



# The Voice of the Maltese

(thunder from down under)

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## 26th January marks Australia Day

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia. Celebrated annually on January 26. It marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships at Sydney Cove, New South Wales, and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain at that site by Governor Arthur Phillip.

In contemporary Australia, celebrations reflect the diverse society and landscape of the nation, and are marked by community and family events, reflections on Australian history, official community awards, and citizenship ceremonies welcoming new immigrants into the Australian community.

The tradition of having Australia Day as a national holiday on January 26 is a recent one. Not until 1935 did all the Australian states and territories use that name to mark that date. Not until 1994 did they begin to celebrate Australia Day consistently as a public holiday on that date.

Market research surveys charted Australians' growing awareness of Australia Day (from 75 per cent in 1980 to 99 per cent in 2012), but also their limited understanding of its significance. Those who attended an organised Australia Day event were better informed.

Citizenship ceremonies had become increasingly public affairs since the symbolic creation of Australian citizenship in legislation in 1948, though Australians remained British subjects until 1984.

With the transfer of ceremonies from the courts to local government in the early 1950s, they became central to Australia Day as local community events. A reminder of the raising of the Union Jack when Captain Cook claimed New South Wales for the British king in 1770 and Governor Phillip occupied it in 1788.



On May 13, 1787 the British Admiralty sent a fleet of

11 ships, which came to be known as the First Fleet, from England to Australia. Under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, the fleet sought to establish a penal colony at Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, which had been explored and claimed by Lieutenant James Cook in 1770.

The settlement was seen as necessary because of the loss of the Thirteen Colonies in North America. The Fleet arrived between January 18 and 20, 1788, but it was immediately apparent that Botany Bay was unsuitable.

On 21 January, Phillip and a few officers travelled to Port Jackson, 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) to the north, to see if it would be a better location for a settlement. They stayed there until January 23; Phillip named the site of their landing Sydney Cove, after the Home Secretary, Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney. They also had some contact with the local aborigines.



**The Voice of the Maltese is a fortnightly publication specifically targeted towards all Maltese leaving abroad, with emphasis on the Australian scene.**

**This e-newspaper is sent via email by request. Subscription is free.**

**The Editor is Lawrence Dimech. Joseph Cutajar is Malta Editor and layout designer.**

# U inti X'tahseb dwar.....? id-Dinja tas-Surveys u l-ħajja ta' kuljum

Kitba tal-Professor Godfrey Pirotta

U inti X'tahseb fuq.....? id-Dinja tas-Surveys u l-ħajja ta' kuljum.

Ta spiss sar, li jċempel it-telfon biex xi hadd, ġeneralment xi mara, tistaqsi għadd ta' mistoqsijiet dwar x'nahseb dwar xi kwestjoni partikolari, liema prodott nuza biex nahsel snieni, liema programm televiżi jew stazzjoni nippreferi jew jekk sifirtx jew kemm-il darba sifirt. Jekk ma jkunx it-telfon ikun xi hadd fit-triq jew xi stħarriġ tal-fehma fuq l-internet jew xi paġna elettronika ta' xi gazzetta.

Barra minhekk fil-ħajja akkademika tiegħi hija haġa normali li jew inhajjar lil-istudenti jagħmlu xi stħarriġ ta' dan it-tip għat-tezi tagħhom jew nagħmlu jien stess bhala parti minn xi studju ricerka.

L-istħarriġ fis-soċjeta huwa fil-fatt, u bla dubju, wiehed mill-mezzi ta' ricerka li l-aktar li jintuzaw fix-xjenza soċjali għaliex jgħina nifhmu aħjar is-soċjeta li nkunu qed ninvestigaw. U aktar minhekk mindu ssehbna fl-Unjoni Ewropeja sirna nużaw ir-riżultati ta' l-istħarriġ tal-Eurobarometre bhala indikazzjoni ta' fejn sejra s-soċjeta Maltija f'ħafna oqsma meta mqabbla mas-soċjetajiet l-oħra Ewropej.

F'Malta l-istħarriġ tal-fehma pubblika sar negozju kbir u jeżistu għadd ta' kumpaniji li jispeċjalizzaw f'dan il-qasam. Bhal f'pajjiżi oħra hafna kumpaniji saru jużaw dawn is-servizzi biex ikunu jistgħu jibnu kampanji pubbliċitarji għal-prodotti tagħhom jew biex itejbu xi servizz għall-klijenti tagħhom. Barra min Malta stħarriġ

ta' din ix-xorta kien beda jsir ukoll biex is-servizz pubbliku jkun jista jersaq qrib il-klijenti tiegħu.

M'hemmx mod aħjar biex ittejjeb is-servizz tiegħek milli ssir taf direttament minghand il-klijenti tiegħek x'jaħsbu dwar is-servizz li qed tagħtihom u kif jista jittjeb. Fil-fatt f'ħafna pajjiżi r-riforma fis-servizz pubbliku kienet tistrieħ hafna fuq dan il-proċess. F'Malta mhix drawwa ta' min imexxi biex jagħmel stħarriġ bhal dan u forsi huwa għalhekk li l-kwalita ta' servizz li tagħti l-amministrazzjoni pubblika ġieli jhalli toghma hazina f'ħalq min jużah. Huwa iktar komuni li ssib partit fl-Oppozizzjoni jagħmel stħarriġ bhal dan milli ssib entitajiet tal-gvern.

Jien kelli okkażjoni nara kemm dahal fil-fond u sar professjonali f'pajjiżna dan il-proċess ta' stħarriġ meta hadt sehem ma' għadd ta' persuni oħra fl-analiżi tat-telfa li sofra l-Partit Laburista fl-elezzjoni ġenerali tal-2008.

Kellna ċ-ċans naraw il-'polls' li kien jagħmel il-Partit Laburista biex jistħarriġ



Godfrey Pirotta huwa Professur tax-Xjenza Politika u Studji Governattivi u Direttur ta' l-Istitut għat-Tmexxija Pubblika fl-Universita ta' Malta.

Huwa l-awtur ta' għadd ta' kotba fosthom l-istorja tal-Parlament Malti u ta' 'papers' ricerka f'rivisti akkademici internazzjonali. Huwa anke għall-em f'diversi universitajiet barranin inkluż l-Universita ta' Oxford.

fejn kien jinsab fil-fehma pubblika matul il-kampanja elettorali u naraw għalhekk kemm dawn fil-fatt kienu jirriflettu verament il-polz tal-pajjiż.

Haġa li impressjonatna kien kif dawn 'il-polls' f'it f'it bdew jindikaw minn qabel ir-riżultat li hareġ wara li ġew magħduda l-voti. Imma kien iktar impressjonanti li meta harisna lejn 'il-polls' li saru f'elezzjonijiet jew referenda fis-snin ta' qabel, sibna kemm dawn 'il-polls' dejjem taw indikazzjonijiet preċiżi tar-riżultat aħhari.

Għaliya din kienet konferma importanti għal dak li jien kont għedt f'intervista ma gazzetta Maltija fis-snin disghajn meta kont għedt li kont ċert li l-partiti politiċi jkunu jaf ir-riżultat ta' l-elezzjoni jew referendum qabel il-voti jintefgħu fil-kaxxi.

Mhux ta' b'xejn għalhekk li osservaturi minn oqsma differenti tal-ħajja saru jqisu stħarriġ fost il-poplu bhala għodda "moderna" biex jittiehdu d-deċiżjonijiet ta' kull xorta. Imma kemm hija tassew moderna?

Fil-fatt dan it-tip stħarriġ beda jiġi ntrodott fil-bidu tas-seklu dsatax. Xi hassieba politiċi bdew jaraw li, dak li wiehed jittkellem dwar problemi li qed jolqtu lis-soċjeta imma minghajr fatti konkreti f'idejh, kien nuqqas serju, u għalhekk kien hemm il-htieġa ta' stħarriġ aktar wiesgħa biex wiehed jasal għal konklużjonijiet iktar fondati.

L-ewwel stħarriġ soċjali sehħ f'Malta fl-1836 meta żewġ Kummissarji mibghuta mill-gvern Brittaniku biex jistħarriġu s-sit-waazjoni politika, soċjali u ekonomika ta' Malta wettqu stħarriġ f'kull lokalita' dwar il-faqar. Hassew li "survey" bhal dan ikun l-aħjar mod biex huma jsiru jafu iktar, kemm dwar il-kawzi ewlenin għall-faqar esagerat li kien hawn fil-ġeżjer Maltin, kif ukoll ir-raġunijiet għal dan il-faqar.

**While visiting Malta  
Stay at:  
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Il-Maltin jilqgħu l-kummissjoni rjali tal-1836 f' Misraħ San Gorg (jew kif inhu magħrufa, Misraħ il-Palazz

*Ikompli minn paġna 2*

Dawn iż-żżwġ Kummissarji, John Austin u George Cornwall Lewis, kienu hejjew ghadd ta' mistoqsijiet li l-ghan tagħhom kellu jkun li jeżaminaw il-faqar f'Malta u x'jista jsir biex jittafa. Billi l-istharrig tagħhom kien jinkludi mistoqsijiet dwar l-impjieġ, is-sengħa jew professjoni, l-istudju jagħti stampa aktar wiesgħa dwar is-soċjeta Maltija. Madankollu dan l-istharrig ma kellux ir-rizultat mixtieq għaliex ftit kienu dawk li kienu jafu jaqraw u jiktbu u għalhekk strahu fuq had-diehor biex iwiegħbu l-mistoqsijiet tiegħu.

## Id dinja tas-surveys

Il-Kummissarji wkoll dahlilhom suspett li fuq min strahu dawn in-nies biex iwiegħbu il-qwestjonarju taw iktar il-fehma tagħhom milli ta' min kien suppost iweġeb, u billi dak iż-żmien kien hemm aġitazzjoni politika shuna hasbu wkoll li min wieġeb seta' uza l-okkazzjoni biex iressaq il-fehma politika tiegħu, per eżempju kontra taxxi fuq il-propjeta'.

Min dak iż-żmien sal-lum ix-xjenza li

biha jitwettaq stharrig soċjali saret aktar sofistikata u bl-ghajjnuna tat-teknoloġija moderna iktar wiesgħa u komprensiva. Infatti hafna illum jiskantaw kif stharrig fil-gazzetti ikollhom il-hila jindikaw rizultat elettorali b' daqshekk precizjoni anki minn ġimghat qabel.

