

The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

Issue 71

e-magazine

March 18, 2014

‘President of the Maltese ...with the Maltese ...for the Maltese’

Community news on four pages ...
18, 19, 20, 21

Manny Muscat ups and leaves Malta squad in Albania ... page 22



Malta PM Joseph Muscat congratulates Marie Louise Coleiro Preca after officially announcing her nomination for President



Malta PM Joseph Muscat, says new Labour Govt did more in 12 months than NP in 25 years ... page 10 and 14

Shanghai Electric invests €320 million in Enemalta ... page 8

NP commits to vote in favour of Marie Louise Coleiro Preca’s nomination ... pages 9 and 13

The Voice of the Maltese is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly publication specifically targeting all Maltese living abroad, with emphasis on the Australian scene. This electronic style magazine is sent via email by request. Subscription is free. Editors (Australia) Lawrence Dimech: lawdimech@optusnet.com.au and (Malta) Joseph Cutajar: joe@createjc.com.

It's time to unite once again!

By **Mariah Camilleri**
(*Sanctuary Lakes, Victoria*)



I read the lead article about the Maltese programmes on SBS and the current review of both SBS and ABC with great interest. As mentioned in the Voice's article, the Maltese community shouldn't wait until the horse has bolted, like we did with the last reschedule, hoping that management is going to be kind and generous with us!

I applaud the community leaders who came together to fight for more programmes last year, but they should be putting their heads together right NOW, generating awareness and a discussion in the Maltese community; start an online petition; work on a plan and start lobbying... as 12 months are going to fly past and we're back to square one... with Maltese programmes on SBS Radio most probably scaled down to two programmes per week!!

The Maltese community lost the majority of programmes when SBS was flooded with money. We've already heard the managing director, Michael Ebeid saying that services provided by SBS would be reviewed if the federal government reduces its funding.

I'm just hoping that, if this is the case, Mr Ebeid will look around him and reduce some of the managerial positions and departments, then he'll have millions of dollars to sustain the measly funded programmes on radio!

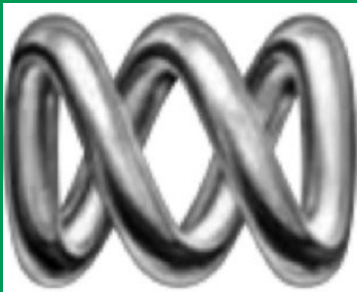
Much more of SBS funds should be spent on programme makers, 'cause after all, that is what radio is all about - programme content and broadcasters!!! Not increasing managerial positions and departments!!

Obviously, SBS wants the support of communities against any sort of amalgamation with the ABC or budget cuts. Therefore, this is the time to ask SBS management to support the Maltese cause, before we support their cause!

I wonder if those languages that were allocated two consecutive hours of broadcasting a day would be reviewed! I listen to some of these programmes and the waste of air time is appalling and a disgrace to whoever came up with such a concept!

Privileged programmes with such a huge chunk of the schedule should be reviewed regularly, according to listenership and if they don't attract a certain number of listenership, they should have part of their airtime allocated to communities that need it and have an audience.

Come on Maltesers... it's time we stood up and united once again to save Maltese programmes on SBS Radio & TV!



ABC
Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

Sutherland, St George Maltese Group hosted by Malta HC at High Commision in Canberra

Last week, the Sutherland and St. George Maltese Group made up of 50 people, and led by Mr. Charles Mifsud organised a bus tour from Sydney to Canberra where they visited the Malta High Commission.

In its meeting with the High Commissioner, the leader of the group thanked him for opening the doors of the Commission and presented him with a gift. In return, HC Mr. Charles Muscat thanked everyone for their presence and spoke to them about the current Maltese Government and about holding on to our Maltese identity. He further stated that his appointment reflected that he was one of them.

After being entertained to afternoon tea, the group was shown around the High Commission and had the chance to meet and talk to Mr. Charles Muscat and his wife Victoria Muscat, and also the deputy HC Mr Dr. Joseph Pirota.

Malta High Commission, H.E. Charles Muscat (centre), his wife Victoria and deputy HC Joseph Pirota welcoming the Maltese group in Canberra



H.E. Charles Muscat greeting the Maltese during their visit to the Malta High Commission offices in Canberra



Mr Charles Mifsud (left), presenting a gift to H.E. Charles Muscat on behalf of the Sunderland and St George Maltese Group



A group photo of the members of the Sunderland and St George Maltese Group in front of the Malta High Commission in Canberra with H.E. Charles Muscat (second left) and other staff from the HC



There are a lot more of us now but we still gather together to share meals. All of us at table in 2013

By Maryann Camilleri

It was May 1969 when at age 10, my parents took my younger siblings and I on a trip to meet the family in Malta. We travelled by ship. The Achille Lauro was our “home” during the five-week voyage to reach our destination: Malta.

I believe it was here that my passion for Malta began.

I didn't really know a lot about Malta before our holiday, except that my parents came from there and we had lots of colourful Maltese souvenirs in our home, a few books about Malta and my parents' wedding photo album.

After five glorious months in Malta, meeting and spending time with grandparents, aunts, uncles and what seemed back then a million cousins, we returned to Australia.

Experiencing Malta in so many ways, has been one of the most amazing memories of my life: the more I saw, the more I wanted to learn about this beautiful island where my parents were born and where they got married: Malta. (How I loved to look at their wedding album).

Born in Sydney, growing up on a market garden, my lifestyle was different than that of my classmates at school. After school, it was time to see what chores my parents needed help with on the farm – it would usually be something quite simple. However, I recall how delighted I was when my parents would ask me to return to the house

to do my homework and look after my siblings!

I would eagerly await my parents' return from the farm so they could open up mail received from Malta. We didn't have a

My love for Malta never ends

telephone in the early days and letters from Malta was the only way we kept in contact with the rest of the family.

I remember trying to read Maltese texts as I battled with trying to pronounce new words, sounds and combinations of alphabetical letters that were quite different to the words we learnt at school, very often asking my parents to help me pronounce them!

My passion for Malta never faltered. As a family, we upheld many Maltese traditions. My parents spoke Maltese at home and my mother cooked many Maltese dishes. As I witnessed her passion, I enjoyed learning to

cook these meals at a young age and over the years I continued to practice the skills my mother taught me!

We practiced our faith and attended Sunday Mass. Our parish back then was predominantly Maltese and we actively participated in the Maltese church traditions – and very much looked forward to the annual Festa, where the procession was a grand event.

The smell of freshly cooked pastizzi filled the air, as thousands gathered the parish grounds to watch the statue of our Lady being carried out from the church.

As a member of the children's choir, my memories of wearing a pretty white dress, singing Oh Madonna Gmiel il-Gonna, in the procession are vivid, as we dropped rose petals on the ground from our specially-decorated cane baskets, honouring our blessed Mother Mary.

