



The Voice of the Maltese

**Issue
277**

(We are for the Greater Malta)

**A fortnightly print
and digital magazine**

June 21, 2022

Island of Comino Malta

**Malta elected to
the UN Security
Council, and
taken off FATF
grey-list**

**Parliament votes
in favour of IVF
law amendments**

Turn to pages 12 and 13

The beautiful island of Comino or Kemmuna (in Maltese), Malta's third-largest island area: 3.5 km² midway between the islands of Malta and Gozo. It is only inhabited by a handful of people and is visited in the thousands for day trips, particularly in the summer months.

The island is mostly a rocky wilderness largely undeveloped, with jagged cliffs, two small sandy beaches, coves, creeks and a coastline dotted with deep caves.

It is best known for its crystal clear and azure-coloured water, especially the Blue Lagoon.

Photo: Gemma Louise Hemingray

Financial director, Maltese football club president only Malta-born to get 2022 Queen's birthday award

Anton Tagliaferro from NSW, who is well known in financial circles in Australia, and in football circles in Malta, is the only Malta-born recipient that *The Voice of the Maltese* could identify as having been awarded the OAM for service to charitable organisations, and to the investment sector in the 2022 Queen's birthday awards.

Mr Tagliaferro is among the 992 Australians, including 669 in the General Division of the Order of Australia, and awards for meritorious, distinguished and conspicuous service honoured by General David John Hurley, AC, DSC, FTSE, the Governor-General.

Anton was born in Sliema. For a while his family lived in Valletta, but then at the age of eight the family moved to Balzan. He attended St Aloysius College in Birkirkara (was in the same class and was a good friend of Dr Victor Calvagna who was killed in a car accident a few months ago in Malta).

In his youth he played football in the Balzan FC (then Balzan Youths) youths team

In 1978, at age 18 he left Malta to study medicine initially, in the UK, but he was not that keen on a medical profession, therefore he changed course and studied accountancy. After six years he became a Chartered Accountant with the Deloitte's accounting firm, which then offered him a job in Sydney that also included residency.

When his contract with Deloitte expired he decided to stay on in Australia and joined Prudential, whose principal products and services provided include life insurance, annuities and mutual funds. He kept moving around and joined other similar companies, such as County Natwest and Perpetual. Then in 1998 Anton set up the funds management company Investors Mutual Ltd (IML), which became one of Australia's most respected value fund managers.

The father of three – two boys and a girl – has also always been keen on football and for over five years ran a football academy in Sydney, the Milan Soccer School.

He wasn't a keen follower of Maltese football, but still treasured that link playing for the Balzan youth team, therefore during a holiday in Malta with his son, and following a visit to the Balzan FC club, he recog-



Mr Anton Tagliaferro the financial director and philanthropist

nised an old friend of his, a former Balzan player and started talking. He asked what if they needed any help, and in 2012 became a small sponsor of Balzan FC. Three years later, in 2015, he became main sponsor and President of the Maltese Premier League football club.

Anton Tagliaferro still lives in Australia. Before the Covid-19 pandemic he used to make frequent visits to Malta to watch the team play and to meet other committee members to make up the important decisions.

Apart from that, he still doubles up as Investment Director of IML. He told *The Voice of the Maltese* that although he intends to retire at the end of 2022 to focus on his fitness, on travel and on charitable work through the TAG Foundation that he set up in 2012, he is to retain his position at IML.

Among the charitable organisa-

tions that Anton Tagliaferro OAM helps and that earned him the Queen's Award, are the Australian Sport Foundation, St Edmunds College, Wahroonga, and Former Board Member, St Lucy's School Wahroonga, Sydney University and Co-Chairman, Central Coast Mariners Academy, since 2019.

He is also the author 20 LESSONS from 20 YEARS of Quality and Value Investing, IML, 2020, and *The World's 99 Greatest Investors*, by Charlotte Mer-ton and Magnus, 2014.

In addition to the 669 recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia (8 AC, 33 AO, 200 AM and 428 OAM), the Honours list includes: 37 recipients of awards in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (1 AC, 2 AO, 16 AM and 18 OAM); 201 Meritorious awards, and 85 Distinguished and Conspicuous awards

Other features of the list include: 45.9 per cent of awards in the General Division to women; 43.6

per cent of awards in the General Division for community service; 92 Australians recognised for their contribution in support of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (these recipients will be added to the COVID-19 Honours roll).

**There may be others of Maltese descent or may not have Maltese sounding name that may have been honoured. Please get in touch with maltesevoice@gmail.com if you know of any.*



Mr Anton Tagliaferro the Maltese football club president

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

When does a de facto relationship end? (Part 1)

In this two-part article, we discuss the High Court's recent decision in *Fairbairn v Radecki* [2022] and what it means for de facto partners who disagree about when, or whether, their relationship has come to an end.

by Paul SANT

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) has power under section 90SM of the *Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)* to effect a division of assets, liabilities and/or superannuation, that is, a property settlement between two parties. It only has the power to do this **after** the breakdown of a de facto relationship. So, what happens where one party considers that a de facto relationship has broken down and the other doesn't? How does the court decide whether or not a de facto relationship has come to an end?

Interestingly, the *Family Law Act* defines what a de facto relationship is¹ (and even includes a subsection titled '*Working out if persons have a relationship as a couple*') but there is no definition or reference to when a de facto relationship has broken down.

Many arguments before the family law courts surrounding de facto relationships centre on whether a de facto relationship actually existed in the first place. If the court finds that a de facto relationship did not exist, it cannot make any orders to divide assets or otherwise alter property interests under the *Family Law Act*.

The High Court's decision in *Fairbairn v Radecki* is significant, as the primary argument between the parties was not whether a de facto relationship existed, but rather, whether the de facto relationship had ended.

Background

Mr Radecki, the de facto husband, and Ms Fairbairn, the de facto wife, commenced living together in late 2005/early 2006. They lived together in a home owned by Ms Fairbairn but agreed that they would keep their respective assets

separate as they were both in their 50s and each had adult children from previous relationships.

The couple entered into a 'Domestic Relationships Agreement (Cohabitation Agreement)' in 2010, which recorded their intention to keep their assets separate, and that Ms Fairbairn would continue to be the sole owner of the home the couple lived in. They then updated this agreement in 2015 when Mr Radecki purchased a new property to provide that this property would remain Mr Radecki's sole property.

Ms Fairbairn's cognitive health began to decline from 2015 and by 2017 her doctors had diagnosed her with dementia. By this point, the couple were living in separate rooms in the home. Around this time, Mr Radecki went on a three-month overseas trip, despite Ms Fairbairn's condition quickly deteriorating.

While Mr Radecki was overseas and whilst she still had capacity to make decisions, Ms Fairbairn executed an Enduring Power of Attorney in favour of her children who, at her request, were then able to remove her access to her bank accounts. She also qualified to move into an aged care facility by mid-2017.

On returning from his three-month overseas trip, Mr Radecki coerced Ms Fairbairn to undo the protective steps that she and her children had taken to isolate her assets, at a time when Ms Fairbairn was more vulnerable and easily coerced. Mr Radecki's actions created a divide between him and Ms Fairbairn's children.

The rift between Mr Radecki and Ms Fairbairn's children intensified in July 2017, when Mr Radecki took Ms Fairbairn to a courthouse to have the existing Enduring Power of Attorney revoked and a new one made in favour of himself and her brother.

Then, after Ms Fairbairn was admitted

to hospital in late 2017, Mr Radecki arranged for a solicitor to attend Ms Fairbairn to draft an updated will.

This updated will contained more favourable terms to Mr Radecki than Ms Fairbairn's previous will. The updated will provided Mr Radecki with a life estate in Ms Fairbairn's home, meaning that following her death, he could continue living in the home for the remainder of his life, whereas the previous will allowed him to continue living in the home for six months following her death. This was despite Mr Radecki owning two of his own properties.

The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) eventually appointed the NSW Trustee and Guardian (TAG) as the financial manager of Ms Fairbairn in January 2018 as neither Mr Radecki nor Ms Fairbairn's children could co-operate in the management of Ms Fairbairn's affairs. During the NCAT hearing, Ms Fairbairn gave evidence that she did not remember going to the courthouse to revoke her previous Enduring Power of Attorney. NCAT found that she had been significantly cognitively impaired and did not understand what she was signing.

In March 2018, TAG decided that it was in Ms Fairbairn's best interests to move into aged care and sought to sell her home to be able to fund this. Mr Radecki was still living in the home and opposed the sale. He instead proposed that Ms Fairbairn's superannuation be used to fund her aged care costs, or alternatively, that he initially pay for these costs but that he later be reimbursed from her estate.

TAG then commenced proceedings in what was then the Federal Circuit Court of Australia for family law property orders, as it believed that the parties' de facto relationship had ended.

TAG sought an Order for Ms Fairbairn's home to be sold, intending that the sale proceeds would fund her move into aged care. Interestingly, that Order could have been sought under s16G of the *NSW Trustee and Guardianship Act 2009*. Due to the uncooperative relationship between Mr Radecki and Ms Fairbairn's children, TAG determined it would best serve Ms Fairbairn's interests to commence proceedings under the *Family Law Act* to sever property matters between her and Mr Radecki entirely.

Stay tuned for part 2, which will reveal what the High Court ultimately decided and why.

¹ Section 4AA.

² The Federal Circuit Court of Australia and the Family Court of Australia have now merged into one court, being the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA).

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



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Maltese Spoken



Reaching the top in State politics

Our Personality of the month for June is an exceptional politician of Maltese descent. To the best of his knowledge, he is the second Labor politician of Maltese heritage to be elected to the NSW Parliament, the first being former Minister John Aquilina. Ever since his famous namesake Pete Buttigieg ran for the Presidency in the United States, everyone now spells and pronounces his name correctly!

Mark Robert Buttigieg

Mark Robert Buttigieg was born in Darlinghurst, Sydney 11 June 1966 to Maltese parents Victor and Carmen. He is married to Anna Lignou and they have a son, Gerard who is 18 years old. Mark also has a sister, Fiona.

He was elected to the NSW Parliament as a Labor member of the Legislative Council (The NSW Upper House) in March 2019, and is currently the Opposition Whip in that house, where one of his many but most important jobs is to ensure all Labor members are in the house and voting with Labor when there is a vote.

Victor, Mark's father is originally from Hamrun, and his mother Carmen, is from Naxxar. Mark told *The Voice of the Maltese*, "I never met my paternal grandfather Joseph Buttigieg who was in the Navy but I did meet my paternal grandmother Consiglia (nee Dimech) when she came to visit us from Malta at our Maroubra home in the 1970's.

