



# The Voice of the Maltese

*Winner of the 2023 special award by the Institute of Maltese Journalists for work among the Maltese communities overseas*

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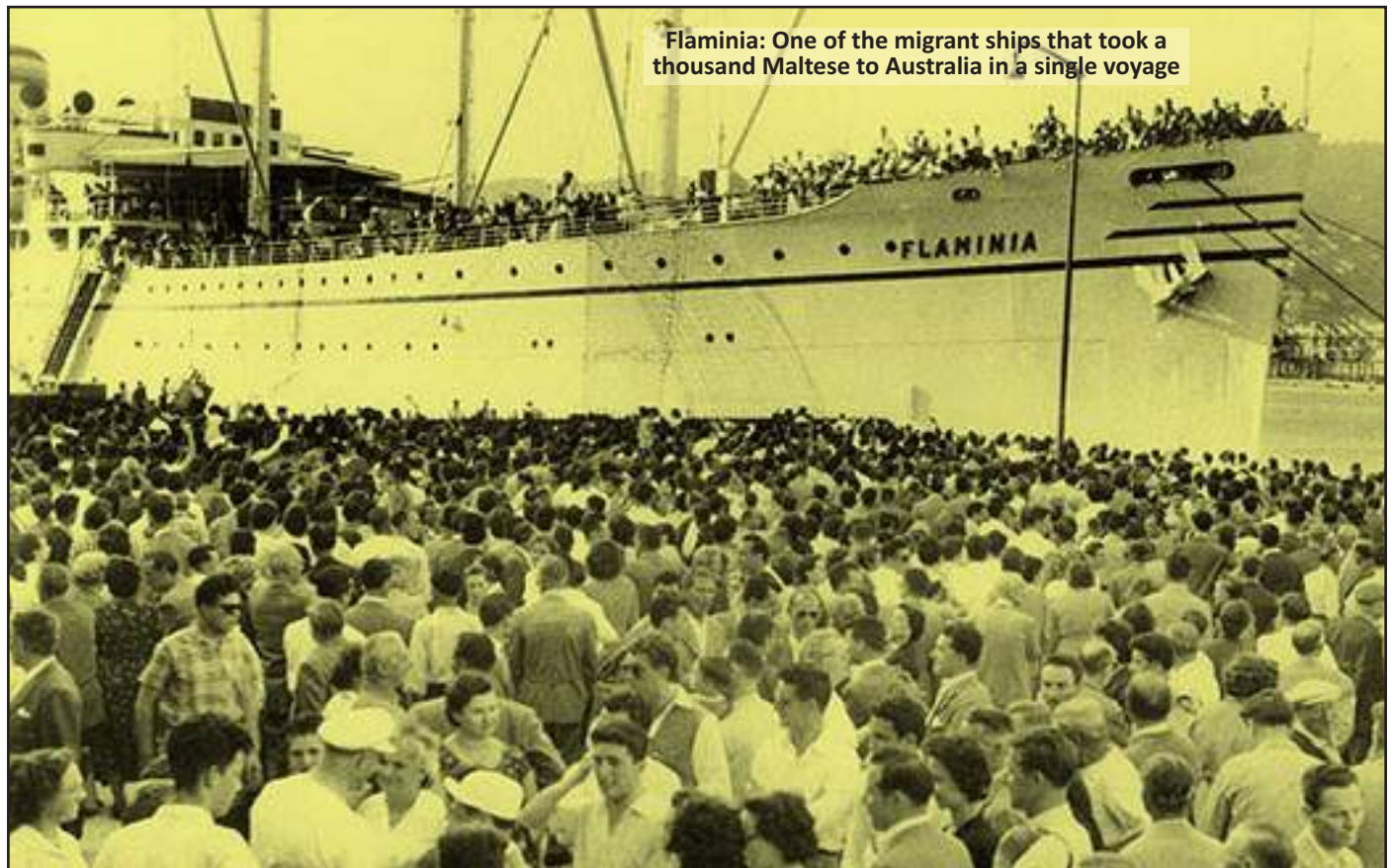
**A fortnightly print  
and digital magazine**

**Medieval street  
in the walled  
city of Mdina**



**VisitMalta**





by Barry York\*

75th anniversary of the assisted passage agreement between Malta and Australia

# *An extraordinary migratory movement*

**T**he Australia-Malta Assisted Passage Agreement was signed seventy-five years ago, on 31 May, 1948, by Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, representing the Australian Government, and Captain Henry Curmi, Malta's representative in Australia. The assistance scheme had received an in-principle agreement as early as 1944, but the Australian Government was reluctant to take it further without a guarantee from the United Kingdom of shipping for Maltese migrants.

The signing of the Agreement in May 1948 was made possible by the availabil-

ity of shipping due in part to the gradual post-war conversion of troopships.

The Agreement can also be seen as a major step in the long-standing struggle on the part of the Maltese and their friends to be classified as 'white British subjects' in Australian immigration policy rather than as 'semi-white' and subject to restrictive quotas as had been the case since 1920.

It's hard to believe now that in 1934 a senior immigration officer could state, in a memo to the Minister of Interior, that 'Although the Maltese are British subjects.... They are of an alien type so far as race is concerned'.

In the 30 years after World War Two, more than 140,000 Maltese emigrated to various places. Most - 58 per cent - went to Australia, 22 per cent to Britain, 13 per cent to Canada and seven per cent to the USA.

This was an extraordinary migratory movement, given that Malta's population over the same period was about 320,000

at its peak. The number of Malta-born people in Australia increased from 3,238 in 1947 to more than 55,000 in 1966. In other words, approximately one in every five Maltese in Malta migrated to Australia.

Australia needed labour for industrial expansion and Calwell expressed the Labor Government's policy with the slogan 'populate or perish'. The nation's capacity for defence, economic development and population growth were seen as interconnected and formed the basis of the Government's commitment to assisted mass immigration. Australia's population in 1947 was 7.6 million.

The Agreement allowed for permanent settlement of Maltese in Australia and this was defined as a minimum of two years. Under the Agreement, prospective emigrants could be nominated by friends or relatives in Australia for assisted passage, provided the nominator could guarantee accommodation for the nominee.

\*Continued on page 3

PLEASE WRITE PLAINLY.  
(Read instructions carefully.)

**M**

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

IMMIGRATION

**PERSONAL NOMINATION—ASSISTED PASSAGE AGREEMENT WITH MALTA.**

TO—

THE COMMISSIONER OF MALTA IN AUSTRALIA,  
105 QUEEN STREET,  
MELBOURNE, C.I.,  
VICTORIA.

Form: Malta 1



## Assurance of employment and accommodation

*\*Continued from page 2*

The Agreement also provided for group nominations to be made in Australia by government instrumentalities and other organisations. These included the Child Migration Scheme, the Commonwealth Nomination (Trades) Scheme and the Single Young Women Migrants' Scheme.

Most Maltese were assisted by personal rather than group nomination. No applicant for an assisted passage could be successful unless there was a reasonable assurance that he or she would obtain employment and accommodation in Australia.

Each applicant for emigration had to supply certificates of good character and, where applicable, evidence of trade qualifications. The next step in the procedure involved a medical examination by a Maltese government doctor and then approval by the Australian Government.

The Agreement was renewed every so often, and with amended titles was renegotiated in 1957, 1965 and 1970.

In Australia, there was a demand for labour, which was well-publicised in Malta. Wages were relatively high, and Australia was far from the war-torn devastation of Europe.



John J Cole

There were opportunities for the future and many of the migrants that I have interviewed over the decades mention that they migrated predominantly for the benefit

BELOW (From left): HE Mario Farrugia Borg, High Commissioner of Malta to Australia and New Zealand, Dr Mary Elizabeth Calwell, daughter of former Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell who signed the agreement, Maria Vamvakinou MP, Member for Calwell, Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Migration and Simon Froude, Director General of the National Archives of Australia at the historic occasion at the National Archives in Melbourne



of their children.

Until the 1970s, the migrants travelled mostly by ship and these 'migrant boats' ranged from converted warships and comfortable passenger liners through to notorious 'hell ships'.

The push factors in Malta were overwhelming. Malta was the most densely populated place in the British Empire, with more than 2000 people to the square mile and an increasing birth rate. The cost of living had risen eightfold over the pre-War level, but wages had only doubled. In 1949, 42,000 Maltese were registered for emigration.

### Malta's prospective emigrants and John J Cole

Much of the credit for the favourable circumstances for emigration after the War goes to John J. Cole who, as Malta's first Emigration Minister, lobbied for the interests of Malta's prospective emigrants with officials in London, Canada, the USA and Australia on a hectic trip between September and December 1948. In Australia, with his Director of Emigration, John Axisa, Cole met with Prime Minister Ben Chifley and Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell.

Mr. Cole is also noteworthy as the instigator of Malta's Prospective Emigrants' Organisation (MPEO), a body of great importance that requires much more scholarly attention in terms of Malta's emigration story.

'There was a great surge of people wanting to leave the island', he told me in interviews in 1984 and 1997, but Malta's colonial administration was bureaucratic

**A Group of young Maltese ladies lured to Australia under the assisted passage scheme seen here with Dr A. Cachia Zammit, Minister for Emigration(centre) and Commissioner for Malta Capt Stivala**

and undemocratic which meant that it was not responsive to people's needs and desires. Under the colonial administration, he said, 'we couldn't really get anything moving and the only way it could be done was to organise ourselves and pressure the government to move'.

The MPEO was a mass movement. After self-government, the MPEO's platform provided Malta's new Government with a policy approach.

The Malta-born population peaked in Australia in 1981 when the Census counted 57,001, mostly in Melbourne and Sydney. Maltese interest in emigration has declined significantly since the 1970s, and there was a return rate back to Malta during that decade. The need for assisted passages thus also declined, and the Agreement was not renewed.

*\*This is an abridged version of keynote address delivered by Dr Barry York at the 75th year anniversary since the assisted passage agreement for Maltese migrants was signed in May 1948. It was organized in the city of Melbourne by the National Archives of Australia (Victorian Centre) in conjunction with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria under the banner "From restrictive to assisted".*

### \*Who is Barry York?

He was born in London in 1951, the son of a Maltese airman and his English wife. His family migrated to Melbourne in 1954, and he grew up in Brunswick. He attended La Trobe University, where he was deeply involved in student politics. From 1981 to 1988 he was a postgraduate student at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales, where he gained a doctorate.

In 1989 he joined the staff of the Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies at The Australian National University, and he was a research fellow at the Centre from 1991 to 1996. He was a research fellow at the Victoria University of Technology in Melbourne in 1997-99. He was then employed as a historian with the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House until his retirement in 2016.





**Q.** My partner and I are planning on purchasing a home together. We have both been married before, and both have children from our first marriages. We need clarification about whether to buy this home as tenants-in-common or joint tenants. When one of us passes on in the future, we want the remaining partner to continue to live in the house and not have the children contest it. What is our best option?

**A.** . This is a widespread situation these days. As tenants-in-common, you could purchase the house 50%/50%. In your Wills, you should say that you wish the remaining partner to continue to live in this home until they need to vacate it either by moving into aged care or passing on.

