



The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

Issue
251

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and digital magazine

April 20, 2021

The clear waters of
GHAR LAPSI (*limits of
Siggiewi*) on a beautiful
sunny day with Filfla
island in background

The new junction project at Marsa the
biggest ever infrastructural project in
Malta consisting of seven flyovers,
with an investment of €70 million was
inaugurated last Thursday by Malta
Prime Minister Robert Abela
(see report on page 11)





The convening of the representatives from the Maltese diaspora in the last convention in 2015 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta

Who really made a name abroad?

Issues dealing with the Maltese diaspora or rather what we call the Greater Malta rarely make the headlines in Malta nowadays. The annual report of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad, which was presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, caught the eye of the *Maltatoday* news portal's correspondent, James Debono.

Rather than emphasising what the Council has achieved, the writer reported about the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo, the current chairperson of the CMLA's proposal for a forum for Maltese experts living abroad, which will also be open to the public in Malta itself. The forum will be tasked with forging a sense of national identity and collaboration between Maltese "who have made a name abroad".

The article states that, despite its long history of emigration, Malta has rarely nurtured its own diaspora communities with few figures of prominence carrying the name of their ancestors' origin onto the world stage. Yet, few are the names whose persona could nurture Malta's global influence and soft power in a

way that compensates for small size and limited clout.

The Forum of Maltese experts living abroad would be expected to offer a vision for Malta's global contribution in "network of expertise." It would then "identify niches of opportunity for common endeavours", enabling it to contribute "to a vision of a future Malta... as an active contributor in both the regional and global level."



Minister Evarist Bartolo

Another idea is that of a "virtual forum" for young Maltese living abroad, as well as a 'Jien Malti' (I Am Maltese) campaign to address the decline of interest in community activities among descendants of the original diaspora, in countries hosting large communities of migrants such as Australia, the USA and Canada.

The digital campaign would be based on video clips in which Maltese living abroad speak about what makes them Maltese.

Works are also in progress to create a digital platform for the teaching of the Maltese language. Members of the council noted that current courses offered by the University were too expensive to entice third-generation Maltese who have lost touch with their language. However, the Council's report notes various instances in which local authorities have scoffed at requests by the Council to enhance the link with communities abroad.

Another proposal is for the PBS weekly TV news in Maltese on SBS Australia to feature subtitles in a way that makes it accessible and understood by younger generations of the diaspora community.

The Council also held discussions on the possibility of creating an e-ID for Maltese living abroad through which they can access government services. Identity Malta has not excluded it but has described the request as complicated requiring an additional cost and the creation of new software to cater for a new tier of people who are technically ineligible for an ID card.

The Planning Authority has also shot down a request to start informing Maltese emigrants about any planning applications presented in the vicinity of property they own in Malta. The PA replied that these could still access planning documents on the PA's digital information system, even if access to plans requires an E-ID.

Another issue discussed by the Council is the declining cohort of clerics serving in the diaspora. However, no call for expression of interest issued by the Maltese Curia has been successful. Moreover, since the church faces a similar problem at home, it is unlikely that more Maltese priests will be willing to serve in other countries.

**Reaction by prominent Maltese in Australia on opposite page*

*from opposite page

In view of the importance of these developments, about the decisions by the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad and the article produced in the Maltese newspaper, *The Voice of the Maltese* has pieced together the views of prominent Maltese in Australia. Below is their reaction

The reaction by prominent Maltese in Australia

The article by James Debono in the April 1 issue of *Maltatoday* beams the situation in the diaspora and deplores the “few figures of prominence carrying the name of their ancestors’ origin onto the world stage”.

This gives a skewed vision of the migration process and misses the point about Maltese settlement overseas.

There are now four times as many second-and-subsequent generation Maltese compared to the first generation who were born in Malta, and while the first generation of Malta-born is continuously and now precipitously declining, the number of second and subsequent generation shows a healthy increase.

The difference is that the remaining number (the Malta-born) first-generation still largely speak Maltese, have a Maltese accent, and largely follow the Maltese customs they brought with them.

Alternatively, most of the second and subsequent generations consider themselves primarily as citizens of their adopted country rather than as primarily Maltese, and while they have retained some elements of the original Maltese culture that is merely a romantic addition and is not their main interest.

Their culture and outlook are not different from others born and bred in Australia or their new country of origin. It is curious of the *Maltatoday* opinion writer to think that what constitutes the success of the diaspora can be measured by the undoubted success of a “few figures of prominence”!

More significant would be the degree of

education (sadly deficient in the original cohort), social cohesion, their economic status, etc.

In all of these parameters, the Maltese of the Diaspora have done very well. Compare the proportion of persons with higher academic qualifications that in the 1950s, when most migrants left Malta was a miserly three per cent, and even now, when at about 30 per cent, Malta have one of the lowest proportions compared to the rest of the EU.

Measure of success

In Australia, the proportion is nearer 50%. We can add to this almost full employment, one of the highest home ownership rates compared to other ethnic groups and the general Australian population, and similar criteria that is a far better measure of success of a community than the odd number of members of parliament.

The writer refers to the Council for Maltese Living Abroad as if it was a recent invention, when in fact its first meeting occurred in 2000.

Initially, Conventions were held every 10 years under the aegis of the Emigrants’ Commission. Later, under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, more frequently.

Although “Malta has rarely nurtured its own diaspora communities” that have been left to fend for themselves: the best example of this is the lack of support when in 1956 the Maltese Diaspora in Egypt were eliminated and left to find a new home all over the world with the exception of Malta

where its citizens were forbidden to settle.

The previous Councils have been making suggestions for improvement on a regular basis, which have been largely ignored. They include a dedicated interactive website that has now been established through the Museum for Emigration at Dar l-Emigrant and by other individuals not mentioned in the article, and certainly other efforts previously left to Maltese “who have made a name abroad”.

Also missing is any reference to efforts by members of the diaspora to publications about highlighting the achievements of fellow Maltese, such as Prof Maurice Cauchi’s: *Maltese Achievers in Australia*, *A Who’s Who of Maltese background in Australia and NZ*, *Maltese-born women writers in Australia*, Lawrence Dimech’s work in journalism, Manwel Casha’s work on *maintaining Maltese indigenous music*, Chircop’s work on *the Egyptian Diaspora*, Mark Caruana’s in research, many others and the work of many Maltese organisations around Australia.

Lack of encouragement is the absence of Maltese citizens who have been recognised by the Malta government in the annual honours list, in contrast to that of the Australian Government, where they are far better represented. A mention of this work would have produced a better balance to the article

The lack of interest in the concept of The Greater Malta that constitutes more than half of the Maltese citizens in the world comes from the top echelons of Maltese society and especially the media.



The members of the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad in their meeting in 2018 under the chairmanship of Minister Carmelo Abela



The representatives of the Maltese living abroad at the 2015 Convention at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta

Prominent well-connected lawyer and proud of her Maltese heritage

The personality nominated for the month of April is a respected lawyer specialising in Industrial relations and proud of her Maltese heritage. She has been married to the Hon Chris Bowen, the Federal Member for McMahon (previously known as Prospect) since 2004.

REBECCA MIFSUD

Rebbecca Mifsud is an experienced lawyer specialising in employment law and industrial relations. She is also the wife of the Federal Member for McMahon and Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen. He was also the Federal Treasurer of Australia in 2013 and was briefly interim Leader of the Labor Party in opposition.

Chris and Rebecca are raising their children Grace Mary and Max Atticus and two Labradors Tody and Ollie, in the suburb of Smithfield, NSW.

Rebecca's grandfather, Joseph (Giuseppe Patrick) Mifsud was born in Sliema in March 1918. His mother (Rebecca's great grandmother) was Caroline Sheridan, who at some stage migrated from Ireland to Malta.

Joseph married Mary Vassallo just before the end of World War II in Sliema. Mary's father was from Floriana, and her mother (Margherita Gatt) was from Senglea.

Joseph was a gunner and maintenance mechanic on submarines during the war. Like all Maltese during those days, he was a member of a large family. He was one of 11 children. Many of his brothers and sisters lost their lives in bombing raids.

After World War II, Joseph and Mary, together with their little daughter Margaret, made the journey to Australia, along with so many other Maltese. The small family settled in East Malvern, in Melbourne.

That is where their son Brian was born in 1951. In the 1960s, the family moved to Glenn Iris. Mary's father eventually joined them in Australia after the death of his wife.

Brian eventually moved to Sydney, where he met his now wife of 48 years, Jackie.

Chris Bowen flanked by Grace and Max



**PERSONALITY
OF THE MONTH
OF THE MONTH**

Brian and Jackie had two children: Rebecca and Simon. Of course, many family members remained in Malta.

It seems as politics runs in the family. Brian's cousin, Adrian Vassallo, a family

doctor, served for several years in the Parliament representing the districts of Ta' Xbiex, Gzira, and San Gwann. Brian's uncle, Joseph (JG) Vassallo, was prominent in the Maltese media as a political commentator.

Rebecca graduated in Law and Arts from the University of New England and worked as a solicitor for many years. She held senior positions in the trade union movement and for several years was on the board of Energy Australia. She is currently the Manager of Industrial Relations at Sydney Water and sits on the Board of the Whitlam Institute.

Rebecca met Chris Bowen at a Labor Party conference in 2000 where she was a delegate for the Electrical Trade Union. They were married in 2002. Their daughter Grace was born in 2005, and Max came along in 2008.

Rebecca's parents Brian and Jackie have visited Malta on several occasions staying in Sliema. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis delayed Chris and Rebecca's plans to visit Malta for the first time with their children.

However, as soon as restrictions allow for international travel a visit to Malta is high on the list of priorities for the family.

Grace and Max were delighted to meet former President Marie-Louise Preca when she visited Australia in 2016. They talked with her about their proud Maltese heritage.



Australia gives green light for April 25 commemoration

Malta marks ANZAC Day 2021 with virtual memorial service

Across Australia, Anzac Day events on April 25 have been given the green light by state governments to proceed with marking the occasion with crowds, as long as COVID-safe planning is in place. However, overseas services have been cancelled or subdued due to the pandemic. These include the memorial service in Malta and other countries, and the Anzac Day dawn service held in Gallipoli as well as Australian-run services held in Italy and France.

In fact, although this year the Australian High Commission and New Zealand Honorary Consulate cannot commemorate ANZAC Day because of the COVID-19 restrictions, they have nonetheless promised to mark it solemnly and meaningfully together in Malta with a short, private virtual wreath-laying ceremony.

The memorial service ceremony is to be recorded and posted on social media at @AushCMalta and @NZin-Malta later that day. They are both inviting anybody to watch it when convenient.

Ceremonies to mark the day have been held in Australia, New Zealand, Malta and in many other countries since 1916, initially to remember the first landing of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (the ANZACs) on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. Over the years, their commemoration had come to encompass all men and women from both these countries who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in many capacities.

In a message coinciding with the commemoration, Jenny Cartmill, the Australian High Commissioner in Malta, and Kevin Bonnici, the New Zealand Honorary Consul explained that the formation and deployment of the ANZACs marked the first time that the armed forces of Australia and New Zealand had been identified separately from Britain's, and symbolised a growing sense of national self-confidence and identity.

In the eight-month Gallipoli campaign, many thousands on both sides were killed, and many more were wounded. The ANZACs did not defeat the Turks, but both sides admired and respected the other's tenacity and bravery.

The ANZACs' ranks included 48 Maltese Australians and six Maltese New Zealanders who gave up everything to fight for their adoptive countries. In addition, Malta looked after many of the injured and evacuated troops in



The ANZAC Monument at the Argotti Gardens in Floriana

hospitals and convalescent camps.

Malta has also provided a burial ground for 229 Australian and 72 New Zealand ANZACs and their names are also inscribed on a beautiful monument set up by the Maltese-Australian Association in the Argotti Gardens.

