



The Voice of the Maltese

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President announces setting up of Foundation for National Unity

President of Malta George Vella announced the setting up of the 'Fundazzjoni għall-Għaqda Nazzjonali' (Foundation for National Unity) to address tangibly — also by listening to the people themselves — what still needs to be done to reduce divisions among the people. The areas identified in this regard range from the environment to journalism, education, political partisanship, and others.

Speaking at the end of the day, a one-day national meeting held at the Verdala Palace during which the results of the first scientific survey of its kind in Malta on how the Maltese national identity is evolving, under the theme of 'L-Istat tan-Nazzjon' (State of the Nation), were announced and discussed, he also appealed for the information resulting from the 'State of the nation' to be utilised for the benefit of society.

The areas identified during the meeting that discussed the survey held under the auspices of the President and in collaboration with the Office of the President ranged from the environment to journalism, education, political partisanship, and others.

During the meeting, 24 speakers from different walks of life were divided into six thematic discussions. Prime Minister Robert Abela and the Leader of the Opposition Bernard Grech also participated.

He explained that the Conference enables us to take a 'picture' of ourselves and "we must now draw conclusions and determine how to move from words to action."

Addressing the leaders, politicians, authorities, academics, civil society, economic operators and all those who can contribute, he explained that they have the responsibility not to lose the interest, knowledge and motivation that prominently emerged through this initiative.

President George Vella said that even



President of Malta George Vella addressing the third State of the Union Conference

3rd State of the Nation Conference

though the survey shows that we are proud to be Maltese and aware of the elements that give us a sense of identity, we still have significant divisions.

He pointed out that everybody can do something about the situation:

"Starting from myself, as the President of all the people of Malta, I must contribute towards a less divided country. I have already started working on this goal through the Conference on National Unity last February, and I will continue my work to achieve more unity between us.

"I feel that the material and detailed discussions that we have seen today provide a stronger basis for us to get closer to each other and learn to listen more and respect the diversity between us Maltese people and even with those foreigners who, for one reason or another, are among us".

He said more than a one-off conference

was needed, and there was a need for a dedicated structure for this purpose.

He was so encouraged by the occasion that he would soon launch the Fundazzjoni għall-Għaqda Nazzjonali. (the Foundation for National Unity). He said that, against the backdrop of such a foundation, "we will be able to gradually speak with respect about the scourge of exaggerated partisanship among us.

At the national meeting on 'L-Istat tan-Nazzjon', the President remarked that the figures that emerged give a strong taste of how the people of Malta look at themselves at the level of the citizen, the way they live their life, the challenges they face, and those values such as the family bond that guide the behaviour and decisions made.

Among several observations he made about the survey's results, he noted the evident disappointment at the uglification of the country's environment due to over-construction and the need to save our environment. He asked whether the time was ripe to give the environment a legal identity.

He said that we had put ourselves under the microscope and that such educational seminars would benefit the country. He promised to continue to build on what has already been achieved.

He was sure that everything discussed would spark informed discussions in the various areas of Maltese society and give rise to ideas or lead to decisions aimed at increasing the wealth and unity between the people of Malta and Gozo.

The survey was conducted on the initiative of statistician and university lecturer Vincent Marmarà and strategic communications consultant Lou Bondi.



**Continued on page 3*

The views of the politicians

During the conference on the State of the Nation in four sessions with the participation of experts who analysed the family, media, culture and the essential principles of society, the Prime Minister Robert Abela and Opposition leader Bernard Grech also expressed their views in separate interviews conducted by Lou Bondi.

3rd State of the Nation Conference

**Continued from page 2*

Prime Minister Robert Abela said he was not afraid of change and would continue on the needed reforms to improve people's lives. He stated that he was annoyed by social injustices and referred to a recent case in Court in which a woman who suffered abuse and mental health problems was sentenced as, according to the law, she committed an abortion. Abela expressed his concern that nobody said anything about it and that it was as if nothing happened. He said that the country needs to debate such issues.

He maintained that changes had been made in the country that nobody else had previously implemented, including appointing judiciary members and the Police Commissioner. The Prime Minister said that although the Government is not happy with inflation, this is under control. He added that the stability in energy prices is one of the most socialist measures taken by his Government which is shouldering the burden of global challenges.

On his part, Bernard Grech, the opposition leader, said the country needed a just leadership where people feel they have reached their desired plan. He stated that Malta could not continue to depend on a quantity economy. It needed to be transformed into a quality one.

Grech pointed out that foreign workers

formed a quarter of Malta's population and that one needed to consider if their impact is more significant than the wealth they



Opposition Leader Bernard Grech... said country needed just leadership

generate in the country.

He called for a discussion on whether access to abortion should be permitted. He said the present Government is not a socialist one as it is not focused on issues af-



Prime Minister Robert Abela... maintains changes have been made

fecting the people. Commenting on the internal situation of the Nationalist Party, he said there were divergences in the past; however, fine weather prevailed after the storm.

Concluding the conference, President George Vella said that several aspects had emerged from the discussion, which could lead to the drafting of several recommendations for authorities and civil society.

He said he was aware of all the opinions expressed and would continue to learn from the views of the experts in their field.

President George Vella thanked those who participated in the conference, which included the European Parliament President Roberta Metsola and former Prime Ministers Alfred Sant and Lawrence Gonzi.

What the people said in the scientific survey

Meanwhile, the scientific survey carried out specifically for the State of the Nation conference which was conducted on the initiative of statistician and university lecturer Vincent Marmarà and strategic communications consultant Lou Bondi has shown that 74.8% of the Maltese are happy that they were born in Malta and not in another country, with Marmara saying that only 18.5% of those surveyed said that they wished to have been born in another country.

On another question, 75.4% of respondents said that Maltese is their primary language, while 3.6% said it was the English language. Almost 20% said they consider Maltese and English as their primary languages.

Fewer Maltese consider politics important to their lives. The same survey showed a decrease in people who regard politics as essential to their lives. There was also an increase over the past years of those who said that politics are no longer essential to them: 12.9% in 2021, 21.9% in 2022, and 26.9% in 2023.

However, older adults still consider politics essential to their lives—the same as how politics influences the decisions they have to make. Only 30.6% of the population said their opinions and conclusions on different themes are based on the actions of the political party they support.



Other statistic shows that more than two-thirds of the electorate (67.4%) consistently voted for the same political party, while over the years, 32.6% of those surveyed said they switched their votes to different parties. However, when it comes to the voters in Gozo, 77.6% of them said they consistently voted for the same party.

Figures show that (38.7%) of respondents would consider voting for a different party in the future, while 21.9% said they don't know what they would do compared to previous years. However, they continued to emphasise less faith in any particular political party.

Many would consider voting for a different party in the future, with the higher the level of education, the greater probability they would vote for other parties over the coming years. The higher the taxation levels, the greater likelihood of a vote cast for a different party.

Those living in the south and the northeast of the island have yet to prepare to vote for a different party in the future; 78.8% of the electorate identified themselves as supporters of a party that reflected their ideals.

Finally, under 70% of the surveyed said they would vote in a coming General Election; only 11.3% said they would not vote. Another 18.8% are still deciding who they would vote for.

The long road from press censorship to press freedom in Malta



Tony Mamo

In 1746 Grandmaster Manuel Pinto da Fonseca, the 68th Grand Master of the Order of Saint John agreed with Bishop Paul Alpheran de Bussan and Inquisitor Passionei to establish a printing press in his palace. The first master printers were Don Nicolo Capaci (1756 – 1772) and the Rev. Giovanni Mallia (1772 – 1800).

The printing press published "literary works, programmes for operatic works, hymns, prayer books, legal cases, philosophical and theological thesis" subject to the censorship rules of the Hospitallers and the church authorities.

During their short occupation of Malta (1798–1800), the French issued the *Journal de Malte* (Journal of Malta) (below). It was Malta's first newspaper. Its purpose was to increase French influence on the island.

The British colonial administration also had its newspaper *La Gazzetta del Governo di Malta*, renamed in 1816 as the *Malta Government Gazette*. The newspaper published government notices, new laws, and domestic and foreign news. The Government Chief Secretary, the head of the civilian administration of Malta, was responsible for press censorship.

In the 1830s, Giorgio Mitrovich (1795 – 1885) and Camillo Scerberras (1772 – 1855) petitioned the British government for political reforms and "a moderate freedom of the Press". Mitrovich even went to London to secure the support of British parliamentarians for the Maltese cause.

As a result, in 1836, the British govern-



Giorgio Mitrovich

ment appointed three Commissioners to investigate Malta's economic, political and social situation and to make recommendations.

The Commissioners, William Ewart, John and Sarah Austin, and Sir George Cornewall Lewis, recommended, among other things, freedom of the press.

In March 1836, Lord Glenelg, Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressed his wish "to administer the affairs in Malta in the free, open, and confiding spirit ... that consequently the censorship of the press should be abolished, and that without delay".

Press freedom had to overcome many barriers before it became a reality.

Some colonial administrators warned that press freedom would undermine British economic and naval interests in Malta.

The conservative Duke of Wellington cautioned, "The whole island must, from the nature of things, be like a regiment under strict military discipline; otherwise, we shall lose our garrison



Grand Master Manuel Pinto da Fonseca (above), and Bishop Paul Alpheran de Bussan (left). They agreed to establish the first printing press in the GM's palace and harbour."

The despotic rulers of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the Papal States and the Austrian-controlled Lombardy and Veneto

used press censorship and the police to crush the political aspirations of the Italians for a united Italy. Many Italian patriots fled to Malta to continue their clandestine activities (collecting money and arms and printing newspapers and pamphlets) to achieve Italian unity.

Malta's role in Italian Unification

Press freedom in Malta allowed these Italian refugees to print anti-clerical literature in Malta for distribution in Italy. Britain had to balance its diplomatic relations with these despotic rulers and desire for a united and free Italy.

Through then Bishop Francesco Saverio Caruana (1831 – 1847) the Catholic Church, feared that

unrestricted press freedom would weaken Church authority and encourage the spread of Protestantism.

The Pope supported Bishop Caruana's stand. That said however, there were mixed feelings among the clergy to press freedom.

Despite the cordial relations between the British Government and the Church in Malta, the former was not prepared to give in to the Church's insistence to maintain press censorship while ignoring the demands of the population for press freedom.

*Continued on page 5



Copies of the earliest newspapers in Malta, the *Journal de Malte* (Journal of Malta) (left), and *La Gazzetta del Governo di Malta*



Governor General Sir Henry Bouverie
Christian religions.

Three judges without a jury tried persons guilty of breaching the law. John Richardson, the editor of *The Harlequin*, and Francesco Naudi, the printer, were the first to be tried for attacking the Catholic religion and promoting Protestantism.

Among the early newspapers that appeared in Malta was the monthly *Lo Spettatore Imparziale* (1838). Its owner, Canon Fortunato Panzavecchia, was described as an "able and learned editor". Others included, the weekly *Il Portafoglio Maltese* (1838), *The Harlequin* (1838), *Il Mediterraneo* (1838) and others.

The first newspapers were in Italian, English and later in Maltese. They were moderate in their views. In the 1830s, most Maltese were illiterate but keen to

Freedom of Press Act with some restrictions and reservations to protect all Christian religions

**Continued from page 4*

The upper classes feared that the free press could threaten their peace, happiness and standing.

On 15 March 1839, the governor of Malta, General Sir Henry Bouverie, proclaimed Ordinance (IV) - The Freedom of Press Act, with some "important restrictions and reservations" to protect all

learn. They probably congregated in wine shops to listen attentively to a person reading aloud from a newspaper.

At the time, the newspapers contained domestic and international news and extracts from popular novels (*romanzi*). It helped to lift the education of the people.

Over time, newspapers became more critical. In 1844 the governor, Sir Patrick Stuart, complained that the press had reached "a most ungovernable and scandalous height, not only from its attacks on private individuals but also on the local Government and Her Majesty's Government at home, tending to lower both in the estimation of the people here".