The year 1969 wasn't my only visit to Malta. It was just the beginning of what would be a lifetime of passion for me: Malta's rich history, culture, its people, traditions and its unique identity fill me with great pride.

Continued on page 5

Growing up in Australia

from Page 4

Together with my husband and my children, we are united in our pride and passion as we continue to discover more about our heritage and this beautiful island of Malta.

Whilst the family home where I grew up is a lot older now, nothing much has changed. There are a lot more of us now but we still gather together to share meals. It's also a lot noisier now, but nothing brings us more joy than to walk into the house where we grew up in, to the unsurpassable aroma of my mother's stuffat tal-fenek (rabbit steew) or ghagin il-form (oven-baked pasta).

To be sitting together with my parents, my husband and my children, my siblings



Maryann (second right) with her mum and her sisters

and their families: nothing much has changed.

The colourful Maltese souvenirs still adorn my parents' home and a few more books about Malta have been added to my father's collection. I don't need to ask my parents to help me pronounce Maltese words any more; I can confidently read them on my own!

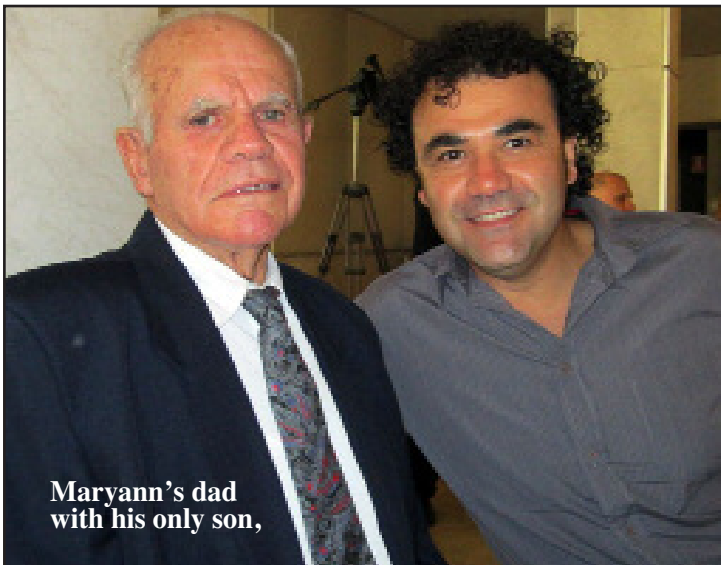
Mum and dad, thank you for all you have done to enrich our lives. We have the best of both worlds; I live in this sunburnt country, a land of sweeping pla-

ins. Yet, I have been blessed with having Malta close to my heart.

I am truly surrounded by the quintessential of life. I belong to a loving family and have amazing friends who very often listen to me, telling them yet another story about Malta ... all of them know that my love for Malta never ends!

We trust that this article will inspire others to write their story. We are willing to work with you if assistance is needed.

- The Voice team



Maryann's dad with his only son,

Harmony Day - everyone belongs

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. March 21 is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

Harmony Day began in 1999, coinciding with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and each year, it is marked by people coming together and participating in local activities.

The continuing message of Harmony Day is 'Everyone Belongs'. It is about community participation, inclusiveness, celebrating diversity, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Communities themselves decide how they would like to come together to mark the occasion – some have morning teas, others organise a fair and some celebrate by dressing

in national costumes.

Since 1999, a wide variety of groups including sports organisations, community groups, local government, churches, schools and businesses have staged more than 55,000 Harmony Day events, with nearly 6,500 events registered in 2011.

In 2012, the theme for Harmony Day was 'Sport: Play, Engage, Inspire', recognising the important role and positive influence that sport has in Australia.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Australians are encouraged to wear orange clothing and/or the distinctive orange ribbon to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

Good Friday Activities 2014

Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park

Preparations for the Good Friday Procession in Horsley Park, NSW are well underway and the Organising Group wishes to advise readers of upcoming important dates and activities.

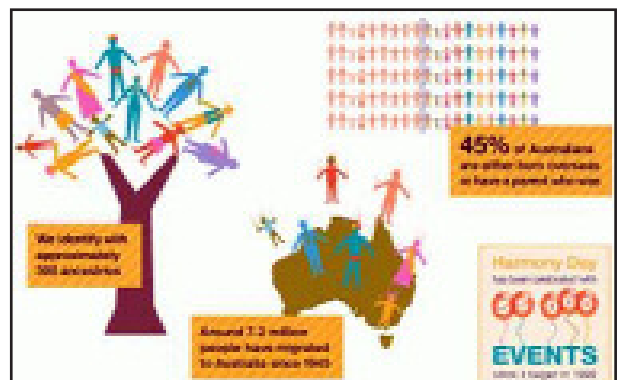
Sunday March 23: From 3.00pm: Children and youths are invited to try on and collect costumes for the procession in the Church Presbytery

Thursday March 27: From 6.00pm: Helpers are needed to transport and arrange statues in the church.

Friday March 28: From 8.00pm: Helpers are needed to organise and prepare other procession objects in the church. The Last Supper exhibition is also organised.

From Tuesday April 1 - Friday April 4: 7.00pm: Lenten exercises in Maltese led by Fr John Taliana

(The rest of the activities will be published in the next issue of The Voice on April 1)





Prof. Maurice Cauchi

Maltese politics from afar

by
Prof. Maurice Cauchi

It has often been taken for granted that those who left the Maltese islands a couple of generations ago would not be interested in local politics in their adopted homeland and still less in politics in Malta.

If this were true for the first generation, one would have expected that it might

even be more so in the subsequent generations of those born overseas having a Maltese background.

Those from the second generation would be expected to be more interested in issues in Malta and overseas, partly as a result of better education, resulting in better economic and social conditions. The availability of Maltese citizenship, which opens a gate into Europe, would be another attraction.

One has to bear in mind that the second and subsequent generations constitute about four-fifths of the total Maltese-background people in Australia and growing (as shown in the latest census of 2011).

We cannot therefore assume that the political involvement of these people would reflect those of their parents and grandparents.

Studies relating to second-generation Maltese-background individuals overseas are quite limited. (See, for instance, *Maltese Background Youth*, by M. Cauchi, H. Borland and R. Adams, published by Victoria University, 1999).

In view of this lacuna in our knowledge about the views of second-generation, Maltese-background people in Australia, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria is conducting a survey to obtain, among other things, more information about the views of people of Maltese background in relation to in-

volvement with politics in Malta and Europe.

This is a preliminary result of these findings.

There is definitely an active interest by Maltese living abroad in being involved in the election processes.

Perhaps the most fundamental issue is whether these people consider themselves Maltese or otherwise. A surprising majority of respondents (85 per cent) defined their ethnicity as either 'Maltese/Australian' (71 per cent) or simply as 'Maltese' (13 per cent), with only 15 per cent considering themselves as 'Australian'.

