



The Voice of the Maltese

Issue
274

(We are for the Greater Malta)

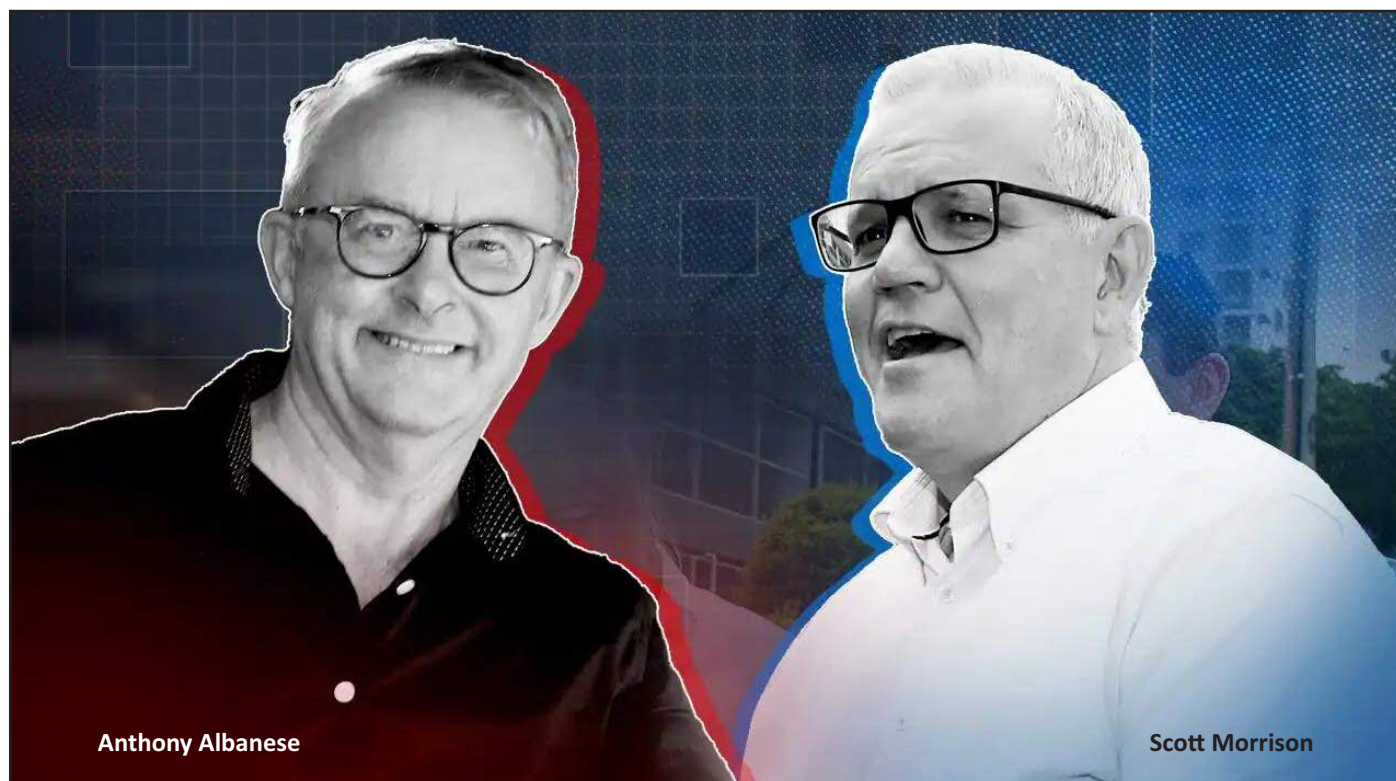
**A fortnightly print
and digital magazine**

May 10, 2022

A bird's eye view of the lower part of Malta's capital, Valletta and across the sea to Sliema's Tigne Point



Following our detailed article (page 2) in the last issue regarding the processes of the Australian federal election, there is little doubt that most elections have turned presidential with the respective leaders receiving most publicity and the buck stops with them.



Anthony Albanese

Scott Morrison

Morrison vs. Albanese

Whom do Australians want to lead them in the next three years – which incidentally is such a short term of legislation and must be changed? How can we really look deeper into the two leaders' backgrounds and policies? Are there similarities or are their backgrounds and policies so different?

Caroline Riches at SBS News makes a very deep analysis of the leaders of the big parties, incumbent Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese.

They are both white Australian men and both in their 50s who spent their childhood in Sydney in the 1970s. They were both brought up in the Christian faith, have degrees in economics and are also both passionate NRL fans.

Scott Morrison

Scott Morrison may represent the southern Sydney seat of Cook but his roots are very much in the city's wealthy eastern suburbs. He grew up in the beachside suburb of Bronte in a devout Presbyterian Protestant family of two children that in some ways mirrors the one he's created.

His father John was firmly entrenched in politics. He worked both as a policeman, rising to the rank of Chief Inspector, and an independent politician who served 16 years on the local council, including a tenure as the mayor of Waverley.

From a young age, Scott Morrison was shown the value of the limelight – acting in television commercials as well as distributing “how to vote” cards to help promote his father in council elections.

He enjoyed a privileged upbringing, attending Sydney Boys High in the eastern suburbs and then the University of New South Wales where he studied economic geography, analysing the demographics of Christian brethren assemblies in Sydney for his

thesis.

He has been heavily involved in the church his entire life and it is where he met his wife Jenny Warren at the age of 16. The pair married in 1990 when he was only 21. They have two daughters together who attend an independent Baptist school.

Mr Morrison has famously said he sends his children to private school because he doesn't want “the values of others” imposed on them, once telling broadcaster Alan Jones that a high school programme containing material about sexuality made his “skin curl” and that public schools should be focused on “things like learning maths and science”.

Led by religious and social conservatism

His career began in industry organisations including the Property Council of Australia. However, it was in the tourism industry where he made his mark, working up to become managing director of Tourism Australia in 2004 where he oversaw the hugely successful “Where the bloody hell are you?” ad campaign.

The job followed a stint as the state director of the New South Wales Liberal Party and afterwards he returned to politics, winning the safe seat of Cook in the 2007 federal election.

Mr Morrison has held a number of parliamentary positions, including Treasurer, Minister for Social Services and Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

In his maiden speech to parliament he styled himself as a moderate but he since seems to have moved towards the right and now leads the centre-right faction of the Liberal Party.

In 2013 he launched and spearheaded the military-led Operation Sovereign Borders effort to “stop the boats”.

**Continued on page 3*

Who next for PM?

Morrison vs Albanese

**Continued from page 2*

A Pentecostal Christian and social conservative, he was also a prominent opponent of same-sex marriage although he abstained from the House vote in December 2017.

He has also voiced his opposition to voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide and has described his views on abortion as "conservative". He is a proud supporter of Australia's constitutional monarchy.

Mr Morrison has always supported Australia's fossil fuel industry, and famously stood up in the House of Representatives in 2017 holding a piece of coal while telling the floor, "don't be afraid". Unlike other world leaders, at the US-led 2021 Leaders' Climate Summit, he declined to set net-zero emissions or other climate change targets.

He has said that he believes market forces and not government regulation can address climate change.

Following a leadership spill motion he was sworn in as the 30th prime minister of Australia on 24th August 2018 before leading the Coalition to the 2019 election, claiming victory after defeating Labor leader Bill Shorten.

Mr Morrison is a passionate supporter of the Cronulla Sharks rugby league team in the NRL competition.

Anthony Albanese

A single mother in council housing in Sydney's inner-west raised Anthony Albanese. Life for them wasn't easy and money was tight, and the Opposition leader says it was this experience, and his mother's determination that her son's life would be better than her own, that taught him the values of social justice and fairness.

His mother also spent much of her life on a disability pension as a result of crippling arthritis, making him passionate about the value of welfare support.

"I learned the value of a dollar, I learned the importance of resilience. But I also learned about the strength of community and the power of government to make a difference to people's lives,"



Anthony Albanese as a teenager with his mother Maryanne he said during his election campaign launch speech.

Mr Albanese was the first person in his family to finish school, let alone university. He attended St Mary's Cathedral College, a Catholic single sex school in Sydney's CBD, before attending the University of Sydney, where he graduated with an economics degree.

During his university years he found time to juggle multiple jobs and stand on the Student's Representative Council. It was also while a student that he joined the Labor party.

Mr Albanese met his future wife Carmel Tebbutt in Young Labor during the 1980s and the couple had a son together before separating in 2019.

Proponent of left-wing progressivism

It was the same inner-west community that Mr Albanese grew up in that he would represent as a federal MP 30 years later. He has been the member for Grayndler since 1996.

The Sydney-sider became a cabinet minister in 2001 and has held various ministerial positions, including Minister for Infrastructure, Shadow Minister for the Environment and Deputy Prime Minister. He has always been on the left faction of his party and describes his views as "progressive".

Passionate about LGBTIQ+ rights, Albanese introduced a bill to grant same-sex couples the same superannuation benefits as heterosexual couples four times before it eventually passed in 2007 under the Rudd Labor government. He subsequently turned his attention to campaigning for same-sex marriage and supported the motion in 2017.

He has described himself as a non-practising Catholic and is pro-abortion and in favour of legalising voluntary euthanasia. He is also a republican and has voiced his opposition to the government's policy of refusing asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat.

Mr Albanese is passionate about climate change. After becoming Labor's Shadow Minister for the Environment in 2006, he developed Labor's Climate Change Blueprint. Today, he supports net zero emissions by 2050 and has said he wants to harness the economic potential of renewable energy to reduce emissions by 43 per cent by 2030.

He said that his proudest day as an MP was when then-prime minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008.

Following Labor's loss at the 2019 federal election and the subsequent resignation of Mr Shorten, Mr Albanese was the only one nominated in a leadership election to become leader of the Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Albanese is a passionate supporter of the South Sydney Rabbitohs rugby league team in the NRL competition.



Scott Morrison with his wife Jenny

Q. We have two children. Our eldest son is now 16 years old and still studying. He has found a part-time job of 10 hours a week over the weekend and will be earning around \$180 gross. He wants to start a savings plan in a managed fund so that he will make good use of his earnings. Is he able to do this, because he is only 16 years old?

A. Although your son is only 16 years old, he will have his own tax file number and able to commence to invest in a managed fund. While he is under 18, his investment income will trigger higher tax rates.

However the amount that would accumulate by the time he reaches 18 would not be high enough for him to pay the high tax rates. Therefore this could be a very worthwhile thing for him to do, as it will teach him the value of making his money work hard for him from the start.

Q. I am single and have been living with my mother all my life. I have been looking after her for the last eight years while her health has been deteriorating. She now needs to move into aged care, as it is difficult for me to care for her on my own.

To move into care she needs to pay a refundable accommodation deposit (RAD) but she does not have the funds and neither do I. If we sell the house, I will have no place to live, as this has been my home all my life. Is there anything that we can do as I have no siblings to turn to?

A. As the house is your residential home also and as you have been caring for your

mother over five years, you will not be made to sell the house. You can apply for government support and you will be asked to pay as much as you can afford off the RAD, but your mother will need to be left with a minimum amount of assets of \$52,500. You will definitely not be asked to sell your home.

