



The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

**Issue
259**

**A fortnightly print
and digital magazine**

September 28, 2021

**The Dome of the
Basilica of Our
Lady of Mount
Carmel, Valletta**

*– pictured from
Old Mint Street*



Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge
with the Maltese colours

Maltese in Australia commemorate Independence Day

Malta's High Commissioner of Malta to Australia and New Zealand, H.E.

Mario Farrugia Borg delivered a message on the occasion of the commemoration of Malta Independence Day, the first time he has done so since his appointment.

He said it because of the ongoing pandemic it was not possible to hold the usual celebrations that are usually organised on this special occasion. However, one looks forward hopeful for a time when life returns to new normal and the freedoms that are so dear to us.

He recalled that on 21st September 1964 Malta, which for centuries had been ruled by foreign forces who brought their own agenda and interests, achieved its Independence. He said that Malta had to play the game that was set by others, that had to partake the others' wars.

The HC said that prior to independence Malta did not exist as a sovereign nation and wasn't represented anywhere, as those who colonised the island did not represent Malta's voice nor its needs.

However, 57 years ago this all changed when Malta took its rightful place within the list of free peoples of the world and came into its own as a nation with the right of self-determination of its future and fate, "the right to build its own bilateral relations

with other states".

He said that Maltese interests and the interests of its people came to the fore, and in 1964, the Malta High Commission in Canberra was established to safeguard the welfare of thousands of Maltese who have emigrated to Australia. Then in 1973 the High Commission was also accredited to New Zealand.

"The work of this office remains to nurture bilateral relations with Australia and New Zealand – relations built on solid ground that throughout the years have been strengthened on mutual respect and values.

"On this occasion we also recall the patch to full Maltese sovereignty that did not stop with achieving Independence," the High Commissioner said.

He went on to say that ten years later, on 13th December 1974 Malta became a Republic and appointed its own first Head of State, representing Malta and its people instead of the British crown, while five years later, in 1979, Malta cut all ties with foreign colonial power with the departure of British armed forces from the island.

He said that by doing so, Malta became a truly independent, republic and free nation, and it is also important to note that in 2004

Malta acceded as a full member of the European Union by which it took place on the negotiating table with the bigger and more influential EU member states.

He said, "We are proud that our country has now become one of the most affluent EU member states in multiple sectors.

"There are several reasons to celebrate our path to sovereignty and freedom, a path that has not always been easy. Malta has worked hard to achieve milestones that we can boast of and commemorate today", he said.

HE the High Commissioner also thanked Ms Sandra Micallef, Malta's honorary consul in Brisbane, who took the initiative for organising the celebration for a whole night with the colours of the Maltese flag and illuminating Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge.

He also joined the Deputy High Commissioner, the Consuls General in Melbourne and Sydney, the Honorary Consuls and the members of the staff to wish the Maltese in Australia and New Zealand on this important occasion.

Meanwhile, members of the Maltese community from the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Mackay joined the Honorary Consul in Queensland, Sandra Micallef as a sign of appreciation for the intervention carried out by the Maltese diaspora in Queensland.



Malta's HC in Australia
Mario Farrugia Borg



Sandra Micallef, the Honorary Consul of Queensland
(second left) with members of the Maltese community

The Great Siege of 1565: The holy war that saved Europe



Joseph Buttigieg

Following Martin Debattista's articles in the series, 'Maltese bread that helped win the war' where he described the hunger of the population that was at its worst in August 1942, I can't help thinking the pain and sufferings that our forefathers endured during the Great Siege of 1565.

The sight that met the eyes of the relief force when they entered Birgu was horrifying. The easy victors of the last action realised now at what cost the island had been saved. Birgu and Senglea still smoked and disintegrated from their three months of siege.

Not a single house was undamaged, and in places, the breaches in the walls were so great that it seemed incredible how the soldiers of the "Grande Turke" had failed to penetrate and overwhelm the garrisons. Hardly a man, woman or child, was unmarked by the terrible rigours of the siege.

The maimed and wounded dragged themselves about their shattered fortresses like figures from the dead as if to mock these healthy living soldiers who came to their rescue in the eleventh hour. The ground in front of Birgu still quaked, and chasms opened suddenly as the roofs of the old mine-tunnellings fell in.

They saw the great crumbling breach where the bastion of Castile had gone up on that fateful morning, and as Verdot tells us, "Their hearts were filled with unspeakable anguish"

Bitterly the Maltese might have repented of their willingness to lay their lives for this alien Order of Knightly Christendom! Bitterly, as the farmer contemplated his spoiled and barren fields, he might have thought that even the raids of corsairs like Dragut had never caused such havoc.

After all it was the Knights who had 'invited' the Sultan (Suleiman the Magnificent) to wage war against Malta. And yet

the knowledge that they had been engaged in a Holy War, and that they had helped to save Europe by their efforts, sustained them.

The relief force brought all the provisions that they could spare into two crippled citadels. They brought ashore cloth and bandages for use in the hospital. Their sailors rolled barrels of wine down to refresh the garrisons.

Even at that moment, when Ascanio de la Cerda's men could congratulate themselves on their success over Mustapha's forces, they could see that the victory had been almost won before their arrival.

The vast masses of Turkish dead, now

and glorious reign, met with no reverse so humiliating as his failure in the siege of Malta. To say nothing of the cost of the maritime preparations, the waste of life was prodigious."

Balbi reckons that in the course of the siege, the Turks lost 30,000 men. Verdot, who had access to all the records, agrees with this figure.

This means that if the original armada that left Constantinople was about 40,000, only 10,000 at the most reached home again. These figures do not include Dragut and Hassem's men, which numbered about 4,000 troops.

The news that Malta had gained victory



The siege of St Michael, showing the Christian Knights cut off from the sea and surrounded in their remaining fortresses of Birgu, St Angelo and St Michael.

hastily buried in common graves, the ruined cannons and scattered remnants of the camp at Marsa, told their own tale. It was no army on the point of victory that had left from Malta. It was an army that had already been defeated.

Nearly 250 Knights of the Order had lost their lives, and of those who remained, almost all were badly wounded or crippled for life.

Out of the Spanish and foreign soldiers and the Maltese inhabitants, 7,000 had died in the defence of the island. Out of a garrison force of nearly 9,000, the Grand Master La Valette had only about 600 left, still capable of bearing arms.

W.H. Prescott wrote, "The arms of Suleiman the Magnificent, during his long

and the Sultan defeated brought great relief throughout Europe; ships, horsemen and signal fires carried the good news. From Palermo to Rome to Paris and even London, the bells rang in the churches and cathedrals.

The victory was so significant that in Protestant England, queen Victoria directed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Matthew Parker, to make a form of Thanksgiving three times a week for six weeks after the event.

Malta, "that obscure island", Malta, "that rock of soft sandstone", became known as the "Island of heroes" and the "Bulwark of the Faith". There would never be any further question of Malta being considered of little consequence by the rulers of Europe.

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

Infatuation induced transfers of property may be reversed due to dishonest conduct

by Paul Sant

The increased awareness of elder abuse, and the ease of access to vulnerable persons with online capabilities to look for love, are two significant issues the case of *Gongsun & Paling* shines a spotlight on.

Background

Mr. Paling was a 72-year-old bachelor in February 2009 when he met then 49-year-old Ms. Gongsun.

They entered into a Binding Financial Agreement (BFA) just seven months later in September 2009, which referred to Mr. Paling owning an unencumbered property (his house), and Ms. Gongsun owning about \$12,000 cash at that time.

Terms of the BFA

The BFA gave Ms. Gongsun a correlating increase to the interest she was entitled to of Mr. Paling's house for each year of their relationship, which went to 50% after 5 years.

There was a clause in the BFA stipulating that, regardless of the ultimate length of the relationship, Ms. Gongsun shall not be entitled to claim more than 50% of Mr. Paling's house.

Other events

About six weeks after the BFA, Mr. Paling sold his house for \$895,000 and applied \$660,000 to the purchase of a new house, which was put in Ms. Gongsun's sole name.

Five months after the couple started living in the new house, Mr. Paling signed a Will that left his entire estate to Ms.

Gongsun.

Skipping ahead about seven years, Mr. Paling moved into a nursing home.

Their relationship

In the Supreme Court proceedings, Ms. Gongsun denied being other than a reluctant friend and carer for Mr. Paling.

However Mr. Paling said that at all relevant times, they were in a de facto relationship. It was found that the nature of the relationship was that of a de facto.

Issues dealt with by the Supreme Court

Mr. Paling claimed that he had gifted Ms. Gongsun a 50% interest in the house, and that though it was in her sole name, she held 50% of the house on trust for him.

Alternatively, he said that if court finds he gifted the whole property and there is no part held on trust for me, the whole gift should be set aside as it occurred due to undue influence or unconscionability (dishonesty) on the part of Ms. Gongsun.

Supreme Court findings

1. Mr. Paling was willing to do "whatever Ms. Gongsun asked of him" when she was questioned about his willingness to move to a different suburb, so that Ms. Gongsun would be closer to her son and her boyfriend (who he was not aware she intended to maintain a relationship with).
2. He gifted the house to Ms. Gongsun, as he was elderly, lonely, and infatuated with her, after a short time of knowing her and entirely disregarding his own interests.
3. The BFA entered into 3 months before protected his interests to a degree.
4. Whilst Mr. Paling hoped for a nor-

mal romantic and physical relationship, Ms. Gongsun had no interest in living with or being with Mr. Paling, regarding him as a lonely desperate old man.



Supreme Court decision

In considering legal principles of equity and fairness, the court held that Ms. Gongsun would have retained a benefit that was obtained due to Mr. Paling's infatuation with her, of which she was aware, following a dramatic shift in the protection of Mr. Paling's financial interests in the BFA, which resulted in her owning 100% of the house.

Orders were made declaring that Ms. Gongsun held 50% of her interest in the house on trust for Mr. Paling, and for the sale of the house and distribution of net proceeds.

Ms. Gongsun's appeal

Ms. Gongsun did not agree with that decision and lodged an appeal to the Family Court of Australia.

There were multiple grounds of appeal that the court was not convinced of and the Family Court upheld the Orders made by the Supreme Court, that Mr. Paling had a 50% interest in the house, which Ms. Gongsun held on trust for him, and for the house to be sold.

Who paid for all of this?

Mr. Paling had submitted a Calderbank offer to Ms. Gongsun in April 2020, seeking that she dismiss the Family Court appeal, and offering to give a further \$20,000 of his share of the proceeds of sale of the house to her.

She rejected this offer and the outcome at the conclusion of the court proceedings was more favourable to Mr. Paling than that offer.

The court ordered that Ms. Gongsun pay \$30,000 of Mr. Paling's costs, which would come out of her share of the proceeds of sale of the house.

Conclusion

If something seems awry about a property transfer someone you know has made, or you are concerned that a loved one is being taken advantage of by a person with selfish financial motives, we recommend they obtain legal advice.

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



Riding the waves on Radio for 15 yrs

The selection for the month of September 2021 Personality of the Month, is a cheerful and popular presenter-co-ordinator of one of the few Maltese community radio programmes in NSW. Marthese Caruana also coordinates and presents magazine style programmes featuring Maltese, popular and Italian music.

Marthese Caruana

Her smooth voice and organised presentation can be heard every Sunday from 10 am on 2GLF FM 89.3, first hour with a selection of folk music by our talented Maltese artists and then from 11 am the usual Maltese information style programme presented on behalf of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. Marthese has been involved in radio broadcasting for the last 15 years. She started by reading Maltese novels on Sydney One Radio.

