



The Voice of the Maltese

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Is-Salib, Ġesù
u Int 2023
f'Għajnsielem**

- ara paġna 19

ritratt: Charles Spiteri



VisitMalta

To the Point

Occasional comments

by Observer

Do you want to vote in Malta?

Funny things do happen. I received a registered letter from the *OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION*, Naxxar Malta informing me that I have applied to be registered as a voter in Malta. I did reply, stating that I am a resident of Australia and I have never applied to be registered as a voter in Malta.

However, I was duly advised of my eligibility to be a voter. I was told, "you need to have resided in Malta for six months in

the last one and a half years, and you must also provide your Maltese ID Card, passport/s and Maltese Citizenship Certificate.

"In case you hold the requirements mentioned above, we kindly ask you to visit our office in Naxxar and apply personally".

Hello, I live in Australia.

No worries, I can understand some of the requirements but a Maltese citizenship certificate? Would your office have given me the last Maltese

passport (still valid) if I were not a Maltese citizen? The excuse that I may have acquired my passport under a different administration no longer holds. With modern technology, if my citizenship was cancelled/revoked, I may not need to tell you about it, as you would have been officially advised.

There it is, staring you in your face on your computer.

Modern technology was supposed to eliminate bureaucracy.

Abandoned by the Curia

The Curia, the hub of the Archdiocese of Malta, has officially announced that they have no secular priests available to work among the Maltese living in Australia and Canada.

It is another blow mainly to the many thousands of Maltese who left Malta currently in the twilight but separated from their mother catholic church by huge distances.

Maltese-speaking priests are needed more than ever. They came across the seas with the masses in the fifties/sixties etc.

Most of them rendered required religious and other related functions under challenging conditions.

Most Malta-born living in major cities in Australia and Canada have been pleading and harassing the Curia and other religious orders in Malta for many years. These elderly communities are in desperate need of Maltese-speaking priests. Similar if not more so than most of the out-post missions Malta looks after in third-world countries.

Thousands of Maltese have abandoned their

catholic religion as the shepherd left the flock. Jehovah's Witnesses and other Evangelical faiths are clocking many converts.

The situation in Australia, especially in NSW, South Australia and Queensland, is desperate. It gets worst when the priests of the Missionaries of the Society of St Paul (MSSP) get older with no recruits in sight. Even the St Dominican Nuns packed up and left the care to the elderly. Indeed we have been abandoned.

What a shame!

Hiding behind Facebook to spread hate

I have noticed that there are some people among the Maltese community in Australia who are using *Facebook* as a weapon to hurt others and to vent their anger. They hide behind their comments, false allegations and often incorrect statements.

Sometimes they even use other people's *Facebook* pages.

They love themselves and belittle others.

They tell the few in their bubble that the community has unrest or disharmony.

They are so divisive and often jealous. I call them *Facebook* cowards.

In Maltese, we identify them as *tassew vojta, bla sens, tilfuha*. ...

They do not know what to do with themselves, so they spread hatred.

This has to stop. Social media is not there to vent our frustration with the world around us. Sensible comments and points of view well explained are welcome, but not comments resulting from jealousy and hate.

Express your views with responsibility.

Five sports events equal 16,700 nights in tourist accommodation

Sports tourism in the first three months of this year attracted to Malta enough tourists to fill Malta's hotels in these months of slow tourism.

Five sports events between January and March equalled over 16,700 nights in tourist accommodation and helped promote Malta as a winter destination.

With the Malta Tourism Authority, MTA, identifying sports tourism as a new tourism niche, it is working hard to keep attracting more sports events, especially international, to Malta. In its strategy for the next ten years, MTA aims to increase tourist activity during the winter months by developing this niche that attracts tourism to Malta.

MTA CEO, Carlo Micallef, said that with the initiatives taken in the past months, the authority managed to attract various activities, including training camps and tournaments involving foreign football teams, while cycling and waterpolo teams also chose Malta for training camps.

Such activity has generated bed nights and income for usually slow hotels.

In January, the Man Utd women's football team visited Malta for a tournament. There was also the TipSport Malta Cup championship. During February, the Malta Football Association organised the women's football tournament, while the annual Malta Marathon run also attracted several foreign athletes. In March, Malta hosted the European Snooker Championships.

Micallef said that these activities serve as an advert for Malta in specialised magazines, television and the internet, which significantly benefits tourism, as they reach large audiences and followers of these sports all year round.

He added that the prospects for the coming months remain positive. In a few days, Malta would be hosting the ANZAC DAY rowing competition, with athletes from Australia and New Zealand - accompanied by their relatives - joining other Maltese rowers at Golden Bay.

From 28 May to 3 June, Malta will host hundreds of athletes from eight nations for the 2023 Games of the Small States of Europe, also known as the XIX Games of the Small States of Europe or, informally, Malta 2023.

In June, Malta will also organise the IPF World Classic Open Championship, which alone is expected to generate over 10,000 bed nights over seven days.

Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo pointed out that this shows that Malta's hospitality is not only tied to the summer months. He said that the work put in to diversify Malta's tourist products and attract visitors all year round is bearing fruit.

Last January's results amounted to the most significant tourist arrival ever during this month. It also shows a 17% increase in general expenditure compared to 2019.

Q. My husband is 83 and moving into aged care. He needs to pay a refundable accommodation deposit (RAD) of \$500,000. We do not have these funds available. We have around \$250,000 in the bank accounts and an investment property worth around \$1 million. How can we cover these costs?

A. As your assets are quite high your husband has to come up with a way of paying for his accommodation in the aged care facility. He has a number of options to do this. He could pay the RAD in full by you selling the investment property. He could also pay the daily accommodation payment (DAP) which is interest on the amount of RAD that he should be paying or you could pay a portion of the RAD by using some of the cash in the bank accounts and the remaining RAD owing will be covered by using the DAP.

Just remember that you need to live also and that the cash you currently have will need to cover both your husband's ongoing costs to the aged care facility and your daily ongoing costs. As you own that investment property you will probably not even qualify for any age pension.

All these things need to be taken in consideration. Your best option is to visit a financial adviser who deals with people moving into aged-care, as this is a specialised need.

Q. We have been married a couple of years and have a large outstanding mortgage on our home of \$850,000. I have now fallen pregnant and we are very worried as interest rates on the mortgage have increased a lot over the year and once I stop working, we will struggle to meet the repayments.

We have some direct shares and are considering selling these securities to keep

our ongoing repayments going whilst I will be on maternity leave for twelve months. Do you believe we are doing the right thing in selling these securities?

A. Paying off the mortgage should be your first priority. You are fortunate that when you stop working and on maternity leave you will still be able to keep up with the repayments by using these securities. Just sell enough securities to keep up with the repayments as these could trigger capital gains or capital losses.

However, using these securities should give you peace of mind and you are lucky to be in this situation. Your accountant should be able to calculate your capital gains and/or losses, which will help with your decision.

Q. I am 65, a widower and still working full time. I have a superannuation fund of \$720,000. This is mainly made up of employer contributions and salary sacrifice during the last ten years of my working life. My adviser has recommended that I do the re-contribution strategy as my sole beneficiary is my daughter. Should I do this now while still working or should I do it when I retire?

A. As you are now 65 years of age you

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.



are able to make withdrawals from your superannuation at any time tax-free. You could decide to make a partial withdrawal of \$110,000 this financial year and re-invest the proceeds as non-concessional in a new super fund. You can use the re-contribution strategy again and use the bring forward strategy of \$330,000 next financial year and invest these in the new super fund with the other \$110,000. You will then have to wait a further three years prior to using another re-contribution strategy for a further \$330,000.

This will make most of the underlying funds in your new superannuation fund non-concessional and your daughter will have very little tax to pay.

However, there are other things to consider like the costs involved when selling and buying back the underlying assets. You should therefore ask your adviser to make these calculations on your behalf to help you decide on this strategy.

Q. I am retiring in the next few months. I have four superannuation funds amounting to \$300,000 and am planning to put them all into one to simplify my financial affairs. Do you think this is a good idea or does this mean I am putting all my eggs in one basket, and what should I be looking at?

A. Simplifying your financials is a very wise move now that you are moving into retirement. You do however need to consider which superannuation is the best one to have all of your funds in.

You need to look at the performance of the four super funds, consider their fees and what the super fund invests in. This would be too hard for you to do on your own. I would recommend that you visit a financial planner who would look at all four super funds and make his recommendations on an informed decision.

This document contains factual information only. It 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.

Investing or Retiring?

Understand your options. Talk to Fiducian.



Marie-Louise Muscat is fluent in Maltese and English and can assist you in:

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- Maximising Centrelink Benefits
- Tax effective strategies in retirement e.g. sale of property
- Rearranging finances to minimise ongoing fees prior to entering Aged Care facilities



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MS Chirelle Sciberras (right), the Consul General of Malta in Victoria attending to students at one of the study overseas fairs

Consulate General of Victoria in study overseas fairs at Melbourne universities

The Consulate-General of Malta in Victoria, Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras, represented the University of Malta in two Study Overseas fairs in Melbourne, aimed at attracting students in Australian universities with which UM has an agreement to study in Malta.

The Consul-General visited the Victoria University campus in Melbourne on 22 March and the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne the following day. The Consulate had a stand at each university featuring information about the University of Malta, tourist information about Malta and various promotional items from Visit Malta.

Several students were interested in the exchange programme between the universities and visiting Malta.

Ms Sciberras reiterated the advantages of studying in Malta, including English as the language of instruction and the fact that, for travel purposes, Malta is very close to Europe.

Such participation attests to the Consulate's ongoing commitment to strengthening excellent relations and collaborations among the Universities by encouraging further students to participate in such programmes.

Ms Sciberras told *The Voice* that she was grateful for the assistance from the University of Malta, the Victoria Abroad office of the Victoria University, the Global Learning Office of the University of Melbourne and Visit Malta.



Ms Chirelle Sciberras (right) with Dr Gioconda Schembri, an administrative assistant at the Consulate



Consul General donates books to Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria

Earlier in the week, the Consul-General of Malta in Victoria also visited the Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria in Albion, where she presented 50 books to the President of the Centre, Mr Joseph Spiteri (*right*). The books will form part of a new library of Melitensia books set up by the Centre.

She also donated several other books to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria library, the Brimbank libraries and the children's class of the Maltese Language Classes of Victoria.

This initiative is part of the Consul General's ongoing commitment to reach out to the community to promote and preserve the cultural identity through the Maltese language among the Maltese diaspora.

The books were donated by the Malta Book Council, Faraxa Publishing and Soċjetà Dun Filippo Borgia.



Il-Ġebbla tal-Halfa

Imma x'ghandu x'jaqsam Dragut?

Qrib ir-rahal tal-Qala f'Għawdex, madwar 65 metru bogħod mix-xatt, hemm blata kbira, speċi ta' ġzira żgħira twila mal-95 metru u b'wisá ta' 50 metru, li hija protetta bil-ligru skedata, magħrufa bħala *l-Ġebbla tal-Halfa* (bl-Ingliż isibuha bħala *The Oath Island*).

Għalkemm ġeografikament il-Ġebbla (blata) hija meqjusa wkoll bħala parti mill-ġzira ta' Kemmuna, minhabba li tinsab fl-inhaw tal-Qala, taqa' wkoll fir-responsabbiltà tal-Kunsill Lokali ta' dan ir-rahal żgħir li għandu wkoll waħda mill-isbah bajjiet fil-Gzejjer Maltin, dik ta' Hondoq ir-Rummien..

Minhabba li l-Ġebbla tal-Halfa tinsab f'żona ta' importanza ekoloġika, xjentifika, u ta' konservazzjoni, u fuqha hemm xi pjanti endemiċi, fosthom uħud li jinstabu wkoll f'għadd ta' pajjiżi oħra, fosthom uħud f'xi pajjiżi Ewropej, fl-Afrika ta' Fuq, f'it-Turkija u anke fiċ-ċentru tal-Asja u fir-reġiun tas-Siberja, tpoġġiet fuq il-lista ta' siti tal-Wirt Nazzjonali tal-Gzejjer Maltin.

