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**The facade of one of the
palaces at Malta's old
historical city of Mdina**

Photo by Silke

Tasting again the Maltese bread that helped win the war (Part 2)



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The home front



Food had always played a crucial role in military sieges¹, and those witnessed by the Maltese throughout their history were no exception.

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Adequate preparations before the Great Siege of 1565 meant that supplies were not an issue during the siege but the problem arose when it came to feeding the survivors and the relief army when the Maltese fields had been transformed into a wasteland and the black market went unchecked.²

The French Blockade of 1798-1800 is remembered as “a time of famine and national ruin”, with the Maltese rebels impoverished by the expenses of purchasing arms and those besieged in the French-held cities facing exorbitant food prices at the black market.³

Malta's role in the Second World War meant they had to endure another siege where the supply of food would, once again, play a central role.

The winds of war had already been blowing for a couple of years when the Second World War started on the 1st September 1939 with Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland. However, Malta was not immediately catapulted on the frontline as Italy, Germany's ally in the so-called Pact of Steel, decided to remain out of the war as a non-belligerent.

This gave time to the British military and civil authorities in Malta to take stock of the situation and make further preparations. In terms of civil protection, Malta was one of the first British colonies to have the Air Raid Precaution (ARP) civil defence service. However, in military terms, the fortress of Malta was under-defended with a few obsolete fighter aircraft providing air cover and fewer guns than originally planned in London.⁴

Malta's dependence on foreign food imports was significant, amounting to around 70% of its consumption. The expected dis-

ruption to this vital lifeline in times of war already weighing heavily on the minds of the Maltese even before the Germans fired the first shot in Poland on the 1st September.

Three months earlier, the editorial of the Times of Malta insisted that “the people are becoming emergency minded ... In the times we are living in, many months' supply of wheat is essential to the security of the Fortress of Malta. Thanks to the cooperation of the Maltese millers, Malta has now a supply of wheat that can be relied upon to last for well over nine months. Few other countries can boast as much.”

John Adams Hunter, the Lieutenant-Governor of Malta, reassured the public that there was adequate supply of food for many months but also underlined the need to introduce some economy to have the stocks last longer.⁵

While he admitted that some profiteering was going on, he denied that the price of bread had gone up⁶. A Food Control Board was established to keep profiteering under control and the new Defence Regulations imposed restrictions in the consumption of some foodstuffs, petrol, kerosene and water amongst other necessities.

The British military governor of Malta, Sir William Dobbie, was apprehensive and worried that air raids from bomber aircraft taking off from nearby Sicily would bring about the collapse of civil order. The authorities made a concerted effort to reas-

sure the population on Malta's defence capabilities, which in reality was not reassuring at all but was kept a secret, and the stocks of food.

The first issue of the Information Service Bulletin, published by the government's Information Office soon after the outbreak of the war with Italy, pointed out: “*Il-fatt li nħasset il-ħtieġa li jkun hemm restrizzjonijiet moderati fl-użu ta' ċerti affarijiet m'għandux jinftehem bħala sinjal li hemm xi tħassib dwar il-qagħda ta' l-ikel f'Malta. Fil-pajjiż hemm hażniet biżżejjed tal-ikel.*” [The fact that the need was felt to introduce moderate restrictions on the use of certain items should not be understood as a signal that there is apprehension on the food situation in the country. There are enough stocks of food in the country.]⁷

The Maltese colonial and military authorities seemed to be reluctant to introduce restrictions on the production and consumption of bread, a staple of the Maltese diet since time immemorial, at a time when Malta was not under direct military threat from Germany. However, the situation changed on the 10th June 1940 when Italy declared war on Britain and France, and Malta found itself at war overnight.

The Italian invasion of Malta did not materialise as widely expected and the first air raids were followed by weeks of relatively low-intensity action. Supply convoys could easily reach Malta despite bombing raid and the strong Italian naval forces in the Mediterranean. This was to change drastically in January 1941 when the German dictator Adolf Hitler decided to come to the aid of his ineffective Italian ally in North Africa.

The German air force appeared for the first time on Malta in January 1941 when they tried, unsuccessfully, to sink the British aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious undergoing urgent repairs at the dockyard. Though the aircraft carrier survived the onslaught, the city of Senglea was left in ruins, and the Maltese population witnessed the same horrors already felt around Europe.

References

1. Buttigieg, 2015, p.117.
2. Buttigieg, 2015, p.125.
3. Testa, p.120.
4. Italian historian Nicola Malizia berates the Italian High Command for not attempting to invade Malta at the beginning of war since in his opinion even a fleet of fishing boats from Sicily could have taken the island (Malizia, 2015). Malta's unpreparedness is confirmed by none other than Governor Dobbie himself in his war memoirs (Dobbie, 1945).
5. Time of Malta, 27 August 1940.
6. Times of Malta, 13 September 1940.
7. Information Service Bulletin, 23 July 1940.



An orderly queue for bread from a cart near Castille, Valletta (National War Museum Association)

Q. We are retired and live in our home, which is unencumbered. We have found another property that is more suited for our needs. We have not sold our home yet because we may not be successful in purchasing this other place as it is going for auction. Is there anything we can do to help with this, as we do not have a large amount of cash in our bank accounts?

A. You could visit the bank that you deal with and ask if they would give you a bridging loan. Explain your situation and that this loan would only be for the period of when you buy one property and sell the other. Ask them what the interest rates are so that you will be well informed as bridging loans are more expensive than ordinary loans on residential property.

As you are both retired this may not be easy to get, but before you bid for the house you need to know whether you can outlay the deposit required.

Q. My father is in his late 70s and has developed dementia. He received a letter from the administrator of his super fund advising him that his binding nomination has expired. I do not know whether he is able to sign the document himself. What can we do?

A. If your father has dementia, he will not be able to update his binding nomination himself. When the time comes the Trustee of his superannuation fund will ask his executor for a certified copy of the Will and look at the beneficiaries that were noted on his last binding nomination. They will then survey the situation and act according to their findings.

Most probably the Will would state everything was to go to the children and the pre-

vious binding nomination would probably have stated that the proceeds of his super fund were to be paid to the Estate. If your father's Power of Attorney is not a beneficiary, then he is able to sign a new binding nomination form on his behalf.

Q. My mother is 83 and in good health. My two brothers and I are quite concerned that if anything was to happen to her, we are all living quite far from her. We discussed the situation and all agreed, including my mother, that if she sold her house which is valued around \$400,000; we can use part of these funds to build a granny flat at the back of my house. How will Centrelink treat this, as at present my mother is on the full age pension?

A. Once you have built the granny flat, Centrelink will ask you to provide your mother with a guarantee that she can continue to live in the granny flat for the rest of her life. Whatever she spends on the granny flat will not be looked at as gifting. Your mother will continue to be

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.



treated as a homeowner, and the remaining funds from the sale of her house will be treated as an asset.

However, if your mother does not have many other assets, her age pension may not be very much affected. At the same time, you will all have peace of mind that your mother is living close by and that you can assist her if or when she requires your help.

Q. My aunt is in an aged care facility. She has no children and she said that, as I am her only niece, she wishes for me to receive the proceeds from the refundable accommodation deposit when she moves on. Can anyone contest this?

A. If this is not mentioned in her Will, her executor will not act on what you say to him, but has to act according to what the Will says (in writing). You should therefore ask your aunt if she has a current Will and if she does, ask her to review it so that she can include this request in her Will. This will ensure that this Will cannot be contested.

Q. We have just retired and are in the process of selling our home and moving to Queensland. We plan to use most of the money we have in superannuation to purchase our new home, as we have not sold our house in Sydney yet. Will we be able to re-invest in superannuation?

A. Yes, as you are moving to Queensland to retire, you will be using the down-sizing strategy. The maximum amount that you can invest in superannuation is \$300,000 each. You have 90 days from the day of settlement of the sale of house to do this. You also need to have lived in your previous home for over 10 years.

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It-Torri tal-Arloġġ tal-Birgu

'L-arloġġ għat-torri u mhux it-torri għall-arloġġ'



Joseph Cutajar

Madwar id-dinja hawn hafna bliet u rhula li xi haġa fid-deher li tiddistingwihom minn ohrajn ikun xi torri li ġeneralment fil-quċċata tiegħu (għalkemm mhux dejjem) jkollu xi arloġġ kbir li jkun jista' jintlemaħ mill-art. Ohrajn inbnew għal xi użu iehor fosthom bhala turretti.

Imma hu x'inhum l-użu tagħhom, huma dawk li bl-Ingliš jissejhu *landmarks* li permezz tagħhom wiehed jagħraf fejn ikun il-post jew sinjal li jaqsam il-konfini minn xulxin. Imma mhux biss.

Fil-pajjiżi u mhux l-inqas f'Malta, kull fejn hemm tempji tad-devozzjoni, hi x'inhum r-religjon, issib ukoll dawk speċi ta' torrijiet, dawk f'Malta l-kamp-nari għoljin tal-knejjes li fihom mhux biss ikun hemm il-qnepen imma wkoll l-arloġġ (għali arloġġi fl-erba' kantunieri tal-kampnar).

Xi torrijiet madwar id-dinja ġew mibnija għal xi raġuni speċifika, fosthom dak f'Malta li qed nikeb dwaru llum, it-Torri tal-Arloġġ tal-Birgu li kien twaqqaf mill-Gran Mastru Juan de Homedes y Coscón fl-1549 u gġarrab fl-aħħar gwerra.

L-ghan ewlieni ta' dan it-torri kien biex iservi ta' turreta halli jkunu jistgħu jilmhu x-xwieni li jit-faċċaw. B'qanpiena jew b'bandiera go fih, il-Kavallieri kienu jifhmu li ġej xi attakk.

Cert li kull qarrej kapaci jsemmi torrijiet ohra fost l-aktar magħrufa fid-dinja, fosthom il-Big Ben fil-kapitali Ingliza l-Ingilterra, u t-Torri Eiffel (għalkemm mingħajr arloġġ) ta' Pariġi fi Franza. Fl-Ewropa hemm magħruf hafna wkoll t-torri mmejjet ta' Pisa fl-Italja, u iehor li għalkemm mhux daqshekk popolari imma hu fost l-isbaħ, it-Torri Belem f'Lisbona l-Portugall.

Fost l-aktar magħrufa minn barra l-Ewropa hemm is-CNN Tower ta' Ontario fil-Kanada, The Pace Needle f'Seattle l-Istati Uniti, u tlieta mill-kbar fiċ-Ċina, jiġifieri t-Torri Canton fi Guangdong, l-Oriental Pearl f'Shanghai, u t-tliet Pagodas f'Dali.

F'Dubai għandhom forsi l-aktar wiehed modern, il-Burj Khalifa, filwaqt li fil-Gold Coast fl-istat ta' Queensland fl-Awstralja hemm il-Q1 Tower (Queensland Number One).

Dan iġibni għal li ridt nikteb dwaru, it-Torri tal-Arloġġ tal-Birgu, monument storiku li wiehed jasal jgħid li hi tassew hasra li gġarrab bil-bombi tal-ghadu waqt attakk mil-ajru fit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija. Jingħad li għad fadal xi pedamenti, u anke hemm il-hsieb li xi darba jerga' jinbena.

Jingħad li l-Gran Mastru Homedes kien iħobb hafna l-Birgu u qatt ma kien jasal jaħseb li xi darba seta' jitlaq minn hemm, għalhekk ipprova jsebbah kemm seta' din il-belt.

Fil-Birgu Homedes waqqaf ukoll il-Forti Sant'Anġlu, dawwar il-belt bi swar u foss, bena għadd ta' Bereġ imzejna bl-isbaħ



arkeoloġija u li għadhom hemm sal-lum, fost l-isbaħ palazzi, bena dawk magħrufa bhala l-Fran tas-Sinjurija, għamel Università bħal ma kien hemm fl-Imdina u f'nofs il-pjazza ewlenija (Misraħ il-Rebħa) bena t-Torri.

Din kienet binja stil Siculo-Norman b'hames indani, b'għoli ta' madwar 40 metru, għalkemm oriġinarjament x'aktarx li kien f'it aktar għoli. Minn fuqu kienu jidhru sew u setgħu jiġu mghassa, kemm il-Port il-Kbir u wkoll l-inħawi.

