



The Voice of the Maltese

Issue
271

(We are for the Greater Malta)

March 29, 2022

A fortnightly print
and digital magazine

Prime Minister Robert Abela is joined by his wife Lydia and daughter Georgia May to thank the Labour supporters

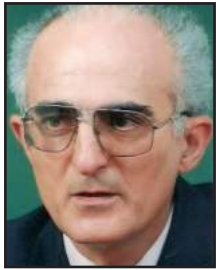


Malta gives Robert Abela his first mandate and the Labour Party its third successive landslide victory

(see page 12)



Ian, hands off “fajjara”



Frans A. CAMILLERI

Research by Australian National University (ANU) has found that of the world's 7,000 recognised languages, around half are currently endangered — with 1,500 particularly

at risk. Co-author Professor Lindell Bromham says that without immediate intervention, language loss could triple in the next 40 years.

So, what's putting mother tongues under pressure? The study identified as many as 51 new stressors on endangered languages.

One surprising finding was that more years of schooling increased the level of language endangerment in some countries. The researchers say it shows we need to build curriculums that support bilingual education, fostering both local language proficiency as well as the use of regionally-dominant languages. Bilingual education in Malta has been the case for donkey's years.

“Across the 51 factors or predictors we investigated, we also found some really unexpected pressure points. This included road density,” Professor Bromham says. “We found that the more roads there are, connecting country to city, and villages to towns, the higher the risk of languages being endangered. It's as if roads are helping dominant languages 'steam roll' over other smaller languages.”

Damn. Here's another reason why Ian Borg's road-building programme could be condemned. Apart from cutting down trees, building fake rubble walls, and covering country lanes with concrete, the Minister now risks being accused of making it easier for the 3,700 Dinglin to lose their *wadab*, *fajjara* or *steringa*.

Once he builds the tunnel to Gozo, hordes of Maltese speaking the President's or the Queen's languages could even sink Gozo's *xirek*, *peni ta' Spanja*, or *fettul*.

On a serious note, though, contact by a language with other languages does not seem to be a problem or render them endangered, according to the Australian study. So, perhaps it may not be a problem that a recent study conducted by researcher and linguist Lara Ann Vella, published in the Malta Review of Educational Research, has shown that students who attend private schools speak primarily in English at home, whereas those who attend state or church schools tend to speak Maltese.

The sling-shot, commonly known in Malta as *vlegġa* or in different parts of the island as *wadab*, *fajjara* and *steringa*



According to a UNESCO study of endangered languages, areas with a particularly large number of languages that are nearing extinction include Africa with its 2,000 different languages, Siberia, Central America and the Northwest Pacific Plateau, not to mention other hotspots such as Oklahoma and the Southern Cone of South America.

More than 300 languages have less than 10,000 speakers, a fact that renders them, according to the UN, as endangered.

The European Union has 24 official languages. These include languages that are endangered due to the extremely low number of native speakers, while some dialects, though they are spoken by a number of people, are not officially recognised. For example, Irish, though it is the first state language in Ireland, is spoken only by an estimated 1.2-3.0 percent of the population and is endangered.

As for indigenous languages, the situation is even more precarious. The Australian study revealed that, prior to colonisation, more than 250 First Nations languages were spoken, and multilingualism was the norm. Now, only 40 languages are still spoken and just 12 are being learnt by children.

“Australia has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest rates of language loss worldwide,” says Professor Felicity Meakins, from the University of Queensland and one of the study's co-authors.

On the other hand, new languages, such as Kenya's “sheng” — a mixture of English, Swahili and mother-tongues — are emerging. This is not to mention many con-languages that have been created as part of an imaginary world, such as the Klingon language developed for Star Trek, and Elvish, one of the many languages created by J. R. R. Tolkien.

These languages differ from natural languages which develop organically over centuries from the interactions between a great many speakers.

Human cultural diversity

When a language is lost or is ‘sleeping’, as we say for languages that are no longer spoken, we lose so much of our human cultural diversity. Language is a crucial instrument for creating the ties without which unified social action is impossible. It can therefore be said to be at the core of humanity.

In fact, Aristotle says what sets man apart, what raises him above the animals, is that he has the ability to motive with language. The Egyptologist Sir Grafton Elliot Smith has rightly remarked that the invention of speech marked the beginning of man.

Stephen Pit Corder, a well-known British linguist says — “The first way we can approach language is as an experience of the individual person. It is concerned with describing and explaining language as a matter of human deeds. People speak

and write; they also obviously read and understand what they hear.”

Talk to any qualified speaker or dialogue writer and they will tell you that language plays a vital role in our life. You don't have to be a president or a famous speaker to use language efficiently. As a matter of fact, few presidents wrote the famous lines for which they are remembered.

The legend of the Babel's tower tells that at the very commencement of the world, human beings had only one and unique language. Now there are seven thousand. So, what is making some languages disappear?

According to the French political scientist Jean Antoine Lap, “When the protection costs of languages do not have any more adequate compensation in the form of social and emotional earnings, then languages disappear.”

Our own Award-winning author Trevor Zahra has already sounded a warning about the slow deterioration in the standards of spoken Maltese, especially among children. But he also warns that some of those children have now grown up, and may have carried those linguistic deficiencies into television and literature.

In a recent interview with Malta Today, Zahra said that today, many children are being exposed far more to English — because of social media, because of all the apps on Smartphones, tablets, etc. — than to Maltese. And unfortunately, some parents only talk to their children in English, too.

According to Zahra, “there is nothing intrinsically wrong with this, in itself: except that it is happening at the expense of Maltese, instead of in conjunction with it. All linguists agree that the ideal situation would be one parent speaking to their children in English, and the other in Maltese. That way, children would be brought up speaking both languages fluently.”

So, could Maltese go the way of Gaelic? The risk is there. We have already irretrievably lost several thousand words which have fallen in disuse, to be replaced by foreign words. Many people's grammatical and spelling skills are abysmal. In both my lecturing and working with graduates in government employment, I have often despaired at the standard of written Maltese.

All too often, many people will tell you that good and elegant writing is superfluous, as long as they are understood. But that is the problem. They aren't. Their shoddy writing leads to all sorts of misunderstandings, and nuances of speech are lost, such that what remains are the blunt instruments of language disorder and miscommunication.

Despite the challenges to it, Maltese is not yet on the list of endangered languages. I would venture to predict that it will survive.

*Continued on page 3

Daily TV news from Malta

New worldwide channel on SBS TV

The national broadcaster SBSTV has scheduled a seven-day, one-hour news bulletin from Malta. This amazing offer coincides with the launch nationally in Australia of a new channel called SBS WorldWatch, which is expected to start on the 23rd May.

Negotiations have been going on for months between the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Malta and SBSTV. The target is the 8 pm "l-ahbarijiet", the most-watched programme in Malta. It appears that this will replace the present half-hour segments seen on Thursdays and Sundays at 8 am on SBSTV.

Further arrangements are in progress to acquire as well from TVMNews+ "l-agġornament tal-ahbarijiet" This will en-



sure there is a stand-by in case one or the other is not available for any reason.

This offer is regarded as one of the better things that have happened to the Maltese community in Australia.

In this area of instant news, it is most needed to balance the unreliable information on Facebook and newsletters and to strengthen the virtual links between the



two communities.

The Voice of the Maltese had, in the past, criticised SBS, both radio and TV, for neglecting the Maltese community. It was constructive criticism that had its effect. We made it clear that we will not be steam-rolled and demand a fair share.

Ms Marisa Previtera, now secretary of the MCC of NSW, has been in the forefront to push for more air-time and better overall treatment at SBS. Her instance is paying dividends.

Thanks also to Paul Williams of SBS World Watch for his cooperation at all times.

Negotiations with Malta SBS were stalling due to the election in Malta, but Ministers Evarist Bartolo and Carmelo Abela, with the assistance of Norma Saliba at PBS, made sure negotiations would continue and be concluded.

As we went to print, there were still minor technical matters to be resolved, but we are assured that this tremendous news for our community will be in place when the new SBS channel is launched in May.

La Valette SC (Blacktown) General Meeting postponed

The annual general meeting scheduled for Friday 25th March for the La Valette Social Centre at Blacktown NSW, one of the biggest Maltese organisations in Australia, had to be postponed at the last minute due to a sudden outbreak of Covid-19 amongst its members, including some of the directors.

This decision undoubtedly caused some frustration, but most members were informed or found out of the decision via the many outlets of social media, radio and the like. As we went to print, no new date for the meeting had been announced. The Voice will keep you informed.

Ian, hands off "fajjara"

**Continued from page 2*

After all, how would many Maltese communicate if they couldn't swear in Maltese?

Cognitive psychologists will tell you that the main purpose of swearing is to express emotions, especially anger and frustration.

Being Mediterranean, we are an emotional people. Being islanders on a tiny rock, we are angry and frustrated by our limitations. That's a powerful recipe for swearing.

Read any discussion thread on fb and you will notice that most of it is highly emotional, confrontational, rude, or aggressive. Leslie Beebe, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Education at Columbia University, has described how people are intentionally rude in order to obtain power or vent negative feelings.

I don't blame it all on the circumstances of our existence. The frequency of swearing depends on the integrity of brain areas implicated in cognitive control processes (e. g., the ventral prefrontal cortex). Damage to this cortex is associated with an in-

crease in socially inappropriate behaviours and speech, including swearing. Yet again, damage to primary language areas (e. g., Broca's area) also result in aphasia, which commonly produces increased swearing and exaggerated emotional reactions.

Not to mention that the use of potent emotional quality of taboo language is associated with enhanced amygdala activity, a neurophysiological marker of arousal. I am sure that a good percentage of Maltese men, but not only, have recourse to taboo language to show their virility.

This often takes the form of associating the taboo words with elements of the spiritual, the more colourful and sexually provocative the better.

It would be interesting for somebody at the University of Malta to do some research and establish how many Maltese have damage to the ventral prefrontal cortex or Broca's area, or are subject to enhanced amygdala activity. We could have some fun.

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A journey of teaching from the heart

Our selection for Personality of the Month for March is primary teacher, Cynthia Villar (nee Cassar), a second-generation Maltese Australian who has been an active member of the Maltese community in Sydney since 1997 and a dedicated educator in the public system for over 30 years.

Cynthia Villar

Cynthia is the co-founder of two Maltese community language schools and is currently the relieving principal and primary course coordinator of Skola Maltija Sydney (a programme of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc). She is married to Marcelo Villar and lives in Raby, Campbelltown (55 kms south-west of Sydney). Together they have four nieces, three nephews and a great niece.

Cynthia was born in January 1971 in Parramatta, Sydney. Her father, Geradu (Jerry) Cassar is from Msida, Malta. Her mother, Carmela (Carmen) Mangion is from Hal Qormi (ta' San Gorg). Cynthia's parents married in Hal-Qormi, Malta in April 1967 and migrated to Sydney, Australia in July 1969 only seven months after their first son, Jesmond, was born.

Her parents now reside in Qawra, Malta, having left the Central Coast of NSW for good on 1st May 2014.

The majority of Cynthia's upbringing was in Canley Heights and Wetherill Park (Fairfield City, 32kms south-west of Sydney). In her primary school years, she attended Auburn North, Canley Heights and Smithfield West Public Schools.

In Year 7, she studied at St Johns Park High School, and in Year 8 (1984) enrolled in the newly established Prairiewood High School, graduating in 1988 with the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

In 1989, Cynthia began her undergraduate studies at the Macarthur Institute of Higher Education – Milperra campus (now Western Sydney University). She was awarded a Teacher Education Scholarship from the NSW Department of Education, and after graduating with a Diploma of Teaching (Primary), was appointed to Claymore Public School (Campbelltown) as a classroom teacher in 1992.