One question was meant to assess their interest and involvement in local politics in Australia. While the majority of respondents (64 per cent) stated that they were interested in Australian political news, only a very small minority (3.5 per cent) were actually personally involved.

Of interest is the fact that the percentage of people actually involved in union matters stood at 23 per cent.

Of more relevance to the Malta scene is the interest shown by these respondents about the situation in Malta. About one-third of respondents (32 per cent) declared that they kept themselves informed of the political situation in Malta. Moreover, a larger proportion (48 per cent) stated that they were informed of conditions in Europe.

Questions were also asked about their views on whether they would be interested in becoming involved in a postal vote for elections to Parliament if such a thing was available.

It was rather surprising to note that just under half of the respondents stated that they would be interested in voting in elections for members of Parliament in Malta (45 per cent) and also for members of the European Parliament (46 per cent).

This is only a preliminary report and it is not claimed that this is necessarily representative of the whole community in Australia. However, if these trends are confirmed, they would imply that there is definitely an active interest by Maltese living abroad in being involved in the election processes in Malta and Europe.

'Bejn il-Barrakka u l-Baviera'

Dan l-aħhar f' lukanda ewlenija fil-belt kapitali Maltija, Valletta, saret it-tnejdja tal-ktieb ġdid ta' novelli u poeżiji ta' Amanda Busuttill, Lina Brockdorff u Francis Galea, *'Bejn il-Barrakka u l-Baviera'*.

Kif jissuġġerixxi t-titlu, il-kitbiet juru novelli ambjentati fil-Belt Valletta ta' dari u dik tal-lum, fejn l-imghoddi twahhad mal-preżent u b'xorti kbira ghadna nistghu ngawdu dik is-sbuhija fl-istili tal-bini Barokk u diversi postijiet uniċi oħra, fosthom il-baħar sabih li jdawwarha u Strada Stretta, li jissemmew fl-istess jor.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li fis-sena 2018 din Beltna se tgawdi l-prestigju u l-unur ta' Belt Kulturali Ewropea. Dawn il-kitbiet tat-tliet awturi jissoktaw iseddqu dan l-unur tant misthoqq għall-Belt tagħna.

Dakinhar tat-tnejdja tal-ktieb kienu preżenti wkoll Fr. Norbert Ellul Vincenti u l-Professur Oliver Friggieri li kiteb id-

dahla ta' dan il-ktieb. It-tnejn ukoll taw is-sehem tagħhom b'tahdita dwar is-suġġett.

Dakinhar ukoll ġie mniedi ktieb iehor, bl-isem ta' 'Kliem Infinit' fejn għadd kbir ta' kittieba u artisti offrew il-kitba tagħ-hom għall-karita, halli mill-bejgħ tal-ktieb, tinbena skola fil-Kenja.

Artisti zghazagh ingħaqdu għal għan nobbli biex minn din il-kitba jithalla l-ġid f'dan il-post tal-Missjoni. Dan il-ktieb u *'Bejn il-Barrakka u l-Baviera'* huma t-tnejn tal-editur Joseph Sultana li jmexxi l-grupp letterarju ta' *Vision Plus* f'Malta, li miegħu huma msiehba għadd ta' artisti, kemm kittieba, pitturi u anke nies li jahdmu l-artiġġjanat Malti.



Lina Brockdorff (xellug) u Amanda Busuttill jiffirmaw il-ktieb meta saret it-tnejdja

Biex wiehed jikseb kopja tal-ktieb, jista' jżur is-sit elettroniku: www.josephsultana.com u hemm isib tagħrif dwar kif jista' jixtri kopja tal-ktieb online.

- Amanda Busuttill

Attivitajiet għall-membri tal-GLM



Jirrapporta
Paul Vella PRO, GLM
34 mill-membri.

Fost il-preżenti kien hemm il-Konslu ġenerali ta' Malta f'Victoria, is-Sur Victor Grech u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Patricia, kif ukoll Fr Carmel Adami, mssp.

Waqt li kien qed isir it-tisjir minn Joe Lofaro u Charles Attard, il-membri l-ohra qagħdu jitpaxxew bil-mużika ipprovduta minn Alfred Xuereb, Joe Gauci u Joe Camilleri li daqqew għażla varja ta' mużika u kanzunetti bil-Malti fosthom il-popolari, "Ix-Xemx", "Il-Bajja tal-Mellieħa" u "L-Aħħar Bidwi f'Wied il-Għasel".

Wara li kulhadd kiel, sar xi qari mill-membri, kemm ta' xogħol originali tagħhom kif wkoll ta' poeti ohra.

Il-president, Dr Victor Sammut qara proża tiegħu dwar is-snin li tiegħu f'Malta bhala tabib u kif emigra lejn l-Awstralja fejn issokta bil-professjoni tiegħu. Manwel Cassar qara żewġ poeziji ta' Achille Mizzi, "Tal-Bigilla" u "Doctor Semperium". Qara wkoll xi limerikki li kiteb huwa stess.

Warajh, bintu Bernadette, qrat żewġ poeziji bl-Ingliz, filwaqt li Fredu Cachia qara il-poezija li kiteb huh, Mons. Lawrence Cachia, li wkoll kienet inqrat dan l-aħħar fl-anniversarju ta' Mikiel Anton Vassalli, "Lil Malta Indipendenti".

Fredu qara wkoll poezija li kiteb fl-okkażjoni tal-mewt tan-neputi tiegħu, Philip Seracino Inglott. Huwa iddedika l-poezija lil ohtu, Imelda Seracino Inglott, li tiġi omm Philip, u warajh, Manwel Cassar

qara poezija li Imelda Seracino Inglott kitbet, u li kienet inqrat fil-funeral ta' binha, Philip, "This is Philip".

Frank Bonett qara l-poezija li hu stess kiteb, "Kemm Xtaqt", filwaqt li Dr Sammut qara, kantalna, poezija li kien kiteb hu għal omm martu, Doris, "Linnanna Salvina".

Fl-ahharnett, Marie Louise Anastasi, qrat żewġ poeziji tal-Fundatur tal-Grupp, Dr gużè Abela, "Qed Jimmarcja" u "Ejja hdejja".

Fil-lejla saret preżentazzjoni żghira lil Frank u Draga Bonett bhala apprezzament talli kull sena jilqgħu għandhom lill-grupp għal dan il-barbecue.

Ta' min ukoll jgħti hajr lil Salvina Vella, Rosemary Attard, Doris Sammut, Marie Louise Anastasi, Rose u Joe Lofaro, u Charles Attard li hadu hsieb l-ikel u t-tindif, u wkoll lid-daqqaqa.

Ftit tal-jiem qabel saret ukoll il-laqgħa tal-Grupp Letteratura fil-boardroom taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville fil-preżenza ta' għadd sabih ta' membri.