Q. I am 69 years old and still working full time. I am salary sacrificing part of my salary but I would like to make a lump sum contribution into super in preparation for my retirement in the future. Is this allowed?

A. As you are working even though you are over 67 years old you are allowed to make a non-concessional contribution into super this financial year. Because of your age the maximum amount is limited to \$110,000 per annum. In the 2021/2022 budget the work test was removed for people aged 67 to 74, so you can continue to make further contributions in future years.

Q. My husband passed away a few

This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



months ago and we had a beautiful funeral for him. I would like my funeral to be similar to his, but I do not wish to burden my children with the cost of my funeral. Is there anything I can do to make sure that this cost will not need to be paid by them?

A. Yes, there are a few options for you to take. You could make sure that you have sufficient money in your bank account for your children to access to pay for the funeral. You could also prepay for your funeral now and let your children know that you have done this.

Another option would be to purchase a funeral bond and let your children know where the policy for the bond is so that they would give this to the funeral director when arranging for the funeral. I believe you should discuss this with your children when you have some time in order to tell them what your wishes are.

Q. I am 61 years old and have stopped working as I have cancer. My wife stopped working to take care of me. Is she able to apply for the carer allowance?

A. As your wife stopped working to take care of you, she is able to apply for both the carer allowance (which is NOT means tested) and also the carer payment (which IS means tested).

My recommendation would be to either speak to a Centrelink FIS officer or see a financial planner who will advise you on options to be able to qualify both for a disability pension for yourself and a carer payment and carer allowance for your wife. He will need to know your financial situation to be able to offer you the best option you have.

This document contains factual information only and is not intended to provide any recommendation or opinion in relation to the topic/s discussed. Fiducian recommends that you seek advice from a professional to address any issues that may be raised by this article. Fiducian accepts no liability for any loss suffered by anyone who has acted on any information in this document.

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Daily TV news from Malta now a reality

Yes indeed, your heard right. It's a TV revolution coming your way. Paul Williams of SBS TV (right) has confirmed to *The Voice of the Maltese* that the daily news bulletin direct from PBS in Malta is to start at 4.30 pm on the 23rd of May as it was exclusively revealed by *The Voice of the Maltese* in the March 22 issue.

SBS and PBS engineers have sorted out the way it is to be delivered. The new SBS *WorldWatch*, channel 35 is already running barker reel promotions.

Daily news from Malta is another breakthrough for the Maltese in Australia. Marisa Previtera, the secretary of the MCC of NSW who has been working hard to make it possible, told *The Voice* that this new service would keep us closer to what is happening in our homeland in the convenience of our homes.

"It is another milestone. It was not easy to achieve, but where the is a will there is a way," Marisa said

We extend thanks to the SBS and PBS for their cooperation as well as the Ministers involved in this rather complicated achievement. We are certain that the Maltese community will be better for it.



Eurovision: Malta's Emma sings in Thursday's S/F

Maltese singer/pianist Emma Muscat, 22, (right), is currently in Italy preparing herself along with her team, to represent Malta in this year's Eurovision Song Contest to be held in Turin in the next few days. Emma will perform her song, 'I am what I am' in the second semi-final on Thursday 12th May.



Emma left for Italy last Saturday and has been extremely busy rehearsing and trying to win the Italian fans, many of them already know from the time she successful participation in the Italian television talent show *Amici* in 2018. The Eurovision Song Contest kicks off on May 10 with the first semi-final. Emma's turn comes two days later. The final will be held on May 14.

The rules preclude the Maltese living in Malta voting for Emma. However, the Maltese living abroad including those who live in Australia or any other country member of EBU, can. Therefore, we urge our readers living in Australia, in particular the Maltse community, to spread the word among themselves and their friends to cast their vote for Emma.

Anybody wishing to view and listen to the music video for Emma's "I Am What I Am" can do so on You Tube by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df-fks-Pj-8>.

Incidentally, Australia's singer will also perform on Thursday 12th

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Authorised by Susan Templeman, ALP (NSW Branch), 299 George Street, Windsor NSW 2756

Julia Gillard: The First Female Prime Minister Of Australia

(24 June 2010 to 26 June 2013)

She was the 27th Prime Minister of Australia. Julia Gillard had the unique privilege of being the only female Prime Minister that has ever held office in this island continent.

Researched by RonBorg

Julia Gillard was born in 1961 in Barry, a town in the Vale of Glamorgan Wales on the North coast of the Bristol Channel about 9 kms South West of Cardiff. She is the daughter of a nurse and aged-care worker. Her family migrated to Australia in 1966 and she grew up in Adelaide, where she attended Mitcham Demonstration School and Unley High School.

Gillard started her Arts and Law degrees at Adelaide University and completed her degrees at the University of Melbourne in 1989, during which time she was President of the Australian Union of Students.

Along with the rest of her family, she became an Australian citizen in 1974, and renounced her British citizenship before entering Parliament.

After her graduation Julia worked as a solicitor with the Slater and Gordon law firm where she became a partner in 1990, specialising in Industrial Law, securing fairer treatment for unpaid clothing trade workers, and in 1996 she became Chief of Staff to the then Leader of the Victorian State Opposition Leader, John Brumby.

In the 1998 Federal election Julia Gillard was elected to the House of Representatives for the seat of Lalor for the Australian Labour Party, and in December 2006 became the running mate of Kevin Rudd in a successful leadership challenge to Kim Beazley, becoming deputy leader of the opposition, and Deputy Prime Minister

when Labor won the 2007 Federal Election. She also gained the portfolios of Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Education and Minister for Social Inclusion.

Despite their proven ability as leaders and their right to participate equally in democratic governance, women still faced many obstacles to participating in political life.

In fact, the sexist slur Senator David Leyonhjelm unapologetically dished out to Senator Sarah Hanson-Young on the floor of the nation's parliament would be unacceptable in the average Australian workplace.

In 1897, South Australian Catherine Helen Spence became the first female political candidate, and since then many females have acquitted themselves as extremely diligent leaders in their high profile Governmental status.

Some even excelled in their positions as Governors like Dame Quentin Bryce and Dame Roma Mitchell, Dr. Carmen Lawrence as premier of Western Australia, parliamentary leaders such as Julie Bishop, Anna Bligh, Cheryl Kernot, Meg Lees, Natasha Stott Despoja, Bronwyn Bishop, and despite doubts about her political style and finesse, even Pauline Hanson, became the leader of United Australia Party!

Australian political parties have always found it hard to include many females in their midst, even in 2019, the



Labour Party had the largest contingent of 41.2%, The Nationals had 12.5%, and the Liberal Party had a mere 21.3%.

Therefore, it can be said that it was a major achievement that on the 24 June 2010, after Rudd lost internal support within the Labor Party and resigned as leader, Gillard was elected unopposed as his replacement in a leadership spill, and was sworn-in as Prime Minister and led the Labour government through the 2010 election and continued to lead her party until the 26th June 2013.

On the 6th March that year Julia Gillard featured the headline on Malta's, *The Times of Malta* with the headlines, "Maltese community appeals directly to Australian PM over radio service cuts".

The newspaper reported that representatives of the Maltese community in Australia had complained directly to Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard over cuts to Maltese programming by SBS radio. At this meeting at Rooty Hill, the then president of the Maltese Welfare Association of NSW, Lawrence Dimech discussed the situation with Ms Gillard and the federal member for Greenway Michelle Rowland.



Julia Gillard (centre) meeting Lawrence Dimech and Michelle Rowland

**Continued on page 7*

Gillard passed 570 bills through Senate

**Continued from page 6*

"It was great to have the Prime Minister listen to the concerns of the Maltese community and have Mr Dimech directly tell her about SBS's cuts to Maltese programming," Ms Rowland said. "I have written directly to the Prime Minister on this matter because I know it is of extreme importance to the Maltese community I represent."

SBS Radio in 2013 cut its Maltese programming from nine hours to two hours per week. Ms Rowland said she represented a large Maltese community that relied on the services SBS provides. From his personal point of view Mr. Lawrence Dimech said that, "She was extremely intelligent, very approachable, and knew the Maltese community well."

Throughout Gillard's term as Prime Minister, Rudd had made numerous unsuccessful

A call to the brides to be

If you require custom-made-gowns, it is hard to go past Cheryl Marie Bridal. "Bridal gowns have been a part of my life for 25 years, working with leading bridal boutiques and designers," Cheryl Hermez nee Azzopardi (pictured) told *The Voice of the Maltese*.



In 2021, Cheryl Marie Bridal was launched "to focus on made to measure wedding dresses and petticoats. Modern brides are searching for that individual design as they journey towards one of the happiest days of their life and CMB are here to assist.

"I want my Brides to experience the joy that I receive when I am doing what I love most, creating custom-made gowns that will be cherished forever," said Cheryl.

Cheryl's mother grew up in Zejtun and her father was from Birgu. They often told Cheryl stories about the lacemakers (bizzilla) working on the streets of Malta. "I deeply appreciated their fine skills when I visited Malta in 1999," Cheryl told *TheVoice*.



Labor Party colleagues greet Julia Gillard after replacing Kevin Rudd (centre) as Prime Minister

ful bids to reclaim his position as ALP leader, but while Gillard remained popular internationally, her approval at home diminished, and some ALP members even felt that a change in leadership would bolster the party's chances in general elections that were scheduled for September 2013.

Anticipating another challenge from Rudd, Gillard called for a party ballot and proposed that the loser retire from politics, settling the question of leadership once and for all. On June 26, 2013, Gillard resigned as Prime Minister and, on that day, announced that she would not contest her parliamentary seat in the next election.

Julia Gillard revealed that she struggled with anxiety while she was leading the nation and openly admitted to the national television programme, *ABC Lateline* that everybody had moments of anxiety and she had to learn how to deal with 'poison' thrown at her from social media. Despite all this political turmoil, Julia was very productive and her formidable negotiating skills led her to pass some 570 bills through the Senate, with the major achievements including the: 'National Disability Insurance Scheme, Royal Commission to Child Abuse, Education Funding and Paid Parental Leave.

The very talented Julia Gillard went on to make many more achievements after her Prime Ministership. She received her Doctorate degree of the University of Victoria for her accomplishments surrounding education and disability reform as a political leader in 2014, and in 2015 received her Doctorate from the Brussels University for

her achievements as a woman committed to education and to social inclusion, and for the impact of her commitment on the situation of children, youngsters and women worldwide.

In October of the same year she received her honorary doctorate from the University of Canberra, for her work in "education and gender equality", and in December 2016, for her promotion of education opportunities in Australia", was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Deakin University.

In February 2014, Gillard was appointed chairwoman of the Global Partnership for Education, an international organisation focused on getting all children into school for a quality education in the world's poorest countries, and later that year, in December she joined the board of the 'Beyond Blue', an Australian mental health and wellbeing support organisation, that provides support programmes to address issues related to depression, suicide, anxiety disorders and other related mental illnesses.

Obviously Julia Gillard, is a 'Die hard' Aussie enthusiast who has contributed to the Australian nation in the past and despite some of the abysmal and sexist treatment dished out to her by fellow politicians and the media, she still continues in this pursuit.

