



The Voice of the Maltese

We are for the Greater Malta

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The oldest existing windmill in Gozo, in the village of Xewkija dating back to the 18th century has been restored to its former glory at an investment of around €500,000. (Report on page 7)

Photo: Charles Spiteri

One year since Australia's first Covid-19 case

Australia Day 2021 on January 26 marked exactly one year since the first case of coronavirus was discovered in Australia. Twelve months on, doctors who were on the frontlines when the virus arrived to this continent say they remain on high alert.

On the morning of January 25, 2020, a Saturday a mere weeks into a new decade, Health officials had just revealed the first case of a mysterious new virus on Australian soil - a man from Wuhan, the Chinese city where the infection was first identified, who had flown into Melbourne.

Hours later, three more people were confirmed to have tested positive in New South Wales. One of them, a man in his 60s, had presented at Western Sydney's Westmead Hospital. He too had come from China. "At that time it was a new disease, and we were figuring out what the best way was, in terms of protection and treating patients," Westmead intensive care specialist George Zhou told SBS News.

"We didn't know what kind of treatments we were giving, and there were a lot of treatments that were used overseas which we were trying to incorporate. We didn't know what was best for patients at that time ... so there was definitely a fear of the unknown."

Twelve months later, and healthcare workers and the general public know a lot more about the disease now known as COVID-19. This knowledge has been used to treat more than 28,000 cases so far in Australia, and more than 90 million worldwide, as humanity's entire way of life shifted to accommodate the pandemic.

'A challenging year'

Among the Australians who have contracted the virus are Western Australian couple Irais and Walmir Ramalho, who became infected while celebrating their 50th anniversary onboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship. More than 700 cases were linked to the ship, which was moored off the coast of Japan, before the couple were able to return to Australia in February last year.

Irais and Walmir Ramalho contracted coronavirus on the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

Ms Ramalho told SBS News that she didn't know anything about the virus until people on the ship started testing positive. "When we started getting information from people onboard, because they were talking to people outside, then we got to know that it was really bad," she said. "Then I got sick - and I was really, really, really sick."

But even after the lessons learned through Victoria's devastating second wave, the

public housing lockdowns in Melbourne, multiple aged care outbreaks, and numerous other shutdowns and restrictions, some things about the virus remain unknown.

Doctors are working to learn more about the long-term effects of the virus, with a research project currently underway at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. Early findings estimate up to 20 per cent of people diagnosed with COVID-19 experience symptoms that last months.

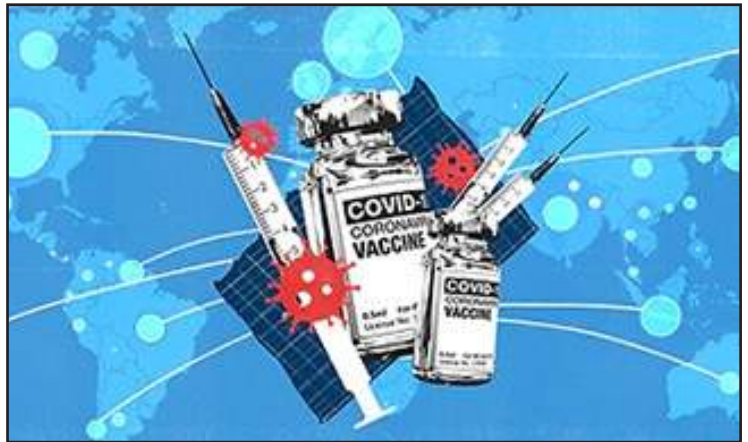
All of this is happening as new cases continue to spring up across the country, brought to Australia by overseas arrivals that then leak out of hotel quarantine. Australia's international border remains closed, while the states and territories are doing different things in regards to domestic travel.

The ever-growing number of cases globally and the need to provide Australians stuck overseas with an avenue to return home means health authorities remain vigilant, knowing another big outbreak could be just around the corner. "It was definitely a challenging year," Dr Zhou said of the last 12 months.

"Even though we are prepared for something else to come, we do not wish for it to come. That's something that is at the back of our minds now. It just takes one person".

In Victoria, which saw Australia's most severe second wave of COVID-19, leaving almost 800 people dead, health authorities have had to work overtime to keep on top of the virus.

Nick Jones, a COVID medical consultant



COVID-19: Australia approves vaccine for use: This is how rollout will work

Now the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved for use in Australia, authorities will begin vaccinating some of the country's most vulnerable populations against COVID-19 in just a few weeks' time.

But it's expected to take many more months to vaccinate enough people to achieve an effective level of protection against the virus. Australia's vaccination programme will happen in five phases beginning this month (February).

The first phase of the rollout will cover Australians with the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19. That includes anyone dealing with Australians returning from overseas, such as quarantine and border workers, and priority frontline healthcare workers - namely, those with potential exposure to infectious patients.

The first rollout phase will also include aged and disability care staff and residents. Next up will be some of Australia's other most vulnerable populations and more frontline workers, including people over the age of 70, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 55, and younger adults with underlying medical conditions or disabilities. General healthcare workers will also be able to access vaccines at this point - and so will Australia's 'critical', 'high-risk' workforce.

The next stage would be adults aged 50 to 69 and all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 18 and other 'critical' and 'high risk' workers (not yet specified which industries that will include).

Next would be the largest, group that covers the remainder of Australia's adult population.

The last group in the queue for a coronavirus vaccine is people under 18 - although they won't necessarily get the jab. The government says it will only go ahead with inoculating children if medical advice suggests it's necessary.

at Austin Hospital in the north-eastern Melbourne suburb of Heidelberg, said it's been a "constant battle" to keep up to date with the latest information on the virus and ensure giving the best possible treatment.

Dr Jones has been involved in the hospital's pandemic response since Melbourne's first outbreak, starting with figuring out how to set up a COVID-19 unit and then weathering the city's first and second waves.

(Maani Truu and Lucy Murray SBS News)

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

Q. I am 60 years of age and lost my job about three months ago. I have a mortgage of approximately \$140,000 still outstanding. I have found employment again and will start my new job in a couple of weeks. Am I able to withdraw some money from my super to pay as much as possible on my mortgage as I had fallen behind in my repayments and feel quite worried about this?

A. As you are over the age of 60 you are able to make a partial withdrawal from super now that you have left your previous employment. Once you have settled in your new job you can concentrate on building up your superannuation again as you will need these funds in retirement.

Q. My father will be moving into aged-care soon. We have sold his house to pay for the refundable accommodation deposit (RAD). He was previously on the full age pension as he had very little other financial assets.

Now, once the sale of the house settles, he will be left with approximately \$1.2 million dollars. He will then lose the pension. We would like to invest these surplus funds into financial assets that earn more than the 1% we were offered by the banks. Can you advise please?

A. Once the RAD is paid your father will still have ongoing fees to the aged-care facility so it is important that you invest his surplus funds in assets that will generate the income required in order to preserve the capital. Managed funds offer both defensive and growth assets.

You should visit a financial adviser so that he can give you appropriate advice to suit your father's needs as well as his

risk tolerance. Managed funds will be able to be used as income streams and pay you monthly payments to keep up with his daily costs to the facility and should earn more than 1% per annum but would be also more volatile.

Q. I am 26 years of age and single. I have a good paying job and have normally at least \$500 surplus funds per fortnight. I need to put these funds away as if they are maintained in my bank account I tend to spend more. Could you make some suggestions?

A. A very good way of building up your wealth is by putting aside any surplus funds that you have. You could use a savings plan and organise for an amount to be directly taken out of your bank account regularly and invested according to your choice. This could be invested in defensive funds such as fixed interest or bonds, or growth funds such as Australian and International shares and listed property trust.

The choice is yours. If you do not plan to touch these funds for say five years,

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



you could go into growth assets. In this way you will be committed to save the funds. The good thing is that if you need these funds these are normally accessible within a couple of weeks

Q. My parents are self-funded retirees and in their late 70s. My mother was mentioning how they are struggling financially now that their monthly payments from their account-based pensions have halved. Can you help?

A. Their monthly payments from their account-based pensions were halved only to help preserve the capital when the markets corrected severely early last year because of Covid-19. Your parents did not need to take up the offer to reduce their payments if they needed the income.

They should contact the fund manager of their account-based pension or their adviser if they have one, and ask to increase their monthly payments immediately. They could select an amount to suit their needs

Q. My grandson is turning 21 and I am transferring into his name a parcel of shares that I had purchased on his behalf when he was born. Are there any tax implications on doing this??

A. As you will be transferring these securities to your grandson it will be as if you were selling them. So, half of the capital gain will need to be added to your tax return in the financial year that you do this transfer.

If you have some capital losses that have not as yet been utilised, these can help offset some of the capital gains made.

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Minn negozjant għal diplomatiku

L-eks Kummissarju Għoli
intervistat minn
Lawrence Dimech

Storja ta' kuraġġ u determinazzjoni

Wara seba' snin bhala Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta fl-Awstralja u New Zealand, Charles Muscat fetah qalbu ma' *The Voice of the Maltese*. Qalilna: "B'kuxjenza safja ngħid li ghamilt l-almu tiegħi kollu biex naqdi d-dmirijiet kollha f'dati lili mill-Gvern ta' Malta. Mhux dejjem kien faċli iżda bil-ghajjuna ta' hafna, jien sodisfatt b'dak li ghamilna flimkien."

Issa Charles, imwielew ir-Rabat, Malta, mhux aktar eċċellenza iżda wieħed bhalna, Malti residenti tal-Awstralja fejn wasal ma' missieru, ommu u huh iż-żgħir f'Novembru 1962. Hu dejjem baqa' jgħix fil-belt kapitali Canberra. Digá kellu zewġ hutu oħra jgħixu fl-ACT. Huwa żżewweġ li Victoria nee Azzopardi u kellhom tlett itfal.

Izda l-politika bdiet tinteressah sa minn meta kien żgħir u fiż-żmien li kienu għadu Malta kien jagħti titwila lejn fejn kien isir xi corner meeting fil-pjazza ta' San Duminku r-Rabat, u aktar tard anke beda jithajjar jattendi *mass meetings*, kemm ta' Duminku Mintoff kif ukoll ta' George Borg Olivier.

"L-ghazla kienet wahda naturali għaliex jien geġ minn familja kbira li għexna b'paga wahda. Kienu żmienijiet diffiċli u l-Partit Laburista dejjem għin liż-żgħir u lill-batut," fissirli Charles.

Meta fl-1964 Malta kisbet l-Indipendenza, f'Canberra twaqqfet il-Kummissjoni Għolja. L-ewwel Kummissarju Għoli ta' dak iż-żmien, Dr Anthony Pullicino kien talab lil Charles jahdem magħhom bhal driver/messaggier. Il-Kummissarju Pullicino kien jaf lil missieru u lill-familja tiegħu fir-Rabat fejn Dr Pullicino kien johroġ bhala kandidat mal-PN. Skont Charles, dawk li kienu jahdmu miegħu xejn ma kienu komdi bih minhabba li hu kien Laburist.

Donnhom l-affarijiet hađu xejra oħra meta f'Jannar 1968 il-Perit Duminku Mintoff u bintu Jana żaru l-Awstralja. Kemm damu Canberra Charles kien is-sewwieq tagħhom. Wara niżlu wkoll Sydney fejn kien xhieda tal-akbar merħba emozzjonali li qatt giet mogħtija mill-komunitá Maltija lil politiku Malti, kemm mal-wasla tiegħu fl-ajruport u wkoll wara, f'Paddington Town Hall.



Charles Muscat ma' martu Victoria

tal-komunitá. "Kemm stajt dejjem żamejt bogħod il-politika partigġjana," qalli.

F'Settembru 2013 Charles Muscat gie maħtur bhala t-tielet Kummissarju Għoli digá residenti fl-Awstralja meta ppreżenta l-kredenzjali lill-Gvernatur Generali Quintin Bryce, u f'Dicembru 2014 li Sir Jerry Mateparae ta' New Zealand.

Wahda mill-vantaġġi li tkun digá midhla tal-Awstralja bhal ma kien Charles Muscat hi li jkollok il-kuntatti u tkun taf kif taħdem is-sistema, jiġifieri tingrana mill-ewwel u ma trid xhur jew snin biex tidra.

"Ippruvajt ngħin lil kulhadd mingħajr l-ebda passjoni politika. Mhux dejjem irnexxieli iżda mill-kummenti li kelli għamilna hafna progress," qal Charles.

Sintendi, bhala kap tal-Gvern Malti fl-Awstralja jkollok ix-xogħol pressanti biex dejjem tkun fuq quddiem nett halli tirrappreżenta lil pajjiżek.

