



# The Voice of the Maltese

Issue  
291

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*(We are for the Greater Malta)*

A fortnightly print  
and digital magazine

## Stunning cliffs of Gozo island

Visitors to Gozo gaze  
in awe at Some of the  
stunning glorious  
cliffs towering above  
Mala's sister island



VisitMalta

# Why do we have ethnic clubs? Where do the Maltese fit in?

**C**lubs Australia says there are more than 6,500 registered clubs in Australia. They include RSL clubs, sporting clubs, leisure venues and others. But there is no national census to estimate how many can be considered as an 'ethnic club' or one founded by migrants to Australia.

Not all clubs are licensed venues either; some are simply a hall or a house owned by a community organisation, while others have evolved to become aged care or education providers.

In 1968, research by former government policy advisor James Houston estimated there were more than 1,000 ethnic clubs, organisations and associations, but it's unknown how many still exist. What is known, though, is that many venues need help to stay open. In New South Wales alone, Clubs Australia estimates 33 per cent of smaller clubs are showing signs of distress or severe distress.

Melita Eagles, George Cross Falcons, Club Marconi, Hakoah and the King Tomislav Croatian Club in NSW have always been strongly linked to football. In contrast, others morphed into support services for migrants when such services didn't exist.

Clubs played a crucial role in helping new migrants settle in Australia. Within a week or so of arrival, they were at the local soccer club because that was where they could meet people who spoke the same language and had many similar interests. At the weekends, they had a venue where to gather. And often, the soccer club helped them find a job, a house, and sometimes even a family.

Melita Eagles SFC had club premises at Enmore, Stanmore and Melita Stadium, where they had a hall and a restaurant. Lawrence Dimech, co-editor of *The Voice*, explains that if it were not for Melita Eagles, many migrants would have returned home as football was the only opportunity for them to meet and gather at weekends after days of aloneness. At football grounds, they vent their frustration. It was not just football; it was nostalgic, meeting other Maltese.

In the early fifties, Maltese in Sydney congregated at *il-hanut tal-Boy* (Fredu n-Nemusa, a former Floriana Ajax footballer), Liverpool Street and other shops around this part of Sydney. In 1974 The Malta Government bought a prominent building, seven stories high on George Street (very close to the Town Hall and

Railway Station).

The Phoenician Club, by now a properly licenced club, occupied the lower floors. The Malta Government sold Malta House for \$A2.4 million in 1980. It was a goldmine, but the Government was too eager to sell. Presently, there is a Macdonald's at ground level. The Phoenician Club moved to 173 Broadway. In 1998 it was forced to close down. It was an end of an era.

Currently, the Maltese community in NSW has three centres, the George Cross Falcons Club at Cringila, the Hamrun Club at Marsden Park and the La Valette Centre at Blacktown. None of them is a licenced club.

Asked by *The Voice* to elaborate, Antoine Mangion, the PRO/Treasurer of the La Valette SC said the club, established in 1964 as La Valette Social Centre, has long been a central part of the Maltese community in Sydney, intimately involved in its cultural, spiritual, and social growth and interests.

The club is open on weekends, where people can enjoy a meal and a few drinks, including Maltese favourite drinks like the Kinnie and Cisk Lager beer, as well as some music, a game of bingo or a traditional Maltese *boćci* game.

## **Facing the challenge of an ageing population**

Many also catch up on a Thursday while the centre is open for centre-based activities as part of the Maltese Respite Services that run at the club for ageing community members.

Along with the respite service, the club also hosts a weekly Maltese play-based class for pre-schoolers and regular language classes for youths and adults. The Maltese Concert Band NSW also holds rehearsals at the club.

The centre holds several Maltese cultural events and concerts Throughout the year, including traditional Maltese feasts and famous Maltese artists. During their stay in

NSW, most dignitaries visiting Australia from Malta are always taken to



Antoine Mangion

the centre to meet members of the Maltese community.

For many years, a chapel and presbytery built as part of the initial club premises have housed priests from the Missionary Society of St Paul who provided religious, spiritual and welfare services to Maltese across western Sydney. The Society of Christian Doctrine – known colloquially as *il-Mużew* – also ran Sunday School there for children and youth.

While these organisations are no longer present, mass in Maltese continues to be celebrated in the chapel, and several religious occasions are also celebrated at the club.

Like many other ethnic clubs, La Valette is facing the challenges of an ageing population. This community is spreading further across an ever-growing Sydney, and urbanisation has brought more diverse options for entertainment and socialisation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has compounded this. The club's committee is optimistic about the future and is gradually putting in place activities and infrastructure that will help encourage families and younger community members to participate and take up membership.

Clubs belonging to long-established ethnic communities like the Maltese, who have integrated well, face a direct and enormous challenge from the RSL, Leagues and Bowling Clubs, fully licenced and with poker machines as they can offer superior facilities and services to their members.

Yet ethnic clubs can still offer something the others cannot: direct links to their homeland and fellowship based on their roots and trusted space.



The Melita Stadium, home of Melita Eagles FC in NSW



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

# Why who you select as your lawyer is important: estate and elder abuse

**M**y name is Jessica Mowle. I take this opportunity to formally introduce myself to The Voice readers, to commend Paul Sant's recent involvement in a Supreme Court of NSW hearing.

In *FC v SC* [2022] NSWCS 1780, Paul was not the legal representative but a **witness**. A former client's welfare was the subject of this court case. The Judge said of Paul (amongst other positive comments):

*"He was a highly experienced legal professional who was committed to his clients, expressed himself in considered language, understood the law well and had a detailed memory of his interactions with his clients and of his clients' concerns."* Slattery J, paragraph 40.

This is one reason why you should select a lawyer you are comfortable engaging with, and can trust. Your lawyer may be called upon to give evidence to the Court, about your capacity when you made certain decisions and executed certain legal documents, during or after your lifetime.

## Protective matters

One function of the Crown is to protect individuals who cannot protect themselves. The National Civil and Administrative Tribunal, **NCAT**, deals inter alia with applications for guardianship and financial management orders.

Applications may become necessary if a person has not executed Estate planning documents, and a spouse, relative or friend seeks authority to manage their affairs.

Often, if NCAT is presented with two relatives seeking competing guardianship and/or financial management orders over the same person, the NSW Trustee and Guardian, or an unrelated private manager, may be appointed.

The Supreme Court of NSW has a Protective list to deal with complex cases such as that referred to herein. If family members cannot agree, contentious allegations exist and multiple issues are disputed, the Court is responsible to decide who and how a person's affairs should now be managed, to best protect that person.

## Case background

The client first instructs Paul to draft an Enduring Guardian (**EG**) and Enduring Power of Attorney (**EPOA**) appointing a relative as Guardian and Attorney. A few years later, the client instructs a different lawyer to prepare a second EG and EPOA, appointing a different relative as Guardian and Attorney. The latter lawyer also acted for the relative appointed under the second EG and EPOA.

Should the client lose capacity to manage their affairs, the EG and EPOA empower the Guardian and Attorney to do so, including deciding where the client will live and accessing the client's bank accounts.

The relative appointed Guardian and Attorney under the first EG and EPOA commenced court against the later appointed relative, who did not appear to be acting in the client's best interests, or as it was found by the Court in this case, **unduly influenced** the client in making the second EG & EPOA.

## It can happen to anyone

The phrase 'Elder Abuse' may turn your mind to physical assault – an elderly person being pushed over is clearly "abuse". It is more than this and encompasses financial abuse, isolation from family, deprivation of liberties and health care. Unfortunately, even blood relatives may put their own interests above yours, particularly where significant assets are in-

volved.

Imagine you put your estate planning documents in place – an EG appointing a Guardian to make medical decisions, and an EPOA appointing an Attorney to access your finances, both on your behalf if you become unable to do so yourself. And of course, executing a Will, leaving your Estate to your selected beneficiaries in the shares you determine, considering legal advice in your circumstances.

Next, imagine that at a time when you are most vulnerable, perhaps in a state of confusion, after changes to your surroundings. You call another relative and express unhappiness. That relative takes you to a lawyer you have never dealt with before. Before you know it, you are signing documents, and aren't quite sure what is happening or why.

After leaving the lawyer's office, you think: 'Did I hear that lawyer say in my updated Will I am leaving my whole estate to this relative?'

That can't be right... I'm sure I remember being told... If a relative makes a claim after I die and there is a fight, my Estate money will fund lawyers... But... I did call this relative because I wasn't happy about something my other relative did... I'm sure its fine, they are helping me, they care about me.'

Fast forwarding many months, you find yourself watching an odd television show that goes on for days. On screen you recognise a courtroom, a judge, and other people in wigs and robes and suits. You recognise your lawyer, and realise they are talking about you.

The crux of this article is that you may find yourself involved in court proceedings about yourself, and lawyers who have acted for you may be required to give evidence in court about you. In this case, the court accepted all of Paul's evidence, assessing him as a person of sound judgment with an excellent memory of interactions with his client.



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**PAUL SANT**

(SOLICITOR)

**PARTNER AT LONGTON LEGAL**

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Email: [paul.sant@longtonlegal.com.au](mailto:paul.sant@longtonlegal.com.au)

Maltese Spoken



**JESSICA MOWLE**  
Solicitor

Mentored by Paul  
in Estates and  
Family Law since  
May 2018;  
practising since-  
July 2018



## Sir George Houston Reid: 4h Prime Minister of Australia

**Sir George Houston Reid was the fourth Prime Minister of Australia. He only served as PM for ten months and 17 days. He was also Australia's first federal Leader of the Opposition and the federal government's first High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.**

# First government's High Commissioner to the UK

**In office: 18 August 1904 to 5 July 1905**

**G**eorge Reid was born on 25 February 1845 in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He was one of seven children of Rev John Reid, a Presbyterian minister, and Marion Crybbace. The family migrated to Melbourne in 1852, one of many Presbyterian families brought out to Australia by the Rev Dr JD Lang.

Reid attended school at the Melbourne Academy (later called Scotch College) and later moved to Sydney where, from the age of 13 he worked as a merchant's clerk. Then in 1864 he obtained a position as assistant accountant at the Colonial Treasury, where he worked for the next 14 years.

While working Reid studied law and in 1879 eventually became a barrister. He transferred to the Crown Law Office as secretary to the Attorney General.

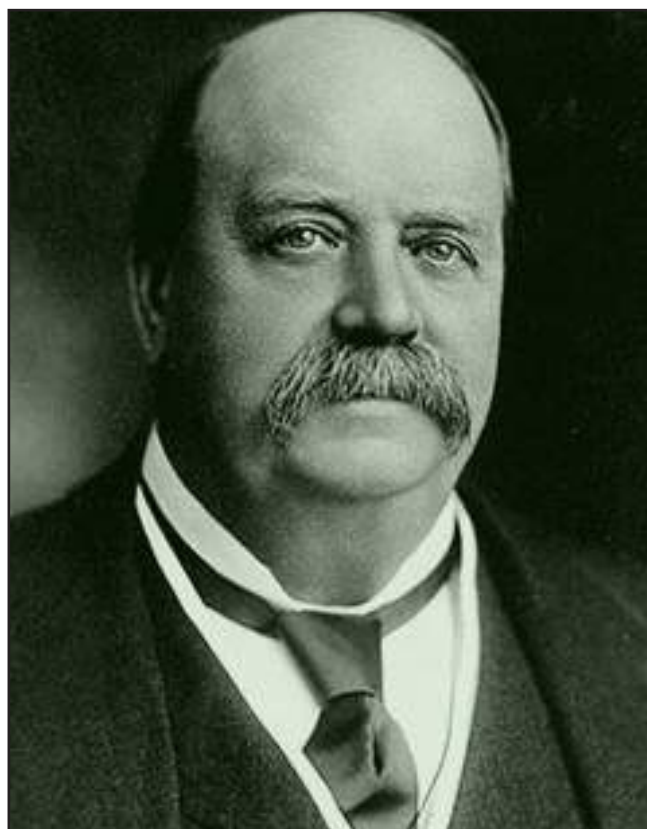
In November 1880 Reid entered the New South Wales Legislative Assembly representing the seat of East Sydney, which he held until February 1884, and then again from October 1885 to July 1894. Then, from January 1883 to March 1884 he became Minister for Public Instruction in Alexander Stuart's government.

