

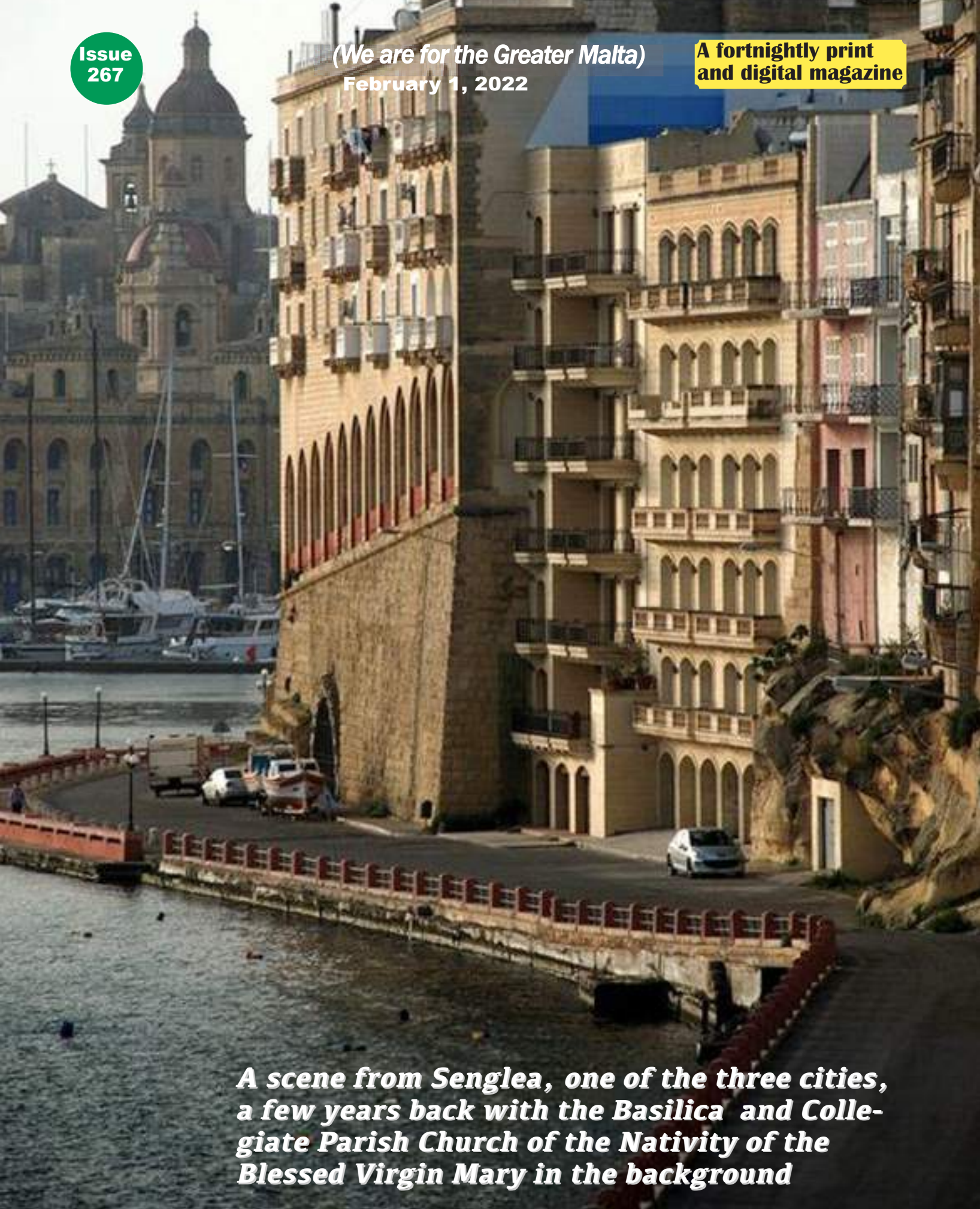


The Voice of the Maltese

Issue
267

(We are for the Greater Malta)
February 1, 2022

A fortnightly print
and digital magazine



*A scene from Senglea, one of the three cities,
a few years back with the Basilica and Colle-
giate Parish Church of the Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary in the background*

Lino Vella 22/09/1936 - 15/01/2022

A man of outstanding stature

**By H.E John Aquilina
Ambassador for the
Republic of Malta in China**

Lino Vella was a good, caring friend who loved and lived for the Maltese Australian Community. His legacy in recording our history in the second half of the 20th Century, and well into the 21st will be a permanent testimony to the great contribution Maltese migrants have made to Australia's history and culture during these decades.

Trying to put into a few words the qualities of a man of such outstanding stature is no mean feat. Lino Vella was a person who loved life to the fullest. He loved his family, his sport, the company of his friends, and his adopted homeland Australia. Above all else, however, he loved the land of his birth Malta, as well as everything about Malta and the Maltese.

One might say that is fine, but those characteristics can also be attributed to several other persons. So what made Lino Vella so special?

Lino arrived in Australia at the age of eighteen on board the MV Sydney, having left behind his family, his friends, and all that was familiar to him, for an uncertain future.

Once in Australia, the years passed quickly. Marriage to Barbara, a family, football, friends, hard times, good times, all came in rapid succession.

However, with eyes firmly focused on the future, there was still the longing for the past. Perhaps he was longing not so much for the material things left behind, but more so for the qualities, the values, the sense of family, the tradition, the history, the religious ritual, in essence, the basic elements of what it is to be Maltese.

Without much of a formal education, some limited writing lessons and instruction he had received from his father, and with the help of a few friends, *The Maltese Herald* was born.



Lino Vella with a copy of the front page of *The Maltese Herald* in 1992
(photo: Barry York)

teristics that brought Lino to Australia were also to play a part in the development of a journal that not only would bring to Maltese Australians news from, and about Malta, but it would also, at the same time, both record the history of Maltese Australians, and be an essential part of making that history.

Such was the quality of the man, that Lino would be the first one to say that there were many others who played a decisive role, and who should share in the honour and recognition.

This is true, but it is not the point. Nothing sticks together for so long unless there is something there that provides the leadership, and exerts the strength, determination and unity of purpose. Lino was that leading and binding force.

This was often at substantial cost to him and his family in terms of both finance and health, although Lino would have been the last person to acknowledge such a fact.

In this, as well as in so many other ways, Lino's contribution to the history of Maltese migrants to Australia was outstanding. And through *The Maltese Herald*, many chapters have been added to the general history of post-war migration to Australia, something that lamentably has been by and large sorely neglected.

Lino was responsible to a significant degree in publicising throughout Australia the qualities that have endeared Malta and the Maltese to Australia and to the majority of Australians in all walks of life.

His advice was readily sought by persons from a wide range of backgrounds, including politics across all parties and factions at very senior levels, as well as in journalism, sport and community activities.

As a testimony to his outstanding achievements, on Australia Day, January 26, 1999 the Australian Government announced that it would award Lino Vella the coveted, high ranking, Australia Medal (AM).

Lino's citation specifically referred to the unique role he had played in assisting Maltese migrants to settle into the Australian way of life.

Among other recognitions Lino received were "*Best Maltese Achiever 1991/1992*", the "*Manoel de Vilhena Cultural Award 1992/1993*" and the "*Maltese Australian Cultural Award 1995*".

In the early 1980s Lino was also appointed as a Member of the prestigious Australia Day Committee. At that time this was chaired by Australian tennis ace, and three times Wimbledon Champion, Mr John Newcombe.



**HE John Aquilina
(right) with Lino Vella**

At the age of 24 Lino had lived in Australia for a mere six years, and along with some other like-minded friends was giving birth to a publication which through many trials and tribulations would defy the odds and survive for more than half a century.

The same adventurous, brave, determined charac-

**Continued onpage 3*

Lino Vella: A man of outstanding stature

**Continued from Page 2*

Lino Vella's honours were not just restricted to Australia.

In recognition of his extraordinary achievements, and the motivating force he was in the lives of so many people, on Republic Day, December 13, 2011 the wheel came full circle when Malta awarded Lino the prestigious and also high ranking *Gieħ ir-Repubblika*.

He was in Malta at the time, and in the presence of his daughter Annette, had the medal pinned on him by then President H.E. George Abela (right).

"Thank you" to a man of Lino's admirable and endearing human qualities can never be enough. However, I would like to think that this was Malta's way of saying "Grazzi" to Lino for having done so much to promote Malta and the Maltese in the distant land of Australia, and through him, in also extending a thank you to his family, colleagues and friends.

Among his other achievements, Lino was a Founder Member of the Melita Eagles Soccer Club, a Life Member of the Parramatta Eagles Soccer Club, played as goalkeeper for Malta Eagles in the late 1950s, and was goalkeeper-coach for Melita in the early 1960s.

In addition to Lino's outstanding contri-



bution as editor and journalist with *The Maltese Herald*, he was also a sports presenter and broadcaster with 2EA Sydney, which was at that time Australia's main multicultural radio network, as well as with the SBS Network, and a presenter for many years on Maltese community radio and TV stations in Australia.

Vale, my friend. Rest In Peace.

Memorial Service at St Patrick's Church

Carmelo (Lino) Vella was cremated on the 19th January. The Memorial Service was held at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Blacktown on the 20th January. Mass was celebrated by the parish priest assisted by Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP. Koren and Emlyn Beal provided the music. The "wake" was held at the La Valette Social centre in Blacktown.

Minister Evarist Bartolo pays Lino homage

Immediately at hearing the news of Lino's death Hon Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs said:

Għadni kemm sirt naf li miet Lino Vella fi Blacktown, NSW, l-Awstralja fl-età ta' 85 sena. Emigra lejn l-Awstralja 68 sena ilu u għamel snin shah jiddedika hajtu jmexxi l-gurnal The Maltese Herald u jilgħab u attiv fil-Melita Eagles. Kien igawdi rispetti kbir għall-hidma tiegħu u ngħata gieħ mill-gvernijiet tal-Awstralja u Malta. Raġel simpatiku li għamel hafna gid u baqa' jhobb lil Malta tul hajtu kollha. Grazzi Lino. Strieħ fil-paci.

Memorial Service for Lino in Malta

A Memorial Service in Malta for Lino Vella is to be held at the St Julian's Parish Church on Monday 14th Feb at 6.30 pm



LEFT: A Melita Eagles FC shirt among the items on show during the Memorial Service depicting Lino's love for the club; Right: pictured with Cardinal Mario Grech taken during a visit to Gozo



The Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum in Mdina

Visiting the city of Mdina, Malta's old capital city, is like popping in a time machine and going back to a glamorous and dignified past inhabited by

noble and rich families.

The majority of the palaces are still in private hands, but some have been turned into



Veronica **BARBARA**

museums and restaurants, allowing one to glimpse at their fascinating interior. Outshining them all is surely Palazzo Falson, a historic house managed by Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti and opened as a museum in 2007.

Palazzo Falson's history seems to date back to medieval times when it was part of the Rocca, or fortified enclosure, as indicated by the massive walls one can still notice in the yard of the palace kitchen.

The upper floor was added later on, and numerous modifications and sectioning took place throughout the ages until the property fell into the hands of Olaf Frederick Gollcher in the 20th century, who tried to restore it to its former glory.



The facade and entrance to the Palazzo Falson historic house museum at Mdina

Gollcher was a very interesting personality. He was not only an avid collector but also a committed researcher who always wanted to know more about his collections. He was highly intrigued by underwater ar-

chaeology, a novelty at the time.

Although he was not a diver himself, he funded a number of underwater explorations thanks to which interesting artefacts were discovered. A handful of these can still be admired at his former house, which is now a historic house museum.

The picture-postcard central courtyard that greets the visitor reflects Gollcher's architectural tastes, inspired mostly by his travels to nearby Sicily. The exhibits on the ground floor include the refectory, the kitchen and a small armoury.

Walking up the stairs to the second floor one can admire the silver collection, which boasts some exquisite Maltese pieces as well as an impressive *nef*.

The *nef* was a silver model ship, which used to be placed at the centre of the table not only as holder for salt and pepper-shakers but also to provide some entertainment at table.

**Continued on page 6*



The small armoury on the ground floor of Palazzo Falson

*Continued from page 4

The upper floor, commonly known as the piano nobile, is packed with Gollcher's finest collections of paintings, furniture, carpets and jewellery.

What I like most about this house museum is that all the rooms are set up as if Gollcher and his wife were still living there.