Minbarra diskussjonijiet, kien hemm ukoll il-qari minn xi membri, fosthom il-President, Dr Victor Sammut, bi tlett poeziji, "Il-Buffu", "Il-hamiem tal-Barunbara" u "It-Tabib Xjenzat", mill-ktieb "Diwi fl-Is-pazju" tal-Għaqda Poeti Maltin fl-okkażjoni tal-10 snin mit-twaqqif tagħha.

Joe Camilleri qara l-kitba tiegħu, "Riedu Jibgħu Jghixu Bhal Malta" u "Marta u Neriku Rebħu l-Ewwel Premju tal-Lotterija".

Fl-ahharnett, inqraw ukoll il-poeziji

Il-mużiċisti waqt il-barbecue, Alfred Xuereb, Joe Camilleri u Joe Gauci



"Jien u l-Ilwien" ta' Toni Caruana u "Int Tajtna" ta' Alfred Caruana Ruggier.

It-tmexxija tal-grupp thegħeg halli aktar membri jattendu u anke tistieden lil dawk li jhobbu l-ilsien Malti u jixtiequ jin-għaġqu mal-Grupp biex jikkuntattaw lis-segretarja, Rosemary Attard - Tel.:03 9338 3920.

Social functions by Maltese Ass. in Melbourne



Report by Emmanuel Brincat (Melbourne)

The Rabat Malta Seniors Citizens Association's (Melbourne) hard working committee under its president, Charles Vassallo recently organised Bingo and a free BBQ at the Errington Community Centre in St Albans.

This is one of the numerous activities the association would be organising this calendar year that includes social nights every first Saturday of the month, day trips and weekends away. A special occasion would be the Mnarja Exhibition in the month of June.

After the traditional Bingo at the recent activity, the 220 people present moved to another Hall for a feast of food prepared and cooked by committee members. Service was good and fast.

Meanwhile, in a very friendly family atmosphere, the Sacred Heart Fontana Association at Keilor Park also held a BBQ for their members that included Bingo sessions and the playing of Bocci on two pitches. One of the teams was made up of ladies.

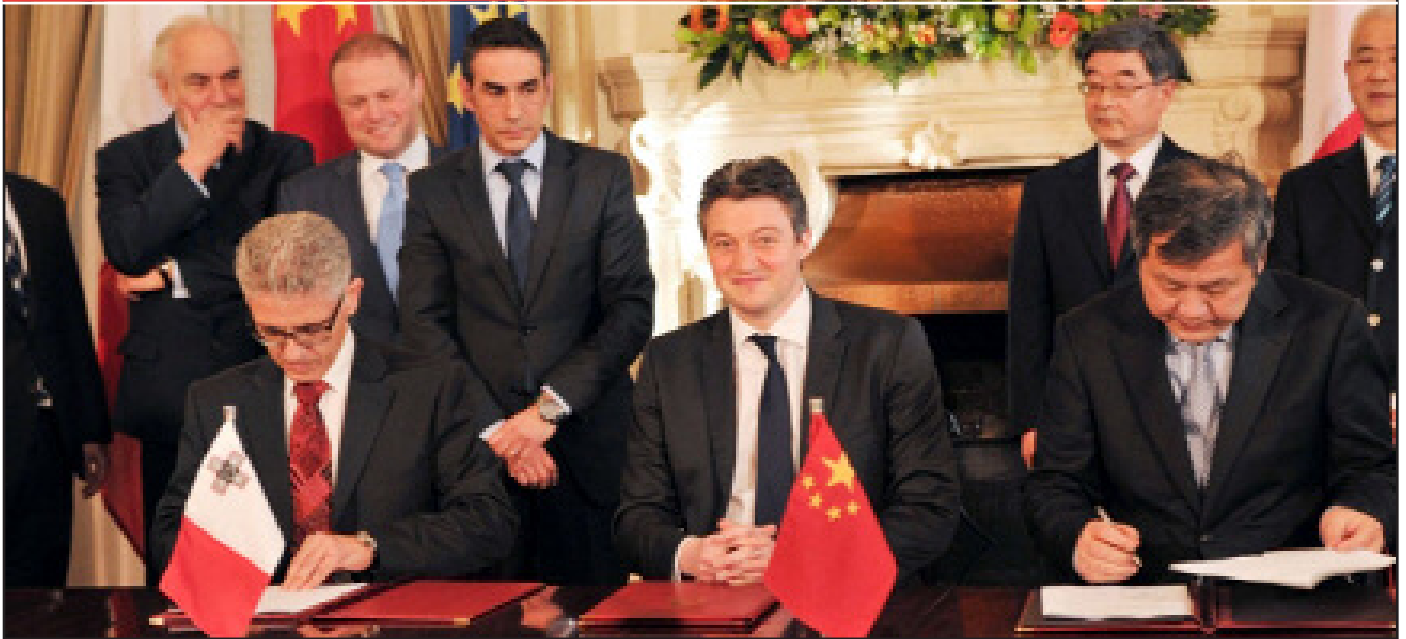
The association's president, Emmanuel Cassar, welcomed the members while the committee members worked hard to prepare and cook the food.

One must congratulate these voluntary organisations for organising such events and for providing these opportunities for our community to meet socially on a regular basis.



Il-ġemgħa li attendiet għall-attivitajiet tal-barbecue ta-GLM

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA



Agreement on Chinese equity investment of €320 million in Enemalta signed

Chinese-state owned company Shanghai Electric Power is investing €320 million in Enemalta, putting new life in what had appeared to be a walking skeleton with debts of around €800 million.

The largest ever foreign direct investment was announced Tuesday by Energy Minister Konrad Mizzi during the formal signing of the agreement at the Auberge de Castille last Tuesday between Enemalta and Shanghai Electric Power.

Charles Mangion, chairman, signed the €320 million equity investment on behalf of Enemalta, while Wang Yundan, chairman of the board of directors signed for the Chinese side.

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Minister Konrad Mizzi first announced the deal in Beijing on September 12 last year during a visit to China. At the time, a memorandum of understanding had been signed with Lu Qizhou, president of China Power Investment Corporation, the parent company of Shanghai Electric.

The investment deal that will be halving Enemalta's debt will see Shanghai Electric getting a 33 per cent stake in the corporation.

Explaining what the deal entails, Minister Mangion said that €100 million will be a capital injection into Enemalta, €150 million will be the investment to acquire the majority shareholding in the BWSC plant and €70 million is the commitment for the conversion of the plant to gas.

The capital injection will be an investment in the distribution system, the state

corporation's bleeding ground.

However, the total €320 million investment by Shanghai Electric Power is apart from two joint venture projects to be carried out by the Maltese government and the Chinese company.

The first will invest in renewable energy projects in Europe with a target to have 300mw over the next five years, and the second will be an energy service centre to service the power plants Shanghai Electric will have in the region.

While insisting that Enemalta will retain sole discretion on dispatch rights; retaining sole discretion on from where to purchase its electricity, Minister Konrad Mizzi said that, "This will create a new Enemalta... Enemalta will become a regional operator."