"I fondly recall her putting my sister and me to bed with comforting night-time prayers in Maltese. My maternal grandparents Gilardu and Annunziata Mercieca, both from Naxxar, immigrated to Australia in 1955 on the ocean liner, the Sorriento, with their children, Carmen (my mum), Josephine (now passed away) and



Robert and Vincent. Mark's dad, Victor, immigrated separately in the same year as a 17-year-old. They met each other at a Maltese Ball at Paddington Town Hall.

He had a very close relationship with his maternal grandparents, who were very loving to him and gave him his main cultural connection with Malta through their love, language, food, stories, and habits.

Nannu Gilardu sparked his first interest in politics. He was a blacksmith at the "Falcon Forge" and Secretary of the Malta Labour Party club in Naxxar.

At Christmas, a few years back, Uncle Robert kindly gave Mark his Malta Labour Party badge as a present, which he said he will forever treasure. Mark proudly wore it when he was giving his inaugural speech in Parliament. His father, Victor was also a loyal trade unionist, and both of them believe in the power of Labor Government to make a real difference in working people's lives.

As a child, Mark remembers attending many Melita Eagles games at Granville with his grandfather and father. He is sure that his politics have also been influenced by his Catholic upbringing, which stresses forgiveness and caring for others.

Mark left school at age 15 and completed an Electrical Trade Apprenticeship with the Sydney County Council. He went on to complete a Certificate in Electrical Engineering at TAFE, and then worked as an Electrical Network Operator for Sydney Electricity, which later became Ausgrid.

**PERSONALITY
OF THE MONTH
OF THE MONTH**

Mark Buttigieg with wife Anna and son Gerard



**Continued on page 5*

A man proud of his Maltese heritage

**Continued from page 4*

During that time, his interest in politics continued to grow and he enrolled in and completed a degree in Political Science and then went on to gain a First Class Honours Degree in Economics.

In 2012, he joined the Electrical Trades Union as an Organiser. There he spent the next seven years working on behalf of workers' rights in the electricity industry and fighting against the privatisation of the electricity network.

Mark is proud of his Maltese heritage and has been lucky enough to visit Malta on many occasions. He feels a deep connection with the Mediterranean and its peoples not only because of his Maltese heritage but because his wife is a Greek national who immigrated to Australia in 1997 – so they often visit Greece as well as Malta.

Mark reflects on the Maltese contribution to Australia, "the Maltese have made such a massive contribution to Australian society. The first immigrants were of course engaged in many occupations from cane cutters in Queensland to wharfies to tradespeople - all of who helped to build the culturally diverse and strong post-war economy which are the foundations of the advanced and modern society we enjoy today.

"Nowadays, the second and third generation Maltese Australians such as myself enjoy the fruits of that labour, and we should always remember where we came from and how we got here because it doesn't happen automatically".

Malta was of course, the nurse of the Mediterranean in both world wars. He recalls his father telling him of his memories as a five-year-old being carried by his mother into the underground bomb shelters.



Mark Buttigieg MP (extreme right) with (from left): his dad Victor, mum Carmen, his son Gerard and wife Anna

There is a strong connection between Malta's role in the wars and Australians fighting in the Mediterranean who were able to gain care and respite in Malta.

(If you would like to read Mark Buttigieg's inaugural speech to the parliament to see what he stands for, you can find it here:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/member/files/2253/Hon%20Mark%20Buttigieg%20-%20First%20speech.pdf>)



Mark Buttigieg (centre) flanked by Lawrence Dimech and Cllr Lisa Lake, Mayor of the City of Cumberland at the recent Sette Giugno commemoration at the Maltese Bicentennial Monument

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Francis Michael Forde: 15th Prime Minister of Australia

Served only eight days in office

6 July 1945 – 13 July 1945)

Frank Forde was an Australian politician who served as prime minister of Australia from for only eight days, from 6 to 13 July 1945. He was the deputy leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) from 1932 to 1946. He served as prime minister in a caretaker capacity after the death of John Curtin, and is the shortest-serving prime minister in Australia's history.

Researched by RonBorg

Forde was born the second of six children in Mitchell, Queensland to Irish Catholic immigrant parents. His father from Ballinaglera was a railway supervisor, and his mother was Ellen (nee' Quirk), from Tipperary. He began his education at the local state school, but later went to Christian Brothers' College Toowoomba, where he later became a junior teacher till the age of 20, when he became a telegraphy clerk with the Queensland Railways at Toowoomba.

He studied telegraphy and became a Telegraphist in the Postmaster-General's Department in Brisbane where he became an Electrical Engineer. Transferred to Rockhampton in 1914, he also developed social skills of public speaking, debating, and even dancing, which made him popular in many organisations such as the Australian Workers' Union, the Australian Natives' Organisation, and the Rockhampton Workers' Political Organisation. He joined the Labor party in 1915.

At age 26, in May 1917, Forde was elected to the Queensland Legislative As-

sembly with a comfortable majority. He then transferred to the House of Representatives in 1922 federal Election winning the Division of Capricornia.

When Labor won the Federal Election in October 1929, his dynamic energy soon earned him the promotion to Assistant Minister for Trade and Customs (1929-31), Acting Minister for Markets and Transport (1930-32), and Minister for Trades and Customs (1931).

Early the following year he became deputy Leader of the Labor Party, and soon after he was elected as Deputy Leader of the Federal Labor Party, the position he held until 1946. When Scullin resigned as Labor Party leader in 1935, he



had hoped to become party leader. However, he lost by just one vote to John Curtin – by 10 votes to 11.

In 1941 as well as being Deputy Prime Minister in the Curtin Government, Forde became the Minister for the Army, and during World War II he became possibly the third most powerful public figure in Australia after Curtin and General Douglas MacArthur. He served on the Advisory War Council and in the War Cabinet (from 1941).

On the 5th July 1945, Prime Minister John Curtin died in office, and Frank Forde succeeded him as Prime Minister while the Labour Party elected a new leader.

Following Curtin's death, Frank contested a party leadership ballot against Norman Makin and Ben Chifley, but the caucus soundly rejected him as permanent party leader in favour of the more charismatic Ben Chifley. Frank stayed on as deputy leader and Minister for the Army in the Chifley Government, but in the 1946 election he lost the electoral seat of Capricornia that he had held for 24 years.

*Continued on page 7



Frank Forde (left) and John Curtin who he succeeded as Prime Minister



Forde signing the United Nations Charter as Australia's lead delegate to the 1945 San Francisco Conference

A keen and dedicated politician

**Continued from page 6*

The Chifley's Government rewarded Frank Forde for his long and loyal service to the party by appointing him High Commissioner to Canada, where he fulfilled his diplomatic duties with distinction. Such was his excellence, that Sir Robert Menzies, the new Liberal Prime Minister extended his term until 1953. Afterwards, he returned to Australia to become the Labor Party's State Organiser.

Forde relished his time as High Commissioner in Canada so much that he stated

Frank Forde (extreme left) with five Senior Allied commanders in New Guinea in October 1942. From left: Left to right: Gen Douglas MacArthur; General Sir Thomas Blamey, Lieutenant General George C. Kenney, Lieutenant General Edmund Herring, and Brigadier General Kenneth Walker



Frank Forde with his wife Vera and their children (left to right) Mercia, Mary, Gerard and Clare at their home in Strathfield, Sydney in 1940

that the six-year period was the happiest in his life.

Forde was a keen politician, so he once again entered politics and in the May 1954 election contested the seat of Bundaberg but was defeated. At the age of 65, he stood again for the State Election seat of Flinders that he held in May 1956, but lost it in August the following year by one vote!

In April 1964 Prime Minister Robert Menzies, who had become Forde's friend, asked him to represent Australia at General Douglas MacArthur's funeral in Nor-

folk Virginia USA, a commission he was very proud to accept. After politics, Frank Forde retired to Brisbane where he devoted himself to Catholic charity work.

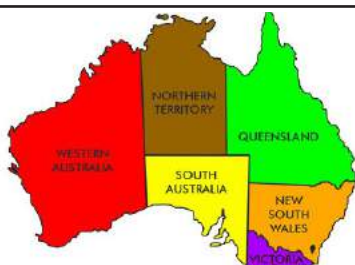
Forde was a short 'stocky' man who was always concerned about his physical appearance and his health, consequently, he was a teetotal and a non-smoker. In February 1925 he married Veronica Catherine O'Reilly at St. Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, and had three daughters and a son.

He died on 28th January 1983 in Brisbane Australia and was honoured with a State Funeral that proceeded from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Lucia to the Toowong Cemetery. He was survived by his daughters. His portrait (by Joshua Smith) is held in Parliament House, and his bust is located on the Prime Minister's Avenue in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

Forde is typically remembered as the man who was prime minister for a week or, even more patronisingly, as 'always the bridesmaid, never the bride'. Such expressions obscure the fact that his parliamentary career was characterised much more by success than failure.!

**In the next issue we will feature John Malcolm Frazer, who did more for multiculturalism than most governments. In 1975 the parties in opposition blocked supply to force the Whitlam Government to an election and the historical event of the dismissal by Governor General Sir John Kerr.*

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Tassew kburin li ahna Ghawdxin

Lawrence Cauchi minn Melbourne jikteb:

Bhal hafna Ghawdxin li ġejna l-Awstralja snin twal ilu, hafna minna mhux għax ridna imma għax ġejna mgieghla minhabba li f'Malta ma kienx hemm xogħol biżżejjed għall-familji tagħna, nibqgħu kburin li ġejjin mill-gżira tat-Tliet Għojiet u qatt m'ahna se ninsew minn fejn ġejna.

Allura m'għandux jonqos li nkun qed ngħid dak li jhossu Ghawdxin ohra bħali meta nisimghu jew naqraw dwar din il-gżira sabiha u dwar il-hiliet ta' Ghawdxin bħalna. Hekk l-ewwel paġna li nftitx fil-magazine *The Voice* hi dwar Ghawdex.

Fl-ahħar hargha kellna bonus meta b'tant prominenza ippubblikajtu l-intervista mal-artist/pittur Pawlu Camilleri Cauchi. Kienet intervista li tat gieh tassew mis-thoqq lil dan i-pittur Ghawdxin, wiehed mill-ulied tal-mibki Wistin Camilleri li nħaseb m'hawnx Ghawdxin ta' ċerta età li ma jiftakrux.

Nagħti hajr lill-editur u wkoll lil Charles Spiteri li għamel l-intervista. Niftakar li Charles jikteb ukoll fil-Maltese *Herald*,

TVoM Standing up for our rights

Tony. Axiak from Glenn Forrest, West Australia writes:

We have many so-called pundits and Facebook opinionated scribes, but no one stands up for the Maltese community like *The Voice of the Maltese*. When we have problems with BOV, SBSTV, Governments, other authorities and others, *The Voice* is at the forefront. You stand up for us where others are so much way out of this planet.

Thank you. Someone needs to stick his neck out for the rest.

Ghawdxin iehor pur li minn kitbietu jidher li għandu ferm għal qalbu lil Ghawdex. Niftakru wkoll bħala fotografu tajjeb hafna.