**Next to be featured will be Tony Abbott, who became the 28th PM in 2013 when the Liberal-National party coalition won office from Labor led by Kevin Rudd.*

MiGEA Malta's Gaming Excellence Awards 2022

Malta's Gaming Excellence Awards (MiGEA) that have already been likened to "the Oscars of gaming is an annual event that has been created as one of the original and most comprehensive awards events for the gaming industry.

The awards event brings the entire industry together to reward and celebrate the companies and individuals that are constantly working to innovate and improve the industry.

This year's event is being held on 24 June



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Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



Now you can also join us on facebook:

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

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Make good use of your vote

Mark Calleja from Melbourne, Victoria writes:

Australian citizens are again called to cast their vote to elect the federal government to administer our fortunes for the next three years. May 21st is payback time for the politicians, so we should do our part to make the right choice.

If we feel there have been politicians who have been taking us for a ride, we should and must punish them. On the other hand,

Congratulations Cynthia Villar

Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM from Sydney NSW writes::

I first met Cynthia Villar late 1990's when together with Ms Rhonda Balzan they had regular meetings at my house on Saturdays. Both were determined to become involved in the community and teach the Maltese Language.

I invited them to speak to the Merrylands Maltese Seniors Group. (The Maltese Herald 18/7/2000 Pg. 14). They also engaged themselves in Maltese cultural activities, wearing traditional dress.

I was invited to read Maltese to young children at the Lady Gowrie Centre, where there was a table full of Maltese tasty dishes. I was quite proud of this function they initiated.

Congratulation Cynthia Villar on your determination to carry on with Maltese Studies, for all your successes achieved overall, particularly in the Maltese Community.

Editor: Cynthia Villar was featured as the Personality of the Year in the March issue of The Voice of the Maltese.

we should reward those who have always been close to the Maltese community, not just by talk, but also by deeds.

We should not be that naïve to listen to those who keep telling us that it's better the devil you know, that is, accepting something bad but known rather than accepting something unknown or unproven.

Some politicians have been ignoring our needs for years. They are more intent to follow the whims of the so-called powerful nations and appear nice to them instead of looking after the nation's needs.

We have a weapon in our hands, our vote. So use it well. We should elect those whom we think are capable of heading us in the right direction.

TVoM is a most interesting read

Rose Cassar from Toronto writes:

I find your magazine a very interesting read, it's so very nice to be able to read the news from Malta as well as Australia. All your articles were very interesting and that was great coverage on pages 20 and 21 on the Maltese Canadian Museum in Toronto.

It's so important that people of Toronto have an opportunity to actually see these artefacts and various displays.

Please keep up this informative newsletter. Thankyou

Grazzi mill-qalb u prosit

Carmel Galea minn Wisconsin USA jikteb:

Ara veru li għandna tassew biex niftahru b'dan il-magazine. Nahseb li m'hawnx Malti jew Maltija li ngħixu barra minn artna l-aktar dawkl li bħali ilhom snin twal imsfirin li mhux ferħan li għandna pubblikazzjoni bħal din li biha nistghu nżommu ruħna aġġornati, l-aktar b'dak li qed jiġri f'Malta.

Fl-aħħar tliet edizzjonijiet ta' dan il-magazine speċjalment tajtuna prova li meta ngħidu li l-Voice uffiċjalment hu l-lehen uffiċjali tal-komunità Maltija li tgħix barra l-pajjiż ma nkunux qed niftahru imma ngħidu l-verità.

Prosit tassew.

Please Note

If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible particularly among the Maltese diaspora, one is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Maltese High Commissioner hosts the gathering of Canberra Diplomatic Club

On May 4, the High Commissioner of Malta for Australia and New Zealand HE Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg hosted the May Gathering of the Canberra Diplomatic Club at the National

Press Club which was attended by a capacity crowd from the Diplomatic Corps,

the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Maltese Australian Association of Canberra and Queanbeyan and friends.

In his speech, the High Commissioner spoke about Malta's strong bilateral relations with Australia, highlighting the Maltese Islands' rich culture and traditions, derived from its abundant history. He also mentioned that Malta has one of the largest diasporas, estimated 200,000 Maltese that have integrated and settled in Australia.

He pointed out Malta's huge steps forward in various fields, such as financial services, ICT, gaming, maritime activities, and the film industry, and proudly invited everyone to make Malta, which is renowned for its beautiful historical places, culture, sun, and sea, their holiday destination.

Meanwhile, the High Commission took the opportunity to showcase Malta's rich history by exhibiting Maltese stamps and banknotes, courtesy of the President of the Maltese Association of Canberra & Queanbeyan Inc., Mr. John Vassallo.

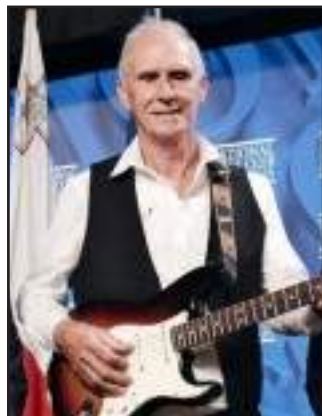
On display, the High



High Commissioner of Malta Mario Farrugia Borg welcoming guests at Malta's hosting of the Diplomatic Club gathering

Commission also had some of Gozo & Mdina glass pieces together with Malta's bobbin lace, the *bizzilla*, courtesy of Mrs. Victoria Muscat, wife of former High Commissioner, Mr. Charles Muscat.

The National Press Club generously served Maltese cuisine, including the traditional Maltese sausage, *kapunata* (stew vegetable dish), and *patata il-forn* (baked potatoes) for everyone to happily sample and partake.



LEFT: Charlie Muscat who entertained the guests at Malta's Diplomatic Club Gathering (below)



L-UKRAJNA

GĦANDHA B'ZONN

L-GĦAJNUNA

B'URĠENZA

L-Ukrajna tinsab fi kriżi kbira. Il-poplu għandu b'zonn urġenti tal-għajnuna b'urġenza. Hafna nies qed jaharbu mill-vjolenza mingħajr xejn hlief il-ħwejjeg li kellhom fuqhom. Huma qed jiddependu fuqna. Aħna mhux se nabbandunawhom. Għinna nkomplu ngħinuhom.



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Kitba ta' IVAN CAUCHI



Il-messagg tal-Papa f'Malta

Il-Papa tal-Knisja Kattolika Rumana għadu kif żar il-Gżejjer Maltin għal jumejn bejn it-2 u 3 ta' April 2022. Kien impenjat ħafna waqt din iż-żjara, ivvjagga minn post għall-iehor b'karożza ċkejkna, simpatika u umli (mhux xi karożza lussuża bħal ma ssoltu jkollhom id-dinjitarji) u kull fejn mar jew għadda ntlaqa' minn folla sabiħa li wriet biċ-ċar l-approvazzjoni tagħha għal dan il-bniedem influenti globalment lil hinn mill-isfera tal-Knisja Kattolika.

Gieni l-ħsieb li nikteb dawn ftit kelmiet dwar iż-żjara tal-Papa Franġisku għax laqtuni żewġ messagġi mill-hames stqarrijiet li għamel waqt iż-żjara - lill-awtoritajiet u l-korp diplomatiku fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru; f'Ta Pinu f'Għawdex; fil-Grotta ta' San Pawl fir-Rabat; fil-quddiesi fuq il-Fosos tal-Furjana; fil-laqgħa mal-immigranti f'Hal Far.¹

Il-messagġ predominanti, li ssemma kemm-il darba, b'insistenza u fit-tul, kien fuq l-immigranti, imma iktar speċifikament, l-immigranti hekk imsejha 'illegali', jiġifieri dawk li ma jidhrux fil-pajjiż b'mod ordnat billi jgibu viża jew jużaw id-dritt Ewropew ta' għixien fi kwalunkwe pajjiż tal-Unjoni Ewropeja, imma billi b'disprament, prezz finanzjarju għali ħafna u b'riskju kbir għal hajjithom, jittantaw xortihom fuq qoxra f'nofs il-baħar, jafdaw f'strangieri li qatt ma jkun iltaqgħu magħhom biex jaharbu minn sitwazzjonijiet koroh ta' gwerer jew għaks.

Tragikament, huwa wisq komuni li wħud, jew għexieren, jew mijiet ta' dawn il-hlejjaq t'Alla jispiċċaw f'qiegħ il-baħar, memorja biss ta' min, familjari jew ħbieb hallew warajhom mill-pajjiż tat-tluq tagħhom, jew li kienu qed jakkumpanjawhom, jew li kienu qed jistennewhom f'xi wiehed mill-pajjiżi tan-nofsinar tal-Ewropa li kienu qed jimmiraw għalih - Malta hija biss waħda minnhom.

Jekk dak Alla tagħhom ikun sema' l-karba tagħhom għall-ħniena, salvahom mit-tragitt kiefer u waslu fl-art, imbagħad isibu t-tabella lesta għalihom ta' immigranti illegali u qafra f'postijiet ta' detenzjoni, sakemm ikun determinat jekk għandhomx jisthoqqu t-titlu ta' refuġjati, u jithallew joħorġu fis-soċjetà biex jgħixu,



Il-Papa Franġisku jgħannaq miegħu lill-immigrant Niġerjan Jude Oukegualaf iż-żjara li għamel lill-immigranti fil-Laboratorju tal-Paċi fiż-żjara f'Malta

jahdmu, iħobbu u jiffurmaw parti mis-soċjetà.

Il-Papa kemm-il darba eżorta lil dawk preżenti sabiex jilqgħu lil dawn in-nies. Għamel referenza bosta drabi għal San Pawl li bħal dawn l-immigranti tal-lum, gie bil-baħar, kellu nawfragju u spiċċa fuq din l-art.

Min kien kien jgħix dakinhar f'Malta kellu suspetti fih (meta telgħet il-lifgħa m'idu), imma l-folja malajr inqalbet, u l-Papa rrefera għall-evangelista li kiteb li l-Maltin urew imħabba liema bħala lejha u lejn San Pawl, u wera t-tama li Malta dejjem tittratta lill-immigranti b'din l-imħabba.

Deherli li din kienet stedina helwa imma serja għalina lkoll. Il-Papa wkoll kellu nota ta' dispijaċir meta f'Hal Far semma li l-immigranti jkollhom id-drittijiet fundamentali tagħhom imxejna, ħafna drabi bil-kumplicità tal-awtoritajiet kompetenti - kumment li għamel u rrepeta.

It-tieni messagġ li laqtuni kien wiehed mhux soċjali jew politiku, imma reliġjuż. Fil-laqgħa ta' talb f'Ta Pinu, tkellem dwar il-bżonn għall-Insara li sabiex iġeddu l-fidi u l-missjoni komuni tagħhom f'din l-art, iridu jergħu jmorru għall-bidu nett u jħarsu lejn il-Knisja bikrija, sabiex jerga' jiġi skopert dak li hu essenzjali fil-fidi.

Huwa enfazizza li dan ma jfissirx li wiehed jerga' neċessarjament jirreplika eżatt il-mudell ekkleżjali tal-ewwel komunità nisranija, forsi għax jassumi li kien kolloxx sew dakinhar, jew jinjora l-iżviluppi fil-Knisja li saru fis-sekli ta' wara. Il-Papa nnota li d-dixxipli ta' dakinhar kienu jargumentaw bejniethom, u mhux dejjem fehmu t-tagħlim tal-Mulej.