L-okkażjonijiet kienu kważi ta' kuljum, fosthom ċeremonji statali, żjarat irjali, festi Nazzjonali ta' pajjiżi oħra, u l-kommemorazzjonijiet importanti bhal, Anzac u Remembrance Days.

**Ikompili f'pagna 7*



Charles u martu Victoria fi żjara liċ-Child's Migrant Monument f'Western Australia

Charles beda jinżel Malta ta' sikwit u hawn gie avviciinat mill-Partit Laburista biex ikun ir-rappreżentant tiegħu fl-Awstralja.

Sadanitnat l-eks-kummissarju kien beda jahdem għal rasu u rnexxilu jwaqqaf b'suċċess tliet hwienet bl-isem ta' *Mr Charles Menswear* li illum qed jitmexxew miz-żewġ uliedu subien, Oliver u Daniel.

"Min qatt kellu jgħidli li xi darba se nkun immexxi l-ambaxxata?" qalli Charles.

Fil-konfini tal-ambaxxata Maltija ma tistennix li għax tkun Laburist allura tkun persona *non-grata* u qatt ma tkun mistieden għal xi okkażjoni speċjali, iżda Charles ra ma' wiċċu diskriminazzjoni grassa tant li halef li meta ssir il-bidla kulhadd jiġi ttrattat l-istess.

Bhala rappreżentant tal-Partit Laburista fl-Awstralja kellu wkoll l-okkażjoni li jżur kważi l-iStati kollha fil-pajjiż fejn stabilixxa kuntatti ma' hafna mexxejja politici u kapijiet



L-intervista ma' l-eks Kum. Gholi Charles Muscat

*min paġna 6

Kien hemm wkoll Malta Day, l-okkażjoni ta' kull sena li l-Kummissjoni Gholja torganizza fir-residenza tagħha f'Melbourne Avenue Deakin fejn anke xi membri tal-komunità kienu jiġu mistiedna.

Fost l-okkażjonijiet memorabbli li semma Charles kien hemm iż-żjara tal-President ta' Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro f'Lulju 2016 u sintendi meta Joseph Muscat il-Prim Ministru Malti, bħala Chairman tal-Commonwealth of Nations attenda għal Commonwealth Games fi Brisbane Qld f'Marzu 2018.

Dakinhar il-Prim Ministru, li kien akkumpanjat minn martu Michelle u ż-żewġ ulidu bniet, ilitaqa' mal-PM Malcolm Turnbull u mal-Ministru Julie Bishop fost oħrajn. Bħala Kummissarju Gholi Charles żar kull

Charles Muscat u martu Victoria (fit-tarf lemin) mal-Gvernatur-Generali ta' bħalis-sa, il-General David Hurley u martu Linda

stat fl-Awstralja u kellu laqgħat kordjali hafna mal-komunitajiet Maltin u l-kapijiet Statali. Huwa attenda kemm-il-darba fil-katidral ta' St Mary's Sydney għal festi reliġjużi u żar ukoll il-Mużew ta' Malta li hemm f'Latrobe Valley, f'Morwell Victoria

Is-sinjura Victoria Muscat kienet ukoll impenjata għax barra li kienet tagħti esebizzjonijiet tal-ħdima tal- bizzilla ta' Malta kienet parti mil- laqgħat li kienu jsiru għall-partners tal-ambaxxaturi jew Kummissarji Gholja f'Canberra.

Wara karriera twila jservi b'determinazzjoni u hila lil pajjiz fl-Awstralja, Charles Muscat iħares lejn il-gejjieni b'ottimizmu.

Permezz tal-Voice huwa wassal il-ħajr tiegħu lil dawk li miegħu qasmu l-ħajja interessanti tiegħu, u awgura kull suċċess lis-suċċessur tiegħu.

Avviż lill-qarrejja

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

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

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

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

The MCC Annual meeting The end of the Camilleri era

The Maltese Community Council of NSW has announced that its Annual General Meeting is to be held on Friday 19th February at the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown, and **Emmanuel Camilleri** NOT at its Centre in Parramatta West. The meeting place is COVID-19 safe.



The *The Voice of the Maltese* has learnt that the Council officially informed its members that at the upcoming election, after serving five years as President, Emmanuel Camilleri will not be re-standing for any position on the Council as he has decided to retire.

Mr Camilleri was a very hands-on leader and worked hard to maintain cohesion between the many associated members. He even attracted new associations to the Council. His involvement in the MCC School and in the radio programme was vital to the continuation of both.

He also secured a position on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA). The death of his wife last year could have contributed to his retirement.

The Voice of the Maltese wishes to thank Emmanuel Camilleri for his service to the Maltese community.

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Easing early Maltese migrants' integration in Australia

BELOW: Maltese and Gozitan workers in sugar-cane farms in Mackay, Qld, 1919

Emigration from Malta was an important demographic phenomenon throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially in the pre-World War Two years. Maltese created large Maltese communities in English-speaking countries abroad, especially in Australia where their own relatives or friends would have settled down before them.

The main aim of the early Maltese migrants to Australia was to overcome poverty, send money to their relatives in Malta and eventually help them join them in Australia.

This article is based on an article by Sarah Carabott in *The Sunday Times* referring to a 1920s guidebook found in the National Archives of Malta that reveals several tips given to Australia-bound Maltese migrants, and advice to migrants planning to emigrate to Australia in 1929, that was provided by Malta's Department of Labour.

In a booklet issued by the Migrants' Training Centre that came to light in an exhibition currently running at Spazju Kreattiv titled *Dehumanisation* migrants were advised to wash frequently, use cutlery in restaurants, avoid speaking with their mouth full, not to haggle in shops... and not to walk barefoot.

At the time, organised migration was an encouraged practice, or, as the superintendent of emigration Henry Casolani put it, "a breath of life for Malta".

In 1930 Casolani further stated, "Without it, the greatest national calamity is within



Maltese families waiting to board ship from the Grand Harbour on their way to Australia

the Maltese Islands, sooner or later awaits us."

Mass emigration picked up in the 19th century. Migration was initially to north African countries (particularly Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt); later, Maltese migrants headed towards the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and especially in Australia. That is why most of the advice was di-

rectly aimed at those intending to settle in the "new" continent the largest country in Oceania.

Malta experienced significant emigration because of the collapse of a construction boom in 1907 and after World War II, when the birth rate increased significantly, but in the twentieth century most emigrants went to destinations in the New World, particularly the United States and Australia.

At the time, most of the Maltese that settled in Australia took up jobs either in construction, or on sugar-cane farms (kannamili), therefore, before leaving for Australia, they were trained in farm work at Ghammieri, where a replica of a timber bungalow was used until the 1950s to familiarise them with Australian culture and construction.

Others intended to seek other employment, so in the guidebook, they were warned that employees in Australia go to work in a suit and wear shoes.

In 1948 Maltese immigrants accompanied by Fr Robert Cassar land in Sydney from the SS Partizanka





Il-Mithna tax-Xewkija kif tidher fit-triq ewlenija kif thalli Ghajnsielem ghar-Rabat. Lemin: parti mill-mithna fuq ġewwa



Ritratti Charles Spiteri

L-eqdem mithna f'Ghawdex, tax-Xewkija inawgurata wara restawr ta' €nofs miljun

Wara snin ta' telqa fl-hekk maghrufa bhala l-Mithna tax-Xewkija, grazzi ghal xoghol ta' restawr b'investiment ta' kważi nofs miljun ewro, fil-parti l-kbira minnhom minn fondi Ewropejin, din issa tinsab mill-ġdid fil-glorja tagħha wara li reġġew poġġew il-ġebel tat-tin u aperturi godda fuq stil li jaqbel ma' dak originali skont l-epoka f'restawr. Il-Mithna hi issa miftuħa biex titgawda minn min irid iżurha. Id-dhul huwa mingħajr hlas

Fl-inawgurazzjoni mill-Ministru għal Ghawdex Clint Camilleri u s-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, gie spjegat li x-xoghol fuq il-mithna jinkludi restawr estensiv kemm minn barra kif ukoll minn ġewwa. Il-Ministru għal Ghawdex semma l-importanza li wiehed jiehu hsieb il-wirt u l-patrimonju kulturali Malti, kemm dak li hallewlna missirijietna kif ukoll dak li jagħmilna min ahna llum.

Minbarra r-restawr, fil-mithna nbnew faċilitajiet sanitarji godda, u ġew mġoddija s-servizzi meħtieġa bla ma ssehh l-ebda ħsara fuq l-istruttura tal-post. Filwaqt li bil-ghajnuna ta' Heritage Malta u ta' professjonisti oħra poġġew ukoll xi affarijiet li wiehed jassoċja ma' mithna, fosthom il-pinnur, id-delujiet, il-buttun u aċċessorji żgħar oħra.

Inħadem ukoll il-makkinarju kollu mill-ġdid minhabba li dak originali kien inharaq fl-ghoxrinijiet.

Il-mithna se tkun qed tintuża wkoll bhala *hub* fejn isiru attivitajiet folkloristiċi u xi taħditiet interessanti u edukattivi kemm dwar il-mithna nnifisha kif ukoll dwar l-istorja interessanti tagħha li tirrifletti fuq kif kienu jghixu missirijietna.

Skont is-Segretarju Parlamentari Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi r-restawr ta' din il-mithna se jkompli jsaħħa il-wirt kulturali Ghawdex biex il-generazzjonijiet ta' warajna jkun jistgħu japprezzaw il-wirt storiku li hallewlna ta' qabilna.

Sadanittant, minn taħrif miġbur minn Charles Bezzina sar magħruf li kontra kif kienu jinbnew l-imtiehen fi żmien il-Kavallieri, dik tax-Xewkija ma nbniex fuq xi għolja biex iwizinha r-rih, imma f'medda art catta kif jibda r-raħal tax-Xewkija.

Din il-mithna kienet it-tieni waħda li nbniex f'Ghawdex fi żmien il-Kavallieri, u proprju saret fl-1710, taht it-tmexxija tal-Gran Mastru Raymundo Perellos (1697–1720).

Fil-fatt, il-mithna, unika u partikolari għal Ghawdex, kienet tal-Fondazzjoni Perellos. L-ewwel mithna f'Ghawdex kienet inbniet f'flok is-Seminarju tar-Rabat, taht il-Gran Mastru Gregorio Caraffa. B'hekk dik tax-Xewkija hija l-eqdem waħda ezistenti f'Ghawdex. Kienet damet taħdem sal-1886, għax imbagħad serviet għal affarijiet oħra.

L-imtiehen l-oħra f'Ghawdex inbnew wara, bicċa minnhom taht il-hakma Ingliża. Din tax-Xewkija għandha forma ottangolari (bi tmien ponot), u nbniex thares lejn l-irjeh ewlenin. It-tmien hitan tagħha jharsu lejn it-Tramuntana, in-Nofsinhar, il-Punent, il-Lvant, il-Lbiċ, ix-Xlokk, u l-Grigal.

Kien proprju f'it ta' snin ilu li l-mithna giet fil-ghajn ta' nies li jhobbu l-wirt arkitettoniku tagħna, u llum, bir-restawr floku li sar fuqha se sservi wkoll ta' attrazzjoni turistika u kulturali peress li l-mithna hija prova haġja ta' kif kienu jghixu l-l-Ghawdexin fiż-żminijiet imġoddija tal-1700.

Ix-xoghol fuq il-mithna gie mfaħħar u rikonoxxut mis-Sovrintendenza tal-Patrimonju Kulturali.



Il-Ministru Clint Camilleri (xellug) u s-Seg. Parlamentari Stefan Zrinzo fl-inawgurazzjoni

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



Now you can also join us on facebook:

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

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Similar memories to Joseph Lanzon

Herbert Magri-Overend from Melksham, Wiltshire, England writes:

I was especially interested in Joseph Lanzon's article in the No. 245 issue of *The Voice of the Maltese* concerning his memories of the fifties in Malta. His and mine match practically exactly. I am in my 82nd year, so I am slightly younger than Mr Lanzon.

As for the comics he used to look forward to, my Nannu Ġużi used to send me

those exact same comics when I lived in Egypt. I was especially fond of the Classics Illustrated and The Eagle, the former encouraged me to read the actual books the comics referred to.

You are doing a good job, and I do read The Voice of the Maltese magazine newsletter. Your readership emigrated to Australia direct from Malta, ours also, but via Egypt. Hence, our knowledge of the Maltese language is not being as perfect as your readers.

My dad spoke Maltese, but my mother had a Croatian mother (Cheles), so we spoke French, Italian, Arabic and English.

I know one or two words of the Maltese, but not enough to fully understand the Maltese in your magazine.

Tagħrif u artikli ġenwini

Harry Camilleri minn Cairns Qld jikteb:

Xi haġa li toghġobni hafna fil-pubblikazzjoni *The Voice of the Maltese*, hu l-fatt li biha nħossni ferm qrib Malta.