Born in Mellieha, Malta, in 1960, daughter of Joseph and Josephine Fenech from the same village, she was educated at the Maria Regina Secondary at Blata l-Bajda and the Floriana School of Textiles.

Marthese married Paul Caruana at the Sant-warju fuq l-Gholja in 1980, and both immediately emigrated on a flight to Australia.

They are parents to four children, all married. They also have five grandchildren (further two on the way). They live at Mt Vernon in NSW.

Reflecting on her life in Australia, Marthese told *The Voice of the Maltese* that her main focus has always been her family to ensure that they are a role model to their children. "I am thankful that life was not easy because it made me what I am today."

Marthese started her working life as a clerk at the Glomesh International in Leichhardt but in 1982, with her husband established a successful family business. After volunteering with various hospitals, she found her niche in community radio, a career that has spanned 15 years.

Marthese prepared well for her stint in radio broadcasting by participating in both legal and practical courses provided by 2GLF 89.3 FM that complies with the Community Broadcasting Authority, the Australian communication and media authority.

In 2015 she attended a course at Wollongong University for ethnic language teaching paid for by the MCC of NSW and passed with a high distinction mark on condition that she would teach at the MCC Maltese Language School of NSW for two years.

With 2GLF Radio, she has been six years presenting various programmes in both English and Italian music. She took over the 2GLF FM 89.3 weekly Maltese radio programme of the Maltese Community Council of NSW some twelve months ago doing the coordinating and presenting together with her team of volunteers from her studio at home.



**PERSONALITY
OF THE MONTH
OF THE MONTH**

She was also the secretary of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools and in 2018 the Maltese Welfare (NSW) awarded her the prestigious Quiet Achiever Award.

Asked about life in general, Marthese said that her style is full steam ahead and to stay focused. "Never listen to the

negative voices and stay strong on your belief that you can, and you will. You can achieve your dreams if you want to, work hard, and never give up.

"Nothing comes without hard work. Never forget that everything is possible when we make God the centre of our life," she concluded.

Marthese with her husband Paul



Recollections and Experiences of a Maltese Octogenarian of the Millenium years (2000-2020)

The Regeneration of the No.1 Dock area in Cospicua



Joseph
Lanzon

My working career comes to an end

My little world was now coming to a close. I ended my working career with the Malta Tourism Authority in 2012 at the age of 76. In 2010 Liz and I celebrated our 50 years of marriage; my grandson Sean Lee, armed with a BA and MA degrees, started his work career, and in January of 2011 my mother passed away at the age of 96.

handed the area back to the Maltese Government who, in turn, returned it to the people of Cospicua. Its citizens lost no time in clamouring and requesting its development for an open breathing space and green area.

Although over the years the dark ugly wall improved in appearance, the separation remained. It was only in 2013 that this space was changed into a fully-fledged project that gave the people of Cospicua a new lease of life.

Following its complete regeneration, today, the area is a relaxing place for fresh air. There is a promenade and pathways with greenery making it ideal for walking. The whole area is landscaped with turf and trees.

What distinguishes it from other marinas is the equipment that is used in the dock, which is now placed all along to retain the historical connection between the city and the dockyard.

An iron walk-bridge joins one side of the dock to the other facilitating the connection with Senglea, while the shoreline from the end of the dock to Vittoriosa is now a thriving yacht marina.

A ferry boat plies between Cospicua and Valletta bringing hundreds of tourists to the

The readers who are familiar with the Three Cities, or who have visited Cospicua during their lifetime, remember the black ugly wall and iron railing separating the dockyard from the rest of the city. The change today is amazing.

The residents of this old city always resented the takeover by the Admiralty of this inlet in 1848. It had been their only access to the sea and the livelihood of many.

Since 2010, when the dockyard lost its importance and closed its doors, the Admiralty area

area as well as ferrying Maltese going to work in Valletta; the inlet inside the previous dock is now often used for fishing and aquatic sports and events.

In my old age, my wife and I often visit this promenade that is a stone's throw away from where we live. We take walks and sometimes sit on a bench to watch the tourists and Maltese embark and disembark from the ferry.

Coffee Shops in Valletta of the Fifties

I have spent over 50 years working in Valletta. During my lunch breaks I would often visit one of the many coffee shops, snack bars or restaurants in the city.

I have recently wondered what happened to my usual haunts, therefore I walked down the two main streets of the capital, Merchants Street and Republic Street (also known as Kingsway or *Strada Rjali*) to find out. It filled me with nostalgia.

Valletta, as I remember it in the Fifties, had several coffee shops and restaurants. In Main Guard square was Malata, renowned for its cheeselets (*ravioli*), and in Piazza Regina, under the National Library building in Treasury Street, was Cafe Premier.

Dimitri (Café) in Kingsway was very popular. Here, clients would normally order a glass of tea or coffee and half a dozen cheesecakes (*pastizzi*). On the opposite side of the street was "*Il-Bubu*" selling hot cheesecakes and freshly baked *qassatat*.

Merchants Street had its popular Camberra restaurant and St Lucy Street the Britania so very popular with employees in Valletta. The cheapest cheesecakes (*pastizzi*) at tuppence each could be found in a small shop on the steps in St. Paul's Street.

There were two other very popular coffee shops, one was Bonaci's in St. Lucy Street, midway between Kingsway and Merchants Street. Visitors to the capital mostly frequented it at weekends. It was the place to

The Dockyard in the late eighties after the takeover by the Admiralty



go in those days.

The coffee shop was the meeting place for families and friends. It served lovely pastries. It was often difficult to find a vacant table there.

The owners also had a similar outlet at The Strand in Sliema. They also provided one of the best catering services for special occasions. Incidentally, my mother-in-law, bless her, had engaged them to provide the catering and reception for our wedding.

The other popular spot was Café Roma in upper Merchants Street practically in front of St. James church. It opened its doors sometime in the late seventies.

It was popular during weekday mornings mostly with housewives coming to Valletta for their shopping and other errands.

Café Roma specialised in a large assortment of cakes. It was owned and run by Dalli and his Italian brother-in-law Renato. They also owned a similar outlet at Ghar il-Lembli Street in Sliema practically opposite the derelict Chalet.

However, the most famous and certainly among the best, always was (and still is today) Café Cordina in front of Piazza Regina with its magnificent chandelier and the impressive painted vaulted ceiling by the famous painter Giuseppe Cali.

Cesare Cordina opened his first coffee shop and confectionery in Cospicua in 1837. He then realised the potential of Valletta and as the war was coming to a close, in 1944 he transferred his business there. *Is-Sur* Cordina, as everybody knew him, was tall and lean, radiating cleanliness and professionalism, always dressed in an impeccable light suit.

He used to be present in the coffee shop to ensure that the service provided to his clients was first class, the waiters were smart and clean and that the clients satisfied.

Café Cordina was undoubtedly the best-known coffee shop in Malta. Today, 77 years later, it is still one of the best, attracting the clients, among them foreigners seeking high standards of product and service.

**To be continued in the next issue*

Cospicua today as seen from Dock No. 1



Malta of yesteryear

There's something quite fascinating about looking at photographs of places from the past. Imagine finding a century-old black and white photograph of the place you currently live in and how bizarre it would feel looking at it.

The pictures will give us a chance to look into the past. Buildings would be so different, the vehicles on the roads would be something we don't recognise, and the people walking on the streets would appear to have leaped out of an old black and white movie.

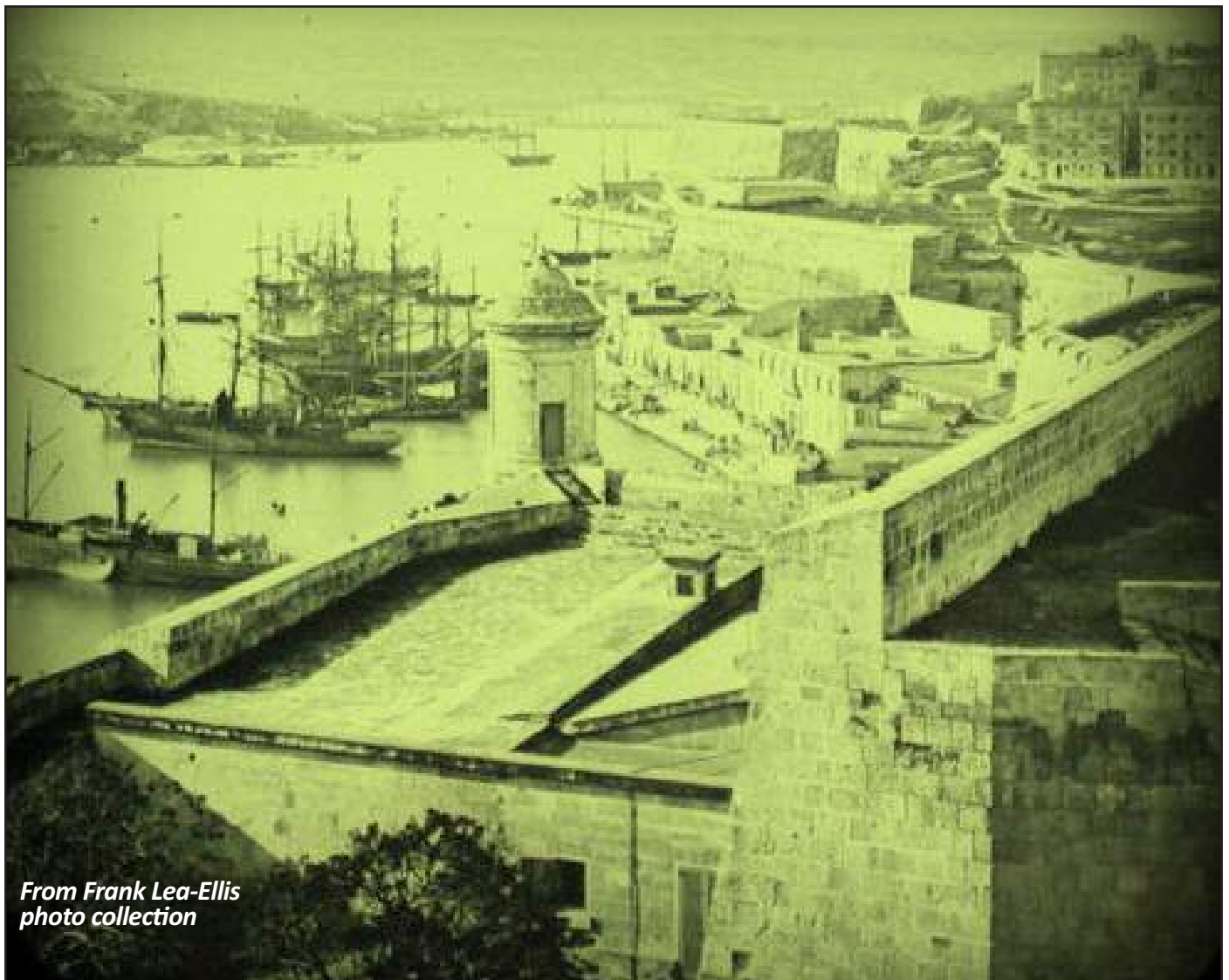
By looking at these pictures of Malta from yesteryear that we intend to start sharing from time to time the readers will get to feel exactly that in the pictures, especially if you still have the chance to also see how they look in their modern setting.

Sometimes we will also try to blend images of the past with the present day. The result would be quite amazing.

The fortifications of Valletta (*Is-Swar tal-Belt Valletta*) are a series of defensive walls and other fortifications that surround Valletta, the capital city of Malta.