Jien inżid li dawn it-tip ta' argumenti għadhom jeżistu bejn id-dixxipli tal-lum, kultant bl-istess nuqqas ta' fehim tat-tagħlim tiegħu.

Ningħaqad mal-Papa fix-xewqa li nerġgħu niskopru l-ispirtu tal-ewwel komunità Nisranija, nirritornaw lejha u niskopru l-qalba tal-fidi.

B'moħħ miftuħ infittxu l-verità.

Referenzi

1. <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/travels/2022/outside/documents/malta-2022.html>, retrieved 2/5/2022



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Anzac Day commemoration and the Maltese RSL Sub-Branch

The Maltese RSL Sub-Branch had a busy Anzac Week-End starting on Saturday 23rd April when they travelled to Cringila to be hosted by the George Cross Falcons Community Centre. There, at 11.00 am a dignified Anzac Service was held in the presence of Rear Admiral Bruce Kafer AM CSC RAN Commandant ADFA as the Official Guest.

This Service was held to remember the Anzacs and in particular, the Maltese-Anzacs who served in WW1. On this occasion, the National Anthems of Malta and Australia were played followed by a welcome to all by the President of the MRSL Charles N. Mifsud OAM MQR JP.

The MC, Andrew Magro the Treasurer of the Sub-Branch read a short story about one of the Maltese-Anzacs, followed by Rear Admiral Kafer reciting the ODE whole a trumpeter played the Last Post and Reveille.

Doris Pocock the Secretary of the MRSL and three other ladies, two from the CWA and another from the GCFCC laid wreaths



MRSL Sub-Branch at the Bi-Centennial Monument at Civic Park Pendle-Hill

Maltese ex-servicemen's way of thanking and remembering

at the foot of the only Maltese-Anzacs Monument in NSW, which was built with the complete cooperation of the MRSL Sub-Branch and the GCFCC of Cringila. This concluded the programme.

Other VIPs at this Anzac Service included Mr. Paul Scully State MP, Ms. Angela Lupic MCCI, and Ms. Angela Byrnes ALP Candidate for the Seat of Cunningham.

After the Service lunch was served and those present continued to socialise with their friends, the committee and members of the GCFCC and other visitors, the members of the Sutherland and St. George Maltese Group. The activity was held with the full cooperation of the President Louis Parnis and the committee of the GCFCC.

The following day, on Sunday the 24th of April at 11.00 am a similar Anzac Service honouring the memory of the Maltese-

Anzacs was held by the MRSL Sub-Branch at the Bi-Centennial Monument at Civic Park Pendle-Hill, with Andrew Magro again as the MC reading a brief story of another Maltese-Anzac from WW1. Afterward, Charles Mifsud and Doris Pocock, the President and Secretary respectively of the MRSL Sub-Branch laid a wreath in front of the Monument and the Maltese-Anzacs Plaque.

ON Sunday at 3 pm as a group, they met again and reciting the Lord's prayer laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at Martin Place in Sydney. The Royal Australian Army that was practicing for the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day supplied a Catafalque party and a trumpeter for the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

Then on Anzac Day, Monday the 25th of April the Maltese contingent gathered at

Chifley Square in Sydney. Ex-Servicemen and women, and other members of the MRSL Sub-Branch, all in their uniforms and wearing their service medals with pride, some of them accompanied by descendants, family members, and friends, took part in the Anzac Day March.

They were led by the Sub-Branch President Charles N. Mifsud OAM MQR J, and the newest member of the Sub-Branch, a former Commando by the name of Clinton Marlborough, who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries. The Maltese OLQP band also took part in the march.

On this occasion, and during the march in honour of Malta and the Anzacs, the Sub-Branch Ex-Servicemen and the other members were interviewed by SBS TV journalists. It was a great way of saying thank you and LEST WE FORGET.

The Maltese ex-service entourage that took part in this year's march through the main streets of the city of Sydney





Roundup of News About Malta



Malta's 14th Parliament inaugurated

President outlines new Govt's priorities for the next 5 years

Malta's fourteenth legislature made up of 79 MPs, the largest ever was sworn in on Saturday after they attended an inaugural mass at the St John Cathedral in Valletta with their spouses and partners, celebrated by Archbishop Charles Scicluna. They then attended the official opening of the Maltese parliament.

For the next five years, Parliament will be made up of 44 Labour and 35 Nationalist MPs. Fifty-seven of the MPs are men and 22 women – 12 of them have been co-opted to the House under a new gender-corrective measure to increase MPs from the under-represented gender. Forty-three MPs were already members in the last legislature; 36 are new. The governing Labour side has a majority of nine MPs.

On the day the MPs assembled in the Chamber of the House to listen to the proclamation summoning the 14th parliament by the Clerk of the House, who then read the results of the General Election and the names of the MPs duly elected.

During the inaugural session of Parliament, Prime Minister Robert Abela proposed Anglu Farrugia as the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the third time running, for the next five years. He was appointed with the majority of votes by parliamentary members. The Nationalist MPs voted against his appointment.

Dr. Farrugia pledged to work to safeguard what is expected of him in this post. He appealed to the deputies to refrain from attacking each other and remarked that there are several reforms to be implemented.

During the session, Nationalist deputy leader David Agius was unanimously appointed as the House Deputy Speaker.

The sitting was then adjourned for the President of Malta, Dr. George Vella to address the House on the Government's work for the duration of the whole five years of the legislature.

The President outlined Prime Minister Robert Abela's priorities for the next five years on the road to climate neutrality and equality. Among other priorities will be new amendments to Malta's rules for in vitro fertilisation in a bid to offer more hope for prospective parents seeking assisted reproduction. "Above all, we want an equal society," he said.

"Among these main priorities will be giving more families a greater chance to become parents. Several amendments will be tabled to the laws governing IVF to offer greater hope to the most prospective parents. The amendments would be comple-

mented by the investment needed to enable the process to take place.

Turning to Malta's parliamentary quotas for the under-represented President Vella said that equality at every level is one of the values that must distinguish us as a country.

"We are starting this legislature with a more equal parliament, with stronger female representation. We must take this principle into workplaces, particularly in



The President of Malta, HE George Vella outlining the government's work for the next legislature



Prime Minister Robert Abela addressing the opening of the new Parliament

decision-making boards, with a number of incentives."

He mentioned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and said that the pressures brought about by the war in Ukraine are not diminishing at all. "We must reaffirm that this is an attack which cannot but be condemned... that is why Malta implemented several sanctions agreed in EU fora.

"We who are so far away also feel the effects of this war. Imagine what those who are in the middle of it feel," he said.

He pointed out that the war is impacting the prices of essential goods such as energy, food, and freight, and that Government is not only aware of these challenges but is constantly pursuing discussions to counter this impact. The President said that as it did during the pandemic, the government will ensure that it supports people and businesses.

He said that no country or individual is perfect, "but we can strive for Malta to be at the forefront of modern democracies, with strong systems of rule of law. This re-

quires reforms to have more modern judicial processes because the administration of effective justice must be a basic principle in today's world.

"We will continue to step up reforms, but as in other sectors, we want the justice system to be oriented in a way that better understands the realities of those facing its practitioners and those who mete it out. Justice is blind, but it must be sensible and sensitive to developing social realities."

As to the quality of life and environment, he said that while it was important to safeguard the material livelihood of citizens, especially those in the low-income bands, the Labour administration would be focused on quality of life in terms of health, the environment, work-life balance, and security.

The President said that the administration would treat the environment as a key objective, with the same emphasis that previous administrations had given to the country's infrastructure.

He mentioned the need to protect children and adolescents from the dangers of modern times, and to ensure that they know how to make smart use of social media and the various technological means available to them...

The President concluded by saying that the coming years will be crucial for Malta "to reach the fullness of the specialised and free services in the mental health sector, projects that go beyond what we have ever had to date, reaching out to all those who need it."

Ukraine President to address House of Representatives

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to virtually address the new House of Parliament at 4. p.m. on Tuesday 10 May, at the invitation of Malta's Foreign Affairs Minister Ian Borg.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta continues to promote peace

During a bilateral meeting with the Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution of the Federal Chancellery of Austria Karoline Edtstadler, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg said, “Malta has, is, and will continue to promote peace with the hope that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine will soon come to an end.”

This was just one of several topics that are of interest to both countries that were discussed at the meeting.

Minister Ian Borg spoke about the latest developments in the Ukraine conflict and

explained that rather than military efforts Malta believes that more diplomatic developments are needed for a peaceful solution.

He also reiterated solidarity with Ukraine and that Malta will continue to adopt the agreed sanctions on a European Union level.

The subject of migration was also discussed with Malta reiterating it will continue to advance its position and calling on Austria to show solidarity with our country on the international fora and to support different relocation mechanisms.

He also spoke about Malta’s candidacy for the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, which will be focusing on three main themes: security,

Ministers Ian Borg and Karoline Edtstadler sustainability, and solidarity.

Minister Edtstadler stated that she was pleased to end her ‘Tour de Capital’ in Malta with this official visit, and stressed that Malta and Austria have much in common, and therefore she believes that there are many topics on which both countries can intensify their bilateral work together.



Minister Miriam Dalli urgent appeal to EU

At the EU’s energy ministers urgent meeting in Brussels to discuss the energy situation in the context of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and the impact on the energy sector, Malta’s energy minister Miriam Dalli urged the European Commission not to leave any country alone.



Malta’s aviation register now tops 665 aircraft

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, Malta’s aviation industry has been able to turn an obstacle into an opportunity, and in ten years, the island’s aviation register has grown by 500 per cent to 665 aircraft.

Announcing this, Transport Minister Aaron Farrugia said that whereas other countries had fallen behind during the pandemic, Malta’s civil aviation directorate’s work had served to grow the industry,

Malta enacted the Aircraft Registration Act in 2010 and by the beginning of 2020 had 411 registered aircraft.

Former transport minister Ian Borg had said at the time that the agency had hoped to increase the number by 60 during that year. In fact, the increase has amounted to 200 registrations by the end of last year.

Minister Farrugia attributed the register’s success to the trust foreign investors have in Malta and the Maltese aviation industry professionals.

Malta among the top five European countries to retire

For many the dream retirement location to leave the world of work behind is the Old World, and Forbes magazine lists Malta as among the top five European retirement spots for 2022 along with Portugal, Greece, Italy and Switzerland.

The island made it to the top of the lists released among others, by the WEF, the World Population Review, Blacktower Financial Group, Expat Financial, Stuff Travel, US News, International Living, and Live and Invest Overseas.

For the WEF’s Index, Malta is one of the best retirement places in Europe for the warm waters of the southern Mediterranean Sea that surround its five tiny islands – only two are inhabited – which are a mix of Western European lifestyle with a hint of Arabic language and culture.

It points out that Summer temperatures can be hot and humid, and that it isn’t the cheapest retirement destination. However, the year-round sun attracts many residents who also benefit from a world-class health care system and plenty of outdoor sports and activities.

Another factor in favour of Malta is the fact that both Maltese and English are widely spoken and, over the centuries, invaders from several civilisations have left their mark on the local cuisine and culture.

