



The Voice of the Maltese

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

Issue
302

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A fortnightly print
and digital magazine

A bird's eye view of Sliema and Paceville with Portomaso tower dominating the scene



VisitMalta



The end of the road

With this issue, I end my commitment as editor of *The Voice of the Maltese* fortnightly magazine after ten years. They were some of the most satisfying years that allowed me to continue doing my journalistic work, this time more as a hobby, which I have loved doing since my teens. I had been doing while based in Malta.

The feedback that we got at *The Voice* from the thousands of readers who accepted the magazine format I introduced with issue No 63 when I took up the challenge kept me going.

With every issue of the 239 that we have produced since then, until the last one (right) I gave proof of my professionalism.

I wholeheartedly dedicated myself to *The Voice* and never cut corners or cheated the readers by blatantly producing a publication through a paste and cut method, copied word for word from media or portals published on the Internet, which is an illegal practice called plagiarism.

Now I feel I need to town down and prioritise my time to myself and to those close to me. However, I still intend to be part of *The Voice* team with my contributions. **Joseph Cutajar**



Changing of the guard

After the demise of the iconic *Maltese Herald*, the need to continue the link between the Maltese in Australia fell into the lap of *The Voice of the Maltese*. Malta-based journalist Joseph Cutajar and Australian-based journalist and author Lawrence Dimech joined forces to produce what is the best-ever publication, not only in Australia but in all the Maltese diaspora.

In 2023 *The Voice of the Maltese* attracted a special award from The Institute of Maltese Journalists, IMJ (The Malta Journalism Awards) for services rendered to Maltese living abroad. It is the first such award ever given in the 31 years of the Institute.

We produced a magazine-style publication online and in hard copy for ten long years. New technology is demanding we move on. We seek new markets and new readers.

After an exciting career as a journalist in Malta, which also took him to other parts of the world, and for the past ten years editing, writing and designing *The Voice of the Maltese*, Joseph Cutajar has decided it was time for him to retire precipitating a change at the top.

Ivan Cauchi, a Malta University-educated electrical engineer, will replace Joseph. He will be assisted as co-editor by Lawrence Dimech, regarded as the pioneer of Maltese print

journalism in Australia.

Joseph Cutajar has accepted to still be part of *The Voice of the Maltese* team, with notable contributions occasionally.

Ivan Cauchi was a regular opinion writer with his 'Perspettiva', page for several years. He was born in Malta to Gozitan parents. He worked for several years in the IT and telecommunications sector in Malta (with Tele Malta/ Mal-tacom and Vodafone) and with Vodafone Australia before leaving the corporate world to dedicate his time to his young family.

In Malta, he volunteered with some NGOs, that included (Moviment Kerygma, Mid-Dlam Ghad-Dawl) and in NSW (Youth off the Streets).

In NSW, he is active with the Maltese community of Sydney (La Valette Social Centre) and the Spanish-speaking community (Amistad Latina Spanish School). He is also a private Maltese tutor and interpreter with NSW Health and has an IT consultancy (Falcon-ICT).



Ivan Cauchi

In his younger years, he played soccer and tennis, and represented his country of birth in volleyball.

We are happy that Ivan has joined our team. New blood brings new ideas. *The Voice of the Maltese* will be a different kind of publication directed more at online media. We will introduce changes as we go along.

We will maintain a fortnightly digital and physical print for those who still prefer to consume their Maltese news and opinion in this format.

We will respect the intelligence of our readers as we have done in the past ten years.

Thanks for your past support. Stay with us for a new exciting future. We hope we will not disappoint you.



President appeals for political maturity by parties in appointing top positions

In an interview for the State of the Nation on TVM, Malta President George Vella said that Malta's people are frequently prejudiced and believe everyone is corrupt and untrustworthy. Yet, in contrast, in his recent meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres kept searching for the best words to praise the Maltese delegation at the UN and Malta's work. "It is difficult to understand how the foreigner praises me, yet I keep hurting myself bashing our own country," he said.

The President's tenure in office is up to 10 months. His successor would need the support of two-thirds of the House of Representatives to be appointed. He believes there are capable people of integrity over which both sides can agree to appoint his successor.

He appealed for political maturity between the Government and the Opposition in making appointments to top positions. There are enough capable, trustworthy and competent people from which both sides can choose for a particular role.

President George Vella expressed his opinion on political life and how much this attracts new blood so parties can elect their best people as MPs.

He said he was wary of the idea that MPs work full-time, as this tends to make people more attached to their 'chair'. He asked whether enough persons are capable of this

profession, how willing they are to abandon everything for politics, and whether this will scare prospective politicians off.

He was asked whether character assassination hinders valid individuals from entering the political area. In his view, that is the case. He added that political parties would be poorer as fewer professionals would enter politics.

A recent survey showed that people are becoming less interested in politics. In the President's opinion, the more the country evolves and the more stable the economy,

the more people get used to living in a certain way, such as benefiting from free healthcare.

There is also the fact that the more the population becomes informed, the more it would need the party to make its decisions for it. The President said, "You need direction, but then the examination and assessing is up to you".

Nowadays, there is more access to education, and the current trend shows that education makes an

enormous difference.

President Vella also pointed out the importance of the family and young people's experiences overseas, which he said should serve as an opportunity for them to bring fresh ideas back to their country.

Requested to express his view on multiculturalism, the President stressed integration by foreigners in Malta and vice versa.

He also gave his opinion on identity and culture, saying people do not live in a vacuum. While keeping their distinctive character, they needed to develop.



President George Vella during his meeting with the UAE President

UAE intend to broaden, deepen avenues of cooperation with Malta

Welcoming President George Vella and his delegation that included Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, in Abu Dhabi, the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, underlined his country's intention to broaden and deepen avenues of cooperation with Malta, which he termed as a 'country of dialogue'.

President Vella referred to his visit as a landmark in the relations between the two countries as they enter their 50th year of formal establishment. They agreed increased potential might be registered in investment, trade, renewable energy and the environment.

The war in Ukraine was referred to in great detail, with President Vella outlining Malta's position condemning aggression and invasion against Ukraine and the need for the international community to preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity. They agreed that the ultimate goal should be to reach peace and security through discussions and dialogue.

An exchange of views took place on the issue of climate change in light of the COP28 Summit that the UAE will host in December 2023. President Vella expressed his hope for a productive meeting that meets the urgency of the international climate scenario.

Sheikh Al Nahyan gave a detailed account of the ongoing preparations and explained the emerging climate-related challenges faced by countries in the Gulf region. They both welcomed the excellent cooperation between UAE and Malta as they continue serving as non-Permanent United Nations Security Council Members.

President Vella also held a meeting with Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of the Presidential Court, as well as with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Are there seniors in your community who need help at home?



Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.



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Our personality for this month is a young aspiring, well-educated community leader. Chosen to be the keynote speaker at the 2023 commemoration of the 7th of June (*Sette Giugno*), she is determined to get the younger generation of the Illawarra districts to be more in the forefront.

A community leader in the making - pushing the younger generation

Annemarie Thind

Annemarie Thind (nee Theuma) was born in Malta in 1990. She attended St. Monica School for primary and secondary schooling, first in Mosta and then Birkirkara.

Annemarie also attended the De La Salle College sixth form, after which she emigrated to Australia with her parents and younger sister at eighteen.

As the family decided to settle in Cairns, Far North Queensland, Annemarie attended James Cook University to study towards a double degree in Psychology and Zoology. Annemarie was involved in various campus associations and held multiple positions in clubs and associations during her time there.

She held positions of Campus Officer and Vice-President of the JCU Student Association, President of the JCU Psychology Association and a Sustainability Mentor. Annemarie led various on-campus initiatives to better student welfare and was a JCU TropEco award winner for her work in running a campaign to improve sustainability practices on campus.

After graduating from university, she started her career as an Employment Advisor in the Employment Services industry. After getting married, she and her husband moved to the Penrith region of New South Wales in search of better career opportunities. After having their two daughters, the family made another move towards the East Coast to Shellharbour, a coastal town south of Wollongong.

It was there that Annemarie connected with the Maltese Community in NSW. She was offered an opportunity to teach Maltese to children and adults, which she took up wholeheartedly. It also led to connecting with the teachers of Skola Maltija Sydney, who offered their support and expertise in teaching Maltese as a community language.

These teachers showed great enthusiasm and passion for continuing to teach the language, traditions and culture of the Maltese islands in Australia. She had an opportunity to complete the Community



**PERSONALITY
OF THE MONTH
OF THE MONTH**

Languages Teaching Programme, passing with distinction and was invited to deliver the student speech during the graduation ceremony.

Annemarie was honoured to represent and promote the tiny island of Malta amongst community language teachers for languages from across the

globe. These experiences and being mentored by the dedicated teachers of Skola Maltija Sydney inspired her to take a new path in her career.

After completing Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Annemarie began working with a local community college, delivering training courses for adults from disadvantaged backgrounds. Annemarie works with students with disabilities, mental ill-health and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

**Continued on page 5*

⇐ Annemarie Thind with her young family, husband Navi and their daughters, Jasmine (her youngest), and Anaya



Supporting neurodivergent adults, young people and the community

**Continued from page 4*

Through Annemarie's want to better support her students in the classroom, she embarked on further study towards a Master's in Education and is currently completing her final semester. In 2020, Annemarie established an independent support work business, Indigo Spark Hub, through which she supports neurodivergent adults and young people.

There is sometimes a lack of awareness and understanding surrounding neurodivergence, even within the disability sector. Neurodivergence is a term used to describe individuals whose brain develops or works differently from what is considered typical for some reasons. Autism, ADHD, learning disabilities such as dyslexia and mental health conditions are all examples of neurodivergence.