ABOVE: View of Valletta and the Grand Harbour in 1801;
BELOW: the Valletta fortifications and port from 1877.



**From Frank Lea-Ellis
photo collection**

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



Now you can also
join us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoice-ofthemaltese>

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

It is its features that make The Voice magazine special

Michael Gatt from Elm Grove, Wisconsin USA writes:

As an avid reader of *The Voice of the Maltese*, I feel I must commend you on the choice of articles and especially for your correspondents, people who really show their professionalism by researching the subjects they write about.

The series of articles just concluded in the No. 258 edition of *The Voice* by Martin G Debatista titled "Tasting again the Maltese bread that helped win the war" was superb.

For somebody like me who knows little or nothing about what the Maltese went through during the World War II years the series opened up a wide spectrum of knowledge.

It also threw so much light on the importance of the Maltese bread throughout the ages as a staple food, but also that Malta owes a lot to those bakers who must have worked their guts out to keep alive the trade and produced a lifeline for the community.

Good and very interesting reading

Tony Muscat from Acacia Ridge Qld

Please allow me to thank Ivan Cauchi for his comments in "Perspettiva" in every issue of *The Voice*. He delves deep in each subject and always quotes his sources.

His article about the pandemic and its consequences was very balanced; actually, all his articles are well written and to the point.

My suggestion is that his articles in *The Voice* should be in English and not in Maltese so that readers can appreciate his thoughts even more and then if they so wish, can also read the Maltese version on his blog spot.

No wonder that through the years, the Maltese have always regarded local bread as a most important element, and in fact the dominant part of its diet, and the foreigners who visit Malta always seem to regard the Maltese loaf as something really special.

Features such as these make this magazine so special, for the Maltese readers, and for foreigners that want to learn about Malta.

Hitting below the belt

John Piscopo from Newtown NSW

I was a bit taken back by what Charles L. Briffa had to say about the Pope (VOM Sept 14).

The Pope is the head of a State (The Vatican) not just a leader of the Catholic faith; therefore, it is his domain to be interested in health, education and climate change and similar issues.

It was hitting below the belt to suggest that he was leading his sheep to slaughter because he was promoting vaccination.

Existence of God and the afterlife

Herbert Cachia from St Julians, Malta writes:

I read the article by Victor Zammit on *The Voice of Malta* (Issue No. 257 August 21) where he made wild and misleading claims that science has confirmed the existence of God and that there is an afterlife.

Could you please explain which science books have scientifically proved that God exists? Their authors would have won the Nobel Prize. Science has NO proof-positive discoveries of these "facts" you mentioned.

The fact that you are a Catholic is simply an accident of birth (born of Catholic parents). If you were born in Pakistan, chances are you would be Muslim and only think of Jesus as a prophet, nothing more.

If you were born in India, you'd probably be Hindu, with hundreds of "gods" to pray to (except Jesus, who means nothing to them). Born in Japan would have meant you're probably Shinto. Shall I go on?

I have nothing against any of these "faiths" including the Catholic faith. Keep in mind that the word "faith" itself means believing without proof.

So Zammit's article is erroneous and misleading when he claims that science has confirmed the existence of his particular God (there are hundreds of others). Science has NOT proved any such thing.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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The changing face of Malta - 4

Continuing our series in which we highlight the various projects, infrastructure and/or otherwise, that are changing the face of the Malta that many of the Maltese currently living abroad, particularly those who emigrated decades ago, don't know much about.



Part of the landscaped garden at the renovated Esplora building in Kalkara that used to house the Bighi Hospital



The marina with yachts at the shipyards and medieval Villa Bighi (Palazzo Bichi, also known as the Royal Naval Hospital) seen from Vittoriosa

The Esplora: It's a gem!

The Interactive Science Centre in Kalkara – Esplora – has become a signature attraction in Malta. It is housed in the masterly renovated Bighi Naval Hospital, offering a fantastic view of the grand harbour. It is a must-visit for Maltese living abroad when they return to their roots.

This project, the first of its kind in Malta, was opened on the 26th October 2016. The Malta Council mans it for Science and Technology (MCCSC) under the chairmanship of Dr. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando.

It has been partly funded by EU funds, seeking to cultivate a culture of scientific curiosity and imagination by igniting a passion for questioning and investigation. It is a place where visitors are encouraged to explore, think and imagine.

The renovated site consists of several buildings and outdoor spaces, all interconnected. The main exhibition halls and the landscaped gardens consist of over 200 exhibits. It also includes an exciting Activity Centre for visitors to experience hands-on workshops and entertaining science shows, making science relevant to one's everyday life.

One of the biggest attractions found at Esplora is its Planetarium with a stunning 10.7 metre in diameter structure, and a complete colour space 4K theatre system that allows the Planetarium to show both the best full-dome shows and live presenter-led visualisations of astronomy and other sciences.

The Planetarium also has an exhibition about the Universe with focus on the Cosmos and Life in Space. The Esplora Planetarium is suspended inside the shell of the old Auxiliary hospital building on the Grand Harbour.

In July 2021 a small quay and a lift leading to the Explora in Bighi was rehabilitated and replaced by a modern lift to enable easy access for visitors who wish to visit Bighi by boat.



Soldiers at the Bighi Hospital in Kalkara in the 1960s

Bighi Hospital before Esplora

The space now mostly occupied by Esplora was in fact the Royal Naval Hospital Bighi (RNH Bighi) better known as Bighi Hospital located in the small town of Kalkara. It was built on the site of the gardens of Palazzo Bichi, which was periodically known as Palazzo Salvatore.

In the 19th and 20th centuries RNH Bighi served the eastern Mediterranean, and in conjunction with the RN Hospital at Mtarfa contributed to the nursing and medical care of casualties whenever hostilities occurred in the Mediterranean.

On the site of the current building is Palazzo Bichi (now Palazzo Bighi and also known as Villa Bichi), built in 1675 during the Order of St. John by Fra Giovanni Bichi, the nephew of Pope Alexander VII, on the designs of Lorenzo Gafa. Before it was finished Fra Giovanni Bichi died and the palace was passed on to his nephew Fra Mario Bichi, also a member

of the Order. He in turn sold it to the Count of Schaesberg, Bailiff Fra Giovanni Sigismondo, in 1712. It was then known as Palazzo Salvatore and Garden[because of the hill being named Salvatore Hill.

Since 1799 with the arrival of the British military in Malta, it started to be known as Villa Bighi, particularly because of the reference to it by Sir Alexander Ball. The British started referring to most palaces in Malta built by the Order as Villas, and particularly the word Bichi of Villa Bichi was corrupted to Villa Bighi. Even before his arrival, the site was chosen by Nelson to build a naval hospital since 1803.



The illustrated depiction of Bighi Hospital in 1863

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**



Mhux il-flus il-problema

Naħseb li hafna minnkomm jafu bid-deċiżjoni sorpriża tal-gvern Awstraljan f'nofs Settembru 2021 sabiex jissieheb mal-Istati Uniti u r-Renju Unit f'patt imsejjah AUKUS biex jinbnew tmien sottomarini għall-Awstralja bil-propulsjoni tiġi mill-enerġija tal-fissjoni nukleari, f'xi żmien bejn l-2030 u l-2040.

Kienet sorpriża għal diversi raġunijiet. L-ewwel waħda li tigini f'rasi hi li l-Awstralja hija pajjiż li għal skopijiet ċivili ma tużax l-enerġija nukleari għall-produzzjoni tal-elettriku imma għall-mediċina nukleari,¹ u sal-bieraħ ma kellha l-ebda użu militari għalih. Il-gvern iddikjara li l-użu tat-teknoloġija nukleari mhux se tiġi estiża sal-armamenti².

It-tieni hi li l-Awstralja diġà kellha kuntratt ma' kumpannija Franċiża, Naval Group, biex jinbnew tnaħ-il sottomarin ġdid.

Dawn kellhom ikunu jaħdmu bid-diżil u l-elettriku, u l-baži tagħhom fil-fatt kien sottomarin nukleari, modifikat biex jibdel il-propulsjoni minn wiehed nukleari għal wiehed bid-diżil. Dan il-kuntratt kien maħsub li se jiswa \$90 biljun, li minnhom diġà ntefqu \$2 biljun.³

Naturalment, din kienet daqqa ta' ħarta kbira għall-istat Franċiż, li kien determinat li jibqa' jkollu rwol sinjifikant fil-Paċifiku, u l-kuntratt Awstraljan kien jifforma parti importanti minn din l-istrategija tagħhom.

Kien magħruf sew li kien hemm problemi serji bil-proġett Franċiż, b'dewmien u zieda fl-ispejjeż, tant li kien ukoll magħruf li l-gvern Awstraljan kien qed iħares lejn x'alternattivi kien hemm għas-sottomarini Awstraljani.⁴

Madankollu deher ċar li dawn il-kunsiderazzjonijiet fuq alternattivi tmexxew b'segretezza kbira, u n-naħa Franċiża kienet sorpriża taqs il-bqija tad-dinja bil-pass li tiegħed.

Jien il-vantaġġi ta' sottomarin nukleari, li kapaċi jibqa' permanentement taħt il-wiċċ tal-baħar, fuq wiehed li jaħdem bid-diżil, li jrid jitlejta' fil-wiċċ wara ftit biex jerġa' jiehu d-diżil u l-ossiġenu biex ikun jista' jaħdem, nifhimhom.

Il-biża' tan-nies mill-enerġija nukleari tal-fissjoni, li l-prodotti tagħha jistgħu jintużaw biex jinbnew bombi nukleari, nifhimhom ukoll.

Dak li ridt nikkummenta dwaru hawnhekk, madankollu, huwa fuq l-infiq, u fuq l-ipokrezija tal-mexxejja tagħna li jixhed.

Ikkunsidra li issa l-gvern iddeċieda li minflok ma jadotta s-sottomarin nukleari Franċiż, jadotta dak Amerikan, qabel ma fil-fatt jaf kemm se jiġi jiswa! Huwa maħsub li l-proġett il-ġdid għandu jiġi jiswa bil-wisq aktar mid-\$90 biljun tal-proġett Franċiż.⁵

Huwa stmat li l-gvern Awstraljan se jkollu jhallas penali ta' mijiet ta' miljuni ta' dollari Awstraljani lin-Naval Group Franċiża talli se jqatta l-kuntratt originali.

Ftit ilu, id-Deputat Prim Ministru Barnaby Joyce stqarr li mhux se jaċċetta li jkabbra l-ambizzjoni tal-pajjiż biex jiġi miġġieled it-tibdil tal-klima qabel ma jkun jaf kemm din l-ambizzjoni se tiġi tiswa.⁶ Joyce jaċċetta l-proġett tas-sottomarini tal-AUKUS



mingħajr ma jaf il-prezz (astronomiku)?

Meta l-gvern jistqarr li haġa ma tistax issir minħabba li flus m'hemmx, ma kinux maħsuba, il-prezz għoli wisq jew xi varjazzjoni oħra, il-verità tkun li s-sugġett ma jkunx priorità.

Hu l-programm tas-Centrelink, imsejjah Robodebt mill-kritiċi tiegħu, li kien qed jipprova jirkupra xi ftit eluf ta' dollari minn dawkl li qegħdin fuq benefiċċji soċjali, li allegatament kienu thallsu żejda.

Ftit ilu, dan il-programm twaqqaf hesrem, wara li kkawża tant uġiħ il-qalb lil hafna li ingustament kienu akkużati ta' dan, u wara hafna u hafna xhur ta' kritika.

