



# The Voice of the Maltese

*(We are for the Greater Malta)*

**Issue  
250**

**A fortnightly magazine driven by the voice of its readers**

**April 6, 2021**

**Malta marked the 42nd Anniversary of Freedom Day on March 31 with a ceremony at the foot of the Freedom Day monument in Vittoriosa.**

**The President, of Malta George Vella who led the ceremony is pictured laying flowers at the foot of the monument.**

***(Report on pages 2, 3)***

**Photo: DOI-Jason Borg**



**F**il-31 ta' Marzu li għadda, Malta fakkret it-42 sena ta' Jum il-Helsien, anke jekk għal dab'ohra, bil-għan li jitharsu l-mizuri kollha tas-saħħa u sigurtà fis-sitwazzjoni tal-imx-ija tal-COVID-19, it-tifkira tal-grajja li sehhet fl-1979 saret b'mod ridott minghajr is-sehem tal-banda u l-kontingenti tal-Forzi Armati u l-quddies pontifikal tat-tifkira.

Barra minhekk la l-pubbliku inġenerali u lanqas il-midja ma setgħu jsegwu ċ-ċerimonji fuq u hdejn l-Għolja tal-Helsien fil-Birgu.

Lejlet it-tifkira, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela u martu Dr Lydia akkumpanjati minn żewġ membri tat-tim Malti tas-Special Olympics telgħu l-Għolja tal-Helsien fejn minbarra li poġġew bukkett fjuri, xegħlu wkoll il-fjamma simbolika.

L-għada filgħodu fil-jum proprja, fost id-daqq tal-fanfarra l-President tar-Repubblika Dr George Vella, u warajh il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Bernard Grech, taw gieh lill-monument billi poġġew bukketti ta' fjuri. Fi tmien it-tqeghid tal-fjuri ndaqq l-Innu Nazzjonali.

# Tislima lil Malta Hielsa



Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela jixgħel il-fjamma fuq l-Għolja tal-Helsien

## *Il-31 ta' Marzu b'tifsiriet differenti ta' helsien*

Għall-okkażjoni tat-tislima lil Malta Hielsa, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela tkellem dwar it-tifsiriet differenti ta' dan il-jum għal Malta, fejn fost kollox qal li dan ma kienx biss li Malta helset

mill-qawwiet barranin, imma hafna aktar għall-poplu Malti, fosthom li ddaħlu l-ewwel ligijiet liberali  
Dan hu l-messaġġ shih tal-Prim Ministru:

**I**l-Helsien huwa għan li rridu ngeddu u nahdmu għalih kuljum. Bhal-lum in-harsu lejn l-imghoddi biex napprezzaw minn fejn gejjin. Izda daqstant ieħor irridu nahsbu u nirriflettu dwar fejn irridu mmorru.

Fis-snin li wasslu għall-31 ta' Marzu tal-1979 il-poplu Malti hejja għall-helsien mill-hakma tal-barrani. Dan għamlu billi nbriet ekonomija ġdida bil-għan li l-pajjiż ikun jista' jahseb għal rasu. Għax il-helsien ma kienx jieqaf mat-tluq tal-bastimenti bil-bandiera ta' pajjiż barrani mill-Port il-Kbir. Dan kif illum il-Helsien m'għandux jieqaf biss mal-fatt li ahna pajjiż Sovran, u indipendenti.

Fil-bidu tas-snin sibghin pajjiżna qiegħed f'pothom il-pedamenti li fuqhom bdiet tistrieħ l-ekonomija ta' pajjiż modern. Sirna Repubblika u ddaħħlu l-ewwel ligi-

### *Il-Perit Mintoff kien diġà kiteb dwar dan il-jum tal-Helsien f'Jannar 1959*

jiet liberali li rrikonoxxew is-sehem tal-minoranzi f'pajjiżna. Kien f'dawn is-snin li pajjiżna bena l-welfare state. Kienet vizjoni li ma twetqitx bl-aktar mod faċli.

Tafu daqsi li l-Partit Laburista qatt ma kellu hajja faċli. Izda dejjem wasal. Kienet vizjoni li hadet iz-zmien. Il-Perit Mintoff kien diġà kiteb dwarha f'Jannar tal-1959, għoxrin sena qabel. Tul dik l-mixja Mintoff u l-Partit Laburista iffaċċjaw il-maltemp ta' kull min ma xtaq jerhi l-poter minn idejh. Izda ta' qabilna ma qatgħux qalbhom u bis-saħħa t'hekk illum qed ngħixu dik il-holma.

Il-piż fuq spallejna llum hu, li bl-istess rieda

tal-azzar, dik il-holma mhux biss inhalluha hajja, izda naghmluha aktar relevanti għal zmienna. Li nkomplu niksbu l-helsien fil-hajja ta' kull ċittadin ta' dan il-pajjiż.

Kif jgħid tajjeb l-istatut tal-Partit Laburista, is-success tas-soċjetà tagħna nkejluk bil-qagħda tal-inqas membri tal-istess soċjetà. Għalhekk għalina l-helsien ifisser li nnaqqsu l-faqar, kif għamilna mill-2013 'l quddiem.

Huwa għalhekk li f'mument fejn qed nif-faċċjaw pandemija tajna kemm nistgħu biex nissalvagwardjaw ix-xogħol, is-saħħa u l-edukazzjoni, jiġifieri l-baži biex ma jergax ikollna l-istess fenomenu ta' qabel ma l-poplu fdana fit-tmexxi ta' tmien snin ilu. Għalhekk investejna mijiet ta' miljuni ta' ewro biex salvajna mitt elf impjeg.

\*għal pagna 3



## Id-diskors tal-Prim Ministru Robert Abela fl-okkazzjoni tat-42 sena ta' Jum il-Helsien

*\*minn paġna 2*

Fl-istess hin ma nieqfux naħsbu dwar min jista' jiffaċċja mumentu diffiċli, u hu għalhekk li qed immexxu 'l quddiem ir-riforma fil-kirjiet ta' qabel l-1995. Ghax mhux is-serhan il-mohħ li jkolllok saqaf fuq rasek, mingħajr it-theddida li xi hadd jittgħek il-barra mil-lum għal għada? Daqstant iehor huwa helsien il-fatt li jkolllok proprjetà u tagħha tirċevi dak li hu xieraq. Però l-Helsien ifisser ukoll il-helsien mill-preġudizzji.

Fl-aħhar snin il-Gvern Laburista ma kel-lux b'zonn l-imbuttaturi biex idahħal liġġiet li permezz tagħhom introduċa drittijiet ċivili ġodda. Anzi kellna l-kuraġġ li nibbuttawhom ahna. U ghax il-ġustizzja soċjali u l-libertà għalina huma prinċipju sagrosanti, se ndaħħlu aktar riformi biex niġġieldu l-preġudizzji.

Fuq kollox il-Helsien huwa s-serhan il-mohħ ta' istituzzjonijiet li jahdmu f'indipendenza u imparzjalità shiħa. Xi haġa li mhux biss nemmnuha jew li nikellmu dwarha, iżda li għamilna riformi kbar biex titwettagħ.

Għalina l-Helsien ifisser ukoll l-ugwaljanza. Fl-aħhar snin tajna lill-mara b'se-hem akbar fid-dinja tax-xogħol. Rajna aktar nisa f'postijiet ta' importanza. Fis-servizz pubbliku kważi f'nofs l-oghla karigi llum issib fihom nisa ta' hila u kapaċi.

Biex insemmi biss eżempju iehor, htarana l-ewwel Kummissarju Ewropew mara f'isem pajjiżna. Izda dan mhux biżżejjed. Huwa għalhekk ir-riforma li qed inresqu 'l quddiem għal parlament bilanċjat fir-rappreżentanza. Dan hu l-Helsien għalina!



**Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela u martu Dr Lydia flimkien ma' żewġ membri tat-tim Malti tas-Special Olympics jagħtu għieh lil Malta Hielisa f'riglejn il-monument**

Personalment irrid ngħid li għandi sens ta' dispjaċir li għal sen'oħra ma stajniex niltaqgħu flimkien biswit il-mafkar li jfakkar din il-ġrajja tant sabiħa. Imma ninsab konvint li se neħilsu minn din l-imxija wkoll.

Meta neħilsu mill-imxija l-Ewropa u d-dinja se jsibu Malta armata bl-idejat u l-pjani biex inkomplu mexjin 'l quddiem. Iva, dan hu żmien li niddibattu l-ideat dwar fejn irridu mmorru. Ahna, l-aqwa arma li għandna huma l-ideat. Il-ħsieb dwar x'irridu għal għada u l-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri.

Imma dan irridu nagħmluh b'rispett u f'sens

ta' għaqda. Fejn il-ksiba aħharja ma tkunx il-poter, imma kwalità ta' għajxien aħjar għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha. Ghax hekk ngħixu l-Helsien kuljum. Ghax jekk nagħtu għieh lil dawk li ġew qabilna.

Il-festa t-tajba.

**Il-Prim Minist Robert Abela (lemin) jagħti merħba qabel il-bidu tač-ċerimonja lill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Bernard Grech**



**Il-President George Vella jmexxi č-ċerimonja ta Jum il-Helsien quddiem il-monument fil-Birgu flimkien mal-Prim Ministru u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni**



Photos: DOI-Jason Borg



# Museum's Welcome Wall becomes National Monument to Migration

On Sunday March 21 His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rtd) declared the Welcome Wall at the Australian National Maritime Museum as Australia's National Monument to Migration.

The monument commemorating those who have migrated from countries around the world to make Australia their new home, is situated on the northern promenade of the museum facing Pyrmont Bay and is historically near a place where many migrants arrived in Sydney.

The name of any person who was born overseas and settled into Australia may be registered on the monument.



## 'Your story is our story'

A little over 22 years ago, on 24 January 1999, the former Governor-General Sir William Deane presided over the official opening of the Welcome Wall and unveiled the first 3,000 names.

Speaking at the launch, the Governor-General said, "Our nation is the sum of us all, all those who came here, all those who were born here, all those who are or have been Australian." And that is the great lesson of this Welcome Wall ... our diversity has led to our unity'. It is a message that remains as powerful and relevant as ever."

Sir William had also said that the great lesson of the Welcome Wall is that, "our diversity has led to our unity'." It is fitting, therefore, that in Harmony Week – a week in which we celebrate our diversity – that the status of the Welcome Wall be elevated to 'Australia's National Monument to Migration'.

David Hurley the Governor-General of Australia said that Australia is one of the most multicultural societies on earth, comprising people from every corner of the globe.

"We have different backgrounds, different experiences and different cultures. Yet we are one nation and we are all Australians. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Harmony Week is a celebration of our diversity.

The ceremony was attended by Lawrence Buhagiar, Malta's Consul General for NSW as 15 more Maltese names were added to the

monument.

The new names are: Joseph and Mary Micallef, Anthony Pisani, Ernest Attard, Emanuel Vella, Joseph Zammit, Emanuel Baldacchino, Annunziata Baldacchino, Francis Schembri, George Zammit, Vincent and Rosaria Azzopardi, John and Carmela Ciappara and Paul Camilleri.

The wall features over 30,000 names and behind each name is a story. There are stories that are dramatic, stories that are tragic alongside stories that just tell of a desire for a new start. Each name signifies one main emotion – that of hope.

"On Harmony Day, the museum unveiled 846 new names on the wall. Kevin Sumption, Director, and CEO of the museum said, "The Welcome Wall honours the migrants who have helped shape our nation and, collectively, their stories speak to who we are as a nation. It is a celebration of multicultural Australia.

"We are so pleased that the wall has been recognised and elevated to a National Monument here in Pyrmont Bay, so close to the site of many arrivals to this country."

The museum is now accepting names for the next panels on the monument and has announced a new fundraising initiative to support the honouring of new arrivals and refugees

Further information can be gained from: [www.sea.museum/discover/welcome-wall](http://www.sea.museum/discover/welcome-wall)



The guests at the special National Monument to Migration ceremony



**Q. I am 42 years of age, single and work full time. My mother passed away early this year and left me around \$250,000. These are mainly in direct shares. I have a mortgage of around \$370,000. I am unsure whether to sell the shares and pay off most of my mortgage or whether to hold onto the shares. Can you help?**

**A. I do not know your overall current situation therefore cannot advise you on what you should do. You should visit a financial planner and they would give the advice you require to suit your circumstances.**

However, just to make you aware, that if you sold the full parcel of shares in one financial year you could trigger a large capital gains tax especially since you are working full time. This is why you should see a financial planner.

**Q. My wife and I are both retired from the workforce. I am 63 and she is 62. We have just sold an investment property for \$540,000. We wish to invest all of this money into superannuation in order to provide for our retirement income. Are we able to do this and what should we consider?**

**A. If you have not invested any non-concessional contributions into superannuation in the last year, and if any non-concessional contributions made in the last three years were below \$100,000 per year (\$300,000 total over three years) then you can both use the "bring forward" cap strategy and invest the funds in superannuation.**

If you have no work income this year, you can make a concessional contribu-

tion of a maximum \$25,000 each on which 15% tax would need to be paid but this will reduce your capital gains tax on the property. The rest you can invest as non-concessional contributions.

I do not know your current situation so you need to visit a financial planner who would provide you with the advice you need based on your circumstances.

**Q. I am 65 and planning to retire in the very near future. I have around \$1.8 million in my super fund and have been told that I am over the threshold to have it all in an account based pension. Am I able to withdraw some money from super and make it as a spouse contribution to my wife's super?**

**A. As you are over 65 years of age you are able to make lump sum withdrawals from super. You could withdraw a portion in this financial year and contribute it to your wife's super and if you are still above the limit you can make a further partial withdrawal in the next financial year.**

Just make sure that your wife's contri-

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butions into super are also maintained within the contribution caps.

**Q. We are planning to visit some family overseas. We would like to appoint someone to look after our affairs while we are away. How do we go about this?**

**A. You should provide a person you trust with a general power of attorney. This will be in operation while you are away only and should say so on the document. When you get back, you can cancel it.**

It is good however to do this as if you are required to sign something while you are away, your attorney could consult with you over the phone and with your approval action it.

**Q. We are self-funded retirees. I am 80 years old and my wife is 72. She is not very well and I have to clean the house, cook, shop and even help her bath. A friend said that I would qualify for a carer allowance. Does this apply to myself, as we are not pensioners?**

**A. The carer allowance applies to everyone. You will need to fill in a claim form and answer all the questions in it. This will then be assessed and you will be informed whether you qualify for the allowance or not. The carer allowance is not means tested.**

**Q. I am planning to gift my two children \$50,000 each. These are surplus funds sitting in my bank accounts earning hardly any interest. Will they have to pay tax on this gift?**

**A. No, in Australia we do not have any gift duties. Your children will receive these funds from you and do not have to show them on their tax returns as earnings.**

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*Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – My Seventies*

Joseph Lanzon

# Eventful and historic years for my family and for Malta

**T**he seventies were eventful years, for my family and me, and especially for Malta. My diplomatic career took my family on a three-and-a-half year tour of duty to Italy, and Malta registered two crucial milestones in its history.

