



The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

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Valletta glows at night

Photo Kevin White

Fl-ahħar ħarġa ta' The Voice tajna importanza lil kummenti li dehru fil-midja bl-Ingliż f'Malta dwar il-Maltin li jghixu barra. Fuq talba tal-qarrejja llum qed nissoktaw bid-diskussjoni dwar dan is-sugġett, din id-darba bil-Malti.



Gemgħa ta' emigranti Maltin jistennew biex jimbarkaw għall-Awstraljani

Propost Forum ta' esperti Maltin internazzjonali biex jgħinu lill-pajjiż bl-ideat tagħhom

Hu fatt magħruf li l-Maltin li jghixu barra, jew huma ta' generazzjoni Maltija, huma l-frott ta' dawk il-Maltin li kienu hallew art twelidhom biex għamlu gejjieni għalihom u/jew għal ta' warajhom, u li jistgħu jitqiesu bħala esperti f'għadd ta' setturi. Qabel ftit li xejn kienu ġew mitluba jagħtu kontribut lil Malta, imma l-affarijiet jistgħu jinbidlu wara proposta tal-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej Evarist Bartolo għal Forum.

L-ghan wara l-proposta ta' dan il-Forum hu, biex l-ewwelnett wiehed jasal għal deċiżjoni dwar x'jagħmilna Maltin, u fl-istess waqt isir impenn halli wiehed jara kif il-Maltin li għamlu suċċess barra minn xtutna jistgħu jikkollaboraw bejniethom u mal-Ministeru, halli jiġu identifikati niċeċ ta' opportunitajiet ta' hidma flimkien.

Il-ħsieb hu li jinbada proċess fejn jiġu identifikati individwi Maltin li għamlu suċċess fil-karriera/professjoni tagħhom u tinholoq xibka ta' kollaborazzjoni fil-ġbir ta' ideat għal vizjoni ta' Malta tal-gejjieni.

Din il-kollaborazzjoni għandha tinbada billi għadd ta' esperti li jirrapprezentaw setturi importanti jiltaqgħu biex jiddiskutu u jibdlu l-ideat, li wara li jitpoġġew għall-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni, tinholoq vizjoni ta' Malta bħala kontributur attiv fil-qasam reġjonali u globali. Fil-fatt, il-Forum jista' wkoll ikun miftuħ għall-pubbliku lokali.

Sadanittant, fil-laqgħa bejn l-14-il membru tal-Kunsill tal-Maltin li jghixu Barra (CMLA), fosthom għall-ewwel darba, b'rappreżentant mill-Afrika ta' Fuq, intqal li fil-komunitajiet kbar Maltin f'xi pajjiżi bħal fl-Awstralja, l-Istati Uniti u l-

Kanada qed jonqos l-interess tal-Maltin, l-aktar fost iż-żgħażaġh, li ftit li xejn qed jieħdu sehem attiv fl-attivitajiet tal-komunità, tant li xi għaqdiet jew sfaxxaw inkella huma qrib li jisfaxxaw.

Minhabba f'hekk tinħass il-ħtieġa li ssir hidma halli aktar żgħażaġh mhux biss iħossuhom parti mill-komunità imma wkoll jikkontribwixxu b'mod effettiv fl-attivitajiet, u wkoll jingħaqdu ma' għaqdiet Maltin jew jiffurmaw xbieki diġitali li iżommuhom f'kuntatt haġ.

Sar ssuġġeriment biex tinbada kampanja bl-isem: #Jien Malti li bażikament tikkonsisti filli Maltin li jghixu barra jibagħtu kumment jew vidjo dwar dak li jhossu li jagħmilhom Maltin.

Il-kunsill iddiskuta wkoll l-aħbarijiet ta' Malta mtella' mill-PBS li l-Maltin li jghixu barra għandhom access għalihom. F'xi pajjiżi, fosthom fl-Awstralja l-Maltin għandhom programmi tal-aħbarijiet għalihom fuq l-istazzjon SBSTV. Minhabba li dan hu bil-Malti l-udjenza tiegħu hi limitata għax fost l-emigranti tattieni, it-tielet u r-raba' generazzjoni dawk li jikkellmu l-Malti qed jonqsu. Għalhekk, wara s-suġġeriment bdew diskussjonijiet halli jekk jista' jkun dawn l-aħbarijiet ikollhom ukoll is-sottotitli bl-Ingliż.

B'riżultat ta' deċiżjoni tal-laqgħat annwali tal-Kunsill tal-CMLA, id-Direttorat għas-Servizzi Konsulari kellu jwaqqaf sub-sit fuq il-websajt tal-Ministeru tal-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej iddedikata għall-materji relatati mad-Dijaspora Maltija.

**ara l-kummenti f'pagna 2*

Kummenti lokali dwar il-proposta tal-Forum

*minn pagna 2

Dwar dak li gie rrapurtat. F'*The Voice* irċevejna diversi kummenti. Hawn taht qed nippubblikaw għażla tal-aħjar minn dawn il-kummenti f'forma ta' artiklu.

Qamu l-mistoqsijiet dwar jekk il-Forum li gie propost, u li jista jkun ta' benefiċċju għal Malta, hux se jkun xi struttura oħra flok il-Kunsill tal-Maltin ta' Barra, u dwar min se jmessi dan il-forum ta' esperti.

Hu d-dmir tar-rappreżentanti tal-Gvern ta' Malta barra pajjiżhom biex jimmarkaw, jimbuttaw u jheggu lil daww kollha li għamlu success fl-isfera rispettiva tagħhom biex isiru hbieb effettivi ta' pajjiz missirijiethom.

Nghiduha, ftit li xejn rajna interess mill-awtoritajiet Maltin fl-istorja twila tal-emigrazzjoni, u meta nkisbu xi vantaġġi daww waslu wara snin kbar u wara hafna battikati ċertament instigati mhux mill-"esperti" iżda minn daww b'saqajhom mal-art fil-komunità Maltija. L-emigranti taw kontribut enormi lill-ekonomija u lill-pajjiz ingenerali tul l-istorja. Tajjeb li nippruvaw xi haga oħra.

Rajna bil-fatti fl-aħħar żewġ konvenzjonijiet li saru f'Malta (2010 u 2015) meta nitkellmu dwar il-kontribut taż-żgħażaġh ninsabu fi pjaneta oħra. Jekk naħsbu li ż-żgħażaġh tagħna se jqumu kmieni filghodu biex jaraw l-aħbarijiet fuq l-SBS TV għax ikollhom is-sotto titli bl-Ingliż, se nibqgħu biss noholmu.

Jekk naħsbu li se nqajjmu xi interess speċjali fit-tagħlim tal-Malti bil-korsijiet virtwali, ilkoll kemm aħna wkoll se nisoktaw noholmu. Liż-żgħażaġh irridu nhegguhom b'sinċerità u determinazzjoni



Maltin jitgħannqu mal-għeżiż tagħhom fil-Port il-Kbir qabel emigraw lejn l-Awstralja

biex fil-komunità tagħna jkun hawn kontinwità mhux biex nagħmlu xi show minnhom, kif sar fl-aħħar żewġ konvenzjonijiet.

Suppost li kkompilajna direttorati ta' Maltin li għamlu isem jew li taw xi kontribut siewi snin ilu. Kemm minnhom gew avviciinati, jew issa se niskopru r-rota?

Xogħol ir-rappreżentanti tal-Gvern Malti barra l-pajjiż

Huwa x-xogħol tar-rappreżentanti tal-Gvern Malti barra minn Malta li juzaw aħjar it-talent abbondanti li għandna fost il-komunità, huma ta' liema generazzjoni huma biex Malta tinqeda aħjar flok li nindahlu bejn il-basla u qoxritha.

Il-kunċett tal-kampanja #Jien Malti jidher sabiħ fuq il-karta għall-gost u biex

nghaddu ftit taż-żmien, u nqallbu fil-Facebook ta' dak u tal-iehor. Fil-fatt, illum dan isir minn hafna individwi, u tara, minn żgħażaġh isajru s-soppa tan-nanna sal-figolli tal-Għid, sa oħrajn jimitaw jew jid-dahqu bl-aċċent Malti. Imma mbagħad nieqfu hemm.

Ejja ninsew din l-ossessjoni li nikkonċentraw fuq iż-żgħażaġh u nhossuna hatja li qisna għamilna xi haga hażina. Uliedna, li rabbejna u edukajna b'tant sagrifċċi fl-Awstralja speċjalment, huma intelligenti u qegħdin jiffjorixxu f'kull qasam tax-xogħol, negozju, intrapriżi, arti u kultura, u m'għandhom b'żonn la għajnuna minn Malta u lanqas mill-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja, kif nafuha aħna.

Ejja inhallu l-proċess tal-ħajja u ż-żmien jieħdu l-kors tagħhom. Diġà hemm ġemgħat u individwi li jikkomunikaw bejniethom b'mezzi diġitali, bħal Facebook. Jekk għad ihossu li dawn għandhom jiltaqgħu f'xi sala, jew f'xi klabb kif imdorrjin aħna, dan isir b'mod naturali.

Sadanittant ejja naraw x'inhuma l-ħtiġijiet immedjati. Il-b'żonn immedjat huwa li niehdu hsieb l-eluf ta' anzjani tagħna li jinsabu wahidhom, abbandunati u minsija, hafna minnhom f'nursing homes, li lanqas huma kapaċi jikkomunikaw, għax fi xjuħithom insew il-ftit Ingliż li kienu jtkellmu u reġgħu lura għall-Malti.

Dan hu eżempju wieħed fejn Malta għadha tista' tgħin lil uliedha. Jinhtieg li nheggu liż-żgħażaġh biex intejbu l-aħħar snin ta' dawn l-anzjani u nistudjaw birreqqa x'inhuma l-ħtiġijiet essenżjali tagħhom.

Inhlew hafna snin f'diskussjonijiet u wegħdi fiergħa, issa huwa ż-żmien ta' azzjoni biex ngħinu lill-anzjani tagħna, l-akbar problema li għandna fil-komunità Maltija bħalissa, u waqt li tajjeb li nharsu u nippjanaw lejn il-futur ma nistgħux inhallu l-preżent jikkollassja madwarna.



Emigranti prospettivi jiltaqgħu mal-uffiċjali tal-emigrazzjoni

Anzac Day part of our national identity – but obscures brutality and damage of wars

Observed for the first time in 1916, ANZAC Day (Australian & New Zealand Army Corps) is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders “who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations”. It is also “the contribution and suffering of all those who have served”. Observed on the 25th of April each year, this day (a public holiday) is part of the global Remembrance Day.

The people of the island of Malta, awarded the George Cross for bravery, migrated to Australia in their thousands and many have served in Australia's wars. The only ones still alive are old now. Their children and relatives carry the tradition forward as they take part in the annual parades across the cities of Australia on ANZAC Day.

For the first time in two years, and as restrictions eased this year, Australians and New Zealanders were able to gather in-person for Anzac Day dawn services in cities and towns across the two nations to commemorate the two countries' war dead and also pay tribute to the sacrifices of those who have served in the armed forces.

Eased coronavirus restrictions meant large crowds could gather at cenotaphs and war memorials and ceremonies and marches were also held across many cities and towns in Australia and New Zealand, except for Perth, which was in lockdown.

In Sydney, around 1200 people were able to attend Sydney's dawn service in Martin place and around 10,000 marched through the CBD for the official parade. Among them was 104-year-old WWII vet Alf Carpenter. NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian addressed the Anzac Day dawn service.

Anzac day 2021 review

Thousands also turned out for the dawn service in Coogee while a moving dawn service was held at the Australian War Memorial where Prime Minister Scott Morrison told the crowd in Canberra, “Our strength is found in each other,”



ABOVE: Alfred Carabott (left) and Mario Farrugia at the Civic Park Pendle Hill Monument. **BELOW:** At Lea Harding's home at 4.40a in Dee Why, with her son Henry



At The Cenotaph in Sydney on the eve of Anzac day. From left: Charles Attard, Doris Pocock, Henry Harding, Dr G. Boffa, Lea Harding and Andrew Mamo.

The true meaning

The true meaning of Anzac Day was explained so eloquently by Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at the ANZAC Day eve mass in St Mary's Cathedral when he said that “the Anzac legend has become a noble part of our national identity, yet it has obscured the brutal reality of the damage of war; the quintessentially Australian legend's “dreamy vision” of a thirst for peace and freedom, of fidelity to God and country, of love for family and mates, is a worthy one.