L-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar skedat il-Ġebbla, bħala ta' importanza, ta' livell 1 (ekoloġiku), ta' livell 2 bħala sit ta' importanza xjentifika (geomorfoloġija), u fit-2 ta' Settembru 2002 ikklassifikatha wkoll bħala ta' importanza ekoloġika ta' livell 2.

Fuq il-blata hemm ukoll għadira (bhal fossa) tonda fonda xi erba' metri li hija mimlija b'ilma salmastru, filwaqt li madwar 400 metru bogħod mill-blata hemm bhal gozz ġebel taht wiċċ il-baħar magħruf bħala Gebel tal-Halfa.

L-origini tal-isem mhux għal kollox ċar. Il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha jafu xi tfixxer halfa (bl-Ingliż *oath* jew *vow*). Hafna jas-soċjaw l-isem ma' żmien l-Assedju l-Kbir ta' Malta mit-Torok, u speċifikament mal-Ammirall Dragut, magħruf fit-Turkija bħala Turgut Reis li jivvendika ruhu mill-mewt ta' huf fuq il-ġzira Għawdxija li kien safa maqtul mill-gvernatur Giovanni Ximenes fl-1544 waqt li kien qed jattakka l-ġzira,

Dragut kien talab lura ġisem huf biex jidfnu bir-rit Musulman, imma l-awtoritajiet Għawdxin ċaħdulu t-talba. Anzi minflok, harqu l-ġisem ta' huf fil-post fejn illum hemm il-bastjun ta' San Gwann fiċ-Ċittadella.

Skont il-leggenda, meta t-Torok rikbu fuq ix-xwini tagħhom biex isalpan minn Għawdex, Dragut tela' fuq blata kbira fil-qrib, issa *Ġebbla tal-Halfa* u hemm fuq halef li jmur lura biex jivvendika ruhu mill-ġens Għawdxin kollu.

Jissokta jingħad li waqt li fl-1551 Dragut kien qed jattakka l-

Imdina f'Malta, ftakar fil-halfa li kien għamel, waqqaf hesrem l-attakk, u minflok salpa lejn Għawdex fejn hataf kważi lill-popolazzjoni kollha tal-ġzira, madwar 8,000 ruh, u hadhom ilsiera.

F'verżjoni oħra jingħad li wara l-attakk fuq Malta, Dragut kien qed isalpa qrib i-ġzira ta' Għawdex u lemaħ għalqa bl-gheneb qrib ix-xatt. Il-kilba li kellu għal din il-frotta waslitu jitleb lill-bahrin jekk kienx hemm xi hadd minnhom lest li jgħum sax-xatt imur jaqta' xi ftit gheneb u jgħibulu.

Fost dawk li vvolutarjaw kien hemm ibnu stess li għam sax-xatt, u hadlu lura ghenqut smill-isbah tal-gheneb bil-weraq u bl-gherqu b'kollox. Minhabba li skont ir-rit Musulman kien ipprojjbit li wiehed jaqla' l-gheruq ta' dielja, kontra qalbu, Dragut ma kellux għażla oħra għajr li jikkundanna lil ibnu stess għall-mewt.

Wara tant kien iddispaċut li halef li kemm idum haj, qatt aktar ma jerga' jiekol ghenba oħra. Hekk, skont il-leggenda ġie l-isem tal-blata.

Hemm ukoll min isostni li wara kollox, l-isem ġej minn speċi ta' haxix li jikber fil-post.

Ta' min jgħid li l-baħar ta' madwar il-Ġebbla, f'fond ta' bejn it-tnejn u l-25 metru, huwa fost l-isbah nahat biex wiehed imur jogħdos, u fil-fatt, is-sit huwa wiehed mill-aktar popolari ma' dawk li jhobbu dan id-delizzju.



Bust ta' Dragut (Turgut Reis) li hemm fil-mużew navali ta' Istanbul, fit-Turkija

Malta resuming the niche it carved for itself as a serene country in the Med

Joseph CUTAJAR

After almost three years of Covid-19 restrictions, and healthwise the return to normality, with travel becoming much more comfortable, the small yet densely populated Republic of Malta, made up of the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino, has started to resume the niche it had carved for itself pre Covid, as a peaceful and serene country in the Mediterranean. It is on the way to starting again, enjoying the fruit of its advantageous position amidst the calm and quiet Mediterranean sea.

This small country has a mythical charm brought together by its stunning prehistoric temples and medieval architecture. Additionally, its bright blue skies rank it as one of the top places foreigners should visit in 2023.

Malta has some of the world's oldest churches and museums. Historians view it as a great destination for one to learn about the Vikings and the rulers of decades past. Since the city is a melting pot of different cultures, it also offers a unique and vast culinary experience.

Food lovers can enjoy the unique Maltese food, as it consists of tastes from all its nearby countries and some old civilizations that are part of Malta. The country is an innovative opportunity for experiencing the history of the Maltese Islands.

Talking of gastronomy, the recent launch of the fourth edition of the Malta MICHELIN Guide includes a newly starred restaurant bringing the total of Michelin-starred restaurants in the Maltese archipelago to six. It showcases the richness of the Maltese culinary scene, influenced by the many civilizations that once made these islands their home.

Food apart, Malta has many family-fun attractions stretching across its sun-kissed beaches. The city is a feast to the senses with its picturesque locales set against the palm tree-fringed landscape. The country lives up to its image of offering lazy holidays.

Visitors from Scandinavia that I have just met told me they decided to spend the first



One of the main attractions in Malta's capital, Valletta, the St John's Co-Cathedral

few days of spring in Malta and Gozo to get a bit of sunshine and have the luxury of inhaling the smell of fresh seawater instead of pollen-infested fresh air.

By helping any readers of this magazine visiting Malta, I will be pointing out a few of the many attractions, a kind of guide to the island. The first I am featuring is the capital city, Valletta, described by UNESCO's The World Heritage website as "one of the most historic areas in the world". It is a proud testimony to the Knights of Malta, who were granted the Maltese islands by the King of Spain in 1530. In future issues of the magazine, I will feature other places.

Valletta's attractions are too numerous to mention, starting with St John's Co-Cathedral, the conventual church built by the Order of the Knights of St John. It was completed in 1577, soon after the Great Siege. The Order dedicated this church to St John the Baptist.

The church, in the centre of Valletta, a

short walk away from the bus terminus near City Gate, was intended to be a landmark seen from almost anywhere on the island. It was built by the Order's military engineer and architect, Girolamo Cassar (c. 1520-93). Its austere design reflects the sombre mood of the Order after the Great Siege. Its façade is rather plain but well-proportioned, being bounded by two large bell towers. The interior was largely decorated by Mattia Preti, the Calabrian artist and knight.

St John's also houses the most famous work in the church, the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, (1608), considered to be one of Caravaggio's masterpieces, the largest canvas, and the only painting signed by the painter. It is displayed in the Oratory for which it was painted.

Another most impressive feature of the church is the collection of marble tombstones in the nave in which were buried important knights.

Almost every street in Valletta is a photogenic spot. In the old days, it was a business centre showcased for the locals in the mornings; and a popular spot for young people, especially Republic Street, formerly known as *Strada Rjali*.

Another famous street in Valletta is Strait Street. Known as *Strada Stretta* or The Gut, between the 19th and the 20th centuries, it was Malta's historic Red Light area, the pinnacle of nightlife amongst British and American military men.

After a lull and years of neglect Valletta has regained its popularity.

**Continued on page 7*

Auberge de Castille at night. one of the most photogenic spots in Valletta



Must-see: Valletta, Mdina and Rabat

**Continued from page 6*

The crowds have again started to flock to the city almost throughout the day, even to walk around, meet friends or do window shopping in the mornings. It has also regained popularity as a business centre and a most attractive mecca for tourists who stay in several luxurious boutique hotels that have mushroomed in the capital over the last six years.

An added attraction is the several new restaurants and evening entertainment (a headache for some residents). The only problem is the need for more parking facilities inside the city. The solution is to park on the outskirts, use public transport, or a taxi service.

Valletta also harbours several museums, among them a national-community art project, the National Museum of Fine Arts MUŻA, the first of its kind, that has been developed in a historic site within

the city.

Among others of special interest are, the Museum of Archaeology, the National War Museum - Fort St Elmo, the Lascaris War Rooms, the Malta Experience, the

of medieval and baroque architecture.

The former capital of Malta is an absolute joy to visit. Behind its high walls lies a city that dates back almost 4,000 years. It is famous for some of the most beautiful churches and cathedrals, the most important of them being the Cathedral of the Conversion of St. Paul. The town seems to have frozen in time.

Some of the places of interest here are St Paul's Cathedral, the National Museum of Natural History and Palazzo Falson (Norman House), to name a few.

Before the capital city title was moved to Valletta, Mdina, there is proof that the city, an impressive ancient walled city for the nobles that dates back to 60 AD, has been on the island for a very long time. During medieval times it

was dubbed the Noble City, as it housed, unsurprisingly, many noble families.

Talk about history. Walking on the cobblestones of Mdina makes one wonder, who were the ancient people who once walked on these roads? It is such an experience because the whole city will transport one back in time, or at least makes one feel so.

Today, several residents of the fortified city (around 300) are descendants of these families, with the houses passed down from generation to generation.

Vehicle restrictions mean you'll need to explore on foot. Wind through the narrow, sodium-lit streets and experience a city where time seems to have stood still.

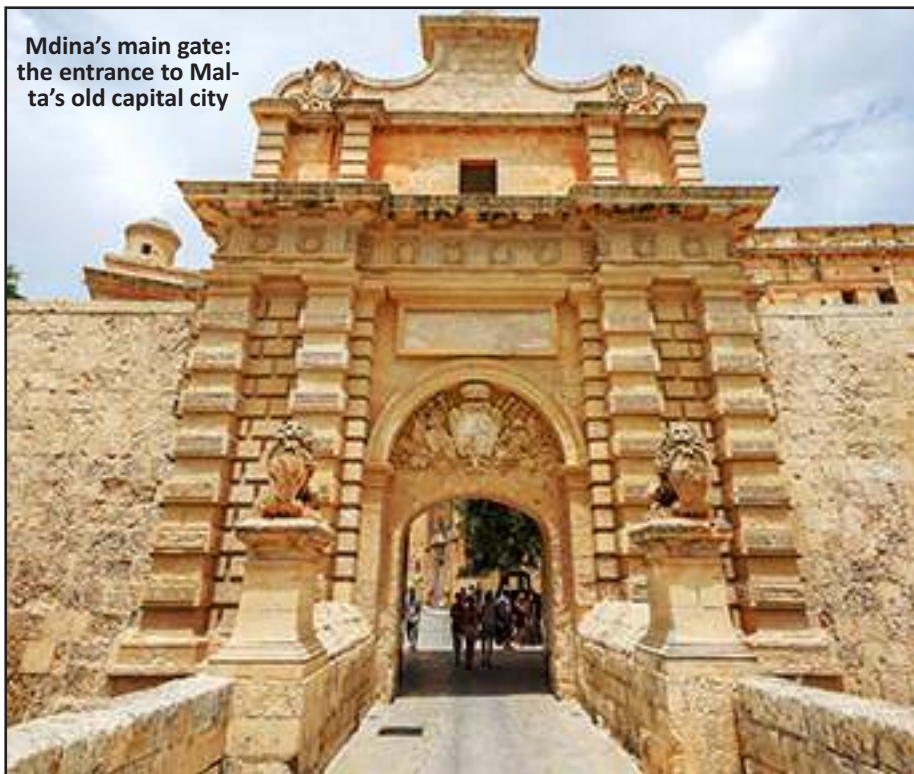
Rabat, a Semitic word which can mean "fortified town" or "suburb", is home to the famous Catacombs of St. Paul and of St. Agatha. These catacombs, now looked after by Heritage Malta, were used in Roman times to bury the dead as according to Roman culture, it was unhygienic to bury the dead in the city.

Rabat is replete with several beautiful churches and is home to another interesting site, the Roman Villa.

Another most important popular tourist attraction in Rabat is the Roman Villa or Domus Romana discovered in 1881. It depicts how the Romans lived while they were ruling over Malta.