In March 1970, my wife Liz, son Chris and I arrived in Rome for a three-year tour of duty at the Maltese Embassy in the Italian capital. It was to be an unforgettable experience for all of us that would influence our lives. While millions from all over the world visit the Eternal City annually for a short stay as tourists, we lived there for three years.

How can I describe Rome? I have to paint the city as I came to know it. I observed it in the heat of summer when it is invaded by tourists from all over taking photos of every church, monument and fountain, during the cold wintry months when the Romans, all in a hurry, push their way on the 'autobus' every morning on their way to work, and also during spring when the countryside is lit up with greenery, fruit and flowers.

Rome is a marvellous and unique city. The romanticism that attracted Keats, Byron and Shelley is still alive; the artistic works of Michelangelo, Bernini and Raphael adorn its many churches, squares and streets. History is evident in the Appia Antica, the Coliseum and the other remains of Imperial Rome. The list of names of the great men who built this beautiful city is endless. There is so much to see!

## *The Embassy of Malta in Rome*

Malta's Embassy was on the fifth floor of an old *palazzo*, in Lungotevere Marzio, across the Tiber River right in front of Castello Sant Angelo. The Maltese emblem was prominently displayed on the main door indicating it was within the block.

The embassy was enrolled with a private security company whose officials were supposed to visit the premises every night to ensure it was safe. However, as our head office in Valletta thought that the fee was too high and not really necessary, I was instructed to terminate the contract. I tried to dissuade them but to no avail.

In the circumstances, I told the security company that their services were no longer required. I was asked to rethink the decision as that part of Rome was often subject to vandalism but I could not change the decision taken in Malta.

A few days later, our emblem was extensively vandalised broken in pieces and left



The Malta Embassy in the Italian city of Rome. It hosted me during my three-year tour of duty

on the ground. I immediately relayed the information to Malta and after discussing it thoroughly, they instructed me to continue with the contract. I wasn't sure whether the perpetrators were vandals or the security officials in order to twist our arm.

## *'Patri Karm' of Sta. Maria Maggiore*

The Santa Maria Maggiore is a massive baroque-style church said to be built on a particular site where, as predicted by Our Lady, heavy snow fell on a hot August night. I used to go there practically every fortnight to meet an old Maltese priest from Zebbug, Dun Karm. We became good friends. He had been serving there for over 20 years and, as he had no close relatives in Malta, he rarely visited the island. We would spend some time at a nearby bar and, over a coffee and croissant reminisce about Malta.

Our conversations would always include discussions about *il-Madonna* and *San Filep*, he was so devoted to. After half an hour, he would pat me gently on my back and we would go on our separate ways.

One day, after returning to Rome from a fortnight's vacation in Malta, I went to Sta. Maria Maggiore to give Dun Karm a bottle of whiskey that he loved a tot or two of every once in a while.

In the confessional where he usually sat was another priest. I asked for *Padre Carmelo di Malta*, as he was known. I was shocked to be told that he "unfortunately left this world a week earlier and was instead near St. Philip whom he loved so much". I felt awfully sad.

As I left the church I went to the adjacent

bar where I used to go for coffee with Patri Karm every time we met. This time I did not order my usual *cappuccino*, but an *americano*, like Dun Karm used to have. As I sipped it slowly I said to myself, "This is for you Dun Karm!"

I returned home with a heavy heart. Without him, Sta Maria Maggiore would never be the same again.

## *Earth Tremors hit Malta*

At ten minutes past midnight on 21st March 1972 a strong earth tremor hit Malta, accompanied in some areas by a rumbling roar and a milder tremor an hour later, sending thousands of people

in the Maltese islands out of their houses and into open spaces for safety. The tremor was also felt in Sicily, but while in Sicily its strength was 'Force 3' in Malta it was 'Force 4.5' on the Richter scale.

The Embassy was flooded with calls from concerned Maltese living in Italy seeking information about their families in Malta. It took us some time to get through to our families in Bormla. Most of the residents in the upper part of the city gathered in the large open space known as 'Ix-Xghira ta Bormla' fearing a second tremor. Our families told us that their buildings shook and the furniture moved.

The tremor had brought with it a mass evacuation of people from their homes, tourists from their hotels and unprecedented traffic jams. We were told that it resembled a scene from a disaster movie.

## *Professor Arnaldo Fabriani*

Every end of the month, a charming elderly Italian man would call on me at the Embassy to collect his Maltese pension. Up to the start of World War II Professor Arnaldo Fabriani used to teach at the Lyceum and at the University in Malta. Years later I learnt that every Sunday morning before the war, he and other intellectuals, mostly Italian sympathisers, would meet at an open-air cafe un Piazza Regina in Valletta, dubbed '*Il-Salotto del Intelektuali*', presided over by Dr Herbert Ganado, to discuss the world situation particularly Italy, England and Malta.

*\*Continued on opposite page 7*



## Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian

# The Seventies ....

*\*continued from opposite page*

The British strongly suspected him of being an Italian spy, so before the start of the war they sent him back to Italy.

Professor Fabriani is mentioned in Giorgio Peresso's book *'Giuseppe Donati e Umberto Colosso'*, in Dr Guido Demarco's book *'The Politics of Persuasion'* and in Dr Herbert Ganado's autobiography, *'Rajt Malta Tinbidel'*.

At the end of each month Fabriani would call on me and over a cup of coffee recount to me Malta in his day. I don't know if he were a spy, but he loved Malta immensely. He regaled me with his novel based on Malta during the Great Siege of 1565 *'Cuore Mio'*. He was one of the most intellectual persons I have ever met.

Oftentimes at weekends, I would drive my wife and son to different little towns and villages just outside Rome. Our favourite was Castelli Romani, Frascati, famous for its white wines, for fresh air and for its colourful gardens.

Inside the baroque cathedral is the tomb of Bonnie Prince Charlie of Scotland; while Castelgandolfo, is the place where the Pope retires for the summer.

We also used to visit several other towns, like Marino, where Italian film actress Sophia Loren had a beautiful villa, Rocca di Papa, a terraced village with fantastic panoramic views showing Rome on the horizon, and Albano with its lake and where one can savour the *porchetta alla Romana* with crusty fresh bread.

We also ventured to places such as Anzio from where during World War II the Allies started their invasion towards Rome and then onwards to other countries, Nettuno the centre of pilgrimage to the shrine of Sta Maria

Goretti and many other interesting villages.

Although I drove up to Venice a couple of times, for distant travelling we travelled by train. We would board from Termini station in Rome and visit Naples, Florence, Pisa, Venice, Milan, Genova and other cities, all of which have so much to offer to the tourist in terms of art, culture, gastronomy and traditions.

For us islanders travelling by train is an exhilarating experience, sitting in your compartment and watching the changing landscapes as the train huffs and puffs its way ahead.

Our three years in Rome were a roller-coaster of travels, adventures and discoveries.

### Memories of Rome

Rome had become home to us. Even when we were on holiday in Malta, we longed to return to our little apartment in Via Domenico Barone. Three years living in this city, with its good and bad, is enough to integrate you completely. The lovely memories I have of Rome will be with me all my life. Even today, fifty years on, my heart misses a beat when I hear someone talk of Rome.

How can one forget the little personal experiences that one stores in his memory after living in this city? To me, Rome means much more than the marble monuments, large palaces and the beautiful churches. It means the *cappuccino* and the *cornetto*, I consumed every morning from different bars before going to the office, the *gelato con panna* from a bar table on the street pavements, and the *pizza a taglio* from the many pizza outlets across the city.

It also meant, browsing the department stores with my Liz, visiting the street markets, eating hot chestnuts in the cold days of winter, attending circus shows and watching spectacular trapeze and funny colourful clowns in Via Cristoforo Colombo.

It also meant climbing the hills of the



**Professor Arnaldo Fabriani**

'Pincio' or 'Montemario' by car and looking down at Rome spread out beneath us, playing football with Chris on the grass of the gardens at Villa Pamphili or Villa Borghese, roaming the narrow streets around the Via Ripetta during my lunch break, hearing Roosevelt shout the only word he ever learned in Maltese *"Immorru, Immorru"* before we go out of the office and a hundred and one other experiences, small but significant that made up our daily life in Rome.

### Arrivederci Roma

Before we left the city at the end of our tour of duty, Liz and I invited the Embassy staff and friends to a reception at our place. The first to arrive, more than an hour before schedule, was our friend Fr. Avertano Saliba. The reception was a marvellous occasion to say goodbye to so many friends. We made promises to meet again either in Rome or in Malta. We had come to know each other very well. Goodbyes are always emotional experiences. This was no exception.

When, some days later, our friend Roosevelt was taking us to Fiumicino airport for our return flight to Malta, my heart missed a beat. I felt sad to leave this wonderful city.

*\*Continued in the next issue*

**Castelli Romani ... a favourite place in Frascati**



## Maltese Funerals

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# Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# Mhux lest li inħalli lil min jikkalpesta lil art twelidi

Lino Casha minn Melbourne jikteb:

**M**a rridx ninstema' li rrid indaħhal il-politiku, imma ma nistax ma naqbilx mar-raġunar tal-qarrej Chas. Farrugia minn Brisbane fl-aħhar hargħa fl-ittra tiegħu taht ir-ras *Dik il-mis-huta politika!* meta rrefera għal Malta.

Għalkemm jien u l-familja qattajna aktar mid-doppju tas-snin tagħna fl-Awstralja milli f'Malta, nibqa' Malti u fejn nista' nid-defendi u nfahhar lil art twelidi. Nistagħgeb kif għad hemm politiki f'Malta li forsi biex jippruvaw jiksibu xi vantaġġ, dan ifittxu l-għajna tal-barranin.

Kont nahseb li dak iż-żmien spicċa, imma bqajt iddisgustat kif kien hemm min reġa' mar barra minn Malta biex ixewwex kontra l-pajjiż. Aktar minhekk il-fatt li jippruvaw jiksibu l-appoġġ ta' pajjiżi li whud minn-

hom imħammga bil-politika, u li żgur ma jistgħux jagħtu parir lil Malta.

Stagħgibt pereżempju li rapprezentanti Maltin fl-Unjoni Ewropeja, għamlu minn kollox biex jinstigaw lil hbiebhom u poġ-gew lil Malta fuq l-aġenda halli jikkritikaw lill-gvern Malti u jgħajru b'korruzzjoni u ma nafx xiex.

Il-gvern għandu fiex jiġi kkiritkat, imma ikkiritkah f'Malta, mhux li timbotta lil pajjiżi ohra, fosthom uħud li dan l-aħhar speċjalment, kienu fl-aħbarijiet minhabba f'korruzzjoni, bħall-Italja, il-Ġermanja, Franza u l-Bulgarija, li jagħmlu dan, l-aktar jikkritikaw lil Malta li mhemmx saltna tad-dritt.

Dawn it-talin, meta se jaslu jkun kapaci li jaslu wehidhom fejn iridu jaslu halli jiksibu l-poter billi jdoqqu bit-trumbetta tagħhom u mhux b'dik ta' haddiehor?

Din kbira!

## Sports news from Malta

Tony Carabott from Penrith NSW writes:

**Y**our sports section is a gem. So concise yet it includes all the important information.

We now have instant news via social media but who wants to spend all his time on facebook? In just one page you manage to give us all the important news to keep us updated with what is happening in Malta and also what should concern the Maltese community in Australia.

That is one of the many reasons why my family (we have been in Aussie land 15 years) read *The Voice* magazine. I am a Birkirkara football fan, however, this seson looks like it is going to be the Ham-run Spartans' year.

Good luck to them!

## What should one do about Christian Porter?

Frank Pace from Tamworth, NSW writes:

**T**he case of Christian Porter is a difficult one. We have heard a lot about this man who occupies such a high position, that of Commonwealth's Attorney General. People are so confused about him. We keep wondering what he should do about it but also, perhaps more - what should the Prime Minister and his colleagues do about it.

Porter put forward an interesting, indeed provocative, statement in his defence, as to his decision not to resign, which was that if he resigned, given the impossibility of any way of resolving his innocence, then anyone in a position like his could be stripped from office without the ordinary response of innocence presumed before trial.

It is important to say that women are overwhelmingly the victims in all sexual assault events and their chances of being believed in court are small.

So often it is a case of one's word against the other's, no witnesses, some circumstantial suggestion that either or both were intoxicated or other information of a similar kind. Women are reluctant to go to court unless they have strong evidence in their favour.

NOTE: Readers are requested to indicate their full name, country, state, suburb or town if mailing from Australia, or name of town if from Malta. Letters to the editor are accepted either English or Maltese. Please try and keep them short.



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# Racism, Bigotry and any form of Discrimination is ill-informed



Lucy Calleja

A 2002 Stanford study found that there are no distinct genetic markers in groups designated as “races”. More importantly, greater differences were found between individuals from the same geographic and cultural group than between vastly separated groups in terms of geography and “ethnic” groups. “... the consensus is clear: race is a social construct, not a biological attribute ... “

“Race exists, undeniably, as a social and political concept” (Harvard Magazine, “Race in a genetic world”, 2008). Fran Dorey (The Australian Museum, 01/01/21) updated information about modern humans anywhere, stating that they all “... descended from an African population of Homo Sapiens that migrated around the world but interbred with archaic populations ... in Eurasia.”

However, in spite of these inter-breeding, there was barely any impact on the genetic make-up of modern humans.

So Science has settled the question of race. There’s only ever been, since about 100 000 years ago, one race, the modern human race. Any argument to the contrary is misinformed racism.

This usually leads to the question of prejudice and bigotry. The notion that any one social or “ethnic” group is intrinsically superior is a myth, debunked by Science.

Prejudice can be rooted in racism, but not always. People in powerful positions can have fallacious ideas of an individual’s abilities and capabilities without having met them, worked with them or employed their services in any capacity.

Individuals going for job interviews can miss out on a positions simply by what’s perceived from a photo attached to an application form; or the voice carrying an accent as the applicant speaks on the phone.

The same argument goes for bigots. Their perceived superiority is based on social, “ethnic”, cultural, linguistic, gender identity or age group. In Australia, as it is largely in Anglo-Celtic descent communities, non-white and others from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds start from behind the eight ball.

In Multicultural Australia, as indeed in many other Western countries, migrants and their progeny, as indeed indigenous communities, have to prove themselves ten times as hard to get anywhere in the community at large. Purported to be egalitarian, as per Carroll’s “Animal Farm”, some are more equal than others.

This feeling of superiority by the dominant group does not only exist in the Western world. Other societies and nations in large continental blocks such as in Asia, Africa and the Americas also have power structures, sometimes based on perceived ethnicity or, worse still, based on political or religious convictions.