Dan qed nġhidu għaliex meta naqraha, minbarra li nħossni kburi li għalkemm tant il-bogħod għandna magazine ta stoffa indirizzat lejna, l-artikli li fih huma miktuba b'mod mill-aktar intelligenti u li jinfthiem.

Fuq kollox, thoss li dak li qed taqra dwar Malta huwa ġenwin u li juri l-veru stampa tal-pajjiż li qatt mhu se naslu li niċhdu.

The dark side of Facebook

Don Marks from Wollongong NSW writes:

If you are one of those who believe in the bubble that is Facebook you notice the rubbish that is sometimes put in there, by some Maltese. Sometimes they post photos of people without proper explanation, baked stories and even fake news.

Then, they have the temerity to claim they defend Malta's reputation and its culture. At times it's well to get it off your chest, but please let us be a bit more cautious.

If you do not know the subject, please write about something more to your level.

Congratulations to Mario Sammut, and the Latrobe, Valley Maltese Centre

Tony Cassar from St Albans writes:

Through this medium, I wish to congratulate Mario Sammut whom you featured in the last issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*, for being named Latrobe City's 2021 Senior of the Year on Australia Day 2021.

I also wish to include in my congratulations the Maltese Festa, and in particular the Maltese Museum that many of us who have visited know so well, is his baby, for being nominated for the Event of the Year award.

I myself live in St Albans, but I have friends living in Morwell who have nothing but praise for the man through whose initiative the Maltese Centre not only organises the Festa Maltija but is active for most of the year.

Last year's restrictive measures due to COVID-19 kept many of us in our bubble. But hopefully, when life returns to normal, I will do my utmost to persuade the Maltese community (and even other ethnic groups) in the state of Victoria especially, to visit the Maltese Museum, that is dedicated to Maltese culture and traditions at Morwell.

The Maltese Museum is a monument that we should all be proud of. I am, as I have visited it and hope to do it again soon.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Interviewing about migration (Part 1)



Barry York

I occasionally receive requests from people who want to record 'oral histories' with their parents or grandparents. There's an old saying about how "a library burns down" when an elderly person dies. Recorders are not too expensive these days and some are built into phones. What value does one put on recording the memories – and voices – of one's loved ones?

The following is a question guide that I developed over many years and which I use when interviewing Maltese migrants. It is a generic guide that can be tailored to the individual migrant from any country.

The benefit, and beauty, of recording an interview is that it captures the unique voice of the individual as well as lots of information. For this reason, I recommend that you place the recording device, or external microphone (if using one), near to the interviewee to ensure the best possible audio quality.

None of us are here forever. I have recorded many interviews but the most precious are those with my mother and father. Hearing their voices 'brings them to life' for me.

I am sharing this in the hope that it will result in some recordings being made. I'm happy to be emailed for further advice: barryyork554@gmail.com

Before proceeding, I must thank Mark Caruana, of Sydney, who encouraged my early work in this field. He is the pioneer when it comes to Maltese-Australian oral history.

Anyway, here is the 'question guide' I use when interviewing Maltese migrants.

The guide is divided into three parts: **Personal Background, Emigration and Australia.**

Be prepared to record each part as a session. Don't try to cover everything in one session. Most people tire after 90 minutes.

1. Personal background

- When were you born?
- In which part of Malta or Gozo were you born? Did you grow up there?
- What were your parents' names?
- What did they do for a living?
- How would you describe the role of your mother and father in the family?
- What position were you in the family (eldest, youngest)?
- Was there a family nickname? (*Ask for father's side and mother's side of family*)
- When did you go to school? How long were you there?
- Which subjects did you study?

Recording the memories, voices of one's loved ones

- What was your first job in Malta? What other jobs did you have prior to coming to Australia?

- When and how did you first hear of Australia?

- What were you expecting to find in Australia? What was your impression of Australia when you were still in Malta?

- Were you still in Malta when the Second World War broke out? If so, how did it affect you?

2. Emigration

- Why did you decide to leave Malta?

- Was it a difficult decision?

- Did you make the decision alone, or with others?

- How did your family respond to your decision?

- Why did you decide on Australia and not Canada or America or somewhere else?

- When did you emigrate?

- Did you migrate under the Assisted Passage Scheme?

- Was it your first time outside of Malta?

- Did you ever meet any Australians in Malta?

- Did you have any friends or relatives in Australia? If so, who?

- What was the name of the ship on which you travelled to Australia?

- Did you come to Australia with other members of your family?

- What do you remember about the voyage?

- Can you recall the names of friends you travelled with, or any friends you made on the voyage?

- What belongings did you bring?

- Did you regard your move as permanent?

- In Malta, what were your expectations of life in Australia?

3. Australia

- When did you arrive and at which port did you finally disembark?

- Did all the Maltese disembark there?

- Were there any Maltese to meet you at the port?

- Where did you spend your first night? How did you find it?

- How long did it take you to move into your present home?

- Why did you choose to live in that particular suburb?

- During your early years here, did you feel welcome in Australian society?

- What was your first job?

- How did you find your first job?



- What were you looking for in a job? What were the most important things to you?

- When you were in Malta, before coming to Australia, what type of work did you expect to do here?

- What jobs have you had in Australia over the years?

- What is your current position?

- Did other Maltese work with you in any of the jobs?

- In the early years, if you needed advice or information about life in Australia, to whom would you turn?

- Did you join any Maltese organisations in Australia? If so, which ones and how soon after your arrival here? Were you a committee member of any?

- Why did you join a Maltese organisation?

- Was there a Maltese club here when you arrived? If so, what was it called and what did it do?

- Do you recall any of the Maltese priests who were here?

- Were you in regular contact with Malta after settling in Australia?

- Did other members of your family, including cousins, come to Australia?

- Did you assist or encourage others to migrate?

- When you landed in Australia, how well could you speak English?

- What were your very first impressions of life in Australia after you disembarked?

- What did you miss most about Malta in the early years here?

- What did you like about life in Australia? What, if anything, did Australia offer you that couldn't be found in Malta?

- What were the main hardships you experienced in the early years here?

- Did you ever feel unwelcome?

- In the early years, as a married person, what were your hopes for the future of your children in Australia?

- Have you been back to Malta? If so, when was the first time and why did you go back?

- How did you feel when returning back to Australia?

- Did you marry a Maltese?

- How many children do you have?

- Where do they live? What are their occupations?

- Do they speak Maltese?

- How do you regard yourself today? As Maltese? Australian? Or what?

(In Part 2 I will look at in-depth lines of questioning about family background.)

Perspettiva

Farsa

F'dawn il-ġranet, qgħadt insegwi l-ahbarijiet mill-Ewropa dwar il-vaċċin kontra l-koronavirus u d-deċiżjonijiet stupefacenti li bdew herġin minn Brussel.

Irrid ngħidilkom mallewwel li f'jumejn jew tlieta bdilt kompletament l-impressjoni li kelli minn wahda fejn deċiżjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropeja jridu bilfors isiru b'pass ta' bebbuxu minhabba l-burokrazija u l-hafna livelli ta' tmexxija, għal wahda fejn deċiżjonijiet fil-fatt jistgħu jittiehdu mil-lum għall-ghada b'konsultazzjoni non-eżistenti.

Għal min ma jafx dwar xiex qed nitkellem, is-sugġett huwa d-dewmien mistenni fil-provvista ta' vaċċini tal-AstraZeneca, dak żviluppat mal-Università ta' Oxford, li fl-ewwel kwart ta' din is-sena 2021 huma mistennija li jipprovdu lill-Unjoni Ewropeja (u li jitqassmu lill-pajjiżi membri) inqas minn nofs tad-dozi li kienu kuntrattati għalihom.

Dan mhux il-vaċċin li bħalissa qed jiġi injettat fiċ-ċittadini Ewropej, inklużi l-Maltin, għax l-ewwel vaċċin kien dak manifatturat mill-Pfizer, li wkoll kellha xi problemi fil-manufattura, imma l-furur li qam kien mal-AstraZeneca.¹

Fi ftit ġranet ta' sqarrijiet pubbliċi, l-UE:

- iddeċidiet li vaċċini mmanifatturati fl-UE jridu jitolbu permess tal-pajjiż fejn jinħadmu qabel ma jiġu esportati;
- tippretendi li l-vaċċini tal-AstraZeneca magħmulin fir-Renju Uniti jingħataw lill-Ewropa minflok li jibgħu f'dak il-pajjiż, anke meta l-AstraZeneca hija obbligata li tforni lir-Renju Unit bil-kuntratt magħha;²

- iddeċidiet li tirrestringi l-esportazzjoni ta' vaċċini mill-Irlanda għall-Irlanda ta' Fuq billi tattiva artiklu mill-ftehim tal-Brexit mar-Renju Unit.

Ejja nitkellmu fil-qosor dwar kull punt.

L-ewwel wiehed, mela issa ma jimpurtax iktar jekk pajjiżi oħra li huma barra mill-UE għandhomx huma stess kuntratti għall-provvista tal-

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

kitba ta'
**IVAN
CAUCHI**



vaċċini. L-ewwel ahna, imbagħad ahna, imbagħad jekk nibqa' naraw. Addijo kollaborazzjoni.

Li kieku kien Donald Trump li ha deċiżjoni simili, bl-ghajta ta' l-Amerika l-ewwel, ma kontx inkun sorpriż. Forsi issa Trump sar konsulent mal-Kummissjoni Ewropea?

It-tieni punt huwa fl-istess linja tal-ewwel. Mhux hekk biss, imma mid-dehra l-kuntratti li kumpanniji għandhom mal-UE biss huma importanti li jinżammu, l-oħrajn huma sekondarji!

L-Għaqda Dinjija tas-Sahha (WHO - World Health Organisation) ukoll qalet li din l-attitudni tista' taffettwa d-distribuzzjoni tal-vaċċin fuq bażi globali.

L-ahhar punt tal-fruntiera tal-Irlanda kienet sorpriża kbira kważi universali, għax lanqas il-gvern Irlandiż ma kien infurmat biha - daqshekk tfisser il-konsultazzjoni!

Kieku d-deċiżjoni nżammet, din kienet tfisser li jkun hemm bżonn kontrolli tad-dwana fuq il-fruntiera bejniethom, haġa li l-UE għamlet ix-xhur tikkritika lir-Renju Unit li seta' jwassal għalih il-Brexit (jew il-hruġ tal-pajjiż mill-UE). Din id-deċiżjoni qajmet kjaas u thassret prattikament l-ghada li harget.³

Matul in-negożjati tal-Brexit, in-naħa Ewropea tat impressjoni ta' kompetenza, konsistenza u li timxi fuq principji sodi. Madankollu, l-ghaġġla li biha l-UE kienet lesta li tabbanduna l-principji dikjarati tagħha fuq il-ftehim ta' paċi tal-Irlanda ta' Fuq u s-solidarjeta' globali, din ir-reputazzjoni giet pjuttost imxejna, f'ghajnejn hafna osservaturi, u tiegħi ukoll.

Veru li dan huwa sugġett importanti hafna, imma nahseb li l-Kummissjoni Ewropea, u l-President Ursula von der Leyen, zelqu wahda sew fin-niexef.

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Ursula von
der Leyen



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..... Will be back soon.....watch this space

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ANGELO PACE: kompożitur ta' marċi li għadhom popolari sal-lum

Il-kompożitur tal-marċi Maltin li għandhom melodiji sbieħ li taseww ipaxxu l-qalb u l-widna. Hekk stqarr darba miegħi Karmenu, missier Angelo Pace. Illum, li napprezza aktar il-mużika ngħid kemm kellu raġun. Mingħajr tlaqliq nishaq li l-marċi tas-Surmast Angelo Pace huma taseww sbieħ, b'armonija preċiża u b'melodiji waħda żżejjen lill-oħra.

Marċ li jispikka bħala fost l-isbaħ tiegħu hemm dak bl-isem ta' 'Blossom Time'. Kien missier Angelo li għibidli l-attenzjoni lejha wara li kien indaqq mill-Banda La Valette. Kien saħħarni u għadu jogħgħobni sal-lum, kemm mużikament kif ukoll għax idahħalni f'mument ta' nostalgija.

Jekk wieħed janalizza sewwa l-marċi ta' Angelo Pace jsib oħrajn ta' importanza, fosthom 'Festival' li ntgħazel mill-BBC biex jindaqq fil-programm 'London Calling' waqt iż-żjara tar-Reġina Elizabetta f'Malta fis-sena 1954.

Insemmi wkoll il-marċ 'The Merry Monarch' li kien ipremjat bit-tieni post f'kompetizzjoni nazzjonali għall-aħjar marċi għall-Karnival fl-1959.

