



The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

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Maltese artist Joseph Barbara used 4,000 plastic bottles collected during clean-ups across Gozo organised by British expat Jo Curtis to create an image of Christ on display in front of the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary in Gozo. The artwork is meant to raise awareness against waste generated by littered plastic bottles

Photo: Charles Spiteri

Il-mostru magħruf bħala **f**acebook



Joseph CUTAJAR

Forsi mit-titlu biss tintebħu li kuntrarju għal min jaf kemm il-miljun ruh, minix ħabib kbir tal-Facebook, anke jekk jista' jkun utli ħafna, u minn xi daqqiet jien nużah ukoll, imma bl-ebda mod mhu se nħallih imexxili ħajti. Irrid ukoll nispjega li bil-kelma monstru ma rridx infisser biss il-kruha, imma wkoll il-kobor, kważi fenomenu bħal ma nużaw għal xi bini kbir u straordinarju.

Nammetti li bħal ma hemm min juża l-Facebook ħazin u biex jagħmel il-ħsara, hemm ukoll ħafna ġenwini li jużawh biex jagħmlu l-gid, jew għall-inqas biex (l-aktar ċerti organizzazzjonijiet) biex iżommu mgħarrfa lill-membri tagħhom, biex jitwasslu xi messagg ta' gid, u biex jiksbu pubbliċità.

Min-naħa l-oħra iżda, kont ilni nissuspetta li hemm ħafna li jużaw dan il-mostru bħala għodda biex iweggħu jew iqarrqu b'dawk li jseguhom.

Ċert li ħafna semgħu bi Frances Haugen, l-hekk imsejja *whistleblower*, eks impjegata tal-Facebook li svelat mal-avukati u lill-midja patafun ta' dokumenti 'sigrieti' fl-hekk imsejja l-Facebook Papers.

Dawn id-dokumenti juru li dawk li jmessu l-Facebook kienu qed jabbużaw u jagħlqu għajnejhom għall-ħsara li jafu li kienet qed issir b'xi posts imtella' fuqu.

Barra hekk, Haugen uriet bil-provi li tal-Facebook kien aktar moħħhom biex iħaxxnu bwiethom milli dak li jipproteġu lill-pubbliku online. Qalet li għalihom it-trasparenza ma teżistix.

M'għandniex xi ngħidu, il-kumpanija sid il-Facebook, jew Meta, l-isem ġdid li tawh, caħdet b'mod kategoriku dawn l-insinwazzjonijiet.

Hu wkoll fatt li x'aktarx jafu kulhadd li l-Facebook u l-Internet huma dominati minn xi erba' kumpaniji ġganteski li donnu ma jista' għalihom hadd u anzi jagħmlu li jridu li l-għan ewlieni tagħhom hu jiggwadanjaw b'mod esaġerat il-profitti.

Tassew hasra għaliex ikollna nammettu li kemm l-Internet, kif ukoll il-Facebook, u magħhom it-twitter u l-instagram huma invenzzjonijiet fantastiċi li jekk imħaddma kif jixraq minnhom jista' johroġ ħafna gid.

Nahseb li għal aktar minn darba, ħafna mill-qarrejja ġew imqarrqa b'dawk li jidhru li huma aħbarijiet esklussivi, imma fil-fatt ikunu biss aħbarijiet foloz, (*fake news*) generalment imqieghda fuq il-Facebook b'għan malinn. Ħafna drabi b'għan politiku, imma mhux biss.

Il-Facebook speċjalment, għamel (?) lil kulhadd 'gurnalist'. Kulhadd jista' faċilment ipogġi li jrid, kemm bil-ħsieb jew bl-addoċċ biex forsi jitwemmen u jintroduċi xngħat

maħsuba biex jagħmlu l-ħsara. Imma la jsibu lil min jibla dak li jgħidu, allura jissoktaw.

Kif diġà għedt, il-Facebook mhux ħabib wisq tiegħi u nużah biss biex ngħaddi messagg, xi haġa ta' gid, xi link li sserrah il-moħħ, jew biex insostni xi ħbiberija ma' nies li ftit inkun nista' niltaqa' magħhom.

Perezempju ma nistax għaliha nara nies li jgħixu taħt l-istess saqaf iwasslu x-xewqat lil xulxin f'għeluq sninhom minn fuq il-Facebook, inkella miżżewġin li jesprimu mhabithom lejn xulxin wara xi anniversarju taż-żwieġ fuq l-istess midja soċjali. Għaliex ma jagħmlux dan wiċċ imb'wiċċ?

Generalment fil-fatt forsi diġà jkun wasslu l-messagg f'darhom stess, imma jista' jkun li jpoġġuh fuq il-Facebook biex juru lil kulhadd l-okkażjoni li qed ifakkru u jiehdu gost jistennew ix-xewqat minghand haddiehor. Biex fl-aħħar jiftaħru kemm kelliom *likes* u xewqat?

Permezz tal-Facebook ingdimt darba u naf ħafna oħrajn li għalhom bħali. Dan kien meta rċevejt post minghand ħabib li nafda li ppressani biex bħal ma għamel hu, jien ukoll nikseb kemxa flus billi nwieġeb għall-post li ngħatajt.

Inqbadt fuq sieq waħda u wegibt. Wara ċempilt lil sieħbi u staqsejtu dwar is-suppost somma flus li kien irċeva. Qalli li lanqas biss kien jaf bil-messagg u nduna li kien ġie *hacked* (dahlu fil-kont tal-Facebook tiegħu u minn hemm hadulu l-indirizzi kollha li kellu.

Wara iħħekjaw ukoll lili u tghidx kemm tħabatt biex nirrangja, l-ewwelnett biex bidilt il-*password*.

Fl-aħħar jiem, fuq l-*account* tiegħi tal-Facebook irċevejt messagg minghand ħabib iehor, li ilna nafu s-snin imma hlief forsi għal darba qatt ma wżajna din il-midja soċjali biex nitkellmu. Din id-darba l-messagg kien bl-Ingliż, li kienet ftit stramba.

Il-messagg beda biex staqsieni kif mort bil-pandemija. Wegibtu u minħabba li nafu bħala diletant sew tal-futbol fl-aħħar semmejtli l-futbol Ingliż. Kienet sorpriża li ma qalli xejn dwar il-futbol. Imbagħad 'qalli' li għadu kif irċeva €160,000 u li bħalu jien ukoll stajt nirċevihom.

Wegibtu bil-Malti u għedtli, "mela issa ċert li din ċuċata u li mhux se ningidem". Reġa 'wieġeb' bl-Ingliż u qalli li qed joffru dawn il-flus biex jgħinu lil min intlaqat bil-COVID. Hemm waqqaft 'id-diskursata' għax ndunajt li kien hemm xi haġa tinten, u fil-fatt wara sirt naf li dahlulu fil-Facebook u bdew jużawlu l-indirizzi għall-fini tagħhom.

Din raġuni oħra għaliex ftit li xejn nafda ċerti messaggi u posts fuq dan il-mostru. L-istess parir intih lil min qed jaqra.

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

Practical tips for parenting post-separation — from a family law perspective

by PaulSANT



A breakdown of a marriage or relationship is a difficult time for any family. It goes without saying that mums and dads are impacted by their separation. Children can be significantly impacted if mum and dad end up in the Family Court.

The impact on everyone involved, and longevity of a dispute, can be largely influenced by many things. We will touch on a few of the key agitators we see in practice later in this article.

Grandparents are often affected as well, providing emotional support to their adult children who are grieving the loss of their spouse and relationship with their own children, and perhaps financial assistance when parenting disputes end up in court.

How much time children should spend with each parent

Whilst there are some common parenting arrangements, there is no 'one size fits all answer'.

Many parents reach agreements between themselves. Some parents may not quite agree with what the other parent wants, but do not wish to engage in conflict, or cannot afford costly court proceedings.

A separated mum or dad might start court proceedings about parenting for varying reasons. This article talks about one of the most common reasons: the parents are unable to agree on how much time the children should spend with each parent.

If this is the main issue in dispute about parenting (unless there is an imminent risk to the children's safety of family violence, abuse, neglect, abduction) neither parent

can start court proceedings without first participating in Family Dispute Resolution.

Family Dispute Resolution is child-focused and encourages separated parents to reach agreements about their children between themselves.

An accredited practitioner provides assistance by obtaining and sharing proposals from each party, and exploring options aiming for parents to come to an agreement without entering the Family Court system.

Practical tips

The biggest pointer that can reduce how long a parenting dispute goes on for is to **minimise conflict**. Be nice. Yes, we know this is easier said than done, especially given the raft of emotions a person experiences, and ways of dealing (or not dealing) with feelings and loss that different people have.

We aren't saying not to have feelings. However, part of a parent's job is to pretend that you don't feel negatively (hostile, angry, frustrated, accusatory, blame) toward the other parent. As hard as it is after a separation, this is the biggest tip.

If your adult child is going through a separation, you should discourage conversations where blame is laid and accusations levelled that a person is doing something deliberately to 'get back' at the other.

Again, it can be easier said than done, where a person who was basically like a son or daughter to you made a decision that has hurt your son or daughter. Needless to say, little things like this can make a big difference.

Communication

After separation, text messages and emails that one person sees as an orange may be viewed by the other, and an out-

sider (such as a Judge), as an apple.

A recent concept called a 'tonometer' has been implemented in a mobile phone application designed for use between separated parents for communicating about their children's arrangements. The 'tonometer' adjusts written communication that may not be well received. Be your own tonometer and think before you send.

The inability to communicate effectively with the other parent is sometimes the only argument a parent has to resisting more time or equal time. The current and future capacity for parents to communicate with each other is a relevant consideration for the court under the *Family Law Act*.

Whilst easier said than done, this can make or break an application for parenting arrangements: don't write abusive messages, don't vent on social media. Be polite. Don't argue back on forth about a different changeover location or time. Sure, ask a question, but if the answer isn't what you want, don't push it.

Many parenting after separation courses include a module on communication. You can find courses online and we recommend completing these courses with a forward thinking attitude.

Other things to consider

Exchange pleasantries at changeovers, which should be as smooth and easy for you and your children as possible. And be on time.

If you only have limited time with your child, let go of strict parenting. Sometimes, something small like taking your child's iPad away might be why they tell the court they don't like you.

Be involved. Contact the child's school to receive copies of reports and dates for events. Go to parent teacher interviews. Go to extra-curricular activities.

Cease using illicit drugs, make enquiries to undergo a drug screen, reduce alcohol usage, and participate in counselling if these are issues the other parent has concerns about.

Not being able to collect the children yourself is not going to assist if you want an equal time arrangement. Likewise, putting more distance between the primary parent's residence, and yours, will not be helpful in seeking to spend more time with your children.

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



Australian actor Russell Crowe returns to Malta for new film production



Russell Crowe, as he appeared in the epic *The Gladiator* film (left), at Fort Ricasoli, flexing his muscles, and on his bike tour of Malta

The Gladiator star describes Malta as ‘amazing setting for storytelling’

Australian actor, Russell Crowe 57, flexed his muscles and posed with his arms wide at Fort Ricasoli in Kalkara, Malta, where the Ridley Scott historical epic film, *Gladiator* that won him an Oscar gold for Best Actor in 2000 was filmed. The film also won for Best Picture, Best Sound, Best Visual Effects and Best Costume Design.

On his return to Malta for a few days to film parts of the new film, *Prizefighter: The Life of 19th century pugilist Jem Belcher* in which he is starring alongside Matt Hookings, Ray Winstone, Jodhi May and Steven Berkoff, Russell seemed to be getting back into his iconic character of the Roman general Maximus Decimus Meridius with the poses, while he wore black sports shorts and a T-shirt.