Mdina and parts of Rabat were built on top of the ancient Roman city of Melite.

Mdina's main gate: the entrance to Malta's old capital city



St Paul's Cathedral at Mdina



Knights Hospitallers (history museum), Casa Rocca Piccola, St Elmo Heritage building, Spazju Kreattiv, Palace Armoury, the Auberges, especially the Auberge de Castille that houses the Prime Minister's Office, close to Saint James Cavalier, and the Grand Masters Palace, now the official seat of the President of the Republic of Malta and the Grandmaster Palace Courtyard.

In today's feature, I am dealing with just two other cities that are definitely must-see places for anybody visiting in Malta, especially if this is their first time. In future issues, I will deal with others.

A first trip to Malta must certainly also include a visit to Mdina – the old capital city of Malta, and its adjoining town of Rabat. Mdina, the ancient capital of Malta, known as the Silent City, commands the rural skyline. It is a fortified medieval town enclosed in bastions with an extraordinary mix

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.

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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Congratulations for a well deserved award

Richard S. Cumbo from Toronto Canada writes:

On behalf of our chairperson Father Roy Farrell (of St. Paul the Apostle Church-Toronto) and the Maltese-Canadian Museum team I most sincerely congratulate you Joseph and Lawrence for receiving the coveted award and recognition from the Institute of Maltese Journalists.

Your many years of professional and unbiased coverage of Maltese events in the Maltese Diaspora and Malta is greatly appreciated by so many living outside of the Maltese Islands. I understand that this is the first time the award has been given to a publication published outside of Malta,

Unur tassew misthoqq

Denise Demicoli from Toronto tikteb:

Awguri tassew lil Joseph Cutajar u Lawrence Dimech tar-rikonoxximent tax-xogħol fuq *The Voice of the Maltese*, li nġhatajt mill-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin. Huwa unur xieraq għal karriera fis-settur ġurnalistik u kemm f'Malta kif ukoll fl-Awstralja.

Tul iż-żminijiet għarfa l-bżonn li l-Maltin jibqgħu infurmati bil-ġrajjet kurrenti, interessanti u b'opinjonijiet li jressqu s-sentimenti tal-komunita'. Ta' dan u bosta iktar, niringrazzjakom u nawguralkom il-bqija tal-hidma t-tajba.

Congratulations from NZ

Dolores Maisey (nee Tabone) from NZ writes:

Congratulations on your journalistic award. I enjoy reading your news from Malta and Australia. I live in New Zealand now and enjoy the Malta connection with my family. Best wishes

*We wish to thank countless others who sent us congratulations, and messages of appreciation, among them Malta's HC in Australia Mario Farugia Borg and Paul Vella from Victoria

what an honour.

Over the years I came to know of your excellent work and may you have many more years of success and achievement.

With best wishes and regards.

Ludwig Galea's concert so beautiful

Helen Camilleri from NSW writes:

Recently I had the pleasure of attending Ludwig Galea's concert at Wenty league's club. I am writing to say what a beautiful concert it was and so amazing to have someone, from our mother country singing in our mother tongue to us all Maltese in Australia.

I shall look forward to attend another Maltese concert. And may I congratulate you on your award

Is-servizz tas-saħħa f'Malta

Christine Muscat minn Bowens Hill, Qld tikteb:

Onestament, fl-54 sena li ilna l-Awstralja, la jien u lanqas il-familjari jew hbieb qatt kellna għaliex ingergu dwar trattati fl-isptarijiet fl-Awstralja. Imma dan l-aħħar waqt li kont inżur lill-ohti f'Malta esperjenza mill-qrib kemm f'Malta għandhom għax jiftahru fejn tidhol is-saħħa.

Waqt iż-żjara lill-ohti, din hassitha hażin hafna u f'mument ta' paniku bintha ċemplet mill-ewwel lill-emergenza. Wara 12-il minuta waslet l-ambulanza u wara li t-tabib eżaminaha, haduha l-isptar Mater Dei. Mort magħha jien minhabba li t-tifla mhix kuragguża bizżejjed.

Hemmhekk sibna sala kbira mimlija jistennew li jigu mdewwiġ. Wara li rreġistraw lill-ohti għejna mitluba nistennew. Deher li ma kinetx f'periklu, u talbuna nisennew. Fil-verita' stennejna mhux ftit qabel sejhulna u poġġew lil ohti taht il-kura ta' tabiba. Stajt nara l-efficjenza u l-mod tassew gentili kif jitrattaw mal-pazjenti.

Għamlulha kull test li tista' timmagina, fosthom l-ECG u hadulha wkoll id-demm. Hemm kellna nistennew madwar tliet siegħat sakemm hareġ ir-riżultat.

Mit-testijiet serrhuna li ma kienx hemm periklu, imma qalu lill-ohti li għalkemm ma setgħux jippressawha, kellha l-għażla li jzommha lejli hemmhekk. Baqghet l-isptar sal-ghada, u wara aktar testijiet, bagħtuha dar, kuntenta b'dak li għamlu magħha.

Ikkonfermajt li f'Malta għandhom ikunu kburin bis-servizz tas-saħħa. L-imhabba li t-tobba u l-infermiera għandhom għall-pazjenti hi tal-għaġeb. Għalhekk hassejt li kelli nikteb din l-ittra, anke bhala ringrazzjament, halli tigi ppubblikata f'*The Voice*.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Apprezzament għall-mużika u l-ilsien Malti

Jekk qatt kien għad baqa' xi dubju dwar jekk Malta għamlitx passi ġganteski 'l quddiem fejn tidhol il-mużika u l-professjonalità tad-diretturi tal-mużika u l-mużiċisti nfushom, għal ċertament li tnehhiet meta dan l-aħħar gie organizzat il-festival tal-kanzunetta Maltija, Mużika Mużika, pjattaforma prestiġjuża għall-kanzunetta Maltija f'generi differenti ta' mużika.

It-tielet edizzjoni ta' dan l-avveniment tista' tiġi interpretata bħala apprezzament għat-talent Malti fejn għandha x'taqsam il-mużika, u l-ilsien Malti fil-kanzunetta.

Bhal dejjem, fi tmiem attività bħal din, li jispikka jkun min jirbah, f'dan il-każ Gianluca Bezzina bil-kanzunetta "Sabiha". Imma ma kiex hu biss li rebah. Rebhu wkoll l-organizzaturi, Festivals Malta u dawk kollha li b'xi mod kellhom x'jaqsmu miegħu.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li s-6,500 li attendew taht it-tinda tal-MFC f'Ta' Qali ħargu b'tant elogġi għal dak li raw u semgħu. Sodisfazzjon ukoll jintwera mill-fatt li l-attività, li kienet imqassma fuq tlett ijiem u ntweriet direttament fuq TVM, giet segwita minn madwar 300,000 telespettatur.

Il-festa, magħmula biss minn kanzunetti bil-Malti, segwit fuq is-suċċess miksub fiż-żewġ edizzjonijiet ta' qabel, dejjem frott ukoll tal-kompożituri u l-arrangamenti mużikali li saru minn għadd ta' surmastrijiet li wrew li m'għandhom xejn inqas minn oħrajn barranin ta' isem.

Niftakru żmien meta l-hoss tal-orkestra

Mingħajr ma trid, li ssegwi dak li gie offrut f'Mużika Mużika kien entuż-jażmanti. Anke li kieku ma kontx tagħti kas il-lirika – li forsi mhux faċli - il-mużika ipprova minn mużiċisti tal-orkestra nazzjonali, kienet tal-oghla klassi.

Dawk kollha li dahlu għall-impenn għarfu l-prestiġju ta' dan il-festival ta' kant Malti, billi l-ewwelnett ġew sottometti 149 kanzunetta li minnhom imbagħad ingħazlu 20 li nstemgħu fl-ewwel jum tal-festival. Minnhom, 12 ingħazlu biex jikkontestaw il-finali fit-tielet jum.

Bejnet dawn il-jiem, giet imhejjija dik li giet magħrufa bħala l-lejla tal-klassiċi fejn kantanti stabbiliti (uħud veterani), flimkien ma' oħrajn mhux tant, interpretaw kanzunetti li kull Malti faċilment li kapaċi jliessen wara snin jismagħhom u forsi jkantahom.

Wara votazzjoni magħmula, minn ġurija ta' disgha min-nies (75%) u dik tan-nies (25%), ir-rebħa aħħarija marret għand it-tabib kantant Gianluca Bezzina bil-kanzunetta "Sabiha" bi kliem ta' Joe Julian Farrugia u mużika ta' Philip Vella.

Fit-tieni post ikklassifikat il-kanzunetta "Jekk mhux int" interpretata minn Drakard u Lisa Gauci, bil-lirika ta' Emil Calleja Bayliss u mużika ta' Cyprian Casar, filwaqt li l-kantanta Jasmine Abela rebhet it-tielet post bil-kanzunetta "M'hawnx bħalek", kitba ta' Glen Vella u mużika ta' Philip Vella.

Bejniethom, it-tliet rebbieha qasmu l-pre-



mju ta' €35,000.

Minbarra dan, is-surmast żagħżuġh Ryan Paul Abela gie ppremjat għall-aqwa arrangament mużikali, filwaqt li l-kantanta Jasmine Abela giet ippremjata għall-aqwa interpretazzjoni.

L-ispettaklu fil-jum tal-finali ssokta bl-interpreazzjonijiet tal-mistednin speċjali, Kurt Calleja, ir-rebbieh tas-sena l-oħra, u Ira Losco.

Parir lil dawk li għandhom għal qalbhom il-kanzunetta Maltija. Sib u ħans li tfittxu fuq il-kompjuter kif tistgħu taraw u ssegwu dak li seħħ f'Mużika Mużika. Mhux se jiddispijaċikom.



Lisa Gauci u Drakard ... ikklassifikaw it-tieni f'Malta kien ikun qisu qed tisma l-banda. Imma konna naċċettawha. Illum ma tidistingwix bejn arrangamenti u ħsejjes maħluqa mill-professjonisti Maltin għal dawk tal-aqwa barranin.

Please Note

We may have experienced some technical difficulties with forwarding a pdf version for Issue 295. If you haven't received it, please let us know on maltesevoice@gmail.com and will re-send it.



Jasmine Abela... it-tielet u bl-aqwa interpretazzjoni tul il-Festival Mużika Mużika



In memoriam

Benjamin Farrugia 1946 – 2023

It is with sadness to announce the death of Benjamin Farrugia from Greystanes NSW, who was born in Qrendi, Malta on 17 March 1946. He went to eternal life on 19 March. Loving husband to Josephine (dec), devoted father to Reno, Joseph, Mary, Yvonne and Alexandria.

Cherished Nannu to his 13 grandchildren and *Buz-nannu* to his eight great-grandchildren, sadly missed by his extended family and friends especially those at the Greystanes Shopping Centre.



The annual Good Friday Procession that has been the annual Maltese tradition and part of the Easter festivities at Horsley Park for almost 40 years is on once again.

There will be costumes available for all ages, especially children and women wanting to participate. Help to prepare for the occasion is also always welcome.

Anybody interested should call Fred Cauchi on 0407 914 051

Celebrating 75 years since Assisted Passage Agreement

On 4th May, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia, is inviting the Maltese Community to celebrate with them the 75th Anniversary since Malta and Australia signed the Assisted Passage Agreement in 1948.



Mix-xellug: Antoinette Mangion, Godfrey Sultana u Antoine Mangion ftit wara li gew eletti

La Valette SC: Ċentru Malti li jaghti servizz utli lill-komunità

Kienet laqgħa ġenerali x'aktarx kwietta izda ma jfissirx li ċ-ċentru Malti La Valette naqqas mill-impatt enormi li għandu fil-komunità Maltija ta' NSW. Bħala membri, ċ-ċentru jhaddan 480 membri finanzjarji. Jinsab f'posizzjoni soda finanzjarja u hu mmexxi skont il-liġijiet tal-pajjiż. Min attende għall-laqgħa ġenerali annwali (li ma kienux hafna) seta' jisma' rapporti dettaljati dwar dak li sar sat-30 ta' Gunju 2022, kwazi tmien xhur ilu, perijodu importanti għax kien wara l-mewġa kiefra tal-Covid-19.