You will then add that half of this house would pass on to your children. The same would apply to your partner. In this way, no one is being disadvantaged, which should not cause great concern. I strongly recommend you consult an Estate Planning specialist (such as a lawyer) to ensure your Will is constructed to meet your desired outcome.

**Q.** My mother lives in a retirement village. Her health has deteriorated, and she needs to move into an aged care facility. Somebody told us that her current unit in the retirement village could take up to six months to sell. What options do we have to fund my mother's accommodation fee at the facility?

**A.** When moving into aged care, one must pay a refundable accommodation deposit (RAD), a daily accommodation payment (DAP) or a combination of the RAD & DAP. Therefore, if your mother is planning to pay for her accommodation by

using the proceeds from the sale of her unit in the retirement village, she should inform the aged care facility that she will start paying off her accommodation by using the DAP.

Once the sale proceeds are received, she will pay the RAD in whole or in part, depending on the income from the sale. This will all be laid out in a contract and usually is made out to suit the new resident

**Q.** I am 72, a widower and selling my current home and moving to a much smaller place. Doing this will leave me with about \$700,000 in surplus funds. I have two children and plan to gift them \$150,000 each and invest the remaining \$400,000 in super and other assets. Will this entitle me to a part-age pension?

**A.** You can gift to your children any amount you wish to; however, for the next five years, \$290,000 of the \$300,000 you plan to give will still be treated as

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



your assets, and therefore, for this reason, your age pension entitlement is not going to change by much.

In five years, however, as you are only 72, the amount gifted will no longer be treated as your asset, and then you will benefit by getting a more significant age pension entitlement.

You can also contribute between \$300,000 and \$410,000 of your proceeds to super. As you are over Age Pension age, this will continue to be an asset for Centrelink Means Testing

**Q.** My wife and I had a self-managed super fund (SMSF). We are in the process of divorce and no longer wish to have our super funds together. My wife is rolling over her superannuation funds to retail superannuation. Can I maintain the current self-managed super fund or do I have to close it down?

**A.** . If your self-managed super fund has a Corporate Trustee (i.e., a company is the super fund's trustee), you can be your super fund's sole director and member. Suppose you and your wife were the Trustees and Members of this SMSF; in that case, you need to appoint another member as you cannot be a sole Trustee or if you do not wish to have another person/member in this super fund, change from Individual Trustees to a Corporate Trustee.

It would be best to see whether keeping an SMSF is worthwhile. It would help if you discussed this with the accountant that looks after this SMSF, who should be able to advise you accordingly.

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# EC acknowledges Malta's progress, and economy has returned to robust growth

In its 2023 Country Report about Malta, the European Commission said that it acknowledged the progress Malta has made in implementing the plan for its rapid recovery and resilience since the COVID-19 crisis and appears resilient overall. While maintaining its growth momentum in an uncertain environment, its economy has returned to robust economic growth.

It also identifies areas where more needs to be done, including more renewable energy consumption, road emissions reduction, and tax system reforms.

Analysing Malta's economic performance, the European Commission said that despite the uncertain climate overseas, its economic growth will continue this year and in 2024, albeit slower. This year's real GDP growth is forecast to moderate to 3.9% (from 6.9% in 2022), following a broader economic slowdown in Malta's main trading partners, and in 2024, growth is expected to climb slightly to 4.1%.

It notes that inflation in 2022 reached 6.1%, less than in most EU Member States, because energy prices are currently being kept at 2020 levels by government intervention and that the Maltese authorities have announced that they will continue to limit energy prices in 2023 and 2024.

Regarding Malta's employment, the EC said that the rate in the second half of 2021 surpassed pre-pandemic levels and improved in 2022. The labour market has remained robust, although women and people with disabilities still experience some difficulties in the labour market.

The EC report states that Malta has been experiencing shortages of skilled labour for several years and has a large share of low-skilled adults, while the social situation has remained broadly stable but needs monitoring for specific groups.

Turning to the government deficit, this is set to decrease but remains one of the highest in the EU.

The report states that with Malta highly dependent on energy imports, its economic growth risks being environmentally unsustainable, the report states. Malta has one of the lowest 2030 targets (11.5%) for renewables in energy consumption in the EU. However, the Government's commitment in

2022 to adopt offshore renewable-energy technologies is a significant policy shift.

According to the report, research and innovation offer significant potential to increase productivity and competitiveness. It also mentions that Court proceedings in

challenges related to climate, the digital transition, health, employment, education, skills, social policies, justice, taxation, the fight against corruption, and the fight against money laundering, and the implementation of Malta's recovery and resilience plan is well underway.

With 54% of the RRP's total allocation dedicated to climate and environmental objectives, Malta's plan includes several measures that support the green transition.

Although Malta does not import oil or gas from Russia, fossil fuels still play an outsized role in Malta's economy, making its energy mix highly dependent on energy imports. It has one of the EU's lowest shares of renewables in energy consumption.

There continues to be traffic congestion on the island, high emissions from road transport, and a high reliance on private cars. Private cars are used for 84% of all trips, and in 2022 Malta's licensed motor-vehicle stock reached 817 vehicles per 1 000 persons, with only a tiny

proportion of these being zero emissions.

In the long run, concerning health, the EC predicts that public spending in this sector and long-term care expects to increase.

Poverty indicators in Malta are below the EU average but remain high for specific disadvantaged groups.

According to the European Commission, the Government's intervention to keep energy prices stable must end by the end of this year to reduce its deficit, and it recommends that financial aid from European funds be used for projects to increase the digital and environmental goals.

Specific recommendations proposed for Malta by the European Commission for the next two years include reducing the country's dependence on polluting fuels by using more renewable energy.

The report states that Malta plans to carry out 30 reforms and 17 projects with a grant of €258 million from the recovery and resilience plan as agreed between the Maltese Government and the European Commission.

The proposed measures have started being carried out in these areas; in fact, the European Commission has paid the first instalment of just over €52 million and is continuing to pave the way to reach the other goals established in this same plan.



## *Malta adopted various support measures to cushion the impact of energy-price inflation on homes and businesses*

Malta are very lengthy. Administrative cases at first instance in Malta are estimated to take the longest time to be resolved of any country in the EU.

Although Malta performs well on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), environmental sustainability and inequalities remain.

Regarding energy-policy response, the EC said that Malta took significant measures to mitigate the impact of energy-price hikes and support households and businesses. Malta has adopted various support measures to cushion the impact of energy-price inflation on homes and businesses.

Other points dealt with in the EC report include Malta's gas supply. It said it has a high level of security for its gas supply, with a predictable medium-term contract for the delivery of liquefied natural gas, and it is aiming to build a gas interconnection pipeline with Italy.

As to Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan, RRP, Malta aims to address the key



# From piano, violin and flute player to Mayor of her town

*Our selection for this month's personality is a successful barrister and Mayor of Walkerville in South Australia, where The Voice has a solid base. Active in the Maltese community as a young girl, Melissa Jones Camilleri went on to build a brilliant career in law and the local community.*

## **Melissa Jones Camilleri**

In the local government elections in South Australia in late 2022, Melissa Jones (nee Camilleri), the daughter of Maltese migrant Edward Camilleri and Italian migrant Santina Camilleri (nee Soldano), was elected as the Mayor of Walkerville.

Melissa is the eldest of four children of Edward and Santina Camilleri. Edward Camilleri was born in Senglea, Malta, in 1950 to Victor and Mary Camilleri. In 1956 he emigrated to Adelaide with his parents, elder brother and two younger sisters.

Growing up in Adelaide, Melissa and her family were heavily involved in the Maltese community. Over the years, her father held executive positions in various organisations in Adelaide, such as the Maltese Guild of SA Inc, the Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group Inc, and different executive positions in the Maltese Queen of Victories Band of SA Inc. He also played percussion in the Maltese Queen of Victories Band.

Melissa learnt the violin, piano and flute and played as the first-ever flautist in the Maltese Queen of Victories Band. It was a family affair, with her brother Michael playing clarinet in the Band. Melissa played the flute in the Maltese Queen of Victories Band from 1987 to 1994 before retiring to concentrate on her year 12 studies.

She formed many fond memories and friendships during those years playing for the Maltese Queen of Victories Band. They included yearly trips to Melbourne to play with the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society for the Feast of St. Paul in February and receiving the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society to Adelaide each October for long weekends to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Queen of Victories.

Following completion of her secondary studies at Loreto College, Melissa was admitted to study a Bachelor of Commerce at The University of Adelaide and then was admitted entry to a Bachelor of Laws, also at The University of Adelaide.

Following five years of tertiary education, Melissa graduated with a B.Com, LLB (with Hons) and completed a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, followed by Admission as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia in 2002.

Melissa commenced legal practice in Adelaide, working in commercial and business transactions and advice, before moving to Sydney in 2004 to work for a top-tier law firm. At that time, Melissa also became admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

In 2007, Melissa married Llewellyn Jones, and soon after, they



moved to Hong Kong for work. There, Melissa worked as an in-house counsel for a multinational corporation responsible across the Asia Pacific region. Melissa's first two children were born while she and Llewellyn lived in Hong Kong.

In 2013, the family relocated to Adelaide, where Melissa's youngest two children were born. During this time, she continued working as a lawyer and was admitted to the High Court of Australia as a Solicitor.

In 2017, Melissa started advising OZ Minerals to construct the \$1 billion Carrapateena mine in South Australia delivered as a new operating mine in 2019.

In early 2020, Melissa opened her legal practice, Jones Legal Consultants and was elected to the Law Society of South Australia Council. She served for two years as a Council member and also became a member of the Women Lawyer's Committee of the Law Society of South Australia.

Melissa had always taken a keen interest in mentoring junior professionals, so she formally mentored young female lawyers and young women in the mining profession in 2022.

That same year community members approached her and enquired whether she would be interested in running for Mayor of Walkerville Council.

**PERSONALITY  
OF THE MONTH  
OF THE MONTH**

*\*Continued on page 7*



# Elected fifth female Mayor of Walkerville

*\*Continued from page 6*

Running for the position involved challenging the incumbent Mayor. After a two-month campaign, Melissa got elected Mayor of Walkerville Council with a vast majority of nearly 74% of the votes in her favour. That November, she was sworn in as the 22nd Mayor and the fifth female Mayor of Walkerville.

Melissa leads the Walkerville Council during an exciting period with several intergenerational capital projects to be funded and delivered over the next four years. They include the redevelopment of sports and community clubs.

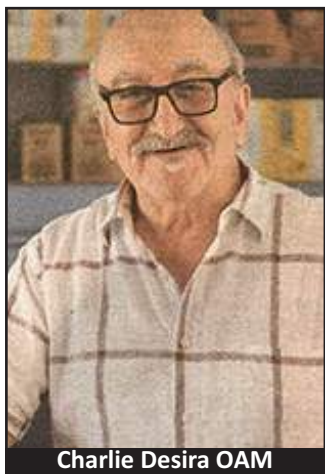
Melissa is passionate about the community and aims to use her platform to publicise the excellent volunteer work performed by community members and engage with local schools and community groups to facilitate better outcomes for all in the Town of Walkerville, along the River Torrens in Adelaide. Melissa has previously publicised the work of local community groups who weed and replant native vegetation along the banks of the Torrens to encourage native fauna to return.