Ikkompara dan mal-benefiċċju msejjah Jobkeeper li ngħata sa Marzu 2021 bħala assistenza lil organizzazzjonijiet li stmaw li se jmorru lura, biex jinżammu l-impjegati ta' mijiet ta' eluf ta' had-diema affettwati mir-restrizzjonijiet tal-COVID.

Dan l-aħħar, gie stmat li \$13 biljun ġew mogħtija lil kumpanniji li fil-fatt ma naqsilhomx id-dhul waqt il-pandemija, imma l-gvern mhux se jitlobhom il-flus lura.⁷ Tlettax-il biljun!

Mill-banda l-oħra, l-aġenzija tal-gvern Centrelink qed tfittex li tirkupra \$32 miljun minn 11,000 individwu, li ngħataw xi pagamenti relatati mal-pandemija.⁸

B'saħħitna ma' min hu dgħajjef, u b' dgħufija ma' min hu b'saħħtu.

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When Mintoff commissioned Theodorakis to compose Freedom Day hymn in 1972

Aclaimed Greek composer and lyricist Mikis Theodorakis, who died from cardiopulmonary arrest at his home in Athens on 2 September 2021 at the age of 96, had a Maltese connection. He had been commissioned by Dom Mintoff to pen a hymn marking the commemorating of Freedom Day on March 31, 1979.

Theodorakis, who was born on the Greek island of Chios and spent his childhood years in provincial Greek cities including Mytilene, Cephallonia, Patras, Pyrgos, and Tripoli, was best known for composing the soundtrack of the film *Zorba the Greek*, based starring Anthony Quinn and Irene Papas.

An icon of the Greek anti-fascist resistance, he had been arrested by the country's Italian and German occupiers for his involvement in left-wing resistance groups and also opposed the military junta that took power in 1967, whose ordinances included a complete ban on the composer's music.

Theodorakis went into hiding, but was soon arrested, and jailed in the infamous "re-education" camp on the small island of Makronisos near Athens. As a result of severe beatings and torture, he suffered respiratory problems that plagued his health for the rest of his life. In prison he suffered tuberculosis, was thrown into a psychiatric hospital, and was even subjected to mock executions.

Following his release, he was commissioned by Dom Mintoff to compose the "*Innu lil Malta*" on the occasion of the closure of all British military bases. The National Archives recently posted the manuscript on which the hymn was written. It included a note written in Greek that stated that the composition was done at Vrachati with the mediation of the mayor of Athens and in consultation with the government of Malta. He said that the red signature of the Director of Prisons served as a permission that he could write music.

With the fall of the dictatorship in 1974, Theodorakis returned to Greece a hero and during the 1980s served as MP for the Greek

Communist Party. But as a reaction to the corruption scandals that rocked the socialist government of Andreas Papandreou, in 1990 he ran

as an independent candidate, was elected to parliament and became a government minister under Constantine Mitsotakis. He fought against drugs and terrorism and in favour of culture, education and better relations between Greece and Turkey.

Politically, he was associated with the left because of his long-standing ties to the Communist Party of Greece (KKE). He was an MP for the KKE from 1981 to 1990. He also helped establish a large coalition between conservatives, socialists and leftists.

He continued to speak out in favour of leftist causes, Greek-Turkish-Cypriot relations, and against the War in Iraq. He was a key voice against the 1967-1974 Greek junta that imprisoned him and banned his songs.

Later in life he spoke at rallies supporting Palestinian statehood, against the war in Iraq and the austerity imposed by the Troika.

His works also included an anthem for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and film scores for *Serpico* and *Z*, a film based on the assassination of Greek peace activist Grigoris Lambrakis that won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1969.



Mikis Theodorakis (right) and Dom Mintoff



ter without portfolio

Julie Owens MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA

Parramatta needs walk-in vaccination hubs

To get through this pandemic, we urgently need access to more vaccines. That's why I'm calling on the NSW Government to set up walk-in vaccination centres in the Parramatta CBD and surrounding suburbs. To add your voice to the call, scan the QR code or visit: julleowens.com.au/vaccinehubsnow



Cuts to Medicare under cover of COVID

In July Scott Morrison snuck through almost 1,000 cuts and changes to Medicare. These changes mean patients could face out-of-pocket costs of up to \$10,000. If you want Scott Morrison to abandon these changes scan the QR code or visit: julleowens.com.au/savemedicare



Help during lockdown

If you, someone you care about or your business needs help to get through this lockdown, scan the QR code or visit julleowens.com.au/covid19 for a list of government payments and services and local emergency relief providers.



If I can be of any help please phone me on 9689 1455 or write to 1/25 Smith St, Parramatta NSW 2150 or email julle.owens.mp@aph.gov.au [julle.owens.mp](https://www.facebook.com/julle.owens.mp) www.julleowens.com.au

Authorised by Julie Owens MP, Australian Labor Party, 1/25 Smith Street, Parramatta.



Roundup of News About Malta



PM reveals Malta's priority if on UN Security Council

Should Malta be entrusted to serve on the Security Council in 2023-2024, Prime Minister Abela said Children and Armed Conflict would be a key priority, as this issue should be mainstreamed across the work of the Security Council.

Prime Minister Robert Abela made the declaration in his address to the 76th session of the United Nations' General Assembly. He said Malta's priority would centre on children and armaments conflict.

Dr Abela also urged world leaders to come together to forge ahead with plans that demonstrate determination and commitment to a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and recession that would lead to a more equal, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable world.

He insisted on world leaders to address the climate change before it is too late and stressed that Malta is committed to ensuring that the voices of those states most affected by the impacts of climate change are heard.

He said that Malta has been actively and continuously working within the relevant

UN structures and with the other member states to raise awareness on the needs and capabilities of these countries.

As a founding member of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, Malta's goal is to become a leader in Small Island State Governance, standing ready to share the country's plans on decarbonisation and digitalisation.

He said, "The small island states face challenges regarding their critical infrastructure, but in parallel, can also demonstrate how effective the community-based approach is".

He went on to say that Malta stands united with the international community to build a better world, where understanding and cooperation are at the heart of our policies



Prime Minister Robert Abela addressing the UN Assembly

and the work we do on the ground. Where the nations work together in a unified and multilateral manner.

If elected to the UN Security Council, Malta would also commit to supporting the UN as a neutral member state actively pursuing peace, security, and social progress among all nations across the world, and continue to stress the need to include women and youths in peacekeeping and peace-building efforts "as their voices must be heard if we are to build fair and inclusive societies", Dr Abela concluded.

EC President approves Malta's recovery plan

Following a recent visit to Malta during which she had talks with Prime Minister Robert Abela, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave the Maltese Government the green light for the plan it submitted to the EC in July for the use of the €316.4 million Recovery & Resilience Facility funds.

The plan, submitted to the European Commission in July sets out six key strategic objectives, that include, sustainable transport, circular economy, clean energy and energy efficiency in buildings, the digital transformation of the public administration and the legal system, projects targeting the health and education sectors, as well as institutional reforms.

Von der Leyen described the plan as "one of the greenest plans the EC has approved so far." Therefore, she was happy to announce that the EC has decided to give its green light to

Malta's RRF plan that, she said, excels by the fact that 54% of the initiatives would support the EC's green objectives.

The EC President also visited the Malta Information Technology Agency where she hailed MITA's investment over the past months, saying that it is "very fasci-

Prime Minister Robert Abela explained that the plan would see the implementation of important reforms for Malta including those related to decarbonisation, waste management, transport, education and labour market pathways, digital and innovative transformation, and health.

He also referred to the significant reforms undertaken by the Government to strengthen democracy and to protect the rule of law.

He pointed out that in less than 20 months Malta has enacted wide-ranging legislation, including constitutional changes. "We have done this also with the support and recognition of EU Institutions and Agencies," he said.

The Prime Minister said that soon, the Government would launch an anti-slapp bill and other legislative measures aimed at the protection of journalists and defending media freedom.



Prime Minister Robert Abela and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen addressing a press conference following the EC official's visit to Malta

nating to see the work that has been done in improving cyber security."

"I was glad to see how your digital future will look like— von der Leyen said.



Roundup of News About Malta



President George Vella invites Maltese diaspora to contribute to the transition



President George Vella (left) and Italy's Sergio Mattarella

PM tells MHRA Government to continue to support tourism industry

The Tourism industry in Malta recently got a lift from Prime Minister Robert Abela when he promised them that the Government will continue to provide them its support.

He made the promise during a consultation meeting on the budget with members of the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, MHRA.

Dr Abela told them that throughout the pandemic the Government had helped the industry in various ways, including through the Economic Regeneration Plan, incentives linked to water and electricity bills, and vouchers.

Dr Abela further pointed out that along with the MHRA, the Government had created the wages supplement and as a result, thousands of jobs had been saved.

He also indicated that tourism along with the Government's support, prospects for the coming weeks are favourable, and that the industry is continuing to recover.

President of Malta George Vella called on the Maltese diaspora to follow closely developments regarding the setting up by the Presidency of the Foundation for National Unity and to contribute to Malta's social and political transition.

The President was addressing guests at an event organised by the Maltese embassy in Rome to celebrate Malta's Independence Day.

When it comes to relations between Malta and Italy, the President said that they continue to flourish and embody the historical friendship and deep-rooted cooperation at the diplomatic, commercial, cultural, and people-to-people level.

He added that the sustained and open dialogue at both the bilateral and multilateral levels are built on mutual trust and recognition.

On the latest developments in Malta, the President said that, as is necessary and normal in every society and reflecting modern-day realities, Malta has been experiencing several changes to its social fabric and is undergoing important reforms meant to

strengthen the rule of law.

"I too, as President of the Republic, have played and will continue contributing to this process, as guided by the Constitution of Malta and in line with the parameters allocated to my Office," he affirmed.

In this light, he referred to the several initiatives taken so far by the Presidency in the current year, aimed to bring together and in closer dialogue professionals, academics, politicians, journalists, civil society organisations, and the people in general.

Earlier, at a bilateral meeting with the Italian President Sergio Mattarella at the Quirinale Palace, President Vella exchanged views on the present situation in the Mediterranean, particularly in North Africa.

With President Sergio Mattarella who would be ending his Presidential term at the beginning of next year, President George Vella discussed with him important themes raised by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union address a few days earlier.

Unemployment at a record low

Figures by the National Statistics Office show that the number of unemployed and registering for work during August was a record low of 1,442, which is 2,230 less than what it was at the same time last year.

President Vella also visits Germany

President George Vella also made an official visit to Germany and on the first day was hosted by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Presidential Palace in Berlin where they talked about bilateral relations between Malta and Germany and other items of interest to both countries, including the general situation within the European bloc and relations between the EU and Turkey, as well as China, Russia. They also touched on the situation in Libya and Afghanistan.

Later, President Vella addressed guests at the Embassy of Malta in Germany to mark the 57th anniversary of independence.

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Għajjnuna lil tal-baned

Kważi kull belt u raħal fil-Gżejjer Maltin għandha tal-inqas każin tal-banda. Hemm min għandu tnejn u saħansitra tlieta. Il-baned Maltin u Għawdxin għandhom storja kkulurita mifruxa fuq meded twal ta' snin.

Il-baned nistgħu ngħidu li taw is-sehem tagħhom mhux biss fil-qasam kulturali u folkloristiku, imma wkoll kellhom sehem kultant qawwi fl-istorja ta' pajjiżna. Tant hu hekk li għadd ta' storiċi jsostnu li l-Ingliżi għamlu użu tajjeb mill-baned Maltin.

