



# The Voice of the Maltese

Issue  
292

February 7, 2023

*(We are for the Greater Malta)*

A fortnightly print  
and digital magazine

**Couvre-port in  
Birgu (Vittoriosa)**

– painting by Godwin Cassar



**VisitMalta**



The crowd present at the Australia Day 2023 commemoration by the MCC NSW at the Holroyd Centre at Merrylands

# Commemorating Australia Day 2023

The annual commemoration on Australia Day, organised by the Maltese Community Council of NSW, is regarded as a yearly showcase. This year's event at the up-market Holroyd Centre at Merrylands was no exception. It was very well organised, integrating good entertainment by popular Maltese/Australian entertainer Joe Apap and acknowledging our compatriots who have received the highest of honours from the Federal Government over the years.

Miriam Friggieri, the energetic President of the MCC of NSW, welcomed the special guests and highlighted the council's role in our community. Marisa Previtera was the master of ceremonies.

Clr Lisa Lake, Mayor of Cumberland City Council, concluded the proceedings by explaining the close connection between the Maltese people and her city. The



Some of the guests at the reception. (From left): Mark Caruana, Diane Coleman, Ivan Cauchi, Lawrence Dimech, Lisa Lake, Suman Saha, Mark Buttigieg, Patrick Bartolo, Stephen Gatt, Lawrence Buhagiar, Antoine Mangion, Miriam Friggieri and Neville Zammit

three politicians, Julie Finn, Mark Buttigieg and Dr G. Lee, called out the

nine Order of Australia awardees and presented them to the audience.

Special guests presents for this year commemoration were Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General of Malta in NSW; Dr Geoff Lee, State Member for Parramatta; Mark Buttigieg MLC, State Opposition Whip; Julia Finn, State Member for Granville; Clr Lisa Lake, Mayor of Cumberland City Council; Clr Suman Saha and Clr Diane Coleman, both from Cumberland City Council and Lawrence Dimech, co-Editor of the Voice of the Maltese.

Ivan Cauchi delivered the keynote speech, regarded as one of the best produced on this day. It was indeed a comprehensive historical appraisal of what Australia Day is to all of us.

You can read Ivan's commemorative speech on the next pages that have also been dedicated to Australia Day.

The majority of the Maltese community are Australian Citizens. In the past, when these events were held at Parramatta Town Hall, we even had Australian citizenship ceremonies conducted in conjunction with the Dept. of Immigration. They were popular and very convenient. MCC could do well to consider such ceremonies in the future to add to what is already a splendid event.

Photos courtesy of Patrick Bartolo



The nine decorated members of the Maltese community in the Order of Australia in the front row (from left): Maria Said, Doris Athanasio, Stephen Gatt, Lawrence Dimech, Nancy Serg-Borg, George Bartolo, Charles N. Mifsud, Patrick Bartolo, and Mark Caruana.

At the back the three Members of Parliament who attended the event. From left: Julie Finn, Mark Buttigieg and Geoff Lee

## Commemoration on two days

This year, the Maltese Community Council of NSW commemorated Australia Day over two days. The first day, on Saturday 21st, was at Merrylands and the next day at the Hamrun Club at Marsten Park.

The second day was slightly curtailed because of inclement weather, however, the bar-b-que and entertainment continued undercover.

The MCC thanked Joe Borg, the President, and the Hamrun Club for their cooperation, and the associations that participated, especially the MCC sub-committee that controlled both days.

# A Maltese immigrant's view of the significance of Australia Day



The keynote speech that was delivered by IvanCAUCHI (above) at the commemoration of Australia Day, organised by the Maltese Community Council of NSW

## Ivan Cauchi ....

Ivan was born in Malta to Gozitan parents. He migrated to Australia in 2005 with his wife, Margaret. They are the parents of boy and girl twins. He obtained an electrical engineering degree and a master's degree from the University of Malta, majoring in computer systems and telecommunications.

He spent time as part-time lecturer at the University of Malta in computer networks and statistics, an examiner on transmission systems with the City & Guilds Institute of London and a tutor on computer networks at various technical colleges. In Sydney, he took on the IT Architect role in Infrastructure Strategy at Vodafone Australia.

Ivan became active with the Maltese community by writing regularly for The Voice of the Maltese, serving on the committee of La Valette Social Centre and teaching the Maltese language privately at their premises. He left the corporate world and is now providing IT consultancy.

*Thank you to the Maltese Community Council of NSW for inviting me, a simple immigrant from the other side of the world to this huge, rich, diverse and plentiful island-continent of Australia, to speak about this important event in the yearly calendar of Australia.*

I cannot begin this address without acknowledging the Dharug people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are having this function today, and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

The Maltese community is one of 270 extant ancestries in Australia, coming to this land mainly for economic reasons. The 2021 Census by the Australian Bureau of Statistics identified 35,413 people who were Maltese by birth, the vast majority of them (23,028) arriving in the 2 decades after the 2nd world war, from 1951 to 1970.<sup>1</sup> These have around 200,000 descendants.<sup>2</sup>

I think it can be safely said that in general, the Maltese presence in Australia is a huge success story. Coming from a Maltese, my biased summary of conversations I've held with many non-Maltese people is that the Maltese are regarded as hard-working, loyal, friendly and helpful - apart from being loud and opinionated!

The hardworking nature of the Maltese is not a myth. The 2021 Census identifies that 72.2% of first generation Maltese own their home outright, as compared to 29% of all immigrants and 32.3% of people born in Australia. This feat was achieved despite personal, family and household median weekly incomes of the Maltese being about just half those of other immigrants and those born in Australia.

Today, the Maltese are well integrated into Australian life and society, and many Maltese are household names: John Aquilina (politician), Troy Cassar-Daley (singers), Jeff Fenech (boxer), Adam Hills & Shaun Micallef (comedians), Kevin Muscat (footballer), Shane Delia (chef), and I could go on.

Of course, we also have our fair share of bad apples. Who could forget the name of Godwin Grech, who helped bring down Malcolm Turnbull as Leader of the Federal Opposition in 2008?<sup>3</sup>

I remember spending a week being almost too ashamed to turn up to work, just a couple of years after arriving here in Australia, lest someone might assign to me any guilt by association.

The Maltese are well integrated today, though perhaps I should more correctly say that the Maltese are well assimilated. It seems to me that the Maltese who came to Australia, escaping the poverty of an island in the middle of the Mediterranean that had been almost bombed to oblivion during the Second World War, would do their utmost

to reap the benefits of this land of opportunity.

So, as I was told by many first generation Maltese today, that when new arrivals were insistently advised by Education officials not to speak Maltese to their children so that the latter would learn English quickly and not be disadvantaged in their education, it didn't take much convincing for dotting parents to reason that Maltese language was the one of the past and English representing the future, and who doesn't want to give their children the best start in life?

Thankfully today, research has shown that multilingual students do quite well at school, better than monolingual ones, thank you very much, with benefits accruing not only in the usual suspects of communications and cultural awareness, but also in mathematics, logic and brain function.<sup>4</sup>

Delays in child development due to being bilingual, or multilingual, are now accepted to be a myth, and that advice mentioned earlier has thankfully been dropped, not unfortunately before a whole generation of kids had been raised with little interaction in our beloved hybrid language of Semitic origin, except when the parents wanted to say something privately that the kids couldn't understand. Allegedly.

The Maltese started to arrive very soon after that famous date that today is referred to as Australia Day, when Arthur Phillip's First Fleet landed in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788 and raised the Union Flag, symbolising the act of Great Britain proclaiming its sovereignty over the new land, then known as New Holland.

Arthur Phillip's original intention was to establish a penal colony at Botany Bay, based on information provided by James Cook when the latter had explored the coast of what is today New South Wales in 1770.

Upon arrival in Botany Bay around 18-20th January 1788, Phillip realised the location was not suitable, so the next day he travelled further north to Port Jackson, now known as Sydney Harbour, and made landfall at Sydney Cove, today Circular Quay, which was judged much better for its intended use.

He stayed there until 23 January, when he went back to his fleet that was still anchored off Botany Bay.

He ordered the fleet to move to Sydney Cove, which happened between 25-26th January, not without difficulty and danger caused by high winds and seas.

On 26 January, the landing was made and the flag raised. The colony of New South Wales was proclaimed for King George III a week and a half later, on 7 February 1788.

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## What exactly are we celebrating? ... and who is really celebrating?

*\*Continued from page 3*

The rest, we could say, is history. New South Wales was quickly joined by other colonies that upon federation then became constitutional self-governing states (Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia), parts of whose land became self-governing territories by the federation (Australian Capital Territory & Northern Territory), and the rest of the territories are just administered federally (Jervis Bay, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard Island, McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island).

However, I do invite you to reflect: What exactly are we celebrating on Australia Day? And who is really celebrating on Australia Day?

I'll tell you my own reflections to these questions. I'll start with the who, as that in my view is quite easy to understand.

The one person who was most delighted with the proclamation of the new colony was doubtlessly the British monarch, King George III. We should not forget that the landing of Arthur Phillip and his First Fleet at Sydney Cove happened barely 12 years after Britain had lost its thirteen colonies on the Atlantic coast of North America during the American Revolutionary War in 1775 and the foundation of the United States of America in July 1776.<sup>5</sup>

Convicts who had been sent to the new colony, and were at some stage pardoned, started to celebrate this day, very understandably. Later the governor of the first colony of NSW Lachlan Macquarie, also started to celebrate the day, and this became an annual occasion, but it is very clear that the celebrations were being held by British-introduced newcomers to this land. This has, in my view, set the tone for the celebrations of Australia Day, as one for the British and their representatives first, and other immigrants second.

### ***Australia's Head of State is still British***

Of course, Australia is still British. The head of state is the British hereditary monarch, yesterday Queen Elizabeth II, today King Charles III. The monarch still appoints a governor-general, who appoints the elected prime minister. The governor-general also appoints administrators who appoint the chief ministers for self-governing territories and the territory governments.

The monarch also appoints the governors of the states, who then appoint the premiers of each state and the state governments.

So, of course, the governments of the states and territories, successors to the original British colonies, celebrate one of the key initial moments of the British process of claiming this continent, to which the governments have been appointed. What else would you expect?

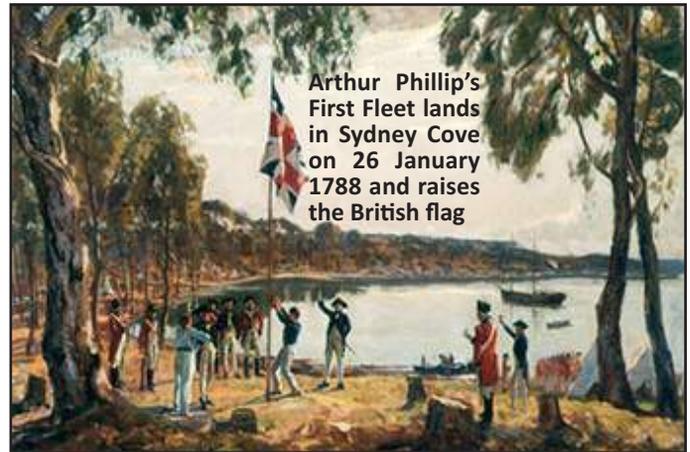
Economic migrants to this country and their descendents, including the Maltese, have done very well in their millions, achieving a quality of life that they could only dream about in their homeland. Australia has an advanced economy and way of life, despite some tensions and challenges here and there. Economic migrants have a lot to celebrate.

Refugees have come here, fleeing persecution and terrible wars, and have found, sometimes more and sometimes less, a welcoming hand, a refuge, a secure country where children can be sent to school rather than an underground bunker, and parents can go to work rather than take up arms or go into hiding. Refugees have a lot to celebrate, when they manage to get a visa that is.

The ones conspicuously absent in this mass of celebrations, are the ones on whose traditional land we, ostensibly, pay our respects. Who is absent? Well, the aboriginal inhabitants and islanders - the First Nations Peoples, of course.

What have they to celebrate? It is generally accepted by researchers that aboriginal people had been present on the Australian territory for tens of thousands of years, some estimates even of 60,000 years, and here comes a pale-faced upstart in a wig 235 years ago, plants a flag on the ground with a number of colours in the form of a series of super-imposed crosses, claiming ownership on the land on behalf of a monarch on the other side of the world as if the land was completely vacant, a principle that is known as terra nullius, despite knowing very well of pre-existing human inhabitants.