Hafna Ghawdxin għadna niltaqgħu fid-djar ta' xulxin u hafna drabi nitkellmu dwar Ghawdex u dak li naraw f'*The Voice*, u nithajru ninzlu nżuru Ghawdex. Hafna se nerggħu nżuruh din is-sena biex wara sentejn, u whud minna aktar, naraw il-progress li sar fih.

Ghawdex minn dejjem kellu wlied li għamlu isem, kemm jekk fl-amministratzjoni, fejn kellna saħansitra President ta' Malta. Anke l-Perit Mintoff kellu parentela Ghawdxija.

Minbarra l-ahwa Camilleri Cauchi, jis-pikkaw ukoll nies f'sezzjonijiet differenti tal-kultura, kemm jekk kittieba, pitturi, kantanti, mużiċisti, eċċ. Ahna kburin ukoll li fil-leġislatura preżenti, il-Prim Ministru Malti hatar tliet Ministri minn Ghawdex fil-kabinett tiegħu.

Malta and SBSTV

Salv Pirota from Sunshine Victoria writes:

I am an avid viewer of SBSTV; they have excellent programmes. One to mention was Tony Robinson's *WWII by Drone, The Siege of Malta*. It was factual and entertaining about an underwater survey by drone. Experts like Prof Gambin explored the defenses of Malta to discover how the island and its people survived World War II.

What I liked most is, that that there was lots of filming under water. However, when they showed the aerial shots were of modern Malta not of old.

One tends to forget that Malta holds the record of the heaviest sustained bombing attacks; some 154 days and nights and 6,700 tons of bombs. It was bombed more than London, Paris, Rome, Berlin and the thers.

We got the George Cross, yet in the end most of the Maltese population was 'sent' to Australia, Canada etc.

So much for being victorious!

Two weights two measures

Paul Zammit from St Kilda, Victoria writes:

While condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine without reservation, sometimes I get the impression that all this could have been avoided if the world leaders were not that stubborn and the influential countries did not fane the fire for the conflict to hot up.

If I could I would also like to ask some nations why they condemn the Russian invasion (and rightly so) but do not lift a finger against the atrocities Israel keeps inflicting (since 1948) on the Palestinian people on their own land



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Il-belt Valletta reġgħet haġja

Mhemmx dubju li fl-aħħar snin il-belt Valletta qamet mirraqda twila li kienet ilha fiha, l-aktar wara nżul ix-xemx, li nħakmet biha għal hemel ta' snin. Hekk li meta l-haddie-ma, l-aktar daww fl-uffiċini tal-gvern kienu jispicċaw mix-xogħol għal xil-5 p.m. u hekk kif f'it wara jagħlqu l-hwienet, il-kapitali Maltija kienet tmut, tant li ġieli kont tistkerrah jekk jinhtieglek għal xi raġuni tidhol s'hemm.

Imma fl-aħħar tmien snin il-belt Valletta nġhatat haġja ġdida b'għadd ta' ristoranti, pubs, kafejiet u saħansitra *boutique hotels*, jifthu u jirxuxtaw il-kapitali. Hekk li sirt issibhom fi kważi kull parti u rokna tal-belt.

Bil-maqlub tal-imġhoddi, issa wiehed jista' jgħid li l-belt tqum ma' nżul ix-xemx meta whud mit-toroq, ewlenin fosthom Triq ir-Repubblika, u magħha Triq Merkanti, jimtlew bl-imwejjed tar-ristoranti.

Imma forsi l-aktar bidla saret fi Strada Stretta (Triq id-Dejqa), li kważi kollha kemm hi nġhatat il-haġja, mhux biss b'ristoranti, haġna minnhom ta' ċerta klassi, u hwienet tax-xorb, imma wkoll bil-mużika ħierġa minn għandhom biex tferrah lil daww li jkun jieklu jew jixorbu, kljentela mħallta, b'Maltin u turisti, zghazagh u nies oħra ta' kull età.

Fin-snin tal-baħrin Inglizi din it-triq kienet ċentru ta' divertiment għall-baħrin u s-suldati barrann, l-aktar Inglizi. Kienet mimlija swali tal-mużika u magħrufa għall-prostituzzjoni. L-importanza tagħha tmewtet meta tnehhiet il-baži Inglizi minn

... u strada stretta kif inbidlet!



Malta fl-1979.

Imma haġna mill-imsieħba tas-servizzi, l-aktar daww Inglizi li kienu jservu f'Malta baqgħu jsemmuha meta jiltaqgħu ma' xi Maltin li kienu jmorru btala fl-Ingilterra.

L-aktar post li kienu jsemmu bħala l-aktar popolari għalihom kien ikun "down the gut", il-kantuniera bejn Strada Stretta u Triq San Kristofru li fiha kien ikun hemm ġemgħa mhux zghira ta' hwienet u postijiet tad-divertiment li kienu jservu dak kollu li l-kljenti kienu jixtiequ ...

Ta' min jgħid li l-laqqam ta' *the gut* ingħata lil din it-triq għall-fatt li fi żmien l-Ordni ta' San Ġwann, spiss kien ikun organizzat spontanġament xi dwell bejn xi żewġ kavalieri sfidanti, normalment fuq xi mara.

Fi tmien id-dwell xi hadd kien jisfa maqtul. Fl-fatt, sa f'it qabel it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija (1939-1945), wiehed kien għad

jista' jara xi slaleb im-naqqxin mal-ħitan li jfakkru f'daww in-nies maqtula.

L-użu ta' din it-triq issa nbidel kompletament, u kif. B'danakollu, kull progress iġib ukoll miegħu l-problemi, għax fit-toroq tal-belt Valletta jgħixu wkoll in-nies li s'intendi minn dik il-hemda ta' f'it snin ilu, issa f'ċerti nħawi, spicċaw kollha hsejjes, bid-daqq tal-mużika, li mhux kulhadd jiehu pjaċir biha, xi kultant għolja mhux hażin tard bil-lejl.

Dan iwassal biex fil-11.00pm il-pulizija saret tmur f'dawn il-lokalitajiet u ggiegħel lis-sidien tal-istabbilimenti fejn ikollhom il-mużika biex iwaqqfuha.

M'għandnix xi nġidu dan qed iġib miegħu protesti mis-sidien li jsostnu li "*fl-ebda belt fid-dinja ma jiġu jwaqq-fulek il-mużika fil-hdax*".

Qed jinsistu li malli tintefa l-mużika jkun hemm haġna kljenti, b'mod partikolari t-turisti, li jqumu u jtilqu, u dan meta sa dak il-hin ikunu qed jieħdu pjaċir u jibqgħu jordnaw l-ikel u x-xorb.

Is-sidien qed jappellaw biex il-mużika live tibda tifhalla mqar f'it hin ieħor, għax dak ikun l-aqwa hin għalihom, b'mod partikolari nħar ta' Ġimgħa u s-Sibt.

Biex nerġu għal Strada Stretta, din bħalissa għaddejja minn żmien ġdid. M'għadekx tista' tqisha xi post mużew biex jiġi arkivjat. Spicċaw il-hwienet ta' "kafkaf". Issa ssib uħud ta' livell tassew għoli u attraenti bi prezzijiet skont il-klassi għolja tagħhom. Iva anke hawn, issib *boutique hotels* ta' kalibru, u haġna mill-proprjetà saret ferm għolja biex tixtara. Imma ta' li tixtri thallas.

Tassew eżempju ċar li ma tistax toġġob il kulhadd.



Il-baħrin kienu jsibu r-re-fuġju fi Strada Stretta



Illum Strada Stretta qed taqdi skop ieħor, ferm aktar divertenti u kulturali

Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

Kitba ta'
**IVAN
 CAUCHI**



Mid-dawl għad-dlam

Kieku kellu jqum mill-imwiet persuna li kienet mietet anke biss ftit għexieren ta' snin ilu, huwa bla dubju li jibqa' mbellah bil-progress teknologiku tal-hajja fuq din l-art. L-oqsma involuti huma mifruxa fuq kull aspett tal-hidma tal-bniedem, imma hawn se nieqaf fuq id-dawl.

Il-hajja fuq din il-pjaneta evolviet b'żewġ karatteristiċi ewlenin ta' dan is-sors ta' enerġija. L-ewwel hi li l-qasma ta' billejl u ta' binhar, u t-tieni hija l-istaġuni tal-emisferi tat-tramuntana u tan-nofsinar 'il bogħod mill-ekwatur, kaġun ta' meta binhar jitwal fis-sajf u jiqsar fix-xitwa.

L-evoluzzjoni per eżempju waslet sabiex il-bniedem ikollu ċiklu ta' meta jkun imqajjem u attiv, u meta jkun bin-nghas u jorqod, li fi stat mingħajr stimoli esterni jkollu totali ta' ftit minuti iktar minn 24 siegħa (iċ-ċiklu ċirkadjan).

Huwa magħruf li l-bniedem dejjem kellu l-kilba li jegħleb id-dlam, u meta hakem il-metodu li jiġġenera n-nar għamel pass tasaww kbir.

Minn dak inhar 'il quddiem, seta ma jiddependix għal kollox mid-dawl tal-qamar billejl, seta jsajjar u anke jdewweb il-gebel li kien jiġbor jew iħaffer biex jagħmel materjali godda b'karatteristiċi interessanti.

Fil-bidu, in-nar kien isir bil-weraq u l-hatab. Wara nstab li hu possibbli li tuża x-xahmijiet tal-annimali biex tinharraq ftilla, u dan kien jaħdem ukoll b'żajt tal-hut jew xi balena. Imma l-fjammi s'issa kien għadhom żgħar ħafna u pjuttost dgħajfa.

Sar żvilupp kbir meta nstabu l-gass naturali (metanu) u ż-żajt, it-tnejn iffossilizzat. Hawnhekk bdejna naraw dwalijiet kostanti, qawwija u mifruxa.

Illum tinduna li meta jittiehed xi ritratt tad-dinja mill-ispazju, dik il-parti li tkun fid-dell tax-xemx m'għadhiex sewda fahma kif kienet għal biljuni ta' snin, imma issa jidher ċar l-influenza tal-bniedem.

F'din il-ġirja biex id-dlam ma jibqax ta' xkiel għall-attivitàjiet tal-bniedem, qed nindunaw li m'għadniex ingawdu l-kwiekeb ta' billejl. Jekk tkun tgħix f'post urban bi dwal qawwija u mifruxa, bħal ma nistghu ngħidu tapplika għall-biċċa l-kbira tal-pajjizi illum, spicċa ż-żmien li toħroġ barra billejl, tħares 'il fuq u tibqa' mmeraviljat b'dak li tara.