In the short time Melissa has been Mayor, she has conferred citizenship on new citizens of Australia. At the Australia Day citizenship ceremony, she presented Awards at local schools. She spoke at the local Rotary Club and engaged with local members of parliament to promote outcomes for the benefit of the Town of Walkerville.

## Il-laqgħat tal-anzjani; Il-mutur tal-komunitá

**I**l-komunitá Maltija fl-Awstralja hija kumplessa hafna. Il-lokalitajiet fejn hemm ir-residenti Maltin jew dawk ta' dixxendenza Maltija huma mferxa ma' dan il-kontinent ta' kobar enormi. Tant



Charlie Desira OAM

hemm differenzi li ftit tista' tiparaguna, anke bejn komunitajiet kbar bħal Victoria u NSW.

Il-komunitajiet evolvev ukoll. L-emigrazzjoni minn Malta hija haġa tal-passat. Rari jkollna xi emigrant gdid. Għalhekk dhalna f'perjodu mhux biss diffiċli imma wkoll ta' sfida. Kif se nassistu lil dawk li ilhom hawn żmien twil, dawk li waslu qrib tmiem hajjithom? Dawk li illum għandhom iktar bżonn ta' daqqa t'id u għajjnuna ta' bastun.

Fil-komunitá Maltija gew innieda dawk il-gruppi essen-zjali li jiehdu hsieb u kura tal-



l-ikel lest biex jitqassam

anzjani Maltin. Dawn huma l-magħrufa active Maltese senior social welfare day groups li spuntaw f'kull stat. Dawn jiltaqgħu jew kull ġimgħa, kull xahar jew kultant. F'dan il-magazine nagħtu hafna tagħrif ta' fejn jiltaqgħu u jimirħu. Dawn Saru l-mutur tal-komunitá.

Fost dawn il-gruppi mill-aktar attivi hemm is-St Albans South Senior & Social Club immexxi mill-enerġetiku Charlie Desira li f'Jannar li għadda gie onorat bl-OAM għax-xogħol li jagħmel mal-grupp li kwazi kollha huma Maltin, u sintendi bħala fundatur tal-foodbank *Loaves and Fishes* proġett, li bih, kull ġimgħa jgħinu madwar 280 familja mal-parroċċa.

**XELLUG:** Il-grupp tal-komunitá ta' St Albans (Melbourne) kwazi kollha Maltin, jidhru qed jiddevertu f'waħda mill-attivitajiet tagħhom.



# Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# Nies li jmisshom jafu ahjar u li ma jaghtux kas il-Malti

Peter Mallia minn Smithfield jikteb:

**W**ara li fahhart lil *The Voice* għall-artikli bil-Malti li tippubblikaw, illum qed nerga' nikteb, imma din d-darba biex nuri d-dispjaċir tiegħi għal xi nies Maltin li jinsabu f'xi pożizzjoni li jmisshom jafu ahjar, imma li donnhom jaqgħu u jqumu mill-ilsien sabih tagħna l-Maltin.

Jien fost dawk li dejjem għożżejt il-lingwa Maltija, minn meta minhabba f'ċerti ċirkostanzi li llum kulhadd jaqbel li tappnu lill-pajjiż, inkella lil nies li ma wżawx il-poter li kellhom tajjeb, wasslu lili u lil oħrajn bħali li nħalli artna u nemigraw kontra qalbna.

Għalkemm urejt għaqal u ma nistax ngħid li ma mortx tajjeb fl-Awstralja,

## A knowledgeable man

Herbert Cachia from St Julians, Malta, writes:

**I**t saddened me to read in the last issue of *The Voice*, that Joe Spiteri passed away. He was the very first, I repeat, the very first Maltese person I met when I arrived in Australia in 1970.

I remember visiting him at home, and we spent hours chatting about the Maltese community in Sydney. It was a fact-finding mission for me, having arrived only days earlier, and he was very knowledgeable about the community.

It was through him that I learned about Lawrence Dimech and Lino Vella and others. We remained on good terms ever since and always acknowledged each other at functions, etc.

I hope it was a peaceful passing away.... May he rest in peace.

jibqa' jiddispjaċini għax l-affarijiet setghu kienu ferm ahjar. Imma ma qtajt qalb. Stinkajt u ħdimt u bqajt kburi bl-ilsien Malti, tant li anke jekk uliedi twieldu l-Awstralja, xorta għallimthom u kapaċi jikkellmu bil-Malti daqs kull Malti ieħor imwieled Malta.

Allura aktar hadtha bi kbira meta waqt li kont qed insewgi l-ahbarijiet minn Malta bil-Malti (*on demand*) fuq TVM, tfaċċat mara, lettura fl-Università qalet li hi, li tirricerka dwar il-pittura u meta giet intervistata dwar il-materja tagħha, biex tispjega dwar il-pittura inkwestjoni kcellmet biss bl-Ingliż.

Nifhem li fl-Università, minbarra Maltin jista' wkoll ikollha studenti barranin u titkellem magħhom bl-Ingliż. Imma hawn kienet qed tidher fuq stazzjon televiż nazzjonali waqt l-ahbarijiet bil-Malti. Allura mnejn safejn ma titkellimx bil-Malti?

Hawnhekk għibt quddiem għajnejja dak li kien qal il-President ta' Malta George Vella u nies oħrajn li jhobbu l-ilsien Malti li jekk ma nibzghux għal ilsien se nitilfu. Imma li fost dawk li jistghu jwasslu għal dan ikun hemm letturi fl-Università ma nistax inniżżilha.

Mhemmx min f'Malta, l-aktar dawk li tassew iħobbu l-ilsien Malti li joqogħdu għassa għal dan, u anke li jwiddbu lil dawk li donnu ma jimpurtahomx!

## The George Cross medal

John Dalli from Bass Hill NSW writes:

**I** have always tried to seek an answer to the following question. In April 1942, King George VI awarded all the people of Malta with the George Cross medal. So, are we entitled to wear the medal on Anzac Day or other such occasions?

The award was awarded for bravery during World War I, was it not? It was awarded to you and me, and all of us, even if we did not serve in the army. It would look nice on my chest. I would like to hear your views.

## King Charles for Malta?

John Cassar from Penrith NSW writes:

**K**ing Charles's coronation was spectacular. The Brits are the very best at organising such events. Here in Australia, we are still very loyal to the royal family. We must be impressed by the huge money they spend to organise such spectacles. Will King Charles 111 (Re Karlu Tlieta) and his Queen Camilla visit Malta soon and stay at Gwardamanga again?



## Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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2/679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164



# National Monument adds names to Australia's migration story

The National Monument to Migration has added 879 newly-inscribed names, unveiled over two celebratory ceremonies at Pyrmont Bay, Darling Harbour, hosted by the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Attended by hundreds of family, friends and community members, the ceremonies featured host, SBS journalist Virginia Langeberg, and guest speakers - including Anyier Yuol, a South Sudanese refugee who grew up in Kenya, and was winner of the 2023 SBS Les Murray Award for Refugee Recognition, and guest speakers from Malaysia, Poland, Lebanon and Greece.

The latest honourees join more than 32,000 names from over 140 countries already inscribed on the Monument, with more names added each year. This year's unveiling includes 192 new inscriptions honouring people from the Greek island of Kythera.

The Museum's Acting Deputy Director, Michael Baldwin said 'The National Monument to Migration is a living record and testament to our shared national heritage. The lived experiences behind each name inscribed on the Monument come from all over the world, but their stories are unified by the striving for hope for a better life.'

'The Monument is really a celebration of all who have come to build a life here, whose journeys to these shores have helped to shape our nation. Their families, hopes and aspirations have contributed to the making of the success story that is multicultural Australia.'

'We are grateful to our supporters and donors, especially for the Migration Heritage Fund, which allows us to continue to preserve and celebrate our rich national migration heritage.'

The Australian National Maritime Museum is home to the National

Monument to Migration and its parallel digital hub, Faces of Migration, which shares the migration stories behind some of the people whose names have been inscribed on the Wall, adding new stories each year, as the Monument continues to grow.

Donors can also contribute a brief story about the person being honoured by the inscription, details of which are published on the museum website.

The museum is now accepting names for the next panel on the Monument, open until June 30, 2023.

For further information go to [www.sea.museum/support/national-monument](http://www.sea.museum/support/national-monument).

## About the National Monument to Migration

The National Monument to Migration (also known as the Welcome Wall) at the Australian National Maritime Museum commemorates those who have migrated from countries around the world to make Australia their new home. The name of any person who was born overseas and settled in Australia may be registered on the Monument. Registration opens during limited periods each year and a donation applies for each inscription.

The Monument is situated on the northern promenade of the museum, facing Pyrmont Bay which is historically a place where many migrants first arrived in Sydney.

The first names were unveiled on the Welcome Wall on January 24 1999, by the Governor General Sir William Deane AC KBE KStJ KC. On March 21 2021, Governor General, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC elevated the status of the Welcome Wall to become Australia's National Monument to Migration.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
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# Gozitan-Australian lifts \$A3 million supercar up his Melbourne penthouse

**M**ulti-millionaire businessman Adrian Portelli, 34, an Australian of Gozitan descent, made news in Melbourne recently when he successfully hoisted his \$A3 million McLaren Senna GTR he bought last October, to his exotic \$A39 million 57th-storey penthouse, the most expensive penthouse in the Sapphire by the Gardens tower in Melbourne's CBD that he has just bought.

Hundreds of people were shocked when they saw the supercar dangling more than 200 meters above their heads.

The car enthusiast and property investor who runs LMCT+ Group, known as 'Mr Lambo' after his appearance on Channel Nine's reality TV show *The Block*, said that the car is a racecar. It cannot be registered on the street. It was just sitting in a factory, so he thought he might as well give it the title it deserved. He said he only bought the penthouse on the condition that he gets his beloved supercar inside.

Portelli himself watched it go up with a massive smile on his face. "It went up very quickly. It was on the floor one minute, then straight up there," he said. He shared the photos on the Internet.

To get the car up there, they needed to deconstruct the side of the building and take out several windows. Once it got to the top floor, a crew was positioned on a spe-



Adrian Portelli atop his penthouse with his treasured supercar.  
BELOW: the McLaren Senna GTR being hoisted to the 57th floor

cially-constructed platform, ready to grab and place it inside.

Despite the crazy logistics, the mission went off without a hitch, and the Senna now has a \$A39 million, 13,000-square-foot penthouse home.

The supercar is one of just 75 examples. It's powered by a 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8, producing 813 horsepower and generating 2,200 pounds of downforce.

In the meantime, according to media reports and Court documents, Portelli is facing accusations of hooning at Diggers Rest just before Christmas of 2020, with police hitting



Adrian Portelli

him with a charge each of careless driving, failing to have proper control of a vehicle and driving in a manner causing a vehicle to lose traction.

In his last appearance, the court heard that Portelli was placed on bail; despite the charges, each being classed as 'summary offences', considered less serious.

