importanti li l-edukazzjoni tkun inklussiva b'servizzi li jkunu adattati għal kull każ partikolari.

Il-ktieb, appoġġjat mill-Aġenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litteriżmu huwa mżewwaq bi tpingijiet ta' Nasim Dardouri.

Kif kien isir it-tkabbir u l-ħsad fl-imghoddi

Fost l-użanzi tal-imghoddi li llum hafna minnh inqatgħu, kien hemm dak tat-tkabbir u l-ħsad tal-qamh. Ta' kull sena x-xogħol għat-tkabbir tal-qamh kien jibda fl-aqwa tas-sajf meta l-għelieqi kienu jiġu maħruta u mdemmla wahda sewwa. Iz-żriegħ kien isir fix-xahar ta' Settembru u ż-żrieragħ kienu tahlita ta' qamh u xgħir peress li kien maħsub li dawn kienu jagħtu l-aħjar ħsad.

L-uċuh kienu jinbtu dritt wara li tagħmel ftit xita abbondanti. Sa April ix-xitla kienet tilhaq it-tul mixtieq ta' madwar 0.75 m. u ż-żbula kienet is-sir tajba għall-ħsad għal nofs Mejju.

L-istaġun tal-ħsad kien jibda bit-thejjja tal-irbit għall-qatet. Il-ħsad kien isir billi b'mingel il-bidwi kien jaqta' l-pjanti min-naha t'isfel taz-zokk. Ix-xogħol kien isir bejn tluġh ix-xemx u n-nofs ta' nhar ta' filgħodu, għax wara dal-hin il-pjanti kienu jitbasktu bis-shana tax-xemx tiżreg.

Il-qamh u x-xgħir maħsuda kienu jintrabtu f'qatet (b'dijametru ta' madwar 50 ċen-timetru) b'tiben oħxon tax-xgħir f'rabta magħrufa bħala gherwa jingabru f'imzizel zghar u jingabru għal fuq il-qiegħa fejn imbagħad kien se jsir id-driss.

Maurice Cauchi bi ktieb ta' stejjer bil-Malti li huma ibbażati fuq l-istorja ta' Malta u Ghawdex

Dan l-aħhar Maurice Cauchi ippubblika l-ktieb ta' stejjer bil-Malti, *GĦOLJIET* u stejjer oħra li fih varjetà ta' stejjer godda u wkoll oħrajn ibbażati fuq l-istorja ta' Malta fuq dak li kien ippubblika għall-ewwel darba fl-2000.

Fost l-istejjer hemm tal-Maltin ta' Tripli fi żmien it-Tieni Gwerra li kellhom iħallu djarhom u sabu ruhħom bħala internati l-Italja fejn kellhom iqattu xhur ta' tbatija.

Din hi storja li originarjament inkitbet minn Romeo Cini (*La Nosttra Storja*) li bħala tifel zghir kien wiehed minn dawk li sab ruhu internat ma' dawk kollha li kienu ċittadini Ingliżi, u allura kienu ikkunsidrati bħala għedewwa tat-Taljani.

Stejjer oħra huma bbażati fuq trufijiet tal-istorja ta' Malta u l-aktar ta' Ghawdex, fejn tweled l-awtur. Hu jikteb ukoll dwar Ghawdex fi żmien il-Francīzi, riżultat purament ta' l-immaġinazzjoni.

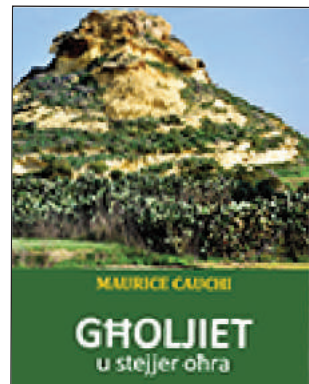
Fid-dahla li fiha jintroduċi lill-qarrejja għal ta' dak li jistgħu jsibu fil-ġewwieni tal-ktieb, l-awtur jgħid, "Dawn l-istejjer huma hafna drabi bbażati fuq il-verità, imma fil-fatt hafna minnhom huma novelli, stejjer, jiġifieri li qatt ma għaw hliel fl-immaġinazzjoni tal-awtur. Oħrajn però huma bbażati fuq xi storja jew episodju li gara tassew, li għandu bażi storika.

