



# The Voice of the Maltese

*We are for the Greater Malta*

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fortnightly magazine

## Malta 2021 A Carnival with a difference



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's Carnival, one of the oldest and most popular historical festivals in Malta was different from all others. It was static and lifeless. (see report and other pictures on pages, 11, 18 and 19)

Photo DOI:  
Clifton Fenech



Malta's High Commissioner to Australia HE Mario Farrugia Borg (right) presenting his credentials to Australia's Governor General

## Malta's HC to Australia presents credentials

The newly appointed High Commissioner for the Republic of Malta to Australia and New Zealand, His Excellency Mario Farrugia Borg, last Wednesday (February 17) presented his credentials to His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

During the ceremony which was held at Governor General House in Canberra, H.E. Farrugia Borg discussed the strengthening of Malta-Australia bilateral relations and seeking to keep the interests of Maltese living in Australia at the core of the mandate of the High Commission in Canberra, and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney.

The ceremony included the High Commissioner for Malta handing the Governor-General the formal documents identifying him as Malta's representative in Australia, a private meeting and a ceremonial welcome by Australia's Federation Guard.

Mr Farrugia Borg said that given the opportunity to serve his country in this role was a privilege and an honour beyond words. "I want to thank Prime Minister the Hon. Dr Robert Abela and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs the Hon. Evarist Bartolo for the faith shown in me, and assure them that I will give this role my total commitment and dedication," he said.

Two days before the presentation, the new HC held a video call with H.E. Dr George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta. They discussed Malta and Australia's excellent bilateral relations and how these can be improved further.



H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg inspecting the guard of honour



A group photo after the presentation. Back (from left): Mr Paul Singer (Official Secretary to the Governor General), Ms Denise Demicoli (Deputy HC of Malta), and the Guard Commander. Front: Ms Harinder Sidhu (Foreign Minister's Representative), H.E. Mrs Linda Hurley, H.E. Gen. David Hurley, H.E. Farrugia Borg, and Mr Ian McConville (Chief of Protocol)



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

# Two spouses at the time of death – it's more common than you might think, and could even apply to you

by Paul Sant

**A**s stigma of leaving a marriage has not existed for some time, it is not uncommon for a person to re-partner, after a long-term marriage, and be living in a long-term de facto relationship at the time of death.

Another not rare occurrence is that a person, at the time of their death, technically has two spouses: they are in a de facto relationship, and they are married. This occurs if, after leaving a marriage, neither the husband nor wife formally obtains a divorce.

After divorce became more readily easily to obtain, it took some time for society to be acceptable of divorce. Though it was acceptable for someone to leave a bad marriage, being 'divorced' was a label people wanted to avoid.

Today in some cultures it is almost fashionable to be divorced, where in others divorce is associated with shame. Or it may be personal preference not to get divorced.

In this article we explain unexpected legal consequences that may result, and create unintended difficulties for those you leave behind.

***I have been separated from my wife/husband for decades. Why does divorce matter?***

Even though you may not, physically and emotionally, be in both relationships at the same time, in the words of the law, if not divorced, the Succession Act 2006 NSW defines a 'spouse' (where you do not have a Will) as a person who was:

- (a) Married to the intestate immediately before the intestate's death, or
- (b) A party to a domestic partnership (e.g. de facto relationship) with the intestate immediately before the intestate's death.

## ***Divorce is an important legal step***

Obtaining a divorce Order not only allows you to get re-married, but more importantly, changes the status of your previous husband or wife in the legal world from **spouse** to **former spouse**.

Not doing so can have consequences for your current partner, as referred to above, if you die without divorcing and without a will.

## ***This problem can apply to your superannuation as well***

In a previous article we discussed how superannuation often does not form part of your estate.

Super funds are generally bound to follow Binding Death Benefit Nominations, but where you do not have a nomination, or it has lapsed, there can also be ramifications in relation to payment of your superannuation entitlements, and any attached death insurance, where you technically die with two spouses.

Like the Succession Act, under superannuation legislation, a spouse is defined as another person who:

- (a) Is legally married to you, or
- (b) You live with on a genuine domestic basis in a relationship as a couple (de facto);
- (c) You are in a relationship with that

is registered with an Australian State or Territory.

## ***Simple solution***

It is common in our day to day lives to be so busy that, when thinking about taking care of important paperwork, such as divorce and Wills, you think "I'll get around to it, when I have some time."

There is no time like the present. If something happens to you, before you make time to address your legal affairs, your loved ones may not only suffer the heartbreak of losing you, but also suffer headaches in dealing with your estate.

A divorce may also revoke aspects of a Will that was made when you were married, under section 13 of the Succession Act. However, it is safer to make a new Will.

## ***Divorce is generally a straightforward process***

Where both husband and wife make a joint application for divorce, neither of you are required to attend court. You will need your marriage certificate (or a certified copy).

If your marriage certificate is not in English, you will need a translation of the marriage certificate (by a qualified translator). If you were married in NSW, and are unable to locate your marriage certificate, you can apply for a marriage certificate through Service NSW.

Where you are making a sole application, you will only be required to attend court where there are children under the age of 18. The whole process is still relatively smooth, where you know where your former husband or wife resides.

In both sole and joint applications, where there are children under the age of 18, the divorce application must address children's live with and spend time with (or 'custody') arrangements, the children's education, and financial support.

## ***Wills, and effect of marriage on wills***

Whether you have or have not been married, wills are an important way to record your wishes of what you wish to happen to your assets when you pass away. If you have made a will, but have since married, the law at section 12 of the Succession Act will revoke your Will, and you will need to make a new one.

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



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Maltese Spoken



# Volunteering is Marlene's life

*Our Personality for February is synonymous with volunteering. In 2001, The International Year of Volunteering, Marlene was nominated for the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Volunteers Award. The award ceremony and reception were held at Government House, Melbourne. Fifteen years later, in 2016 she was awarded a Certificate of Community Award, for services to the community*

## Marlene Xerri

**M**arlene (Caruana) Xerri was born to Carmelo (Charles) Caruana and Antionette Muscat, both from Hamrun, Malta. Marlene is the eldest of four daughters.

After the war the Caruana family moved from Hamrun to St. Julian's and Marlene started her education at St Julian's Primary School. Later she attended St Louis Girls Grammar School in Sliema, and in January 1964, that is a year after she sat for her Oxford Level Certificate, GCE in 1963, the family migrated to Australia.

Marlene enrolled as a Mature Age student at RMIT in 1990 and having completed an approved course in Multicultural Studies, in 1994 she graduated Bachelor of Arts. A year later Marlene received NAATI accreditation as a Paraprofessional Translator in the Maltese language.

Once in Australia, her family settled in Thornbury, and later that year moved to Thomastown both in Victoria. While living in Thornbury, her family was invited to a family wedding where Marlene met Andrew Xerri. They were married in 1967. They have three daughters and two grandchildren.

Marlene started her working career at the Government Printing Mint in Brunswick, Melbourne. However, after six months, she changed jobs and joined Unilever Australia to work as an Invoice clerk. In 1968, she left work to stay home to raise a family.

Once her children started school, she got involved in the school's mother club and helped with the children's reading and excursions.

In the late 1970s, Marlene joined the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (MCCV Inc), as a volunteer. She actively provided assistance to welfare clients by filling the Department of Social Security (DSS) forms, writing letters to clients' relatives and Maltese interpreting. Her involvement as a volunteer and Social Worker Aide was paramount in the increased profile, growth and expansion of welfare programmes for the Maltese community.

Marlene also extended her efforts in assisting in many of the social aspects of the Maltese community. Each year, the MCCV Inc held several social activities to increase community awareness of the Maltese culture. She identified the importance of cultural awareness to the greater community and with the various committees and auxiliaries to enhance this cultural awareness.

The MCCV Ladies Auxiliary was another way to help the community at large, and in 1981 Marlene became a committee member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Initially, the Auxiliary raised money for the building fund and later for the Council's welfare programme and for the maintenance of the Centre.

Several activities were identified to raise funds, namely, bingo sessions, coach trips to different country areas, catering for functions, restaurant day trips and overseas trips. The Ladies Auxiliary also sponsored young ladies in the Miss Maltese Community Charity Queen Quest that was run by the Maltese Community Council.

Other donations were made to Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship Fund, the Maltese Olympiad participants and the Museum of Maltese and Gozitan Migration to name but a few. The Ladies



## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE WOMAN

Auxiliary also provided catering for the annual fete.

Marlene enjoys several hobbies that include knitting, sewing, reading, cooking, travelling and walking. She also has an interest in the arts and as a committee member of the Maltese Cultural Festival, she organised catering for

the annual Cocktail Party celebrating the opening of the Cultural Festivals.

In 1994 Marlene became President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and in 2019 the MCCV Inc approached the Ladies Auxiliary to provide their logo to be a part of the MCCV mural which is now displayed at the Centre. As the Ladies Auxiliary did not have a formal logo, the members created an image that symbolises the values of Ladies Auxiliary (right).

Marlene is involved in her local Council as a member of the carer's group that provides information for seniors and carers, during monthly meetings. She is also a member of the Heart Foundation Walking group that meets once a week to walk and socialise over a cup of coffee.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Maltese Community Centre has been closed until further notice, but Marlene has continued to contact the group on a regular basis to assure them that once it is safe again, the Tuesday bingo sessions would restart.

Marlene values and appreciates the support of her family, the Ladies Auxiliary committee members, the MCCV Council members and numerous volunteers, and is looking forward to the current year to continue her volunteer work.





## Dar l-Emigrant's 50th anniversary

Mons Philip Calleja leading the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone



Dar l-Emigrant today

## A fitting tribute

February 10th, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of Dar l-Emigrant, Castile Place, Valletta.

The building was erected as a permanent symbol of Maltese tribute to Maltese emigrants and a monument witnessing Malta's bond with them. Its foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier, and blessed by Archbishop Mgr Michael Gonzi.

This special anniversary is a timely opportunity to express appreciation to all those who have always had the best interests of Maltese emigrants and their families at heart, primarily Mgr Philip Calleja, the indefatigable former leader of the Emigrants' Commission.

Mgr Calleja dedicated his life to up-rooted people, first as the champion of post-war Maltese migrants and their families and then as the leading pioneer defender of refugees seeking protection and help in Malta.

Up to March 2020, at the venerable age of 91, Mgr Calleja was still regularly making himself available at Dar l-Emigrant to help whoever knocks on his door seeking his advice or assistance. It was only the COVID-19 pandemic and the indispensable precautions that had to be taken, that kept him away from Dar l-Emigrant and what is most dear to him: helping others.

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Emigrants' Commission, the late researcher and historian Fr Lawrence Attard OP wrote in the Times of Malta (24 June 1975):

"The history of migration from these islands, especially post-war migration, is now to a great extent the history of the Emigrants' Commission. That Commission was providentially fortunate in that since 1953 it has had as its driving force, Mgr Philip Calleja, who since then has dedicated his priestly life to migrants and to all people whose life has been affected by emigration.