L-għamla tat-torri kienet b'erba' wcuħ iħarsu lejn l-erbat-ir-jieh. L-indani kienu mzejnin imma maż-żmien tilfu f'it mis-sbuhija. Fir-raba' indana kien hemm gallarija tal-ghuda mnaqqxa b'erba' bibien li tlieta minnhom maż-żmien, ġew imbaratti.

*għall-pagna li jmiss



Gran Mastru Juan de Homedes y Coscón

**Ikompili mill-paġna ta' qabel*

Skont l-istoriku u studjuż il-Kan. GM Farrugia (1927), li studja sew l-ghamla tat-Torri fi żmien, fuq il-faċċata li thares lejn il-Lvant, kien hemm daww li jsejnhom harriega ta' ghamla tonda mnaqqxin li fuqhom kienu jistrieħu żewġ arbli.

Bħal ma kien jidher fuq il-frontispizju tal-bieb ta' fuq il-gallarija u li jhars fuq il-pjazza kien hemm x'juri li bnih de Homedes u wkoll is-sena. Il-bieb kien imżejjen bi gwarniċi mdawra u fuq il-ħnejja kellu bħal frontispizju li fuq kien hemm salib. Bħal ma kien isir dak iż-żmien, go fih kien hemm warda jew rużun li jaqsam is-sena tat-twaqqif tat-torri 1549.

Biex tidhol fit-Torri ma kontx tgħaddi mill-bieb ewlieni, imma minn wiehed iċken u biex titla' sa fuq il-bejt kont trid tgħaddi minn taraġ garigor deġġa u strapattuż x'aktarx mibni wara. Fi triqtek 'l fuq kont tiltaqa' ma' għadd ta' twieqi u bibien u toħroġ f'gallarija.

Maż-żmien l-indani ma baqghux jidhru għaliex twaqqghu biex jaggmli wisa' għall-mazzri tal-arloġġ.

Il-bini tat-Torri sar biex jintuża bħala turreta halli minn fuq jkunu jistgħu jaraw ix-xwieni hekk kif jiffaċċaw fix-xefaq. Kif jilmhu xi haġa, jew permezz ta' qanpiena inkella ta' bandiera, il-Kavallieri mxerrdin mal-plajja ta' Malta u fl-Imdina kienu jindunaw xi jrid il-Gran Mastru.

Snin wara, fl-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565, il-Gran Mastru ta' wara, La Valette kien juża t-Torri billi jitla' fuq u jordna d-daqq tal-qanpiena meta jhoss li jrid ixxerred l-ordinijiet tiegħu, fosthom halli jingabru n-nies fil-Pjazza jew fil-Knisja ta' San Lawrenz, biex jiskansaw mill-ghadu li jkun qed isalpa lejn Malta biex jattakkaha.

Meta fl-1629 fi żmien il-Gran Mastru Anton de Pawla t-Torri ma kienx

It-Torri tal-Arloġġ tal-Birgu



Il-pjazza ewlenija tal-Birgu msejha Misraħ ir-Rebħa kif inhi illum. Fejn it-tarmak fl-art jidher ftit aktar ċar kien il-post fejn kien hemm it-Torri tal-Arloġġ

baqagħlu għalxiex iservi ta' turreta poġġa fih wiehed mill-arloġġi ewlieni fil-gżira, u x'aktarx ukoll fl-Ewropa. Kien b'hekk li beda jissejjah it-Torri tal-Arloġġ tal-Birgu.

Fuq irħama fuq il-bieb tax-xellug tat-torri kien hemm kitba bil-Latin li fiha wkoll d-data tal-1629 li forsi b'xi mod kienet tfixxell xi ftit lil xi wħud li kienu jahsbuha s-sena ta' meta twaqqaf it-torri. Ma kienx il-każ. Maqluba għall-Malti l-kitba tfisser:

"Fi żmien it-treġġja hienja tal-Kbir Prinċep Fr. Anton De Pawla, Fr. Lixand De Verax tal-Lsien ta' Alvernja, gvernatur militari tal-Belt, magħruf għall-ħila tiegħu tant fil-gwerra u wkoll fit-tmexxija tal-gvern, gieghel li tinbena din il-kbira opra, u għenuh fiha t-Teżorier tal-Belt, Gan-Anglu Mallia, Gwann Testaferrata, Mena Cristoforo u Nardu Burló fis-sena 1629."

Fil-fatt il-kitba ma kellha x'taqsam xejn mat-torri imma kienet biss turi li saret xi haġa jew opra oħra waqt li kien diġà mibni t-torri jew forsi kienet miżjuda.

Jidher li din l-opra ta' wara kien l-arloġġ, għax jekk kif kien magħruf, dan fil-fatt kien l-ewwel arloġġ li nġieb Malta, u kien ukoll wiehed mill-ewlieni fl-Ewropa, it-tqeghid tiegħu kellu għax jiġi meqjus bħala opra kbira, għax skont il-Kan. G.M. Farrugia l-arloġġi bil-pendlu u bl-iskappament kull ma kien ilhom li ġew ivvintati kien biss 24 sena.

Kien ukoll ċar li t-torri ma ġiex mibni

apposta għall-arloġġ, iżda nbena tmenin sena qabel, bħala Turreta.

Interessanti wkoll dak li kien jgħid il-Kan. GM Farrugia, jiġifieri li "L-Arloġġ sar għat-torri u mhux it-Torri għall-Arloġġ!"

Wara li l-Ordni hallew il-Birgu u marru fil-kapitali l-gdida Valletta li kien bena La Valette, fl-1572 parti it-torri kienet nbieghet lil familja minn Hal-Ghaxaq biex tgħix fiha.

Għadda ż-żmien, u fl-1921, fuq it-torri giet impoġġġja rħama biex tfakkar il-kostituzzjoni l-gdida ta' Malta miksuba dik is-sena. Imbagħad erba' snin wara l-binja tpoġġiet fil-lista tal-Antikitajiet tal-gżira. B'danakollu mas-snin dan il-bini thalla jizżdinga.

Fi żmien it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, bħall-ibliet l-oħra tal-inħawi, x'aktarx minhabba li tant kienu qrib il-Malta Drydocks, il-Birgu sofrha hafna mill-bumbaramenti tal-ghadu u fl-4 ta' April 1942 it-torri ntlaqat minn bomba u f'lejl minnhom xi ġimgha wara komplja jiġġarrab. Il-bqija tat-torri ntlaqat mill-gdid ġimagħtejn wara u fl-1944 tkompla jitwaqqa biex ma jkunx ta' periklu.

Huwa mifhum li l-mekkanizmu tal-arloġġ għadu jeżisti u jinsab merfugh, filwaqt li 'l-minutieri' jinsabu għall-wiri, kemm fil-mużew tal-Knisja tal-Birgu kif ukoll fil-Palazzo Falson fl-Imdina.

Il-ħsieb li t-Torri tal-Arloġġ jerga' jinbena fil-post f'Misraħ ir-Rebħa fejn kien qabel, għadu hemm. Imma....

Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – My Eighties (continued)

One of the highlight of the eighties:

The 1998 Malta Summit between Bush/Gorbachov



Joseph Lanzon

The three days between the December 1 and 3 in 1989 in Malta changed the course of history. On that fateful period of time, Malta was the venue for the memorable Malta Summit between US President George H. W. Bush and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

They met on board the Soviet cruiser 'Maxim Gorky' somewhere between Birzebbuga and Marsaxlokk. Malta had been chosen as the ideal neutral venue for this important meeting.

Veteran diplomats and news reports of the time referred to the Malta Summit as one of the most important since World War II, since the meeting between the two super powers in Yalta at the end of World War II in 1945.

Weather-wise, they could not have chosen a worse three days. According to the weathermen, it was the worst in living memory.



Foreground: Mikhail Gorbachev (left) and George H. W. Bush (right) at the Malta summit in 1989

Gale force winds lashed the Island mercilessly, rain poured down heavily and polar cold pushed temperature levels to near freezing point.

The high powerful swells lashed at the supposed protection pens in the ports smashing boats and yachts. Abandoned or parked cars near the seafronts were swept down to the sea, trees were uprooted and all kinds of injuries and damages were reported.

This meeting was held just a few weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Its significance

was that it saw the end of the Cold War between these two super powers that had existed since the end of the last war beginning a new chapter in the relationship between the USA and Russia.

Bush and Gorbachev declared an end to the Cold War, with one Soviet official saying at the time "The meeting in Malta had buried the Cold War at the bottom of the Mediterranean"

It was a historic occasion for Malta. No wonder that during those three days the whole world had its eyes on Malta and the international media gave wide coverage of the event.

* to opposite page

Famous foreign personalities who lived in Valletta

During 'breaks' from work I liked to roam the streets of Valletta, armed with a pencil and a small notebook, to see the places where famous writers and other personalities lived during their visits to Malta. There are a number of marble slabs – some now obscure and hardly recognisable – on the facade of houses to commemorate their stay on the island.

I made a list of some of the foreign personalities that lived in Malta, perhaps the most famous being Napoleon Bonaparte. He stayed for six days in Malta in June 1798 and lived at Palazzo Parisio in upper Merchants Street Valletta, which today houses the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs.

Sir Oliver Starkey was the only English knight of St John to have taken part in the Great Siege of 1565, and Grand Master La Valette's secretary. Starkey's residence in the new capital was at 36 Merchants Street corner with St Lucy Street, practically opposite the

'Campo Santo'.

Sir Walter Scott, Scottish historical novelist, poet, playwright, and historian came to Malta in 1831 and stayed at the Beverley Hotel near the Anglican Church.

Benjamin Disraeli, poet and one time Prime Minister of England and a favourite of Queen Victoria came to Malta in 1830 and also stayed at the Beverley Hotel.

Another poet, Lord Byron, one of Britain's famous poets and romanticist visited Malta in 1809 and stayed at Old Bakery Street.

French novelist Gustav Flaubert visited Malta in 1847 and stayed at the Mediterranean Hotel in Strada Santa Lucia.

Famous French author Alexander Dumas was another visitor. He stayed at the Imperial Hotel also in Strada Santa Lucia.

In 1844 Malta hosted yet another famous British poet, William Thackeray who used to do his work from the Casino Maltese in Strada Reale.

Italian patriot and republican General Giuseppe Garibaldi who contributed to the Italian unification and the creation of the Kingdom of Italy, came to Malta in 1864 with his children Menotti and Riciotti and stayed at the Westminster Hotel in Strada Reale.

Napoleon Bonaparte



Monument in Birzebbuga commemorating the Malta summit

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

Bush and Gorbachev agree on a lasting peace

**From opposite page*

During a press conference at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta at the end of the talks, President Bush said: “Chairman Gorbachev and I have agreed on a lasting peace and it began here in Malta”

In spite of the awful weather, I remember going to Valletta hoping for an opportunity to see both world leaders.

After a long time, when I thought that I would not be so fortunate, I glimpsed them, separately and at different times, walking down the steps of Castille following short meetings with then Prime Minister Dr Fenech Adami.

This was one other important occasion that I would be proud to recount to my next generation, that “I was there”



A smiling Bush and Gorbachev after achieving their goal

Ships herald in the New Year

I remember from my childhood to the Eighties, on the strokes of midnight on New Year's Eve, the different types of sea craft at the dockyard and in port – warships, merchant ships, tankers, tugboats, freighters and other types – celebrating the New Year making a deafening noise by using their whistles.

My brother and I would wake up from our sleep and wish each other a “Happy New Year”. This tradition was already fizzling out when I married in 1960. Nevertheless I used to continue this ritual with Liz and Chris. Sometimes, of course, we remained asleep, oblivious to the cacophony coming from the nearby dockyard.

We, the children of Cottonera, used to look forward to the ushering out of the old year and welcoming the new one with enthusiasm. The ships would be festooned from fore to aft with bright coloured lights providing a spectacle in the sea around us. The British, most especially, loved to celebrate the occasion with great gusto and enthusiasm.

I also remember hear the crews of the various ships singing as loud as possible the traditional ‘Auld Lang Syne’:

*“Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?”*

*Should old acquaintance be forgot
For the sake of days gone by?”*

A Marriage and a Christening

My son Chris and his girl Marthese were married on 31st May 1986 at St. Julian's Parish Church, the place where they had originally met. The mass and marriage ceremony were conducted by our dear old friend of Roman times Father Avertano Saliba and by Liz's cousin Father Victor Livori of the MSSP who does missionary work in Peru.