"Imma fl-aħhar mill-aħhar, x'inhi l-verità? Fid-dinja mhux kollox relattiv? Dak li hu veru llum isir storja għada. Dak li kien veru fl-antik, illum sar hrafa".

Huwa jispjega wkoll il-problema fil-lingwa Maltija, li wiehed ma jagħzix bejn id-differenzi sinifikanti tal-kelma 'storja': storja bħala novella, u storja bħala *history* kif isibuha l-Ingliżi, u għalhekk ma jagħzix dak li suppost hu veru għallum u għal dejjem, u dak li huwa biss hliqa tal-immaġinazzjoni.

Minhabba f'hekk tasal f'mument fejn tista' taħseb li qed tara lil xi hadd mill-karattri tal-istejjer tal-ktieb li qed jixbah lil xi hadd li tkun taf, u li dan jista' jkun veru jew aktarx li le.

Il-ktieb huwa wiehed mexxej hafna u jekk tidhol fil-fond ta' dak li qed taqra lanqas tkun tixtieq li thallih minn idejk.





Gail Attard

Il-Ministru Camilleri jifrah lill-Kantanta rebbieha Gail Attard

Gail Attard tirbaħ it-tieni Kantamaghna

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija
Charles Spiteri



Il-kantanta Gail Attard ta' 19-il sena hija r-rebbieha tat-tieni edizzjoni tal-Festival Kantamaghna li sar fit-Teatru Astra fir-Rabat Għawdex quddiem udjenza ridotta skont id-direttivi mahruga mill-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħha.

Hija rebhet minn fost 24 finalist li ġew magħżula għas-serata finali minn fost 88 applikazzjoni. Il-kantanti ġew imqassma fi tliet kategoriji skont l-età.

Gail ingħazlet bħala r-rebbieha fost kulhadd (overall) wara lejla fiha l-kantanti kienu akkumpanjati minn DCapitals Big Band taħt id-direzzjoni tas-Surmast George Apap.

Fi tmiem il-festival li ġie pprezentat minn Clara Sciberras u Fabian Demicoli, il-Ministru għal Għawdex, Clint Camilleri qassam il-premjijiet lir-rebbieha.

L-orgni l-ġdid ta' Għajnsielem

Waslet l-ewwel parti tal-orgni l-kbir għall-Parroċċa tal-Madonna Ta' Loreto f'Għajnsielem (*lemin*) biex hekk jista' jitwettaq proġett li beda madwar tmien snin ilu.

L-orgni qed jinbena mill-Malti Noel Gallo, arkitett tal-orgniji ta' fama internazzjonali flimkien ma' Michael Farley Organ Builders tar-Renju Unit.

Meta jkun lest kollu, l-orgni li se jinkorpora madwar 3000 kanna se jindaqq minn konsoll ta' erba' tastieri (l-akbar fil-Gżejjer Maltin). Id-daqsijiet tal-kanen ivarjaw minn uhud iżgħar minn lapses għal daww tal-20 pied.

L-orgni, li se jkollu wkoll sett ta' qniepen tubulari u sistema biex jikkontrolla l-qniepen tal-kampnar tal-knisja se jkun fih ukoll kanen storiċi ġejjin minn orgni mibni minn Henry Willis, bennej tal-orgni Victorjan li bena diversi orgniji importanti fir-Renju Unit fosthom daww tal-katidral ta' San Pawl f'Londra u tal-Katidral ta' Liverpool.

Meta jitlestha, l-orgni se jżen madwar 22 tunnellata u se jkopr i medda ta' 75 metru kwadru u b'għoli ta' tmien metri. Ladarba jkun lest, se jkollu pont tal-ħadid u ħġieġ li jgħaddi minn



parti minnu biex il-viżitaturi jkunu jistgħu jaraw l-istrument minn ġewwa.

Il-kor Gaulitanus waqt il-kunċert A New Year's Toast



Kunċert mill-kor Gaulitanus

Il-Kor Gaulitanus ipprezenta id-disa' edizzjoni tal-kunċert, *A New Year's Toast* fil-knisja parrokkjali t'Għajnsielem li kien iddedikat lill-memorja tal-membri tal-kor, l-Olandiza Dorian Hendriks.