This time, he was determined that his stay in Malta that he fell in love with in 1999, would not only be for filming. He wanted to make use of his time to tour the place where he is reminded on every corner exactly why he loves this “fascinating place”.

When he arrived at his old haunt that was used as a stand-in for Ancient Rome for *The Gladiator*, Crowe embarked on an enjoyable bike ride in the country and headed to Fort Ricasoli.

However, before he would even do it, through a tweet that many mistook as a joke, he teased his Maltese fans that in the afternoon he would go to Fort Ricasoli. Many turned up to meet and pose for pic-

During pandemic Malta film industry attracted €95m. worth of investment

tures with him. True to his word he turned up on a mountain bike cycling around the historical fort accompanied by Malta film commissioner Johann Grech.

He said, “It’s a very strange thing to realise that I hadn’t been back when I should have... I think Malta is an amazing setting for storytelling. There’s a thousand stories in every bay here,” he told fans on site.

Crowe also took to Twitter to declare: “I fell in love with Malta in 1990 and I’m

being reminded on every corner exactly why. This place is fascinating.” He accompanied the tweet with a photo of the Barrakka Gardens in Valletta, and added that he loves the ricotta pastizzi.

During his stay, Russell Crowe also spent time sharing photos of different locations in Malta on his social media accounts asking people to guess where he is, reminiscing of the last time he was on the island.

Two days later the Australian actor also met with Malta’s Prime Minister Robert Abela who visited the *Prizefighter* film set, a production that includes the participation of some 200 local film industry workers, and watched work on the shooting of the film.

Abela noted that this industry continues to attract important investment to Malta and that throughout the pandemic the film industry remained strong with some €95 million spent on film productions. This, he added, was a testament to the resilience shown in recent months by this industry.

The Prime Minister congratulated the Maltese workers working on this film and thanked all the workers in this industry. He said that if maintained, this industry would continue to attract strong investment and create careers and new opportunities.

“We will continue working for Malta to remain attractive for this sector and create more opportunities for work,” Abela said.

The Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection, Clayton Bartolo, and the Commissioner for Films, Johann Grech, accompanied the Prime Minister.

Before this visit to Malta, Russell had just finished filming in Thailand for a film that follows the true story of John ‘Chickie’ Donohue. Filming for the *Prizefighter* movie will also take place in the UK.



Russell Crowe meets Prim Ministru Robert Abela, on the *Prizefighter* film set. also in picture, Minister Clayton Bartolo (extreme left) and Commissioner for Films Johann Grech (right)

A lady of many talents and dedicated volunteer

For the second issue in succession, The Voice has chosen yet another personality from the State of South Australia where, according to the 2016 Census had 1,417 Malta-born Maltese. Victoria had the largest number with 17,873 followed by New South Wales (14,481) and Queensland (2,505). The 2016 census recorded 37,613 Malta-born people in Australia, a decrease of 8.9 percent from the 2011 Census.

In the State she calls home, our November selection, Bernadette Buhagiar stands out as one of the leaders of the Maltese community, having served as secretary of the Community Council, 23 years in radio broadcasting, and other vital and varied positions.

Bernadette Buhagiar

Speaking to The Voice of the Maltese, Bernadette said that her family emigrated to South Australia on 3rd May 1986. "It was a different life in this vast continent. It was a great shock to settle down, as everyone in Malta knows everyone, but in this "strange" country, you barely get to meet your neighbours".

She went on to say, "When we arrived, I met a Maltese lady that was heavily involved in the Maltese community of South Australia, and she is still a very good friend of mine, Mary Sgarabossa. Mary asked me to involve the kids in Maltese Dancing and Maltese Language School; that's how it all started".

Radio broadcasting became part of Bernadette's life. Some 23 years ago she paid a visit to the 5EB1 radio station during a radiothon, and the late Gejtu Grech, the first Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia, asked her if she wanted to join the group as they were one person short and the Annual General Meeting was coming soon. "I thought at first, he was joking. I called him later, and he said that it was no joke."

She has been with the Maltese radio since 1999, where she holds the position of President.

Bernadette's father was Emanuel Borg from Rabat, Gozo. The family went to live in Malta at Marsa. Emanuel's parents were Joseph Borg and Vincenza nee Attard. Emanuel had two other siblings, older sister Carmen and younger sister Mary-Violet.

Her mother, Carmen (Nena) was from Hamrun. Her parents were Carmelo (Menu) Bonnici & Bennarda nee Abela. She had two other siblings older brother Toni and younger sister Guza. Bernadette's parents both worked at NAAFI. Her father was a cabinetmaker, and her mother worked in a laundry where they met. They got married in November 1949.

Bernadette was born in September 1950. She has two other siblings, twins Censina and Tony. They lived in St Venera and attended St Venera Primary school, which was formerly Casa Leone but is now a government department. She also attended the Grammar school in Mdina opposite the Carmelite Church.

Bernadette got married in 1973. She has three children, Lara, her eldest daughter has two kids, Oscar and Aurelia. She is also



**PERSONALITY
OF THE MONTH
OF THE MONTH**

the mother of twins, Alexis and Lorna. Alexis has a daughter, Allegra, and Lorna who is the mother of Ava, who lives in Canada.

In 1992 Bernadette attended a six-month Travel and Tourism course that she describes as the biggest challenge in her life. She learned how to use a computer and competed with students who had just left school. However, she managed to graduate with full marks as an International Travel Consultant and has worked as a travel consultant for over ten years. She has also been a Justice of the Peace since July 1997.

In 2003 she became a Cook/Manager at Regency Green Aged Care and also worked as a cook for the Maltese Aged Care Associate of South Australia. Before she retired from the workforce in 2020, she worked at Calvary Mary McKillop nee (Flora McDonald Lodge) as a cook.

Bernadette's other commitments and volunteering included: Fund Raising – Miss Junior SA Quest, Epilepsy Assoc. 1994-1995; S.A Sportsgirl Quest Christmas Appeal 1997; Maltese Community Council – Secretary from 2000 to 2010; St Catherine's Society – President; Maltese Community Radio – President – current, and Maltese Seniors Club.

The gems in Tower Road that made way for clusters of high-rise blocks of flats

The changing face of Malta - 8

Continuing our series, in which we highlight the various projects, infrastructure and/or otherwise, that have been 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.

For different reasons, not everybody is ready to welcome all the changes that for decades have been changing the face of Malta. In fact, it has to be said, particularly when it comes to infrastructure, not all the changes have made an improvement on the attractiveness of our tiny island.

One such, is over-development in some areas, especially in residential areas in the core of our villages and towns with owners of buildings sometimes ignoring common sense to go with the tide in order to make a fast buck irrespective of the damage to the environment.

Sometimes it takes decades before people wake up to the fact to deplore the loss of gems in buildings one used to admire, like, for example, in Tower Road, Sliema.

It was over sixty years ago that the rot started. That is when Sliema's main road began to undergo the transformation with townhouses of character making way for hundreds of high-rise blocks of flats in what is known as one of the most sought-after spots by tourists and locals alike.

Up until the 1950s, the long stretch of seafront in Tower Road was regarded as a prestigious British seaside town with houses/villas only built of honeycomb coloured limestone.

The stretch was lined up with Victorian townhouses of rarely more than three stories, with bay windows, traditional balconies, and often-grandiose features such as columns and facade carvings that were popular during that time.

Sliema paid host to an array of architectural styles, from the Neo-Classical look to Gothic and Art-Deco buildings.

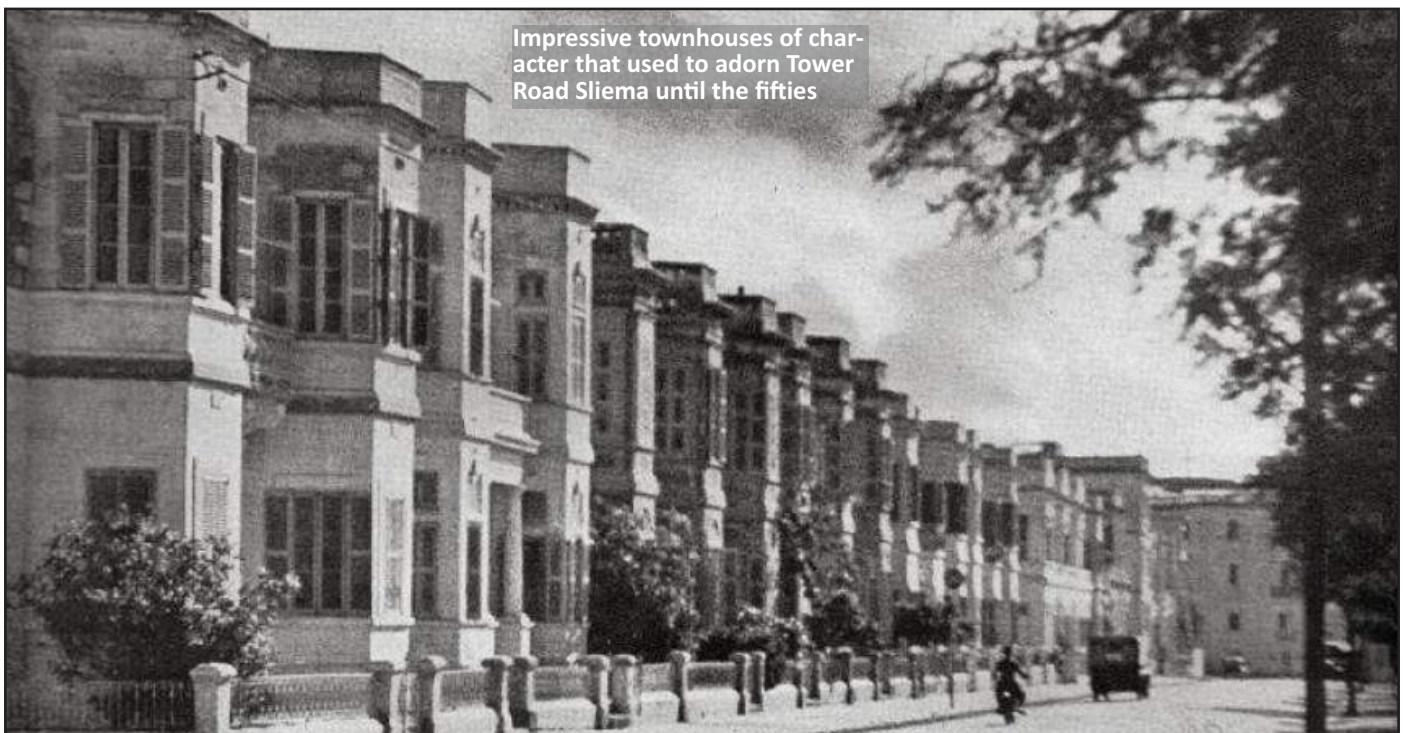
However, as the population started to grow, demand outweighed supply and the only way was up. There was no other way to go; therefore "old" buildings had to be torn down to make way for "modern" apartments.

Ever since, Sliema has been in a constant state of development and the tranquilly of the peaceful hometown continued to undergo an exaggerated continuous makeover.

The contrasting pictures produced on this page are fine examples of what Tower Road was then, and what Tower Road is now. Which one do you prefer?



Part of Tower Road in Sliema today: flats in high-rise buildings throughout



Impressive townhouses of character that used to adorn Tower Road Sliema until the fifties

The Australian government has lifted the international travel ban for the fully vaccinated to certain countries, including Malta. However, there are some additional things to consider before one heads to the airport

Travelling to Malta? - Medical Costs and Bilateral Health Agreement

Maltese Nationals travelling to Malta with a valid Maltese passport can avail themselves of any Public Health Service at no cost. This includes services provided by the local Public Health Centres and the Public Hospitals in Malta and Gozo.