One can walk through his library expecting him to be at his desk, looking up some

The hidden gem that is Palazzo Falson

interesting detail about one of his various collections. Or peep at the dining room with the table all laid out as if the family is about to sit down for dinner.

The various personal effects laid strategically around the house offer a glimpse

into the life of its previous owner as well as into the fashions and habits of the mid-20th century.

Other items reflect the stories of a time long-gone. An example is the collection of

ladies' fans displayed in the drawing room, which were so popular in Victorian times not only as a fashion accessory but also as a flirting tool.

The drawing room itself, now long out of fashion, used to be a very important room when entertaining, allowing the guests to mingle informally after dining or to enjoy afternoon tea.

The roof is an added delight as it offers spectacular views of the surrounding areas and a quaint cafeteria. In an effort to green the museum, endemic plants have been planted in an unused part of the rooftop, creating a bee pollinator haven, adding to the peaceful atmosphere that reigns at the very top of this historic building.

Palazzo Falson is a hidden gem, which one cannot fail to visit when in Mdina. Fascinating and informative, the museum provides a true experience whilst allowing visitors to escape a bit from chaotic daily life, relaxing in peaceful and elegant surroundings.



The bedroom as if Gollcher and his wife were still living there

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Australia's Prime Ministers *Some would have said he fits like a glove in the Liberal Party. Labor supporters were skeptical of his loyalties given his privileged background, but in fact, he made the Australian Labor Party electable after some 25 years in opposition.*

Was he the victim of a coup? In 1979 he published his own account of the events of 1975, the 'Truth of the Matter'. The 21st Prime Minister of Australia who served from 1972 to 1975 is the first in the series about Australian Prime Ministers to be featured on The Voice of the Maltese.

Removed as Prime Minister by the Queen

Edward Gough Whitlam AC, QC. 1916-2014

Gough Whitlam was born in Rowland Street Kew suburb of Melbourne in 1916 and was educated in Canberra and Sydney. A barrister by profession, he entered Federal Parliament as the Labor MP for Werriwa in 1952 and led the Labor Party to victory in the 1972 Federal election, the first time the party had won office nationally since 1946.

His government's many reforms included Australian involvement in the war in Vietnam, abolishing university fees, introducing Medibank, no-fault divorce, and advancing the right of women, indigenous Australia, and immigrants. He retired from politics in 1978.

Whitlam was the first national fellow of the Australian National University. He also served as Ambassador to UNESCO for three years and is author of several books.

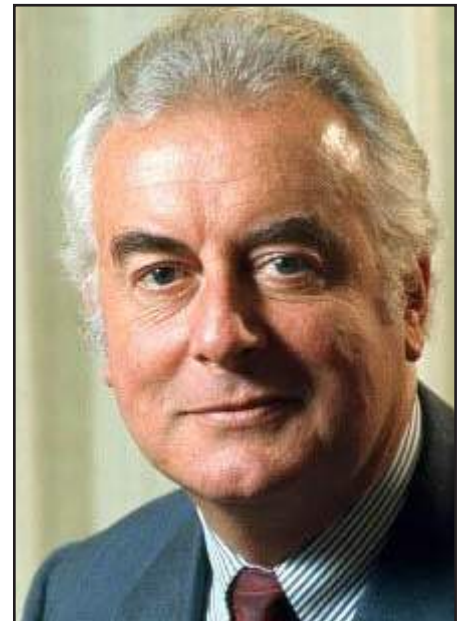
Gough Whitlam dedicated his book 'The Truth of the Matter' to the men and women of Australia who upheld the spirit of the second and, more important his in-

junctions on the steps of Parliament House on 11th November 1975 when he uttered the now-famous words:

"...well may we say God Save the Queen.... because nothing will save the Governor-General"

He continued to thank those of all parties who maintained their enthusiasm for Australian parliamentary democracy despite the grievous blow it suffered on that momentous day.

The longest-serving leader of the Aus-



tralian Labor Party (ALP), **Whitlam (second left) was removed as Deputy Leader of the ALP with George Mamo (MCC Prime Minister after controversially being dismissed by the governor-general of Australia, Sir John Kerr, at the climax of the 1975 Australian constitutional crisis. Whitlam is the only Australian Prime Minister to have been removed from office in this manner.**

Whitlam also served as an air navigator in the Royal Australian Air Force for four years during World War II, and worked as a barrister following the war.

In 1960 he became deputy leader of the Labor Party, and seven years later, in 1967, after the retirement of the party leader Arthur Calwell, he was elected to take over and after narrowly losing the 1969 federal election he became the Leader of the Opposition.

**Continued on page 7*

Gough Whitlam on the steps of Old Parliament House after he was dismissed by the Queen's representative



In between air raids from dawn on February 1 to dawn the next day, one aircraft was reported to have flown from the north at 9.13-9.27 a.m. and dropped bombs in the sea off St Julian's before passing over Grand Harbour and receding north. Heavy ack ack was engaged.

Then at 12.50-1.25 p.m. one JU 88 bomber approached from the north and carried out a patrol to the south of the Island. Bombs were dropped near Qrendi, including five near the office of D Company, 3rd Bn Kings Own Malta Regiment. Two Hurricanes were airborne but did not engage. However, heavy ack ack was engaged.

Later, for the duration of 19 minutes, between 3.20p.m. and 3.29 p.m. one JU 88 escorted by three ME 109 fighters crossed the coast near Dingli and receded via Marfa without dropping any bombs. Malta's fighters were up but no interceptions were registered although heavy ack ack was in action.

At 6.40 p.m. another aircraft approached the island and dropped bombs in the sea, while about an hour later another aircraft

World War II diary:

On this day 80 years ago 1st February 1942:

Air raids from dawn to dawn

approached from the north and drops bombs on the Baida Ridge area.

The enemy was also kept busy late in the evening when another aircraft approached from the north at around 10.53 p.m. circled for some time north of St Paul's Bay, and eventually dropped bombs on the Madliena area from a height of around 1000 feet. Light ack ack and light machine guns were called into action. An RDF (radio direction finder) Station was partly demolished and two RAF men were badly bruised.

Early at night some minutes after midnight, another enemy aircraft approached the island from the north but was turned away from the harbour by heavy ack ack. It dropped bombs in the sea off Kalafrana.

Then at around 4 a.m. two aircraft again approached from the north. One of them dropped incendiary bombs between Safi landing strip and Gudja, while the other dropped its bombs in the sea off Tas-Silc.

Heavy ack ack were engaged to scare off the raiders. The attack was followed about two hours later, again from the north and this time dropped its bombs in the Attard and Ta Qali areas.

There was one military casualty, a Lance-Bombardier from the 98th Battery, 32nd Light Ack Ack Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Several other air raid alarms could be heard during the day, however, with the weather deteriorating, the aerodrome was unserviceable and there were no night operations.

Gunners left in the dark

Malta's defenders on an island that is just 27 km long and 14.5 km across struggled against an increasing number of night-time air raids. From the first sight of an approaching raid to when enemy aircraft cross the coast and reach their target it takes just a few minutes, giving little opportunity for a successful counter-attack. It was very clear at the time that Malta needed more searchlights, to give the gunners a better chance of getting enemy aircraft in their sights.

Prime Ministers of Australia: Gough Whitlam

**Continued from page 6*

With the opposition-controlled Australian Senate delaying passage of bills, Whitlam called a double dissolution election in 1974 in which he won a slightly reduced majority in the House of Representatives and picked up three Senate seats. The Whitlam government then instituted the first and only joint sitting enabled under section 57 of the Australian constitution as part of the double dissolution process.

Despite the government's second election victory, the opposition, reacting to government scandals and a declining economy suffering from the 1973 oil crisis and the 1973-75 recession, continued to obstruct the government's programme in the Senate.

In late 1975, the opposition senators refused to allow a vote on the government's appropriation bills, returning them to the House of Representatives with a demand that the government go to an election, thus denying the government supply. Whitlam refused to back down, arguing that his government, which held a clear majority in the House of Representatives, was being held to ransom by the Senate.

The crisis ended in mid-November, when governor-general Sir John Kerr dismissed him from office and commissioned the opposition leader, Malcolm Fraser, as care-



Gough Whitlam with wife Margaret at Parliament House for the national apology February 2008

taker prime minister. Labor lost the subsequent election by a landslide.

Whitlam stepped down as leader of the party after again losing at the 1977 election and retired from parliament a year later, in 1978. The propriety and circumstances of his dismissal and the legacy of his government have been frequently debated in the decades since he left office.

Whitlam, who is still widely credited for the establishment of ties with China and the end of Australian colonial rule in Papua New Guinea, died on the 21st October 2014 (aged 98) at Elizabeth Bay, New South Wales, Australia.

The electorate of Werriwa is in southwest

Sydney, a very safe Labor seat, which has held continuously since 1934 and for all but nine years since 1906. During Whitlam's years, many persons of Maltese descent lived there. Whitlam became very well known and respected by the Maltese community.

(Researched by Lawrence Dimech)

In the next issue: Billy Hughes

The second Australian Prime Minister to be dealt with in the serial in the next issue will be Billy Hughes, the 7th Australian PM who in 1916 blocked the Maltese entering Australia.

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 ...

Lino Vella żgur li jibqa' miftakar

Mario Caruana minn San Gwann, Malta jikteb:

Ninghaqad ma' tant nies li wrew sogħba għall-mewt ta' Lino Vella li kollha fahhru l-memorja tiegħu u li kif stajna naraw anke ahna (b'mod virtwali minn Malta) li konna hbieb tiegħu fiċ-ċerimonja tas-servizz ta' tifkira fl-Awstralja, kellu tant min iħobbu u jirrispettah.

Peronalment kont niltaqa' ma' Lino kull meta kien jinżel Malta għal btala biex jara lil niesu u jiltaqa' mal-hbieb. Dejjem kien

Great honour for Malta

R. Barbara from Manly, NSW writes

It was indeed great news for all the Maltese scattered around the world to read that one of us has reached such a high and prestigious position in the European Union.

Roberta Metsola was elected President of the European Parliament the same day she turned 43 years. She is a conservative politician, an MEP representing the Nationalist Party of Malta.

The conservative European People's Party (EPP), the Socialists & Democrats, and the liberal Renew group had decided that a conservative representative, a Maltese, would take over the post at midterm. Well done Malta, well done madam President.

Iżda hemm grieden oħra wkoll, ir-RATS!

Ganni Mifsud minn Greenacre NSW jikteb:

U dawn il-grieden min fejn gew? Ara veru la morna morna xbin! Kull fejn tara RATS li flimkien ma' l-omicron hadu kull spazju.

Sintendi, RATS mhux grieden kif nafuhom ahna izda *Rapid Antigen Tests*. Minflok tmur test persunali f'xi lokal tista' tagħmel uzu minn RATS, test privat li takkwista minghand l-ispizjara.

U le ma hawx pesta tal-grieden!

jgħożż il-hbiberija u ġieli wkoll jafda dak li kien iħoss. Kien bniedem li jiftaħ qalbu u għalkemm kien qatta' daqstant snin fl-Awstralja, qatt ma nesa lil art twelidu li tant kien iħobb.

Niftakar lil Lino jirakkuntali kemm kellu għal qalbu l-gazzetta tal-Maltin fl-Awstralja li kien imexxi, *The Maltese Herald*. Kellu kuragg kbir u kien jgħidli li għalkemm qatt ma kien ġurnalista u f'it qatt seta' jobsor li kellu jipproduci dik il-gazzetta, rnexxielu jegħleb ostakli kbar, anke minhabba li sab l-ghajnuna ta' Maltin oħra.

Darba biss hassu mwegga' serjament fix-xogħol tiegħu, meta kien ghen bil-kbir lil Malti jitle' l-Awstralja bil-familja u jti ix-xogħol meta kien diffiċli għalih minhabba l-età, imma mbagħad ġie ttradut għax l-istess persuna ippruvat tisfrattalu l-gazzetta (għalkemm ma rnexxilix) u tipprowa tippubblika oħra minflok.

Strieh fis-sliem ħabib!

Common sense prevailed in the Djokovic case

Tony Cassar from St Albans, Victoria writes:

I was glad that in the end, common sense prevailed in the case of the Serb tennis player Novak Djokovic. I have nothing personal against the player and am sure he would have added value to the Australian Tennis Open; however, the way he tried to force himself into the country to compete was very disappointing to say the least.

By the time my letter is published, the Open would have wrapped up. With or without out Djokovic as a competitor, the tournament was still quite successful.