It adds that Malta offers a mix of ancient megaliths, medieval fortresses, rocky hinterland, beaches, and coastal fishing villages, with a few cities thrown in for good measure, and describes Malta as a “tiny little speck” packed with more than 500,000 people, nearly 15% of whom are expats.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġuzè Camilleri

Il-Festi Magħna

Issa li l-Awtoritajiet tas-Sahħa nehħew hafna mill-miżuri li kienu fis-sehħ minhabba l-imxija tal-Covid-19, tidher li bdiet it-triq lejn dik li qed tissejjah "normalità", għalkemm hemm dubju serju xi tfigħer propju din il-kelma.

Hafna hadu r-ruh, għalkemm xorta hawn sezzjoni mdaqqsqa tal-poplu li ssostni li ċerti miżuri kellhom jithallew għal ftit taż-żmien iehor minhabba li l-każi ta' infezzjoni bil-Covid-19 għadhom għolja u l-imwiet għadhom għaddejjin tant li sakemm qed nikteb digà qabzu s-700. Għalkemm ma jfissirx li dawn huma effett dirett tal-pandemija

M'għandux jonqos li fost dawk li huma l-aktar ferħanin bit-tnaqqis tar-restrizzjonijiet hemm id-dilettanti tal-festi, aktar u aktar issa li l-istaġun tal-festi huwa magħna.

Attwalment digà saret l-ewwel festa – dik ta' San Publiju l-Furjana – li giet iffestegġjata bil-kbir, anke jekk dan il-lokal għandu l-limitazzjonijiet tiegħu minhabba li l-popolazzjoni tiegħu naqset hafna. Izda dak inhar tal-festa għadd ta' Furjanizi li jgħixu f'xi lokal iehor, żgur li jattendu għal din il-festa.

Minn dak li nkiteb, jidher li se jkollna staġun tal-festi mill-aqwa, għax dawk li jorganizzawhom huma deċiżi li jpattu għas-sentejn li l-istatwi baqgħu għewwa u l-baned kwazi nsew x'inhuma marċi.

Diversi bliet u rħula mistenni jkollhom armar tal-festi – bandalori, festuni, dwal u

tiżjin iehor – aktar mis-soltu, għax matul l-aħħar sentejn, id-dilettanti tal-armor ma qagħdux b'idejhom fuq żaqgħom u, minbarra li daru dawra sew l-armor li kellhom, għamlu armor u tiżjin għid li se jżanżnuh din is-sena.

Issa l-mistoqsija l-kbira, li hafna qed jistaqsu, hi: X'se jkun ir-riżultat ta' dawn il-festi fejn jidhol il-Covid-19? Tgħid se jgħri, kif kien sehħ meta faqqgħet l-imxija tal-Covid-19, meta wara li saret festa, l-għadd ta' każi sploda 'l fuq. It-tama hi li ma jgħrix hekk, anke minhabba li l-virus ta' bħalissa huwa dgħajef hafna mqabbel ma' ta' qablu.

Il-festi jgħibu magħhom ikel u xorb, kultant bla qies, u għall-ikel u x-xorb, il-Maltin, anke hafna drabi dawk li hallew pajjiżna, huma magħru-ufa sew għalihom.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li s'ħarriġ ippubblikat mill-Għaqda Dinjija tas-Sahħa, il-WHO, li evalwat madwar tnejn u ħamsin pajjiż fl-Ewropa, sab li tliet kwarti tal-irġiel f'Malta huma meqjusa li għandhom piż żejjed!

Fit-tieni post, wara Malta, hemm l-Iżrael,



Iż-żmien li jtina t-twegiba. J'Alla tkun wahda tajba għax hemm inkunu nistghu nitkellmu dwar in-normalità.

Ikel u xorb

fejn sebghin fil-mija tal-irġiel huma meqjusa li għandhom piż żejjed.

Fejn jidhlu n-nisa l-Iżrael hadulna l-ewwel post, bi ftit inqas minn sebghin fil-mija meqjusa bħala obizi, bin-nisa Maltin jikklassifikaw fit-tieni post b'sittin fil-mija meta mqabbel mal-kumplement tar-reġjun.

Imsomma, hafna direttament jew indirettament jimxu ma' dak li kienu jgħidu l-Maltin: "Kul u tpaqxa għax minn hawn għal għol-kaxxa"

Il-partiti ewlenin u d-djun tagħhom

Mill-ikel u x-xorb, immorru għall-but... mhux ta' min jixrob u jiekol aktar milli meħtieġ, imma tal-partiti politiċi li sikwit nisimgħu li għamlu xi maratona ta' għbir ta' flus jew kif isejjgħulha maratona ta' fondi.

Matul il-kampanja elettorali nnutajt li attwalment il-Partit Nazzjonalista għamel aktar jiem ta' maratona ta' għbir ta' fondi mill-Partit Laburista. U issa, wara li għaddiet l-elezzjoni, u wara d-diskors tal-kap tal-PN, Dr Bernard Grech lill-Kunsill Ġenerali tal-partit, wieħed jista' jidher għaliex ġara hekk.

Il-qasba ilha ċċaqċaq li l-partit politiċi għandhom ċertu dejn, għalkemm skont il-midja, kien il-Partit Nazzjonalista li l-aktar kellu problemi finanzjarji. Propju wara li għaddiet l-elezzjoni dan għall-ewwel darba gie kkonfermat mill-istess kap tal-PN li meta kellew lill-membri tal-Kunsill Ġenerali qal li, "Il-problemi li għandna jmorru lil hinn minn problema tat-tmexxija." Stqarr ċar u tond li l-partit kellu dejn ta' €32 miljun. "Għandna 32 miljun ewro dejn, dik hija r-realtà li għandna quddiemna," qal.

Sostna li jekk din il-problema ma tigħx solvuta hemm il-periklu li l-Partit Nazzjonalista ma jibqax jeżisti:

"Jekk ma nsewdux id-deċiżjonijiet diffiċli u malajr, nirriskjaw saħansitra s-sopravvenzenza tagħna bħala partit," qal.

Żied itenni li fis-sitwazzjoni finanzjarja preżenti l-PN m'għandux il-likwidità finanzjarja biex jagħmel kampanja għall-elezzjonijiet tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-kunsilli lokali sentejn u nofs oħra.

Għalkemm ma ta l-ebda direzzjoni ċara kif se jipprova jsolvi din il-problema Grech qal: "Ebda kap ma jrid jew ma jixtieq li jbiegħ każin, l-ebda kap ma jixtieq li joħroġ mid-dar ċentrali, l-ebda kap ma jrid iċedi l-midja tagħna."

Li malajr wasal biex kien hemm dawk li bassru li l-Partit Nazzjonalista seta' jipprova jtaffi dan id-dejn billi jbiegħ xi wħud mill-każini tiegħu (attwalment fil-passat riċenti l-PN digà biegh xi każini).

Saħansitra jehles mill-kwartieri tal-partit u fuq kollox jehles mill-midja tal-partit li skont l-istess Grech "Kull xahar li jgħaddi qiegħdin nitilfu għexieren ta' eluf ta' ewro, mhux illum, għal dan l-aħħar żmien fil-kumpanija tal-midja tagħna."

Attwalment kien hemm min sostna li barra dawk it-€32miljun dejn, kien hemm dejn qawwi iehor fuq il-medja tal-partit.

Jidher li l-midja qed tkun ta' piż fuq iż-żewġ partiti billi f'xi għurali ntqal li anke dik tal-Partit Laburista għandha dejn ta' €10 miljun, imma mal-Gvern, mhux mal-privat, fosthom dejn dwar il-hlas tal-bolla tal-haddiema, il-hlas tad-dawl u l-ilma u ta' taxxi. Min-naħa tal-midja tal-PN jingħad li għandha dejn ta' €12-il-miljun.

Skont l-istess midja, filwaqt li l-Partit Laburista għandu €1.25 miljun xi thallas f'dawl u ilma, il-MediaLink (tal-PN) kellha djun li jlaħqu t-€3.5 miljuni fl-istess settur. Fl-istess rapport ingħad li l-PL wasal fi ftehim mal-entitajiet tal-Gvern biex dan id-dejn jithallas, għalkemm ma semmewx jekk dan il-hlas kienx qed isir jew le.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Kuraġġ jew ħaseb għal rasu?

Bhas-soltu fix-xena politika Maltija malajr bdew il-kummenti dwar dak li qal il-Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, b'uħud isostnu li Bernard Grech (*xellug*) wera kuraġġ u onestà kbira, għax dak li ma għamlux u ma qalux ta' qablu għamlu u qalu hu.

Veru jrid ikollok kuraġġ, biex wara telfa elettorali

hekk kbira, wara li diversi kapijiet tal-Partit Nazzjonalista taw il-ġenb lil din il-kwestjoni, li kienet u għadha tifni l-partit, meta taf li l-midja se jkollha xalata shiha, tohroġ u tghid ċar u tond x'inhi s-sitwazzjoni finanzjarja tal-aktar partit li ilu fix-xena politika Maltija.

Iżda mbagħad kien hemm min li malajr abbina l-istqarrija dwar id-dejn tal-PN mal-fatt li kellha ssir elezzjoni għall-kap (dan billi skont l-Istatut tal-partit, wara kull elezzjoni generali trid issir il-hatra tal-Kap. Dawn sostnew li Grech kien qed jagħti stampa hekk imċajpra biex ibeżża' lil min seta' jahseb biex jikkontestah fit-tigrija tal-kap.

Fil-fatt, it-tigrija diġà bdiet, u kif kien im-bassar, u qabel Grech semma' d-dejn tal-PN, l-uniku kandidat li se jikkontesta huwa propju Bernard Grech li mistenni li jiġi kkonfermat mill-kunsilliera tal-PN.

Nahseb kien għaqli li Grech ta stampa tas-sitwazzjoni finanzjarja tal-PN għax b'hekk biss jista' wiehed jipprova jsolvi l-problema.... għax li l-ewwel pass biex is-solvi hu li tagħraf li hemm problema.

U rgajna *bil-murtali* ...

Meta ħsiebna li l-irbumbjar tal-elezzjoni beda jbatti u bil-mod il-mod, issa li għadda aktar minn xahar mill-elezzjoni, konna se nġaddu għax-xena politika normali, bħal sajjetta' qamet kwestjoni politika taħraq, din id-darba mhux bejn il-partit jew nies li jappoġġjaw partiti differenti, iżda bejn żewġ persunaġġi minn ta' quddiem ġejjin mill-istess partit – il-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Kollox beda meta magħfus minn ġurnal-ist, il-kap tal-PN Bernard Grech ċaħad li fil-Partit Nazzjonalista kien hemm min fl-elezzjoni hađem kontra Jason Azzopardi. Ma waqafx hemm u zied jgħid li fil-politika "kulhadd għandu data tal-iskadenza."

Kien kumment li malajr għab ir-reazzjoni ta' Azzopardi li fuq il-midja soċjali kiteb li hi ironika li persuna li ma jafx kemm se jdum fil-partit, (sintendi kien qed jirreferi għal Bernard Grech) qed jitkellem fuq id-data tal-iskadenza ta' hađdiehor.