In 1994 and 1995, she continued her fourth-year training whilst teaching full-time and graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) from the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur. In 1996 she transferred to Robert Townson Primary School (Raby, Campbelltown) where she worked for over five years as a classroom teacher.

Losing and learning Maltese

It was during this time, at the age of 25, that she realised that she was losing her first language, *il-Malti*. Like many of her generation, she was a subtractive bilingual.

Several factors contributed to this realisation such as marrying into a Spanish-speaking Uruguayan family and the birth of her brother's first son (representing the third generation). She knew that building on her oral capacity and acquiring literacy in Maltese was key.

Then in August 1996, after listening to a community notice about Maltese language classes on the Maltese SBS radio programme, she enquired and enrolled. The Maltese Australian poet, Frank Zammit, taught the weekly evening classes in Girraween.

It was in December 1998, that Cynthia was invited to a meeting of all interested Maltese community stakeholders to explore the possibility of establishing a Maltese community language school. It was hosted by the Minister for Education and Training at that time, the Hon. John Aquilina MP, at the Department's State Office in Bridge Street, Sydney.

At a follow-up meeting organised by the Maltese Community Council of NSW in January 1999, she recalls vividly how the late



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

Alfred Fenech OAM suggested that the school needed a teaching coordinator. She was nominated, and accepted the role.

Whether her acceptance of the nomination was naivety or faith in good judgement, she remained in that founding role as well as teacher and committee

member from January 1999 to June 2007.

This period marked the realisation that by searching to meet her own needs to learn Maltese, Cynthia ended up serving the needs of thousands of others who were also seeking their right to reclaim and rediscover their Maltese language and culture.

Given the enquiries she constantly fields from potential students, the interest in learning Maltese has not waned. This is particularly pleasing knowing that the Maltese community in NSW has now reached the fourth generation.

NSW Community Languages Schools Board

From October 2001 until December 2004 Cynthia served on the NSW Community Languages Schools Board representing community languages school teachers.

The seed to understand second language acquisition and development and embrace the benefits and beauty of being bilingual in English and Maltese was planted. So in 1998, started her Graduate Diploma studies in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL) via distance education at Charles Sturt University (Bathurst).

She graduated with distinction and in April 2001, was appointed a specialist ESL teacher (English as a Second Language) to Governor Philip King Public School (Edensor Park).

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PERSONALITY of the Month

Cynthia Villar the philanthropist

* Continued from page 6

The move from teaching in Campbelltown to Fairfield was both a home-coming and calling.

In Term 2 2009, Cynthia was seconded to Relieving K-6 Multicultural/ESL Consultant based at the Chester Hill Education Office, and in 2011 successfully applied by merit for an ESL teacher position at Canley Vale Public School where she still teaches today.

Then in 2013, the acronym EAL/D (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) replaced the term ESL (English as a Second Language).

Skola Maltija Sydney

In August 2007, Cynthia was a co-founder of the not-for-profit community organisation, *Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Incorporated*. She became the founding Primary Course Coordinator of *Skola Maltija Sydney* - the education programme of *Akkademja Maltija* that has been delivering both primary and adult Maltese language classes since 27 October 2007.

Federation of Maltese Language Schools

Cynthia is also a founding member of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools, having represented *Skola Maltija Sydney* at the first national conference in Canberra in October 2007.

Determined to further develop academic literacy in Maltese and achieve a missed and long-held ambition, in February 2008, Cynthia commenced studying the Stage 6 Maltese Continuers Preliminary Course (Year 11) at the Saturday School of Community Languages (The Hills Sports High School, Seven Hills).

She successfully completed the Maltese HSC in November 2009, achieving a mark of 89/100 (Performance Band 5).

In September 2012, Cynthia was invited to be honorary secretary of a community-based charity founded by two of her colleagues, Australian Aid 4 Cambodia (AA4C). She agreed to assist for one year only but was called back to the role.

During this time (2014 – 2018), Cynthia was pressed to take leave



Cynthia with her parents, Jerry and Carmen, in Nadur, Gozo Sept. 2018

from her duties at *Skola Maltija Sydney* to focus on the charity, though she remained on the committee, assisting in the background, and in 2019 returned to the position of Primary Course Coordinator.

On 26th November 2013, in recognition of her outstanding dedication and hard work in reinvigorating the charity, the Rotary Club of Liverpool West presented her with a Pride of Workmanship Award.

Three years later, in January 2016, she travelled with the AA4C team as a RAWCS volunteer (Rotary Australia World Community Service) to visit the charity's schools and carry out charity work. This was a once in a lifetime experience that had a profound impact on both her personal and professional development.

Cynthia was an HSC marker/examiner with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for the Maltese HSC oral exams and co-judge for the written exams from 2016-2021.

Quiet Achievers Award 2018

In March 2018, the NSW Maltese Welfare Inc selected Cynthia for a Maltese Quiet Achievers Award for her voluntary contribution to the community.

Cynthia told *The Voice*: "My father always said to me: '*Tkunx bhali. Tghallem l-iskola. L-iskola hija sabiha*'. He would reinforce his point by adding: '*Hares lejn idejja*'. His hands were always rough and calloused from panel beating, not to mention his grubby overalls.

"Whether I followed my father's advice or followed my heart, I'm certain that my parents are proud of me for being an educator who gives. Just as I have built my capacity through engaging in Maltese community activities, I am building the same capacity in others so that they can contribute effectively to their needs and the Maltese community's growth and development."

Interests

When Cynthia is not teaching, she enjoys practicing yoga, reading/listening to podcasts about health, food, nutrition and personal development, watching TVM (Television Malta) and sipping on a quality cup of chai tea with her homebaked wholefood muffins, scones or cakes.

To conclude: if Cynthia had a choice to invite three people to dinner, who would they be?

They would be:

1. Australian singer-songwriter, Tina Arena
2. Vietnamese-Australian chef and restaurateur, Luke Nguyen
3. London-based GP who started The Doctor's Kitchen, Dr Rupy Aujla



Cynthia handing out sacks of rice to families at Pgne Chey School, Svay Dangkm Commune, Siem Reap with teacher Mr Channy

The 24th Prime Minister: Paul Keating – From December 20 1991 to March 11 1996

The swashbuckling Prime Minister

Australia's 24th Prime Minister, Paul John Keating was born on the 18th January 1944. He was a member of the Labor Party and served as Treasurer for the Hawke Government from 1983 to 1991 and as Deputy Prime Minister from 1990 to 1991. He was married to Annita Van Lersel from 1975 – 2008 and from 1999 partnered with Julieanne Newbould from 1999.

Paul Keating was the first of four children born to Minnie and Matthew Keating. He worked for the Government Railways as a Boilermaker. He grew up at 3 Marshall Street Bankstown NSW.

Researched by
Joe BUTTIGIEG

Keating left school at the age of 14 to work as a pay clerk at the Sydney County Council's electricity distributor, but he also attended Belmore Technical High School to further his education.

In 1966 he became President of the New South Wales Young Labor, and during this period also managed a rock band named 'The Ramrods', maybe borrowing the name from the TV Series, Rawhide!

Keating successfully gained the Labor nomination for the seat of Blaxland and, in 1969, was elected to the House of Representatives when he was just 25 years old.

During his maiden speech when the Liberal Party boasted about the increasing number of women in the workforce, Keating said rather than something to be proud of it is something of which we should be ashamed. In 1973 he also voted against John Gorton's motion to decriminalise homosexuality.

However, according to Tom Uren, he was originally a "very narrow-minded young man" who later "matured" and became far less socially conservative.

When the Governor-General John Kerr controversially dismissed Whitlam, Keating called the dismissal a "coup"

and raised the idea to "arrest (Kerr)" and "lock him up", adding that if he were Prime Minister he would not have "taken it lying down".

Following Labor's landslide victory in 1983, Prime Minister Bob Hawke appointed Keating Treasurer. In the following years, together, despite their different lifestyles they developed an extremely powerful partnership.

Hawke was a Rhodes scholar who loved cigars, betting, drinking, and most forms of sport, whilst Keating preferred classical architecture, Mahler symphonies and collecting British Regency and French Empire antiques.

Although they didn't know each other before the 1983 election, the two formed a personal as well as political relationship that enabled the Hawke government to pursue a significant number of reforms.

Important reforms

Among the reforms achieved was the approval of the floating of the Australian dollar. He also oversaw the gradual elimination of tariffs on imports and privatisation of companies such as Qan-



tas, LSL Limited, and the Commonwealth Bank, also the introduction of Medicare.

Keating's management of the Accord and close relationship with ACTU Secretary Bill Kelty, became a source of significant power for him and when he was awarded the Euromoney Finance Minister of the year in 1984, he became known as the "World's Greatest Treasurer."

The great fallout between the "Dynamic Duo" came about after Hawke had successfully won the 1990 election. Apparently, there was an agreement that Hawke would hand over the reins "on a platter" to Keating sometime after the election of 1990.

It didn't happen because, following a "treacherous" speech by Keating, which belittled Hawke's leadership, Hawke changed his mind. He wasn't going to be 'pushed' into retirement. Keating was so ambitious to take over the top job that he sacrificed the great partnership and friendship they had enjoyed together for so many years.

The break-up of the Hawke-Keating partnership injected a severe wound in the Hawke government. It was like Batman and Robin dissolving their partnership. Although Keating challenged the top job and failed by 66 votes to 44, he won the second challenge 56 to 51 in December 1991.

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Keating aged 34 (second from left), in Wickham 1978 with Labor figures (from left) Colin Jamieson, Peter Walsh and Stewart West



“The world's greatest treasurer”

**Continued from page 6*

Despite the fallout, Paul Keating paid tribute to Hawke's nine years as Prime Minister.

Governor-General Bill Hayden swore in Keating as Prime Minister on 20th December 1991. He entered office with an extensive legislative agenda: reconcile with the Indigenous population, strengthen Economic ties with Asia, and make Australia a republic.

Elsewhere in domestic policy, he established and promoted the first Commonwealth cultural policy. Mandatory detention for asylum seekers was also introduced for the first time.

As Prime Minister, Keating maintained his aggressive debating style. When asked by opposition Leader John Hewson why he would not call an early election, Keating replied: “because I want to do you slowly”.

He referred to the Liberal Party as “a motley, dishonest crew” and the National Party



Paul Keating (right) with Bob Hawke on the front steps of Parliament House in 1987

as “dummies and dimwits desperados”. He described Peter Costello's attack as “like being flogged with a warm lettuce.”

During the economic downturn of the 1990s, Keating described it as “the recession we had to have”. He copped a lot of criticism over it; however, he fought a strong campaign in 1993 and went on to win the election by an increased majority, but lost heavily to John Howard in the 1996 election, losing 29 seats.

After leaving Parliament in 1996, Keating accepted appointments for various

companies and also became a senior advisor to a banking firm. He also took part in a series of four-hour-long interviews with Kerry O'Brien on the ABC in 2013. He currently resides in Potts Point in inner-city Sydney and has a holiday home on the Hawkesbury River.

**In the next issue we will feature Sir Edmund Barton, the first Prime Minister of Australia (1901 to 1903). Without BartonAustralia would not have federated on 1st January 1901.*

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The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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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 ...

Superior citizens, or one's right?

Kevin Caruana from Birkirkara, Malta writes:

With reference to the letter by J. Cauchi from Sunshine, Victoria, titled: Superior Citizenship (*The Voice* No. 270). I beg to differ about his argument. It really hurt my feelings.

Yes it is true that in times of a general election in Malta, those of us who mainly live in parts of Europe due to force majeure, because we are either government employees, or for exigencies of work need to carry out our employers' interests away from Malta, are given assistance to return to Malta for voting purposes.

I am one of those. My home is in Birkirkara, but I currently, and temporarily live in Germany, not out of choice but to carry my duty and to look after the interest of the company I work for.