While expressing their deep gratitude to Malta and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for their care and continuing shelter, the representatives of the Australian and the New Zealand governments are hoping to again be able to meet to remember them in person.

Meanwhile, in Australia, this will be the first full, traditional ANZAC Day to be held since the COVID pandemic forced everyone into lockdown last year, resulting in the alternative yet moving driveway dawn service to be introduced instead.

Anzac Day commemorations, including marches, parades, dawn services and other remembrance services can take place. To protect the community and those who may be vulnerable, it has been proposed that all ANZAC Day commemorations should

be planned for and undertaken in a COVID Safe way.

Sydney's Anzac Day parade will go ahead with double the previous number of people allowed after the NSW Government granted a special exemption. A total of 10,000 people will be allowed to march in the CBD on April 25, with 5000 allowed to attend all other commemorations across NSW.

The commemorations in Queensland will take place as normal, with no restriction on numbers at outdoor Anzac events, and marches – including the march to be held in Brisbane's CBD – and dawn services are to be held as they would any other year.

Queensland's Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young has also confirmed that there will also be no requirement for people to wear masks.

In Victoria, Melbourne's Anzac Day march, that was unable to go-ahead last year to the disappointment of many as coronavirus took hold of Victoria, will be allowed to go ahead with 5500 people allowed to attend.

The Australian Capital Territory will still hold its Anzac Day Dawn Service but it will be a ticketed event with a cap of 4,200 people. A crowd of 3,000 people will be allowed to attend the National Ceremony, which traditionally includes the veterans' march.

Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – My Seventies

Malta becomes a Republic and frees itself of foreign domination



Prime Minister Dom Mintoff is given the oath of allegiance to the Republic by Malta's First President Sir Anthony Mamo. RIGHT: The then Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Emm. Attard Bezzina

The seventies also marked two of the historic events in Malta's constitutional progress. The first occurred on December 13, 1974 when Parliament approved amendments to the Constitution for Malta to become a Republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

On that cold and bad-weathered fateful day the Queen of England did not remain Malta's Head of State, and was replaced by Sir Anthony Mamo as the first President of the Republic. He was greatly respected by all the Maltese.

Sir Anthony Mamo had been senior legal consultant to four Prime Ministers, and professor of criminal law at the University. Sir Anthony. He had earlier been appointed Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal.

The event continued to strengthen what had been acquired ten years earlier through Independence.

The new Constitution was approved by two thirds of the House of Representatives made up of government and opposition members of Parliament. Out of a total of 55 MPs, six abstained.

Malta received several messages of congratulations from various Heads of State and Prime Ministers. They included Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the then British Prime Minister Mr Harold Wilson and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Mr Arnold Smith.

The event was met with various



Joseph Lanzon

celebrations that included a fireworks display over the Grand Harbour and Trooping the Colour parades in St. George's Square in Malta's capital, Valetta.

As the Commander-in-Chief of Malta's Armed Forces President Sir Anthony Mamo took the salute.

Only two-and-a-half years before this important day, on March 26, 1972 in London, Malta had signed the defence and financial agreement with Britain.

It gave Britain the right keep stationing its Armed Forces in Malta. Dependent upon the Defence Agreement, it also covered the provision of British aid to Malta. Both these Agreements had been due to run until 1974.

The signatories were Britain's Defence Minister Lord Carrington who led the British delegation, and Prime Minister Dom Mintoff who led Malta's delegation.

Joins Malta Tourist Board

In 1974 I changed career and joined the Malta Government Tourist Board where I was put in charge of the Benelux and Scandinavian desk. Our tourism is closely connected with the history and culture of Malta. The story of our island fascinated me.

Since starting work in Valletta in the mid-fifties during my long lunch break, I used to visit the Santa Barbara bastions for a wonderful panoramic view of the Grand Harbour with the remains of the damaged 'breakwater', Fort St. Angelo on the tip of Birgu, the 'vedette' on the tip of Senglea and the majestic bastions that surround the cities of Cottonera in the background.

From this vantage point I would let my imagination run riot. I could imagine the Turks scaling the walls of Birgu and Senglea in the Great Siege of 1565; the attack by the Italian E Boats on the warships in the Harbour on 26th July 1941; HMS Illustrious entering the port among the frenetic attacks by the German warplanes in January 1941; the mighty warships of the Royal British Navy, escorting 76 captured and surrendered warships of the Italian navy, entering our harbour in triumph in 1943, and other episodes that make up the history of our nation.

I loved this game. I enjoyed living history as it unfolds during the different periods.

After its destruction by Italian E boats on 20th July 1941, the 'breakwater', that is 70 meters long took 71 years to be rebuilt.

It was reconstructed and opened in 2012. For history's sake, King Edward VII laid out the first stone of the original 'breakwater' on 20th April 1903.

I was happy to be part of this team working to increase tourism to Malta, an industry that is one of the most important pillars for the island's economy.

Malta is a small island, but it has a lot to offer to the tourists, primarily the archaeological remains of Hagar Qim, Ggantija and the Neolithic temples that go back thousands of years. Here one can get glimpses of the early peoples that inhabited our islands.

Malta is also part of the story of the many nations that from time to time have occupied our country. They have all left behind fingerprints of their culture, traditions and language. They were the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Normans, the Arabs, the Knights of the Order of St. John, the French and the British.



Dom Mintoff (left) and Lord Carrington signing the defence agreement at Marlborough House, London

**Continued page 7*



Then President of Malta Dr Anton Buttigieg and his wife Margery Helen saluting HMS London on its way out of Grand Harbour for the last time on April 1, 1979

Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – *My Seventies* / from page 6

As a result of the agreement with Britain Malta would receive £14 million a year over a period of seven years. Apart from that, Italy promised to grant a further £2.5 million and to provide other economic aid worth £7 million. Malta, therefore, was to gain many advantages that were welcomed by all sectors of the inhabitants.

The 'Vulcan' plane crash that devastated Zabbar

Marking the end of an era

On 31st March 1979, with the expiry of the Defence and Financial Agreement with the UK, the last British armed forces left Malta for good, but not before a symbolic ceremony to mark the occasion was held on the newly erected Freedom Monument in Birgu.

The ceremony consisted in the lowering down of the British flag and the hoisting in its place, the Maltese national flag. Now Malta was truly a nation on its own.

As part of the occasion that marked the end of the Malta-UK Defence Treaty on the morning of April 1 the last UK forces left Malta on board the Royal Navy destroyer HMS London.

It was given the last salute at Grand Harbour by then President Anton Buttigieg and his wife Margery Helen marking the end of an era as Malta's long history as a British military base came to an end.

I followed closely Malta's courageous steps of its political and constitutional development in my lifetime: from a colony to Independence in 1964 (Independence Day); from Independence to a Republic in 1974 (Republic Day), and when the last troops left the island for good in 1979 (Freedom Day).

I wanted to be able to tell the next generations of my family that "I was there".

On the afternoon of October 14, 1975, I heard a deafening noise like a bomb explosion and rushed out of the house to see what it was all about. I found that several of my neighbours were already out in the street in an agitated mode. In a matter of minutes, word got around that a plane had crashed in Zabbar on some buildings, and that people had been killed, many others were seriously injured.

Zabbar was literally a stone's throw away, so along with some others, I hurried to the town to witness firsthand what actually happened. However, the Police had cordoned off the site of the crash in lower Sanctuary Street, the town's main street.

A Royal Air Force Avro Vulcan B2 bomber had aborted landing at RAF Luqa exploded in mid-air and its debris including its fuel tanks crashed below. Five crew members and one civilian were killed while 20 others were injured. Firefighters



took hours to put the flames out.

The two pilots survived by using their ejection seats. The crash caused extreme damage to several buildings.

One of the severely injured was a good friend of mine who later recounted to me that, while he had lived through the bombings of the last World War, this crash was a worse frightening experience. Incidentally, one of the severely damaged houses was rebuilt at the expense of the RAF and renamed 'VULCAN'.

Secretary to two different Tourism ministers

Between 1976 and 1980 I was Secretary to two different Ministers of Tourism, first Dr Daniel Piscopo and then to Mr Danny Cremona. They were very different in character and behaviour.

Piscopo was mild-mannered, calm and gentle. He was an excellent negotiator when the occasion so required – and it often happened – during disputes between the Union and the hotels.

Cremona on the other hand, was impulsive and would lose his temper rather easily.

But he was charismatic and a brilliant orator. He had the ability to make his audience laugh or cry. He had the power to move people and to generate enthusiasm wherever he went.

However, both Ministers had one common denominator: they had a genuine love for the common man, always wanting to help those left behind by society, not only those from their own constituency, not to gain votes or other benefits, but to ease hardship and suffering of the common people.

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 ...

Success is slowed with bureaucratic requirements

JL Bonnici from San Francisco USA writes:

The recent article in the *Maltatoday* news portal is appreciated because it shines a light albeit a faint one on the Maltese Diaspora or better still The Greater Malta living away from the shores of the island all of us call home.

The proposals mentioned in the article have been discussed at nausea. What kind of support and traction have they received? Will change happen NOW?

So many bright, enthusiastic, experienced professionals of Maltese living abroad who brought about big changes in the past such as the dual citizenship for people of Maltese descent, the eligibility for Maltese passport, social security agreements.

They were huge achievements and big successes for Maltese living abroad only to be slowly eroded away and burdened with

heavy fees, and awkward and difficult bureaucratic requirements.

The gnawing of such benefits that brought Maltese living abroad closer to Malta has soured and disenfranchised the original enthusiasm.

Other nations not only talk about a strong and engaging diaspora, they support it, they make it easy for the members of the diaspora young and not so young to keep the flame lit up and shining brightly.

We've had CMLA meetings.... many of them. We've had conventions...many of them still, but when the delegates return to where they came from, who waters the seedlings sowed in Malta? Who nurtures, encourages, and champions that which was discussed and agreed upon?

Allow me to say it in Maltese: *Il-kliem iqanqal iżda l-eżempju u l-azzjoni jkaxkru.*

We are the lucky ones

Anthony Cassar from St Albans, writes:

I believe that in Australia we should thank the Almighty that the COVID-19 pandemic had not been so hard or did not affect us too much. Yes, we should also give credit to the authorities in some of the states for being quick to take the measures, and for being strict enough to stop the pandemic from spreading.

But the thanks stop there. I also think that one of the reasons that we have been spared so much grief is that Australia is so far from anywhere, therefore, we have been spared the variations that started in the UK and spread around most of Europe, including Malta.

I had been informed that 80 percent of the high numbers of positive cases in Malta a few weeks back had mostly resulted from the English variant, and the irresponsibility of some people who did not care that much about restrictions or infecting themselves and others.

I can understand that, as even in some states in Australia, when the going was tough, some organisations that should have known better, especially those supposedly looking after the elders, became complacent much too early and started organising meetings and social gatherings without even taking the needed health precautions.

Now, hopefully we are on the mend, however it is quite disgusting that the roll-on of the vaccine is taking so long in Australia. That too means complacency from the government's side.

Ridiculous postal delay

D. Briffa from, Pendle Hill NSW writes:

Readers will hardly believe that a letter posted in Valletta, Malta on the 13th January this year arrived in Sydney NSW on the 16th April.

I know we are in the midst of a pandemic but this is ridiculous. It is more like a slow boat to China. The letter weighed 0.060kg and the cost of postage was €1.61.

What has MaltaPost or the Australian postal authorities to say about this unbelievable delay? Who is to blame for the delay?

By the way, once again, the Thursday 15/4 edition of the Maltese programme on SBSTV did not eventuate. Instead, SBSTV transmitted a basketball game.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

For issues concerning:

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

Cash stash buried in backyard located from handwritten note

by Paul Sant

Recently, in Victoria, after the death of Marija, a handwritten note in Croatian, signed by Marija, was found in her safe custody packet at the ANZ bank, which also contained Marija's Certificate of Title. The note was dated one day after the date of Marija's Will (which was also handwritten). The executor arranged for a certified translation of the note.