Don't for a moment even think that this principle is just an old mind set. Just eight years ago, then Prime Minister Tony Abbott



Arthur Phillip's  
First Fleet lands  
in Sydney Cove  
on 26 January  
1788 and raises  
the British flag

remarked "it's hard to think that back in 1788 it was nothing but bush". Nothing but bush?<sup>6</sup>

It is said that today this land is home to 'Australians who identify with more than 270 ancestries'<sup>7</sup>. Just for a moment, give consideration to the fact that before Europeans came to this land, and there were other countries even before the British came (the earliest being the Dutch and Spanish in 1606, also the French in 1687)<sup>8</sup> there are estimated to have already been at least 250 aboriginal language groups, possibly even up to 363.<sup>9</sup>

During the so-called frontier wars, it is claimed 100,000 indigenous Australians died as against 2000 new settlers,<sup>10</sup> a ratio of 50:1. Does that ratio accurately reflect the worth of the settler lives as compared to indigenous ones?

The new settlers brought with them, apart from a completely new and alien way of life, a monotheistic religion with a creation story uncannily similar to the creation dreamtime stories of blackfellow Australians.

Unfortunately, institutions from this religion, the Christian missions, and others, were the tool by which Australian federal and state governments, having forcibly and legally removed mixed-race aboriginal kids from their families, educated the kids into the new white settlers' society, with the boys trained as labourers and the girls as domestic servants to participate in the new economy, with use of aboriginal languages, cultures and beliefs forbidden and forgotten, replaced by the enlightened English and Christianity.

Little records were taken of this removal, with the result that when this abhorrent 20th century practice was finally stopped, not so long ago in the 1960s and 70s, it was really hard for families to re-connect with their taken children. Another consequence is that it is unknown exactly how many children made up what we today call the Stolen Generations, with widely-varying estimates of up to 100,000.

This disastrous policy has resulted in 'higher rates of emotional distress, depression, poorer physical health and higher rates of smoking and use of illicit substances, as well as lower educational and employment outcomes'.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Signing a National Agreement with a coalition of peak***

Australian governments have belatedly recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are 'experiencing entrenched disadvantage, political exclusion, intergenerational trauma and ongoing institutional racism', and have signed a National Agreement with a coalition of peak and member indigenous organisations on Closing the Gap, a process that started in 2008 and is ongoing.

The 'gaps' refer to a number of socio-economic measures in which there is a marked difference between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the one side, and other Australians on the other, for example life expectancy differed in 2015-17 by 8.1 years, people in affordable housing (78.9% as against 92.9%), 23.2 young aboriginal & islander people in detention per 10000 compared to only 1.3 per 10000 non-indigenous young people being there, and the list just goes on - 17 areas in all, being tracked with some areas experiencing higher progress than others.<sup>12</sup>

Could someone explain to me why anybody from an aboriginal or islander ancestry would celebrate the milestone of the Sydney Cove landing of the British First Fleet, given the catastrophic consequences of subsequent colonisation?

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# Two Malta-born are among Australian Day honourees

Two Malta-born gentlemen, Emmanuel (Bill) Borg, OAM from Erskine Park NSW, and Joseph

Alexander Galea OAM, now living at The Entrance NSW, are among the 1047 Australians recognised and named in the Australia Day Honours List 2023.

Announcing the honourees, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, said that the recipients have had a significant impact at the local, national and international level and are, quite simply, inspiring.

Emmanuel Borg OAM was honoured for service to rugby league, especially to the St Clair Junior Rugby League Club, and the popular singer/musician/entertainer Joseph Alexander Galea OAM for his contribution to music. Both were recognised for their services to the Maltese community. Bill's wife, Australian-born Karyn, was also honoured with an OAM.

The Governor-General said those honoured "go above and beyond and are from all over the country, and they contribute every day in every way imaginable. "These are the people who see us through good



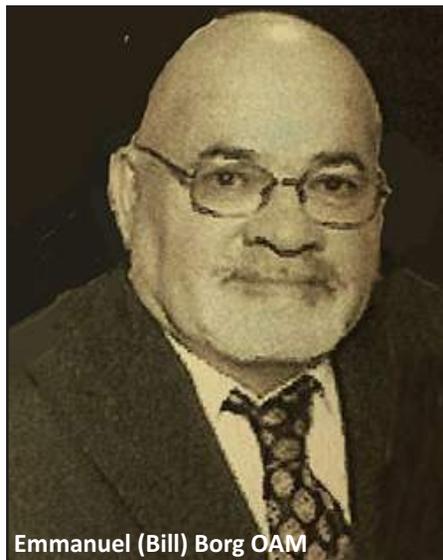
Joseph Alexander Galea OAM

times and bad. They're the first to show up and the last to leave," he said.

"They're almost always humble to a fault, but I urge recipients, today, to put aside that humility - it's important they know how much they are valued."

"It is encouraging to see an increase in diversity in the Order of Australia. Each recipient has something in common - someone nominated them.

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Emmanuel (Bill) Borg OAM

## Commemoration not a celebration

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It is no wonder, to me, that the term Australia Day, with its inherent appeal for national unity, is completely rejected by most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, with alternative names of Invasion Day, Survival Day or Day of Mourning being applied.

Can anything be done about this day, which to so many of us, myself included, is the day on which naturalised Australian citizenship was conferred to us, in order to make it more inclusive?

Well, for starters, we could stop referring to Australia Day as a day of celebration, but rather as a day of commemoration, of the arrival of the First Fleet.

Secondly, we could include in the events, additional commemorations of the main milestones of the nation, and include some truth telling about the oldest living culture of the planet and how this was really impacted by the colonisation initiated by the landing at Sydney Cove.

Finally I have to mention that Indigenous delegates from around the country came together in 2017, in a series of talks led by the Referendum Council commissioned in a rare bipartisan move by the Australian Liberal-National Government and the Labor Opposition, and finally issue in May 2017 the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which calls for constitutional recognition for a First Nations Voice to Parliament (as opposed to a Voice in Parliament), and a process for agreement-making and truth telling about their history.<sup>15</sup>

The Statement from the Heart was not unanimous, but was close to being so, signed by over 250 indigenous delegates, missing a group of seven delegates who walked out of the process in protest, as the latter's proposal was to reject constitutional recognition, and rather have a sovereign treaty.<sup>14</sup>

This Statement from the Heart was followed by the final report by the Referendum Council in June 2017. This recommended that the proposed Voice would be established in the Constitution, with its structure and functions being defined by Parliament, and being very clear it was not to have any veto power.<sup>15</sup>

This Indigenous Voice to Parliament did not get off to a great start unfortunately. With the ink barely dried on the statement, the outcome was immediately rejected by the cabinet of then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, and on the assumption that the proposed Voice to Parliament would 'inevitably become seen as a third chamber of parliament', declared it would be 'neither desirable nor capable of winning acceptance at referendum'.<sup>16</sup>



Protesters gather across Melbourne and Sydney

The sheer effrontery of this sleight of hand, first initiating and sponsoring an extensive consultation process over six months among Aboriginal and Islander people, and then rejecting out of hand the result, rather than ask for further clarifications, was breathtaking.

Therefore, the third change I would augur in relation to Australia Day has two components:

- an earnest hope that we all have it in our hearts to grant what the vast majority of indigenous people's delegates have asked for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart;
- that this Voice to Parliament, in a spirit of reconciliation and unity and in agreement with First Nations, can be timed to come into effect on Australia Day.

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[15] Final Report of the Referendum Council; 30 June 2017; p2 & p36

[16] <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/oct/26/indigenous>

# Australia Day in Malta

The Australian High Commission in Malta commemorated Australia Day 2023 at a reception hosted by Her Excellency the HC, Ms Jenny Cartmill, at her residency in Targa Gap.

The special activity was attended by several personalities, among them the President of Malta HE Dr George Vella, some Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ian Borg, other cabinet ministers and MPs, Maltese entrepreneurs and representatives of organisations with connections to Australia, and Australians living in Malta. *The Voice of the Maltese* was also present.

During the evening that highlighted Australia's rich indigenous history and modern multicultural society, the Australian High Commissioner and President George Vella delivered interesting speeches that highlighted the meaning of the day for Australians in particular and the friendship between Australia and Malta.

Outlining her country's history, Ms Cartmill explained what Australia Day is all about. She said it is a day to reflect on what



Australian HC to Malta HE Ms Jenny Cartmill with President George Vella (left) and Minister Ian Borg addressing the commemoration at her residence in Malta

it means to be Australian, to celebrate contemporary Australia, and to acknowledge its history.

The High Commissioner also expressed her pleasure to have so many friends who could join them to reflect, respect and con-

nect. "We are all part of the story," she said.

President George Vella expressed excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. He also hinted that his office was exploring the best time that he could visit Australia later this year.

## Bill and Joseph were active members of the Maltese community in NSW

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"The Order belongs to each of us, and we each have a part to play. The only way a person can be recognised is for someone to nominate them."

In addition to the 736 recipients of 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 (6 AC, 47 AO, 177 AM and 506 OAM), this year's Honours list included:

- 30 recipients of awards in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (2 AO, 17 AM and 11 OAM)
- 217 Meritorious awards
- 64 Distinguished and Conspicuous awards.

The list also includes 77 Australians recognised for their contribution in support of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; They will also be included in an ongoing and permanent COVID-19 Honours roll.

Emmanuel Borg was secretary and a member of the Grounds Committee and the Fundraising Committee (1989-2022). He has been a volunteer since 1986 and a Life Member since 2001.

He was also a member of the general committee of the Penrith and District Junior Rugby League, a co-Founder of UBEECO Packaging Solutions (1970-2017) and President of the Greystanes Catholic Youth Organisation before 1975. In 2010 a mini field at Peppertree Reserve was named

after him.

In February 2022 (issue No. 268) of *The Voice of the Maltese*, Bill and Karyn were featured as Personality of the Month.

According to the citation, for 14 years, Joseph Alexander Galea OAM was Vice-President of the Maltese Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco NSW.

Between 1990 and 2003, he was a Maltese Folk Musician and singer, Chair Maltese Cultural Association Choir, a supporter of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church., and a member of the Maltese Historical Association.

Joe, now 79, is regarded as a pioneer in promoting Maltese music, especially the għana (Maltese folk singing), to Australia.

He arrived in Australia as an 11-year-old kid in 1955, and in 1966 married Josephine Farrugia. They are both prominent members of the Maltese community. They lived for many years in Greystanes, NSW.

## PM Albanese names Australians of Year

In a ceremony at the National Arboretum in Canberra, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the 2023 Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero.

The Australian of the Year for 2023 is body image activist, director, writer and speaker Taryn Brumfitt. The Senior Australian of the

Year is Professor Tom Calma AO, one of Australia's most respected human rights and social justice campaigners.

Socceroo Awer Mabil, co founder of the not-for-profit organisation Barefoot to Boots, is Young Australian of the Year.

On the 20th anniversary of the award category, Turbans 4 Australia founder Amar Singh is the Local Hero for 2023.

## The latest from novelist James Vella-Bardon

The award-winning Maltese novelist, James Vella-Bardon has announced the fantastic audiobook version of *THE SHERIFF'S CATCH*, masterfully narrated by the UK's award-winning voice actor Jonathan Keeble. It is now available on *SPOTIFY!*

It is very exciting to learn that Abel de Santiago's death-defying escape from brutal troopers along the Atlantic coast of Ireland is now brought to life in such mesmerising fashion through one of the world's most popular listening platforms.

Spotify subscribers can use codes to access the audiobook on their morning commutes, dog walks or those other times they listen in to audiobooks.

So just contact the author by email on: [jamesvellabardon.com@gmail.com](mailto:jamesvellabardon.com@gmail.com) and he will provide listening codes in exchange for a review.

On others news, Santiago's epic saga in Ireland is soon to continue, with the third instalment *HERO OF ROSCLOGHER* to be published and on sale on Amazon and all other global retailers' platforms in coming weeks!

So watch this space for more updates and free offers on previous titles, as well as an exquisite *COVER REVEAL* which will display the latest masterpiece by talented Catalan cover designer Rafael de Andres - which is coming your way soon.

Novelist James Vella-Bardon will soon feature in our *Personality of the Month*.

**Q.** My mother who is 92 is moving from her retirement village unit into an aged care facility. She needs to pay a refundable accommodation deposit (RAD) of \$800,000. She has a term deposit of \$500,000, which she is planning to use. Can she pay the rest of the RAD once she receives the funds from the proceeds of the sale of her unit?