*Researched by  
Lawrence Dimech*

Reid was also a leading advocate of free trade, opposing federation at the time of the first Federal Convention in March 1891, believing it would force New South Wales to surrender its free trade policies. In 1891 he married Flora Brumby and they had three children.

Having switched to the King electorate, on 17 July 1894 Reid led the Free Trade group to electoral victory and served as both Premier and Treasurer for the next five years.

Having reconsidered his views on Federation, in August 1894 he suggested the formation of a second Federal Convention to



time maintaining he supported it, he acquired the nickname 'Yes-No Reid'.

In January 1895 the premiers met in Adelaide and decided to conduct a second Federal Convention. Beginning in 1897, the second Federal Convention met three times and completed drafting a federal constitution in 1898. On 3–4 June that same year, referenda in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria returned votes in favour of accepting the constitution, but in New South Wales the majority was insufficient for acceptance.

From 29 January to 3 February 1899 Reid convened a meeting of premiers that negotiated six amendments to the draft constitution to make it acceptable to New South Wales. Key amendments related to the location of the federal capital and federal–state financial arrangements.

During the period April–September 1899 referenda in all eastern colonies accepted the amended constitution and the Commonwealth Constitution Bill was subsequently passed.

George Reid with wife Florence and their children (from left) Douglas, Thelma and Clive, in London, 1915



other colonial premiers, and for pointing out the draft constitution's faults from a Free Trade perspective, while at the same

*\*Continued on page 5*



# Physical appearance obscured George Reid's other qualities

*\*Continued from page 6*

Since losing electoral ground in July 1898 Reid had relied on Labor support to govern. However, dissatisfied with the performance of Reid's government, in August 1899 Labor withdrew its support and a month later Reid was forced to resign.

In the first federal general election in March 1901 Reid successfully contested the East Sydney seat and became Australia's first federal Leader of the Opposition from 1901 to 1904 as leader of the Free Trade group.

On 18 August 1904, following the passing of an amendment against its Arbitration Bill led to the resignation of Prime Minister Chris Watson's minority Labor government, which had lasted just four months, and Reid was appointed Prime Minister.

Reid, who had crusaded against the bill's 'socialism', was commissioned to form a government of Free Traders, and then governed in an uneasy alliance with some Protectionists, notably not Alfred Deakin.

A large man with a bushy moustache, Reid delighted cartoonists, who made much of his physical appearance and forceful debating style. Their caricatures of him, and criticism by opponents such as Alfred Deakin and Chris Watson, obscured other qualities he had, such as his renowned good humour, wit, skill in debate, and (as author of four books) talent as a writer.

Reid retained his prime ministership for 10 months and 17 days, until resigning on 5 July 1905. The resignation of Reid's Free Trade government occurred after Deakin moved a successful amendment to the Address-in-Reply, which Reid regarded as the withdrawal of the Protectionists' support. Alfred Deakin was then commissioned to form his second government, which took office that day.

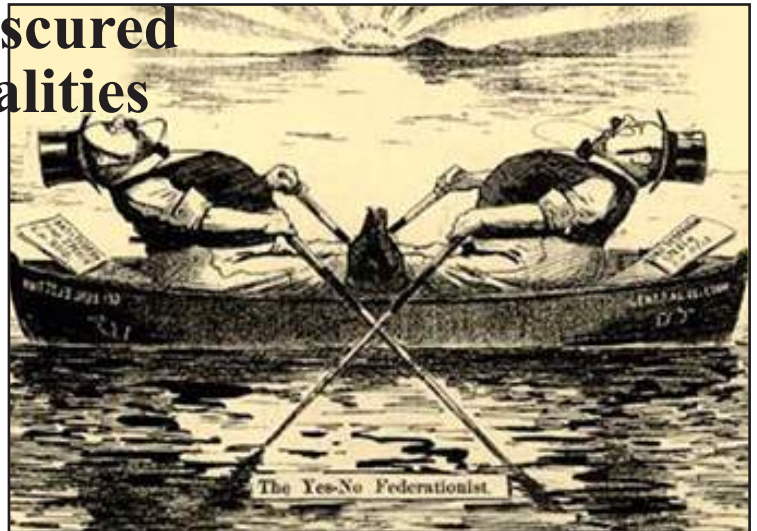
After losing office Reid reverted to being Opposition Leader, a position he occupied over the next three years, though delegating much to his deputy, Joseph Cook, so he could spend more time in his Sydney legal practice. He finally stood aside for Cook in 1908.

In 1909 Reid became a King's Counsel and in December was appointed as Australia's first High Commissioner to the UK. He retired from federal politics to take up this position, which became effective on 26 February 1910. He remained High Commissioner in London for the next six years.

After the outbreak of the First World War he persuaded Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-Chief of the UK Army, to have Australian troops trained in Egypt, arguing that bringing them directly into a European winter could impair their health.

During that war, his wife Flora Reid worked to provide services to the Australian troops. For this, in 1917 she was made a Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire, one of the first to receive the award.

After completing his term as High Commissioner, Reid was offered a seat in the UK House of Commons. He was elected unopposed to the St George's Hanover Square seat at a by-election on 15 January 1916 and continued to live in London until his death there, two months before the end of the First World War on 12 September 1918.



"The Yes-No Federationist", The Bulletin 30 July 1898

*\*This is the last in the series about the Prime Ministers of Australia. We thank the special writers who contributed to this feature, Ron Borg, Joe Buttigieg, Ivan Cauchi and Lawrence Dimech. We are proud to have such writers committed to The Voice of the Maltese.*

## An overview ...

### Australia served by 31 Prime Ministers in 37 legislatures

In a span of 122 years of history, since the office was created in 1901, Australia has been served by 31 different Prime Ministers (including incumbent Anthony Albanese) in 37 legislatures.

Four of them PMs occupied the position more than once. Alfred Deakin and Andrew Fisher served on three separate occasions; Robert Menzies and Kevin Rudd on two occasions.

The prime minister of Australia is the leader of the Government of Australia and the Cabinet of Australia, with the support of the majority of the House of Representatives

Following is the whole list of those who served the nation from 1st January 1901:

Edmund Barton	Frank Forde
Alfred Deakin	Ben Chifley
Chris Watson	Robert Menzies
George Reid	Harold Holt
Alfred Deakin	John McEwen
Andrew Fisher	John Gorton
Alfred Deakin	William McMahon
Andrew Fisher	Gough Whitlam
Joseph Cook	Malcolm Fraser
Andrew Fisher	Bob Hawke
William Hughes	Paul Keating
Stanley Bruce	John Howard
James Scullin	Kevin Rudd
Joseph Lyons	Julia Gillard
Earle Page	Kevin Rudd
Robert Menzies	Tony Abbott
Arthur Fadden	Malcolm Turnbull
John Curtin	Scott Morrison
	Anthony Albanese



The grave of Australian politician George Reid at Putney Vale Cemetery, London, UK



# An exciting journey: from Floriana, to Madrid, Brussels and Canberra

***They come from across the seas to represent their country to faraway places like Australia; some stay for a short while, others longer. More than any other country in Australia, they come face to face with an active, vibrant Maltese community that occupies much of their time. The Voice of the Maltese has selected Gail Demanuele, the current Deputy High Commissioner of Malta in Canberra, for this month's personality, primarily because of her fascinating background.***

## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

### Gail Demanuele

Gail was born in Pieta (St Luke's), but she is furjaniza; both her parents are from Floriana, Caroline (Carol) and Salvatore (Silvio). She also has a younger brother, Dean. Incidentally, Gail was born in 1984 when her father Silvio (related to Floriana FC icon il-Koku Demanuele), played for Melita Eagles FC of Sydney as a guest Malta player.

Talking about her early life, she told The Voice that she attended St Monica School in Gzira, and Junior College in Msida, before her studies at the University of Malta. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Psychology at the University of Malta in 2006, she decided to travel and work in Madrid, Spain.

Ms Demanuele had only planned to stay for one year, but the country and the people brought her to stay for five years. She lived in Madrid for four years teaching English in language schools. Also, she studied for one year at the University of Salamanca, where she did her first Master's Degree in Occupational Risk Management.

These experiences helped her grow and become more independent.

She also took the opportunity to learn Spanish whilst appreciating the distinct but similar cultural values.

In 2011, Ms Demanuele returned to Malta to focus more on her career.

In 2013, she started working within the secretariat of Dr Edward Zammit Lewis, then Parliamentary Secretary for Competitiveness and Economic Growth and later Minister for Tourism. She worked there for almost five years on policies and projects and as a consultant before getting promoted to Chief of Staff. She explained that this had been a rewarding experience and a privilege to have worked for Dr Zammit Lewis and the people of Malta.

After such an experience, Ms Demanuele also had the opportunity to work at the Office of the Prime Minister as a consultant for a short time, as she had the chance to have her first experience



**LEFT: During Malta National day 2022 in Canberra: (from left): Nagela Fernandes Maciel, Gail Demanuele, HC Mario Borg Farrugia, and Joanne Grima**

as a diplomat at the Permanent Representation office in Brussels, Belgium. She worked there for a year as a Deputy Antici, a role to provide high-quality policy coordination and administrative support to the Antici and the Malta Permanent Representative.

After one year of experience at the Permanent Representation, she returned to Malta, where she worked at Community Malta. Previous to her current post, for two years she was the Head of Human Resources at Mater Dei Hospital.





**Gail Demanuele (second from right) in 2019 with the other members of the Floriana Local Council**

Local Council to make Floriana better. I do miss being home at times.", said Ms Demanuele.

When asked about her significant change living in the capital city, Ms Demanuele said, "Canberra is a tranquil city, and sometimes it makes you feel lonely. But I am also getting used to it and the healthy lifestyle. If I had the opportunity to choose where to live in Australia, I would have preferred to live in a warmer climate, such as Queensland or the NSW coast. On the other hand, Sydney is very close, and every time we

have the time to travel, we drive to different towns and cities.

"Australia is beautiful, and so many things to appreciate. When people ask me whether I like Australia, I always recommend the country, as there are many opportunities and marvellous places to visit. That is a typical question during our consular appointments, and we always share experiences and tips about Malta and Australia."

Ms Demanuele's partner, Ms Nagela Fernandes Maciel, has accompanied Gail during her posting at the High Commission and has been very supportive and understanding.

## Personality: Gail Demanuele

*\*Continued from page 6*

In 2020, she also graduated with a Master's in Knowledge-based Entrepreneurship at the University of Malta, as trade has always been an area of interest.

Gail Demanuele has first-hand experience in Malta's local councils. She contested for the first time for the local Council's elections on 25 May 2019 with the Malta Labour Party and got elected as Deputy Mayor of Floriana. However, on 30 July 2021, she had to resign after accepting the position of Deputy High Commissioner of Malta in Canberra within the

Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.

During her time on Council, it was hard to maintain face-to-face communication with the people of Floriana due to COVID-19, but she tried to keep close to the community in any way she could.

"I was happy when I got elected as the Deputy Mayor of Floriana, as I love my home town and was glad to have the possibility to be more connected to the community. I was also delighted to have worked on the projects and initiatives together with my colleagues at the



**Gail with the Governor-General of Australia's, David John Hurley**

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[CatholicCare.org](http://CatholicCare.org)

# Have your say/Xi trid tqhid?

**Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...**

## What is good in Malta

*Jim Gatt from Prospect NSW writes:*

I came across this gem. To be fair, there are many things that would annoy you with any Government, but there are many other good initiatives. Let's just take a fleeting look at what we take for granted in Malta.

A normal family receives energy subsidies to cover the increasing costs for water and electricity, subventions (or grants) on solar or PV installations, subsidised fuel for cars, free public transport, children's allowance, and free drugs for the rest of your life if you are vulnerable or fall in a special health category (collected from your own village pharmacy).