He went on to say that after this investment, Enemalta's debts would stand at €300 million of which €100 million would be shouldered by Shanghai Electric Power.

"Shanghai Electric Power will carry its weight and government guarantees committed for the state corporation will reduce drastically. At the end, the government will be carrying around €200 million in debts," he said.

Later in the day in parliament, the Minister explained that the current average electricity cost was "phenomenal" and the investment would reduce this cost:

"Shanghai Electric Power would procure a stake, pay off the debt and the convert the plant. While the generation price from the BWSC plant will drop, the cheapest supply of electricity will be by Electrogas."

He went on to say that the agreement was a head of terms agreement stipulating future projects and equity. Shareholding agreements and other technical agreements will be finalised between now and September.

He said all jobs at Enemalta would be safeguarded and the Petroleum Division, which is the only profitable venture of the corporation, is excluded from the agreement.

Asked whether he anticipated any problems from the EU in relation to the renewable energy project, Dr Mizzi said the company will function within the parameters of an agreement already reached between the EU and China.

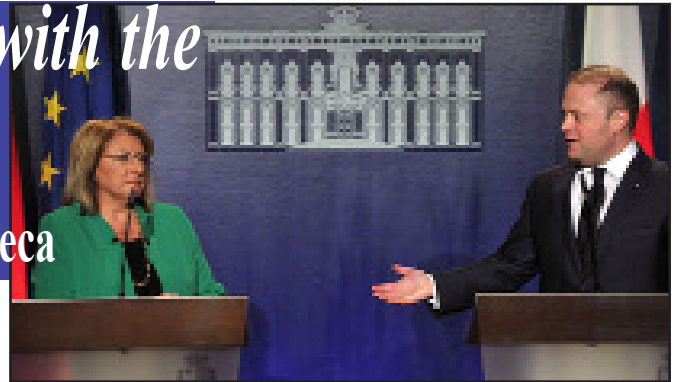
The final agreement will be presented to Parliament for parliamentary approval. Changes to the Enemalta Act will also take place.

Pictured: Energy Minister Konrad Mizzi (centre) presiding over the signing of the agreement flanked by Enemalta chairman Dr Charles Mangion (left) and Wang Yundan, chairman of the board of directors Shanghai Electric Power

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

“President of the people ... with the people ... for the people”

- Marie Louise Coleiro Preca



Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat presenting Minister Marie Louis Coleiro Preca to the press as the government's nomination for the 9th President of the Republic

As had already been announced, a few days leading to International Women's Day, on March 4, Prime Minister officially confirmed at a news conference the nomination of Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca as the 9th President of the Republic of Malta.

Then more good news when on March 10, the Opposition accepted the nomination and said it would be voting in favour of the nomination of Marie Louise Coleiro Preca as President of the Republic.

Meanwhile, Dr Muscat explained that Coleiro Preca's nomination was historically important coming as it has, 32 years after Malta's first-ever nomination of a woman as President. The first was Agatha Barbara. He added that it brings us nearer to the birth of the second Republic.

Dr Muscat maintained that Coleiro Preca, who would be working very close to the

people, would serve as a point of reference both to government and the nation. She will be a gift to the nation, he said, as she represents all that one would want in a head of State.

He said that Malta needed a President like her, who has the energy to make a lively contribution to our society. She would be given all the tools necessary to bring change about.

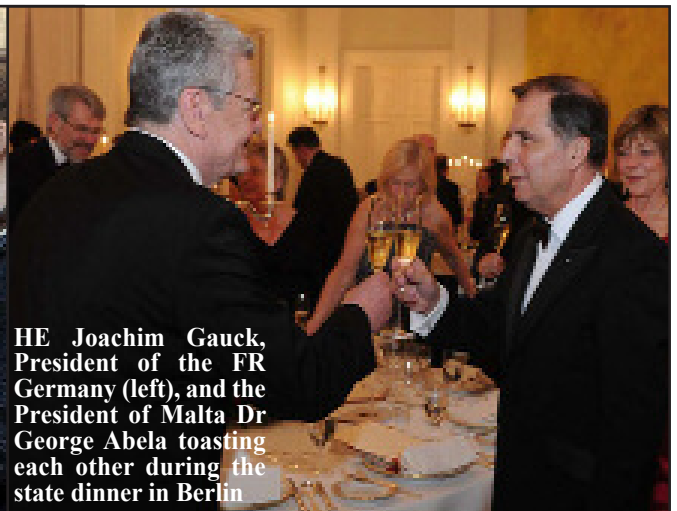
On her part, when Marie Louise Coleiro Preca addressed the press, she appeared close to tears (of joy). She said she never aspired to reach such heights in her career and was in fact shocked when she was asked to accept the nomination. She said that as she would be loyal to her upbringing and assured everybody that she was going

to be “a President of the people, with the people, and for the people.”

In a statement announcing its acceptance, of Marie Louis Coleiro's nomination, the Nationalist Party said that Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had lost a chance to continue on the same road taken by Lawrence Gonzi who had nominated George Abela five years ago. It also said it would be voting in favour in spite of the fact that Dr Muscat did not consult with the Opposition Leader. However, the PN said it would be working for the country to unite behind the new President.



Dr George Abela with FR Germany President Joachim Gauck talking to young people in Berlin



HE Joachim Gauck, President of the FR Germany (left), and the President of Malta Dr George Abela toasting each other during the state dinner in Berlin

Malta President George Abela on fruitful State Visit to FR Germany

In one of his final commitments as President of Malta before his term ends next month, on an invitation of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, HE Joachim Gauck, the President of Malta Dr George Abela paid a short state visit to Germany.

Accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella, Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business, Dr Chris Cardona, and official and institu-

tional delegations, the President held bilateral talks with his German counterpart, and the mayor of Berlin, Mr Klaus Wowereit.

Throughout his visit, particularly in his walk-about in Berlin where he went through the Brandenburg Gate, Dr Abela's charisma shone through. He talked freely to the young people he met and really made their day.

President Abela and his delegation also attended a state dinner hosted by the German President.

The Maltese delegation later also visited Bremen - hosted by Mr Jens Bohrsen, President of the Senate and Mayor of Free Hanseatic City of Bremen - and Dresden where he met, Stanislaw Tillich, Minister and President of the Free State of Saxonia.

Important talks were held throughout the visit that could prove very fruitful while enhancing the already strong bilateral relations between the two countries.

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

One year of Labour Government in office



Joseph Muscat:

“In 12 months, Labour achieved what NP failed to do in its 25 years”

On March 9, the Labour government marked the first year in office, and speaking at a press conference he touched on a number of key issues, mostly relating to the economy, investment and most of the sectors, claiming that in 12 months, the Labour administration achieved what the previous administration had failed to do in its 25 years in power.

Dr Muscat also spoke on his nomination of Marie Louise Coleiro Preca for President. Whilst admitting that cabinet would be losing one of its best ministers, the whole country, and indeed even the government, would be gaining in the end.