Dan fetax b'għadd ta' siltiet vokali u strumentali, kemm Natalizji u oħrajn sagri li ġew interpretati miż-

zewg membri tal-Kor, Anna Bonello u Patricia Buttigieg, mis-sopran mistiedna Georgina Gauci u mill-vjolinista Pierre Louis Attard akkumpanjati minn Colin Attard.

Magħhom ingħaqad il-Kor Gaulitanus, biex il-kunċert għalaq b'*A Yuletide Celebration*, bi Stephen Attard jakkumpanja fuq l-orgni.

Insights from Australia's first Population Statement

By 2026-27 Melbourne projected to become Australia's largest city

In twenty-five years' time, in 2026-27, Melbourne, currently the capital and most populous city of the Australian state of Victoria, and the second-most populous city in Australia and Oceania, is projected to overtake Sydney to become Australia's largest city, with a population of 6.2 million by 2030-31, compared to 6.0 million in Sydney.

The projection was made by Australia's Centre for Population that engaged the Queensland Centre for Population Research, University of Queensland to develop forecasts and projections of the country's future internal migration.

Australia has a highly mobile population, with around 40 per cent of people changing their place of usual residence every five years. According to the study, the motivations of people to migrate are varied, and are influenced by demographic, economic, technological and behavioural factors.

However, the rate of internal migration has experienced a long-term downward trend, which aligns with trends in other countries.

The Queensland Centre, which has a team of highly experienced demographers, geographers and economists with expertise in internal migration and population projections provided a unique skillset and in-depth knowledge of internal migration trends and patterns in Australia.

This report includes a comprehensive analysis of historic internal migration trends, modelling of internal migration levels and patterns, and results of an expert opinion survey used to assess the plausibility of possible internal migration scenarios.

Informed by this analysis, the University of Queensland proposed assumptions for



two main scenarios of possible internal migration outcomes in the short and medium terms.

These scenarios take into account the potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The assumptions presented in this report were used to inform the population forecasts and projections in the 2020 Population Statement.

The report states that the impact of COVID-19 is expected to be long lasting. Australia's population is expected to be smaller and older than projected prior to the onset of the pandemic.

The country's population is estimated to be around 4 per cent smaller (1.1 million fewer people) by June 30, 2031 than it would have been in the absence of COVID-19. The population will also be older as a result of reduced net overseas migration and fewer births.

Despite COVID-19, Australia's population is still growing and is expected to reach 28 million during 2028-29, three years later than estimated in the absence of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is projected to slow popula-

tion growth across all geographic areas, with the duration and magnitude linked to the importance of net overseas migration to different parts of the country.

The report that presents the results of the Queensland University's research for the Centre for Population states that capital cities in Australia are projected to bear the heaviest impacts, with total population across capital cities estimated to be around 5 per cent lower by the end of June, 2031 than in the absence of COVID-19.

By contrast, population outside the capital cities is estimated to be around 2 per cent smaller than it would otherwise have been.

The rate of interstate migration in Australia has dropped following previous economic shocks and recessions, and in 2020-21 the number of people migrating interstate is projected to fall by 12 per cent. That is, the largest year-on-year drop in interstate migration in 40 years and would lead to the lowest rate of interstate migration as a proportion of the population on record.

Sydney, the capital of the state of NSW



Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria



Imut il-mużiċist/kompożitur Sammy Galea

Nhar it-Tnejn 18 ta' Jannar thabbret il-mewt tal-mużiċista u kompożitur legġendarju Sammy Galea, li hafna kienu jgħiduh bħala wiehed mill-pilastri fix-xena tal-mużika f'Malta. Huwa miet fl-età ta' 86 sena.

Flimkien ma' martu Doreen li hija kanta magħrufa, is-surmast Sammy Galea rabba familja ta' tliet ulied subien li kollha b'xi mod jinsabu fil-qasam mużikali, fosthom is-surmast Dominic li bħal missieru hu wkoll kompożitur, ta' stoffa u li qed jagħmel isem kemm f'Malta u wkoll barra. It-tnejn l-oħra, Benedict and Manolito huma wkoll midhla sew tax-xena mużikali.