"The enthusiasm of Mgr Calleja has inspired a dedicated group of people who willingly offer their services to prospective migrants, to their dependants and to Maltese abroad. These services are given to all who seek the help of the Commission; no fees are

charged, no irrelevant questions asked and the whole procedure is conducted by experienced priests and lay people in total privacy."

Mgr Calleja enjoys various international and local recognition for his lifelong sterling work for Maltese emigrants and asylum seekers reaching Malta.

On March, 16, 2010, Dr Stephen Gatt, president of the Federation of Maltese Abroad presented Mgr Calleja with a plaque with the following inscription: "In recognition of a life time of service, labour and travail well in excess of the call of duty in the interests of Maltese Migrants across the diaspora."

On September 23, 2004, Mgr Calleja was also granted a certification by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "in appreciation for years of dedicated service and close collaboration".

The Emigrants' Commission was UNHCR's Operational Partner in Malta from 1987 to 2004, when UNHCR's role in the island had taken a new form considering Malta's Refugees Act.

On November 1, 2019, Mgr Calleja was also honoured by the University of Malta, acclaiming him "a meritorious candidate for the Degree of Master of Letters (Honoris Causa) of this Alma Mater."

In its motivation, the University recognised "the significant contribution made by Philip Calleja to the social wellbeing of our communities, especially through his persevering commitment to the welfare of migrants and his contribution to the process of relocation; through his role as a founder of the Emigrants' Commission and of Dar l-Emigrant to serve as a hub to meet the holistic needs of migrants; and a person who had the foresight to act in favour of immigrants and to create services out of sheer altruism and love for humanity."

Dar l-Emigrant, which today also houses a digital Migration Museum that was intended to be officially opened in 2020. However, the opening had to be postponed because of the pandemic. It is a fitting tribute not only to Maltese emigrants, but also to its founder: Mgr Philip Calleja, who became known as "The Emigrants' Priest" and "The Refugees' Samaritan".

CharlesButtigieg

*Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – My Sixties*

Joseph Lanzon

# Important experiences that left an indelible mark

**A**s the Sixties started their momentous 10-year reign, I was just over 23 years of age but had begun interesting myself in the political, social and sporting worlds not only around me in Malta but also around the world.

During this period there were significant milestones in my personal life. There was my marriage, the death of my father and the birth of my son. There was also an important milestone for my little island, which from a dominated colony became an independent nation.

After the austerity of the Fifties after the war, the eventful years of the Sixties brought a marked change in people's attitudes and behaviour. They were known as the 'Swinging Sixties' as people worldwide, including Malta, indulged in a frenzy of social activities and abundance.

## My Marriage

I was married to my Liz on a scalding Sunday morning on 28 August 1960 at the little church of S. Paul in Bormla after which a reception was held at the St. George's Band Club.

The church of St. Paul holds an important tradition in the history of Bormla. It is held that while the Apostle St. Paul was shipwrecked in St. Paul's bay in AD 60, he left the Island six months later from the sheltered inlet of Bormla, where the little church now stands.

## Goodbye to my Father

My 56-year-old father died after a short illness on February 13, in 1961. I had a special pass to visit him in hospital in the mornings as my work precluded me from visiting during the official afternoon visits. After a week, a grim-faced sister at reception barred me from making any more visits. "You will not be allowed to make further visits in the morning. This is your last," she told me.

As I was entering the ward, the nurse approached me and told me that my father was to be given the last rites. I froze. To this day, over 60 years later, the memory of this shattering moment brings tears to my eyes. I prayed with the priest with more devotion than ever. Episodes of his life as I knew it, passed through my mind like a slide show.

The hospital was an ugly place. Death stalks the wards and corridors. And to make matters worse, in the silence and dim lights

of the evenings, the voice of an old monk was heard reciting the rosary. In reply, you could hear the voice of long-suffering patients in the large ward. They were like cries of dying men - "Mercy on us! Mercy on us!" To the patients struggling for dear life, it killed them before their time.

In such demoralised circumstances, my father went to meet the Maker with his family by his side.

## The 1962 General Election

According to local political analysts, the 1962 general election was until then, the fiercest and hardest fought in Malta. The protagonists were George Borg Olivier, leader of the Nationalist Party; Dom. Mintoff, leader of the Malta Labour Party; and Mons. Michael Gonzi, the Archbishop of Malta.

Mintoff and Gonzi hailed from my district

War. Midwifery services were available at the hospital since 1939.

The maternity scheme for Maltese civilian women was introduced in the late fifties and continued to function until 1967. It was run on the traditional British model of discipline, efficiency and cheerfulness.

## A tramp and a genius

He looked like a tramp, like the down-and-outs one meets on the London Undergrounds. He was an old and tired man - a battered hat on his head, trousers too short and shoes too big for him.

Kelinu had spent his working life as a boilermaker at HM Dockyard but long after retirement he still trudged and roamed the streets near his old work place like a lost man. I grew to know him.

Under this façade of a humble and common man, was one of the most intelligent

persons I have ever met, a treasure chest of knowledge on all subjects. He was also likeable and charming with a heart of gold. While still at the dockyard, he spent his Saturday mornings at the National Library in Valletta delving into books and documents.

I used to accompany him from Gavino Gulia Square to St. Paul's where he lived, and during these walks, he would impart his knowledge to me, generally history but also

on several other subjects. I would ask questions and he would reply with facts, figures and anecdotes.

Kelinu was also a genius with mathematics and would solve a complex problem mentally, explaining intricate problems in simple language. An unbelievable man!

## Baptism as a Civil Servant

I entered the Civil Service in 1960. Ten of us newly-recruited clerical officers were assigned to the Department of Social Services. The Head of the Department explained to us the work being assigned to us. As the Department had about 12 area offices where we were to start work, he asked each one of us what areas we preferred.

When my turn came I said, "I work anywhere however, if possible, I prefer not to be stationed in my home town of Bormla". "I understand Joe," he said with a smile on his face, "I'll see what I can do".

The Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier waves to the crowd after signing the Independence Day documents on September 21, 1964



of Cottonera where the residents are considered hard and not open to compromise.

Before the election, the church issued a Pastoral Letter that was read in all churches of the diocese warning electors that they would be committing mortal sin by voting for the Labour party. In the prevailing circumstances, the Nationalist Party was elected to govern Malta.

## Welcome to my Son

In this heated atmosphere, our son was born on February 17, 1962 at King George V hospital in Floriana. Looking out of the hospital window, I clearly heard the din and noise of the NP supporters celebrating their party's victory with carcades, singing and flag-waving.

However, I had no time for politics. My mind and body were focused on the birth of my new-born son.

The King George V Hospital was built in 1922 as a memorial to the men of the Merchant navy who died in the First World

*\*Continued on page 7*



# The Friends of Malta GC in the UK

## A brief history

It was formerly known as The Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt, that traces its origin to 1854. The title name of THE FRIENDS OF MALTA GC was incorporated within the name of the Association in June 1992, and since January 2007 became the main title.

It knows its beginning when a small number of Maltese workers grouped themselves around their local Church in Alexandria, Egypt and formed the *KONFRATERNITA TAL MADONNA TAL KARMNU* (The Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel).

Through the years the association expanded its activities to Mutual Help, Benevolent Societies, Clubs, Philodramatic and Philharmonic Groups, Ladies Unions, Scouts, Guides, Football teams, etc. in the four main cities of Egypt: Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez.

In the 1920s all these independent Associations were grouped into four Community Councils (one for each town) and in the 1930s in turn came under the umbrella of the Central Council of the Maltese Communities of Egypt.

When in 1956 as British subjects the Mal-



tese, were ejected from Egypt, they transferred their social and welfare activities to England joining them together into the "Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt" which, in effect, took over the function previously discharged by the Central Council.

Like all other Europeans living in Egypt, Maltese, were not subject to Egyptian Laws. As British subjects they came under the Law of England, and therefore never lost their identity. During WWII they were also subject to conscription, and several even joined the three Services.

By living in England, the Association prides itself not only of being the oldest Association of Maltese origin established overseas, but also by being the only one

having continuously kept an uninterrupted link with the British Monarchy following the pledge taken by the original Members of their own free will in the early 1800s.

The Association administers a Welfare Fund, organises social events, cooperates fully with other Malta connected associations, and publishes a Newsletter biannually which is read in several countries where members of the Association have settled down since the end of WW2.

The Friends of Malta GC is open to all, irrespective of nationality or origin, who have a love of the Maltese Islands and its people. It continues with the traditions created by the original members of the *Konfraternita* in 1854.

## Invitation to Young Maltese Living Abroad - Roots & Routes



Through its youth policy by the name of Roots & Routes, the National Youth Agency of Malta (*Agenzija Zghazagh*) is seeking to reach out to the young Maltese Living Abroad aged between 16-30 years to give them a voice by podcasting a series of interviews to discuss their specific concerns with their roots and to explore their identity, nationality, migration and global mobility.

The project seeks to encourage the creation of a wider community that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of young people, particularly in relation to the narrative of young migrants.

It is open for first, second third and fourth generation migrants (Maltese young people 16-30 year-olds).



Participating young people will be involved in a recorded short conversation (about 10 minutes) with a youth worker from Agenzija Zghazagh exploring their connections with Malta.

Those interested to participate are requested to get in touch with Maria C Borg, the Senior Youth Worker Agenzija Zghazagh at St. Joseph High Road Sta Venera, Malta, email: [maria-carmela.borg@gov.mt](mailto:maria-carmela.borg@gov.mt). Website: [youth.gov.mt](http://youth.gov.mt) or on Facebook - Agenzija Zghazagh

## Recollections: The Sixties years ....

*\*from page 6*

When the postings of the new recruits were pinned on the Head Office notice board I found that out that I was assigned to Bormla! The nickname of the Head of Department at the time was 'Il-Gedidu' because he was all amicable, pats and smiles when talking to you but, behind your back, he was anything but.

### An Embarrassing Incident

When I was at the Bormla office I was told of an incident that occurred only two years earlier by a witness of the incident, the messenger of the office. It was a Tuesday and the corridor was full of people waiting for their monthly pension.

The office manager in his little room at the back of the corridor heard an unusual commotion and noise that disturbed him no end. He hurried out of the office in an angry mood and saw a man in khaki shorts at the centre of the commotion as if he was the cause of the entire disturbance.

Pointing a finger at him, he told him angrily: "You, get behind the queue or I'll call the Police to throw you out". Then he told the messenger to sort things out and hurried back to his office slamming the door behind him.

However, the noise increased. The messenger, understanding the reason for the commotion, hurried to the manager's office and, for the first time, opened the door without even knocking. "Sir", he blurted out agitated, "that man you just berated is Dom Mintoff the Prime Minister of Malta".

In the meantime, the office staff held the angry people in the corridor from going en masse threateningly into the manager's office all the while explaining the genuine mistake of identity. The manager held his head in his hands for a full minute, then packed his briefcase and was out of the office from the back door. He did not return to the branch ever again.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

# 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.

#### Editors:

**Malta:** Joseph Cutajar

**Australia:**

Lawrence Dimech: MOM,  
OAM, JP Rt

email address:

maltesevoice@gmail.com

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 ...