However, I hasten to say that the organisers, and the player himself did lose some prestige by the way they acted, the Serb for misleading the organisers to get an entry permit to the country, and the Tennis Association for making out as if there was some rule for the gods - in this instance the player - and another for the common mortals.

After so much hassle, almost leading to a diplomatic incident between Serbia and Australia, we were happy to see that rules are there to be obeyed by everybody, even when your name is No-vac. In the wake of his Australian Open visa fiasco when the world No 1 player was kicked out of the country on the eve of the tournament is also bound to lose him some of his prestigious sponsorships. But that is his problem.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Benedict Soler only Malta-born honoured on Australia Day 2022

Benedict Soler from Melbourne is the only Malta-born among 1040 Australians to be named by General David Hurley, the Governor-General of Australia to receive an award, the OAM, on Australia Day 2022 (January 26).

This year's list includes only one recipient who was born in Malta. There could be others of Maltese descent but it is difficult to point them out unless the surname is common Maltese. **Catherine Bartolo**, an Australian-born of Maltese descent, from Coorparoo in Queensland who has a Maltese father and an Australian mother, was nominated to receive the AM.

Of the 732 awardees in the General Division of the Order of Australia, the highest ever percentage (47%) are women, while 45% are for service to local communities: 30 recipients of awards in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (3 an AO, 16 AM and 11 OAM); 197 Meri-

torious awards and 81 Distinguished and Conspicuous awards.

The list also includes 58 Australians recognised for their contribution in support of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These individuals, are recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia, Meritorious Awards and Military Awards. They will also be included in an ongoing and permanent COVID-19 Honour roll.

Benedict Soler OAM comes from Keilor Victoria but was born Vittoriosa, Malta in 1939. He emigrated to Australia in 1951. He is a very proud Maltese-Australia and has a strong connection with the Shelter of Peace that was erected in Melbourne in 1994. He told *The Voice of the Maltese* that the Shelter was his great dream when he was the President and the instigator within the Friends of Malta committee.

He also represents the Maltese Australian Association on the MCC of Victoria, is committee member of the Maltese Cultural Festival and the Song Festival, has been a member of the Maltese Historical Association, since 1987, and Serving Brother, Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, since 1981.

Benedict Soler has also been forming part of the committee, was the Social Organiser, Maltese Literature Group, 1980-2004, Founding Presi-



dent, Maltese Music Guild, 1984-1986, and was also involved in the scouts' 9th Richmond Scout Group, 8th Richmond Air Scouts Group and the 17th Melbourne/1st Malta Rover Scout.



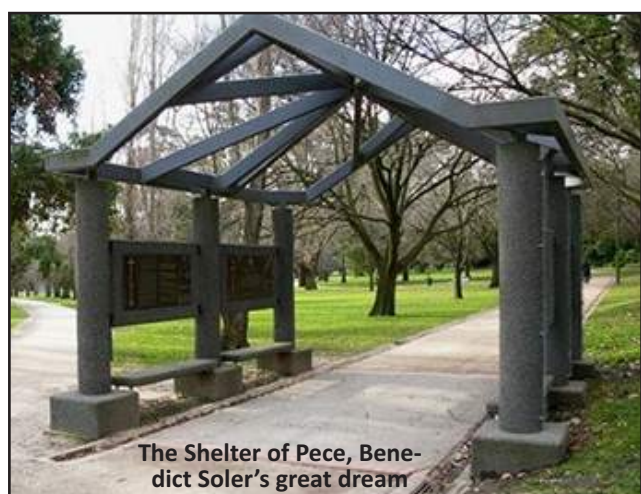
Australia Day honours represent the strength and diversity of Australia

In a message to the *The Voice*, the Governor General congratulated "the outstanding Australians recognised in the Honours List". He said, "Collectively the recipients, whose achievements span community service, science and research, industry, sport, the arts and more, represent the strength and diversity of Australia."

"It has been a challenging couple of years and the recipients announced today are a reminder and reflection of the richness of spirit, selflessness and good in our community."

"The fact that the list includes the highest ever percentage of women is very encouraging and I look forward to this positive trend continuing. We will continue to increase awareness and encourage nominations for people from parts of our community that have been historically underrepresented."

"To the individuals being celebrated today; thank you for your contribution to Australia and congratulations on being recognised by your peers and your nation. "To all Australians, please consider nominating someone outstanding from your community for recognition in the Order of Australia. The Order belongs to each of us and we each have a part to play. The only way a person can be recognised is for someone to nominate them," concluded the GG.



The Shelter of Peace, Benedict Soler's great dream

Catherine Bartolo AM

Catherine Bartolo AM received her honour for her significant service to youth, to social welfare, and to the community of Logan.

She has been the YFS Ltd (Youth and Family Services) Chief Executive Officer, since 2002, and is a current board member. Her other connections with the community include: Logan Youth Connections Coordinator, 1996-2001; Chair, 1992-1994; Manager, Logan Youth Connections, 1995-1996. Centre Education Programme Coordinator, The Centre, 1993-1994.

She was also a teacher (1982-1992), on the Queensland Council of Social Service: Board Director, 2005-2013; Chair, Governance Sub-Committee, 2010 – 2013, and head various other involvements with the community and with Logan.

Catherine told the Voice of the Maltese she is very proud of her Maltese ancestry. Her father Charles, a Maltese, had an electrical contracting business in Mackay where she grew up. Her mother is Australian. Both her grandparents Simon (Ta' Ventura) and Mary Assunta Camilleri are from Mosta. She visited Malta a number of times.



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



Prezzijiet tal-proprjetà

Hawnhekk fl-Awstralja, wahda mill-‘veritajiet’ fid-dinja finnanzjarja hi li investiment fil-proprjetà hija tajba daqs id-deheb, anzi ahjar għax il-prezzijiet dejjem telghin.

Kemm ilni l-Awstralja rajt il-prezzijiet bejn wiehded u iehor jirdupjaw fuq medda ta’ xi hmistax-il sena. Bhalissa, il-prezz medju ta’ dar qiegħda tibdel l-idejn ‘l fuq minn miljun dollaru Awstraljani, u fl-2020 biss f’Sydney il-prezz medju żdied bi ftit iktar minn \$200k.¹

Din hija tajba għal min għandu siequ għewwa, imma mhux daqshekk tajba għal min m’għandux.

Għalfejn teżisti din is-sitwazzjoni meta l-pajjiż huwa kbir daqs l-Ewropa kollha imma b’popolazzjoni tletin darba iżgħar, u meded enormi ta’ art kompletament battala?

Hemm diversi raġunijiet għal dan.

L-ewwel haġa hi li l-popolazzjoni hija ġeneralment ikkoncentrata hafna fi bliet u rħula, u l-art mogħtija għall-bini hija pjuttost limitata.

It-tieni hi li l-pajjiż għalkemm għandu popolazzjoni relattivament żgħira, din qiegħda tizdied minn sena għall-oħra b’rata mhux żgħira, l-iktar bl-immigrazzjoni, u kull familja ġdida trid post fejn toqgħod.

Huwa veru li bil-COVID l-immigrazzjoni naqset hafna tul ix-xhur li għaddew, imma fuq medda ta’ għexieren ta’ snin, l-impatt tal-immigrazzjoni fuq il-proprjetà kien sinjifikanti.

It-tielet raġuni hija l-politika tan-*negative gearing*, li hija l-possibiltà li investitur li jagħmel telf mill-proprjetà tiegħu, dan jista’ jużah biex inaqqas id-dhul li jiddikjara matul dik is-sena għal skopijiet ta’ taxxa. Dan wassal għall-investimenti fil-proprjetà li jkunu attraenti hafna, mhux għal min qiegħed ifittex id-dar tiegħu, imma min irid jixtri wahda biex jikriha lil haddiehor li ma jiflahx jixtriha.

Ir-raba’ raġuni hi li għal hafna snin it-tkabbir ekonomiku globali kien pjuttost baxx, u hafna banek ċentrali baxxew ir-rati tal-imghax għal livelli minimi, u kabbru kemm felhu l-ammont ta’ flus fl-ekonomija. L-Awstralja kien wiehded minnhom. Allura l-piż tas-self għal dik li titqies ġeneralment l-ikbar investiment fil-hajja huwa pjuttost baxx.

Raġuni oħra hi li waqt il-pandemija tal-COVID, kien hemm hafna restrizzjonijiet fuq il-moviment ta’ persuni - kemm internazzjonali, bejn l-istati u f’xi perjodi anke f’postijiet reġjonali



tal-istess stat. Fl-istess waqt, il-gvernijiet kienu qiegħdin jip-provdu incentivi finnanzjarji kbar sabiex l-ekonomija ma tiqafx għal kollox, wiehded jista’ kważi jiddeskrivihom bhala t-traxxix tal-flus.

Wahda mill-effetti ta’ dan kien li kuntrarju għall-imġieba li mdorrijin biha li meta jkun hemm kriżi, tross iċ-ċinturin biex tibqa’ tghix, hafna nies ħadu l-opportunità sabiex jagħmlu investiment fil-proprjetà.

Smajt hafna stejjer ta’ proprjetajiet li damu biss ftit sigħat fis-suk, jew li waqt irkant il-prezz finali jkun ta’ mija jew mitejn elf dollaru iktar milli s-sid u l-aġent kienu qegħdin ibassru.

Jien inhares lejn dan kollu, u jiġuni żewġ ħsibijiet.

L-ewwel hi, x’si jiġri mill-ġenerazzjoni l-ġdida? Dawn se jkollhom iċ-ċans li meta jmiss lilhom, ikunu f’pożizzjoni li jaqtgħu x-xewqa naturali li jkunu sidien ta’ darhom stess, mingħajr ma jintrabtu ma’ xi istituzzjoni finnanzjarja għall-bqija ta’ hajjithom?

It-tieni kunsiderazzjoni hi li korrezzjonijiet huma possibbli wkoll. Il-miraklu finnanzjarju ta’ bhalissa li l-banek ċentrali jip-pumpjaw il-flus fl-ekonomija mingħajr il-konsegwenza kerha tal-inflazzjoni, xi darba jista’ tispiċċa, u ġeneralment il-konsegwenza tkun li r-rati tal-imghax jibdwu joghlew, u dik tkun mistennija li jkollha impatt fuq dawk li ssellfu bil-kbir biex jakkwistaw il-holma ta’ hajjithom, fi żminijiet fejn ir-rati kienu baxxi.

Imbagħad ikun hemm il-biki u t-theżiż tas-snin.

Referenzi

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What happens to family pets after separation?

by PaulSANT

Under the *Family Law Act 1975 (FLA)*, a court can make or approve Orders for children to live with one parent and spend time with the other, or for a child to spend equal time between two parents ('custody'). But what about furry family members? Can you have shared custody of a pet?

Pets under the FLA

Pets do not fit within the definition of 'child' in the *FLA*. They cannot alone be the subject of parenting Orders made by a court. After a separation, you cannot make an application under the *FLA* to spend time with a pet.

Case study – an exception to the rule

In a 2007 case *Jarvis & Weston* [2007], at the 11th hour of a final hearing (after six years in court), an issue arose about the family dog. The child raised concerns about the dog to the family report writer.

The court referred to the paragraph in the family report and that evidence assisted the Judge to determine the issue, to once and for all finalise parenting arrangements.

Though it was submitted the court had no jurisdiction to make any order about the dog, the Judge said whether it falls 'under the *accrued, associated, inherent, or parens patriae jurisdiction of the Court, it can be found should the need arise. The boy is attached to the dog. The dog is to go with the boy.*'

A child's relationship with a pet may result in a court including a pet in orders about the child.

Generally, the only Orders the family courts will make about a pet are as part of

a property settlement, and who shall retain possession of that item of property.

My pet is property???

That's right, a family pet or the beloved dog you and your former partner adopted together four years ago is property.

A property case study is below, but first, there is a way you can "share custody" of your pet. The catch 22 is that you and your ex need to agree how to do so.

If you agree about arrangements for your pet

Pets can be included in a document called a *Parenting Plan* (a written document setting out details for sharing time and care of a child). If you have agreed to sign a *Parenting Plan* where your child will spend one week with you and one week with the other parent, you could include a paragraph such as:

'The family dogs, Ringo the Rhodesian Ridgeback, and Tiny the Japanese Spitz, shall move between the parent's residences with the child Ophelia.'

Whilst a *Parenting Plan* can be considered by a court if disagreements later arise, a court would only have regard to aspects of that plan about children in any future parenting proceedings. A court cannot enforce a *Parenting Plan*.