Huwa veru li min imexxi stharrig ta' dan it-tip jammetti li jista' jkun hemm xi nuqqas żgħir fl-eżattezza tat-tagħrif li jinkiseb, imma meta wiehed jara kemm saru jagħtu rizultati daqshekk qrib dawn l-hekk imsejha bhala 'polls', il-verita' hi li wiehed ma jistax ma jaċcettax il-validita' ta' dan il-metodu ta' stharrig soċjali.

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Sahħa

*We are one,  
we are many*

*Australia Day Celebration  
Sunday, 2nd February 2014  
from 3.30 pm to 6 pm.  
at Parramatta Town Hall*

*Join the Maltese community  
in NSW to celebrate  
Australia National Day.  
All welcome.*

*Light refreshments will be served*

# Brief History of Bush Fires in NSW

**B**ushfires have a wide variety of causes. There are natural causes, such as lightning strikes; and accidental causes, such as sparks from farm machinery, incinerators, power lines, vehicle crashes, escapes from burning off and camp fires.

Unfortunately, a number of bushfires are also started deliberately.

Most bushfires occur during the Bushfire Danger Period, from October 1 to March 31 each year. As the dates below indicate, some bushfire seasons are worse than others.

**1957:** Bushfires in the Blue Mountains area driven by gale force winds destroyed 25 homes, shops, schools, churches and a hospital.

**1964/65:** Major fires occurred in the Snowy Mountains, Southern Tablelands and outer metropolitan area.

The Chatsbury/Bungonia fire covered 250,000ha and destroyed the village of Wingello. Three lives were lost. In March the Tumut Valley fire burnt 80,000ha.

**1968/69:** Widespread damage occurred over much of the eastern part of the State. Major fires at Wollongong burnt rainforest, destroyed 33 homes and five other buildings.

Fires in the lower Blue Mountains were fanned by 100km/h westerly winds and destroyed 123 buildings. Three lives were lost.

**1969/70:** The Roto fire burnt some 280,000ha in a three week period.

**1972/73:** The south-eastern corner of the State suffered the worst fires since 1968 with over 200,000ha burnt.

The Burrinjuck fire burnt 16,000ha and was reported to have travelled 19km in three hours, denuding a hillside in its path.

**1974/75:** The severest season for perhaps 30 years in the far west with 3,755,000ha burnt, 50,000 stock lost and 10,170km of fencing destroyed. 1.5 million ha were burnt in the Cobar Shire in mid-December and 340,000ha in the Balranald fire.

The Moolah-Corinya fire burnt 1,117,000ha and was the largest fire put out by bush firefighters. Its perimeter was over 1,000km.

**1976/77:** In early December, 9,000ha were burnt and three homes destroyed in Hornsby Shire, and 65,000ha were burnt in the Blue Mountains.

**1977/78:** In the Blue Mountains area 49 buildings were destroyed and 54,000ha

**The brutal heat wave in Australia shows no sign of letting up as starting January 14th the Australian Bureau of Meteorology predicted temperatures to soar over 40 degrees Celsius. According to the weather bureau, Melbourne and most of Victoria will experience extreme heat conditions.**

**Perth recorded temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius as authorities scramble to put out bushfires in the suburbs during the weekend.**

**Don't say it could never happen to me.**

**Below is an example of how many times NSW, to mention just one region, has been hit throughout the years.**

burnt. Sydney suburbs up to 60km away were showered with fall-out of blackened leaves.

**1978/79:** Serious fires occurred in the Southern Highlands and South West Slopes regions. Over 50,000ha were burnt, five houses were destroyed and heavy stock losses were inflicted.

**1979/80:** Following severe drought conditions over most of the State, major fires were widespread.

In Mudgee Shire, 55,400ha were burnt and one life was lost. 9,000ha were burnt in Warringah Shire and 14 houses lost.

Fires occurred in the majority of council areas within the State burning a total of over 1 million ha.

**1982/83:** \$12 million worth of pine plantation was destroyed in southern NSW in a fire, which burnt 25,000ha in only two and a half hours. The Grose Valley fire burnt 35,000ha.

**1984/85:** This was the worst fire season for ten years in the grassed western areas of the State. On Christmas Day more than 100 fires were started by lightning strikes and 500,000ha burnt as a result.

The largest fire was at Cobar in mid-January with 516,000ha burnt.

During the season there were 6,000 fires State-wide, 3.5 million ha burnt, four lives lost, 40,000 stock lost and \$40 million damage.

**1987/88:** Over 115,000ha were burnt in the Bethungra and War-urillah/Yanco fires with three lives lost at the Be-thungra fire. Major fires also occurred in the south east-

ern part of Kosciusko National Park where 65,000ha were burnt in the Park and surrounding areas.

**1990/91:** In November fires raced through the council areas of Hay and Murrumbidgee, claiming nearly 200,000ha of prime grazing land, destroying 100,000 sheep and hundreds of kilometres of



**Bushfire in Palm Beach, New South Wales, Australia**

fencing.

Just one week later 80,000ha of land were burnt as fires claimed another 76,000 sheep and 200 cattle in Hay and Carathool Shires.

On December 23, hundreds of fires were reported across the State with eight emergency declarations made in the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Cessnock, Hawkesbury, Warringah, Wollondilly, Gosford and Wyong council areas. Eight homes were lost in these fires.

**1991/92:** On October 16, two lives were lost at Kenthurst in the Shire of Baulkham Hills. Emergency declarations were made for the councils of Baulkham Hills, Gosford City, Wyong Shire and Lake Macquarie.

Nearly 2,500 bushfirefighters battled more than 30 blazes around the State. 14 homes were destroyed.

**1993/94:** In late December 1993, a series of fires began on the north coast and in the Hunter Region. As weather conditions continued to deteriorate, fire occurrence spread from the Queensland border to Batemans Bay.

In excess of 800 fires started between December 27, 1993 and January 16, 1994. Over 800,000ha were burnt.

*Continued on page 7*

# Bush Fires in NSW During the Years

Continued from page 6

All areas affected had previously been subject to wildfires, but never before had they burnt simultaneously. Resources from across Australia and New Zealand were utilised, resulting in a firefighting effort larger than any previously experienced in the country.

At the height of the exercise over 20,000 firefighters were deployed. Four lives were lost and 206 homes destroyed.

**1997/1998:** There were major fires in the Burrigorang, Piliga, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Shoalhaven, Central Coast and Sydney's south (particularly Menai) that proved difficult to contain and suppress, and posed a major threat to communities, their assets and the environment.

However the fires were brought under control in a timely manner with only relatively minor property damage.

There were in excess of 250 significant fires, and:

*Approximately 500,000ha were burnt  
Over 5,000 firefighters were utilised at any one time*

*Over 60 fixed wing and rotary aircraft were involved*

*10 homes were lost at Menai*

*20 local government areas were affected*



Fire fighters risking their lives to put out a Blue Mountains bush fire

**4 firefighter lives were lost.**

The principle duration was 16 days, though fires started in late November 1997 and continued until 28 Feb 1998.

**2001/2002:** The initial impact of seven "Bushfire Emergencies" occurred during the period 29 October 2001 to 9 November 2001 in the areas of Cessnock, Gosford, Gloucester, Kempsey, Wyong, Greater Taree and Singleton.

The second spate of five "Bushfire Emergencies" commenced at 1500 hours on December 3, 2001 with the declaration of

the Blue Mountains Rural Fire District.

The fires generally started as a result of a severe dry thunderstorm with many lightning strikes on the Great Dividing Range and to the west.

The same storm reached the coastal areas north of Sydney with heavy rain and hail accompanied by very strong winds, causing significant storm damage. Major fires occurred in Blue Mountains/Lithgow, Hawkesbury, Narromine, Wollondilly-Wingecarribee and Cabonne over the 21 days up to 24 December 2001.

On December 24, 2001, due to increased fire activity, proximity to Sydney, threat to residential property and apparently deliberately lit fires, there was significant media and public interest.

On December 25, 2001 a number of interstate offers of assistance were made. There were 26 "Bushfire Emergency" declarations incorporating 48 local government areas.

Some districts had several declarations due to new fire outbreaks. 23 days later the significant "emergency" was declared over by the Commissioner at a press conference, although 11 section 44s were still to be declared out.

Following are some statistics from December 24, 2001 to January 16, 2002:

**Damage estimates:**

*Area burnt: 733,342 Ha = 7333 square kms, 4196 km perimeter*

*Estimated insurance damage bill of approximately \$75,000,000 comprising approximately 3000 claims*

*Estimated cost of operations for NSW agencies was approximately \$106,000,000*

*Estimated 20,000 properties saved*

*No loss of life or serious injury to public or emergency personnel.*

**Property destroyed:**

**Residential houses 109**

**Industrial and commercial Premises 29 other buildings 437**

**Vehicles, boats, caravans, etc. 222**

**Stock (cattle, sheep, goats and chickens) 7,043.**



## Maltese Welfare (NSW) Get Together to Welcome 2014

The Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc welcomed the New Year with their annual committee get-together at the Licido Restaurant at the Wentworthville League Club. It was also an occasion to extend their congratulations to their president, Lawrence Dimech on becoming a member of Malta's National Order of Merit on Republic Day 2013.

Meanwhile, the Maltese Welfare is accepting nominations from the Maltese community for their annual Quiet Achievers Night of Recognition 2014 to be held at the Annunciation Hall (St Dominic's) at Blacktown NSW on the Wednesday, March 19.

Nominations are still open for any NSW resident of Maltese descent over the age of 60 years.

One can apply for a nomination form by phoning the Secretary, M. Camilleri on 98220228 jew 0409 744 376.

The Quiet Achievers 2014 is sponsored by Fiducian Financial Service. Tel 1300 554 409

**Pictured (standing from left): Charles Kassas, Lino Vella, Rita Kassas, Charles Micallef, Doris Grima, Marlene and Lawrence Dimech, Freda and Joe Micallef, Nathalie Gatt, Marie-Louise Muscat. Front; Lawrence Gatt and Frank Muscat**

# It-triq tal-Ganċ fil-Belt Valletta

## Memorji u Nostalgija

**F**i triq fil-belt kapitali Maltija Valletta, dik li tinsab quddiem il-Kon-Kattidral ta' San Gwann, u li taqşam il-belt minnaha għall-ohra, biex anke twasslek lejn il-Port il-Kbir, hemm triq mimlija tarag li jismha appuntu għall-Kon-Kattidral, jgħifieri Triq San Gwann, imma fil-fatt hafna aktar jafuha, (speċjalment il-Beltin), bhala t-triq tal-Ganċ, minhabba li mal-hajt fil-bidu tagħha, qabel taqbad in-niżla hekk kif thalli San Gwann hemm hadida forma ta' ganċ imdahhla fil-hajt.