Fil-fatt, il-President Godfrey Sultana li reġa' gie elett fil-pożizzjoni għat-tielet sena waa l-oħra, sqarr li r-rapporti moqrija jindikaw perijodu fenominali wara ż-żmien diffiċli tal-pandemija. Ma kien hemm l-ebda bidla fil-kumitat u kull min kien innominat gie elett. Hekk li l-kumitat għall-2023/24 huwa: President: Godfrey Sultana, V/President: Antoinette Caruana, Segretarja: Antoinette Mangion, Ass. Seg-

retarja: Frances Fitzpatrick, Kaxxier: Antoine Mangion, V/Kaxxier: Casandara Vassallo, Membri: Josephine Micallef, Jim Zammit, Angelo Borg, Joseph Abela u Michael Spiteri.

Saret diskussjoni interessanti dwar is-servizz utli u tant neċessarju li ċ-Ċentru jipprovdi bl-skema Respite Care li hi ffinanzjata mill-Gvern Federali. Dan fil-fatt huwa wiehed mill-aqwa servizzi għall-komunità għax jgħin lill-anzjani. Mhemmx dubju li dan is-servizz jgħolli il-profil ta' dan iċ-ċentru għax jilhaq direttament lill-iktar sezzjoni fil-komunità li għandha bżonn l-għajjnuna.

La Valette Social Centre gie ffirmat f'Ottubru 1964 bl-isem ta' Maltese Community Western Suburbs. Fl-1970 bidel ismu għal dak tal-lum. Kien beda f'post li kellu f'Kildare Road Doonside fl-1974 sakemm fl-1976 inxtrat il-propjetà fejn jinsab iċ-ċentru illum, '10a' 175 Walters Road Blacktown 2148, fuq l-Gholja La Valette.



Maltese Active Day Senior Groups are located across NSW. *The Voice of the Maltese* highlights these groups and gives information about their meetings in every issue. They are keeping the elderly community well looked after socially.

This time we have a happy group of 39 people from the Bankstown region NSW led by Sam Galea. They were on a day trip to Nowra with stops at Sublime Point, Kiama and Berry. It was a well-organised trip that was enjoyed by all.

20th Anniversary of the invasion of Iraq:

The coalition of the Willing went to war on a lie

US President George W. Bush (left) and Australia's Prime Minister John Howard, part of the four leaders that joined up to invade Iraq

Calls for an inquiry into Australia's decision to join the Iraq War are growing on the 20th Anniversary of the invasion. Then prime minister John Howard was one of four world leaders to flout United Nations warnings by invading Iraq in 2003, a push stoked by claims Saddam Hussein's regime possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

The invasion saw Iraq plunge into sectarian bloodshed, including the rise of Islamic State, which Human Rights Watch estimates ultimately claimed half a million lives. WMDs never materialised.

The 2016 Chilcot Inquiry found the UK government made the decision to go to war before peaceful options had been exhausted, had no post-invasion strategy, and did not adequately track the deaths of Iraqi civilians during the occupation. Its blistering report also singled out then-UK prime minister Tony Blair, who it found had deliberately exaggerated the threat posed by Hussein and had committed to the war "no matter what".

No Chilcot equivalent has been undertaken in Australia. But as Australia deepens its military ties to the US amid talk of tension in the Indo-Pacific, politicians past and present are pushing to change that. 'Went to war on a lie' Mr Howard has repeatedly defended the invasion, even after the Chilcot report was released, and insisted Hussein's regime intended to resume a WMD program.

"I don't believe that, on the basis of the information that was available to me, it was the wrong decision," he said in 2016. As opposition leader at the time, Simon Crean made the "important but hard" call to oppose Mr Howard's push for war before UN inspectors could assess the WMD claim.

"The fact that the Coalition of the Willing went in denying them that extra time made the war illegal ... The truth is we went to war on a lie," he told SBS News. Mr Crean said the media had joined a "stampede" urging Australia to war but had failed to question the evidence presented. "On the intel that I had, I was not convinced that there was a certainty that the WMDs existed," he said.

"Any basic questioning of that fact would have, I think, led objectively to that conclusion." Australia's decision to invade Iraq was made without a vote in parliament, and recently-released documents show the cabinet only briefly discussed it.

"You can't make a more serious commitment than sending your troops to war. No commitment of that sort should be made without a parliamentary mandate," Mr Crean said. "It is essential if we're to be engaged in the future, parliament has to be involved."

Mr Crean said, while some lessons had been learned, the "un-



certain times" facing the globe made a Chilcot-style inquiry particularly important. "It needs to look at the extent of the evidence that existed at the time, [but also] how decisions were taken," he said.

A political issue

Independent MP Andrew Wilkie quit as a government intelligence analyst in 2003 after warning of dire humanitarian consequences if the invasion went ahead. Mr Wilkie said while the intelligence community had provided a range of assessments from "quite cautious through to quite hawkish", all were more cautious than the positions being stated publicly by Mr Howard.

But two subsequent inquiries were deliberately "narrow in their scope" and designed to "shift the blame to the spooks (members of the intelligence community)" for the Iraq invasion, he said.

"The political dimension of it was explicitly excluded from those two inquiries, and this is fundamentally a political issue," he said. The government was just so obsessed with the bilateral relationship, and the importance [of] doing whatever the US wanted, that we were locked in. In some ways, it had little to do with Iraq, it was all about the bilateral relationship with Washington.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese recently deepened Australian reliance on the US in the Indo-Pacific, unveiling a deal under the AUKUS pact which could see taxpayers spend \$368 billion on nuclear-powered submarines.

Mr Wilkie said the deal showed "we are locked into the US more than ever", and he remained concerned "that Australia refuses to carve out a more independent foreign and security policy".

The independent believed refusing to join the Iraq invasion, as Canada did, could have actually strengthened the relationship.

"The world didn't open up and swallow Canada ... We would have demonstrated that we can't be taken for granted. It might have made the US work a bit harder on the relationship," he said.

FinnMcHUGH

(Source: SBS New - abridged)

Daylight Saving Time in Australia and Malta

In the following states of Australia daylight saving came to an end, on Sunday 2nd April. The clocks were put back one hour:

Australian Capital Territory; New South Wales; South Australia; Tasmania; Victoria.

Because daylight saving is imposed at a state level, meaning it's up to state and territory governments to decide if they want them or not.

*Along with other European countries, Malta set its clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 26, 2023, when Daylight Saving Time (DST) started.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta commemorates 44th anniversary of Freedom Day

Malta commemorated the 44th anniversary of Freedom Day, recalling the historic day on 31 March 1979 when the last British warship left Malta, and the island ceased to be a military base.

The ceremony at the Freedom Monument in Vittoriosa, was attended by the country's highest dignitaries. During it a military parade by a detachment of soldiers and the band of the Armed Forces from Cospicua converged on the Freedom Monument where a Guard of Honour was formed.

Following the arrival of the Armed Forces Commandant, and in the presence of the Prime Minister, Robert Abela and Opposition Whip Robert Cutajar, President George Vella was accorded a national salute and inspected a Guard of Honour.



President George Vella laying a wreath on the Freedom Day Monument at Birgu

The President, the Prime Minister and the Opposition Whip walked to the top of the Freedom Monument and in a sense of unity, saluted the event of 44 years ago.

The country's highest dignitaries placed red and white flowers at the foot of the monument. The ceremony ended with the playing of the National Anthem.

PM Robert Abela addresses Democracy Summit

In a virtual address to the Summit for Democracy organised on the initiative of the USA, Prime Minister Robert Abela said that democratic values are and would remain central to the Maltese Government's policy.

He said that the Summit for Democracy was being held at the right time to send a collective and unequivocal message supporting Ukraine and the country's right to peace, freedom, and democracy.

In his speech to the leaders of several countries and representatives from civil society and the private sector Dr Abela spoke about how Malta strengthened various sectors to reach the established goals and address new challenges.

He said that the Government had fought money laundering and corruption by implementing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, FATF. He said that in June last year, the FATF recognised the progress made by the country leading to Malta's removal from the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring. He stated that another priority was reinforcing Media as one of the main pillars of democracy.

The Prime Minister mentioned that a Committee of Experts on the media was established to analyse the journalistic and media sector and give feedback on legislative instruments proposed by the Government to Parliament to afford the highest level of protection to journalists in Malta.

He said he was committed to strengthening this sector and, as part of Malta's commitment, would introduce Anti-SLAPP



provisions, increase penalties for crimes against journalists, and address libel cases against deceased journalists.

He pointed out that the Government was

improving access to justice and information by implementing the digitalisation strategy of the Courts, adding that Maltese society could not reach its full potential without addressing the obstacles individuals face due to their gender.

He said that the Government was determined to continue building on the progress made and referred to more reforms.

He said that last year a strategy and action plan on equality and gender mainstreaming was launched aimed at identifying and overcoming difficulties, prejudices and stereotypes to strengthen gender perspectives at different levels of decision-making.

He wrapped up his address by saying that Malta is proud to be part of the Summit for Democracy process, and believes that collective action is crucial for its future.

30 years of strong bilateral relations with Armenia

During a bilateral meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan, in Malta, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ian Borg, said that since 1993, bilateral relations with Armenia have been excellent, but they need to continue to intensify them.

During the meeting, several subjects were discussed in which, through practical cooperation, the two countries and their respective people can truly benefit. Minister Borg stated that despite the existing challenges Malta is committed to assisting and facilitating the possibility of doing more business between the two countries.

He further stated that both countries

would be exploring the possibility of further cooperation in the sectors of information technology, solar energy, education, and English teaching.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan, expressed thanks for the hospitality he received in Malta and stressed that it was an honour for him as the first Armenian Foreign Minister to visit the country to take part in official bilateral discussions.

He officially invited Minister Ian Borg to visit Armenia, where discussions can be further extended. He looks forward to building and strengthening what is already there.



Roundup of News About Malta



Ratings agency Fitch affirms Malta at A+ Outlook stable

Fitch Rating Agency has affirmed Malta at 'A+' with a Stable Outlook. This rating is supported by high per-capita income and a pre-pandemic record of solid growth and sizeable debt reduction. It states that Malta's economy grew faster than expected last year, although deficit and debt concerns loom.

It said that Malta's economy is growing fast thanks to a rebound in tourism, among other factors, and that its strengths are balanced against its large banking sector, the small size of its economy, which is highly vulnerable to external developments, and a recent deterioration in public finances with large fiscal deficits, which have led to a sharp increase in the moderate public debt burden.

Fitch has observed that the Maltese economy rebounded strongly in 2021, following

a severe contraction in 2020. Real GDP rose 9.4% in 2021, significantly exceeding its November forecast of 5.7%. It has lowered its growth forecast to 4.2% from 6.1% for this year due to the stronger-than-expected 2021 recovery and (mostly) indirect effects from the invasion of Ukraine and imposed sanctions on Russia.

The main contribution to growth came from investments heavily impacted by acquiring imported aircraft equipment. Private consumption remained sound in 2022, supported by the accumulation of past savings and favourable labour market conditions, while inflation levels remained relatively contained relative to other EU countries.

Online gaming, information and technol-

ogy (ICT) and professional services were key sectors driving growth while con-

struction contracted quite sharply. Recovery in the tourism sector continued narrowing the gap in tourist arrivals relative to 2019 to around 17% in 2022.

Fitch forecasts growth to slow to 3.5% in 2023 due to the projected economic slowdown in Malta's main trading partners, as evidenced by moderation in economic indicators. Growth will be close to potential in 2024, reaching 3.7%.

The lifting of international travel restrictions has helped support the return of foreign workers, further uplifting domestic consumption and potential growth while somewhat easing the structural labour supply shortage. It recognises that Malta's unemployment reached a new record low of 2.9% in 2022, well below the pre-pandemic rate of 3.6% in 2019.