While we were pleased that Chris was making a life for himself, we were sad to see him leave our house after 24 years. But this is the inevitable cycle of life that we all have to follow and accept.

Travelling: the ‘Postcard towns and Villages

Although I love the big cities like London, Rome, Paris, Brussels, New York, Toronto and others – with all their traffic chaos, shops, various noises and so many commuters - I love even more the smaller towns and villages that are quiet, with less traffic, less people in the streets, and narrow winding streets.

I loved especially the little villages and small enchanting and picturesque places in Europe that you'd want to visit again and, if at all possible, live in. They are the places that we call ‘picture postcard villages’.

Travelling is exhilarating and a learning experience. Beyond the books you read, beyond what the media show you, beyond the scant knowledge you get when meeting foreign nationals on our Island, the experience of travelling to different countries provides one with an ultimate feel how events and lifestyles are shaped outside one's own society.

However, one of the things that we miss when we are abroad is the sound of our church bells either reminding the parishioners that mass is about to start or that of the clocks chiming the time every quarter of an hour. These are lovely sounds that seem to remind you that, “You are not alone”.

On 26th January 1988 Sean Lee Ryan Stefan, our grandson, was born at his parents' home in Sta. Lucia Liz and I acted as his godparents. I had chosen the first three names reflecting my love of the Irish.

I soon discovered that Sean Lee is a lively, energetic child, full of mischief. He has a sweet and happy character, sometimes funny, and an outward disposition. When he was still a child, I used to keep my eye on him. He has an independent and self-confident character.

A new position, new responsibilities

In 1984 I was appointed Chairman of the Hotels and Catering Establishments Board, a position I held for 16 consecutive years under six different Ministers of Tourism from both main political parties.

The board was responsible:

(i) To process and issue licenses to all types of tourism accommodation, to all types of catering establishments and to

travel agents;

(ii) To carry out regular and surprise inspections at these establishments in order to monitor that classified standards are being maintained at all times;

(iii) To investigate complaints against these same establishments and take remedial action accordingly.

**Those were my eighties*



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The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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Malta: Joseph Cutajar

Australia:

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OAM, JP Rt

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



Now you can also
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoice-ofthemaltese>

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

The Voice enthusiastically received in Canada

Kevin Caruana from Summerhill, Ontario, Canada writes:

Thave only just started receiving *The Voice of the Maltese*. In fact, Issue No. 253 was my second one. I was so enthusiastically pleased to receive it that I started reflecting about what I must have been missing; therefore I wish to ask if it would be possible to receive previous copies in the same pdf format. This is indeed a great service to the Maltese living abroad.

I found *The Voice of the Maltese* to be a professionally prepared publication that could be a godsend to the Maltese living abroad, in my case in Canada where the only publications for Maltese only seem to be newsletters that mostly publicise the activities of the respective clubs or associations and are mainly directed at their members. Do not get me wrong. We should be grateful to them as they keep the interest

of the Maltese community alive.

The Voice magazine is different. The news pages about Malta are superb and I can safely say that it is the only source from which one can read balanced reporting about the goings on in Malta. I found them very well balanced and to the point.

Although this is a fortnightly publication, it could be a breath of fresh air as the sources from where we normally get the news about Malta ignore that which really interests the Maltese readers but take it as a run of the mill item, especially if there is nothing sensational.

One other thing that I wish to commend you on is for also publishing some of the articles in the Maltese language. Where else in Canada can one read such features in one's own native Maltese language if not in *The Voice*?

Thank you

L-anzjani tagħna u l-attivitajiet tagħhom

Tony Musu minn Glenroy, Victoria jikteb:

Meta rajt dik il-faċċata shiha bir-ritratti li ddedikajtu għall-attivitajiet tal-ghaqdiet tal-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja (VOM Mejju 18), indunajt kemm dak li kiteb l-artiklu Kummenti lokali (VOM Mejju 4) kien preċz meta semma "li l-bżonn immedjat huwa li niehdu hsieb l-eluf ta' anzjani tagħna".

Hawn f'Melbourne għandna l-istess xenarju. Għall-attivitajiet organizzati jattendu l-anzjani. Kemm ikun xenaru mpekkabbli li kieku daww li jorganizzaw dawn l-attivitajiet għax-xjuħ tagħna jkun z-żgħażaġh!

Mishandling the pandemic

Tony Cassar from St Albans Victoria writes:

Last year I had planned to visit my remaining relatives in Malta. But this is now impossible. As 'man proposes and the federal government disposes.

Some decisions by the authorities in dealing with the pandemic have been amateurish, and dare I say also discriminatory. We were lucky that in Australia we had so few cases compared to other countries.

However over confidence could cost us, as many people seem to have failed to take the COVID pandemic that seriously, and have ignored precautionary measures.

The latest outbreak in Melbourne could perhaps help the population understand that the pandemic is still here and push the authorities to speed up the vaccine rollout to indicate the potential exposure sites.

It looks as if the latest lockdown is the result of multiple failures by the government and the mishandling of the quarantine.

The one thing that gives me confidence is the fact that we are much better placed to deal with the outbreak than we were a year ago.

There also does not seem to be a sense of fairness either when it comes quarantine, with celebrities being spared from mandatory hotel quarantine on arrival in the country. Some Hollywood stars have been allowed to spend quarantine at their country estates instead.

Now I have to wait till next year to leave the Australian territories to visit Malta.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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SA Maltese Philanthropist Charles Figallo



by RonBorg

It is often said, "Everyone loves a winner!" One such winner in Adelaide that has won the well deserved admiration of many, not just because he is successful in business but because he has stood out as a staunch support for the community in South Australia, is a gentleman by the name of Charles Renoir Figallo.

On the 20th May Figallo opened Adelaide's daily tabloid The Advertiser, and was delighted to learn that BAE, a multinational arms, security and aerospace company, has awarded contracts to three companies to build the Hunter Class Frigate Project. One of the companies, Novafast International is to provide a range of 'pipe infrastructure' for the prototyping phase of the programme, which is currently underway at Osborne shipyard in Adelaide.

This is indeed a feather in the cap of Charles Figallo (CEO), and his sons, Paul (General Manager), and David (Business & Strategy Manager) of Novafast International! It is not only a credit to this team but also good news for the state to have acquired this assignment that guarantees employment prospects to the locals especially during this lean time resulting from COVID-19.

The Maltese radio programme in the state broadcast the good news and congratulated Charles and his team for the achievement. He deserves all the accolades for his continuous involvement in various business and community organisations for which he was also officially recognised in 2017 with the prestigious award of the Order Of Australia Medal for his services.

Charles Figallo runs Basetec Services with his two sons. It is well known Australian-

owned private equity business, with its global investment subsidiaries focusing on advanced engineering and construction within the following sectors: Oil & Gas, Mining & Resources, Water & Infrastructure Design, Engineering & Construction.

Basetec has provided composite pipelines for major projects in Queensland and also countries such as New Guinea, Africa and the Middle East, and maintains a solid relationship with Australian Universities to adopt testing and technical objectives.

Basetec Services has become an important supplier to Australia's growing oil and gas industry. In 2014/15 it forged three new partnerships with Abu Dhabi, Egypt and Nigeria, to respond to a global demand for high pressure, anti-corrosive, composite pipes. Basetec's Novafast Glass Reinforced Epoxy (GRE) pipes are designed and engineered in Adelaide and sold to major projects in Australia and around the world.

After winning a contract from gas giant Santos, Mr Figallo said. "Winning our first contract with Santos took a lot of work as the prequalification process is quite rigorous. Now that we have proven our capabilities, we are receiving lots of enquiries. Other Basetec clients include Origin Energy, Woodside Petroleum and BP.

A lot more can be said about Charles Figallo's success story, but one thing is quite evident about him, his commitment to the things he believes in. This is not only evident in his business projects but also in his support of the long list of community organisations that he has been associated with like, the Make a Wish Foundation, Diabetes SA, Variety SA, the Fred Hollows Foundation, Doctors without Borders, and more recently his fundraising role



Charles knighted in 2015

and in helping finance the Maltese-Australian Association's Anzac memorial in Malta.

On the 1st July 2015, during Charles Figallo's investiture at the ball of the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, the Knights of Malta, Grand Priory of Australia, Adelaide Commandery, Mr Vincent Tarzia, South Australian Parliamentary member for Hartley, said this of Charles and the other knights, "It is fantastic to see this philanthropy in the community. Many people, especially successful business people, are doing good things with their profits. The first, Mr Charles Figallo, is a very successful entrepreneur who is very passionate about the oil, gas and mining industry".

Tarzia went on to say that Charles has done great things for South Australia. "I commend him for his past work bringing business into South Australia. He is a strong advocate and champion who wants to see South Australia do well in this area. It is really good to see that Charles is a man who is doing well and making money but who is also putting it to good use by contributing to the wonderful causes that these Knights engage in."

The Maltese Community in general has witnessed Charles Figallo's continued generous support to the Maltese societies. He supports them financially throughout the year and openly shows his enthusiasm by attending the many Maltese functions, generously donates prizes for fund raising raffles, invites many invited friends and guests to these balls, openly mixes with the general community and shares in the jubiliations of the events.

He is a true blue supporter of the Maltese Community. No wonder we take pride in his business success.

"Good on you Chev Charles Figallo!"



Impression of the RAN's Hunter Class frigate

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**



Serq li mhux serq

Wahda mill-istejjer memorabbli ta' pajjiż missirijietna kienet il-miġja tal-Franċiżi fl-aħħar tas-seklu tmintax, fejn dawn hadu l-gzejjer mill-kavallieri ta' San Ġwann fi żmien il-Gran Mastru Hompesch.

Hija memorabbli għaliex kienu l-Maltin stess li rvellaw kontra l-hakkiema Franċiżi wara li sabu li riformi pożittivi li dahhlu l-Franċiżi bħall-ugwaljanza ta' kulhadd quddiem il-liġi, it-twaqqif ta' skejjel primarji għat-tagħlim tat-tfal Maltin, il-projbizzjoni tal-bonavolji (forma ta' skjavitù volontarja fuq l-iġfna għal min ma jkunx jista' jhallas id-djun tiegħu)¹ eċċ, ma kinux biżżejjed biex jagħmlu tajjeb għan-nuqqas ġenerali ta' hlasijiet bħall-kumpens għall-hsarat mid-dahla tal-Franċiżi f'Malta, il-pensjonijiet u oħrajn.²

Imma żgur wahda li lill-Maltin qabbżitilhom iċ-ċinga kienu l-fided u d-dehbijiet li ttiehdu mill-knejjes u l-bereġ tal-Ordni. Forsi l-iktar biċċa teżor famuża hija x-xabla tal-Granmastru La Valette li spiċċat, u għadha, fil-mużew Louvre f'Londra, u din niftakarha sew tissemma f'lezzjoni tal-istorja ta' tfuliti.

Kien mhux ċar x'kien sar mit-teżori l-oħra li kienu nhatfu mill-Franċiżi. Kien hemm min haseb li dawn tghabbew fuq il-ġifen Orient li wara Malta baqa' sejjer l-Eġittu mal-flotta ta' Napuljun meta dan kien habat għaliha.

L-Orient kien spiċċa f'qiegħ il-baħar tal-bajja Aboukir u għalhekk kien hemm min haseb li t-teżor Malti kien hemm ukoll, għalkemm il-mistoqsija mallewwel tqum għaliex kien tghabbateżor b'valur tant għoli fi frejgata li kienet sejra għall-gwerra.

Dan l-aħħar kien hemm artiklu minn Dr J.F. Grima li kkonkluda li dan it-teżor ma kien xejn fuq l-Orient, imma kien ittiehed fil-kaxxa tal-armata, u minn hemm partijiet inbiegħu f'Malta u l-Eġittu, filwaqt li oħrajn iddewbu f'ingotti jew flus eċċ.