Wiehed mallewwel jinnota d-differenza meta jagħmel xi vjaġġ



Il-parti tad-dinja mill-ispazju li tkun fid-dell tax-xemx m'għadhiex sewda fahma

mid-dawl għad-dlam. Jien nagħmel wiehed simili pjuttost regolari, imma diżgrazzjament mhux frekwenti, meta mmur nikkampja f'xi foresta 'il bogħod miċ-ċentri urbani ta' Sydney.

Speċjalment l-ewwel lejl li tqatta' barra, tibqa' b'ħalqek miftuħ meta tara l-kwiekeb tal-galassja tagħna, it-Triq ta' Sant' Anna (*Milky Way*), fil-mijiet tal-biljuni tagħhom.

Dejjem nitgħaxxaq nosserva fejn il-kwiekeb huma iktar miġburin flimkien, tant li l-livell tad-dawl tagħhom huwa iktar għoli, qisu jsegwi linja, li hija l-pjan li fuqu ddu il-galassja.

Għandi xewqa li nuża teleskopju biex infittex galassja ohra, Andromeda, li d-dawl jiehu żewġ miljun sena u nofs biex jasal fil-galassja tagħna iżda madankollu hija l-eqreb galassja għal tagħna. Dan għaliex

huwa maħsub li dawn iż-żewġ galassji se jaħbtu jew jingħaqdu flimkien f'madwar 4-5 biljun sena.

Għal xi raġuni, m'iniex ninkwieta tant fuq dak il-hsieb! L-ewwel, jien u int ilna li se nkunu tlaqna minn din l-art. Ukoll, qabel ma Andromeda tibda diehla fil-galassja tagħna, huwa maħsub li x-xemx tkun ilha li ħliet il-fjuwil kollu tagħha, u tkun splodiet u qerdet lil din id-dinja.

Jinkwetani imma li fil-hajja ta' kuljum tlfina dan is-sens ta' għaġeb meta nharsu 'l barra bit-twieqi tad-djar tagħna. Fil-fatt, dan it-tniġġiz ta' dawl li l-bniedem stess qiegħed jiġġenera huwa wkoll jaffettwa l-astronomija, tant li l-astronomi jridu joqogħdu b'seba' għajnejn fejn se jpoġġu t-teleskopji tagħhom (u dawk li jaħdmu fuq frekwenzi tar-radju għandhom ukoll l-uġiġħ ta' ras tat-trasmissjonijiet elettromanjetici).

Din il-problema hija magħrufa mill-awtoritajiet u manifatturi, u fil-fatt tfigħer li ħafna mid-dawl qed jaħrab lejn is-sema.

Hemm żviluppi pożittivi f'dan il-qasam, fejn per eżempju, dwal pubbliċi jkunu ddirezzjonati l-isfel biss mill-għoli, li l-intensità tkun mill-inqas, li l-uċuħ ma jkunux jirriflettew ħafna, li jixtieghu biss meta jkun hemm bżonn, eċċ eċċ.

Jekk wiehed ma jridx jistenna u jrid bilfors isib post iddikjarat li huwa fid-dlam, jista' juża l-websajt <https://www.darksky.org/> u juża l-mappa interattiva biex isib xi waħda qrib. Jekk tgħix Malta, ma għandek l-ebda għażla, fl-Awstralja hawn tlieta, wiehed minnhom fi NSW (Warrumbungle National Park).

Hemmhekk qatt ma morna. Min jaf....



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X'sar minnu l-Consul-on-the-move?

Lil-programm innovattiv *Consul-on-the-Move* li kien gie mniedi mill-Gvern Laburista fl-2013 serva lill-komunitajiet Maltin imbiegħda mill-uffiċini tal-Gvern fl-Awstralja ta' gid u naqqas hafna l-inonvenjenzi.

L-Awstralja hija pajjiż enormi u hawn distanzi kbar minn belt għall-oħra. Ma tistax taqdi sewwa lill-komunità biss billi jkollok uffiċċju fil-qalba tal-belt.

Il-Konslijiet-Generali ta' Melbourne u ta' NSW marru kemm-il-darba fl-istati ta' Queensland, South Australia, u anke fi New Zealand biex jilqgħu applikazzjonijiet dwar ċittadinanza u passaporti. Wara li din l-iskema kienet ingranat sewwa u giet aċċettata u apprezzata mill-komunitajiet Maltin faqet il-pandemija u dan il-programm tant utli kellu jiġi ppost.

Issa *The Voice of the Maltese* ġejna assigurati mill-Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta fl-Awstralja, l-ET Mario Farrugia Borg li dan is-servizz se jkompli, anzi tana l-kelma



Dan kif uffiċjali tal-Kummissjoni Għolja Maltija fl-Awstralja kienu jużaw il-programm fl-imghoddi. Issa ddaħlet sistema ferm aktar faċli u moderna

li se jagħmel l-almu tiegħu kollu biex sal-aħħar ta' din is-sena, ikunu milhuqa kemm jista' jkun b'liet u postijiet imbiegħda.

Hbiberija bejn il-Parlament

The Voice sirna nafu li qed isiru tentattivi halli jergá jiffirma grupp ta' hbiberija bejn il-Parlament Malti u dak Statali ta' NSW. Il-Membru tal-Legislative Council (Upper House), l-Onor Mark Buttigieg, ta' nisel Malti, beda jhejji t-triq biex dan il-grupp li jista' jkun ta' għajjnuna siewja bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi f'hafna oqsma, l-aktar fin-negozju, fil-kultura u l-edukazzjoni fost suġġetti oħra jiġi ffurmat.

Snin ilu fil-Parlament Federali dawn il-kwalitajiet ta' gruppi kienu jeżistu. Huwa tmat għalhekk li dan l-aħħar tentattiv ta' Mark Buttigieg MP jirnexxi u jwassal li jkun hemm ferm iktar għarfien bejn dawn l-istituzzjonijiet għolja taż-żewġ pajjiżi.

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L-UKRAJNA

GĦANDHA BŻONN

L-GĦAJNUNA

B'URĠENZA

L-Ukrajna tinsab fi krizi kbira. Il-poplu għandu bżonn urgenti tal-għajnuna b'urġenza. Hafna nies qed jaħarbu mill-vjolenza mingħajr xejn hlief il-hwejjeg li kellhom fuqhom. **Huma qed jiddependu fuqna. Aħna mhux se nabbandunawhom. Għinna nkomplu ngħinuhom.**



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Aid to the Church in Need hija Fondazzjoni Pontifiċja fi hdn il-Knisja Kattolika u registrata f'Malta Reg. No. LPF-212, b'hala Fondazzjoni taht il-bieni skeda tal-Kodici Civili (Kap. 16) tal-Liġijiet ta' Malta. VO/2227



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SWIFT CODE: APSBMTMT



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta elected to the UN Security Council

Malta was elected by an absolute majority of 185 votes (97.3%) to the United Nations Security Council and is now assured of a seat in this Council for a two-year term, starting on Jan 1 2023. Malta is one of two European countries elected on the same day. The other is Switzerland.

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg described the confidence shown by the United Nations members in Malta's foreign policy, principles and priorities as a historic.

While Prime Minister Robert Abela tweeted: "Honoured to see Malta elected with a strong vote in the UNSC. Serving on the Council of the UN provides Malta a significant opportunity to contribute to the maintenance of global peace and security."

Minister Borg thanked all the countries that entrusted this responsibility in Malta, also in view of the fact that Malta believes in the need for international peace. He went on to say that Malta truly embraces and will continue to safeguard the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

"We are determined to contribute towards preserving multilateral processes and building the confidence and political will needed to meet the challenges we face today.

"As staunch supporters of multilateralism, we have a fundamental interest to maintain international order based on the important rule, that power and potency do not prevail over the rule of law. This is vital for everyone, including small states such as Malta", Minister Borg said.



The Malta team with Minister Ian Borg (front extreme right) during the election at the UN

During its term, Malta will be following three important principles: security, sustainability and solidarity. "In our term in this Council we will seek to continue pushing forward issues such as child protection, the threat of climate change, the importance of literacy as a way of overcoming conflicts, and the important role of women among others", reiterated the minister.

It is the second time that Malta was elected as a member of the Security Council, having been on the Council between 1983 and 1984.

Ian Borg thanked especially Maltese Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, her team who have been constantly working and negotiating so that Malta could achieve this prestigious result, and all others, who worked towards reaching this goal.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and ap-

proving any changes to the UN Charter.

Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorising military action. It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

Malta's active contribution to the values of the UN

Malta's application to join the United Nations was one of the first major milestones of its post-independence foreign policy, and since becoming a Member State after gaining independence, it remained committed to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, that have been an integral part of its foreign policy from the outset.

Global peace and security have always been one of its priorities,

Some of these commitments are:

- Dr Arvid Pardo, Malta's first Permanent Representative presented a proposal to the UN General Assembly that led to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Michael Zammit Cutajar was the first Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change secretariat (Bonn 1996-2002), having previously headed the secretariat supporting the negotiation and launch of the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Geneva 1991-1995).

• President Emeritus Professor Guido Demarco was elected to serve as the President of the 45th Session of the General Assembly in 1990.

• Judge Carmel Agius who, after being active within the International Criminal Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, is currently serving as President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).

• Professor David J. Attard, who has held the position of Director of the International Maritime Organisation's Interna-

and while global realities have continued to evolve and challenges to achieve this vision are diverse, since its first term on the Security Council in 1983-1984, Malta's commitment has never wavered.

Ever since Malta became a member of the UN, it has sought to actively contribute and underscore its commitment to the values for which the organisation stands.

tional Maritime Law Institute (IMLI).

Since 1992 Profs Attard is currently serving for a second term as judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Between the years 2017 and 2020, he also served as ITLOS Vice President.

• Professor Martin Formosa is currently serving as the Director of the United Nations International Institute on Ageing.

• Maltese Armed Forces personnel who have been deployed to work within the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) contributing to upholding peace and security.



Roundup of News About Malta



Prime Minister Robert Abela FATF President Marcus Pleyer

Malta taken off FATF grey-list

Prime Minister Robert Abela announced at a news conference on Friday that following ‘significant progress’, Malta has officially been taken off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey-list where it was placed a year ago. Robert Abela said that the action plan drawn up together with the FATF in 2021 had been implemented in a “record” 12 months.

FATF President Marcus Pleyer who also delivered the news to the media at a press conference in Berlin communicated the decision to the government.

FATF even congratulated Malta at the end of its June session for addressing the strategic anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing deficiencies, and included them in its action plan. As such, it would no longer be subject to the FATF’s increased monitoring process. This comes after Malta received an on-site visit.

Pleyer said, “Malta will work with FATF regional partner MONEYVAL, of which it is a member, to continue strengthening its AML/CFT regime”.

The official decision came two days after a secret vote during FATF’s plenary.

Four months ago the FATF had already publicly announced that initial indications showed that Malta had substantially completed the necessary reforms and appeared to have addressed the shortcomings identified.