Import Prices Drive Inflation: HICP inflation averaged 6.1% in 2022, below the eurozone average of 8.4%, as the authorities froze energy prices. Headline inflation reached 7.0% in February, driven by continued high core inflation of 6.3%. As a small and open island economy, a large portion of core inflation is imported, and Malta has been disproportionately affected by higher food and construction prices.

The government remains committed to limiting the increase in electricity and fuel prices, implying that the agency expects a zero contribution from energy prices to inflation throughout the projection horizon. Inflation will moderate to 4.9% in 2023 as food prices normalise and international price pressures abate, but wage inflation picks up with a lag.

Fitch said that Malta is a large net external creditor compared with the rest of the world but hosts many special-purpose entities and multinationals in financial and insurance activities, distorting international accounts.

Time to ensure electricity prices are not solely dependent on gas prices

During a Council meeting of EU Energy ministers in Brussels, Minister for Environment, Energy and Enterprise Miriam Dalli reiterated Malta's position on the need to decouple gas prices from electricity prices.

As things stand today, electricity prices are set by the market hourly closing prices, which are usually determined by the electricity generated by gas power plants and hence by gas prices.

On the new electricity market design proposal, Minister Dalli highlighted the need to reform the EU electricity market. States like Malta are exposed to high electricity prices due to how the EU electricity market operates, even though government measures protect the Maltese consumer from fluctuating prices.

She emphasised the importance of delivering a revised market design that ensures price stability and guarantees the security of supply in the long run – the benefits of which should effectively be shared amongst all EU consumers, including consumers in member states dependent on cross-border markets, like Malta.

Discussions on the Electricity Market Design will continue in the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, Energy Ministers agreed to extend for another year the regulation on coordinated gas demand reduction for gas, which aims to reduce EU dependency on Russian gas and prepare for the forthcoming winter season.

Malta had successfully negotiated a derogation from a European Commission proposal that imposed a 15% reduction in demand for natural gas which was neces-



Minister Miriam Dalli in Brussels meeting as Malta is heavily dependent on electricity. Any mandatory reduction would have hurt families and businesses.

Through this extension regulation, Malta has negotiated to retain its derogation.

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

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

In-nuqqas tal-kleru fil-Ġzejjer Maltin

L-emigranti Maltin, l-aktar daww anżani, sikwit jilmentaw għall-fatt li bil-mod il-mod, is-servizz ta' membri tal-kleru fil-parroċċi u l-knejjes tagħhom kien qed jonqos.

Hu magħruf li kemm 'il darba saru appelli lill-Kurja Maltija biex tipprovdi xi membri tal-kleru halli jservu fost l-emigranti, imma jidher li kull sforz sewa għalxejn.

U bir-raġun, għax fejn fl-imghoddija, l-għadd ta' membri tal-kleru, kemm lajci kif ukoll reliġjużi, kien kbir, illum spicċajna biex l-għadd naqas drastikament, tant li l-kurja Maltija u dik Ghawdxija, qed ikollhom jagħmlu sforz biex jipprovdu s-servizzi reliġjużi li kien joffru sa ftit taż-żmien ilu.

L-aħħar pass li ħadet l-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta kien, li minn wara l-festi tal-Għid, isir tibdil fis-servizz tal-funerali. S'issa meta jmut xi ħadd, kien prassi li dakinhar tal-funeral is-sacerdot kien imur fil-kamra mortwarja fl-isptar, jew il-post fejn ikun hemm il-mejjet biex iwassal it-tebut sal-

Knisja fejn ikun se jsir il-funeral u wara l-quddiesa jwassal l-istess tebut saċ-ċimiterju fejn issir id-difna.

Issa għe deċiż li l-ewwel parti ta' dan is-servizz jieqaf billi flok il-qassis jakkumpanja l-funeral mill-post tal-mewt sal-knisja, jistenna l-korteo funebri fil-bieb tal-knisja, fejn isir it-tberik qabel il-quddiesa.

Kelliema għall-Arċidjoċesi qalet li "l-Isq-fijiet hadu d-deċiżjoni wara li kkonsultaw mal-kappillani, minhabba li l-għadd tal-kleru fil-parroċċi qed dejjem jonqos, u l-hin tal-ivvjaggar dejjem jitwal, u l-htieġa li s-sacerdoti jkunu preżenti fil-knisja qabel il-funeral halli jkunu ta' wens għall-qraba u l-hbieb kif ukoll għall-qrar.

Is-sacerdoti se jibqgħu preżenti meta tmurt persuna, kemm f'residenzi kif ukoll fl-isptar, u se jibqgħu jiehdu sehem fil-purċissjoni



Ftit għadhom qed jiġu ordnati sacerdoti

mill-knisja saċ-ċimiterju fejn issir id-difna.

Intqal li l-isqfijiet jifhmu li t-telfa ta' xi hadd għażiż hija esperjenza diffiċli u ta' qtigh il-qalb għall-familja u l-hbieb, u jassiguraw lill-Insara li s-sacerdot se jibqa' impenjat biex jipprovdi wens, mogħdrija u appoġġ f'dan iż-żmien.

Żdied jingħad li Insara huma mhegga jitolbu minnufih l-assistenza ta' qassis kull meta huma jew l-għeziež tagħhom jid-dahħlu fi sptar jew f'dar residenzjali u biex jgħarrfu lil daww responsabbli mill-kura tagħhom bix-xewqat spiritwali tagħhom.

Il-Gvern qed isalva l-baned

F'dawn l-aħħar snin għadd ta' baned Maltin kienu fil-periklu li jitolbu l-kazini tagħhom wara li s-sidien tal-istess kazini kienu qed imorru l-Qorti u jitolbu li l-baned jiġu żgumbrati u l-binjet jingħaddu lura lill-proprietarji.

Dan wassal biex il-Gvern jidhol fil-kwestjoni biex jgħin lill-baned billi alloka €6miljun halli jakkwista l-proprietajiet tal-kazini mhedda u jixtrihom hu mingħand is-sidien.

S'issa diġà hemm ftehim ta' akkwist tal-bnjet ta' sitt soċjetajiet mużikal, li hjma, il-banda Stella Maris ta' Tas-Sliema, Aniċi Banda & Social Club ta' Hal Qormi, Banda Kristu Re ta' Raħal Gdid, Circolo San Giuseppe Sagra Familja tal-Kalkara, La Stella Levantina ta' H'Attard u każin tal-banda Maria Regina tal-Marsa.

Fil-każ tal-każin tal-banda Stella Maris, il-proċess tal-akkwist gie totalment konkluż, filwaqt li fir-rigward tal-proprietajiet l-oħrajn gie ffirmat konvenju jew jinstab fil-proċess li jiġi iffirmat konvenju mas-sidien.

Sadaniant qed isiru negozjati ma' sidien ta' soċjetajiet mużikali oħra li bl-istess mod, qed jiffaċċjaw riskju ta' żgumbrament.

Obbligati li jpoġġu għal kors fil-Malti

Wiehed mill-ilmenti li jsiru minn daww li jkollhom bżonn il-kura hi, li hafna mill-infermiera u l-carers huma barranin, għalhekk jkun diffiċli li tikkomunika magħhom minhabba li ma jgħidux u ma jfihmux il-Malti.

Issa tħabbar li l-infermiera li jahdmu mal-anżani fid-djar governattivi huma obbligati li jpoġġu għal kors ta' 50 siegħa fil-Basic Medical Maltese for Health Professions.

Il-kors hu pprovdut mill-Uni-

versità ta' Malta u l-barranin ukoll huma obbligati li jpoġġu għall-kors fil-Maltese Proficiency Test ipprovdut minn entitajiet diversi. Il-medja ta' dan il-kors hu ta' 28 siegħa fuq medda ta' seba' ġimgħat.

Wiehed jispera li dak li qed jingħad, attwalment isehh għax isolvi l-problema ta' daww li Maltin u l-Ghawdxin li ma jfihmux bl-Ingliz. Fuq kollox għaliex daww li jiġu Malta fit-tul biex jahdmu m'għandhomx jgħallmu l-Malti?

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Happy Easter

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Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Issa l-istampa tal-istharrig inbidlet

Bil-kemm għaddew hmistax mill-istharrig tal-Maltatoday, li dawru ktibt fl-aħħar harġa li ma harġux riżultati ta' żewġ stharrig ohra, wiehed kull wiehed minn *The Times* u *it-Torċa*, li taw stampa differenti tal-ewwel wiehed..

Għalkemm xorta jidher li l-effett tad-deċiżjonijiet tal-Qorti dwar l-Ispartarijiet hal-liet, u qed thalli, l-effett tagħha fuq ix-xena politika lokali, imma l-perċentwali u n-numru nbidlu sewwa.

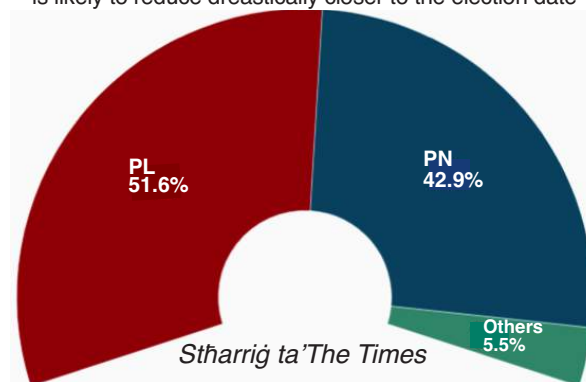
Skont *The Times*, għalkemm il-Partit Laburista mar lura, dan ma rriżultax f'xi titjib sostanzjali tal-Partit Nazzjonalista (*Labour's lead shrinks, but PN fails to gain ground*)

Filwaqt li mxebbah ma' kull stharrig li sar matul l-aħħar ghaxar snin il-Partit Laburista mar lura, skont *The Times*, id-daqqa li isfel li ha l-Partit Laburista mhix dik li

deher fl-ewwel stharrig, billi fejn skont dak tal-*Malta today* id-differenza ta' voti bejn il-partiti kienet ta' madwar 8,500 vot maġġoranza favur il-Labour, skont *The Times* din telgħet għal-23,000.

L-istharrig tal-istatista Dott. Vincent Marmarà sar fuq kampjun ta' 1,000 persuna, u ta' *The Times* sar fuq kampjun ta' 600, li jagħti differenza akbar lil ta' Marmarà li qal li jekk it-turnout ikun bhall-aħħar elezzjoni ġenerali, id-distakk ikun ta' madwar 29,000 vot, u jekk it-turnout ikun iktar

How would you vote if an election took place tomorrow?
27.4% are expected not to vote, but trends suggest that this is likely to reduce drastically closer to the election date

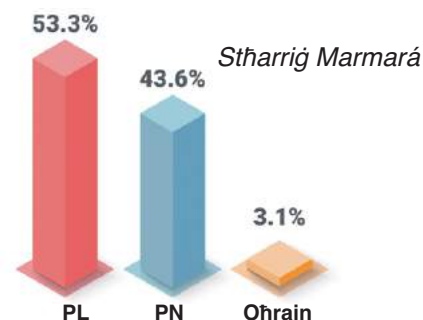


Stharrig ta' *The Times*

baxx, id-distakk ikun ta' madwar 26,000 vot favur il-Laburisti.

Għadu kmieni biex tikkummenta dwar din id-differenza bejn l-istharrig tal-*Malta today* u l-ohrajn, li bejn wiehed u iehor saru fl-istess żmien tal-ewwel stharrig.

Biss mhemmx dubju li waqt li l-midja tal-Partit Nazzjonalisti baqgħet tagħmel enfasi fuq li "żewġ surveys ohra jikkonfermaw li naqas id-distakk bejn iż-żewġ partiti", żgur li taw daqxejn tan-nifs lill-Partit Laburista.



Stharrig Marmarà

Li kieku ssir elezzjoni ġenerali għada, liema partit tivvota?

Allura għandha tirriżenja?

Bhalissa fix-xena politika qed tiddomina l-kwestjoni tad-deputata Laburista Rosianne Cutajar wara li l-eks-ċerperson tal-Kunsill Nazzjonalista tal-Ktieb ippubblika għadd ta' *chats* bejn id-deputata u Yorgen Fenech, li qed ikun mixli li kien il-mohħ wara l-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Iċ-*chats* ġew ippubblikati lejliet li kellu jkompli jinstema' l-libell ta' Cutajar kontra Camilleri dwar allegazzjonijiet dwarha.