Lil dan is-surmast kont nafu wkoll xi ftit personalment għax għamilna żmien flimkien membri fil-Kunsill tal-Għaqda tal-Kompożituri u Awturi Maltin (il-UKAM) meta din kienet imxexxja minn F.X. Pisani. b'Angelo Pace kien il-kaxxier. Hemm kont niltaq' miegħu regolarment.

Magħna fil-kunsill kien hemm ukoll Joseph M. Barbara li wkoll kien jikkomponi marċi tal-festa. M'hemmx dubju li s-sugġett tal-laqqgħat dejjem kien il-baned u l-marċi.

52 sena surmast direttur

Lil Pace niftakru wkoll bħala surmast direttur għal 52 sena shaħ (rekord nazzjonali) tal-Banda La Stella' tal-Gudja. Kien ukoll surmast direttur tal-baned La Stella' tar-Rabat Ghawdex u ta' Maria Mater Gratiae ta' Haż-Żabbar, u anke jidderiegi l-Chorus *Excelsior* ta' Hal Luqa.

Is-Surmast Pace kellu hafna għal qalbu r-raħal fejn twieled, il-Gudja, aktar minn mitt sena ilu, fl-20 ta' Marzu 1920. Għal dan ir-raħal sabiħ, zgħir u bi storja kbira, Angelo ikkompona wkoll l-innu ufficjali (kliem u mużika) wara konkors inniedi mill-Kunsill Civiċu tal-Gudja.

F-istess raħal kien waqqaf il-Kor Parrokkjali biex ikun jista' jaqdi s-servizzi liturgici matul is-sena u li għadu attiv. Hu kien ukoll l-organista tal-parroċċa.

Angelo Pace beda juri t-talent mużikali tiegħu sa meta kien għad kellu 10 snin u kien abbati fil-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Gudja. Kien hawn li beda billi jdoqq l-orgni. Baqa' joffri s-servizzi tiegħu lill-knisja għal aktar minn 70 sena.

Rekordjar tal-marċi

Meta għal xi żmien kont nirrekordja l-marċi tal-baned tagħna fuq ix-xandir nazzjonali, meta kien imiss li nippreżenta l-banda La Stella' tal-Gudja kont ngħid: "Mela illum għandi xalata ta' marċi tas-Surmast Angelo Pace"... għax fil-fatt il-librett ta' marċi ta' din il-banda tant għal qalbu kien kollu (jew kważi kollu) marċi tiegħu, wieħed



isbaħ mill-ieħor.

Anke meta kien surmast ta' din il-banda għamel l-aħjar tiegħu biex jintroduci repertorju differenti u fil-fatt, bil-għan li jigbed aktar interess lejn il-banda Maltija għamel ukoll arrangamenti mużikali ta' valzi, polki u mużika ferrihija oħra.

Lejn l-aħħar tas-snin sittin u l-bidu tas-sebghin kont niltaq' miegħu ta' kull sena fil-każin tal-banda King's Own tal-Belt waqt ir-rekordjar tal-marċi għax anke fil-librett ta' marċi godda ta' din il-banda Pace kien ikun mitlub jikkomponi marċi għal għall-festa ta' San Duminku.

Wara konna niltaqgħu għal bibita fis-sala tal-każin għax jien ukoll kont bdejt nikkomponi marċi għal din il-banda.

L-iżvilupp tal-marċi

Kienet tkun l-għaxxa tiegħi nitkellem mas-Surmast Pace dwar l-iżvilupp tal-marċi f'pajjżna. Niftakru jgħidli li kien qed jara l-marċ Malti miexi lejn it-triq tal-kant u jinħall mill-forma tradizzjonali tiegħu. Illum ngħid li kellu raġun.

Għalkemm Angelo Pace kien magħruf bħala surmast tal-marċi Maltin, huwa kkompona wkoll mużika sagra, fosthom antifoni, quddies, għasar, gradwali u innijiet. Minbarra marċi, għall-banda ikkompona wkoll *overtures*, innijiet u xogħlijiet oħra, fosthom *Tender and True*, *Malta Risorge* u *Lil Din l-Art Helwa*.

Bil-poema sinfonika *Lil Din l-Art Helwa*, fl-1983, kien kiseb it-tielet post f'konkors nazzjonali għal kompożizzjonijiet bandistiċi Maltin inniedi mid-Dipartiment tal-Kultura.

Angelo Pace nħatar Kavallier fi hdan il-Knights of Magisterial Grace of the Byzantine Order of the Holy Sepulchre' u fl-1993 il-President ta' Malta tah il-Medal of Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the George Cross.

Kien ukoll dilettant tal-futbol u partitarju qawwi tal-Juventus u t-im Nazzjonali Taljan. Kull jum, mid-9 p.m. 'il quddiem kien isegwi r-Rai Radio Uno biex jisma' programm ta' mużika serja. Kien l-għaxxa tiegħu, l-aktar meta kien jisma' x-xandiriet diretti minn diversi teatri tal-opra.

Angelo Pace miet ta' 83 sena fl-2003. Huwa kien miżżewweġ lil Grazzja Schembri mill-Gudja u kellhom sitt ulied. Principalmment, xogħlu kien mal-RAF-MALTA.



Roundup of News About Malta



'Ambassadors Malta's voice around the world', – President Vella

Addressing Ambassadors, Malta President George Vella said that they are Malta's voice around the world and are in an ideal position to deliver accurate and correct information about how institutions work in the country.

He said that without the respect and confidence that ambassadors gain for the country at an international level, the country would not be able to fulfil its potential in strong and lasting political contacts, foreign investment, interest in the financial and digital sectors, cultural exchanges, and tourism.

He explained that this spirit should lead ambassadors to work for Malta's success in the campaign for the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

An important framework highlighted by the President and in which we are making our voice heard is that of the European Union. He mentioned Brexit and its consequences, which are crucial development for the Union, but also for Malta and highlighted the importance of protecting the interests of the Maltese citizens as much as possible. He specifically mentioned, Libya



and Malta's efforts to find a fruitful and lasting solution to the turmoil in that country.

President George Vella said that Malta is making its voice heard on issues of global relevance in the Middle East, immigra-

tion, Climate Change, and security in the Mediterranean, and specifically mentioned Libya, with Malta trying to find a fruitful and lasting solution to the turmoil there.

Added that in Malta we have everything needed to continue to develop our foreign policy.

"We have proven in the past that above all we have competent and prepared individuals and peaceful goals that make sense. Therefore, the small size of our country should not be an obstacle to the vision and results we can achieve," he said.

National Unity Conference

The Office of the President is to organise a Conference for National Unity with the direct involvement of the public to initiate a mature discussion on the subject. It will be held on February 27.

President of Malta George Vella gave details of the conference at a press conference at San Anton Palace. He said that through this initiative, he would fulfil his promise of giving absolute importance and work hard, to strengthen national unity.

MITA's vision for 2023 – is to make Malta a pioneer in digital innovation



Minister Silvio Schembri

Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri said that with a leadership mentality in the digital economy, the government is aiming to further strengthen its position as a Malta that enjoys a reputation of a digital island, built on innovation, good governance, and effectiveness.

During the launch of the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA)'s vision till 2023, built on Malta as a pioneer in digital innovation, the Minister spoke about Malta's mission to maintain an excellent digital infrastructure.

The vision is based on seven pillars that develop MITA's strategic areas, to convey the message that Malta is ready for the next challenge, that of strengthening its competitive position to attract more foreign investment to the country.

He said that the digital economy brings more work both directly and in other indirect services from which a wider range of people benefit, and reiterated that the focus on the digital economy is leading to more career creation in the ICT sector.

He explained that in the next three years the government is once again putting itself in a leading position, creating a platform for the trends that are developing around us.

In this regard, the document lists the importance of Malta to remain at the forefront of addressing emerging technology. He said that part of MITA's vision is to continue investing in its human resource talents.

Meanwhile, the approach used by MITA is to remain focused on addressing customer needs in the most efficient way.

CEO Tony Sultana said MITA would continue to provide direction in the field of technology and be more innovative in the use and application of technology.



Prestigious award for fisherman Jesmark Scicluna in Luzzu film

Maltese fisherman Jesmark Scicluna, whose skillset is limited to the family tradition of fishing, won a prestigious award at the World Cinema Dramatic competition at Sundance for his role in the film *Luzzu*, directed by Alex Camilleri.

During the award ceremony he received the 'World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award in Acting'. *Luzzu*, directed by Alex Camilleri, was premiered at the Sundance Festival on January 29, with an encore screening January

31. Memento Films is handling sales.

In Camilleri's *Luzzu* Jesmark Scicluna, from Siggiewi, plays the part of a fisherman who must resort to the black market to provide for his wife and newborn baby.

In comments on the film Turkish producer Zeynep Atakan, said that 'Luzzu' is a film "that takes you inside a powerful story, beyond the context of tourism in Malta with which many are familiar."

(*The Voice of the Maltese* will have a full review of the film in the next issue)



Roundup of News About Malta



Promoting Malta as a centre of excellence in the maritime sector

Malta is committed to promoting the island, which is renowned as a centre of excellence in the maritime sector, and which is increasing its contribution to the Maltese economy while creating employment opportunities, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg and Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri, said on a visit to the Melita Marine Group's shipyard in Paola.

The Group has recently announced an investment of €5 million in its operation to strengthen the highest quality service it offers in maritime and engineering at an international level, something, that Minister Ian Borg said, further strengthens Malta's position as a major jurisdiction for yacht services.

He mentioned several achievements and successes in the maritime sector, such as the Ship Register yacht. By end 2020, had about 860 registered super yachts making Malta with the largest register in this sector in the world.

Speaking about the ongoing strategic work in the Ministry for Economy and Industry towards creating a more diversified economy, Minister Silvio Schembri stated that the maritime sector, including the super yacht industry, engineering and logistics, are being

seen as sectors with great potential for the next Maltese economy and employment sector.

Meanwhile, numerous training courses have been launched that would be delivering and giving opportunities to students interested in this industry, to grow their skills and have opportunities when it comes to high skilled and professional jobs.

Such incentives continue to put Malta on the world map when it comes to maritime education and, as a government, it is committed to continuing to support the industry to ensure a maritime sector of quality, confidence and reputation.

Pete Buttigieg sworn in

Pete Buttigieg, the US politician of Maltese descent appointed by new US President Joe Biden as his Secretary of Transportation was sworn in in front of the Vice President Kamala Harris on February 3.

Congratulating Buttigieg, who was confirmed with 86 votes

against 13 by the American Senate, Kamala Harris described Pete as a true-problem solver and that he would bring people together to strengthen the nation's infrastructure.

Pete Buttigieg is the fifth member of President Biden's Cabinet to be sworn in.



New thematic Ambassadors

The Minister for Foreign Affairs Evarist Bartolo has met the three newly appointed 'thematic' Ambassadors: for Women, Peace and Security, for Islands and Small States,

and for Digital Affairs.

These appointments, are aimed "at addressing new realities and keep pace with the continued transition and development in international relations".

In this regard, the three Ambassadors: Cecilia Attard Pirota (Women, Peace and Security), Professor Godfrey Baldacchino (Islands and Small States), and Professor André Xuereb (Digital Affairs) are expected to encourage and influence the debate on current issues and challenges.

FM's of Malta, Slovenia discuss developments in Mediterranean

At a bilateral meeting in Malta, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia Anže Logar addressed various issues including developments in the Mediterranean, irregular migration, and Slovenia's priorities for the next Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Minister Bartolo explained how the two countries have many things in common that offer a solid foundation for cooperation in various fields, among them the Mediterranean. He reiterated that the fate of the European Union is intrinsically linked to the fate of the Mediterranean and fate of Africa.

The Minister also spoke about irregular migration, explaining the great challenges of Malta as an island state on the southern border of Europe.

He pointed out that Malta is ready to support Slovenia's membership in the Med 7, and stressed that with strong cooperation between them, this could be a formidable group in the European Union.

On his part, Minister Anže Logar welcomed Malta's commitment to support Slovenia in its ambition to join the Med 7. He said it was timely because it would coincide with Slovenia's term at the helm of the Council of the European Union.



The Melita Marine Group's shipyard

Enjoying education through creativity and writing

During the eighth edition of a writing participation event, Minister for Education Justyne Caruana (left) said that education is also creative education, by which students can use their imagination and critical thinking to create new and meaningful forms of ideas and learn to develop their abilities.

Gozo Live, an organisation helping students to use their writing skills and instilling a love of writing in them, is a non-governmental and voluntary educational organisation now in its eighth year.

Gozo's young writers submitted 232 entries

from 17 schools all of which were applauded during an online meeting via MS Teams.

During the event, that was hosted by Education Officer for English Pamela Zerafa, creativity in writing was celebrated with a student from each school reading their entries and sharing with the large and receptive audience their inspirations, hopes and dreams.