Din it-triq fl-antik kienet mimlija hwienet tax-xorb, li, bhal dawk ta' Strada Stretta, kien ikunu mimlijin l-aktar b'bahrin, generalment Inġliżi, ghaliex huma kienu l-aktar li jiffrekwentaw il-Portijiet Maltin.

Fil-fatt hawn min jghid li dawn il-bahrin kienu jagħmlu l-imhatri għal min minnhom jirnexxielu jghaddi minn go dan il-ganċ. Min jirnexxilu kien jispiċċa jixrob lejl shih minn fuq dahar shabu.

Hemm ukoll tagħrif li juri li whud minn dawn il-hwienet ta' din it-triq, allura żgur ma kienux hwienet kif wiehed jafhom illum, fiż-żmien l-ordni ta' San Gwann kienu jservu bhala ċelel tal-habs tal-Kastellanija, u li l-ganċ kien iservi biex

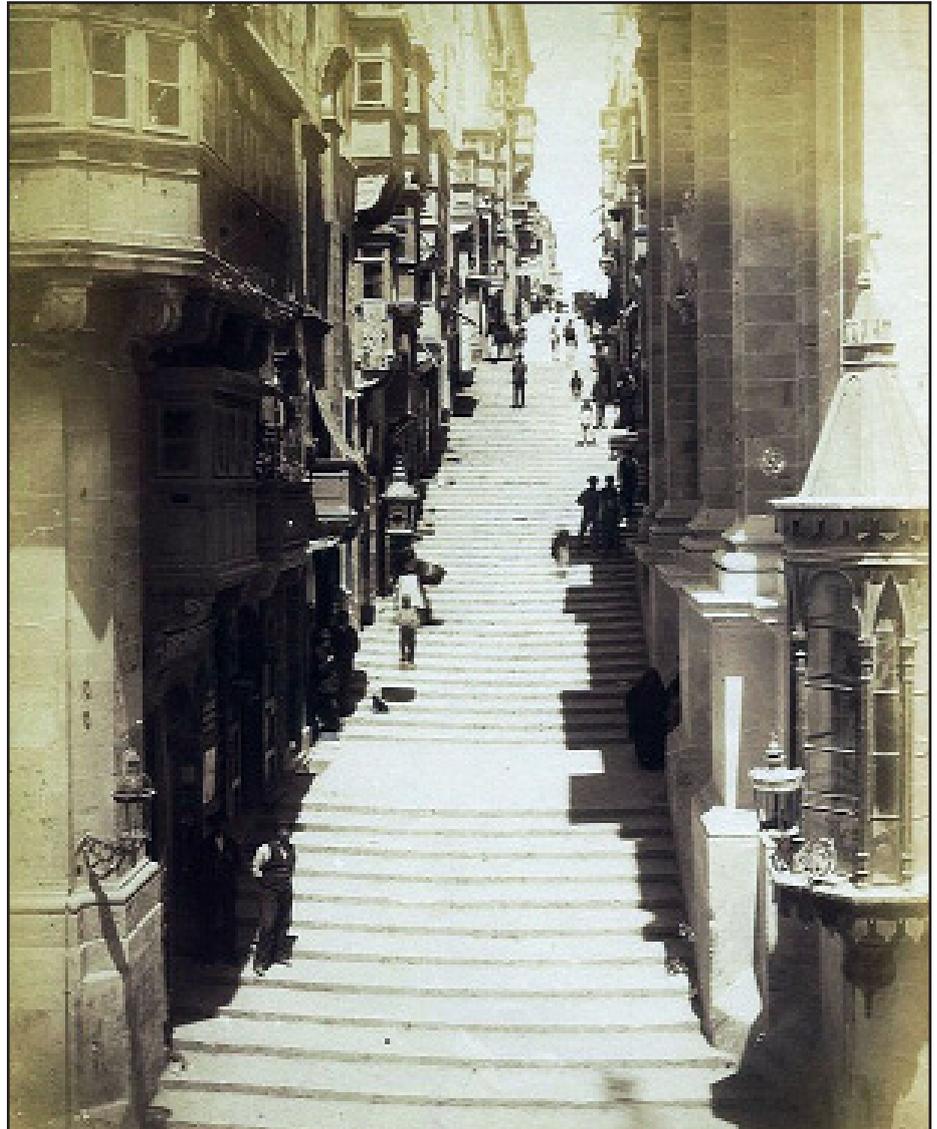
### Stamp Collection for Sale

Around 9000 stamps the majority of which are from Malta and USA, but also from Canada, Australia, UK, and other European countries, and former British colonies now known by different names is being sold by Alex Saliba at 800 Cypress Crossing trail, St. Augustine, Florida, USA 32095.

The collection also includes Malta's stamps commemorate the Great Siege, the Knights, Valletta, Malta's Treasures, WW II, George Cross Award, Independence, Christmas Series, Religious occasions, Churchill, Kennedy, Maltese Personalities, Queen Victoria, King George V, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth etc. There are some rare ones such as 'Melita' stamps from the 1920's.

Most stamps are used but many are unused (mint) stamps: from USA. They can be in blocks of 30 to 40, or more. Such blocks of stamps represent Space Exploration, Moon Landing, Dinosaurs, Prehistoric animals, Nature, Boston Tea Party, Semi-Precious stones, Film Stars. There are smaller amounts of unused stamps from many other countries.

For details Email: [leonmaureen@msn.co](mailto:leonmaureen@msn.co)



Fuq: ritratt tad-19-il sekl u tat-Triq San Gwann, jew "tal-Ganċ", u (taht): il-"ganċ" li saret magħrufa għalih din it-triq, li ftit inbidlet fiż-żmienijiet jorbtu miegħu lill-habsin.

Imma mbagħad hemm tagħrif iehor, li hafna jsostnu li l-aktar li jregi, illi l-ganċ kien intuża biex iqandlu u jtellghu f'potha f'wiehed mill-kampnari tal-Kon-Kattidral ta' San Gwann, il-qanpiena li kien ordna li ssir il-Gran Mastru Pinto.

Din it-triq maż-żmien ftit jew xejn inbidlet, hlief forsi l-hwienet li fiha li ċertament bidlu l-idejn u anke l-merkanzija li jbiegħu. Ohrajn illum magħluqa.

F'nofs din it-triq, mal-ġenb xellugi int u nieżel lejn il-Port il-Kbir, hemm il-magħrufa Knisja ta' Giezu li tigbed lejha hafna devoti, l-aktar l-eluf minn madwar Malta kollha li fiż-żmien qrib il-Gimgha l-Kbira jiehdu sehem, l-ewwel fil-purċissjoni tad-Duluri, fil-Gimgha l-Kbira proprja, għall-purċissjoni bil-vari.



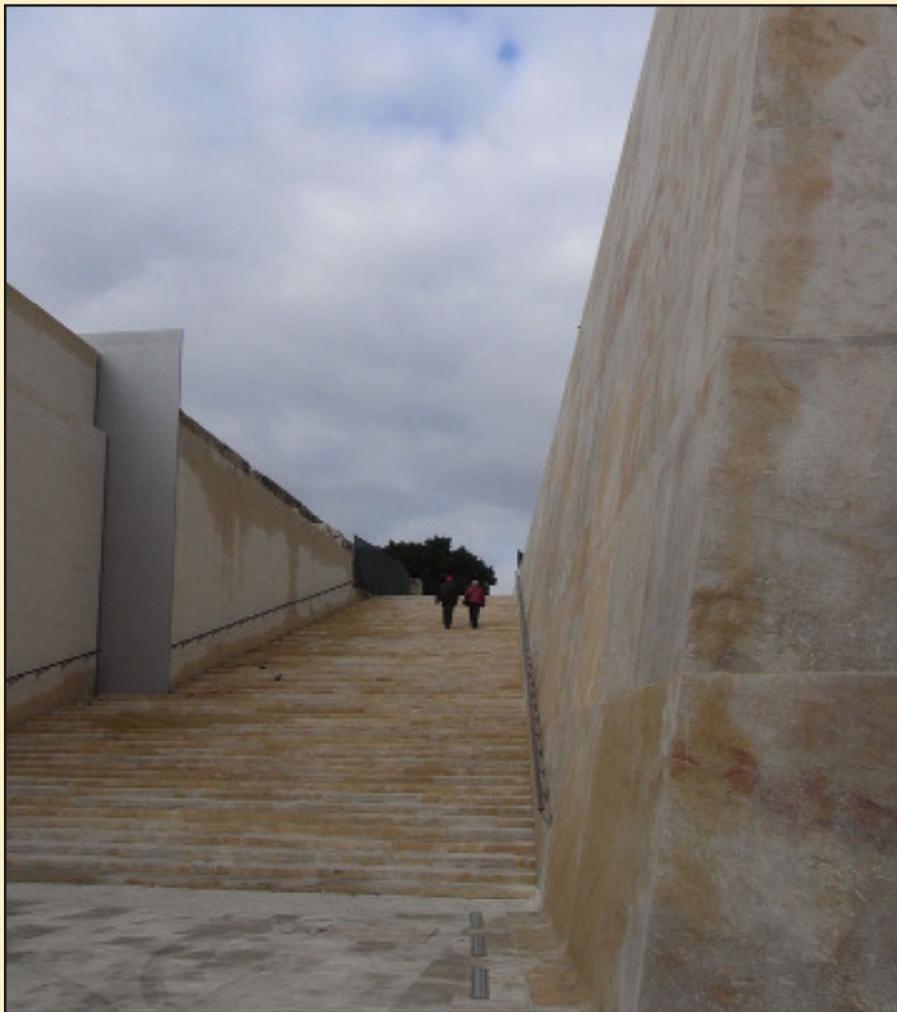
**I**l-proġett ta' Bieb il-Belt fil-kapitali Maltija, Valletta, li qajjem tant kontroversja, qed bil-mod il-mod jiehu sura. Fix-xogħol madwar is-swar ukoll jidher li sar progress.