### Jalla l-qazba ċcaqcaq għal xejn

Carmel Muscat jikteb minn Bathurst NSW:

**M**hux biss għax jien Għawdx, u bħal hafna fl-istati ta' NSW u Victoria jiena wkoll mix-Xagħra, imma l-aktar għax għadni ngożż r-religjon Nisranija.

Hu għalhekk li ninsab iddispjaċut bir-rapporti li herġin dwar l-allegazzjonijiet ta' abbużi minn ċerti saċerdoti fid-djoċesi Għawdxija u li għamiltu tajjeb li wkoll it-trattajtuhom fl-aħħar hargħa ta' The Voice of the Maltese.

Inhoss dieqa nisma' u naqra dwar dawn l-allegazzjonijiet, għax anke jekk wara kollox daww mixlija ma jinstabux hatja, imma xi tebgħa żgur li se tibqa' fuq ir-religjużi.

Niftakar meta xi 12-il sena ilu habib tiegħi fi Brisbane kien bagħatli kopja ta' paġna ta' gazzetta li kienet ippubblikata f'Cairns li rrappurtat allegazzjonijiet dwar saċerdot Għawdx, li inċidentalment bħalissa wkoll jinsab jiffaċċja akkużi simili fil-Qorti Għawdxija.

Tgħidx kemm konna hađniha bi kbira. Kien permezz tal-aħbarijiet fil-Voice li għaddiet li sirt naf li wara dawn is-snin

kollha, l-Isqof Foley kien għarraf lill-Isqof Mario Grech (illum Kardinal) li ma kienux instabux provi kontra l-qassis.

Qed nitlob mill-qalb u fl-istess waqt nit-tama li din id-darba wkoll, il-qazba tkun ċaqcquet għal xejn għax inkella ħsara kbira tkompli ssir lir-religjon fi żmien meta ż-żgħażaġh donnhom li xi hađa hađina bħal dik ikunu jridu biex ikomplu jitbiegħdu mill-knisja.

### News or basketball?

Mark Meli from Lalor Park NSW writes:

**I**n the January 26 issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*, you kindly published my comments on SBSTV Viceland and the Maltese programme. I cannot believe it; SBSTV have done it again!

At 8 a.m. on Sunday 14th February they failed to air the Maltese news and instead they transmitted basketball from USA.

Can you believe these people? Basketball (that can be shown later) gets preference to the NEWS. They really have adopted an ideal name VICELAND. Their vices are blinding them.

### Victor Borg's portrait

John Vella from Box Hill Victoria writes:

**T**hank you for *The Voice of the Maltese* (who else?) for bringing to light through your Melbourne correspondent the story of the new portrait of the late Victor Borg.

Victor was one of the most prominent Maltese in the State of Victoria and also a former president of the MCC of that state.

Let us always remember Maltese who have worked so hard for our community. However, this story left us somewhat perturbed, as we were not told where this portrait is to be hung.

### Let's have a Republic Day

Joe Busuttill from Kellyville NSW writes:

**I**enjoy reading Joseph Buttigieg's letters. I do not agree with him all the time but then again, why having a newspaper if you cannot express your opinion? It is a historical fact that the white race, Capt Cook, his crew and the convicts were not the first settlers. The aborigines go back some 60,000 years. They were the first arrivals.

Therefore celebrating Australia Day on the anniversary of the arrival of sailor Cook is not appropriate. If not, what is a good occasion to unite the nation?

Australia should become a republic with our national day to be on that memorable day in our history.



### Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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# Interviewing about migration (Part 2)

## Recording the memories

*In this second instalment, I am providing some questions that focus on family history, birth and infancy, school days and childhood and home life*



Barry York

### – Focus on family

#### 4. Childhood and Home Life

– What was the economic condition of your family during your infancy?

– How would you describe your material standard of living at that time?

– Did your parents own their own home?

– Did you live in the same house during your infancy and childhood or did your family move? If so, from where to where, and how many times?

– Did your parents have special friends and acquaintances?

– Did people other than your parents and brothers and sisters live in the family home?

– Were you closer to your mother or your father?

– What were the qualities you most liked about your mother and your father?

– How would you describe the role of your mother in the home?

– Were there things you didn't like about your parents?

– Were you close to any adults other than your parents?

– In your childhood period, were you part of any family rituals (social, religious or cultural) in the home?

– What was the typical family routine, as you remember it, for week days and weekends?

– Describe a typical evening scene in your home when you were a child.

– Who looked after you as a child?

– Did you help around the house?

– Did your parents have a radio and/or a gramophone?

– Did anyone in the home play a musical instrument?

– Did you have a childhood best friend?

– Would you say that you had a happy childhood?

– What are your fondest childhood memories?

(I'm happy to be emailed for further advice: [barryyork554@gmail.com](mailto:barryyork554@gmail.com))

Joe Debrincat (left) interviewed by Barry York at Fairy Meadow, Wollongong in 1984



As I said last time, make sure to pay attention to audio quality and aim for a conversational style in the recorded interview. However, some people might even like to just write down answers to the questions and type them up as a personal record for the benefit of their children, grandchildren, etc. The ideal, though, is a recorded interview which preserves the unique voice.

#### 1. Family history

– Do you have memories of your grandparents?

– What were your grandparents' names and birthplaces?

– Please tell me about your grandparents' (i) occupations, (ii) level of income/wealth, (iii) political views, (iv) religious beliefs, (v) recreational and social activities, (vi) appearance and (vii) personalities.

– When and where did your grandparents pass away?

*Now I'll ask you about your parents*

– Can you tell me about your parents?

For instance what were their (i) names, (ii) places of birth, (iii) education levels, (iv) occupations, (v) standard of living at the time of your birth, (vi) political views, (vii) religious beliefs, (viii) appearance and (ix) personalities.

– Did your parents have nicknames?

Did your parents or grandparents have any particular sayings or favourite proverbs?

– Did they ever talk about their achievements and disappointments in their lives?

– Did they tell you about any special experiences or interests?

– What were their ages at the time of your birth?

– How did your parents meet?

– Would you say they were they well matched?

– How would you describe their personalities and interests?

– Do you recall any habits or mannerisms of either parent?

– Were your parents happy?

#### 2. Birth and Infancy

– When and where were you born?

– What is your full name?

– Why were you given those names?

– Are there any family stories about your birth?

– What was your parents' attitude to your birth?

– Where did you rank in the family?

– Were you a healthy child?

– Did your birth have any marked effect on your mother's health?

– Do you have any memories of yourself as a baby?

– Who nursed and cared for you as a child?

– Who trained you to do simple tasks?

– Do you have any memories of learning to speak? To read?

– Any memories of early play experiences?

– Did you have favourite toys?

– Any memories of pets?

– Do you remember nursery rhymes or other songs from your childhood?

– What degree of material comfort did you

– Do you have any childhood memories of difficult or disturbing or traumatic experiences (accidents, diseases, death, etc)?

– Before you went to school, did you have any special friends?

– grow up in?

#### 2. School days

*Please tell me the name(s) and location(s) of the schools you attended.*

– Why did you change schools?

– What was your attitude towards attending school?

– What did you like about it? What didn't you like?

– How old were you when you commenced and completed school?

– Do you have any memories of early learning experiences (good and bad)?

– Do you have special memories of any teachers?

– Do you remember any students in particular?

– What were the methods of punishment and encouragement at your school?

– What subjects did you study?

– Did school teach you any values? If so, which ones?

– Did you have a favourite subject?

– What were the sporting and recreational activities?

– Did you sing songs or learn a musical instrument?

– What were your parents' attitudes to your education?

– How did you travel to school and with whom?

– How far was the school from your home?

– What was the daily routine at school?

– Was it a co-educational school?

– What did you want to be when you grew up?

– Did you attend or belong to any Church-related or Parish societies?

# Perspettiva

## X'hemm komuni bejn il-vodka u l-gebel?

**B**l-elezzjoni tal-President il-ġdid Amerikan Joe Biden, dawk li huma inkwetati mhux f'it bil-kriżi tat-tibdil tal-klima u l-effetti ċari li qed ikollha fuq l-ambjent hadu f'it tar-ruħ. Dan għaliex hu ċar li l-President Biden beħsiebu jagħmel il-ġlieda kontra t-tibdil tal-klima wahda ċentrali tal-amministrazzjoni tiegħu, u jidher determinat li jkaxkar lill-bqija tal-pajjiżi l-oħra miegħu.

Dan huwa nifs ġdid f'jamant u helu, wara l-vandalizmu sfrenetiku u sinat tal-predeċessur tiegħu kontra kull pass ta' fejda li kien ittied f'dan il-qasam.

Bhalissa, il-kunsens fuq il-mira tat-tniġġiż tal-karbonju hu li d-dinja kollha ma tiffax diossidu tal-karbonju  $\text{CO}_2$ , il-gass l-iktar responsabbli għat-tibdil tal-klima, fl-atmosfera iktar milli jittied minnu sas-sena 2050.

Biex inkunu ċari daqs il-kristall, anke jekk il-pajjiżi kollha tad-dinja jirnexxielhom isibu il-kuraġġ li jimplimentaw dan it-tibdil neċessarju fl-ekonomija tagħhom, dan ikun ifisser li l-klima tkompli tinbidel, u bħala medja madwar id-dinja t-temperatura tkompli toġħla sal-2050. Jiġifieri li l-klima se tkompli teħżien minn sena għall-oħra għal mill-anqas tletin sen' oħra!

Din il-ġlieda għandha hafna truf. Hemm l-inizjattivi li huma l-iktar magħrufa, bħall-enerġija minn riżorsi sostenibbli bħar-riħ u x-xemx, tnaqqis fit-tniġġiż mill-biedja, l-elettrifikazzjoni tat-trasport eċċ.

Hemm ukoll inizjattivi oħra ta' inġinerija tal-klima li huma interessanti, għax dawn għandhom l-għan li jieħdu id-diossidu tal-karbonju direttament mill-atmosfera u jdawruh go xi prodott.

Wiehed li grajt fuqu dan l-aħħar huwa l-produzzjoni tal-vodka mis- $\text{CO}_2$ . Dan huwa proċess li l-ewwel jipproduċi l-etanol u minn tal-aħħar issir il-vodka.

Il-proċess gie żviluppat minn Air Company, fi Brooklyn, New York Stati Uniti tal-Amerika.<sup>1</sup> L-etanol jista' wkoll jintuża bħala fjuwil.