While Malta had won press freedom, Britain was unwilling to grant representative government to its fortress island in the middle of the Mediterranean.



Bishop Francesco Saverio Caruana



Italian language newspapers in Malta from 1838, Canon Fortunato Panzavecchia's *Lo Spettatore Imparziale* and *Il Portafoglio Maltese*



Fil-75 sena tal-iffirmar tal-ftehim bejn Malta u l-Awstralja dwar l-għajnuna fil-passaġġ għal min ried li jemigra: **Opinjoni**

Infakkru, imma qatt m'għandna ninsew l-imghoddi

LawrenceDIMECH

Ftit ilu fil-belt ta' Melbourne saret it-tifkira tal-hamsa u sebghin anniversarju minn meta Malta u l-Awstralja ffirmaw dak il-ftehim li permess tiegħu setgħet tinfetħ berah ir-rotta bejn iż-żewġ pajjizi, billi jibdeu l-iskema hekk imsejja assisted passage agreement, ftehim li għe ffirmat f'Mejju 1948. L-inizjattiva kienet

tan-*National Archives of Australia* (fergħa ta' Victoria), u l-Kunsill tal-Komunità Maltija ta' Victoria. Ta' dan haqqhom kull hajr. Għal dawk iż-żmienijiet meta l-Gvernijiet ta' Malta ma setgħux ilaħhqu mal-popolazzjoni u f'Malta l-opportunitajiet ta' xogħol jew aħjar, prospettu tajbin għall-futur ma kienux jidhru tajjeb, l-assisted passage agreement kien meqjus bħala ftehim eċċezzjonali.

L-Inglizi, li dahhluna fil-gwerra, issa kienu qed isibuha diffiċli biex flimkien mal-ghotja tal-George Cross jifthu xogħol għalina f'Malta. Allura sabu soluzzjoni, inqalftu 'l barra dawk li ma jarawx futur f'pajjizhom. Hekk iddecidew. Fil-fatt anke l-knisja kienet iddikkkjarat li l-emigrazzjoni hija s-safty valve għal Malta.

Jien kont wiehed minn dawk li ta' 18-il approfittajt ruhi mill-iskema li kienet toffri passaġġ kwazi b'xejn izda b'kundizzjoni harxa li trid tibqa' l-Awstralja għal sentejn shah, inkella trid thallas lura il-flus li sel-

fuk il-Gvernijiet. Tlaqna minn Malta b'ID card u mhux b'passaport biex żgur ma stajniex nigu lura qabel sentejn.

Din l-iskema attrirat madwar 140,000 persuna, li tmienja u



L-aħħar tiżma qabel il-firda ta' qsim il-qalb, sfurzati jhallu Malta

hamsin fil-mija minnhom ġew l-Awstralja. Meta tqis li l-popolazzjoni ta' Malta dak iż-żmien f'Malta kienet ta' madwar 320,000, dak kien għadd fenominali. Kien ifisser li wiehed minn kull hamsa tal-popolazzjoni ta' Malta kellu jemigra minn pajjizu. U dan sintendi wara li konna għadna kemm "irbahna" l-gwerra. Immaġina li kieku konna fuq in-naha l-oħra. Izda dik kwietjoni oħra.

Imbuttawna 'l barra b'hafna talb ta' "Alla magħkom; kunu mberkin". Imma l-maġġoranza tagħna tefghuna fuq vapuri, jekk mhux dghajjes kbar li damu jkarkru



anke xhur biex minn Malta waslu l-Awstralja. Uħud mill-vapuri kienu "rust buckets" użati biex iġorru lit-truppi fil-gwerra. X'jimporta? l-aqwa li tlaqna, mhux hekk?

F'dawk iż-żmienijiet kolloxx kien legali, l-aqwa li jint-laħqu l-oġġettivi ta' dawk li hakmuna.

Tul il-karriera kelli l-opportunità li nintervista hafna minn dawk li ġew mghejjuna f'din l-iskema, l-Ingliżi ja-fuhu bħala "ten pound migrant". L-Ingliżi akkwistaw l-aqwa vapuri għan-nies tagħhom biex emigraw; aħna blajna dak li kien fadal.

Wahda minn dawk li kellimt qaltli: "Hekk kif fi Frar 1949 tlajt fuq l-m/v *Mirs* (laqqaminij il-miżerja) flimkien ma' mijiet oħra sibna, mhux vapur izda ċaqlenbuta, kundizzjonijiet mill-agħar. Familja b'erbat itfal ġejna mifrudin minn xulxin. Missieri spicċa fl-istiva go branda, b'ommi u t-ftal, f'naħa oħra tal-vapur. Oħti z-zghira tigris bejn it-tnejn bil-mes-saġġi. Kienu gimghat ta' miżerja. Mill-ewwel doqna l-imrar ta' emigrazzjoni qabel ma wasalna l-Awstralja."

**Ikompil f'pagna 3*



Grupp kbir ta' Maltin qabel hallew Malta għall-Awstralja fl-ewwel snin tal-emigrazzjoni



Xi emigranti prospettivi jiffaċċjaw uffiċjali tal-gvern qabel iħallu Malta

Il-Maltin ġew sfurzati li għal ġejjieni ahjar htegilhom jitturufnaw ruhhom

*Ikompli minn paġna 2

Illum inharsu lura u nistgħu nirriflettu u nistaqsu; allura veru riedu futur ahjar għalina jew riedu jgħallfuna 'l-barra kemm jista' jkun malajr biex sadanittant huma setgħu jgħixu komdi?

Fl-ahħar, iż-żewġ naħat avvanzajna izda konna ahna li kellna nabbandunaw lil pajjiżna, lill-ġenituri u dak kollu li trabbejna fih. Għamilna haġja oħra. Izda ara ma jigix xi hadd jgħidilna li ma hal-lasnix bl-għaraq ta' demmna għal dak kollu li hdimna għalih barra pajjiżna!

M'hemm aghar milli jkollok titurufna ruhek minn pajjizek, mill-ġenituri, mill-ambjent li trabbejt fih. Għall-ewwel iċċapċap xi ftit izda maż-żmien tinduna kemm kien diffiċli dak li ġejt sfurzat tagħmel.

Tajjeb li dejjem niftakru fl-imghoddi u meta jkun hemm xi okkażjoni li xi hadd ikun irid jagħmel xena jew xi hoss biha, niftakruha u anki jekk ikun hemm bżonn nikkommemorawha, izda qatt

m'għandna ninsew dawk il-protoganisti li holqu l-istorja.

F'dan il-kaz, int u jien li konna ku-raġġu u avventurużi li niehdu dik id-deċizjoni. F'dawk iż-żmienijiet l-emigrazzjoni kienet deċizjoni permanenti. L-Awstralja kien il-pajjiż fejn halla l-karkura x-xitan. Bil-baħar iktar minn xahar, bl-ajru erba' titjiet... pas-saġġi bi prezzijiet m'oghla s-sema.

Kien jaf sew x'qed jagħmel dak li introduċa l-mandatt ta' sentejn. Nikkalkula li kieku ma kienx hekk, aktar minn nofs dawk li emigraw bis-sistema tal-assistenza fil-passaġġ, wara l-ewwel sitt xhur kienu jirritornaw lura lejn Malta.

Sistema li hadmet u rnexxit għal dawk iz-żmienijiet bit-tama li qatt ma nergħu naslu li Malti mwieded Malta jkollu l-htieġa li jemigra biex isib xogħol barra pajjiżu. Fi żmienna l-emigrazzjoni kienet sfurzata għax hu l-haddiem l-iktar milqut, għax ma kellux alternat-tiva.

Occasional comment

by an Observer

The forgotten monument

There it stands at the historic Argotti Gardens in Floriana practically abandoned. In 2013 on the initiative of the Maltese Australian Association, the monument dedicated to the 300 Anzacs buried in Malta was inaugurated by Dr George Vella as Foreign Minister in 2013. It was a dream come through for Nicholas Bonello, a former High Commissioner for Malta in Australia.

However, this monument, the first of its kind outside Australia, is completely forgotten during the many celebrations commemorating Anzac Day in Malta. It is time to ask, But why?

Your rights as EU member

When Hon Helena Dalli, European Union Commissioner for Equality, visited Sydney to participate in WorldPride 2023, The Voice of the Maltese brought to her notice that in the last 20 years, no Maltese EU member has ever visited the Maltese community in Australia. The vote for the Maltese in EU elections was also mentioned.

Cyrus Engerer, an EU Maltese Member, told us that he is part of the team in the European Parliament working on electoral reform. From their end, they are proposing voting by mail so that those nationals living outside the country can exercise their democratic right if they are entitled to vote.

The European Parliament approved this, but it now needs to be approved by the Member States in the Council. Indeed, we get things moving.

There's movement at the station!

Many rumours are going around about changes at the offices of the Consulate General in Melbourne and Sydney. Nothing is confirmed in stone, but by the end of the year, Melbourne will have a change as Chirelle Ellul Sciberras will return to Malta. At The other end, Lawrence Buhagiar who served well in NSW since May 2018, will stay at least until 2024. Did someone mention New Zealand? Watch this space.

Shameful and disgusting

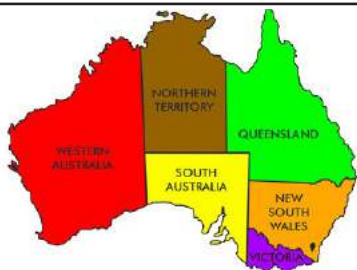
This has to stop and NOW. Recently we had the Ludwig Show clashing with a function at Plumpton. Did we learn from it? I don't think so. Now we target one of Malta's National Days 7th June (Sette Giugno) celebration with functions on the same day and at the same time, one at Merrylands and the other at Blacktown.

It is shameful and disgusting. We do not care who is at fault, do not do it again, it is bad enough that we have to negotiate five national days.



Fi triqithom lejn l-Awstralja jttamaw għal ġejjieni ahjar

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

I will be in seventh heaven in Malta during this summer

Tony Cassar from St Albans, Victoria writes:

The moment my wife and I landed at Malta's International Airport for our first holiday on our island of birth for four years, and since the pandemic, we felt a positive atmosphere, and our prospects improved even more when our son and his wife greeted us with their newborn.

Soon as we left the airport, we were amazed at the new infrastructure at the airport junction. Then, further along, the road, we witnessed the Marsa Junction that has put Malta up there along with the modern nations. It took us a bit to arrive at my son's apartment in Msida. Heavy traffic impeded up somewhat, which is a sign of the times.

We arrived in Malta on 28 May, which coincided with the island's hosting of the Small Nations Games of Europe. I planned this visit because I am very keen on sports and knew how momentous this occasion was. I was also in Malta on the previous experience that Malta hosted the event in 2013.

It was a pleasure following the local lads winning the medals and competing at par with the athletes of the other eight nations

of Europe, including Cyprus, who won the most awards at the other editions. But this time, Malta banked on its new sports venues and came out on top.

I visited all the sports venues, many newly built or refurbished to the highest standards. I also supported the three Sultanas, the two girls and their brother, whom I know. They won medals in squash. They all live in Australia.

We can also confirm that Malta has become very cosmopolitan, not just because of the thousands of foreign workers helping Malta's economy, but because the hard work of so many people in the hosting industry is luring the tourists back.

I have just learnt from figures just published that tourism in the first four months of this year has surpassed the first four months of 2019, which was Malta's best.

As one can see from reports published in the last issue of The Voice, Malta's leaders are held in high esteem. President George Vella and Prime Minister Robert Abela delivered interesting speeches at international fora.

The President of the European Parliament is also Maltese, Roberta Metsola, and Health Minister Chris Fearn has recently been appointed to the prestigious post of President of the World Health Assembly. We should all be proud of our country, despite living continents apart. We should never forget that this tiny island offers so much to the world.