Unfortunately, for the least powerful and most vulnerable, no amount of legislation can change entrenched political and cultural enmities.

Education from early childhood should lead the way to a more harmonious world, notwithstanding the ever-present evil of warmongering. Young children do not care what their playmates’ skin, hair or eyes look like. Much less do they care whether their playmates’ parents adhere or not to any political or religious conviction.

It is only adults in families who pass on prejudices to, and might I add, even if unintentionally, brainwashing their young children as to each person’s rightful place in the human family. The ABC programme “Old People’s Home for 4 Year Olds” showed that even at such a young age children are sometimes already entrenched in their opinions.

This brings us to another sore topic of ageism. The commercial world keeps lowering the age of young people advertising merchandise that, quite frequently, is meant for adults. What chance have retrenched persons over the age of 50 got to get back to meaningful employment in a competitive market?

Yet, these adults who are desperately keen to get on with the world of work have years of life experiences and skills that they can bring to any enterprise or organisation. It is to a nation’s shame and loss that many older jobseekers may never get back into worthwhile and fulfilling employment until their pension age.

Unemployment, and also underemployment, takes its toll on individuals, the Health system, the nation’s GDP and the community at large.

In recent weeks and months, through various mass media, we’ve become aware of a culture of sexism, misogyny and downright abuse of female staff at the highest place of power in the land, in Parliament House.

Many women throughout the ages and in many communities have suffered at the hands of males dominating households, workplaces and social groups. It takes very strong women to really own their agency to fulfil their dreams domestically, in work places and in society at large. Shame again.

Companies that treat their female employees well not only thrive but flourish. Women bring balance of ideas, skills and attitudes to any enterprise or organisation.

In essence, any form of discrimination is not only detrimental to individuals and their loved ones, but also to the general health and outlook of a nation. The slogan “giving everyone a fair go” sounds hollow indeed, for anybody with little power or agency to work their way up towards self-fulfilment and actualisation. The onus is on people with clout, power and position to lead society and nations to a fairer world.



# Perspettiva

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

kitba ta'  
**IVAN  
 CAUCHI**



## Titjira barra mid-dinja

**T**ghiduli biex ġej din id-darba? Kif, bl-istragi tas-safar internazzjonali tort tal-COVID-19, se titkellem fuq it-tijir, meta eluf ta' Awstraljani għadhom maqbuda x'imkien ieħor 'il bogħod minn pajjiżhom għax m'hawnx titjiriet biżżejjed?

Fil-fatt, se nikellem dwar storja affaxxinanti li qiegħda ssehh kortezija tal-inġenwità tal-bniedem, inġinerija avvanzata u hafna, hafna flus min-fuqa. Il-post huwa Mars, pjaneta fis-sistema solari tagħna, dijametru ta' 6800km (ftit iktar min nofs tad-dinja tagħna), li tinsab f'orbita madwar ix-xemx ta' 78 miljun kilometru iktar minn tad-dinja.

Mars hija pjaneta interessanti hafna. L-ewwel haġa, fil-passat kien inġenwità li jeżistu kanali tal-ilma fuqha, storja li kienet hrafha, iżda riċentement l-astronomi ikkonkludew li fil-passat il-pjaneta kellha l-ilma, hafna ilma.

Dan hu maħsub li sparixxa meta l-atmosfera ta' Mars għebet, u baqa' biss f'dalijiet ta' dan l-ilma fuq il-wiċċ tal-pjaneta, u huwa maħsub li dan għadu jeżisti wkoll taht il-wiċċ tagħha.

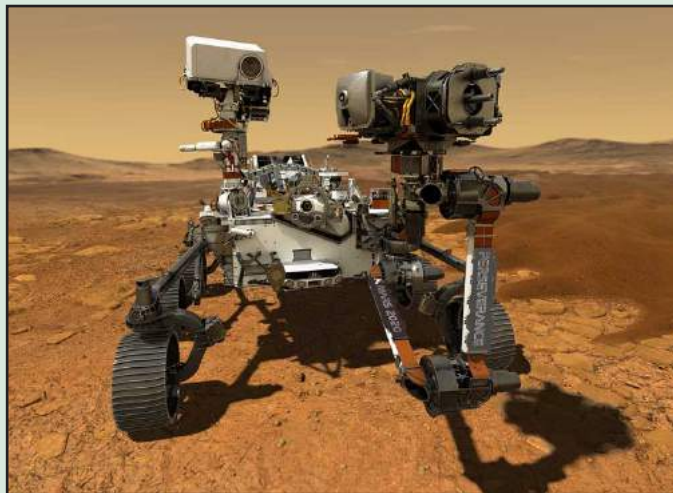
Il-preżenza tal-ilma mhux biss ta' interess akkademiku, għax aħna nafu li l-ilma huwa essenzjali għall-hajja fuq id-dinja tagħna, u għalhekk hemm talinqas il-possibiltà li fil-passat il-hajja żviluppat fuq Mars ukoll.

Din hija wahda mir-raġunijiet ewlenin għaliex hemm tant interess f'Mars mill-agenziji tal-ispazju tal-pajjiżi l-kbar, bħall-Istati Uniti u Ċina, li bħalissa għandhom missjoni missjoni kull wahda intenzjonata li tniżżel vettura (rowver) fuq din il-pjaneta.

L-agenzija NASA tal-Istati Uniti diġà għandha żewġ rowvers fuq Mars: Curiosity, li tniżżel fl-2011 u li għadu għaddej b'xogħol xjentifiku sal-lum, u Perseverance, li għadu kif tniżżel f'nofs Frar ta' din is-sena 2021. Iċ-Ċina għandha tniżżel ir-rowver tagħha, parti mill-missjoni Tianwen-1, f'Mejju 2021.

Wahda mill-punti interessanti hafna tal-Perseverance hi li kien qed iġorr elikopter awtonomu żgħir, għoli ta' nofs metru u toqol ta' 1.8kg, li se jkun l-ewwel magna aeronawtika li se jtir f'atmosfera oħra barra minn dik tad-dinja.<sup>1</sup> Il-kundizzjonijiet ta' din it-titjira huma diffiċli hafna.

L-ewwel haġa, dan il-helikopter irid jirreżisti l-kesha tal-iljieli



Mars Perseverance tal-agenzija spazjali n-NASA fuq il-pjaneta Mars

fuq Mars, fejn it-temperatura tinzel regolarment sa' 100 grad taht iż-żero. Temperatura simili (-93C) kienet l-iksah wahda qatt irreġistrata fuq Antarctica fl-2010.

It-tieni, l-atmosfera fuq Mars hija rqiqha hafna, bi pressjoni ta' inqas minn 1% dik tad-dinja.

Dan ifisser li r-rotors tal-helikopter iridu jdur b'heffa tliet darbiet dik li jdur biha elikopters fuq id-dinja. Dan sabiex jimbuttaw il-ftit gass li jsibu (l-atmosfera fuq Mars magħmula mid-diossidu tal-karbonju - carbon dioxide) l-isfel halli l-helikopter ikun jista' joghla.

Huwa mistenni li l-helikopter ikun jista' jtir biss għal xi 90 sekonda kull darba, qabel ma jkollu jinzel lura lejn il-bażi tiegħu, fejn ikun jista' jiċċarġja l-batteriji tiegħu bil-qawwa tax-xemx.

It-tim tan-NASA f'dawn il-jiem qed iħejji għall-ewwel titjira, li minnhom jekk kolloxx imur sew ikun hemm hamsa fuq medda ta' madwar xahar. L-iskop ta' dawn it-titjiriet hi biss ta' dimostrazzjoni li l-haġa hija possibbli.

Is-sinjifikat ta' dan il-proġett qed jiġi kkumparat mal-ewwel titjira li saret mill-aħwa Wright, meta kienu taru l-Kitty Hawk għall-ewwel darba fuq id-dinja fl-1903, b'titjira totali ta' 3.5 sekondi.

Id-dinja kollha se tkun taf jekk dan il-pass ambizzjuż tal-bniedem hux se jkun ta' suċċess jew ta' falliment.

Wieħed irid iżomm quddiem għajnejh li tant hemm distanza bejn id-dinja u Mars, li messagġ elettromanjetiku bejniethom idum bejn 5 u 20 minuta,<sup>2</sup> skont il-pożizzjoni tal-pjaneti, għalhekk huwa impossibbli biex bniedem jikkontrolla t-titjira manwalment.

Għalhekk, it-titjira se ssir b'mod awtomatizzat, u wara li l-but-tuna li tirrappreżenta l-imperattiv tal-verb tar tinghafas, il-kontroll tal-missjoni se jkollu hafna minuti ta' tgerim tad-dwiefer qabel ma jsiru jafu jekk il-helikopter niżilx fuq il-wiċċ litteralment habta u sabta, jew bil-lest biex itir għal darb'ohra!

Nistennew u naraw!

### Referenzi

- <https://mars.nasa.gov/technology/helicopter/#>, retrieved 30/3/2021
- <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/spacecraft/rover/communications/>, retrieved 30/3/2021



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## Scholar Mgr Ġwann Azzopardi dies aged 84

**M**gr. Gwann Azzopardi, better known as just Dun Ġwann (above) passed away at the age of 84 on February 19. He served as curator of the Mdina Cathedral and Wignacourt museum in Rabat for which he was also the founder. He was also the author of quite a few books and publications, and an archivist of the Mdina Metropolitan Chapter.

Dun Gwann was also considered as our leading scholar on Pauline studies and traditions, and many more accomplishments that I'm not worthy of listing.

I got to know Dun Ġwann when I needed help with my research. Fifteen years ago he and the late Paul Guillaumier were the people to go to for expert advice on Apostle Paul's voyage and shipwreck on our shores.

Dun Ġwann was welcoming and over generous with answers to my questions. For some years, his health was steadily deteriorating. Whenever we met, he would seek my help to stand on his feet.

Hanging onto my arm, we would go for a walk in the Wignacourt courtyard or down the museum's passageways

discuss, then Later in his office, he would pinpoint the book or reference to prove the matter we had been discussing.

A few years ago I was giving a talk in St Publius Church above the Grotto to some tourists travelling on the footsteps of Apostle Paul. He was to deliver the final lecture right after mine. Unplanned, he took my final sentence to start his, expanding the argument and modestly enhancing my performance.

I can picture him now arm in arm with St Paul in paradise, asking him about the voyage and shipwreck that brought him to our shores. Asking him about his three-month stay on Melita; discussing with him and St Publius the values our society lost. It pained him so much. Asking on our behalf for their protection and guidance.

Farewell Dun Ġwann. I will forever cherish our friendship.

MarkGatt

## Laqgħa ġenerali u l-Via Sagra

**L**-għaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' NSW li kienet ġiet imwaqqfa fl-1988, u li bhal kull għaqda oħra sofriet il-waqfa waqt il-imxija tal-COVID-19 fejn fitt li xejn kienet attiva, dan l-aħħar organizzat il-31 laqgħa annwali fis-sala ġdida tal-Wentworthville Leagues Club.

F'din il-laqgħa gie elett il-kumitat il-ġdid u thabbar li Marisa Previtera li kienet tmexxi l-uniku kor Malti fi NSW irtirat minn din il-pożizzjoni u minnflokha reġa' nħatar bħala choir master temporarju Frank Zammit li fil-fatt kien l-ewwel li kien imexxi meta twaqqaf fl-1989.

Sadanittant, il-kumitat se jerga' jkun immexxi minn Charles N. Mifsud bħala President. L-imsejha l-oħra tal-kumitat se jkunu, Ass/President: Michelle McCann; Segretarju: Tony Pace Feraud; Ass/Segretarja: Mary Pace Feraud; Kaxxier: Victor Fenech; PRO: Mary Ramundi.

Charles Mifsud inhatar bħala l-Organizzatur Socjali. Se jkollu miegħu bħala membri lil Eddie Calleja u lil Monica Ledger.

Sadanittant ta' min jghid li fil-jiem tal-Ġimgha Mqaddsa l-għaqda organizzat b'suċċess il-Via Sagra bil-Malti fil-knisja ta' OLQP fi Greystanes li għaliha, minkejja l-maltemp attendiet folla tajba hafna.

Il-Via Sagra bil-Malti hi xogħol mirqum ta' Frank Zammit u hija kantata fuq stil tal-għana Malti. Hadd mill-kleru ma kien preżenti iżda Frank Zammit mexxa l-procedura, filwaqt li għall-aħħar darba l-kor kien imexxi b'suċċess minn Marisa Previtera.



Charles N. Mifsud ...president

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

**T**he Voice of the Maltese, mhux biss magazine online. Hu wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll hu ippubblikat, u hafna qed approfittaw ruħhom billi jabbonaw u qed jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi flas.

Min jixtieq jibda jirċevi kopja pprintjata kull darba li joħroġ imhegga jabbonaw għal sena u jkun żgur mill-kopja kull darba.

Dan isir billi wiehed jibghat email lil [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com) u jitlob tagħrif dwar il-flas ta' abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumie x kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, f'idejhom jgħarrafna u jkun moqdijin.





## Roundup of News About Malta



### Malta starts welcoming tourists back in June

Outlining Malta's recovery plan for the tourism sector that has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the minister in charge of the sector, Clayton Bartolo said Malta plans to start welcoming tourists back to the island and has therefore launched an aid and incentivise package worth €20 million for the sector.

The plan is for vaccinated tourists to be able to visit Malta free of restrictions by presenting a digital 'green passport', while non-vaccinated tourists will still be able to submit a negative PCR COVID-19 test, taken a few hours before travelling.

Particular focus is being placed on British tourists, with Bartolo hailing the UK as one of Malta's most important source markets. It also has one of the world's highest vaccination rates.

Eighteen airlines, including Air Malta, are expected to fly to Malta this summer, making up some 70% of the routes the island had back in 2019. Four are new. Tourism authorities are also in "advanced talks" with four other airlines that are interested in opening up routes to Malta.

In the coming weeks, the government will launch several aid and incentive packages, worth €20 million, to target specific touristic sectors ahead of the summer months.

The incentives include schemes for visitor attractions, long-term tourism, conference tourism, EFL language schools, sports tourism, diving tourism, and travel operators, as well as a tentative reserve fund for events and festivals, dependent on discussions with the health authorities.



## Cannabis: Strengthening of the legal framework on its responsible use

Government recognises that cannabis uses in Malta is found across numerous social groups, and with a great sense of responsibility and justice, it believes the consumption of the cannabis plant, despite the potential risks related to one's health, should not lead to the criminalisation of the responsible cannabis user. As such, Prime Minister Robert Abela (*above*) has issued a White

Paper reflecting the government's vision for a fairer legal system for responsible cannabis users.

It has been pointed out that nothing in White Paper is intended to encourage, promote, or in any way lead to the consumption of cannabis and the Prime Minister also announced a public consultation process on a White Paper to strengthen the legal framework on the responsible use of cannabis.

