



# The Voice of the Maltese

Issue  
255

*(We are for the Greater Malta)*

**A fortnightly print  
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The easing of COVID-19 restrictions on travel between the islands has resulted in an influx of visitors from Malta to Gozo, and the Gozo ferries are kept very busy crossing between the channel. Pictured an aerial view of two of the ferries going on opposite directions close to Gozo harbour with Comino Island in the background and the Mgarr Lourdes home and church in the foreground

*Photo Charles Spiteri*

**The Next issue (No. 256)  
will be published on July 13**



Il-Mons. Guzeppi de Piro

Kitba ta'  
Fr. Tony Sciberras mssp  
(Vici-postulatur)

**G**uzeppi de Piro kien dedikat għal kollox għall-Knisja f'Malta. Imma hu ta sehem kbir ukoll fl-aspett soċjo-politiku-ekonomiku ta' tal-pajjiż, b'mod speċjali bis-sehem tiegħu fl-Assemblea Nazzjonali u l-Kummissjoni tagħha bejn l-1918 u l-1921.

Guzeppi de Piro kien involut għall-aħħar fid-diskussjonijiet dwar il-religjon Kattolika u l-lingwa fil-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta tal-1921. Thabat qatigħ għax kien konvint li r-religjon Kattolika kienet interzjata fil-qlub u l-imhuh tal-Maltin, u kien daqshekk iehor ċert li l-lingwa kienet tiffirma parti intrinsika mill-kultura tagħna.

Għalkemm de Piro qatt ma uża dan il-kliem, ahna ċerti mill-konvinzjoni tiegħu li r-religjon Kattolika Appostolika Rumana u l-lingwa kienu parti integrali mill-identità Maltija. Illum ngħidu li għal de Piro dawn iż-żewġ realtazjiet kienu mnaqqxa għall-aħħar fl-identità tal-poplu Malti.

Il-Qaddej ta' Alla qatt ma kien kontra l-libertà reliġjuża u qatt ma ssuggerixxa li denominazzjonijiet kristjani ohra m'għandhomx jipprattikaw twem-minhom. Barra minn hekk, filwaqt li aċċetta li t-Taljan u l-Ingliz kellhom jintużaw fil-Parlament tagħna, insista wkoll li l-parlamentari jkollhom il-libertà li jekk iridu setgħu jithaddtu wkoll bil-Malti.

Fl-1835 l-Inglizi taw lil Malta l-Kunsill tal-Gvern, imma l-poter eżekuttiv baqa' f'idejn il-Gvern Imperjali. Biss, biss fl-1918 il-Kunsill ipprezenta mhux inqas minn seba' petizzjonijiet lill-Inglizi biex Malta tingħata kostituzzjoni.

Fit-23 ta' Novembru 1918, Dr. Filippo Sciberras offra li jgħin fit-tfassil ta' kostituzzjoni biex Malta tingħata almenu awtonomija politika u amministrattiva. Fil-fatt sar appell lill-korpi konstitwiti Maltin kollha u dawn ġew mistiedna biex jibagħtu d-delegati tagħhom halli jipparteċipaw fl-Assemblea Nazzjonali.

L-Assemblea kienet magħmula minn 272 membru. Il-Kapitlu Metropolitan tal-

# Sehem Guzeppi de Piro fil-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921



Katidral ta' Malta għażel erba' Monsinjuri. Guzeppi de Piro kien l-ewwel wiehied.

L-ewwel seduta tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali saret fil-25 ta' Frar 1919, u t-tieni waħda fis-7 ta' Ġunju tal-istess sena. Waqt it-tieni sessjoni l-membri qablu li jwaqqfu kummissjoni magħmula minn rappreżentanti tal-entitajiet l-aktar importanti u li kienet tagħmel digà parti mill-Assemblea.

Ġew magħżula 14-il membru, flimkien mal-President tal-Assemblea. Il-Qaddej ta' Alla, għax kien il-kuġitur tad-Dekan tal-Kapitlu tal-Katidral, kien magħżul biex jagħmel parti mill-kummissjoni. Matul it-tieni laqgħa tal-Assemblea l-membri qablu li jibdew ix-xogħol fuq abbozz ta' kostituzzjoni.

Il-jum tas-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 baqgħet magħrufa għal xi haġ'ohra; dakinhar fit-toroq tal-Belt Valletta, u taht il-Giovine Malta fejn kienet imlaqqa' l-Assemblea, kien hemm kommossjoni shiha.

Dawn l-irvellijiet baqghu magħrufa fl-istorja Maltija l-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno,

**Mons. Guzeppi de Piro (fuq wara lemin) waqt li l-Prinċep ta' Wales, kien ħierieg mill-bieb tal-Kon-Katidral ta' San Gwann, akkumpajnat mill-Arċisqof Mauro Caruana fiż-żjara li kien għamel f'Malta**

li fakkarnihom ftit tal-jiem ilu. It-tieni sessjoni tal-Assemblea kienet sospiza.

Il-kummissjoni mwaqqfa mill-Assemblea Nazzjonali kellha l-ewwel laqgħa tagħha fit-23 ta' Ġunju 1919. Fiha ġie deċiż li titwaqqaf l-ewwel sotto kummissjoni biex thejji abbozz ta' kostituzzjoni. Il-membri l-ohra tal-Kummissjoni zam-mew id-dritt li jistgħu jipprezentaw lill-kummissjoni l-abbozzi tagħhom. De Piro ma kienx jagħmel parti minn din l-ewwel sotto kummissjoni.

Fis-17 ta' Ġunju 1920, li kienet taħbat id-disa' laqgħa tal-kummissjoni, kienet if-furmata t-tieni sotto kummissjoni li kellha tistudja d-dispaċċi ministerjali, l-abbozz tal-kostituzzjoni u dokumenti ohrajn li ġew

*\*Għall-pagna li jmiss*





Il-politici Maltin bdew il-kampanja tagħhom, imma minkejja li l-maġġoranza riedu Gvern Malti, f'it holmu li jinqatgħu mill-Imperu Inġliż u li l-Unjoni Jack ma jkollux post mal-bandiera Maltija

## Mons Ġuzeppi De Piro u l-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921

*\*mill-paġna ta' qabel*

ippublikati fil-jum ta' qabel fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern. Għal darb'ohra de Piro ma kienx jagħmel parti minn din it-tieni sotto kummissjoni.

L-Assemblea ltaqgħet b'kollox hames darbiet, fil-waqt li l-Kummissjoni kellha erbatax-il laqgħa. Dawn il-laqgħat kienu jimplikaw sigħat shah ta' diskussjoni, li għalihom de Piro kien ikun dejjem preżenti, hlief għall-ewwel u t-tlettax-il wahda.

Dan l-impenn tiegħu li jkun preżenti kien diġà turija tal-imhabba tiegħu għal pajjiżna. Imma l-Qaddej ta' Alla dejjem ipparteċipa fil-laqgħat tal-Assemblea u tal-Kummissjoni b'mod l-aktar attiv.

Apparti l-istess laqgħat, de Piro kien irid jattendi wkoll il-laqgħat ordinarji u straordinarji tal-Kapitlu tal-Katidral li fihom il-Monsinjuri kienu jiddiskutu u jhejju l-materjal li kien jiġipprezentat fl-Assemblea u fil-Kummissjoni.

Xi drabi kien anke mitlub minnu li jagħmel riċerka halli jsostni l-argumenti tal-Kapitlu. Ġuzeppi de Piro dejjem ipparteċipa b'moħħ l-aktar miftuħ; hu kien interessat biss

mill-ġid tal-poplu Malti u allura qatt ma pprova jimponi l-ideat tiegħu.

Wara kull laqgħa kien irid ukoll jerga' jittkellem ma' shabu monsinjuri biex jagħgornahom b'dak li jkun intqal fl-Assemblea jew fil-Kummissjoni.

De Piro indirizza l-Assemblea u l-Kummissjoni dwar diversi suġġetti, imma l-kontributi ewlenin tiegħu kienu ċertament dwar ir-religjon u l-lingwa fil-Kostituzzjoni.



Il-membri tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali miġbura fil-Villa De Piro Gourgion f'Hal-Lija, fi tmiem il-laqgħat tagħhom



### Tixtieq tkun taf aktar dwar is-sehem li ta Mons. de Piro fit-tifsira tal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta tal-1921?

Itlob kopja ta' dan il-ktieb lil Fr Tony Sciberras mssp, Dar Santa Agata, Rabat RBT 2020, flimkien ma' donazzjoni mqar ċkejna, u tirċevi l-ktieb id-dar.



**One hundred and two years later....**

# A clarion call for revolution - from imperialism and oppression

**O**n the occasion of the celebration of the Sette Giugno (7th June), one of Malta's National Days held at the Maltese Bicentennial Monument at Civic Park Pendle Hill NSW, Dr. Shannon Said the chairperson of the Maltese-Australian Youth Committee (MAYC) in a rousing keynote speech, while acknowledging the custodianship of the land, compared their struggles with key realities that led to this sacrificial day in the Maltese history.

Dr Said said that rather than a tokenistic gesture of political correctness, it is important to recognise the struggle, survival, and resilience of Aboriginal peoples across Australia, their enduring spirit, and the ongoing commitment to self-determination – qualities that we see revered in today's commemoration of Is-Sette Giugno.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the British, true to their imperialistic form, overreached the requests of the indigenous Maltese population, who wanted protection without resigning their self-determination. Rather than protection, the British exploited Malta.

Similar events occurred in Aotearoa/New Zealand, with the signing of the treaty of Waitangi in 1840 – British 'governance' was misunderstood between the indigenous and the coloniser, the effects of which are still felt today in that land. Australia was afforded no such treaty.

He looked at the situation at the beginning of the twentieth century, as revolution was sweeping across Europe, with the overthrow of the Russian tsar and the beginnings of the Bolshevik revolution. New states were formed, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Despite her courage in the greatest war the world had ever seen, Malta was still, in the eyes of the British, a vassal state, dependent upon them for protection and, perhaps more importantly, food – namely wheat, the staple upon which the populace depended.

Dockyard work was a key part of the economy throughout World War I and in the years following. British dockyard workers were paid considerably more than their Maltese counterparts, and eventually, half the Maltese workers were sacked.

Dr Said described eloquently how, despite these adversities, the British rulers of the islands did little to alleviate the suffering of the Maltese people. Alongside the hunger in their stomachs, resentment grew in the hearts of the Maltese people.

Fronted with such events the previous placid and laid-back people turned into a fiery movement – a movement that rose up against oppression and injustice, and they united against the greatest empire the world had ever seen.

**In front of the Maltese Bicentennial Monument, from left: Rosieanne Buhagiar, Lawrence Buhagiar, H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, Shannon Said and Brittany Cordina**



**Dr Shannon Said delivering his keynote speech on the occasion of the 7th June commemoration**

One mind, one word, one heart; everyone, great and small, poor and rich from every class and condition, everyone demands liberty and justice

This event, sacred in our recent history, led to the deaths of four Maltese revolutionaries who stood for the love of their country and will to freedom. Emmanuel Attard. Guzeppi Bajada. Lorenzo Dyer and Karmenu Abela.

We remember these men who paid the ultimate price, which eventually led to the development of a more equitable constitution for the Maltese Islands.

Malta came to wake up from its colonial slumber and asserted its ability to self-determination. As a result of the bravery and strength of these men, but also all Maltese who suffered under British oppression and tyranny, the long-awaited constitution that the Maltese had fought for decades came into effect on the 30th April 1921.

It would not be until 1964 that Malta became independent, and not until 1974 that it became its own Republic, yet the seeds of autonomy were sown in the events we commemorate 102 years ago. Culhat al belt – everyone for the city – was plastered across the walls of Malta, the clarion call for revolution and equity in an age of imperialism and oppression.

Dr Said concluded by stating that today we see a Maltese community in Sydney that faces its own challenges, yet the fire and will of our ancestors burns within us.

Maltese young people love their heritage and culture, which has been passed down to them by their parents and grandparents, who came to Australia, 'the lucky country', to further the opportunities for future generations.

Although some are not connected to their heritage language or involved in their community, that same fire that led to freedom for our ancestors flickers in their hearts.

There is pride, there is passion – there is a city, perhaps unknown, yet still dwelling in their hearts, awaiting a new clarion call to embrace that same spirit of strength and resilience that their forefathers gave to them.

*\*This is an abridged version of the speech delivered by Dr Shannon Said PhD.*



## L-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno ...



## Wara mija u sentejn bqajna niftakru

**S**ebah jum xitwi mill-isbah u folla mdaqqa ngabret għaċ-ċelebrazzjoni tat-tifkira ta' l-irvellijiet li baqghu maghrufa bħala s-*Sette Giugno* fis-Civic Park Pendle Hill NSW biswit il-Maltese Bicentennial Monument. Tfakkret grajja li sehhet mija u sentejn ilu, fl-1919.