I am eagerly looking forward to the next two months in Malta, as I am sure we will be in seventh heaven in Malta this summer. Our aim is to attend most of the activities that are being organised around the island, and also as many village feasts as possible. My intention is that I will attend and enjoy all the activities that I have missed in the past four years, and more.

Xi dwejjaq ta' nies dawn

Joe Tanti minn Surry Hills NSW jikteb::

Jekk hawn attività li veru tghaqqad lill-komunità Maltija fi NSW hija l-festa tal-Vitorja li ssir kull sena fil-Katidral ta' St Mary's f'Sydney.

Dan ma jfissirx li din il-festa m'għandix tigi ċelebrata fi bnadi oħra, izda li tagħmel l-istess avveniment fl-istess jum hi mhux biss ġennata izda dnuh mejjet. Sa anke ndaħhlu fil-kreditu lill-isqfijiet. Ara fejn jaslu ċertu nies. Imisshom jisthu!

Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Not condensed news

John Demarco from Glen Eagle W.A. writes:

With today's technology, we take it for granted that news is instant. It is not possible to absorb all that is happening around you. Thanks to The Voice of the Maltese magazine, every time we get a condensed version, not cut & paste.

I appreciate your efforts and how you prioritise it for us, the readers of your magazine. Keep it up; no wonder The Voice is well-read and respected not just in its home base Australia, but everywhere.



At the Sette Giugno commemoration. From left: Rosienne & Lawrence Buhagiar, Lisa Lake, Hugh McDermott, Julia Finn, Mark Buttigieg, Michelle Rowland, Mario Farrugia Borg, Antoine Mangion, Chris Bowen, Diane Coleman, Annemarie Thind and Marisa Privitera

Sette Giugno (7 June) 1919 ...

Remembered with dignity and respect

It was traditional for the Maltese community in NSW to annually commemorate the tragic events of the 7 June 1919, still known as Sette Giugno, on a wintery morning at the Civic Park at Pendle Hill beside the Maltese Bi-Centennial Monument. It is the logical and most fitting location in NSW.

It was not to be this year as the park is being upgraded. Still, Cumberland City Council was generous enough to let us use the very upmarket prestigious Holroyd Centre at Merrylands.

Standards must be maintained as this commemoration has become a showpiece for the Maltese Community Council of NSW. Once again, they presented an event that remembered the sacrifices made by our forefathers with dignity and professionalism.

The highlight of this commemoration is when representatives of government, Maltese associations and others present a flower tribute beside the photographs of the Maltese heroes that have been the victims of the riots.

The significance of this event is the acknowledgement received from the representatives of both Federal and State Governments and local councils.

In the absence of Miriam Friggieri, who is overseas, Antoine Mangion, the Vice President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, welcomed all present and explained the role of the Council in our community.

Annemarie Thind, the President of the Illawarra Maltese Association, delivered the keynote speech. Ms Thind said the events of Sette Giugno shook the island, leaving a deep-rooted mark on its history.

The sacrifices of brave individuals who stood up for their rights that day cannot be underestimated. The riots of Sette Giugno served as a wake-up call.

Whilst the rebellion was brief, its impact was enormously significant.

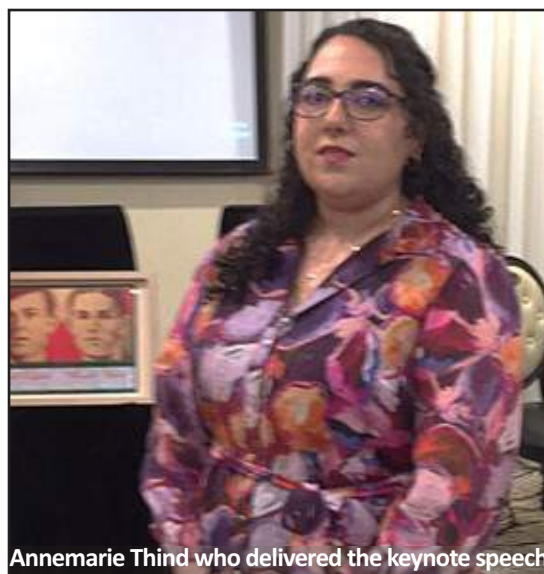
Ms Thind appealed to Maltese Australians to stay connected to our roots, language and traditions. It is a reminder of the importance of standing together as a community, leaving our ideologies and differences aside, to ensure that our heritage in Australia is cherished, honoured and kept alive for our children.

The High Commissioner for Malta in Australia and NZ, HE Mario Farrugia Borg, described the commemoration as one of the most significant of the five national days. He said It is always an honour for him to come from Canberra and be part of it.

In a virtual message, the President of Malta, HE Dr George Vella, highlighted the importance of the diaspora for the Government of Malta and appealed for unity and the preservation of our culture.

Cr Lisa Lake, the Mayor of the City of Cumberland, closed the proceeding by stating that her city, formerly known as Holroyd, was built on the pioneering spirit of the Maltese community that came to the area in the fifties and is still here.

Marisa Privitera kept the proceedings running smoothly as the MC. The Maltese Concert Band of NSW, under the leadership of Rodrick Pirotta, performed very well, and their selection of music was appropriate for the occasion.



Annemarie Thind who delivered the keynote speech

Natasha Tatarinoff, as the main singer, was well received. In the end, refreshments were served. Thank you for a well-organised function that has left an excellent lasting impression on all the dignitaries that attended.

The following is the list of VIPs that were present for the commemoration: HE Mario Farrugia-Borg, High Commissioner of Malta in Australia & NZ; Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General for NSW; Hon Chris Bowen, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy; Hon Michelle Rowland, Federal Minister for Communications; Dr Hugh McDermott, State Member for Prospect; Ms Julia Finn, State Parliamentary Secretary to Premier, and Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts; Mark Buttigieg, MLC State Parliamentary Secretary for Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety; Mark Coure MP Member for Oatley; Clr Lisa Lake, Mayor; Suan Saha Deputy Mayor, and Clr Diane Coleman of Cumberland City Council, Lawrence Dimech of the Voice of the Maltese and other official representatives from Maltese organisations in the state of NSW.

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

Alexakis v Masters (No 2) [2023] NSWSC 509 (16 May 2023)

by PaulSANT

The deceased Will maker in this case study was Raymond McClure, who never married nor had any children. In 2015 the deceased was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He made three subsequent Wills following his diagnosis, and ultimately died on 21 November 2017 aged 84. His Estate was worth about \$27 million.

Four parties

The Plaintiff in the proceedings was Dr Alexakis, who was the deceased's General Practitioner.

The First Defendant (and a Cross-claimant) was the Salvation Army.

The Second Defendant (who was also a Cross-claimant) was the deceased's [friend] Mr Camilleri.

The Third & Fourth Defendants (you guessed it – also Cross-claimants) were a Mother and daughter, the Schwankes.

Three Wills

The deceased's first Will subject of the proceedings was made on 27 May 2016. It left the majority of his Estate to the Salvation Army (similar to an earlier will made in 2012).

The second Will made in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on 8 June 2017 bequeathed 65% of the Estate to the Doctor, and the remainder between Frank Camilleri and the Schwankes.

The third Will made at the deceased's home on 10 July 2017 left almost all of his Estate to the Doctor, being the deceased's Strathfield home and 90% of the residue of his Estate.

The balance of the Estate, together with

Did the doctor do it? A contested Estate case study

some specific personal effects, were left to Mr Camilleri, Mother Schwanke and the deceased's carer at the time.

Two broad approaches

Each party argued that the Doctor should not be given a grant to deal with the Estate, as sought by him, on the deceased's final Will made on 10 July 2017.

None of the challenges to the Wills were made against either allegations that the deceased was not of sound mind and did not have testamentary capacity, or that the Wills were not executed in accordance with the applicable law, being the Succession Act 2006 (NSW).

The Salvation Army claimed both 2017 Wills should be declared invalid, due to a lack of knowledge and approval, undue influence, and/or fraud, from the Doctor.

The Salvation Army sought a grant on the deceased's 2016 Will (revoked by both 2017 Wills) in which it was the main beneficiary. It alternatively sought that the Doctor held his inheritance from the deceased on constructive trust for the Salvation Army, with the Doctor obtaining the gifts by actual and presumed undue influence.

Mr Camilleri also sought a declaration that the Doctor's gifts were held on constructive trust but for him and the Schwankes, as the Doctor obtained the gifts by unconscionable conduct and/or equitable undue influence, and it would not be right for the Doctor to keep them.

The Schwankes, interestingly, argued that the 2017 Wills were valid, but the clauses providing the gifts to the Doctor

(and appointment of executor) were challenged on the basis of lack of knowledge, and approval, and undue influence.

They effectively sought Orders for a grant to be made on either of the 2017 Wills as though the deceased had not put the Doctor in them, which would mean Mr Camilleri and the Schwankes would receive the whole of the Estate.

They alternatively sought a declaration that the Doctor held his interests subject to constructive trust on behalf of themselves and Mr Camilleri.

The Doctor denied any suspicious circumstances existed, denied unduly influencing the deceased, and generally denied engaging in any conduct which would cause the 2017 Wills to be interfered with by this Court.

One lawyer

One aspect of the deceased's 2017 Wills that the defendants were displeased about, was that the Doctor introduced the deceased to his solicitor. Naturally, the solicitor who took the deceased's instructions and drafted the Will was a witness in the proceedings, as was the Doctor.

The defendants criticised the solicitor for accepting the deceased's instructions to leave the majority of his Estate to his Doctor, rather than embarking on a line of questioning as to why he had chosen to do so, to properly test if the deceased knew the effect of his Will.

What did the court consider?

There was no shortage of medical records in this matter, nor witnesses whose evidence was tested via cross-examination during the 9-day hearing. The court had a large body of evidence from which to make findings.

For undue influence, the claimants argued that the deceased did not know and approve of the contents of his Will and therefore there must have been coercion.

For unconscionable conduct to have occurred, the Doctor had to have taken advantage of a special disadvantage of the deceased, arising due to the nature of Doctor and patient relationship.

What did the court decide?

The court found no undue influence or unconscionable conduct from the Doctor occurred. It dismissed each claim and held the Doctor was entitled to receive a grant to carry out the deceased's final Will of 10 July 2017, in which he was the major beneficiary.



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Maltese Spoken



This summer: no better place than Malta for outdoor entertainment

There isn't a better place than Malta for summer outdoor entertainment events. The evenings will be jam-packed with activities for every age group. Malta, in summer, used to be known as the sun, sea and sand island. For a few years, visitors to the island, especially youths, have even more activities to look forward to, most of them musical.

It is not just the Isle of MTV, Europe's biggest free summer entertaining musical festival on July 18 that attracts youths from all over Europe, that this year is in its 15th edition. There's also the BBC Concert Orchestra set for July 9.

Before that, in a few days, between 25 and 30 June, the Maltese capital Valletta, and other locations, will be hosting the creative and artistic talent in the region aimed at strengthening Malta's position in the global film market and attracting more film projects as the Malta Film Commission tries to build on its growing position as a key international shooting location. It would be launching the Mediterranean-focused film festival.

Before that, on June 17, Oscar-winning actor Russell Crowe will participate in an Indoor Garden Party. He would perform with his band, *The Gentlemen Barbers*, his special guests Janet Devlin and Lorraine O'Reilly and locals Ivan Grech, Ira Losco and Bettina Farrugia.

The summer entertainment in Valletta started on June 5 with *Tnejn Ghat-Talkies*. Drawing inspiration from the talkies, when a Saturday night movie in Valletta was all the rage, *Tnejn Ghat-Talkies* enticed one to enjoy an intimate experience at the Embassy Cinemas, Valletta.

It was the final opportunity one had for an indoor cinema night in the series, during which the audience was treated to Billy Wilder's multi-Oscar winner *The Apartment* (1960).

Last week, Valletta Cultural Agency also organised the fourth edition of the fascinating night for cinephiles, Valletta's Cin-



The Three Tenors: Alan Sciberras, Cliff Zammit Stevens and Nico Darmanin

ema City, set against the magnificent backdrop of Malta's UNESCO World Heritage site bastions in Laparelli Gardens.