Annemarie aspires to further her skills and Education to support better members of our community who often do not receive the best assistance possible. She firmly believes that the most vulnerable deserve the same opportunities as all other community members.

In between working, studying and being a mum to two young daughters, Annemarie is active in the Maltese community in the Illawarra and NSW. Annemarie was introduced to many Maltese Australians through her work with Skola Maltija Sydney. Although the Maltese Community in her area was active, it mainly catered to those past retirement ages. Little was offered for younger Maltese Australians interested in connecting with their roots and keeping their culture alive on our shores. Through this need, the Illawarra Maltese Australians (IMA) was established.

The Illawarra Maltese Australians aims to bring together all ages and generations of Maltese Australians to keep alive and pass on our ancestors the unique culture, language and traditions of our ancestors. The IMA has organised many successful events since its establishment in 2020, including virtual parties during the COVID lockdowns, a Ħobż biż-Żejt Day, Figolli Decorating and a Maltese Morning Tea to raise funds for Cancer Council NSW.



Annemarie (left) with the IMA Secretary, Lorraine Theuma (her mum centre) and IMA Treasurer Francis Fenech

In 2021, Annemarie was offered the opportunity where her two passions merged, which Annemarie never thought would be possible.

She worked as a Language Checker for the podcast 'Speak My Language – Disability', where members of the Maltese community shared their stories about living well with a disability.

Although she has taken a step back from teaching Maltese, she supports Skola Maltija Sydney as the current Communication and Enrolment office. She is the

Secretary of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools.

By establishing the Illawarra Maltese Australians and the association becoming affiliated with the Maltese Community Council of NSW, Annemarie established more significant ties to the Maltese Community in NSW. She feels it is an honour to work closely with the leaders of the Maltese Australian community in NSW, who work tirelessly to promote the Maltese culture and tradition in Australia.

Through her involvement with the MCCNSW, Annemarie is currently assisting with the production, editing and presenting of the MCC's weekly radio programme on 2GLF 89.3fm every Sunday morning.

As a first-generation Maltese in Australia, Annemarie is honoured to be surrounded by other like-minded people who strive towards the same goal of maintaining the Maltese culture, despite being so far from their maternal or ancestral homeland. She hopes to instil the same love for the Maltese culture, language and traditions in her community and, most importantly, to her daughters Anaya and Jasmine.

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Q. I am 88 years old, a widow and a self-funded retiree. My daughter passed away early this year at the age of 62. She had a 30-year-old son who is my only grandchild. I am not comfortable with leaving my estate to him, as I know he will dwindle it away. I need to make some arrangements in my Will to make sure that this inheritance will look after him and not be squandered away. Is there something I can do about this?

A. Yes, there are things you can do to protect your estate as well as your grandson. You should speak to your solicitor and make changes to your Will now that your daughter has passed away. Also ask the solicitor how best to go about protecting the estate.

He/she will probably recommend setting up a trust for your grandchild, which will entitle him to a regular allowance monthly or fortnightly, but not to the bulk of the estate.

Q. I am 70 years old and have just lost my wife. My daughter lives in a large house with her husband and two young children about one hour away from me. She has asked me to sell up and move in with her. The idea appeals to me, but I am worried whether this is the correct thing to do. Can you help?

A. While moving in with your daughter might be a very appealing proposition at the moment, there are a number of things to consider prior to making this move, as you are still relatively quite young. I would recommend that you agree to move in with her for a few months.

This will allow you to grieve for your wife and adapt to the fact that she is no longer with you. If you sold your home

and moved in with your daughter permanently, after a while you may find that this is not working out. You will lose your independence and could become a burden on her family.

If you enjoy being with them, then I would recommend renting the house out for a while and not selling it. That way if you want to go back to living independently, your house will still be available.

Another option would be to sell your house and purchase (or rent) somewhere closer to your daughter.

Q. My husband has just been asked to work overseas for the next two years. We have agreed to join him, as two years is a long time to be separated. We are considering renting our home for the duration of our overseas stay. However, will this mean that a large amount of tax will have to be paid if we sell it when we return?

A. As you are planning to go overseas

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



for only two years the house will not trigger capital gains tax when it is sold. I am presuming that when you return you will move back into it. However, all the rental income will be treated as taxable income and you may need to pay some tax on this rent.

You may still be treated as residents as your husband is going to be working with the same firm overseas and thus, he will still have to pay tax in Australia. I recommend you speak to your accountant who should be able to offer advice on this.

Q. My mother is moving into aged care. She needs to pay a RAD of \$550,000. She owns her own home and currently has some money in the bank and an account based pension to the value of \$800,000. Is she able to use some of the money that she has in her account based pension and leave the rest there or does she need to cash it all in?

A. Your mother is able to use just the amount she needs to pay for the RAD and leave the rest in her account-based pension. This will continue to give her monthly tax-free income and help with the ongoing costs to the aged care facility.

If she has a large sum in cash, use part of it also as money in account-based pensions generate both tax effective income as well as some growth, while cash generates income only. She may also then become entitled to a part age pension. My recommendation is to visit a financial planner who will be able to look at her situation and advise accordingly

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Are the Order of Australia awards representing Australia's diversity?

In the last issue of The Voice we briefly mentioned that in the King's 2023 birthday honours list, not one of the recipients was Malta-born. We are now following this up with Mohammad Al-Khafaji, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of the Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA), questioning whether these awards, are in fact representing Australia's diversity.

Mr Al-Khafaji noted that 919 outstanding Australians were recognised in the Order of Australia (General Division) for their outstanding contribution and service to the community. He wholeheartedly congratulated all the recipients of these awards and thanked them for their extraordinary service to the community.

He said that the Order of Australia is our nation's highest honour. It shines a spotlight on selfless, hardworking, everyday Australians who make a significant contribution in their community, and it provides an opportunity for us to celebrate their dedication and the positive impact they have on other peoples' lives. "They inspire others to follow in their footsteps", he said.

He went on to say that he is passionate about ensuring these awards are representative of the rich cultural diversity that is the reality of multicultural Australia. But unfortunately, people from multicultural backgrounds are underrepresented in the awards. However, the good news is that

we can all play a part in fixing that – we need to nominate more people from our communities.

Only 19.5% of the recipients in this list are people who were born overseas. According to the latest census, 29.1% of Australia's population are born overseas. While there is already work underway to address this issue, we can do more.

Al-Khafaji points out that the Governor General of Australia, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), wants to ensure that the Order of Australia represents Australia's diversity, and has prioritised inclusive representation in the awards. "We are privileged to work closely with the Governor General's Office to provide advice, and to encourage and promote nominations for more outstanding multicultural Australians," he said.

The Order of Australia relies on nominations from members of the community, which means that we all have a say in who is celebrated, and the types of service and achievements that matter to us.

Nominating someone for the awards is easy and one can nominate at any time –



FECCA CEO Mohammad Al-Khafaji



The King's birthday medals

Victoria University students to study in Malta



The Consul General of the state of Victoria Chirelle Ellul Sciberras (centre) pictured after welcoming the the four students from Victoria University who will be studying at the University of Malta, as part of the study abroad and exchange programme agreement.

all year round. One does not need to have all the information about the person he nominates, as there is an independent research team who will conduct their own research. The most important step is to nominate someone whose outstanding contribution makes a difference, then leave the rest to the research team.

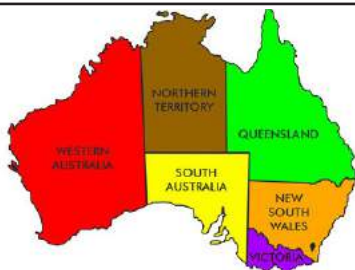
If we all nominate just one person a year, that will make a big difference. We should start the process today by nominating someone and be a part of celebrating their extraordinary contributions to our community.

Having nominated someone himself, Al-Khafaji said he can say it is exciting to see one's nominee recognised in the awards. He said he would be nominating someone again when the time comes.

FECCA is the peak, national body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. FECCA's role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community.

Please Note If interested in advertising in *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine to reach the widest audience possible among the Maltese diaspora, write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



Now you can also
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoiceofthemaltese>

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Small in size; great in its decisions

Paul Zammit from Brisbane writes:

Whenever foreigners talk about Malta, most especially in international organisation, they mention what a great place it is despite its small size.

They praise the decisions taken to alleviate any drawbacks the population might have, particularly due to its size. The island can pride itself of enjoying almost full employment, and was one of the top-most countries to successfully fight the pandemic.

It also keeps attracting foreign investors, while local entrepreneurs themselves are not afraid to invest in their own businesses.

Important to remember

Eileen Jerga AM from ACT writes:

Thank you Lawrence Dimech for writing such an insightful piece in *The Voice* (No. 301) about the 75-year celebration of the Assisted Package Scheme.

Many of us who came to Australia under that scheme have much to be thankful for. Australia is a wonderful country and Maltese migrants have contributed greatly to this country since our arrival.

Your article managed to capture feelings often not spoken of about immigration and I am certain many who read it remember well the painful departure and that saddest of goodbyes from our families at the Customs House before boarding our ships.

As you said, it is important to remember the sacrifice, and that it was not a departure on some cruise like some might have us believe.

Despite the wonderful life many of us have built in this great country, many still feel that there was no room for some of us to stay and that those who departed paved the way for the standard of living enjoyed today by those who stayed.

nesses.

I also keep hearing that the only stumbling block for restaurateurs, particularly in Gozo, is that they don't find enough workers to hire and suggest the easing of work permits for foreigners.

All well and good! But then you find people, certainly politically motivated that lambast Malta's status and criticise the Maltese authorities that they are letting in too many foreigners to do the jobs, and that Malta's economy is built on foreign workers.