**A.** Yes, your mother is able to pay part RAD and part as a Daily Accommodation Payment (DAP) for her accommodation in the facility. The DAP is interest on the outstanding RAD amount, and the rate of this interest is set by the government. She should advise the facility of her plans that once her unit is sold, she intends to pay the rest of the RAD and thus her daily accommodation payment will then cease.

**Q.** I am in the process of selling my house with settlement at the end of February. I am going to be living with my daughter until such time as we find a small house close to her home. This could take a few months. I wish to invest some funds in superannuation using the downsizing strategy.

I know that there is a time limit of being able to invest the funds in super from settlement date. If, when I do find a house, I needed some of this money back, am I able to withdraw some of it and what tax will I have to pay?

**A.** As you mentioned, you have a 90-day limit after settlement to invest up to \$300,000 in superannuation. You may be able to withdraw part or all of it if you needed the money and this can happen at any time, assuming you meet a condition of release. You may have some limited tax to pay, depending upon the makeup of your

existing superannuation funds, but this should be minimal. Once over 60 years of age any funds withdrawn from superannuation are tax free.

**Q.** We have four investment properties. They have gone up in value but we have a reasonably large mortgage on all four of them. As we plan to retire in two years' time, we feel that we will be cash poor and unable to live comfortable on just the rental income in retirement.

If we sell two of these properties, pay off the entire loan on the remaining two properties this would leave us with some money to place in superannuation and be debt free. Do you think this is a good plan?

**A.** I believe that getting rid of mortgages once you retire is a great idea. You would then be able to budget wisely and know what income you will have to live on. However, you need to consider any capital gains tax that you will be up for and other matters.

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



You should prior to doing anything, visit either a financial planner or your own accountant who should be able to make some calculations on what capital gains tax amounts you would be up for. They would need to know your current situations to advise you well. It is a great time to consider all this as you have two years prior to retiring.

**Q.** I have four grandchildren and would like to open a bank account for each of them. I would then direct some money monthly into each of these accounts. Should I have these accounts in the grandchildren's name or in the name of their parents?

**A.** I would suggest that you have the bank accounts held in your name in trust for each of the children individually. This way you would have control of these accounts and know how they are building up and you can add or reduce the payments as or when you see fit.

**Q.** I am 38 years old and I am paying off my home. I have a high six-figure salary and was wondering whether paying off my mortgage would be a better idea to salary sacrificing

**A.** As you are 38 you are unable to make any withdrawals from superannuation until age 60. However, if you are on a high salary I believe some salary sacrifice could be appropriate. You need to visit a financial planner who would advise you according to your current situation.

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

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CFP, Dip FP  
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# Have your say/ Xi trid tgħid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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Published by The Voice of the Maltese Group Pty Ltd

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



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## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# Imma kemm aħna sbieħ min jaf jarana

Tony Mifsud minn Marsden Park NSW jikteb:

**I**l-gwerra bejn ir-Russia u l-Ukrajna mhux biss hi distruttiva imma wkoll li qed tħasseb bis-serjetá lil dawk kollha li jharsu lejn dawn il-konflitti b'ċerta kjarazza.

Jiddispujaci għal Zelensky għax nahseb li kemm in-NATO kif ukoll il-potenzi l-kbar, u l-manifatturi tal-armamenti qed jabbużaw minnu.

Issa anke l-Awstralja ndaħhlet biex taġti l-appoġġ tagħha zghir kemm hu zghir lill-Ukrajna billi tipproduci l-bombi meħtieġa.

L-Awstralja dejjem tkun minn quddiem biex b'xi skuża jew oħra dejjem tindahal f'xi gwerra, xi haga li ffit issib lil min jappoġġaha.

Tiskanta dwar it-tellieqa kbira bejn il-potenzi l-kbar biex jagħtu l-armamenti lil dan il-pajjiż li b'determinazzjoni qed jilqa' għall-isfida offruta mir-Russja. L-Istati Uniti, ir-Renju Unit, Franza u l-Ġermanja jafu li dan il-kunflitt mhux se jintrebaħ bi gwerra izda aktar ma jzommuha hajja aktar tikber l-industrija tal-armamenti, u

jikber ukoll in-negożju għax il-postijiet imġarrfa eventwalment iridu jiġi mibnija mill-ġdid. Imbagħad terġa' tibda l-ġirja dwar min se jikseb il-kuntratti biex jibni.

Sewwa jghidu li l-industrija tal-pajjiżi kbar iridu l-gwerer biex ikomplu jikbru. Imbagħad xi nghidu għall-Iżrael li kull meta jqum kunflitt kbir fid-dinja jkomplu jkissru lill-Palestinja waqt li d-dinja tkun aljenata.

Meta r-Russja nvadjet lill-Ukrajna fi Frar tas-sena l-oħra, bir-raġun li d-dinja qamet alenija kontra d-dittatur Putin, imma meta Iżrael jissuktaw jidhlu meta u kif iridu fl-art Palestinjana joqtlu u jġarrfu l-bini, qisu li qatt ma jkun ma gara xejn. Mhux biss li fl-1948 bil-barka ta' Lord Balfour ħadulhom arthom, imma lanqas biss iridu li l-ġirien tagħhom Palestinjani ikollhom stat.

## Our future has to be Malta after 60 years

Paul Cassar, from Melbourne writes:

**A**fter two years, mainly due to the restrictions resulting from the Covid pandemic that deprived us the chance to visit Malta, in early December last year my wife and I returned to spend some weeks on the island, which we last visited in 2019. What we experienced gave us another chance to consider seriously returning to Malta for keeps.

Now aged 74, I have been in Australia for close to 60 years. I left Malta with my parents when I was still only 14. At the time, it was like an adventure for me. Along with the rest of the family we never regretted it. But having been a frequent visitor to Malta these past years, and reading about it in *The Voice*, the island has become like a magnet to us. I keeps pulling us in.

I believe that there isn't a better place on earth than this small island. Reading Jim Gatt's letter in the January 24 issue (No. 291) of *The Voice of the Maltese* gave me several more reasons why we should live our last years of existence in Malta.

Add to that the fact that our youngest boy is now married to a Maltese girl and now live in Malta where they both have a comfortable job, and lead a happy and very relaxing life with a small family, I think our future has been sealed. We are now weighing up the financial situation and getting advice about what it would mean for us to leave Australia for good.

## Slow mail from Malta

Concetta Demarco from Penrith NSW writes:

**W**e have been experiencing huge delays when it comes to receiving mail from Malta. Christmas cards became history. One airmail letter stamped Maltapost plc posted in Malta on the 1st January costing 1.40euros, arrived at my home on the 30th January.

It used to take us this long when to sail as migrants to Australia in those rust buckets when they used to get rid of us in the fifties.

We cannot blame Covid 19 anymore. These are the simple issues we need to solve. I don't know whom to blame.



## Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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2/679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164

# 17-21 February is Carnival time in Malta

The stage is set for one of the year's most exciting events in Malta, Carnival, known as *Il-Karnival ta' Malta* that this year will be held over five days from 17 to 21 February, right before the start of Lent. In fact, it kicks off on the Friday before Lent and runs until Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Carnival, one of the oldest and greatest celebrations in Europe has been celebrated for over six centuries and is one of the most beloved and anticipated events of the year. It is a truly unique event that is a very important part of Maltese Culture!

An incredible fantasy world is created on the streets with magical costumes, satirical floats, art and music, ensuring that the joy and festive spirit is kept alive for the duration of carnival that has withstood the test of time and today enjoys massive popularity with locals. It has also become increasingly popular with foreigners from all over the world, who visit Malta to experience and savour the Maltese Carnival experience

Carnival is also a time when lots of people let their hair down as they make merry during celebrations that take place all over, as towns and villages across the islands have their own unique carnival celebrations, though the main celebrations take place in the capital city of Valletta.

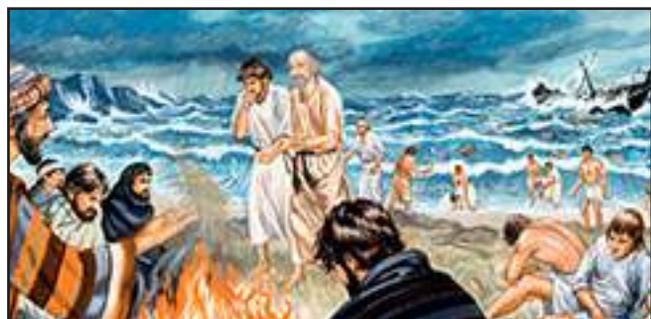
Another key carnival celebration, described as a spontaneous demonstration, also takes place in the village of Nadur on the neighbouring island of Gozo.

Over the years, new artistic carnival traditions have been born, while many other ancient carnival traditions have been kept alive.



One of the several colourful floats doing the rounds in Valletta

The Knights of the Order of St. John were the first pioneers of carnival. They introduced strength competitions and carnival balls, traditions that have survived till modern times.



Painting depicting St Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta

## Feast of St Paul's Shipwreck

On February 10 Malta celebrates the first major feast day of the year, that of St. Paul's Shipwreck (*San Pawl Nawfragu*), the patron saint of the Maltese islands who according to the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament of the Bible, was shipwrecked on Malta in 60AD.

Paul was being transported to Rome as a prisoner on a ship that had sailed from Adramyttium in modern-day Turkey. However, on the journey, the ship was damaged by storms and was driven aground in Malta.

Paul was made welcome by the islanders. When making a fire, he was bitten by a poisonous snake. Despite locals expected St Paul to swell up and die, it was soon clear that he was not affected by the poison. He suffered no ill-effects. He then healed the father of the Roman governor on the island. As a result, several islanders would come to Paul to receive healing.

Publius is venerated as the first Bishop of Malta and is acknowledged as Malta's first saint. Publius' conversion led to Malta being the first Christian nation in the West. Paul and Publius are both patron saints of Malta.

The cave that St Paul made his home for the duration of his stay in Malta is known as St Pauls Grotto, which has always been considered sacred. The Church of St Paul in Rabat now stands on the site of the grotto, and dates back to the 17th century.

The feast of St Paul's shipwreck, a public holiday, is celebrated with great pomp in the parish of St Paul in Malta's capital city, Valletta.

## Wasal il-Karnival Daqsxejn ta' storja ...

Fi żmien l-Ordni ta' San Ġwann fil-gżejjer Maltin, il-Karnival kien, kemm għall-popolin, kif ukoll għall-kavallieri tal-Ordni. Kien minn kmieni li l-karnival kien jin-tuża bħala okkażjoni ta' tbaħrit u żufjett fid-deher.

Biss jidher li l-imġieba tal-kavallieri f'dawn il-jiem beda jaqbeż il-limitu u kien beda jdejjaq lil xi wħud, l-aktaer lil dawk li kellhom twemmin reliġjuż riġidu.

Minhabba f'hekk, fl-1639, il-Gran Mastru Lascaris ħareġ bandu li bih ipprojbixxa, kemm lill-kavallieri milli jieħdu sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tal-Karnival, kif ukoll lin-nisa milli jilbsu l-maskri.

Kien hemm għadd ta' kavallieri li ssuspettaw li l-aġir tal-Gran Mastru kien instigat, kemm mir-rettur tal-Ġiżwiti Patri Tagliava, u minn Ġiżwita ieħor Patri Giacomo Cassia, li kien il-konfessur ta' Lascaris.

Bi tpattija, fil-Karnival ta' dik is-sena, il-kavallier tal-Ordni Fra Giacomo Salvatico, libes çoqqa ta' Ġiżwita u beda jdur it-toroq b'xi kitba fuq dahru, halli jipprotesta kontra l-editt tal-Gran Mastru, u biex ukoll iżebbla lill-Ġiżwiti.

Dan il-kavallier kien akkum-

panjat minn xi oħrajn shabu li bdew taparsi jsawtuh fuq dahru bħallikieku qeghdin isawtu lil patri Ġiżwita. B'rużultat ta' dan, il-kavallier ġie arrestat u mitfugh fil-habs ta' Sant Iermu. Meta shabu saru jafu b'dan, b'apogg lejh irvellaw, marru u daħlu l-Kulleġġ tal-Ġiżwiti fi Triq San Ġakbu (illum, fi Triq il-Merkanti l-belt Valletta), u bdew jarmu kull ma ġie f'idejhom għal got-triq.