Kif tidhol minn dak li qabel kien magħruf bhala Bieb il-Belt u li issa ġie mnehhi għal kollox, issib ma' wiċċek (fuq il-lemin) bini li meta jitlesta se jakkomoda l-Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti, il-Parlamanet. Imbagħad fuq ix-xellug, qabel ma jibdew il-hwienet, taħt l-arkati, infetaħ taraġ impressjonanti li jiehdok lejn l-inħawi ta' Hastings (*ara r-ritratt fuq*).

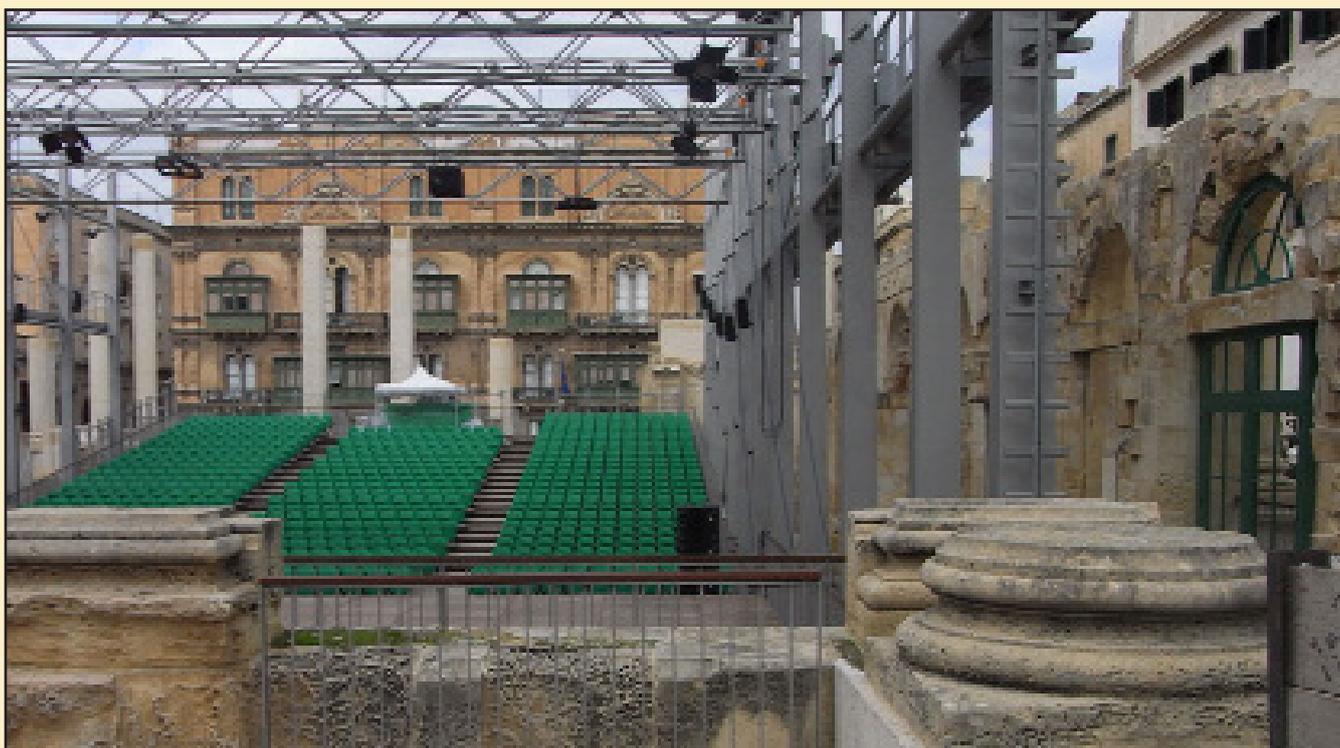
Biswit il-bini tal-'Parlament' hemm dak li sar magħruf bhala t-teatru bla saqaf. Ix-xogħol fuqu jidher li wkoll wasal fl-aħhar fażi, imma dan se jibqa` dejjem t-teba' sewda ta' dan il-proġett.

Diffiċli biex tifhem kif il-pjan ta' dan it-teatru bla saqaf hareġ minn moħħ dawk li ppjannawh għax tassew jistona mal-ambjent u ma jagħmel l-ebda sens. Anzi nażżarda ngħid li jkerrah il-madwar.

Anke minn dan ir-ritratt (*taħt*) wiehed jista' jinduna x'holqu minn dak li qabel kien tempju tal-opra, it-Teatru Rjal!



## Hdejn il-bieb tal-Belt



## ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

# Despite EP averse stand on Malta's 'Citizenship scheme IIP will stay'

The European Parliament overwhelmingly approved with 560 for, 22 against and 44 abstentions a non-binding motion against what they termed as sale of European citizenship put forward by the two Nationalist Party MEPs. Notwithstanding, the Maltese Government will stick to its commitment to implement the scheme that entitles foreigners to acquire Maltese citizenship through the Individual Investor Programme, IIP

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said that the government had noted the vote in the European parliament but the scheme in Malta would be retained, adding that it was clear, also in the debate, that the granting of citizenship was a matter of national competence.

He added that the government had been elected to govern in the national interest. It was elected to bring about change and to raise living standards. The Individual Investor Programme (the scheme's formal name) would help Malta achieve those aims, yielding a billion euro that would go into a fund for development in various sectors including social development, education, health and innovation, as well as job creation.

The programme, he said, was a compromise from the original programme, agreed after the government heard suggestions by the regulator of financial services and the Chamber of Commerce, among others.

He insisted that other countries had similar programmes, and that the European



Prime Minister Joseph Muscat

Parliament motion was non-binding, in the same way as the parliament's statements on abortions had been non-binding and had not been adopted by Malta because they were not in the national interest.

One could also see how other countries did not share the burden of irregular immigration despite calls by the European Parliament, he said.

Dr Muscat also strongly criticised the Nationalist Party and its MEPs for working

against Malta's interests and accused Simon Busuttil of 'selling Malta'.

He said he was greatly encouraged by the applications already being made for citizenship, and said the applicants were the sort of high net value people that Malta was seeking to attract.

Meanwhile, in a statement after the motion's approval the European Parliament said: EU citizenship must not have a "price tag" attached to it.

It said: "MEPs are concerned about schemes established by various EU member states and in particular Malta, which result in the sale of national, and hence EU, citizenship."

### Scheme Attracting Former F1 champ

Meanwhile, a former Formula 1 world champion, a pop singer and a prominent Gulf royal family member are among those interested in applying for a Maltese passport. Hundreds had already expressed interest in the scheme, with some putting forward deposits, *The Sunday Times of Malta* has quoted Henley and Partners CEO Eric Major saying.

A South American footballer, an American press magnate and a Singaporean business tycoon have also put their names forward for the scheme.

## Standard and Poor's affirms Malta's BBB+/A-2 rating



The government welcomed the decision of the credit agency Standard and Poor's that has affirmed the long- and short-term sovereign credit ratings on Malta's rating at 'BBB+/A-2' - outlook stable, and described it as a positive result for the country. The Nationalist Party also welcomed the decision.

The government said the decision is "a result that should encourage us to address the challenges ahead while striving to sustain stability, incentivise investment and create more employment for the well-being of all."

The Government went on to say: "These are among the most prominent conclusions reached by international credit rating agency Standard & Poor's."

The credit rating agency observed that by means of effective governance, the new administration, began registering concrete progress on its long-term reforms. In its commentary, S&P said the new government had a strong electoral mandate that favoured reforms.

"Standard & Poor's also affirmed that Malta is making good progress in its energy plan, and remarked that this reform will continue supporting economic growth, which is already improving and exceeding all expectations, the agency's own.

"These positive prospects for Malta led Standard & Poor's to reaffirm a stable outlook for Malta, as well as its BBB+/A-2 rating," the Government said, adding that its plan for the energy sector is unfolding in a manner that is strengthening the country's financial position, in fact, the economic growth registered during 2013 exceeded all expectations.

The Opposition Economy spokesman Mario de Marco said that this was the fruit of the wise decisions taken by Nationalist government along the years for the economy to continue to grow and create employment.



Opposition leader Dr Simon Busuttil (above) was highly critical of the government's attitude. He said that the astounding EP vote was "a double whammy" for the government, and that the PM is isolated. "Muscat shamed our country," he said in a tweet, insisting that Malta was not for sale.

## ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA



# Govt Intends to establish Malta as a maritime centre of excellence in the Med, Maltese PM tells Consuls

When he was exchanging New Year's greetings with the honorary Consuls at this office in Castille, Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat expressed his appreciation for the valid work they have carried out over the past months to continue building Malta's extraordinary network of relations with its international partners, particularly in the fields of commercial and investment potential and very importantly on a people to people level.

He also took a look back at the highlights of 2013 that he believed have set the right context for the challenges ahead of his Government in the coming months.

He maintained that Malta's performance has been a steady one with a sound financial performance, encouraging unemployment figures and continued growth in services industry.

He also said that the government's plans to establish Malta as a maritime centre of excellence in the Mediterranean are underway together with an increasingly reputable record in the field of aviation services.

However, he pointed out that education remains central to his Government's performance, and that he sees the Consuls as central figures in bringing to the fore the excellent record of Malta's University in attracting foreign students to pursue their tertiary education here in Malta.

"The potential in this field is endless and ranges from English Language schools, to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and the International Maritime Law Institute," he said.

He pointed out the Government's active approach in addressing important reforms such as in the public transport, infrastructure and the health sector and said he had no doubts that these will yield positive results in the weeks and months ahead.

"Over and above all this, my Government has been elected on the premise of ensuring the full enjoyment of civil rights by all, and this will remain a priority I will be personally committed to in the months to come," he said.

He also mentioned the international front, saying that his gov-

ernment has also sought to address national priorities while intensifying relations with important partners.

He mentioned as examples, discussions about the issue of migration with the governments of Greece and Italy saying that this was another crucial area of interest for Malta where the Consuls could further sensitise the international community not only to Malta's plight in addressing influxes of arrivals but more importantly emphasise the need for a holistic solution to this tragic phenomenon.

While expressing concern over events in Malta's immediate neighbourhood he called on the international community to continue engaging closely with these partners and extend the support necessary to rebuild their countries on sound democratic bases.