If Maltese citizens visit private health clinics in the Maltese Islands, since they are private entities, citizens have to pay for such services unless one is covered by a travel insurance. In that case, one would be able to claim such expenses with one's insurer upon return to Australia.

If travellers go to Malta with their Australian passport and they do not possess a valid Maltese Identity Card, then, the below Bilateral Health Agreement provisions apply:

<https://foreignandtrade.gov.au/en/Treaties%20Series/Documents/Australia%20-%202031st%20July%201988.pdf>

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medical/reciprocal-health-care-agreements/when-australians-go-overseas/about-reciprocal-health-care-agreements/visiting-malta>

Visiting Malta

The Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) Australia has with Malta may cover some of one's medical costs in Malta's public health system. To be eligible it must be: i) essential care that can't wait till you get home; ii) within six months after the day you arrive.

What's covered:

The agreement covers care in a government hospital that includes: operations, medicine, nursing care, accommodation and meals.

It also covers hospital outpatient care provided by:

- specialists in government service
- care at a health centre from a public doctor or nurse
- ambulance travel to hospital in an emergency
- necessary immediate dental care provided by government hospital.

The agreement doesn't cover:

- dental work that isn't urgent, for example fillings
- dental prostheses and appliances, your travel insurance may cover some of these and other extra costs.
- doctor or medical services obtained from private practices, private hospitals and private clinics.

— source Maltese Consul General NSW

NOTE: While in Malta, if you are an Australian citizen requiring urgent consular assistance, the Australian Government provides an emergency 24-hour consular assistance. If such assistance is needed in Malta, one should call the chancery switchboard on +356 2133 8201

Stay COVID safe as NSW reopens

As we enjoy getting out and about, let's stay COVID safe.

- > Meet outdoors, and physically distance when you can
- > Wear a mask indoors, and if you can't physically distance outdoors
- > Wash or sanitise your hands regularly

Get tested immediately if you have even mild symptoms, and self-isolate until you get a negative test result. If you're planning to travel within NSW or interstate, you'll need to be fully vaccinated. Not vaccinated yet? Book an appointment or find your nearest walk-in clinic today. For assistance, call the COVID-19 vaccine helpline on 1800 020 080. If you require a free telephone interpreter, call 131 450, say the language you need in English and ask the interpreter to connect you to the COVID-19 vaccine helpline.

> **HELP NSW STAY COVID SAFE**

For more information, visit nsw.gov.au

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Malta has chaged and become avant garde in every aspect

Vicky Martin from Toronto, Ontario Canada writes:

I wish to commend you for the way you produce this interesting magazine. I like the professional way it is being developed, and the most interesting articles you regale the readers with.

As a Maltese who has been living abroad for over 40 years, what I like especially in recent issues is the series that focuses on what is changing the face of Malta, not just

the infrastructure, which, love or hate is part of what makes Malta a modern state, but everything else that proves that the Maltese are *avant-garde* in every aspect of life.

I spent my childhood years in Mellieha, perhaps the furthest one could consider from the centre of the island. In my days, when it came to entertainment, the best we could come up with, were sports activities in the vast opening in front of the parochial church and the traditional *ghana*.

However, in my regular visits to Malta with my husband, who is Canadian, and our three kids, now all married, and especially three years ago, I noticed that the village has become a city quite popular with other Maltese, and perhaps even more with tourists who spend their holidays in some of the best and modern hotels on the island.

In my youth the main attraction for those outside of the village used to be Mellieha Bay. The lure of the sandy beach is still there but the many high-class restaurants offering very interesting dishes that have mushroomed in the past few years, is another.

Malta has certainly made changes, mostly for the better. Good on you Malta!

Il-Proġett tal-mina minn Pembroke sa Ta' Qali

Patrick J. Sammut mill-Mosta jikteb:

Qrajt b'interess l-artiklu dwar il-mina (it-tunnel) il-ġdida bejn ir-Reverse Osmosis ta' Pembroke u l-gibjun f'Ta' Qali. Dan huwa proġett ambizzjuż u fl-istess hin b'żonnjuż qatigh. Prosit tassew għal xogħol bħal dan.

Min-naha l-oħra kulhadd jaf li l-impjanti tad-desalinizzazzjoni jiddependu mill-elettriku. X'jiġri jekk xi darba jinqata' d-dawl għal perijodu twil ta' żmien? Bosta jgħidu li qed inkun apokallittiku, imma din hija dejjem possibiltà.

Hsibt hafna fix-xita li għamlet fix-xahar ta' Ottubru hawn Malta u Għawdex u li ssoktat ukoll matul ix-xahar ta' Novembru. Niżel hafna ilma tax-xita u għarraġ bosta toroq; ammonti kbar oħrajn marru direttament fil-baħar wara vjaġġ twil fit-toroq asfaltati.

Qed jinhela bosta ilma tax-xita! Mela huwa dmir tagħna wkoll li kemm jista' jkun din ir-riżorsa ma tinheliex u ninvestu anki f'iktar gibjuni kollettivi fejn l-ilma li jingabar jista' faċilment jintuża għall-biedja imma anki għax-xorb.

Cert li f'dan il-qasam għad hemm hafna xi jsir.

A familiar encounter with his excellency

Fr Leonard Testa OFMConv from Shellharbour writes:

After years of active ministry, I am now retired. Through an article in a recent issue of *The Voice Of The Maltese*, I discovered that like himself, the High Commissioner for Malta in Australia, His Excellency Mario Farrugia-Borg hails from Qormi in Malta.

That was providential for me as I was looking to find someone to write a forward for a book I am in the process of writing on the family journey from Malta to Australia. Our families lived within a few hundred metres from each other so we were neighbours in the Maltese sense.

The Commissioner's visit to Illawarra helped us to get to know each other in a less formal place at an afternoon tea, at the Country Kitchen Café in Shellharbour, run by the Testa family. It provided us with the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the commitment His Excellency has in the family book.

During this meeting the HC was given a draft of the family journey book.

(See the *Maltese High Commissioner makes official visit to NSW* on pages 20 and 21)



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A moment in history

The disappearance of an Australian Prime Minister

Fifty-four years ago on 17th December 1967, Harold Holt, the 17th Prime Minister of Australia, disappeared while swimming in the sea near Portsea, Victoria. An enormous search operation was mounted in and around Cheviot Beach, which is notorious for its rips, reefs, undercurrents and thumping waves.

Holt's body was never recovered. He was presumed dead. Five days later many world leaders attended his memorial service.

Years later, his son Robert told the media he would rather his father be remembered as an architect of the 1967 referendum and for his work to dismantle the White Australia policy. He was remembered as a fair and decent man, well liked on both sides of politics.

A memorial service for Holt was held on Friday, 22th December, at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. It was led by Tom Thomas, the Dean of Melbourne, with a single eulogy given by Philip Strong, the Anglican Primate of Australia.

Due to the absence of a body, there were no prayers of commitment. There were 2,000 attendees within the cathedral, and many thousands more lined the nearby streets and listened through a public address system.

Thirty newspaper reporters were given seats, but only one official photographer was allowed, as well as a single video camera at the back of the building.

The service was attended by Charles, Prince of Wales, the United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, President Lyndon B. Johnson of the United States, Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Edward Heath of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Keith Holyoake of New Zealand, President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, President Chung Hee Park of South Korea, President Nguyen Van Thieu

of South Vietnam, Prime Minister C. K. Yen of Taiwan, and Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn of Thailand.

Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, and Western Samoa sent their foreign ministers as representatives, while numerous other countries sent their ambassadors. After the service, there was a formal reception at the Government House, Melbourne.

Powering his way into the depths, Australia's 17th Prime Minister and fun-loving family man had plans to unwind over Christmas, eight days away. He was getting started. Surf swimming and scuba diving topped his list of recreations.

Harold Holt is remembered for his sporty image, newspaper photos showing him in a wetsuit with spear gun, flanked by bikini babes. It is generally agreed that his disappearance was a simple case of accidental drowning, but a number of conspiracy theories surfaced, most famously the suggestion that a Chinese submarine had collected him. Holt was the third Australian Prime Minister to die in office, after Joseph Lyons in 1939 and John Curtin in 1945.

He was initially replaced in a caretaker



Harold Holt Spearfishing at Portsea

capacity by John McEwen, and then following a Liberal Party leadership election, by John Gorton. Holt's death has entered Australian folklore and was commemorated by, among other things, the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre.

Harold Holt became Prime Minister of Australia in January 1966 following the retirement of Sir Robert Menzies. He was a career politician, entering parliament at the age of 27 and becoming a government minister at the age of 31.

As with Menzies, Holt refused a security detail upon taking office, considering it unnecessary and potentially alienating to the general public.

Holt's stance changed after two incidents in mid-1966 – a window in his office was shattered by a sniper, and then an assassination attempt was made on Arthur Calwell, the Leader of the Opposition. Holt grudgingly accepted a single bodyguard for his official duties, but refused any protection while on holiday, regarding it as a violation of his privacy. His wife Zara later suggested that this was so he could hide his extramarital affairs.

Monument to Harold Holt c 1967 - Defence Rd, Cheviot Beach, Point Nepean National Park



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



Wirja ta' konvinzjoni



Gieni f'rasi dan is-sugġett waqt li kont qiegħed insewgi l-konferenza fi Glasgow, fl-Iskozja, dwar it-tibdil fil-klima. Din hija laqgħa ta' esperti u rappreżentanti tal-gvernijiet ta' madwar id-dinja fi hdan segretarjat fil-Ġnus Magħquda li ġie mwaqqaf fl-1992 f'Rio de Janeiro li jipprovdi qafas għal konvinzjoni dwar it-tibdil tal-klima (UNFCCC - *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*).

Hemm 197 pajjiż firmatarji ta' dan il-qafas, li minnu tniissu l-ftehim ta' Kyoto fl-1997 u dak ta' Pariġi fl-2015.¹ Issa magħhom qed jiżied il-ftehim ta' Glasgow ta' din is-sena.

Qed nuża s-singular (ftehim), imma verament id-delegati għall-konferenza jiddiskutu u joħorġu deċiżjonijiet imqassma f'għexieren ta' dokumenti², l-iktar wieħed magħruf huwa dak imsejjaħ Patt ta' Glasgow fuq il-Klima.³

Il-firmatarji tal-konvinzjoni, li jimxu b'kunsens, irrikonossu (paragrafu I(3)) li t-temperaturi medji madwar id-dinja diġà għolew b'1.1°C fuq iż-żminijiet pre-industrijali minhabba l-attivitajiet tal-bniedem, u li l-impatti qed jinhassu kullimkien.

Iddeċidew ukoll (paragrafu IV(16)) li se jagħmlu hilitom sabiex iż-żieda fit-temperatura tieqaf sa 1.5°C biex tnaqqas ir-riskju u l-impatt.

Il-firmatarji komplew jagħrfu (para IV(17)) li biex dan l-għan jintlaħaq, it-tniġġiż tal-gassijiet li jikkawżaw it-tibdil tal-klima jridu jitnaqqsu b'45% sas-sena 2030, jiġifieri sa 9 snin oħra, u hemm bżonn li dan it-tnaqqis ikun profund, ta' malajr u sostnut.

Wieħed mill-firmatarji tad-deċiżjonijiet kollha, inkluzi dawk li kkwotajtilkom hawn fuq, kien l-Awstralja, l-għada tal-għeluq tan-negożjati, hareġ malajr malajr jiċċara li l-Awstralja mhix se tadotta dik il-mira, la issa u lanqas f'laqgħat fil-futur,⁴ imma se tibqa' timmira lejn 26-28% ta' tnaqqis fit-tniġġiż, u biex tbenġilha qalet li tistenna li se tnaqqas it-tniġġiż b'9% iktar.