F'Malta l-għurnata tas-7 ta' Ġunju hija wahda mill-hames festi nazzjonali. Fl-Awstralja l-importanza ta' din l-okkażjoni għall-ewwel darba ġibdet lejn NSW minn Canberra f'it xhur wara li nħatar Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta fl-Awstralja u NZ lil Eċċ. Tieghu Mario Farrugia Borg (li kien akkumpanjat minn żewġ uliedu, Adam u Miriam).

Spikkat ukoll għall-ewwel darba f'okkażjoni tal-Maltin, l-attenzenza tal-Onor Alex Hawke, il-Ministru ta' l-Immigrazzjoni, Ċittadinanza, Servizzi tal-Emigranti u Affarjiet Multikulturali.

Il-miġemgħa inghatat ukoll iċ-ċans li tisma' d-diskors irrekordjat għal dan il-jum storiku tal-President ta' Malta, l-ET Dr Ġorġ Vella li fakkar lill-Maltin li jgħixu barra li għalkemm il-bogħod, imma xorta wahda għadhom f'qalb in-nazzjon Malti.

Il-Kummissarju Għoli Mario Farrugia Borg f'diskors mirqum fakkar li għalkemm forsi din tas-*Sette Giugno* hija l-inqas festa nazzjonali maghrufa mal-Maltin imma daqstant iehor hija ta' importanza għax wasslet biex finalment pajjiżna sar nazzjon hieles minn kull dominanza militari u b'rajh f'idejh.

Miriam Friggieri, l-ewwel President mara tal-Maltese Community Council ta' NSW li ospita din l-okkażjoni, fakket ix-xogħol li għamlu dawk ta' qabilha u tat hajr lil dawk kollha li taw l-għajjuna biex tigi organizzata b'dinjità din il-lejla.

Il-Ministru Hawke min-naħa tiegħu fahhar il-kontribut siewi tal-komunità Maltija u semma kemm din hija attiva, immaniġġjata tajjeb u organizzata.

Bħala għeluq tkellem ukoll Clr Eddy Sarki, id-deputat sindku ta' Cumberland City Council li qal li għalkemm mhux Malti imma trabba fost il-Maltin tan-naħat ta' Pendle Hill u b'ton umoristiku semma li l-ikla favorita tiegħu saret ukoll il-pastizzi.

Id-diskors ewlieni ta' din it-tifkira kien dak ta' Dr Shannon Said. (siltiet minnu bl-Ingliš jistgħu jinqaw fil-paġna 4 ta' *The Voice*).

Iċ-ċerimonja kienet immexxija minn Antoine Mangion filwaqt li d-daqq tal-banda kif ukoll il-kant tal-kor tal-Għaqda Kulturali ta' NSW li tmexxew

minn Frank Zammit, mhux biss ferrhu izda wkoll qajjmu hafna entużjażmu fost il-miġemgħa.

Bħal dejjem, il-qofol taċ-ċelebrazzjoni kienet iċ-ċerimonja simbolika fejn rappreżentanti tal-għaqdiet Maltin kif ukoll il-mistednin ipogħu fjuri f'riglejn il-monument u quddiem ir-ritratti tal-erba' vittmi li mietu fir-rewwixta tas-7 ta' Ġunju.

Fost mistednin speċjali oħra għat-tifkira kien hemm preżenti wkoll, Lawrence Buhagiar il-Konslu Generali ta' NSW u martu Rosieanne, Mark Buttigieg MP, Kevin Connolly MP, Julia Finn MP u Duga Owen (li rappreżentat lil Julie Owens MP).

Attenda wkoll Charles Said li nannuh Carmelo Abela kien



wiehed mill-erba' vittmi tas-*Sette Giugno*, u oħrajna li rappreżentaw lil vittma iehor, Manwel Attard.

Għall-ewwel darba f'din l-okkażjoni, din is-sena fi NSW, l-attività attirat ukoll il-partecipazzjoni tal-Banda Maltija OLQP.

**Xellug: L-Onor. Alex Hawke MP, il-Ministru ta' l-Immigrazzjoni, Ċittadinanza, Servizzi tal-Emigranti u Affarjiet Multikulturali**

(Ritratti ta' Patrick Bartolo u Lawrence Gatt)

**TAHT: Hafna mill-mistednin distinti għall-okkażjoni tat-tifkira tas-*Sette Giugno* quddiem il- Maltese Bicentennial Monument. (Mix-xellug): Clr. Eddy Sarki, Clr. Lisa Lake, Duga Owen, Lawrence Buhagiar, Mark Buttigieg MP, H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, Julie Finn MP, Hon. Alex Hawke MP, Miriam Friggieri (president tal-MCC NSW) u Kevin Connolly MP.**





# Life in the fast lane

*They say that behind every successful man is a great woman. Our selection for this month's Personality has been married for the last 62 years to Lawrence Dimech who served as the first Consul-General for Malta in NSW, first editor of The Maltese Herald, and the first director/co-ordinator of the Department of Immigration & Ethnic Affairs' Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre and many other important positions.*

## Marlene Dimech

**M**arlene was born in 299 Prince of Wales Street Sliema but lived most of her life in Schembri Street Hamrun (at the side of the Radio City Opera House, now the LP HQ). She attended Our Lady of Immaculate School in Hamrun, and as a piano student at the Malta Royal London School of Music.

Her father, Romeo Meli from Cospua was a top musician, the leader of the Romeo and his Band, and an Airforce officer. In Sydney, he was the co-owner of the Melita Furniture in Pendle Hill and active within the Maltese community. Her mother Maria Muscat "Ta' Fjura" was born in Mosta and lived at St Paul's Bay, her family were mostly builders. One sister was a school principal and the other a nun.

Marlene's family lived a comfortable and happy life in Malta but for some unexplained reason her father was caught up in the euphoria of the time "let's emigrate". Australia was preferred as mum had already a brother living in Sydney.

Their first years in Australia were traumatic and very difficult. From a steady, comfortable, well-settled life in Malta, when crossing the oceans the Meli family encapsulates many of the difficulties, hardships, and anxieties of migration.

Their destination in Sydney in 1949 was the isolated farms at Pendle Hill. One of the farmers felt sorry for them and offered them two small, fibro-clad rooms with a tin roof. No electricity or running water. To top it all there was a three-month-long coal strike making employment impossible.

Marlene told *The Voice* that as a twelve-year old in Sydney, she matured quickly as she had to look after the family while her



## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

mother, who had never worked in her life had to go to work.

As soon as Marlene got married, and raised two sons, Mark now a senior economist working in the UK, and Matthew a builder located at the Central Coast, she immersed

herself in community affairs.

Always elegant and a lady of substance she served as secretary and chairperson in the Melita Eagles Ladies Auxiliary Committee raising thousands of dollars for the club. She was also the Matron of Honour for 12 years looking after the Miss Melita Eagles Annual Pageant, at the time a grand gala occasion.

With the late Joe Mangion, she assisted in raising money for the MSSP and other charities. She is currently still involved with the Maltese Welfare (NSW) and the Maltese Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco where she coordinates the annual dinner dance and annual fund-raising appeals raising thousands of dollars for charities of Don Bosco around the world.

The NSW Government awarded her with The NSW Seniors Week Achievement Award in 2006 and a mention in the International Year of Volunteering 2001.

Marlene's most memorable moments apart from her two sons and seven grandchildren, are her participation in two majors worldwide Papal masses. She represented Malta in the offertory procession when Pope John Paul II visited Sydney (left) and officiated a papal mass at Randwick racecourse in January 1995.

*\*continued on opposite page*





Marlene in 2010 representing the Maltese living abroad during Pope Benedict XVI's Papal Mass at the Granaries in Floriana



Marlene Dimech with husband Lawrence same Choir under Maestro Dr Steve Watson where they performed at the Manoel Theatre in Malta and in top theatres in Budapest, Austria, Prague and Paris.

## Personality for month of June

*\*from opposite page*

In April 2010 while in Malta, Marlene was selected to represent all the Maltese living abroad in the Papal Mass at the Granaries in Floriana when Pope Benedict XVI visited the island. During the 2010 Convention for Maltese Abroad, she planted a tree on behalf of Maltese/Australians at a commemorative garden at Ta' Qali.

Music has always been in Meli's family and Marlene was taught piano from an

early age. She was also gifted with a beautiful voice. She took part in the OLQP Greystanes Choir and the Maltese Choir as a lead singer for many years.

She carries with her vivid experiences when part of the Beethoven Sydney Choir and singing at the Sydney Opera House, the Domain Christmas Shows and the Entertainment Centre.

She also travelled to Europe with the




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# Have your say/Xi trid tqhid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# Should we really feel lucky to get the vaccine?

Frank Mallia from Brisbane, Qld writes:

I was very surprised to read comments in a news portal of somebody saying he was lucky to have gotten his first jab against COVID-19. I was even more confounded to learn why luck had to come into it. Ok, in the same measure, I was lucky that I managed to have the first jab.

Why should we be lucky to get the jab at all when we should have been the first to receive it after the way, we, the government authorities included, so successfully managed to keep the numbers of positive cases so low?

Along with our neighbours from New Zealand, we in Australia must have been the envy of many countries for the way we kept the pandemic at bay. However, the federal government must have tried to rest on

## Commemorating 7th June in NSW

John Gatt from Penrith NSW writes:

Well done to the MCC of NSW for organising the festa tas-Sebgha ta' Gunju (the feast of 7th June). I do not think that this commemoration is held anywhere else in Australia or around the world where Maltese are living. Indeed it is the least known of our five national days but nonetheless very significant.

Commemorating the feast in the cold mornings of winter does not deter the Maltese elders from attending. One hopes that in future the younger generation also attends this historical celebration.

By the way, do we still need to refer to it with an Italian name?

its laurels and gave us the impression that we were immune from the virus.

In Australia we pride ourselves with having a top-notch public health system. However, hesitancy, failure by the government to acquire enough vaccines, and lack of mismanagement in some of the states that gave most of us a false sense of security, is once again putting the fear in many of us, especially the old aged.

I keep reading that my home country, Malta, such a small state was the first in Europe, most probably in the world to have acquired the vaccines and more than that, to even reach herd immunity. That is what a government that has the health of its people at heart and puts the well being of its citizens ahead of everything else does.

And by the way, it is not only we in Australia that have lacked determination. Surprisingly, even in the USA where they kicked off the vaccinations early on, many people lacked the conviction and as such, in its effort to attract the people to get vaccine, some states even promised to put the names of those inoculated in the hat to win prizes.

I have even been told that in some states in Australia people were being lured to register for a vaccine by promising they could win prizes. You see, for some people money is more important than health!

## Important information

George Montalto from Newport Victoria writes:

I am not sure how many of *The Voice's* readers appreciate the services we get from two very important features in this the only printed magazine for the Maltese in Australia. I am referring to the Money Talks and the Legal page: so much important information.

I am a member of the old brigade and still need to see it in the flesh, not on my mobile phone or computer. I wait for it every time together with many others at our shopping Centre. I am also aware that a few of my friends receive in the post at the convenience of their homes for a small fee.

It is good to assist the publishers, they never ask for donations, so I suppose that sales and subscriptions are a great help.

Thank you to all those responsible for this excellent publication that all Maltese are very proud of.



## Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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## Tasting again the Maltese bread that helped win the war (Part 3)

## Rationing introduced



**Martin G. DeBattista**  
(Institute of Tourism Studies - Malta - Centre for eLearning Technologies  
PhD Candidate - MSc in Digital Media)

**R**ationing in Malta was introduced for the first time in April 1941, almost a year after the start of the war in the Mediterranean. The sale of sugar, coffee, laundry soap, kerosene, petrol and even matches was restricted. However, flour and bread were excluded.<sup>8</sup>

Many items not in the official rationing list were nevertheless becoming more scarce and the black market started to flourish.

The excellent potato harvest of 1941 led the authorities to allow for up to 30% of the bread mixture to consist of cooked mashed potatoes. This was strictly regulated and led to the savings of some of the flour stocks.<sup>9</sup> This new type of loaf became known as potato bread or wheatato.

Despite the restrictions, the general food situation in Malta was still relatively good compared to other countries at war. In his speech on the occasion of the opening of the third session of the Council of Government in November 1941, the Governor Dobbie reassured that "some foodstuffs have been scarce and most have gone up in prices but price increases have been checked and there has been no general shortage; indeed as far as food is concerned the people of Malta have been better off than the people of Great Britain".<sup>10</sup>

As the war progressed the food situation in the Maltese cities was becoming distinctly worse from that of the countryside and the rural villages. Pawlu Aquilina, then a kid living in Siggiewi, remembers that, "When one lived in the countryside, one could usually find something to eat although staple foods like flour, spaghetti and sugar were very scarce."

"Although there were no smokers in the family, we regularly claimed our ration of cigarettes – the Flag brand I remember – so that we could exchange them for the flour and sugar with those who could not do without smoking."<sup>11</sup>

Bartering became a necessity of life. Lucy Chircop, from Paola, was married with six

children. Her husband was on duty overseas with the Royal Navy and she kept a small shop selling cloth, crockery and giftware. She had to resort to bartering shop items to feed her family.