The circumstances around how police put their case against Portelli and what kind of vehicle he was driving at the time of the alleged offences will remain unknown until his next court appearance in July.







## Roundup of News About Malta



# Malta's Health Minister Appointed President of World Health Assembly

**H**ealth Minister Chris Fearne has been appointed President of the World Health Assembly, WBA. He will assume the role for one year while continuing his work in the Maltese government as Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister.

The WHA is the World Health Organisation (WHO) governing body bringing together member states worldwide to discuss global health policies and priorities. He is joining the One Health Global Leaders Group board, an international body that advises international health organisations such as the World Health Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and the UB Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Fearne's appointment as the President of the 46th edition of the WHA is a significant recognition of his expertise and leadership in healthcare. Despite taking on this international role, Fearne will continue to fulfil his duties within the government, ensuring the continuity of his work in improving the health and well-being of the Maltese population.

The role of the President of the WHA carries a one-year term. It involves overseeing the annual assembly where WHO delegates discuss and determine the priorities and policies for the organisation's work in the upcoming year. This assembly serves as the policy-making body of the WHO, responsible for crucial decisions such as the appointment of the Director-General, financial policies, and budget approval.

### **Fearne's contributions, reforms in healthcare**

Fearne's appointment reflects his capabilities and highlights his positive relationship with the European Regional Committee, particularly with Dr Hans Kluge, during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic. Malta's effective pandemic management was commended by Kluge,



Dr Chris Fearne at the WHO meeting

who often regarded it as a model for other countries to follow.

Apart from his international recognition, Fearne has been instrumental in driving progressive reforms within Malta's healthcare system. He has played a vital role in making in-vitro fertilisation more accessible to women by introducing reforms that allow for embryo freezing and pre-implantation genetic testing.

He is also leading the efforts to reform Malta's anti-abortion law, proposing amendments permitting abortions in cases where a woman's life or health is at risk.

In a statement, the Health Ministry said the group, comprised of 26 prime ministers, ministers and health professionals, would focus efforts on how countries can protect their population from antimicrobial resistance, which, left unchecked, could lead to the spread of diseases resistant to existing treatment.

Speaking of the

appointment, Minister Fearne said he felt honoured that Malta will have a voice within such a prestigious group that seeks to address the health challenges of the world's population while also influencing global healthcare politics.

He thanked the international scientific community for the trust placed in him.



Chris Fearne (left) with the Director General of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

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## Roundup of News About Malta



President George Vella tells UN ...

# Millions of civilians continue to be impaired by a multitude of crises

**D**uring his visit to the United States and Canada (May 18 to 29th), the President of Malta, George Vella, held a meeting in New York (right) with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, who highly commended Malta on the work it is conducting at the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member. He referred in particular to how the Maltese Presidency of the Security Council, during February, managed to address very sensitive dossiers with great success.

President Vella also delivered a speech during an open debate at the UN on the protection of civilians in armed conflict organised by the Swiss Presidency of the United Nations Security Council, in which he pointed out that the lives of millions of civilians worldwide continue to be "impaired by a multitude of crises", including conflict-induced hunger, targeted violence, displacement, and climate change. "From the Central African Republic to Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Ethiopia, the correlation between conflict and hunger is evident", said the President.

Regarding the ongoing crises and complex humanitarian emergencies in various parts of the globe, President Vella stated that the UN Security Council must safeguard the protection of civilians and sustain humanitarian access and support.

"Arbitrary, discriminatory, and bureaucratic impediments that hinder the rapid delivery of aid that is vital are unacceptable, as without timely humanitarian access, there can be no meaningful humanitarian response", the President stated while welcoming the recent adoption of Resolution 2664, which provides for a humanitarian exemption for all UN sanctions regimes. He also reiterated Malta's position that "civilians are not and should never be a target. Humanitarian workers, helpers, and volunteers who aid them are not targets. Objects and services indispensable to the survival of civilian populations are not targets. These distinctions are clear. Never can it be said that we did not know," he said.

President Vella urged an increase in funding for humanitarian responses. One must avoid seeing arms and ammunition continuously arriving in conflict zones. In contrast, civilians in these zones are threatened by hunger, if not death, because humanitarian con-



voys cannot reach them.

He said that the world relies on the work and leadership of this Council to protect the most vulnerable from harm, suffering, or worse," concluded the President.

Following the open debate, President Vella, who was accompanied by the Minister for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality Byron Camilleri and the delegation, held separate bilateral meetings with several personalities and Heads of states. He also visited Ground Zero in New York and laid a wreath at the 9/11 Memorial in remembrance of the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001 and the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, and paid a visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

Aside of these meetings, the President and his delegation visited members of the Maltese community in the US and Canada at their respective clubs

# PM Robert Abela lambasts Russia for unilaterally breaking promises



**P**rime Minister Robert Abela attended, and addressed the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Reykjavik (Iceland). He said that 74 years after the most devastating war on its continent, Europe is facing a brutal war initiated by a former member state of the 'common European home'.

He said that it is a promise broken unilaterally by Russia through its illegal, unjustified, and unprovoked acts of aggression against Ukraine, whose people have been under direct attack and at the receiving end of the most serious crimes under international law.

Therefore it was not only fitting but necessary that the Summit united for Ukraine seeks solutions for what he described "this horrific

crisis, "reunited around our shared values which forged this Organisation, and recommit to the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international cooperation".

He said there could be no peace without justice and no justice without accountability; that is why they needed to continue supporting Ukraine for as long as it takes to ensure that all those responsible are held accountable and the Victims' rights to truth, justice and reparations are realised.

Prime Minister Abela said that concurrently with this major crisis, the European continent is faced with other situations for which they needed to unite and summon their political will to address them.

*\*Continued of page 13*





## Roundup of News About Malta



# Med9 energy ministers to establish Mediterranean Green Energy Hub



Minister Miriam Dalli (right) with European Commissioner Kadri Simson

## PM Robert Abela at 4th Summit of Heads of State of Council of Europe

*\*From page 12*

These were, Climate change - for which they must scale up their efforts to prevent and minimise its ravages; migration - for which they must strengthen their fight against migrant trafficking and smuggling and increase their support to frontline states as well as countries of origin and transit, and the democratic backsliding - for which they must uphold the timely 'Reykjavik Principles for Democracy'.

He said that another worrying challenge for which they must double their efforts to counter its harmful rhetoric was the rise of the anti-gender movement, prioritising gender equality in all their work and all levels.

The Maltese Prime Minister said that the Council of Europe has been pivotal in setting solid standards in the field of human rights, in particular through the system developed around its first-ever Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights.

"As a beating heart is central to sustaining life, so is the Convention system to the Council's protection of human rights," he said.

He maintained that they needed to continuously invest in it and provide it with the tangible and collective support necessary to ensure its long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

He pointed out that human rights, democracy, and the rule of law are the core values that brought them together. Therefore he requested the participants to ensure they continued to respect, promote, and protect them while never losing sight of what's on the other side of 'never again'.

In a historic agreement, at their first-ever meeting in Malta, the energy ministers of the nine EU states in the Mediterranean region Med9, committed to making the Mediterranean region a green energy hub that can lead the EU's drive for a decarbonised, energy-independent Europe.

Minister Dalli the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise, presided the meeting with the participation of the European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson and ministerial delegations from the other eight Mediterranean countries; Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. In the end, they signed the Malta Statement, a joint declaration launching the vision for the Mediterranean Region as a Hub of Green Energy to accelerate the EU's drive for a decarbonised, energy-independent future.

They agreed that the Mediterranean could become a centre of renewable energy investments, focusing on offshore renewables and new energy interconnections

between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries to facilitate European investment in green energy.

The Malta Statement affirms that the nine countries will work to ensure that every member state can benefit from the Mediterranean region's green energy potential.

Minister Miriam Dalli said this marks their first step to join forces and to work harder as Med9 countries, together with the Mediterranean partners.

European Commissioner Kadri Simson said the discussions took place on the first anniversary of the REPowerEU plan that the Commission launched to accelerate the deployment of renewables and to increase investment in energy efficiency while diversifying our energy supplies and suppliers.

She said that the Commission remained ready to assist where needed to help the Mediterranean region become a green energy hub. Europe for increased sustainability and security in the coming years.

## Commercial agreements Malta-Ghana

At a bilateral meeting in Malta between the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ian Borg and the Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry of Ghana, Michael Okyere Baafi, they outlined the fact that several Maltese and Ghanaian companies have reached commercial agreements between them and continued to strengthen the already excellent relationship, in terms of trade, between them.

The meeting followed another held in Accra, Ghana, as part of the Business Forum, with the participation of more than 50 Maltese and Gozitan business people.

Among the discussions was an agreement of more than €10 million between two

companies in chemistry and materials in the construction industry.

Minister Ian Borg stressed that their meeting is testimony to the will between the two governments for more potential collaboration. He claimed that the intention for more business between Malta and Ghana is alive and the government needs to continue supporting Maltese and Gozitan businesses to roam and expand their operations overseas.

From his end, Minister Michael Okyere Baafi said that his visit to Malta was a clear sign of the strong relationship between the two countries. He said that even though a lot has already been achieved, he believed that this partnership could further excel.

### CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCKINNON

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Labor







# 20% tal-istudenti fl-iskejjel Maltin tal-istat, barranin

**F**l-artikli tiegħi kemm il-darba semmejt l-ghadd dejjem jikber ta' studenti barranin fl-iskejjel Maltin. Dan l-ahhar fi twegiba għall-mistoqsija parlamentari sar magħruf li 20% tal-istudenti – jiġifieri wiehed minn kull hames studenti – tal-iskejjel primarji tal-Istat (Skejjel Pubbliċi) huwa ta' barranin.

Mill-figuri li harġu minn twegibijiet għal mistoqsijiet dwar barranin f'kull lokal, jidher li għalkemm wiehed isib barranin jgħixu f'kull lokal ta' Malta u Ghawdex, hemm ċerti lokalitajiet li għandhom konċentrazzjoni tagħhom.

Skont dawn il-figuri l-akbar konċentrazzjoni tinsab f'sitt lokalitajiet, jiġifieri f'Tas-Sliema, il-Gżira, San Ġiljan, il-Qawra u San Pawl il-Baħar.

Infatti f'dawn il-lokalitajiet l-ghadd ta' studenti barranin jożboq (huma aktar) minn dawk Maltin.

Hekk f'Tas-Sliema biss insibu 66.5% li huma studenti barranin. F'tal-Gżira jlaħhqu l-65.8%, fil-Qawra 65.3%, f'San Ġiljan 62.2%, f'San Pawl il-Baħar 59.9% u fl-Im-sida 53.3%. Dan juri li l-maġġoranza tal-barranin qed jgħixu f'Tas-Sliema u l-inhaw ta' madwarha u mbagħad lejn San Pawl il-Baħar.

Insibu wkoll konċentrazzjoni f'Wied-il Ghajn (46.2%) li minn raħal żgħir b'popolazzjoni żgħira, li kienet tikber sew fis-sajf minhabba dawk li kellhom ir-residenza tas-sajf f'dan il-lokal, issa kiber sewwa

## Programm qed johloq polemika

**B**halissa fuq TVM qed jidher il-programm *Love Island Malta*, ibbażat fuq l-istazzjon ITV tal-Ingilterra u wkoll fuq stazzjonijiet ohra, fosthom dawk Taljani.