Tistgħu timmaginaw il-konvinzjoni li biha r-rappreżentanti Awstraljani iffiraw il-Patt ta' Glasgow. Konvinzjoni li jiġu altament jitmelhu minn dak li qed jiffiraw, u li se jagħmlu fattihom, al-abiebhom minn kulhadd.

Ftakru li waqt li l-Prim Ministru tela' Glasgow biex imexxi d-delegazzjoni Awstraljana hemmhekk, il-kap tas-sieħeb tal-Koalizzjoni fil-gvern (Partit Nazzjonali) Barnaby Joyce, li kien Agent Prim Ministru, kien qiegħed jistqarr li l-partit tiegħu ma kien if-firma xejn fi Glasgow!⁵

Id-dinja jista' jkollha kunfidenza fl-intenzjonijiet maqbula fuq il-karta fi Glasgow min-naħa Awstraljana, cioè li l-hafna paġni tal-ftehim se jsibu użu immedjat fil-lokijiet ta' Canberra.

Kien hemm diżappunt minn dawk li xtaqu iktar azzjonijiet konkreti, bħal per eżempju zieda fl-iffinanzjament tal-ifqar pajjiżi bħala għajnuna għalihom għal livell ta' \$100 biljun fis-sena (mira li ma ntlahqitx), u weghda li l-użu tal-faham jitwaqqaf (ġie maqbul biss li l-użu jitnaqqas) u oħrajn.

Mill-banda l-oħra, kien hemm uħud fl-Awstralja li fil-fatt iċċelebraw li dawn il-miri ma ntlahqux, speċjalment parlamentari li s-siġġu tagħhom jinsab f'reġjuni li fihom minjieri tal-faham jew ġeneraturi tal-elettriku li jithaddmu bil-faham.

Jien ma nħossx li din il-konferenza kienet falliment bħal ma qed iħossu whud. Veru li mhux il-miri kollha neċessarji ġew maqbula. Imma ikkunsidraw ftit:

- huwa ċar li ż-żmien ta' fuwils iffosilizzati bħall-faham, iż-żejt u l-metanu għadda;
- qed jiġu żviluppati alternattivi, b'rata mghaġġla, u malli l-prezz tagħhom jiġi irhas mill-faham u ż-żejt, l-ekonomija waħedha tiżgura li l-użu ta' dawn tal-aħħar waħdu jibda jma-jna.

Min-naħa tal-Awstralja, bid-dawra durelli b'kollox, il-gvern fl-aħħar m'għadux fir-retorika tiegħu jassoċja l-ġenerazzjoni foto-voltajka ma' zieda fil-prezzijiet, imma ma' prezzijiet irhas, u issa qed jirrealizza li hemm opportunità kbira li tkun minn ta' quddiem fl-iżvilupp industrijali ta' teknoloġiji ta' enerġiji nodfa, u lest li jitfa hafna flus f'dik id-direzzjoni.

Fl-aħħarnett, nistenna li jista' jkun hemm xi effetti ekonomiċi imposti mill-Unjoni Ewropeja ladarba l-Awstralja ma tidhirx li lesta terfa' l-piż tat-tibdiliet li huma neċessarji li jseħhu f'dan id-dekadu sal-2030, bħal ma wiegħdu li se jagħmlu l-pajjiżi l-oħra kollha meqjusa żviluppati.

Ma nkunx sorpriż jekk id-diska tal-gvern ftit tinbidel fix-xhur li ġejjin, bħal ma nbidlet meta ġie accettat il-prinċipju li l-emissjoni ta' tniġġiż m'għadux ikun iktar mill-assorbiment tagħhom sas-sena 2050, deċiżjoni li nharġet mal-bili wara hafna u hafna tqahqieħ.

Il-flus jikkellmu.

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On per capita basis Australia has highest greenhouse gas emissions from coal in the world

According to a new analysis released at the COP 26 climate summit that ended on November 13 in Glasgow shows that Australia's per capita emissions from coal power is nearly double those of China, and that its greenhouse gas pollution levels are now at all-time highs having been consistently rising in the past four years.

On the final day of COP26, the British climate and energy think-tank Ember released an analysis that suggested the world's wealthiest countries remained among the worst emitters from coal power once population was factored in.

Australia topped the list, with annual per person emissions five times greater than the global average and 40% higher than any other coal power user. About 60% of Australia's electricity over the past year came from burning coal, a proportion that is gradually diminishing and the country's coal fleet is ageing.

This makes Australia the 16th largest emitter of carbon dioxide worldwide. The Global Carbon Atlas shows Australia is dragging in the global race to cut greenhouse gas pollution, trailing behind the UK, Italy and France.

A look at the period since the landmark Paris agreement was signed in 2015, the analysis found Australia emitted 5.34 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person each year, playing it ahead of South Korea (3.81), South Africa (3.19), the US (3.08) and the world's biggest outright emitter, China (2.71).



In 2017 Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison famously praised coal's value to Australia in a parliamentary debate on renewable energy



In 2018, the Green Innovation Index: International Edition, put together by Next 10, analysed and ranked the economic and energy performance of the world's 50 largest economies, including Australia.

The report had ranked Australia 42nd out of 50 for per capita emissions, only marginally better than nations such as Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Kuwait.

It also found that despite having a smaller population, Australia's total energy consumption is higher than France, Italy and California. And the hits just kept on coming, with Australia also ranked

among the worst for energy use (43rd) per capita and electricity use (45th) per capita.

Australia is the fourth largest producer of coal, and has a crucial role to play in helping the world to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

Globally, in 2017, more renewable energy capacity was added than coal, gas and nuclear combined. However, despite being one of the sunniest and windiest countries in the world, 85% of Australia's electricity still comes from fossil fuels like coal and gas.

Under current closure schedules Australia would continue to use coal power until the late 2040s

It all means that the country is missing out on the economic opportunities, investment and jobs seen in places like California, which is well on its way to hitting its 100% zero carbon electricity target by 2045.

Facts about the coal industry in Australia

Australia is the biggest exporter of coal in the world, exporting mostly to Japan. The country itself only uses 15% of its 147.4 billion tons of coal for domestic use. Around 14% of the world's coal comes from Australia.

The biggest coal mine in Australia by reserves is the Peak Downs mine in the Bowen Basin of Central Queensland, with a total of 718 million tons of reserves. In the 2018-2019 financial year it produced 11.8 million tons of metallurgical coal, outputting to the Hay Point Coal Terminal by Mackay for shipping. It has been operating as an open-cut mine since 1972.

The coal industry in Australia employs around 200,000 people.



Roundup of News About Malta



PM Abela attends international conference about Libya in Paris

Beside his participating in COP26, Prime Minister Robert Abela also attended an international conference to discuss Libya that was convened in Paris by French President Emmanuel Macron and organised by the United Nations, Germany and Italy.

US Vice President Kamala Harris, and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, also attended.

Then attendees discussed how they could help in ensuring that elections due next month in Libya would be held as scheduled, and the exit of mercenaries and foreign forces from Libya.

The first round of Libyan Presidential Elections is scheduled for 24th December and Parliamentary Elections are due to be held in February, together with the second round of Presidential Elections.

In Paris, Robert Abela also had a meeting with the Secretary General of the Organi-

sation for Cooperation for Economic and Development, OECD, Mathias Cormann at the Organisation's General Quarters in the French capital, and stressed Malta's commitment to address global issues such as the pandemic and climate changes in collaboration with international partners.

They also discussed Malta's relations with the OECD with the PM pointing out that Malta intends to strengthen its relations with the OECD following a series of institutional reforms that have been carried out as well as in governance and Human Rights. The Secretary General welcomed these commitments.

At the end of the meeting, the conference stressed the importance of an inclusive and consultative electoral process and called upon the Libyan stakeholders to take steps, including with the good offices of UN-SMIL, to increase mutual trust and build consensus for the upcoming elections.



Prime Minister Robert Abela (right) with French President Emm. Macron

Malta's foreign policy outlined

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo has launched Malta's Foreign Policy Strategy for public consultation, where-by for the first time, the foreign policy of Malta is outlined in a strategic document.

The Minister said that the strategy, that outlines Malta's values and guiding principles, which have been developed throughout our history, serving as a cornerstone of our foreign policy, is based on Malta's interests and principles, such as the constitution, the rule of law, equality of opportunity, neutrality and sustainability.

The main aim is to have a foreign policy that serves the nation, its interests and its citizens, including Maltese living abroad, while also promoting the country's beliefs, culture and identity.

As a small country, the Minister said it is in Malta's interest to solve international disputes by agreement to ensure peace and security in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

Over 10,000 additional jobs in 17 mths

By end May 2021, employment in Malta reached a record 237,375, that is, 8,054 more than seventeen months ago when Robert Abela took office as Prime Minister. Those working part-time were up by 2,231, (65,835 from 61,702).

The top five job-creating sectors have been, health and social work, construction, professional services, remote gaming and information and communication, and financial services.

The current figures indicate that during the period the number of additional jobs was nearly 10,300 (approximately 20 new jobs a day).

In May 2021, the share of full-time employment in the public sector out of total full-time employment was just 21.5%, as against 26.6% in March 2013.



Fitch Affirms Malta at A+; Outlook Stable

International rating agency Fitch has affirmed Malta's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A+' with a Stable Outlook, saying that the rating is supported by high per capita income levels, a large net external creditor position and a pre-pandemic track record of strong growth and sizeable debt reduction.

These strengths are balanced against Malta's large banking sector and the small and highly open nature of its economy, which makes it vulnerable to external developments.

The Stable Outlook reflects Fitch's expectation that GDP growth will recover and that debt will resume a gradual downward path following the fiscal shock caused by the pandemic. At the same time, there is continued downside risk from the path of the coronavirus and its effect on the tourism sector and public finances, as well as adverse developments in governance.

Fitch's experts added that public finances have deteriorated significantly from a surplus of 0.4% of GDP in 2019 to a deficit of 10.2% of GDP in 2020. The government implemented a comprehensive fiscal stimulus package to safeguard employment and growth, including 5% of GDP in direct fiscal measures and an additional 1.5% in tax deferrals.

It said that the 2021 budget maintains an accommodative policy stance and projects a fiscal deficit of 11.5% this year, slightly below the government's fiscal target of 12%.

Fitch expects the deficit to narrow markedly to 5.4% of GDP in 2022, driven by the cyclical recovery and the phasing-out of Covid-19-related stimulus measures.

It acknowledged that Malta has been a frontrunner in terms of vaccination distribution, becoming the first EU country to achieve the 70% vaccination threshold for "herd immunity" on 24 May. Malta's tourism sector has been severely affected by the pandemic, but other sectors, including the IT, financial services and construction sectors have reported continued strong growth rates.



Roundup of News About Malta



Gozo now has own reverse osmosis plant



Gozo has started to benefit from a water supply that is independent from that of Malta following the inauguration by Prime Minister Robert Abela last Thursday of a reverse osmosis plant at a restored huge building that was unused for some 30 years at Hondoq ir-Rummien bay.

The Water Services Corporation managed to turn the previously abandoned building in Hondoq ir-Rummien into a state-of-the-art plant (left). This is an €11 million EU co-funded project equipped with modern, energy efficient pumps that will provide better access to quality water that can produce 9,000 cubic metres of water daily.

The Prime Minister described the project as one of the most efficient in the world, and a clear demonstration of the Government's vision to transform Gozo into a place where environmental and digital transformations begin.

The Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development, Miriam Dalli said that the project is historic because it can cope in case of a sharp increase in demand and be sustainable as it will use less energy, while delivering fresh, quality water to homes.