Malta had to implement a long list of changes on how to fight tax evasion, collect information on ultimate beneficial ownership, and how this information is shared between Maltese and international authorities.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister vowed that the government would keep up the fight against high-level criminality and organised crime.



DBRS confirms Malta at a (high) stable trend

The world’s fourth largest credit ratings agency and a market leader in Canada, the U.S. and Europe, DBRS Ratings GmbH (DBRS Morningstar), has classified as A (high) Malta’s Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency – Issuer Ratings and also confirmed Malta’s Short-Term Foreign and Local Currency – Issuer Ratings at R-1 (middle). The trend on all ratings is Stable.

This reflects the agency’s view that risks to the ratings remain balanced. It said that the Maltese economy has recovered faster than previously anticipated from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic shock, despite a partial revival in foreign tourism in 2021.

DBRS expects Malta’s economic outlook to remain solid, benefitting from a fuller return of foreign tourism, a healthy private-sector balance sheet, sustained fiscal support, and European funds. However, the potential economic impact from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and, to a lesser extent, the evolution of the coronavirus cloud Malta’s economic outlook.

While the country has limited trade and energy links with Russia and Ukraine, Malta remains vulnerable to the impact of the conflict through weaker external demands.

On the other hand, DBRS took the view that the FATF initial determination that Malta has substantially completed its action plan mitigates the risks associated with Malta’s inclusion in its list of jurisdictions under enhanced mon-

itoring, the so-called grey-list.

Malta’s strong fiscal performance and debt-ratio reduction efforts before the pandemic created valuable headroom to support the economy. While the economic recovery is helping to rebalance fiscal metrics after the severe deterioration in 2020, the measures to deal with the effects of COVID-19 and to mitigate the impact from inflation continue to weigh on public finances.

Nevertheless, Malta’s cost of funding remains favourable and DBRS expects a gradual return to a healthier fiscal position, supported by the growth outlook and the expected phase-out of temporary measures.

On the other hand, the agency’s experts take the view that Malta’s small and open economy remains exposed to external demand or confidence shocks. In this sense, the tourism sector – an important source of income, employment, and investment in Malta – presents a potential vulnerability if the pandemic situation were to worsen.

Similarly, Malta’s attractiveness to foreign investment could suffer if measures to address financial integrity risks and institutional governance weaknesses noted by international bodies persist.

Despite Malta’s sound public finances, medium-to long-term challenges could stem from its contingent liabilities, changes in international taxation affecting its attractive tax system to foreign companies, or increasing age-related spending.

Parliament votes in favour of IVF law amendments

At the end of a sometimes-heated debate in Parliament between Government and Opposition MPs, in the second reading, the House of Representatives unanimously gave the nod in favour of amendments to the IVF law to make the process more accessible to those needing it.

During its electoral campaign Labour had pledged to introduce IVF within the first 100 days of the new legislature, and during the debate the Prime Minister had appealed for MPs participating in the debate to show sensitivity and empathy towards people who are suffering and to stop exporting problems abroad.

Opposition and Nationalist Party Leader Bernard Grech pointed out that the only objection from the Nationalist Party was that testing was being done on the embryo where life has potentially

begun. He said that the Nationalist Party agrees with most of the amendments.

Concluding the debate, Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Chris Fearne said a Labour government had begun offering IVF services in 2015 and to-date 425 babies have been born by this process. He said that most of the 461 frozen embryos had already been implanted and that only four embryos would be given for adoption.

He said IVF was also used for people with genetic disorders, which he said could be prevented in children by using the medical technique known as PGT-M.

Mr Fearne said that Malta had the specialists and the laboratories for the testing that would be completed within six months.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Fit-tielet artiklu tal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta jinghad: "Malta hija stat newtrali li jrid attivament jilhaq il-paċi, is-sigurtà u l-progress soċjali fost in-nazzjonijiet kollha billi jhaddan politika ta' non-allineament u jirrofta li jipparteċipa f'kull alleanza militari."

Allura l-ebda bażi militari barranija ma tithalla fuq territorju Malti; l-ebda faċilitajiet militari f'Malta ma jithallew jiġu wżati minn xi qawwiet barranin hlief fuq talba tal-Gvern ta' Malta. U dan f'każijiet eċċezzjonali bhal meta jkun hemm theddida ghas-sovrani, indipendenza, in-newtralità, l-unità jew l-integrità territorjali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta.

Saħansitra jirrestringi l-użu tat-tarzna Maltija fejn jidhlu l-bastimenti militari u jipprojbixxi li jinbnew bastimenti militari fiha.

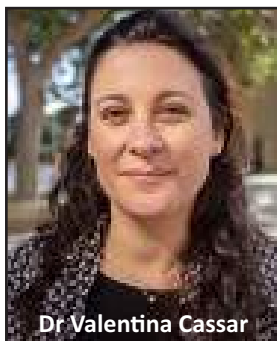


Dr Mario Demarco

Dan l-Artiklu kien dahal fil-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta fl-1987. Matul is-snin, kemm il-darba kien hemm min staqsa jekk din il klaw-sola għand iex tibqa' fis-sehh fiż-żminijiet tal-lum. Il-mistoqsija qamet aktar b'saħħita dan l-aħħar meta r-Russja invadiet l-Ukrajna u xi pajjiżi, bhall-Finlandja, li s'issa kienu newtrali, iddeċidew li jidhlu fin-NATO u għalhekk jitolfu n-newtralità militari tagħhom.

Attwalment din il-kwestjoni saħansitra tqajmet dan l-aħħar fil-Parlament meta d-

In-newtralità ta' Malta



Dr Valentina Cassar

Malta tista' tkun newtrali quddiem in-vażjoni jew fil-kuntest ta' gwerra li ma kinitx provokata? Jinthieġ li jkun ikkunsidrat jekk illum fl-2022 in-newtralità ta' Malta għadhiex tagħmel sens.

Tkellmet fl-istess sens Dr. Valentina Cassar, Senior Lecturer fi ħdan id-Dipartiment tar-Relazzjonijiet Internazzjonali fl-Università ta' Malta li sostniet:

"Hemm bżonn li ssir diskussjoni serja dwar in-newtralità ta' Malta. Mhux qed ngħid li għandna narmu dan il-kunċett imma f'perjodu bhal dan, meta jqum kunflitt qrib tagħna, dejjem tqum id-diskussjoni dwar jekk dan għadux kunċett addattat jew le."

Insistiet li meta l-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta titkellem dwar in-newtralità, diġà tagħti lok għal hafna interpretazzjonijiet u modi kif din tista' tkun implimentata.

"Irridu nifmu eżatt xi rridu nfissru meta ngħidu li Malta hija pajjiż newtrali u kif

nistghu nimplimentawha fil-kuntest ta' realtazjiet godda bhalma huwa l-kunflitt fl-Ukrajna u l-ordni ġdida globali li se tinholoq wara dan il-kunflitt."

Interpretazzjoni nteressanti dwar in-newtralità kien taħ l-eks Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin Evarist Bartolo waqt laqgħa straordinarja tal-Kunsill tal-Affarijiet Barranin tal-EU meta stqarr "while Malta is neutral militarily, Malta "sides with the values of sovereignty, independence, the equality of nations, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the rejection of the use of military force to change borders and impose security arrangements on other countries"

Attwalment f'itjem ilu l-istess Bartolo, issa mhux aktar membru tal-Parlament, sostna li n-newtralità kellha tibqa', imma kellhom jitqabdu xi esperti biex jirrevedi l-artiklu.

Biss, min dak li qal il-Ministru preżenti tal-Affarijiet Barranin, Dr Ian Borg, ma jidhri li hemm hsieb li dan se jsir għalissa.

Għalkemm Malta ma offriet l-ebda għajna militari lill-Ukrajna xorta appoġġat lil dan il-pajjiż u offriet għajnuniet oħra, fosthom li tfal bil-marda tal-kanċer jiġu kkurati f'pajjiżna, filwaqt li familji Ukrainjan għew milqugħa f'Malta.



Evarist Bartolo



Ministru Ian Borg

Kif jaħsbuha l-Maltin dwar in-newtralità

Fi sħarriġ li sar mill-istatista Dr Vince Marmara, instab li l-maġġoranza assoluta tal-Maltin huma favur il-klawsola tan-newtralità. Mill-istħarriġ irriżulta li 63% huma favuriha, bi 18% jgħidu li din il-klawsola hija importanti, filwaqt li 14% ma jiddeċidux, u 6% biss huma kontra n-newtralità.

Jidher li l-Gvern se jibqa' determinat li jżomm mal-prinċipju tan-newtralità, tant li f'intervista fuq ONE TV dwar dak li kien qed isehh fl-Ukrajna, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela stqarr li filwaqt li Malta, tap-poġġa lill-Ukrajna, se tibqa' konsistenti favur in-newtralità ta' pajjiżna u l-paċi.

CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON



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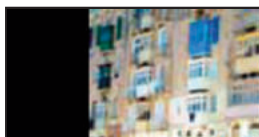
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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Il-President George Vella

Ħarsa lejn il-Maltin infusna

Dan l-aħhar f' Malta saret it-tieni edizzjoni tal-konferenza nazzjonali instigata mill-President ta' Malta George Vella, li fiha, fi kliemu stess fl-gheluq, inghatat ħarsa introspettiva lejn il-Maltin infusna, li hu dejjem l-ewwel pass li wiehed għandu jiehdu biex itejjeb lilu nnifsu.

Fost l-osservazzjonijiet tiegħu, il-President innota l-ewwel u qabel kollox li l-familja hija fattur fundamentali fil-ħajja tagħna ta' kuljum, anke fid-deċiżjonijiet li niehdu.

Stqarr li l-istħarriġ wera li l-Malti llum

kuntent li heles mir-restrizzjonijiet tal-pandemija u jinsab iktar kuntent mis-sena l-oħra. Dan filwaqt li issa li għaddiet l-elezzjoni, il-politika tidher li hija inqas importanti, filwaqt li qed jinhass il-piż tal-inflazzjoni.

Innota wkoll kemm għadha b'saħħitha l-fidi f'Alla, iżda mhux neċessarjament ir-religjon. Jidher ukoll li l-Malti huwa iktar komdu bil-multikulturaliżmu.

Fis-sessjoni kemxejn imqanqla dwar l-ambjent, il-President qal li ntqal li jinhtieg li jinstabu bilanċ u kompromess, u kif l-ambjent jaf ikun fattur li jgħaqqad u mhux biss jifred.

Waqt it-tahdidiet marbuta mal-midja, il-President stqarr li apprezza aktar kemm dan ir-raba' pilastru tad-demokrazija huwa kruċjali għas-saltna tad-dritt, fuq l-impor-

tanza tal-fattwalità tal-aħbar.