I feel it my duty to vote in an election in Malta, especially when it is a case of deciding on a government to administer the island. That is my right and those who like me are in such a situation. The €90 assistance is not a give-away. Though perhaps in the case of a private enterprise, it should

be the one to cover the ticket for our flight to Malta.

I do not feel superior to other Maltese, and not even privileged to be able to avail myself of this opportunity. If it was my decision to emigrate, and to live permanently in another country, and perhaps even decide on taking another country's citizenship, I would never expect to be given the right to vote, and therefore the chance to decide which party should run the country in my absence. That would be most unfair.

Balanced and unbiased views ... so professional

Paul O'Farrell from Rockingham WA writes:

I commend you for the way *The Voice* has been dealing with the political campaign leading to the general election in Malta. It was very professional.

Whatever the political leanings of the members of the Maltese communities living abroad among the readers, you have managed to give balanced and unbiased views in your reporting without hurting the feelings of anybody.

We have to keep in mind that although we may all have our views, and despite the fact that we may still support Malta's political parties, we have no say in the choice of government and it would be futile to get heated up about something that it is not our 'concern'. So it is good luck to whoever wins.

TVoM a most enjoyable read

Dolores Maisey, Te Aroha New Zealand writes:

It was with interest that I have just read the latest issue of your magazine, *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine (No. 270). I always enjoy reading it.

I especially enjoyed the article by Barry York about the early life in Woolloomooloo of Maltese migrants. When my grandfather came to Sydney from Malta in about 1913 he too was welcomed by the Maltese community there before heading out to the western suburbs to set up a dairy farm.

Mark Caruana also did oral histories with my parents I think in the 1990s.

Thank you for a most enjoyable magazine that covers many varied topics. It will be interesting to await news of the pending elections.

Min hu non-political?

J. Magro minn Adelaide North SA jikteb:

Mela fl-Awstralja hawn min jiftahar li hu non-political u biex juru kemm huma blu heroes qed jirakkomandaw biex dawk li jridu jkun jafu x'qed isir Malta dwar il-politika f'Malta għandhom jaqraw it-*Times of Malta*, *Newsbook* u l-portal lovimalta.

Parir newtrali għal dawk li jridu jkun non-political? Idahhkunex! U dan il-parir jagħtuh bla misthija ta' xejn.

Mhux ta' b'xejn gew imwarba u hadd mhu qed jagħti kashom!



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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

What happens if I entered a contract to buy a house, and wild weather damaged it?

by Paul SANT

Before answering the main event question, it is necessary to provide an overview of the steps in a standard property purchase ('conveyance'):

An interested buyer makes an offer to buy a house for \$1,000,000. The seller accepts the offer. The buyer and seller each sign a contract that has their details and the price.

The buyer signed contract and purchaser signed contract are then 'exchanged', usually through a real estate agent, or conveyancer/solicitor, and the contract is dated that day of exchange.

Contracts for sale of land generally include a 42-day (6 week) settlement period. Sometimes, the buyer or seller may seek to have a shorter or longer settlement period.

At settlement, the buyer provides the balance of purchase monies to the seller, and a Transfer is registered with the Land & Registry Services recording a change of ownership. The buyer now owns the property.

Who is responsible for the property after exchange?

Regardless of the settlement period, the seller remains responsible for the property until settlement, or 'completion' of the contract (unless there is an agreed special condition which may alter responsibility for the property where, for example, a buyer wishes to occupy the property before settlement). This is found in section 66K of the *Conveyancing Act 1919 (NSW)*:

(1) The risk in respect of damage to land shall not pass to the purchaser under a contract for the sale of the land until:

- (a) The completion of the sale (settlement), or
- (b) The time stipulated by the parties to the contract, being a time after the purchaser enters into, or is entitled to enter into, possession of the land (see example referred to above).

However, some special conditions may alter the standard conditions, the wording in the standard conditions, or remove standard conditions entirely. It is also not uncommon for special conditions to attempt to remove statutory obligations.

What happens if the property is damaged after exchange, and before settlement?

It depends on the extent of the damage. The scope of this article is in relation to *substantial damage* that is defined in section 66J(2) of the *Conveyancing Act* as 'damage that renders the land materially different from that which the purchaser contracted to buy'.

Australia is no stranger to the havoc Mother Nature can wreak. Many people have been affected by recent copious amounts of rain and floods. Coastal properties can be particularly prone to damage from storms and rain.

If you have exchanged contracts and, say, a series of storms caused a landslide within the property boundaries, which results in a portion of the land and house collapsing, you could argue that the land is materially different to what you contracted to buy.

Section 66L(1) provides a buyer with a right to rescind the contract with writ-

ten notice if land is substantially damaged, prior to settlement occurring. This means the seller has to return any deposit paid to the seller, and the parties are no longer bound by the contract.

What if the seller does not agree the damage is substantial and does not agree to rescind the contract?

A buyer could seek equitable Orders from the Supreme Court of NSW to rescind the contract and for the seller to direct the deposit be refunded to the buyer.

The court would need to make findings that damage to the property was substantial; to be satisfied that rescission is an appropriate equitable remedy.

Depending on what evidence is provided to the court, including a buyer's intentions with a property; expert reports as to the extent of the damage; any repairs the seller carries out (and time-frame repairs are completed in); it can be open to the court to find that substantial damage did or did not occur.

If a seller rectifies damage prior to settlement, and that damage is not so significant to make the land *materially different* from what the buyer bought, it is more likely the court would decline to make orders for rescission.

This occurred in *Bakhos v Fenner & Anor* [2007]. The buyer obtained the seller's permission to lodge development plans with the local council 7 days after contracts exchanged.

Prior to settlement, fire damage occurred to a property. The seller's insurer accepted liability for the fire damage and repairs were carried out to the property, completed one week before the settlement date.

The court found that the buyer's intention to develop the property made it highly unlikely the condition of the house was material to the price he agreed to pay and his decision to enter into the contract to buy the property. The seller was entitled to retain the deposit.



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Maltese Spoken



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

Perspettiva

Id-dota

Wahda mit-tradizzjonijiet kurjużi li ltaqjt magħhom f'ha-jti hija d-dota. Meta kont qed nikber niftakar li kultant kont nisma' biha f'diskussjonijiet dwar relazzjonijiet ta' koppji u f'himtha semplicement bhala hlas li jinghata lil raġel li jkun se jżżewweġ lil mara mill-familja tagħha.

Niftakarni nahseb kemm hi stramba li jsir hlas mill-familja tal-mara lejn ir-raġel, u xejn fid-direzzjoni l-oħra.

Nammetta li ma tantx tajtha hsieb, sakemm ġejt biex niżżewweġ jien, u membru tal-familja tiegħi kienet gabitli l-kliem fuq hekk, li dota 'suppost' kellha tithallas lili mill-familja tal-gharusa tiegħi.

Jien niftakar li kont għamiltha ċara li ma kelli l-ebda interess fi transazzjoni li kont inqisha sessista, u wisq inqas interess li niparteċipa f'din it-tradizzjoni, u għalhekk dan il-hsieb miet fuq ruh ommu, talinqas fil-każ tiegħi.

F'Malta, il-prattika tad-dota kien mod kif il-familja tal-mara mhux biss thallas biex tassigura t-twertiq ta' żwieġ imma wkoll b'xi mod iġġib 'il quddiem il-hlas ta' parti mill-wirt futur tal-familja. Id-dota kienet tghin fl-istabbilment ta' dar ġdida u f'xi każijiet kienet ukoll tissalvagwardja l-mara jekk tiġi mahqura jew mitluqa mir-raġel tagħha, għax id-dota f'xi ċirkostanzi setgħet tiġi mitluba lura.

Generalment, proprjetà li nġhatat bhala parti mid-dota setgħet tiġi amministrata mir-raġel, imma ma setgħetx tiġi disposta mighajr l-approvazzjoni tal-mara. Madankollu, jekk ikun hemm it-tfal, imbagħad din tinqasam fi tlieta - terz għar-raġel, terz għall-mara u terz għat-tfal.

Dak li kien inkluz fid-dota kien jiddependi mill-istatus tal-familja tal-mara - setgħet tikkonsisti f'affarijiet prattiċi bħal kutri, imħaded u hwejjeġ, sa gojjelli, metalli prezzjużi u, fi żminijiet oħra, anke skjavi.¹

Id-dota ma kinetx tradizzjoni Maltija biss, għax hija tradizzjoni mifruxa f'hafna reġjuni tad-dinja. Tissemma fil-Kodiċi ta' Ham-murabi tal-Babilonja (reġjun xi ftit jew wisq ekwivalenti għal dak li llum jissejjah l-Iraq) li għandha kważi erbat elef sena, u għalhekk huwa ċar ukoll li din it-tradizzjoni hija antika hafna.

Huwa interessanti hafna li fil-Babilonja, mhux biss kien hemm id-dota, imma kien hemm ukoll dak li jissejjah il-prezz tal-gharusa (*bride price*). Dan tal-aħhar kien ammont ta' flus jew proprjetà li jithallas mill-gharus lill-familja tal-gharusa.

Wiehed forsi għalhekk jahseb li fil-fatt dawn il-prattiċi kienu inqas sessisti milli jidhru.

Tgħaġġlux! Ikkunsidraw il-prattika tal-ghazla tal-koppji fil-Babilonja. Kien isir irkant tax-xebbiet darba fis-sena, u dak li jmexxi l-irkant kien jibda mill-isbah wahda u jibqa' sejjer sal-inqas.

Il-familji tal-isbah xebbiet kienu jispiċċaw jibbenefikaw mill-

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:

<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

kitba ta'
**IVAN
CAUCHI**



prezz tal-gharusa, u dawk li kienu inqas attraenti kienu jidhlu f'irkant bil-maqlub (*reverse auction*) u jispiċċaw iridu jhallsu dota biex jżżewweġu.²

Probabbli tghiduli li jkun żball li nħares lejn dawn l-affarijiet b'sensibilitajiet soċjali moderni. Forsi jkollkom raġun, imma xorta nitwahhax inpoġġi lili nnifsi minflok dawk l-imsejtna xeb-biet.

Id-dota għandha storja twila fl-Ewropa, il-Lvant Nofsani, l-Asja t'isfel u t-tramuntana tal-Afrika. Il-prezz tal-gharusa huwa iktar predominanti fil-Lvant Nofsani, fl-Asja, pajjiżi fin-nofsinar tal-Afrika u gzejjer fil-Paċifiku.

Ta min isemmi li l-prezz tal-gharusa jissemma wkoll fit-Torah tal-Lhud (l-ewwel hames kotba tal-Antik Testament tal-Insara).³ F'diversi pajjiżi, jeżistu ż-żewġ prattiċi flimkien, fejn jekk jinghata l-prezz tal-gharusa, dan jiġi inkorporat fid-dota.

Hemm diversi teoriji għaliex dawn il-prattiċi kienu daqstant popolari, u għadhom sa ċertu punt illum, għalkemm jidher li naqsu xi ftit.

Teorija wahda tal-antropologista Jack Goody hija li f'soċjetajiet fejn l-agrikultura ssir bl-idejn u biz-zappun, fejn il-mara tagħmel hafna mix-xogħol, il-prezz tal-gharusa huwa mod kif il-familja tal-mara tiġi kkompensata għan-nuqqas ta' xogħolha wara li tiżżewweġ.

Mill-banda l-oħra, f'soċjetajiet fejn l-agrikultura tiddependi fuq il-mohriet u għalhekk fuq kapital, fejn dan ix-xogħol ġeneralment jiddependi fuq l-irġiel, hawnhekk hija predominanti d-dota.