L-użu tal-Ingliżi kien mhux biss biex jaljenaw lill-poplu mill-pożizzjoni li, f'xi waqtiet, kienu fiha, imma saħansitra kien hemm min isostni li dawn saħansitra wżawhom biex iħaddmu l-istrategija ta' żmien il-kolonjalizmu Ingliż, ta' ifred u saltan.

Kien propju fi żmien l-Ingliżi li f'diversi bliet u rħula faqsu aktar minn każin wieħed li mhux biss kienu jimplikaw ma xulxin għax forsi kienu jagħmlu l-festa' ta' qaddis jew qaddisa partikulari, imma saħansitra għax b'mod dirett jew indirett kienu jiġbru fi hđanhom nies li jappoġġjaw partit politiku partikulari, jew fl-eqqel tal-kwestjoni tal-lingwa, kienu jxaqilbu lejn l-Ingliżi jew it-Taljani.

Harsa lejn l-ismijiet ta' whud mill-każini hi xhieda ta' dan. Pereżempju fil-Belt għandna l-Banda La Vallette (li allura kienet pro-Taljani) u l-Kings Own (favur l-Ingliżi), filwaqt li fil-Mel-lieha hemm La Vittoria u l-Imperial.

Minn xi daqqiet, fejn kien hemm banda waħda, saħansitra l-pro Ingliżi wżaw l-influwenza tagħhom biex jinbidel l-isem tal-Banda – hekk ngħidu aħna fil-belt tal-Isla fejn il-Banda La Vincitrice spiċċat bl-isem ta' Victory (halliha li ftit taż-żmien ilu din mill-ġdid hadet l-isem originali tagħha).

U kemm il-baned kienu importanti jidher ukoll mill-fatt li meta



Il-każin De Paulta' Raħal Ġdid

xi pinta nbid jew xi xorb ieħor u jgħidu kelma. Fil-każini kienu jsiru wkoll attivitajiet oħra.

Maz-żmien il-każini, li whud minnhom kienu xi djar żgħar, bdew jiffjorixxu u jikbru b'uħud mill-baned jibnu l-każin tagħhom u oħrajn jikru djar – aħjar ngħid palazzi – fiċ-ċentru tal-belt jew raħal, biex jużawhom bħala każini. U f'Malta u Għawdex għandna għadd sabih ta' dawn li huma ta' min iżurhom, l-aktar meta jkunu mżejna għall-festa lokali.

Kienu propju dawn l-aħħar li minn xi snin dahlu f'inkwiet kbir, billi s-sidien ta' dawn id-djar sostnew li ma kienx sew li palazzi bħal dawn kienu qed jinkrew bi ftit flus, meta fis-suq kummerċjali kienu jiġbu ferm aktar. Għalhekk uħud mis-sidien dahlu fil-Qrati jsostnu li ma kienux qed igawdu l-propjetà tagħhom.

U l-Qrati tat raġun lil dawn is-sidien bir-riżultat li s-sidien bdew jitolbu l-propjetà lura jew inkella li l-kera toghla sewwa, tant li whud mill-baned sostnew li ma jifilhux iħallsu l-kirjiet. Skont xi rapporti hemm xi għoxrin każin milquta minn din id-deċizzjoni.

Sintendi l-Każini appellaw lill-Gvern biex jara kif jista' jgħin-hom, u l-Gvern, konxju mill-importanza ta' dawn il-każini hass li għandu jidhol fil-kwestjoni.

B'riżultat ta' dan, il-Gvern habbar li se jagħmel tajjeb għall-każini li qed jiffaċċjaw problemi marbuta ma' kera. Dan se jagħmlu billi nieda skema li permezz tagħha se jkun qed jixtri dawk il-proprietajiet li huma mikrijin minn soċjetajiet mużikali biex jintużaw bħala każini tal-banda. Għal dan se juża l-Fond għall-Iżvilupp Nazzjonali u Soċjali.

Fil-fatt, il-Fond habbar li se jinnegozja ma' sidien ta' proprjetajiet privati halli jakkwista binjiet li bħalissa huma okkupati mill-każini tal-baned, biex hekk jipprovi soluzzjoni ġusta lis-sidien ta' proprjetajiet privati u jiġu evitati sitwazzjonijiet ta' żgumbrament ta' każini tal-baned mill-postijiet li jinsabu fihom bħalissa.

Kumitat magħmul minn esperti se jwettagħ in-negozjati mas-sidien tal-proprietajiet, li se jkunu bbażati fuq parametri predefiniti u konformi mal-missjoni tal-NDSF li tappoġġja proġetti ta' importanza nazzjonali.

Meta jiġu miksuba l-proprietajiet, dawn il-postijiet jiġu trasferiti lill-każini tal-baned rispettivi, taħt titlu ġdid ta' kera fit-tul.

**Għar-reazzjoni ara l-paġna li jmiss*



Il-Każin tal-Banda taż-Żejtun

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

It-tigrija bdiet ... imma d-data ma tħabbritx

I-tħabbir tad-data tal-elezzjoni ġenerali ilu mill-bidu tas-sena kultant jissemma fil-ġurnali, b'xi gazzetti fi Frar li għadda jgħidu li l-elezzjoni kienet se ssir f'Ġunju. Izda l-aktar xnigħa li giet irrapportata kienet dik li se issir f'Novembru.

Wara dawn għajdut, parti mill-midja lokali kienet qed tħassar li l-Prim Ministru Dr Robert Abela kien se jħabbar id-data tal-Elezzjoni Ġenerali waqt ir-rally li l-Partit Laburista organizza f'tal-jiem ilu f'Ta' Qali propju lejliet Jum l-Indipendenza.

Kif x'aktarx jafu l-qarrejja, f'Malta d-data ta' meta ssir l-elezzjoni hija prerogattiva tal-Prim Ministru, għalkemm sintendi din trid bilfors issir meta jintemm il-mandat ta' hames snin tal-Gvern.

Attwalment il-Gvern preżenti jtemm il-mandat tiegħu f'Ġunju li ġej, għalhekk il-Prim Ministru għandu kważi sa sen'ohra biex isejjah l-elezzjoni billi skont il-ligi elettorali l-elezzjoni tista' ssir anke tliet xhur wara li jintemm il-mandat tal-Gvern.

Is-sezzjoni tal-midja li kienet qed tħassar elezzjoni bikrija kienet qed tibbaża t-tezi tagħha fuq il-fatt li bħalissa l-Partit Laburist qed igawdi vantaġġ qawwi fuq il-Partit Nazzjonalista, u billi hemm sinjali li l-Partit Nazzjonalista jista' jaqbad xi f'tit ir-rankatura, kien jaqbel għall-Partit Laburista li jsejjah elezzjoni bikrija.

X'se jsir attwalment hadd ma jaf, għalkemm bil-Prim Ministru jgħid li jrid jimplimenta l-baġit li dalwaqt jithabbar, li jista' jfisser li l-elezzjoni għad jonqosha xi f'tit.

Minkejja dan kollu jidher li t-tigrija għall-elezzjoni diġà bdiet bil-Partit Nazzjonalista kważi jsejjah konferenza stampa jew johroġ stqarrijiet għall-istampa ta' kuljum fejn jekk jiġi elett mill-ġdid qed iwiegħed hafna affarijiet u proġetti godda.

Donnu li t-tigrija giet ikkonfermata min-naħa tal-Partit Laburista, li fejn is-soltu f'tit li xejn jagħmel attivitajiet għall-okkażjoni tal-Festa' tal-Indipendenza, din id-darba għamel għadd ta' attivitajiet politiċi u saħansitra sejjah rally kbir (minħabba l-Covid-19 ma jistgħux isiru l-mass meetings tas-soltu) f'Ta' Qali.

Dan sar propju lejliet il-Festa tal-Indipendenza u spiċċajna bil-mexxejja taż-żewġ partiti politiċi jindirizzaw lil dawk li jappoġġjawhom, wiehed fuq il-Fosos tal-Furjana u l-iehor fl-MFCC f'Ta' Qali.

Il-reazzjoni/minn p. 14

Sintendi dawk il-każini li l-aktar huma seffettwati mid-deċiżjoni tal-Qorti hađu r-ruħ, filwaqt li dawk diletanti tal-festi, li fil-maġġoranza l-kbira, fejn jidhlu l-festi esterni, huma organizzati mill-Baned fahħru dan il-pass.

Kien hemm min kiteb li ma kienx sewwa li l-Gvern juża' flus il-poplu biex jixtri l-każini u jagħtihom lill-baned bi prezz sus-sidjat, izda ma naħsibx li din hija l-opinjoni tal-maġġoranza tal-poplu.

Ma naqsitx li anke fi proġett bħal dan tigi mdeffsa fin-nofs il-politika, mhux biss għax kien hemm min kiteb li l-Gvern kien qed jiehu dan il-pass biex jikseb il-voti, izda wkoll għax id-deputat Nazzjonalista, Jason Azzopardi qal li originalment din l-idea tax-xiri tal-każini kien hareġ biha hu.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Partit Laburista wiegħeb li din kienet wegħda elettorali fil-Manifest Elettorali tal-Partit Laburista li minn dejjem kien konxju mis-sitwazzjoni delikata li jinsabu fiha hafna każini f'riskju li jitolfu l-propjetà.

Xquq Godda?

Wahda mill-attivitajiet li l-Partit Nazzjonalista organizza bħala parti miċ-ċelebrazzjoni ta' Jum l-Indipendenza kienet intervista mal-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Dr Bernard Grech bil-mistoqsijiet isiru minn ġurnalist tal-istazzjon tal-Televiżjoni Laburista One.

Sintendi dan il-ġurnalist ma naqasx li jistaqsi lil Grech dwar il-pożizzjoni tiegħu fil-konfront tal-eks-kap tal-PN, Adrian Delia, bi Grech isostni li ma kien hemm l-ebda firda bejnu u Delia u li kienu għaddejjin diskussjonijiet bejniethom dwar liema distrett Delia għandu jikkontesta fl-elezzjoni li jmiss. (Delia diġà gie kkonfermat biex jikkontesta lit-tmien distrett, izda bħal xi kandidati ohra dan jixtieq jikkontesta fuq distrett ieħor ukoll).

Imma ma għaddewx wisq jiem li deher li x-xquq fil-Partit Nazzjonalista għadhom hemm. U kellha tkun propju l-akbar funzjoni f'dawn iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet, ir-rally fuq il-Fosos tal-Furjana, li wriet dan.

Meta l-gazzetta *Maltatoday* irrapportat dwar dan ir-rally gabet ritratt ta' ġemgħa ta' nies lebsin 'uniformi' bi flokkijiet blu bil-kliem *Team Adrian Delia (taħt)*. Dawn qagħdu għalihom u la qamu bil-wieqfa u lanqas ċapċpu meta Grech qam jindirizza l-folla.

Il-Partit Nazzjonalista ma għamel l-ebda reazzjoni għal dan ir-rapport, izda l-affarijiet inbidlu meta Delia nnifsu fuq il-Facebook tiegħu tella' ritratti ta dan il-grupp, b'Bernard Grech innifsu jikkundanna dak li sar minn dawn il-partitarji.

F'kummenti mal-Maltatoday, il-Kap Nazzjonalista qal li dak li għamel Delia huwa inaccettabbli. "Nibqa' ninsiti li dawn it-tip ta' azzjonijiet għaliya m'humiex accettabbli. Ahna partijet wiehed b'bandiera wahda u arma wahda u al-lura hemm bżonn li kulhadd jiġbed l-istess habel," qal il-Kap tal-PN.