She remembers: "Occasionally I had to buy necessities on the black market. One deal I can remember clearly: I gave a zinc wash-tub to a baker from Qormi in exchange for a loaf of bread supplied to me every day for a period of weeks."

"There was another occasion when I got a sack of potatoes for a man's suit. I could not bear to see my children go hungry."<sup>12</sup>

Antonia Mizzi, wife of a dockyard worker and mother of five from Vittoriosa, risked a prison sentence for not registering the death of her mother so that she could get her rations. "The situation was so desperate that I was prepared to go to prison if that was the price for feeding my children."<sup>13</sup>

### The worst of the siege

This situation took a drastic turn for the worse in the first part of 1942. Malta was proving to be a thorn in the Axis side with its aircraft and submarines sinking the vital supply ships from Italy to North Africa.

Malta was straight in the middle of the convoy routes supplying the German and Italian forces under Field Marshal Erwin Rommel fighting the British in Libya and Egypt. The Axis were planning to invade Malta but Adolf Hitler eventually decided that neutralising Malta with a massive air campaign would be enough.

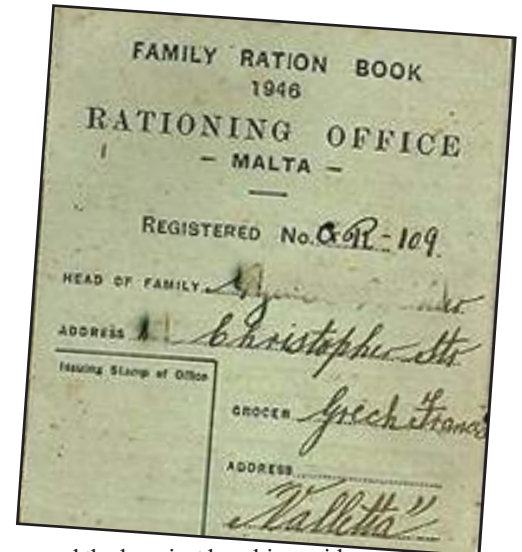
While the aerial onslaught developed over Malta, the arrival of transport ships laden with food and supplies became less regular. The Communal Feeding Department was launched in January 1942 providing daily hot meals that was to be nicknamed the Victory Kitchen. Bread was not included in the service though.

An example of how the situation was getting serious is the fact that in just one edition of the Times of Malta (21 February 1942) no less than three letters to the editor were published concerning the availability and rationing of bread, the production of cakes with sugar, and the price of flour.

"Last Sunday I walked all over Valletta endeavouring to buy two loaves of bread for my family, with no result, and I was ultimately dependent on the charity of my neighbours at the end of a fruitless search," complained 'Housewife' in one of the letters.

A month later the editorial of the same newspaper lamented that "The matter of bread distribution must be made independent of the severity of the enemy attacks," referring to the fact that the continuous air-raids were inducing bakeries and shops to remain closed for long periods, thus leaving their registered patrons without a regular supply.<sup>14</sup>

In March and April 1942, Malta experi-



enced the heaviest bombing raids of the whole war and Valletta and Floriana lay in ruins. Two merchant ships made it to the Grand Harbour only to be sunk in port before their precious cargo had been unloaded.

Further restrictions were inevitable. Restaurants were closed, the sale of meat was heavily regulated and there were no escaping further restrictions on the use of flour and the baking of bread.<sup>15</sup>

Families had to register with one baker only and bakers had to work with limited stocks of flour and the inconvenience and disruption brought by air raids. If a bakery was hit the registered families could go without bread for days until the bakery was repaired or they re-register with a new one.

All the private flourmills were closed and sale of wheat was prohibited as the milling was centralised by the government. All flour-based products such as biscuits, water biscuits and pasta were prohibited except for bread. Bread turned darker as rye and other cereals were thrown into the mixture.

Although in the 21st century brown bread is considered healthier than white bread, in those days the brown bread was perceived of being of inferior quality and so cheap that only the poor would consume it.

In June 1942 there were only two months worth of flour from mixed cereals left and the situation was starting to look desperate. The Royal Navy tried to deliver two convoys to Malta that same month, one from Gibraltar and the other from Alexandria totalling 18 merchantmen laden with vital food and war supplies.

The convoys experienced such fierce attacks from the Axis that barely two transports made it to Malta. Six merchantmen were lost in the process.

\*Continued in the next issue

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TIMES OF MALTA WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 1941

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### Four Commodities Rationed from Monday Next

#### CONSUMERS' AND RETAILERS' REGULATIONS

The following are the texts of a Government Notice on Food Distribution issued from the Lieutenant-Governor's Office yesterday, and the Government Regulations governing retailers and consumers respectively in the matter of Rationing which comes into force next Monday, for Sugar, Matches, Soap and Coffee.

#### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

It has already been announced that sugar, coffee and matches will be rationed as from Monday, April 2. It has now been decided that laundry soap shall also be rationed as from that date, and a notice by the Food Distribution Officer adding it to the list of commodities to be rationed is included in the Government Gazette of April 1.

#### RATIONING

##### RETAILERS' REGULATIONS

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to make the following Regulations:—



# 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**



## Ilma ħelu mill-baħar ... u idroġenu wkoll

**M**alta dejjem kellha l-problema tal-ilma. Kull ħlejqa trid l-ilma biex tgħix, u l-bniedem xejn inqas. Il-pajjiż mhux mogħni bi xmajjar konsistenti naturali, u matul iż-żminijiet għabar l-ilma fil-bjar, fittex in-nixxighat u ħaffer toqob fl-art, biex ikun jista' jixrob hu u l-annimali tiegħu, isajjar, isaqqi.

Bil-popolazzjoni tikber, l-użu tal-ilma s'intendi kiber, l-ammont ta' ħofor fl-art żdiedu, saru iktar fondi u tant inġibed ilma li xi nixxighat spicċaw fix-xejn, u l-ilma li ttella' beda jkollu toghma ta' melħ tant li bilkemm baqa' possibbli jinxorob.

Hawnhekk daħal fix-xena id-desalinazzjoni, jiġifieri l-produzzjoni tal-ilma ħelu mill-ilma tal-baħar. L-ewwel tip kien id-distillazzjoni, fejn l-ilma baħar jiġi msahħan sakemm jagħli, il-fwar joghla u jhalli warajh il-melħ li jibqa' b'mod iktar ikkoncentrat f'ilma iktar u iktar mielaħ.

Il-fwar li jitla' 'l fuq jiltaqa' ma' wiċċ kiesaħ, jerga' jikkondensa, u jingabar bhala ilma ħelu. L-ewwel impjant ta' dan it-tip beda fl-1966. Impjant ta' dan it-tip huwa għali immens biex jithaddem, għax l-ilma kollu li jgħaddi minn dan il-proċess irid ikun mgħolli.

Verżjoni innovattiva ta' dan il-proċess huwa *r-reverse osmosis*. Immaġina li jkollok ilma mielaħ sew fuq ix-xellug u ilma inqas mielaħ fuq il-lemin ta' membrana.

F'kundizzjonijiet normali ta' temperatura u pressjoni, ikun hemm it-tendenza li ilma jgħaddi mil-lemin għax-xellug, mill-pori tal-membrana, sakemm l-ilma taż-żewġ naħat isir mielaħ indaqs. Dan il-proċess huwa l-ożmosi.

Fir-*reverse osmosis*, in-naħa mielaħ tiġi kkumpressata, bl-effett li l-ilma jgħaddi bil-maqlub, jiġifieri n-naħa mielaħ ssir iktar mielaħ għax l-ilma jkollu t-tendenza li jnixxi għan-naħa l-oħra.

Malta għandha diversi impjanti ta' dan it-tip, l-ewwel wiehed kien sar f'Għar Lapsi fl-1982,<sup>1</sup> u għal hafna snin kien laboratorju magħruf madwar id-dinja għal din it-teknoloġija.

Dan l-aħħar kont qiegħed naqra dwar żvilupp interessanti ta' din it-teknoloġija, li jista' jintuża wkoll fil-produzzjoni tal-idroġenu, element sempliċi, l-ewwel wiehed li ġie prodott fl-univers, u li huwa wkoll fuwil li qed jissemma li għandu jkollu rwol impor-



L-ewwel impjant f'Malta tar-  
*reverse osmosis* f'Għar Lapsi

tanti fuq din l-art fil-ġlieda kontra t-tibdil tal-klima.

Riċerkaturi habbru li sabu użu differenti għall-membrani tar-*reverse osmosis* fl-elettrolisi, jiġifieri l-produzzjoni tal-idroġenu u l-ossigenu mill-ilma u kurrent elettriku.

S'issa, il-produzzjoni ta' dawn il-gassijiet kien jitlob l-użu ta' ilma ħelu, u ilma mielaħ ma setax jintuża għaliex jispiċċa jiġi prodott ukoll il-klorin, li huwa gass tossiku (il-melħ huwa magħmul kemikament mis-sodju u l-klorin).

Ir-riċerkaturi sabu li l-ossigenu jiġi prodott fuq in-naħa pożittiva (anowd), u idroġenu fuq dik-pożittiva (katowd) bħal ma jsir normalment fl-elettrolisi, imma l-klorin ma jithalliex jgħaddi min naħa għall-oħra mill-membran tar-*reverse osmosis* bħal ma jiġri normalment fl-elettrolisi konvenzjonali. Dan huwa vantaġġ kbir.<sup>2</sup>

S'issa, f'din ir-riċerka l-membran qed jintuża fl-elettrolisi biss, mhux ukoll biex jiġi prodott l-ilma ħelu fl-istess hin. Madankollu, jekk din ir-riċerka tiġi kummerċjalizzata, Malta bl-esperjenza tagħha fil-qasam tar-*reverse osmosis* u bir-riżors bla limitu ta' ilma baħar li mdawwra bih, tista' tagħmel użu minn din it-teknoloġija bhala industrija ġdida jekk tabbinaha ma' sors li jiġġedded ta' enerġija.

Kieku nsegwi żvilupp bħal dan b'interess qawwi.

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

# Dad says it's a loan, daughter says it's a gift – what did the court say?

## *Case study:* husband in family law proceedings had provided funds to a child from his previous relationship

by Paul Sant

The family court case of Mims & Green & Green (2006), is one of many cases where the court was required to classify whether money provided by a parent to a child was a loan, or a gift. However, in this case, the loan versus gift argument was not in relation to money received by the husband or wife from their parents during the relationship, as is usually the case. Instead, it was in relation to money the husband provided to his daughter from his first marriage.

Mr & Mrs Green started living together in 1998. At that time, Mr Green was 78. He and Mrs Green had a baby in October 1999. Mr Green had adult children from his first marriage, including his daughter Mims.

Mr & Mrs Green separated in May 2004. At that time, their child was 4 years old. Mr Green sold his property in Australia and moved back to Lithuania. From there, in September 2004, Mr Green transferred what was then his life savings of \$355,506 to a bank account held by his daughter from his first marriage, Mims, who was in Australia.

Mims used the money her dad Mr Green transferred to her, toward the purchase of a property in Australia. Mims bought a property for \$515,000: she used about \$330,000 of the money her dad had transferred her, and obtained a mortgage of

about \$245,000.

Mr Green came back to Australia in November 2004, where he stayed with his daughter Mims. He then apparently asked her for the \$355,506 to be returned to him. Mims, who had used the money to buy the property, presumably was not able to do so. Her dad then left her property to stay elsewhere. Shortly after, Mr Green started property settlement proceedings with Mrs Green.

In December 2004, the court joined Mims to the case with Mr & Mrs Green.

It is worth pausing here, to mention a couple of things: first, Mr Green, after his separation from Mrs Green, sold a property, left the country and transferred a large sum of money to a family member. Perhaps he did this to try and reduce any property being available for Mrs Green, who had the care of their young child.

Second, Mr Green started the property settlement. This is unusual in circumstances where Mr Green took various steps that seemingly were done to defeat any property settlement entitlements Mrs Green may have sought. Perhaps he received a letter from a solicitor for Mrs Green about a property settlement, left Australia to try and avoid it, and ultimately got some family law advice after doing things that would be advised against: in-



tentionally getting rid of property is frowned on by the family court.

### *Court hearing & decision*

After a four day hearing in February 2006, the court determined that the money Mr Green transferred to Mims was a loan. The

court was given two completely different versions of events from Mims and Mr Green about the money.

Mims told the court her *'Dad is a known Nazi criminal, child abuser, violent thug, and I've only had contact with him once in the last 14 years'*. Perhaps Mr Green's story was odd, as he was unable to say *'I transferred the money to Mims to keep it away from Mrs Green'*...

The court accepted the husband's story was more believable, as, given the background of Mims' allegations, Mr Green would not have been so generous as to bestow such a significant gift to her. Mims was ordered to sell her house and repay the money back to her Dad.