No children?

If you have no children (or they have reached 18 years) and are unable to piggy-back your agreed pet arrangements for shared care in a *Parenting Plan*, you may find a lawyer to draft a contract.

Both parties need to agree to the ultimate



terms and execute the contract for it to be legally binding. If that contract was subsequently breached it may be costly to pursue a breach in court.

Case study: Pets as property

In *Davenport & Davenport (No2)* (2020), the wife commenced court proceedings for a property settlement. One of the final property orders she asked the court to make was that she retains possession of a dog.

The husband filed an interim application seeking an order for 'shared custody' of said dog. The court dismissed the husband's interim application, as it did not fall under Part VII or Part VIII of the *FLA*.

The Judge concluded his reasons that neither the *FLA* nor any other specific legislation deals with the issue of custody of a pet, 'whether that be a dog, cat, bird, lizard, fish or any of the wonderful creatures that we share the planet with that would empower a Court to make orders for shared custody of a pet'.

Whilst the court also noted that it would be inappropriate to make a shared custody arrangement where these parties had significant amounts of conflict, ultimately the husband's application was dismissed due to a lack of jurisdiction.

How does the court decide who should 'get the pet'

The court will consider things including who purchased the pet and source of funds; who's name the pet is registered under; past and current possession of the pet; if one party relies on the pet as a service animal; financial contributions to the pet such as purchases of food, vet bills, grooming, pet insurance; non-financial contributions such as exercising the pet, feeding the pet and cleaning up after the pet.

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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Roundup of News About Malta



High praise from EU Commissioner for Malta's vaccine rollout programme

Malta has received high praise from the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakidou upon the Maltese health authorities "excellent vaccination rollout programme."

At a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Chris Fearn, the Commissioner praised Malta for the way it has run its COVID vaccination programme and expressed the EU's thanks for its excellent cooperation during the pandemic at the European level for vaccines to be distributed simultaneously to European countries.

She expressed her sentiments following a visit to one of Malta's vaccination centres and the Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre (SAMOC).

Kyriakidou, who was on a short visit to the island, said that Malta is an example of how the European Union can help European citizens access necessary medication, and that the next step now is the 'joint procurement mechanism' – the procurement of medication developed for those suffering from



EU Commissioner
Stella Kyriakidou

harsh symptoms of COVID-19.

She said: "I want to congratulate Malta on its excellent vaccination roll out programme. I think it is nothing short of saying that vaccination rates that Malta has achieved over 70% boosted is really a success story in the area of dealing with this pandemic".

Malta was also praised in its role for helping to set up the new authority HERA (Health Environment Research Agenda for Europe), which will be crucial for Europe to tackle similar health crises in the future.

Minister Fearn explained that so far, 98% of the Maltese population is double vaccinated, while 76% of Malta's adults have even received the booster dose. He said that due to high inoculation rates, the country is now able to loosen restrictions.

Fearn said that Malta has even thought of Asian and African countries and donated to them over 340,000 Covid-19 vaccines so that the pandemic can be fought at a global level.



Village festas could return April

Following a two-year absence of external feasts, external and festive religious activities feasts could start being celebrated again responsibly' in April if COVID-19 numbers are controlled, National Band Clubs Association (NBCA) said.

The association issued its statement following a meeting its representative and the Archbishop's Curia had with Prime Minister Robert Abela, deputy Prime Minister Chris Fearn and the Public Health Superintendent Prof. Charmaine Gauci (above).

It was pointed out that the Good Friday processions could be the first to be celebrated, in line with protocols. If the situation remains under control, the summer feasts will be celebrated in a normal way.

Discussions would resume seeing that people's health remains

a priority. If the situation improves, feasts would resume as they used to be celebrated prior to the pandemic.

Prime Minister Robert Abela said on social media that feasts enthusiasts should look at spring and summer with enthusiasm, and that beyond the pandemic, the Government will continue to support Maltese traditions.

Evarist Bartolo: breaking political impasse in Libya

Addressing the EU Foreign Affairs Council Meeting in Brussels, Malta's Foreign and European Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo called for a new approach to break the current political impasse in Libya, in the absence of a constitution in the country and following the postponement of the elections that were due to be held December 2021.

The Council primarily discussed developments in Syria and Libya, the situation on the Russian-Ukrainian border as well as other current affairs issues, particularly Mali and Sudan.

Malta with least absolute poverty rate in the EU

A study by European researchers concludes that Malta has the least rate of absolute poverty throughout the whole of the EU, and established that the least financial availability of persons in Malta to enable them a good standard of living is that of €500 monthly.

The EU investigation took into consideration the basic income needed by persons to establish a good standard of living for nutritional needs, decent housing facilities, essential transport, medical health protection and adequate social needs. According to the survey the basic monthly financial

availability would be much higher if it were not for the many free services available in important sectors and other factors by the government.

Meanwhile, Mr Mark Musú, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for the Family said that although this in no way mean the end of poverty in Malta it however underlines that all the measures taken over recent years have raised the quality of life for the people.

He added that the study by the EU's Commission Joint Research Centre shows how crucial it is that one looks at different measures that go to compile poverty in a country.

Minister Bartolo highlighted the importance of the internal security in Libya that needed to be taken into consideration when addressing the whole Libyan conflict. Libyan internal security is of utmost priority, as the lack thereof will negatively affect Libya's long-term stability.

He said that Libya's neighbouring countries should also be involved in the process particularly the African Union, as the security issues can spill over to other neighbouring countries, particularly those countries in the Sahel region.



Roundup of News About Malta



Roberta Metsola from EU's smallest state gets prestigious post

Maltese Euro MP Roberta Metsola has been elected as the President of the European Parliament, one of the highest post in the European Union institutions. Euro MEPs' gave her an absolute majority of 458 votes (74% of the votes cast) in the first count of the election from among the four contestants held in Strasbourg. It is a most prestigious post for Malta, the smallest member of the European Union.

Metsola, an Nationalist Party MEP who was 43 on the day of the election, was the candidate of the largest group, the European People's Party (EPP). However, the second largest, the Socialists and Democrats also supported her candidacy to ensure a stable majority in the European Parliament for the next two and a half years. She also gained the support of the Renew Europe, the third largest party in the EP.

Before the vote, Metsola, a lawyer by pro-

Priest arraigned, pleads not guilty to hate speech

Fr David Muscat, the 51-year-old priest who was arraigned in Court charged with hate speech through comments on Facebook, has pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Muscat, whose comments led the Archbishop of Malta Mons Charles Scicluna asking for forgiveness for them, had written that in some way Abner Aquilina, the suspect in the murder of Paulina Dembska, was homosexual or bisexual, which is worse than if he were possessed by the devil.

The defence did not contest the fact that the comments were written. It said it had two witnesses who are ready to testify.

The Court differed the case to March 4 when it will start hearing evidence, while the Magistrate presiding the case has appealed for more prudence when posting comments. He further remarked that because he is a priest, Fr Muscat has a role that carries more responsibility.

The Magistrate explained that as a Magistrate he also needs to be careful what he says because he is aware that his role also carries great responsibility.

Parliament approves Budget '22

Parliament has approved the financial budget for 2022, with Government pushing through the bills of every Ministry in record time. The second reading has also gone through, and the third and final reading, a formality, is planned for this week.

PM Robert Abela had suggested that the country would not go to an election before the Budget.

fession was Acting President following the death of the previous President, David Salsoli. A few days earlier.

Roberta Metsola also had the support of the other four Labour MEPs and thanked them all for their support, "who collectively always speak for Malta's benefit".

Her achievement was highly applauded in the EU and Malta, with President George Vella leading the congratulations of the country's highest authorities. He described it not only as Metsola's great achievement but also an important one for Malta and said that she would carry out her duties and great responsibilities that the post carries.

He said that it once again has proved that, "if we are united, the size and our geographical position will not disrupt a solid vision and commitment".

Why congratulating Metsola, Prime Minister Robert Abela said he looks forward to work together on mutual priorities. He also met her on the eve of the election and in a tweet described their meeting in the European Parliament's building in Strasbourg, as positive.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the Labour Party congratulated Metsola on her election and for the positive work both in the EU interest and also that of Malta.

NP leader Bernard Grech said Metsola is a

Roberta Metsola, the new President of the European Parliament



model of the political standards that the party cherishes. He expressed conviction that she would be protecting the interests of the European citizens, same as she always did for the interests of the Maltese people.

The NP said that the party was proud of Roberta Metsola, a member who represents it in the European Parliament.

In her first speech as EP President, Roberta Metsola pledged to stand by European values including human rights, solidarity and the rule of law.

(See also: Roberta Metsola and Joseph Muscat on page 12)

Strengthening dialogue, cooperation with third countries on migration

Malta participated in the third plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, which is part of the process of the Conference on the Future of Europe a wide-ranging consultation exercise with European citizens that began in May 2021, and is due to close by spring 2022.

Carmelo Abela, the Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister represented Malta and participated in the working group on migration. He highlighted the particular importance that Malta places on strengthening dialogue and cooperation with third countries on migration.

Abela noted that economic issues would remain a major factor for migration, and stated that In order to bring about some positive change, one needs to work together to provide economic opportunities and to improve living conditions, not only in the EU, but also more importantly in third countries. "We need to work together on this, and maintain a united front," he said.

The Minister welcomed the recommen-

dation to establish criteria on anti-discrimination in the workplace and to create a framework that supports work-life balance, particularly through investment in child-minding facilities.

He explained that Malta is already adopting this measure through the provision of free childcare, and that the results have been very positive both towards increasing participation of women in the workforce, and also by ensuring a greater and better work-life balance.

Citizens were recommended to possess better instruments for participation in decision-making and channels through which they can address their concerns and complaints on EU-related benefits and rights. In this regard, he referred to Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM), as an agency that can serve as a model that can work in all Member States.

He concluded by saying, "Citizen participation is a reminder for us politicians, to never stop listening to what citizens have to say, the importance of democratic education, and keeping an open dialogue with citizens."

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Roberta Metsola u Joseph Muscat



Roberta Metsola

Kif kien mistenni l-MEP Nazzjonalista Roberta Metsola giet mahtura President tal-Parlament Ewropew wara votazzjoni fost il-parlamentari tal-Unjoni Ewropeja meta kisbet 458 vot mis-616-il vot validu li ntehtu.

Ir-rebħa tagħha giet milqugħa tajjeb hafna f'Malta bil-President, t-tabib Ġorġ Vella jgħid li "kienet kisba importanti hafna għal pajjiżna", u li "għal darb'ohra ta prova li jekk ningħaqdu flimkien, id-daqs u l-pożizzjoni ġeografika tagħna mhux se jxekklu vizjoni u impenn sod."

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Partit Nazzjonalista stqarr li hu "kburi b'Roberta Metsola, membru tiegħu li tirrappreżentah fil-Parlament Ewropew."

Qal ukoll li hu konvint li "hija se tkun qed thares l-interessi tal-poplu Ewropew bħal ma dejjem ħarsat l-interessi tal-poplu Malti".

Min-naħa tal-Partit Laburista feraħ lil Metsola għall-ħatra u awgura "ħidma pożittiva kemm fl-interess tal-Unjoni Ewropea kif ukoll fl-interess ta' Malta."

Tghiduli x'għandhom x'jaqsmu Roberta Metsola u Joseph Muscat ma xulxin meta dawn ġejjin minn partiti politiċi opposti u li għal żmien twil ma tantx kienu jaraw għajn ma għajn?

Li jorbothom hu dak li seħħ minn meta l-aħħar li ltqajt magħkom, u wkoll minhabba li kienu huma li l-aktar li domminaw il-midja Maltija, għalkemm għal raġunijiet għal kollox differenti. Kellna lil wahda għax inghatat hatra importanti hafna, u l-ieħor għax spicċa bil-pulizija f'daru.. biż-żewġ ġrajjet isehhu kwazi fl-istess jum.

Awguri ohra ġew min-naħa tal-Isqfijiet li awguraw li permezz ta' ħidmietha, il-proġett Ewropew ikompli jinbena fuq il-valuri fundamentali li jirrispettaw id-dinjita u d-drittijiet tal-bniedem, il-liberta, id-demokrazija, l-ugwaljanza u s-saltna tad-dritt taċ-cittadini kollha Ewropej b'mod partikolari tal-persuni vulnerabbli.