Grech ma waqafx hawn hekk kif fi twissija ċara lil Delia qal li x-show of force tat-Tnejn filgħaxija tmur kontra r-regoli tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, u spjega, "Ahna anke fir-regoli tagħna għandna li l-ebda kandidat ma jista' jkollu dawn it-tip ta' flokkijiet u affarijiet."

Grech saħansitra ta l-impressjoni li dan kien ukoll nuqqas

ta' rispett lejn l-elettorat. "X'kienu r-raġunijiet u l-interessi tiegħu ma humiex ta' interess għaliya. Li jinteressani huwa li kemm hu u kemm kull kandidat u deputat iħares lejn l-elettorat b'rispett," sostna l-Kap Grech.



Il-Maltin fost l-aktar ottimisti mill-istati tal-UE

Skont il-EUROFOUND Malta hi t-tielet l-aktar fost il-pajjiżi kollha tal-Unjoni Ewropea li ċ-ċittadini tagħha jħarsu b'ottimizmu lejn il-qasam soċjali.

L-istħarriġ tal-UE juri li qabel Malta hemm biss l-Irlanda u d-Danimarka; Malta qabżet lill-Ġermanja u lil Franza.

Ir-rapport isib kif wiehed u sittin fil-mija tal-Maltin huma ottimisti li kwestjonijiet soċjali (*social issues*) jiġu solvuti, bi 22% biss jaħsbuha xort'ohra. Dan hu ferm differenti minn kif jaħsbuha l-popli tal-Unjoni Ewropeja bħala grupp billi 43% biss huma ottimisti; 36% huma pessimisti.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Australian submarine deal upsets the French and the EU

The Australian Federal Government dumped its \$A55 billion plan to build a fleet of conventional new attack class submarine parting ways with French defence company Naval Group and the French government on the massive project. Instead they will build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines with British and American technology. The subs could be completed by 2035.

The reach of this deal under the new partnership between the three nations – US, UK and Australia to be known as AUKUS

– will go much deeper into joint defence and security ties, also stretching into cybersecurity and space.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has committed \$270 billion over the next decade to prepare Australia's military, including with new long-range missiles, against a “more dangerous and more disorderly” world. He said the reality was Australia has moved to a new and “less benign” strategic era. “The Indo-Pacific is the epicentre of rising strategic competition,” he said.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le

Drian has been quick to express anger over Australia's shelving of the Naval deal and has immediately recalled its ambassadors to Australia and the UK in a backlash. “It's really a stab in the back. We had established a relationship of trust with Australia. This trust has been betrayed, I'm very angry today, and bitter... This is not something allies



Aussie Prime Minister Scott Morrison

do to each other”.

Meanwhile, in defence of a European Union member state France, EU officials through Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, are demanding an explanation and an apology from Australia over “its treatment of France”.

It is also quite evident that as a result of its decision to cancel its submarine contract with the French, Australia's hopes of entering into a free-trade agreement with the EU has hit rough waters.

While trade talks with Australia are expected to continue as planned, von der Leyen said Australia had some explaining to do first. “One of our member states has been treated in a way that is not acceptable, so we want to know what happened and why,” von der Leyen said in an interview.

“Therefore, you first of all clarify that, before you keep on going with business as usual,” she said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian also reacted angrily, calling on the new alliance to drop the “obsolete cold-war mentality”.

(See also *Perspettiva* commentary in Maltese on page 10: Money is not the problem)



Berejiklian Govt under fire from the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church has accused the Berejiklian government of backing away from peace-deal negotiations over the management of the state's cemeteries.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has now accused Property Minister Melinda Pavey of backing away from an agreement reached with Deputy Premier John Barilaro, who was called in to broker a truce over the issue.

In a letter to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Archbishop Fisher labelled Ms Pavey's proposed course of action as a “betrayal of our trust in your good faith”. He asked her not to proceed with a course that would inevitably be perceived as anti-faith and socially divisive.

The letter was sparked by an August 30 email from Ms Pavey's department to Catholic Cemeteries chief executive Peter O'Meara, outlining plans for a single administrator to administer all five Crown cemetery operators, including the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT).

The Archbishop said certain “in principle

understandings” had been agreed to by Mr Barilaro, including that the CMCT would be a stand-alone Crown Land Manager.

A spokesman for the Deputy Premier said that agreement was based on a caveat that Treasury would need to give final sign-off. Labor Leader Chris Minns accused the government of renegeing on a deal.



Australian state cemetery



A quick glimpse at Australia

Disgrace to the Nation

The Returned & Services League (RSL) Victoria condemned those who it says effectively occupied the Shrine of Remembrance on St Kilda Road Melbourne, saying the site is “sacred, not a space of protest”.

“Under no circumstances, ever, should a Shrine be a place of protest,” it said in a statement.

“If any individuals or groups choose to express their political views, positions or ideological theories in the grounds of the Shrine at any time, they are completely disrespecting the sanctity of this time-honoured space.”

The RSL Australian President Greg Melick called the protesters' actions a “disgrace to the nation.”

He said that the Shrine of Remembrance honours those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and the protesters' actions are nothing short of desecration of this revered site.

Demonstrators, mostly men dressed in hi-vis workwear, have taken to the streets in the last three days in the city of Melbourne voicing their distrust in the COVID-19 vaccine and anger at the state government.

While some attendees have been there to protest mandatory vaccinations for the construction industry, authorities say the demonstrators are not all union members or construction workers.

CFMEU Victorian construction secretary

John Setka had previously blamed “neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists” for hijacking the events.

Some observers likened this event to what happened to the Great Siege National Monument in Malta's capital, Valletta.



The protesters at the Shrine of Remembrance

Euthanasia becomes law in Queensland

Queensland is the fifth Australian state to legalise euthanasia, with a clear majority of members of Parliament voting 61-30 to pass the

Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. A final vote followed several days of emotional debate inside the Queensland parliament.

MPs fought back tears as they told personal stories and revealed the difficulty of weighing up opposing views on euthanasia and assisted dying. Several key political allies of Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk voted against the bill, even though

it was a policy centrepiece for Labor during a state election campaign last year.

One of the key amendments sought was a so-called “institutional conscientious objection” that would have allowed faith-based hospitals and aged care facilities the right to exclude euthanasia from taking place in their facilities.

Catholic Health Australia chair John Watkins said Catholic health and aged care providers are “deeply disappointed by a law which so clearly conflicts with their ethic of care”.

Young voices in Parliament

The *Raise Our Voice in Parliament* campaign is asking Australians (21 or under) to write a short speech about their visions for the future to be read aloud in Canberra by their local MP.

The voices of young Australians from across the country are set to be amplified from the floor of federal parliament as part of an initiative aimed at developing a diverse new generation of leaders and policymakers.

The *Raise Our Voice in Parliament* campaign, spearheaded by social enterprise Raise Our Voice Australia, is asking youths to submit a 90-second speech on the topic: *What is your vision for Australia in 20 years?*

Dozens of MPs from across the political spectrum and every state and territory have agreed to give up one of their speaking slots in October to deliver the chosen speeches.

Canberran Grace Knight, 21, was interested in being part of the project as soon as she saw it advertised on social media. Her submission, an update of Australian poet Dorothea McKellar's iconic poem ‘My Country’, reflects the climate anxiety experienced by many young people in Australia following recent devastating bushfires and droughts.

“The original poem invokes the patriotism and love of the land that should now be guiding our desire to act on climate change

and save future generations,” she told SBS News.

Western Sydney-based Reya Ramanujachari, 15, a second-generation Indian migrant has submitted a speech outlining a vision for the future where women and other marginalised groups - including migrants and refugees - are not “cast aside” by society. “I am very passionate about humanitarianism and I eventually want to weave my way into politics,” she said.

Rowland for Labor President

Michelle Rowland MP, the Federal Member for Greenway and shadow Minister for Communications, is set to become the NSW Labor President. She will come to the role with experience in the corporate world before politics, including managerial and legal experience. She is very popular in an electorate that includes many persons of Maltese descent.



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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50 albums milestone: Jo Jo Zep is a real record-breaker

A Malta-born musician in Australia has joined an exclusive club as one of only a handful of legendary Aussie musicians to release 50 albums. Joe Camilleri, the veteran music man, wrapped the recording of a new Black Sorrow album *St Georges Road* in March last year, just as Australia shut down due to the pandemic. The 73-years-old was encouraged to forge ahead with the release.

In the meantime, Joseph was searching for a lockdown project, and as he looked at the covers of the records he had made over 45 years, from Jo Jo Zep and the Falcons through the Black Sorrows, he discovered he had hit the 50-records milestone.

Talking to Kathy McCabe of *The Daily Telegraph* he said, "I never expected life in music. I did all these other jobs like working in factories and on the railways, but I think when Hit and Run got on the radio, and there was nothing else like it then, that's when a certain of ambition became involved, and slowly I got better at it."

Jo Camilleri is over the moon with his milestone 50th album. "This record is a culmination of everything I've done before and probably the best record I've made." With the collection of countless classics the acclaimed musician has given us over his career, *Saint Georges Road* won't dis-

appoint – and it doesn't.

Joe Camilleri was born the third of ten children in Malta in 1948. The family migrated to Australia when he was two. Camilleri grew up in Port Melbourne and listened to rock music on the radio. His mother called him Zep, and he became known as Jo Zep.

He began his music career in 1964 when literally thrown onstage to sing with The Drollies. He played blues and R&B in the mid-1960s with The King Bees, and was then a member of Adderley Smith Blues Band. In 1968, lead singer for the band, Broderick Smith had been conscripted for National Service during the Vietnam War.

Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons was formed in 1975, and Camilleri gained national prominence as the group's lead singer, co-songwriter and saxophonist. Other members (from 1976 on) included Jeff Burstin (guitar, vocals), John Power (bass guitar, vocals), Gary Young (drums), Tony Faehse (guitar, vocals)

Some facts you may not know about Joe Camilleri

- Joe Camilleri was an 'unofficial' member of Goanna. He played saxophone on their 1982 *Spirit of Place* album featuring Solid Rock.
- Jo's song writing is admired worldwide with many artists covering his music; Elvis Costello and John Denver are just a couple who have recorded their versions of his songs.
- The name Jo Jo Zep and the Falcons came about because his mum always called him Zep, he was calling himself Jo Zep so adding an extra Jo and The Falcons just all fit perfectly.
- Jo Camilleri and the Black Sorrows have sold more than two million albums to date and have won an ARIA award.
- *Chained To The Wheel* hit the Top 10 and took the album from gold to platinum in two weeks. It ended up triple platinum and stayed on the charts for nearly two years.

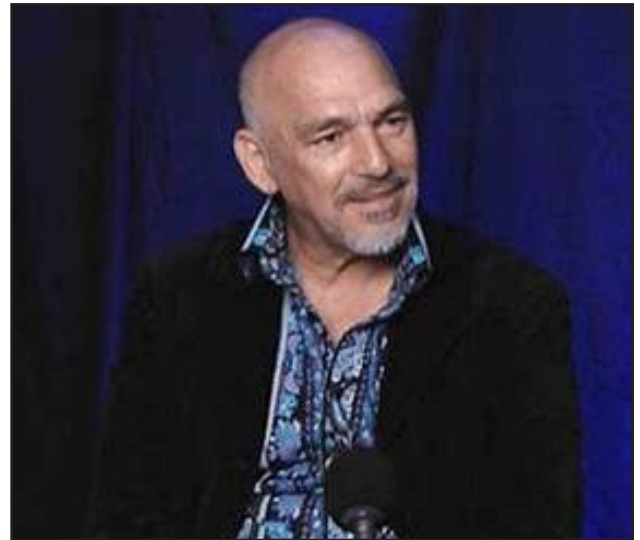
and Wilbur Wilde on sax incorporating influences from blues, R&B, soul, punk rock, new wave and reggae.