Minister Caruana congratulated the participants and thanked the organisers for this annual event, which not only helps students in their writing skills but also in their educational journey.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Kif jinbidlu ż-żminijiet?!

Il-Malti jghid li ż-żmien isajjar il-bajtar... imma mhux biss isajjarha imma jagħmilna aktar anzjani, u jgħib bidliet li f'it wiehed qatt jista' jobsor.

Fost dawn il-bidliet kien hemm dawk fejn jidhol il-kleru, mhux biss għax rajna l-membri tal-kleru jabbandunaw is-solta sut-tana u bil-mod il-mod, fil-maġġoranza tagħhom fi lbieshom minn kjeriċi spicċaw ma tarafhomx minn irġiel ohra f'ilbeshom.

Imma għax fost kollox spicċat dik l-era li kwazi rari, jekk qatt, li tara membru tal-kleru jitressaq il-Qorti arrestat. Min li daqs ħamsin sena ilu kien qatt jobsor li se jara membru tal-kleru jiddaħħal il-Qorti taht arrest u mmanettjat?

Imma dak li rajna f'it tal-jiem ilu, meta kif nahseb li diġà smajtu jew qrajtu, żewġ membri tal-kleru mix-Xagħra, Ghawdex, Dun Ġużèppi Sultana ta' 84 sena u Dun Ġużèppi Cini ta' 71 tressqu quddiem il-Qorti ta' Ghawdex mxlija b'abbużi sesswali fuq abbati għadd ta' snin ilu.



Mons Ewkarist Sultana... b'każ preskritt

Jitfaċċa t-tielet każ

Meta ħsibt li se nagħlaq hawn dwar dan il-każ, tfaċċa t-tielet allegat każ ta' abbuż sesswali minn saċerdot... din id-darba mill-eks-Arċipriet tax-Xagħra, Mons Ewkarist Sultana.

Skont rapport f'*The Times* Sultana għe rrapportat lis-Safeguarding Commission (il-Kummissjoni tal-Knisja Maltija li tiehu ħsieb tinvestigat każijiet bħal dawn) li kellu attivitajiet sesswali

ma żagħżuġh li dawn damu sejrin erba' snin, sakemm il-vittma għalaq 17-il sena.

Meta semgħet ix-xhieda l-Kummissjoni hassiet li kien hemm provi biżżejjed biex jittiehdu passi kontra s-saċerdot u għaddiet il-każ f'idejn il-Pulizija.

Il-bużillis iżda, li għalkemm il-pulizija fethet investigazzjoni ma setgħetx tressaq lill-qassis il-Qorti minhabba li l-każ għe pre-

Għalkemm dan ma kienx l-ewwel każ bħalu mressaq il-Qorti fuq abbużi sesswali, il-fatt li dan kien jinvolvi żewġ membri tal-kleru għibed l-attenzjoni tal-midja li x'aktarx li għall-ewwel darba, meta għew biex jirrapportaw dwar il-każ, għab kultant kelma b'kelma dak li qalu x-xhieda.

Saret enfasi dwar dak li xehed l-allegat vittma ta' dawn l-abbużi fejn saħansitra ddiskrivew b'ċertu dettal dak li illegalment sehh bejn dawn il-membri tal-kleru u l-vittma.

Attwalment hafna qarreja baqgħu skantati dwar dan ir-rappurtagg, hekk dettaljat fuq każ sesswali meta mhux darba u tnejn, il-Qrati għamlu divjett ta' pubblikażzjoni tal-ismijiet ta' dawk involuti u ċertu dettalji.

Wara dan ir-rappurtagg, l-Avukat tad-difiża talbu biex l-istampa ma tkomplix tirrappurtar b'dak id-dettal, iżda l-Maġistrat ma laqgħetx talbiethom.

Sadanittant il-Qorti lanqas biss tat il-libertà proviżorja lill-mixlija, li kien ifisser li dawn kellhom jinżammu arrestati u billi f'Ghawdex ma hemmx ħabs, ta' kull darba wara l-Qorti, l-qassisin kienu jittiehdu l-ħabs f'Malta u jittiehdu lura Ghawdex meta

skritt (kien skada żmien li setgħu jagħmlu dan).

Sadanittant il-Kurja hadet l-passi kontra Sultana billi waqqfetu milli jagħmel ċerti funzjonijiet reliġjużi, fosthom li jgħaddes fil-pubbliku, li jamministra xi sagramenti jew b'xi mod ikollu kuntatti ma minuri.

Insomma wara li l-Paroċċa tax-Xagħra fethet għax min hana intgħazel l-Isqof a' Ghawdex, kellha tghaddi minn ċirkustanzi li f'it u xejn huma sbieħ!



Dun Guzepp Sultana

tissokta l-kawża.

Ta' min jghid li fl-2014 kienu siġa saru allegazzjonijiet ta' abbużi sesswali hafna kontra Dun Guzepp Sultana fid-Djoċesi ta' Cairns fi Queensland, fl-Awstralja. Huwa kien anke miżmum milli jgħaddes. Kemm il-gurnali ta' din il-belt u anke dawk Malti kienu kitbu hafna dwar dawn l-allegazzjonijiet.

iżda wara li l-każ ta' dan kien tressaq mill-Isqof James Foley ta' Cairns quddiem il-Kongregazzjoni tad-Duttrina tat-Twemmin f'Ruma, dan għarraf lid-djoċesi Ghawdxija li l-Kongregazzjoni kienet iddikjarat li l-allegazzjonijiet li kien hemm kontra Sultana kienu bla bażi. Foley rtira minn Isqof minhabba f'saħħtu.fl-2019.

Każ iehor li nvolva kjeriku

Filwaqt li l-attenzjoni tal-midja u tal-poplu kien fuq il-każ ta' Sultana u Cini, tressaq il-qorti wkoll, din id-darba Malta, l-Arċipriet ta' Bormla Dun Anthony Cassar fuq każ li la kien kriminali u lanqas gravi. Għe mixli li nsolenta raġel meta għajru "giddieb". Instab hati u immultat €58. L-istess wehel ir-raġel tal-istess akkuża, ċertu Lawrence Caruana li kien l-ewwel li rrapporta lill-pulizija li "għe mghajjar".

L-argument sehh qabel il-funeral ta' omm l-Arċipriet tar-Rabat f'Ottubru li għadda f'Misrah il-Paroċċa fir-Rabat waqt li kien għaddej funeral fil-Knisja ta' San Pawl.

Il-pulizija sejh lill-Arċipriet Cassar u dan qalilhom li veru li kien għajjar lill-iehor "giddieb" għax mar jirrapportah lill-Arċisqof.

*Għal paġna 15

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Niftakru!

Il-mogħdija taż-żmien kultant twassal biex ninsew ċerti ġrajjet. Għalhekk tajjeb li li nfakkar f'wahda mill-akbar tragedji li ġrat f'pajjiżna wara l-aħħar gwerra Dinjija, meta mietu disa' haddiema fit-Tarzna.

Il-ġrajja seħhet fl-10.25 p.m. tat-3 ta' Frar 1995 meta seħhet splużjoni, imbagħad hruq kbir fuq il-vapur Libjan Um El Faroud li kien għat-tiswija fit-Tarzna. Kien tragedja li swiet il-mewt ta' disa' haddiema. Dawn kienu, George Aquilina ta' 24 sena minn Hal Qormi, Charles Callus ta' 46 sena mill-Belt, Mario Hales ta' 39 sena mill-Imqabba, Simon Mifsud ta' 26 sena mill-Birgu, Simon Pisani ta' 22 sena mill-Imsida, Angelo Sciberras ta' 51 sena minn Haż-Żabbar u Anthony Vas-



sallo ta' 29 sena minn Had-Dingli.

Dawn il-haddiema ħarġu mid-dar tagħhom biex imorru biex jaqdu dmirhom

iżda qatt ma rritornaw lura mal-familja.

Għadd ta' haddiema oħra sfaw feruti.

Dawn huma il-martri ta' żminijietna.

Mill-kamp tal-COVID-19

Hadna f'it tar-ruħ għax fl-aħħar jiem qed ikun aktar min ifieq mill-COVID-19 milli jiġu kkonfermati pożittivi, għalkemm il-mejtn laħqu 282.

Tilqim: Malta baqgħet bl-ogħla rata ta' tilqim fl-Unjoni Ewropeja. Dan gie nnutat ukoll mill-istazzjon tal-agenzija tal-ahbarijiet internazzjonali Euronews li waqt il-programm Good Morning Europe, il-ġurnalista tat harsa lejn l-aħħar sitwazzjoni ta' kif qed jingħata t-tilqim madwar għadd ta' pajjiżi.

Il-ġurnalista semmiet kif Malta, l-iżgħar stat tal-Unjoni Ewropea għandha l-ogħla rata ta' tilqim ras għal ras, jiġifieri ta' 7%.

Mhux biss, imma r-rata se tiżdied wara li l-Hadd filgħaxija waslet f'pajjiżna konsinna ta' doża tal-vaċċin mill-kumpanija AstraZeneca li biha se jittlaqmu dawk ta'

mard kroniku. Dan ifisser li Malta se tkun qed tuża vaċċini ta' tliet ditti differenti

Bolol: Il-Malta post nediet set ta' tliet bolol bħala rikonoxximent lill-haddiema fil-qasam tas-saħħa b'wirja ta' apprezzament lill-carers, infermiera, tobba, u frontliners li tul l-aħħar xhur wettqu sagrifċċji liema bħalhom fil-ġlieda kontra l-firxa tal-pandemija, tal-COVID-19.

Il-bolol, kollha tas-sett (*fug*) iddisinjat mill-MaltaPost għandhom valur ta' €0.30.

Żewġ bolol mis-sett huma meħudin minn pitturi ta' Madeleine Gera u oħra ta' Andrew Micallef.

Xogħol: Skont statistika tal-uffiċċju naz-zjonali tal-istatistika, l-NSO. f'Settembru kien hemm żieda ta' 4.6% fir-rata ta' nies jaħdmu *full-time* imqabbel ma' Settembru tal-2019, meta ma kienx hawn il-pandemija, u r-rata ta' dawk jaħdmu *part-time*



b'impjieg ewlieni tagħhom, naqset b'9.9%.

Tul sena, l-ghadd ta' haddiema *full-time* fis-settur privat żdied bi 8,813 għal 181,653 persuna.

Dawk li jaħdmu *full-time* fis-settur pubbliku żdied b'1,405 meta fid-disa' xahar tas-sena l-oħra kien hawn 49,926.

F'Settembru wkoll, waqt l-imxija, kien hawn ukoll 2,476 persuna iżjed jaħdmu għal rashom minn Settembru tal-2019 l-ghadd ta' min iħaddem żdied b'7,742 persuna.

Sadanittant, f'Diċembru l-ghadd ta' persuni jirreġistraw għax-xogħol kien ta' 2,765, żieda ta' 1,123 imqabbel mal-istess xahar tas-sena ta' qabel; iżda naqas b'133 meta mqabbel max-xahar ta' qabel.

Giddieb? Imma min?

*minn paġna 14

It-tnejn tressqu l-Qorti mixlijin li kisru l-paċi pubblika b'ghajjat, storbu u għied u li insulentaw, ingurjaw jew heddew lil xulxin.

Dun Cassar xehed li wara li staqsa lil Caruana għala gideb dwaru dan qallu giddieb u hu wiegħbu billi qallu li giddieb kien hu.

Il-Maġistrat ikkonkludiet li l-kelma "giddieb" intqalet mit-tnejn u sostniet li kien ta' għajb dak li seħh fuq iz-zuntier meta nies li huma reliġjużi spiċċaw jinfexxu jitgħajjru qabel ma dahlu jikkonċelebrax f'quddies ta' funeral ta' omm arċipriet iehor.

Il-Maġistrat sabet lil kull wiehed hati tattienu akkuża, li insulentaw lil xulxin, im-multathom €58 u ordnatilhom biex għal żmien sena ma jdejjqux lil xulxin inkella setgħu jehel €1,000 multa oħra.

X'jiġri li kieku kull min jgħajjar li xi hadd giddieb jiddaħhal il-Qorti? Nahseb kieku jkun hemm kju gmielu.



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A quick glimpse at Australia



Prime Minister Scott Morrison

Plan to vaccinate all Australians by end of year

TPrime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison said vaccinating 26 million Australians by the end of the year would be one of the nation's largest ever logistical exercises.

He announced an extra \$1.9 billion, taking the vaccine programme to \$6.3 billion, for the workforce involved in the rollout of the jabs through GPs, pharmacies and thousands of other approved centres.

Mr Morrison said CSL's Melbourne manufacturing plant alone should produce enough of the AstraZeneca vaccine to cover the nation. But the recently approved Pfizer vaccine will still be the first rolled out from late February. PM insisted that all the vaccine would be produced in Australia.