The note gave clear directions for the location of \$50,000 cash money that was buried in Marija's yard, 'to the right of the kitchen window, immediately next to the tree and edge of the concrete'.

It authorised the executors named in Marija's Will to send \$45,000 to Ilija (a beneficiary who received \$20,000 in her Will) and her wish was for Ilija to use some of the money to bury Marija in Gorican, where she was born, and build a nice monument. It authorised the executors to keep \$5,000 for their help.

The executor located the buried cash money of \$50,000, and asked the court to make a declaration that the handwritten note was an informal Will. The court decided the handwritten note was a Codicil to the Will: Marija had signed the document, she had referred to funds being used for her burial, and that the note would take effect if she died – it contained testamentary wishes.

What cash?

You may have heard stories of people finding a stash of cash after a family member dies. A friend may have told you 'dad told me where he has been col-

lecting cash over the years, and wanted me to have it, as my siblings are better off'.

You may have some cash yourself, and plans for it, that you may, or may not, have communicated to some or none of your family members, or the nominated executors of your estate under your Will.

It is not commonplace for a Will to refer to a location of cash and include a specific gift, such as, 'I leave the \$75,000 cash in my arrowroot biscuit jar located at the back of my wardrobe to Jennifer.'

Firstly, the amount of cash that you have at the time you execute your Will, could increase or decrease before your death. Secondly, as lawyers, it is our job to flag potential problems, and a problem with a specific gift of cash is that, in dealing with cash, it can mysteriously vanish after a person has died: "what cash?"

Mention of cash in a Will and then a failure to locate any cash, or a different amount of cash, can naturally lead to squabbles between beneficiaries, and lack of trust in those tasked as executor. Thirdly, many cash stashes are kept out of bank accounts to be kept private.

Many Wills do refer to leaving the **rest and residue** of an estate 'equally between my children, Charles, Jennifer and Eddie'. The rest and residue encompasses all assets of your estate, unless you have specifically dealt with it in your Will – for example, you leave your Share portfolio to Charles, your jewellery collection to Jennifer, and your car to Eddie.

Anything else, such as funds in bank



accounts, real property, personal items, and cash, forms the **rest and residue** of your estate. If you did not leave specific items to Charles, Jennifer and Eddie, the shares, jewellery and car would be sold, and become part of the **rest and residue** to be divided three ways.

Imagine if you appointed Charles as your executor, and Charles did not locate any cash. Jennifer has seen the Will that specifically left her \$75,000 cash. She might feel some distrust toward Charles. Or, Charles may have located the cash, counted it up, seen that it is worth far more than the Share portfolio, and decided he should have some, or all, for himself. After all, he's the executor.

Eddie may have been living closest to you in your later years, after you made the Will, and provided you with much care and comfort. You may tell him about the cash and that you want him to have it (Jennifer has lived interstate since shortly after you made your Will 15 years ago, and not provided care and comfort you and she previously discussed).

Neither Jennifer or Charles know about this conversation, and the only other person who could verify that a conversation took place, is now permanently unavailable to shed any light on the whereabouts or discussions about the cash.

In a worst-case scenario, Jennifer, Eddie and Charles may spend tens of thousands of dollars of their inheritance on lawyers and barristers, in Supreme Court proceedings.

So how do you deal with cash?

You are in the best position to tell whom you choose about any cash stashes you may have buried in your yard, or your wardrobe.

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



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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



Djar ċkejkni

Meta ġejna l-Awstralja daqs hmistax-il sena ilu, wahda mill-affarijiet il-godda li l-mara u jien bdejna naghmlu kienet li mmorru nikkampjaw, għax f'Malta dan il-pas-satemp ma kienx prattikament possibbli, b'diversi minn dawk il-ftit li kienu jipprattikawh aktarx kienu jagħmlu dan b'mod illegali, jew irregolari, għax postijiet bħall-Armier kien jintqal li m'hemmx permess għal din l-attività. Illum nifhem li s-sitwazzjoni nbidlet għall-aħjar.

Illum fl-Awstralja nfitxu l-bosta foresti u parkijiet nazzjonali li għandu l-pajjiż, imma fil-bidu konna noqogħdu f'postijiet kummerċjali tal-ikkampjar. Bil-mod il-mod, f'xi wħud minn dawn il-postijiet, bdejna nindunaw li mhux ir-residenti kollha tal-post tal-kampegg kienu hemmhekk b'mod temporanju bħala btala.

Skoprejna li generalment ikun hemm sezzjoni tal-post li jkun riservat għal persuni li kienu jgħixu hemm permanentement.

Dawn il-persuni generalment joqogħdu f'kabina jew karavan li r-roti tiegħu jkunu mnehhija, u li jkun mgholli fuq il-briks jew xi struttura permanenti. Ġieli ssib li jkollhom biċċa żghira ta' art fejn ikabbri xi hxejjex, jew xi annimali bħal tiġieġ jew fniek, li kienu jindikaw li min kien qed joqgħod hemm ma kienx turist.

Indunajna li dan hu mod ta' għixien għal għadd imdaqqs ta' persuni Awstraljani, għal uħud forsi bħala stil magħżul tal-hajja, għal oħrajn għax forsi tkun l-uniku tip ta' residenza li l-finanzi tagħhom jippermettu.

F'dawn iż-żminijiet, il-popolarità tal-hekk imsejha djar ċkejkni (*tiny houses*) qiegħed jikber, b'diversità ta' intrapriżi joffru għadd ta' mudelli, b'varjetà ta' stili, kobor, kumditajiet eċċ inkluzi l-arja kkundizzjonata eċċ li l-prezz tagħhom jista' jilhaq u anke jizboq il-mitt elf dollaru.

M'għandniex xi ngħidu, dawn il-prezzijiet mħumiex għal dawk li għandhom il-finanzi tagħhom limitati. Għal dawn hemm ukoll mudelli li jiswew madwar għaxar sa għoxrin elf dollaru.

Hemm ukoll organizzazzjoniet li qegħdin jiehdu l-opportunità ta' dawn id-djar ċkejkna biex jipprovdu dar b'mod sussidjat għal dawk



Dar żghira magħrufa bħala *Katrina Cottage*

li m'għandhomx, bħat-Tiny Homes Foundation ta' Gosford, fi NSW.¹

Hawn żewġ tipi ewlenin ta' dawn id-djar ċkejkna, li huma djar limitati fil-kobor generalment sa 37m² (xi kunsilli jippermettu ikbar) u li jkollhom il-karattru u l-funzjonalità ta' dar permanenti.

L-ewwelnett hemm dawk li jkunu mibnija fuq qafas bir-roti. Dawn generalment jitqiesu li huma bħal karavans. Għalkemm kull kunsill lokali għandu r-regolamenti tiegħu, generalment wiehed ikun jista' jpoġġi din it-tip ta' dar ċkejkna fi proprjetà privata li fiha diġà jgħixu n-nies mingħajr il-bżonn li jintalab permess lill-kunsill. Jekk il-proprjetà tkun vojta, aktarx ikun hemm xi limitazzjonijiet.

It-tieninett hemm dawk li ma jkollhomx roti u jkunu mwahhla permanentement mal-art. Dawn wiehed jistenna li jkollhom bżonn permess biex jinbnew daqs li kieku qiegħed isir żvilupp tradizzjonali ta' proprjetà. Għal min huwa interessat, wiehed irid jagħmel ir-riċerka sewwa mal-kunsill ta' fejn jixtieq joqgħod.

Il-moviment lejn dan it-tip ta' dar kellu avvenimenti sinjifikanti. Fl-erbghinijiet tas-seklu l-ieħor, kien hemm nuqqasijiet ta' djar minhabba t-tieni gwerra dinjija li kienu mtaffija bi djar pre-fabrikati ta' 64m².

Aktar riċentement, fl-2005, id-diżastru miġjub mill-uragan Katrina fl-Istati Uniti wassal biex tiġi żviluppata dar żghira msejha *Katrina Cottage* ta' 28.6m² biex ittaffji n-nuqqasijiet tal-akkommodazzjoni fi New Orleans u l-madwar fl-Istati Uniti.

Ukoll kien hemm il-pubblikazzjoni tal-ktieb influenti *The Not So Big House* fl-1998 mill-perit Sarah Susanka li kien intenzjonat li jwaqqaf it-tendenza dejjem tikber tal-arkitettura residenzjali, billi targumenta li djar żgħar għandhom benefiċċji ambjentali.²

L-interess f'dan il-qasam qiegħed jikber u wiehed jagħmel tajjeb li jhares lejn l-iżviluppi tiegħu.

Referenzi

- <https://www.tinyhomesfoundation.org.au/>, retrieved 14/4/2021
- <https://www.qshelter.asn.au/elements/2017/06/Tiny-House-Planning-Resource.pdf>, retrieved 14/4/2021



Eżempju tal-hekk magħrufa djar ċkejkni (*tiny houses*)



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Inawgurat il-proġett ta' €70m



Nhar il-Hamis li għadda l-Prim Ministru Malti Robert Abela fetaħ uffiċjalment il-proġett massiċċ għall-Gżejjer Maltin, il-proġett tal-junction tal-Marsa, l-akbar investment kapitali li qatt sar fi proġett wiehed ta' toroq f'Malta li sewa €70 miljun.

Dan il-proġett, li jinab fir-rotta li tiehduk lejn in-nofsinar ta' Malta, u li minna jgħaddu madwar 100,000 vetturi kuljum, jikkonsisti f'seba' flyovers u 12-il kilometru ta' korsiji ġodda. Fih ukoll żewġ pontijiet pedomali, 3.5 km korsijiet għar-roti, u park & ride bi 380 spazju Gie msebbah ukoll b'xoghlijiet artistici, u bi 18,000 sigra u arbuxell.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li fl-inawgurazzjoni l-Prim Ministru fisser il-proġett bħala evoluzzjoni tal-pajjiż li biddel il-wieċ tan-

naha ta' isfel ta' Malta, u li seta' jsir fl-isfond tat-tkabbir ekonomiku li l-Gvern irnexxielu johloq fl-aħhar snin. Qal li l-proġett "jirrifletti tliet kwalitajiet hajjin tal-poplu Malti: l-ambizzjoni, l-għaqal, u l-perseveranza".

L-inawgurazzjoni tal-proġett li permezz tiegħu se jonqos it-traffiku, il-hin tal-ivvjaġġar, u l-emissjonijiet fl-arja kawża tal-kongestjoni, saret flimkien mal-Ministru għat-Trasport, l-Infrastruttura u l-Proġetti Kapitali Ian Borg u s-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi.

Il-Ministru Ian Borg qal li għall-ewwel darba Malta għandha strutturi li jaraw tliet livelli ta' toroq fuq xulxin. Hemm seba' pontijiet u qed tinghata infrastruttura xierqa lil min jivjaġġa b'mezzi alternattivi, primar-

jament permezz tat-trasport pubbliku.

Is-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej, Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, qal li l-proġett, li gawda minn €52 miljun f'fondi Ewropej ifisser kwalità ta' hajja ahjar għan-nies li jgħixu fin-naha ta' isfel tal-pajjiż.

Skont Il-Kap Eżekuttiv ta' Infrastructure Malta Frederick Azzopardi l-proġett se jnaqqas it-tniġġis mill-karozzi bejn 50 u 70 fil-mija, li jfisser arja aktar nadifa għall-familji fil-Marsa u f'Rahal Gdid.