Mhux hekk biss, imma l-kavallieri bdew jinsistu li l-Ġiżwiti kellhom jitkeċċew minn Malta, għal kollox, u finalment, bejn tlettax u ħmistax mill-Ġiżwiti trikkbu fuq bastiment biex jiġu eżiljati lejn Sqallija.

Imma jidher li l-istruzzjonijiet tal-Gran Mastru kienu mod ieħor. Il-bastiment salpa lejn Kemmuna fejn baqa' moħbi hemm għal xi jiem sakemm il-bičča kkalmat.

Fl-aħħar, il-Ġiżwiti ngabu lura l-belt Valletta fejn damu xi żmien imsakkrin fil-kunvent, 'il bogħod minn għajn in-nies. Tant li l-knisja tagħhom baqgħet magħluqa sa Jannar tas-sena ta' wara.

(M. Galea, 1986, V. Zammit u J. Grima, 1992, J. Cassar Pulliċino, Frar 1995).

# The real story behind St Valentine's Day (14 Feb.)

*In several countries worldwide, on 14 February, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of Valentine's Day. But only some know how this day originated and its significance. In this feature, we discover the real story behind it.*

Valentine's Day originated as a Christian feast honouring an early Christian martyr, Saint Valentine, who was one of two guys preaching the good word in Rome in the third century. One of them was martyred on 14 February 269, thus giving us the date for his eponymous day.

Through later folk traditions, this day has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

It was not until much later that the day became definitively associated with love. In the Middle Ages, France and England commonly believed that 14 February was the beginning of the birds' mating season. That added to the idea that Valentine's Day should be a day for romance.

However, the history of the holiday and the story of its patron saint is shrouded in mystery. Valentine Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions.

The Catholic Church recognises at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Realising the injustice of the decree, Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. He was discovered, and he was put to death. Still, others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the actual namesake.

Other stories suggest that Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine sent the first "valentine" greeting after he fell in love with a young girl – possibly his jailor's daughter – who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, he allegedly wrote her a letter he signed, "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasise



The St Valentine statue in the Balzan Parish Church

his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and – most importantly – romantic figure.

By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

## Christianising the feast

Though some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial – which probably occurred around A.D. 270 – others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place the saint's feast day in the middle of February to "Christianise" the pagan celebration of *Lupercalia*.

Celebrated on 15 February, *Lupercalia* was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci gathered at a sacred cave where the founders of Rome, the infants Romulus and Remus, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa.

The priests would then sacrifice a goat for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide.

Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides believing they could make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn.

The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

## St Valentine 'feast' in Balzan village

The parish church of the village of Balzan in Malta has St Valentine as its secondary feast. A statue of the saint and his relic sits on one of its altars.

According to historians, in 1784, a priest from Balzan, Canon Mons Lorenzo Grech Delicata, went to Rome and, on his return, brought with him the shrine of a martyr. At the time, nobody knew the martyr's name.

However, once the bonds and certificates were issued to confirm that they came from the St Helen catacombs in Rome and were the bones of a martyr, they were given the name of Valentine.

Then in 1820, this same priest gifted the *corps sant* to the Balzan Parish church, and the remains were placed inside the statue. The devotion grew within and outside of the village.

In fact, until a few years ago, Valentine was the most popular name given to baby boys born in Balzan. At one time, every family had a boy named after St Valentine.

Another legend is that St Valentine defended two lovers who had to face significant problems with their families at the time. Subsequently, he was associated with the lovers' tradition. The feast has changed drastically from a religious to a more commercial one.

In the past, the devotion towards St Valentine in Balzan was such that a huge feast was celebrated there with band marches and fireworks as a secondary feast. Not anymore, however.



Ministers Miriam Dalli and Chris Bowen pictured during their meeting last year at the Sharm-el Sheikh COP27 summit

## When Australia and Malta met in Egypt

For the first time, way back in November 2022, during the COP 27 Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Egypt, Malta and Australia were among the countries that agreed to finance to respond to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. They agreed on an implementation Plan.

The COP27 summit included a historic commitment by richer nations to give money to developing nations to help them recover from the damage and the economic losses wreaked from ongoing climate change impacts.

Three months on, people try to figure out whether the pledges to poor countries have been met.

Among the governments that recognised the needs of the poor nations were those of Australia and Malta.

Two very popular politicians from across the seas, Miriam Dalli, Malta's Minister for Environment, Energy and Enterprise, and Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen represented their respective countries at that summit.

The two politicians who are both living up to expectations in their portfolios, met and discussed, both the agenda set up at the summit, and about Malta and the Maltese community in Australia. The reason being, that the Australian, whose wife is Maltese, represents the electorate of McMahon in western Sydney (since 2004), which has many registered voters of Maltese descent.

Although the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 is behind us, the decisions taken in Sharm el-Sheikh require all countries to make an extra effort to address the climate crisis.

Five key takeaways from the conference that will shape the priorities for climate action:

1. Establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage;
2. Maintaining a clear intention to keep 1.5°C within reach;
4. Mobilizing more financial support for developing countries;
5. Making the pivot toward implementation

## Victor Aquilina, Malta's first DJ dies aged 92

Victor Aquilina (born 9 April 1930) one of the pioneers of Maltese broadcasters who moved to Australia in the latter part of his career with Rediffusion in 1984, has died. He was 92.

Aquilina is best known as Malta's first radio DJ on cable radio having joined Rediffusion in 1950. For 34 years worked extensively in popular entertainment broadcasting in Malta. He was also involved in the production of a number of TV programmes when Malta Television was set up in 1962.

Later he became a programme producer and newscaster and eventually was named as head of programmes in 1971.

In 1984 he emigrated with his family to Australia where he headed SBS Radio Melbourne producing programmes for the Maltese community Down Under.

In 1994 he was awarded the Medalja għall-

Qadi tar-Repubblika by the Maltese government, and a year later, following a career spanning 45 years retired.



Victor Aquilina as a DJ during his days at Rediffusion

### Errata Corrige: Licenced clubs

In our main article on page 2, Issue 291, January 24, about Ethnic Clubs, referring to the three Maltese clubs in NSW, we stated that "none of them are licenced". That sentence was incomplete. We were referring to the licences to operate poker machines.

As to liquor licenses, we believe that in fact, they are licenced. La Valette SC informed us that in fact, they are fully licenced.

## Hon Helena Dalli to visit Melbourne and Sydney

The Hon Helena Dalli, EU Commissioner for Equality will be visiting Melbourne and Sydney to meet with the Maltese community.

Receptions in her honour would be held at both cities for which the community leaders and committee members of Maltese Associations are being invited to attend.

The reception in Melbourne is to be held on 26 February at the Maltese Community Centre, 467-477 Royal Parade, Parkville Vic 3052, and in Sydney at the Alfred Fenech Maltese Resource Centre, 59n

Franklin Street, Parramatta West on 1 March.

Those wishing to attend in the Melbourne reception are being requested to register their intention by telephone on 93878922 or email: [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au) by 17 February.

The reception in NSW is by invitation only.

The Hon Dalli (right), who last visited Australia in 2018, would be accompanied by Malta's High Commissioner to Australia, HE Mario Farruiga Borg, and in Sydney also by Consul General Lawrence Buhagiar.





## Roundup of News About Malta



# Malta takes UNSC Presidency

## Minister Ian Borg outlines priorities

**O**n 1st February, Malta, one of the UN's smallest member states with a population of 518,000, which took a seat as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council at the beginning of the year, took over the Presidency of the UN Security Council.

In a press conference Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg launched the country's priorities and programme for the Presidency, saying that

even though the work has been ongoing for many years, following its election on 10th June 2022 with 97.3% of the votes, during the past months, it intensified its work so that its work programme could come into full effect after the council members agreed on it.

He explained that during the Presidency, four activities are to be held, expected to be attended by several dignitaries, including the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Representative of the European Union.

The first debate would focus on the plight of children in conflict situations; the second would address the rising sea level, its implications for peace and international security and its effect on small island states.

The third activity would be an annual briefing on the relations between the European Union and the United Nations. Finally, there will be a debate regarding the first year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He said that he would be chairing the last three activities.

Minister Ian Borg also explained the four primary priorities he would be leading forward.

"Our priorities are protecting children in



**Minister Ian Borg addresses conference about the United Nations Security Council**

conflicts, the climate and the oceans, the role of women for peace and security, and literacy. In thematic areas, we believe these priorities are essential to fulfilling civil, political, social and economic rights worldwide," Dr Borg said.

Each member holds the Presidency of the Council for one month in turn. It involves setting the agenda, presiding over its meetings and overseeing any crisis.

It is the second time Malta has been elected to the Council, after previously serving 1983-1984.



**HE Vanessa Frazier, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN**

## Malta gets €52m. in EU Covid recovery funds

**T**he European Commission has approved Malta's preliminary request for €52.3 million in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, with the country expected to receive the funds by March.

This is part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) totalling €258.3 million that Malta is set to receive as part of the post-Covid recovery and investment initiatives. The European Commission had formally approved the plan in 2021.

In December 2021, as part of the post-Covid recovery initiatives Malta had already received a first deposit of €41 million.

Malta had submitted the payment request in December 2022 based on achieving 16 milestones, three targets, 15 reforms and two investments.

The sum of €52.3 million has been awarded on the condition that Malta carries out certain reforms and investments.

EC President Von der Leyen said that Malta made good efforts in terms of rule of law, innovation, and the circular economy among other areas.

When Von der Leyen visited Malta that year, she called Malta's framework the "greenest plan" approved by the Commission so far. Malta is to dedicate 54% of EU funds to green objectives.

## 2,500 new cases of cancer a year

**T**he President of Malta, George Vella said that today almost 50% of cancer patients in Malta receiving the necessary treatment have been living for more than ten years, and this means that a more robust investment is needed in financial and human resources because, in some instances, there is a need for specialised and personalised care.

Addressing a conference organised by the National Cancer Platform on World Cancer Day, President Vella said that statistics show that cancer is the primary cause of 30% of all deaths in Malta. Every year there are around 2,500 new cases of cancer in Malta. About 1,000 of them die.

He said that early treatment, and the use of new and increasingly sophisticated medicines, lead to cancer patients living longer. He pointed out that in cancer prevention, protection, and treatment, there is a need for the cooperation of many disciplines in taking care of educational and medical aspects, rehabilitation periods, psychosocial



**Malta President George Vella**

safety, and palliative care.

The National Cancer Platform, under the patronage of the President of Malta, brings together eleven non-governmental organisations that work or are interested in certain aspects related to cancer patients in Malta.

The voluntary organisations aim to cooperate and coordinate their

work, educate, and raise awareness about prevention from the factors and habits that can lead to cancer.

## Cardinal Grech honoured

**G**ozitan Cardinal Mario Grech, the Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, has been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, one of just two chivalric orders officially recognised by the Holy See. The other is the Order of Malta. Its mission is to support, through its donations, the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Membership in the order is by invitation only.



## Roundup of News About Malta



Parliament will be requested to approve either the transfer of public land to private companies or has existing lease agreements amended as four projects are being contemplated for all the sites to accommodate an investment of €173 million by the private sector that would create over 440 new jobs.

The resolutions will be debated in parliament's Audit Committee scheduled for 15 February.

The resolutions concern the Malta Freeport, the site that houses the former Edible Oil Company in Marsa, a road that cuts the SMW Cortis site in Zebbuġ, and the Fortina Lido in Sliema.

The Freeport has obtained planning permits

# A €173m investment on four projects in pipeline

to expand the outermost Terminal 2 by reclaiming 30,000sq.m of land from the sea. The project could cost €103.8 million, with €55 million being the infrastructural works to reclaim the land. The project allows the Freeport to attract more ships over 400m.

The company will also bind itself to contribute €300,000 as corporate social responsibility towards the Birżebbuġa

community.

Lands Minister Silvio Schembri said that the government is supporting this project because the Freeport is a crucial cog in the economy, and the planned expansion will create 165 new jobs.

Another resolution concerns changes to the lease conditions governing the site where the former Edible Oil factory stood in Marsa. The site owners have a building permit to develop a €50 million commercial and industrial project on the 44,000sq.m site.

Central Business Centre Ltd has a permit to build a Lidl supermarket on the land that formerly hosted a woodworks factory.

The other investment will be the development of the Fortina lido in Sliema, which will take up more land from the sea

The Fortina Group already has a planning permit to expand its lido by reclaiming 504sq.m from the sea. The lido will use 356sq.m of the reclaimed land, the rest to be used to create a foreshore accessible to the public.