This was good news for Mrs Green. The court ordered that when Mims' property was sold, she repay \$355,506 to her Dad Mr Green, who then had to pay 45% of the \$355,506 to Mrs Green. The outcome of 45% to Mrs Green was primarily due to her future needs arising from her care of their young child, then aged six.

### *Appeal*

Mims was unhappy with the court saying the money from her dad was a loan. She appealed, saying it was definitely a gift. The court confirmed the decision that it was a loan, and Mims was ordered to pay her dad's costs of her appeal.

Mr Green also appealed, saying the decision to provide 45% to Mrs Green did not adequately recognise what he owned at the start of their relationship, and nor did the court recognise Mr Green's future needs, due to his age and financial prospects for the future. The court commented that 45% was top of the range of entitlements, however did not change the decision.

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



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Maltese Spoken







## Roundup of News About Malta



# Malta intends to be “best in the world”

## PM unveils island’s economic vision for 2021-2031

Unveiling a 10-year economic blueprint, Prime Minister Robert Abela recently launched the Government’s consultation process of Malta’s Economic Vision 2021-2031 aspiring to make the island the “best in the world”.

At the launch together with the Minister for the Economy and Industry Minister Silvio Schembri, and following a number of discussions with local stakeholders, the economic vision, named ‘A Future-proof Malta – a nation of courage, compassion and achievement’ – would be founded on five pillars: quality of life, infrastructure, education, good governance, and what Abela termed as “the most essential pillar” – the environment.

Speaking at the consultation’s launch Dr Abela stated that, despite the obstacles posed by COVID-19, Malta’s employment and GDP indicators had returned to pre-pandemic levels.

He stated, “We have closed the gap between ourselves and the EU in the last ten years. We will become a centre of excellence over the next decade. In 2020, over 5,000 new firms were established. The business community is aware that we are behind it.”

“Today we are paving the way for the next decade where our country will become a centre of excellence, worthy of being the best in



Europe and in the world. Before, we wanted to reach the average, now we want to reach the peak”.

He recalled how the country has built a sustainable and robust economic policy over the years, which is the reason why it was able to withstand the turbulent episodes brought about by the pandemic, where the government doubled the expenditure for health and education, was a shoulder for businesses, protecting the interests of all, and adopted a holistic vision which prevented anyone from falling behind.

He added that to attain the aims, Malta must profoundly restructure training and education

in order to foster a culture in which learning is a constant activity, he added.

In terms of good governance, he stated that “weak regulators mean weak industries,” and that institutions needed to be strengthened. “We must aim to be the finest in the world,” repeatedly told he participants.

He said that although Malta is “on the right road” in terms of environmental challenges, “more has to be done,” and that significant investments would be required to solve challenges such as climate change.

The economic vision document would be subject to public input.

Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri recalled how, during a global pandemic a year ago,

one of the largest COVID-19 economic recovery packages in the world was launched. It implemented measures that saved over 100,000 jobs.

“Now that this situation has passed, we can look ahead and, therefore, it is time for an economic vision that leads to longer-term plans which concern and will impact the whole country,” he said.

## COVID certificate

From 1 July the Maltese, along with whoever travels to EU countries will be able to use a certificate issued by Maltese authorities as proof that a person has been vaccinated against Covid-19. In the same way Malta will recognise the vaccine certificate of tourists who are EU citizens.

The certificate will be issued for free by the national authorities and be available in digital or printed format.

The document would certify that the person has been vaccinated, had a negative swab test, or has recovered from the COVID-19 infection.

## Strengthening tourism industry, businesses

As of June 7, over 4,700 businesses and 40 school of English in Malta have started benefiting through a further €1 million investment in a €10 voucher scheme for tourists studying the English language in the country.

As part of the economic regeneration scheme, English student tourists would be given a maximum of €300 in vouchers to spend during their stay.

Ministers, Silvio Schembri (Economy and Industry), and Clayton Bartolo (Tourism and Consumer Protection) Clayton Bartolo announced the scheme.

Then a few days later, Minister Bartolo, announced another scheme for tourists aged 65 or over that visit Malta for a period of over 15 days between October and December. They would each be given a €100 voucher.

This latter scheme is expected to generate €5 million into the country’s economy. More schemes to attract tourists would be launched over the coming days.

Meanwhile, a cruise liner that was on its way to Malta was denied entry into the

Maltese ports after a passenger on board tested positive to COVID-19.

The cruise liner had left Siracuse in Sicily on June 1 and was on its way to Malta as part of a six-day cruise in the Mediterranean when a passenger on board fell sick, was tested and resulted positive to the COVID-19 virus.

## Paintings by high calibre international artists loaned to be exhibited at MUŻA

Heritage Malta has managed to obtain the loan of 13 paintings attributed to artists of international fame and is currently mounting an exhibition with them at MUŻA in Valletta.

The paintings, owned by a private collector in Genoa, Italy include works inspired by renaissance painters Raffaello, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci as well as Baroque and Rococo works influenced by Giovanni Baglione, Claude-Joseph Vernet and Francois Boucher.

They put them on exhibition up to the end

of October at MUŻA and Heritage Malta has also managed to borrow the paintings for exhibition on a permanent basis for the next five years with the possibility of extending the period to ten years.

The exhibits would be available for viewing free of charge by the public, including tourists, free of charge.

This is the first time that paintings of such calibre have been acquired of artistic works attributed to Raffaello, Rubens and others, meaning that Heritage Malta has reached its mission of accessibility.



## Roundup of News About Malta



# Fitch confirms Malta A+ rating

International credit rating agency Fitch has confirmed Malta at A+ rating with a stable outlook. Despite noting that public finances have deteriorated significantly from a 0.4% surplus in the Gross Domestic Product in 2019 to a 10.2% deficit in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it expects that the economy will start recovering and that debt will take a downward trend.

Fitch said that the Covid impact would remain on the tourist sector and public finances. It projects a fiscal deficit of 11.5% this year, while growth forecast of 4.7% is more optimistic than the 3.8% forecast presented in Malta's Stability Programme. It expects that a 6% economic growth in 2022.

Referring to government's expenditure in projects, particularly in tourism, transport and health, Fitch says that it expects a 5.4% deficit of the GDP, which depends from the country's recovery and the decrease in



measures that the government is taking to stimulate the economy.

As to the European Commission's procedures on Malta regarding the citizenship investment programme, it warns that if this is terminated, the country's revenue decreases by €100 million or 0.7% of GDP.

Fitch confirmed that Malta is in the forefront when it comes to Covid vaccination, adding that it was the first country that managed to reach the 70% herd immunity.

On tourism, Fitch reported that interna-

tional travel is expected to start recovering in the second quarter of this year, however it will remain 55% less than previous levels, recovering to 25% less in 2022.

It adds that tourism in Malta will depend on the U.K.'s decision on Malta and the green list and whether British tourists need to undergo quarantine after returning back.

In his initial reaction to the report, Prime Minister Robert Abela noted how the vaccination rate, the Government's financial assistance to revive the economy and save jobs, and the institutional reforms were among the reasons that the agency confirmed its rating.

World Bank Governance Indicators (WBI) ranked Malta at 78.2, reflecting its long track record of stable and peaceful political transitions, well established rights for participation in the political process, strong institutional capacity, effective rule of law and a low level of corruption.

## Father of 'Lateral Thinking' Edward de Bono dies aged 88

Thinker and writer Edward de Bono, who was known worldwide for his 'Lateral Thinking' techniques died on June 9 aged 88. He was born the second of four brothers the son of Joseph de Bono, a physician, and Josephine (nee O'Byrne), an Irish journalist on 19th May, 1933, in St Julians, Malta.

He went to St Edward's college in Malta and jumped classes twice. He was always three or four years younger than anyone else in his class.

He qualified as a doctor at the University of Malta before going to Christ Church, Oxford, as a Rhodes scholar to study for a master's in psychology and physiology (1957), and a DPhil in medicine (1961).

De Bono's revolution began in 1967 with his book *The Use of Lateral Thinking*, and through his 60-plus books, as well as seminars, training courses and a BBC television series, he sought to free men from the tyranny of logic through creative thinking.

He used to say that "Studies have shown that 90% of error in thinking is due to error in perception. If you can change your perception, you can change your emotion and this can lead to new ideas. Logic will never change emotion or perception."

His most trenchant thinking concerned children's education. "Schools waste two-thirds of the talent in society. The universities sterilise the rest," he said.

He argued that rather than teaching children to absorb information and repeat it, schools should equip them to think creatively.

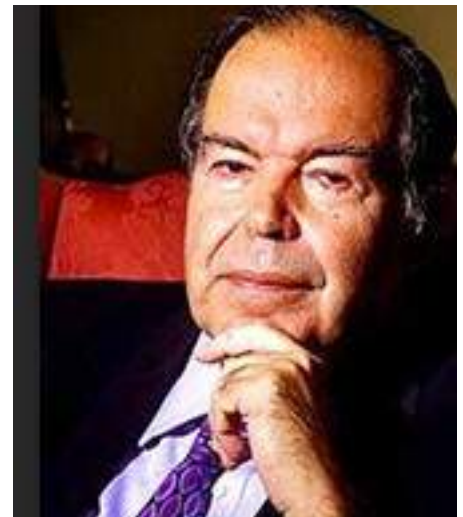
There, he represented the university in both polo and rowing, and set two canoeing records, one for paddling 112 miles from Oxford to London nonstop.

Following graduation he worked at Oxford as a research assistant and then a lecturer, taught at the University of London and became a lecturer in medicine at Cambridge (1976-83), where he did his PhD. During this time he also taught at Harvard, and set up his School of Thinking in New York, in 1980.

The author, doctor and inventor of the term lateral thinking wrote more than 60 books on his original and unorthodox theories. He believed humour was one of the most significant characteristics of the human mind, precisely for its basis in shifting perceptions.

A marriage to Josephine Hall-White in 1971 ended in divorce. His sons, Caspar and Charlie, survive him.

There will be a funeral in Malta and a memorial at a later date in the UK.



### Maltese Funerals

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## Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

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Is-7 ta' Ġunju

# Anniversarju importanti



**K**if qal tajjeb fid-diskors tiegħu l-Ispeaker tal-Parlament Malti, Dr Anġlu Farrugia fit-Tifkira tas-*Sette Giugno* (7 ta' Ġunju), din is-sena, hija wahda importanti għall-Parlament Malti mhux biss għax bħalma hu xieraq qed nagħtu gieh lil dawki li ssieltu, u whud anke taw hajjithom biex

Malta taqbad sew il-mixja demokratika tagħha, iżda wkoll peress li tahbat il-mitt sena miċ-ċerimonja inawgurata tal ewwel Parlament Malti.

Fid-diskors tiegħu l-Ispeaker fakkar f'diversi episodji mill-istorja tal-pajjiż, fosthom il-hidma ta' Manwel Dimech, li kien diġà qed jara li Malta għandha tkun kompletament indipendenti u hielsa mill-barbari, u dwar il-proposta "sabiex Malta tiġi skambjata mal-Eritrea u b'hekk tingħaqad mal-Imperu Faxxista Taljan ta' Mussolini".

Kien hemm ukoll ir-reżistenza fl-erbghinijiet għall-ghoti tal-vot lin-nies bl-Oppożizzjoni tishaq li "il-vot għan-nisa ma jidholx f'pajjiżna qabel ma jiġi sugġett għal referendum".

Dr Farrugia sostna li b'xorti tajba, din id-darba i-żewġ partiti li hemm fil-Parlament qablu u għaddew emendi biex "fl-elezzjoni generali li jmiss ikollna mhux inqas minn 40% tad-Deputati eletti fil-Parlament li jkunu nisa."

L-Ispeaker semma diversi ġrajjet storiċi oħra fl-iżvilupp tal-politiku u kostituzzjonali tal-pajjiż fosthom l-affermazzjoni tar-Religjon Kattolika bħala r-religjon ewlenija ta' pajjiżna.

Fost dawn semma dak li kien qallu l-Kardinal Tarcisio Bertone, is-Segretarju tal-Istat tal-Vatikan fi żmien il-Papa Benedittu XVI li, "kien personalment fahhar lill-Eks Prim Ministru Dom Mintoff u qalli xi haġa li jien issorprendejt ruhi biha għax kien dettall li ma kontx naf bih; kien spjegali li Mintoff dejjem iddefenda u sostna li r-Religjon Kattolika għandha tibqa' rikonoxxuta fil-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta bħala r-religjon ewlenija ta' pajjiżna."

Farrugia qal li kien qed isemmi dawn il-fatti "għaliex il-maturità politika titlob li kulhadd jahdem għal pajjiżu, ikun min ikun u



L-ispeaker Dr Anġlu Farrugia waqt id-diskors tiegħu

f'liema żmien u sitwazzjoni jkun."