About the reform a decriminalisation of up to seven grams of cannabis possession and a four-plant household growth for personal use will come into effect

The reform proposes the elimination of police arrest on cannabis for personal use and people found with a small amount of cannabis will not be subjected to criminal and judicial proceedings by appearing in front of a justice tribunal or drug court.

The Prime Minister said that the proposed reform will not incentivise the formation of a "cannabis culture", that is, it will not allow people to smoke outdoors, and the government still stresses the "problems" the plant can cause.

It is being proposed that the possession of more than seven grams but less than 28 grams for one's exclusive personal use should be subject to proceedings before Commissioner for Justice.

The consumption of cannabis in public will however not be allowed. A €233.33 fine will be administered if it is breached.

Malta has legalised cannabis for medicinal use and decriminalised recreational use. However, some issues remain.

## Malta is among highest ranking EU members in healthy life expectancy

Malta scores the highest in healthy life expectancy in the EU with life expectancy at birth increasing substantially since 2000, reaching 82.4 years in 2017, which is among the highest in the EU.

It prompted Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Chris Fearne (*pictured left*) taking to Facebook to express his pride in the Maltese Health System.



Healthy life years refer to 'the number of years that a person is expected to live without an activity limitation (disability). The gains have been driven by the declining mortality from some treatable cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

Maltese spend most of their lives in good health, with 67% of life after age 65 spent without chronic diseases and disabilities, a far higher share than the EU average.

However, the prevalence of diabetes is growing and socioeconomic inequalities in life expectancy and self-reported health status persist.

The country's National Health Service provides universal coverage for a comprehensive benefit package, while the private sector plays a key role in the delivery of primary care.





## Roundup of News About Malta



# Haileybury UK to convert Mtarfa military hospital into international school

The Government and Haileybury UK, have signed a concession agreement (above) through which Malta would become the fifth member of the Haileybury family of schools preparing students for a fast and ever-changing world.

The agreement will see the former Mtarfa British Military Hospital converted into an international school and home to pre-school, primary and secondary schools, offering IGCSE, A levels and the International Baccalaureate programmes.

The Minister for Education Justyne Caruana who presided over the signing described it as an important step for investors and foreigners in Malta, as well as local Maltese who want their children to undergo a programme of studies that is recognised internationally.

Apart from converting the building into an international school catering mostly for

children of expats living and working in Malta, it would also be completely restored and renovated.

Meanwhile, in a recorded message, Martin Collier, Master of Haileybury UK, said he was delighted that this agreement would see the opening of the first European Haileybury partner school in Malta that would join several other partner schools around the world.

The development and finishing are estimated to take approximately 18 months to complete, with the first cohort of pupils joining the scholastic year starting September 2022.

## New EU/EEA/Swiss residence document

EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens, exercising the right to freedom of movement, are to be issued with a new, highly secure residence document by Identity Malta.

The new document puts Malta protect citizens from identity theft and fraud.

Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Communities Alex Muscat explained that highly sophisticated security features on the document make it extremely difficult to forge or tamper with.

The new residence document complies with the provisions of EU Regulation 2019/1157, whereby member states must issue such documents as of August 2, 2021.

## Europeans switch to summertime

Along with the rest of the EU member states, on March 27 (the last Sunday of the month), Malta switched to summertime when clocks were moved forward by one hour to be changed back on the last Sunday in October.

That means that on March 27, the Maltese, along with their EU counterparts got an extra hour of sleep as clocks switched back an hour at 3 a.m., in a decades-long tradition aimed at gaining an extra hour of sunlight in the morning. They have been changing their clocks in October and March ever since.

The Maltese had been hoping they will do it for the last time this year, as following a public consultation they generally favour the retention of summer time.

In 2018, an EU poll indicated overwhelming support for ending the annual change and the European Parliament voted to abolish the practice and make the twice-yearly routine a thing of the past in 2021, but concrete plans on what comes next remain elusive.

The practice, which is currently regulated across the European Union, has grown increasingly unpopular over the years. Critics say switching clocks disrupts biorhythms in humans and livestock alike, leading to health problems.

The decision left it up to EU member states to decide, but there is no uniform position on whether the bloc should adopt the summer or winter-time. Since that vote, no concrete plans on how to implement the EU's decision have been made, therefore Daylight saving time will be with us for quite a while yet, because the EU can't make up its mind.

## Maltese company contributes to international research

Maltese company, Naval Architectural Services (NAS Ltd) is participating in an international research programme that brings together academics from the UK, Italy and Malta to further develop scientific and technological capacity in marine structural design for a greener industry.

In a visit to the offices of the Maltese company that provides specialist marine technical services to a diverse range of local and international clients from Malta, the Minister for Research, Innovation and the Co-ordination of the Post-Covid-19 Strategy Owen Bonnici said that VENTURE is aimed at bringing together international leading research organisations.

The organisations include the University of Strathclyde in the UK, the University of Genoa in Italy, and local institutions such as the University of Malta and Naval Ar-

chitectural Services. They transfer knowledge and enhance scientific and technological capacity in energy efficient ship design.

This project will help contribute to providing Malta with a good base to further develop its scientific and technological capacity in the marine industry.

The minister said that the fact that Maltese researchers are contributing to reaching the global targets set by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is something Malta should be proud of.

NAS Ltd has positioned itself at the forefront of the sector by ensuring constant investment in human and technical resources essential in a knowledge-based industry where technological development and innovation are key to success. It is also working on other international level projects.



## Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

# It-ToM u min froda lil min

**G**ħalkemm ma jistax jonqos li l-COVID-19 baqgħet tingħata importanza kbira fil-midja lokali, grazzi għat-tnaqqis kbir fl-għadd tal-infettati, biss f'dawn l-aħħar ġimagħtejn nistgħu nġid li kellna storja oħra li ddominat l-ewwel paġni tal-ġurnali.

Din kienet l-azzjoni tal-pulizija wara r-rapport ta' inkjesta li sar wara talba tal-eks-mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista Simon Busuttil fil-konfront ta' Keith Schembri l-eks kap tal-istaff tal-eks Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat.

Ir-rapport wassal għall-arrest ta' 11-il persuna, fosthom l-istess Schembri kif ukoll eks-direttur manġerjali tal-Allied Newspapers li tippubblika *The Times* u *The Sunday Times*. Il-pulizija mistennija li 'l quddiem tressaq ukoll lill-eks-direttur manġerjali iehor tal-istess kumpanija Adrian Hillman. Dan wara dak li seħħ fl-2010.

Attwalment il-każ huwa dwar biċċa negozju li saret bejn Schembri u l-Allied Newspapers meta dawn ta' l-aħħar xtraw minn waħda mill-kumpaniji ta' Schembri makkinarju għall-istamperija l-ġdida meta bnew l-istamperija l-ġdida.



Il-bini tal-Allied Newspapers fl-Imrieħel li nxtara makkinarju ġdid għalih u ġab l-inkwiet

Għalkemm meta sar dan in-negozju, Schembri mnexxielu jirbaħ it-tender għax l-offerta tiegħu kienet xi żewġ miljuni orhos minn ta' oħrajn, xorta qed jiġi allegat li kien hemm ksar ta' diversi liġijiet, fosthom evażjoni tat-taxxa, frodi, xiri ta' nies, hasil ta' flus eċċ.

Fil-fatt qed jiġi allegat li mill-bejgħ ta' din

l-istamperija Schembri dahhal €5 miljun li mbagħad tqassmu bejn Schembri, Hillman u Buhagiar.

Qed ikun allegat wkoll li l-kumpanija li tmexxi t-*Times of Malta* ffrodat madwar €750,000 lill-Malta Enterprise, l-entità tal-istat li ġġib l-investment lejn Malta u li tghin lin-negozji lokali.

## Mil-lat politiku

**D**in il-biċċa negozju seħħet fl-2010 fi żmien Gvern Nazzjonalista, u Schembri ma kien għad ma kellu l-ebda kariga f'Kastilja, imma il-biċċa spiċċat iddawret f'waħda politika. Dan minhabba li meta fl-2013 ġie elett Gvern Laburista, il-Prim Ministru ta' dak inhar hatar lil Schembri bħala l-kap tal-istaff fl-uffiċju tiegħu, allura qrib ttiegħu.

Minhabba f'hekk l-Oppożizzjoni u dawk li qed jappuntaw subgħajhom lejn il-Gvern sostnew li avolja l-każ taħt investigazzjoni ma seħħx fi żmien il-Gvern Laburista, xorta waħda għandu jerfa' r-responsabbiltà ta' dak li seħħ, għax minkejja l-kritika li kienet qed issir, il-PM u l-kabinett, baqgħu jappoġġjaw lil Schembri.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Prim Ministru t'issa, Robert Abela sqarr li hu qatt ma ddefenda lil Schembri, u li gara, ma seħħx meta hu kien imexxi l-Gvern, anzi qed jagħmel minn kollox biex issir ġustizzja, kif jixhed l-istess fatt li saru dawn l-arresti u tressqu n-nies il-qorti.

Izda s'intendi dan ma waqfafx lill-Oppożizzjoni milli tkompli tinsisti li Abela kellu jerfa' r-responsabbiltà. Il-kwestjoni waslet sal-Parlament, fejn dibattitu dwar l-approvazzjoni tal-baġit, spiċċa f'battibekk bejn il-mexxejja tal-partiti dwar din ir-responsabbiltà.

Saħansitra, il-Partit Nazzjonalista, staqsa jekk wara dak li ġie żvelat fl-inkjesta maġisterjali kienx hemm lok li terġa' tinfetah l-inkjesta Egrant li kienet iddeċidiet li ma ma kienx hemm provi li l-kont bankarju Egrant kien tal-eks-prim Ministru Joseph Muscat jew il-mara tiegħu.

## Dibattitu Parlamentari dwar baġit jiġi mibdul f'baraxx kontra l-gvern

**A**ttwalment il-Parlament kien qed jiddiskuti l-approvazzjoni tal-baġit, iżda l-Oppożizzjoni sostniet li fis-sitwazzjoni preżenti d-diskussjoni tal-baġit kienet sekondarja u għalhekk minflok tkellmu dwar il-baġit id-deputati Nazzjonalista fethu baraxx shih kontra l-Gvern.

Min-naħa tad-deputati Laburisti baqgħu għaddejnin jikkellmu fuq il-baġit, iżda fi tmiem id-diskussjoni l-Prim ministru wieġeb għall-kritika.

Qablu tkellem il-kap tal-Oppożizzjoni li beda biex sostna li kien imweġġa' bl-allegazzjonijiet li qed isiru, kif inhu imweġġa' l-poplu li jrid pajjiż normali. Al li din hi kriżi bla precedent, u sostna, "Konna nafu li l-Gvern Laburista huwa mċappas, imma meta qrajna l-akkużi fil-ġranet li għadew xorta ixxukkajna ruhna."

Grech għamel referenza għall-arrest ta' Schembri. Qal li dan jista' "jfiisser ukoll li potenzjalment - waqt li ahna konna għaddejnin b'hajjitna b'mod normali - dawn kellhom il-futur tal-pajjiż u ta' wliedek f'idejhom. Kellhom ir-reputazzjoni tal-pajjiż f'idejhom. U x'għamlulha? Kissruha. Umiljawna mad-dinja kollha."

Sostna li l-Partit Laburista fil-Gvern kien wiegħed futur sabih, u holma imma "tana inkubu", li "mhux biss serqu l-miljuni imma serqu ruh il-pajjiż."

Qal li kien il-mument tal-prova u appella

lill-President tar-Repubblika biex ikun hu li johroġ lil Malta - "mill inkubu". Sejjaħ lill-votanti Laburisti, "kollha ġenwini" u appellallhom aghmlu l-kuraġġ u jikkellmu.

Fit-twegiba tiegħu l-Prim Ministru qal li l-Oppożizzjoni mhux veru jinteressaha l-pajjiż għax f'daqqa waħda nsew il-COVID-19 u minflok, hsiebhom biss fuq lil min se titfġu l-habs. "Intom abdikajtu milli titkellmu fuq dak li vera jagħmel differenza lin-nies, ma għedtux kelma dwar kif se ttejbu l-hajja ta' dan il-pajjiż u jekk qatt kien hemm b'żonn prova li intom l-aqwa Oppożizzjoni imma l-agħar Gvern, kienu dawn it-tliet ijiem," sostna.

Fakkar f'diversi abbużi li saru taħt Gvernijiet Nazzjonalisti u sqarr: "Intom titkellmu dwar ir-rispett lejn l-istituzzjonijiet? Intom hlistu traffikant tad-droga li l-Qorti wahhlitu 25 sena habs!" qal b'referenza għall-każ tat-traffikant Braziljan Quieroz, li nhees mill-habs b'intervent ta' Gvern Nazzjonalista fid-disghinijiet.

Abela kkritika l-kummenti tal-Kap tal-PN dwar mahfra lill-mandant fil-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia. "U tistgħu tik-konoffaw kemm tridu għax m'intomx se twaqffuna milli nkompnu fit-triq tas-sewwa," qal Abela li fakkar lil Grech illi l-evazzjoni tat-taxxa hija reat kriminali.

\* Ara wkoll paġna 15 dwar is-sugġett



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Is-sitwazzjoni tal-Covid-19 f'Malta

Jidher li l-aħħar miżuri li hadu l-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa u l-Gvern dwar il-COVID-19 flimkien mat-tilqim qed iħallu l-effetti mixrieqa għax propju għal dawn l-aħħar jiem rajna l-infezzjonijiet jonqsu sewwa, tant li fl-aħħar ġimgħa l-għadd tal-infettati niżel għal taħt il-mija kuljum, filwaqt li l-għadd tal-imfejqa żdiedu. Il-kazi effettivi niżel taħt il-500.

Sadaniant fejn għandu x'jaqsam it-tilqim, Malta tinsab fost lewwel ras għal ras fid-dinja. Sat-Tnejn tlaqqmu fuq il-220,000, li jfisser li aktar minn terz il-

## ghall-aħjar

popolazzjoni adulta diġà ġiet imlaqqma.

U l-Gvern tant hu fiduċjuż li bil-koperazzjoni tal-poplu u bit tilqim se jirnexxielu jikkontrolla l-epidemija li diġà qed ibassar li f'Gunju se jiftaħ il-bibien għal daww it-turisti li jkun hadu t-tilqim kontra l-pandemija f'pajjiżhom.

Saħansitra waqt intervista li kellu fuq l-istazzjon Amerikan CNBC d-Deputat

Prim Ministru u l-Ministru għas-Saħħa Chris Fearne, qal li l-R Factor tal-COVID-19 f'pajjiżna issa niżel għal 0.7 u kompli jghid li fis-sajf, Malta se tkun wahda mill-aktar pajjiżi siguri li wiehed jista' jżur jekk kif mistenni aktar mill-maġġoranza tal-popolazzjoni se tkun imlaqqma.