The plant was inaugurated 40 years after the first one was opened at Ghar Lapsi in Malta.

Sigma Europe iGaming showcase attracts 600 investors to Malta

For the first time, investors interested in blockchain and artificial intelligence united in the same festival and for the seventh year in a row, Malta hosted the Sigma Europe Festival the definitive iGaming showcase and welcomed a record 600 investors to the island.

One again, this festival, which has become one of the largest iGaming festivals worldwide, showcased the best talent in the sector. For the first time, they were being joined by exhibitors and investors interested in Malta in the field of artificial intelligence and also blockchain.

Throughout the fair, the island also welcomed investors and individuals from the sectors of artificial intelligence, blockchain, internet of things, quantum tech, and emerging technologies, digital sectors that together are discussing and shaping the future of the next economies and industry, globally.

It also attracted around 2,000 high-end attendees from around 80 countries that helped boost the tourism sector.

In a recently survey reported by the SIGMA news portal, in the first quarter of 2021, the number of new jobs created was

already higher than that before COVID-19.

In fact, in Malta itself in recent weeks, 250 new jobs have been announced in the iGaming sector alone and in the sports sector it has been announced that by 2030 this will reach 2,500 job creation.

'Digital Connect' scheme to address digital divide

Minister for Social Justice and Solidarity, Family and Children's Rights Michael Falzon and Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri have just launched the Digital Connect scheme, a pilot project aimed at addressing digital divide aimed at reaching around 2,300 families.

Through this scheme, identified low-income families who have consequently fallen behind in terms of technology would be entitled to a laptop as well as a €300 internet voucher for a whole year. It is intended to boost these families' inclusion and digital skills.

Described the initiative as an example investing in the people, Minister Michael Falzon said it ensures that every family has access to basic needs in order to live a decent life.

Those benefiting from this pilot project scheme are those who are currently receiving social security services, a non-contributory pension, social assistance, single parents, and those who receiving assistance as unemployed.

Medicine related to Covid-19 treatment produced in Malta

Through assistance provided by Malta Enterprise and the Investment Aid initiative, MGC Pharma has developed its facility in Malta and would be producing medication to treat inflammation caused by Covid-19 and other respiratory problems.

Thanks to its 800m2 facility, MGC Pharma will start producing up to 24,000 units of medicine per day—double the amount that was initially planned.

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Il-Liġi tal-Kannabis

Fil-Parlament Malti, għad kif bdiet id-diskussjoni dwar abbozz ta' liġi dwar l-użu tal-kannabis... li kif mistenni qalet diskussjoni shiħa fil-pajjiż, għalkemm oriġinarjament meta thabbret kien deher li kienet se ssib l-ap-pogg taż-żewġ partiti politiċi ewlenin Maltin.

Imma, propju meta waslet biex tiġi diskussa l-liġi, l-Oppożizzjoni ddeċidiet li tivvota kontra tagħha għax sostniet li qed tipproponi bidliet perikolużi u appellat biex il-proċess jieqaf sakemm isiru studji indipendenti u serji dwar il-proposti.

Il-PN insista li, "Bl-abbozz ta' liġi li ressaq, il-Gvern Laburista qed jagħti dahru lit-tfal u l-interessi u l-ħtiġijiet tagħhom."

Il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Bernard Grech, qal li l-liġi tal-kannabis se tinnormalizza u mhux tiddikriminalizza l-użu tad-droga.

Sahaq li l-Gvern "riedna li jkollna pożizzjoni fuq din il-kwestjoni iżda aħna ridna nisimgħu. Aħna ma rridux nibagħtu l-mes-saġġ li l-użu ta' droga huwa normali."

Fakkar li l-Partit Nazzjonalista kien diġà qabel fil-Parlament meta giet emendata l-liġi biex persuni li jinqabdu b'ammont ta' kannabis għall-użu personali ma jispicċawx il-ħabs.

Sadanittant, 22 entità, kemm tal-Knisja u ta' organizzazzjonijiet indipendenti, ingħaqdu u pprezentaw *position paper* dwar l-abbozz ta' liġi dwar l-użu rikreattiv tal-kannabis lill-Membri Parlamentari.

Fil-pożizzjoni tagħhom, l-entitajiet li ħafna minnhom jahdmu ma' tfal u żgħażaġh, jishqu li l-abbozz, kif ipprezentat bħalissa, se jkollu effett negattiv u se jkun qed jinnormalizza l-użu tad-droga u anke jonqos milli jipproteġi kemm lis-soċ-jetà kif ukoll lil min juża d-droga.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Ministru Owen Bonnici, li qed iressaq l-abbozz ta' liġi, insista li l-'Użu personali tal-kannabis b' mod regolazzat se jnaqqas it-traffikar ta' droga."

Qal, "Aħna se niehdu l-flus minn ħalq u mill-bwiet tal-kriminali tat-traffikanti u minflok se noffru ambjent sigur, ikkontrollat bħala miżura b'saħħitha ta' *harm reduc-*

tion waqt li niehdu ħsieb lit-tfal u lil uliedna, għax lil uliedna, kif niehdu ħsiebhom jekk il-kriminali jiddeċiedu r-regoli, jew jekk aħna noholqu l-kontrolli jew is-ser-jetà?"

Fi stqarrija l-Partit Nazzjonalista qal li l-Grupp Parlamentari tiegħu jqis l-abbozz kif propost mill-Gvern bħala wieħed li se johlq in-normalizzazzjoni u ż-żieda tal-abbuż tad-droga f'pajjiżna.

Skont il-PN dan l-abbozz kif propost mill-Gvern ma jagħti l-ebda protezzjoni u għajjuna lill-persuni vulnerabbli li jaqgħu għall-vizzju tad-droga u ma jagħti l-ebda għodda legali għidha u aktar effettiva biex jiġi miġġieled it-traffikar tad-droga.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Partit Laburista sostna li l-istqarrija tal-PN hi sintomatika ta' partit b'kap fi krizi mingħajr ebda sens ta' tmexxiya. Fl-istess waqt sostna li xahar qabel, Bernard Grech kien qal li l-Gvern ipprezenta abbozz ta' liġi għid ibbażat fuq dak li qal hu iktar qabel u li l-Gvern ikkup-jah, biex issa qiegħed jgħid li hu kontra.

Il-Partit Laburista kien qed jirreferi għal dak li Grech kiteb madwar xahar ilu fuq l-paġna tiegħu tal-facebook:

Bernard Grech
about a month ago

Xahrejn ilu għedt li l-liġi dwar il-kannabis, li l-Partit Laburista ilu tant iwiegħed, għandha l-ewwel u qabel kollox tindirizza kif il-kannabis tista' tinx tara. Jekk ma jkunx hekk, ir-rilassament tal-liġijiet se jwassal biss biex jissahħah is-suq illegali, bil-kriminalità organizzata tapprofitta. Illum, il-Gvern emenda l-proposta tiegħu għall-mod kif għedt jien, permezz tal-introduzzjoni ta' assoċjazzjonijiet bis-shubija."



Kien hemm għadd ta' kummenti dwar din il-bidla ta' Grech fl-atteggjament tiegħu għall-abbozz tal-Liġi dwar il-kannabis, bil-*Maltatoday* toħroġ bi storja dwar li al-legament seħh meta l-grupp parlamentari tal-PN ddiskuta x'kellha tkun il-pożizzjoni tiegħu meta jitressaq dan l-abbozz tal-Liġi.

Skont dan il-gurnal kien hemm dibattitu jahraq bejn Bernard Grech u deputati Nazzjonalisti u li wara li ma sabx appoġġ, Grech kellu jċedi għall-pressjoni tad-deputati u johlq kontra l-liġi proposta li se tirregola l-użu responsabbli tal-kannabis.

Imma l-liġi xi tghid?

Aktarx li jkun hemm min jistaqsi, imma fuq kollox x'tgħid din il-liġi? Il-punti ewlenin kif irrappurtat mill-gazetta 'illum' huma:

1. Pussess ta' massimu ta' seba' grammi għall-użu personali mhux se jitqies bħala reat u mhux se jagħti lok ta' proċeduri tal-Qorti. Sakemm mhux fuq ċirkostanzi ta' sospett ta' traffikar. Hemm il-pulizija għandha d-dritt li tinvestiga.
2. F'każ ta' persuni li jinqabdu b'bejn tmien grammi u 28 gramma, dawn ikollhom jitilgħu quddiem tribunal lokali. Il-persuna tista' tehel multa u l-kannabis tiġi kkonfiskata. Jekk ikun hemm sospett li l-kannabis ma jkunx għall-użu personali l-pulizija jkollha d-dritt li tintervjeni wkoll.
3. Minuri, jiġifieri persuni taħt it-18-il sena, b'pussess iridu jidhru quddiem tribunal lokali u jiġu mogħtija pjan ta' għajjuna.
4. Il-kannabis ma tistax tiġi kkunsmata fil-pubbliku, bl-eċċezzjoni għal dawk li

jingħataw parir mediku biex jikkunsawha bħala medicina.

5. Jekk tikkonsma l-kannabis quddiem xi hadd li mhuwiex adult, dik il-persuna tista' tehel multa.

6. Il-kultivazzjoni tal-pjanti. It-tkabbar ta' pjanti tal-kannabis huwa permess sa' mas-simu ta' erba' pjanti. Dan mhux se jkun reat kriminali u lanqas amministrattiv, jiġifieri ma tehilx multa lanqas. Erba' pjanti huma permessi għal residenza wahda biss, lil hinn minn kemm hemm persuni fiha.

7. Huwa permess li persuna tkun f'pussess ta' massimu ta' 50 gramma kannabis niexfa.

8. Il-pjanti li se jiġu kkultivati d-dar għandhom jitkabbru f'post li ma jidhrix u għaldaqstant ma jdejjaxq lil dawk fil-vicinanza. Il-Ministru Bonnici tenna li l-pjanti għandhom bżonn temperatura u dawl apposta allura m'hemm bżonn tal-elementi tan-natura (xemx, ħamrija, eċċ.)

Malta l-aħjar fit-tilqim

Għalkemm, bħal bqija tal-Ewropa imma mhux bl-istess rata, il-każi tal-COVID-19 f'Malta qed jiżiedu, jidher li l-fatt li Malta tinsab fuq quddiem fejn jidholl it-tilqim kontra l-pandemija, u saħansitra fl-ghoti tal-*booster* qed iħalli l-frott tiegħu.

Fil-fatt, l-għadd ta' dawk li ddaħhlu l-isp-tar minhabba din l-infezzjoni matul il-gimgha qatt ma qabeż l-għoxrin u sakemm qed nikteb, f'dawn l-aħħar jiem ma kellna l-ebda mwiet.

Dan hu rifless fl-aħħar studju u stħarriġ li jpoġġi lil Malta fil-qiegħ tal-lista tal-mwiet fost it-38-pajjiż misħarġa, filwaqt li b'0.34 l-Awstralja hi l-ħames l-aħjar



Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Statistika u Stharrig: Malta minn ta' quddiem

F'dawn l-aħħar jiem kellna r-riżultati ta' diversi stharrig u statistika li jqabblu lil Malta ma pajjiżi oħra u ta' pjaċir wiehed jinnota li f'dan il-każ pajjiżna qata' figura tajba ħafna. Hekk insibu:

L-Ekonomija: l-aġenzija internazzjonali ta' kreditu *Scope Ratings*, li għarblet l-ekonomija ta' bosta pajjiżi, fosthom dawk ħafna akbar minn Malta, poġġiet lil pajjiżna bħala t-tieni l-aktar ekonomija reżiljenti fid-dinja u l-aktar waħda fost il-pajjiżi kollha tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Skont l-esperti tal-aġenzija Germaniża, Malta tiġi eżatt wara l-Iżvizzera u eżatt qabel il-Ġappun, li jinsab warajna fejn tidhol ir-reżiljenza ekonomika. Malta saħansitra qabżet liċ-Ċina, li spicċat fir-raba' post

e.Government: Min-naha l-oħra rapport tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea għall-2021 li janalizza s-servizzi governattivi *online* ta' 36 pajjiż Ewropew, jgħid li Malta hija l-aqwa fl-Ewropa fejn jidhru s-servizzi ta' *eGovernment*. Hawn Malta kklassifikat l-ewwel b'puntegġ ta' 96% u giet segwita mill-Estonja bi 92%.