No wonder that when it comes to these people, many of us keep referring to the Maltese expression: "Hawwadni ha nifhemek".

X'se jigri f'Malta maż-zmien

N. Cauchi minn Brunswick, Victoria. jikteb:

Naqra b'attenzjoni kemm hemm barranin jahdmu f'Malta u ma nistax ma niftakarx x'gara fl-Awstralja fil-hamsinijiet u s-sittinijiet.

Meta l-gvernijiet ta' Malta sfurzaw lilna l-Maltin biex nemigraw lejn l-Awstralja gralna l-istess bħal dawn il-barranin li qed jaslju f'Malta bħalissa.

Konna ġejna mgiegħla naghmlu x-xogħol ta' strapazz li l-Awstraljani kienu jiskartaw. Konna wkoll nigu mghajjra "wogs go home" se tibilghu dan il-kontinent.

Ara x'gara llum lil dawk li ġew l-Awstralja għax ma kienx hemm futur għalihom f'Malta. Dawn maż-zmien saru l-aqwa ċittadini, saru kapijiet tal-industrija, politiċi eċċ, u sa għandna Prim Ministru ommu u missieru Taljani.

Hekk għad taslu f'Malta! Jiddependi kemm kapaċi taċċettaw l-integrazzjoni. Jekk le, wara l-ewwel generazzjon xorta wahda se tidhol.

Populate or perish

G. Brincat from Sunshine Victoria writes:

I noted with great satisfaction the 75th anniversary of the assisted passage agreement between the governments of Malta and Australia celebrated here in Melbourne.

It brings back many memories as I came to his country under that scheme. Australia could have been a nicer place for newcomers at the time.

Racial discrimination faced you every day. We were wogs and daygos. Thank God we moved on. Nowadays, we understand the importance of populate or perish".



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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2/679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164

Civic Park Pendle Hill and the Maltese monument

Civic Park is the location where the Maltese community in NSW has the most recognised and revered monument. It was erected in 1988 as part of Australian Bicentenary celebrations and to recognise the history of Maltese immigration to Australia.

The park is undergoing a major revamp, with the construction of the Civic Park and the Pendle Hill Westland, hence this year's cancellation of the Sette Giugno celebrations, which is held there each year.

Cumberland Council and the NSW Government have jointly funded the project, valued at over \$15 million. It will include improvements to the Pendle Creek wetlands, a new nature play space and outdoor fitness facilities, picnic areas, half-court basketball, a carpark and upgrades to pathways and the lightning. Weather permitting, construction is expected to be completed by March 2024.

It is hoped that Cumberland Council will respect the location of our monument. Negotiations with the Maltese Community Council of NSW regarding the monument and this major revamp took place some time ago.



Cumberland Council workers on the job at the commencement of work at Civic Park



Vale Margaret Pisani June 1931-June 2023

It is with great sadness to announce the death of Margaret Pisani who was born in Sliema, Malta, on 7 June 1931. She passed away on 17 June. Margaret was the wife of Vince Pisani, the former President of the Parramatta Melita Eagles FC for 16 years and also former President of the Phoenician Club Ltd.

Vince and Margaret Buttigieg married at Carmelite Church Gzira on 24 January 1948. They had six children, Marcelle, George, Valerie, Stephen and twins Danielle and Rachelle.

The funeral will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Caringbah, on the 29 June at 10 am. RIP

Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP kappillan tal-Maltin f'Sydney qed jistieden lill-komunità Maltija għall-quddiesa li se tiġi ikkonċelebrata fil-Kattidral ta' St Mary's f'Sydney nhar il-Hadd 18 ta' Gunju. Il-quddiesa, li se ssir fis-2.00pm se tiġi organizzata mill-Immigration Office tal-Arcidjoċesi ta' Sydney.

Ejjew kmieni halli ssibu post. Mhux se jkun hemm riservi. Il-quddiesa mill-kappillani tal-immigranti ta' NSW se ssir

Fr. Tarcisio Micallef MSSP:

Stedina għal Quddiesa għall-Komunità

flimkien mal-Isqof tad-Dijocesi ta' Parramatta Vincent Long OFM Cap. Kulhadd mistieden biex jattendi. Fil-qud-

diesa se jiehdu sehem korijiet minn komunitajiet differenti. Min irrid jista' jilbes kostum Malti bħal nazzjonijiet oħra.

Wara l-quddiesa, fuq it-tarag tal-kattidral se jittiehdu ritratti tal-gruppi mal-Isqof u l-kappillani.

Ejjew halli nirrappreżentaw lill-komunità Maltija f'Sydney flimkien ma' oħrajn.

Għal kull tagħrif cemplu lil Fr Tarcisio Micallef 02 9380 8398.

Probus connects with Malta

The Maltese Community Council of NSW and the Voice of the Maltese magazine exposed the Maltese Islands to the Probus Pennant Hills Combine members.

Marisa Previtera, the secretary of the MCC NSW (left), assisted by Lawrence and Marlene Dimech, talked to a packed house about Malta's rich history and presented a colourful visual about what Malta offers visitors. The attendees were also presented with colourful and informative material about Malta.

PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit, autonomous clubs that provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests.

There are over 400,000 members in approximately 4,000 Probus clubs worldwide.



Sky film first ipisode of new TV series in Malta

Recently, Sky streamed the first episode of one of its most successful TV shows, *Bruno Barbieri's '4 Hotel'* on Sky and on NOW. Malta was cosen for the quality that the Maltese Hospitality Industry Offers.

As soon as the wish to dedicate an episode of the new season to *Bruno Barbieri '4 Hotel'* in

Malta was communicated, *VisitMalta* welcomed and accommodated this show production. The choice of a foreign destination for the show naturally fell on Malta, as it is a destination loved by Italians, and because its hotels meet the entire required standards for the show.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

High Commission & Consulates of Malta in Australia

High Commission of Malta - Canberra

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg
High Commissioner for Malta to Australia
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The High Commissioner (front fifth from right) with the Maltese Community on the Gold Coast

HC of Malta in Australia on his first official visit to Qld

The High Commissioner of Malta in Australia, HE Mr Mario Farrugia Borg, embarked on his first official visit to Queensland on 7-11, where he met with Queensland Government officials and the various Maltese groups in Brisbane, Mackay & Cairns.

On his arrival in Brisbane on the first day, the High Commissioner met the Honorary Consul of Malta in Brisbane, Ms Sandra Micallef, and then travelled to the Gold Coast to meet the Maltese Community. Upon their return to Brisbane, the HC called in briefly at the Greek Honorary Consulate in Brisbane to acknowledge its assistance during Consul on the Move (COTM).

In the evening, Mr Farrugia Borg attended a reception hosted by Honorary Consul Ms Sandra Micallef, where he met the Maltese Community in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast and several Consuls General and local officials of Brisbane.

On the morrow, the High Commissioner paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Queensland, HE the Honourable Dr Jean-

nette Young AC PSM and husband, Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD, at the Government House and later also met several members of the Queensland Government.

On the occasion of the High Commissioner's visit, an Afternoon Tea was also hosted at Parliament House by Mr Bart Mellish MP, Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veteran's Affairs and the Public Sector, that was also attended by the Honorary Consuls of Malta and leaders of the Maltese Community in Queensland.

On 9 June HC Mr Farrugia Borg travelled to Mackay, where he met on arrival the President of the Mackay Maltese Club, Mrs Rose Borg, and later visited the Francis of Assisi Home, where he met the Mal-



Mr Mario Farrugia Borg (extreme right) in Brisbane, with (from left): Hon. Consul Ms. Sandra Micallef, Prof. Graeme Nimmo, and Queensland's Gov. Gen. Dr. Jeannette Young. BELOW: with Act. Speaker of the Legislative Assembly QLD Mr. Joe Kelly MP



a Meet and Greet at the residence of two members of the Mackay Maltese Club.

The next day, the High Commissioner travelled to Cairns, where he met the city's Honorary Consul of Malta, Mr Joseph Vella and later attended a gathering of members of the Maltese community in Cairns that included the committee of the Cairns and Region Maltese Association (CARMA). On the last day, before his return to Canberra in the afternoon, he met with other Maltese Community members.



The HC with the Sisters of the Francis of Assisi Home in Mackay



The High Commissioner with the Maltese Community in Mackay



Roundup of News About Malta



PM Robert Abela and Italy's Meloni meet in Rome for bilateral talks

Prime Minister Robert Abela last week made two important visits to Italy and Libya where he had bilateral talks with his counterparts in the respective countries, Italy's Giorgia Meloni and Libya's Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

Abela's first visit was to Italy for cordial

talks with Giorgia Meloni, at Palazzo Chigi in Rome. He discussed with her energy, immigration and defence, and at the end of the visit, he said he believed the bilateral talks could lead to more cooperation in areas that benefit the two countries.

Italy's Prime Minister said that the meeting with Abela further strengthens the work, and the political, historical and cultural ties between the two countries, with the adoption of common positions during European meetings in Brussels.

The theme that dominated discussions was energy, with Prime Minister Robert Abela announcing the setting up a joint technical group for the second interconnector between Malta and Ragusa. He further stated that other renewable energy projects between Europe and Africa, from which Malta and Italy benefit, are being considered.

He said they eagerly awaited the EU-funded project's implementation and were delighted to announce a joint technical group to facilitate and oversee its fruition without delays.

"We believe that energy interconnections with North Africa, especially the benefits of solar and wind power, should be our primary focus. We eagerly anticipate collaboration with Italy," Abela said.

The Italian Prime Minister pointed out the need for Malta and

Italy to collaborate more on projects that can unite the two countries in the energy sector.