The government has agreed to grant the company the additional reclaimed land that it will use for the lido expansion against an increase of €114,468 per year for 65 years. The resolution will allow the company to put up two temporary pontoons during the summer.

The government is supporting all the plans.

### Positive signs for business

In a survey about business trends over the past year conducted by MISCO company on behalf of the Malta Chamber of SMEs, the leading voice of independent private business indicates that comparing 2022 with 2021, 60% of the business community said they registered an increase in their income, 16% said they registered a drop, and 22% registered no change.

The survey was carried among 237 businessmen from different business sectors. The main reason mentioned by businessmen for an increase in sales was the removal of Covid-19 restrictions.



Proposed new lido by Fortina Group

## Tourism: a very strong recovery from the effects of the pandemic

Compared to the pre-pandemic year, Malta's tourist arrivals last year reached 83%. In contrast, the average length of stay during the year was marginally higher than that registered in 2019, while the tourist average daily spending reached €121.86, 9.4% above the level of 2019, the record year in inbound tourism.

These numbers are the result of a study conducted by Deloitte and presented at an event organised by the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association about the tourism results obtained in the last quarter of last year.

Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo said these were encouraging signs that show that the tourism industry had a solid recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

He said that air connectivity would continue to be bolstered, and the Malta Tourism Authority's marketing efforts in primary and secondary source markets would be sustained, and so too the pursuit of public investment in the regeneration of tourism hot spots.

Minister Bartolo said that the way forward would place a stronger emphasis on sustainability, quality and authenticity and a

more vital link, which makes the Maltese Islands a destination that provides a holistic experience to every tourist that visits for the years to come.

At the same event, Tony Zahra, the President of the MHRA, expressed optimism that in 2023 the results would be even better than last year.

He referred to new challenges which bring with them an increase in expenses over profit, however the decision by the Government to subsidise energy prices was a wise one because the challenges would have been greater as is happening in other countries.

## Two Ukrainian soldiers get prosthetic treatment in Malta

Two Ukrainian soldiers have been provided with prosthetic legs as well as therapy in Malta. They are the first two from 24 who would be undergoing the intervention this year.

The soldiers, Vitaly Tarusin, 32 and Andriy Konovalov, 45, are two of more than 3,000 Ukrainians who have lost a limb during the war with Russia, primarily due to bomb blasts and other explosions.

## Two Ukrainian soldiers get prosthetic treatment in Malta

The two soldiers underwent an advanced care model developed by Steward Health Care Malta (SHCM) and leading prosthetics provider MCOP International (MCOPI) professionals that would be providing the prosthetic legs as well as therapy and training for victims, returning them to full function and allowing them to return home.

# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

## Il-ħaddiema Barranin f'Malta

Mhemmx dubju dwar li l-influs ta' ħaddiema barranin fil-Gżejjer Maltin, u mhux qed ngħid dwar l-immigranti llegali, kien, u sa ċertu punt għadu wieħed eċċezzjonali. Bilkemm wieħed ma jxebbaħx dan l-influs mat-tluq ta' eluf kbar ta' Maltin u Għawdxin mill-Gżejjer Maltin fi żmien l-imghoddi, l-aktar fis-snin ħamsin u sittin meta Malta ma kienetx tista' toffri xogħol li daqshekk nies. Malta hu l-aktar pajjiż fl-Ewropa li għandu barranin jgħixu fih, b'altar minn 115,000 ġejjin minn iżjed minn 150 pajjiż differenti.

Dan ġab miegħu diskussjonijiet u polemici kbar, b'min iħares lejn dawn i-

ħaddiema barranin bhala sinjal tat-tkabbir ekonomiku mgħaġġel u b'saħħtu li għaddej minnu l-pajjiż, fejn ix-xogħol qed jigrri wara l-ħaddiema u mhux bil-kuntrarju. Hu sinjal li qed isir investment qawwi li qed iwassal li ma jinstabux ħaddiema Maltin biżżejjed għalih.

Hemm oħrajn li jħarsu lejn dan l-influs qawwi bhala l-kawża ta' għadd ta' problemi, fosthom dik taż-żieda fit-traffiku, li whud mill-iskejjel spicċaw b'aktar tfal barranin milli Malti, żieda fl-għadd ta' pazjenti fl-isptarijiet, eċċ.

Hemm min isostni wkoll li dan qed iwassal għal żieda fil-kriminalità u eżempju ta' dan iġibu l-perċentwal qawwi ta' barranin li hemm fil-ħabs.

Imma forsi wieħed jista' jittfa aktar dawl dwar il-kwestjoni meta jħares lejn il-figuri li dan l-aħħar ngħataw għal mistoqsija li saret fil-Parlament, lill-Ministru tal-Finanzi u Xogħol Clyde Caruana li ta rendikont shih tal-għadd ta' ħaddiema barranin u s-settur li qed jaħdmu fih skont kif registrati mal-Jobsplus.

L-istatistika turi li filwaqt li f'Diċembru 2020 kien hawn f'Malta 38,610 ħaddiema barranin, sa Gunju 2022 żdiedu għal 50,591.

Is-settur amministrattiv u attivitajiet ta' appoġġ għas-servizzi huwa l-iktar li qed jassorbi ħaddiema barranin, b'total ta'

7,681 filwaqt li l-industrija tal-akkomodazzjoni qed timpjega 7,267 ħaddiema li mhumiex Maltin. Fl-istess klassifika hemm ukoll il-qasam tal-kostruzzjoni li fih, 7144 huma ħaddiema minn pajjiżi li mhumiex fl-Unjoni Ewropej.

Is-setturi tax-xogħol li fihom jinstabu dawn il-ħaddiema barranin huma diversi u jvarjaw, fil-biedja, it-trasport u l-manifattura għall-edukazzjoni, is-saħħa, i l-qasam soċjali u s-servizzi finanzjarji. Hemm ukoll ħaddiema involuti fil-qasam tal-arti, divertiment u rikreazzjoni.

Huwa ċar, li fis-sitwazzjoni li ninsabu fiha, minkejja kull problema li johlqu għad daqshekk kbir ta' ħaddiema barranin, ma nistgħux ngħaddu mingħajrhom, għax kważi kull settur tal-ħajja, forsi l-inqas wieħed dak tal-Edukazzjoni (imma mbagħad jekk jitolbu l-barranin aktarx li għadd ta' edukaturi jispicċaw bla xogħol) ma jstgħux jgħaddu mingħajr ħaddiema barranin.

Anzi hemm setturi, fosthom dak tat-tindif, li kieku x'aktarx jieqaf għal kollox, meta wieħed iqis li rari tara Malti, ħlief ix-xufier, mal-vetturi li jgħbr u l-iskart. Ta' min ukoll jgħid, li sa f'it tal-jiem ilu, is-setturi tar-ritoranti u tal-akkomodazzjoni fost l-oħrajn, qed jitolbu biex jithaff il-proċess biex barranin jingħataw iċ-ċans li jaħdmu magħhom.



## Il-kaċċa polemika fl-iskejjel

Il-kaċċa hija wahda mill-eqdem passatempi li hawn fid-dinja. Bdiet bhala bżonn, meta l-bniedem kien irid jikkaċċja biex jiekol, imma meta nstabu mezzi oħra biex wieħed irejjaq lilu nnihsu, il-kaċċa ma baqgħetx daqshekk bżonn, u nbidlet f'delizzju.

F'Malta għandna eluf b'dan il-passatemp, għalkemm imbagħad hemm eluf oħra li ma jistgħux għall-kaċċa, b'uħud minnhom, li kieku jistgħu jeqirduh għax għalihom hu tal-għasafar.

Meta Malta dahlet fl-Unjoni Ewropeja, fejn hemm kontrolli qawwija fuq il-kaċċa, il-Gvern Malti ta' dak iż-żmien kien ġab dik li tissejjah daroga biex il-kaċċaturi jkunu jistgħu jkomplu jikkaċċjaw, imma taht diversi kundizzjoni fosthom liema tajr jistgħu jikkaċċjaw u kemm il-tajr jistgħu joqtlu.

Sahansitra, meta l-għajta kontra l-kaċċa kompliet ġie deċiż li jsir referendum, xi haġa li rari f'Malta, biex jinstab jekk il-poplu kienx favur jew kontra l-kaċċa. Ir-riżultat kien favur il-kaċċa.

Issa dan l-aħħar thabbar li l-Għaqda Kaċċaturi San Umbertu se tagħmel wirja dwar il-kaċċa f'diversi skejjel li attwalment se tiġi mghejjuna finanzjament mill-Ministeru għal Għawdex. Il-wirja tikkonsisti f'fuljetti u posters.

Malli dan sar magħruf, l-għaqda Maltija, BirdLife Malta harġet tipprotesta bil-kbr għax sostniet li kien disgustanti u ta' min jinkwieta dwaru, għax permezz tal-attività kienet se ssir promozzjoni tal-qtal tal-għasafar. Ipprotestaw u nsistew mal-Ministru tal-Edukazzjoni biex iħassar l-attività.

Il-Kummissarju tat-Tfal ukoll harġet kontra l-wirja. Qalet li kienet imħassba dwar il-promozzjoni tal-armi fost it-tfal, u li dawn it-tip ta' wirjiet jistgħu, involontarjament, jippromwovu l-użu tal-armi fost it-tfal. Filwaqt li japprezzat il-fatt li l-kaċċa hi passatemp legittimu, għandha tkun aċċessibbli biss għall-adulti.

Sostniet li l-ġenturi għandhom kull dritt jittkellmu ma' uliedhom dwar il-passatemp u li jsir b'mod sigur u adattat u jiggwida lit-tfal li jmorru għal kaċċa biss meta jkollhom l-età.

Fil-midja kien hemm kummenti kemm favur kif ukoll kontra.

Min-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni, ma saru l-ebda kummenti, u kien hemm min sostna li mhux ta' b'xejn li l-Partiti politiċi jibzgu li jittflu l-vot tal-kaċċaturi u għalhekk joqogħdu lura milli jikkundannaw wirjiet bħal dawn.

Il-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni, Dr Clifton Grima hareġ favur il-wirja, u sostna li kellha ssir biex it-tfal jiġu esposti għal kulturi u tradizzjonijiet Maltija differenti.

Min-naħa tagħha l-għaqda tal-kaċċaturi qalet li kellhom kull dritt li jgħaddu l-passatemp tagħhom lit-tfal, b'għaqal, u li "lanqas għandhom jingħataw tikketta ta' qattela, kif jiġu mgħallma fl-iskola." Kif ukoll li fuq kollox Birdlife, li għandhom preġudizzju kontra l-kaċċa, ilhom jidhlu fl-iskejjel.

Sostnew li l-wirja tagħhom hi dwar dak li hu tajjeb u li mhux, dwar il-kultura u l-benefiċċji, l-aspett kulinarju u anke il-hidma tal-ambjent.

Kif qalu whud, forsi kien ikun aħjar li kieku l-Awtoritajiet hasbu fil-bogħod u jekk ma riedux polemici bħal dawn, messhom zam-mew milli jagħtu permess lil Birdlife Malta jidhlu fl-iskejjel, għax setgħu pprevedew li illum jew għada l-għaqdiet tal-kaċċaturi kienu se jirreagixxu u jitolbu li huma wkoll jingħataw iċ-ċans li jagħmlu xi attività fl-iskejjel.



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

## Divorzju u separazzjonijiet ...



**I**l-liġi tad-divorzju f'Malta giet fis-seħħ f'Ottubru 2011 wara li f'it xhur qabel f'referendum il-maġġoranza tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx i d-deċieda favur il-liġi.

Fil-kampanja tar-referendum, uħud minn dawk kontra d-divorzju, taw l-impressjoni li jekk jidhol se ikollna diżastru f'Malta għax jinfetħ il-bieb biex ħafna miżżewġin jitolbu li jiddivorzjaw

Imma ż-żmien wera li dan kien allarmizmu żejded, tant li skont l-aħħar statistika mahruġa mill-Eurostat dwar is-sitwazzjoni tad-divorzju kif kienet sas-sena 2020, turi li Malta għandha l-iċken rata ta' divorzju fost il-pajjiżi ta' Unjoni Ewropeja. Ir-rata hija ta 0.5 divorzju għal kull 1,000 persuna, meta f'pajjiżi bħal Latvja, il-Litwanja u d-Danimarka r-rata hija 2.7 għal kull 1,000.