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Roundup of News About Malta



EU, Central Bank expect Malta's economy to grow by 4.5% – 5% in 2021

The European Commission's winter forecast has given Malta a 4.5% expected growth rate for 2021 and 5.4 per cent in 2022. This year's growth is to be mainly driven by net exports and domestic consumption, as inbound tourism and global trade recover gradually.

In fact, the rollout of vaccinations this year and a gradual easing of restrictions in the EU should set the tourism sector in Malta back on the path to recovery and re-invigorate domestic demand.

At the same time, the Central Bank of Malta (CBM) expects that as a result of the pandemic, after an estimated contraction of 8.2 per cent in 2020, Malta's gross domestic product (GDP), will grow by five per cent in 2021, by 5.5 per cent in 2022, and by 4.7 per cent in 2023.

In its report the EU further forecasts that in 2022, Malta's economy should expand by 5.4% as net exports return as the main contributor to GDP growth while domestic demand makes a slower but steady contribution.

By the end of 2022, the tourism sector is expected to recover close to pre-pandemic levels and international trade should be significantly restored.

Last year the Maltese economy registered a severe contraction with limitations on air traffic, tourism and social activities mainly to blame for an ex-

pected fall in real GDP of around 9%, which came after robust growth of 5.3% in 2019.

Investment fell, mainly due to a surprise drop in construction, while private consumption was dampened by contractions in sectors such as retail and hospitality. The toll on the economy, however, has been partially mitigated by government stimulus measures.

The second wave of restrictions globally has placed additional strain on the highly open economy in the last quarter of 2020 and continues to weigh in the first quarter of 2021.

Compared to its December 2020 projections, and due to the impact of stringent containment measures that spilled further into 2021, CBM has revised its GDP growth for 2020 and 2021 downwards.

It had projected Malta's economy to contract by 7.5 per cent in 2020, now up to a contraction of 8.2 per cent, and it projected a 5.9 per cent 2021 growth rate, now down to five per cent.

However, GDP growth is being revised upwards for 2022 and 2023, with GDP in 2023 expected to be at a similar level to that projected in December 2020.

CBM thus maintains its expectation that 2019 GDP levels are to be recouped towards the end of 2022, conditional on the successful rollout of a vaccine in 2021.



Malta has gained another good certificate from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that in its forecast on global economic trends said that it will not only have the lowest rate of unemployment within the eurozone this year, but also the highest rate of growth in 2022.

In the wake of positive forecasts by the European Commission, IMF experts are also forecasting that this year the Maltese economy will register a 4.7% growth.

The Monetary Fund experts are forecasting that Malta's Gross Domestic Product this year will be 2.8% higher than in 2019. They said that this is the best achievable result among European countries dependent on tourism.

In their recent Spring Report the IMF experts are projecting that Malta's economic growth will be 0.3% higher than the average growth in the eurozone.

In their forecast for next year, the IMF states that Malta will have the highest rate of growth in the eurozone, with the economy expected to register a 5.6% growth, whereas the average in the eurozone is expected to be 3.8%.

IMF also forecasts that the rate of unemployment in Malta this year will be 4.3%, the lowest rate in the eurozone, which has an average being 8.7%. Unemployment in Malta next year is projected to drop to 4.1%, and 8.5% within the eurozone.

Historical law that ensuring gender parity in Parliament

The House of Representatives has approved a historic law that will strengthen the presence of women in Parliament, ensuring gender parity in Parliament. It introduces measures for equal representation of men and women in Parliament.

The corrective mechanism law that introduces measures for equal representation in Parliament, was approved in the Third Reading stage by 63 votes in favour and only two against. It will become law in time for the next election.

What it means is, that if the under-represented sex comprises less than 40% of all seats after the election outcome is known, the mechanism will kick in to elect a maximum of 12 additional MPs – six on either side of the House.

It will only kick in if two parties are elected to parliament and remain in force for 20 years.

The bill will now be presented to the President of Malta for his approval and published in the Government Gazette, thus becoming a Parliamentary Act.

Malta ratifies the UNESCO Convention on Protecting the Underwater Cultural Heritage

Malta has ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Robert John Micallef, the First Secretary at the Embassy of Malta in Paris, deposited the Instrument of Ratification on behalf of Malta.

This follows the official ratification that was signed by Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo on the 5th of March 2021.

This UNESCO Convention was adopted in November 2001 with the intention of enabling states to better protect their submerged cultural heritage, mainly through: (i) their obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, (ii) 'in situ' preservation as the first option, (iii) no commercial exploitation, and (iv) training and information sharing.





Roundup of News About Malta



Malta offers money incentives to revive tourism

Aiming to revive the tourism industry and get ahead of rival destinations, Malta is to offer foreign visitors a handout of up to €200 if they stay at least three days on the island this summer.

Announcing the scheme as part of Malta's tourism recovery plan, Tourism minister Clayton Bartolo said that with most COVID restrictions expected to be lifted by June 1st, tourists booking summer holidays directly through local hotels would receive the handout.

Data shows that directly and indirectly the tourist industry accounts for more than 27% of Malta's economy, but the sector has been hammered by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Minister of Tourism and Consumer Protection Clayton Bartolo

In 2019, the year before the pandemic, Malta attracted more than 2.7 million foreign visitors, but since the virus was detected in March 2020 figures have fallen by more than 80%.

Minister Bartolo said that tourists booking accommodation at a five-star hotel will get €100 from Malta's Tourism Authority, which will be matched by the hotel for a total of €200.

In a similar arrangement, those opting for a four-star hotel will receive a total of €150 and those booking a three-star hotel will receive €100.

Bartolo said that the rate of the vaccine will be more satisfactory by June than the rate it is at currently, and European countries will also have a satisfactory rate of vaccination by early June too. Therefore he expects to see tourists arriving in Malta particularly from Europe and specifically the United Kingdom by early June as they would feel safer.

Therefore, with international tourism re-starting, the scheme is aimed at helping

Just one part of the Grand Harbour, one of the most popular sites with tourists those struggling in the tourism industry and putting Malta's hotels back in a very competitive position.

Malta has the highest virus vaccination rate in the European Union. It has seen a sharp drop in new COVID-19 cases, with the positivity rate - the percentage of tests that show a positive result - down to 2.6%. The Maltese government has also been urging the EU to introduce vaccine passports to facilitate travel, having given at least one dose to 42% of adults.

With the UK serving as Malta's biggest travel market accounting for a third of tourist arrivals, and with UK citizens expressing an interest in travelling to Malta, the Minister wishes to capitalise on this interest, so he intends to have talks to encourage travel between Malta and Britain.

For the time being however, the tourism industry and the health authorities will only allow people hailing from red, amber and green listed countries if they present a negative PCR test.

The plan was certified with the help of the health authorities, in order to safeguard the health of the general public.

The tourism industry is also considering a green pass for Maltese citizens: a digital certificate that will allow those who have taken the vaccine to move from one country to another with no restrictions holding them back.

Minister Bartolo has also announced two further schemes valued at €5.5 million aimed at helping the tourism operators.

They include €4 million to refund some expenses of every those attending a conference in Malta and Gozo. They vary between those whose expense will be between €600 to €800, to be refunded €75, and those exceeding €800 who will get a refund of €150. Those eligible need to attend a conference for more than 10 people and spend at least two nights in Malta.

Another scheme worth €1.5 million directly benefits boutique hotels, guest-houses, and two star hotels.

MaltaAir announces five new Malta routes to Italian cities and Greece

Meanwhile Clayton Bartolo has announced during a joint press conference with MaltaAir Chief Executive Officer David O'Brien, that as part of Malta's summer 2021 schedule RyanAir subsidiary, MaltaAir would be operating twice-weekly flights to four new Italian cities, Brindisi, Cagliari, Genoa and Trapani, and another to Chania in Greece.

Minister Bartolo said that being an island in the heart of the Mediterranean, it is crucial that Malta continues to strengthen its air connectivity. He added that after the COVID-19 pandemic, Malta has started walking the road of recovery through the introduction of schemes aimed at incoming tourists and the hospitality sector.

"I believe that we have started seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The Maltese

Government is preparing to welcome the first tourists in the first days of June in a gradual and responsible manner," he said.

He appealed to the Maltese public to stay vigilant and to respect the measures outlined by the local Health Authorities.

Mr David O'Brien said that as the vaccination rollout programmes continue, air traffic is set to soar and it was with great satisfaction to announce these five new routes as part of Ryanair's biggest ever Maltese summer schedule.

To celebrate their five new Malta routes, Ryanair has launched a seat sale with fares available from just €19.99 for travel until the end of October 2021.

For the upcoming summer season, Ryanair will be having 6 Malta-based aircraft, 57 routes and 155 weekly flights.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Mhux soltu tiegħi, hliel f'xi każijiet rari li nibda l-kitba tiegħi billi nittratta sħarriġ dwar is-sitwazzjoni tal-mexxejja u tal-partiti politiċi, għalkemm il-gazzetta *Maltatoday* hi magħrufa għal sħarriġ bħala dan li jsir kważi ta' kull xahar.

Dak l-imbiererek sħarriġ!

Imma llum bdejt propju b'dan is-sugġett għax nhar il-Hadd, 11 ta' April kellna r-riżultat ta' żewġ sħarriġ: tal-*Maltatoday* u dak li sar mill-istatista magħruf Vincent

ess riżultat.

Ir-riżultati ta' wasslu għad-diskussjoni li fiha ntervjena direttament anke l-mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista Dr Bernard Grech.

X'kien ir-riżultat?

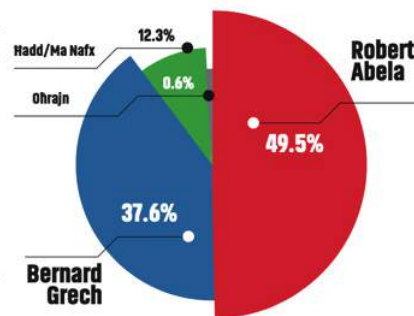
Se nibda b'dak li għandu x'jaqsam maż-żewġ mexxejja, u bl-istħarriġ ta' Vincent Marmara, li wera li l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela, baqa' jitqies bħala l-aktar fdat biex imexxi l-pajjiż billi huwa fdat bi kważi 12% aktar mill-Kap Nazzjonalista, Bernard Grech.

Fil-waqt li 49.5% wiegħbu li jafdaw l-iktar lil Robert Abela, 37.6% wiegħbu li jafdaw lil Bernard Grech. Kien hemm ukoll 5.7% li qalu li ma jafdaw lil hadd, 6.6% qalu li ma jafux u 0.6% li jafdaw ohrajn.

Min-naħa l-oħra, fil-waqt li jikkonferma li l-akbar fiduċja hi f'Robert Abela, l-istħarriġ tal-*Maltatoday*, inizzel id-differenza bejn il-mexxejja għal 11%. L-istħarriġ juri li waqt li Abela huwa fdat minn 47.2%, Grech huwa fdat minn 35.8%.

Imbagħad meta niġu għall-partiti l-mis-tqosija ewlenija kienet: Kieku kellha ssir

MIN HUWA L-AHJAR MEXXEJ BIEX IMEXXI LILL-PAJJIŻ?



elettzjoni llum lil min tivvota?

Fil-każ tal-istħarriġ ta' Marmara d-distakk bejn iż-żewġ partiti ewlenin, il-PL u l-PN kien ta' 10%, bil-Partit Laburista jikseb 54.2% tal-elettorat u l-Partit Nazzjonalista 44.2%. F'termini ta' numri dan ifisser maġġoranza ta' 32,000 vot għal-Labour. L-

ELEZZJONI ĠENERALI



ADPD jew partiti ohrajn għandhom l-appoġġ ta' 1.6% tal-elettorat.

Id-distakk li mill-istħarriġ tal-*Maltatoday* ma kienx daqshekk kbir billi f'termini ta' voti kien ta' maġġoranza ta' madwar 26,000 għall-Partit Laburista, għax skont l-istħarriġ il-PL kien jikseb 41.8% tal-voti u l-PN 35.6%.