Meloni said that thanks to Italian companies, Italy and Malta have collaborated on energy for some time, with a connection between the two countries, especially in a Mediterranean setting concerning the European Union. She said it was necessary to diversify and secure energy, such as gas, hydrogen, and renewable energy.

On immigration, the Italian Prime Minister expressed the hope that the European Commission would help Tunisia financially to address the immigration problem, among others.

Meloni said that with Dr Abela, she discussed it would be easier to speak about secondary movements. The challenge is working on primary campaigns to solve the problem of secondary activities without defending outer European borders. She added Prime Minister Abela and her have worked to change Europe's years-long paradigm.

On immigration, Prime Minister Abela said this is a common challenge for Malta and Italy, which requires solidarity from other European countries. He stressed that agreements with countries like Tunisia and Libya needed to be reached.

Migration should be something other than Italy's or Malta's challenge to fend for themselves. It is a European challenge.

"We have voiced our concerns that migration requires a holistic European solution. I am grateful to Giorgia Meloni, Ursula Von der Leyen, and Mark Rutte for their work with Tunisia, focusing on economic development and essential reforms that benefit both Tunisia and the EU. We should adopt a similar approach to countries like Libya," Prime Minister Abela said.

He said that to intensify their efforts to strengthen cooperation between the EU member states from the Mediterranean region, Malta would be hosting the MED9 Summit in September. He said he was looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Meloni to Malta.



PM's Giorgia Meloni and Robert Abela inspecting a guard of honour in Rome

Malta, Libya renewable energy agreement

Following talks between Malta's Prime Minister and Libya's Abdul Hamid Dbeibah in the Libyan capital Tripoli, the two sides signed an MOU agreement for bilateral cooperation on a renewable energy project expected to consist of an interconnector between Libya and Malta, but that would also benefit countries in the European Union and the Mediterranean.

Dbeibah said there needed to be a combined effort between Malta and Libya for the necessary investment for this project, which will be able to supply renewable energy at a time in which the region is facing an energy crisis.

Abela stated that Malta considers this opportunity a source of energy independence for European countries. He believes Libya can generate solar energy, which is then transported to Malta. Apart from meeting Malta's renewable energy demand, it could also be transported to other European coasts. That way, Malta would act as a bridge be-

tween the Euro and African continent.

The two sides also discussed Immigration, with Libya insisting that it is employing measures not only to stop migrants from leaving its shores but also to save the lives of those who face difficulties at sea.

Dr Abela said that Malta had maintained this issue at the top of the European agenda and that one could not expect Libya to solve this problem alone or for the situation to be tossed solely on Malta or Italy's lap. He said there was a need for a European presence and the presence of other countries on the coasts of Libya, Tunisia and other countries.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed economic opportunities between the two countries, and the importance of political stability, with a Libyan government elected by the people and for the people.



Prime Minister Robert Abela (left) with Libya's PM



Roundup of News About Malta



iGaming conference attracts 4200 people from 70 countries

This year's iGaming NEXT conference at the MCC in Valletta has attracted to Malta 4,000 delegates and 200 speakers from 70 countries, making it one of the largest international conferences in the iGaming industry ever hosted in Malta.

Visiting the event on the opening day, Prime Minister Abela observed that the administration of iGaming NEXT has continued strengthening its position as a leading platform in this sector and celebrating the spirit of the Government's economic vision. It is also testimony to the positive reputation enjoyed by Malta in the industry.

Accompanied by the company's founder, Martin Petterson, the Prime Minister met several company representatives from the sector and was briefed on opportunities and careers currently being created through conferences such as this.

From 2019 until the end of 2022, the number of workers in this sector has increased

by 34%, from 11,747 to 15,774.

The iGaming sector also contributes to other economic sectors, including those in professional services, and has led to an increase of 5.8% in the added gross value from this sector.

During the past three years, 50 companies have been operating actively from Malta, despite international crises, proof of the country's appeals to this sector.

The iGaming NEXT conference, which the Gaming Malta Foundation supports, has continued strengthening Malta's position in the gaming sector and has registered strong economic results in the hospitality and entertainment sectors.

Meanwhile, the Minister for the Economy, European Funds and Lands, Silvio Schembri, said that recently approved law amendments on gaming protect gaming operators with a Maltese gaming licence from unfounded legal challenges.

He said these amendments also ensure that



Prime Minister Robert Abela (right) with iGaming NEXT founder, Martin Petterson, (centre)

operators keep adhering to their regulatory obligations established in the Maltese law and their licence conditions.

The Minister said that Malta had remained the jurisdiction of choice for the gaming industry and Government kept supporting it, understanding its challenges, and taking measures to create an environment these companies could keep working sustainably.

Malta adopts maritime industry agreement

Malta is one of ten countries in the western Mediterranean to adopt a declaration to strengthen the maritime industry for the coming years.

During the WestMed summit in Malta that met under the Maltese Presidency, politicians from 10 countries participated in talks that resulted in the drawing up of a sustainable transition in the maritime industry and blue economy.

Minister Aaron Farrugia said that Malta has a five-year plan for the Grand Harbour with a €180 million investment so that the industry generates more jobs. It contributes more to the country's economy.

The discussions led to an agreement between Malta, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, which collectively committed to working together to reach important goals based on 11 action points.

Impressed with country's new waste management system

European Commissioner for the Environment Virginijus Sinkevičius welcomed the work, and was impressed seeing how Malta is breaking from past trends in waste management through massive investment and courageous policy changes to move fast toward the 2035 EU targets.

During his visit to Malta Mr Sinkevičius toured the country's waste management infrastructure with Environment Minister Miriam Dalli (below)

He observed measures to consolidate Malta's waste management system by implementing the ECOHIVE strategy based on the circular economy concept. The delegation could see the difference between the old Maghtab landfill and the ongoing work on the new strategy, highlighting Malta's current efforts to move away from landfilling and transform waste streams into valuable resources.

Minister Miriam Dalli said that Malta was working to reverse a trend that had seen the country consistently ranked lowest across all scoreboards since joining the EU. Still, with the strategy Malta has embarked on,

encouraging results are being seen.

In fact, over the past two years, WasteServ achieved record outputs in terms of the number of recyclables returned to the economy, which includes a significant increase in plastic recycling performance, more than tripling Malta's previous performance, and important works are also currently underway to prepare the infrastructure for the future.

On the other hand, once operational, the new waste-to-energy facility will divert over 190,000 tonnes of non-recyclable material from landfills and convert it into green energy, meeting around 4.5% of Malta's total energy needs.



CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMHAHON

If you require assistance with Federal Government matters, including:

- Immigration
- Centrelink
- NDIS
- Communications

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



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Biex titħares ħajjet u saħħet l-omm fit-tqala

Id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħha Chris Fearn flimkien mal-Ministru għall-Ġustizzja Jonathan Attard waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet, habbru li l-Gvern se jipproponi fuq it-test li kien originarjament imressaq tal-Artikolu 243B tal-Kodiċi Kriminali, li jipproteġi lill-mara tqila u professjonist f'każijiet fejn l-omm, minhabba kumplikazzjoni medika tkun f'riskju li tiflef ħajjitha, kif ukoll fejn saħħet il-mara tqila tkun f'periklu gravi li jista' jwassal għall-mewt.

L-emenda li jidher li sabet qbil popolari, fosthom ukoll tal-oppożizzjoni, u se titressaq quddiem il-Kumitat Permanenti għall-Konsiderazzjoni ta' Abbozzi ta' Ligi tiċċara l-intenzjoni tal-legislaturu.

L-emenda se titlob konsiderazzjonijiet differenti skont iċ-ċirkostanza li wassal għall-intervent:

1. Ħajjitha f'riskju: L-eżenzjoni mir-responsabbiltà kriminali hija bbażata fuq il-ħtieġa immedjata li professjonist mediku jintervjeni u jiehu dawk il-passi neċessarji minnufih biex isalva l-ħajja tal-mara tqila li jkollha ħajjitha f'riskju u li jekk dak l-intervent ma jsirx, il-mara u per konsegwenza anke l-fetu jitlef ħajjithom.

F'dawn iċ-ċirkostanzi, it-tabib għandu jistabbilixxi li l-fetu ma jkunx laħaq iż-żmien ta' vijabilità qabel isir l-intervent. Jekk ikun laħaq iż-żmien ta' vijabilità, l-intervent isir biex jitwelled.

2. Saħħet il-mara f'periklu gravi li jista' jwassal għall-mewt: B'differenza, f'din iċ-ċirkostanza filwaqt li għad hemm ukoll in-neċessità għaliex tista' tintilef ħajjet l-omm iżda m'hemm l-immedjatezza, l-artikolu l-gdid propost qed jistabbilixxi numru ta' kundizzjonijiet kumulattivi, oltre l-kundizzjonijiet generali, li jridu jiġu osservati:

Tim mediku kompost minn tliet tobbja, registrati bħala speċjalisti mal-Kunsill Mediku taht l-Att dwar il-Professjonijiet tas-Saħha, li tnejn minnhom ikunu ostetriċi jew ginekologi u li wiehed minnhom ikun l-ostetriku li jwettaq l-intervent, u t-tielet tabib ikun speċjalista fil-kundizzjoni li minnha l-mara tqila tkun qiegħda tbat, iridu jikkonfermaw li:

a) il-fetu ma jkunx laħaq il-vijabilità u ma jkunx jista' jitwelled skont l-istandards tal-professjoni medika; u

b) l-intervent mediku jitwettaq biss wara li t-tim mediku jkun ikkonferma n-neċessità tal-intervent, u

c) l-intervent mediku jitwettaq fi Sptar Liċenzjat u li jkollu l-faċilitajiet neċessarji biex jitwettaq l-intervent mediku meħtieġ.