Cinema City created an unforgettable experience for families, teens, movie buffs and older generations. The first two movies, *Blood on the Crown* and *Back to the Future*, were sold out before the actual day.

Other films included: Quentin Tarantino's 2009 film *Inglourious Basterds*, Jorge R. Gutiérrez's 2014 movie *The Book of Life*, Abigail Mallia's 2020's *Merjen*, and Alexander Payne's 2014 film *Sideways*.

That was followed by *HosKuban*, from Mambo to Bolero, Salsa and Rumba, for a few hours in a concealed corner of Valletta, at the magnificent courtyard of the Mae West bar in Strait Street. It was a taste of Cuba thanks to a much-anticipated performance by *HosKuban*.

This outdoor performance at Mae West bar, tucked away in Strait Street's The Gut, hosted *HosKuban*'s second-ever concert, having blown audiences away at the debut

show during 2022's *Notte Bianca* with their blend of Afro-Cuban rhythms.

After that, many are now looking forward to the *Opera in the Capital – The Three Tenors* on June 28 at Misarah il-Palazz (St George's Square). That is when the three outstanding tenor voices of their generation Alan Sciberras, Cliff Zammit Stevens and Nico Darmanin, will perform during a jam-packed evening of arias and classics.

They will be joined on stage by Chiara with her *Angel*, Foster's *The Prayer*, and Lloyd Weber's *Music of the Night*. The musical directors will be Maestro Michael Laus and Maestro Ryan Paul Abela.

Christina Aguilera to perform in Malta this September

Later in the year, on 16th September, again at the Cranaries, Christina Aguilera, referred to as the "Voice of a Generation" will be headlining the Official EuroPride Valletta 2023 Concert.

The American singer's remarkable talent and unwavering support for the LGBTIQ+ community make her the perfect choice for this event celebrating diversity, equality, and inclusivity.

Aguilera, the multi-platinum Grammy-winning artist and a true icon and ally to the LGBTIQ+ community, will take the stage to deliver what promises to be an unforgettable performance that should leave the audience in awe.

The singer's powerful vocals and captivating stage presence, is set to create an electric atmosphere that will bring together people from across Europe and beyond in a vibrant show of solidarity. The performance will be absolutely free for all attendees.

BBC Concert Orchestra to celebrate 100 Years of Hollywood in Floriana

After blowing audiences away at the Fosos last year with "Classic Rock Anthems" and the previous year with "*It's a Kind of Magic - The Queen Story*", the BBC Concert Orchestra is back and bigger than ever on 9 July, celebrating *100 Years of Hollywood* at the Granaries in Floriana.

The BBC Concert Orchestra will be bringing to Malta 70

musicians, nearly 20 top West End vocalists, and a star presenter for a memorable evening in a sensational concert that is expected to take the audience from the Golden Age to present day Hollywood.

From the dancing feet of Astaire and Rogers to the full throttle sound of 'Top Gun, Maverick'. From the sparkle of 'Singin' in the Rain', to

the joy of 'La La Land', from the romance of 'Dirty Dancing' to the heart of Disney. From 'Gone With the Wind' to 'Ghostbusters', 'Jurassic Park' to 'James Bond', 'The Bodyguard' to 'The Greatest Showman'.

The audience expects a show like no other when it hears the soaring star vocals and the wide-screen sound explosion of the orchestra!



Roundup of News About Malta



President of Malta, George Vella, laying a wreath on the Sette Giugno monument in Valletta

Malta commemorates 104th year of 7 June 1919 historic uprising

Malta commemorated the 104th anniversary of the Sette Giugno (7th June) 1919 in front of the Sette Giugno Monument in St George's Square, Valletta that marked the four victims of the uprising, Gużepi Bajada, Wenzu Dyer, Manuel Attard and Karmenu Abela who were shot dead by members of the British military. Wreaths of flowers were placed on the 7th June monument in Valletta and the Addolorata cemetery.

In a speech during the annual ceremony commemorating the national holiday of Sette Giugno, prepared by the Speaker of the House, Anġlu Farrugia, and read by Deputy Speaker David Agius, since Dr Farrugia was indisposed, the Speaker mentioned the need to introduce a parliamentary procedure to provide a remedy to the citizen in case of abuse of the parliamentary privilege by a Member of Parliament.

He added that a system should be introduced to allow Parliamentary members to choose whether to serve full or part-time to encourage more people to enter politics.

During the ceremony, the Speaker said that the time is ripe for Malta to consider models used in other countries, especially those in the Commonwealth, and adopt a model which allows the citizen recourse in

case of abuse of the parliamentary privilege.

The Speaker referred to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly summit, which saw the participation of all parliaments of countries that are members of the United Nations, during which Russia's war in Ukraine was discussed. He said that Malta's position provided opportunities for discussion between the parliaments of both sides. He observed that, sadly, this position was met with resistance and indifference, including from European countries.

He referred to Pope John Paul II's speech at the 1995 UN General Assembly when he said that every country has a right to exist. The Speaker noted that Malta's Parliament needs to keep working for peace.

The Speaker also mentioned that Malta's

Team Malta cry should be central to everything

Referred to the Games of the Small States of Europe hosted in Malta and the success of Team Malta in the event, Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela mentioned the emotions expressed whenever Maltese athletes achieved success due to their efforts and dedication. He said this was also the result of the country's investment in training and facilities.

He said that the Team Malta cry should re-

main central to everything done by the country in other sectors.

He said that the 1919 riots occurred against the backdrop of national economic problems on a large scale, including poverty and hunger, in a country which did not yet have a Constitution. He said this was granted thanks to the four who died on that fateful day.

At the end of the speech, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Deputy Speaker David Agius, the Valletta Mayor, representatives of the Sette Giugno victim's families, and other organisations placed wreaths at the foot of the monument.

He also pointed out the economic growth, which he said is two and a half times more than that of the European Union, whilst unemployment is the lowest within the eurozone. He promised that the Government would continue to provide vital support to those with ideas and projects that create jobs



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta abstains on Europe's policy on migration, asylum

Malta has joined Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Slovakia in abstaining from voting for an agreement reached during a meeting for Home Affairs Ministers of EU member states regarding Europe's policy on migration and asylum. Hungary and Poland voted against the deal.

Addressing the meeting of the Home Affairs Council of Ministers in Luxemburg that focused on immigration and asylum, primarily on the Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management and the Asylum Procedures Regulation, two fundamental pillars of the Pact on Migration and Asylum presented by the European Commission in September 2020, Malta's Home Affairs Minister, Byron Camilleri, stressed that Malta's situation and vulnerabilities are different from those of other member states.

He said while irregular arrivals and responsibilities are a burden for every member state, they are even more significant for Malta due to its small size. Therefore, this decision should be formed by the principle

that one should have the peace of mind that if assistance is needed, it will be available and its needs fully addressed. He said that judging by this criterion, the relevant legislative instrument offers no peace of mind.

Minister Camilleri stressed he appreciated the difficulty in reaching a compromise whereby the concerns of each member state are addressed and understands that several member states have a problem with secondary movements. Still, to address this problem, a collective effort is required to reduce irregular arrivals.

He said that Malta has worked and will continue to work, externally and internally, to keep irregular migrant arrivals in check. Still, it remains vulnerable due to its small size and geographical position.

He maintained that the reform in this sector must reach a balance between the new burdens that will have to be borne by countries located on the border, including Malta, and the solidarity from the other member states in particular circumstances. He believes the agreement has yet to reach a



Minister Byron Camilleri

good balance between responsibility and solidarity.

Minister Camilleri said Malta appreciated the Swedish Presidency's and the Commission's commitment, who worked further to strengthen the Pact and a genuine attempt at compromise is made. However, while the Pact contains some positive aspects, Malta is still determining if the presented solution will translate into a fair and effective system that can withstand Malta's current and future challenges. He said that Malta will continue to work constructively to address these challenges.

First Maltese and Moroccan Business Forum

At the opening of the first edition of the Maltese and Moroccan Business Forum in Rabat, Morocco, the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ian Borg, who was leading a delegation of over 30 people from various sectors, said that Malta recognised the strategic importance of Morocco and the existing economic and political stability.

He stated that the government felt the need to continue pushing more Maltese businesses to roam in this country and reiterated how Malta and North Africa have much in common. He said that the goal is to create new business partnerships and strengthen the present ones.

The minister said that Malta was one of the first European countries of the European Union with a partnership strategy with Africa, including the Maghreb region. Through this strategy, Malta had the opportunity to redefine its relationship with this continent.

Aside from the business forum, Minister Ian Borg held a bilateral meeting with the

Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of Morocco, Nasser Bourit, and afterwards addressed a press conference, at which he said that Malta has continued to strengthen its relationship with essential partners in the Mediterranean region to ensure more stability."

The two Ministers reiterated the need for more discussion between all the Mediterranean states to continue raising this topic at the top of the agenda and addressing the much-needed issues. "As a Minister within the Council of Ministers of the European Union, I will continue, as I have always done, to speak and lead forward the importance of discussing the southern neighbour-

hood," Minister Ian Borg said.

The Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies and the Moroccan Academy for Diplomatic Studies signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the cooperation concerning research, training and exchange in this sector to help students from both countries to progress in their studies and build their skill sets.

During the meeting, the ministers discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, the European Union, immigration, trade, and the strengthening of prospective potential cooperation agreements; Libya and the Russian invasion of Ukraine were also discussed.



Minister Ian Borg (left) and Minister Nasser Bourit

CHRIS BOWEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCKINNON

If you require assistance with Federal Government matters, including:

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

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Malta l-ewwel fir-rebħ tal-midalji fil-Logħob tal-Pajjizi ż-Żgħar

Wara xhur sħaħ ta' thejġġja, u taħriġ kontinwu, il-Logħob Għall-Pajjizi ż-Żgħar li ġie organizzat f'Malta, ġie u għadda. Għal Malta l-avveniment kien suċċess doppju.

L-ewwelnett, wara ħidma u ppumpjar ta' eluf, jekk mhux miljuni, ta' Ewro, Malta ħarġet bl-unuri għall-organizzazzjoni ta' dan il-logħob, kif ukoll billi għall-ewwel darba minn kemm ilna nikkompetu, f'din id-19-il edizzjoni tal-kompetizzjoni, Malta spiċċat fl-ewwel post fil-klassifika tar-rebħ tal-midalji billi l-atleti Maltin kisbu 95 midalja li 38 minnhom kienu tad-deheb.

Hija hasra tassew li x'aktarx minħabba l-pika politika, kien hemm min ipprova inaqas mill-mertu tal-atleti li ffurmaw it-tim Malti, għax sostna li ġejna l-ewwel biss għax fost dawk li kkompetew f'isem Malta kien hemm xi barranin.

Imma li ma qalux dawn huwa li whud minn dawk il-Maltin rebbeha tal-midalji ilhom jgħixu Malta żmien twil, filwaqt li oħrajn applikaw u kisbu passaport Malti. Kien hemm imbghad oħrajn li huma Maltin, kif jgħidu "sa ruh ommhom" imma li minħabba xi rahunijiet jgħixu barra, mill-pajjiż, fosthom fl-Awstralja.

Li ma qalux ukoll dawn il-kritiċi hu l-fatt li wara kollox din il-prattika ta' barranin b'passport differenti minn ta' fejn twieldu tithaddem mill-biċċa 'l kbira tal-pajjiżi li jikkompetu f'xi avveniment innazzjonali, u ċertament li mhux biss f'dan il-Logħob, imma anke fil-Logħob Olimpiku u/jew it-Tazza tad-Dinja tal-futbol.

Attwalment, f'riċerka li għamlet *The*



Times of Malta, instab li mill-214-il atleta li kkompetew għal Malta f'dan l-avveniment, kienu biss seba' atleti li mhumieq Maltin li ngħataw passaport biex jiehdu sehem f'isem Malta, b'wahda minnhom li ilha tgħix Malta mill-inqas tliet snin.