Kien hemm ukoll xi oġġetti ta' valur f'ġifen ieħor Sensible li minn Malta baħħar lejn Franza imma inqabad mill-Inġliżi, u l-oġġetti ta' valur fuqu sparpaljaw.³

Madankollu, l-iktar kumment li laqatni f'dan l-artiklu kien li l-proprjetà kollha li nhatfet mill-Franċiżi kien intilef id-dritt għalih malli l-Ordni kien ċeda. Fi kliem ieħor, ix-xabla ta' La Valette fi Franza issa hija tal-Franċiżi, għax l-Ordni kienet tilfet il-konfront mal-Franċiżi.

X'inhu?

Immaġina li jidhol xi hadd go darek fis-satra tal-lejl. Int tqum f'nofs ta' lejl u ssib lil strangier jipponta arma lejku u jhedded lilek u lill-familja jekk tittanta twaqqfu jiknislek xi affarijiet ta' valur li jista' jkollok. Int tiddeċiedi li ma tirriskjax haġtek u dik tal-mahbubin tiegħek, u ma tirreżistihx fit-tweqqif ta' hsiebu.

Galadarba ma rreżistejtux u hallejtu jitlaq, allura dan ifisser li tlift kull dritt għall-affarijiet li baramlek.

Imma dan jagħmel sens?

Fil-liġi kriminali, is-serq jeżisti, fost l-oħrajn, jekk it-tehid tal-oġġett/i jsir mingħajr il-kunsens tas-sid, u f'każ ta' serq bħall-eżempju li tajt, dan il-kunsens ma kienx hemm, b'mod ċar.

Fil-każ tat-teżori ta' Malta mahtufin mill-Franċiżi, wiehed jista' jipponta lejn il-kapitulazzjoni ffirmata mill-Gran Mastru fit-12 ta' Ġunju 1798, bħala l-gumata fejn ġew ċeduti kull jedd fuq proprjetà li kellha l-Ordni.

Imma din verament l-aħħar tal-istorja? Ċediment taht il-ponta tas-sejfa huwa validu?

Fit-tieni gwerra dinjina, in-Nażisti wkoll serqu ammont immens ta' teżori, f'metalli prezzjużi, arti, oġġetti kulturali eċċ, li wara t-telfa finali tagħhom kien hemm azzjoni mifruxa biex li kien insteraq jiġi identifikat kemm jista' jkun u jiġi rritornat lejn is-sidien privati jew statali originali, minn fejn ittiehdu.

Jien ma nifhimx kif dan il-prinċipju ma japplikax għar-Repubblika Franċiża, meta l-era ta' Napuljun spiċċat b'telfa fil-battalja ta' Waterloo fl-1815 kontra l-allegati tal-Gran Brittanja, l-Olanda, il-Prussja u xi oħrajn. Huwa fl-interess ta' Malta li ninsistu li dak li nsteraq jintradd lura.



Ix-xabla tal-Granmastru La Valette li tiehdet minn Malta fi żmien Napuljun u għadha tinsab fil-Mużew Louvre

Referenzi

1. L-Ilsiera fi żmien L-ordni f'Malta (5); L-Orizzont; 18/5/2017; p.20
2. Ġrajjet Malta - it-tielet ktieb; p185
3. <https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/the-treasures-seized-from-malta-by-the-french-in-1798.874273>, retrieved 26/5/2021



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

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Taghrif u twissija

L-importanza taċ-ċensiment għall-Maltin fl-Awstralja

Kull hames snin, il-Gvern Awstraljan ikun irid jikseb ritratt eżatt tal-poplu. Ikun irid jara kif ngħixu, kif nieklu, kif naħdmu, b'liema lingwa nitkellmu, kemm għandna tfal u mitt mistoqsija oħra. Dan hu ċ-ċensiment. Dak li jmiss se jsir fl-10 ta' Awwissu.

Iċ-ċensiment hu mingħajr dubju l-ikbar stħarriġ li jagħmel il-Gvern. Ikun imexxi mill-Australia Bureau of Statistics (l-ABS).

Kull persuna li f'dak il-lejl tkun fl-Awstralja trid bilfors timla l-formola. M'hemmx skużi. Il-Gvern irid li b'neċessita' assoluta jkun jaf kif in-nazzjon kollu qed jinbidel, u kemm verament hemm nies fil-pajjiż.

Tant hu mportanti ċ-ċensiment li mhux ċittadini Awstraljani biss iduru jipparticipaw fih, imma wkoll, visa holder, turisti, u anke studenti barranin li qed jistudjaw fl-Universitajiet tal-pajjiż.

X'jiġi mistoqsi fiċ-Ċensiment? Jistaqsik kemm għandek snin, fejn twelidt, ir-religjoni, id-dixxendenti tiegħek, xogħol u edukazzjoni. Mistoqsija ta' importanza kbira għalina l-Maltin hi dwar: liema lingwa titkellem biha d-dar. Min kif inwiegħbu jiddependu x'servizzi speċifiċi, l-Gvern jipprovdilna bil-lingwa tagħna fil-futur.

Meta l-Gvern jiġbor dan it-tagħrif ikun jista' jippjana għal transport aħjar, fejn hemm bżonn l-infrastruttura, skejjel, htigijiet tas-saħħa, edukazzjoni, u fejn hemm bżonn li jintlaħqu dawk li ma jafux jikkellmu bl-Ingliż sew jew li ma jifhmux



kollox bl-Ingliż.

Dan hu tentattiv loġistiku li jrid jilhaq 25 miljun persuna u madwar 10 miljun dar. Isir b'hafna modi. Illum dahal l-Internet imma għandek issib li dawk taċ-ċensiment jiġu f'darek biex jgħinuk timla il-formoli meħtieġa. **DAN HU OBLIGATORJU.** Ma tistax ma tipparteċipax.

Wara kollox dan qed isir għall-gid tiegħek għax min kif twieġeb int il-Gvern ikun jista' jippjana aħjar. Mill-aħhar ċensiment il-Gvern Awstraljan sar jaf u kkonferma li l-Awstralja hi pajjiż ta' diversivita' kbira tant li nofs il-popolazzjoni jew twieldet barra mill-Awstralja inkella xi wiehed jew iż-żewġ genituri huma mwieda barra mill-pajjiż.

Għaliex qed niktbu dan kollu? Għax f'hafna każi aħna l-Maltin mhux biss naħrbu milli nimlew il-formola iżda meta nagħmlu dan kemm il-darba niżbaljaw jew naħbu l-verità għax naħsbu li nkunu qed nidhru aktar helwin mal-Awtoritajiet.

Mhux il-każ. Għaliex taħsbu li l-komunità Maltija tilfet hafna għajnuna mill-Gvern Federali? Għaliex tinfina seba' siegħat fuq



ir-radju tal-SBS u ninsabu wkoll fix-xifer li nitilfu l-programm tal-SBSTV bil-Malti? Għaliex meta mmorru fid-Dipartimenti tal-Gvern ma nsibux tradutturi bil-Malti? It-tweġiba hi, minhabba li nagħtu l-impressjoni li l-Maltin kollha jifhmux kollox bl-Ingliż.

Hawn oħrajn li meta tistaqsihom dwar id-dixxendenza tagħhom, dwar missirijietom jew ommijietom ma jgħidux li huma Maltin. Kemm il-darba jgri li jkunu t-tfal li jimlew il-formola taċ-ċensiment u hawn hafna drabi jwiegħbu kif jaħsbu huma u mhux kif jixtiequ l-genituri tagħhom.

Nahseb tghidu, "so what, imbilli niftahar li jien sirt Awstraljan allura dan ma jkunx aħjar? Le, żgur li ma jkun aħjar għal hadd.

Jekk niddikjaraw li nafu nitkellmu bl-Ingliż kompletament u dejjem qisna xi professuri dan ifisser li kull għajnuna li jkun hemm għall-Maltin tispicċa kif digā mfisser aktar 'l fuq.

Dan hu tagħrif ta' importanza kbira, kif ukoll twissija serja miġjuba lill-Maltin fl-Awstralja bħala servizz minn The Voice of the Maltese.

It all started in 1919 ...

So far from our homeland, we gather each year at Civic Park Pendle Hill beside the Bi-Centenary Monument dedicated to the settlement of Maltese migrants in NSW to remember and celebrate a vital historical event, June 7, which projected the people of Malta towards self-determination.

After 102 years we still remember because the past is important. Unless we understand our history we cannot appreciate the present and move forward with the same determination.

In 1919, the Maltese were at the mercy of the British, under colonial rule, with the natives as slave laborers, and until 1997 Malta was still a military base.

The primary reasons for the 1919 uprising were lack of food, massive unemployment, new taxes, and no voice in the administration. The importation of corn and flower was practically halted. The British never realised that these items were part of the locals' diet. People turned on the Maltese importers because their basic needs became scarce.

After World War 1, the Dockyard was reducing its workforce causing unemployment. The natives wanted self-determination. Hence the *Culhat al belt* directive. The result is history, four Maltese were victims of the British soldiers. The path towards self-determination, ultimately full independence and freedom from foreign military bases was set in stone.

It did not stop the massive migration in later years. That was another price the Maltese had to pay. But the ultimate aim of running our own destiny is now completely in our hands, thanks to the gallant acts of our forefathers.



Sette Giugno

Commemoration of the 7th June 1919 Uprising

The Maltese Community Council of NSW is holding the "Sette Giugno" Commemoration Ceremony at the Maltese Bicentenary Monument Civic Park, Pendle Hill at 11:00am on Sunday 6th June

The ceremony will take approximately 90 minutes and includes a commemorative speech about this historic event and musical segments from the Maltese Concert Band and the Maltese Cultural Association Choir.

**** This event complies with Covid-19 requirements ****
Please scan the QR code on arrival and follow the Park Wardens' instructions.

Please Note: In the event of bad weather the ceremony will be cancelled and an announcement will be posted on the Maltese Community Council of NSW Facebook page prior to the scheduled start time. Tel: 0419476 924

Maltese Community Council of NSW | Facebook



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta passes important Moneyval test



finance and Employment (*pictured*), said that Malta took this challenge seriously and was hugely committed to the cause. He said it worked tirelessly to regain the trust of the European Commission and European countries.

Moneyval is a permanent monitoring body of the Council of Europe, entrusted with the task of assessing compliance with the

Malta has welcomed the news that it passed the important Moneyval test after the Council of Europe's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) committee recognised "significant progress" and voted in favour of a final report on the island's AML and terrorism-financing safeguards.

At a news conference, Clyde Caruana, the Minister for Finance and Employment

principal international standards to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism and the effectiveness of implementation measures.

It is also tasked with making recommendations to national authorities in respect of necessary improvements to their systems.

Two years ago, Malta failed an exhaustive test of its anti-money laundering rules; however since then it has introduced a raft of reforms to strengthen its AML regime and addressed the shortcomings highlighted by the previous Moneyval report.

In its report Moneyval said that Malta was among the first countries to implement the regulatory and institutional framework and conduct assessment of ML/TF risks in this area. "Malta's rating on the implementation of this recommendation has been upgraded from 'partially compliant' to 'largely compliant'," Moneyval said.

Malta will now undertake a visit by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental organisation set up to combat money laundering for clearance at a meeting of FATF in the coming weeks.

Almost back to normal

Having reached herd immunity with over 70% of the population (around 517,000) having already been administered with at least one dose of the vaccine against COVID-19, in a few days time, the vaccine in Malta will also be administered to children aged between 12 and 15.

This follows the recommendation by the European Medicines Agency that investigated the effects of the vaccination on 2,260 children aged between 12 and 15. Studies showed it achieved the same immunity as those in the 16–25 age group.

With the process of vaccination of the population so well advanced, on June 1 Malta will be opening its borders for tourists. To determine the conditions of entry, Maltese authorities are using a colour scheme to categorize the countries based on their epidemiological situation.

Tourists from the countries in the "red" zone will need to present a certificate of vaccination issued no later than 10 days prior to arrival in Malta. Travellers from the

"yellow" group of countries will need to present a certificate or proof of test taken no later than 72 hours before arrival. Visitors from "green" countries will not need to provide any certificates.

These rules will apply to visitors from the EU countries and countries with which the Maltese authorities have entered into bilateral agreements in the field of health. For all other states, the requirements established by the European Union apply.

Meanwhile, in a few days' time, Malta will be among the first countries to launch a vaccine certificate that has the aim of facilitating travel. It would be available in digital as well as physical format.