Id-Deputat Prim Ministru spjega kif wara l-proċess tat-tieni qari l-Gvern ipparteċipa f'diskussjonijiet mal-istakeholders fis-settur, inklużi esperti mediċi, legali u attivisti b'fehmiet differenti, u sahaq li biex il-Gvern jilhaq l-għanijiet imsemmija fl-emenda, filwaqt li jagħti serhan il-mohħ, ittiehdet id-deċiżjoni li l-emenda tkun iċċarata iżjed.

Huwa speċifika li l-eżenzjoni mir-responsabbiltà kriminali tapplika biss jekk kemm il darba, il-professjonist mediku, qabel jipproċedi bit-terminazzjoni tat-tqala, ikun assigura ruhu li m'hemm possibbiltà medika oħra skont il-prattiċi mediċi kurrenti f'Malta.

Dan filwaqt li spjega li l-emenda l-għda tiċċara wkoll l-intenzjoni li dejjem kienet preżenti għall-Gvern, li jekk ikun intlaħaq iż-żmien tal-vijabilità, jiġifieri l-fetu jista' jsalva barra għal l-omm, it-tarbija titwelled.

Il-Ministru Fearn qal li din hi emenda favur il-ħajja li se tħalli lill-professjonisti jagħmlu xogħolhom skont is-sena tagħhom, se tagħti serhan il-mohħ lin-nisa tqal u l-familji tagħhom u se tipprevjeni l-abbuż. "Din hija emenda li se ssalva l-ħajjet".

Il-Ministru għall-Ġustizzja Jonathan Attard ta sfond legali tal-emendi biex tkun protetta ħajjet u saħħet l-omm. Qal li jekk mara għandhiex dritt tgħix jew le, mhix kwestjoni ta' opinjoni politika. Il-bidla fil-ligi hemm bżonnha u se ssahħ.

Attard qal li l-poplu jista' jserraħ mohħu li għandu Gvern li ma jibzax mill-bidla, l-aktar meta din il-bidla tkun maħsuba biex iġġib għustizzja soċjali, bħalma huma dawn l-emendi li jipproteġu lil ħajjet u saħħet l-omm u jagħtu serhan il-mohħ lil kulhadd.



'Malti' fost hamsa li tilfu ħajjithom fuq is-sottomarin Titan

Mhemmx dubju li l-qarrejja smajtu u qrajtu hafna dwar it-Titan - is-sottomarin intuża mill-kumpanija 'OceanGate' sabiex itniżzlu persuni fis-sit fejn għereq traġikamnet il-bastiment Titanic fl-1912 biex jaraw il-fdalijiet.

Li forsi ma smajtu jew qrajtu hu l-fatt li fost dawk dwk li tniżzlu u issa nafa li ma telgħux lura imma tilfu ħajjithom fi splużjoni tat-Titan, ken hemm ċittadin Malti, il-biljunarju ta' 48 sena, Shahzada Dawood li daħal għal din l-aventura flimkien ma' ibnu Suleman ta' 19-il sena.

Dawood kien xtara l-passaport Malti lura fl-2016 fl-iskema li kien introduċa l-Gvern Malti.

Flimkien mal-missier u ibnu Dawood, l-oħrajn li tilfu ħajjithom f'din it-traġedja, huma, is-sid tal-OceanGate Expeditions Stockton Rush, il-biljunarju Ingliż u sid tal-Action Aviation Hamish Harding, u l-espert fl-ghadd, il-Franċiż Paul-Henri Nargeolet.

Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



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Seven Hills
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Help You Through"**

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

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri



Fjuri b'differenza

Għaliex fjuri b'differenza? Għax fejn is-soltu l-fjuri narawhom jikbru fuq xi xitla jew siġra f'xi ġnien, f'xi qasrija u postijiet oħra, il-fjuri li qed nikteb dwarhom illum, la jinħtieġu ħamrija, la tisqija u lanqas fertilizzanti, għax mhumiex fjuri naturali.

Dawn il-fjuri lanqas m'huma tal-plastik jew ta' xi materjal sintetika, imma magħmula b'sengħa kbira minn studenti tal-Istitut tal-Istudji Turistiċi (ITS).

Dawn huma fjuri li filwaqt li jipaxxu l-għajnejn, jipaxxu wkoll iż-żaqq, għal-kemm tajjeb li wiehed jikkontrolla, l-aktar u l-aktar jekk iż-zokkor mhux tajjeb għalih.

F'dan il-proġett, immexxi mil-Lettur Jimmy Aquilina, hadu sehem 22 studenti (*stampa fuq*) ibbażati ta' żewġ klassijiet, li bħalissa qed isegwu kors ta' Baċellerat fl-Arti Kulinarja. Fil-parti 'l kbira tagħhom l-istudenti, għadhom fl-ewwel sena tal-kors.

Huma gew mqassma fi gruppi, b'kull grupp magħmul minn żewġ studenti, li thallew fil-libertà' li jagħzlu tema jixtiequ biex eventwalment setgħu jipproduċu, mhux dawk il-kejkijiet li mdorrijin bihom is-soltu, imma propju xogħlijiet tal-arti f'

forma ta' skulturi bl-użu ta' ċikkulata u materjali ieħor.

Il-BA pro-gramme BA (Hons) fl-Arti Kulinarja huwa offrut b'kol-laborazzjoni mal-Istitut Lyfe, li qabel kien magħruf bħala l-Istitut Paul Bocuse il-belt Lyon, ta' Franza.

Dawn l-iskulturi, u hafna oħrajn ma' kejkijiet tat-tieg' il-gmiel tagħhom kienu f'wirja għall-pubbliku.

Prosit lil dawn l-istudenti li min-kejja li għadhom



fil-bidu tat-taħriġ tagħhom irnexxiel-

hom jipproduċu prodotti kulinarji u xogħlijiet artistiki.

Ritratti Roger Azzopardi



Fil-wirja kien hemm ħlejjaq oħra fosthom din il-qarnita



A quick glimpse at Australia



Voice to Parliament “work is done”

**Minister for Indigenous Australians
Linda Burney with
members of Jawun
at Parliament House**

Australians will officially vote on the Voice to Parliament within the next six months, after the bill to trigger the referendum passed the Senate by 52 votes to 19.

Parliament formally jumped its final hurdle ahead of the referendum with Australians now set to decide whether to

enshrine the Voice - a key pillar of the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart - in the constitution.

Yes campaigners have declared, “parliament's work is done”, with the debate now set to be steered by a grassroots push for constitutional change.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney said the development brought Australia “one step closer” to acknowledging Indigenous Australians in the Constitution and making a “great country even greater”.

“It's on ... Today, the political debate ends. Today, we can start a national conversation at the community level,” she said.

The first referendum in nearly a quarter of a century will take place sometime between two and six months, though Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has flagged it will take place this year.

Seat belt laws now under scrutiny after accident

Seatbelt laws are in the spotlight after a bus crash in NSW's Hunter Valley wine region killed 10 people and injured dozens more. Police have established that the bus was fitted with seatbelts but have not commented on whether passengers were wearing them.

NSW Premier Chris Minns said his government would “of course take action” if police recommended changes to increase bus safety. You are legally required to wear a seatbelt if one is fitted to a bus, but buses on regular city public transport routes are usually not equipped with seatbelts.

The driver has a legal responsibility to tell passengers to wear seatbelts, and sometimes they'll show a video, but they don't have to force passengers to wear one. This communication can be done verbally or through visual cues such as signs or stickers.

The bus company also has the responsibility to make sure those passengers are safe and that the seatbelts are working properly. They need to tell the drivers to tell the passengers to put seatbelts on. Enforcement, however, is up to the NSW Police.

In March 2022, the NSW government said all dedicated school buses on rural and regional bus contracts in the state had been fitted with seatbelts as part of the \$237 million NSW Rural and Regional Bus Seatbelt Program, following concerns from parents about the safety of rural roads.

The penalty for not wearing an available seatbelt on a bus is \$352, according to Transport for NSW.

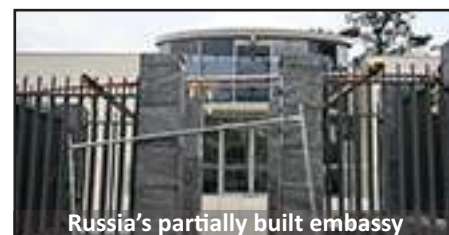
National Security concerns about Russia

Russia is to be blocked from building a new embassy near Parliament House in Canberra over national security concerns. The government rushed legislation through both houses of parliament with the Coalition and Green's backing.

“Today's decision is one taken in the national security interests of Australia,” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters in Canberra. The government has received very clear security advice as to the risks presented by a new Russian presence so close to Parliament House.

The National Capital Authority granted the lease for the Yarralumla site that was within 500 metres of Parliament House in December 2008, and building approvals followed in 2011. Under the lease conditions, Russia had agreed to finish construction within three years, but it remains partially built.

Russia's existing embassy in the inner-south suburb of Griffith will not be affected by the decision. “The Australian government maintains diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation, but we will always, always act in Australia's national interest,” Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neill said.



Russia's partially built embassy

Nazi and Islamic State flags banned

The federal government's efforts to ban Nazi symbols in public have quietly extended to include the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) group's flag.

The government announced it would move to ban displaying Nazi symbols in public or profiteering from their sale, with punishments of up to a year in jail.

The government recognises the important distinction between Islamic State, which is a terrorist organisation with a violent ideology, and the Islamic faith, which is deeply respected and valued as part of Australia's multicultural community,” he said.

The government condemns Islamophobia and stands with the Australian Muslim community in opposition to terrorism in all its forms. Islamic State continues to incite and carry out violent acts against Muslims, and non-Muslim religious mi-

norities, within the region and globally.”