“In celebrating the ANZACs we can celebrate what is best in our history, country, selves,” he said. “We commit to seeking



to be worthy of their lives and deaths.

“But we can also honour their legacy by helping those who are still hurting. Above all, we offer the survivors, those who did not survive, and those who grieve them, the hope of Easter. In God's book of eternal life ‘their name liveth for evermore.’”

Archbishop Fisher said that, as the forthcoming Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicides would expose “in harrowing detail, war does its damage, and continues to hurt people long after it is over.

“PTSD, depression and the rest, we now appreciate, are very real,” he said.

The NSW Maltese Sub Branch of the RSL spreads its activities far and wide culminating in its participation at the annual march in the main street of Sydney, in prayers at the Cenotaph and Cringila, Parramatta and Pendle Hill.

**See also, Malta's High Commissioner attends ANZAC Day ceremony on page 11.*

104-year-old WWII veteran Alf Carpenter, walked in the parade in Sydney



The members of the Maltese NSW RSL who marched in Sydney





The Maltese RSL Group with special guests and members of the GCFCC at the Anzac commemoration at Gringila

A dignified service to remember the Anzacs at Gringila

Members of the Maltese Ex-Servicemen's Association RSL Sub-Branch of NSW travelled to George Cross Falcons Community Centre in Cringila south of Wollongong to commemorate the memory of the Maltese ANZACS of World War One where a monument was erected a year ago to the Maltese ANZACS with complete cooperation between the George Cross Falcons Club (GCFCC) and the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch.

Ms Doris Pocock, the secretary of the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch told *The Voice* that the dignified outdoor service, conducted under strict COVID safety rules, was attended by GCFCC members and guests that included Mr Bruce Kafer, the president of the Wollongong RSL Sub-Branch and Paul Scully MP, a member for Wollongong.

Ms Tania Brown, Councillor Wollongong City Council and Mr Gordon Bradbury, Deputy Mayor of Wollongong along with relatives and other members of the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch also attended. They were all warmly welcomed by Louis Parnis the president, and Elizabeth Walker, the secretary of the GCFCC.

Acting as MC, Andrew Magro, son of the late Jimmy Magro, the former president of the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch until he died in 2008, and treasurer of the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch started the service with a Call to Order and an acknowledgement to the Traditional Owners of the Land, followed by the National Anthems of Malta and Australia.

Charles N Mifsud OAM MQR, a former National Serviceman and RAEME Reservist and current President of the Maltese RSL

Sub-Branch delivered a brief welcome message.

Andrew Magro then recounted the life of Charles Emanuel Bonavia, a serviceman and an architect by profession who migrated to Australia from Malta in 1911. After World War I broke out, like a number of other Maltese men he joined the Australian Army and was to Egypt for training. Then she was sent off to war.

He was among the first wave of soldiers that were sent to Gallipoli on Sunday 25 April 1915. Like many others he was killed in action on the first day of the invasion, his body was never recovered.

Then on behalf of the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch Doris Pocock presented a framed George Cross medal (with a copy of the letter by King George VI to the Maltese people) to Peter Micallef who is a life member at the GCFCC.

After this presentation, Andrew Magro recited the ODE, the Last Post and Reveille was played, and Doris Pocock, who is the daughter of the late Salvu Attard, another stalwart of the Maltese RSL, Charles Mifsud the president of the Sub-Branch, and Bruce Kafer the President of the Wollongong RSL Sub-Branch laid a wreath at the foot of Maltese ANZACs Monument.

At the end of the service the GCFCC provided a light lunch to all those present.

The Maltese RSL Sub-Branch wished to thank Louis Parnis, president of the GCFCC and his Committee for their cooperation and their hospitality, and said they looked forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of the community, through the good job being done at the Community Centre.

This Community Centre is now also home to a number of associations in the Illawarra Region including the Country Women's Association, the local Catholic Prayer Group, the Morris Minor Club, the local Men's Shed, the Illawarra Cake Guild, the local Labor Party meetings and several others.



From left: Andrew Magro, Doris Pocock, Charles N Mifsud, Peter Micallef (holding the framed copy of the George Cross), and Louis Parnis



The Maltese Anzac's Monument at Gringila

Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – My Eighties

Never a ‘dull moment’ in an eventful decade

Ten more years! The world has aged another 10 years and it continued its forward course. This period saw great social, economic and general

change as wealth and production accelerated although some developing countries across the world faced difficult times as they suffered from multiple debt crises.



Joseph Lanzon

In 1980 Beatle John Lennon was assassinated in New York, and film actor Ronald Reagan became USA President. A year later President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was assassinated in Cairo, and in 1982 Britain and Argentina were engaged in the Falklands war. Margaret Thatcher was victorious and Argentina's General Leopoldo Galtieri was humiliated and deposed.

In 1984 India's Prime Minister Indira Ghandi was assassinated by her own bodyguards, and a year later Mikhail Gorbachev became President of the Soviet Union to commence a policy of a liberal attitude towards his own people and the West.

In 1988 Scotland witnessed the worst terrorist attack when a passenger airliner was blown up over the town of Lockerbie in killing 270 people and in 1989 the infamous Berlin Wall that divided the German city's East and West was brought down.

The tearing down of the wall is considered to be the most momentous event of the eighties. The media even described the occasion as “The greatest story ever covered”.

In consequence several ex-Soviet satellites gained their independence of Russia. The same decade also witnessed the beginning of the Aids epidemic, while gay rights became more widely accepted in the western world.

In Malta in 1980, Dr. George Borg Olivier, in whose time Malta achieved Independence, died and was given a state funeral.

In December of that same year the Labour Party won the election with 34 seats to the Nationalist Party's 31. The voting system in use at the time led to the Labour Party winning a majority of seats. However, the Nationalist Party now led by Dr Eddie Fenech Adami 50.9% of the people's votes. However, the Labour Party had the right to govern with



Tearing down the Berlin Wall that for 28 years had divided a city and a nation

a disputed mandate.

Dom Mintoff, the leader of the Labour Party indicated that he would not be ready to govern in such conditions and hinted that he would call for fresh elections within six months. However he eventually accepted the President's invitation to form a government.

This provoked a constitutional crisis, as the Nationalist Party MPs decided to completely boycott and abandon their parliamentary seats and not to return to parliament

after election and accept the result

Mintoff proposed talks between the parties and as a result a compromise was reached whereby changes were made to the voting system to prevent a recurrence of the same problem.

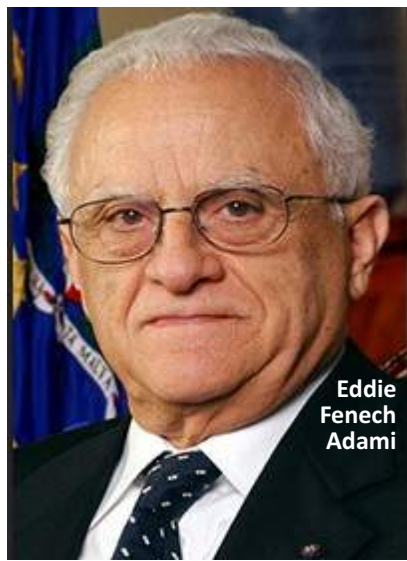
In 1980 Malta and Libya quarrelled over oil exploration rights and an oil rig belonging to the Italian company Saipem commissioned to drill on behalf of the Maltese government 68 nautical miles south-east of Malta was forced to stop operations after being threatened by a Libyan gunboat.

Both countries claimed economic rights to the area and this incident raised tensions. In 1982 the matter was referred to the International Court of Justice and retained excellent relations following a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty.

**Continued on opposite page*



Dom Mintoff



Eddie Fenech Adami

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



The aftermath of the 1985 EgyptAir 648 flight massacre at Malta International Airport: what remained of the inside of the Boeing 737-200 after the assault by the Egyptian commandos to take over the plane from the Palestinian hijackers and free the passengers. It resulted in the death of 59 foreign passengers

Dom Mintoff resigns from Prime Minister, MLP leadership

In 1984 Dom Mintoff resigned from Prime Minister and the leadership of the Malta Labour Party to be succeeded by Dr Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici (pictured below) who served as Prime Minister of Malta from December 1984 to May 1987.

Four years previously, Mintoff had already designated Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici as his successor and also appointed him as the party's deputy leader, a position that was confirmed by the party conference.

Then in 1982 he was then co-opted into Parliament upon the resignation of Paul Xuereb., and in September 1983, Mifsud Bonnici was named Senior Deputy Prime Minister and assigned the Ministry of Education during which period – between 1985 and 1986 – he was in charge of the introduction of free education for all, which had led to a deep dispute between the government and the Church that dominated the nation.



A massacre at Malta Airport

On 23 November 1985, members of the Abu Nidal terrorist organisation hijacked a Boeing 737-200 EgyptAir 648 airliner and forced the pilot to land at Malta's International Airport.

Then Maltese Prime Minister, Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, rushed to the airport's control tower to assume responsibility for the negotiations. Eleven passengers and two injured flight attendants were allowed off the plane. Then the hijackers started shooting hostages.

After a number of offers from different nations to get involved, on the advice of the the US that Egypt had a special forces counterterrorism team trained by the U.S. Delta Force ready to move in, the Maltese authorities granted them permission to come.

In the end, following prolonged negotiations on November 25, the Egyptian commandos attacked the plane. It resulted in a massacre as 59 foreign passengers, held hostage by Palestinian guerrillas, were killed.

In 1987 Malta's former President, Dr Anton Buttigieg died. That same year, after 16 years in opposition the Nationalist party won the election, and a year later, 1988 the indomitable Miss Mabel Strickland who had led the Constitutional Party was laid to rest.

In my little word, in 1983 I was appointed chairman of the Hotels and Catering Establishments Board and three years later my son Chris was married Marthese nee Formosa and in 1988 my only grandson,

Sean Lee was born.

In the entertainment world, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Duran Duran, Prince and Queen were the most-followed singers, while the world's the shining stars were Warren Beatty, Eddie Murphy, Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, Woody Allen, Demi Moore, Keanu Reeves, Bruce Willis, Patrick Swayze and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The top box office films of the decade were Chariots of Fire, Star Wars, The Rain Man, Indiana Jones and Crocodile Dundee.

**Continued in the next issue*

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Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.



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Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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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 ...

It is such a big world!

Jimmy Borg from San Bruno USA writes:

I read with interest the letter to the editor of J.L. Bonnici from California (VOM April 20). When it comes to the renewal of passports and citizenship applications we are the "lost tribe".

The Californian Maltese community is living the furthest from a Maltese Embassy anywhere in the world. It is 3,704

km (2,302 miles) away from Washington, a flight of five hours. To travel there you would also need to buy accommodation, take leave from work etc.

Why do we have a Hon. Consul when in important matters they are not allowed to do the work and we must go personally all the way to Washington.

Please do not mention Consul on the Move, as that is a rarity!

Raring to go

Ray Cassar from Sutton, England writes:

I would like to use this popular publication to congratulate Malta, particularly the ministry of tourism that is in charge of this important sector, for the incentives it has meted out to the tourism outlets and the tourists themselves to revive this economically important niche for the island.

As a Maltese residing in England, a trip to Malta is quite easy for me, especially as I still have relatives and countless friends out there and for years my English wife and two kids used to eagerly look forward to a holiday in Malta to enjoy the beautiful weather and the Maltese hospitality.

Due to the pandemic and the restrictions on travel, unfortunately, like everybody else we had to forego such visits. However, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and come July we will be there again.

Not only my family. We have hundreds of friends in the UK who love holidaying in Malta and like us; some have already started making plans to return. Others, who have never been there, have heard so much about it from us, or read about what it has to offer, that they too are raring to go.

In Solidarity with the Aborigines

Josh Caruana from Rockingham, WA writes:

Most of us in Australia wholeheartedly supported the Black Lives Matter in the United States and expressed solidarity with US protesters when George Floyd was killed by a police officer. Those of us who truly treasure life, were outraged by Floyd's death while in police custody.

We were also quite happy that the policeman was brought to justice and convicted of murdering the black man. But we seem to stop there and ignore what has been happening nearer home.

The racism that some of us practice is horrendous, so too the way aborigines are treated by the police especially while in custody. Few seem to admit that the laws in Australia disproportionately criminalise Aboriginal people.

According to the royal commission findings, over 430 aboriginals have died in police custody, yet the country seems to turn a blind eye to the problem. I have also read somewhere; I don't know where, that Aboriginal people are the most incarcerated race of people on the planet.