Huwa sostna li kienet il-maturità politika li wasslet biex il-Parlament baqa' għaddej bil-hidma tiegħu anke fl-għeqqel tal-pandemija, "tant li għaddew mal-65 Att mill-Parlament, li huwa l-oghla għadd li qatt kellna f'sena ta' hidma parlamentari" barra hidmiet oħra tal-istess Sedja, il-Kumitati Parlamentari, eċċ.

Żied itenni, "Minkejja l-progress kollu li sar f'dawn l-aħħar 100 sena, ma jfissirx li ma fadal xejn xi jsir sabiex l-istituzzjoni tal-Parlament tkun wahda li dejjem aktar tindirizza l-aspettattivi taċ-ċittadini li nirrappreżentaw."

Fost dawn kien hemm il-htieġa li ċ-ċittadin komuni jkollu dritt għal rimedju meta jhossu ngurjat b'dak li jgħid xi membru fil-Parlament. (Sal-llum hadd ma jista' jfittex deputat għal dak li jgħid fil-Parlament, anke jekk dak li jkun iħossu ngurjat)

"Nemmen li huwa insult għad-demokrazija f'pajjiżna meta min jiġi elett bħala rappreżentant tal-poplu jkun hu stess li jabbuza minn dak

il-privileġġ, u meta ċ-ċittadin komuni jibqa' bla rimedju għal dak li jintqal b'mod falz jew qarrieqi fil-Parlament fil-konfront tiegħu. Is-Sedja għalhekk itenni għal darb'oħra li f'dawn iċ-ċirkostanzi, anke jekk rari, ċittadin ordinarju għandu ta' lanqas ikollu d-dritt għal tweġiba."

Ma naqasx li jirreferi għal ċerta kritika li kellu f'dawn l-aħħar żminijiet dwar xi deċiżjonijiet li kellu jiehu.

"Bħala l-aħħar kumment xtaqt ngħid li dwar kull deċiżjoni li jien hadt – inkluż fl-24 ruling fl-aħħar sena – ikun hemm min jaqbel u jkun hemm min ma jaqbilx ma' ċerti direzzjonijiet u deċiżjonijiet li niehu. Iżda, jiena ninsab konfortat bil-fatt li dak li niddeċiedi, jien niddeċidih dejjem b'kuxjenza safja u dejjem inżomm quddiem għajnejja l-interess veru tad-demokrazija parlamentari."

## Imma kif hawn min ma jitgħallimx?

**I**l-kampanja zommu Malta nadifa, minn dejjem kienet. Maż-żmien halliet il-frott tagħha. Aktar u aktar meta bdew jizdiedu s-servizzi ta' tindif, fejn illum nistgħu ngħidu li għandna wiehed mill-aqwa servizzi ta' tindif.

Imma minkejja dan għad hawn nies li jkomplu jhammgu. sintendi barra biex id-dar taghom, għax aktarx li mill-bieb 'il għewwa jnaddfu fuq li jnaddfu.

Wiehed mill-aktar postijiet fejn ihammgu hu propju fil-baħar, fejn x'aktarx il-l-hmieġ ma tantx jidher... jekk mhux bħall-plastik

Kemm dan hu minnu jidher kull darba li xi għaddasa jfettlilhom jagħmlu tindifa f'qiegħ il-baħar. Hawn il-Bambin biss jaf kemm tunnelli ta' skart jiġbru. F'ten-tattiv biex inaddaf qiegħ il-bajja ta' San Ġiljana, Raniero Borg, tella' xejn inqas minn 400 tajer.

Ngħiduha, biex titfa tajer il-baħar mhux daqshekk faċli, u allura wiehed jista' jahseb x'hemm f'qiegħ il-baħar.

Dan kollu meta l-Awtoritajiet joffru servizz bla ħlas għall-gbir u rimi ta' skart anke goff, fosthom it-tajers.

Imma xi nies qatt ma jitgħallmu.

# Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

## Imma x'qed jigri sew? U l-girja bdiet

**M**eta tara ċerti sondaġġi tibda tirrealizza kemm dak li jinkiteb fil-midja mhux bilfors jirrifletti l-fehma tal-poplu.

Qed nikteb dan wara l-aħħar sħar-rig dwar is-sitwazzjoni politika fil-Gżejjer Maltin.

Fil-ġimgħa li fiha sar l-istħarriġ, hafna mill-midja kienet qed tati importanza kbira lill-allegazzjoni dwar l-Ministru Carmelo (imsemmi fl-aħħar hargħa ta' *The Voice*), dwar il-wegħda tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li qed jallega li l-poplu ġie misruq €50 fi hħas fuq il-kontijiet tad-dawl u l-ilma, u l-kwestjoni "tal-iżvilupp bla rażan".

Issemmiet hafna wkoll li Malta ma ddahhilitx fil-lista l-Hadra tal-Gvern Inġliż li hija daqqa ta' harta għat-turizmu Malti li jiddependi hafna fuq is-suq Inġliż, u xi materji oħra li wasslu lill-kap tal-PN jasal jghid li l-Gvern Laburista kien fadallu bejn 100 u 300 jum fil-Gvern (it-terminu ta' din il-leġislatura jintemm madwar 300 jum iehor). Hafna interpretaw l-istqarrija ta' Grech bħala tama li jirbah l-elezzjoni li jmiss.

Izda jidher li attwalment dan kollu ma ġiex rifless fir-riżultat tal-istħar-rig li tagħmel ta' kull xahar il-*Malta Today*. A. Anzi bil-maqlub, għax il-PN ma għamel l-ebda gwadann, u kien il-Partit Laburista li zied sewwa fl-appoġġ biex id-differenza bejn il-partiti issa hija ta' 16% - riflessa bħala maġġoranza ta' 48,000 vot.

Fil-fatt mistoqsijin lil min jivvutaw jekk issir elezzjoni bħalissa 45.7% qalu lill-Partit Laburista; 29.3% wieġbu PN, 13.5% qalu li ma jafux kif jivvotaw, waqt li 9.4% ma jivvutawx.

Fejn tidhol il-fiduċja fil-mexxejja tal-partiti, Bernard Grech tal-PN ždied bi kważi 4%, imma il-mexxej Laburista, Robert Abela zied, u saħansitra qabeż il-50% tal-votanti... biex qed jghaddi lil Grech b'21%.

Mistoqsi dwar ir-riżultat tal-istħar-rig, Grech qal li "Il-gap bejn il-kapijiet naqset. Dak ifisser li b'xi mod il-messaġġ qed jasal." Im-



Robert Abela

bagħad tefa' z-żieda tal-appoġġ għall-PL fuq il-Covid-19 billi stqarr: "Irriidu nifhmu wkoll li dan huwa żmien fejn il-pajjiż qed johroġ minn pandemija u allura hemm ċertu feel good factor li anke seta' kabbar id-distakk ikbar bejn il-partiti."

Imma fl-istess hin ammetta li biex jimxi l-quddiem il-PN jrid jagħmel ċerti bidliet. Attwalment din tal-bidliet Grech semmiegha kemm-il darba, imma s'issa ftit li xejn saru bidliet għalkemm wiehed irid jghid li ċertu ċaqliq kien hemm. Imma jidher li hemm xi jżomm lil Grech li jagħmel il-bidliet li jixtieq.

Nahseb li Grech laqat il-musmar fuq rasu meta semma' l-"feel good factor".... izda x'aktarx li dan mhux biss minhabba l-hruġ mill-COVID-19, imma anke fuq diversi materji oħra... u dan hu wiehed mill-istakoli li l-Partit Nazzjonalista jrid jegħleb jekk irid jirbah l-elezzjoni.

Għalkemm forsi hafna diġà qed iqisu l-elezzjoni ġenerali li jmiss bħala mirbuha u mitlufa, tajjeb wiehed iżomm quddiem għajnejh dak li qal il-kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, li l-istħarriġ huwa ritratt ta' ġurnata u għandu jitqies bħala hekk... f'kelma wahda l-affarijiet dejjem jistgħu jinbidlu.

## Tghid li allura forsi l-Editor għandu raġun?

**M**'għandniex xi nġid u t-thabbira ta' Comodini Cachia qajimet hafna spekulazzjonijiet, b'kumment notevoli min-naħa tal-Editor ta' *The Malta Independent* li ta' x'jifhem li Comodini Cachia haċet id-deċiżjoni li ma tikkuntastax għax hassitha ttraduta u wżata mill-kollegi tagħha.

Dan kien meta l-ewwel ġiet proposta bħala kap tal-partit meta riedu jneħħu lil Adrian Delia, izda meta dan ma mxxxiex kienet (skond l-Independebt) "quickly discarded by the rebels who then selected Bernard Grech as "their"

contestant to fight against Delia in the party leadership race."

It-tentattiv biex Delia jitneħħa finalment irnexxa, imma Comodina Cachia "must have felt betrayed and used by her colleagues. She realised that she was politically expendable for her colleagues. They first rolled out the red carpet for her when she appeared to be the least controversial option for the post of Opposition Leader, but then pulled it from under her feet when she was no longer needed."

**G**ħalkemm bħalissa hħief għajdut dwar l-elezzjoni ma tismax, jidher li bil-mod il-mod il-kampanja elettoral diġà bdiet ttrranka. Qed naraw il-partiti jhejju l-programmi elettoral tagħhom, u sa ždiedu wkoll iż-żjarat tal-kandidati fid-djar.

Dak li ftit ilu kien isir bit-telefon, minhabba li l-pandemija waqqfet iż-żjarat fid-djar, issa li l-miżuri naqsu, dan qed isir fizikament. Ždiedet ukoll il-propoganda fuq il-midja soċjali li bil-mod il-mod qed issir l-aktar mezz qawwi ta' propaganda.

Sintendi l-partiti qed jiġru wara persuni li huma ta' ċerta popolarità biex ihajjruhom johorġu magħhom bħala kandidati.

Sadanittant f'ġurnata wahda kellna żewġ sorpriżi. L-ewwel kien hemm dik ta' Evarist Bartolo, li ma kienx mistenni li jikkontesta l-elezzjoni, izda fuq mbagħad Facebook il-ministru habbar li mill-ġdid kien se jikkontesta għax kien għad baqa' hafna xogħol xi jsir.

Bartolo, li huwa wiehed mill-akar deputati parlamentari li ilhom iservu fil-Parlament qal, "Issa nħalli f'idejn il-votanti jekk iridux itellghuni fil-Parlament biex inkompli nagħti sehmi għall-ġid tal-poplu tagħna," kiteb Bartolo. "Irid nġid grazzi lill-eluf ta' votanti li dejjem tellghuni fil-Parlament fis-seba' Elezzjonijiet Ġenerali li saru mill-1992 'l hawn."

Min-naħa l-oħra l-Partit Nazzjonalista ħa daqqa ta' harta meta bħala sajjetta fil-bnazzi, id-deputata Therese Comodini Cachia habbret uffiċjalment li ma kienetx se tkontesta l-elezzjoni.

L-ewwel li hargħet bl-aħbar kienet "The Times" li kkwotat lil Comodini Cachia tgħid, "Partisan polarised parliamentary politics is not the best outfit for me to wear to be able to continue striving for a better place with a fairer community," u għalhekk ma kienetx se tikkontesta.

Ta' min ifakkar li qabel, Comodini Cachia kienet MEP, izda mbagħad ikkontestat l-elezzjoni għall-Parlament Malti u ġiet eletta. Kienet inqalġet polemika shiħa meta oriġinarjament, meta ġiet eletta kienet stqarret li kellha ċċedi posta fil-Parlament biex iżomm dak fl-Unjoni Ewropeja. Izda wara kritika harxa għal din il-mossa, bidlet fehmitha u haċet postha fil-Parlament Malti.

Comodini Cachia kienet ukoll imdeffsa sew fit-tneħħija ta' Adrian Delia minn kap tal-PN, tant li saħansitra kienet ġiet proposta biex tiehu post Delia bħala Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni meta l-grupp Parlamentari Nazzjonalista kien ipprova jneħħih minn Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni.



Bernard Grech







## A quick glimpse at Australia



# NZ refugee offer for Australia

**H**ome Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said the Morrison Government was in ongoing discussions with New Zealand about resettlement options for refugees who were previously held in detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru.

New Zealand first offered to accept 150 refugees from offshore detention in 2013. Since then, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has repeatedly said the offer remains on the table. But New Zealand Immigration Minister Kris Faafoi said that the offer "still stands".

Former Manus Island detainee Behrouz Boochani said the Government should urgently accept New Zealand's offer to resettle the refugees, many of whom have spent eight years in immigration detention.

Mr Boochani said "any consideration to accept the New Zealand offer is a good sign" but it should be progressed quickly "because eight years is too many".

Mr Boochani, a Kurdish journalist and writer, was among hundreds of men detained on Manus Island after fleeing persecution in Iran. He now lives in New Zealand after six years of detention.

According to the latest government figures, 239 asylum seekers remain in Nauru and in Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby, after Australia's detention centre on Manus Island was shut down.

More than 1200 "transitory persons" remain in limbo in on-shore detention and in the Australian community after being transferred to the mainland.