Id-Deputat PM enfazizza dwar l-importanza li jkun stabbilit il-passaport li jindika li persuna tkun hadet il-vaċċin u għalhekk tkun tista' tivvjaġġa minn pajjiż għall-iehor. Din xi haġa li Malta nsistiet dwarha mal-Unjoni Ewropea.

## Ir-reazzjoni ta' Joseph Muscat

Ma setax jonqos li f'dawn iċ-ċirkostanzi, ma jizzeffinx fin-nofs isem l-eks-Prim Ministru, Joseph Muscat, b'għadd ta' kummentaturi jippuntaw subgħajhom lejha. L-Oppożizzjoni ma naqsitx milli timplikah u xlietu li meta bdew heġġin l-is-tejjer dwar Schembri, mhux talli żamm miegħu imma saħansitra kien jappoġġjah.

Sintendi l-midja ma naqsitx li titlob ir-reazzjoni ta' Muscat għal dak li kien qed jigi. Dan malajr wieġeb fuq l-midja soċjali billi qal: "Wara hafna stejjer, akkużi u bosta inkjesti, tressqu quddiem il-Qorti numru ta' persuni akkużati b'allegat każ ta' korruzzjoni fis-settur privat, b'mod partikolari f'The Times of Malta, li qed jingħad li sehħ qabel l-2013 fi żmien Gvern Nazzjonalista. Nistenna l-gustizzja tiehu l-kors tagħha kif dejjem għamilt.

"Sadattant, aktar minn sentejn u nofs wara li tlestiet l-inkjesta, anki jekk nibqa' wahdi, se nibqa' ninsisti li ssir gustizzja ma' familti dwar il-gidba ta' Egrant, storja ffalsifikata u vvintata fi sfond nazzjonalista.

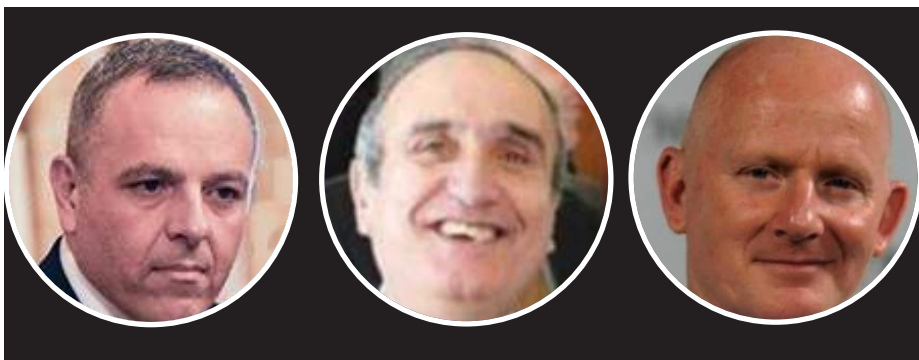
"Wara inkjesta indipendenti li hadet xhur shaħ, li kellha aċċess għal kull riżorsa u li wżat esperti internazzjonali, issa ċertu esponenti ma jridux jaċċettaw il-fatti li hargu minnha."

Biss dan ma għalaqx haq il-kritiċi u l-Oppożizzjoni li saħansitra, saħu li kellha tiġi kkunsidrata li terġa tinfetah l-inkjesta Egrant.

Hawn Muscat reġa' wieġeb:

"Dak li jrid il-Partit Nazzjonalista mhux il-verita', għaliex din hija magħrufa u ppruvata. Li jrid huwa li jerga' jipprova jagħmel vendikazzjoni minn familti u minni għaliex mhu se jafirli qatt li għal darba wara l-oħra ġibt il-fiduċja biex waqgħat milli jkompli jtratta lil dan il-pajjiż bħala l-pussess personali tiegħu, kif għamel għal kważi 25 sena shaħ."

Imma sintendi l-attakk fuq Muscat komplew u jidher ċar li xi whud mhux se jieqfu qabel jaraw lil Muscat imressaq il-qorti.



Keith Schembri, u eks manigers mal-Allied Newspapers Vince Buhagiar u Adrian Hillman

## Tat-Times jghidu li huma l-vittmi

Sadaniant, *The Times* li zzeffnet fin-nofs minhabba l-fatt li din tiġi ppublikata mill-Allied Newspapers harġet tiddefendi lilha nnifisha u f'editorjal sostniet li hija vittima taċ-ċirkostanzi.

L-editor tal-*The Times* sostna li Allied Newspapers ma tindax fil-linja editorjali tal-gazzetta. B'referenza għal stqarrija li harġet l-Allied Newspapers fejn intqal li Keith Schembri qatt m'ghadda flus lill-kumpanija.

Fl-editorjal ingħad li jekk Schembri għadda xi flus lil Vince Buhagiar u Adrian Hillman, dan sar minn wara dahar id-diretturi l-oħra fil-bord tal-kumpanija. U ċaħdet li *The Times* setgħet iffradat lil Malta Enterprise mas-€750.000.

Il-kumpanija li tippublika kemm it-*Times of Malta* u wkoll is-*Sunday Times of Malta* qalet li hi m'ghandha l-ebda għarfien dwar xi irregolaritajiet għall-finanzjament ta' fondi li kienet talbet mill-entità tal-istat biex tibni u tforni l-istamperija l-għdida tagħha fl-Imrieħel.

Biss il-mistoqsijiet ma waqfux hemm.. Anzi l-ġurnalist veteran tal-*Maltatoday*, Saviour Balzan kiteb:

"Jekk hemm parti li harġet feruta min dan l-iżvilupp hija t-*Times*." Sostna li f'din il-kwestjoni kien hemm kwestjonijiet ta' trasparenza li t-*Times of Malta* titlob

mingħand haddiehor u li jidher li ma japplikax għaliha. Dan joħroġ mill-fatt li r-rapport tal-inkjesta interna tal-2016 li saret wara allegazzjonijiet fil-konfront ta' Adrian Hillman, eks-direttur manigerjali, baqgħet mohbija u hadd ma jaf x'fiha."

*The Times* hadet spunt minn dan biex isostni kemm tassew li l-linja editorjali tal-gazzetta taħdem b'mod indipendenti minn dik kummerċjali li titmexxa mill-kumpaniji Progress Press u Allied Newspapers tant li għalkemm talbuh, lanqas l-edituri ta' *The Times* u *The Sunday Times* ma ngħataw kopja ta' dan ir-rapport.

Nahseb li għad irridu nisimghu aktar dwar l-involvement tal-Allied Newspapers f'din l-istorja, aktar u aktar jekk qed issir ukoll investigazzjoni dwar Michel Rizzo, id-Direttur Manigerjali preżenti ta' l-Allied Newspapers dwar l-ghajnuna li ngħatat mill-Gvern lill-Allied Newspapers.

Huwa mifhum li wara li fl-20 ta' Marzu li għadda l-Pulizija ressqet il-Qorti hdax il persuna, disat irġiel u żewġ nisa, fosthom daww imsemmija fil-każ ta' *The Times*, f'għeluq ta' żewġ inkjesti Maġisterjali u investigazzjonijiet intensivi mill-Iskwadra ta' Kontra l-Hasil tal-Flus fi hdn id-Dipartiment tal-Investigazzjonijiet tar-Reati Finanzjarji, il-Pulizija, qegħda tressaq nies oħra b'total ta' 20 persuna.





## A quick glimpse at Australia



Submerged farmhouses near Richmond during the March floods

## After the March floods in NSW

**A**ustralia is a country of extremes: 33,500 millimetres of rain were recorded in a week; 23 rivers had flood warnings; there were 1040 flood rescues and some 12,950 had asked for assistance.

The rain has subsided and now the clean-ups begin. The race is on to clear houses and farms of damaged goods and ensure contaminated mud from floodwater doesn't bake into properties.

The Federal Government has announced a major financial flood package for businesses and primary producers that have been hit by the state-wide flood crisis as they have stood with people whether through COVID-19, whether through bushfires, drought, and cyclones.

The split funding is to be shared between both levels of government.

## A child with three parents?

**A**ustralia's bishops have called on the Morrison Government to consider serious safety and ethical concerns as it considers legalising technology to allow children to be born with genetic material from three people.

The process, legal in the United Kingdom, uses one of two techniques using assisted reproductive technology aimed at preventing mitochondrial disease, a severe genetic illness, from being passed on from a woman who has the disease, to her biological child.

In the submission, the bishops said that concerns about safety, ethical practice, and efficacy "should not have the approval to proceed in Australia".

They outlined five main concerns including that the methods used do not respect the right to life and the human dignity of the individuals concerned and "would create a child with three parents, confusing the biological parentage of any children born".

The bishops also point to the use of pronuclear transfer in one of the methods as a form of human reproductive cloning which is unethical and poses "significant risks and inconvenience" to the women who would provide eggs to enable the procedures.

## A Minister in unprecedented times

**M**r Alex Hawke, the federal member for Mitchell in NSW, took over the role of Immigration Minister at an unprecedented time, with international travel expected to remain on hold until at least late this year as a result of border closures.

In an interview with SBS News, he said he believes migration will play a critical role in Australia's recovery from the pandemic but has admitted the challenge ahead is "absolutely haunting".

"I'm convinced that the migration program will be a huge part of how we recover from COVID and whether we will be as successful as we can be on that journey," he said.

The pandemic has also resulted in the challenge of people of migrant backgrounds being separated from family members and facing long wait times until any chance of a reunion because of the travel restrictions.

Mr Hawke said at this time, the government's focus is on ensuring the migration

programme can support Australia's economic recovery from the recession.

The shape and makeup of Australia's migration programme coming out of the pandemic remain an unclear prospect.

The latest federal budget has estimated a loss of 72,000 people from the migration intake for the 2020-21 financial year. Net overseas migration is not expected a return to positive levels until 2022-23.

Mr. Hawke said his own family's story of migration had shaped his view of the value of migrants to Australia's society. "Inherently, I understand the journey of migrating parents," he said.

"I understand like all migrants what it's like to move to a new country and become a second-generation person."



Immigration Minister Alex Hawke

Mr. Hawke is also Australia's Minister for Citizenship, Migrant Services, and Multi-cultural Affairs.



## A quick glimpse at Australia

### Summit on violence against women

Federal and state ministers will be meeting to discuss the timing of the summit as well as the money and policies needed for the next national plan, aiming for a draft agreement by September.

Social Services Minister Anne Ruston is pursuing the summit in the hope of repeating a gathering of more than 100 people three years ago, which led to a boost in funding across federal and state governments.

Senator Ruston wanted the summit last May but postponed the event due to the pandemic, leaving the timing to be discussed when she speaks to her state counterparts in a meeting of Women's Safety Ministers on April 7.

The summit is expected to hear from community leaders, experts, and state governments in a bid to create a national plan that builds on previous deals to fund emergency housing and other help for women and children.

### Sex in Parliament House Canberra

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has demanded cultural change around the treatment of women in politics.

Mr. Morrison lashed out at "shameful" reports of a group of Coalition staffers swapping graphic videos filmed inside Parliament House, Canberra, saying he was "shocked" and "disgusted".

A coalition staffer who filmed himself performing a lewd act on the desk of an MP he worked for has been sacked, and the government is investigating others involved.

"I want women to have at least the same opportunities and the same voice and the same safety as men in this country," he said.

"They motivate me every day on this issue. And to them, I say to you girls, I will not let you down."



### Family violence – an all-time high

Five years after Victoria's family violence royal commission, reports to police are at an all-time high and 26,000 women and children are being turned away from housing services every year.

While experts say the \$3 billion committed by the Andrews Government has made a big difference, and that the issues are complex and will take years to resolve, progress has been frustratingly slow in some areas.

As well, the expiry in June of funding for the state's Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor, which holds the Government to account, has been raised as a concern, as has the fact only seven of the forecast 17 Orange Door safety and service hubs are up and running.

Leaders from within the sector say the system remains overwhelmed and women are in danger.

### Pre-COVID-19 life in NSW?

The State of New South Wales is one step closer to "pre-COVID" life after a swathe of restrictions were lifted.

For the first time in more than 12 months, there are no restrictions on dancing, while people are now allowed to sing in any setting.

Other restrictions that have now been scrapped include: the cap on numbers at weddings and funerals; the cap on the number of visitors in the home (for more than 100 guests, there must be a COVID-19 safety plan and electronic record of all visitors).

Masks wearing on public transport is no longer mandatory, but is still "strongly recommended".

The only remaining restriction in place is

the 2-sq<sup>2</sup> rule that will apply for all venues (once there are more than 25 patrons).

While live theatres are operating at 100 percent capacity, show organisers require masks to be worn.

The use of electronic check-in and QR codes will also remain a legacy of the pandemic and the government is encouraging its use to continue across the NSW.

### Euthanasia now legal in three States

Tasmania is to become the third Australian state to legalise euthanasia after Tasmania's Parliament passed legislation with a final vote in the Legislative Council accepting amendments from the lower house.

Victoria and Western Australia have already made voluntary euthanasia legal. This was the fourth time euthanasia laws have come before the Tasmanian Parliament

since 2009.

After the bill receives royal assent from the Governor, it is expected to take up to 18 months to implement the new laws.

After passing the Legislative Council unanimously, MPs in the lower house voted 16 to 6 in favour of the bill. Because a raft of amendments was made, the bill returned to the upper house for a final sign-off.

### Class action against Melbourne's lockdown

The State government of Victoria is facing allegations of false imprisonment and battery over the controversial public housing tower lockdowns in Melbourne.

A class action has been filed over the mandatory coronavirus lockdown of nine public housing towers last July.

Residents who have joined the action are seeking damages for false imprisonment, battery, and assault, claiming they were left humiliated, degraded, and in physical pain after being detained in their buildings and COVID tested. It also alleges the government failed to consider relevant human rights.

A review by Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass found in December that detaining residents without notice, "appears to have been contrary to the law".

Residents were not told in advance that the lockdown would be happening, something also raised in the class action lawsuit.



**Michelle Rowland MP**

Shadow Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



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# Elton Stivala u l-Baritonu Sherrill Milnes

## Kultura

PeterPaulCiantar



Elton Stivala ►  
.. ifissat dwar il-  
bartonu Amerikan



**F**orsi għal xi whud, Elton J. Stivala huwa isem gdid fil-kamp mużikali. Personalment ilni naf lil Elton għal aktar minn 25 sena, minn meta kont nipprezenta l-programm *'Siesta'* fuq ir-radju FM Bronja. Dejjem kien jiktibli ittri ta' stoffa dwar il-baritonu Amerikan Sherrill Milnes, u dwru biss. Kull meta jikkellem dwar l-opra, dejjem kien jikkellem dwaru.

Elton, illum miżżewweg bil-familja tiegħu, huwa ffissat, b'mod pożittiv dwar Sherrill Milnes u jien qatt ma kont staqsejt għaliex din il-fissazzjoni kollha tiegħu dwaru u mhux dwar kantanti operistiċi oħra.