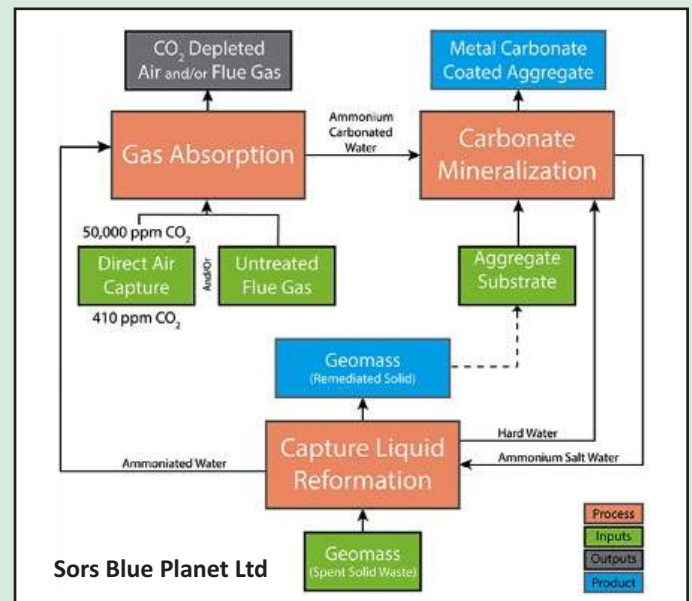
Din ġdida li tista' tmur go xi bar wara x-xogħol, u sserrah il-kuxjenza li iktar ma tixrob huwa tajjeb għall-ambjent!

Teknoloġija oħra li ilha tissemma hija *Carbon Capture and Storage*, li hija intenzjonata għall-power stations konvenzjonali (taż-żejt, faħam jew gass) jew fabbriki tas-siment, fejn is- $\text{CO}_2$  jiġi ppumpjat xi żewġ kilometri taht l-art f'formazzjonijiet li jew ikollhom faħx fiżiku li minnu ma jkunx jista' jgħaddi jew issir trasformazzjoni kimika li jkollha l-istess effett. Dan il-proċess s'issa għadu ma gie ippruvat kummerċjalment.

Aktar interessanti għaliha huwa varjazzjoni fejn is- $\text{CO}_2$  jiġi

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

kitba ta' **IVAN CAUCHI**



kunvertit fil-gebla tal-ġir (*limestone*) li minnha huma magħmulin prattikament id-djar kważi kollha ta' Malta. Il-kumpannija Blue Planet Systems Corporation, mill-ġdid fl-Istati Uniti, tgħid li tista' tipproduċi ramel, ġebel u siment minn dan il-gass b'sistema proprjetarja li żviluppat hija.<sup>2</sup>

S'issa dan il-materjal tal-kostruzzjoni jista' jintuża fil-konkrit u mhux direttament bħala knaten bħal ma jintużaw fil-kostruzzjoni f'Malta. Immaġinaw f'it però li huwa possibbli li biex tibni struttura m'hemm għalfejn barrieri, u l-binja l-ġdida tiegħek ma tffis-sirx li tkun židt b'mod żgħir il-problema tat-tibdil tal-klima imma li naqqastha.

F'it f'it qed insir daqsxejn ottimist, jew inqas pessimist, li forsi l-bniedem jirnexxilu jsalva xi parti mill-pjaneta mid-diżastri ambjentali li qed nikkundannawha għalihom. Ahna li qed naqraw dan l-artiklu meta nkiteb, mhu se nħossu xejn hlief deterjorament tas-sitwazzjoni, mill-inqas sal-2050.

Imma, min jaf, forsi mhux it-tfal, imma t-tfal tat-tfal tagħna jkun jistgħu jkejlu t-tnaqqis fil-frekwenza u/jew l-intensità tan-nirien u tal-maltempati, il-biedja terġa' tibda ssir vijabbli, il-livell tal-baħar jieqaf fil-mixja tiegħu 'l fuq, ir-rata ta' żieda tal-aċidifikazzjoni tal-oċeani tieqaf.

Forsi, min jaf, xi farka mill-Great Barrier Reef tkun għadha hajja, u n-neputijiet tiegħi jkun jistgħu jinżlu fuqha għexieren ta' snin oħra u jikkomparaw il-vidjo (jew xi teknoloġija għad mhux mahluqa) li jiġbdu taht il-baħar ma' dak li kien ingibed meta mar fl-istess post nannuhom, u jaraw liema speċje ta' ħut, fkieren u hlejjaq oħra ġew tard wisq biex jaraw b'għajnejhom.

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**L**-Karnival ta' Malta huwa fost l-eqdem u wiehed mill-aktar festi storiċi u tradizzjonali fil-Gżejjer Maltin. Il-bidu tiegħu jmur kważi hames sekli, sa minn żmien il-Kavallieri ta' San Gwann. Minn dejjem kien okkażjoni ta' brijju fi Frar, ftit jiem qabel jibda r-Randan, il-jiem tas-sagrifiċċu qabel il-jiem tal-Gimgha l-Kbira.

## Karnival b'differenza

F'din l-okkażjoni kull darba tispikka hafna l-hila artistika ta' dilettanti li sena wara l-oħra jibbrillaw bl-ideat u l-kreattività tagħhom fil-bini tal-karrijiet, kostumi

mill-isbaħ u wkoll iż-żifniet li kapaċi jgħolqu għal mużika popolari. Dawn it-tliet elementi jagħmlu l-Karnival ta' Malta wiehed uniku.

Minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet kaġun tal-pandemija COVID-19, din is-sena, il-Karnival ha xeha differenti, imma d-dilettanti xorta taw kontribut siewi permezz tax-xogħol artistiku tagħhom li wrewh fil-bini ta' għadd ta' installazzjonijiet u karrijiet li ma darux mat-toroq, imma kienu statiči, imqiegħda madwar it-toroq tal-Belt Valletta. *L-istess f'Għawdex (ara paġni 18 u 19).*

Minkejja li l-Karnival gie ċċelebrat b'mod differenti, l-ilwien spettakolari u l-artis trija tas-soltu fl-installazzjonijiet, tgawdew mill-familji kemm f'xi toroq ewlenin u l-aktar fil-belt Valletta.

Minbarra dan saret ukoll wirja ta' kostumi tal-Karnival mill-isbaħ, (*uħud jidhru hawnhekk*) kemm daww reċenti u ta' snin passati fi Spazju Kreattiv. Xi haġa li hemm il-hsieb li tibqa' biex anke tigawda minn min użur Malta 'l quddiem.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

## High Commission & Consulates of Malta in Australia

### High Commission of Malta - Canberra

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg  
High Commissioner for Malta to Australia  
38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley, ACT 2606

 (02) 6290 1724 / 1426 / 1573


 0433 799 947


 [www.foreignandeu.gov.mt](http://www.foreignandeu.gov.mt)


 [mario.farrugia-borg@gov.mt](mailto:mario.farrugia-borg@gov.mt)


### Consulate General - Sydney

Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar (Consul General)  
St. Martins Tower, Suite 10.04, Level 10, 31 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000

 (02) 9262 9500


 0430 402 177

 (02) 9264 4722


 [maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt)  
[lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt](mailto:lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt)

### Consulate General - Melbourne

Vacant  
Suite 613, 6th Floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

 (03) 9670 8427

 0413 621 177

 (03) 9670 9451

 [maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt)





## Roundup of News About Malta



# Central Bank forecasts a 5% increase in GDP



**F**ollowing the decrease of 8.2% in GDP last year, the Central Bank of Malta is anticipating that in the coming year, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 5%, by 5.5% in the following year and then by 4.7% in the year to follow, in 2023.

In forecasting economic development over the next three years, the Bank said its forecasts last December are being revised when a decline in GDP was being forecast

because of the pandemic situation.

However, the Bank revised its forecast for the next two years and is predicting that GDP will attain the same level as last December's GDP.

## Salesians to promote spiritual tourism niche

**T**he Ministry of Tourism and Consumer Protection and the Salesians of the National Federation of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco have signed an agreement through which cooperation between them would be strengthened with the aim of attracting a new tourist niche, that of religious tourism.

Through this agreement, the Government will hand to the Salesians a sum of €200,000 for them to perform infrastructural works in a building used to unite young Catholics who choose Malta as their primary destination for their spiritual journey.

The Salesians will be given another €60,000 over five years with the aim of advertising Malta to the 230 countries where the Salesians of Don Bosco are represented.

## Maltese entrepreneurs are optimistic

**H**alf of the Maltese entrepreneurs believe that their business will start recovering in the next six months. However they would need a year to start seeing an increase in their revenue once again, a survey carried out by Vistage has found.

This survey the first of a new index to be

carried out every three months among entrepreneurs, shows the Maltese are more cautious about their financial prospects compared to their foreign counterparts.

Vistage Malta said that the survey shows that more than 50% of the participants are predicting a good recovery in the next six months; and 34% believe that within 12 months they will have a positive recovery.

Meanwhile, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, David Xuereb said that through this exercise, the situation in Malta can be compared with what is happening in other countries.

## Gozo property registers highest price increase

**S**tatistic published by Djar (homes), in collaboration with EY, shows that properties in Gozo have registered the highest price increase during the Fourth Quarter of 2020 compared to the same Quarter in the previous year

The statistic shows that Ghasri in Gozo experienced the greatest rise – 8.1% – throughout all localities in the Maltese islands.

Other Gozo localities to experience price rises included Marsalforn (4.6%), Nadur, Qala, Xewkija, Munxar and San Lawrenz.

The highest registered increase in Malta, was in Manikata by 7.2%, followed by Kalkara (6.7%) and Santa Luċija (2.3%).

On increases in Malta were registered in Mdliena (2.9%), Mtarfa (2.5%) and Valletta (2.2%). The survey finds that Cottonera localities experienced price decreases

## Call for reforms in EU

**M**survey commissioned by the European Commission found that 44% of European citizens believe that a change is needed on the way the European Union and its institutions are run and have called for great reforms so that it will remain relevant for today's circumstances.

## Drop in road accidents

**F**igures released by the National Statistics Office, indicate a drop in the number of traffic accidents last year. In 2020, 11,950 traffic accidents were reported, which is nearly 3,900 less than for the previous year.

Injuries for last year slightly exceeded one thousand in number, and twelve persons lost their lives because of traffic accidents.

# Malta endorses Declaration Against the Use of Arbitration Detention

**M**alta is among the endorsers of the Canadian-Drafted "Declaration Against the Use of Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations". The Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Evarist Bartolo (right) made the endorsement on behalf of Malta when he participated in the virtual official launch of the Declaration

The Declaration brings together 58 countries as a coalition of international partners that denounce the use of arbitrary detention of foreign nationals to exercise leverage in state-to-state relations; that is contrary to international law.

The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs hosted the event. Other participants included Amal Clooney, representative of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, London (UK) and Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch.

In his address, Minister



Bartolo stressed that arbitrarily detaining people, one's own citizens and nationals of other countries; depriving them of any of their rights and subjecting them to ill treatment or punishment; can never be justified.

"From time to time differences are bound to arise in our relations with each other as states, but we need to patiently persevere to resolve them peacefully through dialogue within the framework of the rule of law. Let us not use our citizens as bargaining chips or political tools in our negotiations," Minister Bartolo said.

He reiterated that every cit-

izen must be afforded the dignity and rights all human beings deserve the right to equality, freedom from discrimination, the right to life, liberty, personal security, freedom from slavery and freedom from torture and degrading treatment, and recalled that these rights were formulated by persons coming from different political systems, cultures and religions to apply to everyone in the world.

"Promoting them should not be seen as interfering in the internal affairs of our countries," Minister Bartolo said.

He added, "Let us not weaponise human rights by invoking them selectively and only when and where it is politically convenient for us".