Skont dak żvelat Cutajar u Fenech spiss kienu jittkellmu b' mod intimu, inkluż dwar il-hajja personali. F'xi messagġi, semmiet b'dispijaċir li relazzjoni ma mexxietx.

Kif ġew ippubblikati iċ-*chats*, qamet kritika qawwija u kundanna għal Cutajar, kif ukoll għall-Gvern u saru talbiet mill-Partit Nazzjonalista għar-riżenja jew tkeċċija ta' Cutajar mill-Parlament.

Xi żmien qabel il-Qorti kienet iddeċidiet li iċ-*chats* li kienu fuq il-*mobile* ta' Yorgen Fenech u li tressqu l-Qorti fil-każ tal-allegat involviment tiegħu fil-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia ġew ippubblikati kontra l-liġi.

Kif thabbar li se jittiehdu passi kontra Camilleri għax kiser l-ordni tal-Qorti, saru xi protesti li ddefendew lil Camilleri, u f'xi ġurnali, u l-midja soċjali, saru 'kummenti min jaqbez għal Cutajar u min jehodha kontriha jinsisti li tirriżenja jew titkeċċa.

Kumment b'difiza għal Cutajar ġie mill-eks-deputat Nazzjonalista Edwin Vassallo li stqarr, "Jigifieri fejn hija l-hajja privata ta' deputat jew deputata? Fejn hija l-hajja privata ta' individwu? Tgħid se nirrispondu skont kemm ikollna mibegħda f'qalbna lejn xi persuna partikolari għaliex ma naqblux magħha politikament?"

Żied li għalkemm il-politiku għandu jkun ultra nadif, fil-hajja politika u soċjali tiegħu, minkejja li dak li johroġ jista' jkun ibbażat fuq veritajiet, xorta wahjda jemmnen li sakemm m'hemmx korruzzjoni, illegalità

li trid tiġi ppruvata fil-qorti, "dak li hu propjeta' privata tal-politiku u ta' kull persuna ohra trid tibqa' propjeta' privata kemm jekk il-persuna tkun fil-politika jew le.

Aktar tard, filwaqt li sostna li xorta jahseb li l-isvelar taċ-*chats* Cutajar-Yorgen kien wiehed "kattiv" u sar kontra l-ordni tal-Qorti, qal li "hadd m'hu ikbar mill-partit u mill-pajjiż. Fl-aħħar 10 snin, il-Gvern għa-mel hafna gid u ma nistgħux inhallu n-negattiv u l-hażin jittfi t-tajjeb li sar."

Jinsab ċert li l-membri Parlamentari jafu x'responsabilità għandhom lejn il-grupp Parlamentari Laburista, il-partit u l-pajjiż b'mod ġenerali. Din ittiehdet uħud bħala messagġ lil Josianne Cutajar biex tirriżenja.

Fir-reazzjoni l-Partit Nazzjonalista qal li jekk Abela jemmen li hadd mhu akbar mill-pajjiż jew partit, għandu jkeċċi lil Cutajar inkella qed jikkonferma "li hu taht rikatt u kkontrollat mill-klikka li thanzret għal dawn l-aħħar ghaxar snin".



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Mainland Australia is all **RED**



Chris Minns is officially sworn in as NSW premier by governor Margaret Beazley at Government House in Sydney

Labor's stranglehold across mainland Australia is complete, with Tasmania the sole state to be led by a Liberal government.

Chris Minns has become the 47th Premier of the state of NSW and is on track to lead a majority Labor government however, as we went to press, there were still some electorates in doubt. People questioned the tedious process that left several seats in limbo four days after the election.

In his victory speech, the premier-elect declared that his party is "back and ready to govern". We will not let the people of this state down," Mr Minns said.

"We will govern for everyone in NSW. We know that the challenges are huge, we know that the responsibilities are awesome, but NSW Labor is back and ready to govern in this great state." Mr Minns also thanked outgoing Liberal Premier Dominic Perrottet for his service.

"It's undeniably the case that this election campaign was, perhaps uniquely, a model of respect and civility. Neither party took the low road, neither political party took the low blow," he said.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was at the forefront of election-day campaigning across Sydney and welcomed Mr Minns to the victory stage at a Sydney party function.

"He embodies all that's best about the Australian Labor Party," the prime minister said of Mr Minns. "His vision is one that always has people at its heart."

Domenic Perrottet, who became Liberal Premier 18 months ago after Gladys Berejiklian quit amid a corruption probe, had sought a fourth term for the Coalition. "And, as a result, I will be standing down as the Parliamentary Liberal Party leader," he said.

The new Premier was at Government House for the swearing-in ceremony conducted by the Governor of NSW, Margaret Beazley.

Two in five Australians gamble every week

Three-quarters of Australians have gambled at least once in the past year while almost two in five gamble weekly, new data shows.

The Australian Gambling Research Centre found lotteries and scratchies were the most common products used (64 per cent), followed by racing (38 per cent), sports betting (34 per cent) and pokies (33 per cent).

Almost half of those who gambled were classified as being at some risk of gambling harm, including mental health issues and unmanageable debt.

When it comes to gambling ads, three-quarters of Australian adults reported seeing or hearing sports or race betting advertisements at least once a week in the past 12 months. Two in five were exposed to those ads four or more times a week.

Twenty-one per cent of people were prompted to start betting for the first time after seeing an ad, while 34 per cent increased the amount they spent.

"Exposure to wagering advertising is leading to riskier betting behaviour and escalating the likelihood of experiencing gambling harms," the research centre's executive manager Rebecca Jenkinson said.

"The report also captures the concerns of the Australian public that wagering advertising normalises gambling activity. Seventy-seven per cent of Australians believe there are too many opportunities to gamble, while 59 per cent say it should be discouraged.

The Albanese Government has said it is committed to reducing gambling harm. From this week, consistent messaging will

be used across the country while wagering service staff will be required to complete new training around gambling harm.

In the coming months, the Government will also implement the first national self-exclusion register called BetStop.

Communication Minister Michelle Rowland said the programme will allow people to exclude themselves from all licensed interactive wagering services.

South Australia and the assisted dying law

Six people have ended their lives using the State of South Australia's new voluntary assisted dying laws, authorities have confirmed.

The new laws came into operation six weeks ago after 17 attempts over more than 25 years to get legislation through state parliament. SA Health reported that 32 people had since made an initial request as part of the process.

Among those, 11 permits had been issued, allowing people to access the necessary medication.

SA Health said at least six people had died after being administered or self-administering the medication.

The assisted dying system includes a provision that people wishing to die must be a South Australian resident for at least 12 months. A terminal diagnosis and a life expectancy of fewer than six months, or 12 months for a person with a neurodegener-



ative disease, must be confirmed for a patient to access the procedure.

The laws also require patients to show they have decision-making capacity and are capable of informed consent and to undergo an assessment by two independent medical practitioners.

They must have their request verified by independent witnesses and be experiencing intolerable suffering that cannot be relieved. A patient will be required to make three separate requests, including one in writing.

SA Health also confirmed that 44 doctors had so far completed the mandatory voluntary assisted dying training, while a further 54 had registered to do so.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Agreement on management of Voice referendum

The Albanese Labor Government has struck a deal with the Coalition on legislation setting out how this year's planned referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament will be managed. The legislation was passed by the Senate.

The Voice would be a body advising the government on issues impacting First Nations Australians. It would not have the power to veto laws. A majority of voters,

and a majority of voters in most states, are needed to make the Voice a reality.

The Prime Minister has announced the proposed question Australians will be asked at this year's referendum and the draft constitutional amendment that would enable an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Mr Albanese said the Referendum Work-



ing Group had landed on the question:

"A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

As well as that, it will be put to Australians that the Constitution be amended to include a new chapter titled "Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples".

The details would be:

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

1. There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;

2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

3. The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

The wording announced is not set in stone, though, and it could go through further changes when it is considered by Parliament.



Former United States President Barack Obama made his first visit to Australia in almost 10 years. He was accompanied by his wife, Michelle.

Mr Obama is in Australia as part of a speaking tour that is taking in Sydney and Melbourne. He's expected to discuss strength in leadership and techniques for navigating an unpredictable future.

The last time Mr Obama, whose presidency ran from 2009 to 2017, visited Australia was in 2014 for the G20 leaders summit in Brisbane.

Mr Obama met Mr Albanese at Kirribilli House. The Australian Prime Minister said he had a very positive meeting with [former] president Obama in Sydney, talking about the global economy and what was occurring.

During Mr Obama's presidency, he had four different counterparts in Australia - Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott, and Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr Obama has remained active in politics through his support for the Democrats in the US since leaving the White House in 2017. Along with his wife, he heads up the Obama Foundation, which operates a variety of programmes.

Barack Obama in Australia visit

Above: Australian PM Anthony Albanese with former US President Barack Obama



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Tagħrif dwar l-ilsien Malti

Il-qtates ta' Jannar u l-Qattusa tal-Madonna

Dan l-aħhar waqt li kont qed infittex dwar kliem Malti li m'għand-niex nitilfu sibt artiklu interessanti ta' Guži Gatt dwar il-Qtates ta' Jannar u nixtieq li naqsam xi fehmiet minn tiegħu mal-qarrejja.

Laqtni hafna l-introduzzjoni, fejn jispjega li ma jidhrix liqatt kienet teżisti xi 'civilta' fl-istorja tal-bniedem li qatt ma semgħet bil-qattus. Il-bniedem, anke dak primittiv tal-qedem, ma damx ma ntebāh li ma kienx għall-qtates li kellu jiġru ma' saqajh, il-qamh, ix-xgħir u dak kollu li jkun hażen fil-matmura biex ikollu biex jiekol matul is-sena, kienu jiklululu kollu l-ġrieden.

Jingħad li l-bniedem kien anke jieħu l-qtates miegħu fuq il-baħar, minhabba li l-ġrieden kienu jgerrmulu kolloxx anke fuq l-imriekeb tal-baħar.

Huwa jiddeskrivi lill-qattus bħala animal ferrieħi, imma ta' rasu; dhuli, imma fl-istess hin imqit u migbud; mistħi u jieħu għalih malajr. Il-qtates huma wkoll indipendenti, u s-sikkatura ma jistgħux għaliha, u li kapaċi jhobbu b'imhabba kbira.

Studjuji tal-qtates jaħilfu li l-qtates gie li bkew u li huma għajjurin hafna għal dak li jqisu li hu tagħhom, bħal xi

kapaċi jisthajlu u jimmaginaw.

Sabarhom hu kbir hafna, u għandhom memorja tajba. Jekk tkellimhom, kapaċi jistgħallmu t-tifsira ta' xi żewġ kelmiet. Jistgħu jistgħallmu jagħmlu hafna xorti: jifthu l-bibien, jixegħlu d-dawl, idoqqu l-qniepen, jgħollu l-ghotjen, imma biss meta jridu huma, mhux meta rid int.

Hawn ukoll qtates li jhobbu l-mużika, filwaqt li hemm oħrajn li ma jistgħux għaliha. Haġa komuni bejniethom hu, li kollha joboghdu l-istorbju.

Il-pil tal-qtates jista' jkun ta' lwien u kuluri differenti u li għal kull wiehed minnhom għandna, jew kellna, isem.

Hawn qtates ta' pil abjad, iswed u aħmar (ta' kulur wiehed), filwaqt li jekk ikun aħmar imma mnaqqax b'xi disinn, jissejjah ġinger li dahlet sewwa fil-Malti għax jingħad wkoll qattusa ġingrija u qtates ġingrin. In-nisa u l-irġiel ukoll jistgħu jkunu ġingrin. Hemm oħrajn ta' kuluri li joqorbu lejn il-kuluri msemija, imma l-aktar li donnu hawn huma ta' dawkl il-kuluri.

Issib min jibza' minn qattus iswed, imma fil-fatt, hadd m'għandu għalfejn jistkerrah qattus sempliċiment għax ikun iswed. L-istess u s-superstizzjonijiet dwar il-qtates suwed m'għandhom x'jaqsmu xejn magħhom.