Hemm dibattitu shih fuq din it-teorija u oħrajn.⁴

Spiss nisma' stejjer fuq ġlied bejn il-familji minhabba l-hlas tad-dota, jew li ma jsirx, jew li mhux biżżejjed, jew li nsteraq..... u nies jispiċċaw fl-idejn jew aghar.

Inqas ma jkolli x'naqsam, ahjar.

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Malta's population hits a record 516,000

According to preliminary figures from the November 2021 Census by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Malta's population has hit a record 516,000. It has shown an increase of 99,000 recorded in the previous Census held 10 years earlier, in 2011. This means that the population density in Malta is 1600 per Km²

Despite the increase in the country's population, Malta still remains the smallest member state in the European Union, which is 116,000 less than Luxembourg.

Compared to a hundred years ago, Malta's population has increased by 304,000 people, and 72,000 in the last 25 years between 1985 and 2011, which is, by 21%. Percentage-wise, the increase in the past 10 years (2001 to 2011) has been by a staggering 24%. It is also on up by 0.3 per cent when compared to 2019.

It is also worth mentioning, that in 2020, the increase in the total resident population recorded for Malta and Gozo according to NSO was the lowest since 2010. When considering natural increase and net migration, the population only grew by 1,536 persons, compared to 21,005 in 2019.

This slowdown in population growth mirrors the trend exhibited in 2020 across the European Union (EU) and is a clear indication of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on demographic shifts within the member states.

In 2020, the total population of the EU (excluding the UK) shrunk by 0.1 per cent or approximately 312,000 persons.

When it comes to the number of dwellings the Census shows that in the



past 10 years, there has been an increase of 37% from 152,980 recorded in 2011 to 210,000 in 2021.

The NSO's status report on the Census also indicates that the response rate among private dwellings stood at 83.4%, ranging from over 94% in localities like Tarxien, Ikklin and Zurrieq, to less than 65% in Zebbug, St Julians and Sliema.

According to the report participation was highest among dwellings that were predominantly made up of Maltese nationals.

A more accurate count of the total population and dwelling counts will be provided in the preliminary report that should be published in the second quarter of the year. It will present a socio-demographic

profile of the total resident population.

Upon termination of the follow-up exercise in July 2022, indicators about the final population will be released in a series of thematic publications starting from the last quarter of 2022.

Census	Year	Population
	1901	184,742
	1911	211,564
	1921	212,258
	1931	241,621
	1948	305,991
	1957	319,620
	1967	314,216
	1985	345,418
	1995	378,132
	2005	404,962
	2011	417,432
	2021	516,000



The garden lady, pride of the Maltese

For the umpteenth time, in its April edition, the very popular, and influential monthly, ABC Gardening Australia, is featuring Doris Mejlak, our favourite Maltese garden guru best known as “il-mara tal-gnien”. ABC Gardening is considered as the bible for novice gardeners and green thumbs.

Doris, the President of the Holroyd Garden Club for the last 15 years, takes pride in visiting numerous gardens to support and give advice and lectures to various Maltese groups around Sydney. For the past 30 years, she also has been occupying a permanent Q&A slot on the Maltese radio programme on SBS

Doris has been living in Cumberland Road Greystanes for 48 years. Her garden around her property stands out all the year round, but especially for its colourful and innovative display during Christmas time. In fact, thousands visit her Christmas display that she integrates with her garden.

Greystanes, one of the oldest suburbs in Sydney is located 29 kilometres west of the Sydney central business district in the local government area of Cumberland. It was founded in the 1790's.

Doris, an avid reader of The Voice of the Maltese, told us that gardening is not only her hobby but also her life. She enjoys the interaction with the Maltese community because she knows Maltese all love their garden. Her motto is “plan your garden for tomorrow”.



Roundup of News About Malta



Robert Abela scores the biggest victory since Independence

At 85.5% the turnout was a record low in Malta's democratic history. However, for the third successive general election Malta has chosen Labour to administer it for the next five years. It also gave Prime Minister Robert Abela the first mandate that he so eagerly sought since his election as leader of the Labour Party in January 2020 following the resignation of former Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. The 2022 election result was the biggest victory by a party since Independence. It is also the third landslide victory for Labour since 2013.

During his two years as Prime Minister, the 45-year-old politician and leader of the Labour Party, led his team through thick and thin. During his tenure Robert Abela had to face very difficult times, yet he managed to team up with his colleagues to successfully overcome the calamities that beset Malta starting with the Covid-19 pandemic that has lasted for over two years.

He also succeeded in keeping the country's economy afloat, to safeguard the livelihood of the workers by saving around 100,000 jobs, almost entirely eradicated unemployment, and when, in the past few months, the energy crises threatened to disrupt all the success his government had worked so hard for, the energy and fuel crisis reared its head. Yet he and his team managed to suppress the cost of living and decided to shoulder the financial burden brought on by the fuel hype.

Is it any wonder therefore, that Malta has managed to earn the accolade of the European Commission that has led it to forecast that Malta would be the fastest-growing economy this year? Add to that the EU statistics office, Eurostat's confirmation that during the last three months of 2021, Malta had the second-largest increase in economic growth among the EU countries and the Eurozone.

The people has also voted for stability trusting that throughout the next five-year mandate the Labour Government would keep delivering as it has been doing all along during the past two legislatures. Malta has put its faith in

Labour's manifesto and rejected the Nationalist Party's.

Robert Abela first declared victory Sunday morning at 11 a.m. (8 p.m. in NSW), on television.

By way of statistic, 350,423 were eligible to vote but the turnout at 85.5% was the lowest in recent years. Labour obtained 55.7% of the votes cast to the Nationalists' 47.1. That means that the Labour Party managed 162,707 votes; the NP 123,233, and the others 9,308 (3.2%).

When it comes to seats won, Labour claims 28 and the Nationalists 27. The full list of Parliamentarians is yet to be formulated as those winning two seats will make room for others, and other seats could be added following the new rules making room for more women.

Dr Robert Abela was to sworn in on Monday at 11 a.m.



Prime Minister Robert Abela

PM vows humility amid overwhelming victory

Ajubilant Prime Minister addressed the thousands of Labour Party supporters who gathered in front of the party headquarters in Hamrun. In his victory speech Robert Abela vowed to meet his landslide victory with humility, and that the people's confidence would be translated into hard work.

He said that the people have shown that they had confidence in their country and that they wanted to keep moving forward.

He went on to say that the electoral result would be translated into greater humility and work so that "we can continue to do good for the people of Gozo and Malta," he said. He reiterated

that during this legislature humility would characterise the leadership of the Government. He would use this strong mandate with respect and humility and work even harder.

Dr Abela said that although the message and the show of confidence was strong, he would be paying close attention to those who chose not to vote and said that their contribution was still needed.

The Prime Minister Abela said the people had placed the responsibility on the party to continue to take the country forward. His, will be a government that works in the interest of the people of the Maltese islands without distinction and would not tolerate any form of arrogance

For the Nationalist Party "It was a case of divided we fall"

The Voice asked a source very close to the PN for his comments. He agreed but on condition of anonymity. The Voice asked him if he was surprised with the defeat. "Surprised no, but very disappointed yes," he told us.

He then ventured to give his opinion as to what led to his party's unsuccessful bid to win the people's vote. "I can give more than one reason, however, I will sum it up in just a few words: it is all a case of, divided we fall."

Requested to elaborate, he said that despite the talk, "divisiveness was quite apparent and the unity the party had been hoping for was never there. Whereas the Labour Party managed to convince the electorate that it was very compact and had strength in unity. The fact is that the different factions within the NP were clearly in evidence and the leader never managed to hide the animosity from the supporters. Add to that, for reasons known to many of us, the loss of five former shadow ministers who jumped ship on the first day of the campaign.

"The party also proved to be ill prepared and failed to take advantage of its decision to publish the manifesto so early in the campaign. Some candidates gave the impression that they were not much familiar with the proposals and could not explain them.

"Another reason was that the party's top brass were either not given the chance to help push the PN's vision, else they themselves opted out of the picture completely," the source said.

"We lacked credibility and failed to convince".



Roundup of News About Malta



Pope Francis' visit to Malta this weekend – the fourth by a Pontiff in 32 years

Having done away with the general election, at the weekend, the government of Malta led by the Prime Minister, and the President of Malta, will lead the people of the Maltese islands' in giving a great welcome to Pope Francis during his two-day apostolic journey on April 2 and 3.

The visit has been long coming. It was postponed last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic but now everybody is prepared to bid St Peter's representative to Catholic Malta. This will be the fourth Papal visit to Malta in 32 years. The first was by John Paul II on May 25-27 1990. On the 8th May 2001, His Holiness visited Malta once again as part of his Pauline pilgrimage.

The third Papal visit to Malta was by Pope Benedict XVI Malta in 2010 at the height of the clerical sex abuse scandal.

As expected, the Diocesan Organising Committee for the Pope's visit is leaving no stone unturned to take full advantage of the Pontiff's visit and to bid him a warm welcome.

During his visit, Pope Francis will meet thousands of people on the Floriana Granaries where on Sunday 3rd April at 10.15 a.m. he will celebrate mass on a temporary platform purposely built for this occasion.

The platform design is inspired by the form of the crucifix, with the circle and rays emanating from it representing the Eucharist. The platform is 16 metres wide and 14 metres deep. Some 600 priests will be on the platform to concelebrate Mass with the Pope.

As the Pope's visit will take place during Lent, the colour purple will dominate, it



An artist's impression of the Pope's platform in Floriana

being the liturgical colour used during the 40 days of Lent. Instead of flowers, flora found in Malta and also mentioned in the Bible will surround the platform.

An altar, ambo and wooden cathedra been made in the eighties by Maltese sculptor Ganni Bonnici, originally for the Mosta church, will be used during the Papal Mass.

The Pope arrives at Malta's International Airport at 10.00 am on Saturday 2nd April. He would then be driven to the Ambassadors' Chamber of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta for a courtesy visit to the President of the Republic of Malta George Vella, and immediately after, he will meet the Prime Minister, also at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.

Next, the Holy Father will meet and address the authorities and the Diplomatic Corps before departing for Gozo by cata-

maran from Valletta's Grand Harbour. His main activity in Gozo will be a visit to the Ta' Pinu Shrine where he will pray and deliver a homily.

On his return to Malta at around 19:30 he transfers to the Apostolic Nunciature in Rabat.

On Sunday 3rd Pope Francis kick starts his activities with a meeting at the members of the Society of Jesus in Rabat, then visits St Paul's Grotto at the Basilica of St Paul in Rabat. From there he would be driven to Floriana to say Holy Mass at the Granaries.

His main commitment in the afternoon will be a meeting with migrants at the "John XXIII Peace Lab" Centre in Hal Far, and immediately after, participate in a Farewell Ceremony at Malta International Airport before his departure back to Rome at 18:15.

Malta commemorates 43rd Freedom Day

One of the first national functions that the new government would be called upon to take part in, and celebrate the 43rd Anniversary of Freedom Day (*Jum il-Helsien*) on 31st March.

Malta commemorates the day in 1979 when it rid itself of the military presence of foreign troops. For the first time in a millennium, Malta was no longer a military base of a foreign power. It became independent, completely in control of its political affairs.

It came about following protracted and sometimes tense talks between the Labour Government that took power in 1971, and the United Kingdom. At the outset the Maltese Government had indicated that it wanted to re-negotiate the lease agreement with the British. In the end the two agreed to the signing of a new agreement whereby the lease was extended till the end of March 1979 at a vastly increased rent.



On taking power in 1971, the Labour Government indicated it wanted to re-negotiate the lease agreement with the United Kingdom. Following protracted and sometimes tense talks, a new agreement was signed whereby the lease was extended till the end of March 1979 at a vastly increased rent. On 31 March 1979 the last British Forces left Malta.