Malta's constructive role in regional affairs has been recently further enhanced by the decision to have an international Institute for Justice and Rule of Law based in Malta.

In order to broaden Malta's international visibility the PM said the government plans to open an Embassy in Doha, Qatar as well as a number of Consulates in different regions ranging from Algiers, Misurata, Shanghai and for the very first time in Latin America, also in Sao Paolo.

### Fire damages Reception at Auberge de Castille

No one was injured Saturday when the reception area of the Prime Minister's office, the Auberge de Castille, was destroyed by fire, believed to have resulted from a short-circuit. The damages are estimated to amount between €20,000 to €25,000.

The fire was quickly put out by two fire engines that were called on the spot. The AFM bomb disposal unit was also on the scene as well as Police Commissioner Peter Paul Zammit, a significant number of Police officers, paramedics and Civil Protection personnel.

An inquiry is being held.

# Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

*minn Gużè Camilleri*

## Impjiegi

Skont l-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika (NSO) bejn Lulju u Settembru li għadew, pajjiżna kellu għadd rekord ta' persuni b'impjieg.

Minn rata ta' 59.7% fil-bidu ta' din il-legislatura, il-holqien tal-impjiegi sattuielet kwart tas-sena li għaddiet lahaq ir-rata ta' 61.3%.

Fl-ewwel disa' xhur ta' dan il-Gvern kien hemm żieda ta' 5,302 impjiegi fil-waqt li fl-istess perjodu tas-sena ta' qabel kien hemm żieda ta' 2,856. Dan ifisser li r-rata ta' holqien ta' impjiegi taht din l-amministrazzjoni kienet id-doppju ta' li kienet bi gvern preċedenti.

Iżda, sfortunatament, minkejja din iż-żieda xorta għad għandna l-problema tal-qagħad bir-rata ta' dawk qegħda tkompli tiżdied.

Forsi jkun hemm min jistaqsi, kif żdied l-għadd ta' dawk li sabu x-xogħol u ma naqasx ta' dawk jirreġistraw għax-xogħol?

Hemm diversi raġunijiet għal dan. L-ewwelnet għax l-għadd ta' dawk li qed jidhlu fis-suq tax-xogħol qed jikber. Iżda raġuni inkwetanti hija li nofs l-impjiegi godda li nholqu ma ntlewx minn ċittadini Maltin, imma minn barranin.

Fil-Gżejjer Maltin għandna madwar 15,000 impjieg għand il-barranin, li huwa għadd tassew idaqqas meta tiehu d-daqs tal-popolazzjoni Maltija. U dan għaliex: (1) hemm ċertu xogħol li l-Maltin ma jithajjrox għalih - fost dan 500 post tax-xogħol fil-qasam tat-tindif pubbliku - (2) għax m'għandiex nies bil-hiliet mehtieġa biex jagħmlu dan ix-xogħol.

Issa l-Gvern habbar li se johloq skemi biex ikollna aktar nies imharrġa f'dawk il-hiliet li huma mehtieġa mill-industrija, il-fabbriki, eċċ, kif ukoll se jinvestiga dwar jekk uhud mill-impjiegi li l-Maltin qed jirrifjutaw, humiex impjiegi fejn il-hlasijiet jew il-kundizzjonijiet tax-xogħol humiex ta' ċertu livell.



## Iċ-Ċittadinanza ...wara l-vot tal-UE

**B**la dubbju l-aktar sugġett li kitbu u għadhom qed jiktbu dwaru l-gurnali Maltin hija l-kwestjoni taċ-Ċittadinanza, kwestjoni li forsi laqet il-quċcata tagħha bid-dibattitu li sar fil-Parlament tal-Unjoni Ewropeja fejn tressqet mozzjoni li kkritikat prinċipalment lil Malta għall-iskema taċ-Ċittadinanza li kienet qed tipproponi. Kif żgur li qrajtu jew smajtu, din il-mozzjoni, li giet imressqa miż-żewġ membri parlamentari fl-UE tal-Partit Nazzjonalista għaddiet b'maġġoranza kbira.

Sintendi l-konferma ta' din il-mozzjoni ntlagħhet bil-kbir mill-mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Simon Busuttill u l-Partit tiegħu. Inghatat ukoll prominenza kbira mill-media tal-istess Partit u dik li ma tantx tappoġġja lill-Gvern ta' bhalissa u

l-Partit Laburista.

Biss, minkejja dan kollu, u minkejja li malli thabbar il-vot, Busuttill bhala Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni hareġ jappella lill-Gvern biex jirtira din l-iskema, jidher li l-Prim Ministru mhux se jaghti każ ta' dan l-appell.

Attwalment, f'konferenza stampa li nghatat minn Joseph Muscat, wara li ttiehed il-vot tal-Parlament tal-UE, stqarr: "Dan il-gvern ġie elett biex jiggverna u jmexxi għall-gid tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx. Ahna nemmnu f'din l-iskema, nemmnu li se titjieb il-kwalità ta' hajja tan-nies. Dan bl-elf miljun ewro li Malta se dahhal minn din l-iskema."

Il-Prim Ministru Muscat saħansitra ikkonferma li l-ewwel applikazzjonijiet għal din l-iskema diġa bdew deklin.

## Min jgħidlu "Awesome" u min Barumbara tal-Hamiem

**H**ekk ġie msejjah il-proġett ta' Bieb-il Belt u l-binja tal-Parlament il-ġdid. Fil-fatt hekk iddeskriviet il-proġett li fuqu ntefqu fuqu u għadhom qed jintefqu miljuni ta' Ewro r-rivista internazzjonali online "Complex Art and Design."

Fil-fatt dan il-proġett ġie nkluz, u biex inkun eżatt se niktibha bl-Ingliż, fost is-"16 awesome buildings that will be finished in 2014"

Jekk għandiex raġun jew le din ir-rivista ma nistax nġid, għax hawn min ifahhar il-proġett u hawn min imaqdru.... u fost l-aktar frazi li jużaw għall-Parlament il-ġdid - sintendi dawk li jmaqdruh hu li dan huwa 'barumbara tal-hamiem' (pigeon house).



## It-Trasport Pubbliku: -Jipproponi l-monorail



Filwaqt li l-Gvern qed jipprova jhajar lil xi kumpanija privata biex tiehu f'idejha t-trasport pubbliku wara t-tluq tal-Kumpanija Arriva minn Malta, issa ghandna l-izviluppatur u negozjant Anġlu Xuereb (*xellug*) li qed jinsisti dwar il-proposta li kien digà' ghamel xi snin ilu u li ma tantx inghatat widen, tal-holqien ta' sistema ta' *monorail* biex tittaffa l-problema tat-trasport f'Malta.

Is-sistema tal-*monorail* tkun tista' tuża' l-istess toroq li hemm bhalissa, billi r-rails taghha jsiru l-

fuq mit-toroq halli t-toroq xorta jibqghu jintużaw mill-karrozzi, xarabanks, eċċ.

Bhalissa, u sakemm jinstab xi hadd privat li jrid jidhol għall-proġett li jmessi hu t-trasport pubbliku, dan qed jitmexxa minn kumpanija li holoq għal tal-apposta l-gvern. Għalissa l-gvern hareġ il-linji gwida għal min jinteressah

## Kumment Pożittiv

Waqt id-diskussjoni li ghaddeja dwar l-iskema taċ-Ċittadinanza kien hemm min sostna li l-Gvern qed idahhal din l-iskema għax huwa xott mill-idejat kif isahhah l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż. Sahan-sitra kien hemm min qal li l-ekonomija taht dan il-Gvern kienet sejra lura.

Għalhekk l-ahhar rapport tal aġenzija ta' kreditu internazzjonali Standard & Poor's li Malta qed timxi 'l quddiem fil-pjan tal-enerġija u li din ir-riforma se tissokta tappoġġja t-tkabbir ekonomiku li digà' qed jitjeb, żgur li niżel għasel lill-Gvern preżenti.

Standard & Poor's qalet ukoll li-pjan tal-Gvern qabeż kull aspettattiva, inkluż ta' l-istess aġenzija, u fahhret ukoll l-investment li l-Gvern għab miċ-Ċina għall-Enemalta.

Standard & Poor's tghid li dan il-pass se jghin biex jonqos it-telf finanzjarju tal-korporazzjoni, u konsegwentament, fuq il-Gvern.

Din l-aġenzija internazzjonali qalet li l-prospetti għall-ekonomija Maltija huma tajbin u għalhekk qed iżżomm l-*outlook* stabbli lejn Malta kif ukoll ir-rating ta' BBB+/A-2.

L-uniku fattur li żamm lil Standard & Poor's lura milli sahan-sitra ttejjeb ir-rating ta' pajjiżna huwa d-dejn akkumulat.

## STATISTIKA

Nibdew bi ftit statistika pożittiva:

### Serrah moħħok

Jekk behsiebek taghmel żjara fil-Gżejjer Maltin, tista' taghmel dan b'rasek mis-trieha. Tal-inqas hekk tghid l-istatistika meta wiehed iqis dak li jghid il-World Risk report. Skond dan ir-rapport miġbur mill-United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security, Malta hija fit-tieni post fil-lista ta' dawk il-pajjiżi li huma l-aktar siguri fejn jidhlu diżastri naturali, bhal ngħidu ahna terremoti. Fl-ewwel post tal-lista ta' 173 nazzjon hemm il-Qatar.

### Fit-Turizmu ma' ta' Quddiem

La qed insemmgħu l-ivvjagġar wiehed Ljehi pjaċir jinnota li fl-Indiċi tal-Kompetittività u l-Ivjaġġar fit-Turizmu għas-sena 2013 maġmūl mill-Forum Ekonomiku Dinji, Malta ikklassifikat fl-24 post minn fost 140 pajjiż minn madwar id-dinja. Dan il-post huwa wiehed tajjeb meta jitqies li Malta rnexxielha tegħleb pajjiżi ferm akbar li huma wkoll imsieħba fl-Unjoni Ewropea fosthom l-Italja, il-Greċja, il-Polonja, il-Bulgarija, Ċipru u l-Estonja.

## Betlem f'Għajnsielem

Bla dubju ta' xejn li dawk li organizzaw l-mill-ġdid "Betlem f'Għajnsielem" se jissoktaw jagħmlu dan wara s-suċċess kbir li kellu l-proġett din is-sena.