Dr Muscat insisted that the Social Solidarity Minister is the 'best person for the job', adding that she has "the best set of skills for the job. I am sure that she will exceed all expectations and lead to necessary changes," he said, adding that she would keep working on the social sector but in her new role she will elevate the subject to the national level.

He said the government chose her because she is who she is." Dr Muscat said that the nomination of Ms Coleiro Preca is in recognition of the importance of women in our society."

Meanwhile, talking generally, he said: "Our aim is for this country to be a land of opportunity, equality and innovation. We are not a perfect government. Everyone makes mistakes and learns from them but the list of achievements is long."

The Prime Minister said that the government had delivered on its promise to reduce energy tariffs; it has also become more transparent. It has introduced the Whistleblower Act and will soon introduce the Party Financing Law.

Another promise honoured by the government is the introduction of free childcare and the raise in stipends. Dr Muscat noted that on the last point the government had actually gone beyond what it had promised and repeating University students would also be entitled to a stipend.

Tourism has increased yet again and the government is also carrying out "a silent revolution" in the education sector, such as with the introduction of co-ed schooling, and families are benefiting from tax cuts.

He insisted that despite the Opposition's claims that the country would have to resort to a bailout under a Labour government, the economy is actually doing well.

"The EU's winter forecast says that Malta is the top country for job creation, we have the fourth lowest unemployment rate and our deficit is in check. We created 6,000 jobs in the first six months of this legislature. We are addressing a number of serious concerns, like poverty, and we are only able to do this because we have a healthy economy."

He admitted that the country is facing some problems, but insisted that the government is working hard to overcome them.

"We are not going to sit there and criticise what we inherited. We will face these challenges with serenity and we will be successful," he said.



Simon Busuttil:

“Govt fails to live up to its lofty pledges that saw it elected in 2013”

Opposition leader Dr Simon Busuttil does not share the Prime Minister's views, and has accused him of having failed to live up to his lofty pledges of meritocracy and transparency that saw him elected in 2013.

He took Joseph Muscat to task over what he termed the removal of competent leaders in the civil service, saying permanent secretaries and head of departments had been removed and public appointments given to "friends from the inner core".

He said that by removing people who had been appointed through competitive exams, to instead place his own people in their position, the Prime Minister had thrown meritocracy out of the window.

Busuttil also accused Muscat of changing laws preventing MPs from serving as political appointees on government companies, and of interfering in the course of justice.

He said: "Instead of zero-tolerance on corruption, by not taking criminal steps when faced with the clear bribery of public officials (in the hacking of Enemalta smart meters), Muscat has 100 per cent intolerance to corruption."

Busuttil accused the Labour government of displaying utter disregard for the value of transparency, and for the appointing a Commissioner of Police who is "a puppet in the hands of the government."

Meanwhile, referring to the Malta Individual Investment Programme that he so vehemently criticised, and had even gone as far as to say that the NP in government would withdraw it, Dr Busuttil now said on TVM, there would be no reason to withdraw the citizenship of people who acquired it on the terms agreed to between the government and the European Union.

The Opposition viewed the one-year residence requirement as being too short but said that this minimum requirement must be respected in full before citizenship is given. He also insisted that the names of all those who obtain citizenship should be made public.

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

Invigorating Investment and Growth 2014

On March 6-7, *The Economist* magazine, which has a reputation for excellence and a uniquely global perspective, staged in Malta what has been described as a groundbreaking, first-class summit that featured leading thinkers and cutting-edge insights. It was held under the banner of The Economist Events' Business Roundtable with the Government of Malta.

For two days, the event assembled a high-level audience of policy-makers, CEOs, investors and stakeholders who had the occasion to discuss opportunities to invigorate investment and growth in Malta.

Many of the world's foremost thinkers, leaders and influencers got together to share their visions and insights on the future of the world economy and the prospects it represents locally.

It featured inspiring talks from visionary thinkers and lively discussion with some of the most influential figures in business, industry and politics.

Beside the Prime Minister and Malta Government cabinet ministers other speakers at the event included, Europeans Mario Monti, (President of Bocconi University and former Italian Prime Minister), Enrico Letta

The Economist Events' Business Roundtable with Malta Govt.

(former Italian Prime Minister), Martin Schulz (President of the European Parliament), Lord Mandelson (Labour Party UK and former European Commissioner), Anna Diamantopoulou (former Greek Minister and ex-European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities), Tony Hayward (CEO of Genel Energy), and Jim O'Neill, economist and former Chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management).

Othes were, Abdelilah Benkirane (Prime Minister of Morocco), Nabil El Araby (Sec. Gen. of the League of Arab States), Noureddine Zekri (Secretary of State of Economy and Finance in charge of Development and International Cooperation of Tunisia), and Dr Fadel Jawad (Ass. Secretary General, Head of the Political Sector, League of Arab States Ambassador).

A discussion on investing in Malta also see the participation of the NP in opposition through its deputy leader and economy spokesman Mario de Marco.

John Peet, Europe Editor, *The Economist* and John Andrews, Co-editor of *Megachange: The World in 2050*, *The Economist* introduced the event.

The introduction highlighted Malta as doing better than most countries in the Eurozone and stressed that the Eurozone needs deeper integration to survive.



Malta PM about future of Europe and the Med.

When Malta Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat addressed the roundtable as host speaker, he said that The Economist Events' philosophy is to tackle issues with a forward-looking, uniquely global perspective. The main brunt of his speech was the future of Europe and the Mediterranean.

He said that one cannot easily determine Europe's future on the global stage with the continent having several, yet unanswered questions, regarding its current situation and problems, interests and objections and political and economic intentions.

In view of the events happening in Ukraine, he said that Europe might indeed demonstrate a stronger determination to adapt to new realities, new circumstances.

He added that the Eurozone economic crisis and the lack of political will have seen Europe under use its own clout, "It lacked the self-confidence to push through; it's as if Europe remained at the starting block,

paralysed by itself. Compared to the up and coming economies like China and India, Europe is looking more like the 'old' continent once again."

PM Muscat explained that there are indeed several examples where Europe has demonstrated that it has all the qualities of a leader, and that Europe's role as an honest broker is generally acknowledged and respected.

"Europe has to act in the face of ongoing threats, such as terrorism, cyber security and proliferation of weapons and must leave no room for complacency," he said.

He referred to measures being undertaken by Europe to become a stronger global player. The Europe 2020 Strategy, largely devised to draw Europe out of economic stagnation, underlines the ambition to become a knowledge-driven, competitive and sustainable economy.

The success or otherwise of this strategy will determine what the EU will be able to do to be globally relevant and to lead glob-

ally. For this to happen there must be a committed approach that needs to be taken even further.

"Malta is part of the European mainstream but we are also very much a Mediterranean country," said Dr. Muscat. He added that the developments in the Mediterranean region over the past few years took many people by surprise, not least those who lived among the turmoil.