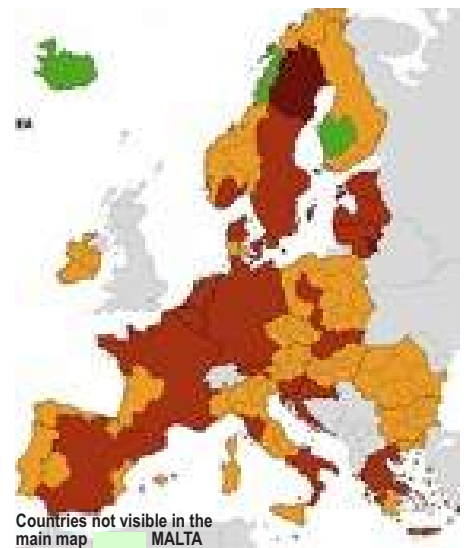
With restaurants now able to operate till midnight, the Cabinet has also approved the opening of some activities (not as yet indicated) in a limited way for people who have been fully vaccinated.

Introducing Malta-Gozo fast ferry service

In the meantime, in what is being considered as another step forward in terms of maritime infrastructure, intended to improve the connectivity between the sisterly islands of Malta and Gozo, on June 1 four catamarans will commence the fast ferry service from Valletta to Mgarr and vice-versa.

The is also expected to be an incentive to kick-start tourism once again in the country and help students and workers who travel daily from Gozo to Malta for work or to University. It would certainly not only save them time but also actually give them more time on their hands.

The fast ferry service will be taking less than 45 minutes to sail between the islands. Gozo Fast Ferry and Virtu Ferries Fast Ferry will each use two catamarans for the service.



Malta on ECDC green list

The European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, ECDC has placed Malta on its green list after the rate of spread of the Covid-19 virus had substantially decreased.

The map published each week as part of the Council's recommendation for a coordinated approach for free travel restrictions in reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic, shows the situation in European countries in regard to positive cases of the coronavirus.

Malta was been placed on the green list after the rate of cases during the past fortnight stood at less than 25 cases per 100,000 persons, whilst the positive rate was below 4%. Only parts of Finland, Norway and Iceland were also placed on this list.

By the time we published the magazine, Malta had already administered close to 515,000 doses of the vaccine against Covid-19, while fully-vaccinated people (having received the full doses) are close to the 210,000 mark.

European Commission, OLAF confirm Malta's success on EU Funds

The European Commission and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) have confirmed that Malta is on the right trek in the management of European Funds, has among the lowest error rates in the whole of the European Union.

They further confirmed that their experience working with the Maltese authorities in this regard was not only positive, but Malta even has the highest rate of feedback for every query made by European institutions, provided the best feedback and took 100% action.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta, Russia set to sign new MoUs in the fields of sport, culture and health

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo paid a working visit to Sochi in the Russian Federation where he held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and discussed with him a wide array of topics of bilateral, regional and international importance.

Minister Bartolo afterwards described the talks as very cordial and respectful and stressed that whatever the differences between nations, if there is the will to safeguard the future of this planet, one must keep talking to each other and have honest and frank conversations.

He also welcomed the news of an upcoming summit between the USA and Russia and the prospect of normalising relations between the two states. He added that the same can be done between the EU and Russia as long as there is good will and respect from both sides.

Minister Bartolo stressed that respect for international law remains crucial for Malta, and that such relations must always be within this framework.

He pointed out that Malta is very happy with the steadily improving ties in trade and tourism between the two countries, although more needs to be done. In this regard, he announced that in the coming weeks Malta and Russia would sign new MoUs in the fields of sport, culture and health.

The two sides also had a positive exchange of views on Libya, with Minister Bartolo reiterating Malta's belief in a free,

united Libya run by Libyans.

Evarist Bartolo concluded that Malta is also happy to work with Russia in the fight against all forms of intolerance and maintained that if we want to learn from history, we must also make sure to set the record straight on WWII and to recognise the very important role that Russia played in the victory over Nazism which put the rest of humanity at risk



Minister Evarist Bartolo (left) with Minister Sergey Lavrov in Sochi

Minister Bartolo in Euro delegation to help Libya

A few days later, upon Malta's initiative, Minister Evarist Bartolo along with the Foreign Affairs Minister of Italy Luigi Di Maio, and the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi paid a joint visit to Libya where they held talks with the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Interior.

The European delegation asked the Libyan government to define its priorities for improving the lives of Libyans and explained how a stable political framework is a condition for a broader partnership with Libya, with a view of including it in the New Agenda for the Mediterranean

and in the European Union Economic and Investment Plan.

In this context, they reaffirmed European support to the Libyan authorities in the difficult process of recovery and national reconciliation after the devastation brought about by the civil war in the country in 2011.

The Europeans also expressed their commitment to collaborate in various areas towards economic growth, job creation, and good governance in the North African country

The two sides also spoke about the re-opening of European airspace to flights from Libya and the reactivation of direct connections with Europe once safety and security conditions are met.

Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo (first left) in the Euro delegation's meeting with Libya's PM



Temporary closure of Consulate-General in Melbourne

In line with Victoria State Health Authorities directives, which have just announced a circuit-breaker lockdown 27 May 2021 to 3 June, the Consulate-General in Melbourne will not be open for appointments until June 3. The re-opening of the Consulate-General in Melbourne will be based on advice from the local authorities.

Appointments that were set for the period between 28 May and 3 June will be rescheduled to a time when the office re-opens to the public.

Our Consul-General and staff in Melbourne will nevertheless be contactable throughout this period of lockdown by phone and email:

Consulate General Melbourne: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt Phone: (03) 9670 8427.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġuzè Camilleri

COVID-19: Jidher xaqq ta' dawl!

Wara xhur shaħ fid-dalma tal-COVID-19, f'dawn l-aħħar ġimgħat deher xaqq ta' dawl, tant li għall-aħħar tlett ġimgħat l-għadd ta' daww pożittivi dejjem kien taħt l-10 u kellna biss tliet imwiet. Tant imxejna tajjeb li Malta hi l-pajjiż fl-Unjoni Ewropeja bl-inqas imwiet u nies infettati.

Fost kollox, dan kien dovut prinċipalment għall-mod kif Malta mxiet bit-tilqim tal-vaċċin kontra l-COVID, tant li saret l-aktar pajjiż li ras għal ras l-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa laqqu mu nies kontra l-pandemija.

Dan wassal ukoll għall-awtoritajiet li jkomplu jnaqqsu l-miżuri

li kienu dahhlu biex jikkontrollaw l-imxija.

Deher biċ-ċar li t-tattika li wżaw l-awtoritajiet hadmet, għax it-tneħħija ta' diversi miżuri, fosthom il-ftuħ tal-iskejjel, tar-ristoranti sa nofsinhar, u tal-hwienet ta' oġġetti mhux essenzjali, il-vjaġġi bejn Malta u Għawdex, ma rriżultawx f'żieda fil-każi. Hekk il-miżuri komplew jigu rlassati, fosthom li r-ristoranti issa jistgħu jservu sa nofsillejl.

Fattur pożittiv ieħor fis-sena li faqqgħet il-pandemija, fl-2020, f'Malta l-haddiema fis-settur tal-manifattura żdiedu, filwaqt li madwar l-Ewropa, kważi tliet kwarti ta' miljun persuna li kienu jahdmu fl-industrija tal-manifattura, tilfu hobżhom.

Ġirja wahda

Il-ftuħ tat-traġitt bejn Malta u Għawdex imill-ewwel wassal għall-ġirja biex għadd ta' Maltin u barranin jiehdu l-okkażjoni biex iżuru Għawdex. Tant li fl-ewwel tmiem il-ġimgħa, wara dan il-ftuħ 42,000 ruh qasmu bil-vapur tal-Gozo Channel bejn il-Gżejjer u sa kellihom jabbandonaw l-iskeda normali u jahdmu l-hin kollu (*shuttle*).

Fil-fatt l-ewwel tmiem il-ġimgħa wara r-rilass, qasmu bejn iż-żewġ gżejjer qrib it-18,000 karozza u saru iżjed minn 250 vjaġġ.

Sintendi din kien ta' bonanza kbira għas-settur tal-ospitalità tal-Gżira Għawdxija bir-ristoranti jirrapportaw xogħol qawwi.

U hafna minn dawk li ma marrux jieklu Għawdex jidher li marru jieklu f'ristoranti f'Malta. Infatti ġie rrapportat li r-ristoranti kienu mimlija, b'nies jistennew biex joqogħdu bil-qiegħda u l-haddiema fil-hwienet ma jieqfux imqar minuta.

Il-Viċi President tal-Kamra tan-Negozji Żgħar u Medji Philip Fenech, qal ukoll li

Immunità

Malta kienet l-ewwel pajjiż tal-Unjoni Ewropeja li lahaq il-mira li 70% tal-popolazzjoni tkun irċeviet tal-inqas l-ewwel tilqima kontra l-Covid-19. Attwalment anke fejn tidhol it-tieni tilqima sar progress kbir għax aktar minn 45% issa ġew imlaqqma kompletament.

Il-President tar-Repubblika, l-E.T. George Vella, laqgħa din l-aħħar b'sodisfazzjon u ta hajr lil kull min kien involut biex din il-kisba setgħet isseħh,



President of Malta
@presidentmt

I am pleased with the news that today our country has achieved collective #immunity. This would certainly not have been possible without the joint effort of the #health authorities, the dedicated workers in the sector & the collaboration of the people of Malta & Gozo. #COVID19



Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela u martu Lydia (*xellug*) mal-familja tal-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri f'ikla f'Għawdex wara l-ftuħ tar-ristoranti u l-vjaġġi bejn iż-żewġ gżejjer

x-xogħol beda jiċċaqlaq mill-ewwel. Skont hu, saħansitra kien hemm ftit li hađu ġur-nata frank biex marru jieklu barra.

Sintendi dan ħoloq sens ta' ottimizmu fost

is-sidien tar-ristoranti, l-aktar meta fis-7 ta' Gunju l-poplu Malti jibda juża l-vouchers (f'ammont ta' €100) li l-Gvern se jgħassam lil dawk kollha ta' minn 16-il-sena 'l fuq.

10 snin wara li ddahħal id-divorzju

Ftit tal-jiem ilu habat għeluq l-għaxar snin minn meta f'Malta ġiet approvata l-liġi tad-divorzju. Għalkemm għall-ewwel l-għadd ta' daww li ddivorżjaw kien wieħed żgħir, bil-mod il-mod dan beda jikber tant li sena wara li ġie introdott id-divorzju kien hemm 441 li ddivorżjaw. Imbagħad matul is-snin ta' wara kien hemm bejn 300-4000 divorzju fis-sena.

Madankollu Malta għadha l-inqas pajjiż tal-Unjoni Ewropeja fejn jidhol id-divorzju billi skont ir-rapport tal-Eurostat għall-2019, ras għal ras, il-perċentwal ta' daww li ddivorżjaw kien biss ta' 0.7 għal kull 1000 li ddivorżjaw.

Għad-drittijiet tal-LGBTIQ Malta l-ewwel

Mid-divorzju mmorru għal LGBTIQ – terminoloġija li tinkludi gruppi varji ta' nies li fl-imghodd kien hemm min iwarrahom, u ma jharesh xejn sabiħ lejhom, jekk ukoll ma jikkundannahomx.

F'dawn l-aħħar snin, il-Gvern Malti għadda diversi liġijiet u ha passi biex nies bħal dawn jingħataw ċerti drittijiet. Dan wassal biex Malta reġgħet ikklassifikat fl-ewwel post fl-indiċi ta' ILGA-Europe li jkejjel id-drittijiet tal-per-

suni LGBTIQ f'pajjiżi differenti.

Għas-sitt sena wara l-oħra Malta ikklassifikat fl-ewwel post, anzi issa tejjbet il-punteġġ b'ħamsa fil-mija.

Fi-jum internazzjonali kontra, fost oħrajn l-Omofobija, l-Assoċjazzjoni Reġjonali Ewropea għal-LGBTIQ, ILGA-Europe, harġet il-klassifika tal-pajjiżi Ewropej, magħrufa bħala Rainbow Index.

Malta kisbet punteġġ ta' 94% filwaqt li l-eqreb pajjiż lejn Malta fit-tieni post kien il-Belġju b'74%.