Fl-ahhar harġa tkellimna fit-tul dwaru, imm'issa ghandna f'idejna l-istatistika uf-fiċjali li turi s-suċċess kbir li kien minn kull lat.

Fl-erba' ġimgħat li dam armat dan il-presepu haj ġibed lejha aktar minn 74,000 persuna, inkluż 2,000 tifel u tifla li żaru "Betlem" waqt jumejn attivitajiet organizzati esklussivament għall-iskejjel. U hafna minn dawk li żaruh qas bil-bahar minn Malta.

Dan jidher mill-fatt li matul z-żmien li kien ghaddej "Betlem f'Għajnsielem" il-Gozo Channel ġarret 79,727 persuna u 14,986 vettura aktar mis-sena l-oħra meta dakinhar ma kienx organizzat "Betlem f'Għajnsielem".

Is-Sibt 4 ta' Jannar 2014 kien l-aktar jum

li fih qasmi persuni miċ-Ċirkewwa lejn l-Imgarr, jiġifieri 15,827 passigġier, u dan minkejja li t-temp ma tantx kien sabih u l-kesha għamlet taghha.

U issa waħda inqas pożittiva:

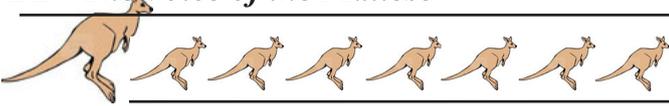
### Ir-Riċiklaġġ

Jidher, li minkejja l-isforzi kollha li saru, il-Maltin baqqu ma rrankawx mas-sistema tas-separazzjoni tal-iskart, u jsibuha aktar faċli li jifgħu dak li jridu jehilsu minnu f'borza tar-refjut li tingabar ta kuljum minn warab bieb djarhom.

Dan johroġ mill-fatt li skont l-ahhar stharrig, Malta mhux biss tinsab fl-ahhar post fejn jidhol ir-riċiklaġġ, imma hi l-uniku pajjiż minn fost l-Unjoni Ewropea li għadna ma qbiżniex l-inqas livelli fir-riċiklaġġ skont kif mitlub mill-Unjoni Ewropea.



It-tlett Slaten Maġi, parti minn Betlem f'Għajnsielem



## A quick glimpse at Australia

### Culture and History

# Removing “partisan bias”

The Abbott government is set to trigger a new battle over Australia’s culture and history as it launches a review of the national curriculum with a goal of removing “partisan bias”.

The education minister, Christopher Pyne, says the review will address concerns about the history curriculum “not recognising the legacy of western civilisation and not giving important events in Australia’s history and culture the prominence they deserve, such as Anzac Day”.

He also wants the curriculum to “celebrate Australia”.

Pyne said students should be taught “the truth about the way we’ve treated Indigenous Australians” but also the “the truth about the benefits of western civilisation”.

The Australian Education Union, Labour and the Greens have condemned the curriculum review as being about ideology and politics rather than education.



A wooden boat carrying Australia-bound Sri Lankan asylum seekers

# Tight-lipped on refugees arrivals

What is happening with the promise of the Abbott Government to turn back the boats? What is clear is that Scott Morrison and the Government’s Operation Sovereign Borders, Lt General Angus Campbell are being

tight-lipped and would hold media conferences as the need arose.

It is being reported that the Government is buying a number of large life-boats to help in border protection.

Campbell said that he would not be able to declare the operation a success until the monsoon season ends in March.

Poor weather typically reduces the number of boat arrivals in the early months of the year. There have been no boats arrivals in the past four weeks.

Meanwhile, many Australians are wondering whether if it is true that, as reported by the media, in recent weeks, the Navy intercepted and turned five boats around mid-ocean, towing two of them back to Indonesia.

There have also been reports of a hunger strike by detainees on Australia’s Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island, including claims that half a dozen people have sewn their lips together.

The media has also reported about incidents of attempted suicide and self-harm in Australia’s “offshore” detention centre on remote Manus Island, in Papua New Guinea. However, unless information emerges from Indonesia, it would be difficult to find out if these are just rumours.

Journalists have complained that they are given little or no information as the authorities’ only response normally is, that, “For operational security reasons, the government does not disclose, confirm or otherwise comment on reports of on-water activities in relation to Operation Sovereign Borders.”

# Selling the farm

The Australian government of Tony Abbott (*right*) is being warned not to rush to sell Australia’s remaining Commonwealth-owned businesses saying Australia had not been well served by the sale of Telstra, Qantas and Sydney Airport.

In general, the price received for assets has been less than their value in continued public ownership.

According to the Department of Finance, there are seven federal government business enterprises left. The top five revenue generators 2012-13 were; Australia Post: \$244m, Medibank: \$150m, Defence Housing Australia: \$50, ASC: 9m, Aust Government Solicitors \$9m.



# Christmas present



Before Christmas the Government approved an average premium increase of 6.2% - the greatest increase in health insurance premiums in almost a decade.

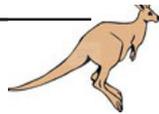
For a basic family, the average rise will be about \$150 a year, while singles can expect to pay

an extra \$100 a year.

However, there is more to come. It is being predicted that a \$6 fee for each GP visit will soon be introduced.

Minister Dutton said the growth in health costs was “unsustainable”.

# Worldwide use of cigarettes



A quick glimpse at Australia

There are still more than three million smokers in Australia. The proportion of Australians who smoke has dropped to about 17 percent compared to 35 per cent 30 years ago.

A surging population has driven up the number of smokers worldwide, with 35 per cent more people lighting up today than in 1980.

More than 6 trillion cigarettes were smoked in 2012, with the rise in smokers soaring in developing countries such as Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, and Russia.

Research published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine shows that if current smoking patterns persist, tobacco will kill about one billion people this century, mostly in low - and middle-income countries

The highest smoking rates among men in 2012 were in Timor-Leste (61 percent) and Indonesia (57 percent), followed by Armenia (51.5 percent), Russia (51 percent) and Cyprus (48 percent).

Top countries for women smokers were Greece (34.7 percent) and Bulgaria (31.5 percent).

Austria had a female smoking rate of 28.3 percent, followed by France (27.7 percent) and Belgium (26.1 percent).

A larger proportion of women in France smoked in 2012 (28 percent) than 1980 (19 percent), while the rate for men went the opposite direction, declining from 42 percent to 34 percent.

In all, France had 14 million smokers in 2012, two million more people than in 1980.

The study also measured how many cigarettes on average were consumed per smoker each day in 2012, and found Mauritania was the highest with 41, or two packs a day.

Saudi Arabia's smokers averaged 35 cigarettes per day, and Taiwan's 32.

"As tobacco remains a threat to the health of the world's population, intensified efforts to control its use are needed," said the study.



## The Elvis Express

Three hundred passengers, including many Elvis impersonators boarded the Elvis express from Sydney to Parkes (driving distance 365 km) to celebrate the 22nd annual NSW TrainLink Parkes Elvis Festival January 8-12.

Parkes NSW hosted some 15,000 visitors for the festivities which included the Elvis Gospel Church Service, a street parade and Elvis concerts.

## Young hoons

About 70 per cent of young people in custody in NSW were drunk when they committed their crime.

In evidence submitted to a parliamentary inquiry into Strategies to Reduce Alcohol Abuse Amongst Young People, Juvenile Justice NSW said seven out of ten people in custody were intoxicated at the

time of their offence.

Pre-loading culture and cut-price booze were undermining tough laws applied to club and pubs.

Between 60 to 80 percent of young people drink alcohol before they go out because drinking at home is cheaper



## Golden Globe for Cate

Cate Blanchett, the Australian actress has won a Golden Globe for her inspired tragicomic performance in Blue Jasmine, a Woody Allen film.

It was her third from eight nominations from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in Los Angeles.

Blanchett's win confirms her as one of the favourites to win an Oscar as the best actress at the Academy Awards.

The Academy Awards, commonly known as The Oscars, are U.S. awards for achievements in the film industry. Winners are awarded the statuette, officially the Academy Award of Merit, that is much better known by its nickname Oscar.

The awards ceremony was first televised in 1953 and is now seen live in more than 200 countries.

This year, the 86th Academy Awards will be held on March 2, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles

## A monster is caged

Triple killer 44-year-old Leslie Alfred Camilleri was sentenced to 28 years for the 1992 murder of 13-year-old Prue Bird. Justice Elizabeth Curtain in the Victoria Supreme Court said that the sentence is to be served concurrently with the life sentence without parole.

Camilleri is already serving life for the 1977 murders of raped Bega schoolchildren Lauren Barry and Nicholas Collins.

He had apologised to Prue's mother Jenny Bird for what he had put her through but Mrs. Bird rejected that apology. The body of Prue was never found.

# Community News

## Tune In to Radio and Television

### Maltese Radio Programmes

In MELBOURNE, on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on [www.3zzz.com.au](http://www.3zzz.com.au). Mondays 5pm, Fridays 5pm, Saturdays 10am.; Last Wednesday each month at 1pm.

In SYDNEY, listen to the MCC radio programme Sunday 11 am 2GLF FM89.3

In BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Program on 4EB on Tuesday 6.00am to 8.15am and Sunday 4.15pm to 5.15pm

To listen to the Maltese Radio of

UNCLE SAM DJ from Australia tune in to link: [www.unclesamdj.com](http://www.unclesamdj.com)

FRED FENECH: Every Thursday from 5.00pm till 6.00pm on 2RRR FM 88.5

### VIVA MALTA

VIVA MALTA on Central Coast Radio NSW on Thursdays January 2, 16 and 30 from 6pm to 7pm on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford. NSW. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt. Programme can be heard via internet, click on: [www.coastfm.org.au](http://www.coastfm.org.au).

### On SBS Radio - Latest schedule

#### Day Time Analogue Digital

Tuesday: 12:00 - 13:00 SBS Radio 3

Thursday: 12:00-13:00 SBS Radio 3

Friday: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS Radio 2

Saturday: 14:00-15:00: 97.7fm SBS Radio 2

To tune into digital radio you will need a new receiver or device with a DAB+ chip.

Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard on digital TV. SBS Radio 2 is on Channel 38 and SBS.

Radio 3 is on Channel 39. Analogue is the present FM wavelength. Digital radio can also be accessed by a smart phone and/or by going online at HYPERLINK:

<http://www.sbs.com.au>, [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au)

### Maltese Programmes – TV, Web

The GDAY MALTAUSSIE SHOW on TVS is broadcast in Sydney.