However, he said even with the vaccine "there can be no let-up in the three vital suppression measures that served Australia well in 2020 and must be the focus of continuous improvement in 2021".

Those vital suppression measures are international border controls and quarantine; testing, tracing and hotspot management; and physical distancing and sound hygiene practices.

"In 2021, these suppression measures, which must be exercised in a balanced way to protect jobs and livelihoods, will be complemented by the COVID-19 vaccines."

Australia has no local COVID-19 cases, and more than 90 per cent of the jobs lost in the recession have returned.

"This will be one of the largest logistics exercises ever seen in Australia's history. We will be vaccinating 26 million people, having secured over 140 million doses, enough to cover the Australian population several times over."

Maltese community demands accurate, clear information

Accurately informing Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse communities about coronavirus has proved to be something of a sticking point for authorities during the pandemic.

Translation errors in federal and state government health messages (even in the Maltese language) have been uncovered, while it was revealed as recently as last month some people in multicultural communities still thought they had to pay for a COVID-19 test.

It's one thing overcoming misinformation in English - but what about when it's

circulating in dozens of different languages? The federal government unveiled a \$23.9 million information campaign about COVID-19 vaccines last week, but concern about whether it will cut through and reach all of Australia's multicultural communities lingers.

The Maltese community is many times forgotten especially when it comes to messages to our elderly who do not go to mainstream media for vaccine information. Our community leaders must demand that the Government communicates clearly in their language through a range of channels.

Top ten for pandemic responses

Australia has been ranked among the top 10 countries for its handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with New Zealand taking out the top spot in a poll conducted by a prominent Australian think tank.

Australia was ranked eighth in The Lowy Institute's evaluation, with Vietnam ranking second followed by Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus. Malta was ranked 14.

The Lowy Institute, an independent international policy think tank located in Sydney, NSW assessed the response of 98 countries in how they managed the pandemic in the 36 weeks following their hundredth confirmed case of the virus.

It judged countries that had fewer reported cases and deaths (both in aggregate and per capita basis), as well as nations where testing rates were high.

China was excluded from the ranking because of a lack of publicly available data on testing. The United States, Brazil, Iran and Mexico were ranked the worst handlers of the pandemic.

Countries that proved more successful in containing the virus were largely in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pursuit of safety was a mirage – Tony Abbott

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott has warned that coronavirus health measures could threaten Australia's way of life while launching a strike against turning to experts for answers.

"For a full year we've let a virus dominate our lives and in the process put safety before freedom, prudence before courage and avoiding danger before accepting risk. Even though courage, conviction and character remain vital to our success as a people," he said.

The former Prime Minister said national security; economic prosperity and social cohesion would remain priorities after the virus threat passes.

"That will only get harder to the extent we've become conditioned to have experts give us all the answers and to have governments then tell us what to do," he said.

The Howard government health minister suggested the "pursuit of safety" was a mirage. Mr Abbott believes the nation's way of life is under threat. "But like so much, that's currently against the



rules along with singing, dancing and having too many friends and family around for a barbecue," he said.

"Thanks to the pandemic, we're now told to form orderly and socially distanced queues."



A quick glimpse at Australia



Pro-life sign to be removed

A pro-life sign (left) was put up in front of the Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Thebarton, western suburbs of Adelaide, slamming new abortion reforms before the South Australian Parliament. The sign asks people to contact their local MP to "let these babies live".

Under the bill, the approval of two medical practitioners will be required only for an abortion after 22 weeks and six days gestation.

West Torrens Mayor Michael Coxon said the council had written to the landowners of the church ordering its removal, as it was a form of development that did not have council approval.

An Adelaide Archdiocese spokeswoman said the church was given inaccurate verbal advice that approval was not required to display the sign, which was the initiative of a private individual.

The Australian Day Awards

Grace Tame, a 26-year-old sexual assault survivor and advocate, was named Australian of the Year, becoming the first Tasmanian to do so in the programme's 61-year history.

An Aboriginal activist dedicated to cultural independence and education, and an advocate for migrant and refugee women are among those who have been named the 2021 Australians of the Year.

Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM, 73, and Rosemary Kariuki, 60, were awarded this year's Senior Australian of the Year and Local Hero awards at a ceremony in Canberra on the eve of Australia Day.

Isobel Marshall, 22, a social entrepreneur, helping women access personal hygiene products, rounded out the all-women slate of recipients as Young Australian of the Year.

Almost 850 persons have been awarded Australia Day honours, 571 in the General Division of the OA, but as already stated in our last issue, no one was Malta-born although the Governor-General said more has to be done to ensure the awards accurately represent the diversity of Australia.

Meanwhile, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, was appointed a Companion of the Order for his service to Australians. All past Australian prime ministers have been offered the honour - the highest level of appointment to the



Australian of the Year 2021 Grace Tame

Order of Australia - since the modern Australian Honours System was introduced in 1975. Controversial tennis great Margaret Court also received the highest level of the Order

Religious service in Canberra

Australia's political leaders marked the start of the 2021 parliamentary year with an ecumenical service at St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra. Governor-General David Hurley, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese and parliamentarians from across the political spectrum were among those who attended.

In his welcome, Canberra-Goulburn Archbishop Christopher Prowse referred to the "trying times" of COVID-19 and asked for God's blessing for "our beloved country, Australia, upon its cultures, ever ancient, ever new, upon its peoples, upon its believers, upon its leaders".

Prayers of intercession were offered for political and economic causes, political leaders, health workers, and for those suffering because of COVID, or otherwise.

Person of Maltese descent gets Meritorious Award

It has been brought to our notice that Lewis Bezzina from Lithgow NSW featured in the list of awardees in this year's Australia Day honours announced on January 26.

The Voice of the Maltese has managed to contact Mr Bezzina. He is not a Malta-born but his parents were from Mgarr Malta.

He has received a meritorious award, a Public Service Medal PSM.

Please Note If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com

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

Il-kittieb li qed niffukaw fuqu llum, u li forsi l-aktar li baqa' jissema hu bħala poeta, hu Gan Anton Vassallo li għex fid-19-il seklu, bejn l-1817 u l-1868.

Kien avukat u professor tal-letteratura fl-Università ta'

Malta. Halla ħafna kitbiet minn tiegħu, fosthom poeżiji li fl-2013 l-mibki Oliver Friggieri ġabarhom fi ktieb.

Huwa meqjus bħala l-aqwa poeta tas-seklu 19. Hu jibqa' miftakar l-aktar għall-poeżija tiegħu Tifhira lil Malta.

GAN ANTON VASSALLO –b'kitbiet li juru sens qawwi ta' patrijottizmu

Imwieled fil-kapitali Maltija Valletta fis-6 ta' Ġunju tal-1817 minn Vincenzo u Maria Vassallo, Gan Anton Vassallo wera l-inklinazzjoni tiegħu għall-istudju minn kmieni. Kien jaf tajjeb, mhux biss il-Malti, imma wkoll it-Taljan, il-Franċiż, il-Latin, l-Għarbi, li kollha b'xi mod użahom għall-kitbiet tiegħu, u mhux tant l-Ingliz.

Fost l-għalliema tiegħu kien hemm Dun Pietru Pawl Psaila u Dun Ġużepp Zammit Brighella. Fl-1839 fl-età ta' 22 sena beda l-kors tal-liġi fl-Università u tlett snin wara kiseb il-lawrja. Imbagħad fl-1850 hu stess beda jgħalliem it-Taljan fil-Liċeo, u fl-1863 lahaq Professur tat-Taljan fl-Università.

Ta' 25 sena Gan Anton Vassallo kien beda jkteb il-poeżija kemm bil-Malti u wkoll bit-Taljan. Mhux biss, imma bejn l-1862-1866 beda wkoll jkteb għadd ta' bijografiji ta' nies Maltin magħrufa fir-rivista Arte. Billi kien ukoll prolifika fl-ilsien Taljan, b'din il-lingwa fl-1854 ippubblika La Storia di Malta raccontata in Compendio (1854).

Tmin snin wara l-istess kitba għamilha wkoll bil-Malti biex tinqara wkoll mill-Maltin. Qabel kien diġà kiteb ukoll il-hajja tal-Appostlu Missierna San Pawl, kif ukoll Ġesù Kristu fid-Dinja, flimkien ma' żewġ kotba ta' poeżija, wiehed bl-isem ta' Hrejjef (1861) u iehor bl-isem ta' Hrejjef u Ćajt bil-Malti (1863).

Imma fost kollox l-aktar xogħol magħruf tiegħu jibqa' Il-Ġifen Tork, epika li kiteb



fl-1842, li hemm min jgħid li kienet imsejsa fuq grajja vera.

F'nofs is-seklu 19, fi żmien meta l-ilsien Malti kien kwazi injorat, Vassallo rnexxielu jgħolli ħafna l-livell tal-poeżija Maltija. Bejn l-1842 u l-1860 kiteb lirika mimlija tqanqil il-qalb. F'kitbietu Vassallo dahhal ħafna l-personalità mnikkta tiegħu u l-kumplex ta' persekuzzjoni li kien ibati bih.

Donnu li għalih il-hajja kienet tfisser biss taħbit u inkwiet. Dan jidher l-aktar fil-versi tal-poeżiji bħal *Żgħozija*, *Tifkir tal-Biki*, *Lapsi*, u *Zoghrija* li tibda bil-vers magħruf "*O Żmien ħelu kif għaddejti*".

L-istudju jsemmu erba' aspetti li johorgu mill-poeżija tiegħu, li huma, is-sens qawwi ta' patrijottizmu tiegħu, kif jidher f'*Mannarinu*, *La Valette*, *Wignacourt*, *Malta u Gensha*, *Il-Port ta' Malta*, *Tas-Sliema* u l-famuza *Tifhira lil Malta*, - li fiha l-versi tant popolari u anke jtkantaw: "*Int sabiħa Malta tagħna, mhux għax*

⇐ **Il-ktieb ta' Oliver Friggieri dwar il-poeżiji ta' Gan Anton Vassallo**

Malti nfahhrek jien". Għal ħafna snin din il-poeżija kienet tindaqq qisha l-innu nazzjonali ta' Malta.

Aspett iehor kien is-safar bħala htieġa soċjali u bħala turufnament bħal L-Imsiefer, Għarus imsiefer lill-Għarusa, L-Għarusa lill-Għarus Imsiefer, Is-Safar, Itturfnat

Imbagħad kien hemm id-didatticiżmu b'elementi satiriċi fini bħal, Il-Ħurrieqa u l-Warda, Ktieb Sabiħa, Il-Qanpiena tal-Fuħhar, Il-Musbieh il-Lejl, Ix-Xiħ u x-Xitan, u l-hila għan-narrattiva poetika kif jidher f'*Il-Ġifen Tork*. F'*Il-Ballata* għal Manzor u Maria, Vassallo juża' l-versi biex idahhal id-drammaticità skont il-burdatti differenti. Kien ukoll bniedem li kien jesperimenta ħafna bil-metrika.

Fix-xogħol importanti tiegħu, Il-Ġifen Tork li hija poeżija epika u l-itwal poeżija narrattiva tiegħu, Vassallo uża l-grajja ta' sebgħin ilsir Malti Nisrani li hatfu ġifen Tork wara ġlieda mat-Torok u salpaw lejn Malta. Imbagħad għamlu pellegrinagg lejn il-Mellieħa biex jagħtu ħajr lill-Madonna.

Hawnhekk il-kittieb/poeta jigglorifika lill-Maltin u jipprova jnissel fiduċja f'dawk ta' żmien sens ta' nazzjonalizmu billi jinqeda bil-ħakkiema u jgħid li "ħabba fina l-Maltin huma ġabu l-glorja tagħhom. B'Qalbenin dejjem aħna" huwa jgħaqqad il-preżent mal-imghoddi u hekk iseddaq in-nazzjonalità tal-Maltin.

Il-poeżija hija simbolu tal-grajja ta' Malta tul iż-żminijiet. Il-ġifen jissinifika huwa l-gżira ta' Malta u l-ilsiera huma l-Insara Maltin. Ix-xewqa perpetwa tal-Maltin li jehilsu mill-għadu mhux Nisrani.

Importanti f'kull epika huwa l-intervent divin, f'dan il-każ bl-interċessjoni tal-Madonna. F'kull epika hemm eroj imma f'*Il-Ġifen Tork* mhuwiex bniedem wiehed iżda l-kotra, l-għaqda fost il-Maltin, li titqabad flimkien u titlob flimkien u tirbah flimkien kontra għadu qawwi.

Permezz ta' din il-poeżija Vassallo rnexxielu juri wkoll il-hila tal-ilsien Malti li joghla għal livelli għoljin.