Dan ifisser li l-pajjiż ta' wara Malta huwa ferm lura fil-punteġġ tal-indiċi, tant li hemm distakk ta' 20%.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Abela involut????

Li kieku wiehed kellu jikkummenta u jikteb dwar dak kollu li jiġri fil-qasam politiku Malti jkun irid mhux magazine darba kull ġimagħtejn imma wiehed kuljum.

Mal-avvenimenti u polemici li kienu għaddejnin f'dawn l-aħħar ġimgħat kien hemm dik li rreferejt fil-qosor xi żmien ilu, l-allegazzjoni li l-Ministru Carmelo Abela (*xel-lug*) kellu x'jaqsam mat-tentattiv ta' 10 snin ilu fis-serqa fuq il-Bank HSBC li miegħu kien jaħdem dak iż-żmien Abela.

Għalkemm Abela mill-ewwel ċaħad kull konnessjoni ma dik is-serqa l-istorja ma waqfitx hemm. Anzi skalat wara li fuq il-profil tiegħu ta' Facebook id-deput Nazzjonalista Jason Azzopardi għamel diversi allegazzjonijiet fil-konfront ta' Abela.

Għalkemm ma semmiegħx b'ismu, Azzopardi implika li Abela kellu x'jaqsam mat-tentattiv tas-serqa.

Abela mill-ewwel fetaħ kawża ta' libell kontra Azzopardi, u ddeskriva dak li kiteb Azzopardi bħala gideb malafamanti u moqzież.

Imma l-istorja ma waqfitx hemm għax parti mill-midja baqgħet għib stejjer dwar l-allegazzjonijiet mibdija minn xi nies li bħalissa jinsabu mixlijin bi qtil u wkoll b'dak it-tentattiv tas-serqa. Xi midja rrapportat li l-Pulizija kienet baqgħet għal Abela biex tinterrigah.

Il-Ministru nnihsu ammetta li ġie interrogat u semma kif hu wkoll mar minn jeddu għand il-pulizija u wera ruħu disponibbli li jikkopera bis-shih biex inehhi kwalunkwe dubju dwaru u biex toħroġ il-verità shiha. Fl-istess hin anke sfida lil Jason Azzopardi biex imur hu wkoll imur għand il-pulizija u jgħid x'jaf dwaru.



jagevolaw lil xulxin.

Il-Prim Ministru kien qed jirreferi għall-fatt li l-Alfred Degiorgio, bħalissa mixli bil-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, u li qed jimplika lil Abela, flimkien ma huh talbu li jingħataw il-maħfra Presidenzjali biex jittkellmu, fost kollox f'din is-serqa, iżda it-talba tagħhom giet miċhuda.

"Il-kriminalità ma għandha xejn x'titlef u qed tipprova tixtri l-libertà fil-waqt li l-Partit Nazzjonalista jrid jakkwista l-poter. Il-PN qed jikkonfessa mal-kriminalità biex jagevolaw lil xulxin," saħaq Abela.

Filwaqt li Abela qed ikompli jsostni l-innoċenza tiegħu parti mill-midja u l-Partit Nazzjonalista qed ikompli jitolbu għar-riżenja jew it-tkeċċija ta' Abela mill-Kabinett.

... U l-istorja żgur mhux se tieqaf hawn, aktar u aktar meta aktar ma jgħaddi ż-żmien, aktar qed noqorbu lejn l-elezzjoni.

Battibekki

Sintendi dan kollu ta lok għall-Battibekk shih, bil-mexxej, u kelliema ohra, nazzjonalisti jsostnu li minhabba dawn l-allegazzjonijiet Abela kellu tal-inqas jirriżenja temporanjament sakemm jikklija ismu u jekk ma jagħmilx dan kellu jkun il-Prim Ministru li jneħħi.

It-twegiba tal-Prim Ministru kienet li bil-fatti li s'issa kellu quddiemu, ma jhossx li għandu jneħħi l-Ministru mill-kariga, u anzi saħaq li riżenja ta' Ministru ma tintalabx għax hemm "strategija koordinata bejn il-kriminalità organizzata u l-Partit Nazzjonalista" biex dawn

Ir-riżultat kulhadd jafu. Minkejja l-isforzi kollha li saru, inkluż l-ko-operazzjoni tal-Maltin li fl-Awstralja li bil-vot

tagħhom Malta kisbet il-punti, ir-riżultat ma kienx dak li steennew hafna. Mhux għax s-seba' post mhux post tajjeb, imma għaliex kien hemm aspirazzjonijiet akbar.

Ma nhobbx niddiskuti għaliex, meta l-ġurija poggiet lill-kanzunetta Maltija t-tielet post, imbagħad giet ittratta ħazin mill-vot tal-pubbliku. Kulhadd għandu l-feham tiegħu... u nahseb li xi ftit raġun kulhadd għandu.

Minkejja kollox hafna kienu dawk li kitbu messagġi fuq il-midja soċjali jfahhru lil Destiny li tat prestazzjoni mill-aqwa u li saħhret hafna nies bil-lehen u l-wirja brillanti tagħha

Sfortunatament fl-aħħar siegħat qamet polemika dwar kif qed jingħad li ntefqu l-eluf ta' Ewro li nħarġu mill-Awtorità jiet għal dan il-kontest li anke wassal lill-Ministru Carmelo Abela li taħtu jaq' l-PBS, li wara li rċieva rapporti dwar li parti mill-baġit allokat lit-tim tal-Eurovision ta' Malta kien intuża biex isiru mhatri fuq Destiny, talab verifika tan-nefqa



DESTINY ... tagħmel isem

Qed jingħad ukoll li flus intefqu wkoll fuq influencers barranin, biex jipubblikaw kontenut promozzjonali li jappoggja lil Destiny.

Bhas-soltu l-mistoqsija ta' hafna hi dwar jekk wara kollox Malta għandniex niehdu sehem f'dan il-Festival.

Fil-fehma tiegħi t-twegiba hija iva għax dan mhux biss jagħti esperjenza lill-kantanti Maltin imma jagħmel lil Malta aktar magħrufa. Mill-banda l-oħra għandna nagħtu aktar importanza

lis-sehem tagħna milli jekk nirbhux jew le.

Filwaqt li l-midja titfa' daqshekk importanza lill-partecipazzjoni ta' Malta fil-Eurovision, u filwaqt li hafna jikkumentaw dwar il-kantanta Maltija, ftit huma dawk li donnu jimpurtahom minn Maltin ohra li qed jagħmlu isem barra minn Malta.

Fost dawn insibu lil plejer ta' 17-il sena tal-futbol Maltija tal-futbol Hayley Bugeja li tilgħab fl-Italja ma' Sassuolo. Din giet ivvutata mill-Federazzjoni Taljana tal-Futbol bħala l-Aqwa Plejer Żagħżugħa tas-Serie A.

Fl-istaġun debuttanti tagħha, Bugeja skurjat 12-il gowl, biex u spiċċat l-aqwa skoror.

Bħalissa hawn hafna xnighat li Bugeja tista' tingħaqad ma' klabbs ohra aktar magħrufa, kemm f-Italja u wkoll ohrajn Ewropej. Min-naha tas-Sassuolo stqarrew li jixtiequ li Bugeja tibqa' mal-klabb imqar għal staġun ieħor.

Aktar barranin milli Maltin

Naġhlaq b'fenomenu ġdid fil-Gżejjer Maltin, fejn skont l-istatistika, fi tmien l-2019, 20% tar-residenti kienu barranin u f'żewġ irhula jidher li hemm konċentrament ta' aktar barranin. Attwalment nistgħu ngħidu li l-aktar fejn jgħixu barranin huma fl-inħawi tal-Imsida, Tas-Sliema, San Ġiljan u l-madwar, kif ukoll lejn San Pawl il-Baħar.

Iżda li jispikkaw huma l-Imsida u San Pawl il-Baħar. Hawnhekk, l-għadd ta' residenti barranin jaqbeż lil dawk Maltin.

Infatti, fl-2019, 54.1% tar-residenti kienu barranin, filwaqt li fil-każ ta' San Pawl il-Baħar il-figura hija ta' 53.1%. F'tas-Sliema hi ta' 43.2%, filwaqt li f'San Ġiljan hemm 42.2%.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Misinformation about the vaccine

Vaccine hesitancy has been identified as a key hurdle for achieving COVID-19 herd immunity in Australia and there are fears some migrant communities are amongst those most at risk.

A reliance on information about the pandemic from their countries of origin, combined with the fact English may not be their first language, means some migrant groups are being left out of key vaccine messaging and may be susceptible to misinformation, experts warn.

It appears that the bulk of misinformation on social media platforms comes from a small array of “professional anti-vaxxers”, which are “specifically oriented to damaging confidence in the (COVID-19) vaccines”.

The creators of this type of content then attempt to “funnel people who’ve fallen for the misinformation to their own online properties, where they’re converted into marketing leads, selling the books, access to secret information, or false cures.

COVID 19: Melbourne again in lockdown

Victoria, Australia's second most populous state is observing a seven-day lockdown that it entered on last Thursday to counter a fast-spreading outbreak in Melbourne. The authorities took the decision after the outbreak of 26 cases. They even identified 150 sites where people may have been exposed to the virus.

There is growing anxiety over the outbreak that Victoria's acting Premier James Merlino said involved a highly contagious strain of the virus, the B.1.617 variant

Budget hits new arrival

According to the budget presented last month, the government will save \$671 million over five years by applying the four-year Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period to anyone granted permanent residency in Australia from 1 January next year.

It was the biggest single cost-cutting decision in the budget.

The duration of the waiting period to receive welfare payments previously depended on a migrant's situation and visa type, but the new measure brings most government subsidies and visa classes in line with the current four-year wait to access JobSeeker, Austudy, and youth allowance payments.

“This has been a consistent policy the

government has for some time, in terms of when people, when they come to country, get an entitlement to benefits,” Mr Morrison said. “That’s consistent with decisions we’ve made in the past.”

In his budget in reply, Labor leader Anthony Albanese pledged to build 30,000 social and affordable houses over five years through a \$10 billion future fund if the party wins the next federal election.

Labor expects 21,500 full-time jobs in construction and broader economy will be created in the first five years, with a guarantee one in 10 on-site worker will be apprentices.

The money to create the fund is to be borrowed not come from the federal budget.



Burials could jump by \$9000

The cost of burials is likely to rise by as much as \$9000 under a radical New South Wales Government plan to disband the state's largest faith-based cemetery operators.

The Chair of the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, Greg Smith, said that taking Sydney's largest cemeteries out of the hands of religious operators would see savings of \$500 million lost over the next 50 years due to the loss of their charitable status.

“We’re very disappointed by the decision of the Government to basically dismiss the

Catholic Cemeteries Board,” he said. “We feel very badly let down in fact. We’ve been operating for more than 150 years and the Church wanted us to continue.

“It’s a mission matter for us as a not-for-profit and we represent all faith groups who have entrusted us with their practices of burying their people. We frankly don’t think the Government will do it as well we do it.

“And with the loss of our charitable status as a not-for-profit operator, I think the price of burials will go up and could be up by a third or around \$9000 for a burial plot alone.”



NSW Labor leader resigns

Jodi McKay (above) has resigned as NSW Labor leader, saying some colleagues in the party “never accepted” her. She had been the state Opposition Leader since 2019, but had come under pressure after her party lost the by-election in the seat of Upper Hunter. The seat was won by the Nationals who held it for the last 17 years.

Ms McKay admitted her party needed to do some “really genuine soul-searching” to figure out why it was not resonating with voters. She said although she was elected leader in a democratic process, some had never accepted it.

As we go to press, former leader Michael Daley and Chris Minns, who has twice failed to secure the leadership, appeared to be the only candidates to replace Ms McKay.

The electorate of Kogarah, in southern Sydney, is now a marginal seat, held by just 1.8 per cent. Mr Minns said Ms McKay is “a person of great integrity” and had shown “great leadership”.



A quick glimpse at Australia



Is Fortress Australia, now a hermit nation?

A taskforce bringing together an array of experts in a variety of fields has laid out a roadmap for Australia's reopening to the rest of the world.

The report, *A Roadmap to Reopening*, written by a task force of multi-disciplinary experts argues that the current Australian international border closure could be detrimental to the country's international reputation and suggests sector-specific travel bubbles for heavily affected industries.