Meta wiehed iħares lejn il-kriterji kollha f'dan l-eżerċizzju Malta kklassifikat l-ewwel f'kull wiehed minnhom

Turiżmu: Skont ċifri maħruġa mill-Eurostat, bejn Ġunju u Awwissu ta' din is-sena Malta rreġistrat l-ogħla żieda f'iljieli mqattgħin f'akkomodazzjonijiet turistiċi minn fost il-pajjiżi kollha tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

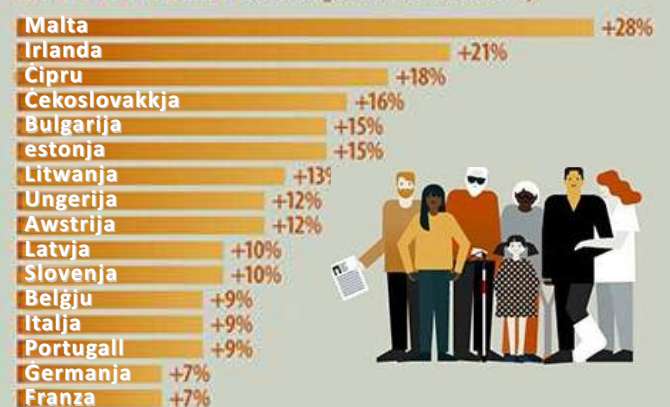
Meta mqabbel mal-istess perjodu tal-2020, Malta rreġistrat żieda ta' kważi 120% segwita minn Spanja u l-Greċja b'100% rispettivament.

Iż-żieda li esperjenza pajjiżna fl-ammont ta' turisti li jgattgħu ljieli fil-gżejjer Maltin tiżboq il-medja Ewropea ta' 20%. Dan ifisser li ż-żieda kienet ta' sitt darbiet aktar mill-medja tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

L-ghadd ta' ljieli li qattgħu t-turisti fi stabbilimenti ta' akkommodazzjoni turistika bejn Ġunju u Awwissu ta' din is-sena żdied fi kważi l-istati membri kollha, bl-eċċezzjoni tal-Latvja

Nefqa Soċjali: L-aħħar statistika tal-Eurostat tikkonferma li fl-2020 Malta kienet fl-ewwel post f'dik li hija nefqa soċjali.

Social protection benefits expenditure, 2020 vs. 2019 (% change, in national currency)



Fiduċja u ottimizzmu

Stharrig tal-Ewrobarometru kkonferma ottimizzmu b'saħħtu fost iċ-ċittadini Maltin, anki qabel thabbar il-baġit għas-sena d-dieħla. Fil-fatt 85% tal-Maltin qalu li għandhom kwalità ta' hajja tajba; 26% qalu li hija tajba ħafna. Kważi tmienja minn kull għaxar persuni qalu li jemmnu li l-ekonomija ta' pajjiżna tinsab fi stat tajjeb u li jeżisti fil-fiduċja fil-Gvern.

Filwaqt li madwar l-Unjoni Ewropea, huma 24% fil-mija li jaf-daw lill-Gvern tagħhom, f'Malta hawn 54% taċ-ċittadini li jaf-daw lill-Gvern preżenti.

L-istharrig hareġ qabel it-tbassir tal-harifa tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea, li qed jara fost l-aħjar prospetti għal Malta.

Il-Kummissjoni qalet li l-ekonomija Maltija se tkun l-aktar waħda li tikber is-sena d-dieħla fost il-pajjiżi kollha tal-Unjoni Ewropea.



Disinjatur tal-hwejjeg Malti jagħmel isem

Xaktarx li ħafna mill-qarrejja li jgħixu l-Awstralja semgħu bid-disinjatur tal-hwejjeg Malti Jason Grech (*fug*), imma tajjeb li fejn jidhru stejjer ta' suċċess isiru jafu bihom ukoll il-Maltin li jgħixu f'diversi partijiet tad-dinja.

Dan billi dan id-disinjatur li jgħix l-Awstralja, imma li qrabatu u saħansitra ommu, jgħixu Malta rnexxielu jiddisinja libsa li l-kantanta magħrufa Awstraljana, Kylie Minogue libset biex tagħmel reklam tal-fwieha li ħarġet hi stess.



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In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.

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**Falli l-familja
tagħna tgħin lill-
familja tiegħek**



A quick glimpse at Australia

Australia unveils its EV policy

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has denied that his support for electric vehicles is a massive backflip, as critics say the government's new \$250 million strategy won't stop Australia from lagging behind the rest of the world.

The government's plan has prompted concern from industry advocates, who say a lack of new subsidies or tax incentives means EVs will remain too expensive for most Australians.

At the last election Mr. Morrison weaponised a similar Labor policy, which carried a target of 50 percent of all new cars being electric by 2030. "I don't have a problem with electric vehicles, I have a problem with governments telling people what to do," he told reporters.

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese said the government's plan lacked substance in failing to address the cost concerns around EVs. "What you can do is make those choices easier by making it cheaper for people to drive electric vehicles."

The transition of diesel or petrol vehicles to low-emissions vehicles is considered crucial for Australia's energy transition, with the transport sector accounting for almost 20 per cent of emissions.



Participants at the COP26 at a walkabout at the end of the climate summit

Glasgow COP26 decides

The UN climate summit has wrapped with a global deal by nearly 200 countries aimed at limiting dangerous temperature rises, despite a last-gasp hitch from India and China seeking to water down language on fossil fuel.

Nearly 200 nations have approved a global deal to combat climate change after two weeks of painful negotiations but fell short of what science says is needed to contain dangerous temperature rises.

Rich countries stood accused of failing at the COP26 summit in Glasgow to deliver much-needed finance to vulnerable states at risk of drought, rising seas, fire, and storms. Britain's COP26 president Alok

Sharma rounded up the marathon negotiations telling delegates: "It is now decision time. And the choices you are set to make are vitally important."

But China and India insisted that language on fossil fuels be weakened in the final summit decision text. As the final deal was clinched, a tearful Mr. Sharma said, "I apologise for the way this process has unfolded. I am deeply sorry," before banging down his gavel.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, reacting to the outcome, welcomed the deal, but stressed it was "not enough. We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe," he added.

A pause to mark Remembrance Day

Thousands of people came together across the nation to pause and remember the service of Australia's troops, 103 years on from the end of World War I.

This Remembrance Day – on November 11 – is the first time in more than two decades that it has been marked without Australia being involved in an active conflict, after the withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this year.

In Sydney, the Opera House was lit up with images of red poppies at dawn (*pictured*) in honour of the 60,000 Australians who died in WWI. Services were held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and cities across the country.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison paid tribute to Australian servicemen and women



at a service at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, saying it was a day of "profound reflection". He added, "The same honour has been lived up to. We are safer today because of your efforts, we are free today because of your efforts".

Remembrance Day was first observed in

1919 throughout the British Commonwealth. It was originally called "Armistice Day" to commemorate armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.—on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Victorians using euthanasia laws

The latest Victorian Government figures regarding euthanasia laws show that between June 19, 2019, and June 30 this year 488 people in that state used the system to end their lives.

One key issue identified by a new report into the system from the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board is a

Anger not fear

It is not entirely irrational to fear needles, and feeling anxious about injecting a foreign substance into the bloodstream seems reasonable. The anti-vax movement has an understandable relationship with fear and anxiety.

In fact, there has been resistance to vaccinations since at least the late 18th century. At recent protests against vaccine in Australia, "F*** the jab" was one of the chants heard. The mood was dominated by anger, not anxiety.

federal law prohibiting doctors from discussing or conducting euthanasia assessments by phone or telehealth.

Doctors would breach the Commonwealth Criminal Code if they consulted a patient remotely about their wish to die with assistance and would face a maximum fine of \$222,000.

Victorian Health Minister Martin Foley said Victoria had lobbied the Morrison Government to reform the law since 2020. However, a spokesman for federal Attorney-General Michaelia Cash said there were no plans to amend the suicide-related material offenses in the Criminal Code.

The spokesman said it was important for state governments to resolve issues with implementing euthanasia laws "in a manner that is consistent with Commonwealth law".



Malta's HC takes part in Wreath laying Ceremony at Australian War Memorial

In observance of this year's Remembrance Day in Canberra, and ahead of the National Ceremony on Thursday 11th November, the previous day, the High Commissioner of Malta in Australia, H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg, laid a red and white wreath on the Stone of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial honouring those who had perished in wars and armed conflict.

The Australian War Memorial Director, Mr. Matt Anderson PSM welcomed the Diplomatic Corps. He greeted everyone as they arrived with the now familiar elbow bump.

The reduced National Ceremony was on account of current AWM renovations requiring the ceremonial programme to relocate while also observing COVID 19 safe guidelines and restrictions.

Pandemic hits Sydney, Melbourne multicultural CBDs

Multimillion-dollar initiatives are being launched to resuscitate the CBDs in Sydney and Melbourne. But will the multicultural hearts of Australia's two biggest cities ever be the same again?

This is not the first time the two city centres have suffered so badly. We saw it after the GFC as the financial quarters of Sydney and Melbourne hollowed out. We saw it in the prior recessions of the early 90s. Each time, the cities bounced back.

"COVID-19 has most adversely impacted the CBDs in Melbourne and Sydney," says demographer and social commentator Mark McCrindle. "And because these areas are the most culturally diverse parts of Australia - more than half of the populations in these CBDs speak a language other than English at home - multicultural communities in our cities are really suffering," says Mr McCrindle.

In an effort to save these precincts from haemorrhaging any further, state and local governments in both cities have launched a spate of new incentives to entice visitors.

The Victorian government and the City of Melbourne launched a \$44 million package, which will allow patrons eating out in the CBD between Monday and

Thursday to claim back up to 30 percent of their bill from 15 November.

In addition to supporting alfresco dining, waiving permit fees, and investing in new infrastructure, the package also aims to bolster Melbourne's events calendar by creating new attractions such as floating art

installations on the Yarra and a Christmas night market at Queen Victoria Market.

Meanwhile in the NSW capital, the City of Sydney has announced a \$5 million infrastructure investment in the Chinatown precinct, along with a \$10 million upgrade of Belmore Park near Central station.



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



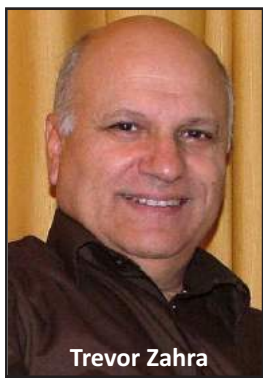
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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti



‘Il-kriżi tal-Malti hi kif jiġi mitkellem minn xi wħud u l-vokabolarju wżat’

Skont Trevor Zahra, l-awtur prominenti ta’ għadd ta’ kotba li x-xogħlijiet tiegħu bl-ilsien Malti huma magħrufa sew, il-kittieb qal li li l-kriżi li qed jiffaċċja l-ilsien Malti mhix minhabba l-għadd ta’ nies li jittkellmu dan l-ilsien, imma l-mod kif jittkellmu u l-vokabolarju li jużaw.