Sostna li "bi kliemu u b'għemilu (Grech) għamilni orfni politiku, l-istess bħal hafna li jgħidu li m'għadhomx jagħrfu 'l-PN, il-partit li kienu jgħożzu u li issa rrendihom orfni politiċi. Ilum qed nifhimhom."

Ma waqafx hemm għax ftit wara kiteb mill-ġdid, u din id-darba għamel akkuża serja u implika li huwa stess kien li waqqaf milli issir donazzjoni lill-Partit Nazzjonalista bil-ħsieb li xi hađd jakkwista mahfra presidenzjali għal xi qarib.

Quddiem din l-akkuża Bernard Grech immedjatament sejjah il-Kunsill Amministrattiv tal-Partit Nazzjonalista biex jid-diskuti l-akkuża. Dan irribatta dak li qal Azzopardi u saħansitra ta 24 siegħa żmien lil Azzopardi biex iressaq u jissostan-zja quddiem il-Kummissjoni Etika, Dixxiplina u Media Soċjali tal-Partit, l-allegazzjonijiet li għamel.

Imma minflok Azzopardi mar quddiem din il-Kummissjoni, ressaq ir-riżenja tiegħu mill-Partit Nazzjonalista, u fuq il-midja soċjali għamel stqarrija twila fejn habbar din ir-riżenja u aktar minn hekk, allega, b'ċertu dettal, li waqt ikla Grech kien ġie influwenzat minn żewġ persuni biex jagħmel pressjoni halli tingħata proklama lill-allegat mandant fil-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, Yorgen Fenech.

Fid-dikjarazzjoni tiegħu, Azzopardi allega li, waqt ikla ma' numru żgħir ta' ne-

gozjanti, Grech ittiehed f'ġenb minn żewġ persuni li jiġu minn Yorgen Fenech, u hemmhekk issemma s-sugġett ta' proklama għall-akkużat, bi Grech jagħti assigurazzjoni li kieku kellu jkun Prim Ministru, kien ikun dispost li jirrakkomanda l-ghoti tal-proklama.

Sostna ukoll li waqt l-istess ikla negozjant ieħor qal lil Grech li qatt ma kien se jivvota lill-PN sakemm Azzopardi jibqa' deputat, bi Grech iwieġbu: "Kellimni wara l-elezzjoni," li jimplika li l-PN mhux se jpoġġi l-isforzi tiegħu wara l-elezzjoni mill-ġdid ta' Azzopardi fl-elezzjoni tal-2022.

Quddiem din l-akkuża, Grech reġa' sejjah il-Kunsill Amministrattiv, li wara li ddiskuta l-allegazzjonijiet ta' Azzopardi li ġew miċħuda, b'mod unanimu esprima fiduċja fi Grech, li mal-ġurnalisti mhux biss ċaħad imma sostna li l-każ għalih kien magħluq...

Ma nahsibx li dan hu l-każ, aktar u aktar għax wasal iż-żmien biex issir il-votazzjoni għall-kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, li bla dubbju se jkun Grech, għax ma ġiex ikkontestat. Imma xorta trid issir votazzjoni mill-Kunsilliera tal-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Sintendi kulhadd qed jistenna x'ap-poġġ se jikseb Bernard Grech bħala kap tal-PN.

Jason Azzopardi ►



Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



Castle Hill
Seven Hills
Windsor and
all suburbs

"Let Our Family
Help You Through"

—
Halli l-familja
tagħna tgħin lill-
familja tiegħek



A quick glimpse at Australia

Australian overseas population

Australia has experienced a decline in its overseas-born population for the first time since 2000, new figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show, with COVID-19 being the main cause.

In 2021, 29.1 per cent of Australia's estimated resident population was born overseas (7.5 million migrants), down from 29.8 per cent (7.7 million migrants) in 2020.

This is the first decrease in the proportion of Australia's overseas-born population since the year 2000, the ABS report released read.

"The decrease reflected reduced overseas migration in and out of Australia, given the COVID-19 travel restrictions. The travel and migration intentions of many people changed due to the pandemic, including those migrating to work or study," said Jenny Dobak, ABS head of migration statistics.

"In the first year of the pandemic, there were fewer people born overseas migrat-

Macron re-elected -Morrison reacts

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison appears to have been highly satisfied with the re-election of Emmanuel Macron as French President. Congratulating Macron, he said, "Another great expression of liberal democracy in action in uncertain times. We wish you and France every success, in particular your leadership in Europe and as an important partner to Australia in the Indo-Pacific."

But underneath the message of congratulations, Twitter users noted the commentary on the relationship between the leaders, after the Morrison government abandoned a multi-billion dollar submarine contract with France in favour of AUKUS.

Echoing the extraordinary moment at the G20 summit in Rome last October when Mr Macron accused the prime minister of lying to him about the status of the submarine deal. "Didn't he call you a liar like 6 months ago?"

Mr Morrison has on several occasions denied lying to Mr Macron and said the French leader knew the deal was on the rocks prior to the AUKUS announcement.



ing to Australia, as well as fewer people born in Australia departing to live overseas."

Dr Allen told SBS News, that as a result of the COVID pandemic impact Australia is older, whiter and smaller than expected. That spells some trouble ahead for Aus-

Australia's overseas-born population by country of birth:

The largest group of overseas-born Australian residents in 2021 were born in England (967,000 people), followed by India (710,000 people), China (595,000), New Zealand (559,000), Philippines (310,000), Vietnam (268,000), South Africa (201,000), Malaysia (172,000), Italy (171,000) and Sri Lanka (145,000).

Ethnic diversity – Parliament lagging behind

A 2018 report from the Australian Human Rights Commission found only 4.1 per cent of all parliamentarians come from a non-European background. That's compared with an estimated 21 per cent of the general population.



Prof. Tim Soutphommasane

The same ratio is reflected in today's cabinet; only one of the current 24 ministers comes from a non-European background - Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt.

Acting director of the Sydney Policy Lab and Australia's former Race Discrimination Commissioner, Professor Tim Soutphommasane, says those numbers haven't changed, and are unlikely to change again following the federal election on 21 May.

"On current form, you'd have to multiply the number of non-European background parliamentarians by at least five in order to reach something representing our modern character today. If we don't have a parliament that reflects us, its legitimacy will suffer. It means that those in our community don't necessarily see themselves as part of the major institutions that make up who we are."

Nearly half of all Australians were either born overseas or have at least one parent who was. But when it comes to parliament, it appears Australia is lagging behind other nations.

A lift in the Australia's official cash rate

Australia's central bank has decided to lift the nation's record-low cash rate, and further increases are likely. The official cash rate, which has not increased since November 2020, had been at that 0.1 per cent rate since November 2020. But amid rising inflation, the RBA's board decided to lift the rate by 0.25 percentage points.

Why did the RBA raise the cash rate, and what does it mean for mortgage holders?

RBA governor Philip Lowe said the board judged that now is the right time to begin withdrawing some of the extraordinary monetary support that was put in place to help the Australian economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RBA's central forecast for 2022 is for headline inflation of around six per cent and underlying inflation of around 4.75 per cent. By mid-2024, headline and underlying inflation are forecast to have moderated to around three per cent.



A quick glimpse at Australia



Aged care in a mess

Union leaders representing aged care workers endorsed a strike by some 12,000 staff. United Workers Union says members are fighting for better pay and conditions.

The decision was made the day after the Health Services Union began its legal fight to lift aged care workers' wages to about \$29 per hour, or by 25 per cent, in the Fair Work Commission.

Workers are expected to strike from eight major care providers at 160 facilities in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, affecting 12,700 residents. Aged care workers had

been promised the sector would be remediated, and would receive COVID-19 resources, but stayed at the back of the queue.

"Monumental failure by Scott Morrison and his incompetent Aged Care Services Minister means aged care workers are being forced to hold their employers accountable," Union said.

Mr Morrison has said the government will get behind an increase in aged care wages if the Fair Work Commission recommends it. Labor also pledged \$2.5 billion to the aged care sector if it is to form the government on 21 May.

They do it in Australia too

Six million eligible Australian low-income earners are set to secure the government's \$250 cost-of-living payment days before the federal general election. It was always designed to hit voters' bank accounts in the midst of the election campaign.

The tax-free payments were announced in the budget by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and will be delivered to eligible welfare recipients, veterans, pensioners, and concession cardholders.

"Today the first batch of the Coalition's \$250 cost of living payments will begin hitting the bank accounts of millions of eligible Australian pensioners, income support recipients, veterans and concession card holders," the Treasurer said.

"This comes on top of the halving of fuel excise, which has seen fuel prices come down from above \$2 per litre to around \$1.70 nationally today.

"Under our cost of living package, more than 10 million Australians will also benefit from a new one-off \$420 cost of living tax offset. Combined with our previously legislated tax cuts, low and middle-income earners will now benefit by up to \$1,500 and couples up to \$3,000 from 1 July this year," said the Federal Treasurer.

The Liberal government is using whatever it can to reach out to the voters. Some call it the power of incumbency others call it, perfect timing.

ADVERTISEMENT

As your local MP, I'm here to help.



Michelle Rowland MP

Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti

Il-varjanti tal-ortografija (It-tnax il-parti)

Waqt li nissoktaw ingibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja d-deċiżjonijiet tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar forom li għandhom jintużaw fil-kitba bil-Malti biex ikun hemm uniformità, illum nittrattaw:

Lealtà lejn nisel il-kelma (fis-sens lessikali u/jew morfologiku)

Arabja, arabesk, Arabiżmu [u mhux ~~Gharabja, gharabesk, Gharabiżmu~~]. Għalkemm in-nisel aħhari tiegħu huwa Gharbi, dan iz-zokk reġa' daħal fil-Malti mit-Taljan. Mill-għerq originali Gharbi nibqgħu niktbu: Gharab, Gharbi.

ewwieq [u mhux ~~ewieq~~].

dghufija [u mhux ~~djufija jew dghufija~~]. L-għerq huwa DGhF u fil-forma tan-nom ta' kwalità jagħtina **dghufija**, minkejja li l-gh, hawn titlissen j.

diq, diqa [u mhux ~~dieq, dieqa~~]. Ix-xhieda storika ta' dil-kelma b'għerq DJQ telimina l-possibiltà ta' vokali a twila jew ie. Fil-kelma **djieq**, l-ie hija l-vokali tad-9 forma verbali.

ghagla [u mhux ~~ghagla~~]. L-ebda forma morfologika ma tiġġustifika l-forma ingassata.

(bejn) haltejn [u mhux ~~haltejn~~]. Għalkemm ġieli tfissret bhala l-Imtenni ta' **halla** "mewġa kbira", jidher li fil-fatt ġejja minn **hala** "sitwazzjoni kundizzjoni", li g'andha l-istess tifsir fi **bhala** (< bi + hala).

Magreb [u mhux ~~Maghreb~~]. Għalkemm ta' nisel Gharbi, dil-kelma dahlet fil-Malti mit-Taljan u/jew l-Ingliz.

nagħaġ [u mhux ~~nagħaġ~~]. Għalkemm **nagħaġ** hija plural plawsibbli għal **nagħġa**, il-forma **nagħaġ**, stabbilita mill-konswettudni aktar milli mill-etimologija, ukoll tidhol sewwa f' mudell ta' plural possibbli (ara: hofra/hofor, labra/labar, fidda/fided).