Sammy kellu karriera twila li fiha ddist-ingwa ruħu u rnexxielu jnaqqax ismu fid-dinja mużikali li tulha kiseb suċċess kemm f'festivals lokali u wkoll internazzjonali.

Fl-1994, bil-kanzunetta Forsi kien rebah il-Malta Song Festival, xi haġa li ssokta jagħmel ukoll fit-tlett snin ta' wara. Bar-raminhekk, kellu kompożizzjoni minn tiegħu bl-isem ta' 'Taħt il-Qawsalla' li kienet kemm ippubblikata u wkoll irrekor-djata f'Zurich mill-UNICEF.

Fl-1975 kien ukoll ikkompona l-kanzunetta *Singing This Song* li biha l-kantant Renato kien irrappreżenta lil Malta fil-*Eurovision Song Contest* ta' dik is-sena u kklassifika fit-12-ilpost. Imbagħad tmien snin wara, fl-1983 kiteb il-kanzunetta *Jekk Trid* għal martu Doreen li biha rebhet il-Festival Internazzjonali tal-Kanzunetta



Sammy Galea, mużiċist u kompożitur li naqqax ismu fix-xena Maltija

Maltija. Biha hadet sehem ikoll f'festival tal-kanzunetta fi Bratislava u kisbet is-sitt post.

Fl-2003 fil-Malta Music Awards gie gus-tament onort bil-*Lifetime Achievement Award*. Filwaqt li l-Kunsill Lokali tal-Fur-

jana onorah b'Gieh il-Floriana.

Il-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti qal li bil-hafna xogħlijiet originali tiegħu s-Surmast Sam-my Galea ta kontribut mill-aktar siewi għall-inventarju mużikali kollettiv ta' Malta.

Request for help

My name is Angie Bennett-Schafer. I am writing on be-half of my dad Steven to *The Voice of the Maltese* seeking assistance in finding his father whom he has never met.

Steven, who is 60 years old recently took a DNA test and was thrilled to find that he is 50% Maltese. His mother is of English descent, meaning his father is full Maltese.

Steve mother's family is short and but his stature is tall. We are therefore looking for a tall Maltese man in his late 70s-80s. However, we do not know his name.

We want nothing from this man, except to know who Steven's father is and if he has any siblings (and extended family).

Steven was the only child born to Paulene Bradley when she was 18 in 1960. He grew up in Earlwood and Kings-grove in Sydney. Paulene had attended St Mary's Cathedral School in the city and possibly lived in Kings Cross with her parents Harry and Joan Bradley. She has a sister, Gay, and a brother, whose name is John.

I wonder if anyone has any information? I am willing to send some pictures of my dad at various years to anybody that might help. Any assistance or pointers towards Maltese family members living in Sydney around 1959 and who knew Paulene Bradley (or her family) would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me with any information to 0404 252 439.

Il-qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga li ma jhallux għall-aħhar. Indirizzaw l-emails lil maltesevoice@gmail.com. L-ittri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom: Letters to the editor.

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Campsie crime fighter for 38 years John Micallef retires from tough but very rewarding job

After fighting crime for 38 years, a few weeks ago, Sgt John Micallef, a fourth generation police officer of Maltese and Italian background hung up his boots for the last time and retired as he turned 60.

John's dedication throughout his years as a police officer has impressed many but none more so than Pope John Paul II who at the end of his Australian tour in 1986 presented Sgt John Micallef with a set of rosary beads.

John, who for the last 17 years as Traffic Sergeant had been stationed at Campsie, a suburb in the state of New South Wales was featured in a special article penned by Cindy Lynch on Banktown's *localnews-plus*.

He was quoted as reflecting on the way crime management has changed in the last almost four decades, other notable clients he's met and the advice he would give to those joining the force today.

The single father of four – Natalie, Tracey, Kathryn and Anthony – for 12 years and now a grandfather of five, John said he would miss his colleagues.

"It's been like watching your family grow," he said. "I've really enjoyed seeing all the young constables becoming sergeants and inspectors as well as watching the local community shine."