Il-maġġoranza għall-Partit Laburista fl-aħħar elezzjoni kienet ta' 35,280 vot.

L-ewwel reazzjoni min-naħa tal-midja taż-żewġ partiti kienet ta' sodisfazzjon, bin-*Net News* (PN) jgħidu: *Ikompli jonqos id-distakk bejn iż-żewġ partiti: l-aqwa riżultat għal Bernard Grech billi mill-aħħar elezzjoni il-Partit Nazzjonalista naqqas id-distakk bejn iż-żewġ partiti b'terz u b'żieda ta' aktar minn 10,000 vot fl-aħħar xahar.*

Dan minkejja li kien hemm tnaqqis marginali bejn iż-żewġ partiti b'zieda għall-PN, fil-waqt li Bernard Grech irregistra l-ogħla percentwal ta' fiduċja fost in-nies, ta' 35.8%, zieda ta' 1% fuq ix-xahar ta' qabel.

Min-naħa l-oħra l-ġurnal elettroniku tal-Partit laburista *One News* hareġ jgħid: *Żewġ sħarriġ jagħtu riżultat b'saħħtu favur Robert Abela u l-PL, u sostna li l-istħarriġ ta' It-Torċa, juri li l-partiti politiċi qed iżommu r-riżultat fl-istess ilma tal-elezzjoni tal-2017, bil-Laburisti jżommu vantaġġ ta' 10% fuq in-Nazzjonalista u Robert Abela fdat 12% aktar minn Bernard Grech.*

Anke l-istħarriġ tal-*Maltatoday* juri li Robert Abela jgawdi fiduċja ferm akbar bid-differenza tlaħhaq il-11%. Imqabbel mal-aħħar sħarriġ tal-istess gazzetta, Robert Abela zied il-fiduċja b'iktar minn 7%.

Imma, ma laħqux għaddew 24 siegħa, li l-kandidata prospettiva u segretarju Internazzjonali tal-PN, Roselyn Borg Knight, fuq *Facebook*, ma hargitx tgħid li l-PN mhux qed jiġbed lejha jew jirbaħ votanti godda, daqskemm ukoll mhux jiġbed lura lejha dawk il-votanti li kienu abbandunawh

Ir-reazzjoni



Roselyn Borg Knight "Evidently the PN is playing a broken record, its music does not resonate with the young and those who deserted will not return when they see that the reasons they left are still there"

matul is-snin kif ukoll liż-żgħażaġh. Sostniet li, "biex jimxi 'l quddiem il-PN jinhtieg politika ġdida u wcuħ rilevanti".

Sahansitra meta ġie mistoqsi dwar dan l-istħarriġ, fil-waqt li qal li għall-Partit Nazzjonalista, dawn l-istħarriġ kienu inkoraġġanti hekk kif juru tnaqqis fid-distakk bejn iż-żewġ partiti politiċi l-istess mexxej tal-partit iżda ammetta li kien għad baqa' xi jsir biex il-partit jirnexxi.

Grech nsista li għalkemm hu sodisfatti li l-poplu qed jibgħat messaġġ li jrid iħares lejn il-PN u qed jiehu pjaċir bit-tigdid li sar s'issa

l-partit għadu ma wasalx, u stqarr li biex il-PN jimxi 'l quddiem wasal iż-żmien li jittieħdu d-deċiżjonijiet bla biża' jew favuri.

Huma hafna li qed jistaqsu x'inhuma dawn id-deċiżjonijiet iebesin" li semma' Grech.

Ftit tal-figuri ...

Minn l-istħarriġ joħroġ ċar li l-hatra ta' Grech, u probabbli l-fatt li bħalissa l-Gvern qed iħabbat wiċċu mal-COVID, u allura żgur li ċerti deċiżjonijiet jimpattaw fin-negattiv fuq il-Gvern, taw spinta kemm lill-mexxej tal-PN u l-partit.

Bħalissa Grech qed igawdi appoġġ aktar qawwi mill-mexxej ta' qablu u l-PN kiseb l-aħjar riżultat mill-aħħar elezzjoni.

Min-naħa tal-PL żgur li sodisfatti li t-telf fil-fiduċja tal-mexxej tiegħu u t-tnaqqis fl-appoġġ tal-partit, għal darbtejn wara xulxin fl-istħarriġ mill-*Maltatoday* fix-xhur li għaddew issa nbidlu, u minflok hemm zieda ta' 7% mill-aħħar sħarriġ għal Abela.

Fejn għandhom x'jaqsmu l-partiti, skont l-istħarriġ tal-*Maltatoday* mix-xahar ta' qabel l-appoġġ tal-PN żdied bi 3% u dak Laburista bi 2.6%. Imma ż-żieda xorta tissarraf f'vantaġġ kbir għall-Laburisti.

Anzi skont l-istħarriġ ta' Marmara, imxebbha mar-riżultat tal-elezzjoni tal-2017 isib li fil-waqt li kien hemm tnaqqis minimu ta' 0.8% għall-partit, hemm ż-żieda tal-PN hi ta' 0.5% Tal-ADPD jew ohrajn ziedu zieda 0.3%.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Battibekk

Qabel inhalli x-xena politika tajjeb insemmi fil-qosor battibekk li kellna bejn il-Ministru Carmelo Abela u d-Deputat Nazzjonalista Dr Jason Azzopardi li għal xi jiem iddomina l-midja Maltija.

Kollox beda meta Abela għadda kument fuq il-Facebook dwar Azzopardi. Dan immedjatament wiegħeb bit-twegħba tiegħu mill-ewwel tingħata prominenza mill-midja. Dan minhabba li Azzopardi ta wieħed x'jifhem li l-Ministru Abela kien imdeffes fit-tentattiv ta' serq li kien sar fuq il-HSBC Bank fl-2010.

Azzopardi saħansitra indika li Abela kien se jingħata €300,000 minn dawk li kienu se jwettqu s-serqa.

Għal dawk li forsi ma' jafux, meta dan l-aħħar Vince Muscat kien qed jixhed fil-każ tal-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia, allega li kien hemm Ministru mdahħal fit-tentattiv tas-serqa mill-HSBC u li l-persuna koncernata kienet għaddiet ċertu tagħfri li min kien se jagħmel is-serqa.

Imma Muscat ma qalx min seta' kien dan



Min. Carmelo Abela Jason Azzopardi

il-Ministru, u billi meta sar it-tentattiv Abela kien impjegat tal-Bank, malajr bdew jiġru x-xniegħat.

Hadd ma' semma' lil Abela b'ismu pubblikament, għalhekk meta Azzopardi hareġ b'din l-istorja qam furur shih. Sintendi kulhadd kien qed jistenna r-reazzjoni ta' Abela.

Din malajr giet, għax mhux talli kien hemm iċ-ċaħda tiegħu, imma saħansitra, tard bil-lejl, sa mar il-Qorti u fetaħ libell lil Azzopardi.

S'issa l-każ waqaf hemm, imma nisten-new x'se johroġ mil-libell.

Malta fuq quddiem

M-aħħar aħbarijiet dwar il-pandemija huma inkoraġġanti, għax f'dawn l-aħħar jiem, għax minbarra li naqsu l-każi naqsu wkoll l-imwiet fejn ġieli kien hemm jiem li lanqas biss kien hemm mewt waħda.

Sadanittant it-tilqim miexi b'rata mgħaġġla tant li l-viċi-Prim Ministru u Ministru tas-Saħħa Chris Fearnle qed ibassar li sa tmiem Ġunju 70% tal-popolazzjoni se tkun hadet tal-inqas l-ewwel titqiba tal-vaċċin. S'issa hadu l-vaċin aktar minn 270,000 ruħ.

Il-Kummissjoni Ewropeja wkoll ikkonfermat li Malta u erba' pajjiżi ohra biss tal-Unjoni Ewropeja mrexxielhom jilhqqu l-mira li sa l-aħħar ta' Marzu kellhom jitleqqmu 80% tal-anzjani ta' aktar minn 80 sena. Attwalment Malta għaddietha sewwa billi kienu tlaqqmu 95%.

Sadanittant thabbar ukoll f'Ġunju mistenni li jibda t-turizmu u t-turisti li jkun mlaqqma jkun faċilment jistgħu jidhlu Malta jekk juru ċertifikat ta' tilqim. (ara paġna 13).

Malta kienet fost xi pajjiżi ohra tal-Unjoni Ewropeja li ressu l-proposta biex l-UE tohroġ speċi ta' passaport tat-tilqima tal-Covid li bih wieħed ikun jista' jżur pajjiżi ohra tal-Unjoni Ewropea.



Hasda kbira ... u kif

Dawk l-entitajiet, fosthom il-Community Chest Fund. Id-Dar tal-Providenza u ż-żewġ partiti politiċi ewlenin li għamlu gabriet matul il-jiem tal-festi tal-Milied u l-Ewwel tas-Sena u wżaw is-sistema tat-telefon tal-GO bħala mezz biex jirċievu l-ghotjet mingħand il-pubbliku, hadu hasda kbira meta l-GO habbet li kien hemm hsara teknika li wasslet biex attwalment ingħata stampa falza ta' l-ammonti li attwalment ingħabru.

Il-problema teknika wasslet biex ikun hemm reġistrazzjonijiet doppji ta' donazzjonijiet bi pledge waqt diversi maratoni ta' ġbir ta' fondi matul is-sena li għaddiet, li fisser li l-ammont reali miġbur kien ta' €1.4 miljun inqas milli oriġinarjament kien mahsub.

Biex ingib eżempju, jekk bit-telefon wegħdet €20 fuq l-iscreens ta' min qed jirċievi l-ghotja kien jimmarka li dahlu €40. B'xorti tajba għal min għamel l-ghotjet il-problema teknika ma effettwatx il-flus li taw imma daqshekk halsu.

Fost l-aktar entitajiet li ntlaqtu kien hemm id-Dar tal-Providenza u l-Caritas li attwalment sabu li b'hekk tilfu €654,000, li se jaffettwaw il-pjanijiet tagħhom, b'impatt dirett fuq il-hidma ta' matul din is-sena ta' dawn l-istituzzjonijiet ta' karità tal-Knisja.

Għal Għawdex mill-Port il-Kbir

Mill-ibgħad żminijiet saru tentattivi biex is-servizz ta' komunikazzjoni marittmu bejn iż-żewġ gzejjer Maltin jittjiebu, u issa anke bdejna naħsbu biex ikollna triq fil-baħar u ma niddependux aktar għal kollox fuq s-servizzi marittimi.

Imma xorta dawn is-servizzi huma es-senzjali. Allura dawk li jaqsmu bejn Malta u Għawdex dejjem jitolbu għal servizzi aħjar li kemm jista' jkun ikunu bla waqfien u jekk jista' jkun inaqqsu l-hin ta' traġitt.

U dak propju jidher li se jsehh minn Ġunju li ġej, għax għadu kif ġie thabbar li minn dak ix-xahar se jkun hemm żewġ kumpaniji li se jhaddmu servizz bil-katamaran bejn il-Port tal-Imġarr u l-Port il-Kbir.

Is-servizz li jidher li se jiġi milqugħ minn hafna nies, u ċertament li għandu wkoll jattira t-turizmu lejn Għawdex, se jiehu biss madwar 45 minuta. Imma s-servizz se jkun limitat biss għall-passiġieri. Min irid jaqşam bil-vettura tiegħu irid juża l-vapur miċ-Ċirkewwa.



Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



Richard Spiteri
0407 202 167
(02) 9659 0900

**Castle Hill
Seven Hills
Windsor and
all suburbs**

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

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



A quick glimpse at Australia

The Census is on again

Australia's next Census will take place this August 10. The country's largest survey is conducted every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and is compulsory. It aims to count every person and home in Australia and essentially provide a snapshot of the nation and how it is changing.