Kellhom jghaddu hafna snin biex ikolli t-twegiba u hsibt li naqsamha mal-qarrejja f'din il-kitba.

Lil Elton nafu sewwa u meta jkolli b'zonn xi *recordings* partikulari dwar dan il-baritonu Amerikan, dejjem nirrikori għandu għax naf li jaqdini sewwa. Minhabba din il-kitba, din hi l-ewwel darba tagħna nitkellmu lehen ma' lehen. Qabel kont nuża l-mezzi tax-xandir biex inwiegħbu għat-talbiet mużikali tiegħu u dan l-aħħar permezz tal-Internet.

### Il-lehen ta' Milnes

Il-gibda ta' Elton lejn il-mużika operistika bdiet meta kellu xi 16-il sena. Qabel kien isegwi tenuri famużi ta' dak iż-żmien, bħal Pavarotti u Domingo, imma qatt ma kien sema' opri shah. Dan kollu nbidel meta fettillu jisma' l-opra Rigoletto għall-ewwel darba.

Ir-recording kien dak ta' Pavarotti bħala d-Duka ta' Mantova, flimkien ma' Joan Sutherland bħala Gilda, u bid-direzzjoni orkestrali ta' Bonyng. Fir-recording kien hemm ukoll il-baritonu Sherrill Milnes.

Elton qalli li hekk kif beda jisma' din l-opra mill-ewwel is-sahhar bil-lehen ta' Milnes. Qalli: "Is-sahha u l-profondità fil-vuċi f'dik l-opra famuża jagħmluh uniku. Mhux hekk biss, imma laqatni wkoll il-mod naturali kif kien jilhaq certi noti għoljin li normalment jintlahqu minn tenur u mhux minn baritonu. Fi kliem iehor, l-interess tiegħi lejn l-opra beda minhabba l-impatt li l-vuċi ta' Milnes halliet fuqi."

Minn dakinhar Elton Stivala kompli jiskopri opri oħrajn u baritoni oħrajn. Qalli li jogħgbuh ukoll fost l-oħrajn, Piero Cappuccilli, Leo Nucci, Leonard Warren u Renato Bruson. Imma fil-lehen ta' Milnes qalli li jara u jisma' elementi kontrastanti, bħal qawwa u delicatezza fl-istess hin.

Wara r-Rigoletto, Elton kompli jiskopri lehen Milnes fl-opra Lucia di Lammermoor (li fiha Milnes ikanta l-parti ta' Lord Enrico Ashton).

### 'American Aria'

Minhabba dan linteress kollu

staqsejt lil Elton jekk qattx iltaq' ma' Sherrill Milnes u qalli li sfortunatament qatt ma rah jew iltaq' miegħu personalment.

Imma darba kellu l-unur li jkel-lmu bit-telefon. Dan sehh meta kellel lil habib tiegħu minn New York li kien jixtri vidjows tal-opra mingħandu u qallu dwar l-interess li kellu f'Milnes.

Dan inzerta li kien habib kbir tal-baritonu u qallu li f'dak ix-xahar kellu jmur fil-hanut tiegħu biex jiffirma kopji tal-awtobijografija tiegħu *American Aria*. Kien tah il-jum u l-hin biex incempillu.

Elton qalli li kienet esperjenza sabiħa hafna li rnexxielu jikkellem ma' Milnes. Kien ukoll impressjonat bl-umiltà u d-disponibilità tiegħu. Tkellmu dwar il-karriera tiegħu u dwar il-pjani li kellu għall-futur. Min-naħa tiegħu, Sherrill Milnes xtaq isir jaf aktar dwar Malta. B'sorpriza ftit tal-jiem wara Milnes kien bagħatlu ritratt tiegħu ffirmat minnu u b'nota biex jurih l-apprezzamet tiegħu.

Elton kompli jghidli: "Tul iż-żmien bqajt ingemma' kull opira li fiha hađem Milnes u diffiċli tgħid liema hi l-favorita tiegħi. Il-versatilità ta' Milnes tippermettilu jaddatta l-vuċi tiegħu għal diversi karattri operistiċi, minn missier li jaf iħenn f'*Luisa Miller* għall-hażen assolut ta' Iago f'*Othello*, u hafna oħrajn."

Elton hu tal-fehma li karattru operistiku li jibqa' sinonimu miegħu hawa dak ta' Macbeth fl-opra ta' Verdi, u speċifikament f'dak ir-recording live famuż ta' Bohm li kien sar fl-1970. Hawnhekk Milnes jagħti interpretazzjoni brillanti b'lehen b'sahħtu, mirqum u mimli emozzjoni li ppermettilu juri l-hila tiegħu li jgħaqqad flimkien l-element ta' hażen ta' dan il-karattru mal-elementi ta' hniena, biża' u fragilità.

### Metropolitan Opera House

Semmieli karattri operistiċi oħra li fihom Sherrill Milnes jibbrilla, fosthom fl-opri *La Forza del Destino* u *Don Carlo*. Elton qalli wkoll li għandu wkoll vidjow recordings ta' opri li ha sehem fihom Milnes fil-parti l-kbira kollha maħdumin

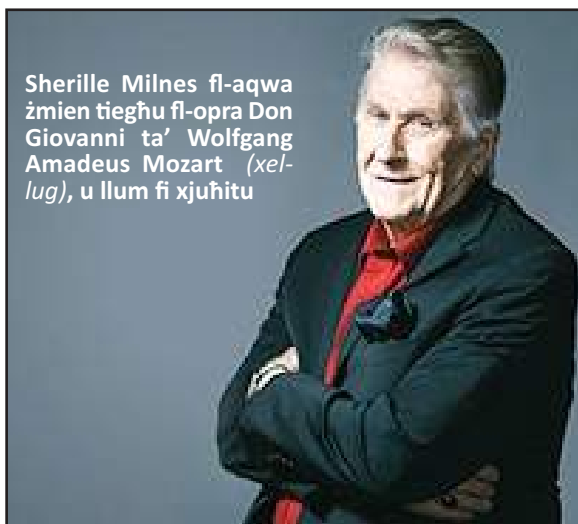
fil-Metropolitan Opera House ta' New York fejn Milnes kanta għal 32 sena.

Elton Stivala temm jghidli li fl-10 ta' Jannar ta' din is-sena, Milnes għalaq 86 sena u rtira mix-xena operistika li fiha qatta' 42 sena. Baqa' jsegwih kemm jista' permezz tal-midja soċjali, l-aktar fuq Facebook fejn Milnes għandu l-paġna uffiċjali tiegħu kif ukoll dik tal-ammiraturi tiegħu.

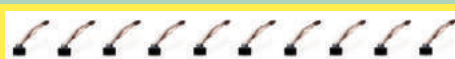
Għalkemm irtira mill-kant, Milnes qed jid-dedika haġtu jgħallem kantanti żgħażaġ u sikwit jghid li appart kantant hu dejjem xtaq li jkun għalliem. Fil-fatt gie rrapurtat li qal li jqis lilu nnifsi bħala għalliem li waqaf minn dan ix-xogħol għal 40 sena biex ikanta mad-dinja kollha.



Sherille Milnes fl-aqwa żmien tiegħu fl-opra *Don Giovanni* ta' Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (*xel-lug*), u illum fi xjuhitu



# Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti



## Deċiżjonijiet tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar il-varjanti tal-ortografija Maltija

**M**inn mindu twaqqaf il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti impenja ruhu li jhabrek biex isahhah il-kitba tal-Malti u fiha jintlahqu l-istandards mixtieqa. Imbagħad wara studju intensiv minn kumitat apposta tiehdu deċiżjonijiet dwar forum li għandhom jiġu wżati fil-kitba. Minn żmien għal żmien se nibdew nipubblikaw dawn id-deċiżjonijiet halli nsiru familjari magħhom u l-ortografija tal-Malti tkun waħda uniformi.

### L-aċċent

Fil-Malti jinkiteb biss l-aċċent 'meta jaqa' fuq vokali li tkun fit-tarf ta' kelmata b'aktar minn silaba waħda fi kliem li mhux ta' nisel Semitiku.

*EŻEMPJU:* karità, kafè, Mari, però, virtù

L-aċċent ċirkumfless ^ ma jintużax aktar.

### L-isem proprju

L-ewwel ittra ta' isem proprju u ta' kull kelma li tagħmel parti mill-istess isem, minbarra l-artiklu u l-prepożizzjoni, tinkiteb kbira. Jekk il-prepożizzjoni tiġi fil-bidu tal-isem, tinkiteb b'ittra kbira wkoll.

*EŻEMPJU:* Marija Borg, il-Gudja, Malta, Venere, Triq il-Kbira, Bieb il-Belt, in-nies ta' Tas-Sliema, l-Aġenzija Appogg, wasal Hadd il-Palm, mort Ta' Pinu u tlabt lill-Madonna ta' Pinu, f'Ta' Paris, l-Awtorità tax-Xandir, il-Kamra tal-Avukati, l-Ordni ta' San Gwann, il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb, il-Bank Nazzjonali tad-Demm, l-Università ta' Malta.

L-artiklu tal-bidu fl-isem proprju għandu jinkiteb b'ittra kbira meta jintuża waħdu, ngħidu ahna f'indirizz, f'tabella jew f'mappa.

Kull meta nom komuni jintuża b'sens ta' nom proprju jinkiteb

b'ittra kbira.

*EŻEMPJU:* Qieghed fil-hanut ta' wara l-knisja. **Imma:** illum il-Knisja qed tiċċelebra festa kbira.

Żort kemm-il pajjiż u dort kemm-il belt. **Imma:** Għada nidhol sal-Belt.

Biex titjieb fl-analiżi jehtieg tagħmel hafna kritika Prattika. **Imma:** Il-Kritika Prattika hija suġġett interessanti hafna.

### Il-pubblikazzjonijiet

Meta nikkwotaw pubblikazzjoni, l-ewwel ittra tal-isem tinkiteb kbira (anke jekk tkun l-artiklu).

*EŻEMPJU:* Dan ir-reklam kien deher f'Il-Ġens. Min hu l-karattru ewlieni f'Aħna Sinjuri; f'Is-Salib tal-Fidda; fi Hdejn in-Nixxiegha?

### L-ismijiet tal-postijiet

L-ismijiet tal-postijiet bl-element topografiku tagħhom jinkiteb b'ittra kbira.

*EŻEMPJU:* il-Baħar Mediterran, il-Vulkan Etna, ix-Xmara Nil, il-Muntanja Sinaj, il-Baħar l-Aħmar, l-Oċean Indjan, il-Wied tal-Isperanza, il-Blata tal-Ġeneral, il-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl, il-Bajja ta' San Tumas.

L-aġġettiv li jtnissel mill-isem tal-post jinkiteb b'ittra kbira.

*EŻEMPJU:* Ir-reġjun Bask mimli siġar. Iċ-ċentru Mosti mimli hajja.

L-isem tan-nies tal-post jinkiteb b'ittra kbira.

*EŻEMPJU:* Mosti, Ghawdxi, Ingliża, Germaniżi, Taljan, Ewropea, Amerikani

L-ismijiet tal-lingwi u tal-familji tal-lingwi u d-derivattivi nominali tagħhom jinkiteb b'ittra kbira.

*EŻEMPJU:* il-Malti, l-Ingliż, ir-Rumanz, kliem ta' nisel Semitiku, Ingliżata, Arabiżmu.

## Il-forma ta' kitba bħal 'idejH' u 'tieghU' għadha tinkiteb?

*Hafna minn ix daqqiet jistaqsu jekk f'kuntest reliġjuż, fil-kitba bil-Malti, il-pronomi meħmużin u possessivi għandhomx jinkiteb b'ittri kbar. Hawn taħt it-twegiba bħala tifisira li jagħti l-Prof. Manwel Mifsud*

**F**orom ta' kitba bħal 'idejH' u 'tieghU' huma bħall-hafna drawwiet li kellhom niesna dari biex juru l-vistu meta xi qarib jiġi nieqes. Kienu jaqilgħu l-habbat, ma jsajrux imma jieklu dak li jtuhom il-hbieb, jagħmlu strixxa sewda mal-bieb u ma' dirghajhom (l-irġiel), u tant hwejjeġ oħra.



Bħala drawwa, fl-antik kienu jaqilgħu l-habbata bħala sinjal ta' vistu

Illum dawn ma jsirux, lanqas biss noholmu li nagħmluhom, imma dan ma jfissirx li r-rispett lejn il-qraba naqas. Infissru ruhna mod ieħor, b'mod li jaqbel iktar mal-hajja li ngħixu llum.

L-istess dawn il-forom tal-kitba, mħumiex il-qofol tar-rispett lejn il-hwejjeġ reliġjużi għeżiež. U llum ma nħobbux nagħmluhom, anke għax l-ittri kapitali stess - ejja ngħiduha - bil-mod il-mod forsi għad jiġu mhedda mill-kitba "lajka" u "prożajka" tal-internet.

Fl-istess hin, inhoss li għandu jkollna rispett shiħ lejn min għadu marbut magħhom. Għax il-bidla m'għandhiex tkun imposta fuq min ma jhossih.

Inkun qed ingegħluh iġib ruħu kontra dak li jhoss - haġa li ahna niftahru li llum ma nħobbux u ma rridux nagħmluha. Għalhekk, min ikun jikkoreġi test reliġjuż bħal dan, nahseb li d-deċiżjoni għandu jiddiskutiha ma' "sid it-test", ifakkru li din hi tip ta' kitba li għoddha nqatgħet u li ma tingħogħox mill-biċċa kbira kbira tal-qarrejja, imma mbagħad iħalli d-deċiżjoni f'idejha.

Fil-fehma tiegħi, qarrej tal-provi responsabbli għandu jinsisti li jikkoreġi l-iżbalji tal-kitba biss: f'dawn ma jistax iċedi jew jidhol f'kompromessi. Imma fejn jidhlu (a) inkonsistenzi f'xi varjanti u (b) forum bi stil differenti (bħalma qed insemmu), hemmhekk għandu jħalli l-aħħar għażla għal min għaddielu t-test.

Dawn ma jkunux kompromessi ta' hsara jew dgħjufija, imma ta' moħħ miftuħ u liberali.

## Tagħlim tal-Alfabbett Malti permezz tal-kant u l-mużika

**Q**arrejja omm ta' tewmin ta' hames snin qarrejja ta' *The Voice* li ssegwi hafna l-paġni dwar l-ilsien Malti xtaqet taf jekk hemmx xi mezz faċli li bih tghin lit-tfal tagħha halli jitgħallmu, kemm li jissnu, kif ukoll li jiktbu l-alfabbett Malti b'mod li jiehdu gost jitgħallmu, permezz ta' kant u mużika.