According to the taskforce, the government's insistence on a COVID-elimination approach rather than a strategy to live with the virus is "disappointing", with the na-

tional budget forecasting overseas travel to stay at low levels until mid-2022.

Australia is a trading nation and multi-cultural, we cannot be separated from the rest of the world. "We have been highly successful in suppressing COVID-19; you might even say we have been winning the war against COVID-19, but if we are not careful we could end up losing the peace,"

"Let's remember that about half of the Australian population was born overseas or has a parent that was born overseas so having borders closed means fortress Australia, a hermit nation". Mr Soutphommasane, the report sponsor said.

Euthanasia, Queensland next

Queensland is potentially a step closer to becoming the next Australian state to legalise euthanasia.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk spoke with Church leaders, including Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who is a staunch opponent of euthanasia, based on Catholic teachings.

Ms Palaszczuk said she supported the euthanasia bill after witnessing the slow, painful deaths of her grandmother and uncle last year, but she would allow Labor MPs a conscience vote in Parliament.

"I'm a Catholic, I've thought about this long and hard," Ms Palaszczuk said.

Archbishop Coleridge issued a full statement in which he said the focus on palliative care has been lost amid the haste to introduce euthanasia, while "serious questions remain about the consultation of Queensland's First Nations people"

Two hundred years of Catholic education

Catholic education in Parramatta NSW started in 1820. Two hundred years ago, Fr John Therry answered the call to educate the youth of Parramatta. From that small beginning of 31 students began a great work that now spans 1755 schools, 100,000 staff and 777,000 school students around Australia.

"From Xavier Catholic College, Wurrumiyanga in our most north; to Sacred Heart Catholic School, Geeveston in our south; to St Mary's Star of the Sea, Carnarvon in the west; to St Finbarr's, Byron Bay in the east; and to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs in our red centre, Australia's Catholic Schools cover the breadth of our country.

"Over 200 years, your schools, pre-schools, and now universities, have transformed Australia through the millions of lives you have influenced." Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in his message of congratulation.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP told the congregation at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney (below) and those watching via live stream:

"After two centuries of service, we in Catholic education are determined to make an even greater contribution to the lives of our young people, families, church, and society."



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti



Il-varjanti tal-ortografija Maltija (it-tielet parti)

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

It-Ittli

Titlu jew isem ta' kariga li jahbat ezatt qabel l-isem ta' persuna jinkiteb b'ittra kbira.

EŻEMPJU: Irrid infahhar lill-Avukat Pawlu Hili tax-xogħol siewi li għamel dis-sena.

Nirringrazzjaw lit-Teżoriera Michelle Borg tar-rendikont li tat fis-seduta ġenerali.

L-Isqof Mario Grech hareġ pastorali mal-Arċisqof Pawlu Cremona.

L-ewwel ittra ta' titlu mqassar tinkiteb dejjem kbira.

EŻEMPJU: ir-Rev. Ġorġ Attard, Dr Josette Grima, Dott. Mario Piscopo, is-Sur Michael Farrugia, il-Prof. Lina Xuereb, l-Onor. Peter Attard, l-Ing. Justine Zammit.

Meta l-isem tal-kariga jintuża waħdu u jirreferi għal individwu partikolari, jinkiteb b'ittra kbira.

EŻEMPJU: Il-bierah it-Teżorier qal li qed jahsibha jirriżenja. L-Arċisqof wasal tard imma xorta wasal qabel l-Isqof.

Nota: Bhala nom komuni, it-titlu jew isem ta' kariga jibqa' jinkiteb b'ittra żgħira.

EŻEMPJU: Dis-sena lahaq kanonku iehor fil-parroċċa tagħna. Kull teżorier jaf x'jiġifieri żżomm il-kontijiet sewwa. Meta jiġri hekk, ir-responsabbiltà kollha taqa' fuq il-president.

L-isem tal-muniti

L-isem tal-muniti jinkiteb b'ittra żgħira

EŻEMPJU: tliet ewro, seba' ċenteżmi, lira sterlina, disa' dollari.

L-ismijiet taż-żmien

L-ismijiet tax-xhur u tal-jiem tal-ġimgħa jinkitbu b'ittra kbira.

EŻEMPJU: Jannar, Ġunju, Diċembru, il-Hadd, l-Erbgħa, il-Ġimgħa, is-Sibt

L-ismijiet tal-istaġuni u tas-sekli jinkitbu b'ittra żgħira.

EŻEMPJU: ir-rebbiegħa, il-harifa, l-ewwel jum tas-sajf, fi tmien ix-xitwa, mis-seklu dsatax sas-seklu wieħed u ghoxrin.

**Ikompil fil-ħarġa 256*

Australia's coronavirus vaccine: When can you get your shot?

A number of recent changes and announcements have been made around Australia's beleaguered coronavirus vaccine rollout. The national plan has been hit by a raft of logistical troubles, booking issues, and rates of hesitancy, especially since the issuing of new advice for adults under 50 for the AstraZeneca shot, which the government had banked on being the central pillar of its rollout.

The slow rollout of the vaccine to people in disability residential facilities – who were supposed to be part of the first priority group – has also been deemed an “abject failure”.

Amid the slower-than-expected vaccine uptake, authorities have been urging eligible Australians to get their shot as soon as possible, and some states have started going their own way to speed things up.

The federal government is focusing its rollout on priority groups through a staggered approach. A revised phase 2a began in May, extending vaccine eligibility to

adults aged 50 and older.

However, recently the doors were thrown open in New South Wales to all people aged 40-49, and South Australia has even announced people 16 and over in regional areas are now eligible.

Queenslanders aged 40-49 are expected to be able to get a Pfizer vaccine from the end of July when new community vaccination hubs open.

People aged 16-49 – the balance of the population – had not been slated by the federal government for eligibility until phase 2b, for which a start date is yet to be announced.

After shelving the first vaccine rollout timetable, falling short of its March goal by millions of doses, the government shied away from committing to another one. But October looms as a potential turning point.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said, depending on supply, the Government is able to roll out two million Pfizer doses each week from the start of October. That could poten-

tially see all people who want to be vaccinated get a shot by Christmas.

At the recent rate of some 408,000 doses a week, Australia's adult population of 20 million would not be fully vaccinated until February 2023.

People in Australia should check out the government's vaccine eligibility checker to find out when they can receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and how to book an appointment if eligible, or register their interest.

One should check their health department's website for information relevant to one's state or territory.

Vaccines are free for everyone in Australia regardless of visa or Medicare status.

Some states and territories have also been opening up mass vaccination hubs in order to get as many eligible people vaccinated as quickly as possible, amid reports people in non-priority vaccination groups are getting a jab to prevent wastage.

Health authorities have been urging people who can access a shot to get one, especially ahead of the onset of winter.

Those who have not as yet been vaccinated are being urged to get the vaccine. “You catch COVID, you could die. It's as simple as that.”

Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said that the government was “rolling out extremely well in the over 70s” but there was “some hesitancy” among 50-69-year-olds.

Chris Moy from the Australian Medical Association has warned people will remain “sitting ducks” until vaccine hesitancy and complacency are addressed.

May's federal budget included the assumption that all Australian adults would be able to access a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of 2021.

(Sources of the SBSNews)

CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON



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Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Fl-isfond tal-ghelieqi bil-balal tat-tiben lesti tidher il-Knisja tar-rahall tal-Għasri ddedikata lil Kristu Salvatur fejn nhar il-Hadd 6 ta' Gunju ssir il-festa ta' Corpus Christi

Żmien il-ħsad tat-tiben fl-ghelieqi Għawdxin

Il-balal tat-tiben ippakkjati u ip-pustjati wara l-ħsad fl-inħawi 'Għajn tal-Ħamimiet fir-Rabat

Lejn tmiem April u l-ewwel ġimgħat ta' Mejju fil-gżira Għawdxija jsir il-ħsad tat-tiben, xogħol mehtieg u fl-istess waqt interessanti l-aktar għal min mhux midhla tiegħu li jsegwih.

Dik li tara l-bżulija tal-bidwi mghejjun mill-makkinarju jippakkja l-qatgħet f'roti hoxnin bħal blalen qabel iġorrom, titpaxxa taraha. Għal min mdorri hi xorta xi haġa li kieku jista' ma jitliffihix.

Mhux l-ewwel darba li dawk fi tritigħom bejn ir-Rabat u Marsalforn inkella x-Xagħra u l-Għasri jieqfu jammiraw ix-xena ta' quddiemhom, tat-tiben jew qed jiġi rrumblat inkella lest f'għexieren ta' balal ippustjati, qisek qed tara blalen imferxin mal-wesgħat tal-ghelieqi.

Il-balal tat-tiben wara jitgħattew biex jilqgħu għax-xita. Imbagħad jitgħabbew u jitqassmu fejn ikun mahsub, generalment biex jingħataw bħala għalf lill-bhejjem. Ohrajn jithallew fl-għalqa għal bejn xahar u xahrejn.

Fl-imghodd ix-xogħol tal-ħsad kien isir kollu bl-idejn permezz ta' mingel. Illum kol-lox mekkanizzat, bil-bidwi jahdem minn fuq tractor.



Xi balal tat-tiben irrumblati lesti għall-garr f'għalqa qrib is-Santwarju ta' Pinu



Cardinal Mario Grech making announcing the next Synod

Cardinal Mario Grech announces Synod on behalf of Pope Francis

Following Pope Francis' approval of the revision of the entire process of the Synod of Bishops and his request for it to begin with widespread consultations with the laity at the diocesan level, Malta's Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, announced that next October, the entire Church will begin a synodal journey leading to a Synod of Bishops to be celebrated in October 2023.

Explaining the importance of such a Synod to be held with the theme chosen by the Pope him-

self: "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission" Cardinal Grech said: "In reality, without this consultation there would be no synodal process, because the discernment of pastors, which constitutes the second phase, emerges from listening to the people of God."

The Cardinal's office further issued a statement explaining how the next general assembly of the Synod of Bishops would work, noting that the broader consultation on the diocesan, national and regional levels would mean that the gathering of representative bishops from around the world would take place at the Vatican in October 2023 rather than in 2022, as previously scheduled.

The synod process would be formally opened at the Vatican October 9-10; the bishop of every diocese will open the process in his diocese on October 17.

The diocesan phase will go through to April 2022, featuring a consultation with local Catholics discussing a preparatory document and questionnaire that the synod office will send out along with guidelines for how the consultation should work.

Once the diocesan consultations have concluded, members of national bishops' conferences undergo "a period of discernment" to "listen to what the Spirit has inspired in the churches entrusted to them".

A synthesis of that reflection would then be sent to the Vatican's synod secretariat by April 2022. The new indications also envision "continental" reflections between April 2022 and March 2023.

Cardinal Grech said that all the listening sessions and discernment are meant to assist participants, mainly bishops, who will meet at the general assembly of the Synod in October 2023.

Melbourne CG takes up office

The High Commission in Canberra has announced that the newly appointed Consul-General for Malta in Melbourne, Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras (pictured right), has taken up office on May 24.

Ms. Ellul Sciberras has commenced her work from the Consulate-General, after suc-

cessfully clearing the mandatory period of quarantine upon arrival in Melbourne.

The HC points out that in line with the guidance of the Health Authorities in the State of Victoria, wearing of face masks and face coverings inside the Consulate-General in Melbourne will be mandatory.

Members of the public calling at the Consulate's office in Melbourne will still be attended to by appointment only.



Melbourne will still be attended to by appointment only.

Malta at war remembered

The Maltese Sub Branch of the RSL selected for this year a project to promote and remind the gallantry and heroism of the people of Malta during the war. They connected with popular and big centres by presenting a portrait of the citation presented to the people of Malta by King George VI on the 15th April 1942 "to bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people" during the early part of World War II.

In the beginning of 1943 the George Cross emblem was incorporated on the Malta's national flag and has remained on the current design of

the flag ever since.

The project is ongoing and four copies of these citations have already been made to: the Merrylands and Seven Hills RSL clubs, the Maltese Community Centre in West Parramatta, the George Cross Falcons Club in Cringila and, last week the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown (below from left): Patrick Bartolo, Vince Depares, Alfred Aquilina, Doris Pocock, Godfrey Sultana (President of La Valette SC), Alfred Carabott (Vice President of the Sub Branch), Mario Farrugia, Andrew Magro and Sam Farrugia



Please Note

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



South Australian police have been conducting forensic testing on the body of a man discovered on Somerton beach 73 years ago in the hope that they can solve one of the country's most intriguing mysteries and finally determine his identity.