Wara kollox, anke li kieku kellhom jinnawqsu l-midalji li nrebhu minn dawn tal-aħħar (li m'għandux ikun), Malta xorta waħda kienet tispiċċa fl-ewwel post fir-rebħ tal-midalji.

Ejja niehdu gost b'dak li ksibna u nkunu sportivi!

Xi nies, l-għamad li għandhom fuq għajnejhom f'dik li hi politika, lanqas iħallihom jirraġinaw.

Sadanittant hafna laqgħu l-aħbar mill-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti li bil-għan li tiġi ffeŋġġjata r-rebħa ta' *Team Malta*, nhar l-Erbgħa 14 tax-xahar fi Pjazza Kastilja l-belt Valletta l-pubbliku Malti se jin-għata ċ-ċans li jifrah mal-atleti u ma' dawk kollha li kellhom sehem fil-ħidma għas-suċċess f'lejla ta' spetaklu taht l-isem ta' "Niċċelebraw Team Malta".

Fuq palk li se jintrama apposta, se jkun hemm il-partiċipazzjoni tal-kantanti Amber, Aidan u *live band* li fost kollox se jsemmgħu l-kanzueta li giet irrekordjata għall-avveniment '*Shine Your Light*'. Se jehdu sehem ukoll oħrajn bħala parti mill-ispettaklu. Mistenni wkoll logħob tan-nar.

Fejn joqogħdu dawk tal-flus?

Għalkemm kultant ftit jingħataw importanza mill-midja, fil-Parlament isiru mijiet ta' mistoqsijiet, kemm min-naħa tal-membri tal-Oppożizzjoni u wkoll tal-Gvern, dwar kull tema li wiehed jista' jimmagina.

Iżda ġieli jkun hemm mistoqsijiet li għal xi raġuni jew oħra jispiċċaw fil-midja, kultant fil-ġurnali kollha.

Wahda miinn dawn il-mistoqsijiet li saret dan l-aħħar u li giet irrappurtata f'diversi ġurnali kienet dwar f'liema bliet u rħula jgħixu dawk li l-aktar għandhom dħul finanzjarju – li tal-inqas €100,00 fis-sena.

Sintendi, biex iwieġeb mistoqsija bħal din, il-Ministru tal-Finanzi kellu jmur fuq id-dikjarazzjoni tad-dħul li għamlu l-Maltin u l-Għawdxin meta mlew il-formula tad-

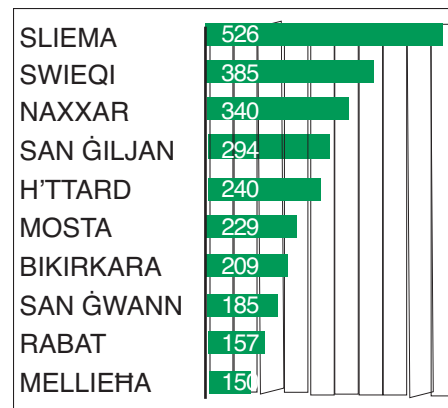
dħul għall-fini tat-taxxa tad-dħul. Is-sena li ttiehdet f'kunsiderazzjoni kienet l-2021.

Instab li matul dik is-sena kien hemm 4,900 persuna li ddikjarat li dahhlet €100,000 jew aktar.

U skont il-lista li ta l-Ministru l-akbar konċentrazzjoni ta' dawn il-persuni kienet f'tas-Sliema, fejn kien hemm 526 individwu li ddikjaraw li dahhlu aktar minn €100,000. Wara hemm is-Swieqi bi 385, in-Naxxar (340) u San Ġiljan (294)..

L-inqas li kien hemm li qalu li jdahhlu dik is-somma jew aktar kienu, fl-Isla u l-Għasri f'Għawdex b'zewġ persuni f'kull lokalità.

Interessanti li l-ebda lokalità f'Għawdex ma kienet mal-ewwel għoxrin, bl-ewwel lokal ikun ix-Xagħra fit-38 post b'26 persuna jgħidu li dahhlu €100,000 jew aktar.



Fejn jgħixu l-ewwel għaxra tal-flus

Sintendi, dejjem tibqa' l-possibiltà li n-numru attwali huwa aktar, għax dawn il-figuri jiddependu fuq dawk li iddikjaraw id-dħul tagħhom.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Tghid holma?

Iż-żewġ stampi fuq il-lemin juru d-disinn tal-proġett li qed tippromponi l-kumpanija AXGroup tas-Sur Angelo Xuereb biex tghaqqad il-Port il-Kbir ma' dak ta' Marsamxett biex b'hekk dak li jkun, ikun jista' li min-naħa tal-Kottonera u postijiet oħra fil-Port-il-Kbir jibqa' sejjer saħansitra sa tas-Sliema mingħajr il-ħtieġa li juża karożza.

Dan il-proġett jikkonsisti f'mina taħt il-Belt Valletta li tkun twila madwar 800 metru u wiesja 4.5metri. Il-mina tkun bejn ta' Liesse fil-Port-il-Kbir u Marsamxett.



Din il-kumpanija diġà għamlet l-istudji tagħha dwar l-implimentazzjoni ta' dan il-proġett u saħansitra ressqet applikazzjoni lill-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar.

Sintendi proġett bħal dan

ikun ta' fejda kbira għal dawk li jridu jaqsmu bejn il-Kottonera u l-inhawwi u ta' Tas-Sliema, u probabbli li jghin biex jinaqqas it-traffiku mit-toroq u jkun ta' attrazzjoni turistika.

Tghid dan il-proġett għad narawh issehh?



Dun David jinstab ħati

Mhux l-ewwel darba li dan is-sacerdot kien fl-Mahbarijiet minhabba l-mod kif jesprimi ruhu. U kien propju dwar kumment tiegħu li Dun David Muscat (lemin) spicča l-Qorti fejn saħansitra gie kkundannat.

Dan is-sacerdot, meta kien qed jikkummenta dwar Abner Aquilina, li jinsab mixli bil-qtil ta' Paulina Dembska, kien kiteb li li kieku Abner kien omosesswali jew bisesswali, kien ikun aghar milli kieku hu pposedut mix-xitan, kif ukoll li gayyagni (li tkun gay) hija marda u hija aghar milli tkun pposedut mix-xitan.

Dak li kiteb kien meqjus bħala diskors ta' mibegħda kif ukoll li inċitá l-mibegħda u l-vjolenza fuq persuni LGBTIQ.

L-ewwel tressaq il-Qorti tal-Maġistrati u gie lliberat. Imma din is-sentenza giet appellata... u l-Qorti tal-Appell sabitu ħati ta' kliem ta' mibegħda fil-konfront ta' persuni omosesswali. Allura ikkundannatu sitt xhur ħabs sospizi għal sentejn.

F'Jannar tas-sena l-oħra l-Arċisqof Charles Scicluna kien hareġ twissija formali lil Dun David, li fil-Liġi Kanonika hija msejha preċett penali u tah struzzjonijiet biex fil-fora pubbliċi ma jibqax jagħmel kummenti li jinsulentaw u jwegġgħu, inkella jitwaqqaf milli jeżerċitá l-ministeru sacerdotali fil-pubbliku.



Għawdxin l-ewwel fid-Dinja

F'dawn l-aħhar snin, saret haġa regolari li studenti Maltin u Għawdxin, minn dawk żgħar sa dawk kbar, jiehdu sehem f'konkorsi barranin, u mhux l-ewwel darba li marru wkoll tajjeb fihom.

L-aħhar suċċess, li kien wiehed kbir għal studenti Maltin, anzi biex inkunu aktar speċifiċi Għawdxin, kien ir-riżultat miksub fil-kompetizzjoni *Supertmatik*, li hija kompetizzjoni internazzjonali li fiha jiehdu sehem eluf ta' studenti mid-dinja kollha, u tkejjel l-aġilità mentali u l-hila matematika tal-istudenti.

Il-konkurs jisfida lill-partecipanti biex isolvu firxa wiesgħa ta' problemi matematiċi fi żmien limitat. Dawn il-problemi jkopru diversi punti matematiċi, inklużi puzzles aritmetiċi, alġebra, geometrija u loġika.

Supertmatik mhux biss jevalwa l-għarfien tal-istudenti iżda jenfasizza wkoll il-veloċità u l-eżattezza fis-soluzzjoni tal-problemi.

Kienu tliet studenti mill-iskola Primarja tal-Għarb, Għawdex, li għelbu l-isfida ta' eluf ta' studenti oħra, biex kisbu l-ewwel post fit-tliet kategoriji tal-kompetizzjoni.

L-istudenti kienu: **Daniel Aquilina** bl-

ewwel post minn 20,000 student fil-kategorija 2; **Ana Sultana** harġet bl-aqwa prestazzjoni fost 48,000 student fil-kategorija 4, filwaqt li **Cesca Cassar** kisbet ukoll l-ewwel post minn 74,000 student fil-kategorija 5.

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A quick glimpse at Australia

The Voice referendum

Over 120 members of the Federal Government Lower House voted for the establishment of a Voice if the referendum is successful. Lower house MPs have voted to set up the Indigenous voice referendum ahead of Australians heading to the polls on the issue later this year.

The House of Representatives passed laws to finalise the wording of the question to be put to the public, along with the changes to the Constitution, should the referendum be successful. The vote passed 121 to 25 followed by applause throughout the chamber. Opposition Leader Peter Dutton voted for the bill to pass.

The debate will move to the Senate, where it is likely to pass parliament, ahead of the referendum being held sometime between October and December.



Christine Rhazi (centre) with Uncle Bobby Young and Uncle Roger Jarrett at Caritas Australia's Sorry Day webinar (Caritas Australia/Serena Frost)

Support for Voice to Parliament

Caritas Australia has offered its support to the creation of a First Nations Voice to Parliament to be enshrined in the Constitution.

Christine Rhazi, a proud Yamatji Widi woman from Geraldton, Western Australia, and Caritas Australia's

Associate Director for First Australian Programs, said: "The Uluru Statement from the Heart invited all Australians to walk together towards justice. We have wholeheartedly accepted this invitation and we strive to walk in union and solidarity with our First Australian partners and communities across our land. We fully support the call for Voice, Treaty and Truth."

"It is clear that a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice will provide a necessary platform for consultation with First Australians on a local level. For First Australian communities to flourish, we must ensure that all people have the right to participate in the decisions that impact their lives and those of future

generations. First Australians have the solutions, and it is time for everyone else to listen."

Caritas Australia said it "decries the unacceptable gap between First Australians and other Australians across every measure of wellbeing, including financial, social, physical and mental health".

"We must invest in our First Australian communities, and close the gap in wellbeing and other outcomes, but we also know that these decisions must be made with, rather than for First Australians in order for them to be effective. The time has come for First Australians to be empowered to make the decisions that affect their lives, because we do have the answers," Ms Rhazi said.

Raise to the minimum wage

Millions of Australia's lowest-paid workers were impacted by the Fair Work Commission's decision. Fair Work Commission president Adam Hatcher announced that the minimum wage and modern award wages would rise 5.75 per cent from 1 July. For the lowest paid, it will mean their wages rise to \$882.80 a week - or \$23.23 an hour.

More than 20 per cent of the

country's workers (2.7 million) are paid minimum award rates and only 0.7 per cent (180,000) earns the national minimum wage, which is the lowest rate.

"It has been working Australians who have borne the brunt of the current circumstances in their household budgets through interest rate rises and also through inflationary problems," ACTU secretary Sally McManus said.

Australia and India, new migration deal

A new migration deal signed between Australia and India has been praised for creating more opportunities for young people and early career professionals in both countries.

India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner with two-way trade in goods and services valued at \$46.5 billion in 2022.