(f') sikkto (f'sikkto, f'sikkithom, eċċ.) [u mhux ~~f'sikto~~]. Jidher li l-kelma hi marbuta mal-għerq SKK u mhux ma' SKT. Forom bħal **f'sikkitha**, **f'sikkithom** jikkonfermaw din l-etimologija.

Darb'ohra: nkompli fuq l-istess tema.

Premju ta' €60,000 għall-proprjetà intellettuali 2022

Tnienda premju ta' €60,000 immirat u biex jipromwovi l-holqien tal-proprjetà intellettuali f'Malta, fosthom *patents, trademarks* u disinni registrati, nazzjonali u Ewropej li jipprovdu lin-negozji, artisti u inventuri b'mezzi halli jipproteġu l-prodotti u l-kreazzjonijiet tagħhom, kif ukoll biex jiġu mhegga jinvestu fl-innovazzjoni u l-kreattività bhala benefiċċju għas-soċjetà.

Waq t li vara l-hekk imsejha *Malta Intellectual Property Award 2022*, il-Ministru għall-Ekonomija, Fondi Ewropej u Artijiet Silvio Schembri semma l-importanza ta' dawn id-drittijiet li minn studji Ewropej irriżulta li kumpaniji li jipproteġu l-proprjetà industrijali bhala medja għandhom dħul ta' 20% oghla minn ta' kumpanniji oħrajn.

Barra minnekk, il-pagi mħallsa minn sidi ta' *patents, trademarks* u/jew disinni registrati bhala medja huma 19.3% oghla minn dawk imħallsa minn ditti bla drittijiet.

It-tema għal din is-sena tal-Jum dinji tal-Proprietà Intellettuali, hija l-Proprietà Intellettuali u *z-Żgħażaġh*. Għalhekk fil-premju ta' din is-sena se jkun hemm allokati €12,000 għall-Emerging Innovation Initiative li huwa mmirat għall-inventuri bejn is-16 u 30 sena.

Imniedi fil-Portugall ktieb bi tliet lingwi dwar il-qwiel

Dan l-aħhar, fil-Librerija Muniċipali f'Tavira, fl-Algarve fil-Portugall, fil-preżenza tal-Ambaxxatur ta' Malta f'dak il-pajjiż, fil-Portugall, is-Sur John Camilleri, u d-deputat tiegħu, is-Sur Mario Buttigieg, ġie l-lonċjat il-ktieb, *Provérbios Europeus / European Proverbs / Proverbji Ewropej*, tal-Prof Rui Soares, President tal-Assoċjazzjoni Internazzjonali tal-Parmeologija (IAP), u Dr Charles Daniel Saliba, membru tal-IAP, li ġie ppubblikat mill-IAP stess.

Il-ktieb trilingwali (Portugiż, Ingliz u Malti) fih erba' taqsimiet. Fl-ewwel, f'kull waħda mit-tliet lingwi hemm lista tal-qwiel f'ordni alfabetika. Fit-tieni hemm il-qwiel ekwivalenti fit-tliet lingwi li huma miġbura flimkien, filwaqt li fit-tielet taqsim, kull qawl jingħata tifsira waħda fit-tliet lingwi.

Fl-aħhar jingħataw għadd ta' eżerċizzji biex il-qarrej jipprattika l-hiliet lingwistiċi u parmeologiċi tiegħu.

Waq it-tnedija l-Ambaxxatur Camilleri qal li permezz ta' dan il-ktieb qed tinfirex kultura popolari, tingħata spinta lill-għarfien letterarju, u fuq kollox, li jintwera kemm hi sabiha l-koeżistenza u li taħdem fl-imkien għal għan wiehed: li tapprezza s-sbuhija li nipposedu, u li dejjem infittxu kif nikkoperaw f'kull qasam tal-hajja.

Huwa fahhar b'mod speċjali lill-awturi tal-ktieb, li grazzi għall-hidma u r-riċerka



Waq it-tnedija tal-ktieb (mix-xellug): Il-Prof Rui Soares, Is-Sinjura Ana Paula Martins (is-sindku ta' Tavira), l-Ambaxxatur ta' Malta John Camilleri, u Dr Charles Saliba

tagħhom qed jgħinu li jinżammu hajjin dawn il-proverbji, kemm issa u għall-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri.

Il-Prof Soares innota li għalkemm il-Portugall u Malta jinsabu 'l bogħod, kif fil-fatt hu rifless fil-ktieb, għandhom hafna affarijiet komuni. Qal li wiehed mill-ghanijiet tal-ktieb hu li wiehed jitgħallhem l-ilsien u l-kultura Portugiża, u jhegġeg l-oħrajn li jsiru jafu dwar l-ilsien u l-kultura Maltija. Barra minnekk jgħin li jizdied l-għarfien dwar iż-żewġ pajjiżi u l-importanza tagħhom fl-Ewropa.

Min-naħa tiegħu Dr Saliba qal li l-ktieb jisvela n-natura psikologika tal-ġens Malti u dak Portugiż li għalkemm ġeografikament huma mbegħda, fl-istess waqt soċjal-

ment huma qrib xulxin. Zied jgħid li l-qarrejja Portugiżi u Maltin tal-ktieb se jkunu jistgħu jsiru jafu aktar dwar il-pajjiżi ta' xulxin — pajjiżi li fejn għandha x-taqsam l-istorja, għal aktar minn darba kienu qrib xulxin.





L-istatwa ta' San Ġorġ Martri, u (lemin) xi bandisti li ħadu sehem fil-festa



Iċċelebrata
l-festa ta' San
Ġorġ Martri

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri

It-Tnejn 25 ta' April ffil-knisja Bażilika ta' San Ġorġ fil-belt Victoria giet iffestegġ-jata l-festa liturgika ta' San Ġorġ Martri b'konċelebrazzjoni pontifikali mmexxija mill-Isqof t'Għawdex Mons. Anton Teuma. Fiha ngħalaq uffiċjalment il-Pjan Pastoral u fit-tmien tagħha sar id-dhul solenni fin-niċċa tal-istatwa titolari ta' San Ġorġ. Filgħodu sar it-tifhir ta' sbieh il-jum mill-Kapitlu Gorġjan, u filgħaxija t-tieni għasar solenni. Fit-tlett ijiem ta' qabel kien sar it-tridu, filwaqt li s-Sibt il-banda Santa Margerita ta' Sannat akkumpanjat id-dimostrazzjoni bl-istatwa ta' San Ġorġ Rebbieħ, u filgħaxija fit-Teatru Astra ttella' programm mużikali mill-banda La Stella, taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro. Dr John Galea. Imba

Il-Ħadd 24, ta' April sar il-ħruġ tal-istatwa titolar ta' San Ġorġ fil-bieb ewlieni tal-bażilika u l-Isqof Teuma mexxa Velja tal-Martirju ta' San Ġorġ.



125 Sena mill-wasla tal-Istatwa ta' Santa Marija f'Għawdex

Din is-sena hi speċjali għall-Komunità Parrokkjali tal-Katidral u għas-Socjetà Filarmonika 'Leone', f'Victoria li qed tfakkar grajja ta' 125 sena ilu, f'Lulju 1897. Is-Socjetà Filarmonika 'Leone' qed tiffestegġja l-wasla tal-istatwa artistika ta' Santa Marija (lemin) f'Għawdex li mbagħad tbierket fit-13 ta' Awwissu tal-istess sena.

Wara, fid-29 ta' April tal-1956 l-istatwa giet irregalata lill-Knisja Mariċi u Kati-drali ta' Għawdex biex kull sena, fil-15 ta' Awwissu ssir il-purċissjoni bis-sehem tal-banda Leone.

Dan l-anniversarju tfakkar b'sensiela ta' attivitajiet li fethu l-Ħadd 24 ta' April. Sar ukoll logo speċjali li juri l-istatwa ta' Santa Marija, u fil-parti t'isfel l-iskrizzjoni *125 sena Sigill fuq Qalbna!* Gie wkoll inawgurat il-pavaljun il-gdid tal-vara.

Il-Gimgha 29 ta' April, f'għeluq is-66 sena mill-ghotja tal-istatwa lill-Katidral, Mons. Isqof, Anton Teuma mexxa Pontifikal Solenni, bis-sehem tal-Banda Leone u l-Aurora Youth Choir.

Dakinhar filgħaxija mbagħad, fis-sala tal-Espożizzjonijiet u l-Konferenzi fil-Każin tal-ban-da Leone infethet, wirja mill-Ministru għal Għawdex, Clint Camilleri dwar il-Festa Maltija li tteggħet bil-finanzjament parzjali ta' Fondi Ewropej LEADER immex-xija mill-Gozo Action Group Foundation.

**World War II diary:
10th May 1942:**

Fiercest aerial attack the world had ever witnessed

On May 10, 1942, the island was at the end of what it was described, as the fiercest aerial attack the world had ever known. Royal Navy Commander Edward Woolley recounted what he had experienced that morning as he was at Hamrun working with Army Bomb Disposal Officer, Lt Thomas Blackwell, to deal with an unexploded G mine.

He said: "Just as we left a most terrific barrage started right above us. It was so sudden we didn't even have time to take cover, and perforce had to watch what was probably the fiercest and most concentrated aerial attack the world has ever known".

He went on to say that during the night a single ship had run the gauntlet to Malta and was being unloaded at top speed. Jerry (the Germans) sent over about a hundred Stukas to get it. Only the day before they had received reinforcements of Spitfires and the Gunners and were given unlimited fire; and they made use of them.

He continued to explain that the air was literally black with barrage, planes and bits of planes. "The Spits got so excited they followed the Stukas right through the barrage and we lost a couple. Jerry lost about seventy the highest day's loss by a long way. The whole affair lasted about twenty minutes and we stood in the doorway to a house the whole time, never been so frightened in my life."

That same day minelayer **HMS Welshman** arrived in Grand Harbour with spare parts and 105 RAF maintenance crew for Spitfires to Malta as part of Operation Bowery. It was also loaded to the limit with 540 tons of stores including the supply for Malta of 15 tons of smoke-making compound, as well as 96 Rolls Royce Merlin aircraft engines, over 80,000 rounds of bofors shells, plus medicines, tinned meat, powdered milk and dehydrated foodstuffs.

Welshman had embarked on 7th May and once at sea, was disguised as the French super destroyer **Leopard** flying French colours to cover its passage through the Mediterranean.

The disguise is said to have fooled French and German reconnaissance aircraft and **Welshman** completed its passage to Malta unchallenged, entering Grand Harbour early that morning having narrowly missed two mines on its way in.

May 14-18: Special Olympics Malta 2022

For five days, May 14-18, Malta will host the Special Olympics Invitational Games 2022 with the participation of around 1000 athletes from 23 countries across Europe and beyond, 500 of them from Malta. It will be the first International Special Olympics event in Europe since the pandemic

The Maltese Government is investing resources and funds in creating this inclusive event for all athletes who despite their disabilities will be showcasing their sporting prowess, hard work, and determination as most of them have already managed to do in previous editions while representing Malta.