Fil-programm, ġemgħa ta' żgħażaġħ diversi jiddiskutu b'mod profund ir-relazzjonijiet li qed jinbtu bejniethom.

Għalkemm il-programm jidher li se jkun popolari – b'160,000 persuna jaraw l-ewwel episodju – mhux kulhadd aċċettah, tant qamet polemika qawwija dwaru fl-istampa kif ukoll fil-midja soċjali.

Sfortunatament, kien hemm min waqa' personali b'kummenti xejn sbieħ dwar il-partecipanti, tant li l-organizzaturi appellaw halli wiehed ikun hanin fil-kummenti tiegħu dwar il-partecipanti.

Jidher li l-appell sar għax fir-Renju Unit il-persjoni permezz ta' kummenti offensivi fuq il-partecipanti wasslu għal suwiċidju ta' tlieta minnhom.

Kummenti li ngħataw lill-gazzetta *'illum'* minn erba' persunaġġi magħrufa fil-qasam



L-iskola primarja l-ġdida tal-Qawra f'San Pawl il-Baħar

b'popolazzjoni kbira matul is-sena kollha. Lokalitajiet ohra li jispikkaw huma Birżeb-buġa (28.3%) u l-Hamrun 26.6%.

Min-naħa l-ohra lokalitajiet bħal Mtarfa (1.1%), i l-Bahrija (1.9%) u Had-Dingli (2%) għandhom l-inqas għadd ta' studenti barranin.

F'Ghawdex iż-Żebbuġ huwa bl-akbar perċentwal, bl-istudenti barranin fl-iskola ta' dan ir-raħal jilhaq il-45% tal-istudenti. Biss x'aktarx li fil-fatt, hafna minn dawn l-istudenti ma joqogħdux iż-Żebbuġ, imma f'Marsalforn.

tax-Xandir varjaw. Min sostna li dan kien *"trash Trash TV"* u għalkemm jista' jattira udjenza kbira mhux programm ta' kwalità għolja, u allura ma kellux jixxandar.

Min sostna li kien programm "sensazzjonali u mhux postu fuq stazzjon Nazzjonali imma fuq xi TV kummerċjali.

Ohrain sostnew li bosta Maltin isegwu *Love Island* ta' pajjiżi ohra, u l-istazzjon Nazzjonali għandu jirrifletti x-xewqat ta' sezzjoni sinifikanti tal-udjenza Maltija. Għalhekk jaqbel li TVM juri programmi li jinteressaw lill-massa.

Kien hemm min stqarr li ladarba qed jixxandar dan il-programm, inutli li johorġu l-ġenituri u l-hbieb tal-partecipanti jaqbzu għalihom. Intefa' t-tort fuq il-kummenti dispregġjattivi fuq min aċċetta li jixxandar il-programm, u li issa la dan qed jixxandar, irid joqogħod għall-kritika.

Biss, fil-fehma tiegħi hemm differenza milli tagħmel kritika u għal li taqa' fuq kummenti, kultant goffi, personali.

B'danakollu, dawn jingħaddu maż-Żebbuġ, billi din il-bajja tagħmel ma' dan ir-raħal. Allura l-istudenti jattendu f'din l-iskola.

Bqajt impressjonat meta kont nitkellem ma edukaturi dwar dawn l-istudenti li qaluli li fl-iskejjel f'Tas-Sliema u l-iskejjel qrib kien hemm studenti ġejjin min aktar minn 70 pajjiż differenti.

## Il-Maltin u l-ghatx kbir għas-safar

**F**il-waqt li fil-midja ta' sikwit jidher lmenti dwar kemm gholiet il-hajja, li hija realtà li hadd ma jista' jichadha, jidher, li dan ma jaqtax l-ghatx għas-safar fost il-Maltin.

Dan jidher mill-fatt, li malli l-epidemija tal-Covid-19 bdiet titbiegħed, is-safar tal-Maltin spara 'l-fuq.

Fil-fatt, bejn Jannar u Marzu ta' din is-sena, dawk li siefru barra minn Malta ammonta għal iktar minn 158,000 persuna, jiġifieri żjeda ta' 70,000 meta mqabbel mal-istess perġodu tas-sena l-ohra.

Minn dawn, 43,000 siefru biex iżuru lil qrabathom jew hbieb tagħhom, filwaqt li aktar minn 90,000 għamlu dan fuq btala.

B'total ta' aktar minn 56,000 persuna, l-Italja kien l-iktar pajjiż li siefru fih minn Malta. Wara iktar pajjiżi ir-Renju Unit, Spanja, Franza u l-Germanja.

B'kollox, dawk kollha li siefru fl-ewwel kwart ta' din is-sena nefqu iktar minn €130 miljun, li jfisser li kull individwu nefaq medja ta' €832.4.

# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## 80,000 metru kwadru ta' art biex tidgawda mill-komunità

**F**'Jannar li għadda 'l fuq minn 60 kunsill lokali u għaqdiet volontarji kienu preżenti meta permezz tal-Ministru għall-Ambjent Miriam Dalli l-Gvern vara l-*Project Green*, skema li dakinhar kienet tfisser investiment ta' €10 miljun *Community Greening Grant* biex jinghata bidu għall-implimentazzjoni ta' proġetti ambjentali innovattivi f'ħafna lokalitajiet bil-kunsilli jiġu mitluba jagħtu l-proposti tagħhom fuq il-linji gwida.

Issa thabbar li l-komunitajiet se jgawdu minn spazji miftuħa ħodor b'sittax-il proġett f'lokalitajiet madwar Malta u Għawdex, li se jagħtu nifs ġdid lill-komunità, li jfisser li 110,000 persuna se jkollhom dawn l-ispazji f'it minuti bogħod mid-dar, fejn jistudjaw jew jaħdmu.

Waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet li fiha thabbru għadd ta' proġetti kif proposti minn kunsilli lokali u entitajiet mhux governat-

tivi, li se jkunu qed isiru u jitlestew minn *Project Green* sal-2025 b'investiment ta' €10 miljun, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela spjega li l-Gvern qed jinvesti fi tmenin elf metru kwadru ta' art biex jidgawdex b'ħafna spazji miftuħa ġodda, jew spazji f'kundizzjoni aħjar milli huma llum.

Huwa tenna li fost dawn il-proġetti hemm artijiet li setgħu nbnew, għanna mitluqa, spazji bejn bini residenzjali, u artijiet barra mill-konfini tal-iżvilupp mitluqa. Dawn kollha se jinbidlu f'postijiet fejn it-tfal jistgħu jiġru u jilagħbu, il-ħaddiema jistrieħu fi tmiem il-ġimgħa u l-familji jiltaqgħu.

L-għażla dwar f'liema proġett il-Gvern għandu jinvesti permezz tal-*Community*



Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela jħabbar il-proġetti 'l ġodda

*Greening Grant*, għamlitha l-komunità nnifisha. Il-proġetti li jinfirxu min-nofsinar tal-pajjiż sa Għawdex, huma lkoll proposti diretti ta' kunsilli lokali u għaqdiet mhux governattivi, rappreżentanti eletti jew volontiera li jaħdmu ta' kuljum fost il-komunitajiet.

Il-Prim Ministru sostna li dawn huma proġetti tan-nies, għan-nies, li wkoll jirriflettu l-qalb soċjali ta' gvern li se jibqa' jiehu d-deċizzjonijiet biex il-pajjiż jimxi 'l quddiem, għax huwa biss pajjiż li jkun miexi 'l quddiem li jkun jista' jinvesti f'dawn it-tip ta' proġetti li hu rrefera għalihom b'ħafna biss il-bidu.

Il-Ministru għall-Ambjent, l-Energija u l-Intrapriża Miriam Dalli spjegat li dan l-investiment se jagħti lill-komunitajiet 16-il spazju - l-ikbar skema li qatt saret f'Malta, għal proġetti ambjentali s'issa miftuħ għad-dgawdija tar-residenti.

Il-Ministru Dalli ikkonkludiet li permezz ta' *Project Green* biss, mill-bidu ta' din is-sena s'issa, infethu u ġew rigenerati aktar minn 32,000 metru kwadru.



Jesmond Schembri

## Se jsir Djaknu ġdid

**T**istaqsuni: b'daqshekk? Xhemm ġdid, daqs kemm isiru djakni? L-ewwelnet dawn l-aħhar snin ma tantx qed ikollna djakni... x'aktarx li meta saret l-aħhar ordinazzjoni qabel, f'April 2022, kulma ġew ordnati kienu biss ħames djakni.

Imma did-darba għandna każ partikulari, billi dak li se jiġi ordnat djaknu huwa raġel miżżewweġ, missier żewġ subien u nannu ta' tnejn. Jismu Jesmond Schembri u se jkun ordnat djaknu ġdid fil-parroċċa Griega-Kattolika f'Malta.

L-ordinazzjoni djakonali tas-suddjaknu se ssir bil-barka tal-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna u bit-tqeghid tal-idejn ta' Mons. Manuel Nin OSB, Eżarka Appostoliku tal-Greċja u Isqof Titulari ta' Carcacia.

Il-Knisja Griega-Kattolika tagħmel parti mill-Knisja Kattolika li hija magħmula minn 23 Knisja differenti, li iżda lkoll huma f'komunjoni ma' xulxin u mal-Papa ta' Ruma.

Dawn il-knejjes għandhom tradizzjonijiet u riti differenti. Filwaqt li l-maġġoranza l-kbira tal-Kattoliċi jgħaddu r-Rit Latin tal-Knisja Kattolika Rumana, riti oħra jinkludu dak Biżantin, li hu r-rit tal-komunità Griega-Kattolika ta' Malta.

Ta' min jgħid li l-Papas (Kapillan) ta' din il-parroċċa hu wkoll Malti: ir- Rev Profs Martin Zammit.

Il-komunità Griega-Kattolika taf il-bidu tagħha f'Malta meta kontingent Grieg wasal f'din il-gżira minn Rodi fl-1530 flimkien mal-kavallieri ta' San Ġwann.

Mal-bini tal-belt il-ġdida Valletta din il-komunità kellha żewġ postijiet ta' qima: il-knisja parroċjali ddedikata lil San Nikola u s-Santwarju Marjan li jilqa' żewġ ikoni antiki li waslu Malta mal-kavallieri u li nbena minn Ganni Kalamia minn Rodi.

Maż-żmien, il-komunità Griega-Kattolika kkoncentrat il-kult tagħha f'dan is-Santwarju Marjan, kif għadha tagħmel sal-lum.



### Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



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

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

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

—

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





A quick glimpse at Australia

# Nazi rallies and symbols condemned

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has declared the "time for tolerance" of right-wing extremism is over after another public neo-Nazi demonstration in Melbourne but has stopped short of calling for a federal ban on Nazi symbols in public.

Members of neo-Nazi group the National Socialist Network (NSN) performed the Sieg Heil during an anti-immigration rally in Melbourne recently, before a violent confrontation with police and counter-protesters.