These rights were enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human rights after the catastrophe of the Second World War, and are as relevant as ever.

He concluded by saying that "They are not only our past but also our future".





## Roundup of News About Malta



# Mediterranean youths have much to offer for the Mediterranean region

**T**he President of Malta, Dr George Vella believes that Mediterranean youths have much to offer for the Mediterranean region to become a mosaic of opportunities.

The President was speaking at the end of a week-long regional seminar organised by the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) and the Anna Lichd Foundation and financed by the EU about leadership skills considering Young Mediterranean Voices.

Twenty-seven youth leaders from 18 countries, participated in the virtual meeting that included also included youths from Algeria, Austria, Libya, Syria, Finland and Malta.

President George Vella presented several proposals, including the setting up of a Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, consisting of youths to debate themes that can translate into a policy of cooperation between the countries.

The seminar, that put the youths in touch with international leaders, including European members of Parliament, journalists and teachers, offered them the opportunity to suggest opportunities that can be adopted by countries.



Malta President  
Dr George Vella

Foremost among the recommendations were two specifically linked to education, that is, that children should be taught about migration from a young age, and that parties should include in their curricula whole programmes that encourage critical thought.

The President said that a model Mediterranean parliamentary assembly made up of youths from across the region helps inform international organisations' decision-making.

President Vella said that such a model parliament could meet periodically and present its proposals to members of the 5 + 5 Western Mediterranean Dialogue, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the European

Commission for necessary action.

Earlier, he stressed upon the importance of South-South cooperation in all sectors that helps to develop a strong, dynamic Mediterranean identity.

He noted that we often restrict ourselves to thinking of student mobility from South to North, when the educational and cultural benefits of South-South exchanges between Mediterranean, North African, Middle Eastern and Gulf youth could be limitless.

## Equity in the provision of education

**M**inister for Education Justyne Caruana emphasised the importance of further mainstreaming the notion of equity in the provision of education, both in compulsory schooling and in higher education when she actively participated in the informal video-conference of the Ministers for Education of the European Union.

The conference discussed the concept of equity in education and training, an important topic that merits greater attention, particularly considering the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Justyne Caruana said that "Malta prides itself on distinguishing, both in policy and in practice, between equal education and providing equitable access to education for all children and students throughout their educational paths".

She added that fostering the notion of equitable access to education would provide one with a better understanding of the needs of the students, and that by using equity as a yardstick, gaps in education and training can be more easily identified and therefore provided for.

"An equitable and inclusive education promises to prepare a cohort of students ready to fully engage and succeed in emerging market economies, and resilient to arising challenges," Minister Caruana said.

She pointed out that in this regard, Malta prioritises equity in both compulsory schooling and further education and additionally, Autism Friendly Guidelines have been launched to improve the school environment for all.

The conference also discussed the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training toward the European Education Area and beyond (2021–2030).

Minister Caruana said that Malta has exceeded the Europe 2020 national target by 5.1 percentage points. Malta's tertiary education attainment has also registered a gradual year-on-year increase since 2015 and now stands at 38.1%.

The Minister reiterated Malta's commitment to be an example of good practice, for



Minister Justyne Caruana

the promotion and provision of an educational system that can truly cater for the needs of all its students.

## Malta's underwater heritage exhibited

**M**alta's Blue Wonders is the title of an exhibition set up by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) at the Malta National Aquarium, featuring Malta's underwater heritage through photography.

It exhibition, featuring several new habitats and species around the Maltese islands discovered through the LIFE BaHaR Project, is intended to raise awareness of local marine habitats and the importance of their collective protection.

ERA has designated over 35% of Malta's waters as Marine Protected Areas that have also been added to the European network of Natura 2000 sites.

## Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

*minn Ġużè Camilleri*

# Il-Kera – biċċa wġiegh ta' ras

**G**ħalkemm Malta hi wiehed mill-pajjiżi fejn l-aktar għandna familji li għandhom id-dar jew fejn joqogħodu tagħhom, xorta għad hawn eluf li jikru fejn jgħixu. Maż-żmien, il-kera beda jogħla u fl-aħħar snin, fost kollox bil-miġja ta' għadd ta' barranin li bdew jikru fejn joqogħdu f'Malta, dawn il-kirjiet telgħu mas-smewwiet. Hekk min seta' beda jibni appartamenti u jikrihom.

Imma bis-saħħa ta' Liġi li saret fl-1979 l-ġholi tal-kera ma effettwax lill-maġġoranza tal-Maltin li ilhom jgħixu fid-dar jew appartament mikri lilhom għal għadd ta' snin. Skont din il-liġi l-kirjiet ta' qabel l-1 ta' Ġunju 1995 huma protetti u b'hekk l-inkwilini jistgħu jgħixu fl-istess proprjetà sakemm jonoraw l-obbligi kollha tagħhom, inkluż il-hlas tal-kera fil-hin.

Peress li dawn il-kirjiet huma protetti s-sidien ma jistgħux jgħollu l-prezz tal-kera kif iridu anke jekk dan ma jirriflettix il-prezz tas-suq. Apparti minn hekk, dawn il-kirjiet jistgħu jintirtu minn iben/bint/ulied l-inkwilini, imma għal darba waħda biss. Biex dan isehh, l-ulied iridu jkunu jgħixu fil-proprjetà mikrija meta tiġi nieqsa l-persuna (l-omm jew il-missier).

Sintendi, għal snin twal il-propjetarji ta' dawn id-djar u appartamenti, kienu u għadhom sal-lum jipprotestaw u jehduha kontra din il-liġi għax isostnu li mhux talli ma jistgħux jiehdu lura l-propjetà tagħhom, imma lanqas qed jiehdu kera xieraq.

Fl-2009, Gvern Nazzjonalista kien emenda din il-liġi, biex il-liġijiet tal-kera ma baqghux jgħoddu għall-kirjiet godda ta' wara l-1 ta' Ġunju 1995, kif ukoll li dawk il-kirjiet ta' qabel din id-data, ir-rata tal-kera dovuta minn wara l-1 ta' Jannar tal-2010 kellha titla' għal €185 fis-sena.

F'każ fejn ir-rata ta' kera kienet diġà aktar minn €185 fis-sena, ir-rata kellha



tibqa' bir-rata diġà stabbilita, imbagħad tibda tizzied kull tliet snin b'mod proporzjonali skont l-indiċi tal-inflazzjoni.

Imma din ma solvietx il-problema, l-aktar meta l-kirjiet dan l-aħħar għolew mas-smewwiet u post li bħalissa qed jinkera b'madwar €120 fis-sena, jista' faċilment jinkera għal xi €900 fix-xahar.

Quddiem din is-sitwazzjoni, xi propjetarji marru quddiem il-Qorti Ewropeja li konkludiet li l-liġi tal-1979 kienet qed tikser id-dritt tas-sidien li jgawdu il-proprjetà tagħhom u tathom kumpens ta' eluf ta' Ewro, li sintendi spiċċa biex iħallashom il-Gvern.

F'xi każi, kawżi bħal dawn wasslu saħansitra għal żgumbrament tal-inkwilin, u wassal biex hafna Maltin li għandhom kirjiet baxxi jinsabu nkwetati għax hemm uħud li mhumieq f'qagħda li jhallsu l-kir-

jiet tal-llum u jibzġu li jistgħu jispiċċaw bla saqaf fuq rashom.

Dan qed wġiegh ta' ras għall-Gvern għax fuq naha jaf li s-sidien għandhom raġun jitolbu kera xieraq (għalkemm mhux esagerat), u min-naha l-oħra jaf li hemm aktarx eluf ta' kerrejja li ma jifilfux iħallsu l-kirjiet tal-llum.

Waħda mill-proposti tas-sidien hi li l-Gvern jibda jissusidja l-kera ta' dawk li permezz ta' mezzi tal-inkwilin (jaraw id-dhul li għandu u kemm jiflah iħallas). Attwalment il-Gvern diġà qed jgħin lil xi nies li vera huma fil-bżonn biex iħallsu l-kera, imma mhux fuq skala hekk kbira. Sintendi kien hemm min oġġezzjona għal sistema bħal din.

Il-Gvern wiegħed li qed jahdem biex isolvi l-problema li Gvern wara l-iehor f'it li xejn għamlu dwarha.

## X'kull waħda wkoll! Mix-Xena tal-Covid-19

**W**ara l-istorja tal-abbużi minn xi membri tal-kleru, li semmejna fl-aħħar ħarġa, fl-aħħar jiem ħarġet storja oħra, li wkoll għandha x'taqsam ma' abbuż sesswali, imma din id-darba minn missier li llum għandu 65 sena, u li għandu żewġt iqraba subien gay. Meta tnax-il sena ilu kellu tifel dan beda jinkwieta li se jispiċċa bħal qrabatu u jitle' gay.

Il-missier jidher li tant inkwetah dan il-ħsieb, li ddecieda li minn kmieni jipprova jilqa'

għal din il-possibbiltà. Għa-hekk meta t-tifel kellu seba' snin u beda beda jiżviluppa, beda jiehdu għand prostituta u jġieghla jkollha x'taqsam mat-tifel. Fl-istess hin kien jhedded lit-tifel li jekk jitkellem dwar hekk kien jittfghu fl-istitut.

Jidher li wara xi żmien iż-żewġ prostituti li kellhom x'jaqsmu mat-tifel marru għand il-pulizija u rrapurtaw dak li kien seħħ. Wara s'tharriġ, il-pulizija ressqet lir-raġel il-Qorti li sabitu hati u waħhlitu tmien snin habs.

**L**-aħħar xejriet mill-qasam tal-COVID-19 juru li ninsabu l-bogħod milli naraw tnaqqis sostanzjali fit-tixrid tal-infezzjonijiet. Dak li qed naraw huwa tluġ u nżul tal-figuri li tal-inqas jagħtu xi f'tit tan-nifs għax mhux qed ikollna dawk iż-żidiet qawwiya fl-infezzjonijiet bħal f'ċerti pajjiżi.

Imma sfortunatament ħarġet l-aħbar li l-pandemija wasslet għall-mewt ta' aktar minn 300 persuna.

Il-pożittiv hu li l-infezzjonijiet fost l-anzjani qed jonqsu,

parti minnu x'aktarx dovut għall-fatt li għadd kbir ta' anzjani diġà rċewew il-vaċċin kontra l-pandemija. Mhux biss, imma Malta kompliet iż-żomm fuq quddiem fejn jidhol it-tilqim.

Skont l-aħħar statistika r-rata tat-tilqim f'Malta hi kważi doppju ta' dik tal-pajjiż li jinsab warajna billi għal kull mitt persuna, pajjiżna diġà laqqam 12-il persuna, jew 12% meta r-rata ta' dawk ta' warajna, id-kienet ta' f'tit inqas minn 7%, kważi n-nofs ir-rata ta' Malta.



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

L-Università ewlemija ta' Malta f'Tal-Qroqq



## L-Università ta' Malta minn fost ta' quddiem

**S**kont studju li sar mis-sit prominenti *Politico Europe*, l-Università ta' Malta hi fost l-aqwa 10 li fihom studjaw uffiċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropeja qabel ma' inghaqdu f'istituzzjonijiet u entitajiet tal-blokk Ewropew.