The Maltese people also receive free hospital care and free medical services, free schooling if you wish to avail yourself of State primary, secondary and tertiary education, monthly stipends for university and post-secondary education, and free transport to schools even if you happen to

### In the name of Progress

*Lawrence Scerri from Wollongong writes:*

The loss of heritage in the name of progress has become ordinary in Malta. So many elegant homes and Maltese traditional street characteristics have been lost in the last 55 years.

It started along the Sliema seafront with hotels in the late 1960s but now over development has reached Gozo, like the charming seaside town of Xlendi now choked with holiday apartments.

As Archbishop Charles Scicluna said on the matter, what will the legacy be to the future generations of this over development?

Greed and corruption kill the environment, and the health and safety of workers is too often ignored with many dying in the construction industry.

choose private schooling.

They also have subsidies on essential items, grants for extending their studying at post-graduate level. They pay no exam fees, and have property tax exemptions for first-time and second-time property buyers. Most roads are repaired... and the list goes on and on.

So the next time you go to Malta, don't just look at the ugly buildings.

### The real value of *The Voice*

*Nancy Serg nee Borg from Baulkham Hills NSW writes:*

Many thanks for forwarding *The Voice of the Maltese* No. 290. I am astonished and always impressed by the amount of valuable information within. It certainly keeps one on the ball on what is currently happening.

This is essential in that we are an ageing community. I hear from people who now cannot drive at night, and are unable to keep in touch with the community.

Hence the value of *The Voice*.

### Racial bias and racism still plague our lives

*Paul Farrell from Perth, Western Australia writes:*

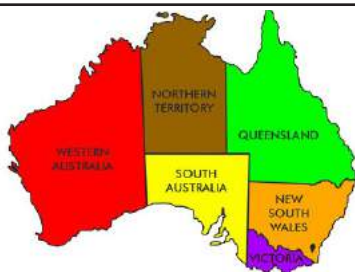
Perhaps it should come as no surprise to anyone that racial bias and racism – two faces of the same societal ill – continue to plague our lives.

Sometimes, one finds it too difficult to understand the reason for this when we were all created equal irrespective of colour. However, somebody like me (and I am sure several other people) find it hard to believe that there could be a reason for this other than arrogance, and the belief that one race could be superior to the other.

I want to believe that one day we could live as one, without any prejudice. But then, by the looks of it, mine could just be a dream that is difficult to be fulfilled. I also read somewhere that outright discrimination that is still chalked up to "unconsciously racist" banter, will suffocate progress.

Surprisingly, nowadays, even video games have become racist. One fine example is the Fifa20 video game that reproduces the racial stereotypes embedded within football. I found one good example of this, as Black footballers in the game are given lower scores for technical or cognitive ability than white players.

When will it end, if ever?



### 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.

#### Editors:

**Malta:** Joseph Cutajar

**Australia:**

Lawrence Dimech: MOM,  
OAM, JP Rt

email address:  
maltesevoice@gmail.com

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# The complicated life of Cardinal George Pell

Cardinal George Pell, Australia's highest-ranking Catholic, has died in Rome at the age of 81 after a cardiac arrest following complications from hip replacement surgery.

His coffin was eventually returned to Australia and will be buried in the crypt at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, where he served as archbishop.

It's a nearly 100-year-old ornate crypt with "one of the finest mosaic floors in the world". The crypt, built in the 1930s, is the resting place of some of the most high-profile Australian Catholic figures.

They include the first archbishop of Sydney, John Bede Polding, who died in 1877, long before the crypt's completion in 1961.

The first colonial chaplain, Fr John Joseph Therry, who in 1821 was granted the land on which St Mary's Cathedral was built, is now buried there.

Cardinal Norman Thomas Gilroy, a former Sydney archbishop and Australia's first cardinal, is also buried beneath the College Street cathedral.

The dimly lit caverns are adorned with tiled flooring depicting religious iconography. Intricate slabs placed over each tomb feature inscriptions highlighting the achievements of the person below.



Australian Cardinal George Pell



## Pell – a key figure in the early years of Pope Francis' papacy

George Pell the Australian cardinal who decried the papacy of Pope Francis as a "catastrophe" and "disaster" was given a funeral in St Peter's Basilica, with the pontiff imparting a final blessing for the once high-ranking Vatican prelate.

Cardinal Pell, an 81-year-old was the Vatican's top finance minister for three years, he was a key player in the early years of Pope Francis' papacy, whose goals included reforming the Holy See's finances, which had a long history of scandals and poor management.

In 2017 he left the Vatican to stand trial in Melbourne for child sexual abuse offences. The following year, he was convicted of molesting two teenage choirboys in the sacristy of Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral while archbishop in 1996. He served a year in solitary confinement but maintained his innocence. In 2020 his convictions were quashed by the High Court.

Kevin Andrews, The Premier for the State of Victoria, confirmed there would not be a state funeral or memorial service for Cardinal Pell in Victoria. "I couldn't think of anything that would be more distressing for victim-survivors than that," he told reporters. NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet ruled out a state funeral as well.

Cardinal Pell became the Melbourne archbishop in 1996 and five years later took up the same role in Sydney.

A man claimed that in 1962 when he was an altar boy, Cardinal Pell sexually abused

him. The cleric denied the allegation and, in 2003, became a cardinal in the Vatican.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott said Cardinal Pell's imprisonment had been a "modern form of crucifixion; reputationally at least a kind of living death".

Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli said Cardinal Pell was "one of the great Church men of Australia, and internationally" and a "forthright defender of the faith". Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and former PM John Howard expressed condolences to the Catholic community.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP spoke of Cardinal Pell's vision in bringing World Youth Day to Sydney in 2008 and the positive faith impact it had. He said Cardinal Pell was an author of books and a regular newspaper columnist, a lecturer and leader in Catholic education, and a scholar in his own right.

He served the broader Church as a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vox Clara Commission, the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Congregation of Bishops.

But Melbourne solicitor Viv Waller, who represented Cardinal Pell's surviving accuser, said he would be remembered as "not adopting a very compassionate response to (abuse revelations) but instead being offensive about it and protecting the church".

Shine Lawyers, who represent the father of one of Cardinal Pell's accusers, said the legal claim against the Church and the cardinal's estate would continue.

## Funeral details announced

Cardinal George Pell's funeral will be held at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on the 2 February at 11 am. Arrangements have already started for his body to be returned to Sydney from Rome, where he died.

The Cardinal will lie in state at the Cathedral from the morning of 1 February. But he will not be given a state funeral.

### Message on Australia Day 2023

#### H.E. Ms Jenny Cartmill

High Commissioner for Australia in Malta

On Australia Day 2023, sending warm wishes to everyone from the whole team at the Australian High Commission in Malta!



It's a day to reflect on what it means to be Australian. We celebrate a modern and diverse Australia, and acknowledge our history and the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to our nation.

Together we celebrate our achievements and especially our people, including all those with Maltese ancestry - 234,000 according to the latest census!

We're all part of the story. The High Commission will once again be holding an event to mark the day, honoured by the presence of HE President George Vella and Mrs Vella.

## New dates being considered for President's visit to Australia

The Maltese community in Australia would be glad to know that *The Voice* has been officially informed that the visit to Australia in 2023 by the President of Malta, HE Dr George Vella, has only been postponed. The President's Office is working on the new dates for the visit and this time *The Voice* would be informed accordingly.

# Australia during year 2022

## A look back

**D**ebate over when the federal election would be called was in the air until early April, when Scott Morrison fired the starting gun. In the six weeks that followed, Australians considered who to elect as candidates campaigned across the country.

Anthony Albanese couldn't name Australia's unemployment rate on the first day of the election campaign, and Scott Morrison's "bulldozer" moment was captured on camera after he accidentally knocked over a child playing soccer on the campaign trail in Tasmania.

The federal election also resulted in a teal "wave" that opened the door for independent candidates to enter parliament, significantly from traditionally Liberal electorates.

Scott Morrison was ousted as Prime Minister, and Anthony Albanese was sworn in as Australia's 31st prime minister, becoming the first-ever prime minister without an Anglo-Celtic surname.



New Aussie PM Anthony Albanese

Labor's victory also resulted in a life-altering decision for the Nadesalingam family. In June, the family returned to Biloela after spending four years in immigration detention.

Australia started 2022 in the throes of the omicron variant outbreak, which resulted in record-high COVID cases and restrictions across the country.

Residents in Melbourne, having gone through the world's

longest COVID-19 lockdown in 2021, saw continuing restrictions.

Among the most high-profile cases was the visa trouble for tennis star Novak Djokovic, who, after landing in Melbourne on 5 January to compete in the Australian Open, was placed in immigration detention.

It felt like it was non-stop rain in parts of the country as Australia faced its second consecutive La Niña season. In February, one of the biggest floods in modern Australian history inundated the New South Wales town of Lismore, displacing hundreds of residents.

The one-in-1000-year weather event happened again four weeks later in Lismore and continued across the country as major flooding hit parts of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and parts of Queensland throughout 2022.

In October, thousands attended vigils and rallies across Australia to pay tribute to Noongar teenager Cassius Turvey who was attacked by white men while walking home from school in Western Australia.

The 15-year-old boy died ten days later in an induced coma after sustaining serious injuries and was farewelled across the country. People attended a vigil at King George Square in Brisbane to mourn the death of Cassius Turvey.

In December, crown prosecutors dropped charges against Bruce Lehrmann for the alleged rape of former Liberal party staffer Brittany Higgins in Parliament House after a mistrial in the case and over concerns for Ms Higgins's welfare.



Victim of racism Cassius Turvey

## Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

### Llandilo Maltese Seniors

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

### Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

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

### Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

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

Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

### Maltese of Bankstown

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

### Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville. Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips. Join us and make new friends. Group Leader: Doris Scicluna.

### The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets every first Wednesday of the month in July, September, November & December and in February, April & June 2023. From 10:00am to 12noon at the Miranda Community Centre 93 Karimbla Rd cnr Kiora Rd Miranda. Meetings are interesting & informative. Membership is free, so is Morning Tea/Coffee/Cake.

Outings every other month. Come & 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.

cer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123. The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (Cnr Young St) Parramatta West NSW.

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



# We remember ...

## VELLA Carmelo (Lino)

### AM, MQR. 1936-2022

**C**armelo (Lino) Vella, a most popular and respected leader of our Maltese community in Australia, died one year ago at his residence in Blacktown, NSW. He was the editor of the iconic The Maltese Herald for over 40 years, perhaps the longest-serving editor of any Maltese newspaper.

Lino was born in Paola, Malta, on 22 September 1936. The family moved to Birzebuga in 1939 and St. Julians in 1945. Lino spent his formative years at St. Julians before migrating to Australia on the liner Sydney in November 1954. He left

school in 1951. His father, a canteen manager, helped him find work with the NAAFI.

His first job in Sydney was as a trench digger for the New South Wales Water Board. He took on various positions, including six years with the Olympic Tyre Company.

A lifelong devotee of the round game, Lino's association with Melita Eagles dates to the year of the team's formation in Sydney in 1955. He was president of the Malta Eagles when the club amalgamated with the Melita Football Club in 1956.



His commitment to the Eagles was continuous. He served the club at executive level, coach, and goalkeeper. He also played for the NSW X1. He was made a Life Member of the club.

His love of soccer led him into a lifelong journalistic partnership with Lawrence Dimech, and in 1957, he helped Lawrence produce a short-lived magazine called Soccer Light.

Lino's journalism took him a further step in the late 1950s when he became Sports Editor for the Sydney-based Malta News.

In 1961, when The Maltese Herald commenced publication, Lino had his column, 'On Target', in the sports section. By the mid-1960s, the Maltese Herald had expanded from an eight-page monthly into a 20-page weekly.

In 1971, when its first full-time editor, Lawrence Dimech, was appointed Consul General for Malta in New South Wales, Lino replaced him as editor. He was also the sole owner of the newspaper since 1983.