The migration deal was one of two deals signed during Narendra Modi's first visit to Australia in nine years, adding to a flurry of deals completed in the last year. An interim bilateral trade agreement has been in operation for five months, with plans to expand the scope and finalise the deal by the year's end. That deal aims to boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion.

The Indian community is the fastest-growing migrant group in Australia, increasing five-fold in the last 20 years. According to the Australian

Bureau of Statistics, just under 60,000 people arrived in Australia from India in 2021-22.

Not only that, but close to 784,000 Australians have Indian ancestry - 3.1 per cent of the total population, and after the United Kingdom, the Indian-

born population is the second largest migrant community in Australia, equivalent to 9.5 per cent of Australia's overseas-born population.



FWC president Adam Hatcher



India's PM Narendra Damodardas Modi with Australia's Anthony Albanese



A quick glimpse at Australia

The Budget and the ECC of Victoria

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria welcomes the strong investment in migrant and refugee communities in the recently announced State Budget. The budget delivers a range of funding initiatives for multicultural businesses, community infrastructure, education and language programs and anti-racism initiatives.

Eddie Micallef, the ECCV Chairperson made these comments: "ECCV welcomes the positive investment for multicultural communities in this Budget but we are concerned about how across-the-board cuts to the public service will impact on programs that support vulnerable communities."

"We reiterate our call for a whole-of-government Multicultural Strategy to provide a robust policy framework that recognises the important role of multicultural and ethno-specific organisations and embeds multicultural voices in the coordination, design and delivery of services."

"The pandemic has shown us that tai-

lored approaches centering the unique needs of multicultural communities are key to ensuring all Victorians can access the support they need. "We encourage the state government to continue working with the multicultural sector to ensure nobody is left behind."

Catholic Insurance soon to wind down

Catholic Church Insurance will wind down after failing to receive another financial lifeline amid large numbers of historical sexual abuse and other claims. CCI shareholders and staff were told that the body would begin winding down after the decision was made by shareholders not to prop it up.

CCI remains solvent and will be able to pay existing claims – including for abuse-related matters – but will close for new business.

The Church leadership has stressed that abuse claims will be covered and not affected by the shutdown, which will occur over time. The board described the move as heading into voluntary "run-off".

Its demise will create turbulence for Catholic dioceses across Australia but officials have been eager to stress that it is still able to fund existing claims.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and Catholic Religious Australia president Fr Peter Jones OSA restated the Church's "commitment to responding with justice and compassion to victims and survivors of abuse in Catholic settings – as we have sought to do for many years".



Kathleen Folbigg is free after 20 years

After 20 years in prison, Kathleen Folbigg (above) has been granted an unconditional pardon and is a free woman. Now 55 years old, Folbigg was once dubbed 'Australia's worst female serial killer'. In a case that has gripped Australia for decades she has always maintained that she was innocent of killing her four kids. In 2003, an NSW jury found Folbigg guilty of killing her four young children over a period ranging from 1989 - 1999. Folbigg was sentenced to 40 years in prison, with a non-parole period of 25 years.



Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan

"I am exhausted"

Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan has announced he is stepping down as premier and member for Rockingham after six years in the state's top job, stating he is "exhausted".

"Today I am announcing that I will be stepping down as Premier and member for Rockingham," McGowan read.

"I was elected premier of Western Australia in March 2017, more than six years ago. Prior to that, I served as Opposition Leader for more than six years. Now is the right time to step away from the job I love."

The Labor leader secured a second term after a historic state election victory in 2021, gaining 23 more seats than required to govern as a majority government.



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Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar l-ilsien Malti

Il-festa tradizzjonali popolari tal-Imnarja reġgħet magħna

Lejn tmiem dan ix-xahar ta' Ġunju, fid-29, imma li tibda mil-lejl ta' qabel, Malta tfakkar wahda mill-akbar festi tradizzjonali, ta' San Pietru u San Pawl, magħrufa l-aktar bħala tal-Imnarja u li hi assoċjata hafna mal-gonna tal-Buskett.

Fil-fatt din hi wkoll festa pubblika, li għal hafna Maltin hija skuża biex fiha jiffangaw fl-ikel appetituż tradizzjonali, l-aktar u l-aktar il-fenek, li forsi iżjed qabel milli issa kien l-ikla li hafna jiġġennu għaliha sa minn tard filgħaxija u matul il-lejl bejn it-28 u d-29 fil-Buskett.

Minbarra l-ikel din il-festa hi magħrufa hafna wkoll għall-ghana, u wkoll għall-festa tal-qaddisin protetturi ta' Malta, San Pietru u San Pawl li huma wkoll padruni tar-Rabat Malta u n-Nadur Għawdex. It-tifkira tikkonsisti b'purċis-sjonijiet, li wkoll ġejjin mill-qedem u li għadhom isiru.

Xi haġa li forsi hafna ma jafux hi, li l-

għeruq ta' din il-festa huma pagani, minn żmien ir-Rumani. L-origini tal-isem huwa mill-kelma Luminaria, festa li tigi kmieni fis-sajf fejn in-nies kienu jixgħelu l-hġej-jeġ u l-fjakkli biex jonoraw il-Vestalja, lill-alla Vesta. Fiċ-ċelebrazzjoni kienu jinxteghlu l-hġejjeġ u jawguraw għal hsa

f'din il-Grotta.

L-Imnarja kienet iddikjarata bħala festa mill-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann. Din tagħtina ċ-ċans li niskopru u nngożzu parti mill-kultura tagħna. Tant hu hekk li hu grazzi għall-Imnarja li hafna mit-traduz-zjonijiet għadhom haġjin.



Uħud mill-Maltin li kull sena jingabru l-Buskett għall-ikla tradizzjonali tal-fenek

abbundanti.

Għall-bidu, il-festa tal-Imnarja kienet issir barra l-Grotta ta' San Pawl fir-Rabat, post li għandu sinifikat reliġjuż qawwi għall-Gzejjer Maltin minhabba li jingħad li meta San Pawl inkalja fil-Gzejjer Maltin fi triqtu lejn Ruma fis-sena 60 mar jistkenn

Fl-antik, il-miżżew-ġin friski kienu ju-żawha l-Imnarja biex jiċcelebraw qamar il-ghasel. Daż-żmien, fir-Rabat xi nies kienu jxiddu lbies tradiz-zjonali taż-żwieġ u jagħmlu wirja.

Sa minn kmieni fis-seklu 17 il-festi kienu bdew isiru fil-pjazza tal-Katidral fl-Imdina fejn issir purċis-sjoni akkumpanjata minn mixgħela fost il-hruq tal-murtali.

Qabel it-telgħa tas-Saqqajja fir-Rabat int u ġej mis-Siġġiewi, isiru wkoll it-tigrijiet taż-żwiemel u r-rebbieha jingħataw bħala premju il-magħruf palju.

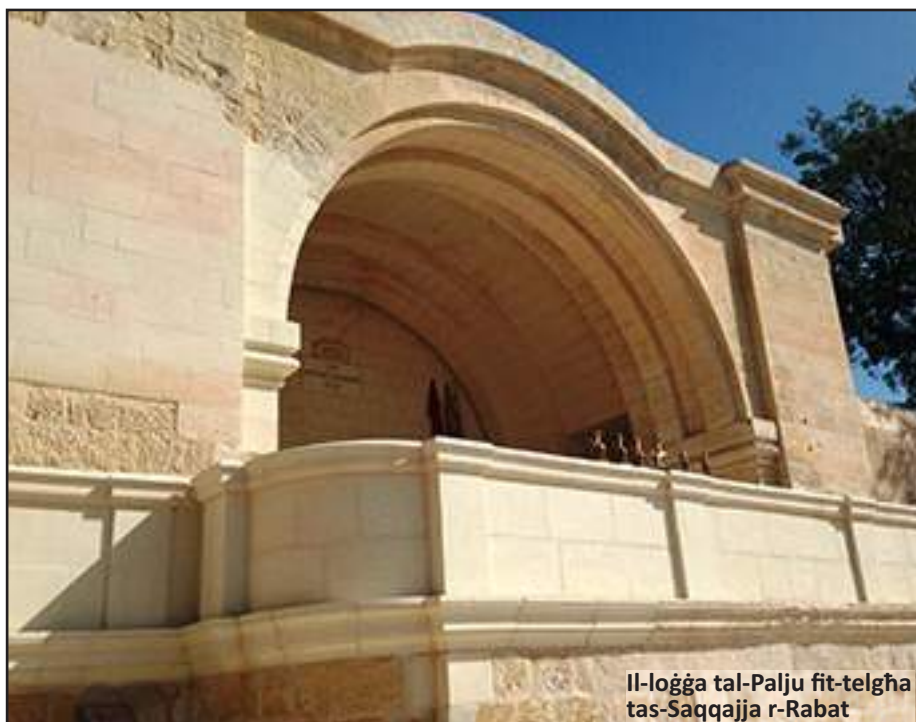
Fl-1696 dawn it-tigrijiet tant kienu popo-lari li l-Granmastru Wignacourt kien ikkummissjona l-Loġġa tal-Palju li ġiet im-fassla mill-famuż Lorenzo Gaġa u mibnija minn ċertu Salvu Borg mis-Siġġiewi. Din għadha hemm sal-lum, anzi ftit tas-snin ilu ġiet irrestawrata.

Minn din il-loġġa, il-Granmastru u l-mistednin tiegħu, komdi komdi kienu jaraw tmiem it-tigrija u hu kien iqassam il-palji ta' drapp ikkulurit lir-rebbieha. Wara, hafna minn dawn il-palji kienu jispiċċaw fuq l-artal ta' xi knisja.

Lejn tmiem is-seklu 17 iċ-ċelebrazzjoni-jiet tal-Imnarja bdew isiru fil-Buskett, li dak iż-żmien kien jintuża mill-Kavallieri bħala l-post privat tagħhom għall-kaċċa.

Ta' kurżitá l-fatt li minkejja l-popolaritá tal-ikla tal-fniek mill-Maltin, il-Kavalliet kienu jipprojbixxu li n-nies "ordinarji" jikkaċċjawhom u kienu biss il-Kavallieri li setghu jipprattikaw id-delizzju. Fl-unika ġurnata li fiha l-Maltin kienu jithallew jikkaċċaw għall-fniek slavaġġ kien fl-Im-narja. Kien hawn li bdiet it-tradizzjoni tal-fenkata u l-ikel mal-lejl fil-Buskett.

Fil-jum tal-Imnarja jsiru wkoll wirjiet u kompetizzjonijiet tal-frott mil-bdiewa li jiehdu l-aqwa prodotti tagħhom għall-wirja agrarja u kompetittiva f'jum l-Im-narja filgħodu. L-istess isir ukoll fil-wirja tal-bhejjem mir-raħħala.



Il-loġġa tal-Palju fit-telgħa tas-Saqqajja r-Rabat

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija



Charles Spiteri

Inawgurat mafkar f'għieh l-Isqof Nikol Cauchi

Ghad kif gie inawgurat fil-Ġonna ta' Villa Rundle fir-Rabat Għawdex, bust b'tifkira ta' Nikol Cauchi, Isqof ta' Għawdex bejn l-1972 u l-2005.

Qabel iċ-ċerimonja tal-kxif u t-tberik tal-Mafkar mill-Ministru għal Għawdex, Clint Camilleri u l-Isqof t'Għawdex, Anton Teuma, saru diskorsi mill-Isqof Teuma, il-Ministru Camilleri, Mons. Renato Borg, li kien l-aħħar segretarju privat tal-Isqof Cauchi, u huh il-Kanonku Achille Cauchi.

Kollha fakku fl-erudizzjoni tal-Isqof bħala Duttur tal-Filosofija u awtur prolificu kif ukoll fis-sensittività tiegħu lejn il-merhla tiegħu murija b'modi prattiċi bħal boroż ta' studju għall-kleru żagħżuġ, skemi ta' akkomodazzjoni soċjali għall-familji, u difiża tad-drittijiet tal-haddiema, u l-istudenti Għawdxin.