As well as Australian citizens, visa holders, tourists and international visitors including students studying at Australian universities all need to take part.

"The Census form asks questions about things like your age, country of birth, religion, ancestry, language used at home, work and education."

The data collected is then "used to inform important decisions about transport, schools, health care, infrastructure, and business. It also helps plan local services for individuals, families, and communities".

But it's a huge task, involving around 10 million households and 25 million people. One of the biggest takeaways from the last Census in 2016 was how diverse Australia is becoming. It found nearly half of people in Australia were either born overseas or had one or

both parents born overseas.

But the statistics also show people in Australia from CALD backgrounds (Maltese included) are less likely to complete the Census. There will also be 'fill-in-the-form' sessions - including in languages other than English - around the country to provide face-to-face support with filling in the Census, including at migrant resource centres and community hubs.

"If you want a voice, you need to complete the Census." That is why we strongly appeal to all Maltese not only to complete the census but reply to questions correctly about their ancestry especially the language spoken at home.



Housing crisis

The Morrison Government is being urged to invest in social housing in its upcoming Budget to help end Australia's homelessness and housing affordability crisis.

In a pre-Budget submission, Everybody's Home - a national campaign to end homelessness - said recent economic modelling showed homelessness was expected to surge nine percent this year, while housing stress is forecast to increase by 24 percent. The figures show how crucial it was for the Government to act now.

A number of Catholic organisations are members of the Everybody's Home campaign, including Jesuit Social Services, St Vincent de Paul Society, Sacred Heart Mission, St Vincent's Health and a number of diocesan Catholic Care agencies.

In its pre-Budget submission to the Government, the organisations recommended a joint Commonwealth/state-territory investment of \$7.7 bn to construct 30,000 new homes over the next four years and a 50 percent increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance to more adequately subsidise private rental costs for low-income tenants.

National summit on women's safety July

A national summit on women's safety will be held in July in a deal between federal and state ministers to canvass new programmes to prevent violence amid calls for an urgent injection of \$150 million to help families in need.

Senator Anne Ruston who was

only appointed Minister for Women's Safety recently, said a national plan to end violence against women and children immediately launched a new inquiry and held an online meeting with her state counterparts to agree on July 29 and 30 as the dates for the summit.

She declared that the next agreement would go beyond the goals set in the last plan, which offered \$328 million over three years but runs out at the end of this year.

While federal and state leaders held a similar summit in Adelaide in October 2018, with about 100 delegates debating policy measures, this year's event could be bigger given the calls on governments for greater action on the problem.

Domestic violence services are asking the Morrison Government to repeat injection of \$150 million announced last year on the grounds that services cannot wait for the next national plan to start next year.

Senator Anne Ruston, the new Minister for Women's Safety



Are all of us really in this together?

The end of the \$90 billion JobKeeper payment is being met with trepidation by many hundreds of thousands of Australians.

While industry groups, unions and social service advocates continue to urge the Government to provide extra support to struggling

sectors to replace the wage subsidy scheme and offset major job losses.

Treasury's latest estimates are that up to 150,000 jobs may be lost. Other economists predict this to be closer to 200,000 jobs.

Many small businesses in food and beverage, transport, personal services, accom-

modation and recreation services that have depended on JobKeeper are predicted to increase in defaults and closures.

Many workers who were on the \$1000 per fortnight JobKeeper and lose their jobs, will shift to JobSeeker, which has been reduced to \$620.80 per fortnight.



A quick glimpse at Australia

A nation of sceptics?

The result of a survey carried out by McCrindle Research for the Centre for Public Christianity suggests that as a nation, Australians may not be as sceptical as they think they are.

The survey of 1000 people asked respondents about their openness to the existence of a range of spiritual realities: ghosts, miracles, angels, a higher power/God, the soul, ultimate meaning or purpose in life, and life after death.

In 2005, in an interview the poet Les Murray was asked how comfortable he felt with being “an eccentric Australian voice, a rural poet speaking for an urban culture, a Roman Catholic speaking for a largely secular people.”

He replied: “I just speak as I am. I am a Catholic and I don’t believe that other people are necessarily

secular. I think that intellectuals are mostly secular or are required to pretend that they are. But broader people are very varied ...”

This new survey backs up Murray’s intuition.

For example, on the question of miracles: roughly a third of people (31.2 per cent) responded, “I believe this exists”; almost another third (29.1%) said, “I am open to the possibility that this exists”.

Some opted for “unsure” or “unlikely”, but only 13.8% were willing to say they did not believe there’s any such thing as a miracle.

Surprisingly, it was the youngest age group – 18-26-year-olds – who expressed the most openness to the non-material: 49% said they believe in the soul, and 48% in life after death (in both cases, another 28% were open to the possibility).



Jerry and Vicky Bugeja ‘always present’ at the Show

Jerry’s 100kg pumpkin at the Royal Easter Show

The Royal Easter Show, one of the most popular events in the NSW calendar was cancelled last year at a cost of \$10 million due to the coronavirus pandemic but farmers, growers and local producers made a grand return this year. It was only the third cancellation in the show’s almost 200-year history. This year only 60.000 000 ticket holders were allowed on each day under COVIDsafe guidelines.

Sydney Royal Easter Show General Manager, Murray Wilton says this year’s show would not have been possible without federal government support, in the form of a \$15 million grant. The funds were part of \$36 million allocated to help agricultural show societies recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Jerry Bugeja, from Austral, has displayed his homegrown vegetables at the show for the past 10 years and is known for growing giant vegetables. He was part of the Southern Districts exhibit team which won best display this time around.

His biggest pumpkin this year weighed in at 100 kilograms. “It takes five months to grow, and it is a lot of work,” he says. “But it’s lovely to be back and to see the crowds. It’s really fantastic. We love it.”

The Duke 1921-2021

Following the death of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a message: “Australians send our love and deepest condolences to Her Majesty and all the Royal family”.

Prince Philip died at Windsor Castle at the age of 99, just months away from celebrating his 100th birthday. He was born in Mon Repos on the Greek island of Corfu on June 10, 1921, but his family was exiled from the country when he was eighteen months old. The family then relocated to Paris and later Prince Philip moved to England to live with his Mountbatten relatives.

In 1942 he was made a full lieutenant in the Royal Navy, serving on board HMS Wallace as second-in-command.

In 1947 he married then Princess Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey and took the title Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich. The couple moved to Malta, where they lived for two years as he continued to serve in the Royal Navy. The couple were married for 73 years and Prince Philip became the longest-serving consort in British history.

The Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley described his death as a “sad and historic day” and gave thanks for the Duke’s “commitment to Australia”. He said that Prince Philip had visited Australia 21 times, the one in 2011. “He was a popular, engaged, and welcome visitor to our shores.

“His impact was profound – not least on the more than 775,000 young Australians who have participated in The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award since it began here in 1959,” GG Hurley said.

Prince Philip’s funeral was held last Saturday.



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

Il-kittieb li qed ingib għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja illum hu magħruf f'għadd ta' oqasma, imma ċertament li hu wkoll kittieb ta' għadd ta' kotba u poeżiji. Hu wkoll professor tal-filosofija fl-Università ta' Malta.

JOE FRIGGIERI—awtur tal-kotba, drammaturgu, poeta, u filosofu

Il-Professor Joe Friggieri twieled fir-raħal ta' Ħal-Lija fl-20 ta' Marzu 1946. Hu magħruf bħala filosofu, awtur, kemm ta' kotba u wkoll drammaturgu, b'xogħlijiet tal-palk ta' ċerta popolarità, direttur teatrali, poeta, u membru tas-Senat tal-Università ta' Malta.

Friggieri, li hu mizzew- weg lil Therese, wahda minn tliet attriċi ahwa, (l-oħrajn Jane Marshall u Ninette Micallef), kien l-ewwel professor fil-fakultà tal-filosofija fl-Università ta' Malta li ma kienx saċerdot kattoliku. Hawnekk ingħata l-ħatra hekk kif il-Professor Peter Serracino Inglott irtira fl-1966. Huwa kiseb id-dottorat mill-Università kattoлика ta' Milan u wkoll ta' Oxford fl-Ingilterra.

Fost kollox hu wkoll kien riċerkatur mistieden tal-Universitajiet ta' Venezia u Genova fl-Italja, Amsterdam tal-Olanda, St Andrews u Durham tar-Renju Unit, u Augsburg tal-Germanja.

Bħala kittieb, Friggieri għandu b'ismu, tliet volumi ta' poeżiji, tliet kollezzjonijiet ta' stejjer qosra, għadd ta' stejjer miktuba għat-teatru, kif ukoll l-ewwel storja ta' pubblikazzjonijiet Maltin dwar il-filosofja f'żewġ volumi bil-Malti bl-isem ta' *In-Nisga tal-Hsieb*, l-ewwel wiehed fl-2000 u t-tieni wiehed seba' snin wara.



Fil-karriera tiegħu Joe kiseb għadd għmielu ta' għotjiet (*awards*) letterarji, fosthom, għal tlett darbiet il-Premju Nazzjonali Letterarju. Dawn kienu, fl-1993 għal *Kadenzi*, 1998 għal *Mid-Djarju ta' Sara*, u fl-2003 għal *Żewġ Drammi*, li kienu jinkludu ż-żewġ stejjer għall-palk, *Tkun dar-b'ohra Mikelanġ*, u *Trappisti*.

Fost ix-xogħlijiet l-aktar popolari tiegħu hemm *L-Istjjer tar-Ronnie*, li gie ppubblikat mill-Klabb Kotba Maltin fl-1994. Dan jitratta serje ta' stejjer qosra dwar il-karattru ta' Ronnie, mekkanik ta' mezza etá u missier ta' erbat itfal. Il-kitba oriġi-

nali fl-1992 tant kienet popolari li ddawret f'serje televiżiva.

Fl-2010 kien ukoll ippubblika ktieb iehor dwar Ronnie, *Aktar Stejjer tar-Ronnie*, u għal tliet snin, bejn l-1971 u l-1974 kien l-editor ta' pubblikazzjoni dwar l-arti, u bejn l-1975 u l-1980 tal-gazzetta ta' kull xahar *Illum*. Hu kien ukoll l-editor fundatur tal-pubblikazzjoni tal-Kunsill tal-Arti, *Kultura 21*.

Il-Prof Friggieri kiteb ukoll għadd ta' xogħlijiet oħra għall-palk u wkoll idderieġa whud minnhom hu stess. Hu regolament jigi wkoll mistieden jiehu sehem f'diskussjonijiet pubbliċi, l-aktar fuq ir-radju u t-televiżjoni, fosthom programmi kulturali li hu stess iproduċa.

Baqa' wkoll jissema għal *Linguaggio e Azione*, l-ewwel ktieb dwar il-filosofia minn awtur Malti li gie ppubblikat fl-Italja.

Bejn l-1990 u l-1993 Friggieri mexxa l-kumitat manigerjali tat-Teatru Manoel, bejn l-1993 u l-1996 kien membru tal-Awtorita' tax-Xandir, u bejn l-2003 u l-2005 mexxa l-Kunsill tar-Arti.

Bħala direttur tal-palk idderieġa, seba' drammi ta' Shakespeare, kif ukoll drammi klassiċi u kontemporanji ta' drammi li hu stess ittraduċa, l-aktar mill-Ingliz, kien id-direttur artistiku ta' opri ta' Verdi u Puccini, kiteb il-librett tal-ewwel opra bil-Malti kompożizzjoni ta' Charls Camilleri, *Il-Wegħda*, kiteb il-lirika ta' kompożizzjonijiet oħra ta' Camilleri, fosthom *Għanjiet Minn Malta*; li ġew irrekordjati mill-kantanta Mary Rose Mallia, u *Mal-Kant tal-Baħar* bil-mezzo-Soprano Sophia Grech.