Similar scenes two months earlier, when the group also performed Nazi salutes at



an anti-trans rally outside Victorian Parliament, prompted the state government to consider outlawing the salute.

Mr Albanese did not reveal whether Labor was considering a federal ban but insisted there was "no place in Australia" for far-right ideology. "[It is] an evil doctrine that resulted in the mass murder of people on the basis of their religion, on the basis of who they were, on the basis of their sexual preference," he said.

"The time for tolerance of those matters has long gone. People should have a look at the consequences of that hatred, and it is an ideology of hate"

The demonstration has also sparked calls for the NSN to be officially designated as a terrorist organisation. Just three of the 29 groups officially listed as terrorist organi-



**The anti-immigration rally in Melbourne that was turned into a violent confrontation with the police and counter-protesters**

sations in Australia were far-right, though experts have warned far-right groups tend to have more fluid structures, making them harder to proscribe.

Mr Albanese said Australia's intelligence agencies would "have every support" from the government if it recommended additional groups be listed.

Coalition leader Peter Dutton described the scenes in Melbourne as "deeply concerning", warning social media was rapidly accelerating the process of radicalisation. "It's galling. They're scumbags, they're sick individuals," he told ABC radio.

"Of all causes to take up, how on earth anybody in their right mind could take up a Nazi cause, or wave that flag, or salute in a way that that a monster taught them to salute, is beyond me."

## Journalist Stan Grant subjected to grotesque racist abuse; quits

Respected Wiradjuri journalist Stan Grant has announced his departure from ABC's flagship programme Q+A in response to the racism he has suffered after the broadcaster's coronation coverage.

In a heartfelt column published by the ABC, Grant (*pictured above*) said people in the media lied and distorted what he said during the coverage.

As a panellist on ABC's hour-long program titled: 'The Coronation: A discussion about the Monarchy in 2023', Grant said the crown represents invasion, dispossession, the removal of children and massacres. "It [the coronation] holds weight for First Nations people, because that Crown put a weight on us, and we are still dealing with that," he said during the panel.

Grant says the media has since depicted him as "hate filled". They have accused me of maligning Australia," he wrote. "Nothing could be further from the truth. My ancestors would not allow me to be filled with hate. 'I speak truth with love, I offer Yindymarra'."

ABC Director of News Justin Steward issued a statement responding to Grant stepping away, in which he admits Grant had been subject to "grotesque racist abuse".

"This has become particularly virulent since he appeared as part of the ABC's Coronation coverage," he wrote. Stan is one of Australia's best and most respected journalists and broadcasters. "The ABC stands by him and condemns the attacks directed towards him."

Stevens said any threats made to Stan Grant will be referred to the police.

"Any complaints, criticism – or vitriol – regarding the coverage should be directed to me, not to him," Stevens said. Stan Grant announced a temporary leave of absence with no set return date. He leaves the chair not yet a year into the position, having been appointed in July of 2022.

Hundreds walked out of the ABC's inner-Sydney headquarters in solidarity with Wiradjuri journalist Stan Grant Jr also from Melbourne, Canberra and other locations in support.



## New logo for Bishop Darwin's diocese

The Maltese bishop Charles Gauci has unveiled a new logo for the Darwin Diocese, which represents the Holy Spirit and the Northern Territory.

Developed after wide consultation, the new logo is a significant departure from the previous practice of using the coat of arms of the bishop of the time as the Diocesan logo.

*\*Continued on 17*



A quick glimpse at Australia

## Use of force in aged care homes

**T**wo incidents of force being used on elderly women with dementia have been in the spotlight. Why is force being used on patients in aged care homes?

Two separate incidents took place in aged care homes in NSW and resulted elderly women with dementia have raised questions about the actions of police and the use of force. So why is force being used against patients in aged care facilities, are there rules around it, and is it ever warranted?

When it comes to aged care facilities, the

federal government's Aged Care Quality Standards require aged care service providers to have systems in place to provide protections and safeguards around delivery of care and services.

Facilities are required to respond effectively to incidents of abuse, to report any relevant incidents, and to raise awareness in the organisation to lower the risk of elder abuse.

The government's Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) is designed to be used after incidents and near misses (situations that did not result in harm, but

could have) and aims to support those affected and reduce the risk of recurrence.

According to SIRS, unreasonable use of force is physical contact that ranges from use of unwarranted physical force to a deliberate and violent physical attack, and includes behaviour such as shoving, pushing, hitting, punching, kicking or rough handling.

The government also funds Dementia Training Australia to deliver the Dementia Training Program, and the revised Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) will include mandatory components on supporting people with dementia.

## Mental health gets donation Land, assets grab by the ACT

**B**usinessman James Packer is donating \$7 million of his fortune towards Australian research into mental health. The billionaire businessman's mental health challenges have been extensively documented, revealing in 2020 he had bipolar disorder.

"It is no secret that I have struggled with mental health problems in the past," Mr Packer said in a statement.

"I am a passionate advocate of finding ways to improve mental health outcomes and I am hopeful that my contribution towards this research will generate positive outcomes in this field and in so doing significantly improve the lives of people battling mental health issues both in Australia and around the world."

The \$7 million will support mental health research at the University of NSW in Sydney and establish the James Packer Chair in Mood Disorders. The professorial chair will lead a new unit at the university and the Mindgardens Neuroscience Network, that will conduct mental health research with a particular focus on

### Darwin Diocese's new logo

*\*Continued from page 16*

"Up until now, there has not been a diocesan logo," Bishop Gauci said. "That to me is not sufficient. The diocese needs to have its own logo irrespective of who is bishop at the time."

The new logo features a dove that represents the Holy Spirit, with the right wing of the dove in the shape of the Northern Territory. The red ochre, which is widely used by NT's First Nations people and is also incorporated in the NT flag, is also a prominent feature. The dots forming the Cross represent the dot painting that is widely used by First Nations people. The opening in the dove represents being open to the flow of the Holy Spirit, and the curved blue line represents the water of Baptism and the Arafura Sea.

"We are a Church with a mission. A Church for the World. A Church called to embrace all with the fire of love, and we want our logo to embody this," Bishop Gauci said.

The rationale of the logo explained by Bishop Charles can be viewed on the Diocese's website. The new logo features a dove that represents the Holy Spirit, with the right wing of the dove in the shape of the Northern Territory (Darwin Diocese).

mood disorders such as bipolar.

Mental health is a pressing global challenge, and this gift will help to make real progress in this critical area of research.

**S**ydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has criticised the planned takeover of Canberra's Calvary Public Hospital, accusing the ACT Government of an "extreme land-and-assets grab" in an attempt to implement an "anti-life agenda".

The comments by Archbishop came a week after the Labor ACT Government introduced legislation to enable Canberra Health Services to take over the ownership and management of Calvary's Bruce campus in early July.

In a call to arms, Archbishop Fisher said Calvary Health Care had been operating hospitals and aged care facilities for decades, providing "quality health care to Canberrans regardless of their religious belief".

"It's no secret that the ACT Government want to force Calvary Hospital to provide abortions now, and euthanasia and assisted

suicide in the future," he wrote.

"Taking the land, buildings and hospital equipment and transferring staff employment across to Canberra Health Services allows them to push their anti-life agenda right through the hospital." It comes as a bill for voluntary assisted dying laws is expected to be introduced to parliament later this year.

"It's also not just an issue for the ACT. If the ACT Government is successful in this radical action, it could serve as a blueprint for other governments as well," he said.

ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has previously conceded that relationship's with the Catholic provider have been difficult at times but said the acquisition was about ensuring the government was delivering efficient outcomes in a system plagued by problems.



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# Imfakkra l-irvellijiet tas-7 ta' Ġunju 1919

**K**ull sena Maltin, inkluż il-komunitajiet li jgħixu barra, ewlenin fosthom dawk fl-Awstralja, kif ukoll fil-Kanada u l-Istati Uniti, religjożament ifakkru l-jum tas-7 ta' Ġunju li hu aktar magħruf bit-Taljan, bhala s-*Sette Giugno*, u l-ġrajiet li sehew fl-1919 li wasslu għal irvellijiet u protesti mill-Maltin fil-belt Valletta kontra l-gvern kolonjali. Il-protesti wasslu biex fi tmiemhom erba' Maltin sfaw vittmi, maqtula wara li ntlaqtu mill-balal tal-azzarini tas-suldati Ingliżi.

L-gholi tal-hajja kienet wahda mir-raġunijiet ewlenin tal-irvellijiet. Il-Gvern Ingliż naqas li jforni lill-poplu bi prezzijiet adegwati biex jixtru likel bażiku kien qed jifni lill-biċċa 'l kbira tal-Maltin. Imma kien hemm negozjanti, fosthom dawk li kienu jimpurtaw il-qamh, u li jissupplixxu d-dqiq, li kienu qed imorru tajjeb hafna. Ghax approfittaw ruhhom u

ghollew il-prezzijiet. Dawn ukoll kienu l-mira tal-protresti.

Raġuni oħra għall-irvellijiet kienu politiċi. Wara li fit-23 ta' Novembru 1918 il-politiku Filippo Sciberras sejjah laqgħa tal-mexxejja Maltin sabiex ifasslu kostituzzjoni ġdida, l-Assemblea Nazzjonali ltaqgħet għall-ewwel darba fiċ-Circolo Giovine Malta fil-25 ta' Frar 1919. Fiha giet approvata riżoluzzjoni titlob li Malta kellha tikseb l-istess jeddijiet bħal pajjiżi oħra skont il-konferenza tal-paċi ta' Versailles, li fi ftit kliem kienet tfsir indipendenza mill-imperu Britanniku. Sar qbil ukoll li t-tieni laqgħa tal-Assemblea kella ssir fis-7 ta' Ġunju.

Xi jiem qabel dik il-laqgħa s-Segretarju tal-Istat għall-kolonji kien informa lir-rappreżentant Malti Dr. Filippo Sciberras li l-gvernatur il-ġdid għall-gżejjer, Lord Plumer kellu jistharreġ is-sitwazzjoni f'Malta u jagħmel rapport lill-Gvern Ingliż dwar il-possibiltà li l-Maltin jin-

ghataw aktar responsabbiltà fit-tmexxija tal-pajjiż.

Fazzjoni fl-Assemblea mmexxija minn Enrico Mizzi ma ridetx tafda lill-Gvern Ingliż.

Din kienet qasma li ntweriet biċ-ċar ukoll fost il-folol, bi studenti tal-Università li jappoġġaw il-kamp estrem li fis-16 ta'

**Erba' vittmi: Manwel Attard, Ġużeppi Bajada. Wenzu Dyer, u Karmenu Abela**

Mejju jororganizzaw protesta.

Min-naha tal-pulizija, kif ukoll il-haddiema tal-posta wkoll heddew li kellhom jistrajkwaw.

Fis-7 ta' Ġunju l-Assemblea Nazzjonali kellha tiltaqa' għat-tieni darba. Minhabba li kienu qed jistennew l-inkwiet, il-pulizija talbu l-ghajnuna tas-suldati biex jimorru f'Kastilja. Fl-inkjesta dwar irvellijiet jidher li l-pulizija ma għarfx l-gravità tas-sitwazzjoni.