Fil-fatt qed nagħtu urls lilha u lil min bħalha jixtieq, minn fejn tista' tnizzel tliet videos minn fuq il-Youtube b'mod li jissodidfaha u jagħti gost lit-tfal. Fil-videos jinstema' l-kor tat-tfal ilhna Ferrieħa mill-iskola Primarja San Frangisk ta' Birkirkara li hađu sehem fi porġett irrekordjat xi snin ilu. L-idea originali tal-proġett kienet tal-Kap tal-Iskola Sr Giovannita Briffa, filwaqt li l-kliem

tal-kanzunetta huwa ta' Pauline Spiteri (li wkoll kitbet il-mużika), u ta' Sr Giovannita stess.

Dawn huma:

Diska tal-alfabbett bil-malti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaHxFY8tmTs>

L-Alfabbett Malti - ittri zghar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeM1Trggbw8>

L-Alfabbett Malti b'ittri KBAR

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_fpABYK06Q&list=RDw\\_f\\_pABYK06Q&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_fpABYK06Q&list=RDw_f_pABYK06Q&start_radio=1)





XeLUG: Il-Maġistrat Joe Mifsud jipprezenta rigal ta' rikonoxximent lil Mario Portelli; u membri fl-awla jsegwu l-prezentazzjoni lill-eks seħibhom li issa rtira

## Rikonoxximent lil Marixxall

Għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja tal-Qorti tal-Maġistrati ta' Ghawdex il-Maġistrat Joe Mifsud ta' digriet dwar idmet il-Marixxall Mario Portelli li fih qal li l-Qorti hadet l-opportunita' tal-ahhar seduta li fiha Portelli kien qed iservi qabel jirtira jirtira biex jssellem il-hidma li wettaq fl-ahhar 29 sena.

Il-maġistrat esprima d-dispaċir tiegħu li ma rnexxielux jikkonvincih itawwal iż-żmien tal-irtirar, imma flistess hin qal li jifhem iċ-ċirkostanzi.

Qal li kien ta' privileġġ għall-Qorti li mit-30 ta' Ġunju 2015 Portelli kien il-marixxall tagħha u li tul daż-żmien ddeċidiet 482 kumpilazzjoni u 4,583 każijiet tad-distrett. Zied jgħidli li kieku l-Qorti ma kelliex *supporting staff* bħall-Marixxall Portelli u d-deputati registraturi Mary Jane Attard u Joseph Grech kieku dan ix-

xogħol ma kienx jista' jsir u l-gustizzja ma kienx setgħet issir fi żmien raġjonevoli.

Mario Portelli, min-Nadur, għandu karizma kif problema jipprova jsołviha u mhux ikkabbarha, kunflitt isolvih bil-kelma t-tajba, u x-xogħol fdat lilu jwettqu bi professjonalizmu, skiet u kultant b'nuqqas ta' mezzi.

Mifsud qal li l-impjegati kollha se jhossu n-nuqqas ta' Portelli li kull filgħodu fit-8 kien isejjilhom għall-Angelus bis-sejha "ngħiduha tat-tmienja?" Qal li hi inizjattiva tajba għax anke tghin fil-komunikazzjoni bejn l-istaff.

Il-Maġistrat awguralu issa li se jkollu aktar hin igawdi lill-familja tiegħu. Is-suggerielu li jkompli bil-hidma tiegħu bħala membru tal-Leġjun ta' Marija u hegħu jibqa' jahdem favur il-kawża ta' be-atifikkazzjoni ta' Dun Mikiel Attard li

Mill-Gżira  
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri

Portelli

żgur li

jiftakru jgħidilhom

il-hsieb spiritwali qabel il-partita' tat-tim tal-futbol li Portelli kien jilgħab miegħu, in-Nadur.

"Gawdi d-delizzji tiegħek ... aktar hin fl-għalqa u meta jippermettu onsob għal dak permess u skont kif tipprovdi l-ligi," qallu.

Fl-ahharnett tah hajr u pprezentalu rigal żgħir mis-Santwarju ta' Pinu biex jibqa' jiftakar fix-xogħol li wettaq b'tant għozza.

\*Aktar dwar Ghawdex f'pagna 21



Fl-istampa tidher ora tal-bahar originali li fiha jidher il-patron Salvu Borg, ta' Milha (immarkat), flimkien ma' ghadd ta' sajjieda li kienu jahdmu miegħu fil-bajja tax-Xlendi



Il-mudell tat-Tagliaman

## Ghotja ta' mudell ta' opra tal-bahar

L-Kunsill Lokali ta' Fontana gie pprezentat b' mudell ta' Tagliaman, biċċa opra tal-bahar li kienet tintuza sas-snin 50 tas-seklu l-iehor fil-bajja tax-Xlendi mis-sajjied Salvu Borg, ta' Milha.

Din l-ghotja giet mahduma u mogħtija lill-Kunsill minn Anton Cordina, ta' Guzepp tal-Bazolli, sajjied mill-Fontana li joqgħod ir-Rabat.



## Imfakkra l-vittmi tal-COVID-19

**I**nstallazzjoni ta' '1 fuq minn 800 salib (*xellug*) magħmul minn injam riċiklat tpoġġew mat-turgien tal-knisja ta' Ghajnsielem li hija ddedikata lill-vittmi kollha li tilfu hajjithom madwar id-dinja minhabba l-pandemija tal-COVID-19.

Dan il-proġett frott tal-ideat tal-Viċi Sindku tal-lokalità Franco Ciangura bil-ghajjnuna ta' Joseph Ciantar, twettaq minn voluntiera tal-ghaqdiet tal-armar u drammatika ta' Ghajnsielem. Min-naħa tiegħu l-Kunsill Lokali tar-raħal ta l-ghajjnuna finanzjarja.

L-istess parroċċa sellmet ukoll il-memorja ta' Luigi Bergamo, eks direttur tal-Funderija tal-Qniepen fin-Normandja Franza, b'ċerimonja ta' tberik ta' wiehed mis-slaieb iddedikati għalih (*taħt*) mill-Arcipriet il-Kanonku Frankie Bajada. Sar ukoll talb għal dawk kollha li mietu fl-inxija.

Bergamo kien il-moħh u t-tmun fil-proġett tal-qniepen tal-Knisja Parrokkjali, ta' Ghajnsielem. Kien qatta' tliet ġimgħat fil-kampnar tal-Knisja jiehū jiddisinja l-istruttura li żżomm il-qniepen. Huwa miet dan l-aħħar wara battalja twila kontra l-COVID -19 f'Villedieu-les-Poeles.



Iċ-ċerimonja tat-tberik tas-slaieb mill-Kanonku Frankie Bajada, Arcipriet ta' Ghajnsielem. Jidhru wkoll Franco Ciangura (*xellug*) u Joseph Ciantar



# The St Francis of Assisi Parish of Warrawong, NSW (1956-2021)

In the late 40s after the Second World War, the Maltese started to arrive in Australia in large numbers and a considerable number settled in the Illawarra. Most settled around Cringila, Warrawong, Lake Heights and Port Kembla, suburbs of Wollongong.

In those days, there was not the help and information for migrants as today; so the new arrivals had to fend for themselves or seek help from others that arrived before them. In June 1951, a few men got together and formed a society called "The Union" (L-Ghaqda) later to be renamed "George Cross League of NSW".

As there was no church in Warrawong, the members of this newly formed society decided to start donating a shilling each week to hire a hall that was situated on the corner of Flagstaff and Bruce roads, to buy flowers and ask Fr. Gallagher the parish priest from Port Kembla to say mass for them on Sundays.

On special occasions like the feast of Our Lady of Victories on 8th September, which at the time was also Malta's National Day, a Maltese priest from Sydney would be invited to say mass and officiate on this special occasion. These were the Maltese Carmelite friars, Fr. Robert Cassar O. Carm. Fr. Licari O. Carm. and Fr. Camilleri O. Carm.

In 1953, the then Archbishop of Malta, Sir Michael Gonzi visited Australia and paid a visit to the Maltese of Wollongong. The members of the George Cross League took the initiative to organise a meeting with the Archbishop in the old Scouts Hall at Cringila, an area where many Maltese lived welcomed him.

It was here that the members of the George Cross League requested the Archbishop if it was possible to send a Maltese priest to look after the spiritual needs of the Maltese in the Illawarra.



Maltese Archbishop Sir Michael Gonzi welcomed by the Maltese settlers in his 1953 visit the Illawarra

## The Maltese contribution

George Bartolo

Three gentlemen, Joe Cassar, Joe Vella, and Frank Testa, with Fr Sebastian Scicluna OFM Conv. welcomed Fr Victor Bonello, a young Franciscan, from Xaghra, Gozo, on arrival by boat in Sydney on the 3rd of March 1956.

Fr. Bonello was to have stayed at the residence of the Cathedral in Wollongong, but, as the saying goes, "there was no room at the inn", so he had to stay with a Maltese family, the Casar's, for three months until an alternative place was found. He became the first parish priest and Maltese Chaplain of St. Francis of Assisi's parish at Warrawong.

His first project was to provide daily

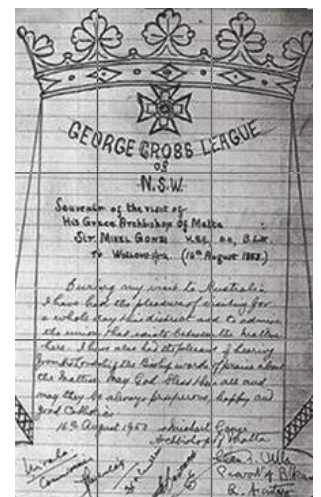
Mass in the hall on the corner of Flagstaff and Bruce Roads, Warrawong that was used for entertainment and wedding receptions on Saturdays and as a church-venue on Sundays. The Maltese financed the project to convert the hall into a permanent church. The church-hall had a loft out of which two rooms were temporarily adjusted as the priest's residence.

It was spartan indeed as it was bereft of basic bath and toilet facilities. Later, a house at 12 Bruce Road was purchased to serve as the residence for the priest-friars, as by this time a Polish Franciscan priest, Fr. Venantius Pelc OFM, joined Fr. Bonello to look after the Polish migrants living in the area.

*\*Continued on opposite page*

### A message by Archbishop Gonzi on the occasion of his visit to Warrawong:

*During my visit to Australia I have had the pleasure of visiting for a whole day this district and admire the unity that exists between the Maltese here. I have also had the pleasure of hearing from his Lordship the Bishop words of praise about the Maltese. May God Bless them all and may they be always prosperous, happy and good Catholics.*







Archbishop Sir Michael Gonzi during the visit to Wollongong with members of the George Cross League and their families. Front row (from left) Joe Magro, Denis West, Lawrence Pavia (president), Capt. Stivala (Maltese Commissioner), Archbishop Gonzi, Edgar Mercieca (Attaché), Joe Zammit, Emanuel Bezzina and Frank Delia. Back row: (on the middle): Fr. Camilleri and Fr. Vella Provost of Bir-kirkara and assistant secretary (August 16, 1953)

## The St Francis of Assisi Parish of Warrawong, NSW (1956-2021)

*\*Continued from opposite page*

He had been temporarily living at the Port Kembla Presbytery.

At this time, a lot of work was being performed and alterations occurred, that included the replacement of the stage with an altar to transform the hall into a church.

On the 4th of November 1956, then bishop of Wollongong His Lordship Thomas McCabe dedicated the hall as the Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi. Later, it became the school's parish. That was the humble beginnings of this Parish over 56 years ago.

Fr. Bonello was a person of vision. He embarked on his next project, a catholic school for the children of Warrawong, Cringila and Lake Heights. He requested that Maltese nuns be sent from Malta to teach and run the school. He bought a house a few metres from the church, and converted it into a convent.

On the 4th of November 1959, two Franciscans sisters, Mother Vianney Vella and Sr. Clarenza Vella of the Sacred Heart of Jesus arrived from Mackay Queensland

where they had been living five years after migrating from Malta. Later, they were joined by sisters Licia Azzopardi, Esther Attard and Edmondina Camilleri. Sister Vianney Vella was appointed local superior and the school's principal. Sister Grace Cini arrived on the 15th of April 1964.

More sisters arrived from Malta, Imeldetta Fabri, Mary Camilleri and Vittoriana De-Battista. Over the years, 32 nuns arrived in Warrawong. Some of them returned for a second term. The Convent that they live in is called, "Our Lady of Fatima Convent"

The building that once served as a dance hall then a church has now has been transformed into a school. Movable partitions were installed and four classes were set up. The hall served as a school during the day and a church in the evenings. A fifth classroom was added later in the attic.

### Opening of St Francis school

On 31 January 1960, the bishop of Wollongong His Lordship Thomas McCabe blessed the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School and on February 2 it opened its

doors for students. Sisters Clarenza, Licia and Edmondina made up the staff.

The Maltese of Warrawong, Cringila, Lake Heights and Port Kembla were active in the development of the parish, and committees were formed to organise fund raising functions such as fetes, dances and raffles for the upkeep and maintenance of the church and school.

For several years in the sixties, the Miss Malta of Wollongong dinner dance used to be organised coinciding with the traditional feast of Our Lady of Victories (il-Bambina), that is venerated by the Maltese worldwide. It proved to be a popular event.

Fr Bonello's stay in Warrawong should be called the foundation period of the parish. He is known as the 'builder' for his role in initiating the construction of the school, hall and church. He was an excellent singer, strong enough to carry the entire congregation into singing.

### Fr Bonello leaves after 7 years

Fr. Victor Bonello stayed at Warrawong for seven years as in early 1963 he was transferred to a parish in Port Pirie South Australia.

Bishop McCabe noted Fr Bonello's transfer with regret as he had completed a considerable amount of work in the foundation of the parish of Warrawong. It was unfortunate that he could not stay another year to see his plans and efforts to complete the school building come to fruition.

The Bishop said in a letter, "I can say in truth that I have rarely come in contact with such a zealous priest and a priest with a real spirit of self-sacrifice".

A priest from Qormi, Fr. Sebastian Scicluna OFM who had spent several years as a missionary in Northern Rhodesia, (now Zambia), took up the position of parish priest at Warrawong, to be assisted by another Maltese friar Fr. John Grech OFM.



Fr Victor Bonello (in the middle, third row from front) is greeted by the Maltese of the Illawarra as he arrived from Malta in the hall that was later to become the church

*\*Continued in next issue*



# Do you know where Fort Malta is?



Ron Borg

I was asked by an Aussie mate if I knew where Fort Malta was situated. I admit I did not know but I presumed that it was a fort located either by the Grand Harbour in Valetta or near Mdina Malta. My mate laughed at me and promptly said, "It is right here in South Australia mate!"

I was dumbfounded to say the least, not knowing about a Maltese Fortress located right here on my doorstep in Adelaide, so I promptly set out about researching some facts regarding Fort Malta.

The story begins in 1878, when the prosperous colony of South Australia was feeling the need to defend itself from the possible invasion of any European powers. Consequently, Fort Glanville was established at Semaphore Park in 1880 and later on Fort Largs was established with more powerful guns about some three and a half miles down the coast at Taperoo.