The retiring sergeant said that when he was starting out, bank hold-ups were common but technology has been the police officer's best friend.

"Now screens go up, doors shut, banks are a waste of time for robbers now," he said.

"We only had dial-up phones and telex machines but now it's so easy to share intelligence thanks to the Internet; CCTV also makes our job easier."

John Micallef also provided the security for the Dalai Lama in 2015 and although Christian, then started to follow some of his teachings, describing him as "a wonderful man of peace."

John has also provided security for Princess Anne and numerous others such as Bob Hawke, Sir James Rowland, Arthur Roden-Cutler and Sir Ninian Stephens.

He told the *localnews-plus* correspondent: "I used to drive Dr Victor Chang on donor missions; I'd have to go for broke, getting him to the heart extraction operation and then back to hospital as quick as I could. Of course, technology has improved there too."

Trying to live by the Mahatma Gandhi ethos that 'to find yourself you have to lose yourself in the service of others', John says there's no better way than to do that as a police officer serving the community.

He also had an advice to others, telling them to treat everyone fairly, never back



Police salute their colleague Sgt John Micallef on his retirement

down and if they needed help, to ask for it. "It's a tough job but very rewarding," he said.

Knowing Australia

Did you know that...

- * Australia's highway is the world's longest national highway.
- * The Indian Pacific train route between Sydney and Perth has the longest straight section of track in the world.
- * The Great Barrier Reef is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms.
- * The Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps.
- * The world's longest golf course is located in Australia. Nullarbor links measures in at over 850 miles (1368km) long.
- * Ninety percent of Australians live on the coast.

Avviż lill-qarrejja

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

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

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdeu jirċevu kopja pprintjata tal-magazine kull darba li joħroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jzommuha f'idejhom, huma m'hegga li jabbonaw għal sena halli jagħmlu żgur mill-kopja kull darba.

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

**The Voice is not just a news portal: We comment, we fight for your rights.
We believe in freedom of expression: We are read in the right places.**

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 l-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, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.*

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

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

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Established in 1999



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Maria 0416 119 100 or Miriam 0419 476 924

Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com



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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: Saturdays 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-aħbarijiettagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma mhegga biex jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: www.tvn.com.mt. għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.



Malta Premier League 2020/21

Hamrun retain their 2-point lead on top

A goal at the death enabled Hamrun Spartans to avoid defeat in a 2-2 result against Santa Luċija that enables them to retain their two-point lead over Hibernians at the top of the Premier League ladder. They escaped defeat by the skin of their teeth thanks to a goal seconds from the end of added time.

The previous day, Hibernians missed the chance to leapfrog over Hamrun, if only for just one day when they too could not go beyond a 1-1 draw against Floriana, a result that pleased none. In fact, after last weekend's programme the gap between them and Hamrun remains two points.

After three matches under coach John Buttigieg Floriana are still searching for their first victory. In spite the point they gained they still hover in the lower reaches of the league ladder.

Sliema Wanderers suffered another serious setback in their drive for the title when they disappointingly lost their third match in a row, 1-3 to Sirens, who on their part managed to bounce back from the loss against Hamrun to win their second win the last three outings.

Valletta, back on the trail after weeks of quarantine improved somewhat their standing by beating Balzan 1-0. It was also their first victory under new coach Cardoso Mendes, however they are still far back to start entertaining hopes of a challenge for the title.

In the bottom half of the table, with just 16 points from 17 matches, Balzan find themselves in the danger zone. They failed to follow up on their 1-0 win over Sirens and went down to their seventh defeat of the season.

PREMIER Results

Hamrun v Sta Lucia	2-2
Hibernians v Floriana	1-1
Gzira U v Tarxien R	2-0
Sirens v Sliema W	3-1
Birkirkara v Mosta	1-0
Valletta v Balzan	1-0
Zejtun C v Senglea A	3-1
Gudja U v Lija A	1-0
Hamrun S v Sirens	1-0
Hibernians v Sliema	1-0
Gzira U v Floriana	4-1
Tarxien v Balzan	1-0
Floriana v Tarxien	2-2
Sirens v Senglea	1-0
Sta Lucia v Zejtun	1-1

Busy time for most Premier League clubs in January transfer window

Most clubs from Malta's Premier League have been quite busy in the January transfer window. Most of them strengthened their sides with foreign players, with Hibernians making their presence felt with three important signings, all from South America, two of them Brazilian.