Fejn għandu x'jaqşam il-qasam edukattiv, b'mod partikolari, kien hemm enfasi fuq il-ħsieb kritiku taż-żgħażaġh, u kien interessanti li fl-istħarriġ li sar għal din l-attività, il-Maltin iħossuhom Ewropej. Il-President fakkar li Malta dahlet fl-Unjoni Ewropea b'formazzjoni Mediterranja b'saħħitha.

Irrimarka dwar il-bżonn ta' ċittadinanza attiva 'l bogħod mill-partiti, u l-punt li hareġ mid-diskussjoni jekk bdejnxi insiru inqas interessati fil-politika.

Il-President ta' Malta kkonkluda billi rringrazzja lill-kelliema u lill-esperti kollha li taw sehemhom u wasslu f'ħsiebiethom fil-konferenza li giet indirizzata wkoll fost l-oħrajn, mill-Prim Ministru Robert Abela u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Bernard Grech.

Wara l-konferma tal-kap imiss tal-viċi

Kif kien mistenni Bernard Grech għe kkonfermat bħala kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, b'maġġoranza li whud qisuha wahda qawwiya, u oħrajn jgħidu li ma hix, għax jinsistu li l-figura ta' 81% hija qarrieqa, għax jekk wiehed jiehdu lill-kunsilliera li ma vvutawx, l-appoġġ għal Grech jinżel għal 72%. Issa jmiss l-elezzjoni għal viċi kap tal-partit.

Għal xi snin l-Partit Nazzjonalista kien imita lil dak Laborista u kellu żewġ viċi-kapijiet - wiehed għall-Affarijiet Parlamentari u iehor għal tal-Affarijiet tal-Partit, iżda skont l-aħħar statut reġa' lura għal meta l-PN kellu viċi-kap wiehed biss.

Is-sejha għal dawk b'intenzjoni li jikkon-testaw din l-elezzjoni għalget it-Sibt. Imma għalkemm issemmew xi ismijiet, persuna wahda biss ikkandidat, u mhux deputat.

Persuna li kienet qed tissemma hafna, kienet ta' dak li kien meqjus bħala r-rising star tal-Partit Nazzjonalista u b'niemem li 'l quddiem seta' jmxexxi lill-PN... l-Avukat Joe Giglio li fl-ewwel tentattiv biex jidhol fil-Parlament, għamel dan minn żewġ distretti u b'kisba tajba hafna ta' voti.

Imma, x'aktarx li minhabba dak li ġara fl-aħħar jiem, qal li ma kienx interessat, u li kellu jittfagħha, żgur kien ikun hemm sez-zjoni li ma tappoġġjahx.

Ir-raġuni minhabba intervista fuq l-RTK, għax meta mistoqsi dwar Maria Efimova (il-mara wara l-allegazzjoni li ppubblikat Daphne Caruana Galizia li Egrant Inc kienet ta' Michelle Muscat), Giglio ddeskriva lir-Russa bħala "mara kattiv" u li "timmanipula". Sostna wkoll li hu għandu "riservi kbar" dwar il-kredibilità tagħha.

Minkejja li kienet talbet għal *Whistle-blower status* dan ma ngħatalhiex anke għax inkjesta Maġisterjali kienet talbet li din tiġi mixlija bi frodi, li xerredet kalunji u tinsab mfittxija mill-Pulizija Maltija.

F'parti oħra tal-intervista Giglio stqarr li

jkun żball għall-Partit Nazzjonalista li billi NGO (Repubblika) u l-PN jahsbuha bħal xulxin, li partit jiġi assimilat ma' din l-NGO. Qal li partit hu dejjem akbar minn NGO. "Ejjejjew ma nahlux daqshekk hin nitkellmu dwar NGO u r-'Repubblika', qal

Dawn il-kummenti ġabu reazzjoni mmedjata minn diversi personaggi tal-PN, fosthom tad-Deputat Nazzjonalista Karol Aquilina li saħaq li meta Giglio approva jimmina l-kredibilità ta' Efimova kien fir-realtà "mhux biss mill-aktar irresponsabbli, imma wkoll insult lejn il-memorja ta' gurnalista kuraġġuża Daphne Caruana Galizia u l-attivisti li ġġieldu għall-ġustizzja."

L-MEP Nazzjonalista David Casa, minnaha tiegħu sostna li dawk li ġġieldu għall-verità ġew insultati u redikolati għax baqgħu sodi quddiem dak li jemmu. Magħhom fil-kritika ngħaqdu wkoll l-eks-deputat tal-PN Jason Azzopardi u xi oħrajn. Lanqas ma naqsu il-kummenti iebes mis-soliti kummentaturi fid-diversi gazzetti li hargu qatta' bla habel kontra Giglio, u dawk horox mill-NGOs Occupy Justice u Repubblica li stqarret:

"Meta jirrappreżenta lill-klijenti tiegħu fil-Qorti, Joe Giglio jagħmel xogħlu billi



L-avukat Joe Giglio

jpingi lill-kriminali bħala angli. Meta juża l-kredenzjali tiegħu ta' Parlamentari u kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni ma jkollux biss konflikt ta' interess. Ikun qed jittradixxi l-funzjoni demokratika tiegħu."

Ziedu jgħidu li jekk Giglio ma riedx "jahli hin" magħhom u mas-soċjetà

ċivili "Aħna se nibqgħu 'nahlu' l-hin tagħna ma' Joe Giglio u mal-politiċi li jidhlu fil-ħajja pubblika biex jaqdu aħjar lill-klijenti privati, miljunarji u kriminali tagħhom."

Fl-istqarija qalu li bħala politiku tal-PN u kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni dwar l-Intern, qabel il-kriminali Giglio għandu jaqdi lir-Repubblika ta' Malta u l-ewwel lil dawk minn niesha li jobdu l-ligi.

Ma' dawn kien hemm xita ta' kummenti fil-gurnali, u hafna milli ssoġu jxaqilbu lejn il-PN, li hađuha qatta bla habel kontra Giglio, b'uħud jinsistu li kellu jitneħħa minn kelliemi tal-partit, li jirriżenja mill-PN u mill-Parlament.

Kulma ntqal mill-PN kien, li l-intqal (fl-intervista) ma jirriflettix il-pożizzjoni tal-partit. "Bernard Grech u l-PN jemmu u jridu li tohrog il-verità kollha," qalu.

Grech iridhom jiddiksutu internament

Imma, l-istorja ma waqftix hemm, għax l-wara li l-kummenti dwar l-istorja ta' Giglio spicċaw fil-midja soċjali, minn fuq l-istazzjon televiżiv tal-partit, il-kap tal-PN, Bernard Grech talab lill-esponenti u l-partitarji biex ma jikkritikawx lill-partit fuq il-midja soċjali, u appella lil dawk li jappoġġjaw lill-PN biex il-kritika ssir "wiċċ imb'wiċċ, nagħmluha f'kamra, nagħmluha f'laqgħa, mhux immorru fuq il-mezzi soċ-

jali u nattaqqaw u nikkritikaw. Dik il-kritika ma tasalx għandna. Dak huwa attakk, mhux kritika," qal.

Sintendi, filwaqt li kien hemm dawk li qablu ma dan billi jsoġnu li dawn il-batibekki u kritika qed jagħmlu hafna ħsara lill-partit, oħrajn sostnew li dan kien tentattiv biex il-Partit Nazzjonalista jagħlaq haq dawk li jikkritikaw lit-tmxixja Nazzjonalista.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Skyrocketing costs of living



The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has announced it will increase the cash rate by 0.5 percentage points to 0.85 percent, the largest hike since 2000. It is the second hike in as many months after the rate was kept at a record 0.1 percent between November 2020 and April this year.

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers (*left*) said after the announcement, that the rate rise was "difficult news for homeowners already facing skyrocketing costs of living".

"For an average mortgage of \$330,000 remaining, it's about \$87 a month that Australian

homeowners will have to find ... for an average new mortgage, it's almost twice that, at about \$157 a month," Mr Chalmers said.

"This will be very difficult news for all of those Australians who are already facing skyrocketing costs of living in this country."

"It is the universal expectation across economists and government and the Reserve Bank that this inflation challenge will get harder before it gets easier."

Mr Chalmers also said the government would "do what it can" to alleviate price pressures on Australians.

Peter Dutton proved wrong

The High Court found a July 2021 decision by Mr Peter Dutton, then-Morrison government home affairs minister and now Leader of the Liberal party, to strip citizenship from Turkish-Australian man Delil Alexander who was imprisoned in Syria for terrorism offences, was unconstitutional.

The judgement invalidates ministerial powers to revoke a person's citizenship under section 36B of the Australian Citizenship Act 2007, which also applies to children aged 14 to 18.

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said in a statement he and Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil would examine the judgment and its implications in detail. But he noted there was "no threat to Australia as a result of the decision".



Mr Dutton, (*left*) now in opposition said the new Albanese government should quickly get legal advice and work out a legislative response.



Defence Minister
Richard Marles



China's Defence
Minister Wei Fenghe

Rebuilding a relationship

Labor's victory in the Federal election signalled a shift in Australia-China relations after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent his congratulations to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"The Chinese side is ready to work with the Australian side to review the past, look into the future, and uphold

the principle of mutual respect and mutual benefit," Mr Li said in a message.

Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles held talks with Chinese defence minister Wei Fenghe in Singapore, in what he said was an "important first step" in improving strained diplomatic relations.

It represented the first ministerial-level meeting between the Australian and Chinese governments since November 2019.

Following the meeting, China's ambassador to Australia Xiao Qian said relations between the two nations were "at a new juncture of development, facing many challenges and huge opportunities".

Marles is hoping the meeting will be the "critical first step" in mending the relationship between Canberra and Beijing amid rising tensions over the Indo-Pacific and the intercept of an Australian aircraft.

Family, community and business ties between the nations are "hugely significant" to improving relations. Australia is home to a large number of people with Chinese heritage, with more than 1.2 million Australian residents identifying as having Chinese ancestry in the 2016 Census.

People living in extreme poverty

The war in Ukraine will result in ongoing high food prices and push millions more people into poverty around the world if it is not resolved soon, an Australian food security expert has warned.

Professor Kadambot Siddique, an internationally renowned researcher and director of



the University of Western Australia's Institute for Agriculture, told SBS News the outlook for global security was "looking bleak" "We're going to see the price of products remain high for 2022, 2023 and even up until 2024."

Earlier in the week, European Council President Charles Michel accused Russia of being "solely responsible for this looming food crisis" by using food supplies as "a stealth missile against developing countries. This is driving up food prices, pushing people into poverty, and destabilising entire regions," Mr Michel said.

Forecasts published by the World Bank in April found the number of people living in extreme poverty in 2022 is expected to be between 657 million and 676 million, with COVID-19 and the Ukraine conflict among the factors to blame.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Another Muslim in leadership



Mehreen Faruqi

Australian Greens deputy leader Mehreen Faruqi says it is the honour of her life to be elected to the role, pledging to take a stand on discrimination. The NSW senator who migrated from Pakistan in 1992 will be the first Muslim Australian in the senior leadership of a large political party.