Meta giet eletta, Roberta Metsola qalet li kien unur li dan il-Parlament se jkun qed jitmexxa minn mara Maltija u "xhieda tax-xogħol li dejjem għamilna bħala pajjiż minn meta dhalna fl-Unjoni Ewropea."

Ma setax jonqos li din il-hatra tingħata importanza kbira mill-midja Maltija fejn il-kummenti dwar il-hatra ma naqsux, u din id-darba, haġa li rarament tigris fejn jidhlu l-politiċi, il-kummenti kienu fil-maġġoranza assoluta tagħhom pożittivi.

Iżda dawn il-kummenti nbidlu xi ftit meta ftit siegħat wara l-hatra Metsola giet mistoqsija dwar l-Abort. Il-Maltija hija magħrufa għall-voti negattiva tagħha meta tressqu xi mozzjonijiet fil-Parlament Ewropew favur l-abortion... u kien propju dwar dan li staqsewha l-ġurnalisti barranin.

Dak li qalet ma tantx intlaqa' tajjeb f'Malta, saħansitra, anke minn uħud minn dawk li ftit qabel kienu ferħulha.

Dan meta fil-midja lokali ħarġet l-aħbar li bħala President tal-Parlament Ewropew hija kienet se tiffirma dokument tal-Parlament Ewropew favur il-free-choice. "Met-

sola pledges to sign pact guaranteeing contraceptives and abortion to women" (Times, 19.01.2022)

Skont kif ġie rrapportat meta mistoqsija dwar l-abortion wieġbet hekk:

"My position is that of the European Parliament. This parliament has always been clear and unambiguous on the issue of sexual and reproductive health rights."

"I will not interpret positions of this House. They will be my positions and I will promote them."

Din l-istqarrija gābet kummenti negattivi fil-konfront tagħha. Filwaqt li min-naħa tal-Partit Laburista ma nħarġet l-ebda stqarrija dwar hekk, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Bernard Grech għamel tentattiv biex jiddefendi lil Metsola u sostna: "Metsola in her position - no doubt she has an obligation to push the EP's message in the pro-choice direction..."

Din il-linja ttiehdet minn għadd ta' kummentaturi li sostnew li bħala li l-President tal-Parlament Ewropew, kellha timxi ma' dak li tiddeċiedi l-maġġoranza.

Kien hemm min irribatta' u qal li f'Malta dawn imxew xort'ohra għax kienu riedu li l-President ma jiffirmax il-ligi tal-kanabis avolja għaddiet bil-maġġoranza tal-Parlament Malti.

Saħansitra kien hemm min fakkar li xi żmien ilu l-President Malti kien saħansitra qal ċar u tond li hu kien jirriżenja jekk titressaq għal firma tiegħu ligi dwar l-abortion. Ta' min jgħid li jiddeċiedi x'jiddeċiedi l-Parlament Ewropew dwar l-abortion, huwa l-Gvern Malti li jiddeċiedi jdaħħalx din il-ligi f'Malta jew le.

Dawl fuq x'setgħa wassal biex Metsola tikkonferma l-pożizzjoni tagħha dwar l-Abort intefa' fi storja fuq il-Maltatoday bit-titlu: *A presidency with strings: what the 'Big Three' agreed to for Roberta Metsola's win* fejn intqal li propju lejliet l-elezzjoni ta' Metsola kien sar ftehim bejn l-EPP (li tiffirma parti minnu Metsola), is-Socjalisti u Demokratiċi, kif ukoll il-Liberali li kollha qablu li jivvutaw favur Metsola skont dan il-ftehim li l-ewwel artiklu tiegħu jinsisti dwar il-ħarsien u l-promozzjoni tad-drittijiet tan-nisa li jinkludi s-saħħa sesswali u riproduttiva tagħhom.

*Ikompli f'pagna 15

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Roberta Metsola u Joseph Muscat /ikompli minn paġna 14

Joseph Muscat

Iżda l-istorja u l-kummenti dwar il-ħatra ta' Metsola, ma' baqghux jiddominaw il-midja meta kważi fl-istess siegħat fuq l-ordni tal-maġistrat li qegħda tagħmel inkjesta b'rabta mal-investigazzjoni fuq il-Vitals Global Healthcare, hargħet l-aħbar li l-pulizija ordnat li ssir tfittxija fid-dar ta' l-eks-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat.

Skont rapporti fil-midja, il-pulizija dahlu fid-dar ta' Muscat fis-7 am u għamlu minn tal-inqas tliet siegħat fil-proprietà tiegħu. Fost oħrajn ikkonfiskaw il-mowbajl tiegħu, ta' martu Michelle u taż-żewġ uliedhom. Id-dettalji dwar ir-rejd tahom Muscat stess f'filmat li xandar fuq Facebook.

Muscat qal li hu ma kienx sorpriz għal kollox bir-rejd għax induna li kien se jgħri xi haġa minn post fil-midja soċjali li l-Hadd ta' qabel kien għamel id-deputat Nazzjonalista Jason Azzopardi (taħt):



Jason Azzopardi
16 January at 11:06 · 🌐

Wahda mill-proposti tal-PN li Abela qal hija gimmick tgħid li l-Maġistrat Inkwirenti (dak li jmessi Inkjesta) kontra l-korruzzjoni jkollu staff tiegħu u impjegati tiegħu biex ma jkollux għalfajn jiddependi mill-Pulizija tal-FCID biex jippjana operazzjonijiet u xogħol u arresti u tfittxijiet marbuta mal-Inkjesta.

Mhux ta' b'xejn Robert Abela huwa kontriha.

Dalwaqt tifhmu għala

Muscat ta lill-investigaturi fajl b'dokumenti u li fi kliemu kien ilu li jhejji min-Novembru meta l-midja żvelat tagħrif dwar hla ta' konsulenza mill-kumpanija Accutor AG. Dakinhar gie żvelat li Muscat

irċeva madwar €60,000 mingħand Accutor AG, li kienet hadet il-miljuni mingħand Steward Healthcare meta din hadet f'idha l-kuntratt mill-VGH għat-tmessija ta' tliet spartarji pubbliċi.

Muscat sostna li dak li sar kien "teatrini mhux neċessarji" li saru biex "jumiljawh". Kompla jgħid li dan ma kienx se jbeżżgħu,

anzi saħaq li wara sentejn kwiet issa kien se jibda paġna ġdida. "Se nibda nagħmel ftit aktar hoss, permezz tal-Internet u wiċċ imb' wiċċ, niltaqa' magħkom għax dak kollu li għamilt, għamiltu għall-ġid tal-pajjiż."

Temm jishaq li filwaqt li mhux perfett, dak li qed jixli bih mhux minnu.



L-eks Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat

Mhux possibbli li fi spazju hekk limitat wiehed iġib ir-reazzjonijiet kollha li kien hemm għal dan l-incident.

Wiehed minn tal-ewwel li kkummenta kien il-Kap tal-PN, Bernard Grech, li qal li meta Muscat semma l-kelma "jumiljah" kien qed jirreferi għall-Prim Ministru Abela.

Sostna li Muscat kien qed jagħti x'jifhem li Abela intervjuja mal-pulizija biex jumiljah. Qal wkoll li r-rejd mill-pulizija gie biex jaqdi l-interessi elettorali ta' Robert Abela, u sostna li qal Muscat dwar Jason Azzopardi kien biss tentattiv biex jiddejjja l-attenzjoni minn fuq, u li l-pulizija huma fid-dmri jinvestigaw dwar l-allegazzjoni.

Min-naha tiegħu l-mexxej Laburista, Robert Abela sostna li hu dejjem tkellem b'rispett shiħ dwar l-istituzzjonijiet tal-pajjiż u li dal-Gvern ta l-fiduċja kollha meh-tieġa biex jingħataw dan ir-rispett. "Imma stat demokratiku jimxi bic-checks and balances u bħala Kap tal-Eżekuttiv... reġa' wera l-fiduċja fl-istituzzjonijiet, imma bħala Prim Ministru, fejn iħoss li hemm nuqqas ta' proporzjonalità bejn li ssib il-verità u l-mezzi li jintużaw (biex issib il-verità) huwa d-dover tiegħu li jtkellem."

Hu ċċara li kien qed jgħid dwar li jsejjaħ "il-ħtif" ta' mobiles ta' żewġ itfal żgħar.

"Il-messaġġ tiegħi dejjem kien li hadd mhu 'l fuq mill-liġi u li kulhadd ugwali quddiem il-liġi u kulhadd irid jiġi trattat l-istess, kellu x'kariga kellu," sostna.

Dak li qal Abela gie nterpretat mill-PN

Reazzjoni ...

bħala attakk fuq l-istituzzjonijiet u li sar għax gie mhedded minn Muscat u li Abela rreaġixxa billi hareġ bit-thedd.

Fit-tweġiba tiegħu l-Prim Ministru qal: "Għall-PN it-tishih tal-istituzzjonijiet ifisser li jdahhluhom f'logħba partiġġjana u jużaw l-istituzzjonijiet għal-logħba partiġġjana tagħhom."

Fl-istess hin l-midja tal-PN qed tgħid li r-ritorn ta' Muscat fix-xena politika juri li

hemm kriżi nterna fil-Partit Laburista bil-mexxej Nazzjonalista jgħid li Abela huwa mbeżża' minn dak li qed jgħid Muscat u mhux kapaċi jagħmel xogħlu u li b'hekk qed tbat Malta.

Kemm fuq l-midja lokali kif ukoll dik soċjali kien hemm reazzjoni qawwija fejn min, biex ngħid hekk, approva dak li sar, filwaqt li oħrajn urew nuqqas ta' qbil kif saru l-affarijiet. Kien hemm min kien aktar iebes f'kitbietu u nsista li l-Partit Laburista kellu jaqbeż għal Joseph Muscat.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Extraordinary power held by Immigration Minister

The saga of Novak Djokovic's visa cancellation and deportation two weeks ago has thrown an international spotlight on the extraordinary powers Australia's immigration minister is granted under the Migration Act.

15,000 places for Afghans

Australia will allocate 15,000 humanitarian and family visa places to Afghan nationals, following the release of a report detailing failures in Australia's withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said the allocation, which will come under the scheme's existing cap, includes 10,000 places for Afghan nationals within Australia's humanitarian visa program and at least 5,000 visas within the family stream.

"The War in Afghanistan was Australia's longest, and a humanitarian intake of this size reflects this. Our commitment to Afghan refugees will be second only in scale to our humanitarian intake from Syria and Iraq," Mr Hawke said in a statement. The announcement follows the initial allocation of 3,000 places last August.

The announcement has been met with some criticism, with Sarah Dale, Principal Solicitor at the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS), calling it "disingenuous" and "misleading" in that it doesn't create any additional places in the humanitarian programme.

"This is not with any urgency and therefore really does not go anywhere near addressing our 20 years of commitment to the people of Afghanistan. Nor does that address an escalating humanitarian crisis."

She called on the federal government to announce a further 20,000 places in Australia's humanitarian programme in addition to existing quotas.

The immigration and home affairs ministers, who administer the Migration Act, share 47 personal powers.

Under these powers, the ministers are able to cancel visas on character grounds, order the release of those in immigration detention, vary processes, and substitute a more favourable decision than one handed down by a tribunal such as the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

The AAT is the final, independent avenue of review for those seeking to challenge visa and visa-related decisions made by the Department of Home Affairs.

Mr Alex Hawke used powers granted to him under Section 133C of the Migration Act to cancel Djokovic's visa. He said it was in the public interest to do so because the Serbian tennis star was a "talisman of



Immigration Minister Alex Hawke

anti-vaccination sentiment" and that his presence in Australia might incite "civil unrest".

The Visa Cancellations Working Group, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Refugee Advice and Casework Centre have called for the discretionary powers to be reviewed. The bodies said that this is necessary because they have led to a "huge increase" in visa cancellations that were "alarmingly prone to error and injustice".

Labor calls for Federation reform



Anthony Albanese

Anthony Albanese, the opposition Federal leader speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra called for reform to the federation to reduce the overlay of responsibility between states and the Commonwealth. This he said had complicated the pandemic response.

"We need a clearer delineation of who is responsible for what. The duplication that's there is a problem for our economy, but more importantly, during this pandemic, it's been a source of enormous frustration from people as they look at buck-passing. We need to do better."

"If given the opportunity, I want to make a real difference for the people of our nation and to strengthen the nation itself," he said. "I want a better future."