Għadd ta' poeżiji minn tiegħu ġew ukoll mużikati mill-mibki surmast Għawdx Joe Vella, filwaqt li xi stejjer qosra ġew tradotti għall-Ingliz minn Paul Xuereb, u għall-Franċiż minn Thomas Burgel, Julie Mielot, u Sophie Taze.

Fl-2008 gie onorat bl-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu (MOM)

Josephine Spiteri 1930–2021

The funeral of Josephine Spiteri (*right*) from Wentworthville NSW was held at the Our Lady of Mt Carmen Church. Her burial followed at the Memorial Park, Minchinbury. Josephine passed away on the 3rd of April at the age of 90.

Josephine was born in Msida. She was married to Joe Spiteri the ex-President of OLQP Festa Committee at Greystanes at St Mary's Cathedral in 1955, two years after they arrived and met in Australia. Deeply missed by her husband and children Jeff, Mary, David John, the extended family, and friends. The Voice extends deepest condolences to the Spiteri family. RIP.





Ir-restawr tal-orgni fl-Għarb

Ftit tal-jiem ilu bdiet l-aħħar fażi tar-restawr tal-orgni tal-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Għarb. Ix-xogħol li qed isir mill-kumpanija Taljana Mascioni, kien inbeda f'Ottubru 2019. Din il-kumpanija ta' fama internazzjonali twaqqfet fl-1829 u ilha tintiret minn generazzjoni għall-oħra, sa minn dakinhar.

L-orgni tal-Għarb huwa wieħed mill-akbar li nsibu fil-Gżejjer Maltin. Il-preġju tiegħu mhux biss fil-kobor u d-diversità ta' hsejjes li jista' jipproduċi, imma wkoll fil-kwalità ta' binja tiegħu.

L-orgni, li kien ġie mahdum b'sengħa kbira mid-ditta Gaetano Cavalli fl'1910 b'sistema pnemmatika, fih sbatax-il re-

ġistru differenti li fihom total ta' madwar 1250 suffara.

Qabel beda r-restawr tiegħu fl-2019, l-orgni kien ilu snin twal bil-ħsara tant li hafna noti ma kienx għadhom idoqqu tajjeb. Il-ġlud tal-immiefah u ta' partijiet oħra mill-orgni kienu therrew u minhabba xogħol hażin ta' manutenzjoni fl-imghoddi ġiet ikkagunata hafna ħsara fis-sfatar infushom.

Mascioni bdew ix-xogħol fuq dan l-orgni billi żarmaw hafna partijiet minnu u haduhom għar-restawr fil-hwienet tax-xogħol tagħhom f'Varese l-Italja. Dawn il-partijiet irrestawrati ingiebu lura l-Għarb dan l-aħħar f'container biex issa tpoġġew lura f'posthom.

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Mascioni ħadmu b'mod professjonali hafna u ħadu ħsieb jirrispettaw is-sistema pnemmatika originali ta' Cavalli biex il-valur storiku ta' dan l-istrument mużikali jiġi mħares.

Ix-xogħol li jirregola il-hoss tas-sfatar u l-ikkurdar mill-ġdid se jibda dalwaqt. B'hekk ir-restawr ikun komplut u l-knisja tal-Għarb tkun tista' terġa' tgawdi dan l-istrument liturġiku u kunċertistiku li mis-sirjetna tant ħadmu għalih.

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju bit-tieni webinar għall-imsieħba

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex organizzat it-tieni webinar minn sensiela li kull sena torganizza u li jkunu ta' interess għal dawk fin-negozju. L-aħħar webinar sar b'kol-laborazzjoni mal-Europe Direct Information Centre ta' Għawdex u l-Bank of Valletta, u kien dwar l-impatt tal-Brexit fuq in-Negozju.

Minhabba r-rabta qawwija bejn ir-Renju Unit u Malta l-webinar, li ittratta l-EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement li daħal fl-1 ta' Jannar li għadda u li halla hafna incertezz, iġġenera interess sostanzjali, bil-partecipanti jagħmlu mistoqsijiet anke dwar aspetti mhux relatati direttament man-negozju, bħall-aċċess għas-servizzi soċjali mill-Ingliżi li jghixu fil-Gżejjer Maltin, u l-akkwist ta' propjetà minnhom.

Il-webinar, li tmexxa minn Daniel Borg, Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Kamra tan-Negozju, kellu bħala kelliema ewlenin rappreżentanti tal-Bank of Valletta, il-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barannin u Ewropej, tad-Dwana, u mill-Kummissarju tat-Taxxi Interni.

Intqal li minkejja l-hafna incertezz, il-Kamra tan-Negozju se tagħmel dak kollu possibli biex iżzomm lill-imsieħba tagħha aġġornati bl-iżviluppi kollha f'dan il-qasam. Il-Kamra għabret ukoll it-tagħrif kollu meħtieġ fuq paġna fis-sit elettroniku tagħha.

L-inizjattiva sabet ukoll l-appoġġ tal-MGOZ NGO

Assistance Scheme, skema ta' għajjnuna għall-ghaqdjet volontarji Għawdxin, immedija mil-Ministeru għal Għawdex.



Daniel Borg, il-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Kamra tan-Negozju li mexxa l-webinar

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

Building a Church school top priority

There were already two Maltese OFM Conv. friars in the parish of Warrawong, Fr. Francis Muscat and Fr Anthony Zahra. They were joined by Fr Richard Murawski a Polish-American friar from the same order who had spent several years as a missionary in the Ryu-Kyu islands also known as Amami Oshima in Japan.

Fr. Murawski came to Warrawong from the USA to look after the Polish migrants. Unfortunately some time after his arrival he suffered a massive heart attack and died on his way to the hospital.

As the church building was also being used as a school, the then parish priest Fr. Sebastian acquired more adjacent land so he could build classrooms that were not connected to the church building.

Fr Sebastian's stay at Warrawong was very short. He was also a priest of many talents. He was a good handyman and re-structured an impressive sanctuary in the Church. He was also a good preacher and had a very pleasant and friendly character. Everybody loved him.

On the 9th April 1964, Fr John Grech OFM Conv., a Gozitan priest from Victoria, was appointed parish priest, with fellow friar from Senglea Malta, Fr Leone Gambin as his assistant. They were joined by Fr Gratian Kolodziejczyk, a Polish chaplain, who was a missionary in Mongolia before coming to Warrawong.

Right: The main door of the church as it was in 1964 at the wedding of George and Lourdes Bartolo nee Fenech

Later, Fr Francis Muscat, from Birkir-kara, re-

George Bartolo

placed Fr Grech as parish priest.

In the Annual Statistics for Roman Report, signed by Fr. Francis on the 25th August 1968 the Catholic population continued to grow. It reached 1971 parishioners. With more residential areas opened, there was a great influx of people into the parish.

Another OFM Conv., Fr. Andrew Tabone from Valletta, who took over from Fr. Muscat, who was subsequently elected as Custos-General (the official title of the Su-

The Maltese contribution-Part 2



perior for the Franciscans Conventual Friars in Australia) in May 1970.

Between 1967 and 1970 there was the ordination of two local priests. Fr. Leonard Testa OFM Conv., who lived with his parents at Cringila, was ordained in Rome in December 1967 and on returning to Australia settled in the Warrawong parish. Another diocesan priest, Fr. Peter Caruana who also lived with his parents at Lake Heights said his ordination mass on 15th of August 1970 at the parish of St. Francis of Assisi.

The parish had two blocks of land at Cringila, bought by Fr Bonello for a future church. These were sold and as the church was built of weatherboard and was showing its age it was decided to cover it with face bricks. A steeple with a bell was included in the plans. The work was made possible with the finances generated from the sale of the land.

Celebrating Il-Vittorja

The feast of Our Lady of Victories (*Il-Vittorja*) celebrated on the Sunday 9th of September 1974 was special. The statue of Our Lady arrived from Malta in August of that same year and His Lordship Bishop Thomas McCabe was invited to say High Mass, bless the statue and take part in the procession that followed. The feast and procession are still held annually.

Two months later, in November, Fr. Leonard Testa OFM Conv. was elected as Custos-General of the Franciscan Order.

As more children were enrolling in the school the need to build more classrooms was becoming an urgent necessity. More land was bought on the western side of the church and the school was extended in two stages.

Fr. Bonello returned to the parish as parish priest and immediately undertook the second stage of the school with work starting in May 1975 through a \$120,000 grant by the Federal Government.



Fr. Leonard Testa with his father Frank after his ordination in Rome

**Continued on opposite page*

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

**Continued from opposite page*

The work was completed a year later coinciding with the 20th Anniversary of the foundation of the parish. Fr. Leonard Testa the new Custos-General celebrated the Anniversary Mass and Bishop William Murray blessed the new school extensions in the presence of the Federal Minister for Education, Senator Carrick performed the official opening ceremony. For the forthcoming academic year, four hundred children were enrolled.

Fr. Bonello was well known and respected by all those who knew him. The then Lord Mayor of Wollongong councillor Frank Arkell admired his untiring work and energy.

On Fr. Bonello's return to Warrawong in the latter part of 1975. The Lord Mayor together with George Bartolo, the then



Fr. Bonello (centre) together with some of the guests at the Mayoral reception in his honour. The Lord Mayor of Wollongong is standing at the back behind Fr Bonello



The St Francis of Assisi school at Warrawong as it is today

Grace Joseph Mercieca accompanied by Monsignor Philip Calleja visited the parish of St. Francis of Assisi of Warrawong and the St. Francis school.

Archbishop Mercieca and Fr Calleja were welcomed by the nuns and the students, and later in the day the Archbishop said High Mass and attended a reception in his honour.

A local joins the priesthood

Another young man joined the priesthood. He was Fr. Rick Micallef who was born in the area, attended the parish of St. Francis of Assisi and started his education at the parish school.

He was ordained at St. Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga on the 17th of May 2003 and said his first mass of thanksgiving a day later.



Fr Rick Micallef the day he was ordained a priest in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi

Every year the parish celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Victories with High Mass by the bishop of Wollongong followed by a procession with the statue, that originally, was held in the church and the school grounds. Later it began to include the streets of Warrawong around the church.

**Continued in next issue*

was bought and the factory demolished making way for a friary for the priests and a church hall. The extensions were blessed and officially opened on Sunday the 10th



Below: The Friary that was built in 1978 and then demolished again in 1993 to make way for the new church

of September 1978.

In 1983 the Archbishop of Malta His

president of the George Cross Club organised a Mayoral Reception in his honour. It was attended by a large number of people.

Next door to the church was a small pyjama-making factory and some land. It

The Archbishop of Malta, Joseph Mercieca visits the school. Also in picture, Sr. Grace Cini and the school principal Sr. Giovanna Gauci with kids from the school



JOE CILIA – wassal lir-Rabat li jiktbu l-isbaħ pagni fil-futbol

F'dan l-aħħar artiklu tiegħi għalissa se niffoka fuq sezzjoni oħra tal-kultura Maltija, l-isports, u l-aktar il-futbol, li tant daħal f'qalb il-Maltin, imma speċjalment se nikteb dwar personagg li f'Malta jibqa' jissemma fix-xena sportiva, l-eks futboler u kowċ Rabti, Joe Cilia.

Fil-fatt, din tiegħi hi l-ewwel darba li qatt ktibt artiklu li fih jidhol l-isports, imma llum se nagħmel eċċezzjoni, għax se nagħmel dan dwar wiehed mill-aqwa sportivi li qatt kien hawn f'Malta, futboler imwieled ir-Rabat li anke għamel isem fl-Awstralja. Joe Cilia twieled fit-22 ta' Ottubru 1937 u miet ta' 79 sena fil-5 ta' Awwissu 2017.