Jidher li r-rata ta' divorzju f'Malta qed tonqos billi fl-2019 kienet ta' 7.00 għal kull 1,000 persuna.

Malta hija wkoll fost l-iktar sitt pajjiżi fejn ir-rata taż-żwiġijiet hi baxxa, tant li flimkien ma Franza isiru 2.2 żwiġijiet għal kull 1,000 persuna. L-inqas

żwiġijiet isiru fl-Italja b'1.6 għal kull 1,000.

Ir-rata taż-żwiġ f'Malta fl-2019 kienet ferm akbar, ta' 5,3 għal kull 1,000. Jista' jkun li t-tnaqqis fir-rata ta' żwiġijiet f'Malta fl-2020 kien minħabba r-restrizzjonijiet tal-Covid-19.

Kien hemm għadd konsiderevoli ta' koppji li pposponew iż-żwiġ tagħhom f'dik is-sena billi ma setgħux jiċcelebraw iż-żwiġ kif xtaqu.

Sadanittant, fis-sena li għaddiet fil-Qorti ta' Malta ġew ipprezentati 106 kawżi ta' separazzjoni filwaqt li fil-Qorti t'Għawdex ġew ipprezentati 39 kawżi.

Mill-kawżi lipprezentati fil-Qorti ta' Malta għad hemm 99 minnhom pendenti filwaqt li sebgha ġew deċiżi. Fil-Qorti t'Għawdex għad hemm 25 li għadhom pendenti 14 li ġew deċiżi.

Aktar minn hekk, fis-sena li għaddiet ġew ipprezentati wkoll 327 kawżi ta' separazzjoni bonarja f'Malta u 15 f'Għawdex.

Mill-kawżi ta' Malta 309 ġew itterminati filwaqt; 18 għadhom pendenti. F'Għawdex tmienja ġew itterminati u sebgha għadhom pendenti.

## Il-ħitan tas-sejjeġh

**I**l-ħitan tas-sejjeġh huma strutturi tipici Maltin li barra s-sbuħija naturali tagħhom għandhom ukoll diversi funzjonijiet importanti, fosthom li jzommu l-ħamrija tal-għelieqi milli tingarr mal-ilma, joffru kenn mir-riħ għas-siġar u l-uċuħ tar-raba', kif ukoll huma kenn għal eluf ta' hlejjaq żgħar, fosthom gremxul, wiżat, bebbux, eċċ.

Il-bini ta' dawn il-ħitan tinhtieg sengħa speċjali li minħabba li f'it kien fadal haddiema tas-sengħa, f'it kienet qed tinqata' b' għadd ta' ħitan jisparixxu, bejn minħabba li l-għelieq jingħataw għal-bini, kif ukoll għax meta jaqgħu dawn il-ħitan kienu jew jithallew gozz ġebel, inkella jinbnew ħitan tal-ġebel lixx, jekk mhux ukoll jiddeffsu xi briks.

Fortunatament, l-awtoritajiet bdew jiehdu ħsieb biex is-sitwazzjoni ma' tibqax sejra lura, allura nstabu haddiema li ġew imħarrġa halli jagħmlu dan ix-xogħol, u b'hekk, dawk il-ħitan tas-sejjeġh li waqgħu jew kienu fil-periklu li jaqgħu, issa qed jinbnew mill-ġdid.

Dan il-proġett ingħata spinta qawwija f'Għawdex fejn' aktar minn tletin kilometru ta' ħitan tas-sejjeġh madwar il-gżira Għawdxija ġew mibnija mill-ġdid mid-Direttorat EkoGħawdex fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex. Ix-xogħol ġie ffinanzjat minn fondi Ewropej, bl-ispiża tlaħħaq aktar minn għaxar miljun ewro.

Il-proġett ħa madwar sentejn u nkluda wkoll total ta' madwar erbghin triq b'diversi xogħlijiet estensivi ta' bini mill-ġdid ta' ħitan tas-sejjeġh.

Sintendi, barra li fost kollox jipproteġi l-ħamrija u l-għelieqi, dan il-proġett isebbah ukoll b'mod dirett it-toroq rurali madwar il-gżira l-Għawdxija,

J'alla li ibqgħu jittieħdu inizjattivi bħal dan il-proġett biex mhux biss inżommu t-tradizzjoni, imma fl-istess waqt inżidu nsebbħu l-pajjiż, l-aktar il-kampanja Maltija u Għawdxija.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

# Australia and France in a war deal

Australia will work with France to produce ammunition for Ukraine's war effort, in the latest sign that relations between the two countries are recovering.

But an expert is warning the deal, which will see several thousand rounds of 155-millimetre ammunition sent to the front, is a drop in the ocean as Ukraine defends itself from Russian aggression.

Appearing alongside their French counterparts in Paris, Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defence Minister Richard Marles announced the ammunition would be produced as part of a "growing and deepening" relationship between the two countries

The visit comes six months after Anthony Albanese made Paris one of his early stops as prime minister.

France was outraged by Australia abruptly scrapping a \$90 billion deal with French company Naval group for a dozen submarines, instead pursuing nuclear-powered vessels as part of the AUKUS security pact with the UK and the US.



French Foreign Affairs minister Catherine Colonna (second right) and French Armed Forces Minister Sebastien Lecornu (second left) greet Defence Minister Richard Marles (left) and Foreign Minister Penny Wong (right) ahead of their joint meeting at Quai d'Orsay in Paris

"This forms part of the ongoing level of support that both France and Australia is providing Ukraine to make sure that Ukraine is able to stay in this conflict and be able to see it concluded on its own terms," Mr Marles said.

## New PM for NZ

Chris Hipkins, 44, the leader of the New Zealand Labour Party is New Zealand's new Prime Minister. He was sworn in as 41st prime minister by the governor-general, Cindy Kiro, 25 January 2023.

He officially replaced Jacinda Ardern following her abrupt departure from the role two weeks earlier.

# National Days in other countries

Most countries in the world have an official national day, often celebrating an anniversary of revolution or independence, but their commemorations differ according to their history, customs and culture.

Many countries in the world balance controversy with pride on their national day. They celebrate or commemorate the country's history and achievements. Malta is a good example.

In New Zealand the National Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi between the British Crown and Māori

chiefs on 6 February 1840.

The United States celebrates its national day on 4 July, when it formally adopted its Declaration of Independence from the United Kingdom in 1776.

Similar to Australia, the Native American population has increasingly raised concerns about how a day aimed at celebrating freedom discounts the struggle they faced during colonial rule, as well as following its independence.

Spain's *Fiesta Nacional* is celebrated on 12 October, a day of military parades and processions in the capital of Madrid, to acknowledge the date explorer Christopher Columbus set foot in the Americas in 1492.

The day is marked across Latin America, each country giving it a different name, but the day is often used to celebrate and commemorate a country's Indigenous populations before Spanish colonisation.

On 1 October, China celebrates the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 after revolutionaries led by Mao Zedong defeated the Chinese Nationalist government.

The celebrations continue across what is described as the 'Golden Week' in Mainland China, where citizens have a seven-day-long public holiday. Macau receives two days off and Hong Kong has one.

Malta celebrates five National Days. They are 31 March Freedom Day; 7 June Sette Giugno; The 8th September Victory Day; 21 September Independence Day and 13 December Republic Day. They are all public holidays.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Diversity advocates have called on Australian citizens to honour more people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds to better represent Australia's multicultural makeup.

Since 1975 the 40,000 Australians receiving an Order of Australia Honours (AO) award are primarily white men. The award is given for outstanding achievement and service.

SBS News has revealed that from 2017-21, just 17.2 per cent of nominees were born overseas. The concern among advocates is not with the honours system itself but with who is voting.

We need to do more to encourage people from those communities to nominate. Anyone can nominate someone to receive an Order of Australia, but many CALD com-

# Australia's awards are for primary white people



Order of Australia medal

munities aren't aware of the awards.

Nominees from CALD backgrounds are even scarcer than women, despite almost 27.6% of Australians being born overseas, according to data from the most recent Census.

The governor-general's office revealed that less than one-in-five recipients come from CALD backgrounds. In 2022, the

governor-general's office became responsible for promotion and outreach in relation to the Order of Australia.



# Gamblers are the losers

Daily profits for pubs and clubs from poker machines hit \$23 million a day, as punters' losses Liquor and Gaming NSW quarterly figures show. Machines in pubs now account for 44 per cent of all losses, despite housing only 26 per cent of the state's poker machines.

Wesley Mission chief executive and gambling reform advocate Rev-

erend Stu Cameron said the losses were obscene and highlighted the need for Premier Dominic Perrottet's push to turn gaming machines cashless.

Liquor and Gaming NSW figures show that the 86,568 poker machines in NSW clubs and pubs, generated the highest profits in western Sydney, Liquor and Gaming NSW figures show.

Gaming machines in Canterbury-Bankstown made \$182 million in the third quarter of 2022, those in Fairfield made \$174 million and those in Cumberland \$124 million.

Machines in regional NSW also claimed multi-million-dollar profits, including \$85 million at pokies on the Central Coast, \$53 million in Wollongong and \$51 million in Newcastle between July and September.

An analysis of the figures by Wesley Mission Australia found the average poker machine in NSW now claims almost \$100,000 a year in losses. It is estimated between 900,000 and 1.7 million people in Australia are harmed by problem gambling.

# New policy for arts and cultural sector

A new arts plan will boost the amount of Australian music, art and film with the government putting Indigenous culture at the policy's centre.

The national cultural policy, *Revive*, will be used as a \$286 million blueprint for the arts in Australia for the next five years. The body will be in charge of funding artistic projects across a range of mediums at arm's length from the government.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged to make the arts accessible to everyone. "The arts cannot be left simply to those who can afford to do it," he said at the launch of the policy in Melbourne.

"Doors must be opened so we can hear the great diversity of voices that have struggled to find an outlet."

There will also be minimum pay for artists contracted by government entities to perform at Australian government events and functions.

"But it's also important to lift yourself above your economic debate. This is about our soul, this is about our identity," the prime minister added.

Mr Albanese said Australia's First Nations communities were at the heart of the nation's cultural road map. "That's why First Nations art has been put as the first pillar," he said.

"Just as we can learn about caring for our country, for our land and our waterways, from those who looked after this island continent for 65,000 years at least, we can learn as well from the way that they

told their stories."

The policy will also introduce legislation to protect Indigenous knowledge and cultural expression, such as cracking down on fake Aboriginal art.

A new arts investment and advisory body known as Creative Australia will be set up, with \$200 million going towards the organisation over the next four years. A National Aboriginal Art Gallery in Alice Springs and an Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Perth will also be set up.

# Indigenous Voice to Parliament

Australians' support for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament has fallen after a political row over how it would work. But an exclusive survey for Nine Newspapers shows 60 per cent of voters would back the Voice if forced to answer only "yes" or "no" in a choice akin to a referendum (with no "undecided" option), although this has fallen from 64 per cent over four months.

Indigenous leader Noel Pearson (*right*) warned Australia would lose the chance for reconciliation forever if the Voice were defeated at a popular vote, as concerns about law and order

in Alice Springs fuelled the debate over how the reform would help achieve practical change for First Australians.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton called for more detail about the Voice and urged Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to visit Alice Springs and send more police to bring order to the city, while Mr Albanese argued the Voice would ensure Indigenous people were consulted on policies such as education, health and housing.



# Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti

## Il-varjanti tal-ortografija

Il-21 parti)

**I**-ahhar parti ta' dan ix-xogħol tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar il-forom għall-uniformità. Il-kliem jinkiteb magħqud meta jkollu tifsira waħda.

### Appendiċi B:

Il-kliem fl-espressjonijiet li ġejjin jinkiteb mifrud bi spazju jew b'sing, skont kif jidher hawn taht.

**barra minn dan**

**barra minn hekk**

**bhal meta**

**bhal xejn**

**bil-ġiri** (*imma ara wkoll f'Appendiċi A:*

**bilġri**)

**bil-kif**

**dal-hin**

**dal-lejl**

**darba fill**

**fil-fatt għad illi, għad li**

**fl-ahhar** (+ **sa fl-ahhar**)

**għal biex għal daqshekk** ⇒ **daqshekk**

**għal daqsxejn** ⇒ **daqsxejn**

**għal għarrieda**

**għall-ahhar**

**għall-anqas, għall-inqas** ⇒ **lanqas**

**għal li**

**għal tal-apposta, għal t'apposta** ⇒ **ap-posta**

**għal xiex**

**kull darba**

**kull fejn**

**kull meta**

**kull min**

**kull xejn**

**liema bhalu, liema bhalha**, eċċ. Nota: Il-kitba **liema** qed tiehu post il-kitba **li** ma fi frażijiet **bhal dehra ta' ġmiel liema bhalu**.