In 1901, the Australian 920-ton steamer, HMAS Protector was the most powerful sole gunship for South Australia.

During the first World War, Fort Largs was actively used as a fort to protect the South Australian coast with its essential industries at nearby Port Adelaide and Outer Harbour. It was also used for men to enlist as soldiers for the overseas war, and used as an internment camp for aliens, or people from countries that we were at war.

## Defending Adelaide

From the onset of WW2, the possibility of air and sea attack was becoming evident to the military authorities, who started to consider the defence for Adelaide. The coast of Port Adelaide was defenceless, especially after Fort Largs had been dismantled, so it was then that the plan for Fort Malta was hatched. This fort was to be located in the sand hills a little under half a mile north of Fort Largs, about two and a half miles from Outer Harbour, and one and half miles from the railway station.

**Moving artillery guns to Fort Malta in 1942 from Fort Largs (left) and through the sand hills.**



The 6-inch Artillery Guns were transferred to Fort Malta from Fort Largs to cover the sea front of Semaphore and Largs Bay Piers, and the wharves and breakwater at Outer Harbour, as well as being able to fire inward towards Torrens Island. It became mandatory that any ship approaching Port Adelaide needed to be cleared by the staff at Fort Malta because it had then become the official Examination Battery.

Sixteen women and 20 men commanded by a Major, a Captain, and two Lieutenants supported by 14 Signal Corps staff and 10 trades and technical staff manned

**The Gunnery at Fort Malta in South Adelaide the Artillery Battery.**

The role of protection for the Outer Harbour was essential because it was a safe harbour and an assembly point for local convoys of ships, while the adjacent peninsula had industries like the Gas and Electricity that were critically essential to the whole Adelaide population.

Fort Malta's task was to defend against the Japanese Naval Destroyers, Submarines, ships or seaborne aircraft using bombs or even gas. Concrete pillboxes and trenches were built strategically along the beach near the fort, and sentries patrolled the areas.

Thorough procedures were established for Fort Malta in the event of a gas attack, an air raid or even a commando attack. Even any ships entering the Gulf of St. Vincent was required to give notice when they were to be in the vicinity, especially as they often had to travel at high speed to avoid any enemy submarines.

The situation was considered serious enough to carry the warning that a sailing vessel that were not recognised could be fired upon!

The fort was soon dismantled after the end of World War II. However, it is with pride that the main fortress that protected the main port of Adelaide in South Australia was named after MALTA!!!







ABOVE Ms Susan Templeman (centre) and Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese speaking with the extended Muscat family at Pitt Town Bottoms.



Alexandria Muscat (left) shares a moment of levity with Ms Susan Templeman and Emergency Management Minister David Littleproud at her Freemans Reach turf farm

# Federal leaders visit farmers in the wake of floods

Federal leaders have visited members of the Maltese farming community whose businesses were left devastated by flooding in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

On Wednesday, March 31 Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, hosted both Emergency Management Minister David Littleproud and Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese in the region and introduced Mr Littleproud to several local turf farmers.

Afterwards she took Mr Albanese to the Muscat family farm at Pitt Town Bottoms, where William, Elizabeth, Andrew, Teresa and the boys' father, Jim, have been growing vegetables for decades.

"The focus of the visits was on primary producers, whose businesses have been devastated by the flooding," Ms Templeman said.

"Throughout this disaster, I have been in constant contact with Minister Littleproud and his office. He acted when I raised issues during the crisis about food security west of river, which was isolated, and now wants to see what is needed on the ground.

"It is good to know that the Army is in town, with planning already under way on how best to use their resources. I have expressed the view that turf and vegetable producers would be one of the groups to benefit from the extra manpower and expertise for the very urgent jobs they face, including stabilising the riverbank in order

to operate their pumps."

Ms Templeman went on to say that farmers like Alexandria Muscat of Green Life Turf and her neighbours were able to explain the challenges they now face, particularly around issues such as keeping staff on and dealing with further erosion of the riverbank.

"These are issues I will continue to advocate on, and are ones which must be supported by all three levels of government," she said.

Ms Templeman said it was the second time farmers in the Pitt Town Bottoms area had been impacted by flooding in just over 12 months. "Growers have been doing it tough and I was glad they were able to bring their story straight to the Opposition Leader," she said.

Mr Albanese was able to meet with the Muscats and hear first-hand the issues they

face as they clean up and start the process of re-establishing their crops and business.

In the meantime, primary producers like market gardeners and turf farmers are being encouraged to apply for Special Disaster Grants, which have been announced to provide up to \$75,000. The NSW Rural Assistance Authority has more information for those looking to access the grants.

Ms Templeman said that while these grants can provide some short-term relief, there are a range of other issues that need addressing in coming weeks and months.

She thanked the Muscat family who talked about the challenges they and their neighbours are now facing.

Ms Templeman pointed out that it was important to listen to those who have farmed on the river for many years so a way could be found to deal quickly and effectively with flood issues into the future.

## DST ended Sunday Apr 4

Last Sunday April 4 most Australians got an extra hour of sleep as Daylight Savings Time (DST) ended in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory as clocks were turned back an hour at 3am.

DST, which is not observed in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory, begins again on the first Sunday of October, which is October 3.

In Malta, and most of Europe DST (or Summer Time) started on Sunday, March 28 when clocks were set forward one hour.



Contact me for information on disaster payments and other help for farming families

**SUSAN TEMPLEMAN MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE

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Authorised by S.Templeman. ALP (NSW Branch), 299 George St., WINDSOR NSW 2756







HC Mario Farrugia Borg (with from left), Dr Michael Pulch (EU), Ms Francesca Tardioli (Italy), and Ms Alicia Moral Revilla (Spain)

## High Commissioner of Malta in Australia calls on Heads of Diplomatic missions

The High Commissioner of Malta in Australia, HE Mr Mario Farrugia Borg embarked on a series of courtesy calls on Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Canberra starting with a call on the Head of the EU Delegation, HE Dr Michael Pulch, the High Commissioners for Cyprus, and Ghana, and the Ambassadors of the Republic of Italy, Estonia, Poland, and Spain.

The themes discussed with fellow Heads of Mission revolved around the new realities created by the challenge of the ongoing pandemic, and shared experiences with working with, and the importance of keeping identities, culture and traditions alive with respective Diaspora and subsequent generations born in Australia.

Throughout these productive courtesy calls, the diplomats shared histories, commonalities and intrinsic connections with Commonwealth and partner countries in the EU. They committed to putting these cherished connections and links to fruitful use.

The High Commissioner was also briefed with ongoing activities across political, socio-economic and Research and Innovation engagement between the EU and EU Member States.

In his meeting with Dr Michael Pulch at the EU Delegation premises in Canberra, they discussed the COVID situation in Malta and the rest of the European Union.

Mr Farrugia was also briefed on current and ongoing activities of the EU Delegation in cooperation with EU Missions in Australia.

In the meeting with the Ambassador of the Italian Republic, Francesca Tardioli, and Malta's High Commissioner Farrugia Borg spoke about their previous experiences in serving their countries, and about

their countries' traditional and long standing bond and friendship, emanating not only from their geographical proximity but also due to the similarities in traditions and culture and the common values that Malta and Italy both uphold and cherish.

In the meeting with the Ambassador of Spain H.E. Ms Alicia Moral Revilla, which was Mr Farrugia's last courtesy call, they chatted about the difficulties and hardships faced by their respective diasporas who left their native countries in search of a better future, and the heartbreaking stories behind thousands of migrants.



High Commissioner with Joseph Agoe (Ghana)



## Lura lejn in-normal?

Is-sitwazzjoni tal-imxija tal-COVID-19 hija fluida hafna. Fi NSW ir-restrizzjonijiet kważi kollha naqsu sewwa iżda meta naħsbu li kollox sewwa jispikkaw xi każijiet fi'xi stati oħra. Il-qarrejja huma mwissija biex dejjem iżommu ruħhom mgħarrfa u aġġornati.

Fil-qasam tal-komunità bdejna naraw xi attivitajiet. Iċ-ċentri ta' Gringilla, Black-

FUQ (*linja xellug*): L. Vella, F. Innis, C. Barbara, E. Brown, L. Dimech; (*Lemin*): L. Gatt, N. Gatt (president), F. Montesin, M. Previtera.

town u Marsden Park jinsabu lura għan-normal, għalkemm b'xi restrizzjonijiet skont l-awtoritajiet tas-Saħha.

Hawn jidhru l-membri tal-Maltese Welfare NSW li itaqghu mill-ġdid fis-sala San Ġorġ fi Greystanes. Dan il-grupp li ilu mwaqqaf mill-1977 għadu mimli heġġa u dan l-aħħar anke gibed lejha membri ġodda.

# Community News

## Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

### On SBS Radio

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

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

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

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

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



mand on l-Internet: [www.893fm.com.au](http://www.893fm.com.au)  
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am)  
Il-Ħadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.

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

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

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

Web streaming:

[www.coastfm.org.au](http://www.coastfm.org.au)

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

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

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

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

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

### Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF

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

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

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

## MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW



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



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

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

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## La Valette Social Centre



La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

**The Centre is now open again two days a week, Thursdays, Saturdays**

Next events: April 8: Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General.

For an appointment call Consulate on (02) 9262 9500

April 18 - The "3" Maltesers, featuring DJ George Galea, Charlie Camilleri & Elvis performer Paul Fenech. Four-hour music extravaganza from 2pm.

**Flexible Respite** is operating normally but Centre-Based Respite is restricted due to low numbers that can be transported.

**Charlie's Family Restaurant** is open Thursdays and Saturdays for lunch and dinner.

**Bocci pitches** are operating again with some restrictions.

**Bingo:** Saturdays only at 8.00pm preceded by short Maltese movie at 7.30pm.

**MASS:** Thursday: 10.15am; Saturday: 5.30 p.m. (subject to availability of a priest.)

## L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiet tagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma mhegga biex jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: [www.tvn.com.mt](http://www.tvn.com.mt). għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.





## Maltese lose but impress in World Cup qualifiers

**M**alta's national football team only managed one point from their triple-header of matches in the 2022 World Cup European Group H Qualifiers, but the players' spirited performances during all the three matches did the players proud and delighted the Maltese supporters. Malta lost 3-1 to Russia at the National Stadium, three days later held Slovakia at Trnava 2-2, and then lost 3-0 in Rijeka against Croatia. There was nothing to be ashamed of.

Against Russia Malta gave a strong performance in the first 20 minutes despite conceding a goal by Daniil Dzyub on 23

minutes. They then took control in the second half. However, goalkeeper Bonello was beaten by Mario Fernandes (35th). Malta were back in the match with a goal by Joseph Mbong (56th), only for the Russians to add a third in the 90th minute.

In the second match in Trnava against Slovakia Malta scored twice in the space of four minutes to lead 2-0 by the 20th minute. The goals were scored by Luke Gambin (16) and Alex Satariano (20). They held on to the lead until the Russians scored two quick goals in the second half through Dávid Strelec (49th) and Milan Škriniar (53). Malta continued to be dan-

gerous in breakaways but the opponents' experience told in the end.

The Maltese players gave another impressive performance in Rijeka against Croatia. They held out for the first 45 minutes and Croatia found it difficult to penetrate. However, Malta were denied what looked like a clear penalty in the 20th minute when defender Dujie Čaleta-Car handled in the box.

But in the end, class prevailed as the opponents dominated the second half and scored three times through Ivan Perišić (62), a Luka Modrić penalty (76) and Josip Brekalo (90).



## Parramatta's positive run continues

**P**arramatta Melita Eagles' positive progression this season continued unabated in the last fortnight as they managed two more wins in the NSW NPL4, and another in Round 3 of the FFA Cup.

In the league they ran riot in Lithgow against Western NSW beating them 7-2 with goals by Ali Dulleh (2nd & 21st min), Charles Abou Serhal (6th & 34th min), Milorad Cubrilo (30th min), and substitute Ashour Chiba (70th & 77th min).

Then on Saturday they preserved their 100% record with a solitary goal win against South Coast at the Melita Stadium thanks to a 48th minute goal by Jayden Young.

### FFA Cup Round 3

In midweek Parramatta beat Coogee United FC 4-1 in the FFA Cup thanks to goals by Jayden Young (40th minute) and a hat-trick from Clement Waoci (45th, 71st, & 81st minute).

### Second win for George Cross

**I**n the Victoria State League 1 North-West, Caroline Springs George Cross came from a goal down to beat Fitzroy City 3-1 to maintain their perfect start to the sea-

son. A brace for Rhys Saunders and a goal from Brian Summerskill gave them all three points.

The win was more meritorious as they played with only 10 men for over 70 minutes after Tyler James was red-carded. They conceded their only goal from a penalty.



## Malta delegate re-elected to UEC

**J**oe Bajada, the Secretary-General of the Malta Cycling Federation (MCF) was re-elected for another four years at a virtual Congress, to the European Cycling Union (UEC) to form part of a group of 15 delegates from 50 European countries with voting rights at the Annual General Congress of the International Federation Cycling Championships (IFCC) in September in Belgium.

The 15 UEC delegates were elected from among 29 nominated from different Federations. Due to changes in the UEC statute; the first four women and men were elected. The UEC also elected the Italian Enrico Della Casa as President for the four-year period 2021-2025. He was uncontested.

Joe Bajada, a Gozitan, got the vote of 37 of the 50 affiliated European Federations. He expressed his pleasure and satisfaction, not only for himself personally but also for the MCF, Malta and Gozo.

**Pictured above: Joe Bajada (left) with the newly elected UEC president Enrico Della Casa**

## Victor Mifsud wins NSW's Billiards event in his first final

**A**t 69, Victor Mifsud, known as All-Bukkett, has become perhaps the oldest first-time state title-holder in any sport in NSW by winning the NSW Minor Billiards competition recently held at the Central Coast Leagues Club in Gosford, representing the Marconi Club.

Victor, a proud Maltese, married to Lucy with one daughter and living at Wetherill Park is also well known as an actor and folk singer. He contested the State Minor Billiard, an event for entrants who had not previously held a state title, on and off for at least 44 years.

This was his first-ever final after three semi-finals.

The spry Mifsud won through a gruelling 10 hours round-robin competition on day one, and a further five hours on day two.

However, he still looked fresh and alert at the post-match celebration.

At 34, David Walsh, Victor's opponent, had represented his native Ireland numerous times. For his achievement Victor was presented with the Keith Lord Trophy, named after the competition's first winner in 1956.

Victor told the Voice of the Maltese, "This means everything to me, especially being Maltese. Now I have my name listed amongst great players."

Victor emigrated to Australia in 1973. He had started playing billiards at the Tal-Bagri Santa Helean club in Birkirkara.

We salute our compatriot for his persistence and dedication, and for making a name for himself and his country of birth.