There were riots and protests in the US following the death of George Floyd. I rarely see any protests in Australia except the few ones that rarely make the headlines, by the Aborigines themselves. If we value lives we must join together to express the same solidarity with them that we showed with the protests in the US.

NOTE: When sending letters to be published, our readers are requested to indicate their full name, country, state, suburb or town if mailing from Australia, or name the town or village if from Malta, or anywhere else. Letters to the editor are accepted either in English or Maltese. Please try to keep them as short as possible



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Q. I am on a part age pension. My only son is married and they are expecting their first baby. His wife will need to give up work for at least one year and they are already expressing concern of keeping up with the mortgage repayments on their home. I have \$50,000 in a term deposit earning 0.5%. I was thinking of gifting it to them. Would this affect my age pension entitlement?

A. As Centrelink already know of this term deposit your pension will not be affected. However, you are only allowed to gift \$10,000 in any one year. Therefore, the other \$40,000 will continue to be treated as your assets by Centrelink for the next five years. In the meantime, however, your pension will slightly increase, as \$10,000 of the \$50,000 will be deducted from the amount of assets assessed by Centrelink..

Q. We are married and in our 30s and have two young children ages 4 and 5. We wish to commence a savings plan to cover their expenses when they go to University in about 15 years' time. At present my husband earns around \$100,000 p.a. and I have only just gone back to work. My current income is about \$45,000 per annum. Should we have the investment in joint names or should I just have it in mine?

A. Tax wise you may pay less in your name initially seeing that you are on a much lower tax bracket. However, this savings plan will be going on for 15 years and the amounts invested may not be large amounts, since it will be built from surplus funds from combined income. So having it in joint names may be

an option also. Your accountant may wish to confirm this for you.

Q. I am planning to retire in the next 12 months. I have three different superannuation funds, as I have never bothered to merge them together. I believe that it would simplify things if I merged all three together when I come to retire to commence one account-based pension. What should I look at prior to doing this?

A. I would recommend that now would be an ideal time to go and visit a financial adviser. He would look at your current situation as well as your three superannuation funds and advise accordingly.

It is important to know which of the three super funds has been performing the best, the ongoing fees, and whether any of them have insurance cover. Your adviser would then be able to provide you with an informed decision to suit your particular needs.

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



Q. I am in the process of reviewing my Will. I am planning to change my executors as they are now aging and I feel that they may not be able to take on this responsibility. Should I let them know about this?

A. If your current executors are aware that they are your executors, I believe it is prudent for you to inform them of your plans. They may be relieved to know that this responsibility has been taken off them.

You also need to ask the new executors whether they will be happy to take up this role prior to nominating them in your Will, as not everyone is happy to take up this responsibility.

Q. I am a self-funded retiree and in the process of downsizing. I will be left with around \$1.5 million once I pay off my new home. How should I invest these surplus funds to make sure that they are working well for me?

A. Once you have settled on the purchase of the new home you are able to invest up to \$300,000 into superannuation. This will need to be done within 90 days of selling your current residential home.

The remaining funds could be invested in managed funds to provide you with an ongoing income stream. You need to see a financial planner who would be able to assess your situation and advise you accordingly.

This document contains factual information only and is not intended to provide any recommendation or opinion in relation to the topic/s discussed.

Fiducian recommends that you seek advice from a professional to address any issues that may be raised by this article. Fiducian accepts no liability for any loss suffered by anyone who has acted on any information in this document

Investing or Retiring?

Understand your options. Talk to Fiducian.



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- Maximising Centrelink Benefits
- Tax effective strategies in retirement e.g. sale of property
- Rearranging finances to minimise ongoing fees prior to entering Aged Care facilities



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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**



Nitmejl bin-nies?

Man l-aħħar ġimgħat reġa' qam furur dwar l-iskema Maltija ta' ċittadinanza naturalizzata għal investituri barranin (fil-bidu msemmi *Individual Investor Programme*, illum imsemmi *Citizenship by Naturalisation for Exceptional Services*). Din hija skema li tippermetti lil persuni sinjuri barranin li jinvestu ammont sostanzjali ta' fondi fil-pajjiż (iktar minn €1 miljun) u jkunu residenti fil-pajjiż (fl-iskema tal-bidu għal tnax-il xahar, issa bejn tnax u sittu u tletin xahar), fost kundizzjonijiet oħra, li jakkwistaw ċittadinanza Maltija (u bħala konsegwenza dik Ewropea).

Mill-kritiċi tagħha din l-iskema tiġi referuta bħala 'Ċittadinanza għall-bejgħ'.

Kont ikkummentajt dwar din l-iskema fl-edizzjoni 174 ta' *The Voice of the Maltese*. Fost l-oħrajn kont ikkunsidrajt li diversi pajjiżi għandhom skemi simili (għalkemm mhux identiċi), bħall-Awstralja, u Ċipru u l-Awstrija fl-Ewropa, u għalhekk ma rajtx li skema simili fiha nnifisha hija oġġezzjonabbli, għax tattira fondi u assi sostanzjali lejn il-pajjiż, basta li jittiehdu prekawzjonijiet biex, per eżempju, ma jiġux aċċettati nies b'passat kriminali, li jkun hemm trasparenza u sorveljanza indipendenti, li aġir mhux professjonali jew korrott ikollu l-konsegwenzi eċċ.

Dan l-aħħar, ġurnalisti investigattivi skoprew li *Identity Malta* kif ukoll il-kunċessjonarju Henley and Partners, kienu qegħdin jinterpretaw il-bżonn taħt l-iskema l-antika IIP ta' tnax-il xahar residenza bħala waħda legali, u mhux fiżika. Dan ifisser li l-applikant mhux bilfors ikun mistenni li jagħmel dak il-perjodu ta' żmien fiżikament fil-ġeżjer.¹

Minflok, l-applikant ikun mistenni li jagħmel attivitajiet alternattivi li juru relazzjoni ġenwina mal-pajjiż, bħal donazzjoni lil xi organizzazzjoni ta' karità, jissieheb f'xi klabb lokali, jikru servizz tat-telefon eċċ. Dan kollu kien evalwat f'sistema ta' punti li kien ikejjel ir-rilevanza tiegħu lejn l-istennija ta' relazzjoni sinjifikanti mal-pajjiż.

Din is-sistema ta' punti wiehed jifhimha, biss jien ma nifhimx għaliex punti kienu jingħataw ukoll għal xiri jew kiri ta' proprjetà, li kienet waħda mit-talbiet ewlenin mandatorji tal-iskema.

X'aktarx li hafna nies ma jifhmux kif talba għal residenza tista' tiġi mifhuma b'mod ieħor milli fiżikament tkun preżenti hemmhekk għaż-żmien stipulat. L-awtoritajiet Maltin preċiżament hekk qegħdin jargumentaw, illi r-residenza hija meqjusa legali, u mhux fiżika.

Irrid ngħid li l-Awstrija, fl-iskema tagħha ta' ċittadinanza mill-investment, titlob li jsir investment u kontribut sostanzjali fil-pajjiż imma ma titlobx li applikant jagħmel hin twil fiżikament fil-pajjiż.² Għalhekk, il-pożizzjoni ta' Malti f'dan ir-rigward tixbaħ xi ftit dik tal-Awstrija.

Aktar inkwetawni r-rapporti li proprjetajiet kienu qegħdin jiġu

mikrija mhux biex iservu bħala residenza, imma s e m p l i c e m e n t biex ikun jista' jingħad li l-bżonn ta' xiri jew kiri ta' proprjetà tiġi mwettqa.

Hafna aghar għaliha kien il-każ li applikanti separati jikru l-istess appartament! Din sitwazzjoni li jidher li kienet aċċettabbli anke formalment mal-awtorità Identity Malta - jien personalment ma nifhimhiex.³

Wiehed bilfors irid isemmi l-allegat tixhim li sar wara l-ipproċessar ta' tliet applikazzjonijiet taħt din l-iskema, każ li qiegħed il-qorti.⁴

Din l-iskema problemi għandha. M'hemmx dubju li għamlet kontribut ekonomiku lill-pajjiż, wiehed sostanzjali ta' mijiet ta' miljuni ta' ewro. M'hemmx dubju wkoll li dilket isem Malta fit-tajn.

Bl-importanza tad-dhul mill-iskema fl-ekonomija tal-pajjiż, nifhem għaliex il-gvern qed jagħmel minn kollox biex iżomm lil din l-iskema taħt xi sura jew oħra. Il-problema se tkun li hafna nies fil-pajjiż, kif ukoll istituzzjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropea, mhux l-inqas il-Kummissjoni Ewropea, se jkunu xettici li l-governabilità tal-iskema tista' tkun kredibbli.

Jekk l-iskema eventwalment tingħalaq qabel iż-żmien, żgur tkun daqqa ta' harta għall-ekonomija tal-pajjiż.



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The Eurovision show is on This is Destiny's dream

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic's continued grip on the Continent, the organisers of the Eurovision Song Contest 2021 are determined to break out the dry ice and will hold it as planned in Rotterdam later on this month. Malta will be there to be represented by Destiny who will execute the song titled *Je Me Casse*.

Last year the Eurovision Song Contest was one of the many events that fell foul of COVID lockdowns across Europe and had to be cancelled. However this year it will be held at the same venue with the Semi-Finals taking place on Tuesday the 18th and Thursday the 20th of May, and the Grand Final on Saturday the 22th.

Destiny, referred to as a child prodigy and compared to the likes of her idol and music legend Aretha Franklin, will sing last (16th) in the first semi-final that also includes Australia's representative, the Sydney-based artist Montaigne. She will

sing *Technicolour* in fifth place.

She is no stranger to Eurovision or performing in front of large crowds. In 2015, Destiny got her first taste of Eurovision success where she won the Junior Eurovision Song Contest with a record-high 185 points, performing her song *Not My Soul*.

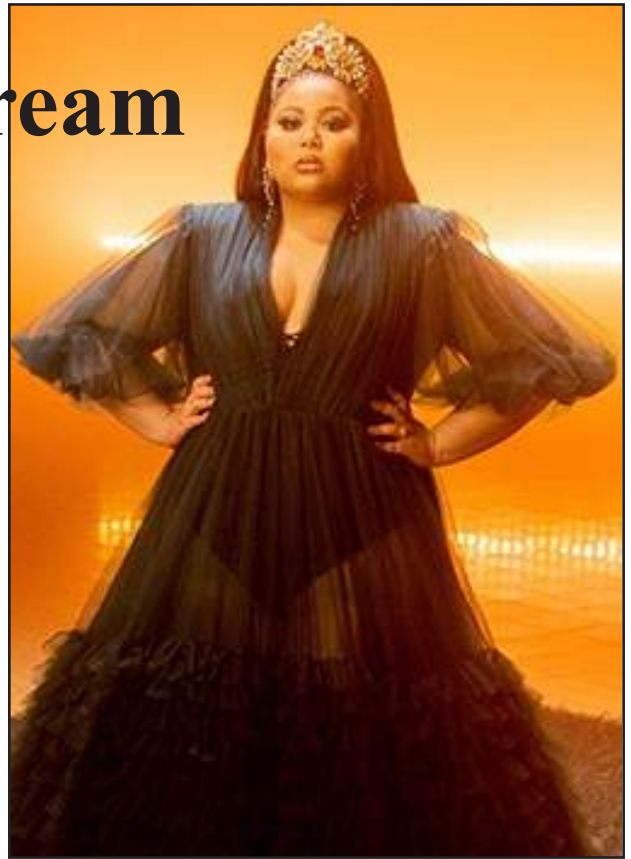
Since then, it has been the Maltese singer's ambition to appear on the regular Eurovision stage and to produce a first Eurovision Song Contest victory for Malta.

On the long road to Rotterdam the fledgling Maltese pop star has also showcased her talents on many stages, including that of *Britain's Got Talent*.

Destiny (family name: Chukunyere) was chosen to represent Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2020, and locked in her spot as the countries' representative by winning Season 2 of X Factor Malta, which was another milestone for her. But her dream has always been to represent Malta at the Eurovision Song Contest.

Early on in the process of preparing for the Contest, Team Destiny decided they were on a mission to deliver a dance floor filler with an instant feel good factor. Clap-back banger *Je Me Casse* (with lyrics in English and French) was the result.

Not all the elements of the show that had been planned for the 2020 edition will be



Destiny, Malta's representative in Rotterdam will be fulfilling her ambition

held, but the stage has been carried over to this year, because that was already prepared.