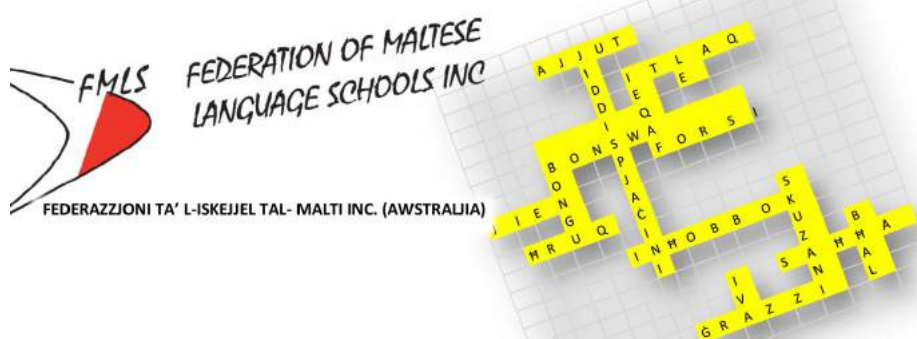
In 1999 Lino Vella was made a Member of the Order of Australia AM. In 2011, for his services to the Maltese community, the Government of Malta awarded him with Gieh ir-Repubblika.

He married Barbara Platel, who died in 2003, and had a son, Paul, and a daughter, Annette.

### Reaching the diaspora

If you are interested in advertising in *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese in Australia, you are requested to write for details to:

[maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com)



**Registration for the 2023 Maltese Language classes is now open**

#### ACT:

Maltese Australian Association of Canberra and Queanbeyan

Maltese Language classes: [johnvass54@gmail.com](mailto:johnvass54@gmail.com)

#### MACKAY:

Mackay Maltese Language classes: [veronica.gauci@bigpond.com](mailto:veronica.gauci@bigpond.com)

#### NSW:

Maltese Language School of NSW: [mls@mccnsw.org.au](mailto:mls@mccnsw.org.au)

Skola Maltija Sydney: [skolamaltijasydney@yahoo.com.au](mailto:skolamaltijasydney@yahoo.com.au)

Dwejret il-Malti – Blacktown: [dwejretilmalti@gmail.com](mailto:dwejretilmalti@gmail.com)

#### VIC:

Online Adult Maltese Language Classes MCCV

<https://mccv.org.au/services/language/>

Prep to Year 10 face to face Saturday Maltese Language classes MCCV

Caroline Springs George Cross FC Function Room 46 City Vista Ct,

Plumpton, VIC 3335 <https://mccv.org.au/services/language/>

#### FEDERATION OF MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASSES:

For other information please contact: [malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com](mailto:malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com)



## Roundup of News About Malta



# MIA to invest €175 million in five years in Airport campus

In the next five years Malta International Airport (MIA) is to invest €175 million in the evolution of the airport campus, €39 million of which is planned to be disbursed this year.

During a press conference in which he



MIA's CEO Alan Borg (left) and MTA CEO Carlo Micallef addressing the media

presented highlights from the company's five-year capital investment plan, MIA CEO Alan Borg described the investment programme as key to the realisation of the company's vision to take passenger numbers beyond the record levels reached in 2019 whilst maintaining the highest levels of service and delivering on its climate-related pledges.

The transformation has been given the green light with the approval of the design concept for the first phase of the Terminal Expansion Project, which will see the westward extension of the building. Other projects are to be completed by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, works on the €40 million Apron X project, which will boost Malta International Airport's aircraft parking capacity and its ability to handle mixed-fleet operations, have picked up the pace as the company eyes summer 2024 for the completion and utilisation of the first parking stands. The company will also be investing heavily in maintaining its airfield infrastructure.

The CEO said that the execution of so many ambitious projects as the terminal remains operational will be challenging. Still, the MIA recognises its responsibility to ensure that, as the point of entry for most tourists visiting the islands, the airport continues to evolve and rank among Europe's top-rated airports.

Malta International Airport is committed

to working with the Malta Tourism Authority to put the Maltese Islands on the map as a destination of choice. Based on the current winter schedule and traffic developments confirmed for the upcoming summer season, in 2023, the airport expects to host 6.3 million passengers, recovering 86 per cent of pre-pandemic traffic.

Meanwhile, Mr Carlo Micallef, the CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA), believes that the success of the faster-than-forecast recovery of the tourism industry post-pandemic is mainly due to the synergy struck across the board amongst all stakeholders, a main one being Malta International Airport.

Since The Maltese Islands' tourism industry is practically dependent on air travel, the MTA is looking forward to working hand in hand with MIA to ensure that connectivity remains at the top of its agenda.

He maintained that the 2022 end-of-year results (with close to 2.3 million tourists) affirm that the recovery of the sector in Malta is moving swiftly on the right track. The MTA remains committed to being there, with the MIA and all stakeholders, to ensure that 2023 will see the sector grow more decisive in its recovery.



## 421,500 passengers travelled through MIA in December

In the meantime, Malta International Airport has announced that its traffic for December amounted to 421,468 passenger movements, translating to a recovery of 88.3 per cent of pre-pandemic traffic.

While December's daily traffic averaged around 13,000 passenger movements, on the month's busiest days, namely December 23, 29 and 30, the Malta International Airport team handled more than 17,000 passengers.

Italy was the most popular destination in December, with a 21.4 per cent market share, followed by the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Poland.

December's results brought full-year traffic up to 5.8 million passenger movements; while August was the year's busiest month with 712,122 passenger movements, December registered the most robust recovery rate.

## PROJECT GREEN: investing in gardens and open spaces in Malta

Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise Miriam Dalli (right) has officially launched the Project Green agency, entrusted with delivering the €700 million electoral pledge, spread over seven years, for everyone to enjoy green recreational spaces a short walk from home. Steve Ellul will head it in his capacity as CEO.

Minister Dalli stressed that community engagement is at the new agency's heart as it collaborates closely with all stakeholders, especially residents and local councils. She pointed out that the projects will be planned by the people and delivered to the people.

Varying from the more prominent green open spaces to spaces within the community to afforestation and support organisations, Project Green will focus on collaboration, delivering quality projects and ensuring their sustainability. The agency will collaborate with other entities to maximise resources and ensure continuity.

She said that Project Green is tasked with translating this unprecedented environmen-



tal investment into quality green spaces. "We want to deliver green spaces that are self-sufficient, sustainable and accessible," she said, adding that these spaces must meet the people's aspirations.

Mr Steve Ellul said that Project Green would be working exclusively on aspirations for a better quality of life and that

during the next 12 months, it would also be planting some 7,500 trees and shrubs, funded through voluntary initiatives by the private sector that would cover an area greater than nine football pitches.

## Public Transport in Malta

The Malta Public Transport fleet that operates the public transport service is to increase its fleet by 25 electric buses, for an overall total of 450 buses. The investment is the result of the free public transport measure that has increased the number of commuters. For the first time in the last three years, last year the company carried almost 50 million passengers to exceed the number it carried in December 2019



# Important official ministerial visit full of activities in Ghana

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg and a Maltese trade delegation of 50 Maltese business people led by Trade Malta recently visited Ghana as part of the third Malta-Ghana Business Forum. The minister also inaugurated the High Commission of Malta in the Ghanaian capital, Accra.

The visit, three years after the first forum, mainly intended to explore more business opportunities with the African country, was described by Minister Borg as a vital opportunity to continue seeing Maltese and Gozitans expand abroad. He said that now is the right time to look optimistic about the future of bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the trade sector.

He spoke about the opportunities for growth and development under the Free Trade Area of the African Continent and claimed that this is vital to building more business bridges. He stated that the Maltese are interested in Ghana, which has a dynamic environment when it comes to business. Hence it is ideal for creating collaborations between international partners.

The Maltese commercial delegation comprised businesses in the ICT, digitalisation, education, health, engineering and construction, manufacturing and oil and gas industries. He said he had presided over several agreements between Maltese and Ghanaian companies and that the Maltese Government would continue to provide the support needed for expanding Maltese and Gozitan business expansions.

Meanwhile, during the inauguration of the High Commission, with the participation of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana and Ambassadors of other countries in Ghana, Minister Ian Borg pointed out that this was a clear demonstration of the commitment and willingness to continue

strengthening bilateral relations with the African continent.

He claimed that this was the first Maltese diplomatic representation in sub-Saharan Africa and that there has been a diplomatic presence since 2019.

During a bilateral meeting between Minister Ian Borg and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana Shirley Ayokor Botchewy, the two countries signed a number of cooperation agreements through which the relationship between the two countries will continue to be strengthened.

Minister Botchewy said it was an important day that continues to show the commitment of the two countries. She stressed that she looks forward for these agreements to come into force for the benefit of both people.

Botchewy also thanked the Maltese government for the donation of more than 130,000



**Minister Ian Borg (centre) at the inauguration of the Malta High Commission**

COVID vaccines during the pandemic.

Minister Borg also had a meeting with Minister for Trade of Ghana Michael Okyere Baafi

Cooperation will be taking place in the fishing, youth and sports sectors, among others.

Minister Borg thanked Malta's High Commissioner Jean Claude Galea Mallia and the rest of the staff for making this step a reality and the High Commissioner of Ghana in Malta for her essential work bringing the two countries closer together.

During his short stay Minister Ian Borg visited the Maltese Medical Centre known as HopeXchange in Kumasi, that for the last years has provided health aid, as well as part of the humanitarian aid that Malta offers from time to time to Ghanaians. He also inaugurated one of the new wards (pictured left).

A cooperation agreement was also signed, ensuring more cooperation from the Maltese Government towards this medical centre and all the professionals assisting.



## €180 million investment in Grand Harbour area

Infrastructure Malta (IM) has launched its five-year maritime infrastructure investment plan of around €180 million, for the Grand Harbour, which Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Aaron Farrugia has described as an economic driver and a place of investment for merchant ships, cruise liners, and other economic niches.

The Minister said that a balance would be achieved between the works that will valorise the potential of the Grand Harbour by accommodating the largest fleets as well as new wharfs, which will serve as recreational zones and the shore-to-ship project that will drastically reduce emissions.

These projects go hand in hand with the regeneration projects being carried out by the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation (GHRC), that include an investment worth €25 of the construction of a new 360-metre pier for the handling of goods and the extension of two Pinto piers, and the re-building of the Lascaris pier.

### CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMHAHON

If you require assistance with Federal Government matters, including:

- Immigration
- Centrelink
- NDIS
- Communications

Please contact my office on (02) 9604 0710 or via [Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au)



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Stennija għall-ħidma Maltija fil-UNSC

**I**l-bidu tal 2023 ra dhul ta' Malta bħala membru tal-Kunsill tas-Sigurtà tal-Ġnus Magħquda (*United Nations Security Council*) wara li Malta giet eletta f'siġġu mhux permanenti fil-Kunsill għal perjodu ta' sentejn wara votazzjoni li saret lejn tmien tas-sena l-oħra.

Din hija fit-tieni esperjenza ta' Malta f'dan l-irwol. L-ewwel darba kien fil-perjodu bejn l-

1983 u l-1984.

Id-dhul ta' Malta f'dan il-Kunsill – li hi t-tieni esperjenza tagħha f'dan l-irwol mhux biss ntlaga' tajjeb, imma saħansitra espert tan-Ġnus Magħquda, qal li flimkien mal-Isvizzeri Malta se terfa' piż kbir u mportanti f'dan il-Kunsill.

Richard Gowan, uffiċjal fi l-organizzazzjoni qal li, f'dan il-perjodu, bejn issa u l-2024, pajjiżna jista' jmxexxi 'l qud-

diem l-aġenda tal-istati żgħar, tal-Karibew u tal-Paċifiku biex jindirizzaw l-isfidi tat-tibdil fil-klima.

*"Being a small island state at the UN has benefits as well as challenges. Malta can rally the Caribbean and Pacific small island states to support it on issues such as addressing the security implications of climate change,"* qal Gowan.