Mill-kampjun mehud għall-istudju jirriżulta li l-għadd ta' uffiċjali Ewropej li attendew din l-Università kien ta' 1.8%, li jpoġġi lill-Università fis-disa' post fost l-aqwa 25 universitajiet.

Dan hu riżultat eċċellenti meta wiehed iqis li Malta hija l-iżgħar pajjiż tal-Unjoni Ewropea f'termini ta' popolazzjoni u nqas fl-Unjoni Ewropea fl-2004. Għalhekk trid tikkompeti ma' pajjiżi li għandhom hafna aktar studenti minn Malta u allura aktar gradwati li jfittxu xogħol bħala mal-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Mill-kampjun mehud għall-istudju jirriżulta li l-għadd ta' uffiċjali Ewropej li attendew din l-Università kien ta' 1.8%, li jpoġġi lill-Università fis-disa' post fost l-aqwa 25 universitajiet.

## Il-Wage Supplement ta' t-tbatija

**F**tit tal-jiem ilu l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela habbar li l-Gvern għandu pjan biex il-*wage supplement* bħala miżura biex ittaffi t-tbatija tal-haddiema u ta' min iħaddem li kienet mistennija li tigi fi tmiemha f'Marzu, tista' wara kolloxx tigi estiża anke sa wara Marzu.

Huwa sahaq dwar l-importanza ta' din l-għajjnuna lill-kumpanniji privati l-aktar issa li resqin f'mument fejn l-ekonomija jin-ħtieġ li tibda tirkupra mill-impatt tal-pandemija. S'issa l-*wage supplement* sewa lill-Gvern 'l fuq minn €92 miljun.

L-għajjnuna mill-Gvern fil-forma tal-*wage supplement* ilha fis-seħh sa mill-bidu tal-pandemija, bil-ħsieb inizzjali jkun li l-iskema tintemm f'Marzu, ix-xahar li suppost għandu wkoll jimmarka t-tmiem ta' għadd ta' miżuri fosthom l-għeluq tal-barrijiet u l-każini.

B'danakollu għad ma ttehditx deċiżjoni dwar hekk. Il-Gvern qed ikun kawt hafna qabel jasal li inehhi xi miżuri għax ma jix-tieqx li jsehh dak li għara meta fil-passat kienu ttaffew xi restrizzjonijiet.

## Uhud "gawdew" fil-pandemija

**F**ilwaqt li għal hafna, fosthom imprendituri, l-pandemija tal-COVID-19 fissret nuqqas ta' xogħol, u ta' dħul u hafna azjendi marru lura, kien hemm ukoll min mar tajjeb ... anzi pjuttost li gawda xi ftit ukoll. Fost dawn kien hemm l-iżviluppaturi tal-bini li baqgħu jaraw zieda fin-negozju tal-propjeta.

Infatti l-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tal-Iżviluppaturi (MDA) fissret ix-xahar ta' Jannar, bħala li ra rekord ta' bejgħ tal-propjeta. Tant hu hekk li habbret li matul l-ewwel xahar tal-2021, kienu rreġistrati 1,157 konvenju b'valur ta' €274 miljun, zieda ta' 174 u €59 miljun fuq Jannar 2019.

Dan ikompli fuq is-suċċess ta' matul is-sena li għaddiet, bl-MDA tgħid li minkejja li fl-2020 faqqgħet il-pandemija, matulha l-industrija gġenerat €3 biljun f'bejgħ ta' propjeta. Intqal ukoll li dan hu l-istess ammont iġġenerat fl-2019 meta ma kienx hawn pandemija.

L-2020 jidher li kienet ukoll l-aqwa għal dawkl jipproduċu u jbiegħu l-għamara billi aktar nies investew f'darhom, sintendi minhabba wkoll ix-xiri tal-propjeta' li wasslet li wiehed jixtri aktar għamara.

Hemm min jistaqsi, kif meta għaddejjin min kriżi bħal din qed isir dan il-bejgħ?

It-twegiba t-tajba jidher li hi ta' Aldo Grixti wiehed mid-Diretturi ta' Grixtimobili li qal li waqt iżjara fil-fabbrika tal-għamara mill-Ministru għall-Ekonomija u l-Industrija, Silvio Schembri qal:

"Hadmet favurina għall-fatt li n-nies ma sifru, qattgħu hafna hin aktar id-dar, u minflok investew f'safra, investew fid-dar tagħhom. Xi haġa li tghin ukoll peress li l-Malti huwa s-sid tad-dar tiegħu għax il-persentaġġ kbir tal-poplu Malti għandu l-ownership tad-dar, mhux se jiddejjaq jinvesti għax meta bniedem jikri mhux ha jibdillek kċina imma jekk int għandek id-dar tiegħek, tagħmel kuraġġ li tibdilha kċina."

Insomma kif jgħidu l-Inglizi "Every cloud has its silver lining". Haġra hi li s-"silver lining" ma tolqotx lil kulhadd.



### Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



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all suburbs**

**"Let Our Family  
Help You Through"**

—

**Halli l-familja  
tagħna tghin lill-  
familja tiegħek**



## A quick glimpse at Australia

## Victoria to ban Gay conversion therapy

**G**ay conversion therapy has been banned in the State of Victoria despite concerns about the legislation from psychiatrists, religious organisations and lawyers.

The law, which could mean up to a decade in jail or fines of almost \$10,000 for anyone found trying to suppress or change another person's sexuality or gender identity, passed the Legislative Council 27 votes to nine.

Liberal MPs Bev McArthur and Bernie Finn crossed the floor and defied Opposition Leader Michael O'Brien to vote against the Government legislation.

The vote came after the Law Institute of Victoria expressed concern about the bill, joining a long list of organisations that have urged the government to amend the legislation. Those organisations included the Australian Medical Association, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Islamic Council of Victoria, Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese and Victorian Women's Guild.

In a letter to the Government, Law Institute president Tania Wolff said their members were concerned that the bill "may impose limitations on conversations between children and their parents or other family or caregivers on the issue of gender identity or sexual orientation".

## Culturally and linguistically appropriate

**T**he Australian Federal Government wants to ensure that people from multicultural communities are vaccinated against COVID-19, with the first doses of the Pfizer jab that has arrived in Australia.

Health Minister Greg Hunt released the government's plan to ensure that targeted vaccine information reaches culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in appropriate languages and formats.

"The government recognises that people from multicultural communities are a significant part of the health, aged care, child care and disability workforce and will be among the first people in Australia to receive vaccinations," he said.

The government has allocated \$1.3 million, as part of its now \$31 million COVID-19 vaccine rollout campaign, that will include translating materials into over 60 languages, Mr Hunt said. Hopefully, this will include the Maltese, often forgotten by the Government.



## Rally against abortion law reform in SA

**A**bout 4000 protesters braved the rain to join the Walk for Life March that gathered at Adelaide Oval before moving to Adelaide Parliament House, South Australia.

The protesters waved signs and gave emotional speeches protesting against the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, currently before the South Australian Parliament.

The bill seeks to decriminalise abortion and allows for termination beyond 22 weeks and six days' gestation if two medical practition-

ers confirm "under all circumstances" it would be "medically appropriate".

State Government data shows there are three or fewer adoptions a year of locally born children but more than 4000 terminations.

Several politicians, from both Liberal and Labor parties, who are fighting the bill addressed the crowd. The bill has passed the Legislative Council and is due for debate in the House of Assembly.

## Mass on Sundays

**S**ydney Catholic Archdiocese has relaxed rules across the Greater Sydney region including Wollongong, Central Coast and Blue Mountains; an unlimited number of people can attend Mass, provided that a one person per two metres square rule is observed.

Mask wearing in church is no longer

## Objection to the vaccine

**S**ome faith leaders are telling parishioners they can request which COVID-19 vaccine they receive, but the Commonwealth Government is saying most people won't have a choice.

Catholic and Anglican archbishops told The Sun-Herald and The Sunday Age while it was ethical for people with concerns to take the AstraZeneca vaccine if necessary, they should be entitled to request a different jab.

A spokesman for Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said the Archbishop was a strong advocate of vaccinations but "like any medicine, they must be safe and ethically obtained."

Religious concerns about the AstraZeneca vaccine arise from its use of decades-old aborted foetal cells in the development process, which is a common scientific practise that some Christians find objectionable.

mandatory but "encouraged" where social distancing is not possible. Congregational singing is still not permitted for indoor Masses and choirs are limited to five people. Now that the two metres square rule has been reinstated, Archbishop Anthony Fisher has lifted the dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation."

"The Catholic faithful are once again obliged to attend Mass on Sunday.





## A quick glimpse at Australia

# It's time to care about aged care

**M**ore than 20 government aged care reviews in 20 years have failed to adequately address the growing problem of an inadequate care system for older Australians. Understaffing, underfunding, a lack of choice and long waiting lists are just some of the ongoing problems to plague the sector.

"We can no longer afford to leave the aged care system the way it is. For too long as a nation, we have failed to prioritise the needs of our older Australians. That has to change," Catholic Health Australia chief executive Pat Garcia said.

"It has taken a royal commission to bring the inadequacies of the aged care into sharp focus, laying bare the problems that have been left unaddressed for two decades.

More than 1000 organisations are behind the "It's Time to Care



About Aged Care" campaign.

A Flinders University survey, investigated the aged care experience of 1000 elderly men and women found that people in residential care, 24 per cent said all their needs were always met, while the figure for home care was 20 per cent, numbers the report said were "alarming".

An interim report described the aged care system as a tale of neglect which is failing to meet the needs of older and often very often vulnerable people. The commissioners said aged care services were underfunded and did not deliver uni-

formly safe and quality care.

An alliance of more than 1000 organisations that deliver the bulk of government-subsidised care, including Catholic Health Australia, urged the Morrison Government to increase sector funding.

## A new executive for the MCC of NSW

**D**uring its Annual General Meeting at the La Valette Social Centre at Blacktown in the presence of all its affiliated members, the Maltese Community Council of NSW elected a new executive for 2021. The MCC meeting was held at La Valette SC and not at the MCC HQ because it is a covid free venue.

Miriam Friggieri who had occupied the role of secretary for the last couple of years was elected as the new president replacing Emanuel Camilleri who did not seek re-election.

The role of secretary is now occupied by Frances Montesin, while George Bartolo remains as the treasurer. Antoine Mangion is the v/president, and Patrick Barolo is the assistant treasurer. All were elected uncontested. The position of ass/secretary is to be filled later. Sandra Grech was appointed PRO. Jim Borg acted as returning officer.

The assembly unanimously gave Emanuel Camilleri a vote of thanks for his services to the MCC, to Maria DeCarlo for her services to the Language School, and also expressed its gratitude to *The Voice of the Maltese* for its co-operation and assistance.

The MCC nominated the President of Malta as patron together with Chris Bowen MP (Federal) and Dr G. Lee (State)

The MCC of NSW operates from its HQ at Parramatta West, which is currently closed due to the pandemic. However, the new President said it would soon be operational once again.