He also believes Labor can end Australia's long-running climate policy wars after attracting widespread support from business, industry and farming groups for their policy.

Labor has committed to legislate 43 per cent emissions cut by 2030 on the pathway to reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

New Apostolic Nuncio for Australia

Pope Francis has announced that American Archbishop Charles Balvo, a veteran of the Vatican's diplomatic service for more than 30 years, will serve as the next Apostolic Nuncio to Australia.

Balvo, the Vatican's ambassador to the Czech Republic, was born in New York City and ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of New York in 1976. After serving in apostolic nunciatures in South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East, Arch-

bishop Balvo was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and several Pacific Island nations in 2005. He was also Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific Ocean.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge welcomed Archbishop Balvo's appointment on behalf of the Australian bishops.

Archbishop Coleridge said Archbishop Balvo comes "at a complex and challenging time in the Church and in Australia".



Archbishop Charles Balvo



A quick glimpse at Australia

Australians of the Year 2022



Paralympian Dylan Alcott

Paralympian Dylan Alcott, long-term volunteer for St John Ambulance Valmai Dempsey, and founder of healthcare service for people experiencing homelessness Dr Daniel Nour are the Australians of the Year for 2022.

One of Australia's most recognisable sports stars, Dylan Alcott, has been crowned with the nation's top honour. Last year, the wheelchair tennis champion made history by becoming the first man in any form of tennis to achieve the 'golden slam' after winning all four major singles titles and a gold medal at the Paralympics in one season.

And on Australia Day 2022, Alcott, 31, once again made history by becoming the first person with a visible disability to be named Australian of the Year since the award programme launched 62 years ago.

This time last year, while Grace Tame was an influential advocate for survivors of sexual abuse and assault - so much so she was named 2021 Australian of the Year (AOTY) - she wasn't yet a household name. But 12 months on, that's all changed, and with her help, a reckoning around sexual violence and gender in-

equality has spread across the country - including to the highest levels of government.

"Let's make some noise, Australia," she said on the verge of tears as she held the trophy above her head. And that's exactly what the then-26-year-old and other survivors would go on to do.

When attending a reception at the Lodge, for the finalist of the 2022 awards Grace Tame appeared visibly uncomfortable as she met the PM. The advocate for survivors of sexual abuse has been unafraid to criticise Mr Morrison's handling of issues relating to the treatment of women.

She had earlier tweeted an image about her two days in Canberra stating: "On second thoughts let's not go to Canberra. It's a silly place."

Getting access to RATs

More than six million concession cardholders across Australia now have access to free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RATs) at participating pharmacies.

From 24 January, those who hold the following Commonwealth concession cards were eligible for the free RATs: Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Veteran Gold, White or Orange Card, Health Care Card, Low Income Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

Those who are eligible can access up to 10 RATs over a three-month period (with a maximum of five in one month) through community pharmacies. Eligible cardholders will need to attend a participating community pharmacy in person and present their Commonwealth concession card.

They'll need to provide consent to the pharmacy to record their card details. The pharmacy will also confirm their details, including whether they've already received any RATs. There are 6,000 community pharmacies in Australia and 804 pharmacies are participating.

National Cabinet has agreed to initially reimburse pharmacists \$10 plus GST per test, with an extra administration and handling fee of \$4.30 per transaction

Why some suburbs are more vulnerable than others

Local government areas (LGA) with higher blue-collar and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities were more susceptible to COVID-19 in 2021 and remain at risk, a new report commissioned by Catholic Health Australia finds.

According to the new research, every one percent increase in blue-collar workers per LGA was associated with an increase in an

additional 848 COVID cases in Sydney and 895 in Melbourne. Every one percent increase in the percentage of CALD residents per LGA led to an increase in 609 COVID cases in Sydney and 649 in Melbourne.

"Understanding how inequity helped COVID-19 to heavily impact certain LGAs while leaving others unscathed is vital if we are to build back better.

We need to understand ongoing socio-economic impacts and the likely consequences of policy measures in the event of future pandemics, resurgent coronavirus case numbers, or resumptions in restrictive public health orders," the report said.

Jacinda Arden postpones her wedding

The arrival of Omicron in New Zealand and the subsequent restrictions imposed by Jacinda Arden have come at a personal cost: her own wedding.

The prime minister of NZ was due to marry long-term partner Clarke Gayford late January in a ceremony near Gisborne, on the North Island's eastern coast. However, when announcing New Zealand's first confirmed community spread of the infectious COVID-19 variant, she confirmed the nuptials were off. "My wedding will not be going ahead ... such is life," she said.

"I am no different to - dare I say it - thousands of other New Zealanders who have had much more devastating impacts felt by the pandemic. The most gutting of which is the inability to be with a loved one sometimes when they're gravely ill. That will far, far outstrip any sadness I experience."



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti



Kliem ix-xih marbut max-xhur tas-sena (L-ewwel Jannar u Frar)

L-Ilsien Malti huwa wiehed rikk hafna, u jekk tidhol fih fil-fond issib kliem – anke jekk xi whud minnu għoddu sparixxa maż-żmien – imma li jispjega kull jum, kull kwalità ta' temp u kull waqt, b'lingwaġġ ikkulurit. Isibu fost kollox il-qwieli, li hafna minnhom tnebbhu minn missierijietna u minn missierijiethom. Mhux ta' b'xejn li jinghad li kliem ix-xih għandek iżżomm fih.

Kellhom il-hila jtuna qwieli għal kull xahar tas-sena u li hafna minnhom jindikaw x'temp għandna nistennaw matulhom, u d-drawwa marbuta miegħu. Illum nibda billi nsemmu l-ewwel xhur.

Għadna kif hrigna mill-ewwel xahar tas-sena, Jannar, u bdejna t-tieni wiehed, Frar. It-tnejn li huma magħrufa sew mal-bard, il-kesha u l-maltemp. Minhabba li nsibu l-maltemp l-element komuni bejni-

ethom, insibu l-qawl: Jannar kiefer imma Frar għandu d-dwiefer.

Fl-istess xhur, wiehed jibda jilmaħ aktar minn xhur oħra qtales jiġġerrew fit-toroq (strays) isemmgħu lehinhom - jingħu u jinnamaraw, allura f'qawl minnhom jinghad: Jannar u Frar ma jhallux qat-tusa d-dar.

Fejn għandhom x'jaqsmu dawn ix-xhur separatament, għal Jannar insibu: Il-bard ta' Jannar iqaxxar gild il-hmar, li f'tit jinhieglu spjega. Imma nsibu wkoll: Xemx li ma ssahhanx ahjar il-bard ta' Jannar minnha.

Frar marbut sew max-xita, allura: Frar fawwar jimla l-bjar, u iehor: Frar jiġbor lil kulhadd id-dar. U tassew, l-aktar meta jibda jdallam.

Il-varjanti tal-ortografija Maltija (Id-disa' parti)

Waqt li nissoktaw ingħibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja d-deċiżjonijiet tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar forum li għandhom jintużaw fil-kitba bil-Malti biex ikun hemm uniformità, se nissoktaw nittrattaw it-tema li bdejna fil-harga Nru. 265 dwar "il-kitba tal-għerq u z-zkuk", u llum nifukaw fuq:

L-Gherq

Għalkemm jistgħu jinstemgħu differenti, ġeneralment il-konsonanti ta' għerq il-kelma jibqgħu jinkitbu l-istess.*

Jiġifieri jintuża għerq wiehed li jirrapprezentahom il-koll. Hekk, ngħidu ahna,

KTB huwa l-għerq li jinkiteb fil-kliem kollu mibni fuqu, imqar jekk f' 'dan il-kliem il-konsonanti jistgħu jibdlu lehinom minhabba l-assimilazzjoni.

Għalhekk niktbu: **ktibna** (fejn KTB jinstemgħu KTB), **ktieb**, **kiteb** (fejn KTB jinstemgħu KTP), **kitbu** (fejn KTB jinstemgħu KDB), **jiktbu** (fejn KTB jinstemgħu GDB). B'hekk tinżamm l-identità tal-għerq Semitiku.

Iz-zokk

Meta zokk jidher taħt suriet differenti (eż. **predik-atur**, **prietk-a**, **magn-a**, **makkhu-arju**; **popl-u**, **popol-azzjoni**), ma nagħzlux zokk wiehed għalihom

kollha, imma kull forma tinkiteb skont ma tissuggerixxi l-fonetika tagħha.

Għalhekk niktbu: **impieg/impjieg u impjegat**; **kreditur u krettu**, **akkrettu**; **kwadru/inkwatru u inkwadra**; **elettriku u elettricità**.

Nota: Xi kitbiet li huma stabbiliti mill-konswetudni għax laħqu ndraw minn kulhadd u ma jiksrux prinċipji fonetiċi jibqgħu jinkitbu kif kienu s'issa, eż. sindku

*Hemm xi eċċezzjonijiet għal dan, bħal meta jkollna għerq li fih l-gh, eż. **setgħu** / **seta** / **stajna**.

**Fli jmiss f'din is-sensiela, fin-Nru 269, nittrattaw deċiżjonijiet dwar kliem iehor.*

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<https://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/enrol/>

It-telfa ta' Lino Vella wahda kbira

Qrajt b'soghba l-ahbar dwar il-mewt tal-eks editur ta' *The Maltese Herald*, Lino Vella. Kien ġurnal li dam 52 sena haj u li għal 42 sena minnhom Lino Vella kien editur u proprjetarju tiegħu. Birraġun li kien ġie mogħti l-Australia Medal u Gieħ ir-Repubblika!

Għalkemm jiena qatt ma ltaqajt miegħu, għal bosta li jinsabu mx-errdin f'diversi rkejjien tad-dinja l-mewt ta' Lino hija telfa kbira.

Min jaf kemm ikkontribwew fil-ġurnal *The Maltese Herald* sakemm kien għadu haj; min jaf kemm qarreja ta' ġenerazzjonijiet differenti gawdew mill-qari ta' dan il-ġurnal, kemm personalitajiet ġew intervistati u sirna nafuhom ahjar, kemm kotba ġew recensiti, u min jaf x'hidma kien hemm wara pubblikazzjoni regolari bħal din!

L-assenza ta' Lino Vella tfakkarna wkoll fl-importanza ta' ġurnali bħal *The Maltese Herald*, u bħal *The Voice of The Maltese*, u pubblikazzjonijiet oħra f'pajjiżi differenti fejn tinsab id-dijaspora Maltija.

Dawn huma okkażjoni fejn il-Maltin li telqu minn art twelidhom minhabba raġunijiet differenti jkunu jistgħu jżommu kuntatt ma' art twelidhom u ma' lsienhom, il-Malti; iħossuhom qrib il-komunità Maltija; iżommu rwieħhom infurmati dwar avvenimenti marbutin mal-Gżejjer Maltin u mal-Maltin u Għawdxin kemm f'Malta kif ukoll lil hinn.

Ġurnali bħal dawn huma mimlijin tagħrif ta' natura storika u kulturali in ġenerali. Fuq kollox funzjoni oħra tagħhom hija li jċekknu d-distanzi li jifirdu Maltin u Għawdxin minn Maltin u Għawdxin oħra u minflok iqarrbu u jgħaqqdu l-komunità Maltija, tinsab fejn tinsab.

Hemm bosta Maltin u Għawdxin barra minn Malta li minkejja li ilhom snin twal li telqu art twelidhom għadhom jahdmu hafna favur l-ilsien u l-kultura Maltija fil-qasam tal-midja, bħall-gazzetti u r-radju. Nies bħal dawn jisthoqqilhom kull għajnuna, rispettu u ġieħ.

Tkun haġa mill-isbah kieku x-xogħol tagħhom ma jmutx magħhom imma jintiret u jibqa' haj u għaddej permezz tal-ġenerazzjonijiet il-godda.

PatrickSAMMUT



XELLUG: Lino ipprezentat bil-ktieb li kien għadu kif gie llonċjat, *Victoria: A Portrait of a City* għall-okkażjoni tal-125 Anniversarju minn meta ċ-Ċittadella u r-Rabat Għawdex ġew iddikjarati belt bl-isem ta' 'Victoria' mis-Sindku tar-Rabat u President tar-Regjun l-avukat



Samuel Azzopardi. Jidher ukoll Paul Bajada, dak iż-żmien segretarju tal-Kumitat Reġjonali. **LEMEN:** Waqt żjara f'Għawdex f'Awwissu 2012, Lino ried bilfors jiehu ritratt miegħi fi Piazza t-Tokk. Għalkemm ma tantx urejt heġġa, baqa' jinsisti. Illum ngħożż dan ir-ritratt.