Every Saturday at 2pm; Repeats on Mondays 5 pm and Tuesdays 7.30 am

Watch direct via HYPERLINK:

<http://www.tvs.org.au>; <http://www.tvs.org.au>



### The Xaghra Association of NSW Inc.

Would like to invite the Maltese Community to a Dinner

In Honour of:

**His Grace MGR Joe Bonello  
OFM Bishop of Juticalpa -  
Honduras**

**Date:** Sunday 26th January 2014

**Time:** 6:00 pm Onwards

**Place:** Mandavilla Function Centre

**Entertainer:** Joe Apap

**Dinner:** 3-Course Meal, Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks, tea & coffee, also Pastizzi

**For more information contact:**

Ray & Josephine Bigeni: 9627

4182, Mob: 0439 974 182

M'Anne Teuma: 9627 4641

**The PBS MALTESE NEWS** L-Ahbarijiet on SBS TV twice a week nationwide Sunday at 8.00 am on SBS2 (Chan. 32); Thursdays at 8.05 am on SBS2

## Avviż għall-Komunita` mill-MW (NSW)



**Ta' kull sena l-Maltese Welfare (NSW) jorganizzaw il-Quiet Achiever Night of Recognition fejn madwar 12- il persuna jiġu mogħtija għarfien għax-xogħol li jwettqu bħala karitá fil-komunitá tagħna.**

**Jekk taf lil xi hadd f'dan is-sens, nistednuk li tinnominah għall-avveniment ta' nhar l-Erbgħa 19 ta' Marzu 2014.**

**Il-persuni nnominati jridu jkunu 'l fuq minn 60 sena, ta' nisel Malti u residenti fi NSW.**

**Għal aktar tagħrif jew biex tinkiseb il-formola tan-nominazzjoni wiehed għandu jkempel: 9631 9295.**

**Il-formola tista' wkoll tinkiseb minn fuq il-website: <http://www.maltesewelfare.com.au>**

**Jekk tridu tagħmlu ġest li hbiebkom ċert li japprezzaw għarrfuhom b'din in-Newsletter li permezz tagħha jkunu mgħarrfa b'dak li qed isehh fostna u f'art twelidna, Malta**

### Meetings of Maltese Seniors Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Tuesday of the Month from 10:00am to 12 noon.

The group meets in the Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights.

### Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Wednesday of the month in the Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville.

**Note:** The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips.

Come and join us and make new friends. For more information on any of the Groups please contact the Maltese Welfare Officer, Marisa Previtera, JP, on: 0414 863 123

### Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of the

### The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Ongoing: We meet every First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am. to 1:00pm  
Our Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining.

We also have regular outings.  
Come Join us and make new Friends

month in the Youth Room of OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

### Llandillo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Llandillo Community Hall, Seventh Avenue, from 11am to 1pm.

*For more information one should contact our Coordinator – Charles Mifsud J.P. Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298*

*\*(All Groups are Sponsored by The Maltese Community Council, NSW)*

# Community News Continued



**Please note:**

As of now, those wishing to send their community news or any material directly related to the newsletter for publication, under this heading are kindly requested to start sending them to: [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com)

**More Community News on page 16**

## The Maltese Resource Centre (MRC)

Get Togethers will be resuming on the first Fridays of the Month beginning on Friday February 7, from 11am – 1.00pm.  
Please bring a plate with you. Give a Senior or a friend a Lift to the Centre.  
Free just turn up.

Address: Headmasters Cottage, enter from Pitt Street Merrylands corner Franklin & Young Streets, behind Parramatta East Public School at Mays Hill.  
Parking close by, ramp at back of building.

- Nancy Serg

## 18-Day US Holiday (with Charlie Camilleri)

Departing 19TH May 2014

**MEMPHIS** - 3 NIGHTS: Visiting Elvis's home and resting place GRACELANDS: Sun studio, where Elvis recorded his first song; Board Elvis's plane The Lisa Marie. TUPELO Elvis's birth place.

**NASHVILLE** – 3 NIGHTS MUSIC CITY of USA: Visit Johnny Cash Museum; Country Music Hall of Fame and a show at the GRAND OLE OPRY.

**LAS VEGAS** – 5 NIGHTS of fun. Try your luck at gambling. Optional day at GRAND CANYON.

**LOS ANGELES** – 3 NIGHTS, 1 day DISNEY LAND, 1 day UNIVERSAL STUDIOS.

Phone Charlie on: 0410-523-476

## Maltese Language Schools

Maltese Language & Cultural Schools

If you wish to learn Maltese in SYDNEY call: 0402 002 454 [malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com](mailto:malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com)

In MELBOURNE, contact: Edwidge Borg, MCCV Maltese Language Classes <http://www.mccv.org.au/index.php/language> <http://federationofmalteselanguageschoolsaustralia.com> [edwidgeborg@excite.com](mailto:edwidgeborg@excite.com)

Also in MELBOURNE, contact Emma Navarro on 0406 215 990 or HYPERLINK "mailto:learnmaltesevic@gmail.com" learnmaltesevic@gmail.com

## St Nicholas festa Committee NSW

### 2014 Calendar:

**30th March: Autumn Fiera**

**6th July: L-Mnarja**

**19th October: Spring Fiera**

**29th November: Night of Entertainment (Rock n' Roll)**

**7th December: San Nicholas Festa**

## The Friends of Providence House NSW

(Official Ambassadors for Id-Dar tal-Providenza)

The organisation wishes to advise that there are still vacancies left for the 21-Day Fly/Cruise/tour departing Sydney May 17, 2014.

We will be visiting Athens, cruising the Greek Islands, then to London touring England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, back to London and then on to Malta.

For all enquiries or bookings please contact the Co-ordinator, Jim Borg on

(02) 9636 7767 / Mb: 0418 82 5591 or email [foph@bigpond.com](mailto:foph@bigpond.com)

The official bank details for donations are: Commonwealth Bank of Australia Name of Account: Friends of Providence House NSW – Ac No: 1019 9448 – BSB: 062 416.

Thanks for your support.

### 10-Day Tour to Tasmania

Join Monica Ledger on a 10-day tour to Tasmania, The Island of untamed beauty

Dates: February 15 to 25, 2014 All inclusive: tours, flight, hotels, together with breakfast and dinner daily (half board basis)

Transfers in Sydney and comprehensive insurance This is a very popular tour so be quick and call Monica: on 98960712 MB 0414859386

## Books for Sale

*Telqu għal Għonq it-Trig (Book 2)*

by Lawrence Dimech

Call: Australia – 61 2 9631 929  
Malta – 356 2144 1545





## Consul-General in NSW Christopher Mercieca Terminates Duties

*Christopher Mercieca, the 5th Consul-General to have served in NSW terminated his tour of duties in mid-January. He was scheduled to meet personally the community for the last time but could not make it.*

*In the meantime we have received the following statement from him:*

My tour of duty as Consul General in Sydney has almost come to an end and I'll soon depart Australia permanently. Although I find it hard to believe that four years have gone by, I can console myself by saying that it has been an interesting and sometimes challenging posting during which I met a wide cross-section of Maltese-Australians in all walks of life.

I continue to be impressed by their work ethic, achievements in various fields and determination to succeed in a country that is still new and still lucky.

Furthermore, I must take this opportunity to thank all of those individuals who supported the Consulate in its work and also those who helped me track down various individuals in this State whose relatives and friends were trying to contact them.

I'd also like to thank those persons and organisations who cooperated with this office when dignitaries from Malta were visiting New South Wales and who greeted them not only in an impressively well-organised way but also warmly and enthusiastically.

Good luck, good health and future prosperity to all of you. Maybe one day I'll meet some of you again in Malta.

*Sakemm nergħu niltaqgħu, inselli għalikhom,*

**We are to believe that the next Consul-General for NSW will arrive in Sydney on Saturday, February 1.**

### Readers Please Note

Are you receiving our newsletter regularly? If you miss out or need back issues please let us know. There are times when email boxes are full or you may be away. Get in touch and we will look after you. You can also access The Voice of the Maltese newsletter by logging to <http://www.maltesewelfare.com.au> and clicking on The Voice sign  
The Team - The Voice

## St Paul's feast at La Valette Social Centre

Sunday 9th February 2014

### Programme

5.00 pm Mass in the main hall.

Procession with the statue of St Paul from the hall to the Chapel accompanied by OLQOP Maltese Band.

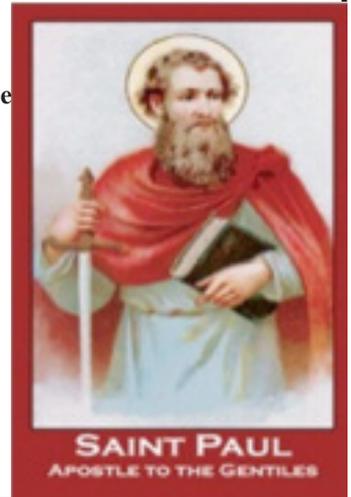
After the procession O.L.Q.O.P Maltese band will perform Marches for one's enjoyment at the Centre

Sam Mifsud will wrap up the programme.

The bar and the kitchen will be open for your convenience.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

For any information phone the centre:  
96225847



## Attivitajiet Għaqda San Gejtanu (Melbourne)

Is-Soċjeta` San Gejtanu ta' Melbourne għadhom kemm ipubblikaw kalendarju bl-attivitajiet li għandhom ippjanati għal tul is-sena 2014. Ikun sewwa kienu jkollna iktar għaqdiet Maltin li jipubblikaw bil-quddiem l-attivitajiet tagħhom halli kemm jista' jkun jonqsu l-attivitajiet tal-istess xorta fl-istess jiem.

Il-Hadd 2 ta' Frar: Laqgħa u ikla 12 pm

Il-Hadd 16 ta' Frar: Over-the-Bay trip

Is-Sibt 8 ta' Marzu: Seafood Night 7.30 pm

Il-Hadd 23 ta' Marzu: NSW bus trip

Il-Hadd 27 ta' April: Mothers' Day Lunch 12 pm

Is-Sibt 10 ta' Mejju: Festa San Gorg' Preca 7 pm

Il-Hadd 18 ta' Mejju: Laqgħa u ikla 12 pm

Il-Hadd 15 ta' Gunju: NSW bus trip

Is-Sibt 19 tal-Lulju: Anniversary Dinner 7.30 pm

L-attivitajiet (barra l-bus trips) isiru kollha f'St Martin de Porres Avondale Heights (Melbourne)

Ikkuntatjaw lil: jJimmy Chirkop: 0435847173; Rita Hili: 93311430 jew Joe Cassar: 93742767.