**Pictured above is the new MCC Executive. Standing (from left): Patrick Bartolo and Sandra Grech. Sitting: George Bartolo, Miriam Friggieri, Antoine Mangion and Frances Montesin**



**Michelle Rowland MP**

Shadow Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



Level 1. Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

(02) 9671 4780

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

MRowlandMP

www.michellerowland.com.au



## Il-Karnival t'Ghawdex 2021: *mill-mitluf tiehu li tista'*

**M**inhabba l-pandemija, din is-sena, bhal f'Malta, l-karnival f'Ghawdex kien differenti għall-ahhar mis- snin mgħoddija. Minbarra hekk, anke dak spontanju fir-rahhal tan-Nadur u li ssoltu jkaxkar warajh eluf ta' nies baqa' ma sarx.

B'danakollu, fir-Rabat, matul Triq ir-Repubblika kif ukoll fi Pjazza Indipendenza (It-Tokk) wiehed seta' jinnotta għadd ta' karrijiet u maskri grotteski b'tema Karnivaleska, biex wiehed seta' jgawdi f'tit minn dak li normalment joffri l-Karnival Ghawdexi.

Tfaċċaw ukoll diversi tfal akkumpanjati mill-ġenituri tagħhom lebsin xi xorta ta' kostum biex din il-"festa" ma tintnesiex għal kollox. Donnu kienet okkażjoni li mill-mitluf tiehu li tista'.

Fost id-diversi ġemgħat li hadu sehem kien hemm il-Gozo Vi-

sual and Performing Arts School, li hadet hsieb li tibni l-karru trijonfali r-Re tal-Karnival, b'hidma sfiqa tal-ghalliema tal-arti Denis Mompalao, Rudolph Cauchi, Brian Borg u dak tad-drama Jamie Camilleri, li hadmu taht it-tmexxija tal-Kap tal-iskola Vin- ce Caruana.

Kien hemm ukoll il-gruppi ta' George Vella, Silvan Grima u George Zammit, li hadmu numru ta' karrijiet, is-Sezzjoni Żgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin u l-Għaqda Armar Xewkija, b'tal-ahhar taht id-direzzjoni ta' Shaun Parnis u Giovanni Buttigieg, rispettivament li kellhom għall-wiri maskri grotteski kif ukoll trakk tat-tfal li hadu hsiebu Clyde Cauchi u Joe Mifsud minn San Lawrenz.



Dawn ir-ritratti fuq żewġ paġni tal-Karnival ta' Ghawdex huma esklussivament xogħol il-fotografu u korrispondent ta' *The Voice* f'Ghawdex Charles Spiteri li żar ir-Rabat u ġibed għadd ta' ritratti biex jibqa' mfakkar il-Karnival ta' waqt il-pandemija COVID-19.

*Mill-Gżira*  
**Għawdexija**

**Charles Spiteri**







## Għal ftit tal-jiem insejna d-dieqa tal-pandemija

Kif jista' jonqos li fiż-żmien straordinarju li għaddeja minnu d-dinja bħalissa, bil-pandemija tal-COVID-19 jew koronavirus ma jkolloxx lil min ipogġi fuq quddiem din it-temi waqt il-Karnival fil-Gżejjer Maltin?

F'Għawdex kellna lil min uża s-sens umoristiku biex inessi ftit mis-serjeta' tas-sitwazzjoni u anke jdahhak biha, imma fl-istess waqt jitfa' fuq quddiem u jfakkarna fl-sforzi tal-frontliners, it-tobba u l-infermiera fl-isptarijiet, u fl-istess waqt igibna wkoll insé tal-gravitá ta' din il-pandemija li qed tħalli warajha l-imwiet u d-dieqa f'għadd ta' familji.

Għal ftit tal-jiem stajna ninsew l-għawg li bħalissa hawn magħha.



Karrijiet Karnivaleski ipparkjati fi Triq ir-Repubbika, l-ewlenija fir-Rabat f'Għawdex fejn in-nies setgħu mhux biss igawdu xi ftit mill-atmosfera ferm imnaqqsa ta' din is-sena ta' din l-okkażjoni ikulurita, imma wkoll jammiraw hilet dawk li bnew il-karrijiet





Jesmark Scicluna in *Luzzu* and (right) filmdirector Alex Camilleri

# 'Luzzu' Review: A Maltese Neorealist Fishing Drama

A rare locally-produced film that is also about Malta itself, and features actual Maltese, "*Luzzu*" marks the debut of director Alex Camilleri with a vérité fishing drama populated by non-professional actors.

A neorealist telling in the tradition of the Dardenne brothers, who also work with locals on their films, "*Luzzu*" is beautifully shot, if at times emotionally restrained, in its centering around a man who's occasionally difficult to read. However, it boasts a true discovery in the casting of Jesmark Scicluna, a real fisherman who plays a version of himself, and here playing a struggling parent trying to eke out a living along the docks.

A *luzzu* is a traditional Maltese fishing boat, and a veritable 20th-century relic compared to the more advanced trawlers of today. Jesmark's *luzzu*, an old wooden thing with more charm than functionality he calls Ta Palma, has a leak.

That puts him at a great disadvantage in a competitive fishing market plagued by diminishing harvests. Barely scraping by, Jesmark also has a baby and a girlfriend, Denise (Michela Farrugia), to care for.

When he comes home empty-handed after an especially unlucky day at sea, Denise's disappointment is less nonplussed than a shrug, and she decides to move out of their bare-bones apartment and into her mother's place. Making matters worse is the baby's stunted growth, and the ensuing pile-up of medical bills.

Jesmark, whose skillset is limited to the family tradition of fishing he's been carrying out all his life, is running out of options, and people who believe in him. Neither his mother-in-law, with whom he has a visibly strained relationship made apparent when he tries visiting his child when Denise is out of town, nor Denise are especially sup-

portive of his trade.

"Fishing is a nice way to spend the summer," his spiteful mother-in-law tells him. Meanwhile, most of his fellow fisherman have sold out to an EU-backed programme transitioning them into other industries — a course that, as the film progresses, looks inevitable for Jesmark.

Everyone's chagrin over Jesmark tightens like a noose. Unable to sell the fish he's laboured over catching at the local market — a chaotic scene of scrabbling buyers and sellers — Jesmark finds himself roped into a black-market operation the equivalent of Maltese gangsters peddling fish in the shadows, along with other surreptitious acts of smuggling and sabotage.

At one point, Jesmark tries to sell off gas he's ciphoned at a lower price to enraged, tonier locals who, probably due to the darkness of his skin, all but laugh in his face.

As he descends deeper into a life of criminality, Jesmark meets plenty of colourful locals who Camilleri, a documentary filmmaker making his narrative feature debut here, plucked from the Maltese scene.

They provide for charming banter, especially during one late-night fishing expedition on a trawl hurtling through the moon-dappled Mediterranean Sea, that give us a window into who Jesmark is, a hard worker who just wants to care for his family, but with an allegiance to tradition, passed down from his father and his father's father and so on, that makes it difficult to move forward.

Scicluna plays Jesmark as a sun-stained monument of stoicism, and having spent his whole life on the docks, he can't really navigate the emotional world outside them. The dramatic arc of "*Luzzu*" is slight, with Camilleri more interested in people and place than telling a captivating story.

However, Jesmark Scicluna makes the film compelling nonetheless, and it's clearly that he could be guiding Camilleri and his camera, and not the other way around. Léo Lefèvre's granular cinematography, meanwhile, provides a dreamy complement, casting the coast in rich blues and the city with an almost dusty, world-worn quality.

Finally, while Jesmark might be at odds with the world and how it wants to force him to grow up, it's his relationship with his boat that towers over all, and the tenderness with which he cares for it is deeply touching.

When he finally has to confront his future, which could mean saying goodbye to Ta Palma, it's a crushing final note.

RyanLattanzio

## Director Alex Camilleri

"*Luzzu*" is Maltese American filmmaker Alex Camilleri's most recent feature-length directorial debut that offers a rare glimpse into Malta's fishing industry. Before winning him acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival, it also won national funding in Malta and was chosen for the prestigious Les Arcs Works-In-Progress screening.

Camilleri's short film and documentary work has screened globally, winning such awards as "Best Student Documentary" at the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at the 63rd Cannes Film Festival. As an editor, his work has screened at Venice, Telluride, and Toronto.

Credits include "Keep The Change" (Best Film & Best Director, Tribeca 2017) and "Blood Kin" (Venice 2018, Sconfini), and as an Associate Editor on HBO's "Fahrenheit 451."



# Balluta Buildings: St Julians' iconic gem to be restored

**A**lthough nowadays, large blocks of apartments have taken over the Sliema seafront replacing several architectural gems inherited from the British that used to dot the Sliema landscape, one can still find majestic remnants of Malta's British past. Balluta Buildings overlooking Balluta Bay in St Julians is one such icon. After years of neglect, it is set to get a sensitive restoration that should respect the building's natural beauty.

When the British landed on Malta in 1800, they were not much interested in asserting their power through any architecture, at least not until late 1814, when they added the colonnaded portico to Valletta's Main Guard (guard house), nowadays the Office of the Attorney General. With time, their interest in making a more permanent foothold in Malta grew, and as colonial trade and sea traffic increased, along with a growing navy, Malta became an important part of the British colonial fist.

The building's site originally consisted of terraced fields, which were incorporated into the garden of the nearby Villa St Ignatius in the early 19th century.

Then, in the 1920s, the villa and its grounds were divided and sold off. The impressively enormous enigmatic Balluta Buildings, with its weird yet alluring mixture of styles, Art Nouveau, Neo-Gothic and Neo-Baroque was built in 1928 for the Marquis John Scicluna. It was constructed to designs of Maltese architect Giuseppe Psaila, (1891–1960), and is also regarded as Psaila's masterpiece.

It was possibly the largest building in Malta in its heyday and it is still considered to be among the finest of the few surviving Art Nouveau architecture in Malta. The building's name is derived from the oak trees (Maltese: ballut), which grew in the area in front of it, that also gave the bay its



Balluta Buildings in full glory

name.

The building originally contained some of the largest and most luxurious apartments in Europe, and it became a prestigious address in Malta. Due to rental laws, many tenants and their heirs kept the apartments for a small nominal rent. Out of the twenty apartments, sixteen remain in the hands of the tenants' heirs, three have returned into the possession of the owners, and one was sold to a third party.

## Listed as a Grade 1 monument

The building, constructed out of local limestone remains intact and in relatively good condition, although over the years, it suffered deterioration and is in need of restoration. It enjoys the highest level of

protection as a Grade 1 monument and is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

The main façade of the building consists of a massive block of three connected blocks of flats, with three vertical structures having long vertical arched openings protruding from the rest of the building topped with keystones decorated with a carved putto. The blocks are joined together with verandahs on the lower floors and a plain façade on the upper levels.

The openings are flanked with a row of double windows and pilasters joined by floral decorated architrave and framed by decorative surrounds on either side. The three main blocks are joined together by a plain façade with two upper floors and verandas on the lower floors.