The identity and cause of death of the man whose body was spotted by passers-by slumped against a seawall, dressed in a suit and tie on 1 December, 1948 on the beach in the South Australian city of Adelaide remain unknown. Now, Australian police say advances in DNA technology make exhumation worthwhile; therefore the circumstances of his death remain an open police investigation.

The man's pockets contained nothing to identify him, and initial investigations and a coronial inquest left the case unsolved. He was put to rest in Adelaide's West Terrace Cemetery beneath a headstone that refers to him simply as "the unknown man".

Before the Somerton Man was buried in June 1949, he was embalmed using formaldehyde to preserve his body, but there are fears that process could have destroyed much of his DNA.

After hours of digging skeletal remains were discovered with police saying that they found the identification tag linking the bones to the unknown man.

Somerton man's body exhumed in bid to solve 73-year-old Australian mystery

Other curious items were also found on the body. They included a suitcase, items of clothing with their labels removed and incoherent writings believed to be a code, encouraged ongoing speculation. He also held a torn scrap of paper with the Farsi words *Tamam Shud*, or "it's finished" printed on it. "Keane" and "Kean" were the only words found on items in the suitcase believed to belong to the Somerton Man.

The case has attracted international interest and for 73 years it has sparked speculation he was a spy or the forlorn lover of an enigmatic woman known as Jestyn, who lived not far from where his body was

found, and how he died.

In April, South Australia Attorney General Vickie Chapman said that the decision to exhume the body followed "intense public interest" in the case, which led to crews digging at the gravesite. However, due to dense clay and uncertainty as to whether the man had been buried in a coffin, initial efforts moved slower than expected.

According to reports, accessing the man's remains may be a first step in a process to build a DNA profile and uncover answers in one of Australia's most famous cold cases, with authorities saying that if sufficient DNA evidence can be obtained, they will attempt to identify the man and where he came from.

Forensic Science South Australia's Assistant Director of Operations, Dr Anne Coxon, is reported saying that the technology available to now is clearly light years ahead of the techniques available when the body was first discovered.

Dr Coxon said tests of this kind are highly complex but investigators will use every method at their disposal "to try and bring closure to this enduring mystery".

The case is part of Operation Persevere that seeks to put a name to all unidentified remains in South Australia, with South Australian Attorney General Ms Chapman saying that this is a story that has captured the imagination of people across the state, and, indeed, across the world. However, he believes that finally, they might uncover some answers.



The Somerton Man was laid to rest at West Terrace cemetery in June 1949. (photo:: Derek Abbott)

Maltese-Canadian author Marthese Fenech's new historical novel *Falcon's Shadow* soars to number one within hours of release

A Literary Escape in the Time of COVID-19

F*alcon's Shadow*: a Novel of the Knights of Malta, the second book in author Marthese Fenech's *Siege of Malta* trilogy, launched at number one on Amazon's bestseller list within hours of its release.

For several weeks, both *Falcon's Shadow* and *Eight Pointed Cross*, the first novel in the series, occupied the number one and two spots on the bestseller list.

During the months of the first Covid-19 lockdown, Fenech thought she could help those struggling with boredom by providing some affordable – and legal – escape. She dropped the price of the digital version of her first novel, *Eight Pointed Cross*, across all Amazon marketplaces to 99c as a thank-you to those doing their part to flatten the curve.

Marthese donated a percentage of the sales to Conquer Covid-19 charities. Additionally, she used proceeds from the surge in book sales to purchase boxes of nitrile gloves for frontline staff at a local hospital.

Fenech's trilogy is based on the Great Siege

of Malta of 1565, a culmination of the hostility between the Knights of St John and the Ottomans. The ongoing conflict incites the collision of two great empires, intertwining the fates of characters separated by faith, loyalties, and vast distance. *Eight Pointed Cross*, set two decades before the Great Siege, features the lesser-known but decisive Siege of Gozo in 1551.

Falcon's Shadow picks up in the immediate aftermath and sweeps from quarry pits to sprawling estates, tumultuous seas to creaking gallows, the dungeons beneath the bishop's palace to the open decks of warships. The third, yet untitled novel showcases the Great Siege is set for release May 2022.

Fenech's novels claimed gold and silver medals in the Historical Fiction Book of the Year Awards and garnered outstanding reviews from acclaimed authors, historians, rock stars, and swordsmen.

Giovanni Bonello, historian, author, and former European Courts of Human Rights, Judge has high praise for Fenech's novel: "*Many historical sagas have been published, but few convey the scale, complexity, and attention to historical detail of Eight Pointed Cross*".

He said that Marthese Fenech creates intricate plots and multi-dimensional characters, whom she moves from one perilous situation to another, keeping readers avidly turning the pages.

Born in Toronto to Maltese parents, Fenech has travelled to sixty-five countries across six continents. She has a Master's degree in Education and teaches high school English and history. While completing research for her nov-



Author Marthese Fenech

els, she took up archery and accidentally became a licenced coach.

A former kickboxing instructor, she surfs, snowboards, scuba-dives, climbs, skydives, throws axes, and practices yoga – which may sometimes include goats or puppies. Fenech is happy to chat about her books, research, travels, and inspirations.

Fenech's biggest dream is seeing her novels come to life on the screen so recently enrolled in a screenwriting course and is currently drafting a pilot episode she hopes to pitch to streaming services as well as HBO and the History Channel in the next few months to connect, not only the Maltese community but the world with one of the most incredible stories of valour and triumph to grace the annals of history, the Great Siege of 1565.

Eight Pointed Cross and *Falcon's Shadow* are available across global Amazon marketplaces in digital, paperback, and audiobook editions. Fenech's novels can also be purchased from bookstores and tourist sites in Malta and direct from her publisher, BDL. Visit <https://marthesefenech.com>.



Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Llandilo Community Hall, 257 Seventh Avenue, Llandilo 11am to 1.00 pm. Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Helen Azzopardi.

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville. Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips. Join us and make new friends. Group Leader: Doris Sicluna

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

Meets every second Friday of the

month. Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 pm. Group Leader: Salvina Falzon.

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Parish Centre Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 am to 12 noon. Group holds regular Information. Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Frances Montesin.

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Tuesday of the Month. Group meets in St Theresa's Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fair-

field Heights from 10 am to 12 noon. Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

Maltese of Bankstown

Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month in the Bankstown CBD area. Every other 3rd Thursday an outing. Enquiries call: Sam Galea 0410 269 519.

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am-1:00pm. Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining, so come join us and make new friends. For more information contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud JP Phone (mb 0421 662 298).

***(All Groups are co-ordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123.**

The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (Cnr Young St) Parramatta West NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School).

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.

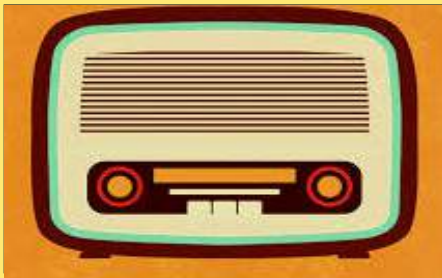
On SBS Radio

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 l-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. For more information, call 0419 476 924. Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com



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La Valette Social Centre

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

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

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

Boćci pitches are operating again with some restrictions.

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

MASS: Saturdays at St Francis Chapel from 5pm, following rosary at 4.30pm, and

Thursdays 10am at main building (subject to availability of a priest)

Next event: 13th June 2021 coach trip to Melrose Park, Berrima, leaving Greystanes at 8am and La Valette at 8.30am. Cost \$30 includes coach and morning tea. For bookings: Frances

0412320432 or Antoinette 96712992.

b) L-Imnarja: Feast of St Peter & St Paul, Sunday 27 June from 10am onwards. There will be music and ghana; jumping castle & free popcorn for kids; Maltese Concert Band; Maltese food and drink; exhibition of vegetables, fruit, birds and crafts. Those wishing to be exhibitors are urged to contact the centre or Joe Abela on 0416971484.

L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiet tagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma mħegga 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



Malta beaten by Northern Ireland in warm-up in Austria

On Sunday, at the Wörthersee Stadion in Klagenfurt Austria Malta's national football team lost 0-3 To Northern Ireland in the first of three warm-up matches on its 12-day training camp at the Bad Kleinkirchheim training facilities.

The squad of 29 players that is taking part in the camp supervised by head coach Devis Mangia as the national squad's build-up for its upcoming 2022 World Cup Group H qualifiers that will resume on September 1 with a home date against Cyprus to be followed by two away tests against Slovenia and Russia.

The Maltese, lacking match rhythm for lack of action since March conceded after two minutes to a goal by Jordan Jones. Soon after Bonello saved a Magannis penalty.

Northern Ireland doubled the score through Gavin Whyte seven minutes into the second half and a minute later Ali McCann made it 3-0 for the Irish by beating Bonello with a low shot after being sent through by Paddy McNair.

Meanwhile, the Malta Football Association is undergoing a €2 million renovation project

of the training pitches at the National Stadium at the Ta' Qali training Grounds that is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

It is hoped that the players would return to this revamped base in the new season.

The association says that at a cost of €2 million, this project also reflects its approach to further attract foreign teams to choose Malta for training purposes.

U/21s hit for 5 by Qatar

Meanwhile in his debut match as Malta's U21 Head Coach Gilbert Agius found the



Malta's national team players (white shirts) against Northern Ireland

Photo: Stephen Gatt

going much too tough against Qatar U/23 Olympic team in another training camp in Catez, Slovenia. Qatar won 5-0 after leading 2-0 at half time and also scored from a penalty.

Malta, is preparing for a tough competition starting September against Northern Ireland followed by an away game against Russia. Malta next play Bosnia on Friday.



Eleanor Bezzina confirmed as Malta's first participant

Indoor pistol shooter Eleanor Bezzina is the first Maltese athlete to be officially named by the Maltese Olympic Committee for the upcoming XXXII Games of the Olympiad in Tokyo, Japan, scheduled between July 23 and August 8.

This would be her second Olympic Games after the 2016 Games in Rio. She has also been a recipient of an Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for the past three years.

Her participation is made possible through the Tripartite Commission Invitational that offers NOCs the opportunity to send top athletes in their respective sport who have not managed to qualify. Bezzina will compete in the 10m and 25m indoor shooting events.

Bezzina is currently competing at the European Championships in Osijek, Croatia.

Lockdown affects Georgies' game

As was to be expected, by way of observing the seven-day lockdown to counter the latest COVID outbreak in Melbourne, all the football matches scheduled for the past weekend in the Victoria State League and all the team's training sessions were cancelled until Thursday. That also included Caroline George Cross's Day 10 home match against Corio SC.

The Georgies last match was in Round 9 when they dropped two precious points in a scoreless

draw from their visit to Whittlesea United in their effort to win the title and promotion.

It was a scrappy match on a hard and bumpy pitch, but George Cross still managed to create several goal-scoring opportunities without converting any, including a missed penalty from Francesco Stella.

This means that after nine games George Cross, hold on to their three-point lead at the top of the league over runners up Brimbank.

XXXII Games of the Olympiad in Tokyo, Japan

Parramatta now six without a win

Parramatta FC who last tasted victory in the SW NPL4 six matches ago, have yet again been denied victory settling for a 2-2 home draw with Hawkesbury City FC at Melita Stadium after leading 2-1 at half time.

The Eagles were immediately on the back foot going a goal down after only three minutes, however, a brace from attacker Clement Ebahece Waoi (21st and 26th minute s) gave them a slender lead going into the break.

Unfortunately, the second half started as it did in the first, when a mix up in the Eagles' defence let in K.Boamah-Addai to get his second goal and level the score in the 53rd minute.

The Eagles can still make it to the finals with a fourth-place finish when they meet Prospect in their final game.

In the previous round Parramatta's poor run of form continued at Camden Tigers who beat them 2-1. Camden opened the scoring through Matthew Lane to send them into the break up a goal.

Parramatta looked determined for a good result and looked likely for one after Santiago Rodriguez scored his first goal of the season. But their joy was short lived as minutes replied with a second through Cormack Stevens. The Eagles finished with only ten men after the sending off of Lane.