As in 2020 the venue for the show will be the Ahoy in Rotterdam. The venue has hosted several big events, including the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2007.

The theme for the 65th Eurovision Song Contest also remains the same as that chosen last year, Open Up because the organisers found it was important to choose a theme that reflects the spirit of our times.

When in 2019 the Executive Producer of the show Sietse Bakker chose the slogan he said, "With the slogan we warmly invite people to open up to others, to different opinions, each other's stories and of course to each other's music."

The logo is meant to connect Rotterdam with the capitals of the participating countries and symbolises coming together, regardless of the form.



The 33 countries to be represented in the Eurovision Contest in Rotterdam: FIRST SEMI-FINAL (singing in this order): Lithuania, Slovenia, Russia, Sweden, Australia, North Macedonia, Ireland, Cyprus, Norway, Croatia, Belgium, Israel,

Romania, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, MALTA SECOND SEMI-FINAL: San Marino, Estonia, Czech Republic, Greece, Austria, Poland, Moldova, Iceland, Serbia, Georgia, Albania, Portugal, Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, Switzerland, Denmark

Malta's High Commissioner attends ANZAC Day ceremony

Malta's High Commissioner to Australia, H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg, attended the ANZAC Day National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra along with members of the foreign diplomatic corps, (centre on right) and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps laid a wreath on behalf of the diplomatic community.

Later, the HC attended the French ANZAC Day Ceremony and reception at the Embassy of France, honouring Australians who perished on French soil.





Roundup of News About Malta



Malta passes Moneyval assessment

Although still awaiting official confirmation from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at the end of a final verdict, Malta is reported to have passed its Moneyval* test. The positive report that will officially be published by Moneyval in June follows a series of reforms Malta has made in its efforts to address any financial crime shortcomings.

It approved government's measures to strengthen the roles of the Malta Financial Services Authority and the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit, its setting up of the police force's Financial Crimes Investigation Department and for providing training on anti-money laundering crimes to members of the judiciary.

In 2019 Malta had initially failed Moneyval's first assessment. After that the government was given a year to patch up any legislative gaps in terms of money laundering and terrorist-financing.

The news was greatly welcomed by the organisations that really matter in Malta, including the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry that said it was pleased to see that the Coun-

cil of Europe's anti-money laundering expert committee has voted in favour of approving a final report on Malta.

It believes that it was imperative for Malta to ensure continued observance of the anti-money laundering measures, and seeing that the processes adopted do not impose disproportionate bureaucratic burdens on the financial services industry.

It said that "success can only be achieved through a unified approach, and all efforts need to be focused on maintaining the highest of standards through constant proactive action and keeping transparency at the forefront."

**Moneyval is the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism.*



Notwithstanding the pandemic Scope Ratings confirms Malta's A+ rating with stable outlook

German credit rating agency Scope Ratings has reaffirmed Malta's A+ credit rating and stable outlook, stating that the country has strong growth potential coupled with prudent fiscal performance.

The Berlin-based agency said that in its view, the risks Malta faces over the next 12 to 18-month period are "well balanced", with debt expected to resume its downward trajectory once the country's economy stabilises in 2022. It said that the rating was not solicited by Malta.

Strengths and weaknesses

Notwithstanding the pandemic, in its report, the agency highlighted three strengths and three weaknesses in Malta's economy. Malta's first strength, the agency said, is its growth potential, with an economy shifting to higher value-added services and structural reforms having increased the labour supply and reduced unemployment rates.

Scope believes Malta can grow its GDP at 3.5 to 4 per cent per year, a rate higher than that of its peers, with real GDP projected to exceed pre-pandemic levels by 2022.

The agency said Malta's second strength is its "strong track record of fiscal prudence and consolidation over the medium-



term," with public debt levels having declined significantly in the years before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even during the pandemic, a number of important sectors, including IT, continued to grow.

In addition to the success of economic planning, foreign experts welcome the government's work in the area of good governance, so much so that the report states that, "The current ad-

ministration has made substantial progress in terms of control of corruption and rule of law through constitutional amendments and reforms to the judiciary".

Scope indicated that under the current Maltese administration there is a positive reform momentum as it is working hard to enforce the financial regulators with the Moneyval and FATF proposed reforms.

It also praised Government's financial help that next year would enhance national wealth to a better level than it was before the pandemic.

It said Malta's vaccination programme is the best in Europe and one expects the majority of population soon to be vaccinated.

Scope Rating also pointed out in its report the Government's plan for economy regeneration, especially the huge investment in the Maltese infrastructure.

Sports tourism, diving sector to benefit from recovery plan

As part of its tourism recovery plan, Malta has announced two new incentives aimed at attracting tourists to Malta that would be supporting sport tourism as well as the diving sector.

Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo announced a scheme in which each foreign tourist visiting Malta to practice diving would be granted a voucher for €100. Tourists would need to apply for this scheme on a form to be found on www.visitmalta.com.

Once the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) ensures that the application is legit, a voucher that has to be spent purely at diving centres around Malta and Gozo, would be sent to the tourist.

The minister said that the overall effect from such a scheme is expected to generate around €12 million in the Maltese economy.

When it comes to the scheme aimed at supporting sport tourism, each organiser would benefit from €100 for each foreign participant/athlete who visits Malta as a tourist to participate in a sporting activity. This scheme starts from next July.

Meanwhile, the government announced it is to cancel the payment of licenses and contributions payable to the Malta Tourism Authority for the period between January and December this year.





Roundup of News About Malta

Launch of 'Malta Workshops' attracts financial crime experts

Malta recently hosted the first edition of the 'Malta Workshops', an initiative launched by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs that aroused great interest and attracted around 2,500 people from 65 different countries, 45 financial authorities, and six international institutions who took part in a series of five workshops in which they discussed the challenges and vulnerabilities they face to attract and regulate international business.

The event, held in collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee on Combatting Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism, was boosted by the participation of international experts in various fields; primarily the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT); it discussed the challenges and vulnerabilities they face in their work to attract international business, as well as ways in which these risks can be mitigated.

Those who actively participated in the 'Workshops represented governments, rel-

evant state agencies and institutions, national banking authorities and institutions, technical agencies involved in AML/CFT and embassies, officials from various international institutions, including MONEYVAL, the International Monetary Fund, the Council of Europe, the European Central Bank, the Eurasian Group and the UNODC.

The workshops focussed on how small international financial centres can benefit from a global framework of co-operation and collaboration with other partners at national, regional and international level, to find common solutions to this common challenge.

In his concluding address, Malta's foreign minister Evarist Bartolo said the initiative stemmed from the basic tenet that these challenges are universal in nature and not unique to one territory, country, region or continent.

Minister Bartolo stressed upon the need for countries to work together for the sustainable development of small international financial centres because, however



Minister Evarist Bartolo addressing the 'Workshops' Photo: DOI – Clodagh O'Neill

wide-ranging they may be, individual efforts of a single country may only come to fruition when they form part of a collective effort and operate within the global framework.

He said that the event's success provided a solid platform to strengthen cooperation between different jurisdictions crucial to overcoming the common enemy of financial crime, and that Malta intended to hold a second edition next year, to continue the exchange of information and intelligence in the sector, and to report on concrete results and successes.

EU Court OKs Malta's system for appointing Judges

The European Court of Justice has ruled that when it gave prime ministers more power to pick new judges Malta included enough safeguards when it gave prime ministers more power to pick new judges. The judicial-appointment reforms system has been in operation since Independence in 1964. In 2016 the government then established an independent Judicial Appointments Committee, but Malta the prime minister still had the power to pick new judges.

The government hailed the European Court of Justice ruling as it proved that Malta is on the right track, and Justice Minister Edward Zammit-Lewis said it vindicated the government's position that argued a prime minister can have "a decisive power to appoint judiciary" with an "independent body seen as another check and balance." He added in a tweet: "We never acted against the rule of law and EU law."

The government recently went even further by enacting other measures that were passed in Parliament that included new changes when last summer Prime Minister Robert Abela surrendered his discretion in choosing judges. In fact, four Superior Court judges were recently appointed under Malta's recently revamped system.

€10m. investment in six projects in Malta and €6m. in another in Gozo will create new jobs

On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Bulebel's industrial zone, and coinciding with the commemoration, of May Day (May 1) Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri announced an investment of more than €10 million that will lead to the creation of 100 new full-time jobs.

The new investment in an area that is currently home to 80 factories providing the livelihood of more than 3,000 families will include six projects, five of which will be new. Another one will be an expansion project.



The project involves food production, tobacco, cross-docking, label operations and the production of paper.

The Minister said that in a challenging moment, the industry in Malta has shown more than ever its resilience, "and we are determined to continue to strengthen it" he said.

Indis Malta would be providing accessibility to factories. More attention is also to be given to recreational spaces in a project in *Misrah il-Haddiema* that includes a garden equipped with Wifi and security cameras.

Meanwhile, Hutchinson, a leading manufacturing company in Gozo that is currently engaged in the motor industry and soon also entering the aviation industry, is to invest €6 million to strengthen its operations. This was revealed during a visit Prime Minister Robert Abela made to the factory at the Xewkija Industrial Estate.

The new investment will be going into more efficient plant machinery with less emissions and the creation of further employment opportunities.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Il-COVID-19 Piż enormi

Il-pandemija qed tiswa lill-pajjiż €5m. kuljum

Fil-waqt li bil-miod il-mod resqin b'xi mod għarn-noraml u bdew jittaffew xi miżuri, tant li fl-10 ta' Mejju se jifihu wkoll mill-ġdid ir-ristoranti għal ikk- liet sal-5 p.m. u fl-1 ta' Ġinju Malta tiftaħ għat-Turiżmu, il-Pandemija ta' bħalissa qed tkun ta' piż ekonomiku enormi fuq il-pajjiż. Tant li thabbar li qed tiswa lill-pajjiż €5 miljun i kuljum, inkluz Sibtijiet, Hġud u festi.

Skont il-Ministru tal-Finanzi, Clyde Caruana dan it-telf jista' jinqasam fi tnejn: €3 miljun kuljum li qed imorru f'għajnuniet lill-ekonomija, fosthom suppliment tal-paga, għotjiet u diversi skemi li thabbar il-Gvern, filwaqt li €2 miljun oħra huma tnaqqis fid-dhul tal-Gvern.

Caruana indika t-tnaqqis fit-turizmu bħala l-akbar kontributur għal dan it-tnaqqis fid-dhul.

Madanakollu l-Gvern se jissokta jwieżen lill-pajjiż, anke jekk issa l-pandemija twalet aktar milli kien mistenni, tant li d-defiċit proġettat għal din is-sena se jirdoppja biex minflok 5.9% tal-Prodott Gross Domestiku, għal din is-sena huwa proġettat li jkun 12%.

Minkejja dan, il-Gvern għamilha ċara li mhux se jintroduċi taxxi ġodda għax ma

jemminx fil-politika tal-awsterità. Min-naħa l-oħra qed jaċċerta li bit-tkabbir mill-ġdid id-dhul tal-pajjiż jerga' jżied.

Iżda minkejja kollox, id-defiċit mistenni jerga' jonqos u jinnormalizza mis-sena d-dieħla bil-Gvern jipproġetta defiċit ta' 5.6% li imbagħad jerga' jonqos għal 3.9% fl-2023.

Il-Ministru Caruana qal: "Fl-ebda hin dan it-titjib mhu se jsehh b'taxxi ġodda. U din hija importanti hafna għax dak li għamel il-Gvern fis-snin li għaddew, se jkompli jagħmlu fis-snin li ġejjin - halli nagħtu s-serħan il-moħħ lil min irid jinvesti f'pajjiżna".



il-Ministru tal-Finanzi, Clyde Caruana

Il-Prim Ministru Fiducjuż

Minkejja dak kollo li għadda minnu u sa ċertu punt għadu għaddej minnu l-pajjiż, meta hafna kienu qed jaraw futur imċajpar, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela xorta baqa' jkun fiducjuż isostni li l-ġejjieni ta' Malta huwa wieħed sabih.

Infatti, waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet, fejn thabbar għadd ta' skemi u miżuri ta' għaj-nuna lin-negozji, qal li l-bookings mit-turisti fil-lukandi għas-sajf li ġej huma

"inkoraġġanti". Hu sostna li dan hu primarjament hu grazzi għall-mod kif Malta għaddejja bil-proċess ta' vaċċinazzjoni kif ukoll għall-mod kif qed isir ir-rilaxx tal-miżuri, f'it, f'it.