L-espert qal lil Euronews li

pajjiżi żgħir mhuwiex ta' zvan-tagħ għall-Kunsill, għax pajjiżi żgħar ġeneralment jibagħtu l-aħjar diplomatiċi. Huwa zied jgħid li Malta għandha tim tajjeb ta' diplomatiċi fi New York, il-post fejn jiltaqa' l-Kunsill tas-Sigurtà

Qal ukoll li fl-aħħar sena, Malta ziedet l-għadd ta' diplomatiċi, filwaqt li investiet ukoll fit-taħriġ biex thejji bl-aħjar mod lil dawn id-diplomatiċi.

## Konflitt dwar sistema ta' ħatra

**F**tit tas-snin ilu, propju fl-2017, il-Partit Nazzjonalista hareġ bil-proposta li ċerti ħatriet għolja, fosthom dawk tal-President, tal-Prim Imħallef, eċċ, isiru permezz ta' votazzjoni, fejn, biex issir i-ħatra żewġ terzi tal-membri tal-Parlament iridu jivvutaw favur.

Aktar tard il-Gvern għamel din il-proposta tiegħu u għalhekk din saret liġi. Għalkemm s'issa għad ma gietx użata fil-ħatra tal-President tar-Repubblika, għax il-ħatra kienet saret qabel giet approvata l-Liġi, kienu diġà bdew isiru xi ħatriet b'din is-sistema.

Biss dan l-aħħar, meta il-Parlament gie biex jahtar l-Ombudsman u l-Kummissarju tal-Istandards tal-Etika tal-Membri tal-Parlament inholqot sitwazzjoni fejn filwaqt li sar qbil dwar il-ħatra tal-Ombudsman, l-Oppożizzjoni oġġezzjonat għall-ħatra tal-eks-Prim Imħallef Joseph Azzopardi bħala Kummissarju tal-Istandards.

Ta' min jgħid Joseph Azzopardi kien inħatar Prim Imħallef mill-Gvern Nazzjonalista

Mingħajr il-qbil tal-Oppożizzjoni mhommx ċans li meta jitressaq fil-Parlament ismu se jikseb iż-żewġ terzi meħtieġa.

Minflok, minkejja li skont il-Prim Ministru l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni kien qabel

miegħu meta tkellmu dwar il-ħatriet, din id-darba flimkien ma' shabu oġġezzjonaw.

Anke għamel tentattiv biex forsi jintlaħaq ftehim dwar nomini oħra u sa ressaq diversi ismijiet, fosthom tal-eks kandidat Laburista u eks-Speaker, in-Nutara Spiteri Debono, (li qalet li mhux biss ma kienetx interessata fil-kariga, iżda li isimha tressaq mingħajr ma mqar giet ikkunsultata qabel).

Min-naha tal-Prim Ministru baqa' jinsisti li għandha tittiehed inkunsiderazzjoni il-ħatra tal-Prim Imħallef emeritu Azzopardi.

Meta deher li ma kienx se jintlaħaq ftehim, il-Gvern qal li se jemenda l-liġi tal-ħatriet u jdaħħal l-hekk imsejjah *anti dead-lock mechanism*, jiġifieri mekkanizmu li bih, jekk jibqa' ma jintlaħaqx ftehim, il-ħatra ssir b'semplici maġġoranza.

Dan il-mekkanizmu jahseb biex jekk wara li żewġ votazzjoni ma jinkisbux iż-żewġ terzi, u l-ħatra ma ssir, issir it-tielet votazzjoni u u wara ssir b'maġġoranza sempliċi.

Anke hawn, il-Gvern kien qed jikkopja li kien ippropona l-Partit Nazzjonalista fil-Programma Elettorali tghall-elezzjoni tal-2017. Il-Partit Nazzjonalista hareġ kontra l-emenda u sostna li kienet antidemokratika.

Sintendi, kelliema min-naha tal-Gvern ma

naqsux jiġbdu l-attenzjoni li din kienet proposta Nazzjonalista. Min-naha l-oħra, dawn tal-aħħar ippruvaw jiżolqu minnha billi qalu li l-kariga li kienet qed tiġi diskussa ma kienetx issemmiet speċifikament fil-proposta Nazzjonalista.

Lanqas ma naqsu l-kummenti tas-soltu fil-ġurnali, b'uhud jgħidu li l-Gvern ried jagħmel pupazz tiegħu bħala Kummissarju tal-Istandards biex jekk ikun hemm xi hadd min-naha tal-MPs Laburisti li jonqos, dan jagħlaq għajnejh.

Imbagħad kien hemm min sostna li l-Oppożizzjoni riedet li jew isir dak/dik li jipproponi hi jew ma taċċetta lil hadd. Lanqas ma naqsu dawk li staqsew għaliex l-Oppożizzjoni ma kienetx trid lill-eks Prim Imħallef li kienu huma stess li ħatru fil-kariga meta kienu fil-Gvern. Fil-fatt l-Oppożizzjoni qatt ma semmiet għaliex kienet qed topponi għal Azzopardi.

Interessanti l-fatt li filwaqt li fakkar li kien il-PN li fil-passat ippropona soluzzjoni bħal dik li issa qed jipproponi l-Gvern, l-eks-kandidat Nazzjonalista u soċjologu Michael Briguglio, sostna, "Jekk m'hemmx kunsens bejn il-Gvern u l-Oppożizzjoni, għal hemm se naslu. Jiġifieri m'hemmx alternattiva għaliha. Jekk mhux se jkun hemm qbil fuq l-Ombudsman u l-Istandards Commissioner u m'hemmx iż-żewġ terzi parlamentari, bilfors se jkollna naslu għal sitwazzjoni ta' maġġoranza. Mhux qed ngħid li hija l-aħjar soluzzjoni, imma jiena ma nafx b'soluzzjoni aħjar minn dik."

Il-Gvern jidher li hu deċiż li jibqa' mixi b'din l-emenda, tant li diġà approvata mit-tieni qari.



L-Imħallef emeritu  
Joseph Azzopardi



### Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



**Richard Spiteri**  
0407 202 167  
(02) 9659 0900

**Castle Hill  
Seven Hills  
Windsor and  
all suburbs**

**"Let Our Family  
Help You Through"**

**Halli l-familja  
tagħna tghin lill-  
familja tiegħek**



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



## Bdiet ix-Xitwa!!

**F**il-bidu tal-ġimgħa l-oħra l-bassara tat-temp qalulna li lejn tmien il-ġimgħa li għaddiet kellha tibda x-xitwa vera, kif fil-fatt sehh. Dan wara li t-temp tas-sajf u jiem mill-isbaħ kienu baqgħu għaddejnin anke sax-xhur ta' Novembru u Diċembru, hlief għal xi ftit jiem.

It-temp sabiħ ippersista u qisu li morna lura għat-temp tar-Rebbiegħa minflok il-Harifa u x-Xitwa. Kien temp sabiħ li għoġob lil hafna, mhux l-inqas lit-turisti li żaruna, li nġad li kien hemm minnhom li anke tawwlu l-btajjel tagħhom wara li setgħu jgawdu l-festi tal-Milied u tal-Ewwel tas-sena f'temp mill-isbaħ.

Izda t-temp sabiħ kien ifisser mhux biss temperatura aktar għolja minn tas-soltu, imma wkoll nuqqas ta' xita, li żgur li xejn ma għoġob lill-bdiewa, minhabba li n-nuqqas ta' xita jeffetwa hażin l-uċuħ tar-raba' fil-preżent, kif wkoll għall-gejjieni.

Dan minhabba li fl-istaġun ta' wara x-xitwa l-bdiewa jkun jrid jibdwu jużaw l-ilma mill-bjar tagħhom biex isaqu u jkollhom prodotti li jkun jrid jibgħu. Imma n-nuqqas ta' xita issa jidher li se jeffetwa wkoll l-ilma fil-bjar, mhux biss tal-bdiewa, imma wkoll fil-ġibjuni li minnhom il-poplu jiehu l-ilma tiegħu.

Dan minkejja li minbarra l-ilma minn dawn il-ġibjuni Malta tiehu wkoll ilma miċ-ċentri li jibdlu l-ilma bahar f'ilma helu. magħrufa bħala reverse osmosis.

Teżisti l-biża' li nuqqas ta' xita jista' jfisser li 'l quddiem ikollna wkoll problema tal-ilma li nużaw fid-djar tagħna.

Avolja kultant tharbitla l-pjanijiet tagħna, imma x-xita għandna bżonnha

## Ismijiet Popolari f'Malta

**M**inn żmien għall-iehor l-Aġenzija Identità' Malta ttabbar tagħrif dwar it-twelid li jkun sar matul is-sena u t-trabi li jkunu ġew irregistrati mar-Reġistru Pubbliku ta' Malta. Skont dan it-tagħrif, fl-2022 ġew registrati 3,978 tarbija ġdida b'2,016 (50.7%) minnhom ikunu subien u 1,962 (49.3%) bniet.

Mad-daqqa t'għajn dan jirrifletti f'nuqqas

### Ejja nrazznu lsienna

**D**an l-aħħar il-midja soċjali qed tid-domina bħala mezz ta' komunikazzjoni, iżda l-aqwa mezz ta' komunikazzjoni ilu jeżisti mill-ibagħad żminijiet, permezz tal-fomm, fejn wiehed/wahda jittlaqqa' ma haddiehor u jtkellem.

Imma sfortunatament, kultant anke dan il-mezz jiġi wżat biex bil-ħsieb jew mingħajru wiehed iweġġa' lil haddiehor.

Qed nikteb wara l-istorja tal-pustiera Anthea Bugeja. Bhas-soltu, din kienet qed tqassam il-posta f'wahda mit-toroq fir-ronda tagħha u kienet qed tharreg' tfajla oħra li kellha ttissostitwiha.

Kollox mexxa ħarir sakemm Bugeja habbtet f'dar u introduċiet lill-ġdida mal-persuna li kellha l-pakketti tagħha. Meta qaltilha li dik ta' magħha kienet il-ġdida, il-persuna qaltilha, "Aħjar' għax inti hoxna u hi rqiqa".

Bugeja stqarret li ssummat. Wegħbitha, "Jekk dejjem tajtek ix-xogħol – irrelevanti minn twil, qasir, oħxon, irqiq – mhux se tagħmel differenza lilek. Tiġġudikani kif nahdem u mhux kif nidher."

Bugeja użat il-midja soċjali tappella għal aktar sensitività u tefgħet filmat li għab ir-reazzjoni ta' bosta, li empatizzaw mal-mara u qablu mal-appell tal-pustiera

Mhux biss sabet appoġġ iżda kien hemm ukoll min hareġ bi stejjer simili.

L-appell ta' Bugeja kien: "Kemmi jista' jkun, il-kliem żejjed ma jintqalx. Mhux kemmi jista' jkun, ma jintqalx, ma jridx jintqal. Għax bniedem jaf kelma tlellgħu u kelma tniżżlu."

ta' 186 tarbija ġdida irregistrata (4.7%) fl-2022 meta mqabbel mas-sena ta' qabel (2021).

L-ismijiet li nġhataw lil dawn it-trabi jvarjaw hafna, bl-aktar erba' ismijiet popolari rregistrati għas-subien ikunu, Luca, Liam, Noah u Matteo filwaqt li Mia, Emma, Nina u Giulia. Kienu l-aktar popolari fost il-bniet.

Kif kont semmejt xi żmien ilu, issa dan ir-Reġistru qed jaċċetta ismijiet bil-Malti. Dan wara li fl-2021 daħlu fis-seħh l-emendi legali b'rabta mal-użu tal-karatteristiċi fit-tipa Maltija (jiġifieri smijiet bl-ittri Ġġ, Ċċ, Ff u Żż). Xi Maltin hadu vantaġġ minn dan, tant li 13-il tifla u 22 tifel nġhataw isem Malti bl-użu tat-tipa Maltija bl-aktar popolari jkun Ganni u Luċija.

Wiehed jittama li jkun hemm aktar Maltin li jagħmlu użu minn din il-konċessjoni.