The group achieved considerable commercial and critical success in Australia. Hit singles for Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons included "Shape I'm in" and "Puppet on a String"; their highest-charting single was "Hit & Run" from June 1979, which peaked at No. 12.

The constant is always at the forefront of their sound and success is Joe Camilleri himself. Over his career, which spans four decades, he lives for music, and has been in numerous bands as a songwriter, saxophonist, guitarist, producer and of course vocalist.

His talents have seen him inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 2007 with the success of another of his bands.

You would think that at the age of 73, Joe would be ready to retire, but music is his life, and he has no plans of stopping anytime soon. "Some people like playing golf, I like playing music with people." Joe says.



caption

Maltese Funerals

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Tigi ċelebrata l-festa ta' San Frangisk, – u inawgurat il-monument tal-qaddis

Il-Patrijiet Frangiskani Minuri Konventwali, tar-Rabat, Ghawdex, se jiċċelebraw il-festa f'għieh San Frangisk t'Assisi bi programm li ngħata bidu l-Hadd li għadda u li jilhaq il-qofol tiegħu nhar it-Tnejn 4 ta' Ottubru, solennita' ta' San Frangisk.

San Frangisk fqir u umli, issa għandu wkoll monument li jiddomina pjazza San Frangisk fir-Rabat Ghawdex, statwa li tiżen mat-tunellata fondut fil-bronz mill-funderija rinomata Domus Dei 1963 SRL ta' Ruma.

L-istatwa tpoġġiet fuq pedestall magħmul fil-gebla tal-qawwi tal-Qala, Ghawdex li nħadem mid-ditta J&J Gauci Ltd ta' l-Imgarr, Malta u gie nstallat taht id-direzzjoni tal-marmista Raymond Bonello mix-Xagħra.

Il-hsieb ewlieni wara dan il-monument kien il-Ministru għal Ghawdex ta' dak iż-żmien, Anton Refalo u kien jagħmel parti mill-proġett ta' tisbiħ ta' Pjazza San Frangisk. Ix-xogħol sar mill-artist żagħżuġ Manuel Farrugia, li nzerta kien jgħix mal-familja tiegħu fl-istess pjazza.

L-artist qal lil *The Voice of the Maltese* li l-iskultura tirrappreżenta lil San Frangisk t'Assisi b'idejha miftuħin fi stedina biex in-nies jingħaqdu miegħu fit-talb tal-kantiku "l-Għanja tal-Holqien" miktuba minn San Frangisk stess u li tant baqgħet popolari tul is-snin.

Fin-nofs tal-pedestall hemm ċirku kbir tal-bronz, interzjat għal-gebla tal-qawwi, li fuqu hemm miktub l-ewwel strofa tal-kantiku.

"Għamiltu b'saqajh pass 'il quddiem li jfisser li Frangisku għadu haj, mhux fil-fiziku imma fit-tagħlim u t-talb tant sabih li halla," qalilna Farrugia.



Għat-tnedija tal-monument kienet mistiedna l-iSchola Cantorum Jubilate li pprezentat diversi siltiet muzikali mill-SCJ Children's Choir. Jakkumpanja l-kor kien hemm ukoll il-Brass Tubes immexxija mis-Surmast Mark Gauci, taht id-direzzjoni tal-kor u l-Brass Tubes tad-direttriċi mużi- kali tal-kor Marouska Attard.

Is-sitiet kienu pjuttost relatati ma San

lil dan l-ispazju miftuħ fil-qalba tar-Rabat. Il-Monument tbierex minn Mons. Dr. Joe Vella Gauci fil-preżenza tal-Ministru għal Ghawdex Clint Camilleri.

Minkejja li l-Pjazza ilha snin twal im-semmija għal San Frangisk, b'danakollu qatt ma kien hemm xejn tangibbli x'juri li fil-pjazza kien hemm xi statwa ddedikata lil dan il-qaddis

Mill-Għira Ghawdxija
Charles Spiteri

Frangisk, mal-kitbiet tiegħu stess u anke mal-filosofija tal-hajja li ppromwova f'hajtu.

Il-kor kanta 'For the beauty of the Earth', 'Make me a Channel of your peace' u 'Shalom'. Il-Brass Tubes interpretaw 'Dolce Sentire' u 'At the Jazz Band Ball'.

Mark Gauci u George Camilleri hadu hsieb l-arrangamenti muzikali.

L-ahħar silta mill-SCJ Children's Choir, SCJ Teenage Boys Singers u l-Brass Tubes kienet 'Fejn San Frangisk', silta pjuttost umoristika kliem ta' Mro. Stephen Attard li tigbor fiha lista ta' stabilimenti li jinsabu f'San Frangisk kif ukoll l-attivitaj kontinwa ta' din il-pjazza ċentral fir-Rabat.

Is-Serata inkludiet ukoll tliet interventi mill-attur magħuf Mario Micallef li tkellem dwar il-pjazza li għandha hajja, qalb u ruh. Pjazza li rat hafna tibdil matul is-snin u li fl-istess hin baqgħet tilqa' lil kulhadd fiha. Huwa tkellem ukoll dwar il-Frangiskani Minuri Konventwali li l-kunvent u l-knisja tagħhom taw l-isem lil din il-pjazza.

Semma' xi riferimenti storiċi li jkomplu jarrikixxu

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

The Voice of the Maltese, mhux biss hu magazine online, imma l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ippubblikat. Hafna qed japprofittaw ruħhom billi jabbonaw u jirċevu kopja tiegħu pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi hlas.

Min jixtieq jibda jirċevi kopja pprintjata kull darba jista' jabbona għal sena u jkun żgur mill-kopja kull darba. Jekk interessat ibgħat email lil maltesevoice@gmail.com għal tagħrif dwar il-hlas ta' abbonament għal sena

fl-istat fejn tgħix. Imbagħad jekk tkun trid tissieheb ma' daww kollha li mhumiex kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu f'idejhom, għarrafna u tkun moqdi.

WHEN Kevin Bradley retired as an assistant director-general from the National Library of Australia on August 20, he could look back on a staggering career of nearly 39 years at the same place. He was also a very well-known member of the Canberra arts community.

But perhaps what most interests the readers of this Mal-

tese magazine is the fact that Bradley is reputed to have discovered that it was Maltese music in Australia that has kept Maltese music in Malta going.

It fitted his notion that “all music in society undergoes change”, further confirmed when he got interested in popular Rajasthan desert music.

Writing about his retirement in Canberra’s CityViews, Helen Musa said that Kevin even published an academic paper on Aboriginal gumleaf music while still an undergraduate, and his honours thesis, “The Weight of Sound”, about a genre of Maltese folk music, won him a First and two ANU prizes.

She said that Kevin, who is husband to Julie Bradley, the 2020 “CityNews” Artist of the Year and father to Jacqueline (Jac) Bradley, sculptor, fiddler and art lecturer, plays a mean fiddle, slide guitar and mandolin, and on weekends he’s been teaching his daughter Jac how to make mandolins from spruce, myrtle and maple and wants to make more guitars as well as pursue his research into the cultures that have long obsessed him.

Originally a technical trainee with Amalgamated Wireless Australasia (AWA) he followed Julie, his high-school girlfriend (and later wife), to Canberra when she got a job lecturing in art.

He himself got a job at the National Library, where they needed technical expertise in the sound division, well before the formation of the National Film and Sound Archive.

The library always gave him a new challenge. “I changed jobs many times without changing the organisation,” he says.

Once in Canberra, the National Library job attracted him because he thought he might be able to research the collection of John Meredith and the music of legendary Aboriginal musician Dougie Young, from

Retiring Kevin Bradley ‘discovered’ that Maltese music in Australia kept Maltese music in Malta going

Wilcannia.

When the opportunity came to transfer to the NFSA he decided to stay on – a good decision, he says – and work on his interests in Young and Meredith.

It took him a good 10 years to track down the recordings of Young, but in the meantime, he’s met Grace Koch and Jeremy Beckett at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

The three of them, under the aegis of AIATSIS and the NLA, put out “The Songs of Dougie Young” on CD and cassette, with good sales in western NSW.

Kevin says that over the early years, perhaps the biggest influence on him was folklorist Edgar Waters, a consultant to the NLA.

“We became great friends and I realised that to be a student of anthropology would be the best way to study as he got me thinking about society and its relationship to vernacular music.”

He enrolled at the ANU part-time and fitted in units in ethnomusicology at the School of Music and a course in museum studies and curatorship.

He travelled extensively locally and globally, and then



while still employed by the library worked as sustainability adviser on the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories at ANU.

In 2006, when Mark Cranfield retired as head of oral his-

tory at the NLA, he took over as curator, Oral History and Folklore, and director, Sound and Audiovisual Preservation, for which he was awarded a Public Service Medal.

On the urging of then director-general Jan Fullerton, in 2013 he reluctantly agreed to become senior curator of Pictures, Manuscripts and Digital Archives, but ended up enjoying the job, which he says allowed him to look broadly across other collections.

Now in the early weeks of his retirement he says he’d like to travel more, play everything from electric guitar to acoustic strings, but also to research Australian folklore collections and think about what they mean.

All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Moms, Dads, Grannies and Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles – someone to hold them, read to them, teach them.

Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals and knowledge of a hundred previous generations.

Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes, and their dreams.



Colin Powell

Maltese Own Band ‘commemorates’ important September milestones

In spite of the lockdown, during September, the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc. of Victoria managed to commemorate two important national milestones, the 8th September (*Il-Vitorja*) and the 57th Anniversary of Independence. The 8th of September that commemorates

the victories of the two Great Sieges of Malta (1565 and 1942-44) by the Maltese people is also known as *il-Bambina* or Our Lady Of Victories. It is very special for the MOB as it was on this occasion in 1977 that it was formed by its founder Joe Muscat at the request of Fr. George Xerri to cel-

ebate the Feast of Our Lady of Victories. Since then, and for the past 44 years, the Maltese Own Band has continued to present the Maltese tradition of marches for the Maltese feasts.

Independence Day 2021

On the 21st of this month, the Maltese Own Band also commemorated the 57th Anniversary of Malta's Independence Day, when Malta gained independence in 1964.

For the occasion the MOB had been invited to take part in the Independence Day Dinner Dance by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc., but unfortunately due to the Melbourne lockdown, the occasion could not be celebrated together.

It now looks forward to next year's event to come together to celebrate the Maltese culture once again.

Meanwhile, the Band has remained active as much as it could during the pandemic. It is worth recalling that it was one of the first to welcome the new Maltese Consul General for Victoria, Mrs. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras (*left*) at The Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion, Melbourne at an event organised by the Maltese Cultural Assoc.



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Harsa lejn ir-rwol u l-bżonn tan-naħla Maltija

M'hemmx ebda dubju li kull persuna u hlejja fuq din id-dinja għandha r-rwol tagħha. Ir-religjon tiddetta li r-rwol ewlieni tagħna bħala bnedmin hu li nirriproduċu. L-opinjoni fuq din il-fehma jvarja minn kull individwu, l-aktar issa li ngħixu haġja aktar libera u moderna. Izda għan-naħal dan huwa stat ta' fatt.

Skont l-ambjentalist Alfred Baldacchino n-naħal huwa insett soċjali, jiġifieri jgħix f'kolonja mmexxija minn reġina. L-għan naturali tiegħu huwa li jibni xehda fejn ikabbar il-kolonja biex ikompli jnissel l-ispeċi.