Germany is among a handful of European countries that banned the IS flag in the mid-2010s, at the height of the group's power. But given the swastika - which closely resembles the Nazi Hakenkreuz - is a significant symbol for many Hindus, Jains and Buddhists, the bill includes exemptions on religious grounds. Other “legitimate” uses of the symbols - including for journalistic, educational, and artistic purposes - will also be permitted.

BELOW: The banned Isis flag (left) and the Nazi Symbol, the Swastika





A quick glimpse at Australia

Senator demands chiefs should be investigated over Afghanistan

Independent senator Jacqui Lambie from Tasmania demanded in the Senate the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigate some of Australia's most senior defence figures over alleged war crimes in Afghanistan.

Senator Lambie called for Australia to address the "shocking lack of accountability at the top of our Defence Force", claiming the "most responsible are the least accountable". But legal experts say there is little prospect of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members being put before the court, with an author of the letter conceding its intent is to force Australia to revisit command responsibility.

The 2020 Brereton Report into allegations of war crimes in Afghanistan found evidence of 39 murders committed by Australian special forces (SAS) soldiers, ruling senior commanders were morally, though not criminally, culpable for the alleged atrocities.

Using parliamentary privilege, Senator Lambie tried to table a letter to the ICC which asked the court to investigate Australia's chain of command. "Higher com-



The Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie

mand needs to be held responsible. Please allow me to table these documents," Senator Lambie said to the Senate.

"The government is no doubt hoping this will just go away. They're hoping that Aus-

traliens will forget that when alleged war crimes in Afghanistan were investigated, our senior commanders got a free pass while our diggers were thrown under the bus.

"Well, we don't forget. I won't forget. Lest we forget."

Defence Minister Richard Marles would not be drawn on the prospect of the ICC launching an investigation, but the Brereton Report had addressed command responsibility.

"I will be seeking the appropriate advice in order to act on [its] recommendations, which I will do in due course". Mr Marles said whether the ICC picked up the case was a matter for the court.

\$2 billion housing fund as the Greens remain "stubborn"

Australians on social housing wait lists are being promised a \$2 billion new fund to help boost the number of homes. The fund, called the Social Housing Accelerator, was announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Victorian Labor conference. "That's what this is about: real dollars, driving real change and building more homes," Mr Albanese said.

The move comes as the Greens continue to block laws in the Senate to enable the government's \$10 bn Housing Australia Future Fund, calling for more ambitious spending and rent controls.

The prime minister said the government is not going to wait around while members of the Greens political party call for more housing in the media while opposing it in their electorates and voting against it in parliament.

"The Greens imagine that their stubborn, inflexible refusal to compromise or negotiate serves their political interest." Demand for social housing has increased almost three times as fast as the growth in population.

"The Greens have blocked more houses than they've ever built," Mr Albanese added. "But we are a party of government - and we know Australians deserve the respect of practical action."

The \$2 billion fund will be delivered to the state and territory governments within two weeks. Those governments will be allowed to decide how they boost housing stock - whether that's new builds, expanding programs, renovating or refurbishing uninhabitable homes.



Michelle Rowland MP

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Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar l-ilsien Malti



Il-proċess tal-ħsad u d-dries tal-qamħ

Huma hafna dawk li minkejja li forsi ma kienux wisq mdorrijin ilissnu jew jisimghu kliem li kien jintuża min-nies ta' ċerti xogħlijiet, u li kienu ferm aktar popolari fl-imghoddi, imma xorta wahda jitghaxqu meta llum jisimghu kliem li minn xi daqqiet jkollu bżonn tifsira biex jinfthiem.

Fost dan il-kliem hemm dak li kien, u sa ċertu punt għadu jintuża mill-bdiewa. F'dan l-artiklu qasir se nislet xi kliem li wiehed isib fil-Miklem u li jintuża meta jsir il-proċess tal-ħsad u d-dries tal-qamħ.

Qabel isir il-ħsad tkun trid titlesta l-qiegħa jew andar fejn se jkun jindires il-qamħ. Barra minhekk, l-art tal-qiegħa tiġi mxarrba u mbattma b'romblu tat-tbattim biex tiġi llixxata.

Meta ż-żbul tal-qamħ isiru lewn id-deheb ikun wasal żmien il-ħsad, u l-qamħ jinhasad bil-mingel u jitpoġġa f'qatet. Kull qatta tintrabat bit-tiben ohxon tax-xgħir b'rabta li jsejjhulha għerwa.

Imbagħad il-qamħ jindires u ssir it-tidrija, jiġifieri bil-ghajnuna tal-midra, u l-luh jintefa' l fuq biex is-sifa u huxliet jinfirdu miż-zrieragħ bir-riħ.

Wara, iż-zrieragħ jingharblu biex jitnehħa ż-żwieli u ż-żrar żgħir li jkun għad fadal. It-tiben jintrabat f'munzelli halli jiġi maħzun jew mitmugħ lill-bhejjem. It-tilqit u l-fdal jissejjah hliefja jew krexximonja.

Iż-zrieragħ tal-qamħ imbagħad jitgōġġew fl-ixkejjer skont il-qies. Fost il-qisien wiehed isib il-kejla, is-sieħ, il-ghabara, it-tomna u l-modd.

Fl-ahħarnett, iż-zrieragħ jitteħdu għand it-taħhan biex jidhanhom u jagħmilhom dqieq.



Frank Zammit (xellug) qed jipprezenta ktieb minn tiegħu lill-President George Vella

Diskursata dwar il-lingwa u l-kultura Maltija fl-Awstralja mal-President

Waqt żjara f'Malta mill-Awstralja, flimkien ma' xi qraba tiegħu, Frank Zammit, kellu laqgħa mal-President ta' Malta George Vella fil-Palazz ta' Sant Anton li fiha ddiskutew il-qagħda tal-lingwa u l-kultura Maltija fl-Awstralja.

Fl-istess laqgħa, li fiha l-President ta' ħajr lil Frank għal hidmietu f'dawn l-oqsma, tal-ahħar ipprezenta lill-President għadd ta' pubblikazzjonijiet minn tiegħu għal-Librerija tal-Palazz.

Fost il-pubblikazzjonijiet kien hemm l-ahħar xogħol ta' Frank li għadu kif gie stampat f'Malta, bi studju ta' Dr Patrick Sammut. Din hija antologija poetika ta' 424 pagna, bl-isem ta' Mill-Bir ta' Qalbi li għaliha l-President ferahlu u rringrazzjah

Moghħza *berbuxija* u naghġa ġarda, mejxa jew mondija



Ftit taż-żmien ilu semmajna li hawn il-qattus *BERBUXI*. Imma dan l-aġġettiv jintuża għall-mogħoż, bir-rahħala li jrabbu dan l-annimal ġieli kien ikollhom mogħża *BERBUXIJA*. Din mhix xi tghawwiġa tal-kelma "bebbuxija". Mogħża bħal dik kienet tissejjah ukoll *MBERBXA*.

Xi dizzjunarji tajbin tal-Malti jsemmu l-*QATTUSA MBERBXA*. Dan l-aġġettiv m'għandu x'jaqsam xejn ma' 'imberbex' u lanqas mhu l-istess bħal bebbuxi.

Fid-dizzjunarju tiegħu, Gużé Aquilina jsemmi l-verb "Berbex" u jgħid li dan għandu iktar minn tifsira wahda. Fost dawn, tifsira minnhom tista' tiġi spjegata b'dawn l-eżempji: "Libsa mberbxa b'ħafna lwien; libsa mberbxa bit-tikek; drapp imberbex; qattusa mberbxa;

moghħza mberbxa, eċċ.

Isemmu wkoll in-*NAGĦĠA ĠARDA*. Skont il-Miklem, il-verb ġarad jixbah lill-verb "tisloħ" – imma mhux eżatt.

Nghidu ahna meta tmur taqta' l-harrub m'għandekx għalfejn toqgħod taqta' l-imżiewed wiehed wiehed; imma tista' "tiġrod" il-harrub – jiġifieri tiġbed b'idek qisek qed tisolhu minn fuq is-siġra. L-istess jghodd għaž-żebbuġ.

Naghġa ġarda ma jkollhiex is-suf tagħha lixx, uniformi, u sabiħ, imma jkollu rqajja' bis-suf nieqes jew qasir; tkun tkagħbret xi ftiit.

Issib ukoll in-*NAGĦĠA MONDIJA*, li jkollha widnejha milwijn 'l isfel; mhux weqfin (*stampa*), u wkoll in-*NAGĦĠA MEJXA*, wahda mingħajr widnejn, inkella li jkollha widnejha żgħar hafna.

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija



Charles Spiteri

F'din l-ghaxar sena tiegħu, il-mużew Il-Haġar tar-Rabat t'Għawdex qed jippreżenta diversi okkażjonijiet ta' livell għoli. Fost dawn, mill-11 ta' Gunju li għadda sat-3 ta' Settembru qed itella' wirja fil-250 sena mill-mewt ta' Francesco Zahra.

Wirja ta' pittura mill-aqwa tal-artist Francesco Zahra

Francesco Zahra hu meġus bhala l-aqwa pittur ta' Malta tas-seklu 18, li x-xoghlijiet tiegħu kienu prinċipalment pitturi reliġjużi fl-istil Barokk Naplitan. Hu tgħalliem wahdu, iżda kien irnexxielu jaddatta diversi aspetti mis-sengħa ta' barranin li żaru l-Gżejjer Maltin f'dawk iż-żmienijiet. Ix-xoghlijiet tiegħu jinstabu f'hafna knejjes madwar il-Gżejjer Maltin, kif ukoll f'xi kollezzjonijiet privati u tal-mużewijiet.