Trevor Zahra

F’intervista li kellu mal-korrispondent tal-Maltatoday, Raphael Vassallo, Zahra qal li l-maġġoranza l-kbira tal-Maltin jittkellmu l-Malti (skont l-aħħar stħarriġ tal-Ewrobarometru fil-fatt, aktar minn 90% tal-

Malti billi jispjicċaw b’vokabolarju limitat.

Zahra qal li biex tagħqad, anke wħud min daww li huma mdahħla fix-xandir lanqas għandhom hakma tajba tal-Malti, allura jkomplu jgħarrqu s-sitwazzjoni.

Semmi li saħansitra xi nies saħansitra lanqas jagħmlu differenza bejn il-maskil u l-femminil u jagħmlu kawla shiħa meta jxandru bil-Malti.

Zied jgħid li l-użu ta’ kliem Malti li diehel minn barra ma jinkwetax dakshekk, sakemm il-kliem jiddaħħal għax hu meħtieġ u għax ma jkunx hemm kelma għaliha bil-Malti.

“Il-problema hija meta nispiċċaw biex nużaw kliem bl-Ingliż meta għandna kliem bil-Malti,” qal. Bħala eżempju semma l-użu tal-kelma *Christmas* meta għandna l-kelma tagħna, li mhix xi kelma arkajka, “il-Milied”, għax dan ifisser li bil-mod il-mod qed noqtlu kliem li għadu jintuża.

Dwar kif għanda nassimilaw kliem barrani, Zahra jgħid li m’hemm l-ebda problemi fejn jidhru l-verbi għax dawn jidhru l-forma Maltija. Per eżempju “ikkraxxa” (*to crash*). Id-diffikultà hija fejn jidhru n-nomi, l-aktar meta niġu għall-plural.

Fil-fehma ta’ Trevor Zahra ma jagħmilx sens li, per eżempju meta trid tisser aktar

– Trevor Zahra

minn *heater* wiehed niktbu *heatrijiet*, u għalhekk f’każijiet bħal dawn il-plural għandu jibqa’ bħall-Ingliż. Imma mbagħad hemm nomi li jistgħu faċilment jiġu assimilati. Fost dawn bħala eżempju semma l-kelma “kowl” (*coat*) li fil-plural issir *kowtijiet*.

Jekk tassew inħobbu l-Malti, kliem Zahra għandu jittiehed bl-akbar serjetà.

Obituary



Carmel (Charles) Spiteri

(24 June 1924 – 23 September 2021)

Born in Pieta, Malta to Joseph Spiteri and Elveria Galea, Charlie was the firstborn of eight children.

From 1943 to 1945, he served as a Petty Officer tradesman on HMS Resource, a heavy repair ship in the British Navy, launched on 27th November 1928.

Charles set sail for Australia in 1956 on SS Asturias. He was one of the migrants from Britain arriving as a ‘10 pound Pom’.

At a birthday party he met Irene from Cobar NSW and got married 18 months later, on the 26th April 1958.

In January 1986 Charlie joined the Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch. He attended nearly every meeting up until the time he had the stroke. He was elected to the sub-Branch Committee in 1991 and took on the role of Assistant Welfare Officer.

For his activities within the sub-Branch and the RSL, in July 2002 he was awarded Life Membership of the RSL.

Charlie is survived by his wife Irene, and his children Ann, Nancy and John. May he rest in peace.

*Information supplied by the Maltese RSL sub-branch via the Bass Hill RSL

Il-varjanti tal-ortografija Maltija (Is-seba’ parti)

Inkompju ngibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja d-deċiżjonijiet tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Isien Malti dwar forom li għandhom jintużaw fil-kitba bil-Malti halli jkun hemm uniformità.

Se nittrattaw il-prepożizzjonijiet ma’, sa, ta’ qabel vokali, għ jew h.

Qabel kliem li jibda bil-vokali, bil-gh jew bl-h, il-prepożizzjonijiet ma’, sa, ta’ jistgħu jinkitbu shah jew imqassrin (m’, s’, t’).

EŻEMPJU: ta’ April /t’ April, ma’ Elena / m’ Elena, sa issa / s’ issa, sa Ottubru /s’ Ottubru, ta’ Ugo /t’ Ugo, ma’ għeluq is-sena /m’ għeluq is-sena ta’ hemmhekk / ‘hemmhekk.

Il-ma tan-negattiv qabel vokali, għ jew h. Qabel kliem li jibda bil-vokali, bil-gh jew bl-h, il-ma tan-negattiv tista’ tinkiteb shiħa ma jew imqassra m’ (izda ara wkoll il-każ tal-pronomi personali aktar l-isfel). **EŻEMPJU:** ma hemmx / m’ hemmx, ma hawnx / m’ hawnx, ma għandux / m’ għandux, ma hemiżx / m’ hemiżx, ma afdax / m’ afdax

Nota: Dan ma jgħoddx għall-verbi ta’ nisel barrani li z-zokk tagħhom fil-Malti

jibda bil-vokali i.

EŻEMPJU: ma infurmatx, ma interoganix

In-negattiv tal-pronomi personali

Il-pronomi personali magħżulin għandhom ukoll funzjoni verbali.

EŻEMPJU: Hija huwa tabib magħruf F’din il-funzjoni jistgħu jiehdu n-negattiv bħall-verbi. Magħhom, il-kelma **ma** tan-negattiv tista’ tinkiteb jew shiħa jew imqassra.

Meta tkun imqassra tiflel il-vokali a, u:

a. quddiem il-pronomi li jibdeu bl-h, tinkiteb magħqada magħhom bħala kelma waħda (minkejja r-regola ta’ qabel):

EŻEMPJU: mhux, mhuwiex, mhix, mhi-jjex, mhumieħ

b. quddiem il-pronomi l-oħrajn kollha tinkiteb **m’**:

EŻEMPJU: m’iniex, m’intix, m’ahniex, m’intomx

**Fli jmiss fin-Nru 265, naraw kif jinkiteb in-negattiv tal-pronomi personali bil-ma mqassra.*

Il-President ta' Malta jżur il-wirja Filatelika



Il-President ta' Malta George Vella flimkien mal-organizzaturi tal-wirja filatelika

L-Gozo Philatelic Society tellgħet il-wirja ta' kull sena fis-swali tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex li minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet konnessi mal-pandemija ma setgħetx tagħmel l-inawgurazzjoni formali bħas-soltu.

Forst dawk li żaru l-wirja kien hemm l-Eċċellenza Tiegħu l-President ta' Malta Dr George Vella li hu wkoll filatelista u ta' dilettant li hu għamel siegħa shiħa jdur kull esibit u jikkummenta dwar dak li ra. Mhux biss, imma hu stess ukoll ha sehem b'parti mill-kollezzjoni speċjalizzata tiegħu dwar il-Gran Brittanja.

Forst l-esibiti kien hemm ukoll korrispondenza tal-Gran Mastri, l-ewwel bolol fil-Gzejjer Maltin, letteratura filatelika, settijiet mahruġa bejn pajjiżi ma' xulxin, kartolini qodma, l-inkoronazzjoni u ż-żjarat tar-Reġina Elizabetta II, muniti Awstraljani u kaxxi tal-ittri.

Kien hemm kummenti favorevoli ha'fna dwar il-livell milhuq, kemm minn speċjalisti u wkoll minn dawk li żaru l-wirja tul is-sebat ijiem li damet miftuha.

Bidu ta' ċelebrazzjonijiet f'għeluq il-25 sena tal-banda Sta Margerita

L-Soċjetà Mużikali Sta. Margerita ta' Sanat fethet iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet li se jwasslu għat-tifkira tal-25 sena minn meta giet imwaqqfa, b'quddies animata mill-Banda Sta. Margerita akkumpanjata mis-Sopran Francesca Sciberras u it-Tenur Angelo Muscat.

Wara saret l-inawgurazzjoni tad-dawl ġdid għall-faċċata kif ukoll il-ftuħ tal-wirja 'Mixja ta' 25 sena' mill-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, li wara, flimkien mal-president tal-Banda l-Kav. Dr Charles Gauci, anke għamel diskors għall-okkażjoni.

L-Arċipriet Michael Curmi imbagħad

bierek il-wirja li tikkonsisti f'għadd ta' stands u ritratti li juru il-mixja tas-soċjetà matul il-25 sena.

Fil-fatt, din kienet l-ewwel waħda minn sensiela ta' attivitajiet li se jsiru tul din is-sena speċjali u li jilhqqu il-qofol tagħhom fil-festa ta' Santa Margerita fir-raba' Hadd ta' Lulju 2022

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Attività sportiva suċċess mill-Fondazzjoni OASI

L-Fondazzjoni OASI li temmen bis-shiħ li l-isports huwa xjentifikament ippruvat li hu mod tajjeb biex wiehed itejjeb is-saħħa mentali, jirrilassa u jkun aktar kunfidenti, dan l-aħħar organizzat b'suċċess is-seba' edizzjoni tal-OASI Cup Run & Fun Walk.

L-attività ntaqqgħet tajjeb ha'fna minn għadd ta' atleti, kemm dilettanti u wkoll professjonali, li ha'du sehem fil-ġirja ta' 10K, mixja ta' 4.5K, u tliet tigrijiet tat-tfal li inkludew tfal ta' bejn l-erba' u t-tmax-il sena.



Is-sopran Francesca Sciberras akkumpanjata mill-banda Sta Margerita fil-quddies

L-Isqof għal Għawdex Mons. Anton Teuma, il-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, il-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni Justyne Caruana, u dak għall-Agricoltura, Sajd, Ikel u Drittijiet tal-Animali Anton Refalo, flimkien mal-membri Parlamentari tal-Oppożizzjoni, kollha għaddew messagġi pożittivi lil dawk prezenti dwar l-importanza li wiehed jgħix stil ta' ha'jja sana, u taw hajr lill-Fondazzjoni OASI

tal-kontribut tagħha lejn l-għarfien soċjali. Gie emfasizzat ukoll il-messaġġ li, "il-prevenzjoni hija aħjar mill-kura".

Noel Xerri, Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Fondazzjoni ta' hajr lill-isponsors u lill-partecipanti kollha li jappoġġjaw lill-Fondazzjoni biex tissokta tagħmel bidla pożittiva fis-soċjetà Maltija u Għawdxija, kif ukoll lill-voluntiera u l-istaff tal-OASI għad-dedikazzjoni u l-appoġġ tagħhom għal din l-attività.

L-avveniment seta' jirnexxi wkoll bil-gwida tal-Athletic AC Gozo u l-kontribut tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, HOG, RE/MAX, H2Only u Magri Cycles.



Il-Ministru Clint Camilleri jipprezenta t-trofej

Żjara uffiċjali mill-Kummissarju Għoli ta' Malta f'Sydney u Cringila



Il-Kummissarju Għoli Malti Mario Farrugia Borg mal-Gvernatur tal-iStat ta' NSW, L-Onor Margaret Beazley f'Government House Sydney

Il-Kummissjoni Għolja Maltija fl-Awstralja hi bbażata f'Canberra, il-belt kapitali tal-Awstralja. Għalhekk jinhass il-bżonn li jinzamm kuntatt fiżiku mal-komunitajiet kbar imxerdin mal-istati l-oħra ta' dan il-kontinent. Meta jigi mahtur xi Kummissarju Għoli ġdid speċjalment meta dan ma jkunx tal-post, aktar tinhass dil-htieġa, tant li dan l-aħħar saret il-prattika, li l-Kummissarju Għoli jagħmel dawk li jissejju żjarat uffiċjali.