Gan Anton Vassallo miet fl-età ta' 51 sena fit-28 ta' Marzu 1868 u jinsab midfun fil-knisja tal-Karmnu fil-belt.



L-Isqof Anton Teuma jżur is-Socjetà Leone

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija
Charles Spiteri



Tibzghux tkellmuni u tressqu l-proposti tagħkom. Jien lest li nisma', kienet id-dikjarazzjoni ta' inkoraġġiment li Mons Anton Teuma, Isqof ta' Għawdex għamel fl-ewwel żjara tiegħu lill-fergħat tas-Socjetà Filarmonika Leone, fil-każin u fit-Teatru tal-Opra Aurora f'Victoria.

Akkumpanjat mill-Arcipriet u l-Vigarju Parrokkjali tal-Katidral u milqugh mill-President tas-Socjetà, Mons Isqof beda ż-żjara tiegħu b'laqgħa mal-bandisti u membri tal-fergħat, fosthom zghazagh mill-Aurora Youth Movement.

Għan-nom ta' shabha tfalja mill-Aurora Youth Movement, ipprezentat lill-Isqof rendikont tal-attivitajiet li AYM jagħmel matul is-sena. Hi wkoll uriet id-diżappunti u problemi li jiltaqgħu magħhom iż-zghazagh, u anke ressqet proposta li l-Isqof apprezza ħafna, dwar kif tista' tissaħħah ir-relazzjoni bejn iż-zghazagh tad-djoċesi u l-Isqof.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Isqof Teuma saħaq li, "Irridu nibnu zghazagh b'moħh, zghazagh maturi, zghazagh kburi bihom infushom".

Wara Mons Isqof iffirma l-ktieb tal-viżitaturi, u saret laqgħa ferm interattiva mal-Kumitat Ċentrali tas-Socjetà li fi tmiemha, b'tifkira tal-okkażjoni, il-President ipprezentalu ikona tal-fidda ta' Santa Marija u qallu li s-Socjetà hi grata u onorata



L-Isqof t'Għawdex Mons Anton Teuma jiffirma l-ktieb tal-viżitaturi biż-żjara tiegħu u li thares 'l quddiem għal kollaborazzjoni shiha u relazzjoni aħjar bejn is-Socjeta, il-parroċċa u d-djoċesi.

Group Leader ġdid għall-Victoria Scout Group



Michael Grech, iċ-ċerman tal-group qed jipprezenta tifikira lil Lorrie Saliba



Iż-żewġ Group Scout Leaders, Lorrie Saliba, (xellug), u Jesmond Scerri

Quaddiem preżenza ristratta minhabba l-pandemija, nhar it-30 ta' Jannar fil-kwartieri tal-Victoria Scout Group ir-Rabat saret il-Laqqgħa Ġenerali li wkoll ixxandret b'mod virtwali fuq il-paġna tal-Facebook tal-grupp.

Fetaħ il-laqqgħa ċ-ċermen tal-Kunsill tal-Group, Michael Grech waqt li s-Segretarja Celine Portelli, it Teżorier Gino Mizzi u l-Group Leader Lorrie Saliba, taw stampa ta' dak li sehh mill-grupp matul l-2020, sena pjuttost partikulari. Wara saru l-prezentazzjonijiet.

Imbagħad il-Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba tkellem dwar it-58 sena tiegħu bhala membru tal-grupp, 30 sena minnhom fit-tmexxija, u ntweru film qasir b'gabra ta' ritratti meħudin matul is-snin.

Bhala rikonnoxximent u ħajr għas-servizz kontinwu tiegħu, l-imġieba eżemplari u dedikazzjoni assoluta, Saliba ngħata tifikira li kienet tikkonsisti f'mudell fil-fidda ta' *camp-site*, kompluta b'tinda, bil-bandiera fuq arblu, b'*campfire* u figura ta' *Scout* li tirrappreżenta lilu.

Qabel intemmet il-laqqgħa saret cerimonja qasira imma sinifikanti li fiha t-tmexxija għaddiet għand Leader ġdid. Jesmond Scerri li gie mwieghed kull appoġġ minn Saliba u l-membri kollha tal-kunsill u l-leaders l-oħra.



Uħud mill-membri tal-Kunsill u l-leaders li kienu preżenti għal-laqqgħa



Two shots taken on the set of the Apple TV's production, Foundation



TV series leaves €10m. in Malta's economy, uses 800 Maltese extras

Apple TV has completed the filming of the American science fiction television series *Foundation* in Malta. It is the first time that Apple has used the island for shooting one of its productions.

The filming, involving a crew of 400 people, mostly Irish, and 800 local extras, took four months to complete at the Malta Film Facilities at Rinella.

Foundation's producer Michael Malone expressed his company's satisfaction for using the picturesque scenes of the Mal-

tese seas, and the water tank and Malta Film studio's facilities for the series.

The *Foundation* series, based on the book of the same name by Isaac Asimov, is about the journey of a band of exiles who discover that the only way to save the Galactic Empire from destruction is to defy it.

It will consist of ten episodes and premiere this year.

Malone said that the facilities provided by Malta were crucial for the production

of the series that will leave around €10 million in Malta's coffers.

Meanwhile, pointing out that such productions confirm the local film industry's resilience even during the pandemic, Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo announced that to further strengthen the film industry on the island, Malta would make an investment of €35 million over a period of three years that would involve the building of two sound stages at the studios.

Imut Dr Joe Micallef Stafrace Kien avukat, politiku u ġurnalista ta' stoffa

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 29 ta' Jannar fl-età ta' 87 sena miet Dr Joseph Micallef Stafrace, eks membru parlamentari f'isem il-Partit Laburista għal tliet legislaturi, fl-1962, fl-1966 u fl-1971 meta Duminku Mintoff kien reġa' sar Prim Ministru u għal erba' xhur mexxa l-Ministeru għall-Industrija, l-Agricoltura u t-Turiżmu. Hu kien ukoll ġurnalista u ta kontribut qawwi fil-ġurnalizmu, kemm ippubblikat u wkoll fix-xandir.

Fil-hamsinijiet meta Malta kienet għada kolonja Ingliża kien editur tal-gazzetta tal-Partit Laburista, is-Sebh u kaġun ta' karikatura li kien ippubblika tal-Gvernatur ta' dak iż-żmien, Sir Robert Laycock, fl-1958 intbagħat erbat'ijiem haħs.

Għal snin twal u sas-17 ta' Jannar li għadda Micallef Stafrace kien għadu jikteb fil-gazzetta ta' kull nhar ta' Hadd, It-Torċa u wkoll dan l-aħħar fil-"Lehen is-Sewwa".

Joe Micallef Stafrace kien ukoll avukat ta' stoffa u anki għalliem il-liġi tal-istampa fl-Università ta' Malta fejn baqa' jissemma għall-pariri siewja li kien jagħti lill-ġurnalisti li kienu telghin, Għamel xi żmien Chairman tal-Awtorità tax-Xandir u għal għadd ta' snin kien l-espert tat-traffiku nnominat mill-qorti, u membru tal-Kummissjoni għall-Amministrazzjoni tal-Ġustizzja.

L-istat haħru membru tal-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu u l-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin ippremjah bil-Gold Award.

Joe kien miżżewweġ lil Yvonne. Kien wiehed minn tliet esponenti tal-Partit Laburista li fis-sittinijiet, minhabba li fuq ordni tal-Arċisqof Mikiel Gonzi kienu ngħataw l-interdett, kellu jiżżewweġ fis-sagristija tal-Knisja ta' San Pawl tar-Rabat.

Intant, filwaqt li sellem lill-memorja ta' Joe Micallef Stafrace, u qal li din hija telfa ta' bniedem li haħdem għall-helsien f'kull sens tiegħu, il-Prim Ministru l-Mexxej Laburista Robert Abela qal li l-ikbar tislma li wiehed jista' jagħtih hi, li fil-politika, "inhaddnu l-ideal tal-onestà". Il-kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista Bernard Grech sqarr li l-eks Ministru ta kontribut kbir fil-politika lokali u sellimlu għall-kontribut tiegħu fl-oqsma tal-ġurnalizmu, l-edukazzjoni u permezz tal-professjoni legali tiegħu.



Apple is a leading independent film and television producer, renowned for its features, documentaries and drama series, as well as for its successful collaboration with international partners. It has produced and co-produced more than 30 features, and the same number of full-length documentaries and drama series, gaining more than 300 international and national awards.

Apple bought the series through their Worldwide Video Unit in April 2018 and put it into development with the potential for straight-to-series order.

Initially, Apple intended to produce the show in Ireland but suspended it due to COVID-19 and resumed the filming in Malta in October 2020. Throughout the filming they adhered to the pandemic restrictions and followed the safety protocol in Malta, by testing the crew every three days, at times more than 400 people a day.

Il-ktieb li jghinek tinsa l-inkwiet tal-COVID-19

Jinżlulek Għasel (it-tieni volum)

Wara li hallejna s-sena li żgur se tibqa' mfakkra bhala s-sena tal-imxija tal-COVID, dan l-aħħar BDL harġu t-tieni volum ta' *Jinżlulek Għasel*, ġabra oħra mdaqqsqa ta' aneddoti helwin minn persuni magħrufin f'oqsma differenti tal-hajja Maltija.

Bhall-ewwel volum seba' snin ilu, il-ktieb mibni fuq l-idea sempliċi ta' stejjer li ġraw tassew, b'uħud minnhom inisslu tbissima mill-ewwel, u oħrajn forsi anki xi demgħa.

It-tieni volum mistenni jkun wiehed mill-aktar kotba mfittxa fis-suq Malti f'dawn l-ewwel xhur tas-sena meta n-nies iqattgħu aktar hin fi djarhom jippruvaw isibu kif jehdew, fosthom fil-qari ta' kotba li forsi jnessuhom l-inkwiet li ġabet l-imxija tal-koronavirus.

Mill-Membri Parlamentari li b'cajta hbewlu l-mutur fil-bini ta' Kastilja, sal-avukat li kljient tiegħu ried iħallu b'ras ta' skelettu.

Mit-tabib li kkonfonda kif jghid lil pazjenta anzjana li kienu se jġibulha s-Sagramenti, sal-fotografu li kien miexi lura biex jġibed ritratt u spicca waqa' f'qabar miftuħ.

Mill-kittieb u filantropu li ta' hdx-il sena holom li persuna li qatt ma' ltaqa' magħha kellha bżonn it-talb sa personalità televiżiv li hareġ lit-tifla miegħu fuq qadja u nesiha warajh...

Imbagħad xi nġidhu għall-espert tal-ikel Malti li sab ruhu mdawwar mill-Pulizija għax hasbuh qed isawwat lil xi sorijiet? U l-ġurnalista/xandar li kważi spiċċa hażin fl-eks Ġermanja tal-Lvant għax is-suldat mara qatt ma kienet semgħet b'Malta jew ġurnalista

iehor li meta kien imsiefer dahal fi knisja fejn mingħalih kien hemm ċerimonja ta' tiegħ, u sab li kien funeral.

Naqraw ukoll dwar meta Lino Cassar – min ma jiftakrux lil Lino! – intebah hu u diehel il-Parlament li kienu hetulu l-inforra tal-ġlekk.

Jinżlulek Għasel, ktieb uniku daqs ta' qablu kemm fis-sura kif ukoll fil-ghamla tiegħu, għandu bhala Edituri lil żewġ ġurnalisti u xandara veterani, Charles Flores u Tony Barbaro Sant. Huma wkoll jaqsmu mal-qarrejja xi aneddoti memorabbli minn tagħhom.

F'Malta u Ghawdex il-ktieb jinsab għall-bejgħ mill-hwienet kollha tal-kotba kollha. Dawk li jghixu barra minn Malta jistgħu jiksibu tagħrif kif jistgħu jiksibu kopja jidhlu fis-sit elettroniku tal-BDL <https://bdlbooks.com/>

Perċentwal dikjarat mid-dhul tal-Edituri se jmur bhala ghajnuna lil għaqda volontarja li tahdem b'risq l-annimali.



Malta tissokta tissebbah b'investiment f'għonna vertikali

Bil-ghan li tinholq atmosfera isbah għall-komunità u kwalità tal-arja aħjar, kif diġà sehħ fil-bypass bejn il-Hamrun u l-Marsa, permezz ta' Ambjent Malta il-gvern, qed jinvesti f'għonna vertikali haġin fiż-żona industrijali ta' Kordin, kif ukoll fuq il-faċċati ta' djar.

Fejn għandhom x'jaqsm t-toroq l-inizjattiva, ġdida għal Malta, hi wkoll mahsuba biex tnaqqas il-hsejjes li jinholqu minn diversi attivitajiet, fosthom mit-traffiku fiż-żona. Qed ukoll iżżid issebbah lil Malta.