Revolutions unfolded at a fast pace, leaving the rest of the world as spectators with trepidation. There is now an emerging consensus that developments in the Mediterranean can never be taken in isolation from Europe or, indeed, the international community.

The Prime Minister said that as a small island in the Mediterranean, Malta faces the consequences of problems that afflict our region and beyond.

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

The Economist Events' Business Roundtable with Malta Government - 2

Encouraging economic turnaround



Opening a discussion panel entitled 'The Financial Services Sector: Europe on the Mend?' during his keynote address at 'The Economist: Business Roundtable with the Government of Malta' Conference, Prof. Scicluna attributed

Malta's positive economic turnaround to three main factors.

1. The government's clear road-map for business, that it will do whatever is possible to remove any obstacles in the way of doing business, whether these are bureaucratic procedures or worse corruption.
2. Because the government takes decisions, and in fact, after finding a backlog of thousands of such pending decisions, it unblocked the process, and decisions are taken on a daily basis.
3. The government was spared the poison chalice by the European Commission way back in May of last year after it persuaded the Commission to not impose austerity programmes, in return of being kept informed of the Government's spending review, and of the series of reforms in the energy field, in the labour market and in the education and training sectors.

Tourism a most important activity in the Med region - Minister Vella says

Tourism Minister Karmenu Vella said that tourism in the Mediterranean is one of the most important economic activities in the region, which represents the top global destination, hosting more than 30% of world tourism arrivals, mostly from Europe.

He explained that within the local context, last year's performance was the best ever so far with a 10% growth in arrivals, a 9% growth in bed nights and a corresponding 9% growth in revenue, with arrivals reaching 1.6 million.

Minister Vella said: "The full economic impact of tourism in Malta likely represents around 25% of GDP, confirming tourism's key economic importance for the Maltese Islands". Minister Vella remarked how the tourism industry in Malta is continuously changing, with 52% of our tourists today come as individual travellers.

He added that with the aim of supporting competitiveness in tourism, the Government has taken a number of initiatives namely increasing the tourism allocation in its first budget, encouraging more joint public-private marketing, the set up of a number of action teams to address issues having a direct impact on the sector's competitiveness, encouraging new airlines to fly to Malta and existing airlines to open new routes hence improving accessibility and identification of winter markets to reduce the seasonality gap.

In addition, the Government will be reducing the energy costs for the sector.

When it comes to the aviation industry, Karmenu Vella said the Government has identified aviation as a potential growth sector and is moving fast convinced that this sector presents a myriad of economic and social opportunities such as increased foreign earnings and job opportunities.

The Government intends to support the private sector to continue expanding in other areas such as aircraft management and aeronautical engineering services, repair and maintenance of helicopters, R&D in aircraft technologies and avionics and back office and shared services operations.



Women: Only 1 in 3 computing graduates in Malta are women

Parliamentary secretary Edward Zammit Lewis said it is no longer justifiable that only one in three computing graduates in Malta are female and believed it was social and cultural conditioning that led women against studying sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics.



He said research shows it is social and cultural conditioning not cognitive differences between genders that led less women to choose these subjects.

He insisted the country cannot afford to lose out on the creative capital that women can contribute to society.

The government's vision in ICT was not just infrastructural but also "an enabling tool", and that "It can empower every individual, irrespective of age, gender, ability, education, economic means and race."

ICT contributes nearly 6% of the GDP employing around 3,500 professionals and specialists in 2013, which is equivalent to 3.5% of the country's gainfully employed.

The new Digital Malta strategy for 2014-2020 with a number of measures tackling various issues would soon be launched.

First results on oil drilling in Malta expected by mid-July

When it was infrastructure minister Joe Mizzi's turn to address the Economist's roundtable, he said the government would leave no stone unturned in its endeavour to exploit whichever resources become available to fund its social and economic programmes, while Tony Hayward CEO of Genel Energy that is conducting oil exploration in Malta revealed that the first results on oil drilling in Malta are expected by mid-July.

Genel Energy is expected to start drilling by the end of this month.

Hayward had previously said that the area's geology presented a high-impact prospect to the company with the potential for field sizes of at least 250 bbl. He was confident in Malta's geology and looks forward to the drilling.



last March, he "immediately gave this sector the importance it deserves."

He went on to say: "We have no doubt that the sedimentary basins offshore Malta possess good, drillable structures analogous

with existing producing fields in the Central Mediterranean. In these geographical structures, there is very good probability of petroleum in commercial quantities."

Cairn Energy and Mediterranean Oil and Gas will very soon commence a seismic survey to the north of Malta with the intention of identifying new drillable prospects that may have been overlooked in the past.

The minister said a Government Agency would be set up to spearhead the government's efforts in the sector.

At the same event, Hayward said major trends were shaping the oil and gas industry and over the past decade, the industry underwent a revolution. He said that today, the oil market was well balanced almost meeting the three million barrels lost in the political upheaval over the last three years.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri

Konferma.... u Gheluq is-Sena

L-aktar avvenimenti li kienu prominenti fil-media Maltija mill-ahhar hargha ta' dan l-*e-magazine*, kienu: Il-konferma li l-Ministru Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca se tinghata l-kariga ta' President tar-Reppublika ta' Malta, għeluq is-sena minn meta nhatar Gvern Laburista, u fl-ahhar jiem l-investiment ta' €320 miljun minn kumpanija Ċiniżi fl-Enemalta (ara paġna 8)

Hatra ta' President

Attwalment, meta l-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat deher mal-Ministru Marie Louise Coleiro Preca (xi hadd diġa qed jipproponi li dan l-isem twil wisq) biex ihabbar uffiċjalment l-għażla tal-President ġejjieni ta' Malta, aktarx li hafna kienu aktar interessati f'dak li kien se jinghad, l-aktar u l-aktar fir-reazzjoni ta' Coleiro Preca, milli fl-ahbar. Dan għax diġa' kien sigriet maghruf li l-Prim Ministru kien se jin-nomina lilha.

Dan minhabba li l-media lokali kienet harget b'mitt teorija dwar għax il-PM kien għażel persuna aktar zagħżuġh fl-eta' (meta mxebbha mal-Presidenti ta' qabel) u l-aktar Ministru popolari mhux biss mal-Laburisti, iżda anke ma' għadd ta' Nazzjonalisti

Kien hemm min kiteb li: "Joseph Muscat ried jehles minn persuna popolari li tista' teħodlu postu bħala mexxej tal-Partit Laburista." Li: "Muscat ried jehles minn Coleiro Preca għax din kienet konservattiva u saħansitra ma vvutatx favur id-divorzju."

Oħrajn sostnew li attwalment kellu jsir il-Ministru George Vella, imma l-Laburisti tradizzjonali ġieghlu lil Muscat jagħzel lil Coleiro Preca (George Vella pubblikament stqarr li hu qatt ma kien avviciinat għall-kariga u li hu kien kuntent hafna bi-kariga li kellu).