**lil hawn**

**lil hemm**

**lil hinn**

**linji gwida**

**mill-anqas** ⇒ **lanqas**

**minn bejn**

**minn daqqiet, minn xi daqqiet**

**minn daqshekk** → **daqshekk**

**minn fejn**

**minn tagħna**

**izza hajr**. Nota: Għalkemm dawn il-kelmtejn x'aktarx jingħadu flimkien f'għamla ta' formula u ġieli ssibhom mik-tuba f'kelma waħda, il-verb **izza** huwa kkonjugat regolament u jista' jiehu l-pronom meħmuż bhal verbi oħra (ara:

**nizzi hajr, nizzik hajr, jizzu hajr, jizzuna hajr**).

**nofs siegħa "medda ta' hin ta' 30 minuta"** (*imma ara wkoll nofsiegħa*).

**sa fejn**

**sa fl-ahhar** → **fl-ahhar**

**sal-ahhar**

**ta' bilfors** ⇒ **bilfors**

**tal-anqas** ⇒ **lanqas**

**t'apposta, tal-apposta** ⇒ **apposta**

**wara nofsinhar "wara 12:00pm"** →

**nofsinhar**

**xi hadd**

**xi haġa**

**xi kultant** ⇒ **kultant**

**xi mkien**

**xi minn daqqiet**

**NOTA:** Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti għandu jagħmel kull aġġornament li jkun meħtieġ fl-ortografija tal-ilsien Malti, u minn żmien għal iehor, skont il-hteġa, jistabbilixxi l-mod kif għandu jinkiteb il-kliem ġdid fil-Malti u l-kitba korretta ta' kliem u frażijiet li jidhru fil-Malti minn ilsna oħra.

(*Tmiem is-sugġett*)

## Aktar stejjer ta' Karamellu

**L**-emigranti l-aktar dawk li hadu gost bl-ewwel ktieb ta' "*Karamellu tar-Rahal t'Isfel*", issa għandhom it-tieni ktieb li għadu kif ġie ppublikat mill-istess awtur, b'10 stejjer oħra u b'illustrazzjonijiet li jżidu jagħtu tifsira lill-istess stejjer.

Il-ktieb, fuq l-istess stil tal-ewwel wiehed jinkludi stejjer oħra ispirati minn grajjiet li sehew tassew u li huma familjari ma' dak li l-awtur stess għadda minnhom fi tfulitu fir-rahal t'isfel fejn kien jgħix.

Fl-ewwel tliet stejjer naqraw dwar dak li sehħ meta f'nofs ta' lejl Karamellu jigi

wiċċ ma' wiċċ ma' kokka (barbaġann), u jirrakonta l-praspar li jgħaddi minnhom habibu Bertu l-Imqareb. Jispjega wkoll x'jigri minn bettiegħa waqt zjara li jagħmel f'Għawdex.

Fit-tieni parti mbagħad hemm tliet stejjer oħra dwar affarijiet li sehew bla ma wiehed kien jistennihom waqt il-Fiera tal-Kappillan, u kemm Karamellu kien kuntent meta mar Marsaxlokk u gie mogħti rikba bla mistenni fuq luzzu. Isemmi wkoll il-hasda li ha wiehed min-nanniet tiegħu meta kien qed iqaxxar il-lejha.

L-istejjer l-oħra huma dwar l-imġieba bla mistennija tal-kelb li kellu z-zijuh meta kien qed jgħum u x'jigri bejn il-bejjieġ tal-halib Nikol u mara li kienet tiffittah; kif werzieq telliflu raqda, u minn xiex wiehed jista' jgħaddi minhabba s-shana, l-ghomma u l-ghakar.

Din id-darba wkoll, il-pubblikazzjoni tal-ktieb ta' 100 paġna ta' Buttigieg gie mitbugħ bil-ghajnuna tal-Aġenzija Letterarja Nazzjonali (*National Literacy Agency*), filwaqt li d-



disinjaturu u dawk li ppjanaw il-ktieb huma CN Creative Designs.

L-ghan tal-istejjer ta' Karamellu hu li joffri lill-generazzjonijiet il-godda mod faċli ta' qari u aneddoti li jstgħu jgħinuhom mhux ftit li jsiru jafu u jifhem ahjar il-hajja u l-ambjent li t-fal fis-snin mghoddija għexu u trabbew. Fl-istess waqt l-istejjer joffru qari nostalgiku lill-aduti, l-aktar lil dawk li jhobbju, kemm li jaqraw, kif ukoll jirrakuntaw l-istejjer lit-tfal dwar iż-żmien ta' meta huma stess kienu tamparhom.

Għal aktar tagħrif wiehed jista' jikkuntattja lil Ms Rita Micallef ([rmicallef@eremme.com.mt](mailto:rmicallef@eremme.com.mt)); Tel: 79093467).

### SAINT NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE

**Sunday 19th March 2023**

Good Shepherd Parish Hall 130-136

Hyatts Road, Plumpton Sydney NSW

(*Opposite the shopping centre*)

**THE BIG FETE - FIERA TAL - FNIK**

**At 1.30pm**

Music & Entertainment by:

**CHARLIE MUSCAT**

**ENTRY IS FREE AND PLENTY OF PARKING**

So come along, bring your family and friends!

The President – Emanuel Vella on 0405 677 064

Or

Public Relations Officer – Stella Vella on 0414 188 226



## Alexia Micallef tirbaħ ir-raba' Kantamaghna

**A**lexia Micallef ingħazet bhala r-rebbieha fuq kul-ħadd minn fost 24 kantant'kantanta fir-raba' edizzjoni tal-tal-festival *Kantamaghna* li tlella' fit-Teatru Astra fir-Rabat Għawdex.

Il-gurija ta' dan il-festival li kien organizzat minn DCapitals Big Band u miftuħ għal kantanti ta' bejn 1-10 u 1-35 sena mqassmin fi tliet kategoriji skont l-età, ippremjat lil Alexia li kienet ukoll ir-rebbieha tal-kategorija Ċ bl-interpretazzjoni tal-kanzunetta 'Killing me softly'.

Il-kantanti kollha kienu akkumpanjati live minn DCapitals Big Band taħt id-direzzjoni tas-surmast George Apap. Il-festival gie pprezentat minn Morena Camilleri.

Il-kantanta rebbieha se tinghata sena kuntratt ma' DCapitals fejn tkun tista' tkanta f'għadd ta' avvenimenti li l-band ikollha kemm matul is-sena, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra.

L-avveniment *Kantamaghna* gie mtella' bil-kollaborazzjoni tad-Direttorat għall-Wirt Kulturali fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex, il-Kunsill Lokali tal-Belt Victoria, u Distinct Homes Ltd.



Is-surmast George Apap jipprezenta t-trofew lir-rebbieha ta' *Kantamaghna* Alexia Micallef. Jidhru wkoll ir-rebbieha tal-kategoriji l-oħra

## Is-solisti ta' Schola Cantorum Jubilate f'Mużika Sagra

**L**ejn tmiem ix-xahar li għadda, il-magħrufa *Schola Cantorum Jubilate* organizzat kunċert ta' mużika sagra fis-Santwarju Nazzjonali tal-Madonna ta' Pinu li fiha hađu sehem is-solisti tagħha. Dim l-okkażjoni tat bidu għall-*Gozo Arts Weekend* li din is-sena fakkar lill-artist Ġuzeppi Briffa u d-diversi xoghlijiet li għandu madwar l-gżira Għawdxija.

Fil-kunċert, is-soprani Hannah Tong u Michaela Aguis, l-alto Elise Xuereb u l-baritonu James Agius kienu akkumpanjati mill-arpista Laetitia Troisi de Menville u l-pjanista Milica Lawrence. Il-biċċiet mużikali li ndaqqu kienu tal-kompozituri magħrufa Mozart, Handel, Goodall, Shubert, Gabriel u Vivaldi.

Kull min attenda setgħa japprezza wkoll il-kompożizzjoni ta' James Agius u l-ar-rangament il-ġdid minn Paul Portelli tal-innu *Riesaq il-Lejl Mulejja*.

Tul il-lejla f'dan il-kunċert li kien imtella mill-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presejju Ghajnsielem bil-kollaborazzjoni tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, inqat ukoll riflessjoni dwar l-arti u is-sbuħija miktub minn Silvana Sultana.



# The Chapel of St. Paul the Hermit at *Wied il-Ghasel*



St Paul the Hermit Chapel in a cave above Wied il-Ghasel Mosta

Above the picturesque valley of Wied il-Ghasel (Valley of honey) in Mosta, home of the Rotunda in Malta, is the Chapel of St. Paul the Hermit, which has several legends surrounding its early beginnings.

When inquisitor Pietro Dusina visited the chapel during his apostolic visit to Malta in 1575, he mentioned that the chapel had a wooden door, which was uncommon in those days, and an altar but no rector, liturgical vestments or objects.

He further wrote that an annual feast of the saint financed by a certain Paolo Cumbo was celebrated at the chapel.

This chapel is also mentioned in the first

history book of Malta written in 1647 by Giovanni Francesco Abela, who described some of the paintings inside the chapel, that included that of St Paul the Hermit and also San Anton Abbati.

Then in 1656, a Mosta-born by the name of Gan Pawl Mangion placed a painting of

the Virgin Mary inside the cave.

Miguel Juan Balaguer de Camarasa, who served as Bishop of Malta from 1635 to 1663, also permitted Mangion to rebuild the chapel and an altar around the painting inside the cave. In 1676 Don Ortensio Bennini celebrated mass and preached in the chapel on its feast day.

Years later, the chapel was abandoned, but in 1920 Archbishop Mauro Caruana charged Rev. Karm Gauci to care for the chapel, which was consequently restored, and a belfry built.

However, the chapel was again abandoned due to a road block that prevented access to the valley. Consequently, it was vandalised. As a result, Archbishop Sir Mikiel Gonzi deconsecrated the chapel. Its interior was restored to its original state a few years ago.

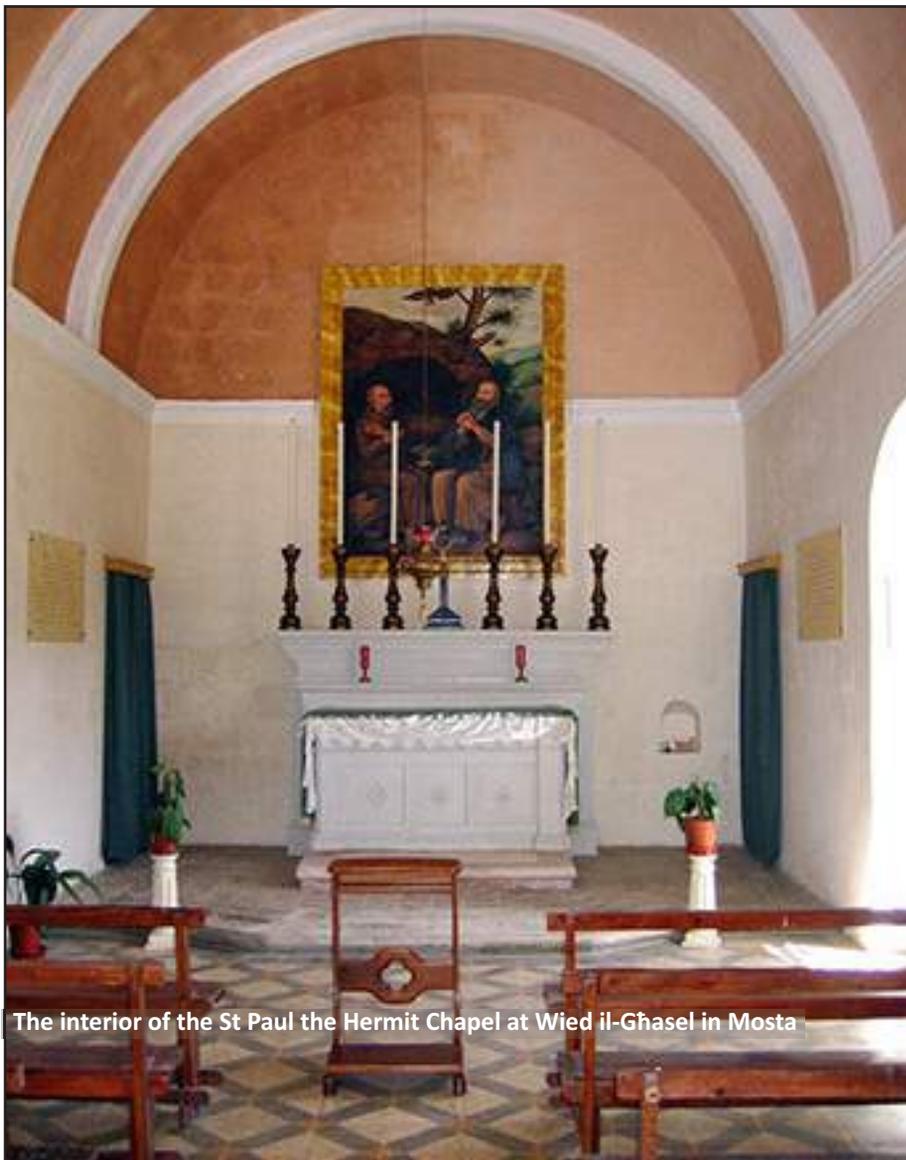
The chapel has an altar and a copy of the original painting depicting St Paul the Hermit that had been stolen in 1988 but found some time later and is now in the Parish Church of Mosta and St Anthony of Egypt. It also has a painting of the Virgin Mary.