L-ewwel darba li kellimt lil Joe, kien fl-2004 meta kont qed nipprezenta l-ispettaklu 'Jum ir-Rabat' fl-Awditorium ta' Sant' Agata. Dakinhar is-sindku tar-Rabat Dr Frank Fabri ipprezenta lil Joe Cilia bl-akbar unur ta' din il-belt, 'Gieh ir-Rabat'.

Dan il-futboler ingħata it-titlu bħala apprezzament tal-50 sena tal-hidma kontinwa tiegħu fil-qasam tal-futbol marbuta wkoll mal-għola unuri għat-tim tal-lokal tiegħu, ir-Rabat Ajax.

Dakinhar li ngħata 'Gieh ir-Rabat' kont tkellimt xi ftit ma' Joe. L-impressjoni li ħadt tiegħu kienet li hu bniedem umil. Hassejt ukoll li joqgħod xi ftit bogħod mill-pubblicità. Saħansitra l-kitba li qrajt dwar il-hidma tiegħu u dwar ir-raġuni għaliex ir-Rabat ħass li kellu jonorah kienet imħejjija minn huf Paul li dejjem għożż it-talenti speċjali ta' Joe.

Ir-Rabtin jafu ħafna dwar Joe. Jafu li mindu beda jilgħab fil-futbol organizzat u l-kompetizzjonijiet magħrufa, kiseb l-aqwa unuri li l-futbol Malti seta' joffri u laħaq il-quċċata li kull futboler jaspira li jilħaq f'dan l-isports.

Joe wera t-talenti tiegħu fil-futbol sa minn ċkunitu u ta' 18-il sena fl-istaġun 1955-66 iffirma parti mit-tim ta' Rabat Ajax. Il-hila tiegħu kienet evidenti u klabbijiet oħra grew warajh, fosthom Valletta FC li rnexxielhom jikkonvincuħ biex jir-registra magħhom.

Joe, tant spikka bħala difensur ċentrali li ta' 19-il sena l-kowċ tat-tim nazzjonali tal-futbol tefa' għajneh fuqu u sejjaħlu biex jiffirma parti mit-tim leggendarju ta' Malta li fi Frar tal-1957 laġhab l-ewwel partita internazzjonali fl-Empire Stadium tal-Gżira kontra l-Awstrija. Joe Cilia kien l-iżgħar plejer f'dak it-tim li tilef 2-3.

Wara dakinhar Joe baqa' jkun għażla awtomatika għat-tim nazzjonali Malti, u bejn 1959 u 1964 anke ngħata l-faxxa ta' captain. Dak iż-żmien it-tim nazzjonali ftit kien ikollu partiti, imma d-disgħa li kellu Joe laġhabhom kollha.

Mhux biss, imma Joe baqa' jkun il-captain ta' kull tim ieħor li laġhab miegħu, inkluż tal-Valletta li baqa' jilgħab f'uħud mill-isbaħ snin tagħhom sal-1964. F'dawk is-snin hu nnifsu rnexxielu jirbaħ l-unuri kollha li kien joffri l-futbol Malti, fosthom sar l-ewwel plejer li għal darbtejn ingħata t-titlu tal-Futboler tas-Sena.

Fl-1964 emigra lejn l-Awstralja, imma xorta baqa' jilgħab il-futbol, l-ewwel mal-Corinthians imbagħad komplja jagħmel isem ma' wiehed mill-isbaħ żmienijiet tal-Melita Eagles fi NSW li magħhom anke rebaħ l-unur tal-Aqwa Futboler tas-Sena.

Fl-1971 irritorna Malta u għal darb'ohra komplja l-karriera ta' futboler għal żewġ staġuni oħra – 1971-1973 – mal-Valletta. Kif irtira minn plejer beda jiddedika ruħu għal kollox



Il-ġentlom Joe Cilia



Peter Paul Ciantar

Suċċess kemm f'Malta u fl-Awstralja

ilu mwaqqaf qatt ma kien rnexxielu jirbaħ unuri magħguri jew jikteb xi paġna tad-deheb fl-istorja tal-klabb. Imma taħt il-gwida tal-kowċ Rabti Joe Cilia rnexxielhom jirbaħ l-kampjonat u l-aqwa trofej li joffri l-futbol Malti.

Niftakar sewwa dak iż-żmien. Fir-Rabat kienu saru festi kbar fosthom fil-piazza ewlenija tal-lokal. Jien kont hemm bil-mikrofonu f'idejja nsellem lil-benjamini tat-tim tal-lokal. Il-kowċ rebbieħ Joe Cilia kien taħt l-arkati josserva kollox bil-kalma u bi tbissima ta' sodisfazzjon, għax it-tim ta' raħal twelidu (ir-Rabat) rebaħ unuri importanti fil-futbol Malti..

Anke z-żewġ baned tar-Rabat, il-L'Isle Adam u l-Konti Ruggieru nqas flimkien f'din il-manifestazzjoni ta' ferħ u ħbiberija biex jiċcelebraw dan l-avveniment storiku. Ir-Rabat kien tassew magħqud dakinhar.

Wara r-Rabat, Joe Cilia qatta' l-aħħar sentejn tiegħu bħala kowċ mal-Hibernians, u anke għamel xi żmien jikkowċja t-tim nazzjonali ta' taħt il-21 sena. Fl-2003 ngħata wkoll il-Westin Malta Football Award.

Inħoss li donnu Joe Cilia għabar l-esperjenzi kollha tiegħu fil-qasam tal-futbol, bħala plejer kbir u kowċ, u kebbishom fil-qlub tal-plejers tat-tim tal-lokal tiegħu. Il-ħegga tiegħu giet ittrasforma fi plejers bħall-Bużu (Carmel Busuttil).

Ir-Rabtin tal-età tiegħi żgur li qatt m'huma se jinsew dawn il-mumententi sbieħ fl-istorja tar-Rabat Ajax.

għall-kowċing. Irnexxielu jikkowċja whud mill-aqwa timijiet f'Malta. Bejn 1983 u 1985 mexxa lil Valletta u wassalhom għar-rebħ tal-kampjonat.

Il-hila bħala kowċ spikkat sew meta ssieheb mal-klabb l-aktar għall-qalbu, Rabat Ajax meta għal sentejn, bejn 1984 u 1986 wassalhom għar-rebħ tal-aqwa unuri, il-Kampjonat, għal sentejn wara xulxin, u fit-tieni sena zied ukoll l-FA Trophy.

Kienu s-snin tad-deheb għall-Ajax FC. Tul il-50 sena li dan il-klabb kien

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

On SBS Radio

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Web streaming:

www.coastfm.org.au

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

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

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

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

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

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF

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

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

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

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Established in 1999



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

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

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



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 event: Mother's Day Luncheon on Sunday May 2 from 12 noon. 3-course meal including wine & soft drinks. Entertainment by Joe Apap (il-Kangaroo). Tickets \$55 members, \$60 non-members. **Flexible Respite** and Centre-based Respite are operating normally.

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.)



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L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

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



Hamrun Spartans Malta's 2020/21 Champions

Hamrun Spartans FC have been declared the 2020/21 Malta's Premier Football League champions by virtue of the decision by the Executive Committee of the Malta Football following the nationwide ban on organised sports events announced by the Government and the Public Health Authorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is the second year running that the league has been brought to a premature end, following Floriana FC's triumph last year.

The current decision was reached during a meeting via videoconference that discussed the pandemic situation and its impact on the 2020/21 domestic competitions.

In its analysis of the repercussions caused by the prolonged ban on sporting activity, the Executive Committee took into consideration the following factors:

- The period of sporting inactivity since the enforced suspension of all domestic competitions on March 10, and the subsequent extension of such restriction;
- The lack of direction from the Authorities as to when the ban on contact-sport training and sports events would be lifted;
- The position that had already expressed by the Executive Committee should the Legal Notice be extended beyond the 12th April
- The timeframes established by UEFA, especially the June 1 deadline, for the submission of the names of the Maltese clubs competing in the 2021/22 UEFA Club Competitions.

The Association's Executive Committee concluded that the eventual resumption of the 2020/21 domestic competitions was not possible in the current circumstances, therefore it terminated all competitions, invoking a new rule introduced last year, that the classification following the last match



Hamrun Spartans, winners of the Malta Premier League 2021/21

played shall be deemed final, provided that all clubs have one-fourth or less of the competition yet to play".

In the Premier League all clubs have played 76.67% of their matches, meaning that the 75% requirement has been met. Hence, the classification after the last match day (23) was declared final and to stand.

Therefore Hamrun Spartans who were occupying top position in the classification of the Premier League, five points ahead of second-placed Hibernians (56 points to 51), and were therefore declared champions.

The clubs positioned second to fourth, that is, Hibernians, Gzira United and Birkirkara have qualified for the 2021/22 UEFA club competitions.

The four clubs occupying the last four positions – Żejtun Corinthians, Tarxien Rainbows, Lija Athletic and Senglea Athletic – have been relegated.

The FA Trophy, National Amateur Cup,

Spartans' eight Championships

For Hamrun Spartans this is their first Championship for 30 years. It is also their eight in the club's history. The last time they won the title was in the 1990/91 season.

They also managed the success in the first year of Gozitan entrepreneur Joe Portelli as the club president and sponsor, and coach Mark Buttigieg, who is also a Gozitan.

Their other winning seasons were: 1913/14, 1917/18, 1946/47, 1982/83, 1986/87 and 1987/88 and 1990/91.

National Amateur Super Cup, and all other KO competitions have been declared abandoned.

Final League Standings

The teams in the Premier League were occupying the following positions in the league ladder when season was brought to a premature end:

	P	GD	Pts
Hamrun S.	23	36	56
Hibernians	23	33	51
Gzira Utd	23	28	46
Birkirkara	23	20	44
Sliema W	23	8	40
Mosta	23	5	36
Valletta	22	-8	33
Sta Lucia	23	3	29
Sirens	23	-8	28
Floriana	23	-8	27
Gudja Utd	23	-6	27
Balzan	23	2	27
Żejtun C	23	-12	24
Lija Ath.	23	-23	21
Tarxien R	23	-21	20
Senglea A.	23	-49	2

Georgies make it four from four to top league ladder

George Cross beat Altona City 2-0 to make it four wins in the opening four rounds to take sole command of the Victoria State League Division 1 ladder with maximum points. They obtained their win with two first half goals in a two-minute spell with goals by Daniel Kuczyński (26th) and Ryan Newman.

In the previous round George Cross travelled to Banyule City to obtain an easy 2-0 win over their hosts with goals by Rhys Saunders and a deflected own goal from Francesco Stella's corner-kick.

The Georgies dominated proceeding throughout the match, but poor finishing and the good form of the home team's goalkeeper kept the score respectable.

Milestone 2000th match

George Cross' Round 6 home match against Brimbank Stallions on Saturday, May 1 will be the club's 2000th league game since the first league match was played in the inaugural 1948 season.

Parramatta Eagles suffer two successive defeats

After a bright start to the NSW NPL4 season that resulted in four straight wins in the league and two in the FFA Cup, Parramatta Melita Eagles came a cropper in their last two league outings. They not only lost both games but also conceded 10 goals in the process, replying with only two.

In Round 5 they lost 6-0 at Hurstville FC, and then on Saturday went down 4-2 at home to Newcastle Utd. Where after finding themselves two down by the interval, managed to level the score with goals by Adrian Epifanino (65th) and Zoran Kolundzic (70th), only to first lose their captain, Kolundzic injured and then also letting in two more goals for a disappointing loss.

In the FFA Cup Parramatta first beat Nepean 3-0 in their Round 3 rearranged fixture with goals by Ali Dulleh (2) and Clement Woci, and in Round 4 won a five-goal thriller against South Granville home with a hat-trick by Clement Woci.