"In a diverse society, it is appropriate and frankly, necessary, that our parties and their leadership are reflective of our highly multicultural country," Senator Faruqi said after the first post-election partyroom meeting in Melbourne.

The Greens partyroom re-elected Melbourne MP Adam Bandt to the leadership.

Senator Faruqi - who arrived in Australia with her husband, one-year-old son and two suitcases - said she would use her position to "continue to speak up against racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination in our society".



Clive Palmer (left) and UAP leader Craig Kelly

Money well spent, says Cliff Palmer

Mining magnate and party chairman Clive Palmer was by the side of the new leader Liberal MP turned UAP leader Craig Kelly — the party pledged to fight for "freedom".

Mr. Kelly made big promises to enact an Australian Bill of Rights, outlaw lockdowns and vaccine mandates, cap mortgage interest rates at 3 percent over

the next five years and invest superannuation funds locally, among other things.

During election week, the UAP leader said the party was gunning for all 151 lower house seats across the nation. Instead, the UAP got none. Incumbent Mr Kelly was easily rolled by his Liberal replacement in the electorate of Hughes and Mr Palmer failed in his bid for a Queensland seat in the Senate. The UAP garnered just 4.07 percent of the national vote, with a modest swing of 0.64 percent in its favour.

Regardless, Mr Palmer said the huge spend was worth it. "I think it was. You can't put a price on liberty. Good ideas are what matters for this country," he told reporters. "Governments may come and go but freedom goes on forever," he added.

Pay rise to millions of workers

Millions of low-paid workers are finally set to pocket a pay rise this year. The Fair Work Commission announced a push by the unions and the new Labor Albanese government to boost minimum wages had been successful, with a 5.2 percent boost approved. That brings Australia's minimum wage up to \$21.38 per hour or \$812.60 per week, representing an increase of \$40 per week.

Modern award minimum rates will also go up 4.6 percent "subject to a minimum increase of \$40 per week", and both increases will come into effect from July 1 for most workers. In a statement earlier this month, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said increasing the minimum wage would also help close the gender pay gap, an issue that featured heavily during the election campaign.

"Many low-paid workers are young, female, in casual employment, and are far more likely to find themselves experiencing financial hardship," he said. "These low-paid workers were also on the front line delivering essential services during the Covid-19 pandemic, including in the retail, hospitality, aged care, cleaning, and child-care sectors."

According to the Fair Work Commission, 2,659,400 (23 percent) of employees had their pay set by awards, while 805,200 award-reliant employees were "low paid".

And up to 184,000 employees in total are

paid the national minimum wage, including 88,900 award-reliant employees, 79,200 employees on individual agreements, and 15,900 employees covered by enterprise agreements.

Finally, according to Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO Andrew McKellar, the increase could ultimately lead to price rises for customers.

The changes will impact the more than 2.7 million Australians on the national minimum or award minimum wages.



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The monument at Pendle Hill comes alive

In the suburb of Pendle Hill, some 29km from SBD, is the Maltese Bi-Centennial Monument recognising the history of Maltese immigration to Australia. It was erected in 1988 as part of the Bi-Centennial celebration in NSW. The bronze plaques depict and record various aspects of Maltese settlement. It is the only one of its kind in NSW. Every VIP from Malta visiting Australia also visits this monument.

Every year a ceremony commemorating the events of 1919, one of Malta's national days, is held there. Pendle Hill, in the heart of the Cumberland City Council (formerly Holroyd Council), has welcomed thousands of Maltese who are regarded as the pioneers of these localities.

In the last issue we featured a report about the *Sette Giugno* 2022 commemoration, but lack of space precluded us from publishing more photos. Today we have some more, provided to us by *Patrick Bartolo OAM*.



The columns at the Bi-Centennial Monument depicting the history of Maltese settlement



Special guests

LEFT: Most of the special guests that attended the 2022 ceremony. From left: Mark Buttigieg MP, Cllr Lisa Lake, (Mayor) and Cllr Suman Saha from Cumberland City Council, Lawrence Buhagiar (Consul General NSW) and wife Rosianne, Julia Finn MP, Cllr Greg Cummings, H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, (Malta High Commissioner), and Cllr Sameer Pandey, (Deputy Lord Mayor of Parramatta City Council). Front: Miriam Friggieri (President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW)

The 7th June (*Sette Giugno*) commemoration at the Maltese Bi-Centennial Monument at Pendle Hill would not be complete without presenting the image of the four men that were killed on that fateful day, Wenzu Dyer, Guzeppi Bajada, Manwel Attard and Karmenu Abela. These heroes are also shown above.

RIGHT: A happy group. Members of the Maltese RSL Sub Branch who attended the ceremony. From left: Alfred Carabott, Alfred Aquilina, Charles Attard and Rose Cuschieri.



During the cold winter morning of the *Sette Giugno* commemoration, Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Brass Band (left) together with the MCA Choir under the direction of Marisa Previtera provided the musical interludes

Artist żagħżuġh Ghawdxji u Fantastic Ground: Deconstructing the Local

Vince Caruana b'wirja li fiha jiskopri mill-ġdid l-art meraviljuża tal-gżejjer

Forom ġeometriċi, linji u kurvi flimkien ma' paletta ta' kuluri vivaċi, l-artist kontemporanju Vince Caruana rritorna għas-seba' esibizzjoni personali tiegħu b'xogħlijiet f'diversi istituzzjonijiet u art galleries lokali u internazzjonali li jhaddnu ismijiet partikolari bħal *Diagnosis: decoding an island's identity*, *7 Days* u *Coordinates*.

Din id-darba Vince għażel li jesebixxi fl-*Art e Gallery* fir-Rabat Għawdex b'wirja ta' pajsagġi lokali bit-tema *Fantastic Ground: Deconstructing the Local*.

Permezz ta' din il-wirja l-artist jesprimi t-tentazzjoni qawwija tiegħu li jagħti ordni mill-ġdid lid-dehra tal-pajsagġ lokali, ta' kif jixtiequ u jarah hu. Jimminimalizza dawn il-pajsagġi lokali għall-partijiet elementari tagħhom biex jiskopri mill-ġdid l-art meraviljuża tal-gżejjer Maltin.

Dawn il-pajsagġi jfittxu li jirrappreżentaw l-ordni, is-sempliċità u l-armonija għall-kuntrarju ta' dak li qed issehh bħalissa.

Fit-testimonjanza l-artist isemmi kif l-għanjiet tal-ghasafar, l-aroma tat-té frisk, u l-hsejjes tal-pinzell jissinkronizzaw b'mod armonjuż is-siġhat bikrin tiegħu li jqatta' fl-istudjo.

Huwa jispjega kif il-hsejjes tan-natura (l-ghasafar, is-sriedaq, eċċ.) u l-ewwel raġġi ta' dawl inisslu fih sens ta' trankwillità, kalma,

Mill-Għajnejja
Għawdxija



Charles Spiteri

ċarezza u konċentrazzjoni, u jemmen li dan hu trasmess ukoll fil-pitturi tiegħu li spiss jiġu deskritti minn hafna kollezjonisti tal-arti bħala etereali u sublimi.

Jgħid li għalkemm żgħar, il-gżejjer Maltin, joffru diversità kbira ta' pajsagġi li jnebbtu fl-artist emozzjonijiet u ispirazzjoni bla tmiem. Xi whud jistgħu jaħsbu u jistaqsu jekk il-pajsagġi għadx fadlilhom post fid-dinja tal-arti illum, imma jemmen bis-siġh li kollox jiddependi fuq ir-rappreżentazzjoni tagħha.

Kif wiehed jista' jara fil-pitturi tiegħu, l-artist ma jistinkax biex jikseb rappreżentazzjoni naturalista pura, imma pjuttost jipprova jiżviluppa perspettiva artistika kontemporanja fuq dan il-ġeneru.

L-għan tiegħu hu li joħloq spazju, dawl u



Il-pittur żagħżuġh Vince Caruana quddiem uħud mill-kwadri tiegħu

kulur, li jippermetti l-forom ġeometriċi jikkompetu mas-suġġett.

Jidher b'mod ċar li Vince Caruana jfittex li jaqbad l-ispettaturi tal-arti permezz tal-

qawwa u s-supremazija tal-kulur, id-dawl u l-forom ġeometriċi.

Ix-xogħolijiet tiegħu huma hafna drabi deskritti bħala realistiċi u immaġinattivi fl-istess hin għaliex wiehed jista' jagħraf b'mod ċar, l-elementi tal-pajsagġ, iżda fl-istess waqt dawn jidhru trasformati f'forom astratti quddiem l-għajn.



Uħud minn dawk li attendew għall-inawgurazzjoni tal-wirja

It-13-il Leone Goes Pop

Wara nuqqas ta' sentejn, il-banda Leone tar-Rabat, taht id-direzzjoni ta' Colin Attard organizzat it-13-il edizzjoni ta' Leone Goes Pop biex tiftah era ġdida u tagħti nifs ġdid lil dan il-ġeneru ta' mużika. L-udjenza kkonkorriet bi għarha u kantat, ċapċepet u żifnet mal-hafna diski u kanzunetti popolari li daqet il-banda flimkien mal-kantanti mistiedna.

Friski mis-suċċess fl-X Factor Malta, mal-banda dehru l-kantanti Ryan Hili, Aidan Drakard u Lisa Gauci. Magħhom kien hemm ukoll il-Għawdxin Jo-lene Samhan u Hannah Theuma.

Il-banda tat prestazzjonijiet enerġetiċi u kkuluriti. Il-produzzjoni kienet imlibbsa b' korjografija u spetaklu straordinarju ta' dawl minn Ron Briffa u b'mes-saġġ ta' solidarjetà mat-tfal vittmi tal-vjolenza bl-armi fl-iskejjel tal-Amerika.



An ounce of cheese a day (28g) as rations are cut

According to medical chiefs, military rations during the war years, and specifically for the week 21-27 June 1942, were too low for physical exertion. With the failure of convoys, food stocks were critical and supplies were not expected in the immediate future. As a result there was no increase in the daily allowance – and further cuts in rations could not be ruled out.

At the time, a typical daily military ration included just 12oz (340g) of bread, 1oz (28g) of margarine and ½oz (14g) jam or marmalade, with 1oz (28g) each of tea, tinned milk and sugar.

Meals were small. On a Monday, for example, the lunch allowance consisted of ¾oz (21g) of tinned bacon and 1 oz (28g) of

tinned cheese, dinner provides 6oz (170g) of preserved meat, 1oz (28g) of onions, 8 oz (227g) of potatoes and of fresh vegetables plus 2oz (57g) of tinned fruit and ¾oz (99g) of flour.

In a report released by the chief of Malta's military Medical Services on June 21, 1942, he stated: "It is agreed that the present ration is insufficient for men carrying out hard manual labour and training, as is the case with an appreciable number of troops.