Il-mafkar gie ddisinjat mill-artist Għawdxu Manuel Farrugia u mahdum fil-bronż mill-Fonderija *Domus Dei* ta' Ruma.

Fl-ghaxar sena ta' Il-Haġar

Il-mużew u ċentru kulturali komunitarju *Il-Haġar* fi Pjazza San Gorg fil-belt kapitali Għawdxija, miexi b'sensiela ta' taħditiet varjati li tfakkar l-ghaxar sena mill-inawgurazzjoni.

Wahda minn dawn it-taħdidiet saret mill-Għawdxija, il-konsulenta tal-illuminazzjoni, Rita Curmi li iddiskutiet l-iskema l-ġdida għall-Oratorju ta' San Gwann. Hi kienet mghejjuna minn missierha l-inġinier Renzo Curmi.

Wara studji l-Università u l-MCAST, is-sinjura Curmi, komplet għall-Master of Arts in Lighting Design taht Malcolm Innes f'Edinburgh Napier. Fit-tezi ttrattat sistema ta' dawl tal-aqwa livell għall-kapolavur tal-Qtoġh ir-Ras tal-Battista. Wara dahlet ukoll f'bosta proġetti oħra f'diversi oqsma.



Peress

li temmen li d-dawl hu essenzjali fi kwalunkwe aspett tad-disinn, hi timmira li thegġeg dan l-interess.

Wara li investigat teknika innovattiva biex tasal għal soluzzjoni addattata għall-Oratorju tal-Kon-Katidral, Curmi għazlet l-iprem sistema ta' illuminazzjoni u kontroll. Mezz mill-iktar żviluppati taw dimensjoni ġdida għall-Caravaggio, kif ukoll għall-Pretijiet u tant aspetti Barokki madwar l-Oratorju.

Bil-ghajnuna ta' apparat elettroniku li kellha, u permezz ta' ritratti u xeni, il-kelliema għenet lil daww preżenti japprezzaw iktar l-aspetti li ttrattat.

F'gheluq il-mitt sena

B'tifkira Solenni tal-mitt sena tal-istatwa Titulari tal-Knisja tal-Patrijiet Frangiskani f'Għajnsielem, ittella' kunċert bl-isem ta' *B'Harsa ta' Mhabba* taht id-direzzjoni ta' Michel Angelo Muscat li fetah iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet għall-festa ta' Sant'Antnin ta' Padova fir-rahall Għawdxu li giet iffestegġjata l-Hadd 4 ta' Gunju.

L-istatwa titulari ta-lum saret fl-1923, xogħol fil-kartapesta li hadimha l-istatwarju Taljan Cav. Luigi Gucci, minn Lecce.

TAHT: Dehra panoramika waqt il-kunċert kommemorattiv. L-istatwa ta' Sant'Antnin ta' Padova tidher fuq in-naħa tal-lemin (immarkata bi vleggja).



Is-Sinjura Rita Curmi waqt it-taħdita tagħha f'*Il-Haġar*



PAOLINO VASSALLO - mitt sena minn mewtu

Fil-fehma tiegħi, Paolino Vassallo huwa wieħed

PeterPaulCIANTAR

mill-akbar kompożituri Maltin tal-imghoddi. Il-hasra hi, li tneħhi għall-overture patrijottika tiegħu 'Malta', il-mużika tiegħu f'it li xejn tindaqq. Din is-sena tfakkar anniversarju speċjali ta' dan il-kompożitur Malti li miet fil-Belt Valetta mitt sena ilu, fit-30 ta' Jannar 1923, fl-età ta' 66 sena.

Fl-2006 (150 anniversarju mit-twelid tiegħu) kienu ġew esegwiti diversi xogħlijiet ta' Paolino Vassallo bil-partecipazzjoni tal-Orkestra Nazzjonali u kienet anke nharġet bolla biex tfakkar dan it-tragward speċjali.

Fil-kollezzjoni tiegħi ta' dan il-kompożitur, ngehż ir-rekordings tassew sbieħ ta' 'Messa Grande' (1889), quddies kompluta b'kollox, bid-direzzjoni ta' Dion Buħgiar. Għandi wkoll il-'Christus factus est', bid-direzzjoni ta' Michael Laus, il-famuża overture tiegħu 'Malta', bid-direzzjoni ta' Christopher Muscat, kif ukoll 'Salve Regina'. Għandi wkoll CD b'xogħlijiet tiegħu esegwiti mill-Orkestra Nazzjonali taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Christopher Muscat.

L-Overture 'Malta'

L-overture patrijottika 'Malta' inseqwiha spiss fil-programmi mużikali tiegħi meta xi programm jahbat f'xi jum nazzjonali. Minbarra li din l-overture, hija rikka fl-armonija tagħha, thoss fiha element mużikali qawwi ta' patrijottizmu ... u għaldaqstant xierqa f'jum nazzjonali.

Bħala kompożitur, Paolino Vassallo għandu wkoll għadd ta' xogħlijiet ta' mużika sagra, fosthom 'Messa da Requiem' miktuba xi erba' snin wara l-'Messa Grande' tiegħu. Dan l-aħhar irnexxieli nikseb ukoll silta rrekordjata ta' din ir-Requiem.

Vassallo għandu wkoll xogħlijiet orkestrali oħra u xi mużika ħafifa bħal valzi, għanjiet klassiċi għall-ilhna b'ak-kumpanjament bil-pjanu u xogħlijiet għall-banda.

Għalkemm hafna żgur li jafu, Paolino Vassallo għandu wkoll fir-repurtorju mużikali tiegħu l-opra 'Francesca da Rimini' (opra f'att wieħed), 'Amor Fata' (opra b'żewġ atti bbażata fuq l-opra 'Francesca da Rimini'), u l-opra 'Frazir' li minnha għandi biss intermezz.

Għandu wkoll l-opra 'Edith Cavell', li kellha tkun l-aħhar xogħol mużikali kbir tiegħu u li kitibha fis-sena ta' mewtu, fl-1923. Din l-opra fi tliet atti u b'librett tal-poeta Alfonso Giglio, kienet giet esegwita fit-Teatru Rjal erba' snin wara l-mewtu, f'Marzu 1927.

L-opra 'Edith Cavell' kellha suċċess kbir. Kienet tittratta l-istorja vera u tragika



tal-infermiera Ingliża Edith Cavell (1865 – 1915). B'din l-opra, Vassallo kien beda triq ġdida f'Malta f'dan il-qasam operistiku: l-opra tal-verizmu. Hasta li sa fejn naf jien, lanqas biss 'concert version' ta' xi partijiet tagħha m'hawn.

Paolino Vassallo twieled Bormla f'Luġu, 1856. Kien beda jistudja l-vjolin mal-Professur Domenico Amore u l-armonija mal-Kan. Luigi Fenech. Wara xi snin intebah li t-talenti mużikali tiegħu setgħu jqabduh toroq aktar wesghin, għalhekk, ta' 19-il sena mar Pariġi fi Franza biex jistudja fil-Konservatorju Royal taħt l-għalliema famuż Jules Massenet (ir-Re tal-opra Franciża), u Guiraud.

Fl-10 snin li dam Pariġi, Vassallo sar ħabib kbir ma' ismijiet oħra kbar fil-mużika, fosthom Ambroise Thomas u Gounod, il-famuż kompożitur tal-opra 'Faust'.

Prix de Rome

Ta' min isemmi wkoll li Paolino Vassallo kien il-prim vjolin tal-'Opera-Comique' f'Pariġi, u f'ħafna kitbiet dwaru nsibu li saħansitra wara sar ukoll direttur tal-orkestra tal-istess teatru. Waqt li kont qed naghmel xi riċerka dwar dan il-kompożitur Malti fil-ktieb 'Great Maltese Composers' tal-ħabib tiegħi Joseph Vella Bondin sibt li skont il-ktieb m'hemmx konferma ta' dan.

F'kitbiet oħra dwaru jingħad li Paolino Vassallo rebaħ il-famuża kompetizzjoni mużikali msejha 'Prix de Rome' imma m'acċettax il-premjum minhabba li ma riedx

jirrinunzja ċ-ċittadinanza Maltija. Imma Vella Bondin jgħidilna li din biss purament legġenda. Dan id-diskors kien isir f'pajjiżna biex is-segwaċi ta' Vassallo jgħollu kemm jistgħu l-hiliet ta' dan il-kompożitur Malti.

B'danakollu dan ma jħassar xejn mill-mertu mużikali kbir li kien iħaddan li fost il-mużoka tiegħu nsibu mużika għall-Knisja mill-aqwa, dik għat-teatru u wkoll għas-swali tal-kunċerti.

Bla tlaqliq ngħid li l-mużika ta' Vassallo hija mużika eleganti b'armonija mill-isbah, hajja, mibnija b'mod professjonali għall-aħhar u innovattiva, imsawwra fil-pinna mużikali tiegħu bl-esperjenzi kbar li kiseb f'Pariġi. Hu kien l-ewwel kompożitur Malti li hareġ minn influwenza mużikali Taljana.

Bħala karattru s-Surmast Paolino Vassallo kien gentlom kbir u ferm irrispettat. Kien eżatt f'xogħlu, preċiż fl-appuntamenti, u bniedem ta' twemmin sod fejn tidhol ir-reliġjon. Fuq kollox kien bniedem umli b'inteligenza kbira mużikali.

Jibqa' Malta bla ħsieb

Huwa ġie lura Malta fl-1885 biex jara lill-ġenituri tiegħu Salvatore u Victoria. Ma kienx beħsiebu jibqa' Malta, imma l-imhabba kbira tiegħu lejn il-ġenituri u minhabba li kien ukoll iltaqa' ma' Marianna, li aktar tard saret martu, baqa' f'pajjiżu, fejn fl-età ta' 29 sena waqqaf istitut mużikali l-Belt.

L-istitut kien suċċess kbir, b'ideat li l-kompożitur xorob minn Pariġi. Minn dan l-istitut ħarġu ismijiet magħrufa fil-qasam tal-mużika, fosthom Domenico Anastasi, Giuseppe Caruana u Carlo Diacono. Vincenzo Ciappara (ir-Re tal-marċi Maltin) kien ukoll studja f'dan l-istitut.

Fl-1902, Paolino Vassallo nħatar *maestro di cappella* tal-Katidral tal-Imdina u tal-Kon-katidral ta' San Ġwann. Imma sena biss wara sab ma' wiċċu l-famuża 'Motu Proprio' mahruġa mill-Papa Piju X, li kien ifisser daqshekk mużika teatrali fil-knejjes, u setgħet tindaqq biss mużika adattata għat-tempju tal-Mulej. Dan kien ifisser inkwiet bla mistenni għal Vassallo.

Paolino u martu Marianna kellhom żewġt ulied, Victor u Bice, li kienet pjanista mill-aqwa u li kienet miżżewġa lill-eks Prim Ministru ta' Malta Enrico Mizzi.

F'Bormla fejn twieled Paolino Vassallo, il-pjazza ewlenija hija msemmija għalih. Għandna wkoll 'Skola Paolino Vassallo'. Imma kemm kienet tkun ideali li kieku l-banda tal-lokal tiegħu ukoll kienet imsemmija għalih!

Australia is to respond to China's military build-up

A landmark report has warned China's military build-up in Australia's region is unparalleled since World War Two, and there is a "strong sense of urgency" to respond.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has warned "we cannot fall back on old assumptions" as he announced major upgrades to Australia's long-range missile capability, along with changes to Australian Defence Force (ADF) infrastructure.

The long-awaited Defence Strategic Review has found the threat of land invasion launched by a foreign power remains "remote", but described China's military build-up in the region as the "most ambitious of any country" since the 1940s.

Australia's Prime Minister Albanese described the review, widely viewed as shaping Australia's military strategy for the coming decades, as the most significant work done by Defence since the 1940s.