# Apology comes after 40 years of waiting

**S**urvivors of Aboriginal forced removal policies have signed a deal for compensation and apology 40 years after suffering sexual and physical abuse at the Garden Point Catholic Church mission on Melville Island, north of Darwin.

Darwin Maltese Bishop Charles Gauci (*pictured right*) said on behalf of the diocese he apologised to those who were abused at Garden Point.

"I am profoundly sad that hurt was done to you while you were under the care of the Church. This hurt should never have happened," he said.

"We cannot undo the wrongs of the past but I hope we can now walk together on a journey of healing."

A group of 42 survivors took civic action against the church and Commonwealth in the Northern Territory Supreme Court.

Garden Point survivors, many of whom travelled to Darwin from all over Australia, agreed to settle the case, and received an informal apology from representatives of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in a private session.



# Undermining relations

**S**enator Penny Wong has accused Prime Minister Scott Morrison of undermining Australia's relationship with China by acting recklessly for domestic political gain.

Labour's foreign affairs spokesperson - says too much of the discussion on China is "frenzied, afraid and lacking context" - and that "more strategy" and "less politics" is required in Australia's foreign policy approach.

Mr Morrison had failed to understand the complexity of Australia's relationship with China. "My concern is that not only does he not fully comprehend Australia's interests in relation to China, but he doesn't even seek to.

"As with everything else he does, he only seeks to understand his political opportunity. It's always about the domestic political advantage." Senator Wong said.

# State of Victoria once again eases restrictions

**A**fter the last seven-day circuit-breaker, its fourth lockdown since the coronavirus began, the State of Victoria has eased restrictions. Under the new rules, the five reasons to leave the home will no longer apply to metropolitan Melbourne, with the 10-kilometre radius limit to be increased to 25.

Schools resumed face-to-face learning from last Friday, community sport has resumed for all ages,

m a s k s  
are no  
longer  
required indoors unless  
people cannot maintain  
a 1.5-metre distance,  
and restaurants and  
cafes reopened for  
seated service with up  
to 100 people per venue



and a maximum of 50 people inside.

Emma Cassar, the head of COVID-19 Quarantine Victoria, (*pictured left*) says the latest incident is unlikely to be the reason for the Delta variant spreading. Victoria's deadly second wave of COVID-19 last year was sparked from leaks in hotel quarantine, leading to a major overhaul of the system.

"Everyone should be absolutely proud of what we have all achieved together," Acting Premier James Merlino said. "But we know this isn't over yet, and until we have widespread vaccination across Victoria and across our country, the virus will still be with us.

"We can't let complacency creep in, and I am asking everyone to keep doing the right thing."

Mr Merlino announced a further \$8.36 million to support impacted business. The State of Victoria has the largest Maltese community in Australia.

## 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](mailto:Maltesevoice@gmail.com)



A quick glimpse at Australia

# Two Malta-born receive OAM on Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List

**T**he Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List just announced by General David Hurley, the Governor-General of Australia includes two awardees that have declared themselves as being born in Malta. They are, Dr Antoinette Catherine ANAZADO OAM nee Darmanin and Joseph Vincent FARRUGIA OAM.

Dr Antoinette Catherine ANAZADO OAM nee Darmanin was born in Attard, Malta of a Maltese mother and Nigerian father. She arrived in Australia in 2004 and lives in Fairlight NSW.

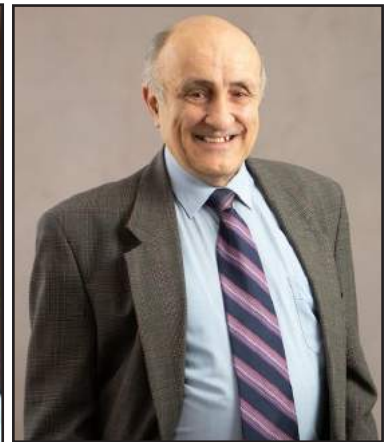
She trained in Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology in the United Kingdom and completed her training with a clinical fellowship in the Kids Cancer Centre at Sydney Children's Hospital. During her training and fellowship, Dr Anazodo completed a postgraduate diploma in Adolescent Oncology.

Joseph Vincent FARRUGIA OAM from Gisborne Victoria who was born at Msida was also awarded the OAM for service to the superannuation sector. He came to Australia as a young child in 1953. He is the son of Lawrence, who is still alive, and Iris deceased.

FARRUGIA was the Director 1999-2019 for Fund Executive Association Ltd, company secretary, Catholic Super Fund/My Life my Money 1995-2019, and member of ASFA and AIST.



Dr Antoinette Catherine Anazado



Mr Joseph Vincent Farrugia

There may be others of Maltese descent in the Honours list. If you are aware of them please let us know.

The awards are announced twice a year, on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday and Australia Day. This year, the current list is recognising 1,190 Australians. They include 947 recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia

(5 AC, 50 AO, 252 AM, and 640 OAM); 33 recipients of awards in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (1 AO, 14 AM, and 18 OAM); 139 meritorious awards and 71 Gallantry, Distinguished and Conspicuous awards.

This list also includes 63 Australians recognised for their contribution in support of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

General David Hurley said, "I am pleased that this list includes the highest ever percentage of women (44 per cent) recognised through the General Division of the Order of Australia."

"It is important that the Order of Australia represents the diversity and strength of Australia – for this to happen we need to ensure outstanding women, members of our multicultural community, and First Nations people are nominated by their peers in the community".

## Chris Minns is the new NSW Labor leader

**C**hris Minns the Kogarah MP replaced Jodi McKay as the NSW Labor Party leader. Mr Minns was first elected to state parliament in 2015 and has had roles in the shadow cabinet as spokesman for water, corrections, and transport issues.

Mr Minns said beating Ms Gladys Berejiklian at the polls at the next state election would be a "huge task" and one that he would approach by focusing on policy instead of "playing politics".

But well before the next election, in some 21 months Mr Minns's more immediate job will be to heal the party that has fractured openly, culminating in Ms McKay's departure as leader.

Before arriving on Macquarie Street he completed a masters in public policy at Princeton University USA. He is also defending a wafer-thin margin of 1.7 per cent on his own seat of Kogarah.

The 41-year-old is curren-

tly living in Sans Souci in Sydney's south with wife of 17 years, Anna, and their three children. When he is not in Parliament or working in his electorate, Mr Minns says his time is "mainly kid-focused."

He is Catholic and attends church every Sunday, but says it is a private part of his life. "I've never evangelised about it."



Chris Minns MP



## Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



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

*X'aktarx li l-kittieb tal-lum huwa wieħed mill-aktar versatili u kkuluriti minn fost dawk kollha li ttrattajna f'din is-sensjela. Charles Flores mhux biss hu awtur tal-kotba, imma kien u għadu meqjus bħala ġurnalista li għadda minn kull*

*fergħa ta' din il-professjoni. Kemm jekk fi kmamar tal-aħbarijiet, fosthom tad-DOI, editorjali, u x-xandir nazzjonali, u saħansitra tal-isports. Hu wkoll korrispondent regolari ta' diversi ġurnali u rivisti internazzjonali.*

## CHARLES FLORES – awtur prolifiku u varjat, u ġurnalista ta' stoffa

Charles Flores twieled il-Kalkara f'Marzu tal-1948 u studja fis-St Albert the Great College, De la Salle College u l-Università ta' Malta minn fejn iġġradwa fit-Teologija. Huwa miżżewweġ lil Margaret imwiolda Ciantar u għandhom żewġ ulied: Rona u Davida.

Charles mhux wieħed minn dawk li jista' wisq jahbi t-talenti tiegħu. Ewlenin fost dawn hemm il-kitba u l-ġurnaliżmu. Fis-Snin Sittin kien wieħed mill-ko-fundaturi tal-Moviment Qawmien Letterarju li kien beda jfassal triqat għodda fil-qasam tal-letteratura Maltija u l-mod għdid kif għandha tiġi ppreżentata lill-massa. Hu kien l-ewwel uffiċjal għar-relazzjonijiet pubbliċi tal-moviment.

Li kellek tfisser hajtu u hidmietu fi ftit kliem, tgħid li hu membru tal-Akkademja tal-Malti, kittieb ta' bosta xoghlijiet ġurnalistiċi u letterarji f'ġurnali u rivisti Maltin u barranin, kif ukoll għadd għmielu ta' versi għal kanzunetti Maltin. Hu awtur ta' diversi kotba bil-Malti u bl-Ingħliż u kellu poeziji tiegħu li nqalbu wkoll għat-Taljan, l-Għarbi, il-Franċiż, l-Albaniż, u s-Serbo-Kroat. Fl-1996 rebah l-ewwel premju fil-*Commonwealth Short Story Competition* għar-reġjun tal-Ewropa u l-Kanada.

Flores beda l-karriera ġurnalistika tiegħu mal-gazzetti tal-Union Press, *l-Orizzont* u *l-Malta News* fejn hadem f'diversi dipartimenti fosthom fil-kamra tal-aħbarijiet, il-fergħa editorjali u fl-isports. Minn hemm għadda għall-kamra tal-aħbarijiet tad-DOI u wara għall-qasam tax-xandir nazzjonali.

Tul aktar minn 26 sena ma' Xandir Malti huwa mexxa taqsimiet varji, fosthom tal-Aħbarijiet, tar-Radju, tar-Reklami, tal-Publikazzjoni u tal-Arkivji. Charles għadu sal-lum korrispondent regolari ta' diversi ġurnali u rivisti internazzjonali fejn seta' jespri dak li studja fil-ġurnaliżmu stampat u l-hidma mal-aġenziji tal-aħbarijiet fl-Istitut tal-Ġurnaliżmu ta' Belgrad, l-eks-Jugoslavja, u l-aħbarijiet għar-radju u t-televiżjoni f'Syracuse University ta' New York, l-Istati Uniti.

Charles Flores hu magħruf ukoll għall-kitba kreattiva tiegħu, fl-1969 fl-antologija *Kalejdoskopju*, flimkien ma' Pawlu Cachia u Charles Xuereb, deher l-ewwel xrar poetiku tiegħu. Minn dakinhar 'l hawn baqa' jsostni l-impenn tiegħu fil-qasam tal-letteratura Maltija b'kotba ta' ġeneri differenti. Dan baqa' jagħmlu minkejja x-xogħol tiegħu ta'

xandar, artikolista, u għal xi snin anki President tal-Kumitat għar-Riabilitazzjoni tal-Kottonera.

Charles kiteb għadd ta' kotba bi stejjer u rumanzi pjuttost umoristiċi li jittelmu dwar karattri mhux raffinati, u li jitttrattaw karattri mid-dinja tal-antenati tagħna, ta' nies bieżla u onesti li għmielhom bdew jiskarsaw fis-soċjetà tallum. Fost dawn hemm *Gierku ma jmut qatt* li ppubblikah fl-2005 u li fih uża l-lingwaġġ tal-istess karattri.

Interessanti hafna wkoll il-kteb li hareġ għaxar snin wara, fl-2015, *Il-Lingwa tad-DingDong*, b'Victor Fenech jgħid li bih Flores wera li kien għadu jhewden bl-isfumaturi u l-izbalji komuni fil-Malti mill-Maltin stess u kien jgħaqqad kritika helwa u rqiqa dwar l-użu tal-Malti mill-Maltin fi kwartieri differenti.

### **Kburi b'rahal twelidu, il-Kalkara**

Charles Flores huwa wkoll kittieb tajjeb bl-Ingħliż. Fost dawn għandu l-kteb investigattiv dwar it-tragedja ta' Lockerbie f'Diċembru tal-1988 meta bomba qerdet il-Pan Am Flight 103 li halliet 259 vittma bejn passigieri u ekwipaġġ. Il-kteb, *Shadows of Lockerbie*, kien ġie maqlub għall-Franċiż, ir-Russu, l-Ispanjol u l-Għarbi.

Il-kittieb mill-Kalkara kellu wkoll għadd ta' ġabriet qosra ta' poezija li l-artist topografiku Rigby Graham hariġlu f'*Leicestershire: Correspondences* (1973) u *A Voice from Kalkara* (1974), it-tejn b'dis-inji tal-istess Graham. Imma fost il-kotba li hareġ f'Malta u li jgħożż hafna hemm *Waqtiet Kalkariżi*, li bih jagħti tislma għażiża lis-subborg ta' twelidu, il-Kalkara fejn tkebbstu t-tifkiriet nostalgici tiegħu.

Kteb iehor li bih juri wkoll dak li jhoss għal rahal twelidu huwa dak mitbugħ fl-2019, *Balluta Blues* li huwa mfisser bħala "għanqud poetiku mimli memorji u riflessjonijiet fuq hajtu u fuq is-soċjetà li twieled u trabba fiha u li issa, bl-arloġġ dejjem itektek, wasal iż-żmien ta' analizi matura, personali u soċjali bla kantunieri".