For the first time in a millennium, Malta was no longer a military base of a foreign power and it became independent de facto as well as de jure.

Every year, the main events of the activities commemorating this date take place at the Freedom Day Monument at Birgu (Vittoriosa) (above) and at the War Memorial in Floriana, and in the afternoon the Grand Harbour hosts a competitive regatta with the participation of the three big cities (Birgu, Bormla and Isla), as well as Kalkara, Marsa, Marsamxett, Birzebbuga coastal towns, and this year even Siggiewi.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

L-elezzjoni u d-diaspora Maltija

Sakemm taqraw dan l-artiklu, il-votazzjoni f'Malta tkun saret u r-riżultat ikun magħruf. Għalhekk f'tit kummenti qosra fosthom dwar il-programmi elettoralni fejn jolqtu l-Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta.

Dan qed nagħmlu għax innutajt li għalkemm matul il-kampanja elettoralni l-midja kienet iffukata kważi għal kollox fuq l-elezzjoni ġenerali u kkumentat sewwa dwar il-programmi elettoralni, l-aktar dawk tal-Partit Laburista u dak Nazzjonalista, safejn grajt u smajt jien, lanqas biss sar l-iċċen aċċenn dwar il-Maltin li jgħixu barra.

L-istess fejn għandhom x'jaqasmu l-kelima taż-żewġ partiti. Imma fil-fatt il-par-

titi ma hallewx barra mill-programmi tagħhom id-diaspora Maltija.

L-ewwel aċċenn sar mill-Partit Nazzjonalista li fil-programm elettoralni tiegħu qal:

477. Nergħu nagħtu importanza kbira lill-komunitajiet Maltin li jgħixu barra minn xutna billi nassenjaw din irresponsabbiltà lil Ministru ewlieni fil-Kabinett bil-għan li l-identitá Maltija barra minn pajjiżna tkompli tissahħaħ u tiġġedded filwaqt li jiġu żviluppati aktar opportunitajiet kummerċjali.

Min-naħa tiegħu taht it-titlu **Maltin li jgħixu barra**, il-Partit Laburista jwiegħed:

988 Inkompli nsaħħu r-rabtiet tradizzjonali mal-komunitajiet Maltin li jgħixu barra. Nassiguraw ukoll aċċess għal servizzi konsulari ta' kwalità, speċjalment f'każijiet ta' emerġenza.

989 Ser noħolqu qafas li jhegġeg l-involvement ta' Maltin li eċċellaw fl-oqsma tagħhom, bħax-xjenza, ir-riċerka, l-imprenditorija u l-isport, sabiex anki huma jingħataw spazju xieraq fil-progress ta' pajjiżna.
990 Minkejja li 'l bogħod minn xutna, l-emigranti huma Maltin bħalna u haqqhom l-aħjar sostenn. Nemmu li għandu jkun hemm apprezzament akbar lejn il-ħidma li ssir fi hdan l-għaqdiet tal-Maltin madwar



Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela (xellug) u l-kap tal-PN Bernard Grech jittgħu l-vot tagħhom nhar is-Sibt li għadda

id-dinja. Intellgħu konferenza annwali mar-rappreżentanti ta' dawn il-komunitajiet bil-għan li tkompli tissahħaħ ir-relazzjoni mad-diaspora Maltija.

(niżżilt n-numri biex dak li jkun, ikun jista' jsibhom aktar malajr fil-programmi elettoralni rispettivi).

It-tnejn qed jagħmlu proposti interessanti. Issa nittamaw tela' minn tela' fil-Gvern jagħti l-importanza u jwettaq dak li qed iwiegħed.

Il-Kandidati ... l-aktar avukati

Għalkemm il-midja lokali kitbet u tkellmet dwar il-partiti politiċi u l-kandidati kontestanti, safejn naf jien, kien għurnal wiehed biss, il-Maltatoday li ta harsa lejn minn liema settur ġejjin il-kandidati.

Interessanti li l-maġġoranza assoluta tal-kandidati li hargu għall-elezzjoni huma professjonisti b'għadd tassew limitat ta' kandidati ġejjin mis-settur vokazzjonali.

Attwalment l-akbar għadd ta' kandidati ġew mill-qasam legali – b'kollox 44 – 22 avukat u nutar f'isem il-PN u 20 avukat u nutar f'isem il-PL.

Fejn qabel fiż-żewġ partiti, għalkemm l-aktar f'dak Laburista, kont issib għadd ta' kandidati ġejjin mill-qasam tax-xogħol tal-id u vokazzjonali, din id-darba hemm biss kandidat fuq kull naħa mill-qasam vokazzjonali, Anthony Aguis Decelis (PL) li huwa electro-cardiographer, u Josephine Xuereb, qabla (midwife) (PN), filwaqt li f'isem il-Partit Laburista ikkontesta wkoll, wiehed mill-eks-membri tal-Parlament l-aktar li ilu jikkontesta Joe Mizzi, technician u radio operator.

Min laqat il-likk fl-aħħar stharrig?

L-istharrig li sar minn tliet gazzetti Lewlenin jumejn qabel il-Maltin marru jivvutaw nhar is-Sibt li għadda, u oħra tal-Ħadd, *The Times*, *Maltatoday* u *l-orizzont* tal-Ħamis, u *It-Torċa* tal-Ħadd ta' qabel, kien il-Partit Laburista li kellu johroġ bħala rebbieh fl-elezzjoni ġenerali.

Skont dawn, il-mistoqsija kienet, mhux

min se jirbaħ it-tmun f'idejha, imma b'kemm differenza ta' voti bejn il-Partit Laburista u dak Nazzjonalista.

Skont l-istharrig id-differenza kellha tkun bejn 29,000 (*Maltatoday*) u 39,000 (*l-orizzont*), 38,000 (*It-Torċa*), u 37,000 (*Times*) għalkemm dan jiddependi minn kemm jivvotaw nies.

Attwalment propju fl-aħħar jum li fih il-midja setgħet tirrapporta u tikkummenta dwar l-elezzjoni ġenerali, istatista Dr. Vincent Marmarà, sostna li skont l-aħħar stharrig li għamel l-appoġġ tal-partiti qiegħed hekk: 55.9% għall-Partit Laburista; 42.8% għall-Partit Nazzjonalista b'1.3% għall-partiti l-oħrajn.

B'dawn il-persentaġġi jekk wiehed jikkunsidra turnout ta' 88 fil-mija kif ukoll il-voti validi minn dawk mitfugha fl-elezzjoni ġenerali, dan ir-riżultat ipoġġi d-distakk ta' madwar 39,000 vot favur il-Partit Laburista. Huwa spjega li dan ir-riżultat huwa dipendenti mit-turnout u li dan l-għadd jista' jvarja skont kemm imorru jivvutaw nies.

*Ikompli f'pagna 15

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Wara t-tmiem tal-Kampanja Elettorali 2022

Skont l-istharrig

*Ikompili minn paġna 14

Il-Kampanja elettorali giet fi tmiemha l-Ħamis 24 ta' Marzu, billi skont il-Liġi Elettorali fil-jum ta' qabel il-votazzjoni jkun hemm l-hekk imsejjah "jum is-silenzju" fejn l-partiti politiċi ma jistgħux jagħmlu attivitajiet politiċi u l-midja ma tistax ggħib aħbarijiet jew kummenti li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-politika.

Attwalment hemm movement lejn it-tneħħija ta' dan il-jum, għaliex filwaqt li l-partiti u l-midja lokali jimxu mal-Liġi mhux l-istess dik soċjali bħal Facebook, Twitter u oħrajn, li jibqgħu għaddejnin bil-kummenti u propaganda politika.

Barra hekk hemm min japprofitta ruħu, kif reġa' seħħ din id-darba li jippubblika artikli bil-fehmiet tiegħu, u/jew biex jattakka partit jew kandidati minn fuq il-midja internazzjonali li f'it jidher li jimpurtaha mill-eżattezza ta' dak li jiktbulha.

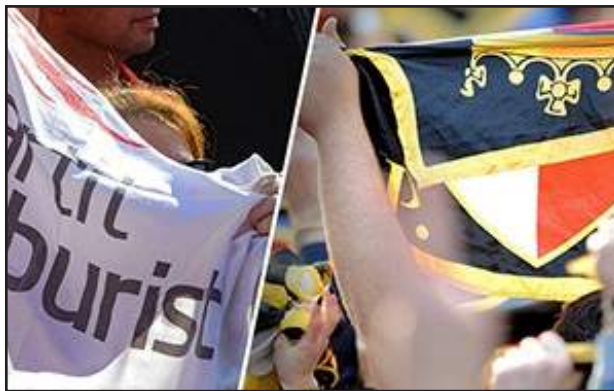
Il-partiti 'il-kbar' temmew l-attivitajiet tagħhom b'dawk li sejjhu bħala rallies billi minhabba l-Covid-19, matul din il-kampanja elettorali, ma sarux mass meetings. Madanakollu, l-aħħar attivitá tal-Partit Nazzjonalista kienet eġreb lejn mass meeting milli rally, quddiem il-Palazz il-Belt.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Partit Laburista żamm mas-sistema tar-rallies fejn il-maġġoranza ta' min jattendi tkun bilqiegħda. Biex jakkomodha l-folla kbira li attendiet uża t-tinda gganteska tal-MFCC f'Ta' Qali.

Il-Partit Nazzjonalista organizza l-attivitá fuq stil l-istil imdorrijin bih, fejn il-fokus ikun fuq id-diskorsi, l-aktar tal-Kap tal-partit, u fl-istess hin ipprezentaw spetaklu biex jallegraw lil min attenda.

Il-kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista temm jgħid mill-migemgħa, "Taqtgħux qalbkom; Din hija s-sieġha tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx i... Ejjew nagħmlu l-impossibbli, possibbli"

Il-Partit Laburista għalaq il-kampanja elettorali tiegħu bi spetaklu kbir fuq palk armat bl-aqwa sistemi ta' dwal fejn esibew ruhhom uħud mill-aqwa kantanti Maltin,



orquestra magħmula minn xi 40 mużiċist fost l-aqwa fil-pajjiż, flimkien ma' kantanti, korijiet u kori u żeffiena li wasslet biex intqal: *It was no longer a mass rally, nor was it political. This was entertainment: glitzy, expensive, and stage-managed down to each second.*

Wara siegħat ta' spetaklu saru diskorsi qosra bil-Prim Ministru jtemm is-serata u jappella:

"Isilfuni l-fiduċja tagħkom għall-ewwel mandat tiegħi, biex inkompli nsahħah u biex inkompli inbiddel lil dan il-pajjiż".

Illum nafu sew min kien li kellu l-mesaġġ mismugħ u jista' jattwa dak kollu li wiegħed f'kampanja elettorali ta' 33 jum.

Ta' min jgħid, li filwaqt li sstharrig ieħor hafna drabi kien ibbażat fuq it-tweġibiet ta' madwar 600 persuna, fil-każ ta' dawk li għamel Marmara kienu fuq numri ferm ikbar, ibbażat fuq kampjun ta' 1,800 persuna li allura jista' jagħti riżultat aktar qrib is-sewwa.

Imma kif qalu finalment iż-żewġ mexxejja tal-partiti 'il-kbar', il-veru sstharrig kif jaħsiha l-poplu kellu jkun dak tal-jum tal-elezzjoni fis-26 ta' Marzu 2022. Dan jirrifletti sewwa l-biża' li kellhom il-partiti li kien hemm il-biża, li jkun hemm hafna li ma juvvutawx. Fil-fatt, 14,473 vot ma ngabru.