The architraves below each have these inscriptions BALLUTA (left block) BUILDINGS (right block) and A.D. MCMXXVIII (central block). The windows, pilasters and other parts of the building display intricate floral and geometric decorations.

A structure that contains several shops buttresses the entire building at street level, contributing to its three-dimensional quality.

According to reports, the dark crust layer that has accumulated beneath cornices and other decorative elements of this majestic building is to be removed. The restoration works that envisage the subdivision of some apartments to ensure that they meet the requirements of contemporary living, are foreseen in a planning application submitted by the Marquis Marcus Marshall's The Vintage Company.

## The building's impressive facade





# New 2021 executive for the FMLS

On its first newsletter for 2021, the Federation of Maltese Language Schools in Australia announced the formation of the new FMLS Executive that was elected uncontested in its AGM on December 6 through ZOOM. It is made up of: President: Edwidge Borg (VIC); V/President: Miriam Friggieri (NSW); Treasurer: Fred Flask, (ACT), and Secretary: Patricia Grech (QLD).

The FMLS Executive said it is always looking for fresh team members with experience in teaching Maltese in Australia, to assist it in its endeavours to support the Maltese Language maintenance in Australia.

Regarding the new scholastic year it states in its report that COVID-19 made the 2020 year a hectic and disruptive year, and that face-to-face classes required extra resources to comply with State COVID guidelines. Now all the schools are once again busy advertising the Maltese Language Classes in their community.

Some schools in NSW have embraced classes online combined with face-to-face classes where permitted, while in Victoria classes had to be made online using various software. The MCCV Maltese Language classes used ZOOM. Two licences were acquired to cater to all classes.

Meanwhile, The Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA), has forwarded the following links <https://multi.skola.edu.mt/>: [multi-barranin/il-malti-ghall-barranin-primarja/smigh-mlb-primarja/](https://multi-skola.edu.mt/multi-barranin/il-malti-ghall-barranin-primarja/smigh-mlb-primarja/)



FEDERATION OF MALTESE  
LANGUAGE SCHOOLS INC  
FEDERAZZJONI TA' L-ISKOLJI TAL- MALTI  
<http://www.federationofmalteselanguageschoolsinc.com.au/>

More material for the learning of Maltese can be downloaded from: [multi.skola.edu.mt](https://multi.skola.edu.mt/) and on youtube at Agenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litterizmu.

Another interesting segment about the Maltese Language is, [multi-il-bierah-illum-u-ghada](https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/tvml/programmes/il-malti-il-bierah-illum-u-ghada/) <https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/tvml/programmes/il-malti-il-bierah-illum-u-ghada/> which will be available only for a few days.

## MALTESE LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE

The VCE/HSC Maltese is now not offered at Year 11, and it is the last year for Year 12 examination for Maltese. Work is being undertaken to study the viability of replacing this certificate with another recognised academic achievement.

On February 15 representatives from the various FMLS affiliated schools held virtual meeting and discussed several proposals. The meeting agreed to research the option available within the Education Department and the resources needed to sustainably offer this qualification to students wishing to achieve an academic qualification in Maltese.

## A look back: Carnival of old in NSW

Carnival in Malta conjures many memories among members of the Maltese community in Australia. Before emigrating from Malta, several of them used to take an active part in the traditional celebrations and even participated in the decorated floats, companies in costume, dancing and other celebrations.

One of our avid readers sent us this photograph to remind us that way back in the sixties the Maltese commu-

nity in NSW also celebrated Carnival in some form or another.

The group in the photo were supporters of the Melita Eagles FC. The Beauty on the Beach participants toured various suburban halls, including a function at Leichhardt where they had to compete against a group wearing the traditional Maltese costume. The final decision as to the best carnival costume was not that well received.

Moreover, our reader remembers the

commotion that the Beauty and the Beach costume caused at Kings Cross when the cars carrying the participants "stalled" and the guys and dolls had to push the car down the road with a police escort.

We were unable to identify all the participants in this photo. Some are still with us today, such as Charles and Tessie Agius, Eddie and Mary Calleja, Lawrence and Marlene Dimech, Paul and Rose Mamo, the Frendo and Mifsud brothers and Carmen Meli-Cachia.

Can you name others? If so, get in touch with us at [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com).



### Avviż lill-qarrejja

Din in-nota biex navżaw lil-qarrejja li minhabba nuqqas ta' spazju u għax hemm xi artikli u ritratti li ma setghux jistennew, f'din il-harġa kellna nħallu barra l-artiklu ta' Peter Paul Ciantar "Kultura u drawwiet Maltin" u dak dwar il-kitba Maltija.

B'danakollu dawn jerggħu lura fil-harġa li jmiss – Nru 248 tat-8 ta' Marzu – meta jkollna wkoll aktar artikli interessanti li jinżlu għasel mal-qarrejja u aħbarijiet kurrenti li l-aktar jolqtu mill-qrib lill-komunità Maltija li tgħix barra.



# Community News

## Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

### On SBS Radio

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

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip.

Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.

**SYDNEY:** listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3.

Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On De-



mand on l-Internet: [www.893fm.com.au](http://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](http://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](http://www.coastfm.org.au)

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

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

**Maltese Community Radio Adelaide:** Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm.

Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email [bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com](mailto:bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com) Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email [ronborg@mac.com](mailto:ronborg@mac.com)

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

### 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

## MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW



A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.  
Established in 1999



### Learn Maltese

All age students are welcome to enrol in our classes held on Saturday mornings at Horsley Park, NSW.

Online classes are also available on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

**Applications are also welcome for paid positions from people to assist in language teaching and/or administration.**

For more information, call 0419 476 924.

Email: [malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com](mailto: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-aħbarijiet tagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma mhegga biex jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: [www.tvn.com.mt](http://www.tvn.com.mt). għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.



# Malta FA launches first-ever strategy for Maltese football

The Malta Football Association has launched its first ever strategy plan covering the period 2020–2024 intended to serve as the basis for its commitment to raise the standard of the game of football across all levels.

The plan that reaches several goals by 2024, is the culmination of a wide consultation process with internal and external stakeholders as it seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges facing Maltese football and chart the way forward by establishing clear targets.

The plan, which is based on the ratification by the Association's Executive Committee of the MFA president Bjorn Vassallo's 2019 document *Vision 2027* was also presented to Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela and later also to the Minister for Education Justyn Caruana.

## Melita on the move

Parramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club Ltd, celebrating 65 years since its foundation in 1956 has its annual general meeting at their club-rooms at the Melita Stadium in South Granville on Sunday, March 14 at 10 am.

Only financial members are eligible to attend; however, one can renew his membership before the meeting that will elect the President, Secretary, Treasurer and directors of the club.

David Frendo, the current President, wishes to appeal to all past members of the club through *The Voice*, to return so that together "we can rebuild for the future".

Reaffirming his Association's commitment to deliver the key projects and objectives set out in the newly launched Strategy, Mr Vassallo thanked the Government for its support, which, he said, is essential for football to maintain and strengthen its positive impact on society.

He said the Government's backing for the Malta FA strategy is crucial to take Maltese sport forward, also in terms of sustainability.

He added that the MFA's vision is to boost its investment to build a stronger foundation, prioritising long-term development and the sustainability of Maltese football across all levels, from community, grassroots, amateurs, women and youths all the way to the elite, clubs and national team selections.

The role of football as a catalyst for positive change, including enhanced education, social responsibility and a healthy lifestyle, was then discussed during a meeting Bjorn Vassallo had with Dr Justyne Caruana.

The two entities are willing to strengthen their collaboration through the signing of an MoU covering the educational and social projects included in the newly-launched MFA Strategy 2020-24.

Inspired by its conviction that, 'We Can Perform Better' as a footballing nation, the Malta FA Strategy aims to up the level of



Malta FA President Bjorn Vassallo (right) presenting the 2020–2024 Strategy plan to Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela

performance and achieve results, focusing on the following important areas:

- Further technical and infrastructural development;
- Growth and sustainability of football clubs, strengthening protection through a legal framework;
- Broadening the exposure and commercial value of the Association and domestic competitions;
- Improving good governance by strengthening the compliance and integrity aspects.

The pillars complement the MFA's Mission Statement, which is "to continue growing and improving the game of football and the people in it at all levels; fostering a positive social change to embrace a sporting culture; and championing national pride and unity as it strives to achieve high standards and inspire people.

## Malta Premier League 2020/21

Hamrun Spartans and Hibernians keep following each other at the top of the league ladder. However now have to contend with another challenger, Gzira United, who added two more points to their tally after being awarded a 3-0 win over Gudja following a protest to their original final result of -1-1.

All three won their matches on the last two match-days, therefore Hamrun stay top with 50 points, two ahead of Hibernians, while Gzira are two points further behind on 46. An interesting situation!

The table toppers obtained a similar 2-0 result on Day 20, then in the weekend Hamrun had to work hard to beat Balzan 3-2 while Hibernians had a nap hand victory over Lija. The Spartans have won their last six matches, while Hibernians and Gzira are unbeaten in eight.

On the same day, after four consecutive defeats, Gudja, who had earlier been on the wrong end of a protest by Gzira, managed a 1-1 draw with Sliema.

The Wanderers and Birkirkara dropped further points in their 2-2 draw on Saturday, which almost completely rules them out of a title challenge.

After only managing one point from their last previ-

## Gzira U. strengthen challenge to top two

ous four games, Valletta finally registered their first win under coach Antonio Jose Cardoso Mendes, then lost again against Birkirkara and again recovered with a 1-0 win over Sta Lucia.

Struggling Floriana returned to winning ways after two months by defeating bottom team Senglea and then Gudja. The win against Senglea came after their elimination from the FA Trophy and the resignation of coach John Buttigieg who failed to register a win. Enzo Potenza was reappointed.

After five draws from their previous six outings, Sta Lucia registered an impressive 7-0 win over Tarxien. The latter bounced back with a win after coach Steve D'Amato who took over from Winston Muscat.

## FA Trophy: End of the road for holders Balzan

Holders Balzan, League champions Floriana and Sliema Wanderers were all knocked out of the FA Trophy. Their challenge was halted in the Round of 32.

Balzan lost 1-3 to Mosta; Floriana were eliminated by the same score by Sta Lucia, while Sliema suggested a 1-0 loss to St Andrews from the Challenge League.

### PREMIER Results

Match Day 21	
Hamrun v Balzan	3-2
Hibernians v Lija A	5-0
Gzira U v Zejtun C	4-0
Birkirkara v Sliema W	2-2
Mosta v Sirens	0-0
Valletta v Sta Lucia	1-0
Floriana v Gudja U	1-0
Tarxien v Senglea A	4-2

### Match Day 20

Hamrun v Birkirkara	2-0
Hibernians v Mosta	2-0
Gzira U v Lija A	1-0
Sliema W v Gudja U	1-1
Sta Lucia v Tarxien R	7-0
Valletta v Sirens	1-0
Floriana v Senglea C	2-0
Balzan v Zejtun C	pp

### Other Results of matches postponed due to COVID

Birkirkara v Valletta	2-0
Mosta v Gudja U	1-0
Lija A v Senglea A	3-1