Dakinhar folla instigata minn xi artikli li deheru f'xi gazzetti, dahlet il-Belt biex tipprotesta dwar il-qagħda tal-gzejjer u turi l-appoġġ tagħha lejn l-Assemblea. F'xi hin, il-folla rrajjata nqasmet fi gruppi iżgħar u bdiet tattakka simboli tal-ħakma Ingliża: il-bandiera Ingliża, negozjanti tal-qamh, fosthom tal-importatur Anthony Cassar Torreggiani, hwienet u l-istamperija tad-Daily Malta Chronicle.

L-Ingliżi sparaw tiri fuq il-folla u ferew għall-mewt tliet irġiel Maltin. L-ewwel vittma kien Manwel Attard. L-oħrajn kienu Ġużeppi Bajada u Wenzu Dyer. Wiehed mill-feruti ddahhal fis-sala fejn kienet qed tiltaqa' l-Assemblea Nazzjonali. Karmenu Abela, li kien ferut fl-irvellijiet tal-Hadd 8 ta' Ġunju, miet fis-16 ta' Ġunju. Il-funeral tal-vittmi l-oħra, Ġużeppi Bajada, Manwel Attard u Wenzu Dyer sar fid-9 ta' Ġunju. Hamsin ruh oħra kienu sfaw feruti.

Il-funeral sar b'korteo mill-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann saċ-Ċimiterju tal-Addolorata, fejn ġew midfuna. Tul il-funeral, organizzat bhala turija ta' għaqda nazzjonali kontra l-Gvern Ingliż, spikkat il-bandiera nazzjonali bajda u hamra. Il-gazzetta Malta Tagħna sellmet lill-vittmi bhala eroj Maltin.

Meta Lord Plumer, il-Gvernatur il-ġdid wasal Malta fl-10 ta' Ġunju, arresta lil min kien qala' l-inkwiet; iċċensura l-gazzetti; issussidja l-prezz tal-hobż; beda jiddiskuti mal-mexxejja Maltin dwar kostituzzjoni ġdida; beda xogħlijiet pubbliċi biex inaqqas il-qgħad, u ordna nkjesta uffċjali sabiex ikunu magħrufa l-kawżi u l-konsegwenzi tal-irvellijiet.

B'riżultat tal-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno sentejn wara, fl-1921, Malta nġatat għall-ewwel darba Gvern Responsabbli f'oqsma tat-tmexxija lokali. Fit-30 ta' April 1921, giet immedija l-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner Constitution, filwaqt li l-ewwel elezzjoni skont il-kostituzzjoni l-ġdida saret f'Ottubru 1921.

Il-monumenti li jfakkru l-irvellijiet tas-7 ta' Ġunju, li jinsab f'Misrah il-Palazz fil-Belt (*stampa fuq*). Gie inawgurat fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1986, filwaqt li l-Parlament Malti iddikjara l-jum wiehed mill-hamsa nazzjonali ta' Malta fil-21 ta' Marzu 1989; l-ewwel darba li l-jum tat-tifkira beda jiġi makkar kien fis-7 ta' Ġunju tal-istess sena.



## Maltese Community Council of NSW

*Sette  
Giugno*

## Commemoration Ceremony

2.00pm, Saturday 3 June 2023

The Holroyd Centre

11-17 Miller Str., Merrylands

This is a commemoration of significant historical Maltese events in 1919, including a speech about this historic story, and musical segments from the Maltese Concert Band

Anyone of Maltese descent or  
with an interest in Malta  
and its history is invited to attend







Mument waqt it-tifkira ta' Ganninu fil-Knisja Katidrali

## Imfakkar Ganninu Cremona

**I**l-hajja u l-hidma ta' Ganninu Cremona (1926-2018) poeta, kittieb u filantropu, ġew imfakkra f'attivitajiet organizzati mill-Parroċċa tal-Katidral li tagħha kien membru attiv. Tul hajtu Ganninu ippubblika tliet kotba tal-poezija u kiteb bosta xoghlijiet għall-palk li tteggħu fl-Oratorju Don Bosco, fit-Teatru Aurora u fl-Azzjoni Kattolika.

Fil-Banca Giuratale fir-Rabat Għawdex ittellgħet wirja ta' ritratti u kitbiet ta' Ganninu, filwaqt li fil-Katidral saret serata li fiha ngraw poeziji u tkantaw innijiet li hargu mill-pinna ta' Cremona. Ganninu Cremona serva wkoll bhala President tas-Socjeta' Filarmonika Leone u għal għadd ta' snin kien viċi-president Djoċesan tal-Azzjoni Kattolika.



Jesmond Borg, president tas-Socjeta' Filatelika (xellug) jipprezenta ktieb lil Vincent Zammit.

## Santa Ċecilia: kunċert

**I**l-Fondazzjoni Santa Ċecilia itellgħet kunċert fis-sala tal-lukanda Kempinski f'San Lawrence, bis-sehem ta' *string quartet* u mużiċisti lokali oħrajn fosthom Milica Lawrence fuq il-pjanu, taht id-direzzjoni artistika ta' Antoine Mercieca.

Hadu sehem is-sopran Alison Gatt u t-tenur Georg Zammit b'siltiet mill-ġeneru tal-musicals, fosthom mużika tal-kompożituri Lloyd Weber, Schongerg, Justin Paul, Menken, Elton John, u Mercieca nnifsu.

Kien kunċert li niżel tajjeb mal-udjenza li mliet is-sala. Il-lejla giet ippreżentata minn Lelio Spiteri.

Fit-tmiem ingħata ħajr partikularment lid-Direttorat għall-Wirt Kulturali fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex, li sponzorja l-attività.



## Grajjiet Għawdex fuq kartolina

**F**il-mużew/centru kulturali *Il-Ħaġar*, is-Socjeta' Filatelika t'Għawdex organizzat taħdita minn Vincent Zammit *'Grajjiet Għawdex fuq kartolina'* li fiha ta' hjiel dwar l-aspetti storiċi u soċjali li jistgħu jinkisbu mill-kartolini filatelici.

Għall-okkażjoni tnieda ktieb impressjonanti u dettaljat bil-kulur miġbur minn Mark-Anthony Poulton li juri l-kartolini u enveloppijiet prodotti mill-Gozo Philatelic Society sa mill-1999 biex jifakkru okkażjonijiet, u l-bolol b'konnessi ma' Għawdex, dejjem xogħol id-disinjatur residenti Anthony Grech.

L-okkażjoni nkludiet l-inawgurazzjoni temporanja ta' wirja b'għażla tagħhom, u preżentazzjoni.

## 25 sena sagristan fis-Sannat

**F**'għeluq il-25 sena ta' Pietru Borg bhala sagristan tal-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Santa Margerita ta' Sannat, l-Arċipriet tal-Parroċċa, Dun Michael Curmi, mexxa konċelebrazzjoni solenni, li għaliha kienu preżenti familjari u għadd kbir ta' Sannatin.

F'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni l-arċipriet fahhar hidmet Pietru u qal li dan dejjem ghamlu b'imhabba kbira, devota u disinteressata.

Lejn tmiem iċ-ċelebrazzjoni, l-arċipriet Curmi ppreżenta lil Pietru kwadru bix-xbiha ta' Santa Margerita (*fug*). Wara saret laqgħa soċjali għal daww preżenti.



M. Antoine Mercieca flimkien ma' uħud mill-partecipanti





## Vivid Sydney 2023 lights up its greatest festival yet

**T**his year's Sydney Vivid Festival, which has officially taken over Sydney's skyline for its 13th exhibition on 26 May, and runs for 23 days, until 17 June, is promising to be the most significant and most culturally relevant programme ever.

Vivid made a triumphant return in 2022 from two consecutive cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 2.58 million attendees across the festival, a 7.5 per cent increase in 2019. The opening night began with a dazzling display that lit up 8.5 kilometres of the harbour. It promises to offer more musical acts, culinary delights and evocative ideas.

Vivid Sydney is about pushing boundaries and transporting festival-goers to a playground of the unexpected. It is a creative festival that showcases the city's soul in collaboration with the

most brilliant and boundary-pushing artists, thinkers and musicians of our time. This year it has more than 300 attractions and 50 light installations across the Sydney CBD.

Australia's largest event and the Asia-Pacific pioneer of light-based art and culture festivals promises to deliver fresh and engaging content, bringing joy, wonder, discovery, hope and excitement to all who absorb it.

Staged across Sydney's city centre, Vivid Sydney festival locations include Circular Quay, the Sydney Opera House, The Rocks, Walsh Bay, Barangaroo, King Street Wharf, Darling Harbour, Darling Quarter, Darling Square, The Goods Line, Central Station, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Wynyard Tunnels, Carriageworks, Taronga Zoo and more.

## Ludvic Galea gets MCA recognition award

**M**altese entertainer Ludvic Galea has been honoured by the Maltese Cultural Association, MCA, for the joy he has brought to the Maltese community in Australia whenever he was invited to perform for them. An award was presented to him in Malta by Mr Tony Pace Feraud, the Secretary of the MCA, and his wife, Mary.

In a message to *The Voice of the Maltese*, Ludvic expressed his thanks and said he was highly honoured to receive this recognition "from those who have contributed so much support and encouragement to the Maltese Community in Australia".

He explained that it was way back in 2010 that he met Mr Charles Mifsud, the President of the Maltese Cultural Association, for the first time. That was the beginning of their friendship. At the time, he couldn't accept the MCA's invitation to come to Australia. However, he kept in touch, and when the appropriate time arrived, he discussed with Charles the possibility of accepting the MCA's invitation to perform in

NSW in 2018. The rest is history.

He described the MCA a stellar team and the organisation "sublim". He said he was always treated as a professional but most of all as a friend.

He said that when it comes to entertainment, people are always looking for something exciting to experience; hence one needs to be smart and think ahead about what the audience wants. That's another thing the MCA is good at, Ludvic said.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the president of the MCA in NSW Charles Mifsud, and his team for all the work they do within the community in NSW, the Consul-General for Malta in



NSW, Mr Lawrence Buhagiar for positively endorsing these significant initiatives and the Ministry of Education, Mr Giovanni Attard EO Drama, and the Cultural Leave Section for their impact in supporting the arts.

**ABOVE: Mr Tony Feraud (right) and his wife Mary presenting Ludvic Galea with the award on behalf of the MCA**

# Malta Launches inaugural Mediterranean Film Festival

International film producers, studio officials, producers, directors, as well as representatives from the Mediterranean Film Commission, the British Film Commission and Hollywood Studios pertaining to the MED9 countries, will be meeting next month in Malta to discuss the impor-

tance of Mediterranean collaboration in the film industry.

The Malta Film Commission is launching the Mediterranean-focused film festival building on its growing position as a key international shooting location. It will be one of several initiatives so the industry will keep growing and attract more films to Malta.

The event, run from 25 to 30 June in the Maltese capital Valletta and other locations across the country showcases creative and artistic talent in the region. It is aimed at strengthening Malta's position in the global film market and attracting more film projects.