Kif kont naf lil Lino Vella

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Kull meta l-mibki Lino Vella kien jirfes l-art Maltija, dejjem sab hin li wkoll iżur Għawdxija. Jien introduċejtu ma' hafna nies, fosthom il-mahbub Isqof Nikol Cauchi, il-Ministru għal Għawdex Anton Tabone, membri parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra, membri tal-Kleru, tal-Kunsilli Lokali u għaqdiet voluntarji. Kien iltaqa' wkoll mal-Isqof Mario Grech, illum Kardinal. F'kelma wahda ma' faxxa wiegħsa tas-Socjeta' Għawdxija.

Jien u Lino konna nifhmu lil xulxin.

Kliemu kien ikun meqjus u ma jwegġa' lil hadd. Kellu mhabba kbira għal Għawdex u kienet l-għaxxa tiegħu jiltaqa' mal-Għawdxin u jżur il-postijiet storiċi u l-mużewijiet. Kien jifli u jgħożż dak li jingħad lilu. Fuqu personali f'it li xejn kien jitkellem.

Kien jagħmel minn kollox biex lil Għawdex itih l-ispażju biex l-Għawdxin fl-Awstralja jasilhom kull tagħrif dwar li jkun qed jigri fi gżirithom. F'Lino, bniedem twajjeb kont nara ċerta umiltà, bi kwalita-

jiet sbieħ u bil-heġġa li jwassal l-aħbar it-tajba. Ma kienx jaf xi jfisser egoizmu.

Kien jaf jiddjaloga ma' kulhadd. Ma kienx ifittex id-difetti tal-oħrajn u kien jipprova jaqdi lil dak li jkun. Kellu wkoll il-hila jagħti pariri tajbin u f'waqthom.

F'ismi, f'isem marti u ibni nagħtu l-kondoljanzi lill-uliedu u familjari tiegħu, nitolbu għall-mistrieħ ta' ruħu.

Membri tal-iscouts onorati

Diversi *Leaders* tal-Victoria Scout Group dan l-aħħar ġew onorati għal hidmiethom, mill-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija tal-iscouts.

Dak li sa f'it ta' żmien ilu kien il-*Group Scout Leader*, Lorrie Saliba ġie pprezentat bl-ogħla u l-iktar onur prestigjuż is-Silver Dolphin Award bhala għarfien ta' aktar minn 30 sena servizz kontinwu u eċċezzjonali, kif ukoll tad-dedikazzjoni assoluta lill-Victoria Scout Group.

Cub Scout Leader Anita Muscat ġiet mogħtija t-tieni l-

ogħla onur, is-Silver Acorn, għal aktar minn 20 sena servizz lill-istess Scout Group.

David Grech, (*Assistant Group Scout Leader* u *Scout Leader*), u Edith Camilleri (*Assistant Club Scout Leader*) ġew ipprezentati bil-Medalja tal-Mertu, onorifiċenza li tingħata lill-membri li jkunu taw mill-inqas 10 snin ta' servizz distint lill-Group.

L-unuri ġew ipprezentati mill-Kaptan Reuben Lanfranco (miċ-*Chief Scout*) u ċ-*Chief Commissioner* Anton Pisani.



Mix-xellug: Anita Muscat, Anton Pisani, il-Kaptan Reuben Lanfranco, Lorrie Saliba u Edith Camilleri

Arti Sagra fid-Dwejra

Iċ-Ċentru tal-Arti Eikon, taħt id-direzzjoni tad-Direttur Dun Roberto Gauci għadu kif lesta xeni artistici fil-mużajk, bhala parti minn xogħol ta' tisbieħ li sar fil-kappella ta' Sant'Anna fid-Dwejra.

Ix-xogħol jikkonsisti fi tliet xenarji mdaqqs, li jirriflettu l-hajja ta' Sant'Anna, tal-Madonna, u wkoll misteri mill-mewt u il-qawmien ta' Sidna Ġesu Kristu.

Bhalissa l-Kappella qed tkun miftuħa tmien siegħat kuljum (8am-4pm) għad-devozzjoni tal-pubbliku.



It-Torri ta' Bubaqra: – binja residenzjali, storika u imponenti fiż-Żurrieq

X'aktarx li ma ssibx belt jew raħal f'Malta, żgħir jew kbir li fi ma ssibx binjiet, hafna minnhom mibnija snin u anke sekli twal ilu li ma jispikkawx imqabbla ma' binjiet li telghu fl-aħhar snin. Fost dawn fir-raħal taż-Żurrieq fin-nofs sinhar ta' Malta wiehed isib it-Torri ta' Bubaqra li hu magħruf li nbena lejn tmiem is-seklu 16, għall-ħabta tal-1579, jiġifieri qrib l-450 sena ilu.

Jingħad li għalkemm dan it-torri li llum huwa wżat bħala abitazzjoni, seta' kien mibni bħala torri għassa, imma fl-istess waqt seta' ġie mibni mill-ewwel bħala residenza privata għall-Kappillan tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann bl-isem ta' Don Matteo Pisani.

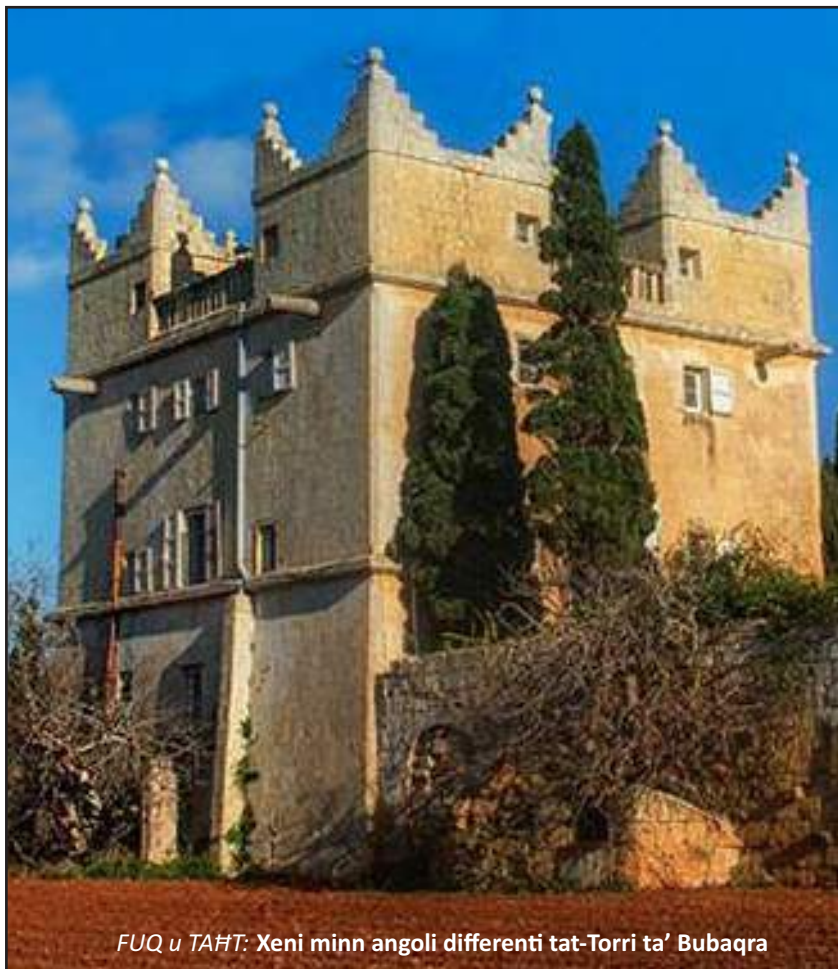
Fiz-żmien li fih inbena t-torri kien pjuttost meqjus bħala li kien ta' periklu li tghix fid-diżabitat, daqstant il-bogħod mill-fortifikazzjonijiet, għalhekk it-torri kien jinħtieġ li jkollu s-sistema ta' difiża għalih innifsu fil-każ li jiġi attakkat.

It-torri huwa mibni skont il-pjanti tal-binjiet ta' dak iż-żmien, b'bieb żgħir u ftiit twieqi fis-sular ta' isfel, filwaqt li l-kmamar ewlenin, li kienu joffru xeni mill-isbaħ tal-pajsaġġ u x-xatt, kienu jinbnew fl-ewwel sular. Imbagħad fis-seklu 18 żdidulu erba' turretti biex hekk il-binja issebheth u saret aktar imponenti.

Għal xi żmien kien hemm ukoll xnihat li t-torri kien jintuza mill-imqarbin fost il-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann – li suppost kellhom il-vot tal-kastità – biex jiltaqgħu man-nisa. Fil-fatt laqgħat bħal dawn kienu pprojbiti għal kollox. Biss hu magħruf li hafna mill-kavallieri xorta wahda kien ikollhom mhux biss dawn in-nisa klandestini imma wkoll ġieli xi wlied illeġittimi.

Biex aktar tithawwad il-borma kienu jiġru anke xniġat fl-inħawi li kien il-kappillan taż-Żurrieq innifsu, li kien jiġi mħallas mill-kavallieri biex jorganizzalhom dawn il-laqgħat u jipprovvilhom in-nisa. Imma filwaqt li hafna minn dawn l-stejjer kienu jinxterdu, mhemm l-ebda xhieda li dan kien fil-fatt kien tassew isehh, allura jkun aħjar li nwarrbuom fil-ġenb u nġhidu li kienu biss xniġat!

Għaddew is-snin u niġu għal meta Malta kienet taħt l-assedju tal-Ġermanzi u t-Taljani fit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija. Hawnhekk it-torri waqa' f'idejn l-awtoritajiet tal-Militar Ingliżi biex jużawh skont kif l-aħjar li kienu jaħsbu huma. Wara, waqa' f'idejn privati u mhux biss ġie rrestawrat għall-istat oriġinali tiegħu ta' bħaliġ, imma wkoll sar residenza privata mill-isbaħ.



FUQ u TAHT: Xeni minn angoli differenti tat-Torri ta' Bubaqra



It-Torri ta' Bubaqra fl-isfond kif jidher mill-ġonna



Il-Costa Concordia mxaqleb fuq naha waħda wara li nkalja. INSET il-kaptan Francesco Schettino

Niftakru .. Kif jista' jkun li nkalja Għaddew l-Costa Concordia? ghaxar snin

Gholjin daqs is-swar tal-Belt, twal twal u ma jispicċaw qatt. Dehra meraviljuża ta' extravaganza u qawwa. Hafna jiftakru l-vapuri kbar u lussużi bħat-Titanic jew il-Queen Mary. Izda l-cruiseliners moderni qabżu kull limitu u d-dehra tagħhom f'kull port tghaġġeb u anke ssahhar lil tal-madwar.

Għalhekk, meta għaxar snin ilu ġriet l-ahbar tat-traġedja tal-cruiseler Costa Concordia li nkalja mal-blat tal-gżira żghira ta' Giglio fit-Toscanja fl-Italja hafna skantaw. Kif qatt jista' jkun? Dawn il-monstri hadd ma jista' għalihom. Izda mbagħad, kulhadd jiftakar it-Titanic.

Il-Costa Concordia, propjetà ta' Costa Crociere sussidjarja tal-kumpanija ġganteska Carnival ibbażata fl-Amerika, mibni biss sitt snin qabel, kien qed iġorr il-passiġġieri madwar il-baħar Meditteran fuq is-soliti rotot tiegħu meta f'dak il-lejl fatali tat-13 ta' Jannar 2012, hekk kif wasal hdejn il-gżira Giglio il-kaptan tiegħu għamel manuvra stramba biex, kif jingħad, isellem lil din il-gżira pittoreska.

Ma kinetx manuvra; għax dan il-monstru nkalja mal-blat u kaxkar u farrak iż-żaqq tal-vapur u dlunk beda jegħreq, anzi beda jixxengel fuq gemb minnhom. Ikkaguna xeni inkredibbli, li ma jitwemmnu, kun-fużjoni, disordni, hadd ma jaf x'se jaqbad jagħmel.

Ir-riżultat ahħari kien, li wara sitt siegħat ta' salvatagġ hidma biex il-passiġġieri jitnizzlu l-art, 34 persuna tilfu hajjithom -27 passiġġiera, hames membri tal-ekwipaġġ u wara żewġ imsiehba oħra tas-salvatagġ. B'kollox fuq il-vapur kien hemm 4,229 persuna minn 70-il pajjiż differenti. Minnhom, 3,206 kienu passiġġieri, filwaqt li 1,023 kienu membri tal-ekwipaġġ. Ma kienx hemm Maltin.