"This represents a document for today and tomorrow ... It demonstrates a world where challenges to our national security are always evolving. We cannot fall back on old assumptions," he said. Here are the four key takeaways.

China's unparalleled ambition

China's military build-up is unparalleled and is setting it on a collision course with the United States. The document mentions China nine times, framing Beijing's competition with Washington as the "defining feature of our region and our time".

It describes China's military build-up in the Indo-Pacific as the "largest and most ambitious of any country since the end of the Second World War".

Defence Minister Richard Marles insisted a stable relationship with Beijing would be to both parties' benefit.

"Australia will continue to cooperate with China where we can, disagree where we must, manage our differences wisely and

above all else, engage and vigorously pursue our national interest," he said.

'Risk of nuclear escalation'

Australia's geographical benefits have "radically" shrunk, and we'll have less warning. The reviewers warn of "the most challenging circumstances in our region for decades", and warn "the risk of nuclear escalation must be regarded as real". Australia's isolation meant that, in the post-World War Two period, Defence believed it would have a decade's notice for planning and capability development.

The region now includes actors able to project power across five domains: maritime, land, air, space and cyber. And while the report accepts the possibility of a land invasion remains "remote", it warns of economic coercion and threats to Australian trade routes.

"Cyber warfare is not bound by geography. The rise of the 'missile age' in modern warfare, crystallised by the proliferation of long-range precision strike weapons, has radically reduced Australia's geographic benefits," it says.

The review has ditched the 10-year warning assumption, which has been broken down in: the three-year period (2023-2025, for threats which must be addressed urgently), the five-year period (2026-2030), and the period 2031 and beyond.

As the threat changes, so must the ADF. "The ADF as currently constituted and equipped is not fully fit for purpose," the report says. Australia's missile capabilities are set for a major upgrade, the review calling for its weaponry to become more



long-range and more lethal.

Its missiles can currently strike targets at a maximum of 200 kilometres, but the review is calling for an immediate five-fold increase to 1000km. In total, the government has committed \$19 billion over the next four years. But there'll be cuts to offset that expenditure, of around \$8 billion.

Labor says the previous government launched "artificial" projects which cost money, but had no strategic value. More than 30 will either be shrunk, delayed, or axed entirely.

But shadow defence minister Andrew Hastie described the timing of the announcement as "tricky politics". "The Albanese government is using Anzac Day as a smokescreen, hoping the Australian people would not notice some of these trade-offs and cuts to capability," he said.

Climate change

Use policy, not troops, to combat climate change. ADF troops have been repeatedly deployed on home soil, responding to a series of natural disasters, including the Black Summer Bushfires and multiple floods on the NSW north coast.

It says Defence transitioning towards clean energy would bolster Australia's resilience to natural disasters, as would efforts from governments of all levels to combat climate change.

And the ADF troops should only be deployed to local natural disasters when there is no other option. "Defence should be the force of last resort for domestic aid to the civil community, except in extreme circumstances," it says.

Anna Henderson, Finn McHugh
(Source: SBS News)

Maltese RSL Sub-Branch honours Charles Mifsud

At its recent meeting, the Maltese RSL sub-branch presented Charles Mifsud with a commemorative frame in gratitude for his 15 years of incredible service as the president of the sub-branch.

It also presented a George Cross frame to Paul Zammit OAM of the Zammit Promotional Products, who, alongside his wife Rita Zammit OAM, has provided invaluable financial support to the organisation.

The Maltese RSL Sub Branch is encouraging all current serving ADF personnel and veterans of Maltese descent to consider joining the group, which can be contacted at maltesersl@live.com.au.



No Malta-born in King's 2023 Birthday Honours List

The Governor-General announced Honours and Awards for 1,191 Australians, including awards in the Order of Australia (General and Military Divisions), meritorious awards and recognition for distinguished and conspicuous service. No one of those honoured is Malta-born.

The 12 least densely populated Places on our Planet Earth



One would think that there are so many people on our little blue planet that there must hardly be a place where people don't live. Generally speaking, Antarctica is the only unpopulated continent on Earth (save some scientists who aren't really residents).

At the same time, there's still a lot of places on the planet with a very low population density, and in most cases, the unbearable climatic conditions are to blame.

It is worth noting what the the top 10 least populated places on Earth are. They are mostly ruled by nature and full of unbelievably beautiful and vast landscapes.

10 Botswana

Population Density: (people per square km) 3.48. The population trends in Botswana are defined by natural limits. So, the 2.2 million population of the country is confined to the southeastern borders of the country, namely the capital, Gaborone (where 10% of the population reside), Francistown and a few other, smaller cities.

9 Mauretania

Population Density: 3.36. This is a rather big country in Africa, the territory of which largely consists of the Sahara desert. Only 3.8 million people live there, and an estimated 30% of them reside in Nouakchott, the capital city, which is also the largest city in the Sahara desert.

8 Suriname

Population Density: 3.26. This is a small country in South America, its territory is roughly equal to the territory of the US state of Georgia. An estimated 80% of the country consists of forests, and the population of Suriname is only 563,402 people.

7 Iceland

Population Density: 3.24. This beautiful country has many waterfalls, glaciers and other natural wonders. However, living in Iceland is a much tougher endeavor, seeing as the majority of the county's territory is an area of volcanic activity. It has 32 volcanic which is why more than a third of the population resides in the capital city, Reykjavik.

6 Australia

Population Density: 3.14. You may be surprised at this one. Its population is spread out as unevenly as its varied climate. While the coastal regions abound in rainforests and green mountain ranges, the so-called Australian Outback is a barren land, uninhabitable and practically devoid of life. The vast majority of the population reside near the coast, in the major cities, such as Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne are located.

5 French Guiana

Population Density: 2.65. Guiana is part of France, but it's largely separate from its European colonizer despite having Euro as

currency. Over half of the country's 296,711 residents live in the capital city, Cayenne.

4 Namibia

Population Density: 2.56. Much of Namibia's landscape is dominated by the Namib and Kalahari deserts, which are very VERY dry places. The majority of the 2.534 million people who live in Namibia reside in the northern, slightly more habitable lands.

3 Mongolia

Population Density: 1.92. The famous commander and ruler Genghis Khan expanded past Mongolia for good reason, because the vastly large, barren and cold steppes of Mongolia are hardly the most habitable place to live.

2 Falklands Islands

Population Density: 0.21. The Falkland Islands, technically a South Atlantic archipelago belonging to the UK consists of over 700 smaller islands. It acts as the breeding grounds for countless bird species, notably many penguins. It only has 2,932 inhabitants, mostly sheep farmers of British descent.

1 Greenland

Population Density: 0.03. Most of Greenland's territory is covered in ice, but the rocky lands on the west coast of the country have been inhabited for over 4,500 years. Greenland is part of Denmark, but only 56,000 people inhabit the enormous territory.

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.



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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 mitkelllem. 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.

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 along to La Valette for L-Imnarja 2023 on Sunday 25 June from 10am!
The traditional Maltese feast includes lots of family entertainment, live music and Maltese food and drinks!

If you would like to hold a market stall or craft exhibition call Antoine on 0405 233 144.

For more information one should visit lavalette.com.au.

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/ or on TV Channel 38.

On Demand and podcasts on www.sbs.com.au/maltese

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

VICTORIA

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

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



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

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

NSW

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese 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.

demand.

WOW-FM 100.7: Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm. Maltese program with Joe Borg and Michael Mallia. Listen live on www.wowfm1007.com.au

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

QUEENSLAND

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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



Malta tops medals table at end of GSSE MALTA 2023

This Wednesday (14 June), the Maltese public is being invited to 'Celebrating Team Malta' in a free event open to all, in Castille Square, Valletta, to greet the athletes who formed part of the Maltese contingent that participated in the 2023 Games of the Small States of Europe. Team Malta had highly successful participation and finished the overall medals winner topping the leaderboard among the nine participants by winning 38 Gold, 30 Silver and 29 Bronze medals for a total of 95 medals.

It was Malta's best-ever result since first hosting the Games in 2003. Then it finished fourth overall with a tally of 44 medals.

"Celebrating Team Malta" promises to be a spectacular show as those present can relive some of the best moments during the Games. The occasion will continue to show support and unity towards Team Malta athletes. Although the Games have drawn to a close, the support Malta offered to Team Malta athletes should be an ongoing effort

Man. City win UCL

English Premier League club Manchester City have finally won the UEFA Champions League for the first time in their history by beating Inter Milan of Italy 1-0 with a goal by Rodri at Istanbul's Ataturk Olympic Stadium, making them the second English team to complete the treble, League, FA Cup and UEFA Champions League, 24 years after Man. United.

It is manager Guardiola's second treble after the one he oversaw at Barcelona in 2008-09 – no one else has won more than one – and his third Champions League after the two with the Catalan club.

Postecogiu first Aussie to manage English PL club



Ange Postecogiu is the first Aussie to hit the English Premier League as coach at Tottenham Hotspur. He was born in Greece and emigrated to Australia with his family as a five-year-old.

He played as a defender for Sth Melbourne Hellas and four times for Australia before coaching Sth Melbourne Hellas and Brisbane Roar in Australia.

He then joined Yokohama Marinos in Japan before going to Celtic in Scotland where he won five trophies (including two league titles) in two seasons. He will start his new role at White Hart Lane on 1 July

Rank	NOC	G	S	B	total
1	Malta	38	28	29	95
2	Cyprus	29	27	28	84
3	Luxembourg	15	22	28	65
4	Monaco	12	8	12	32
5	Iceland	11	13	16	40
6	San Marino	6	9	8	23
7	Montenegro	5	6	8	19
8	Andorra	4	7	10	21
9	Liechtenstein	2	2	5	9

that will motivate them to keep working towards more significant success for Maltese sport.

Team Malta kicked off the event on 29 May by winning 14 gold medals and ended the final day on 3 June by picking six more for an overall total of 38. The gold, silver and bronze combined on the last day propelled Malta to the top of the medals table.

Cyprus placed second with 84 and Luxembourg third with 65.

Team Malta's most successful medal winners were Claire Azzopardi and Gina McNamara each with three gold medals in athletics. Claire's were, in *Women's 4x100m relay*, *Women's Long Jump*, and *Women's Triple Jump*. Gina's gold were won in *Women's 1500m*, *Women's 5000m*, and *Women's 800m*.

Marshall Soper to head Melita Eagles Academy

The Annual general meeting of the Partramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club held at the Hamrun Club at Marsden Park NSW confirmed the following executive (*pictured*) for the coming season: *President*: Mark Tanti; *Secretary*: Anthony Theuma; *Treasurer*: Caroline Tanti; *Asst Treasurer*: Michael Mallia; *Director*: Michael Mallia

It was revealed that Melita Eagles is still negotiating with GDFa about the trophies still held at Melita Stadium and their trans-



Triple gold winners at the Malta GSSE 2023

Malta win friendly before Friday match vs England

Kyrian Nwoko scored Malta's winning goal in the national football team's 1-0 away victory over Luxembourg in its final international warmup match before this coming Friday's Euro 2024 qualifiers against England and, three days later, against Ukraine at Trnava Stadium in Slovakia.

The latest win, a deserved one, arrived after the two narrow defeats against North Macedonia and Italy earlier this year. Nwoko repaid coach Michele Marcolini's confidence by scoring midway through the second half after coming on as a half-time substitute.

The Maltese football supporters highly await Friday's match against England, and a sell-out crowd is anticipated.

fer to the new premises. The participation agreement is still not clear.

Mark Tanti informed the general meeting that Melita would be playing from the premises at the Hamrun Club where a junior playing field is being set up. Former Socceroo and Melita's player Marshall Soper will run the Melita Eagles Football Academy.

Doris Caruana was appointed Life member of the club by acclamation. The club will also have an information stand at the

Our Lady Queen of Peace Festa on September 24 at Greystanes. For information about this new initiative between the Hamrun Club at Marsden Park and Melita Eagles SC, one should contact Mark Tanti on 0457 446 965.