## 297 chapels in the Maltese islands

According to the *Kappellimaltin.com* website, there are a total of 297 chapels in the Maltese islands – Malta and Gozo. There are 268 in Malta, and 29 in Gozo.

The area classified, as housing most chapels is made up of Rabat, Bidnija and Mtaħleb with 25. However, Malta's capital, Valletta is the stand-alone locality with the most chapels. It has 16.

Next come Mosta, Siġġiewi and Zurrieq with 13 each, Zejtun, Naxxar/Salini and St Paul's Bay with 11, Zebbug have 10 and Qormi 9. Birgu/Fort St Angelo houses 8, while Lija and Qrendi and Zabbar have seven each.



The interior of the St Paul the Hermit Chapel at Wied il-Ghasel in Mosta

# Pope Francis laments that use of guns by civilians to defend themselves becoming a “habit”

In an interview with The Associated Press, the pontiff, who has frequently criticized the arms industry, was asked about the large number of guns in civilian hands and frequent massacres in the United States.

Pope Francis expressed concern about how recourse to guns has become “habit.”

“I say when you have to defend yourself, all that’s left is to have the elements to defend yourself. Another thing is how that need to defend oneself lengthens, and becomes a habit,” Francis said. “Instead of making the effort to help us live, we make the effort to help us kill.”

He denounced the arms industry as trafficking in death and wants to draw attention to the problem by saying: “Please, let’s say something that will stop this.”

The AP asked the question about the proliferation of guns among civilians after recent days saw several shootings, including in California.



## On Papal health and retirement

The 86-year-old pontiff was also asked to assess his health.

He said: “I’m in good health. For my age, I’m normal. I might die tomorrow, but I am under control. I always ask for the grace the Lord will give me a sense of humor.”

His predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, was the first pontiff in 600 years to resign. Following Benedict’s death, Francis was also asked about the need for rules for any future retirement.



**W**ara nuqas ta’ snin minhabba l-Covid 19, il-Maltese Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco NSW iltaqghu ghal quddiesa speċjal fil-knisja tal-Madonna tal-Vitorja f’Horsley Park mill-kappillan tal-parroċċa Fr Domnik Kamas mghejjun

**Jiftakru fil-patron tagħhom** mid-direttur spiritwali tal-għaqda Fr Carmelo Sciberras.

Il-President Mark Caruana OAM ta’ ħajr lil min attenda u li wara l-quddiesa għamel

talb u kant speċjali quddiem l-istatwa ta’ Don Bosco li tinsab f’din il-knisja.

Ta min jinnota li wara li Joe Galea gie onorat bl-OAM, din l-għaqda issa għandha l-hames membru li giet onorata. L-ewwel wiehed kien Alfred Fenech fl-1993.

## Maltese singer Ludwig Galea for Australia for a 5th time



One of Malta's top vocalists, Ludwig Galea will be visiting Australia to present a brand new show at the Wenty Leagues Club, in Wentworthville NSW on Sunday 19 March.

This is his fifth visit to Australia. His last was in 2018. Ludwig will be performing along with the popular South Australian singer Stacey Saliba and introducing the new young talented singer Renee.

What promises to be a truly memorable concert promoted by the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW (MCC NSW) will also include an entertaining play by the Cittadini Cultural & Theatrical Association and an exhibition of Rock and Roll dancing.

The MCC is urging anybody interested in the event to book early and to encourage family members and friends to attend this guaranteed very entertaining night.

Tickets for the concert at \$25 each are available from Monica Ledger on 0414 859 386 and Charles N. Mifsud on 0421 662 298. Children under 15 accompanied by parents are free.

Meanwhile, with the start of a new year the Malta Cultural Council of NSW has issued a reminder to its members, that membership fees for 2023 are due. It has also reminded said members, that membership has remained at only \$5.00 for the year. New members are welcome.

Payment can be made through a bank transfer into the MCA's bank account. Contact the Treasurer, the Secretary or the President of the association in person or by phone 0421 662 298.

## Illawarra Maltese Australians AGM

The Illawarra Maltese Australians invite the Maltese Australian community to attend the AGM at 10.30 am on 12 February at the Shellharbour Club. A casual gathering will follow.

Members of the Maltese Australian community are welcome to attend, while nominations for committee positions are open.

This organisation depends on the support of committee members and volunteers to preserve the customs and culture of the generations to come.

In its appeal to the community, the present committee said that it is a young (and young-at-heart!) committee that organises events for all generations of Maltese-Australians in the

Illawarra.

Anybody interested in getting involved is requested to contact the organisation.

Kids' play area and Maltese-themed craft activities to keep them entertained will be available,

A zoom link for the AGM will be provided for those wishing to attend but cannot be there in person. Copies of the AGM agenda are available on request by email from [illawarramalteseaustralians@gmail.com](mailto:illawarramalteseaustralians@gmail.com), and so is the zoom link for the AGM. One can also get in touch with Annemarie at 0405 126 444. Facebook: [Illawarra Maltese Australians](https://www.facebook.com/IllawarraMalteseAustralians).



### CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMANUS

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)



Labor

## 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

*\*(All Groups are coordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Contact the MCC Welfare Offi-*

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.*

# 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.  
 Classes available for beginners and those who already have a confident grasp of the Maltese language. Adult and Children's classes available.  
**All classes are online.**  
 Positions available for people who can assist with teaching the Maltese Language.  
 Call Lisa for an information package on 0419 418 547 or email [mils@mccnsw.org.au](mailto:mils@mccnsw.org.au).

## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW



**Radio programme for the Maltese**  
**Every Sunday 11 am to Noon.**  
 An hour filled with information and news.  
 On-demand: [www.89.3fm.com.au/on-demand](http://www.89.3fm.com.au/on-demand)




## La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

*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*



## Ebejer & Associates Lawyers Pty Ltd.

We offer legal services in Melbourne (Lt Collins Street) and Werribee.  
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- purchase and sell businesses.
- divorce, children, property,
- child support, intervention orders.
- Maltese Wills, Powers of Attorney
- Maltese Property matters.

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

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[www.ebejerlawyers.com.au](http://www.ebejerlawyers.com.au)  
 email [reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au](mailto:reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au)

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

## 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 Marthese Caruana:** Sundays 10:00 am to 11:00am. One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists.

**2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Community Council programme:** Sundays 11.00am to 12:00pm. News from Malta, music, information, culture, interviews, community notices and topics of interest. Listen live on [www.893fm.com.au](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)



# Hamrun Spartans sail on regardless

In spite the difference of 20 points between them, in favour of leaders Hamrun, nobody thought it was going to be easy between them and Floriana. It was not.

**LATEST RESULTS Day 18**

Hamrun S v Floriana	1-0
Gżira U v Pietà H	6-0
Balzan v Hibernians	1-0
Birkirkara v Valletta	1-1
Mosta v Sirens	2-1
Gudja v Sta Lucia	3-0
M'xlokk v Zebbug R	1-1

**LATEST RESULTS Day 17**

Hamrun S V Sirens	3-0
Gżira U V Hibernians	2-0
Birkara V Sta Lucia.	2-0
Valletta V Floriana.	0-0
Mosta v Pietà H.	4-0
Balzan V Marsaxlokk	0-0
Gudja U V Zebbug R.	0-0

Day 16: Valletta v Siren 3-3

However, in the end, Hamrun prevailed, beating their rivals by the narrowest of margins in a 1-0 result.

With second-placed Gzira United thrashing bottom-placed Pieta by 6-0, Hamrun's 16th win from

18 outings enabled them to retain their 11-point lead in the Premier League ladder six matches from the end of the campaign. Therefore they can sail on regardless.

The Spartans gave a debut start for Sindre Osestad, and Alen Melunovic his first start. But it was a local who gave hem their victory, Matthew Guillaumier, with a goal on 65 minutes.

The real battle is for the runner-up spot between Gzira, Birkirkara, and possibly Mosta. Hibernians suffered a setback in a loss against Balzan who are now equal on points with the Paolites

## Portelli back as HS president

Hamrun Spartans, or rather their president and main sponsor Joseph Portelli were in the news during the week when, having failed in his bid to register himself as a player, Portelli returned as president of the club.

The 43-year-old Gozitan entrepreneur had stepped down from president of the club on 25 January to register as a player. However, following the Ethics and Compliance board's advice, the MFA's executive committee turned down his application.

Following the rejection, Portelli asked to revoke his initial resignation, and the executive committee accepted the request. Therefore, with immediate effect, he is back



as the club president.

Most probably, Portelli, a former footballer, sensed that as the Spartans are set to win the second championship under his watch, he also wanted to be on the pitch when they are crowned as he did last April when he registered as a player with his hometown Nadur Youngsters, whom he also sponsored, for their final game of the season against Kerċem Ajax.

That day, donning the No. 99 shirt, he was brought on as a substitute towards the end and scored the equaliser from a penalty in a 1-1 draw. Nadur, who had enjoyed a comfortable points' lead before their final outing, were crowned Gozitan champions.



The track as the newly inaugurated Sports Complex

## A week after losing it, triple jumper Rebecca regains national record in Ancona

After losing the national record a week earlier, triple jump athlete Rebecca Saré literally jumped her way back to regain it at the Palaindoor competition in Ancona Italy with a new national record jump of 12.62 metres.

Rebecca (pictured below) was most impressive at the event, where she achieved jumps of 12.58, 12.37, 12.37 and a massive 12.62m. The previous national record was held by Claire Azzopardi.

It is fantastic to have two jumpers in such fine form in the build-up to next May's Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) to be hosted by Malta, where Minister for Sports Clifton Grima has just inaugurated a €2.5 million investment project, the Marsa Sports Complex, that includes the development and renovation of the Matthew Micallef St John Athletics Stadium.



## Rugby: Positive start to the season

The U17 Malta, Rugby Heritage Pathways Team, made another appearance at Lidcombe Oval in a friendly beating the Philippines U17 28-20.

The Malta team came out firing in the first half with some great efforts from the forwards that enabled the backs to dominate and take an 18 to 6 points' lead at half time.

At some stage the Malta curse kicked in allowing the Philippines to capitalise on a few errors that enabled them to slowly creep back into the game with a couple of tries.

However, the Heritage Pathways team did well and regrouped their composure, to come back with two more tries.

To walk away with a win, is a positive start to the season ahead for Malta with seven players on debut for the 13 aside game, and with a few more to come, that is a great sign.

In his comments at the end of the game, Simon Cassar, the coach of the Malta team told *The Voice*, the conditions were very hot on the field. The game was hard-hitting and fast pace. Unfortunately, we had an injury; Peter Sultana had a suspected rotator cuff.

We wish the best with his scans and hope-

fully it isn't too serious.

The coach also thanked Nicole Castray the manager, Narelle Azzopardi, Ty Wennerbom, Chris Meredith and Troy Castray the trainers saying that without them their games wouldn't be possible.



Nick Hartgrove who made his debut for the U/17s Malta team in the dressing room demonstrating his pride at being Maltese