Sadanittant fl-istess sena kien 2,237 żwieġ irregistrat, żieda ta' 240 koppja oħra meta mqabbel mal-2021. Kien hemm ukoll 31 koabitazzjoni rregistrata (26 inqas mis-sena ta' qabel), filwaqt li saret registrazzjoni wahda għal unjoni ċivili.



**Michelle Rowland MP**

Minister for Communications  
Federal Member for Greenway



Level 1. Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

(02) 9671 4780

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

MRowlandMP

www.michellerowland.com.au



A quick glimpse at Australia

## NSW Premier and the Nazi costume

**N**SW Premier Dominic Perrottet (*right*) will be referred to the police by the NSW Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, Robert Borsak that wants to know if he breached an obscure law on declarations when he joined the Liberal party in the wake of his Nazi costume controversy.

The premier potentially broke the Oaths Act when he signed a Liberal Party preselection document around 2010 and declared he had nothing to disclose that could embarrass the party.

A person found to have breached the Oaths Act could face up to five years jail. Mr Perrottet, 40, was asked if any other future-Liberal politicians were at his 21st party at his parents' home in Sydney's northwest. He said he couldn't recall who was there and did not want to "drag" others into it "It's not about other people, I made a mistake; it's about what I did," he told reporters.

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, who is of Jewish ancestry, told SBS News it was up to Mr Perrottet to explain his actions. "Dressing up as a Nazi is not a joke. But clearly, I'm able to say that I welcome his expressions of regret," said Mr Dreyfus, after speaking at a Holocaust memorial



event in Melbourne.

NSW Treasurer and deputy Liberal leader, Matt Kean said he wouldn't challenge the premier and the government was ready to move on from the scandal.

Meanwhile The Victorian government is considering expanding the list of banned Nazi hate symbols in the state after a prominent neo-Nazi made an offensive gesture outside court.

Thomas Sewell, the 29-year-old leader of the European Australian Movement made a Nazi salute after speaking to the media last week outside the Melbourne Magistrates Court, where he avoided time behind bars over a brutal attack on a Nine Network security guard.

It's been illegal to publicly display Nazi symbols in Victoria since 29 December, when laws prohibiting the display of the Hakenkreuz, often referred to as the Nazi swastika, came into effect. People found flouting the law face a fine of approximately \$22,000 or 12 months imprisonment.

## New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern quits after 5 years

**J**acinda Ardern, 42, shook the country by announcing that she is quitting as New Zealand Prime Minister ahead of this year's election saying she no longer has "enough in the tank" to lead.

Ms Ardern, who came to office in 2017 and in five momentous years became New Zealand's most important post-war Prime Minister, said she had taken time to consider her future over the summer break hoping to find the heart and energy to go on in the role. She said she hasn't and therefore felt she would be doing a disservice to New Zealand to continue.

Ardern became the youngest female head of government in the world when she was elected Prime Minister in 2017, aged 37.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described Ms Ardern as a leader of intellect, strength and empathy.

## Honours, Rewards on Australia Day

**T**he Australia Day 2023, the Commonwealth Government will announce the Honours and Awards for some 1047 Australians, including awards in the Order of Australia (General and Military Divisions), meritorious awards and recognition for distinguished and conspicuous service.

There will be 736 awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia, with 48 per cent for women and 45 per cent for service to local communities.

We are hopeful that this time there will be Maltese amongst them.



## Australian Passport and travel

**T**here are 185 destinations Australian passport holders can either travel to without needing a visa at all or where they're able to obtain a visa, visitor's permit, or an electronic travel authority (ETA) upon arrival, according to the Henley Passport Index. In 2023, Singaporean and South Korean passports are the second most powerful in the world, followed by Germany and Spain in equal third. Malta is listed as the 8th, equal with Australia, Canada and Greece.

Forty-nine European countries, from Portugal to Poland and the United Kingdom to war-torn Ukraine, offer Australians access without a visa. There are more than a dozen destinations in Oceania that offer visa-free travel to Australians, including New Zealand, Fiji, and French Polynesia, and similar numbers in the Caribbean, including Barbados, the Cayman Islands, and Jamaica.

Nineteen places in the Americas don't re-

quire Australians to have a visa to enter, such as Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, along with twelve African nations, including Botswana, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Australians can visit 10 Asian destinations without a visa, including Hong Kong, Malaysia, and the Philippines, and six in the Middle East, including Israel and Qatar.

Cambodia, Egypt, Lebanon, Paraguay, and Samoa are among the more than 40 destinations around the world where Australians can get a visa or visitor's permit when they arrive, while ETAs are available upon entry to nations such as the United States, Canada, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

There are 42 destinations where Australian passport holders either need to obtain a visa before departure or get pre-approval from the government for a visa upon arrival. More than half of them are in Africa, including Ghana, Kenya, and

South Sudan. Two regions have just one destination which requires Australian tourists to have visas - Cuba in the Caribbean, and Nauru in Oceania - while Asia has 10, including Afghanistan, China, and North Korea.

Australians planning a European trip that takes in Azerbaijan, Russia, or Turkey will also need a visa, as will those heading to Syria or Yemen in the Middle East, or Chile or Suriname in the Americas. Indonesia is the most popular international travel destination for Australian residents, according to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

New Zealand and the United States were the second and third most visited places by Australians, while the UK, Singapore, India, Fiji, Thailand, Italy, and Vietnam rounded out the top 10. India and Vietnam are the only nations in that list that require Australians to secure a visa before they arrive.





A quick glimpse at Australia

## The Church backs gambling reforms

**S**ydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has backed efforts to tackle problem gambling in New South Wales but stopped short of endorsing any specific method for imposing limits or restraints.

Ahead of the March state election, Premier Dominic Perrotet has vowed to introduce a cashless card for poker machines, while Labor Leader Chris Minns said NSW Labor would reduce the amount of poker machines across the state, introduce a cash input limit of \$500 and ban "VIP lounge" signs if elected.

In an weekend interview, Archbishop Fisher said he wouldn't pretend to have the expertise on what forms of gambling are the most dangerous and what forms of putting limits on them or restraints on them are the most effective.

"But I would certainly support the efforts of any government to be looking at how can we deal

with the problem of problem gambling and all the social harm it is doing," he said. He added that like alcohol, gambling was harmless in moderation, Archbishop Fisher said, but the addiction was ruining lives.

He said some Catholics might feel compromised by the Church not taking a clearer stand in opposing gambling and alcohol use, but "some things in life are about moderation. They are not about an absolute yes or no".

While the Catholic Church had mostly divested itself from the clubs industry in Sydney, the Archbishop remains the patron of Dooleys Catholic Club in Lidcombe, which is regularly named among the most profitable pokie venues in NSW with about 450 machines. He said the Church had nothing to do with the day-to-day running of any Sydney clubs, but he encouraged Catholics who were owners and managers to discourage problem gambling.



## Miss Australia with an aboriginal designed cape

**J**aws hit the floor when Miss Universe Australia strutted down the runway in New Orleans in a stunning water-colour cape specifically designed for Monique Riley Schroeder, an actress, women's boxing coach and Australia's 2022 Miss Universe contender by an aboriginal artist.

The fashion statement was designed by esteemed Kariyarra, Ngarluma, Nyul Nyul and Yawuru artist and designer Bobbi Lockyer.

"I really admire Monique and her strength; I knew I wanted a theme of strength in my artwork. "Then she shared with me her passion for boxing and self-defence and her passion for women's empowerment. "She really gave me creative control, [and] told me that I could do whatever I wanted in whatever colours.

"The kangaroo was a very important element for Ms Lockyer. The kangaroo represents strength but also power. "I knew I had to put it in there, it relates to boxing, and it is so iconic for Australia". Ms Lockyer told NITV."

## The on-and-off Maltese TV show

**N**ow you see it; now you don't. No, it's not a game but the most promised and anticipated daily half-hour news bulleting on SBSTV. Modern technology has improved our life, but when it comes to communication between SBSTV and PBS (Malta) we are not so that sure.

At this end, during the holiday period, we again experienced interruptions lasting several days. Most of the time SBSTV was not ready to explain what was going on. It is ridiculous for it to fill in the gaps by giving us weather reports from all around the world when it is the airtime reserved for the Maltese community. Why not have a backup?

The Voice of the Maltese does not sit on its laurels. We ask and we investigate. We communicated with PBS (Malta). This what they said:

"We are informed that there were some technical issues in the international transport layer connecting the stations, which was bypassed to an alternative path from Malta once this was flagged and diagnosed. Our technical team has been waiting for an answer for a couple of days.

"Unfortunately, communication is taking a bit longer, and it was only earlier today that our personnel received a reply that this was also resolved from the Australian side. Apologies if this has caused inconvenience, even if this was not fully within our control.

From our end we are oblivious to the situation with the final transmission since we do not have ways of monitoring it (apart from that, it is not within our remit) and have to rely only on feedback".

PBS concluded, "Nonetheless, we will keep striving and doing our utmost to handle any request and also propose a potential backup option to SBS."

SBSTV were also contacted but as we went to press, although usually, they are very cooperative, we got no answer.

## Working Holiday visas in Australia

**W**HM, often referred to as 'backpacker visas' - they are currently restricted to citizens of eligible countries aged 18-30 and up to age 35 for a small handful, including Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy and soon the UK.

The age restriction for Swedish nationals is 30, while for Maltese it is 18 to 30.

The Working Holiday Maker programme was established in 1975 to allow young adults have extended holidays and support themselves by working in temporary jobs.

The programme is reciprocal with similar arrangements for Australian citizens wishing to work and holiday abroad.

But as industries grapple with worker shortages and struggle to bounce back from

the pandemic, the Tourism and Transport Forum Australia (TTFA) has been leading calls to expand working holiday visas.

"One solution to help address the skills shortage in tourism is to increase the age limit for working holidaymakers to 50," TTFA CEO Margy Osmond said. "This would open up a whole new market of workers from overseas with a wider range of skills and experience that could benefit our industry."

There are 47 countries participating in Australia's programme. Applicants can apply at a cost of \$510. The programme includes visa subclass 417 and subclass 462 and allows them to work and holiday in Australia for a year.

## Wenzu u Roži praspura wara l-oħra

**W**enzu jhobb jinżel sal-każin għal xarba (jew sitta). Jinżel ukoll biex jgħid kelma u jgħid f'it hin ma' shabu wara jum xogħol.

Saddattant, martu Roži tinsab id-dar, tlesti l-faċendi, biex Wenzu jsib kolloxx lest malli jasal lura d-dar. Tgħid l-inbid se jgħin lil Wenzu jehda f'it, jew iżidlu l-inkwiet malli jmur id-dar?

Wenzu u Roži - Praspura wara l-oħra hija reċta fi stil ta' teatrin tradizzjonali li se titella fit-18 u 19 ta' Frar 2023 fil-Bowery Theatre,

### Taf x'inhil Kumittiva?

**G**rupp ta' zeffienna tal-Karnival. Dawn jithejjew bi kwantità kbira ta' provi għal bosta xhur qabel il-Karnival. Imbagħad fil-jiem tal-Karnival kienu jmorru jizfnu kemm fl-ibliet tal-Cottonera kif ukoll il-Belt Valletta. F'Għawdex ukoll kien hemm bosta kumittivi. Fosthom ta' Sannat, tal-Għarb, daww ta' Kerċem, ta' San Lawrenz u tax-Xagħra.

St Albans (VIC). Il-komunità Maltija ta' daww l-inhawli tagħmel tejjeb jekk tilqa' l-istess dina biex jiltaqgħu maż-żewġ karattri li saru parti mill-folklor Malti.

Wenzu u Roži huma koppja anzjana jghixu f'rahal żgħir f'Malta mal-ġirien u l-familjari tagħhom. Dil-kummiedja tfakkar fl-ingħoddi u tqajjem sens ta' nostalġija.

Il-produtturi tar-reċta jittamaw li din il-produzzjoni tferrah lil min jattendi daqs l-istess originali ta' George Zammit (1976, midsea books) li fuqhom hu bbażat dan id-dramm.