"Bħalissa t-turisti qed jaraw is-sitwazzjoni tal-Covid-19 f'diversi pajjiżi u jagħmlu d-deċiżjonijiet tagħhom dwar fejn se jmorru. Ninsab fiducjuż li se jkollna sajjf, u sajjf tajjeb sew," qal il-Prim Ministru.

Ir-ristoranti se jifthum, imma ...

Miżura li ma tantx nizlet tajjeb mas-settur turistiku kien il-fatt li meta thabbar li fl-10 ta' Mejju kienu se jergħu jifthu r-ristoranti, dawn se jkun jistgħu jservu lill-klijenti fuq il-post biss sal-5.00pm. Wara dak il-hin iridu jaqilbu għas-sistema ta' bħalissa, li jservu take-aways. L-għaqda tar-ristoranti nsistiet li dan se jkun ta' piż fuq uħud minnhom.

Attwalment d'diversi pajjiżi tal-Unjoni Ewropeja fejn bdew jifthu r-ristoranti dawn jistgħu jibqgħu miftuħin sal 10.00pm., iżda jidher li l-Awtoritajiet Maltin huma kawti u ma jixtiequx jerga' jsehh li ġara meta f'Marzu kienu tneħħew ċerti miżuri u l-infezzjonijiet bdew jżiedu.

Il-Gvern, għamilha ċara li d-deċiżjonijiet qed jittieħdu b'riżultat ta' dak li turi x-xjenza u fuq il-pariri tas-settur tas-saħħa.

Konferma

Dak li qal il-Prim Ministru jikkonfermah rapport li deher

f'wahda mill-gazzetti ta' nhar ta' Hadd "illum".

Skont din il-gazzetta għalkemm s'issa fil-bidu ta' Ġunju s-suq tat-turiżmu jidher kwiet hafna, il-bookings fil-lukandi għal Lulju huma promettenti, filwaqt li Awwissu jidher illi huwa b'saħħtu b'għadd ta' lukandi diġà fully-booked.

Fl-istess gazzetta ntqal ukoll li Malta se tkun mal-ewwel pajjiż fuq il-lista l-Hadra tar-Renju Unit li se jkun qed jerga' jiftaħ it-turiżmu f'nofs Mejju. Dan sintendi jgħin hafna biex t-turist Ingliż jithajjar jiġi Malta.

Anke xi ġurnali Ingliżi qed ifaħħru l-mod kif miexja Malta.

F'nofs pandemija xorta żdiedu l-impjiegi



Il-COVID-19 tat daqqa ta' harta lill-ekonomija tal-pajjiżi kollha tad-dinja bir-riżultat li f'hafna, għadd ta' haddiema sfaw bla xogħol filwaqt li hafna li huma fin-negozju marru lura, b'uħud saħansitra jkollhom jagħlqu l-bibien tagħhom.

Attwalment, Malta hija x'aktarx l-uniku pajjiż fejn, f'nofs pandemija, l-impjiegi mhux naqsu imma żdiedu.

Sintendi dan kien possibbli bid-diversi skemi u għajnuniet li diġà kien

qed jagħti l-Gvern - fosthom €455 miljun f'Wage Supplements - biex b'hekk in-negozji jibqgħu jgħaddu n-nies - minflok ikeċċu l-haddiema.

Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela (li jidher fuq) saħaq li Malta hija

l-uniku pajjiż li f'nofs pandemija fejn l-impjiegi żdiedu.

"Investejna fin-nies minflok adottajna miżuri ta' awsterità. L-ghan tagħna hu li n-negozji jifthu u jahdmu. Se nkomplu inlaqqmu lin-nies b'rata li hija l-aqwa fl-UE - biex ikollna nies li jibqgħu jahdmu u li jgawdu matul is-sajf, sajjf ta' xogħol," temm jgħid il-PM Abela.

Fl-aħhar jiem il-Gvern reġa' thabbar diversi miżuri ġodda ta' għaj-nuna lil diversi negozji - li flimkien jammontaw għal €20 miljun. Thabbar ukoll li l-kreditu ta' taxxa se jiġu estiżi lil diversi negozji.

Fost dawn l-inċentivi l-ġodda hemm, mill-ġdid, għotja lil daww in-negozji li wara l-10 ta' Mejju se jibqgħu magħluqin. Ma dawn, biex jgħin lis-settur tat-turiżmu, il-Gvern iddeċieda, li sa' Diċembru jiġu kkanċellati l-hlasijiet u l-liċenzji dovuti lill-Awtorità tat-Turiżmu.

Dan se jkun ifisser li l-perjodu bejn Jannar u Diċembru ta' din is-sena jkun kopert, u grazzi għal din l-inizjattiva 10,000 negozju se jżommu iktar minn €4 miljun fi bwiethom.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Fit-tilqim: Malta minn ta' quddiem

Filwaqt li Malta tibqa' minn ta' quddiem fejn jidhol l-ghoti tat-titqib kontra l-COVID-19, bhalissa l-Awtorità tal-Mediċini ta' Malta qed tinvestiga jekk kienx hemm xi rabta mal-vaċċin fil-każ ta' persuna ta' 58 sena li ġimagħtejn wara li hadet il-vaċċin soġfiet minn trombosi. Sakemm qed nikteb, il-kundizzjoni tagħha tinsab stabbli.

Sintendi każ bħal dan iwassal għal xi wħud li jahsbuha darbtejn dwar jekk jiehdu l-vaċċin jew le... u fil-fatt naf b'nies li anke jekk mhux minhabba dan il-każ, qed jirrifjutaw it-titqima.

Biss l-Awtorità tal-Mediċini Ewropea qed tibqa' tagħti l-parir li r-riskji tal-vaċċin huma rari u ferm iżgħar mir-riskji marbuta mal-COVID-19.

Il-pariri tal-esperti jibqgħu dawk li l-vaċċin huwa l-uniku mod effettiv li bih nistgħu niġġieldu l-imxija tal-COVID-19. Imma sintendi hadd mhu se jlum lil hadd jekk jithasseb dwar is-sitwazzjoni.

Il-kannabis u l-użu tagħha

Il-Liġi Maltija tqis il-kannabis bħala droga u l-użu hu meqjus bħala offiża li tista' twassal saħansitra għal piena ta' habs.

Bhalissa l-Gvern qed jipproponi diversi tibdiliet fil-liġi biex il-kannabis, fosthom li f'ċerti każi ma tibqax iġġorr magħha xi kwalita' ta' piena, u qed jiġi propost li jiġi permess l-użu limitat u li individwu jkun jista' jkabbar erba' pjanti tal-kannabis għall-użu personali tiegħu. Hareġ ukoll *White Paper*.

Jidher li ż-żewġ partiti jaqblu li wiehed m'għandux ikun ikkundannat il-habs għal użu personali tal-kannabis, imma għad hemm differenzi dwar il-liġi li qed iressaq il-Gvern.

Anzi din il-liġi hadet xejra politika għax f'diskorsi li fih għamel referenza għall-fatt li l-aħħar sħarriġ kien juri li ż-żgħażaġh qed ixaqilbu lejn il-Partit laburista, il-mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista Bernard Grech, esprima l-fehma li dan qed jiġri għax Gvern Laburista qed jillaxxa l-liġi dwar id-drogi.

Sadanittant skont studju tal-Fakultà tal-Benesseri Soċjali fi hdan l-Università ta' Malta u kummissjonat mill-Fondazzjoni *Save A Life*, instab li 16% tal-adoloxxenti Maltin jagħmlu użu mill-kannabis ... 4% inqas mill-medja fl-UE.

Jihhakkjaw lill-PN

Il-Partit Nazzjonalista safa vittima ta' attakk minn *hackers* fuq is-sistemi tal-informazzjoni teknoloġika tiegħu. Għalhekk ha l-mizuri biex inaqas l-effetti tal-attakk billi informa lill-Kummissarju tad-data kif ukoll lill-Pulizija Eżekuttiva biex jinvestigaw.

Malli harget din l-aħbar, mill-ewwel bdew il-kummenti. Ma naqsux dawk li bdew jip-puntaw subgħajhom lejn il-Partit Laburista.

Izda malajr sar magħruf li l-attakk sar minn xi *hackers* għal skop finanzjarju tant li talbu l-flus u heddew li jekk ma jithallsux jippubblikaw dokumenti interni tal-PN. Biex juru li ma kienux jibblaffjaw ippubblikaw xi dokumenti, fosthom dettalji ta' im-pegati, u ritratti ta' passaporti.

Min-naħa tal-mexxej tal-PN qal li l-partit ma kienx lest jinnegozja ma' *hackers*.

Żewġ uċuħ tal-munita

Il-ġimgħa li għaddiet, f'jum wiehed Malta rċeviet żewġ rapporti minn entitajiet internazzjonali. Lewwel dak li l-Parlament tal-Unjoni Ewropeja għadda riżoluzzjoni b'maġġoranza kbira (635 kontra 46) mozzjoni li titratta l-assassinju ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Ir-riżoluzzjoni mressqa mill-Grupp tal-Partit Popolari Ewropew, li l-Partit Nazzjonalista jagħmel parti minnu, turi thas-sib serju dwar dak li qed johroġ fil-qrati u l-inkjesta dwar il-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia u tinsisti li għandhom jittiehdu passi mhux biss kontra dawk li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-qtil imma wkoll fil-konfront ta' dawk li qed jissemmew li kellhom sehem f'każi oħra.

Fil-fatt, il-Qrati Maltin bħalissa qed mhux biss jitrattw il-każ tal-qtil imma wkoll f'oħrajn li johorġu mill-inkjesta u minn oħrajn.

Fir-reazzjoni għall-vot, l-MEPs Nazzjonalisti David Casa u Roberta Metsola li kienu ewlenin biex issir il-mozzjoni qalu:

"Ir-riżoluzzjoni tagħmilha ċara li l-problema verà mhijiex il-poplu Malti, iżda l-Gvern li, mhux biss għandu uffiċjali għolja involuti f'korruzzjoni, hasil ta' flus, serq ta' bank u qtil, iżda huwa l-istess Gvern li jipproteġi lil dawk kollha involuti f'tali atti kriminali."

Min-naħa tal-MEPs Laburisti dawn sostnew li wara din il-mozzjoni kien hemm l-MEPs Nazzjonalisti, b'Alex Agius Saliba jgħid lil-MEPs Nazzjonalista "Ma jinteressahom xejn mill-ġustizzja u r-riformi li qed isiru. Jinteressahom biss illi jirremettu l-hdura kontra l-Gvern u kontra pajjiżna"

Dawn l-MEPs sostnew li r-riżoluzzjoni ma tagħmilx ġustizzja mar-riformi kbar li l-pajjiż mexxa 'l-quddiem, biex ikompli jsaħħah l-istituzzjonijiet, "riformi li llum għandhom ukoll l-approvazzjoni tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea, il-Kummissjoni Venezja u anke l-Qorti tal-Ġustizzja tal-Unjoni Ewropea."

Filwaqt li kienu għadhom għaddejnin il-kummenti dwar din il-mozzjoni, harget l-aħbar importanti li Malta kienet għaddiet mit-test kruċjali tal-Moneyvale. Li kieku Malta ma għaddietx minn dan it-test il-konsegwenzi fuq l-ekonomija kienu jkun katastrofiċi fuq il-pajjiż.

B'reazzjoni għal din l-aħbar tajba, il-Kamra tal-SMEs espremiet is-sodisfazzjoni tagħha: "Malta kienet qed tiġġield il-COVID-19 filwaqt li kienet qed tipprova tibqa' barra l-lista l-griza tal-Moneyval.

"Din hija allura aħbar eċċezzjonali hekk kif filwaqt li kienet għaddejja l-pandemija Malta rnexxielha tikseb riżultat daqstant importanti."





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A quick glimpse at Australia

Divine intervention in politics!

The Australian PM Scott Morrison's faith has again been cast into the national spotlight after a video emerged of the prime minister delivering a speech to a national Christian conference in Melbourne. Mr Morrison spoke of doing God's work and revealed he sometimes used the Evangelical practice of "laying on of hands" while embracing people who had suffered from trauma or natural disaster.

Labor leader Anthony Albanese said faith was a personal matter and he respected people's spiritual beliefs. "But it's also important that we have separation here of church and state," he told ABC radio.

Mr Morrison said he did not consider the Bible to be a policy handbook, but also spoke of his pastor telling him on election night to "use what God has put in your hands, do what God has put in your heart."