Mhux ta' b'xejn li fl-2013 Flores ġie mogħti "*Gieħ il-Kalkara*" u fl-2017 ġie wkoll maħtur bħala Membru tal-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Meritu (Gieħ ir-Repubblika).

Fost il-poeziji ta' Flores ta' min isemmi hemm *Qamar il-Vikingi* li fih jgħarbel il-passat tiegħu f'tiftix għall-imqadef li darba mexxew id-dghajjes tal-gwerra tal-Vikingi, u *Ċrieki ta' Hobza u Sardina* li permezz tal-poezija grafika jagħti stampa tal-imghoddi. Filwaqt li f'*Hamiem u Gawwi* jagħti għarfien għall-importanza tal-Kottonera bħala sit bikri tal-antenati tagħna.

Fil-poezija *Tsunami* u oħrajn tal-2018, hemm analiżi u wkoll meditazzjoni dwar il-hajja, fuq il-bniedem, fuq żminijietna, u juri wkoll li jemmen li hafna drabi l-hajja saret *Bomba tal-Hin* "ittektek bla waqfien", li "l-elettronika qed tikolna" (*L-Ewwel Wahda*), li wisq prinċipji tajbin qed jitwarrbu, mill-ġurnali tal-lum (*Fuq l-Istess Paġna*).

Charles Flores għadda minn esperjenzi varji. Dwar bosta minnhom jkteb fir-rumanz semi-awtobijografiku tiegħu, *Arloġġ ta' Darba*, fejn isemmi, pereżempju, l-uġigh li tmur Victoria Station, Londra, biex tiltaqa' ma' missieriek li jkun halliek żgħir għax għal raġunijiet tiegħu jmur jgħix fl-Ingilterra. Imbagħad fil-poezija li tibda *Aw, Da ...* jsemmi kif f'Gunju tal-2006 hass id-dmir li jitlea f'Gillingham, Kent, biex jassisti għad-difna ta' missieru.

Dan l-aħhar Charles għadu kemm tana kteb għdid – *Kwarantina* (traduzzjoni mill-Ingliż tal-kteb *Quarantine* ta' Jim Crace.

## Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – *My Nineties*

# The dawn of the information age



Joseph Lanzon

The nineties were the last ten years of the 19th Century before the beginning of a new millennium in 2000. This period is often considered as the dawn of the information age. It saw the beginning of the widespread proliferation of the web media through the Internet.

The DVD, incorporating full-length films on CD size discs, was introduced. It is also considered as a relatively peaceful and quiet time in international affairs occurring after the end of the cold war since 1945.

On August 2, 1990 Iraqi forces invaded their tiny, oil-rich neighbour, Kuwait. It was a dreadful day for both Gulf countries. In 1991 the Iraqis were pushed back to their own land by UN forces in operation code-named Desert Storm in what became known as the Gulf War.

That same year the Soviet Union was dissolved, most of its satellites declared their independence and this effectively spelled the end of the cold war between the Western and Eastern.

It had been a cold war that caused so much tension among nations; Jackie Kennedy dies of cancer in 1994 at the age of 64. Her bloodstained pink Chanel suit had become a symbol of her husband's assassination and one of the lasting images of the 1960's. In 1996 Dolly the sheep was the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell using the process of nuclear transfer.

In 1997 Britain's Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hung up her handbag and the era of Labour's Tony Blair began. That same year Diana, the Princess of Wales, wife of Prince Charles, died in a car crash in Paris. Millions mourned her; the Pathfinder lands on Mars and sends clear pictures of the face of the planet.

In 1998 US President Bill Clinton was almost impeached for lying about his sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, and in 1999 Mother Teresa of Calcutta died of old age. She was a world famous missionary who helped thousands of people in under developed countries.

The year 1999 also marked the tragic death in a plane crash in the Atlantic ocean of John F Kennedy Jnr, eldest son of the for-



Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait ... resulting in the first Gulf War

mer 35th President of the United States of America.

The Aids disease spreads worldwide and claims the lives of thousands of victims among which were personalities from the entertaining world, from the film and music industries. They included film star Rock Hudson and singer Bobby Mercury.



Dr Alfred Sant

During this the top films were, 'The Lion King', 'Star Wars', 'Titanic', 'Evita' and 'Dance with Wolves, while Sandra Bullock, Jim Carey, Cameron Diaz, Jodie Foster, Demi Moore, Bruce Willis, Brad Pitt and Tom Hanks were the most popular film stars.

The most followed in the music world were, Celine Dione, Madonna, Mariah Carey, Shania Twain, Bruce Springsteen, the Spice Girls and U2. 'My heart will go on' by Celine Dione and 'Streets of Philadelphia' by Bruce Springsteen were my favourite songs.

The first year of this decade, 1990 In Malta was dominated by the 'Save On' tragedy at Pawla that claimed the life of two people, one of whom was a very close friend of our family.

In 1992, following the resignation of Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, the Malta Labour Party elected Dr Alfred Sant, an established write and politician, as its leader and four years later he led the MLP to an unexpected victory with a one-seat majority in the 1996 General Election.

However, Sant's tenure as Prime Minister lasted only 22 months when former party leader Dom Mintoff's vote over a coastal concession to a private company resulted in the Government being defeated on the motion. Sant felt that the government's parliamentary majority was compromised and requested the President to dissolve the House.

Subsequently, in September 1998 snap elections were held and the Labour Party was defeated, to let in the Nationalist Party to return to power.

On May 2, 1999 famous British actor Oliver Reed died from a heart attack in a pub in Valletta during a break from filming Gladiators.

In my little world, we suffered the death of several members of our two families, notably those of Liz's parents; Sean Lee makes his First Holy Communion and starts his academic path.

I attained the official retiring age of 61 but continued to hold the chairmanship of HCEB; Liz and I visited America for the first time in our lives and thus one of my childhood dreams was fulfilled.

*\*to be continued in the next issue*



Oliver Reed

### The era of the dvd player







**Mill-Gżira  
Għawdxija**

**Charles Spiteri**



L-impjant f'Hondoq  
ir-Rummien, il-Qala

Waqt żjara lill-impjant. *Mix-xellug*: Il-Ministri Clint Camilleri u Miriam Dalli, is-Seg. Par. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi u s-CEO KSI Ivan Falzon

## L-ewwel impjant *Reverse Osmosis* f'Għawdex

**R**iesaq lejn tmiemu l-ewwel impjant tar-*Reverse Osmosis* f'Hondoq ir-Rummien il-Qala taht it-tmexxija tal-Korporazzjoni għas-Servizzi tal-Ilma (KSI), investiment ta' €11-il miljun maħsub biex itejjeb l-aċċess, il-provvista u l-kwalità tal-ilma għar-residenti Għawdxin u li mis-tenni jibda jahdem sa tmiem dis-sena.

Skont tagħrif mogħti waqt żjara fuq il-post

mill-Ministru għall-Energija, l-Intrapriża u l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli Miriam Dalli, il-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri u s-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi thabbar li l-impjant se jkun jipproduċi 9,000 metru kubu ta' ilma kuljum u permezz ta' sistema 'fully-automated' se jkun ikkontrollat u operat minn siti remoti tal-KSI.

Permezz tal-impjant li hu parzjalment if-finanzjat minn fondi Ewropej, għandha titjeb hafna l-kwalità tal-ilma għall-Għawdxin, filwaqt li l-gżira ma tibqax dipendenti fuq l-impjanti ta' Malta.

L-impjant, li se jkun qed jagħmel użu minn pompi moderni li jikkunsuaw inqas enerġija qed isir hija binja antika li giet ir-restawrata.

## Fil-knisja ta' Loreto qed jitkompla x-xogħol li beda 99 sen'ilu

**I**x-xogħol fuq il-bini ta' wahda mis-sagristiji tal-knisja iddedikata lill-Madonna Ta' Loreto f'Għansielem, miexi b'ritmu mghagħgel, tant li beda x-xogħol fuq l-armor tas-soqfa u tkompla fuq il-garigori. Qed isir ix-xogħol ta' thammil u nfetħ ukoll l-hajt tal-kor biex iservi għall-orgni.

Ta' min jgħid li l-bini fuq din il-knisja kien beda fl-1922, imma kellu jiegħaf fl-1935 biex issokta bejn l-1955 u l-1979. Imma din il-parti tal-knisja baqgħet kif thalliet fl-1935.

Biex ikompli mal-pjanta originali, id-disinni kollha, inkluz tal-gebel, il-lavur u l-istruttura generali huma f'idejn id-disnjatur tal-gebel Vincent Centorrino

Noel Gallo qed jiehu hsieb il-proġett tal-orgni li qed jgħaqqad dan ix-xogħol biex ikun jista' jiehu wkoll l-orgni kbir li se jiġi nstallat fuq medda ta' 90 metru kwadru.

Minbarra l-orgni l-proġett se jgħaqqad il-bini kollu tal-knisja u jagħti aċċess għal wara l-presbiterju biex ikun hemm faċilitajiet ta' sagristija, aċċessibilita' għall-per-

suni li jużaw il-wheelchair saħansitra għal fuq il-presbiterju, *crying room* u spazji oħra.

Il-perit responsabbli mill-bini huwa Sav-iour Micallef, filwaqt li John Farrugia

flimkien mal-grupp tiegħu qed jiehu xogħol il-bini. Il-gebel kollu meħtieġ għall-bini huwa kważi mhejji kollu.

Fuq: **Dehra minn għewwa kif ġeja l-kamra tal-orgni u l-kamra ta' maġenbha.**



## Tat-Traffiku jagħmlu xogħolhom

**I**s-Sezzjoni tal-Pulizija tat-Traffiku f'Għawdex għad-dejja b'ħidma sfiqa biex tnaddaf il-gżira mill-vetturi ta' kull għamla li jinsabu abbandunati (*xellug*).

Hafna minn dawn il-vetturi jinsabu fi stat tajjeb imma li ma thalsitilhomx il-liċenzja. Minkejja li minn żmien qabel jitwāhħlu magħhom avvizi biex is-sidien jieħdu hsieb jimxu mar-regolamenti xorta jinjoraw l-avvizi.



# Se jkollna ċ-ċekkjur bil-Malti

**H**afta Maltin, l-aktar u l-aktar dawki li ilhom żmien twil jgħixu barra minn Malta, kemm għax emigraw meta kienu żgħar, inkella għax jahdmu barra l-pajjiż, ikunu jixtiequ, imma jsibuh bi tqila li wara tant snin jibqgħu jtkellmu, imma, l-aktar li jiktbu bl-Malti.

Imma mhux huma biss. Hemm hafta Maltin f'Malta li huma wkoll isibuh bi tqila, jew iħossuhom skomdi għax ma jkunux jixtiequ li jagħmlu żbalji, allura jkun aktar faċli għalihom li jiktbu bl-Ingliż.

Minn kemm ilna nippubblikaw dan il-magazine, huma hafta l-Maltin li jgħixu barra li ta' sikwit juru l-apprezzament tagħhom lejna talli minkejja l-fatt li għax jgħixu f'pajjiżi fejn huma minoranza, u għalhekk uffiċjalment il-Malti ma jaqrawh imkien hliet f'xi *email* minghand qrabathom, f'din ir-rivista jsibu wkoll artikli bil-Malti x'jaqraw.

Mhux l-ewwel darba li jgħidu kemm jixtiequ li wliedhom li twieldu f'dawn il-pajjiżi barranin u fejn ġeneralment jitrabbew, u bir-raġun, midhla tal-Ingliż, għax dak hu l-ilsien tal-post, jtgħallmu wkoll, mhux biss jtkellmu, imma wkoll li jiktbu l-Malti.

L-ilsien Malti mhux faċli li jinkiteb. Fih hafta regoli u ma nkun qed ngħid xejn ta' barra minn hawn, li ġieli anke f'kitbiet uffiċjali, kemm minn dipartimenti tal-Gvern u wkoll uffiċċji ta' ċerta stoffa, u forsi ġieli anke aħna stess ġieli ssib l-iżbalji.

Din hi wkoll waħda mir-raġunijiet li ċerti ċirkolarijiet jinkitbu bl-Ingliż, kemm biex jiġu evitati l-iżbalji kif ukoll għax l-Ingliż huwa lingwa franka u kważi jifhemu



**Il-Ministru José Herrera jniedi l-konsultazzjoni biex fl-aħħar ikollna ċ-ċekkjur Malti kulhadd.**

Fi kważi l-ilsna kollha, dawki li jużaw il-kompjuter isubuha wkoll ehfef għax kif ilestu l-kitba jistgħu b'mod awtomatiku jikkoreġu permezz tal-maġħruf *spell checker* (ċekkjur) biex minghandhom il-kitba toħroġ perfetta, jew kważi.

Fil-Malti, s'issa ma kellniex dan il-vantaggj... imma se jkollna wkoll, għax il-Gvern għadu kif nieda konsultazzjoni mas-suq għal dan iċ-ċekkjur tal-ortografija u l-grammatika Maltija.