Zahra twieled l-Isla, iben in-naġġar Pietro Paolo Zahra u Augustina Casanova. Id-data eżatta tat-twelid tiegħu mhix magħrufa, iżda tghammed fil-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Isla fil-15 ta' Diċembru 1710 u miet id-19 ta' Awwissu 1773.

Il-Professur tal-istorja tal-arti fl-Università ta' Malta, Keith Sciberras iddisinja sular shih biex jippreżenta f'Il-Haġar opri ta' Zahra mqabblin ma' dawk tal-kontemporanji Buhagiar (Gio Nicola, Pasquale u Rocco), Antoine Favray u Enrico Regnaud.

Minhabba li dan l-artist kien tant prolificu, bhala kuratur, Sciberras ippropona tliet kategoriji: buzzetti, pitturi devozzjonali u ritratti.

Ta' min jghid li nstabt kollaborazzjoni impressjonanti minn kolletturi u istituzzjonijiet biex ġew mislufa xi sittin biċċa tal-arti. Fost dawn hemm il-Katidrali tal-Mdina u dak t'Għawdex, il-Kurja tal-Arċisqof, il-mużew Wignacourt u dak tal-Kapuċċini, il-MUŻA, u l-parroċċi ta' Birkirkara, tal-Isla, l-Mqabba, Hal Tarxien u ż-Żurriq.

X'aktarx li mhemmx knisja fil-Gżejjer Matin li m'għandhiex xi xogħol tiegħu. Hekk setgħet tiġi pprezentata lista twila ta' suġġetti identifikabbli, bhall-Madonna taht diversi titli, il-Qalb ta' Gesù, l-Aħhar Čena, San Baskal Baylon, Santa Liena, l-Evanġelisti San Ġwann u San Luqa, San Frangisk ta' Paola, Sant'Innoċenzu (żewġ xbihat fuq bandalora unika), San Liborju, San Nikola ta' Bari, San Pawl, Santu Rokku, Santa Skolastika, Santa Tereża, San Vincenz Ferrer, Mosè, l-Isqof Alperan de Bussan, il-Kanonku Grech Balzani u l-Granmastru Pinto.

Fil-wirja hemm esebiti wkoll żewġ pitturi ta' Zahra mill-kollezzjoni permanenti li huma fil-proċess tar-restawr: San Alwiġi Gon-



Il-Madonna tar-Rużarju

zaga u l-Madonna ta' Loretu. Ohra fil-pjan turi lil San Gejtanu.

Fl-esibizzjoni hemm ukoll id-dokument ta' l-magħmudija (mill-Isla), irċevuti (mill-Furjana) u t-testment (mill-Arkivju Notarili).

Biex din il-wirja imprezzabbli setgħet titella' instab l-appoġġ finanzjarju tminn għadd ta' sorsi. Id-dhul għall-wirja hu bla ħlas. Min ikun qed iżur Għawdex sakemm tkun miftuha l-wirja, jagħmel tajjeb li jżur Il-Haġar u jduq minn esperjenza unika.

F'din il-paġna qed indewwqu biss ftit minn dak li wiehed jista' jesperjenza meta jżur il-wirja. Wiehed jista' wkoll jikseb katalgu bl-esibiti u kitbiet ohra (numru 25 fis-sensiela Il-Haġar GEMS) li jista' jkun tifikira mil-isbah ta' dak li jkun ra.



Portrait of a Maltese lady

Tliet pitturi ohra (mix-xellug) Virgin and child, Virgin of Providence u St Paul Shipwreck



Il-Banda ta' Ghajnsielem u Mons. Guzeppi De Piro

Fr. Norbert **BONAVIA** mssp

Dan l-aħħar qed inqaddes fil-Parroċċa ta' Ghajnsielem f'Ghawdex u darba minnhom fettilli naghti titwila lill-kazin sabiħ tal-Banda San Guzepp ta' dan ir-raħal li jinsab qrib il-knisja. Hemmhekk fl-intrata lmaħt irhama li fuqha kien hemm il-kitba, "Mons. G. De Piro, Fundatur tal-banda, 1928.

Forsi f'it huma l-qarreja ta' *The Voice* li jafu kif Mons. De Piro, sar il fundatur ta' dil-banda, għalhekk se nispjega. Fl-1923, meta l-Arcipriet u l-kappilani ta' Ghawdex urew ix-xewqa mal-Isqof ta' dak iz-zmien, Mons Mikiel Gonzi, biex f'Ghawdex inkun hemm istitut għat tfal subien orfni. Ix-xewqa ntlagħget, imma mbagħad riedu jsiġu min se jieħu ħsieb ta' din l-opra.

L-għażla ma damitx biex ittiehdet, u waqgħet fuq Mons Guzeppi De Piro minħabba li dan kellu esperjenza biżżejjed, għaliex kien diga' jmessxi istituti ohra f'Malta. Il-Mons ma kienx bniedem li jieħu deċiżjonijiet bil-għaġla, għalhekk, barra li talab xi spjegazzjonijiet, talab ukoll f'it taż-zmien biex jkonsulta ruħu.

Kien fit-3 ta' Frar 1925 li baġhat ir-risposta li kien aċċetta. Minufih għab minn Malta żewġ sacerdoti, mis-Socjetà tiegħu, (l-MSSP) biex jieħdu ħsieb il-bżonnijiet ta' kuljum tal-istitut, minħabba li hu kellu impenji kbar ohra f'Malta. Dan l-istitut semmewh għall-qaddis San Guzepp, għax il-kappilani riedu li dan l-istitut jkun affiljat mal-iehor ta' Malta.

Bħala bniedem li jħares il-quddiem, Mons. De Piro ried li dawn it-tfal jibdeu jitgħallmu wkoll idoqqu xi strument muzikali tal-banda halli meta johorġu mill-istitut ikunu jistgħu jaqilgħu xi sold mill-banda. Biex jgħallimhom għabilhom

lis-surmast Anton Muscat Azzopardi.

Peress li dan is-surmast ma kienx jgħix Ghawdex, ma setax kompli, allura minn floku sab surmast gwapp ieħor, lil Mikiel Farrugia mir- Rabat. Dan kien fis-sena 1928. Ma għandniex xi ngħidu n-nies ta' Ghajnsielem hađu pjaċir b'din l-inzjattiva, għax sa dakinhar ma kienx għad kellhom banda.

L-ewwel darba li l-banda ħarġet id-doqq fil-pubbliku kien fis-17 ta' Mejju 1931 meta gie imfakkar is-sitt anniversarju mill-inawgurazzjoni ta' dak l-istitut. Għall- okkażjoni l-banda daqqet xogħlijiet tas-Surmas Mikiel Farrugia, bl-isem ta' "Omaggio al Superjore Mons. G. De Piro".

Maz-zmien, mat-tfal bdew jingħaqdu wkoll żgħażaġh ohrajn mill-istess raħal, u hekk il-banda ziedet tikber u tissaħħah u għada popolari ma' Ghawdex kollu sa dawn iz-żmienijiet



Il-kitba fid-daħla tal-Kazin tal-Banda ta' San Guzepp f'Ghajnsielem Ghawdex

Illum, Mons. G. De Piro jissejjaħ Qaddej t'Alla, għax il-hajja tiegħu qed tiġi studjata mill Vatikan. Għalkemm hu kien geġ minn familja nobli ta' Malta u sinjur, De Piro kien jgħix fl-istituti mat-tfal orfni.



FUQ: Mons. De Piro flimkien mal-ban-dist t'f. TAHT: ma' żewġ membri tal-Mssp u t-tfal tal-istitut dak iz-zmien.



Meta miet f'Settembru 1933 kien responsabbli mit-tmessija ta' sitt orfanatrofi f'Malta u wieħed f'Ghawdex.

Dan, il-qaddej t'Alla, kien iġib l-enerġija kollha tiegħu mit-talb, li għalih ma kienx semplicement devozzjoni jew repetizzjoni ta' talb, iżda mument ta' ħbiberija intima ma' Alla fejn hu kien jintelaq kollu kemm hu f'idejH

Wahda mis-sentenzi li kien iħobb jirrepeti kienet: "Ahna ngħidu li Alla qiegħed hemm fuq fis-smewwiet; iżda hu jinsab hawn, go fina, f'qalbna u f'hajjitna ... Lil Alla ahna nsibuh f'kull rokna tal-ibliet tagħna, ta' pajjiżna, fuq l-għoljiet, u fil-widien. Hu għażel li joqgħod magħna, l-għeżiež tiegħu."

NB: Min ikun jixtieq ikun jaf aktar dwar il-Qaddej ta' Alla Guzeppi De Piro, jew jixtieq santi bit-talba biex jinqlgħu xi grazzi bl-interċessjoni tiegħu, jibgħat email lil: norbertbonavia@gmail.com, jew iċċempel 7926 5968.

F'Llandilo għadhom jiltaqgħu l-Maltin

Is-subborg ta' Llandilo jinsab madwar 54 kms bogħod miċ-ċentru tal-belt ta' Sydney. Jagħmel parti mill-belt ta' Penrith fir-reġjun ta' Greater Western Sydney. Dan hu lokali fejn issettiljaw hafna Maltin li għażlu li jkollhom spazju għall-ghelieqi u n-negozju tal-art.

Min dejjem inhass li kien hemm il-ħtieġa ta' grupp ta' Maltin li jiltaqgħu b'mod regolari, u f'Jannar 2003, bl-inizjattiva ta' Maria DeCarlo u Lawrence Dimech giet imsejha l-ewwel laqgħa fil-Llandilo Community Centre 7th Avenue Llandilo.