Filwaqt li kien hemm min qal li l-Partit Laburista seta' jkollu nies li ma joħorgux jivvutaw għal diversi raġunijiet, oħrajn jemmu li l-appelli li kontinwament għamel il-mexxej Laburista biex jivvutaw, attwalment ma sarux għax kien jemmen li l-Partit Laburista seta' jitlef l-elezzjoni, imma għax ried li jkollu maġġoranza qrib tal-aħar elezzjoni fl-2017.

Min-naħa tal-kapj Nazzjonalista, fl-appelli tiegħu donnu ma tantx wera fiduċja li seta' jirbaħ għax darba wara l-oħra l-emfasi tiegħu kienet dwar il-hteġa li l-Partit Laburista ma jkollux maġġoranza kbira għax isir aktar arroganti.

Dak li qed jgħidu hafna, u naqbel perfettament magħhom, hu li r-riżultat u kemm kellha tkun il-maġġoranza kien jiddependi hafna minn kemm nies johroġu jivvutaw.

Imqabbel mal-elezzjoni ta' hames snin dawk li ma gabrux il-vot din id-darba jissboq ta' dakinhar meta kien ta' f'it aktar minn 8,000

Għal darba l-qarrejja ta' *The Voice* jistgħu jiċcekjaw jekk dan l-istharrig li semmejt laqatx il-mira.

Maltese Funerals

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A quick glimpse at Australia

Largest peacetime increase in ADF Big win for Labor in Sth Australia

With the Federal election scheduled for May this year, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has outlined plans for the largest Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel increase in peacetime, labelling the move as a significant step.



The expansion will mean more than 18,000 people to the defence force by 2040. The prime minister said the expansion – estimated to come at a cost of at least \$38 billion between 2024 and 2040 – was a vote of confidence in the work of the ADF.

“We don’t leave our tasks of de-

fence to others ... we take it up ourselves, and that means we’re a contributor. We’re going to make sure that the Australian defence forces are a big contributor for generations to come as more and more people take up those careers in our defence forces.”

Opposition defence spokesman Brendan O’Connor said Labor agreed with increasing the size of the ADF, but the Morrison-Joyce government has waited until the eve of an election to make yet another announcement that won’t take effect for 18 years.

Peter Malinauskas (right), 41 years old, a former Union boss, will be the next South Australian premier following Labor’s victory at the state election held on the 19th March. He won a landslide in the 47-seat House of Assembly



In a victory speech to the Labor faithful at Adelaide Oval, Mr. Malinauskas thanked the people of South Australia for their support while Steve Marshall conceded defeat. The Liberals had only one term in office. Labor’s victory in SA was the first against an incumbent government at any state or territory election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s leadership will be put to the test within months with a federal election due in May.

False claims about the electoral process

You may have seen them pop up on your Twitter feed recently. Sometimes they’re firm, sometimes they’re tongue-in-cheek, and sometimes their tweets emit sassy “as per my last email” energy.

They’re from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), and they’re perhaps not what you’d expect from a “bunch of bureaucrats.”

It’s all part of a new strategy the AEC is taking to quash misinformation and disinformation about the electoral process ahead of the federal election, which is expected to be held in May.

Evan Ekin-Smyth, the director of media and digital engagement at the AEC, told *The Feed* the government agency has been active on social media for some time now but has recently ramped it up and changed its tone.

“We don’t talk like a public service department,” Mr. Ekin-Smyth said. “Really we’re a bunch of bureaucrats, but we don’t talk like bureaucrats because nobody else does – we want people to understand us.”

Why do it? Democracy. Mr. Ekin-Smyth said the agency had seen a rise in the number of Australians questioning the electoral process and growing scepticism on the mechanics of how a vote is counted.

The rapid growth of online disinformation has led to such claims as voters will have to be fully vaccinated to vote, the AEC already knows the date of the upcoming federal election, and Australia will be using Dominion electronic voting machines, as used in some states of the US.

When the agency sees these types of claims online or is told about them by a member of the public, an AEC member will often di-

rectly respond to the post to refute the claim and point out the facts. The AEC is hoping its vigilance might also act as a disincentive for those spreading the fake claims.

In addressing the Dominion voting machine falsehood, which includes the assertion they could be used to “rig” the election in favour of one of the major political parties, the register points out that under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, voting machines aren’t allowed.

Trust in Government and institutions reached its lowest level on record, according to a major study of the 2019 federal election conducted by The Australian National University (ANU).

“If you hark back to leading up to the pre-

A late response to the “climate fuelled mega-floods”

Up to nine, northern NSW residents from Lismore dumped their sodden household goods outside the prime minister’s Sydney harbourside residence Kirribilli House to protest his handling of the flood crisis.

Their tip truck was blocked from driving to the the PM’s official residence, so they dragged children’s toys, clothing, furniture, and carpet destroyed by the floodwaters to the gates of the 1855 sandstone

mansion. They were protesting the federal Government’s response to the “climate fuelled mega-floods” on the east coast, the group said in a statement.

“Questioning the electoral process... it’s really dangerous. That’s what we saw in different international democracies.”

Australians have generally had a high level of trust in the process, Mr Ekin-Smyth said, and he wouldn’t want to see it diminished.

“People’s perceptions of the AEC can play into quite directly their level of trust in election results. We don’t own the vote, Australian’s do. We just run it.”

But if the AEC could share just one message, it’s this: “If you see something suss, come and talk to us,” Mr. Ekin-Smyth said.



mansion.

They were protesting the federal Government’s response to the “climate fuelled mega-floods” on the east coast, the group said in a statement.

An extra \$742 million in joint federal-NSW flood recovery funding was announced for northern NSW two weeks ago, pushing the total federal and state package for the state to \$1.7 billion.



A quick glimpse at Australia

4000 refugees from Ukraine

Australia has now given more than 4000 Ukrainians temporary visas since the Russian invasion began, as the Government considers a scheme to allow more to come in on a non-permanent basis.

The head of the peak body for Ukrainians in Australia says the Federal Government is working with the community on a staged approach to immigration and cautioned there is a need to wait to see what people wanted as the conflict continued.

The first step was to get people out of the country safely, Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations chairman Stefan Romaniw said. Next, the community is waiting on a government decision over what services those here on temporary visas could access.

More than three million people have fled Ukraine and the United Nations refugee agency estimates another two million are displaced within the country. The UNHCR has previously said more than four million people could become refugees from the conflict.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has offered Australia's assistance with settling Ukrainian refugees, citing the temporary safe haven program provided to refugees from Kosovo in 1999 as an option being considered. Under that scheme, the Government gave refugees food, accommodation in unused army barracks, health care, a minimal weekly allowance and the right to work up to 20 hours a week.



Ukrainians in Melbourne seeking support in Australians for their people in Ukraine who are under siege by Russian forces



Peter Dutton's new Space Command

Defence Minister Peter Dutton has launched a new Space Command, declaring Australia must prepare itself as the realm takes on more strategic military importance.

"It is a domain which must be used to deter aggression, rather than become a new realm for conflict," he said.

He cited coercion and belligerence from countries such as Russia and China as signs of the need for hard power to defend against and deter such aggression.

The defence minister admitted Australia's model would be "modest" compared to other established bodies, including the US-style space force established by Donald Trump in 2019. However, the announcement has not been without critics, including social media backlash against its logo, which some compared to the insignia used in "Star Trek".

"For any nation losing access to space would have significant civil and military consequences. We know that some countries are developing capabilities to threaten or degrade space networks to target satellites," Mr Dutton said.

Winter and the Omicron variant

The Omicron sub-variant called BA.2 was on the rise in Australia, it should expect the variant to overtake Omicron and, for cases, to more than double in the next few months.

Early estimates suggest BA.2 is between 25 per cent and 40 per cent more transmissible than Omicron (BA.1), and is already taking off in countries including Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) doesn't yet recommend fourth doses for everyone, but they're already available for severely



immunocompromised Australians.

Coupled with new research detailing the quick waning of our third dose immunity, it's likely the coming surge means we'll need a fourth COVID-19 vaccine as we hit winter. It is important to note

three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are currently providing excellent protection from severe illness for most people

But by Australian winter – normally the height of cold and flu season – most people will have had their third dose more than four months ago, leaving us at greater risk of infection. So it makes sense to boost our antibodies again.



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti

Il-varjanti tal-ortografija (Il-hdax il-parti)

Waqt li nissoktaw ingibu 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, illum nittrattaw:

Tqarrib lejn ir-realtà fonetika

Fid-deċiżjoni dwar dan il-kliem inghatat priorità lill-aktar tlissin komuni fost il-kelliema tal-Malti.

ammen [u mhux ~~amen~~]

Awwissu [u mhux Awissu]

ażma, azzmatiku [u mhux ~~ażma, azzmatiku~~]

beritta [u mhux ~~beritta~~]

denn (pl. ~~denji~~) [u mhux ~~den, dennji~~]

dettall (pl. ~~dettalji~~), **iddettalljat** [u mhux ~~dettal, dettalji, iddettalljat~~]

ewwieq [u mhux ~~ewieq~~]

giex (+ ġixt bit-t marbuta) [u mhux ~~giex~~]

ghajjat (verb tat-2ni forma) [u mhux ~~ghajjat~~]

ghajjat (nom verballi) [u mhux ~~ghajjat~~]

id. Din il-kelma tinkiteb id- jew jd- skont

il-pronunzja li jkollha fil-kelma partikolari. eż. **ahsel idek, ahsel idejk, erfa' idek, erfa' jdek, tini idek, tini jdek, f'idek, f'idejk**

imbimb (fil-frażijiet **ras imb ras, rih imb rih, wiċċ imb wiċċ**) [u mhux ~~imb~~]
indenn (f. **indenja**, pl. **indenji**) [u mhux ~~inden~~]

inizjattiva [u mhux ~~inizzjattiva~~]

Iżlam, Iżlamiku [u mhux ~~Islam, Islamiku~~]

'k (bhala **jekk** imqassra) [u mhux ~~'kk~~] eż. **'k Alla jrid**

karozza [u mhux ~~karrozza~~]

kuritur/kurutur [u mhux ~~kuridur/kuridur~~]

peprin [u mhux ~~pepprin~~]

ruxxmata [u mhux ~~ruxmata~~]

subien [u mhux ~~subjen~~]

Għalkemm l-għerq huwa SBJ, f' 'dik il-pożizzjoni l-konsonanti j titlef lehinha, u fil-kitba ilha titwaqqa' f' 'din il-kelma (kif ġieli titwaqqa' fi kliem bħal **zieda/zjieda, tieba/tjieba**).

Darb 'ohra: Lealtà lejn nisel il-kelma

Mietet Karmen Azzopardi



Fis-16 ta' Marzu li għadda mietet f'Hal Balzan l-attriċi Karmen Azzopardi li għal snin twal kienet maghrufa bhala fost l-ewlenin fi produzzjonijiet teatrali u drammi fuq it-tleviżjoni. Kellha 88 sena.

Karmen, imwiela l-Hamrun, bdiet il-hajja tax-xogħol bhala għalliema, imbagħad issieħbet mal-grupp tad-drama l-British Institute Players u bdiet tinvolvi ruhha kemm bhala attriċi u wkoll kittieba ta' xandiriet għat-tfal fuq ir-Rediffusion. Wara tharrġet f'Londra u giet magħżula fi rwoli ewlenin kemm fit-teatru u wkoll fuq it-tleviżjoni. Hadet ukoll sehem f'hafna programmi letterarji u ta' poezija, u flimkien ma' oħrajn, waqqfet in-*National Drama Union*.

Għal xi żmien wara li żżewġet meta kellha 48 sena, kienet ukoll tghix ir-Russja ma' żewġha Paul Naudi meta dan kien jokkupa l-kariga ta' Ambaxxatur ta' Malta f'dak il-pajjiż.