Forst ur-razez isibu l-QATTUSA TAL-MADONNA, isem li ċertament li ġie vvintat mill-poplu Malti. Imma Gatt jgħid li hu isem tajjeb, li rnexxa, u li għandna nibqgħu nużawh, u nitgħallmu li hu validu li noholqu isem bil-Malti fejn m'hemmxx. Biex qattusa jkollha dan il-lewn ta' pil, trid tkun bilfors qattusa, bl-



Il-Qattusa tal-Madonna

Ingliz tissejjah Calico cat.

Il-qtates ġieli jkollhom pil ieħor li qisu jagħti lemha lill-pil tal-qattusa tal-Madonna, imma ma jkunx l-istess. Bl-Ingliz jissejjah tortoiseshell. Dik hi kelma li fil-fatt tintuza anke biex nirreferu għal ċertu disinn tas-shab tal-ajru. QATTUS DAHAR IL-FEKRUNA

Hemm imbagħad il-QATTUS BEB-BUXI. In-nies jgħidulek li l-qattus jissejjah hekk għax ikollu sinjali skuri jixbhu lid-disinn tal-qoxra tal-bebbux. Imma hemm ukoll il-QATTUS BERBUXI li jkun jixbah lil ta' qablu imma minflok sinjali jkollu it-tikek skuri.

Issa niġu għall-QATTUS KULUR L-ERFORS, li hu isem tajjeb biex wiehed jiddiskrivi ċertu pil tal-qtates li l-Inglizi jgħidulhom Blue cats. Hemm ukoll il-QATTUS GRIZ.

Bħal m'hemm ziemel kalzettier, hemm ukoll QATTUS KALZETTIER, għax qisu bil-kalzetti, u jekk xi hadd jgħid xi haġa, nistgħu ngħidulu li l-qattus hu ukoll "faċċol" – minhabba t-tebġha sewda fuq wiċċu.



Il-qattus magħruf bħala ġinger

kannestru fejn jorqdu, u jistgħu jagħmlu f'qalbhom jekk fid-dar fejn kienu jsaltu jiddaħhal xi qattus jew animal ieħor bħala pet. Meta jiġri hekk, xi qtates ġieli mielu b'qalbhom maqsuma.

Lill-qtates, il-kurżitá tegħlibhom, u għandhom sens ta' umoriżmu, u sa kapaċi jitbissmu. Meta jorqdu, joħolmu, u l-es-perti jsostnu li anke meta jkunu mqajmin,



Il-qattus tant komuni, ta' pil abjad



Il-qattus Bebbuxi



il-qattus Berbuxi

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija



Charles Spiteri



Xellug: Dehra tal-proġett matul il-jum; Fuq: Uħud mill-voluntiera flimkien ma' Franco Ciangura (it-tieni mix-xellug fuq quddiem)

Il-proġett għall-Gimgha Mqaddsa f'Għajnsielem

Is-Salib, Ġesù u Int

Ta' kull sena, f'dawn iż-żmienijiet, għalkemm mhux tulhom biss, Għajnsielem, l-ewwel raħal li wiehed isib hekk kif iħalli l-port tal-Imġarr mal-wasla tiegħu fil-gżira Għawdxija, dejjem johorġu b'xi novitá. Din is-sena, il-proġett għall-jiem tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa, fit-tielet ediz-

zjoni ta' *Is-Salib Ġesù u Int* fil-pjazza quddiem il-Knisja Parrokkjali jikkonsisti f'salib għoli aktar min 26 metru miksi fil-ġnub bl-injam u b'faċċata mik-sija bil-plywood b'disinn ġo fih u miżbugħ b'kuluri addattati għal dan iż-żmien.

Fuq dan is-salib impressjonanti hemm figura kbira ta' Kristu speċi ta' rxox t u msallab fl-stess hin. L-attrazzjoni qed tigi mixghula wara nżul ix-xemx biex tinholq atmosfera partikolari.

L-ideja u l-ħsieb wara l-proġett huwa l-Viċi Sindku tar-raħal, Franco Ciangura bl-id il-lemnija ta' Joseph Ciantar u mghejjun mill-familja Buttigieg, Frans, Francis Lee, Loretta u Patricia, Justin Luke, u Charlie, Wenzu Ciangura, Rodllyn Az-zopardi, Denzio Calleja, Thomas u Lothar Saliba, Massimo Vella u l-artist mir-raħal Rudolf Cauchi li kien inkarigat mill-figura ta' Kristu.

Is-Sur Ciangura qal lil *The Voice*, li minn dan il-proġett iridu jwasslu messaġġ biex flimkien ngħixu dawn il-mument billi niehdu ħsieb xulxin, kulhadd jagħmel is-sagrifiċċju tiegħu għall-ġid tal-oħrajn, u wiehed joffri s-salib personali tiegħu lil Ġesù.

Huwa ta' ħajr lil *TG Construc-tion Gozo* li tawhom l-istruttura tal-hadid u s-servizzi tagħhom, kif ukoll lil shabu kunsilliera, kif ukoll lill-Arcipriet, il-Kanonku Frankie Bajada, lill-Ministeru għal Għawdex u d-Direttorat tal-wirt kulturali ta' Għawdex għall-appoġġ kontinwu tagħhom.

Crux Redemptoris



Ftit tal-jiem ilu l-Għaqda Muzikali *Ite ad Joseph* ipprezentat lejla ta' Muzika Sagra b'riflessjoni spiritwali għal żmien ir-Randan *Crux Redemptoris* fil-Knisja Arcipretali ta' San Ġuzepp fil-Qala Għawdex (*lemin*).

Kien kuncert varjat immexxi minn Mro. Mark Gauci li nkluda s-siltiet *Panis Angelicus* ta' Cesar Franck, *Nearer, My God, to Thee* ta' Lowell Mason, u *Adagi* ta' Tomaso Albinoni. Kif ukoll erba' siltiet oħra li kienu, *Preludium*, *Offertorium*, *Sanctus* u *Benedictus*, li huma parti mill-quddiesa *Missa Katharina* tal-kompożitur Olandiz Jacob de Haan. Is-solista Ruth Portelli akkumpanjata mill-banda kantat, kemm fis-siltiet *Sanctus* u wkoll *Benedictus*.

Ir-repertorju nkluda wkoll għadd ta' marċi funebri, fosthom *Cipresso*, *Eterno Riposo*, u *Il Pianto della Mamma*.

Minhabba li l-okkażjoni ħabtet f'jum il-festa ta' San Ġuzepp, il-Patrun tar-raħal, il-banda għalqet bl-innu Lil San Ġuzepp Patrun Glorjuż tal-Qala' ta' Mro Mark Gauci.

Għal din l-okkażjoni l-artista Valerie Cassar Meilak, pittret pintura li mbagħad giet ipprezentata lill-President tal-Għaqda Muzikali Victor Grech (*taht*).



A third of the food we grow is thrown away ...

What need we do about waste?

During the COVID pandemic years, and to some extent even now during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, one could experience the fragility of our global food supply chains, with several supermarkets and restaurants in almost every country having experienced food shortages.

Millions of people have experienced severe food insecurity during COVID-19. But research suggests that food shortages were prevalent long before the pandemic.

At the same time, one-third of all food produced each year is squandered or spoiled before it is consumed. It has also shown that high-income countries waste as much food as sub-Saharan Africa produces.

This food waste then ends up in landfills to rot – which releases greenhouse gases. Combined with the energy it takes to produce, manufacture, transport and store this food, it contributes a staggering three billion tonnes of carbon dioxide to our planet.

University of Bradford (UK) professors Kamran Mahroof and Sankar Sivarajah say that to put that in context, if food waste were a country, it would be the third-highest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, after the US and China.

But the good news is there are numerous techniques, technologies and policies that together could help reduce global food waste at every point in producing and consuming it.

Why is food wasted?

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation for the United Nations, FAO, lack of infrastructure, limited storage and food handling knowledge, and unfavourable climatic conditions can lead to much food spoilage and waste in low-income countries.

On the other hand, in high-income countries, aesthetic preferences and arbitrary sell-by dates mean food quickly becomes waste. Cosmetic blemishes produce that is too ripe, too big, too little, or even the wrong shape can lead to delicious fruits and vegetables going to waste.

As the global population continues to increase, it places real pressure on world food production. Indeed, the industry must grow by at least two-thirds by 2050 to ensure adequate nutrition for everyone worldwide. Food shortages will soon become a long-term reality unless prompt action is taken.

The professors point out that the key to tackling this issue is to have a resilient and resourceful “farm-to-fork” approach to help reduce food waste and ensure food security.



Here are some things needed to combat food waste:

AI drones and precision farming

Collaboration with food producers and investment in technological applications and overall infrastructure at the earlier stages of the food supply chain can drastically improve food waste and loss in low-income countries.

This is important because plant diseases and pests – along with poor harvesting techniques – can be a significant factor in the high levels of food waste at this point in the food supply chain.

Research also indicates that artificial intelligence (AI) powered drones can help farmers become more resourceful and reduce the overuse of pesticides in food production.

It is important because pesticides can adversely affect the food ecosystem. They pollute water, deplete soil fertility and contaminate turf, which can result in food loss and waste.

This approach enhances crop yield, reduces operational costs and improves livestock health. So it's also better for the environment.

Target shoppers' wallets

A big part of the food waste problem is changing how we shop and view food and our mindset around what constitutes waste.

But research shows the best way to tackle food waste among consumers is to highlight the potential money that can be saved and the “feel-good factor”, or moral value, of doing a good thing for the environment.

A study with households in London, UK and Ontario, Canada, found that a two-week money-based intervention – “reduce food waste, save money” – helped partic-

ipants throw away 30% less food.

Participants were given local information on food waste and costs, tips on improving food planning, efficiently purchasing, storing and preparing food and using leftovers to create new meal

Why is food wasted?

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation for the United Nations, lack of infrastructure and limited knowledge of storage.

Similarly, new technology can help commercial kitchens reduce food waste by directly connecting behaviour changes to increased profits.

For example, using the Winnow software system that calculated the costs of discarded food and correlating food waste to sales helped Ikea stores reduce food waste by 50% in 2020, saving 1.2 million meals.

A more creative approach to food waste comes via a circular food system, which prevents food waste from being discarded. It can, for example, be converted into renewable energy. Waste can even be transformed into more food for humans (like tofu from leftover soybeans) and animal feed.

Personal changes

While the problem of food waste can feel quite out of one's hands as a consumer, there are things one can do to help, like supporting businesses or restaurants that use waste foods in their products or meals—planning your meals around sell-by dates and not throwing out food if it's a bit wilted or bruised and only buying what you need – especially on special occasions where food can often go uneaten and to waste.

Ultimately, it won't be any single thing that solves food waste, but a collective approach can enable us to make the changes that need to happen.

Ktieb li jiġbor hajjet u hidmet l-istudjuż tal-Bibbja *Patri Donat Spiteri: Qaddej tal-Kelma ta' Alla*

Ftit tal-ġimghat ilu fl-Oratorju tal-Konkattidral ta' San Ġwann fil-belt Valletta, id-dipartiment tal-iskrittura, il-Lhudi u l-Grieg tal-Fakultà tat-Teologija fl-Università ta' Malta nieda l-ktieb dwar il-Professur Patri Donat Spiteri, l-istudjuż tal-Bibbja li tant kien magħruf u maħbub, l-aktar man-nies tal-Marsa u San Gwann, żewġ parroċċi li għal snin twal kien il-kappillan li kien imxxihom.