Għalhekk kienet żjara ta' nostalgija meta għal darb'ohra, għan-nom tal-MCC ta' NSW, Marisa Previtera u Lawrence Dimech marru fl-istess post biex jiċċelebraw ma' dawk il-Maltin tal-inħawi s-*Sette Giugno* (7 ta' Gunju) 1919, festa nazzjonali f'Malta.

Huma ġew mogħtija merħba minn Helen Azzopardi li ilha tmexxi dan il-grupp b'success għal hafna snin u dejjem irsistit biex dan il-grupp jibqa' relevanti.

Fl-istess laqgħa nstema' l-mes-saġġ virtwali għall-okkażjoni mill-President ta'

Malta, Dr George Vella. Wara Lawrence Dimech tkellem, dwar is-7 ta' Gunju u wkoll dwar il-75 sena minn meta gie ffirmat l-*assisted passage scheme* bejn Malta u l-Awstralja li bis-saħħa tiegħu eluf kbar ta' Maltin ġew sfurzati jemigraw.

Narida Jackson mill-Action Care Network tkellmet dwar il-*community bus services* u kif il-Maltin għandhom jagħmlu użu minn dan is-servizz utli. Marisa Previtera wkoll talbet lill-prezenti li jibqgħu f'kuntatt mahħha halli nkunu nafu x'qed jigri f'dawn in-nahat.

Dan huwa grupp iehor ta' Maltin anzjani li jagħhad f'kullana taht il-harsien tal-MCC ta' NSW, liema gruppi saru



Lawrence Dimech u Helen Azzopardi

tant meħtieġa għall-Maltin biex jinzamm kuntatt.



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.

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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 mitkellem. Tahrig għall-għalliem/a u riżorsi sabiex tkun tista' tgħalliem jiġu pprovduti. Dan huwa xogħol imħallas.

Ilgħat l-applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademici 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 for live music, bingo and a great meal and drinks every Saturday night, and on Sundays get those dancing shoes on for Rock 'n' Roll from 6pm.

On Sunday 16 July, Rockin Express will be joining DJ Albert for a Rock 'n' Roll Resurrection! Entry is just \$10.

For more info 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

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VICTORIA

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



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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.

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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



Incentive for advancing in European qualifiers

The four football clubs participating in this season's UEFA competitions have been given a grant of €10,000 each as an incentive for advancing to European qualifiers.

Launching the second edition of the scheme that supports the Maltese football clubs in Europe, Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo said this initial financial aid amounts to €10,000. Still, contrary to last year's scheme, this time round, each team will now be receiving an additional €10,000 every time it qualifies for a new round.

The clubs are Hamrun Spartans in the qualification round of the UEFA Champions League, and Birkirkara, Gżira United and Balzan, who will be playing in the qualifications phase of the UEFA Europa Conference League. Birkirkara women's team will also receive a similar grant for participating in the UEFA Women's Champions League.

During their commitments, the teams will

Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo (third right) with representatives from the clubs competing in Europe



be sporting the VisitMalta brand on their kits during their matches. Minister Bartolo

said these games would also serve tourism marketing in a new and different way.

The Spartans first in action

Malta's representatives in the 2023–24 UEFA Champions League, Champions Hamrun Spartans, will be the first of the four teams representing Malta in a UEFA competition this season to get into action when they host Israel's Maccabi Haifa on 11/12 July in the 69th season of Europe's premier club football tournament organised by UEFA, and the 32nd season since the competition renamed from the European Champion Clubs' Cup to the UEFA Champions League. The return will be a week later.

If the Spartans manage to surmount their Group 3 Second qualifying round tie opponents, they come up in their next game the winners of the tie between Astana (Kazakhstan) or Dinamo Tbilisi (Georgia).

This season's Champions League will be the final one with the current format of 32 teams participating in the group stage after UEFA announced that a new format would be introduced for the following edition.

This 2023/24 season's final will be played at Wembley Stadium in London, England. The winners will automatically qualify for the 2024–25 UEFA Champions League group stage and earn the right to play against the 2023–24 UEFA Europa League in the 2024 UEFA Super Cup.

England's Manchester City are the defending champions, having won their first title in the previous edition by beating Inter Milan of Italy in the final in Turkey.

Seventy-eight teams from 53 of the 55 UEFA member associations will participate in the 2023–24 UEFA Champions League (the exceptions being Liechtenstein, which does not organise a domestic league and

Russia. The association ranking based on the UEFA association coefficients determines the number of participating teams for each association.

Malta's three other clubs in the coming season's UEFA competitions are Birkirkara, Balzan and Gżira United. They will play in the Europa Conference League second qualifying round. They are Premier League runners-up and FA Trophy victors Birkirkara,

who play their first game away in Slovenia against Maribor in Group 2; Balzan, who host another Slovenian side, Domžale (SVN) in Group 1, and Gżira United, who play their first match in Malta against Northern Ireland's Glentoran (NIR) in Group 6. Matches are to be played on 13 and 20 July.

As Balzan and Gżira are drawn to play their first matches at home, one will have to change the date of the home tie.

The U/19 UEFA Euro Cship Malta 3-13 July

Following the successful hosting of the GSSE 2023 Malta is once again being called upon to participate and organise another important sports event, when it stages the 2023 UEFA European Under-19 Football Championship finals from 3 to 16 July.

Seven teams that have progressed from the elite round will join Malta. They have been separated into two groups of four teams each. Malta is drawn in Group A with Portugal, Poland and Italy. Group B is made up of Iceland, Greece Norway and Spain. The top two teams from each group will progress to the semi-finals. Matches are to be played in four venues, the National Stadium and the Centenary Stadium in Ta' Qali, the Tony Bezzina in Paola, and the Gozo Stadium.

The tournament kicks off on Monday 3 July with the matches from Group A between Malta and Italy, and Poland and Portugal.

Tuesday 4 July is set for the Group B games between Norway and Greece, and Iceland and Spain. Both matches will be played at the Centenary Stadium.



Matchday 2 on 6 July kicks off with the Group A games: Portugal vs Italy and Malta vs Poland. July 7: Group B: Greece vs Spain and Iceland vs Norway. Both matches to be played at the Centenary Stadium.

Matchday 3 on 9 July starts with Group A: Italy vs Poland and Portugal vs Malta (at Gozo Stadium). 10 July: Group B: Spain vs Norway and Greece vs Iceland.

The semi-finals take place on 13 July, one at the National Stadium and the other at the Tony Bezzina.

In the semi-finals, the winner of Group A plays the runner-up of Group B and vice versa. The allocation of semi-finals to stadiums will occur after the group stage.

The final takes place at the National Stadium in Ta' Qali on Sunday 16 July.



Some of the story of Malta's loss against England. FROM LEFT: The first goal; the second by Alexander Arnold, and the penalty on Harry Kane

Two defeats; two different tales

In a three-day span recently, the Malta national football team played two Group C UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers, the first the much awaited clash with England at the National Stadium which Malta lost 0-4, and then at Trnava against Ukraine., losing 0-1. Both fixtures. Both matches were lost and tell completely different stories.

Against England Malta never got going. The British dominated the proceedings from start to finish and Malta's best on the day was never enough. Although the defeat was highly anticipated, every Malta supporter expected a better performance. England's share of play was 64% against Malta's 36%, and England's goalkeeper Pickford could have stayed in the dressing room watching the game. He never had a shot to deal with throughout the 90 minutes.

Two of England's goals came from penalties, while their first was an own

tally by Ferdinando Apap. The second on 28 minutes came from a 25-metre shot by Trent Alexander-Arnold. Three minutes later, England scored a third, from another penalty by Harry Kane for a foul by Matthew Guillaumier.

Although Malta slightly improved after the break, England scored a fourth from yet another penalty in the 81st, this time for hands that was given by VAR. It was scored by Substitute Callum Wilson.

Controversial decisions

In the next game against Ukraine which was played in Slovakia, Malta were a different team. They were a spirited performance but in the end lost 0-1 after they fell victim to a second half controversial penalty decision by the French referee. In fact Ukraine were awarded two penalties, the first through VAR, which was missed by Yarmolenko, the second, on 69 minutes, even more controversial was scored by Tsygankov.

Waterpolo: Malta through to EURO Championships 2024

By beating Bulgaria 22-4 in the National Pool, for the fifth time in the history of the European Waterpolo Championships, Malta has qualified for the final round of the 2024 event to be held in Israel in January next year. Malta qualified with the best second-place finish in the three groups.

Malta dominated the match from the outset and had already built a 4-0 lead by the end of the first session. By the end of the second session, Malta were 13-1 up after winning the session by 9-1.

Malta won the remaining two sessions by 3-0 and 6-3, respectively, for a 22-4 final score. Nikolai Zammit finished Malta's top goal-getter with six goals.

Several gold in Special Olympics

Malta enjoyed another gold medals rush in an international event when its athletes won 32 medals - 16 Gold, 11 Silver and five bronze - at the Special Olympics World Games that ended Sunday in Berlin, Germany. The Maltese won medals in most of the programme events.

Saturday was one of their best days, with five gold medals in athletics. They also won gold in the bocce competitions, Bowling, and Swimming.

Celebrating Team Malta's achievements at the recent GSSE 2023 event

As Prime Minister Robert Abela joined hundreds of people to celebrate with Team Malta its extraordinary achievement at the recent GSSE, when it emerged as the top-performing nation in the medals table, he announced, that following an agreement between the NDSF and SportMalta, a further grant of €5 million as a hand out to sports federations by way of an investment in the athletes. It comes on top of the €4.9 million granted to the Maltese Olympic Committee in the run-up to the games. Gold-medallists in the Games were also awarded €10,000 each as a bonus.

Pictured: The athletes, MOC, Sport Malta members and helpers with Prime Minister Robert Abela (in blue jacket (left) and Minister for Education and Sport Clifton Grima in front of the PM's office in Castille