Aktar minhekk, proġetti simili se jiġu estenzi wkoll f'żoni industrijali oħra kif ukoll fl-irhula u fil-komunitajiet. Skont il-Ministru responsabbli mill-Ambjent Aaron Farrugia minbarra l-investiment qawwi li qed isir, qed jiġu wkoll allokati eluf oħra biex issir manutenzjoni fuq il-għonna vertikali.

Sadniant, permezz ta' baġit ta' €2 miljun, il-Ministru Aaron Farrugia habbar skema ġdida ta' thaddir fl-urban li tibdel bini 'griz' f'żoni residenzjali f'binjiet 'hodor' u f'ambjent aktar san.

L-iskema se tiffinanza 100% tal-ispejjeż biex isiru faċċati hodor ta' djar, għonna vertikali u rranġar ta' għonna quddiem id-djar privati f'żoni residenzjali.

Hwienet u uffiċċji li diġà għandhom għonna f'dawn iż-żoni wkoll se jkunu jistgħu jibbenefikaw mill-iskema.

Skont il-Ministru tat-Trasport u l-Infrastruttura Ian Borg, fil-ġnien vertikali fil-ġenb tal-bypass Hamrun-

Marsa, l-itwal haġt s'issa b'tul ta' 350 metru, thaw-wlu 27,600 pjanta li se jkunu jistgħu jhaddra s-sena kollha. Meta jimmaturaw, il-pjanti se jkunu jidhru bhala ġnien vertikali li jkollu hafna kuluri differenti.

Filwaqt li madwar Malta qed jinholqu dawn il-għonna partikolari u wkoll u soqfa hodor, wara studju nstab li dawn iġibu magħhom għadd ta' benefiċċji għall-pajjiż, l-aktar f'żoni urbani.

Minbarra s-sbuhija estetika l-għonna vertikali jistgħu jnaqqsu sew l-ammont ta' tniġġiż u particejli oħra mill-arja, inaqqsu l-hekk imsejja l-heat island effect, iżidu l-insulazzjoni tal-hoss u jipprovdut habitat għall-bijodiversità u jġibu magħhom bene-

fiċċji ambjentali.

Il-Ministru Aaron Farrugia qal li l-ministeru tiegħu qed jinkoraġġixxa lill-kunsilli lokali biex itellgħu proġetti ambjentali permezz ta' diversi skemi mtellgħin minn Ambjent Malta.

B'investiment ta' madwar €500,000 fuq il-proġett pilota tal-għonna vertikali nġatat-dehra ġdida fi tliet żoni industrijali, daww ta' Kordin, il-Mosta u l-Marsa. Oħrajn mistennija jsiru, fil-Villaġġ tas-Snajja fi Dbiegi f'Għawdex u l-Malta Industrial Parks.

Skont studji xjentifiċi, metru kwadru ta' ġnien vertikali jassorbi madwar 2.3 kg ta' CO2 u jipproduċi madwar 1.7kg ta' osiġnu fis-sena.



Man from Mgarr Malta among new Australians at Hawkesbury NSW

Among a host of new Australians at citizenship ceremonies welcomed by Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman on Australia Day 2021, was Edgar Said. He became a new Aussie 39 years after emigrated to Australia in 1972 from the village of Mgarr, Malta.

"Edgar has already made a valuable contribution to our community through his hard work over nearly 50 years," Ms Templeman said. "He been part of our community a long time, and I know he already felt like an Aussie, but by becoming a citizen he has furthered his commitment to this wonderful country and the local community."

"Over the years, I have lived in several countries myself – Mexico, the US and England. But I could never begin to imagine making the decision to move to another country permanently, and to cement that move by becoming a citizen, like Edgar has."

"I would like to say thank you to Edgar and those like him for choosing to take this step and become Australian."

"The Maltese community in the Hawkesbury plays a key role. That generous Maltese spirit is evident when I meet with many of our local businesses run by families with Maltese descent, as well as in our local Catholic schools."

"While many are now Australian-born, it's beautiful to see their parents or grandparents joining them as citizens of Australia."



Federal Member for Macquarie Susan Templeman (left) with Carmen and Edgar Said outside Hawkesbury City Council on Australia Day

"The Australia Day citizenship ceremony marked the end of a long journey for many of our new Australians."

"I say congratulations to all, and thank you for the contribution you have made, and will make in years to come."

2020 extraordinary year for for Fr Rob, FRG's work; grows 10-fold

In 2019, Fr Rob Galea and the FRG Ministry team travelled all around the world, took over 300 flights and spoke and stood in front of more than 1.6 million people. In mid-2020 he was ready to put this entire ministry on hold, but he said that God had other plans.

Fr Rob explained that 2020 had been an extraordinary year for them. "We have grown 10-fold in our work and global reach in just nine months through weekly online Masses, online courses, worship songs, Catholic Education courses, online live events and so much more," he said.

The FRG Ministry team managed to create a need for a bigger team, and as a result, due to their Ministry Partner support, they now have a solid and enthusiastic FRG Ministry team of nine!

In January, the ministry family said goodbye to one of its founding team members, Danii Sullivan, who had been part of the team, in some way or form, for more than 11 years.

As opportunities continue to arise for the FRG Ministry team, they continue to grow, and they are certain that the best is yet to come!

Fr Rob said that Danii's project management and graphic design skills, as well as her wisdom and deep love for Jesus, has allowed them to grow wide and far, and wherever they go from here as a min-

istry, Danii will be a part of the impact! "She will be sorely missed," he said.

Danii ended her employment with the FRG Ministry on February 1. Alyssa Agius has taken over her position as the head of online courses and school curriculum content.

In his newsletter, Fr Robert Galea wrote about his online weekly Mass, which he said, gets to celebrate Mass with over 10,000 worshippers from all around the world.

He pointed out that virtual parishioners, from Australia, Dubai, USA, Canada, UK, Abu Dhabi, Malta, and many others, lead ministry's readings and music.

The FRG Ministry is inviting people all over to join what is described as "this truly Catholic celebration" on Sundays at 10 am AEST at [FRGMinistry.com/mass](https://www.frgministry.com/mass). Anybody missing the live broadcast can join the celebration after.

The Mass and many of FRY ministry's outreach initiatives are entirely supported and made possible by generous donations.

For Fr Rob's latest song, Reckless Love, featuring Hannah Schaefer, a Catholic artist from Indiana, USA can be heard on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=airoU7GaY10>.



Fr Rob Galea rendering his Reckless Love song

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

On SBS Radio

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

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

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

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

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



mand on I-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

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

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

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.

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

Web streaming:

www.coastfm.org.au

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

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

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

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

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

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF

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

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

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

MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW



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



Can you speak Maltese?

THE MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW is inviting applications from people to assist in language teaching. Support and training will be provided for these paid positions.

Classes for juniors and adults are held at Horsley Park Public School
Saturday mornings during school terms.

If you can assist with teaching or administration in 2021 and would like more information please contact:

Maria 0416 119 100 or Miriam 0419 476 924

Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com



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- child support, intervention orders.
- Maltese Wills, Powers of Attorney
- Maltese Property matters.

Marlene Ebejer (speaks Maltese) is an accredited family law specialist

Phone: 03 9741 1722

www.ebejerlawyers.com.au

email reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au

We get to the point, provide the right advice and get the work done at a reasonable price.

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



Malta Premier League 2020/21

Hamrun and Hibernians storm ahead following latest victories

Though the 2020/21 Premier League season has reached the Round 19, many teams still lag behind when it comes to matches played, mostly due to postponements forced by circumstances, primarily the COVID-19 pandemic that at times hit squads through one or more team player or



Melbourne Victory's Malta connection

Melbourne Victory in the A-League, don't have much to shout about with only four points from five matches, but the Maltese community associates with them because of a player of Maltese descent, midfielder Jack Brimmer (above).

Both Jake's grandparents were born in Malta, Charlie from Hamrun and Yvonne Spangnol from Marsa.

Now in Melbourne After three years with Western Australia and Perth Glory, Jack has already made his presence felt, especially by becoming their two goal-hero for their victory a fortnight ago against his former club, Perth Glory.

In 2014, Brimmer made the squad for the AFC U16 Championship in Thailand and was then selected for the U17 FIFA World Cup in Chile. He has also appeared for the U23s.

Great concerns about Tokyo Olympic Game

After the 2020 Tokyo Olympics were postponed by 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are growing concerns that even a year later, in 2021, the world's biggest sporting event won't be able to take place because of a huge spike in COVID-19 cases in Japan across their winter in particular, Tokyo, which has struggled with this third wave.

Tokyo and surrounding areas are currently in a state of emergency with restaurants and bars forced to close from 8pm to limit gatherings outside the home.

The Tokyo Olympics this year are due to commence on July 23, 2021. That is one year after the initial date the Olympics were meant to commence, July 24, 2020.

club official forcing them to quarantine.

Having said that it is interesting to note that 11 of the 16 Premier teams managed to stick to their programme and have honoured all their fixtures, in particular table-toppers Hamrun Spartans and runners up Hibernians sailed on regardless.

Hamrun and Hibernians retained their leadership status when defeated Sunday's opponents to garner three more points in their chase towards the Championship title.

On paper, Hibernians' commitment was more threatening, as they had to face Valletta. However, the citizens have lost their bite during the current campaign resulting in them, for the first time as one can remember, could even lose out on a UEFA competition commitment. At the end of the match, Hibernians won 4-1.

Hamrun Spartans stay top two points ahead after brushing aside Gudja United to the tune of 3-1.

What is most interesting the fact, that Gzira, whose form has dipped somewhat, are still in the thick of the battle, at least for a top four position if not the championship.

Gzira's slender goal win over Mosta in their last outing has given them new hope and has consolidated their third placing. At one time Mosta looked set to give the top four a challenge, but have now lost further ground with their fourth loss in a row against Gzira.

Although they are in financial straits, Sliema Wanderers are right behind them. However, Birkirkara are hot on their heels, only a point behind following their fifth victory form the last six that enabled them to extend their positive run to 12 matches. They should still be there when the day of reckoning arrives.

Something that few if any saw coming was Floriana's debacle – and to a certain extent also Valletta's.

Many would have thought that as champions the Greens would be there to at least try successfully defending their title. However, a look at the league ladder finds them instead fourth from the bottom.

Floriana have now gone ten matches without a win and still cannot find their feet under their new coach. Their latest result was a draw against Sta Lucia.

Another club unexpectedly finding the going tough are Balzan. Their inconsistency has damaged the reputation they built in previous seasons. In the last match against Lija in which they had two players sent off they did not go beyond a 1-1 draw.

The share of points did little to improve Lija's standing in the lower reaches either. They remain bottom but one, just point below Tarxien but 11 ahead of already doomed Senglea who are still in search of their victory after 18 matches. They only have two points obtained in drawn ties.

Coronavirus costs Europe's top clubs £1.8bn (€2,05bn)

According to finance firm Deloitte, the coronavirus pandemic is due to end up costing Europe's 20 biggest football clubs around £1.8bn (€2.05bn) (A\$2.22bn). The firm's annual money league shows that during the 2019-20 season the top 20 revenue-generating clubs lost around £975million (€1.58m) (A\$1.8m).

That was due to factors including the lack of spectators and effects on broadcast income, which accounted for a staggering £830m (€1.14m) (A\$2.82m) of the deficit.

There are also issues of deferred prize money for many clubs, some of which will be made up in the 2020-21 accounts.

When it comes to the ongoing effects of the virus see

PREMIER Results Day Nineteen

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

Other Results of matches postponed from previous rounds earlier due to COVID

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

Standings	P	Pts
Hamrun S.	19	44
Hibernians	19	42
Gzira Utd	19	38
Sliema W	19	35
Birkirkara	19	34
Mosta	18	26
Sta Lucia	19	26
Sirens	19	25
Gudja Utd	18	24
Valletta	18	24
Zejtun C	19	23
Balzan	19	20
Floriana	19	20
Tarxien R	19	15
Lija Ath.	18	13
Senglea A.	18	2

the drop in revenue projected to reach £1.8bn (€2.05bn) (A\$2.22bn) between the 20 clubs.

At the top, Spain's Real Madrid have closed the gap on eternal rivals Barcelona at the top to within £100,000. Barca suffered a 15 per cent drop in revenue to £627.1m.

Manchester United remain the highest-ranked of seven English Premier League teams in the top 20 of Deloitte's Football Money League; Liverpool are fifth. while Real Madrid have closed the gap on Barcelona at the top.

2019/20 top five (£)

1. Barcelona: £627.1m
 2. Real Madrid: £627m
 3. Bayern Munich: £556.1m
 4. Manchester Utd: £509m
 5. Liverpool: £489.9m
- (£1=€1.1391; A\$1.788 AUD)