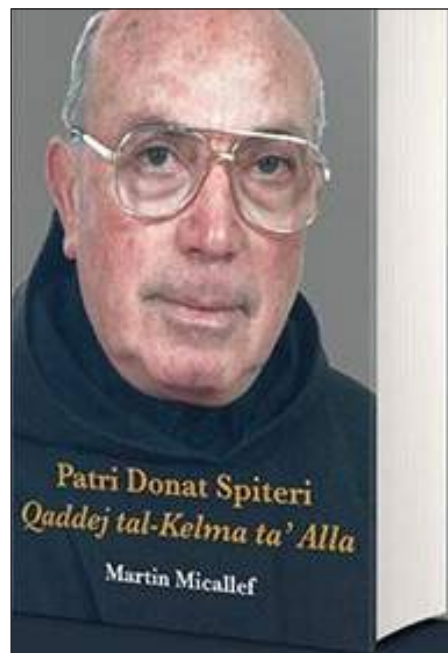
Tul it-tneġġja tal-ktieb, *Patri Donat Spiteri – Qaddej tal-Kelma ta' Alla*, li huwa kitba ta' Dr Martin Micallef, li saret taħt il-patroċinju tal-Arcisqof Charles J. Scicluna, letturi mid-Dipartiment tal-Iskrittura fil-Fakultà tat-Teologija, qraw xi siltiet bibliċi bil-Lhudi u bil-Grieg minn testi partikulari mill-Iskrittura u saru

diskorsi dwar il-Bibbja, u dwar l-istorja tal-Fakultà tat-Teologija f'Malta. Saret ukoll diskussjoni li niżlet ferm tajjeb ma' dawk preżenti.

Ġew imqassma wkoll kopji tal-ktieb. li wara kollox hu bijografija ta' Patri Donat li ġie mitbugħ fil-mitt sena tat-twelid minn Kite Group.

Min-naha tiegħu l-Arcisqof Scicluna tkellem dwar il-hidma pastorali li l-Professur Donat Spiteri wettaq tul hajtu, flimkien mat-tagħlim tal-skrittura fl-Università ta' Malta, kif ukoll il-legat li halla warajh lill-Knisja Maltija.

Il-pubblikazzjoni ta' 600 paġna tiġbor fiha l-hajja u x-xogħol f'kitbiet li halla warajh Patri Donat, u hija mżewġa b'għadd ta' ritratti li jixhdu waqtiet minn dak li għadda minnu tul hajtu.



History in the making: soon a century of bus service in Gozo

In just two years time it will be the centenary of the first buses entering service on Gozo. Unlike Malta where a number of official sources of documents have provided information, it appears that such sources are rarer when it comes to Gozo.

Many people in their 60s or older will recall that up until 1973, Malta's bus routes used to be different colours. The same was true of Gozo but their various liveries only survived until around the early 1950s (date still uncertain).

What is not officially recorded anywhere is what colour each of the village buses was. Here is what little is known -

- Up until around the early 1930s buses could be any colour they wished.

- By the mid-1930s the fixed route colours had been introduced.

- Buses garaged in Victoria-Rabat that were used on the services to Mgarr Harbour and north to Marsalforn were grey and white with a red band (the livery later adopted for all buses on the island).

- There were village buses allocated as follows - Għarb (1 bus), Nadur (2 buses), Qala (3 buses), Xaghra (1 bus), Xewkija (2 buses) and Zebbug (1 bus). It is these buses that carried the different colours. They were still current during WW2.

Because these different colours disappeared around 1950, we are looking for anyone who is now at least 80 years old (the older the better) who may be able to

answer the following simple questions -

(1) What village did you grow up in on Gozo? (2) What colour were the local buses serving your village? (3) What year were you born/how old are you? (So that we know roughly what period you recall).

Any information can be sent via e-mail to maltabusarchive@gmail.com

Whilst I appreciate most readers will not fit into the above category, I hope that you will maybe know someone who does (either still living on Gozo or maybe in your local community if overseas) who you maybe able to ask these questions on my behalf.

Richard Stedal, (Malta Bus Archive project, National Archives of Malta).

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

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

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

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

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

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

Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

Maltese of Bankstown

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

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

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

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

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

Outings every other month. Come & make new friends. For more information contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud JP Phone (mb 0421 662 298).

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

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

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

Men's Group

Meets every last Tuesday of the month at the MCC Centre at 59b Franklin Street Parramatta West (next to the Primary School), from 10 to 12 noon. Discussion, information and renew friendship. Pastizzi, Kinnie etc. available. Contact Fred on 9863 2550.

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

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 mls@mccnsw.org.au.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

447 Royal Parade Parkville, Victoria Australia

Pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-lingwa Maltija

MCCV Maltese Language Classes qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-lingwa Maltija, (**darba fil-gimgha, ONLINE filgħaxija**).

Applikanti għandhom ikollhom għarfien sewwa tal-Malti kemm miktub u mitkellm. Taħriġ għall-għalliem/a u riżorsi sabiex tkun tista' tgħalliem jiġu pprovduti. Dan huwa xogħol imħallas.

Ibgħat l-applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademici lil: edwidgeborgatt@gmail.com.
Għal aktar tagħrif ċempel: **0466 079 814**, ħalli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.



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La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

The Legends Showcase! Mark Andrew Tabone performing as Dean Martin, Buddy, Tom Jones, Austin Powers & Elvis

Presley. Saturday 20 May.
For tickets, either get them from lavalette.com.au or call 0405 233 144.

St Nicholas Festa Committee Dates for 2023

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/ or on TV Channel 38.

On Demand and podcasts on 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

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



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

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

NSW

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

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

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

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

QUEENSLAND

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

Sports starts here



Some of the supporters who attended the March 26 meeting at the Hamrun Centre at Marsden Park, NSW

The Eagles have landed again

After several years of wandering around and searching for a home, in 1981, Melita Eagles Football Club landed at Everleigh Park South Granville and gave birth to Melita Stadium. Forward to the year 2023, the club lost the lease of the Melita Stadium, and the search for a new home began once again.

Most of the old brigade is gone, but recently there has been an attempt for Melita Eagles to be given another life; for the phoenix to rise again.

There is a legacy not to be forgotten. Mark Tanti, the current President of Melita Eagles Sports Club Ltd, who his father raised as a staunch supporter of Melita Eagles, is determined to seek a new path.

With a few other dedicated supporters, they approached the La Valette Social Centre at Blacktown to take Melita Eagles under their wings, but negotiations failed.

However, the Hamrun Club at Marsden Park has confirmed it will accommodate Melita Eagles at its premises, where it also

has space for junior soccer fields, and kick-start this newly joined campaign.

At a Sunday, 26 March meeting, Joe Borg, the Hamrun Club President, explained how it would work and what the two sides could contribute.

The meeting agreed to ask Granville District to recover any EAGLES assets at Melita Stadium and transfer them to the Hamrun Club.

Mark Tanti has appealed to new members and others willing to be part of this exciting project to come forward and to support it.

*Marsden Park is a suburb of Sydney in the state of New South Wales, Australia. Marsden Park is located 49 kilometres



The Hamrun Centre at Marsden Park

(30 mi) northwest of the Sydney central business district, in the Blacktown local government area and is part of the Greater Western Sydney region. Marsden Park is to be seen as a prime example of urban sprawl within the outskirts of Sydney.

The suburb takes its name from Samuel Marsden (1764–1838), a Church of England priest and landowner in the area.

First ANZAC Sports Rowing Regatta April 25

On the afternoon of ANZAC Day, 25 March, the University of Malta Rowing Club Malta is to host the inaugural ANZAC Day U/18 Beach Sprints Regatta at Golden Bay, featuring the best 35 rowers selected from schools in the state of South Australia and others from New Zealand and Malta.

The event, part of the commemoration of ANZAC DAY, will serve as remembrance and awareness of WWI and Malta's contribution and connection with ANZAC's 58,000 wounded ANZACS that were treated, nursed and buried in Malta.

John Calleja, a resident of South Australia who is the campaign Director of the meeting, will lead the competing athletes during a 10-day stay in Malta – 17 to 26 April – that will also involve daily cultural activities.

The athletes would be involved in coastal water training (in the mornings) and social events for the participants throughout their stay. The afternoons are set for visits to unique sites on the island as part of history and education for the students, teachers and supporting staff.

They include visits to the Malta War Museum, the Tarxien Temples, the Archaeology Museum in Valletta, the Ta' Qali Crafts Visit and Aviation Museum.

Talks about Malta with particular attention to ANZAC, lectures on rowing in Malta and an introduction to the hydrodynamics of

coastal rowing are also planned.

On ANZAC Day in the morning, the visitors will also attend the Commemoration Ceremony at the Pieta Military Cemetery, a service dedicated to all those Australians and New Zealanders who lost their lives in action at Gallipoli in 1915.

The purpose of this important event is summarised by the Hon Blair Boyer MP – Minister for Education in South Australia: "I am pleased to learn we have schools participating in the ANZAC regatta and planning is well underway for making the event a reality. It will certainly be a wonderful experience for the students involved and be an opportunity to educate other young people in our schools about the role Malta played in supporting Australian service during WW1 & WWII. I commend Malta ANZAC organisation in aiming to develop student understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Australia – Malta relationship during those challenging times in the 20th Century".

Meanwhile, a special limited edition commemoration badge has been designed for the event, available for only A\$5 or €4, with part of the proceeds going towards the Malta Red Cross and future ANZAC sports.

The badge consists of an open butterfly wing representing the wounded ready-to-come home – red & white colours of nurse uniforms/Malta flag/Red Cross – Australian Coat of Arms.



The Malta team as it lined up against North Macedonia, while right: Malta's Guillaumer (red shirt) in a tussle with Italy's Cristante

Narrow defeats for Malta

In three days, Malta's national football team played two Group C Euro Qualifiers for Euro 2024, first away against North Macedonia and then against Italy in front of a crowd of around 17,000 at the National Stadium. Malta lost both matches. However, in narrow defeat, the Maltese acquitted themselves rather well.

In Skopje, Malta lost 1-2 and then, in front of a Maltese crowd, went down 2-0

against Italy. Although the Maltese played second fiddle in both matches, they gave an excellent account of themselves and were never humbled.

Against North Macedonia, Malta went down to two late second-half goals from Elmas and Churlinov, and pulled one back four minutes from the end through debutant Yankam. They had matched their opponents for almost an hour before succumbing to the goals.

Three days later, against Italy, Malta missed a golden opportunity

to take an early lead after five minutes through Satariano whose shot from inside the penalty area was saved by Donnarumma.

But then Malta conceded the two goals that could have been avoided inside the first 30 minutes.

The Italian opponents dominated to the end, but though the Maltese players created very few scoring chances, they gave it their all.

Coach Michele Marcolini made four changes to the Malta team against Italy.

Malta's next game is against England on June 16.

Freedom Day Regatta Victory goes to Senglea for first time in 11 years

Senglea won this year's Freedom Day Regatta rowed at the Grand Harbour with 34 points more than the second-placed and pre-event favourites Bormla. It was their first victory after eleven years.

Senglea mathematically sealed their victory to become champions a race from the end by finishing ahead of Birgu (Vittoriosa) and Cospicua.

Vittoriosa won the women's race. It was their sixth victory on the trot.

Eight districts (teams) took part in the Regatta.

FINAL STANDINGS: **Open Category:** 1. Senglea 74; Cospicua 40; Marsa 28; Vittoriosa 2; Kalkara 4. **Category B:** 1. Cospicua 50; Kalkara 48; Senglea 42; Birzebbuga 16; Vittoriosa 16

BELOW: the Senglea crew of the decisive race celebrating victory

Champions Hamrun far from letting up

Having won their ninth title four matches before the end of the campaign, Champions Hamrun Spartans did not let up when they faced Balzan on Day 23 on Saturday. Back in action after the international break, the Spartans found no difficulty in waving off the challenge with a 4-0 win.

With Gzira losing and Birkirkara leapfrogging over them with a 5-0 thrashing over Hibernians, Hamrun moved 18 points ahead of the next team.

Birkirkara also enhanced their hopes of getting a European competition place.

Top scorers with B'Kara were Valletta who thrashed Zebbug Rangers 5-1 to leave the losers struggling with three others for survival at the other end of the league ladder.

LATEST RESULTS Day 23	
Hamrun S v Balzan	4-0
Birkirkara v Hibernians	5-0
Mosta v Gzira U	2-1
Sirens v Gudja U	1-0
Valletta v Zebbug R	5-1
Floriana v Sta Lucia	2-0
Pieta v M'xlokk	2-1