Ma kienx hawn dilettant tal-palk f'Malta li ma hass dieqa għall-mewt ta' Karmen. Hafna fost il-komunità teatrali tawha ġieh għax-xogħol kollu li wettqet biex isahhah dan is-settur kulturali.



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Kerċem u San Girgor il-Kbir

Sa mill-egdem żminijiet ir-raħal ta' Kerċem dejjem kellu rabta qawwija mal-qaddis San Girgor il-Kbir, tant li mat-twaqqif tal-parroċċa fl-10 ta' Marzu 1885, kien magħzul bhala l-padrin tal-parroċċa.

Id-devozzjoni tmur lura hafna iktar minn hekk kif tixhdu l-purċissjoni ferm antika u devota li ssir kull sena fit-12 ta' Marzu mill-Knisja Katidrali sar-raħal ta' Kerċem bis-

speċjali dawk 'Ta' Kerċem. Minkejja li għal di-sehem tal-fratellanzi mill-parroċċi kollha ta' mis-snin sittin, il-parroċċa xorta baqgħet tiċċel-

ebra bil-kbir dil-festa kull tieni Hadd ta' Marzu ta' kull sena; u din is-sena xejn inqas.



Iċ-ċerimonja waqt il-Pontifikal Solenni tal-festa ta' San Girgor il-Kbir, fil-knisja ta' Kerċem fil-gżira Għawdxija

Saru l-festi fil-knisja bil-priedki tat-tridu minn Dun Roberto Gauci, u bis-sehem tal-Kor San Girgor, bil-paningierku ta' lejliet il-festa minn Mons. Joe Sultana, arċipriet tal-Katidral, filwaqt f'nhar il-festa sar il-pontifikal solenni u l-paningierku mill-Isqof Djoċesan Mons. Anton Theuma. Saru diversi attivitajiet soċjali marbuta ma' din il-festa, fosthom programm ta' Muzika Sagra bl-isem 'Sancti Gregori.

Il-kumitat tal-festa flimkien mal-kappillan nehdeu 'Gieħ il-Parroċċa' li nġhata lil-eks kappillan Mons. Frangisk, filwaqt li l-għaqda tan-nar hadet hsieb xi nar tal-ajru u oħrajn hađu hsieb l-armar. Kaġun tal-maltemp u r-rstrizzjonijiet tal-pandemija thassru l-festi ta' barra.

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Richard England b'wirja artistika fil-Haġar

Bhalissa fil-mużew Il-Haġar, fil-belt Victoria, għaddejja wirja temporanja qawwija msejha "Architect as Artist" li tigbor fiha xi tmenin biċċa tal-magħruf Richard England, smat mad-dinja bhala arkitett u artist innovattiv mill-aqwa, kif inhu konfermat mill-materjal u l-kitbiet fil-katalogu li jakkumpanjah.

Hu l-artist stess li qassam l-istampi (uħud jidhru taħt) madwar diversi livelli tal-post biex wiehed ikun jista' japprezza kollox bil-kalma. Barra disinni arkitettoniċi, żewġ kollezzjonijiet intitolati "Viaggio in Italia" u "Mythopoli" hemm ukoll interpretazzjonijiet taċ-Cittadella u aspetti oħra t'Għawdex, fosthom il-knejjes tal-Munxar, ta' Kerċem, tax-Xagħra, San Dimitri, Santa Luċija u Ta' Pinu.

Appoġġ istituzzjonali għall-wirja gie mill-Awtorità Maltija tat-Turiżmu u d-Direttorat tal-Wirt Kulturali fil-Ministeru għal Għawdex, flimkien ma' Lombard Bank li holoq opportunità filatelika eċċezzjonali, u l-MaltaPost li hareġ folder apposta u wkoll settijiet ta' bolol Maltin li ddisinja l-Professur England.

Id-disinni originali tagħhom jinsabu fil-vetrina tal-Gozo Philatelic Society.

Jitqassmu l-awards lill-iscouts

Peress li l-attendenza fil-kwartieri tagħhom għal-laqqha generali ta' kull sena kienet ristretta min-habba l-pandemija, il-Victoria Scout Group għamel laqqha oħra d-Dwejra, biex b'hekk il-membri kollha tal-Group kif ukoll il-ġenituri setgħu jsegwu ċ-ċerimonji kollha.

Fl-laqqha tqassmu dawn l-awards: *Venture Scout tas-Sena*: Mike Angel Galea; *Scout tas-Sena*: Mattia Casar; *Cub tas-Sena (Saturday Pack)*: Jordi Spiteri; *Cub tas-Sena (Seonee Pack)*: Bernard Borg

Inġhataw ukoll ċertifikati ta' Mertu lil: Matthew Grech (Venture Unit), Sean Spiteri (Scout Troop), Paolo Sultana (Scout Troop), Anthony Spiteri (Scout Troop), Jacob Grech (Scout Troop), Gabriel Cutajar (Saturday Pack), Luke Spiteri (Saturday Pack), Giorgio Anici Camilleri (Seonee Pack), u Warren Cauchi (Seonee Pack).

Xi ċertifikati oħra tqassmu lill-

membri tal-Green Six u tal-Black Six li rebhu l-kompetizzjoni ta' bejn s-Sixes.

Saru wkoll xi ċerimonji ta' investitura ta' *Cub Scouts* u ta' *Scouts* kif ukoll ċerimonji ta' *Going Up* minn sezzjoni għall-oħra.

Minhabba l-pandemija, ċerimonji bhal dawn kienu ilhom ma jsiru sentejn, għalhekk il-laqqha li reġgħet għab flimkien il-membri kollha kif ukoll il-ġenituri kienet wahda kemxejn speċjali għal kull min attenda.

Il-Cubs, Scouts u Venture Scouts kollha li rċevew xi premju flimkien mal-leaders tagħhom



Launching the Maltese Aotearoa New Zealand group

Anthony Micallef, an active veteran of the Maltese community in New

Zealand has released an appeal for the community to start a new group encouraged by the fact that the community is growing.

He is calling all the ex-members of the Malta Society of Auckland and the Maltese Association of Wellington Inc as well as the Maltese Kiwi Group to join this new group so the community can regain its voice and have strength in numbers.

Mr Micallef told *The Voice of the Maltese* that in the past 30 years, the community achieved multiple results like dual citizenship and portability of pensions to benefit most of the Maltese in Aotearoa - New Zealand, where they settled successfully.

The new group would like to appeal to the Malta High Commission to restart the Consul on the Move programme so the Maltese

of NZ can benefit from services like citizenship, passports etc.

Mr Micallef is also willing to offer his home called Malta House at Tawa, Wellington, for this purpose to facilitate such services.

The convener Anthony Micallef who is based in Wellington can be contacted by: email: malta_assn@hotmail.com. He has given a list of prominent persons in NZ and his written assurance that they are supporting this initiative.

They are: Paul and Anthony Mallia, and Jesmond Micallef all based at Christchurch, Jessica Borg, Brittany Deguara, Dr. David Pirota (all Wellington,) Philip Caruana (Taupo), Daniela Amaya nee Ciantar (Whangarei), Virginia McKenzie nee



Anthony Micallef

Bilocca (Waikanae), George Bongiovanni (Auckland), Richard Collis (Dunedin), Joe Abela (Napier) and Christine Patelesio (Porirua).

World War II diary: 29th March 1942:

London said that Malta needed to be sustained at all costs

The importance of Malta for Britain and the allies during World War II was indicated in a communique from the Chiefs of Staff, War Office, in London to the Commander in Chief, Middle East in which it was stated:

"Our view is that Malta is of such importance both as an air staging post and as an impediment to enemy reinforcement route that the most drastic steps are justifiable to sustain it."

"Even if Axis maintain their present scale of attack on Malta, thus reducing its value, it will continue to be of great importance to the war as a whole by containing important enemy forces during critical months."

Spitfire flight doubled

Meanwhile, on this day, seven new Spitfires landed in Malta more than doubling the fighter flight. After four days of intense raids, only five serviceable aircraft were available for the air defence of the Islands.

Ground crews had been collecting every serviceable part from damaged planes to restore other machines to flying standard.

Fighter command resorted to using fake radio transmissions, to fool the enemy into believing there are extra fighters in the air to intercept incoming raids.

Throughout the day a series of enemy aircraft approached the Island and dropped bombs from above cloud level on several areas including Hal Far, Gzira and Tigne.

As a result of heavy and incessant attacks on the Dockyard it was decided that any ships that could steam and were not required in Malta should be evacuated at the first opportunity.

Maltese Welfare NSW Inc.



You are invited to attend an information morning

Aged Care System

Need help to stay independent at home?

What services are available?

What is aged care?

Help with everyday living, equipment, home modifications, personal care

Join us to know more

Family members are encouraged to attend

Guest Speaker

Jaqueline Andres

Service Development Co-ordinator Cumberland Council

When: **Thursday 28th April 2022**

Time: **10.00am - 11.45am**

Where: **St George Preca Centre, OLQP Church
198 Old Prospect Rd Greystanes NSW**

Free entrance, all welcome, light refreshments

For more information ring **(02) 9631 9095**

Wearing of Masks is Encouraged

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It-tliet Isqfijiet li attendew għall-funeral, l-E.T. L-Arcisqof Ġorġ Frendo, OP, l-Isqof t'Għawdex Anton Tewma, u l-Vigaru għad-Dioċesi ta' Malta, Joe Galea Curmi, eks student, ta' Fr. Tony fil-Kulleġġ, SPMC, tar-Rabat. Taħt: jidher Fr. Tony, hdejn il-munument ta' Mons. De Piro

Fr. Tony Sciberras mssp – żgur li se jibqa' mfakkar

Għall-membri tas-Socjetá Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, id-9 ta' Marzu, se jibqa' jum imniżżel fil-kalendarju tagħhom, minhabba li dakinhar kmieni fil-ghodu għall-gharrieda Fr. Tony Sciberras, li għal 40 sena impenja ruhhu bis-shih fil-Kawża ta' Beatifikazzjoni u Kanonizzazzjoni tal-Qaddej ta' Alla Guzeppi De Piro, il-Fundatur tas-Socjetá

Missjunarja ta' San Pawl.

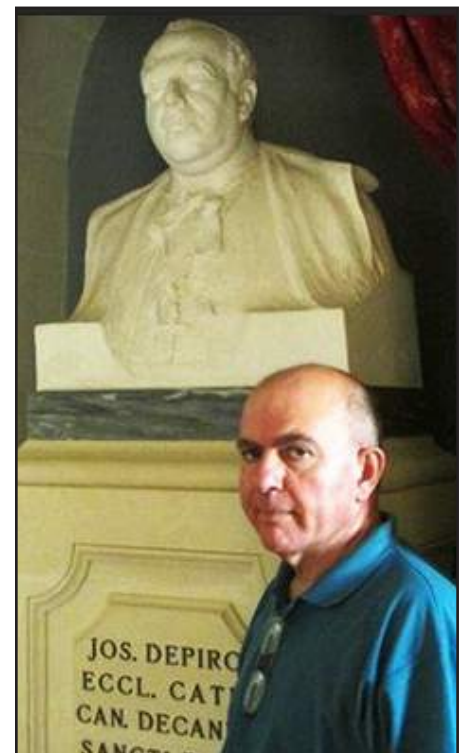
Fl-ewwel snin tal-kawża Fr. Tony kien izur lil dawh li kienu jafu lil fundatur u jgħor ix-xhieda tagħhom. Wara li l-kawża ta' De Piro għaddiet għall-Vatikan, huwa ntagħzel vici-postulatur tal-kawża.

Fr. Tony dejjem irsista biex Guzeppi De Piro jsir magħruf fil-gzejjer tagħna Maltin u fil-pajjiżi fejn qed jahdmu l-membri tas-Socjetá. Fl-2016 hu anke kiteb il-ħajja ta' Guzeppi De Piro.