Mr Albanese said, "The idea that God is on any politician's side is no more respectful than the idea that when someone's sporting team wins it's because of divine intervention."

Australia follows the US from Afghanistan

Australia will follow the United States and withdraw its final troops from Afghanistan by September this year, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has announced.

The decision marks the end of Australia's troop involvement in the conflict, which began when US forces launched their military offensive in response to the 11 September 2001 terror attacks in New York City. This was American's longest war.

Australia currently has around 80 personnel deployed in Afghanistan, with its military presence having been scaled back from a height of 1,500 troops. Mr Morrison read the names of 41 ADF troops killed while serving in Afghanistan. "Many more were wounded, some physically, others mentally and we'll be dealing with the scars, both mental and physical, of their service, for many, many years."

Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard in the same month committed Australian forces to the conflict as part of the US-led International Coalition against Terrorism. He also committed



Australian troops in Afghanistan

Australian troops to Iraq. Australia has had around 39,000 troops rotate in the country throughout the course of the 20-year conflict.

Anzac Day 2021 marked major milestones for all three branches of Australia's armed services. The RAAF celebrated 100 years of service and the Royal Australian Navy, 110 years since it was granted the 'Royal' title by His Majesty King George V. The Australian Army is recognising the two million Australians who have served and continue to, under the Rising Sun Badge for the past 120 years.

Maltese Welfare NSW



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While Australia is relatively free from infections and has already opened regular flights to New Zealand, the global COVID-19 death is still a major worry for the world. The death toll passed three million (time of printing) as the pandemic continues to speed up despite vaccination campaigns.

It is the latest grim milestone after the novel coronavirus surfaced in central China in December 2019 and went on to infect more than 139 million people, leaving billions more under crippling lockdowns and ravaging the global economy.

An average of more than 12,000 deaths are recorded globally every day according to an AFP tally.

For comparison, three million people are more than the population of Jamaica or Armenia, and three times the death toll of the Iran-Iraq war that raged from 1980-1988.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Royal Commission into suicides of Defence Forces personnel

After a long-running campaign from former soldiers and advocates, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a royal commission into the suicides of veterans and serving Australian Defence Force personnel would go ahead.

The mother who spearheaded a national campaign on behalf of her late son says the fight for change is not over despite the government's announcement of a royal commission into veteran suicides. Julie-Ann Finney's son David took his

own life in 2019 after a two-decade career with the Royal Australian Navy. She collected more than 400,000 signatures calling for a commission since her 38-years old son died two years ago.

Mr Morrison had previously resisted holding the inquiry, instead committing last year to establish a permanent commission of inquiry into veteran suicides. His change in decision comes after a motion calling for a royal commission passed both chambers of Parliament in March.

'The biggest load of rubbish'

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt (right) cautioned that international borders could stay closed even if the whole country were vaccinated.



Meanwhile, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian (Liberal Party) has derided the federal health minister's warning that mass vaccination won't lead to the opening of the border as "the biggest load of rubbish I ever heard".

"The vaccination programme will change our lives. The vaccination programme will allow us to live with COVID in a better way," she said.

The Government of the State of Victoria will spend \$50 million to develop and manufacture cutting-edge mRNA vaccines. The mRNA vaccine technology can be manufactured quickly, cheaply, and safely, and forms the basis of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations.

The money will be spent in partnerships with universities and medical manufacturers over the next two years, and it's hoped mRNA manufacturing capabilities will be established in Melbourne.

The federal government has recently identified the onshore production of mRNA vaccines as a national priority.

There is no end to the sudden changes in the situation with the States.

Metropolitan Perth (Western Australia) went to a three-day lockdown after the coronavirus leaked out of hotel quarantine.

Youth detention is immoral

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, more than 900 children aged 10 to 13 were placed in youth detention in Australia in 2018-19. More than 65 percent of them were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children.

Federal Attorney-General Michaelia Cash ruled out a nationwide approach to the issue, telling media that each state and territory needed to decide whether to raise the minimum age.

Catholic leaders are backing a nationwide campaign to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, saying that allowing children as young as 10 to be incarcerated is immoral and opposed to human dignity.



The victim Rita Camilleri

Jessica to appeal

Jessica Camilleri, 27 years, who was jailed for 21 years with a non-parole period of 16 years and two months for chopping off her Maltese mother's head with kitchen knives is planning to appeal the severity of her sentence.

Jessica was found guilty by a jury last December of her mother Rita's manslaughter at their home in St Clair NSW. Camilleri appeared in Burwood Local Court for assaulting another inmate while behind bars.

"Out of step" on climate change

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's failure to increase the ambition of Australia's emissions targets during a climate leaders' summit has prompted concern the country is falling behind global allies. But Mr Morrison is standing steadfastly by Australia's approach saying the world won't thank the country for making promises but rather delivering on its commitments.

The virtual summit organised by the White House has placed pressure on Australia after global allies - including the US - hiked up their own emissions targets.

President of US Joe Biden committed the US to a new target to cut emissions by 50-52 percent by 2030, based on 2005 levels. In contrast, Mr Morrison made no new commitment, with Australia still aiming to reduce emissions by 26-28 percent on 2005 levels over the same period.

British, Japanese and Canadian leaders also used the summit to commit to more ambitious 2030 targets.



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti




X'inhum l-HAJBUR?

X'aktarx li f'it hawn min sema' bil-hajbur. Dan fil-fatt huwa shab pjut-tost żgħir li jkun kemxejn fil-griz, biżżejjed biex idallam xi f'it u li jgħaddi fil-baxx. Normalment dan it-tip ta' shab jagħmel biss f'it irxiex.

F'deskrizzjoni li jagħti ta' nżul ix-xemx, Dun Karm jiddiskrivi l-hajbur b'dan il-mod: 'is-sema b'xi hajbur ħafif tas-sajf qisu weraq tal-felci...

Dan in-nom jintuza b'mod metaforiku minn Temi Zammit f'Il-Holma ta' Żeżina, meta l-omm tagħti parir lil bintha: 'Binti, il-holm shab tas-sajf, hajbur, jitrabba u jisfa fix-xejn f'radda ta' salib.'

Guži Gatt, fil-ktieb tiegħu Qieghda fuq il-Ponta ta' Lsieni, jispjega li hemm il-hajbur sajfi (is. xj. Cumulus) u l-hajbur xitwi (is. xj. Cumulonimbus). Ing. cumulus clouds.

Il-varjanti tal-ortografija Maltija

Inkomplu ngibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja d-deċiżjonijiet meħuda mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar forum li għandhom jintużaw fil-kitba bil-Malti halli jkun hemm uniformità.

(it-tieni parti)

Id-direzzjonijiet

L-ismijiet tal-irjeh u tad-direzzjonijiet jinkitbu b'ittra kapitali.

EŻEMPJU: rih Tramuntana, Grieg il-Lvant, il-Punent, il-Lvant, in-Nofsinar, ix-Xlokk

Nota: Niktbu rih fuq, rih isfel

L-ismijiet xjentifiċi

L-ismijiet xjentifiċi tal-ispeċi normalment ikunu magħmulin minn żewġ kelmiet: il-ġenus u l-ispeċi.

Skont l-istandard internazzjonali, barra milli t-tnejn jinkitbu korsiv (jew b'sing taħthom), l-ewwel kelma (il-ġenus) tinkiteb b'ittra kbira, u t-tieni kelma (l-ispeċi) dejjem b'ittra żgħira.

EŻEMPJU: il-Pistacia lentiscus, it-Tyrannosaurus rex, il-Monticola solitarius

Nota: Meta l-isem jiehu l-vokali tal-lehen fuq quddiem, jibqa' jinkiteb b'ittra kbira sewwasew bħal fil-każ tal-ismijiet tal-prodotti [ara Zieda mat-Tagħrif, Ċ11ċ)

EŻEMPJU: l-iSparidae, l-iStegosaurus, l-iStromatopteris

L-ismijiet popolari tal-flora, il-fawna, l-elementi kimiċi, eċċ. jinkitbu b'ittra żgħira bħan-nomi komuni l-oħra.

EŻEMPJU: il-begonja, l-oleandru, il-pitirross, l-awrat, l-aluminju, iċ-ċomb

Għaqdiet u movimenti

L-ismijiet tal-movimenti, għaqdiet u reliġjonijiet jinkitbu b'ittra kbira.

EŻEMPJU: il-Barokk, ir-Rinaxximent, il-Protestantizmu, l-Iżlam.

L-aġġettivi li jtnissu mill-ismijiet tal-movimenti, tal-għaqdiet u tar-reliġjonijiet jinkitbu b'ittra kbira.

EŻEMPJU: l-arti Rinaxximentali, pajjiż Nisrani, stil Sikulo-Normann

L-ismijiet tal-membri tal-għaqdiet u l-movimenti (kulturali, reliġjużi, eċċ.) jinkitbu b'ittra kbira.

EŻEMPJU: il-Buddisti, id-Dumnikani, il-Frangiskani Kapuċċini, l-Impressjonisti, il-Kattoliċi, il-Laburisti, in-Nazzjonalisti, ir-Rinaxximentali, ir-Romantiċi.

*Ikompili fil-ħarġa 254

Iż-żewġ ucuħ tal-kwarantina

X'aktarx li l-aktar kelma fil-vokabularju dinji li smajna u għadha tirbomja fost il-ġnus tul din l-aħħar sena u nofs hija kwarantina. L-imxija tal-virus qerried kienet u għadha l-kaġun, hekk kif il-bniedem beda jara kif se jehodha ma' dan is-saram ġdid li ħlief imwiet, telf ta' mpjiegi u tkissir ta' ekonomiji madwar id-dinja ma żerax.

Il-ħtieġa tal-kwarantina kienet minnha nnifisha l-aħjar mogħdija lejn il-helsien mit-theddida, lejn l-irxuxtar minn tbatijiet fiżiċi, u lejn il-harsien tal-maħbubin u l-gheżież tagħna.

Il-kwarantina fil-ktieb rinomat ta' Jim Crace, Quarantine mhix nieqsa mill-passi ġeblija ta' din l-istess mogħdija. Izda fiha hemm sfida spiritwali, magħgħuna fl-immaġinazzjoni u l-kreattività ta' kittieb li jwassal tqanqil ruħu b'mod li jsaħħrek. X'aktarx anki jahsdek, kultant forsi anki jgħaddbek.

Il-kwarantina ta' Gesu' Kristu fid-deżert, il-karattri kważi surrealistiċi li hemm miegħu jaqsmu l-ġhatx u l-ġuħ tax-xgħari mbiegħda jiffurmaw stampa li ma titilqekx għal waqt wiehed. F'dawn ix-xeni ta' sikwit issib u tara b'cejjeċ minn Malta jfegġu quddiemek. In-nixfa. Il-hxejjex. L-ilwien. Ix-xtieli. Ir-reżha. Is-shana.

Fl-introduzzjoni tiegħu għal Quarantine, rebbieħ tal-Premju Whitbread għall-aqwa rumanz fl-2018, Stuart Evers, kittieb u kritiku ewlieni, jikteb fit-tul dwar l-isfidi li joffri l-qari tal-ktieb. Ixebbha l-iskossi u x-xokkijiet waqt il-qari mal-ambjent tax-xgħari li jiddominaw il-ġrajja tal-ktieb.

Evans jikkellem dwar il-ġibda magħika ta' dan ix-xogħol oriġinali ta' Crace, mhux f'sessjoni waħda ta' qari izda f'diversi, hekk kif il-qarrej ta' kull darba jkompli jassorbi aktar esperjenzi u sfidi godda.

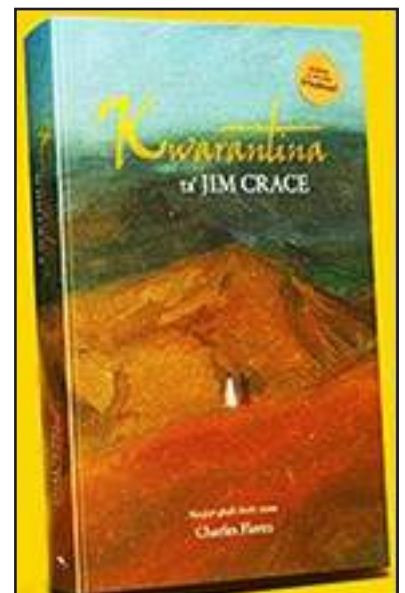
Charles Flores, li qaleb għall-Malti dan ix-xogħol ta' Jim Crace, li huwa professur assoċjat mal-Fakultà tal-Arti tal-Università ta' Malta, jgħid fid-daħla tiegħu li għalih, din it-traduzzjoni kienet opportunità li ma xtaqx jitliffa. Ihoss li bejn twemmin u nuqqas

(jew tmermir) ta' twemmin hemm baħar jaqsam u għexieren ta' interpretazzjonijiet.