The commission said the event would take its

cue from Malta's location in the Mediterranean Sea and aim to foster creative collaboration between the so-called Club Med or MED9 nation, consisting of Malta, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

Film Commissioner Johann Grech said that the size of our country never deterred Malta from dreaming big. Other events taking place in Malta in the next few months, include the launch of the *Sure Start* initiative that would provide education and training in films, and the first children's film summer camp to be known as 'It's Time for Movies'.

During it, kids between 10 – 11 would be able to participate, watch and learn about the art of films.

Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo said: "It is in this spirit of togetherness that we look forward to building a bright future for the Maltese film industry, hand in hand with our Mediterranean partners."

## Entrusted with building school in Gambia

Ana Caruana, a regular traveller to Gambia on missionary work, particularly with children, has been entrusted with a project in Gambia to build a school for children in the village of Yoro Jula.

The aim of this project, to be known as Education 2023, is for the structure to have three classes that can take 90 students who can receive an education at this school at no charge.

As electricity is costly, Caruana said that a borehole operated through solar panels to provide water to the builders is to be set up in the area of the projected school.



Russell Crowe as a musician and singer

## Gladiator star Russell Crowe returns in a different role

Oscar winning actor Russell Crowe, a frequent visitor to Malta since starring in the 2000 epic historical drama film *Gladiator* will be visiting the island again next month, to take part in an Indoor Garden Party on 17 June at Misrah San Gorg in Valletta in a different role, that of a member of his band, *The Gentlemen Barbers*.

Special guests in the Indoor Party will include, Janet Devlin, and Lorraine O'Reilly, and locals Ivan Grech, Ira Losco and the recipient of Malta's Got Talent's Golden Buzzer Bettina Farrugia.

The Indoor Garden Party, the brainchild of Russell Crowe and Alan Doyle, a gathering of singers, musicians and songwriters who play occasional gigs throughout the US, will form part of the lead-up to the Mediterranean Film Festival organised by Malta Globe Music, which is expected to showcase the diverse stories and talents from nine Mediterranean countries (see main report above).

Crowe fell in love with Malta after *Gladiator* that won five Academy Awards at the 73rd Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Crowe.

The success of that film has led to the producers deciding to film the sequel, *Gladiator 2*. Filming will begin in Malta this June until September, with director Ridley Scott returning to direct the sequel to his 2000 Oscar best picture winning *Gladiator* with the Irish Oscar nominees Paul Mescal and Barry Keoghan and the likes of Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal, Ridley Scott, Connie Nielsen, and Joseph Quinn.

Thousands of local extras are expected to be called up for the sequel, with filming expected to take place at Fort Ricasoli, where the zone is being turned into a setting that includes a Roman-era Colosseum.





## Special certificate for years of contribution to the elderly

During the annual Older Australian Recognition Awards ceremony held at the Smithfield RSL CLUB for this year, the Hon Chris Bowen MP the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy and member for McMahon presented a special certificate to Jessie Gatt of Greystanes NSW (right) for her contribution for many years to the elderly of the electorate.

Her group meets every Wednesday at the George Preca Hall, OLQP Church Greystanes.



## Maltese happy travellers from NSW to Perth

Picture below shows a group of happy Maltese travellers who travelled 3935 kilometres by coach from Sydney in NSW all the way to Perth in Western Australia.

The excursion, which proved to be a great success was organised by Malta Travel with tour leader Monica Ledger.

In short, it was 11 glorious days touring around the beautiful city of Perth.



## 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 the Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 18 Vine Street, Fairfield from 10 am to 12 noon. Group Leader Dorothy Gatt Mb: 0422 757 829.

### Maltese of Bankstown

Group meets third Wednesday of the

month from 10 am at the Mt Lewis Bowling Club 14A Waterloo Rd Greenacre. Every other Wednesday, an outing is organised. For enquiries, call Sam Galea on 0410 269 519. This Group is sponsored by the Bankstown Resource Centre.

### 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: Connie De Gabriele.

### The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets every First Wednesday of the month, from 10:00am to 12 noon at the Miranda Community Centre, 93 Karimbla Rd cnr. Kiaora Rd. Miranda.

The meetings are interesting and informative. We have guest speakers. Sometimes we also show films. Monthly

outings as well, travelling in modern, safe & comfortable minibuses. Membership is Free. Everyone is welcome for more info. Please contact Charles N. Mifsud, coordinator, on 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 10.30 am to 12.30pm noon. Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Frances Montesin.

### Men's Group

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 supported by The Maltese Community Council of NSW with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Contact the MCC Welfare*

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

# 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](mailto:mls@mccnsw.org.au).



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

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**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 akkademiċi lil: [edwidgeborgatt@gmail.com](mailto:edwidgeborgatt@gmail.com). Għal aktar tagħrif ċempel: **0466 079 814**, ħalli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.



## La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

*Come see A Sound Check with Elvis!  
The Ghost of Elvis backed by live band  
The Sound of Graceland at La Valette  
Social Centre on Saturday 17 June at  
11.30 UTC+02*

*It will be a fun night with a guest  
artist on before our own band kicks it  
off with some instrumentals. Then  
Elvis performs for a 70s show to re-  
member. TICKETS: \$22 (for show Only)*

## St Nicholas Festa Committee Dates for 2023

Sunday 2 July – Imnarja

Sunday 15 October – Fete

Saturday 11 November

Dinner Dance

Sunday 2 December - Festa

## Tune in to Radio and Television

**SBS RADIO:** 97.7 FM Tuesdays 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm. Listen on Digital Radio or Live Streaming on [www.sbs.com.au/radio/](http://www.sbs.com.au/radio/) or on TV Channel 38.

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

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

### VICTORIA

**3ZZZ 92.3FM:** Mondays 5-6pm, Fridays 5-6pm and Saturdays 10-11am. Presenters: Paul Vella, Mario Sammut, Liz Phillips. Listen live on [www.3zzz.com.au](http://www.3zzz.com.au)

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



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

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

### NSW

**2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Community Council programme:** Every Sunday is now two whole hours, from 10 to 12 noon.

The first hour is Maltese Voices, dedicated to the best of Maltese talent. This is followed by News from Malta, the latest information, culture, interviews, community notices and topics of interest.

Listen live on [www.893fm.com.au/on-demand](http://www.893fm.com.au/on-demand).

demand.

**WOW-FM 100.7:** Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm. Maltese program with Joe Borg and Michael Mallia. Listen live on [www.wowfm1007.com.au](http://www.wowfm1007.com.au)

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

### QUEENSLAND

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

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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





# For this week only thing on our minds: GSSE Malta 2023

From late Monday evening (29th May) to 3 June, the activities of the 19th edition of the GSSE 2023, (the Small Games of Europe) will be dominating the media as Malta's ten top sports venues will host around a thousand sportsmen and women from nine 'small' nations (with fewer than one million inhabitants) from Europe in the biennial multi-sport event.

The participating countries along with Malta, are Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro and San Marino. The Malta team made up of 214 athletes will be competing in the ten different sports disciplines on the programme, Athletics, Basketball, Judo, Rugby 7s, Sailing, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis and Tennis.

In the evening's opening ceremony, at the Floriana Granaries the Malta team, captained by Eleanor Bezzina, will march behind the two flag bearers, Elaine Genovese (tennis) and Matthew Galea Soler (athletics).

It is the third time Malta is hosting these Games; the first was in 2003. Then again in 2013. On its debut in 2003, Malta's athletes managed to win 41 medals (11 gold, 15 silver and 15 bronze).

This international participation is added to the Olympic Games, the European Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Mediterranean Games and the European Youth Olympic Festival.

For the past week leading to the opening, the Maltese athletes selected to represent Malta were scrutinised by the media.

Prime Minister Robert Abela also hosted the whole group at the Auberge de Castille courtyard. He expressed his heartfelt wishes for a highly successful participation, making them conscious of their responsibilities as they carry the community's hopes on their shoulders.

He remarked about the unprecedented investment in the Games, which has resulted



Prime Minister Robert Abela greets the Maltese GSSE athletes

in new or refurbished state-of-the-art facilities and training programmes that prepared athletes for the event.

He said that whilst the current primary focus is these Games, the results should be a stepping stone for more significant achievements in other international events, including high-level games such as the Olympic Games.

"Malta is desirous of achieving results that will also serve as an inspiration to all children who will benefit from the sports infrastructure completed for these Games," Dr Robert Abela said.

The athletes were also addressed by Education and Sports Minister Clifton Grima, who observed that these Games had come a long way since the initial days when the Games were just a dream.

Maltese Olympic Committee President Julian Pace Bonello expressed his conviction that the investment towards athletes' preparation in infrastructure or technical

preparation, would bear fruit and make Malta proud.

As captain, shooting Eleanor Bezzina expressed her gratitude for the support shown to the athletes, stating that the three-fold formula of having state-of-the-art facilities, an international training and development opportunities, together with the athletes' total commitment to training was a step in the right direction, expressing her hope that this kind of investment is ongoing.

## Buttigieg continues to dominate MCF events

Aidan Buttigieg (D Sports Lab) continued to dominate the two National Championships organised by the Maltese Cycling Federation, when in wintry and weather won the second time trial by completing the six laps over a distance of 15 km in the Elite category at the Fleur-de-Lys circuit in 21:22.29, which was ten seconds ahead of Clive Bugeja (Mosta CC) Antoine Sultana (The Cyclist) was third.

Michelle Vella Wood (Team Greens) won the women's category in 27:20.63. Fiona Tedesco (Mosta CC) finished 15.31 seconds behind in second place. Jacob Schembri (Mosta CC) won the Under 23 category in 23:22:88, while Kristina Spiteri (The Cyclist) won the Under 23 feminine Category in 30:24.5482. Team Green's cyclists, dominated the Masters 40+ with Luis Joaquin Rojas Guzman winning it in 23:25:74, followed by team-mate Nicholas Schembri. Kevin Muscat (Mosta AF Sign Studio CC) won the Masters 50+

The next race will be the second one of the Road Championship on 11 June 2023 on the Xhajma circuit, in Nadur, Gozo.

## England name 25-man squad for Malta match

While national football team coach Michele Marcolini is still pondering on the final squad for Malta's European Qualifying campaign for UEFA EURO 2024 next month, first against England at the National Stadium on 16 June, and Ukraine three days later, the Three Lions (England) head coach Gareth Southgate has named his squad of 25 for the games against Malta and North Macedonia. Marcolini is set to name his squad on 4 June.

Among England's squad is a first senior call-up for Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze. England go into their two games in June sitting on top of their EURO 2024 qualify-

ing group, after winning their opening matches with Italy and Ukraine in March.

### The Squad

Goalkeepers: Sam Johnstone, Jordan Pickford and Aaron Ramsdale.

**Defenders:** Trent Alexander-Arnold, Lewis Dunk, Marc Guehi, Harry Maguire, Tyrone Mings, Luke Shaw, John Stones, Kieran Trippier, Kyle Walker.

**Midfielders:** Jude Bellingham, Eberechi Eze, Conor Gallagher, Jordan Henderson, Calvin Phillips, Declan Rice.

**Forwards:** Phil Foden, Jack Grealish, Harry Kane, James Maddison, Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka, Callum Wilson.