It-tieni parti ta' dan il-kalendarju jgħabbru aktar tard.

Sports 

# Mifsud can't believe 'Heart' Failure

Michael Mifsud presented with the symbolic 100th cap for Malta from MFA president Norman Darmanin Demajo

Thirty-two-year-old Malta international striker Michael Mifsud currently plying his footballing skills at A-League club Melbourne Heart, who are having their worst season since joining the competition in 2011 told sbs.com.au correspondent Philip Micallef, himself a former Maltese sports journalist, that the club he joined late last year, was too good a team to be stuck at the bottom of the A-League.

Melbourne Heart were yet to win a game this season (up to the 14th round) and are still bottom with eight points from 15 matches.

Mifsud said he could not understand how Heart are entrenched in the bottom of the league with the quality of players available in its squad.

"The players all say the same thing: we believe that with the talent available we should not be in such a precarious position," Mifsud explained.

He added that proof of this can be found in the fact that, "we have had some very solid games against the top teams in the competition, some of whom we have outplayed.

"We certainly played better than Western Sydney in a home match in Round 5. We hit the bar a few times but the Wanderers went away to score from one of their few attacks and won 1-0.

"We've had several games like that ... that's the story of our season, really. But that's football and you just have to keep believing that, God willing, the tide will turn."

Mifsud, who is one of only five players to have played more than a 100 times for Malta, has defended his poor scoring record since joining Heart at the start of the season.

The Maltese international who scored 39 goals for Malta during his 102 appear-



Michael Mifsud in the Melbourne Heart jersey

ances in the national team, has scored only one goal in a dozen matches in the A-League, missing a number of chances and raising doubts over his ability to cut it in the competition.

But Mifsud is not letting his unflattering record affect his morale and he had a reasonable explanation for his failure to convert his enthusiastic play in the front third into more goals.

He told SBS, "I did not miss sitters, you know, and you also have to beat some good goalkeepers here. The chances I missed were not ones that you could say 'how did he miss that!'

He also agreed that it is true that one goal is simply not good enough but he is determined not to give up.

"The tide will turn eventually," he said, adding that, "Missing chances will never affect my game because my focus is always the team and its best interests. I have the attitude that if I miss a scoring chance I will do my best to create another one either for myself or the team."

Mifsud said he found the transition from his last Maltese club Valletta to the A-League rather smooth although he did admit that the standard of the competition caught him by surprise.

"I saw a few clips before I came here but

when you are directly involved you realise how tough it is," he said.

"It is a strong league that is improving all the time and any player who might come here with an idea of having an easy life will receive a rude shock.

"All the players are fit and strong and they are all fighting for their spot in the team. There is no respite in any game and you are always under pressure."

Mifsud said he is accustomed to the pressure of professional football. What he is not used to is the searing temperatures that have hit Melbourne in the last few days.

"Melbourne is a very interesting and beautiful place and I like it very much," said Mifsud. "I have been made very welcome by the many Maltese who live here. The heat is a problem, though. Coming from a place like Malta the heat does not usually bother me but over here the sun bites.

"What I find amazing is that temperatures here can go from 40 degrees to 20 degrees in a matter of an hour. It's incredible."

Apart from his native Malta, Michael Mifsud has played in the German Bundesliga with Kaiserslautern, Lillestrom in Norway, and Coventry and Barnsley in England. Before joining Melbourne Heart he had scored 147 goals in club football and 39 for Malta.

# Sports 2 - The Malta Scene



**RESULTS - Round 14**  
 Brisbane Roar v Adelaide U 1-2  
 Newcastle J. v Melbourne V 1-1  
 Perth Glory v Melbourne H. 3-0  
 W. Sydney W. v Sydney FC 1-0  
 Wellington Ph. v Central CM 1-1

**Round 15/16**  
 Melbourne H. v Newcastle J. 3-1  
 Perth G. v Brisbane R. 0-0  
 Wellington v Melbourne V. 5-0  
 Sydney FC v Central Coast 0-1  
 Adelaide U v Western Sydney 1-0

**Michael Mifsud (right) congratulates Dugandzic (No. 23) scorer of two of Melbourne Heart's goals in their 3-1 victory over Newcastle Jets**

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Roar	15	10	1	4	28	13	31
W. Sydney W.	16	7	5	4	17	15	26
Cent. Coast M	15	6	6	3	14	15	24
Melbourne V.	16	6	5	5	22	22	23
Adelaide U.	15	5	5	5	22	20	20
Perth Glory	15	5	5	5	15	14	20
Newcastle J	15	5	4	6	15	17	19
Sydney FC	15	6	1	8	17	22	19
Wellington Ph	15	4	5	6	20	18	17
Melbourne H.	15	1	5	9	12	26	8

## Heart celebrate 100th A-League match with first win of season

Melbourne Heart FC celebrated their 100th match in the 15th round of the Hyundai A-League with their first victory of the campaign, a commanding 3-1 win over the Newcastle Jets at AAMI Park. Malta international Michael Mifsud did not start the match for Heart but came on as substitute in the 32nd minute to replace the injured David Williams when the tie was still scoreless.

Despite first-half scare, two goals in the dying minutes of the first half gave the Red and White the impetus to seal the result in the second period, and claim all three points for the first time this season.

Newcastle went ahead through Taylor Regan in the 37th minute, but Melbourne, who had far the better chances in the first half, hit the Jets with a double blow just before the break, through goals by Iain Ramsay (45th minute) and Dugandzic gave Melbourne the lead for the first time in the match a minute later. The same

player sealed the result with a second on 69 minutes to help Heart avoid the ignominy of setting a record 20-game winless run in the A-League.

With the defeat in the previous round, 0-3 against Perth Glory, Melbourne Heart had equalled an unwanted A-League record of 19 matches without a win

League leaders Brisbane Roar failed to win for the second game in a row. This time they figured in a scoreless draw away to Perth Glory. But things could have been worse as they had to play for an hour with only 10 men due to the red carding of Besart Berisha on 30 minutes.

CCMariners kept the heat on the top two and kept Sydney FC's season in freefall after a well-earned 1-0 win.

Adelaide climbed four spots to fifth on tafter downing the Western Sydney Wanderers 1-0 at Coopers Stadium.

Since the last issue, the A-League teams played two more rounds, with the defeat

of league leaders Brisbane Roar 1-2 to Adelaide Utd in round 14 stealing the headlines.

The clash of the NSW titans, in the derby between Western Sydney W and Sydney FC also made headlines. Victory means that the Wanderers rule the town once again, becoming the first team to win a home Derby in the process.

When it comes to the Brisbane v Adelaide tie, a late header from Adelaide substitute Jordon Elsey condemned Brisbane to defeat. After conceding from a penalty and losing a player to a red card inside the first 45 minutes, the Roar's second half effort, including a superb goal from Besart Berisha, was not enough to take any points.

Adelaide's Argentine marksman Jeronimo first had his penalty saved but made amends as he reacted quickest to convert with the rebound.

Melbourne Heart FC were made to pay for their missed chances and suffered a 0-3 defeat at the hands of Perth Glory as sharp shooter Shane Smeltz struck twice in the second half of the clash.

Young Adrian Zahra, of Maltese origin, who is having a good time in Perth's colours, put the home side ahead in the 64th minute before the returning Shane Smeltz sealed the win with his late brace.



In Malta Birkirkara' made it 12 wins on the trot by thrashing Naxxar Lions 7-1 in Round 19 on a day (Saturday) when the four matches produced 21 goals. The star of the Birkirkara's success was Jhonnattan Benites scorer of four of their goals.

Victory has helped Birkirkara maintain their six-point lead at the top of the league ladder over Valletta (50 to 44).

### January 11, 2014

Vittoriosa 3 Tarxien R 0  
 (V: Gilbert Martin, Oscar Guerrero Marc. Pereira)

Mosta v Hibernians 3-2  
 (M: Manolito Micallef, G'marco Piccioni, Yuru Jes Messias) (H: Clayton Failla 2)

Naxxar 3 Rabat 0  
 (N: Terence Scerri, Andre R. da Silva, Jurgen Debono)

Balzan 2 Floriana 1  
 (B: Steven Bezzina, JL Amario Ne-

## B'Kara and Tarxien go on a goal-spree

Another high-scoring tie was that between Tarxien and Rabat with Tarxien winning 6-2. Karl Pulo stole the show with a hat-trick for Tarxien

Valletta were also in a good mood with a

4-0 win over Vittoriosa, while Balzan beat Qorm 1-0.

On Sunday, Sliema Wanderers found their winning form after three draws by inflicting the third defeat in the last four matches on Hibernians by 3-1.

Mosta increased their hopes of making it to the Championship Pool by beating Floriana 1-0

### Malta Premier League Results

Following are the Premier League results since the last issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*. Matches from Rounds 18 and 19.

grin)  
 (F: Em. Ibok Edet)

Naxxar L. 2 Valletta 0  
 (N: Terence Scerri, Thiago Lopes de Souza)

**January 12, 2014**  
 Valletta 0 Sliema W. 0

Birkirkara 3 Qormi 1  
 (B: Edward Herrera, Alejandro Mon-

doza Corujo, Ryan Scicluna) (Q: Alfred Efftong)

### January 18, 2014

Birkirkara 7 Naxxar 1  
 (B: Jhonnattan 4, R. Scicluna, Mendozza, Hola Shodiya) (N: Yerence Scerri)

Valletta 4 Vittoriosa 0  
 (V: Abdelkarim Nafiti, Edmond Agius,

Rocha dos Santos, Aziz Corr Nyang)

Tarxien 6 Rabat A. 2  
 (T: William Barbosa, Karl Pulo 3, J. Santos Silva 2) (R: Malcom Licari 2)

Balzan 1 Qormi 0  
 (B: Armario Negrin)

### January 19, 2014

Sliema W. 3 Hibernians 1  
 (S: Admir Vladavic pen, Stanley Ohawuchi, 2.) (H: Obinna Obiefule)

Mosta 1 Floriana 1  
 (M: Kurt Zammit)