Id-dati tar-reċta (ta' 75 min), li wara kolloxx hja kummiedja bil-Malti (b'rakkont komiku bl-Ingliż) adattata għall-persuni ta' kull età, huma t-18 u d-19 ta' Frar li għej.

Il-biljetti jistgħu jinkisbu minn: <https://creativebrimbank.com.au/wenzu-u-rozi>

Dil-produzzjoni saret possibbli b'riżultat tal-fondi pprovduti mill-Brimbank City Council, l-appoġġ tal-MCCV u d-dedikazzjoni tal-atturi u d-direttur Simone Cremona (musicworx)

**Maltese Community Council of Victoria**  
presents a  
**musicworx**  
production

New Shows added due to popular demand

**Wenzu u Roži**  
Praspura wara l-oħra

| Based on the book by George Zammit |  
| Adapted for stage & directed by Simone Cremona |

**Saturday 18 February 2023 6:00pm**  
**Sunday 19 February 2023 1:00pm** | 4:00pm | 7:00pm  
(Run time 1 hr 15 min) **SOLD OUT** **SOLD OUT**

**The Bowery Theatre | St Albans, VIC**  
Tickets: [www.creativebrimbank.com.au/wenzu-u-rozi](http://www.creativebrimbank.com.au/wenzu-u-rozi)

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### High Commission of Malta - Canberra

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg  
High Commissioner for Malta to Australia  
38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley, ACT 2606

(02) 6290 1724 / 1426 / 1573

0433 799 746

[www.foreignandeu.gov.mt](http://www.foreignandeu.gov.mt)

[highcommission.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:highcommission.canberra@gov.mt)

### Consulate General - Sydney

Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar (Consul General)  
St. Martins Tower, Suite 10.04, Level 10, 31 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000

(02) 9262 9500

0430 402 177

(02) 9264 4722

[maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt)  
[lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt](mailto:lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt)

### Consulate General - Melbourne

Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras (Consul General)  
Suite 613, 6th Floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

(03) 9670 8427

0430 378 407

(03) 9670 9451

[maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt)





## 5 Statwi bi storja fuq iz-zuntier ta' Santu Wistin

**F**uq quddiem taz-zuntier tal-Kunvent ta' Santu Wistin fir-Rabat hemm hames statwi tal-ħaġar, erbgha minnhom weqfin, u bust fuq il-bieb ewlieni tal-knisja, li kollha fihom storja, għalhekk tlabt lill-arkivista tal-Priorita' Agostinjana Fr Peter Paul Cachia jagħtina xi tagħrif dwarhom.

Qalilna li l-istatwa bust fuq il-bieb ewlieni darba kienet wieqfa ma' ta' Santu Wistin, li saru f'Ottubru 1771 mill-artist Giovanni Caruana, li għamel ukol San Mikiel fil-belt Valletta u ta' San Pawl ta' l-injam fir-Rabat ta' Malta.

Skont l-arkivju tal-kunvent, dawn l-istatwi mnaqqxa fil-ħaġra Maltija ġew jiswew (fi flus ta' dak iż-żmien), 68 onze, u 2 onze u 29 tari għat-trasport mill-minjiera. Benefatturi ħallu madwar 40 onze mis-somma totali.

L-istatwi l-oħra, tal-Madonna taċ-Ċintura, San Tumas ta' Villanova u San Nikola ta' Tolentinu saru mill-artist Anton

Busuttill Rabi minn' Malta (mlaqqam Zarm Anġlu) mhejjun mit-tifel tiegħu Franco fl-1860.

Fl-arkivju ssemma li dawn it-tliet statwi, u żewġ pedestalli godda, (ta' San Tumas u ta' San Nikola) swew 163 skud u tmien grani, spiża li kkontribwew għaliha l-patrijiet ta' l-istess kunvent u oħrajn mill-kunventi ta' Malta. Għenu wkoll xi benefatturi oħra.

L-istatwa tal-Madonna taċ-Ċintura ġiet imħallsa minn Patri Lorenzo Cutajar. L-ispejjeż ta' din l-opra kollha ngābru.

Bħalissa għadu kif intemm ir-restawr tal-istatwi li hu proġett tal-Kunsill Lokali tar-Rabat - Citta' Victoria.

Ir-restawr sar minn Rudolph Cauchi taħt is-superviżjoni tal-Perit Edward Scerri. Il-proġett ġie ffinanzjat mid-direttorat Eco-Gozo fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex.



Rudolph Cauchi waqt ir-restawr tal-istatwi

## Wirja fotografika ta' Anthony Grech

**I**ad-29 ta' Jannar il-fotografu Għawdxij Anthony Grech qed itella' wirja fotografika fil-Banca Giuratale, fil-belt Victoria taħt l-isem ta' 'Sol Invictus' (Xemx qatt mirbuħa) b'ritratti mehuda minnu.

Il-wirja, b'ritratti li joffru perspettiva ġdida ta' din il-gżira, hija maqsuma f'ritratti li juru postijiet ikoniċi Għawdxin waqt li tkun tiela' u wkoll nieżlax-xemx.



Wieħed mir-ritratti, meħud ix-Xwejni, f'Marsalforn

## Scout Group Leader ġdid

**F**'ċerimonja fil-Perġola Valley, ix-Xagħra Scout Group laqgħa lill-Group Scout Leader il-ġdid Steven Sultana.

Fl-aħħar saret ukoll iċ-ċerimonja tal-handover mingħand l-is-scout leader ta' qabel, Josmar Azzopardi - li għal hames snin, lill-leader il-ġdid Steven Sultana.

Fi tmiem l-attività l-membri organizzaw sorpriża lil Josmar fejn flimkien ikkoordinaw



Josmar Azzopardi (xellug) u Steven Sultana

danza fuq id-diska l-għanja tal-Maltin.

Kienet attività li għaliha li attendaw mal-130 membru, ġenituri u mistiedna,



# *It-Tunnara* (The tunny fish ground)

Joseph CUTAJAR

**T**una fishing is a long-standing tradition throughout the Mediterranean, where fishing for bluefin tuna "*thunnus thynnus*" has been practised since 8000 BC. Malta is no exception as its fishermen have been catching the fish for generations, making it a most important industry.

One of the most sought-after seafood dishes in Japan contains bluefin tuna. Japanese tuna buyers and chefs managed to teach islanders to eat raw tuna; its flesh has gone from being considered poor people's food to a prized delicacy. They use it mainly for their gourmet palate of bluefin tuna sushi and sashimi.

Malta and San Pietro, off Sardinia, are among the biggest producers and exporters to Japan of this prized fish. When it comes to Malta, due mainly to the tuna industry, Japan is one of the few countries in the world with whom Malta exports more than it imports. In fact, it exports more tuna to Japan than it imports Japanese vehicles.

Maltese producers export around €230 million worth of the product there every year, and today, the industry accounts for approximately 1% of Malta's GDP.

In Malta there are some tuna catches from open fishing, however, most tuna exports are from several fish farms spread around



The nets preserved and exhibited at the Tunnara Museum in Mellieħa.

generating a total revenue of €228,583,000.

Malta's largest tuna company is AJD Tuna of Azzopardi Fisheries company that has 24 pens full of tuna that are around 40 metres deep and 50 to 90 metres wide. It has the capacity to produce 3,500 metric tonnes of fish per year.

The fish are kept in large underwater cages, (pens) and fattened. Each pen is fed 10 tonnes of fish every day. The bluefin

massive long meshed nets, made from the coconut palm, extending at right angles from the coast, and a series of chambers made from vertical nets anchored by stone slabs kept upright by about 500 buoys or cork-floats "*sufruni - bagi*", and about 30 anchors and other stones tied to a ropes "*mażżri*".

## *First tunnara in 1748*

The first *Tunnara* in 1748 was financed by Grand Master Pinto. The tuna net was elevated and posited at *Il-Fgura*, in Mellieħa Bay, an area known for full-blown bluefin tuna a few kilometres away from the coast.

The net, consisting of a wall of netting, which closed half of the bay, was lowered in April and remained in the sea until October. Faced with this impenetrable wall, the tuna, continued swimming along the net until several of them found themselves in two large rooms of netting.

The first sign that the tuna was in would be given by the small fish, which would begin to jump out of the water and scatter, afraid of becoming the tuna's prey.

The men used to receive the tuna in the contrive chamber and signal to the head fisherman of the arrival of the tuna. From another *barkazza* a sailor would give the order to open the doors and let the tuna pass into the chamber of death.

Seeing this, the fishermen would dip sponges in oil and lower them in the water allowing them to see the fish better. If the tuna were in the rooms of netting, the cry of *lieva* (rise) would be heard. The fish would be trapped inside when a door of netting would be pulled to the surface by the fishermen of the largest boat called, *ix-Xieru*, which was about sixty feet long and manned by large oars. It sailed to the middle of Mellieħa Bay.

*\*Continued on page 21*



The restoration of the Tunnara is complete and is open to visitors.

the island, particularly off the coast of St Paul's Bay and in the south off Marsaxlokk.

Bluefin tuna can grow to 3.7 metres in length, weigh 680 kilograms and live for 30 years. In 2018 Malta produced two big tunas (one of 230 kg and the other of 170 kg), which fetched an excellent price – an average of 35 euros per kg. That same year fish farms produced 17,326,000kg of tuna,

tuna are bred around May – June, and then killed and sold in the last two months of the year, November and December. After the fish are harvested, a few are kept to use for breeding purposes.

Fish farms were introduced to Malta in the 1980s. Much before that, fishermen who caught the tuna in open waters used the *tunnara* in Mellieħa, which consisted of two



## The livelyhood for most of Mellieħa's fishermen

*\*Continued from page 20*

The net would then be drawn to the surface and surrounded by four longboats, the *bargazzi*. For many Mellieħa fishermen and their families, the tuna industry was their only livelihood. The tuna net employed about several men, most of them, just to keep constant watch, and signalling when the tuna entered the traps.

There were two *tunnaras*, one known as *Tal-Iskol* and the other as *Di Giadina*. Later there were others.

When the *tunnara* was fully raised, the villagers would go down to the bay for the blessing of the net. The parish priest would be rowed to the *tunnara* site to bless the net and pray for the fishermen to have a good fishing season and for the men's safety.

At the entrance of the *tunnara*, the head fishermen, known as *padron*, set a big wooden cross bearing a holy picture of the Holy Mary and other Saints. Palm fronds blessed on Palm Thursday were also hung.

The *Xieru*\*, which had a crew of 40, was strongly built to withstand the stress of sixteen men struggling at one side to raise the net full of tuna. Night lanterns were placed in front of the "tonnara" to localise the net.

When trapping the tuna fish, another boat, known as *barkazza*\*, accompanied the *Xieru*. It was built strong to withstand the hard work of the *tunnara* and was equipped with wooden windless amidships to stretch the heavy tunny net.

The fish were carefully handled to avoid bruising and, with great difficulty, would be pulled over with a hitch and placed on the edge of the boat. When all the tuna were pulled out, the empty cradle net was anchored to the seabed.

A red flag would signal the rise, and the church bells would start ringing, while the Mellieħa villagers would rush down to the bay to give a hand with the pulling of the long heavy boats with the huge tuna nets or in loading the big fish on carts, to be taken to the fish market in Valletta.

As was the custom, a tuna would be presented to the inquisitor. The fisherman would also give another tuna to Our Lady of Mellieħa and another to the Mellieħa Sanctuary to be raffled.

Between 1827 and 1920, the owners, masters and fishermen gave one-third of their catch to the Sanctuary. It was their way of expressing gratitude for the abundant bounty and for keeping an eye on the fishermen.

In 1907, a warehouse for the *tunnara*, needs was built at Anchor Bay. Later, nets and the equipment were stored in the Western battery at *it-trunciera*, in Mellieħa Bay, built by the Knights of St John.

In the 1930's, Dun Frangisk Borg, known as *tan-Niges* was in charge of the *tunnara* in Mellieħa. Turu Bonnici succeeded him.