Wahda minn dawn saret mill-Kummissarju Għoli ta' bħali-ssa, l-E.T. Mario Farrugia Borg li ha l-hatra f'Jannar 2021 wara li kien ilu madwar sentejn Konslu Generali f'Melbourne. Hu sar l-ewwel flistorja li spiċċa Canberra wara li kien iservi bħala Konslu Generali fl-istess pajjiż.

Il-Kummissarju Għoli għadu kemm għamel żjara uffiċjali ta' hamest ijiem f'Sydney, fejn minbarra li kellu laqgħa uffiċjali mal-Gvernatur ta' l-Istat, l-Onor Margaret Beazley, żar ukoll l-erba' ċentri tal-Maltin, tlieta f'Sydney u l-oħra fi Cringila hdejn Wollongong u



Mario Farrugia Borg waqt il-laqgħa man-negozjant u eks-MP Paul Zammit

wkoll id-dar tax-xjuħ fi Blacktown.

Fi programm iffullat il-Kummissarju Għoli itaqa wkoll fost l-oħrajn, mal-Australian-Maltese Chamber of Commerce, ma' Preca Community, il-Hamrun Club f'Marsden Park, l-MSSP u oħrajn.

(*ara wkoll paġna 21)



Mario Farrugia Borg (fin-nofs) mal-eżekuttiv tal-MCC NSW u membri tal-CMLA. Mix-xellug: Marisa Previtera, Miriam Friggieri, Law. Buhagiar, George Bartolo u Frances Montesin. Mhux fir-ritratt izda kien ukoll prezenti, Emanuel Camilleri



Fuq: Il-Kummissarju Għoli f'laqgħa privata ma' Fr Leonard Testa u Chev Frank Testa. Xellug: fiċ-ċentru tal-George Cross Falcons fi Cringila ma', (mix-xellug): Mary Ann Saliba, Sindku ta' Shellharbour, Ken Kabar OAM chairman tal-Multicultural Communities Council ta' Illawarra, Louis Parnis President tal-GCF Centre, George Bartolo OAM, u Lawrence Buhagiar





Iż-żjara fi-Ċentru Malti La Valette fi Blacktown

*minn paġna 20

Fiz-żjara li l-Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta fl-Awstralja l-ET Mario Farrugia Borg, għamel fi NSW, huwa mar ukoll fi-ċentru ferm popolari Malti l-La

Valette SC li jinsab fi Blacktown.

Hawnhekk huwa ġie milqugħ mill-kumitat u bħal f'kull fejn mar, ħa wkoll ritratt b'tifkira tal-okkażjoni mal-membri tal-kumitat li jmessi ċ-ċentru (*fug*).

Illawarra Maltese Australians group

Event: Ftira day/Hobż biż żejt picnic

When: Saturday 11th December at 11 am

Where: at Lake Illawarra (Reddall Reserve)

It is open to all.

Among the activities: Bocci, Raffle, Maltese food ftira, tea/coffee, Maltese biscuits etc.

For more Info: AnneMarie mob: 0405126444

Email: illawarramalteseaustralians@gmail.com



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

High Commission & Consulates of Malta in Australia

High Commission of Malta - Canberra

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg
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Promoting greater appreciation of Maltese culture, historic heritage

In line with his commitment to fostering greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Maltese culture and history, President of Malta George Vella is continuing with his initiatives to increase accessibility to and public awareness on three historic sites – the Palace in Valletta, Sant'Anton Palace, and Verdala Palace – which the Presidency itself is directly responsible for.

In collaboration with the public broadcaster PBS, the Presidency recently launched the second season of *Mill-Palazz*, an outreach media project screened on TVM with the aim of introducing viewers to the Verdala Palace. Season One, which was screened between October 2020 and June 2021, featured Sant'Anton Palace.

Mill-Palazz celebrates Malta's cultural identity in varied ways – including Maltese literature readings, mostly inspired by the natural environment, read by special guests including the authors themselves.

Traditional Maltese song – *għana* – also features, inspired by the contents of the Verdala Palace. Traditionally, *għana* would



The Verdala Palace

have featured prominently during the Mnarja festivities earlier in the year at the close by Buskett on the feast of Apostle Saints Peter and Paul in June

Grand Master Cardinal Hugh Loubenx de Verdalle built the Verdala Palace in the 1580s. In the new series, the Palace itself take the viewer back in time, share memories of visitors and travellers from times gone by, and focus on stories and anecdotes that explain the history of the place from the times of the Order of St John to the British period on to modern times.

The stories told by the Palace also explore the vicinities, particularly Buskett, a historic natural habitat that was once the hunting grounds for successive grand masters.

Down with COVID, out in the open

It was not the best of days; there was a chance of rain. It did not diminish the enthusiasm of the elders of the Gresytanes community.

COVID-19 prevented them from having their monthly morning gathering at the St George Preca Hall. As restrictions were eased, they opted instead for General Garden, the popular 12 hectares of natural bushland in the centre of Mer-rylands.

The garden has a native animal enclosure, waterfall, two shaded playground areas, picnic facilities, bushwalks and plenty of grass.

The satisfaction of meeting in person again was evident on the face of those that attended. They hugged, talked, joked and reminisced. It was a very good morning indeed.

This group is organised by the MCC of NSW through the good work of Marisa Previtera, Frances Montesin, Miriam Friggieri and other helpers.



Community News



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WITH MARTHESE CARUANA

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
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PROGRAM FOR THE MALTESE

SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AN HOUR FILLED WITH NEWS AND INFORMATION



MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

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

Learn Maltese Due to the covid restrictions, we are only conducting lessons online.

Applications are also welcome for paid positions from people to assist in language teaching and/or administration. For more information, call 0419 476 924. Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com





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Marlene Ebejer (speaks Maltese) is an accredited family law specialist

Phone: 03 9741 1722
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email reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au

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



La Valette Social Centre



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

NOTICE: La Valette Social Centre has started operating again on Thursdays and Saturdays. Upon entry patrons will need to prove that they have received a double dose COVID-19 vaccination approved in Australia.

Until further notice, no masses will currently be held, while rosary will be recited on Thursdays from 10:15am. Mask wearing is mandatory indoors.



Event for 2021
Sunday December 5:
Festa San Nikola

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

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

On SBS Radio
Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.
(To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV..)

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



mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-is-tazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On Demand on I-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am)
Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.

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

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

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
Presenter Miriam Vella

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF
Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Marthese Caruana: 11.00 a.m.: MCC programme

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



National team gets humiliated in final home Qatar '22 qualifiers

It was one step forward and at least two steps backward for the Malta national football team that conceded 13 goals in its last two matches in Group H of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in front of the Maltese on home soil.

Defeats against Croatia and Slovakia were expected, but not in this manner. In spite of the advantage one normally expects from a home team Malta first lost by 1-7 in the first match against Croatia, and three days later suffered another humiliating defeat against Slovakia by 0-6.

Things got worse for Malta in the second half against Slovakia, when perhaps out of frustration, Malta had two players sent off leaving the team to play the last 40 minutes with only nine men. Barely a minute after the restart, Ryan Camenzuli received his second yellow card for a reckless tackle, and on 50 minutes, Teuma got his marching orders with two quick cautions in succession.

Things started badly an Alex Satariano penalty claim on five minutes was waved

away by the Croatian referee. Then Slovakia scored twice in quick succession and a third goal before the interval.

In the end it was a shambles!

Three days earlier, Malta lost 1-7 against Croatia, who, later managed to qualify for Qatar as group winners by beating Russia in their last group match.

The national team never got going and Croatia who were superior throughout and dominated from start to finish.

The hosts made a lot of errors in defence and they were punished. The visitors took an early two-goal and added a second on 22 minutes. Malta pulled a goal back through a Brozovic own goal but Croatia scored a third on 39 minutes and got four more goals in the second half.

As expected, head coach David Mangia was disappointed with the outcome and even showed his frustration in his post match reaction after both defeats. However, he too should shoulder much of the blame.

He gladly accepted the

credit when the team obtained 'positive' results against lowly placed teams to finish the group with five points from ten matches, the same as Cyprus, though Malta still finished bottom of the group on goal difference.

However, Mangia must also accept the blame for the last two disastrous results. After all, he is the one responsible for the team.

Hibs increase lead to five points

After the international commitments it was back to domestic competition at the weekend with front runners Hibernians consolidating first place in the Premier League by beating defending champions Hamrun Spartans 1-0 with a superb goal.

It was a deserved win for Hibs who widened the gap at the top to five points from Floriana.

The Spartans were further handicapped by the sending off of one of their players in the first half.

Birkirkara failed to put pressure on the leaders, and even lost their runner up spot after getting beaten 2-0 by Sta Lucia. It was the Saints' first win this campaign.

Birkirkara's loss allowed Floriana to leapfrog over them into second

U/21s get second win over Northern Ireland

Malta's Under 21 team managed a second satisfactory result in - Group C of the UEFA U/21 CHAMPIONSHIP Qualifying round by beating Northern Ireland for a second time, this time in Belfast, by 2-0 with goals from Marcus Grima (49 min.) and Andreas Vella (88th).

The sending off of an Irish player early on helped Malta's cause. In the first leg at home Malta had defeated N. Ireland 4-1.

This victory arrived a few days after their 0-5 home loss against the group's top team, Spain.

place	th	h	ank	s	their	narrow	1-0	victory	over	Gudja	obtained	through	an	own	goal.
DAY 9 RESULTS															
Hibernians	v	Hamrun	S				1-0								
Sta Lucia	v	Birkirkara					3-0								
Floriana	v	Gudja	Utd				1-0								
Sirens	v	Balzan					6-1								
Sliema W	v	Valletta					2-1								
Gzira Utd	v	Mosta					2-2								

obtained through an own goal. Sliema Wanderers also obtained their first win of the season when they beat Valletta 2-1. They came from behind to get their win. However, they still occupy bottom place on goal difference with Gudja who lost to Floriana.

Balzan ran riot against Sirens whom they beat 6-1.

Mosta played for 50 minutes with only ten men, but still managed to share the spoils in a 2-2 result with Gzira.



Some of Europe's biggest football stars could miss out on ticket to Qatar 2022

At this stage, 10 nations have managed to qualify from Europe for the 2022 World Cup finals in Qatar. Twelve others will have to take part in play-offs to determine the qualification of three other teams from the UEFA groupings. What it all comes down to is, that some of football's biggest stars could miss out on a ticket to Qatar.

When Europe's World Cup qualifiers, wrapped up, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands claimed the direct ticket to Qatar 2022 after each finished top of their groups following a lengthy qualifying campaign.

However, this is not the end of the road, with 12 sides now locked in to enter the play-off phase where three more sides will win their way through to football's showpiece tournament.

The play-offs will take place between March 24 and 29, featuring the 10 runners-

up from the qualifying groups plus the two best group winners from the 2020-21 UEFA Nations League who have not already qualified or finished second in their groups.

The 12 teams will be drawn into three play-off paths, needing to win a semi-final and final, both only on one single leg, to win their way through to the World Cup. Matches will be played next June on neutral ground.

Six nations are seeded for the draw, of the intercontinental play-offs which takes place this coming Friday November 26 in Zurich. They are, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and Wales. Six sides enter unseeded: Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, North Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

All eyes will be on whether Cristiano Ronaldo can make it to a record-equalling fifth World Cup, while it would be a disaster if after winning Euro 2020 Italy, follow their nightmare in 2018 and fail to qualify.

If both Italy and Portugal win their semis,

there is a 20% chance they will face off for a place at the World Cup. The two intercontinental play-off matches take place over a single leg on June 13 and 14, 2022.

The play-offs were originally scheduled to take place in March 2022 but were rescheduled to June as a result of the unprecedented disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the scheduling of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers globally.

While in other geographic groups teams are still trying to battle their way to qualification, Brazil and Argentina have both qualified from South America.