Biex jagħmel dan, johroġ jirgħa fuq il-fjuri fejn hemm jiġbor l-għasel tal-fjuri, in-nektar, kif ukoll l-għabra tad-dakra, il-pollen li mbagħad dawn jużawhom biex jaħznu l-ikel f'forma ta' għasel biex jitma' kemm lir-reġina kif ukoll lid-duqqajis, kif ukoll biex jibni x-xehda tax-xema.

Meta tkellem ma' L-ORIZZONT Baldacchino sqarr li sa mill-qedem il-bniedem għaraf il-bżonn u l-importanza tan-naħal, tant li anke llum insibu whud li jkabbru n-naħal.

Għal dan jintużaw qollol u kaxxex halli l-kolonji tan-naħal ikunu jistgħu jizjeddu. Meta dawn jagħmlu l-għasel gox-xehda, il-bniedem jiehu parti minn dan l-għasel anke għal raġunijiet kummerċjali. Dan minbarra li l-għasel jintuża haġna għal għanijiet mediċinali.

Fatturi li jwassal għall-qerda.

Meta mistoqsi jekk dawn il-hlejjaq hu-miex mhedda, Baldacchino qal li iva u li dan bla dubju jwassal għal riżultati kbar u koroh, kemm fil-qasam ekoloġiku, f'dak soċjali kif ukoll f'dak ekonomiku.

Skont hu, l-akbar theddida ġejja minn dawk il-fatturi kollha li jwasslu għall-qerda tal-ambjent. Għal dan qasam it-theddid fi tlieta.

Qal li n-naħal f'Malta mhux talldi mhux aħjar minn dak ta' pajjiżi oħra imma b'

soghba kbira wiehed jgħid li huwa aghar.

L-ewwel waħda hija proprju dwar il-qerda mill-bniedem tal-ekosistema, "meta jqaxxar u jeqred il-flora indigena u salvaġġa li jirgħa fuqha n-naħal."

Spjega wkoll kif kontributur ieħor għall-qerda tal-ekosistema hija l-kimika, "għaliex m'hemmx kuxjenza edukattiva biżżejjed biex wiehed jara li dak li haġna jharsu lejha bħal haġix haġin, huwa s-sisien tal-ghajxien tan-naħal u insetti oħra.

Iżid jgħid li t-tbdil fil-klima, li qed teskala b'rata mghaġġla, mhux qed jagħti biżżejjed hin lill-biodiversità biex tilqa' l-bidliet estensivi li ġgħib magħha u b'hekk flora u fauna jinquerdu wkoll.

Punt ieħor li qajjem huwa wiehed li ta' xejn nikkunsidraw bħala parti l-qerda tal-biodiversità Maltija, jiġifieri d-dhul ta' speċi oħra li jiġu minn barra minn Malta, li saħansitra jistgħu jkun n-naħal iżda ma jkunx tal-istess speċi bħal li wiehed isib fil-għejjer Maltin.

Minhabba f'hekk, dawn idgħajfu l-ispeċi tan-naħla Maltija. L-ambjentalist qal jagħti l-każ li dawn jkun speċi oħra għedewwa għan-naħal Maltin jew inkella jgħibu xi mard magħhom.

"Dan anke minhabba ċ-ċokon tal-pajjiż. It-tibdil fil-klima ma nistgħux naharbu minnha. Il-bexx bla rażan, bla ebda raġuni xjentifika żgur li ma jgħinx. Il-qerda ambjentali f'pajjiżi żgħir bħal tagħna wkoll twassal għall-qerda tan-naħal, flora u fauna oħra Maltija," qal.

Id-dinja mingħajr in-naħal?

In-naħal huwa l-qofol tal-ghajxien tal-biodiversità għaliex mingħajr ix-xogħol tiegħu, flimkien ma' insetti dakkara oħra, jgħinu biex il-flora tkompli toktor, tinfirex, tizdied u tissaħħah. Jgħid li n-nuqqas tan-naħal mhux biss iwassal għal eradikazzjoni tal-flora iżda jonqsu ukoll, dawk li skont Baldacchino jgħinu u jwieżnu l-bniedem bl-ikel ta' kuljum.

"Il-frott li llum insibu fuq il-mejda għall-ikel, bħal ngħidu aħna tuffieħ, laring, bettieħ, haħw, għeneb, u oħrajn huma kollha riżultat tar-raġa tan-naħal meta dan idakkar il-fjuri tagħhom biex ikunu jistgħu



Naħla fuq il-fjura ta' siġra tal-lewż.

A E Baldacchino



jagħmlu l-frotta".

Baldacchino jgħid li mhemmx dubju li jekk in-naħal jiġi estinti il-pilastru tas-sostenibilità, l-aspett soċjali, ekonomiku u ekoloġiku jikkrollaw.

"Dik ekonomika minhabba n-nuqqas ta' ikel u għalhekk żieda fil-prezzijiet fis-suq. Dik soċjali, minhabba n-nuqqas ta' ikel naturali, li sussegwentement iwassal għal impatt fuq id-dieta differenti għall-bniedem.

"Minn-naħa l-oħra, dik ekoloġika kawża tat-tiċrita ekoloġika: ambjent bla haġja, bla fjuri salvaġġi, nieqes minn fauna, għeri minn kull haġja, bla ruh," qal.

L-ewwel haġa li l-bniedem jista' jagħmel biex jiġi salvagwardjat in-naħal hu li jifhem u jaċċetta li huwa ukoll parti mis-sistema ekoloġika u għalqastant dak li jiġri fl-istess ekosistema, jolqot ukoll lilu.

It-tieni pass hu li jekk ma jkunx hemm apprezzament u rispet lejn il-biodiversità u l-htieġa tal-harsien tagħha għall-ghixien tal-holqien, inkluż dak tal-bniedem, huwa għalxejn li wiehed joqgħod jibki.

Fil-għejjer Maltin l-akbar ambjent naturali sinjur huwa x-xagħri li tant hu mfittex min-naħal, l-aktar dak fejn jinsab is-saġhtar.

Skont Baldacchino minhabba dan in-nuqqas ta' għarfien fil-qasam tal-harsien tal-biodiversità diġà qegħdin naraw il-prezz qares li l-bniedem qiegħed ikollu jħallas.


L-ambjentalist jgħid li aktar kemm il-biodiversità tingħata bis-sieq, aktar il-prezz se jikkber, sakemm ma jkunx hemm biex jithallas. Saħaq li jinhtieġ ikun hemm ir-rieda soda u l-viżjoni li l-biodiversità għandha prezz u valur ekonomiku kbar haġna tant li ma jstax jiġi injorat. "Il-bniedem irid jid-deċiedi jekk irid li l-aġir tiegħu huwa lest li jċarrat din in-nisġa naturali... li artna hija mzejjen biha," temm jgħid.



Il-fjura tax-xewk abjad hija tant infittxija min-naħal

A E Baldacchino

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

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

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 Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

97.9 FM Melton Tuesday Maltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm
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Hibernians drop first points but are still the front runners

Malta's Premier League is turning out to be quite exciting though in a lot of ways also surprising with teams that were expected to be early challengers faltering, while others, not so experienced in the championship doing much better than expected.

Hibernians are the early runners after five outings despite dropping their first points on Saturday when they were held 1-1 by neighbours Sta Lucia. It was the latter's fourth such result, but they are still with-

out a win. Birkirkara preserved their unbeaten run after drawing with Gzira United so drop to second in the league ladder two points Hibernians. The supporters of defending champions Hamrun Spartans and usually proficient Valletta cannot believe what has happened thus far to their teams. Both sides have suffered three defeats, while Sliema are still winless at the bottom. However, whereas Valletta started the campaign on a top note with

two victories, recently they have failed dismally and suffered ythree straight defeats. When it comes to Hamrun at the weekend they returned to winning ways by narrowly defeating Floriana who had been going great guns. One team that must be feeling satisfied with its performances is Gudja United's. Successive wins over Sliema Wanderers and Valletta have catapulted them into fourth place, a a point behind third-placed Sirens. On Sunday Mosta obtained their first victory against Balzan.

DAY 5 RESULTS			
Hibernians v Sta Lucia	1-1		
Hamrun S v Floriana	2-1		
Birkirkara v Gzira U	1-1		
Gudja U v Valletta	2-0		
Mosta v Balzan	2-1		
Sliema W v Sirens	2-2		
DAY 4 RESULTS			
Hibernians v Mosta	3-2		
Balzan v Hamrun S	1-0		
Birkirkara v Floriana	1-1		
Gzira U v Valletta	2-0		
Gudja U v Sliema W	3-2		
Sirens v Sta Lucia	3-1		
STANDINGS			
Teams	P	W	Pts
Hibernians	5	4	13
Birkirkara	5	3	11
Sirens	5	2	8
Gudja U	5	2	7
Floriana	5	1	6
Gzira	5	1	5
Hamrun	5	2	6
Balzan	5	2	6
Valletta	5	2	6
Sta Lucia	5	0	4
Mosta	5	1	4
Sliema W.	5	0	1

Another double-header for Malta's national team

In a few days time, the Premier League will again break for the international pause as Malta's National Football team resumes its commitments in Group H of the European Qualifiers – World Cup 2022 against Slovenia and Cyprus. In view of the double header, the first the home return tie against Slovenia on October 8 and the second three days later on October 11 away against Cyprus, Head coach Devis Mangia is currently leading a squad of 30 players in the final training sessions. He has made a number of changes to the squad that convincingly beat Cyprus 3-0 at Ta' Qali, the ones that were narrowly defeated by Slovenia and Russia. It includes young players who have been called up for the first time. He has also made two further changes from the squad that played in the September international window. He recalled Jurgen Degabriele of Hibernians FC who returns having recovered from an injury, and Samir Arab of Balzan. Enrico Pepe who was forced off the field against Slovenia injured is now also available. After six Group H matches Malta has obtained four points, a draw against Slovakia and a win over Cyprus on home soil. The other four games against Russia (two), and against Slovenia and Croatia were lost.

Gilbert Agius prepares for Lithuania, Slovakia



Malta's Under 21 team is also undergoing its preparation for another double away fixture against Lithuania and Slovakia valid for Group C in the UEFA European U21 Championship 2023. Therefore coach Gilbert Agius (left) has also selected a squad of 30 players before trimming it down to 23 later on this week. Malta has played two games so far in this Group. One of them was the 4-1 victory over Northern Ireland on home soil. But it was also heavily defeated, 6-0 in Russia. Malta's commitments are on October 8 in Lithuania, and on the 12th away in Slovakia.



Pelé with daughter Kely while recovering in hospital

Legendary Pelé recovering

Brazil's legendary 80-year-old footballer, Pelé, his country's leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 games, says he is "recovering very well" after briefly being readmitted to intensive care following a recent operation. Pelé had surgery to remove a tumour from his colon this month and was initially released from intensive care with Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein Hospital saying he was readmitted "as a preventative measure". "My friends, I am still recovering very well," Pelé wrote on Instagram after receiving visits from family members. "I continue to smile every day. Thank you for all the love I get from you," he said. Pelé had been having treatment at the hospital since 31st August after the tumour was detected in routine tests and he was readmitted to intensive care as a precautionary measure because of his age. The hospital later released a statement confirming this and added: "After stabilisation, the patient was transferred to semi-intensive care. He is currently stable from a cardiovascular and respiratory point of view." Even Before the hospital statement was released, his daughter posted on Instagram: "I don't know what is going on with the rumours out there but my DMs are booming!!! There's already a lot of anxiety roaming the world these days and we don't want to be the reason for more."