At the signing ceremony of the government's MoU, Dr. Lydia Abela, President of

SpecialOlympics Malta had promised that Maltese and Gozitans would be involved in every phase of the event because Malta is committed to making these the People's Games, which instill confidence in athletes, celebrate their talents, and show that the country is a model of equality.

Athletes will compete in six sports, football, athletics, bowls, tenpin bowling, table tennis, and swimming at Marsa, Tal-Qroqq and St Julians.

The participating nations will be MALTA, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, UAE, and the USA.

HOW TO VOTE

Labor

CHRIS BOWEN MP
LABOR FOR McMAHON

Step 1.

The House of Representatives

Start here and you must number every box.

(Small green ballot paper)

You must number every box.

Electoral division of McMAHON.

Labor

1

BOWEN, Chris

LABOR

5

SALIBA, Marie

6

FORD, Scott

4

SINGHA, Vivek

2

O'NEILL, Astrid

3

SHAMSABAD, Cameron

Step 2.

The Senate

Place a number in box V. Then number the boxes as shown below.

A

4

ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

E

2

THE GREENS

H

6

REASON AUSTRALIA

M

3

SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND BARNBYS PARTY

T

5

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

V

Labor

1

LABOR

Remember: You must number at least 6 boxes above the line.



Anthony Albanese and Labor have a plan for a better future that will take Australia forward.

Labor will:

- **Strengthen Medicare** by making it easier to see the doctor.
- **Create secure local jobs** by investing in fee-free TAFE and more university places, and making your job more secure with better pay and conditions.
- **Make child care cheaper** so that it's easier for working families to get ahead.
- **Make more things here in Australia.** Labor will work with business to invest in manufacturing and renewables to create more Australian jobs.

For full details of our policies, please visit alp.org.au

A Better Future.

Labor

Authorised by Chris Bowen MP, ALP, Shops 3 & 4, 398 Hamilton Road, Fairfield West, NSW 2165.



An interesting information morning for the elderly

The good-sized crowd that attended the information programme (above) and (below): The committee members and speakers at the information session. From left: Frances Innis, Elettra Brown, Frances Montesin, Andrea Hisoler, Jacqueline Andres, Nathalie Gatt, CG Lawrence Buhagiar, and Lawrence Gatt

Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc has been synonymous with delivering essential information to the Maltese elderly in NSW. Their latest information morning held at San Gorg Preca Rooms at Greystanes was another success with about 50 persons attending.

The Group normally holds these information seminars in the evenings but this time it experimented with a session in the morning. It appears that the morning is better suited for the elderly.

Lawrence Gatt, the treasurer of the group, explained the group was encouraged by the attendance and the many questions asked as it was shown that the subject discussed the Aged Care system is a mine-field and needs to be examined and explained.

He thanked all those that assisted in the organisation of the information morning.



Jacqueline Andres, the service delivery coordinator at Cumberland Council who was one of the main speakers said she wanted to congratulate the organisers of this information session. "It was so well attended; you did a wonderful job of promoting it. For us, it was a great success; we loved getting so many questions/interest," she said.

Andrea Hisoler, Service Development Intake Officer from the same Council talked about independent

living, services available, and the importance that elderly people should make better use of the services available, be informed, and have the know-how to negotiate the system.

Present for the seminar was Lawrence Buhagiar, the Consul General for Malta in NSW. He took the opportunity to explain the new requirements when applying for the renewal of the Maltese passport. He explained that the offices are at present very busy and delays could be experienced.

Holding Biggest Morning Tea for a good cause

When the Illawarra Maltese Australians was formed, the organisers wanted to highlight the great altruism of the Maltese community and to make a difference in their community by supporting worthy causes.

This year, they are holding the Biggest Maltese Morning Tea in support of people living with cancer, with proceeds going to Cancer Council NSW.

There will be games, kids activities, raffles and of course a yummy Maltese morning tea. The venue also has a playground for the youngest among the Maltese-Australians!

More information in the poster (left) One can book via email or on 0405 126 444.

Donate to this fundraising effort We thank you for your support

La Valette Social Centre coach to Melrose Park Berrima May 13

The La Valette SC is organising a coach tour to Melrose Park Berrima. It leaves Greystanes at 7 45 am from near the Church, and from the Centre in Blacktown at 8.15 am.

Cost, that includes coach and morning tea is \$30.

Lunch at Campbelltown Catholic Club after mass at one's own expense. The Mass will be in the open so bring a chair. Book with name, phone number and \$10 dep with Frances 0412 320 432, Antoinette 96712992, or Centre 96225847.



Biggest Maltese Morning Tea

In support of people impacted by cancer

11:30 am on Sunday 29th May 2022

Dapto Ribbonwood Centre

Members \$18 | Non-Members \$20 | Children \$10

Entry includes Morning Tea with a selection of
Sweet and Savoury Maltese treats, tea and coffee

Games
Raffles
Trivia

Face Painting
Kids activities

Proceeds will be donated to Cancer Council NSW

Book via the form by Monday 23rd May
Contact us on 0405 126 444
illawarramalteseaustralians@gmail.com



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea



The Executive Committee (from left): Neville Zammit, Chanel Borg, Michael Zammit, Lawrence Buhagiar (Consul General for Malta in NSW), Sydney Borg, Wayne Gatt and Jonathan Agius

AMCC planning trade mission to Malta in 2023

The Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce held its Annual General Meeting at the offices of KPMG in Parramatta, hosted by committee member Wayne Gatt a partner of KPMG. The representatives from Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia were also present. Those who could not attend all joined via teams on line.

One of the main items on the agenda was the election of the Executive and committee that resulted as follows:

National President: Sydney JP Borg; National Vice President: Neville Zammit; National Treasurer: Michael Zammit; National Secretary: Clive Desira

Martin Peregin was elected President of Victoria, Joseph Calleja as President of Western Australia, and Sandra Micallef of Queensland.

During the same sitting further discussion was held in reference to the launch of the Young Members of AMCC that will occur later this year, as well as the Trade Mission to Malta that is scheduled for 2023.

The adding of some social events were included in this year's calendar and in particular the annual AMCC Ball in September 2022, for which all Maltese wishing to attend are being invited to attend.

The Consulate General of Malta in Melbourne

The High Commission of Malta is pleased to announce that the telephone lines at the Consulate General of Malta in Melbourne are now fully operational, and may be contacted using the following telephone number: +61 (03) 9670 8427

The High Commission would like to thank the general public for their cooperation and apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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.

**(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).

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.


Community News



MALTESE VOICES
WITH MARTHESE CARUANA

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
AN HOUR OF MUSIC FROM MALTESE ARTISTS

LISTEN FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE
WWW.893FM.COM.AU
LISTEN LIVE OR ON DEMAND,
ALSO AVAILABLE ON TUNEIN



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.

Applications are also welcome for paid positions from people to assist in language teaching. For more information, call 0419 418 547. Email: mls@mccnsw.org.au





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Family law is our specialty.

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- child support, intervention orders.
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- Maltese Property matters.

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

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

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



La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847



La Valette Social Centre is open for business as usual on Thursday for Respite and on Saturdays for Mass and entertainment. The bar and restaurant are available.

The next activity is the postponed Annual General Meeting for the association's financial members which will be now held on Friday 27th May from 7pm.

St Nicholas Festa
Committee Plumpton -NSW

The Events for the rest of 2022

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

Sports



Hibernians win 13th Malta football Championship

FINAL RESULTS

Top 6 Round
Gżira U v Hibernians 2-1
Floriana v Gudja U 2-1
Hamrun v Birkirkara 1-0

Playout Round
Valletta v Sta Lucia 2-1
Balzan v Sliema W 1-0
Sirens v Mosta 3-2

Top 6 Round
Hibernians v Birkirkara 3-1
Floriana v Hamrun S 0-0
Gżira U v Gudja U 3-1

Playout Round
Mosta v Valletta 3-2
Balzan v Sirens 3-2
Sliema v Sta Lucia 2-1

They won the title with a game to spare, the previous week, therefore could afford to lose this one and still celebrate the winning of the crown (with 54 points) at Paola Square till late at night.

For some, the number 13 is regarded as unlucky. Not for Hibernians however as on Saturday, despite losing to Gżira in their final match of the Top 6 Round, they managed to win Malta's BOV Football Championship for the 13th time in their history. They won the title with a game to

spare, the previous week, therefore could afford to lose this one and still celebrate the winning of the crown (with 54 points) at Paola Square till late at night.

Floriana finished runners-up with 51 points and will participate in next term's UEFA Europa League. Meanwhile, by their 1-0 victory over Birkirkara, Hamrun Spartans snatched third place two points ahead of Birkirkara in the standing and secured a place in next season's UEFA Conference League.

Either Gżira (fourth) or Birkirkara (fifth) will get the other vacant spot in the Confer-

ence League depending on who wins the FA Trophy, the semi-finals of which will be played this Wednesday. Hibs take on Floriana and Valletta face Sta Lucia.

Another important decision was Sta Lucia's relegation. Defeats against Sliema Wanderers and Valletta in their last two outings saw to that. Balzan escaped the drop by the skin of their teeth thanks to victories over Sirens and Mosta.

At the end of their game against Gżira Hibernians, players Andrei Agius and Bjorn Kristensen were presented with the BOV League trophy.

Parramatta suffer 1-0 back-to-back defeats

Parramatta FC suffered 1-0 back-to-back defeats in the past fortnight, in the Football NSW League 3 Mens as they keep looking for answers to turn their season around.

The previous week Parramatta went up against Nepean FC away but struggled to find the back of the opposing net with the host finding victory at the death.

Then over the weekend, Parramatta FC hosted league leaders, Hawkesbury City FC at Melita Stadium. They went into the break all square, but a goal in the 60th minute gave Hawkesbury the win. The Eagles went all out for the leveller but keeper Daniel Schwarzer foiled them.

Will the phoenix rise again?

Many have been asking what is happening at the Parramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club. The club was founded 66 years ago, in 1956 and from a humble beginning reached great heights by competing in Australia's top football leagues. The Melita Stadium was officially opened in July 1981.

There was no hint of the hay days when the club got together for the 2022 Annual General Meeting, at the clubrooms. The dedi-

cated members that turned up were told that the club is at a crossroads.

The current management under the leadership of Mark Tanti is young, enthusiastic, and determined to restart from the bottom. The meeting approved the plans to start juniors' teams under the name of Melita Eagles within the Granville district.

Attempts to reach an agreement with the La Valette Centre at Blacktown failed, although the shift to

that is due to expire in 18 months was also discussed, but the club needs to structurally and financially transform itself in such a short time. Therefore re-rendering is a huge challenge.

One has to admire the youthful committee in its bid to put the name Melita Eagles back where it belongs. However, this can only be achieved if members are attracted back to this club, so rich in history.

A big blow for the Eagles is the announcement that George Ellul, who has served continuously in the committee for 40 years, and with his wife Carmen and his family have been synonymous with Melita Eagles is to call it a day.

◀At the AGM. From left: George Ellul, Carina Tanti, Mark Tanti, Anthony Theuma, Gerald Sultana, and Paul Buttigieg