Fr. Tony tweeked il-Mosta fl-1952. Huwa studja it-Teologija u l-Filosofija fil-Kulleġġ ta' San Tumas għand id-Duminkani fir-Rabat, u wara l-ordinazzjoni, fl-1968, kien il-moderatur tan-novizzi, f'Dar Stella Maris, iż-Żebbug, Għawdex.

Sentejn warar Fr. Tony reġa' lura Malta fejn, fost l-oħrajn, kien moderatur tal-istudenti, superjur tad-Dar ta' Sant'Agata, Superjur Regionali għal-Malta u membru fil-Kunsill Generali tas-Socjetá.

Fr. Tony spiss kien jagħmel konferenzi lir-religjużi u jagħti pariri. Barra mmin-hekk thabat biex jitwaqqaf l-istitut għar-religjużi "IN-SERM". Peress li kiseb id-dottorat fl-Ispiritwalità mill-Università Gregorjana ta' Ruma, hu għalliem fil-Fakultá tat-Teologija fl-



Università ta' Malta u fis-Seminarju Maġġuri t'Għawdex.

Fl-2015, lil-Kardinal Mario Grech, dak iz-zmien Isqof t'Għawdex, hatar lil Fr. Tony rettur tas-Seminarju t'Għawdex, fejn dam dam fil-kariga għal kważi sentejn. Aktar tard, l'Awtoritajet Ekklesjastici talbuh ikun il-postulatur tal-kawża ta' Beatifikazzjoni ta' Dun Mikiel Attard f'Għawdex u biex jgħin fil-Kawża ta' Henry u Inez Casolani, f'Malta.

Nistħajjel li kif għalaq għajnejh, Fr. Tony sab jilqgħu lill-Qaddej ta' Alla Guzeppi De Piro, li wara li għannqu miegħu kif kien xieraq, ipprezentah lill-Missier Etern biex jircevi l-premju li tant sthoqqlu għal dak kollu li wettaq f'ħajtu.

Fr. Norbert BONAVIAMssp

Are there seniors in your community who need help at home?

Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.

 **CCareline 131819**
CatholicCare.org



St Nicholas Festa Big Fete a great success

The recent St Nicholas Festa Committee Big Fete, *festa tal-fniek* (the rabbits festa), a fundraising event in support of the annual San Nikola festa was very well attended. Among them was Lawrence Buhaġiar, the Consul General for Malta in NSW.

President Emmanuel Vella, his family and all members of the committee deserve a big thank you. They work hard all the year round to sustain the Maltese cultural heritage in NSW.

Pension payment dates under the Maltese Social Security Act

The High Commission of Malta in Australia will no longer be issuing letters with the pension payment dates under the Maltese Social Security Act. Instead it will be issuing a press release on a yearly basis, containing the payment dates for the retirement, invalidity and widows' pensions.

The published information will also be accessible on different mediums online, such as websites, social media platforms, newsletters and broadcasts.

One may find the payment dates using the following links: **Department of Social Security:** <https://mysocialsecurity.gov.mt/Views/PaymentSchedules.aspx>; **High Commission of Malta Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/MaltaHighCommissionCanberra>. For further information or any clarifications, one can contact the HCs offices: High Commission of Malta: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt Tel: 0262901724; **Consulate Sydney:** maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt Tel: 0292629500; **Consulate Melbourne:** maltaconsulate.melbour-ne@gov.mt Tel: 0396708427.

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

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

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

Meets every second Friday of the month Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 pm.

Group Leader: Salvina Falzon.

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Tuesday of the Month. Group meets in St Theresa's Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights from 10 am to 12 noon.

Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

Maltese of Bankstown

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

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville.

Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips. Join us and make new friends. Group Leader: Doris Scicluna.

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

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

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Parish Centre Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 am to 12 noon.

Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Frances Montesin.

Men's Group

Meets every last Tuesday of the month at the MCC Centre at 59b Franklin Street Parramatta West (next to the Primary School), from 10 to 12 noon. Discussion, information and renew friendship.


Pastizzi, Kinnie etc. available. Contact Fred or Laurie 9631 9295.

***All Groups are coordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW.**

Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123.

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


Community News



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WITH MARTHESE CARUANA

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
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MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW
PROGRAM FOR THE MALTESE

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



MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

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

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

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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. It is following the COVID guidelines and restrictions as indicated by the Government.

Next activity: The committee of La Valette Social Centre is working on the programme of activities for this Easter. We will announce the programme during the next issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*.

St Nicholas Festa Committee Plumpton -NSW

Events for 2022

Sunday March 13: Fete

Sunday July 10: Imnarja

Sunday, October 16: Fete

Sat. Nov. 19: Dinner Dance

Sunday December 4: Festa

Tune in to Radio and Television

SBS RADIO: 97.7 FM Tuesdays 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm. Listen on Digital Radio or Live Streaming on www.sbs.com.au/radio/ or on TV Channel 38.

On Demand and podcasts on www.sbs.com.au/maltese

SBS TV: Channel 32 (Viceland). Sundays 8:00am; Thursdays 8:00am L-AHBARIJET latest news bulletins direct from PBS Malta.

VICTORIA

3ZZZ 92.3FM: Mondays 5-6pm, Fridays 5-6pm and Saturdays 10-11am. Presenters: Paul Vella, Mario Sammut, Liz Phillips. Listen live on www.3zzz.com.au

98.9 North West FM: Mondays 7-8pm and Fridays 6-7pm. Maltese Program. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.



Listen live on www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/

97.9 FM Melton: Tuesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm Maltese Program. Presenter: Miriam Vella. Live streaming on www.979fm.com.au

NSW

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Voices with Marthese Caruana: Sundays 10:00 am to 11:00am. One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists.

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Community Council programme: Sundays 11.00am to 12:00pm. News from Malta, music, information, culture, interviews, community notices and topics of interest. Listen live on

www.893fm.com.au or On Demand on www.893fm.com.au/on-demand/
WOW-FM 100.7: Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm. Maltese program with Joe Borg and Michael Mallia. Listen live on www.wowfm1007.com.au

VOX FM 106.9: Mondays 5pm to 6pm. Voice of Valletta – Illawarra Maltese program presented by Louis Parnis. Live streaming on www.voxfm.org.au

QUEENSLAND

4EB FM 98.1: Tuesdays 6:00am to 8:00am; Presenter: Lucy Stewart. Music, news from Malta, topics of interest, song requests, community announcements. Live streaming on www.4eb.org.au or On Demand on www.4eb.org.au/shows/program-bill-multi-global-maltese/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

5EBI FM 103.1: Maltese Community Radio Program from Adelaide. Sunday: 7.00am; Monday: 8.00am; Monday: 6.00pm. Presenters: Bernadette Buhagiar and Ron Borg. Listen live or On Demand on www.5ebi.com.au



Degabriele goal earns Malta win over Azerbaijan in first friendly

Malta beat Azerbaijan 1-0 in the first of two international friendly football matches in four days. Jurgen Degabriele's goal in the 55th minute earned Malta the first win, hopefully the team will follow this up with another successful outing at the same venue, the National Stadium, against Kuwait on Tuesday.

Both matches are part of the team's preparation in view of the UEFA Nations League Group D2 commitments starting in June against San Marino, and later against the loser of the play-out between Estonia and Cyprus in September.

Head coach David Mangia was pleased with the performance, in the first match for 2022, that was also the last one for 35-year-old central defender Andrei Agius, who has now retired from the Malta national team after giving a loyal service of over 16 years.

Fixture for Premier League's final rounds

At the end of the first phase of the Premier League Championship that was split into two sub-leagues of six clubs each the Malta Football Association held the draws for the third and final round of the

2021/22 competition.

Each team in the Top 6 Round and the Playout Round will play five games, which means that teams will face each other on a single

basis.

The first fixtures for each club in the respective category are:

Top 6 Round

Birkirkara v Gudja
Hamrun v Hibernians
Floriana v Gzira

Playout Round

Sliema W. v Mosta
Balzan v Sta Lucia
Sirens v Valletta

The FA Trophy competition in Malta has reached the quarter-finals stage. Marsaxlokk provided the surprise of the round by beating Sliema Wanderers 2-1 to become the only team from the Challenge League to beat a Premier League side.

Therefore Marsaxlokk became join seven Premier League clubs in the last eight,

Australia Cup 4:

Zahra brace puts Eagles through

Parramatta FC have progressed to the fourth round of the Australia Cup after claiming a 2-1 extra time victory over FNSW League 2 Men's side, Gladesville Ryde Magic FC in North Ryde.

Due to the wet weather the match was moved from Melita Stadium to Els Hall Park, however, it didn't seem to phase the Eagles who put in a positive performance throughout the match against their highly fancied opponents. They even managed it with only 10 men from the 64th minute on.

Parramatta took the lead in the 82nd minute through new signing, Tallon Zahra, before Gladesville equaliser in the 90th minute to take the match into extra time. But Zahra who again on hand to score his second goal and give the Eagles a 2-1 win.

M'Xlokk surprise Sliema in FA Trophy competition

Birkirkara, Floriana, Gzira United, Hamrun Spartans, Hibernians, Santa Lucia and Valletta.

Ironically, Sliema, winners of the FA Trophy in 2009, hold the record for the most FA Trophy wins with 20.

The Wanderers' unexpected loss comes at the end of a dismal first part of the Premier League in which they finished at the bottom rung of the competition, 12 points below the next team and 11 points from safety. The season looks as if it could end up even worse as they start the Playout Round 13 points away from safety and are destined for the drop to the Challenge League.

The once glorious Blues were founded in 1909 and are currently the most successful team in the history of Maltese football with approximately 113 honours.

Socceroos forced to playoff to get slot in World Cup

The Socceroos have failed to secure automatic qualification for the 2022 World Cup and are now forced navigate the dreaded playoff route if they are to secure a spot at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

That is because any hope of securing automatic qualification was extinguished last Thursday night following a 2-0 loss to Japan at Stadium Australia in Sydney. A late double from substitute Kaoru Mitoma confirmed the visitors would join Saudi Arabia at football's showpiece.

The winger replaced Liverpool star Takumi Minamino, who had hit the crossbar twice in the first half, in the 84th minute and struck his first two international tallies in a game-changing 11-minute cameo.

It was the Socceroos' first home World Cup qualifier with a result riding on it for the first time since 1981.

The defeat also means that after a dead rubber against Saudi Arabia, it will now be sudden death from here for Graham Arnold's men as the Socceroos will face the third-placed finisher in Group A in the AFC qualifiers.

If successful, it's another playoff against a South American side to reach the World Cup finals in November. It could be very tough.

Top women's tennis player Aussie Ashleigh Barty quits

Ashleigh Barty, the world number one ranked women's tennis player, has stunned the tennis world by announcing she has quit the sport at the age of 25, saying she was "spent" and citing the emotional challenges of being on tour.

The Australian star, the first winner of the Australian Open since 1978, said: "I've said it to my team multiple times, I don't have it in me any more. I don't have the physical drive, the emotional want and everything it takes to challenge yourself at the very top of the level any more."

She added, "I just know that I'm absolutely spent. Physically, I have nothing more to give and that for me is success."

Barty's announcement of her retirement comes two months after she won the Australian Open and follows similar decisions by

other leading athletes to step back from their sports because of mental and physical challenges to their health of competing.

Barty first quit when she was 18 due to depression and exhaustion. She spent a season playing cricket with the Brisbane Heat team in her native state of Queensland before returning to tennis three years ago and rapidly achieving success by winning the 2019 French Open, the first of her three Grand Slam titles. She had become just the 17th Australian female player to win a grand slam.

Barty said she considered quitting after winning Wimbledon in 2021, when she became the second Aboriginal Australian to win

the Grand Slam title after her mentor Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