Hu żgur li fil-qasam tal-kitba bil-Malti x'aktarx li qatt ma kien hemm xogħol daqstant intellettwalment provokattiv u hawtiel, li jmiss mill-qrib u b'daqshekk intensità l-aspett tal-bniedem u t-twemmin tiegħu, ir-ritwali u t-tradizzjonijiet, l-inżul u t-tlajja tas-soċjetà, l-imhabba ta' veru u l-qerq, it-tfittxija dejiema għal xi haġa...kollha kemm huma maqbudin f'kitba qawwiya fin-nisġa, tgħum fil-metafora u tgħinek taħseb, tipprova tifhem u thares lejn haġtek minn lentijiet għal kollox differenti minn xulxin.

Flores isostni wkoll li wasal tabilhaqq il-waqt li, permezz ta' din it-traduzzjoni u oħrajn li jistgħu jsiru ta' kotba ta' din il-bixra, nifthu aktar ix-xefaq ta' quddiemna u ma niddejqux nistaqsu, nid-diskutu u nfittxu nkattru d-diversità tal-ħsieb, tal-qalb u, f'suriet differenti u kuntrastanti, r-ruħ.

Kwarantina jinsab għall-bejgħ mill-ħwienet kollha tal-kotba f-Malta u Għawdex. Min mill-qarrejja ta' The Voice jinteressah li jikseb kopja tiegħu jista' jikkuntattja direttament, jew permezz ta' email ma' Horizons fuq <https://horizons.com.mt/>, inkella jikseb aktar tagħrif iċempel lill-istess dar tal-pubblikazzjoni fuq +357 2144 1604.





Ir-Ravelin taċ-Ċittadella u (lemin) ħaddiema jwettqu r-restaw



**Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija**

Charles Spiteri



Bħalissa f'Għawdex għaddej hafna restawr f'għadd ta' siti, kemm fuq knejjes u wkoll siti kulturali oħra li ġeneralment jitgawdex kemm mill-Għawdxin infushom u wkoll minn

dawk kollha li fi ftit tal-jiem oħra, wara li jitnehhew ir-restrizzjonijiet imposti fuq l-ivjaġġar bejn iż-żewġ gżejjer jibdwew isalpaw halli jgawdu dak li toffri l-gżira Għawdxija.

Ir-restawr tar-Ravelin fiċ-Ċittadella

Bħalissa qed isir xogħol ta' restawr tar-Ravelin, fit-telgħa taċ-Ċittadella fir-Rabat. Iż-żona tat-turf fil-wiċċ tal-istruttura kellha tiġi eliminata minhabba li s-sistema ta' tisqija tagħha kienet qed tohloq ħsarat serji fil-ħitan tal-madwar tagħha u fil-ħajt

Ruman ta' taħtha li kien ġie żvelat matu l-skavi arkeoloġiċi.

Wara li tnehhiet il-ħamrija, saret sodda tal-konkrit u *membrane* u pavimentar b'ġebel tal-qawwi.

Bħalissa għaddej ukoll restawr addizzjonali u manutenzjoni tal-ħitan ta' barra tal-is-

truttura, u minhabba s-sensittività tas-siti, ix-xogħol kollu sar b'konsultazzjoni kontinwa mas-Sovrintendenza tal-Wirt Kulturali.

Skont John Xuereb, id-Direttur għall-Wirt Kulturali fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex, ir-restawr fuq ir-Ravelin huwa

biss parti żgħira minn programm shiħ ta' manutenzjoni u restawr li l-beħsiebu jwettaq fix-xhur li ġejjin fiċ-Ċittadella u anke f'siti oħra f'dati f'idej, bl-għan aħħari jkun li s-siti ta' wirt kulturali ta' Għawdex jiġu riabilitati halli ikunu jistgħu jitgawdex mill-pubbliku.

Manutenzjoni kbira u restawr fil-bibien tal-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Sannat

Sadanittant għadu kif tlesta xogħol ta' restawr fil-bibien tal-knisja parrokkjali ta' Santa Margerita ta' Sannat li l-Vigarju Parrokkjali Mons Anton Mizzi li spjegalna li hemm ħamsa ewlenin mahdumin fl-injam li lkoll jagħtu għal fuq iż-zuntier.

Tnejn mill-bibien qegħdin mal-ġenb tal-kappelluni, tnejn fil-ġnub tal-korsija, u l-bieb ewlieni, l-uniku wieħed fil-faċċata. Kollha x'aktarx li jmorru lura għall-1883 meta l-knisja tkabbret fuq in-naħa tal-faċċata. Il-bibien tal-ġnub huma iżgħar mill-kbir u huma mwahhlin fuq iċ-ċaċċis bl-imsiemer mal-koxxa tal-bieb.

Il-bibien fil-ġnub tal-korsija għandhom velestrun rettangolari li fih xibka fil-hadid b'disinn elaborat. Il-bieb ewlieni hu aktar għoli u jinfetħ fuq erba' bibien, tnejn kull naħa. Minhabba t-toqol tiegħu dan mhux imwahhal bħall-oħrajn, imma ma' żewġ travi tal-injam weqfin, wieħed kull naħa.

Maż-żmien l-injam jibda jhoss l-effetti tax-xemx u x-xita u jibda jitherra, jew jitfaċċaw ukoll xi toqob fih bis-susa, għal-

hekk kull tant żmien jinhtieg dawra biex issirlu manutenzjoni halli jilqa' għall-elementi tan-natura.

Kien għalhekk li dan l-aħħar sar fihom xogħol ta' restawr b'mod metikoluż u nzebgħu kannella, kulur li hafna drabi jintuża għall-bibien tal-knejjes.

Ma' din it-tiswija tal-bibien sar

ukoll xogħol fuq iż-zokklu tal-knisja fuq in-naħa ta' gewwa għax minhabba li l-knisja hi qadima u nbnet meta ma kienx jintuża l-qatran, titla' hafna umdità minn isfel u għal diversi filati.

Mons Mizzi qal li r-restawr fil-knisja ma



Il-Vigarju Parrokkjali tal-knisja ta' Sannat, Mons Anton Mizzi quddiem i-bieb ewlieni jieqaf qatt, u l-ispejjeż biex isir huma kbar imma l-kontribuzzjonijiet tan-nies u x-xogħol volontarju jsostnu kontinwament it-tishih tal-patrimonju tagħna.

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

Out with the old in with the new

The Maltese contribution

As time went by the parish that also serviced the Portuguese community that annually celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, decided that a new and modern church needed to be built. Work on this new project under the direction of then parish priest Fr Emmanuel Gatt started in 1994. The previous hall and friars' residence that were built in 1967 were demolished to make way for the new building.

George Bartolo OAM

The new church, more spacious and attractive than the old one, that was designed by Mr. Tony Agius, who was also the architect, was completed in 1995. His Lordship William Murray, Bishop of Wollongong, conducted the blessing and official opening on the 8th of July.

The old church is now used as the school hall and for church functions.

Most of the parish priests at St. Francis of Assisi parish have been Maltese although there were a few other nationalities, from the USA, Poland and Hungary. Not long after the completion of the new church, Fr. Gatt was replaced as parish priest by an Australian Franciscan, Fr. Christopher Shorrock, as such, there was no Maltese priest to look after the Maltese community.

George Bartolo, the president of the committee of the George Cross Falcons Club petitioned the Provincial of the Franciscan

Order located in Melbourne and the Bishop of Wollongong Philip Wilson now Archbishop of Adelaide, about the urgent need of a Maltese priest at the Warrawong parish.

The Maltese emigrants who came to Australia after the Second World War was ageing, and the presence of a Maltese priest to look after their spiritual needs and moral support was important to them.

The Diocese of Wollongong no longer had an official Maltese Chaplain and the Maltese felt abandoned therefore many no longer practised faith. As a result, the laity who highlighted the need for a Maltese priest was heard.

In 1998 Fr. Leonard Testa was reappointed as one of the priests to serve at the Warrawong parish, however, he was not instated as the official Maltese Chaplain.

Four years later, on 22 September 2002, the then Prime Minister of Malta Dr Edward Fenech Adami and deputy prime minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi accompanied by

their spouses paid a visit to the parish and attended mass. The parish priest Fr. John Magri presented the Prime Minister and his deputy with a souvenir to celebrate the occasion and invited them to the friary for morning tea.

Year 2006 was the fiftieth anniversary of the Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi and on the 5th of November the special occasion was commemorated with various celebrations, part of which included daily Masses in different languages, starting on Monday October 30 in Maltese. Others followed in Italian, English, and Tongan.

The 50th anniversary celebrations started with a fete and entertainment from various ethnic groups in national costumes performing national dancing in the church hall, followed by a procession with the statues of Our Lady of Victories, Our Lady of the Philippines, Our Lady of Vietnam, Our Lady of Tonga, Our Lady of Fatima and St Francis of Assisi. A solemn Mass with Bishop Peter Ingham as the main celebrant, assisted by friars and priests from the Diocese of Wollongong.

Maltese community's contribution

The Maltese community and the Maltese Franciscan friars and the Franciscan sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus worked tirelessly with other parishioners to establish the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish and Catholic School of Warrawong.

**Continued on opposite page*



Fr Emmanuel Gatt OFM Cov.

The new church building as it stands in the present looking south



The interior and main altar of the new church



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



View of the church looking west

**from opposite page*

Other parish priests that served in this parish included Fr. Bernard Micallef from Birkirkara, Fr. John Magri from Qormi and Fr. Anthony Zammit from (Victoria-Gozo) from Malta, and Fr. Karl Chesher (USA), and Fr. Maximilian Balabanski (Bulgaria).

The Maltese Community of the Illawarra made a huge contribution towards establishing the parish and the parish school. Two other persons worth crediting for their untiring work towards establishment of the parish of St. Francis of Assisi of Warrawong, were, Mr Joe Cassar till his death in the nineties, and his wife Mary.

Joe from Qormi, migrated to Australia from in 1924. He first lived in Lithgow working at the Iron and Steel Works. When the factory moved Port Kembla to be closer to Port Kembla Harbour, Joe moved to Cringila and worked at the steelworks in 1931. He and Mary accommodated Fr. Victor Bonello when he first arrived from Malta until suitable accommodation was arranged.

Percy Cartwright from Valletta migrated to Australia in 1964. He worked as an electrician and on retirement, he dedicated his life to voluntary work in the parish and school where he saved both establishments a large amount of money.

Many of the Maltese migrants that came to Warrawong, Port Kembla, Lake Heights and Cringila in the late forties and early fifties have now, either passed away or have moved from away from the area to other parts of the Illawarra. The few that stayed are still committed to the parish, and most of those that moved away still return on special occasions, especially for the feast of Our Lady of Victories.

With the departure of Fr. John Magri, in

November 2005 at Hartzer Park, Bowral Fr. Joseph Son Nguyen was elected as the administrator of the parish to be assisted by Fr. David Huebner and Fr. Leonard Testa. Fr. Julia Aco, a diocesan priest, is the Portuguese Chaplain for the Wollongong Diocese.

Closing:

When I wrote this history in November 2006, all was still going strong at the St Francis of Assisi parish in Warrawong, however in early November 2020 we received the news that the Franciscans clergy were pulling out of the Illawarra altogether.

This news shocked the Maltese community as although they formed the majority that frequented the church, and the school has moved away from places like Cringila, Lake Heights, Warrawong and Port Kembla to places like Shellharbour, Dapto and other places, it still holds the Warrawong Parish and School as a living monument of the early Illawarra Maltese Settlers' contribution to the rest of the old community up to the present one.

A thanksgiving mass was celebrated on the 22nd of November last year by the bishop of Wollongong Brian Mascord, Fr. David Blowey, Provincial Delegate of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual in Australia and Fr. Rick Micallef Diocesan Priest. They came purposely from Wagga Wagga for the occasion.