Fosi mhux wisq il-bogħod li dan iwassal biex fl-ilsien Malti miktub ikollna dan iċ-ċekkjur fuq pjattaforma diġitali bhal

kull ilsien ieħor internazzjonali.

Skont il-Ministru għall-Kultura José Herrera li nieda dan waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet, din il-konsultazzjoni, li tagħlaq sal-aħħar ta' Ġunju, għandha twassal, u bir-raġun, biex fl-era diġitali l-lingwa Maltija miktuba tibqa' haġja u tkun tista' tiżviluppa bhal dik ta' haddiehor.

Il-Ministru fisser li dan għandu jkun pass kbir 'l quddiem. Sostna li dak li hemm nieqes mil-lingwa Maltija bħalissa hija t-teknika moderna, fis-sens, li m'hemm pjaforma ta' intelliġenza artifiċjali tat-teknoloġija, biex tippromovi l-lingwa.

Herrera qal li dan hu pass li l-gvern ried jiehu biex iwassal li jingħata futur lil-lingwa Maltija. Hu tal-fehma li bl-iżviluppi diġitali u teknoloġiċi l-gvern ried jagħraf l-oportunitajiet, u jinsab impenjat halli jiżviluppa l-ghodod neċessarji marbuta mal-użu tal-lingwa Maltija.

Min-naha tiegħu, l-Uffiċjal Ewlieni tal-Infurmazzjoni tal-ministeru, Donald Mangion li qed jiehu hsiieb din l-inizjattiva flimkien ma' oħrajn qal li wara tmiem il-konsultazzjoni jsir rapport halli jkun żgur li iċ-ċekkjur ikun tal-ogħla livell.

Anzi fisser li l-ghan aħhari huwa li jkun hemm pedamenti sodi u soluzzjoni li bihom nistgħu nintegraw fiha soluzzjonijiet aktar u li dak li għandu x'jaqşam mal-lingwa Maltija jkun l-uffiċjali.

Hemm oħrajn li wkoll qed jagħtu s-sehem tagħhom, fosthom il-Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA), il-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni, u l-Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA).

## Vital Youth Forum – *I want to connect*

**A**t this momentous time, speaking about globalisation and the eradication of borders is merely a rapidly evolving reality that is affecting each and every one of us.

In this regard, the significance of being Maltese takes a universal dimension, not only because it is supposed to be so, but more so because it has always been like that,

and what we are doing now is the result of past decisions which we need to understand, appreciate, and use to move forward.

Being Maltese is foremost because we are citizens of the world, and are citizens of the world because we happen to be connected to a cultural reality in our case is Malta.

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs invites Maltese youths to fill in a ques-

tionnaire ahead of the 1st Virtual Youth Forum, aimed to connect by sharing of ideas to be able to build a better future together.

The survey, which asks the readers if they want to connect with Youth of Maltese Descent around the world will take approximately four minutes to complete.

The input of those being a first, second, third or fourth generation Maltese Youth not living in Malta, is being welcomed to hold a Virtual Youth Forum on the future national strategy for the Maltese diaspora taking into account the changing times and the importance of connectivity with other youths of Maltese descent.

Youths of Maltese descent living abroad are being invited to participate and fill the form "Virtual Youth Forum - I WANT TO CONNECT" and to fill the questionnaire that can be found through this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/k1jm-mnMwD6>.

Preferences should reach the Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad (DCSMLA) by not later than Friday 18th June. For any further information, the DCSMLA can be reached by mail on [malteselivingabroad@mfea.gov.mt](mailto:malteselivingabroad@mfea.gov.mt).

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## Vale

### Sister Mary Ann Grima 1938 – 2021

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of one of the NSW Maltese community's most active social workers. Sister Mary Ann Grima FMM became the first Grant-in-Aid worker in 1979-1982 with the La Vallette Social Centre through the Department of Immigration.

She is best known as the founder of the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day, now a feature of the Maltese Community calendar. Her work with the Maltese community especially women and the family is a legend.

She died peacefully at the age of 83 following a very long illness for the last eight years, on 30th May at the Our Lady of Consolation Aged Care Facility in Rooty Hill, NSW.

Mary Ann Grima, daughter of Liberto and Maria from Pawla, Malta, migrated to NSW in January 1962. Six months later, she joined the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and started her novitiate at Mittagong with the final profession in March 1971. With a certificate in Social Welfare, she worked for nine years with



the Catholic Emigration Office.

Her next post, described as her best years in her religious life was from 1975 to 1978 and again from 1983 to 1986, in Papa New Guinea.

In Melbourne, she attended Monash University and graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work but was then transferred to Brisbane. Back in Sydney, she became the Maltese Bilingual Counsellor with the Department of Health where she served for 13 years working mostly with the Maltese community.



### Gerry Debono 1933-2021

It is with great sadness to announce the passing away of Gerry Debono on Friday 14th May, aged 88 years. He was born in Sliema, Malta on 14th May 1933, the son of Raphael and Vincenza.

He served in the army (RMA) from 1951 to 1962. He married Maria Dolores in 1954 and had one daughter Doreen. In 1963 they migrated to Australia.

Jerry was an incredibly talented man. His skills excelled in all types of woodwork. He was a kind-hearted and generous man, who shared his artistic wood and painting skills by doing work for churches.

Examples of his work are to be found at the Our Lady of Victories in East Sydney and the Mater Dei Church in Blakehurst, where he renovated the full-size statues of the Nativity.

He was an active member of the Maltese Past Pupils & Friends of Don Bosco Association and an avid reader of *The Voice of the Maltese*. RIP

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

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

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

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

## 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 Scicluna

### 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](http://www.3zzz.com.au). Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

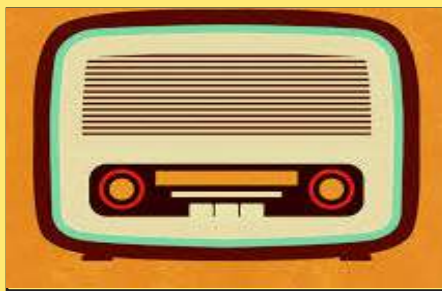
**MELBOURNE:** on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

### On SBS Radio

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

(To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV..)

**SYDNEY:** listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti



mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On Demand on I-Internet: [www.893fm.com.au](http://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](http://sbs.com.au/maltese) (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

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

**SBS MALTESE NEWS:** L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Chan-

nel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

### Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF

**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](mailto:malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com)



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

**Chef's Lounge** is open Thursdays and Saturdays for lunch and dinner.

**Boċċi 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 events: a):** June 27: 10am onwards: L-Imnarja: Feast of St Peter & St Paul, fwth music, ghana; jumping castle & free popcorn for kids; Maltese Concert Band; Maltese food and drinks; exhibition of vegetables, fruit, birds and crafts.

Those wishing to be exhibit should contact the centre or Joe Abela on 0416971484.

**b):** Sunday July, 25: popular Elvis impersonator Chris Drummond will present his show 'Welcome to My World' with Neville Zammit on Keyboard, from 2-6pm.

Kitchen & bar open from 12noon.

Tickets at \$20 are available from Antoinette 96712992, Frances 0412320432

## L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

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



### Events for 2021

Sunday July 4: L-Imnarja

Sunday October 17: Fete

Sat. November 14: Dinner Dance

Sun. December 5: Festa San Nikola





## Hamrun banned from Europe participation

Malta Premier League football champions Hamrun Spartans' hopes of taking part in the forthcoming UEFA competitions, through the Champions League were dashed when the European Football Union first declared them ineligible to participate and then also turned down their appeal to participate in the coming season's competition. UEFA's ruling follows the Spartans' involvement in a match-fixing case dating back to season 2012-13 season when they were found guilty as charged and two committee members were handed a life ban.

However, Hamrun are now consulting their lawyers to see if they could file an appeal in front of the Court of Arbitration of Sport in Lausanne. That would be their only hope.

In the meantime, this has not deterred their plans to spend a week-long training camp in Austria in preparation for the 2021-21 season, a period they had hoped could have served them as warm up for their participation in a European competition after 30 years.

Following this ruling, last season's Premier League runners-up Hibernians will replace Hamrun in the Champions League, while Gżira United, Birkirkara and Mosta (for the first time) play in the UEFA Conference League.

## Parramatta are back to winning ways

Parramatta FC (Melita Eagles) managed back-to-back wins in the last two rounds of the NSW NPL4 to climb back into third place where they share the position.

After their 14th round win at St. Marys when they returned to winning ways after six matches without a win at the end of a solid 3-0 victory over Nepean FC, last Saturday they secured a comfortable 5-1 victory over Western NSW FC at Melita Stadium.

Against Nepean they got all their goals in the first half, from a Michael Fakiye header (18th min), Zoran Kolundzic (34th) and an own goal (44th).

Then on Saturday against Western NSW FC The Eagles found themselves a goal before levelling through Santiago Rodriguez and then going ahead through an own goal for a 2-1 interval lead.

In the second half they gave a strong performance and scored three more times through new signing Sallu Kamara (59th min.) and a double from Clement Waoci (64th, 85th) that ensured an all-important three points.

## AFTER 24 weeks and 158 games, it's time to get down to business

The elimination finals last weekend of the A-League 2021 Finals Series in Australia in a season dubbed by many experts as the best for years, resulted in wins for Central Macarthur FC and Adelaide United who thus qualified to the semi-finals stage.

In the elimination finals hosts Central Coast were defeated in extra time 2-0 by Macarthur FC who scored the all-important goals through Stefna Nigro on 93 minutes and Michael Ruhs one minute into added time.

In the other match, Adelaide Utd won after through with a 2-1 win over Brisbane Roar thanks to a double from Tomi Juric



Matthew Abela

Maltese contingent at the forthcoming XXXII Games of the Olympiad in Tokyo scheduled between July 23 and August 8.

## Badminton player is second Maltese athlete for Olympics

Abad - Aminton player, Matthew Abela is the second Maltese athlete to be confirmed to form part of the Mal-

uled between July 23 and August 8.

Abela will be the first Maltese athlete to compete in Badminton at the Games since their introduction in 1992.

He joins shooter Eleanor Bezzina who was the first to be named. Their participation will be made possible through the IOC Tripartite Commission (invitation places) that offers National Olympic Committees the opportunity to apply to send top athletes in their respective sport who have not managed to qualify.

## Roundup of national teams' football friendlies

Since the last issue, Malta's national football team played another warm up friendly during its training camp in Austria and lost 2-1 against Kosovo in Klagenfurt.

Malta started well but conceded through Rashica after 19 minutes.

After that Kosovo dictated play but Malta still managed to level the score on the stroke of half time through Shaw.

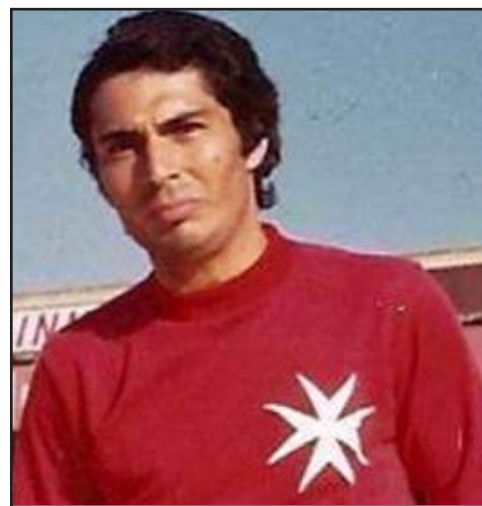
In the second half Kosovo were the better team and netted the winning tally on 84 minutes, once again through Rashica after a lapse by the Malta defenders.

This follows the 0-3 loss against Northern Ireland a few days earlier

The camp was part of 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.

\*Meanwhile, after the loss against Qatar U/23, Malta's U/21 played much better in their second friendly against Bosnia & Herzegovina, but lost 1-0. They also missed a penalty.

\*Malta's ladies' team also was on the losing side in its first international friendly against Montenegro at the Centenary Stadium. Malta lost 2-1



## Former player and coach Edward Aquilina dies at 75

The Maltese football fraternity has been saddened by the news a few days ago of the passing away of former Malta international and Sliema Wanderers' footballer, Edward Aquilina at the age of 75.

During his playing days, Aquilina also played for Pittsburgh Phantoms in the initial years of the Northern American Soccer League in 1967.

When his career as a footballer was over in 1979, Edward, who played 12 times for Malta, pursued a career in coach and had successful spells with Sliema Wanderers and Valletta. He also coached Qormi, Senglea Athletic and Marsa.

## The A-League

in the first 20 minutes. Alex Parsons pulled a goal back.

The spotlight now narrows to the two semi-finals this coming Friday and Saturday. The winners will then contest the Grand Final on June 26

With the highest number of young players featuring in A-League history, this year's Finals Series is presenting a glorious opportunity for young Australian players to make a name for themselves and become heroes.

In the semi-finals, Melbourne City host Macarthur on Friday June 18, while Sydney FC take on Adelaide United a day later. The end of the championship beckons.