Saru diversi inkjести biex issir magħrufa r-raguni ta' x'seħħ f'dawk il-mumentu traumatici meta l-vapur thalla jsalpa qrib wisq tal-blat.

Schettino qal fl-inkjesta li qabel ma kien riesaq lejn il-gżira tefa' l-allarm tas-sistema tan-navigazzjoni tal-kompjuter tal-Costa Concordia u kien qed isalpa b'għajnejh għaliex kien jaf l-inħawi sew minhabba li kien diġà għadda minn hemm xi tlieta jew erba' darbiet.

Kien ċar li l-kaptan Francesco Schettino kellu hafna mill-htija. Fl-2015 ġie mixli b'negligenza, li halla l-vapur kmieni wisq, u ffaċċja akkużi oħra. Kien ikkundanat 16-il-sena habs.

Fl-inkjesta l-prosekutur ewlieni iddeskrivi l-imġieba ta' Schettino bħala deċiżjoni redikola u l-kaptan, li ġie msejjah mill-midja "Captain Coward" bħalissa qed iservi s-sentenza fil-habs ta' Rebibbia f'Roma, imma qed jappella lill-Qorti Umana tal-Jeddijiet tal-Bniedem (European Court of Human Rights) halli jkun jista' jkompli jservi s-sentenza fid-dar tiegħu.

F'għeluq l-għaxar snin minn dik it-traġedja f'it tal-ġingħat ilu, kienu hafna minn dawk assoċjati ma' dan id-diżastru li marru lura lejn il-post tad-disgrazzja biex hadu sehem f'ċeremonja ta' tifkira.

Wara d-disgrazzja bdew it-tentattivi biex il-vapur jiġi mtella' min kif kien inkalja u nqaleb lejn naha waħda biex sorgia mal-blat. Il-vapur kien perikoluż għax kien

għad fadallu fih 2380 tunnella zejt. Kien idikkjarat, li l-vapur ġarrab harsat tant kbar li ma kienx possibbli ekonomikament li jiġi salvat u għalhekk ġie "written off, constructive total loss". Biex tneħħa iż-zejt biss, damu sa Marzu 2021.

Hadu sat-13 ta' Settembru 2013 biex il-Costa Concordia ġie spustat lura lejn il-pożizzjoni vertikali, u l-ispiża

biex il-valur jiġi salvat laħqet l-\$499 miljun. F'Lulju 2013 bdew it-thejjijiet biex jifflojtaw il-vapur.

Sadanittant l-ispiża biex jirmunkaw il-vapur u l-hsarat li ġarrab wara l-habta, flimkien mal-kumpens lill-vittmi laħqu 'l fuq minn żewġ biljun dollaru. Jiġifieri tliet darbiet daqskemm kien sewa biex inbena l-cruiseler.

Fit-23 ta' Lulju tas-sena ta' wara, dak li kien fadal minn dan il-mostro ta' vapur beda jiġi mbuttat minn 14-il vapur tal-irmonk u twassal sal-belt ta' Genova erbat ijiem wara. F'Lulju tal-2017 fejn ġie skrappjat għal kollox.

Il-Costa Cruises offrit lill-passiġġieri kumpens sa limitu ta' €11,000 lil kull persuna bħala hlas ta' harsat li sofrew, inkluz il-valur tal-passaġġ.

Terz minn dawk li salvaw it-traġedja aċċettaw l-offerta.

Inħarsu lejn dawn il-cruiseliners u nimmeraviljaw bil-kobor, lussu u facilitajiet li joffru. Saru qishom xi belt żghira, isalpaw b'arroganza u stil f'kull rokna tad-dinja, joffru serħan il-moħħ u facilitajiet ta' mistrieħ, kumdità li qatt ma konna noholmu biha.

LawrenceDimech



It-tentattivi biex il-vapur seta' jinżamm fil-wiċċ u jibda l-vjaġġ lejn Genova

The changing face of Malta - 10

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



The control operations room after restoration, (left) and before

Malta's World War II nerve centre

Once-secret underground chamber that served as Malta's World War II operations nerve centre, is now a top military attraction after it was fully restored by *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna* with the financial support of the Malta Airport Foundation.

The 'combined operations room' made up of tunnels and chambers which is part of the Lascaris War Rooms underneath the Upper Barrakka in Valletta was originally built by the Order of Saint John in 1566, and converted into war headquarters by the British in 1941.

It was from here that military strategists planned and directed all defensive and offensive naval and military action between June 1940 and November 1942 when the island was facing relentless attacks during World War II. Later NATO also used it as a submarine-tracking centre and during both the Suez crisis of 1956 and the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

Then in 1977 it closed its doors. Following years of disuse took their toll on the infrastructure. However, following the Malta Airport Foundation's offer to help financially, in 2016 restoration work began, initially by restoring a 20-metre-wide hand-painted map on wood panels map used by NATO in the 1960s. Two other even older maps were also uncovered.



One of the maps discovered during the restoration process. Photo: Malta Airport Foundation, *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna*

After a number of challenges, restoration work was eventually finished last year and the project has become another major attraction that can now be enjoyed by the public.



Msida Skatepark renovated

An area in Msida that had been left in an abandoned state since opened in 2008 has been renovated, and the Skatepark the Tal-Qroqq Roundabout, next to the University has become a top venue for skatepark and cycling enthusiasts where they can now perform and practice their sport.

Works on the venue that had seen little maintenance in 13 years, included new


ramps and steel rails, new trees, new lighting, and new graffiti artworks. The work was carried out by Infrastructure Malta in collaboration with the Malta Skateboard Association.

Inaugurating the project a few months ago, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg said that such work shows that infrastructure is not

just about roads. He thanked Infrastructure Malta for the diverse work it has been carrying out across the island.

A team of ten graffiti artists led by James Micallef Grimaud were also commissioned to create new street art in this space for a more aesthetically pleasing appearance that complements the nature of the sport.

Community News



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La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847



Saturday and Thursday activities at the La Valette Social Centre at Blacktown are now back to normal, with the centre following the COVID guidelines as indicated by the NSW Government. Therefore all patrons are now being welcomed at the club regardless of vaccination status, with QR-code check-in, masks to be worn inside except when eating or drinking, while the two-square metre rule is applicable indoors.

St Nicholas Festa Committee Plumpton -NSW

Events for 2022

Sunday March 13: Fete
Sunday July 10: Imnarja
Sat. October 16: Fete
Sat. Nov. 19: Dinner Dance
Sunday December 4: Festa

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

When the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games officially open on February 4, Malta will have a US-based athlete flying the flag for Malta, Jenise Spiteri. The snowboarder will be the only athlete representing Malta after qualifying for the event.

Competition in the People's Republic of China starts two days prior to the Opening Ceremony with preliminary games in curling and ice hockey. The Games will run through Sunday February 20 and end with the closing ceremony. Events will be held across three zones: Beijing, Yanqing, and Zhangjiakou.

Athletes from all over the world will compete in 15 different sports.

Beijing was elected as host city in July 2015 at the 128th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur. It is its second

US-based Jenise Spiteri represents Malta at Beijing Winter Games

Olympic Games. It is the first city to have ever hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics: four existing indoor venues originally constructed for the 2008 Summer Olympics will be used as part of these Games, while the Beijing National Stadium will again host the opening and closing ceremonies.

These Winter Olympics have been the subject of diplomatic boycotts, and like the last Summer Olympics which were held in Japan are impacted by the international COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in the implementation of health and safety protocols, and restrictions on public attendance of the Games.



Leaders Hibs drop 6 points in 3 matches Wanderers find winning form after 15

The resumption of the Premier League, Malta's top division in the football competitions under the jurisdiction of the Malta Football Association did not bring much joy to the supporters of Hibernians, but a lot of it to those of Sliema Wanderers.

Hibernians had started the New Year well ahead of the pack at the top of the league ladder; however, in their first three outings in 2022 they dropped six points in three drawn matches against opponents, some of whom they had been expected to beat rather comfortably, Sirens, Mosta and Sta Lucia.

Hibernians are still the only team unbeaten, but it is a bit of concern that they have managed seven draws out of their 16 outings. Not only, but their failure to win any of their last three matches has allowed the teams just below them to reduce the deficit, with Floriana and Hamrun Spartans the ones mostly to gain.

However they did not gain much at the weekend as

they could only share the spoils in a 2-2 draw in the top clash, leaving Hibs to lead by four points.

Another team to fair dismally recently are Balzan. They had already shown cracks in their armour by dropping points in the final minutes of their matches when they were two goals ahead, but more than that they failed to get any points from their last three outings against Sliema Wanderers and Mosta.

In the Wanderers' case their clash with Balzan provided them with their first three-pointer after 15 matches and then gave them enough fuel to hold their own in their next match last weekend to win their second successive match.

Sliema are still bottom, but their two wins helped them to narrow the gap with their Sta Lucia who on Saturday, under a new coach, Giovanni Tedesco, produced one of their best results by holding leaders and neighbours Hibernians to a scoreless draw.

Results since the start of 2022, up to and including last weekend's Day 16 programme:

Hibernians v Sta Lucia	0-0
Floriana v Hamrun S.	2-2
Birkirkara v Gzira U	1-0
Gudja U. v Valletta	3-1
Mosta v Balzan	3-2
Sliema W. v Sirens	1-0
Hamrun S. v B'Kara	0-0
Sliema W. v Balzan	1-0
Floriana v Birkirkara	1-0
Sirens v Sta Lucia	2-1
Gzira U v Valletta	1-1
Gudja v Sliema W.	1-0
Hibernians v Mosta	1-1
Hibernians v Sirens	1-1
Floriana v Valletta	2-0
Birkirkara v Balzan	3-2
Hamrun S. v Mosta	2-1
Gudja v Sta Lucia	3-0
Floriana v Birkirkara	1-0
Valletta v Gzira Utd	1-1
Sirens v Sta Lucia	1-1
Gudja Utd v Sliema	1-0
Balzan v Hamrun S.	2-2

STANDINGS

Teams	P	W	L	Pts
Hibernians	16	9	0	34
Floriana	16	8	2	30
Hamrun S	16	8	5	27
Birkirkara	17	6	3	27
Sirens	16	6	6	22
Gzira U	16	5	4	21
Valletta	16	6	7	21
Balzan	16	6	8	20
Gudja U	16	6	8	20
Mosta	16	3	7	15
Sta Lucia	16	1	6	12
Sliema W	16	2	10	10

Waterpolo: Enemed Cup

Sliema win year's first honours

In waterpolo, in front of a good crowd at the National Pool, Sliema won the Enemed Cup, the year's first domestic competition played during the cold winter months in Malta by beating San Giljan 12-10 in a keenly contested final (*Sessions: 3-5, 3-2, 2-3, 2-2*)



Rafael Nadal with the AO trophy

The Premier League structure 2021-22



This season (2021/22), the BOV Premier League is being played in two phases. In the First Phase, the 12 teams in the League are playing on a double round basis.

At the end of the first phase, the clubs classified in the top six shall play against each other on a single round basis known as Top Six – Final Round.

The clubs classified between the seventh and the twelfth place shall play against each other on a single round basis known as Play-Out – Final Round.

At the end of the Second Phase: the highest placed club of the Top Six – Final Round shall be declared the Champion of the Premier Division and is awarded the trophy (*above*); while the bottom two clubs of the Play-Out – Final Round shall be relegated to the Challenge League.

Nadal wins record 21st Grand Slam title -Ash Barty first Aussie to win AO singles in 44 years

Rafael Nadal, 35, beat Daniil Medvedev in an epic final of the Australian Open Men's Final to win a record 21st Grand Slam title. The Spaniard, back on court six months after fearing his glorious career might be over due to injury, roared back from two sets down to claim the record. Nadal won 2-6, 6-7 6-4, 6-4, 7-5

With Novak Djokovic out by deportation and Roger Federer recovering from knee surgery, Nadal is now one major title clear of his rivals.

*Twenty-five year-old Queenslander and

world No. 1 Ash Barty (*right*), became the first Australian to win an Australian Open women's singles title in 44 years.

Barty capped an incredible summer by winning her maiden Australian Open women's singles title in a thrilling final at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne against American Danielle Collins 6-3 7-6.