Two of the players, both strikers, had already donned the Paolites' black-and-white shirts. They are, 32-year-old Brazilian Tiago Adan Fonseca who returns to the club on loan from Floriana until the end of the season, and 33-year-old Argentinian Imanol Iriberry, signed only six months after he left them to play for Hamrun Spartans.

Their latest signing is Brazilian defender Sergio Raphael Anjos (pictured above) who first played for Hamrun before returning home and then rejoined a Maltese club, Sirens, in 2019. Hibs also released another foreigner, Karolis Laukzemis.

*Gzira United signed another Brazilian, a striker by the name of Filype Pinheiro Mendonça "Lipão" who had previously played for Olaria in his native Brazil. He joins other recent acquisitions Maxuell Maia da Silva, Bahrudin Atajic and for the second time, Karl Pulo.

*Valletta FC have a new face in 20-year-old Italian midfielder Davide Paglia. He has been signed for the rest of the current Premier League season with an option to extend his contract at the end of the 2020/21 campaign.

*Mosta have also signed the only Maltese footballer of some weight to change clubs in this transfer window, former Malta international striker Michael Mifsud, now 39. He joined Mosta from Sirens.

Mosta have also strengthened their squad by securing the services, on loan from Swiss club Lugano FC of 20-year-old Kosovo U/21 international striker Florjan Seferaj, and French striker Christopher Bibaku, 25, from Finnish side AC Kajaani.

*Balzan managed to obtain the services of Dutch youth international winger Moussa Sanoh, 25.

Champions 1946/47

Standing (from left): Oscar Gatt, Kelinu Grima, Guzi Zammit, Kelinu Aquilina 'Il-Boqqa', Walter Bezzina, Guzi Buttigieg 'Is-San Guzepp' and Nenu Taliana. Squatting: Leli Agius 'Ta' Giorgia', Salvu Bartolo, Mario Azzopardi (mascot), Freddie Landolina and Romeo Vassallo.

*Floriana FC have secured the services of Dutch 25-year-old winger Jeroen Lumu who started his football career at Willem II/RKC and also played for Willem II and has also played in Bulgaria, Austria, Turkey, Romania, Portugal and Georgia.

*Sirens FC signed a 25-year-old footballer from Gambia. He is winger Lamin Bittaye, who also played for a number of years in Italy. He is in addition to earlier signings Karl and Sean Schembri, and Emiliano Callegari, Tamsir Jammeh and Hamed Koné.

*Gudja Utd strengthened their squad by signing a 33-year-old Brazilian winger Vanger Conceicao da Silva who had earlier joined Tarxien Rainbows at the start of the season but then was not retained by the club.

*In their bid to stave off relegation, Lija Athletic have signed 34-year-old Argentine defensive midfielder Walter Omar Serrano, a product of Atletico de Rafaela.



Hamrun Spartans: a look back as hope sets in

Hamrun Spartans' current form in this season's Premier League is giving one to believe that this could be the club's year. The club's new President Gozitan businessperson Joe Portelli has injected so much confidence that most Spartans' supporters once again dream they can truly win their first league title after a lapse of 30 years.

Their current squad is so well balanced, and they are so consistent that they have become most people's favourites to lift the championship trophy at the end of the 2020/21 season.

Such a belief is also shared by Hamrun supporters in Australia. They enthusiastically follow the

club's fortunes and results and know all about the club's ups and downs since winning their last title in the 1990/91 season.

Nostalgia is also setting in! One of their supporters, Gejtu Deguara, the former Hamrun Association President in Melbourne, wants to share with the readers of The Voice of the Maltese a photo of the Spartans' team that won the club's third league championship victory in 1946/47.

Hamrun, formed in 1907, had previously also won the title in 1913/14 and 1917/18 and after the 1946/47 title also won on four other occasions, in 1982/83, 1986/87, 1987/88 and 1990/91.