The manager owned all the *tunnara* equipment. He was also the fishing permit holder and responsible for the transactions of the selling of the catch. He paid a quarter of the profit in tax. After he took his share, the rest was equally divided between the fishermen.

In 1961, the *tunnara*, was cast at *l-Imgiebah*, in the north of Malta, hoping for a bigger catch. However, unaware of the position of the *tunnara*, a British military vessel based in Malta passed over the nets causing significant damage to the equipment.

Owing to financial difficulties, the owner and crew refrained from rebuilding the *tun-*



The main entrance to the Tunnara Museum at Mellieħa



One of the figurines at the Museum depicting fishermen struggling with a bluefin tuna

*nara*, which meant the end of the Mellieħa fishing industry.

Meanwhile, the Maltese government recently inaugurated what has become the *Tunnara Museum* project in Mellieħa. It was financed from funds provided by the EU. The investment covered the costs of restoration works on the building itself, formerly the old blockhouse, and for the embellishment in the surrounding area.

The museum, housed in the Westreme Battery (also known as *ir-Rasus Battery*) was

built by the Order of Saint John in 1715–1716 as one of a series of coastal fortifications around the coasts of the Maltese Islands. It has now been transformed into a heritage cultural site and become an interactive interpretation centre where visitors can learn how locals used the facilities to make tuna fishing in the early days.

The museum, that was inaugurated by the parliamentary secretaries for EU funds and local government Chris Bonett and Alison Zerafa Civelli and Mellieħa mayor Dario Vella tells the story of the 300-year-old building and its more recent link to the tuna fishing industry.

Westreme is probably the name of a knight of the same name. During the French invasion of Malta of 1798, Westreme Battery

was the first battery to be overrun by the invading forces. In World War II, the blockhouse was converted into a beach post. Rectangular machine gun portholes were cut into the corners of the building. Another concrete beach post and a searchlight emplacement were also built near the blockhouse. After the war, the blockhouse was again used in the *tunnara*.

*\*The Xieru and the barkazza were Maltese traditional boats mostly used for fishing the tuna fish*

# Community News

## Maltese Language School of NSW

A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc. Established in 1999  
Learn about the Maltese language, the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions and the amazing history of the magnificent Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo.

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*Enjoy live music and bingo on Saturday nights and join us for Rock 'n' Roll dancing with DJ Albert Zarb every Sunday evening from 5pm.*

*For more information about events and entertainment at the Social Centre, visit its website: [lavalette.com.au](http://lavalette.com.au) or call 02 9621 5847*

## St Nicholas Festa Committee

**Dates for 2023**

**Sunday 19 March – Fete**

**Saturday 29 April – Variety Night**

**Sunday 2 July – Imnarja**

**Sunday 15 October – Fete**

**Saturday 11 November – Dinner Dance**

**Sunday 2 December – 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/](http://www.sbs.com.au/radio/) or on TV Channel 38.

On Demand and podcasts on [www.sbs.com.au/maltese](http://www.sbs.com.au/maltese)

**SBS TV:** SBS TV news from Malta every day at 4.30 pm on Channel 35 also on demand.

### 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](http://www.3zzz.com.au)

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



Listen live on [www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/](http://www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/)

**97.9 FM Melton:** Tuesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm Maltese Program. Presenter: Miriam Vella. Live streaming on [www.979fm.com.au](http://www.979fm.com.au)

### NSW

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

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

[www.893fm.com.au](http://www.893fm.com.au) or On Demand on [www.893fm.com.au/on-demand/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.4eb.org.au) or On Demand on [www.4eb.org.au/shows/program-bill-multi-global-maltese/](http://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](http://www.5ebi.com.au)





# When football in Australia was called: 'Sheilas, Wogs and P\*\*fters'



The Socceroos' participation in Qatar marked the country's fifth consecutive World Cup appearance, a run that began meteorically at the 2006 championships in Germany.

It was that famous campaign, where Australia pushed eventual winners Italy to the wire before falling to a last-minute penalty kick, which marked a crucial moment in the sport's ascent to the mainstream in Australia, football analyst and former Socceroo Craig Foster said.

Foster adds that another key moment, was the decision by the country's multicultural broadcaster, SBS, to "utilise" football in the late '70s and early '80s to "celebrate all of the beautiful newly arrived communities in Australia through their love of the game".

In 1980, Channel 28 – now known as SBS – began broadcasting in Australia's two largest cities.

Foster said football faced a number of challenges during those early years. "Growing up in Lismore in a largely Anglo area of Northern New South Wales, the game had different challenges, to overcome the political and economic influence of larger games."

The influx of Southern European migrants following World War II saw the "energising" of the sport in Australia, leading to the birth of clubs that helped them integrate "through their love of football," Foster added.

"That is, the demonisation of many communities who were newly arrived, racism that those communities experienced over many decades.

"The game of football experienced the same type of prejudice, coming to be so directly related to, or synonymous with, our immigrant communities."

Domenico Gentile joined 2EA in 1977 as a radio broadcaster for the Italian programme.

If you were Australian and played football in those days, "you were in for a lot of criticism," he said.

"First, it was called soccer, the sport was played mainly by European migrants, and very little coverage was given by mainstream media, which was predominantly interested in covering fights between opposing fans in the stands.

"The best way to describe it is through [former Socceroo] Johnny Warren's highly controversial book 'Sheilas, Wogs and P\*\*fters' because that's what football players were often called in those days," Gentile added.

In those early years, Gentile and fellow broadcasters dedicated large portions of their programs to covering football news from Australia and abroad, which increased when the National Soccer League launched in 1977.

"Results, reports, and interviews became highly popular content for programmes such as the Italian, Greek, Croatian, Maltese, Turkish, Serbian, Macedonian, and so on.

"No other radio broadcaster, in my opinion, matched us. Then, when Channel 28 - the current SBS TV - was launched in 1980,

football coverage from Australia and overseas became one of its dominant attractions, creating regular viewers."

One of his most memorable moments as a journalist covering football occurred during the 1982 World Cup.

"Migrant children in the late '70s were reluctant to display their cultural background, but in a few weeks in 1982, when Italy was progressing well at the World Cup that it ended up winning, suddenly many children started proudly wearing the No.20 jersey of Italian striker Paolo Rossi.

"When thousands of Italians celebrated at the old Apia club in Sydney, I joined them, and for the first time since my arrival in Australia, I saw the joy of those children that were proud of being Italian, a memorable moment."

Among the individuals that both Gentile and Foster credited for pioneering the sport for SBS during that period was Warren, and long-time football analyst, Les Murray who died in 2017.

Foster explains the impact his work had on various communities.

"Les and SBS knew that by broadcasting the FIFA World Cup, the Croatian Australian community would feel deeply respected in being able to watch both their own national team with Croatian Australian players and the Croatian national team," Foster explained.

"SBS was the first organisation in the country to really accept this concept. "They were very much ahead of the curve in relation to what multiculturalism meant."

Gentile made special mention to fellow broadcaster Tony Palumbo, who worked across SBS radio and television platforms from 1982 to 2010.

"Tony Palumbo's passion for football is like no other. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the sport that has made him one of Australia's and Italy's leading football experts and commentators," Gentile said.

"People like Tony and Les are very rare, and having worked alongside them is an enormous privilege."

Regular World Cup appearances in the male and female forms of the game, as well as the sport's growing popularity, were proof that the game in 2022 was "culturally embedded" into the Australian way of life, Foster believes.

"This regular World Cup participation has placed the game on a different level of social consciousness, acceptance and passion. "The nature of Australia's relationship with the game has changed in that respect."

For Gentile, it's impossible not to connect the rise of football in Australia with the efforts of SBS in serving newly arrived migrant communities. "Until SBS brought football into people's homes, there was something missing, a huge gap in our personal lives that SBS radio and television helped fill.

"It took some time for [migrants'] love of football to become mainstream, and finally, they were respected and accepted."





## Melbourne Victory slammed with heaviest sanctions in A-League era



Melbourne Victory invading the pitch in A League match against Melbourne City

### Narrow win for Hamrun to retain 11-point lead

After making way for matches from the nearly round of the FA Trophy, the Premier League resumed with the Round 16 programme made up of six matches, and with Hamrun Spartans retaining their 11-point lead over runners-up Gzira, that meant them consolidating their top position in the league ladder.

The Spartans did not find the going as easy as anticipated against Pieta Hotspur, but in the end they managed a narrow victory that sent their supporters home happy.

Gzira Utd, Birkirkara and Hibernians kept up their challenge for the runner-up placing following wins over Marsaxlokk, Floriana and Mosta, with Birkirkara having the toughest game of the three as they had to beat Floriana while playing the final 40 minutes with only ten men.

In their victory over Mosta Hibernians owe much of their success to Jurgen Degabriele who scored both their goals.

The other match from the round of 16 between Valletta and Sirens has been postponed to 1 February.

**LATEST RESULTS Day 16**

Hamrun S. v Pieta H.	2-1
Gzira U v Marsaxlokk	3-0
Hibernians v Mosta	2-0
Birkirkara v Floriana	2-1
Balzan v Gudja U	1-0
Sta Lucia v Zebbug R	2-1
Valletta v Sirens	(posp)

## Ronaldo set to double his wallet to promote Saudi's '30 World Cup bid

Just weeks after neighbouring Qatar became the first Arab nation to host the FIFA World Cup, Saudi Arabia are said to be interested in staging the 2030 edition. And Cristiano Ronaldo is reportedly being offered almost €200 million (\$AUD310 million) to promote their joint bid.

This sum would be in addition to the Portuguese superstar's club salary, for registering with club side Al Nassr. The 38-year-old former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus footballer is by

As a result of the actions of the club's active supporters during the Melbourne Derby against Melbourne City on 7 December last year, Football Australia has handed the four-time Australian A-League Men champions Melbourne Victory a \$550,000 and several other sanctions, but spared them an immediate points deduction. However, they will play the next three-and-a-half seasons with a 10-point sanction hanging over their heads.

Of the total fine, \$450,000 will be split between reimbursing Melbourne City up to \$150,000 in damages, a fine payable to Football Australia of \$150,000.

They also have a suspended \$100,000 fine should their supporters invade the pitch again this season or in the next three seasons. Additionally, the Victory must front up a minimum of \$50,000 towards the cost of replaying the Derby.

### Germany's Sandhausen win 5th Tipsport Malta International t'ment

German side SV Sandhausen won the 5th edition of the Tipsport Malta Cup Tournament, supported by VisitMalta that wrapped after 10 days of competition in Malta between six European football teams from four different countries.

Bundesliga side SV Sandhausen who had earlier claimed maximum points in Group B defeated Austria's WSG Tirol 3-2 in the final at the National Stadium.

The year's competing teams were, FC Slovan Liberec and FC Trinity Zlin (Czech Republic); FC Spartak Trnava and AS Trenčín from Slovakia; WSG Tirol (Austria) and SV Sandhausen (Germany).

Third place winners were Slovan Liberec who defeated fellow Czech Republic side Trinity Zlin.

Rather than award a walkover to City following the violence when Victory fans stormed the pitch and assaulted opposition goalkeeper Tom Glover, the game will resume from the 22nd minute. City will retain their 1-0 lead from the abandoned match, with the meeting to take place in April.

The \$550,000 represents the biggest fine in the sport's history in Australia.

The FA has also put in place an automatic 10-point deduction for each time a "triggering event" takes place either this season or the next three seasons.

In regards to their supporters, Victory cannot sell match day tickets to designated home active supporter bays, including both the North and South end active areas, for the remainder of this season.

### Italy's Juventus docked 15 points for transfer trickery

Italian football giants Juventus have been hit with a massive points deduction of 15 points, pushing them down from third to 10th in Serie A for what the Italian Football Federation has termed as transfer trickery.

Not only that, but their sporting director Federico Cherubini has been banned for 16 months and is facing a potential criminal trial into the alleged accounting offences.

Juventus were found guilty of managing capital gains from transfers to artificially benefit their balance sheet.