"A supplemental ration scale is considered advisable and has been recommended.

World War II diary: 21st June 1942



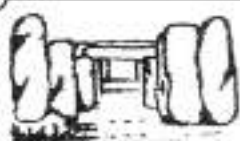
although not officially countermanded on paper, is not being carried out in practice."

Tobruk falls

Meanwhile, reports reaching Malta indicated that following an Axis air attack launched on Tobruk followed by a heavy ground offensive the day before, Tobruk had fallen to Rommel's forces.

Malta forces on the attack

Overnight one aircraft attacked a south-bound enemy convoy of two 10000 ton merchant vessels and three destroyers 32 miles from Cape Bon. The leading merchant vessel was hit and a minute after leaving the target a dull red glow was seen.



Choir Director vacancy

The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW will receive applications for the position of a Choir Director for its choir of under 20 choristers. The MCA Choir established in 1989, is the only Maltese choir in NSW.

The successful applicant must be able to read music and be fluent in the Maltese and English languages.

This is a paid position. For further information, applicants are to contact the President, Charles N Mifsud, on 0421 662 298 and email CV to: cnmifsud@gmail.com



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High Commissioner for Malta to Australia
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Suite 613, 6th Floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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Heritage Malta makes important acquisition: The remains of a Bronze Age village at Borg in-Nadur

Heritage Malta has made the largest acquisition of archaeological value ever made by the state, measuring nearly 13 tumuli at Borg in-Nadur limits of Birżebbuġa beneath a part of which lies buried a village dating back to the Bronze Age. The acquisition was made with a total investment of €200,000.

Making the announcement, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Owen Bonnici said this marks another link in a chain of efforts leading to a new meaning for accessibility to the island's heritage, as well as a new meaning to heritage itself, which should not just be admired but lived and felt because it is what forms us as a nation.

Heritage Malta's CEO, Noel Zammit described this newly-acquired prehistoric site as unique, because it is mostly associated with the Bronze Age period, and not the Temple period as are other prehistoric sites that Heritage Malta manages. He said that this is a new opportunity for his organisation to explain another aspect of Maltese prehistory that was not previously represented by a physical site within its portfolio.

Borg in-Nadur, which has Wied Żembaq on one side, Wied Dalam on the other, and a bay to its south, has always been regarded as important from a historical perspective. The structural remains on site had traditionally been attributed to the Phoenicians or Romans.

It was only in 1881 that a clearance operation on the megalithic wall, later determined to be of Bronze Age origin, was

undertaken.

In the late 19th century, German philologist Albert Mayr proposed that due to huts he identified from plans of the 1880s excavations the remains were a prehistoric fortified village.

The idea of a Bronze Age fortified settlement is typical of the time, when the inhabitants of the island seemingly felt more secure inhabiting areas that were either hard to reach, or more easily defensible. The large amount of silo pits that were present along the coast is also associated with the Bronze Age.

Beyond the prehistorically perspective, this site also has huge potential to offer educational and fun activities for various types of audiences, as well as opportunities for archaeological research and local

and foreign collaborations. The site's potential would eventually allow for repeated visits, each time offering a different experience from the previous one.

Some 40 different thematic activities, offering both adventure and education, could be organised on site, including pottery making, grain harvesting, flat bread making, weaving and tool making.

Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage and therefore guardians of over 8,000 years of history

It is the face of the Maltese Islands as its portfolio encompasses archaeological sites, baroque auberges and palaces, catacombs, forts, natural landscapes and UNESCO listed Neolithic temples.



DOI-Kevin Abela

Minister Owen Bonnici (fifth from right) and Heritage Malta personnel announcing the important acquisition of the prehistoric site

L-Imnarja f'Malta ffestegġjata mill-gdid wara sentejn

Wara nuqqas ta' sentejn minhabba l-pandemija, l-attivitajiet assoċjati mal-festa tradizzjonali tal-Imnarja fil-Buskett, se jergghu jsiru, din id-darba fuq jumejn, bejn It-Tlieta 28, u l-Erbgha 29 ta' Gunju.

Il-Ministru għall-Agrikoltura, is-Sajd u d-Drittijiet tal-Annimali Anton Refalo spjega li minbarra li se jissoktaw jitharsu t-tradizzjonijiet tal-Imnarja, se tinghata wkoll xejra moderna b'enfasi akbar fuq l-aspett edukattiv, ir-riċerka u l-innovazzjoni. Fl-istess waqt

se tinghata hanna lill-attivitajiet agrikoli halli dawn iservu ta' vetrina għall-prodott lokali.

Fil-bidu tal-festa, it-Tlieta se tittella' parata li tibda mir-Rabat u tintemm fil-Buskett fejn se ssir wirja ta' frott u haxix, kif ukoll ta' tjur, fniek, klieb, żwiemel u annimali indigeni. Ikun hemm ukoll programm shih ta' ghana tradizzjonali.

L-Erbgha 29 l-attivitajiet fil-Buskett jibdwu b'quddiesa fis-06:00 a.m., u wara tinfetah il-wirja u jibdwu il-kompetizzjonijiet

tan-nagħaġ, il-mogħoż u l-bovini, jissoktaw il-wirjiet tal-jum ta' qabel u l-pubbliku se jkun jista' jduq ikel tradizzjonali Malti. Se jkun hemm ukoll attivitajiet kemm għat-tfal u l-familji.

Il-Ministru Anton Refalo qal li l-l-festa tal-Imnarja hija ferm importanti fil-kalendarju kulturali Malti u titqies bħala l-akbar wahda agrarja f'Malta li fiha tiġi ċelebrata l-bżulija u l-hidma siewja tal-bdiewa u r-rahħala.



Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul-General for Malta in NSW with his wife Rosieanne

Rooftop projection, diversity of a nation

The Australian National Maritime Museum, hosting Australia's National Monument situated at Pirrama Road Pyrmont Wharf, Sydney now features the names of 716 migrants from Malta among the more than 31,000 migrants from 136 countries. It is a physical representation of the diversity of this nation.

Consul-General of the Republic of Malta in NSW, Lawrence Buhagiar attended the special viewing of the rooftop projection Across the Seas, part of the Vivid Sydney 2022 programme. A stunning collection of images projected on the Museum's façade reflects stories connected with nearby Pyrmont Wharf, where many Maltese arrived to start a new life.

During the evening, the Museum hosts Australia's National Monument to Migration, one of its flagship creations that wraps and weaves acknowledgement, commemoration, celebration, and interpretation of migrant histories into an exposition of identity.

If any Maltese are interested in inscribing their name or the name of a family or community member on the National Monument to Migration, the closing date for the next unveiling in October is 30th June.

To register visit: www.sea.museum/nationalmonument or phone (02) 9298 3777.

More snow than Swiss Alps

While many people visit Australia for its brilliant beaches and year-round sunshine, the Australian Alps, straddling New South Wales and Victoria, are a mecca for skiing enthusiasts. Snow usually falls between June and September, meaning Australia is the perfect place to get your skiing.

Thredbo and Perisher are two large resorts near Canberra, and Blue Cow Mountain is one of the most popular areas, with a vast range of accommodation and runs as well as stunning views across the Alps.

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.

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Tel: 03 9387 8922 or 0466 079 814 AH

Community News



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

La Valette Social Centre is open for business as usual on Thursdays for Respite and on Saturdays for Mass and entertainment.

The bar and restaurant are available.

Next functions are: L-IM-NARJA on the 26th June from 10 am. Musical entertainment and għana Malti, Mal-

tese Concert Band and various stalls. Arts and Crafts, farm animals and fresh products.

Sunday July 17th CHRISTMAS IN JULY with the three Maltese, Charles Camilleri, DJ George Galea and Paul Elvis Fenech.

For all information phone the Centre: 9622 5847

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.



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



Zack Muscat (left in red kit) Malta's scorer against Estonia tussle for the ball

Socceroos for Qatar WC after penalty shoot-out

The Socceroos of Australia reached their fifth straight World Cup finals by virtue of their 5-4 penalty-shootout victory over Peru in their World Cup play-off match in Qatar.

There was nothing to choose between the two sides throughout the 120 minutes, including the 30 minutes of extra time. No goals were scored by that time, and in the end it came to the shoot-out with goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne, saving the all-important penalty.

The only time any team came near to scoring was when Peru hit the base of the left upright. Otherwise, Australia created the more threatening forays forward by the time the 90 concluded

Then came extra time, and the penalties. Minutes prior to the shoot-out Aussie coach Arnold brought on his third choice goalkeeper, Redmayne for Mat Ryan. It proved to be the trump card.

Redmayne used his penalty-saving tactics that have earned him the nickname "the grey Wiggle". He danced along the goalline and theatrically waved his arms around, all to no avail it seemed, until the last kick that is when he dived down to his right and got a hand to Valera's low effort. It was a save that sparked wild scenes at Al Rayyan Stadium and completed the journey for the Australian players to the World Cup finals in November/December.

Loss and defeat for Malta but hopes still much alive

Malta held on to the hope of challenging for the winning of Group D2 of the 2022-2023 UEFA Nations League by defeating San Marino for a second time (1-0) in their return tie in Malta. However, three days earlier they had dented their hopes at the end of a disappointing home display in a 1-2 defeat against Estonia.

Malta once again established their superiority against San Marino, however, they had to wait until the 50th minute to get the winning goal, a fabulous diving header from Zach Muscat.

It was Malta's fourth victory in 13 outings this season and their fourth in twelve days.

Three days earlier Malta went down to Estonia with a goal at the death scored by Henri Anier four minutes in added time. They brought the loss on themselves. They conceded both goals after defensive errors. The first arrived after 21mins by Konstantin Vassiljev, but levelled from a Karl Hein, own goal.

Win and promotion for Malta Rugby 7s

The Malta national sevens rugby team (right) secured promotion to the next tier of European competition. They walked away with a continental trophy remaining undefeated throughout.

During the competition, Malta faced off against five national teams all vying for promotion from Rugby Europe Conference II to Conference I – the third tier of European rugby.

At the tournament, Malta won over the likes of San Marino (19-5), Slovenia (21-12), Kosovo (48-0), Estonia (50-7), and Slovakia (35-7).

It was a first for Malta, with the country hosting its first Rugby Europe tournament – of sizeable caliber too – for the first time ever

16-year-old weightlifter Tenisha crowned Youth world Champion

Maltese 16-year-old weightlifter Tenisha Thornton (right) was crowned Youth World Champion at the 2022 IWF Youth World Championships in Mexico. She managed to win her 55kg category from a total of 17 athletes from 13 different countries that included Egypt, Mexico, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Ecuador, USA, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, India, and New Zealand.

Thornton managed 78kg in the snatch, and 100kg in the clean and jerk for an overall total of 178kg, seven more than the runner up.