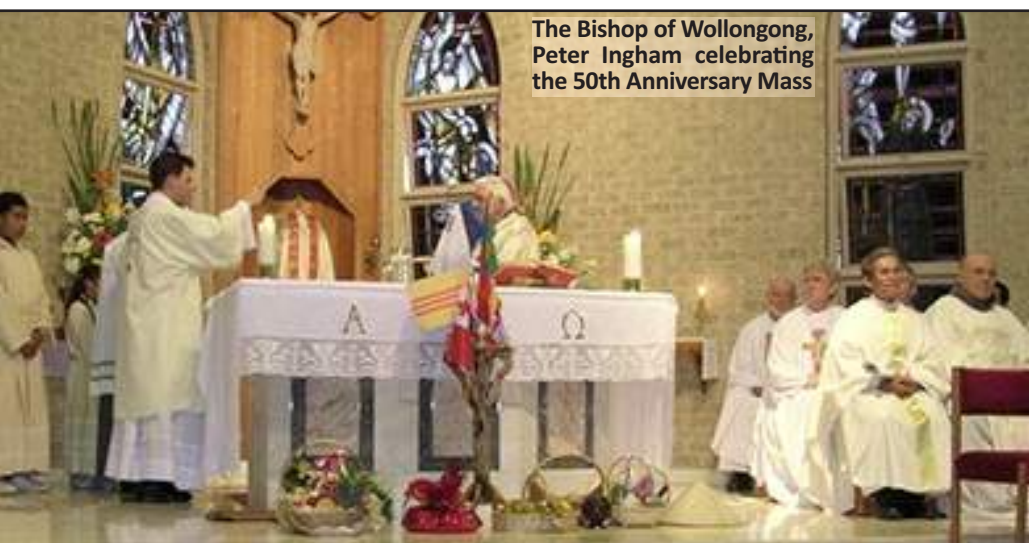
I wrote the history as a tribute to those Maltese immigrants that arrived in the late forties and early fifties, through whose initiative they came into being, and all the other parishioners.

It is also a tribute to Fr. Victor Bonello the founder of the parish, the religious sisters of the Franciscan Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and as thanks, to Fr. Leonard Testa, Sister Grace Cini FJC, Mark Caruana, and The Maltese Herald.

**Ends*



Fr. L. Testa (centre) at his 25th celebration in the priesthood with George Bartolo (left) and Mr. Joe Cassar



The Bishop of Wollongong, Peter Ingham celebrating the 50th Anniversary Mass

Did the *Resurrection* happen?

Joseph Buttigieg

Christ's resurrection was celebrated some weeks ago; we live in modern times where miracles have no place in our 'highly educated' society and so scholars ask if Jesus Christ did rise from the dead 2,000 years ago.

Let's look at the evidence. Several facts stand out: According to the gospels, the women were the first who saw Jesus on Sunday morning. The disciples claim they saw Jesus on many separate occasions. He showed them his signs of his wounds on his hands and feet and sat down to eat with them. In Caesarea, Peter told the crowd why he and the other disciples were so convinced Jesus was alive and that more than 500 of his followers also saw him after he had risen.

Think of the psychological absurdity of picturing a little band of defeated cowards cowering in an upper room one day and a few days later transformed into a company that no persecution could silence. By all rights, if there were no resurrection, Christianity should have died at the cross when the disciples fled for their lives.

When world historian H.G. Wells was asked to say who has left the greatest legacy in history, the non-Christian scholar replied "By this test, Jesus stands first" What is that legacy? – Time is marked by his birth B.C. before Christ A.D. In the year of the Lord.

Critics of the Gospels often claim that the names of the authors were anonymous Christians who relied on hearsay and legend rather than eyewitness testimony. First

note that even if the earliest copies of the Gospels did not contain the names of their authors that would not disprove the traditional authorship of those texts. The works of the ancient Roman historian Tacitus often do not bear his name, but scholars never questioned that Tacitus did not write them.

An argument in favour of the traditional authorship of the Gospels is, if they had indeed been forged, the forgers would certainly have pretended to be more impressive sounding authors.

It is what heretics in the second, third and fourth centuries did when they attributed their forged gospels to people such as Peter, Philip, and even Mary Magdalen. Why pretend to be a relative unknown like Mark or Luke? Why would they impersonate a former tax collector like Matthew whose popularity would have been only slightly higher than Judas Iscariot's?

Biblical scholar Brant Pitre says, "According to the basic rules of textual criticism, then, if anything is original in the titles, it is the names of the authors. They are at least as original as any other part of the Gospels for which we have unanimous manuscript evidence".

What about the argument that the Gospels were written at least forty years after his death? That is like a veteran in 2016 remembering what he did during the Vietnam War. We must remember that Jesus was a travelling preacher who delivered the same sermons throughout his travels, many of which contain poetic structure or memorable puns.

The apostles would have heard his teaching dozens if not hundreds of times and then repeated them in their own preaching,



thus making the deeds and teachings of Christ easy to remember.

The Acts of the Apostles were written in the early '60s, and Mark's and Luke's gospels even earlier because the Acts don't mention the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D.70 or Peter's death and Paul that occurred around A.D.64 during the reign of the Roman emperor Nero.

These are remarkable ancient biographies when you consider books written about Alexander the Great or the Buddha that were written centuries after the death of their subjects.

It is also worth noting that our 'memory muscles' are nowhere near as sharp as that of our ancestors who did not have to rely on electronic devices such as remembering telephone numbers or relying on the directory on our phones instead.

Thinking of an older driving test?

Getting older is problematic enough without having to front an older driving test. It could be your turn as you reach the vulnerable age of eighty-five.

The NSW Transport Road & Maritime Service will demand special attention when you reach 75 years with medical tests. They remind you that an older driver licencing system is designed to balance the safety of road users and the general community with continuing independence and mobility.

You have been driving for about 60 years. At 85 years on the dot, you get a Hobson's choice. Undertake a practical driving assessment at a testing centre or with a credited driving assessor or switch to a modified licence.

Not all 85ers are senile or demented. Nowadays many are still very active and driving a car is as essential as fresh air. It is not the actual driving test that is a killer but the tension, the worry and the anticipation.

Behind the wheel, you think you are the lord of the road, you



know all the tricks of the trade, but this time you have a driving instructor sitting next to you observing all the moves. Speed zones, speeding, managing your lanes, T intersections, indeed applying all the road rules.

You have gotten used to a few bad habits. As they say, you do not teach old dogs new tricks. But road rules are there to be obeyed.

They put you through a road course varying from various speed and

roundabouts. It is 20 minutes in duration. During the drive, you will be directed where to drive. Your result will be based on your driving performance in a range of situations and your ability to demonstrate safe driving behaviours.

It is stressful. It is the tension, the concentration and what a fail result will mean to your life.

It all end up at the office. You have failed or you have passed. With an unrestricted driving licence, you get a further two years. With a modified licence it will allow you to drive only in your local area where you are familiar with the traffic conditions.

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-Hadd 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

Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 10.00 am to 11.00 am. **Marthese Caruana:** 11.00 a.m.: MCC programme

These programmes are also on Demand for 4 weeks from the website of 2GLF 89.3 FM - follow - Ethnic - Sunday 10.00am and 11.00 am

MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW



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

Learn Maltese

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

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

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



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- Maltese Wills, Powers of Attorney
- Maltese Property matters.

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email reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au

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



La Valette Social Centre



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

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

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.

SATURDAY MASS is now being held at St Francis Chapel from 5.00pm

MASS: Thursday: 10.15am; Saturday: 5.00pm. (subject to availability of a priest.)

Next event: L-Imnarja: Feast of St Peter & St Paul, Sunday 27 June. Details to follow

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.



Events for 2021

Sunday July 4: L-Imnarja

Sunday October 17: Fete

Sat. November 14: Dinner Dance

Sun. December 5: Festa San Nikola



The La Valette Knights are coming

A new football club was given birth on Friday night at the Blacktown Centre when a group calling themselves La Valette Football Club held an information session that was attended by about 30 persons. The initiative is the brainchild of Stephen Micallef, Anthony Theuma, and Mark Tanti with the backing of Syd Borg from the Maltese Australian Chamber of Commerce.

Opening the meeting Godfrey Sultana the President of La Valette Centre said that his Centre agreed with the suggestion but did not elaborate. He also said that the Centre's affiliation with soccer started in 1964 with Blacktown Rainbows. At the time the Centre was known as the Western Suburbs Association.

Stephen Micallef explained that the new entity has already acquired the use of Tallawong Oval off Bungarribee Road Blacktown as its home ground. They intend to start with all age and U/20 teams and later venture into junior and women competition within the Blacktown region.

It is to be noted that the three protagonists are currently associated with the Parramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club, and in fact, Anthony Theuma is its current secretary.

Syd Borg from the MACC said that he would like the La Valette Centre to become a sporting club and also attract the Malta Knights Rugby teams to this new entity.

Although more young people could have attended, the general feeling was that if the amalgamation were affected on a solid legal basis, the new entity and the La Valette Social Centre would benefit.

Football should attract the younger generation, an injection that is urgently needed for the Maltese community to continue to provide support in all fields of endeavour.

The Voice of the Maltese will continue to watch closely this new development and keep our readers informed.



Lolly Debattista dies at 91

Maltese football fans are saddened by the news that former Malta and Floriana defender Lolly Debattista has died at the age of 91. He also spent years as coach.

He coached Valletta to a league and cup double, also coached Hamrun and was first winner of the Footballer of the Year Award.

Parramatta suffer third defeat in NSW NPL4

Parramatta FC suffered their third defeat of the season by conceding a solitary goal in a 1-0 loss in the 91st minute against Fraser Park at Melita Stadium.

In an evenly contested match, the Eagles had numerous chances to score, however the visitors managed all three points to remain undefeated at the top of the ladder.

In the previous round, Parramatta FC returned to winning ways after two successive defeats to beat Western Rage in the Granville Derby with three second half goals, a brace from Ali Dulleh (69th and 87th minute)

and captain, Zoran Kolundzic (85th minute) after they were reduced to 10 men with the red carding of their defender Stipe Simundic.

* In midweek, Parramatta FC's were knocked out of the FFA Cup campaign following a 2-0 Round 5 reversal against NSW NPL2 club, Hakoah Sydney City East FC at Hensley Athletic Field.

The Eagles luckily went into the sheds at 0-0 after the hosts were wasteful in front of goal. However Hakoah clinched the tie with goals, in the 70th and the 90th minutes.

Georgies retain lead despite dropping first points

Despite dropping their first points for the season on Day 6 of the Victoria State League 1 North-West, by drawing 1-1 at home to Brimbank Stallions, the Georgies continued building momentum towards promotion to the NPL3. They managed to retain the leadership in the league ladder with 16 points, three ahead runners up of Brimbank.

It was a frustrating night for

the Georgies at the City Vista Stadium in Caroline Springs. They played a superb game without being able to finish off numerous goalscoring opportunities. Brimbank scored from a rare breakaway and Rodrigo Covarrubias equalised for George Cross just before half-time.

In the previous round, George Cross travelled to Clifton Hill for their 200 league game since the 1948 season and scored the season's fifth successive victory, 3-0 over the Hillmen with goals by Daniel Kuczynski (79) Brian Summerskill (63) Anthony Marafioti (90+2).

Manchester United planning pre-season training in Malta

Manchester United, one of England's top Premier League football clubs, are reported to be finalising plans to travel to Malta for a training camp as part of their pre-season training.

United who two years ago announced a partnership with Visit Malta are considering using the facilities in Malta because for the second summer running the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented them from planning a lucrative tour outside Europe.

In Malta, Man United, who last played there 21 years ago, in 2000, have the oldest registered supporters' club in the world. The club, which is by far the biggest supporters club on the island, was established in 1959.

The news follows Malta's decision to start easing its COVID-19 restrictions on incoming tourism on June 1, and the fact it has been identified as a possible inclusion in the UK government's 'green list' for countries to travel to without having to quarantine. It is also due to be confirmed on the green list countries on May 17.

Mr Johann Buttigieg, the Malta Tourist Authority CEO has confirmed that talks with Manchester United to bring them over to Malta for a pre-season training camp are ongoing.

Joe Bajada chosen to lead UEC Commission

After his re-election a few weeks ago to the European Cycling Union (UEC), Joe Bajada, the Secretary-General of the Malta Cycling Federation (MCF) has now been appointed as President of a new Commission within the UEC, the Small Countries Commission.

The new commission was set up on the initiative of the UEC's new President, who also chose Joe Bajada to be its first president, the first time in World Cycling history that a Maltese person has been assigned the job of presiding over a Commission. This



is a four-year appointment.

In addition to these positions, Bajada is also a member of a similar Commission of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).