Oħrajn (li taw x'jifhmu li kienu Laburisti) ilmentaw kemm felhu għax sostnew li l-Gvern kien se jitlef l-aqwa Ministru li kellu. (Stharrig fil-media dejjem wera li hija bil-kbir l-aktar Ministru popolari anke fost in-Nazzjonalisti).

Dawk li ma qablux mal-għażla tagħha

fakkru fil-pasat tagħha bħala waħda mill-Laburisti l-aktar horox.

Kien hemm min donnu ried jinfuwenza l-għażla, u qal li kien hemm dubju jekk Coleiro Preca bħala President kienetx se tiffirma l-liġi tal-Unjoni Civili... xi haġa li hi stess ċahdet bil-qawwa.

Kien hemm min ried jaghti l-idea li ġiet mġieghla taċċetta din il-kariga.. u alla jaf kif iżżefnet fin-nofs in-nuqqas ta' demokrazija fi hdan il-Gvern Laburista... biex imbagħad f'diversi ntervisti li saru ma' Coleiro Preca hareġ ċar li hija thal-let tagħmel l-għażla.

L-ewwel President mill-Partit li nnominah li se jkun approvat miż-żewġ naħat tal-Parlament

Hekk f'intervista ma' it-Torċa stqarret: "Il-Prim Ministru tani l-hin kollu biex naħseb dwar il-proposta."

Fil-fatt l-ewwel reazzjoni tagħha kienet li qalet le...iżda mbagħad, meta waqt diskussjonijiet mal-Prim Ministru saret taf li l-kariga ma kienetx waħda biss ċeremonjali, għax fost il-funzjonijiet godda fdati lilha kien hemm l-aġenda soċjali; ...li ma kienetx se tinghalaq fil-palazzi iżda se tibqa' man-nies; ...u fuq kollox li hija kienet se tkun parti mill-hidma biex isir tibdil kostituzzjonali halli fost l-oħrajn ikun hemm twessiegh tal-funzjonijiet tal-President hija aċċetat il-hatra.

Min-naha tiegħu, mat-thabbira uffiċjali



tan-nomina, filwaqt li f'isem l-Oppożizzjoni ferah lil Coleiro Preca għan-nomina, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni ma qalx immedjatment x'kienet se tkun il-pożizzjoni tal-Oppożizzjoni fil-Parlament (Fil-fatt aktar tard l-Oppożizzjoni ddeċidiet li tivvota favur il-President biex b'hekk se tkun l-ewwel President Malti ġej mill-Partit li nnominah li se jkun approvat miż-żewġ naħat tal-Parlament).

Min-naha l-oħra Busuttill ilmentab bis-sih għall-fatt li l-Prim Ministru kien sejjahl għal laqgħa ta' 10 minuti mhux biex jikkonsultah dwar il-hatra, imma biex jinfurmah li se jahtar lil Marie Louise Coleiro Preca bħala President.

"Hi tassew hasra li anke fuq kwestjoni li dwarha għandu jkun hawn kunsens nazzjonali, il-Prim Ministru Muscat xorta għażel li jippersisti bil-manuvri politiċi tiegħu," qal Busuttill.

Sintendi, kif jgri fix-xena tahraq tal-politika Maltija, malajr kien hemm dawk li ġibdu l-attenzjoni li Prim Ministri Nazzjonalisti fil-pasat użaw l-istess metodu ta' informazzjoni u mhux konsultazzjoni fil-hatriet tal-Presidenti.

U bħas-soltu kellna xita ta' kummenti miż-żewġ naħat dwar il-hatra u l-fatt li ma saritx konsultazzjoni.

Għeluq is-Sena ta' Gvern Laburista

Fid-9 ta' Marzu l-Prim Ministru immarka l-għeluq ta' sena fil-Gvern b'diskors li sar fi Pjazza San Gorg (quddiem il-Palazz), il-Belt li għalih, minkejja xita kontinwa, attendew għadd gmielu ta' nies. Hu elenika x-xogħol li għamel il-Gvern matul din is-sena u sostna li:

"Ir-riżultati jinhassu. Perfetti m'ahnix... iżda r-rieda tinhass. Anke min ma ivvotax lil dan il-Gvern, iħoss li dan huwa Gvern mimli enerġija. Kif wegħdna, dan il-Gvern kompli bil-kontinuità f'dawk l-oqsma li kienu mexxin tajjeb, iżda biddel l-affarijiet fejn kienu sejrjn hażin"

Ma setax jonqos li l-istampa li ta l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, f'diskors li għamel fl-istess jum fl-Isla, tkun ferm differenti minn tal-PM. U hu għamel dan billi staqsa jekk wara sena ta' Gvern Laburista l-poplu jhossux ahjar jew aghar.

"Sena wara thossok ahjar jew aghar? Thoss li Malta hi Tagħna Lkoll? Thoss stil ġdid ta' politika, jew thoss politika antika, kuntrarju għal dak li wiegħed? Id-demokrazija thossha aktar b'saħħitha jew iddghajfet? U l-meritokrazija? U l-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni? Illum bil-provi għandna gvern li għandu mija fil-mija tolleranza tal-korruzzjoni? Illum sena wara thossok aktar kburi jew inqas kburi li int Maltese? Dan il-gvern nawwar l-identità tagħna meta poġġiha għall-bejgħ?"

Sintendi mistqosijiet retorici, għax huwa ċar li t-twegiba li dan kien qed jistenna hi

Fehmiet kontrastanti - u ma jistax jonqos

li tkun 'le'.

Aktar tard matul il-gimgha dan l-avveniment kien is-sugġett ta' xandira televiżiva minn fuq l-istazzjon Nazzjonali min-naha tal-Prim Ministru u konferenza stampa min-naha tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni.

Bhas-soltu spicċajna b'donnu li qed ngħixu f'żewġ pajjiżi differenti - wiehed immexxi mill-Gvern u iehor mill-Oppożizzjoni, fejn saħansitra Simon Busutill wasal biex qal li dan huwa "Gvern li jahdmek" billi wiegħed haġa u għamel ohra.

U biex nagħti eżempju ta' dak li sejjajt żewġ pajjiżi biżżejjed nislet xi ftit minn dak li ntqal:

Joseph Muscat: "Fl-ewwel sitt xhur, hloqna 'l fuq minn 6,000 post tax-xogħol."

Simon Busutill: "Gvern li fl-ahhar sena kabbar il-qgħad tant li dan illum hu fil-livell ta' 8,000."

Muscat: Semma kif l-ekonomija kompliet tikber u rrefera għar-rapporti tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea fejn qed jaraw li l-prospetti għall-2014 huma pożittivi. "Id-defiċit se jirnexxielna nniżżluh taħt it-3%, tnaqqis

ta' 120 miljun ewro. Credit rating agencies, bħall-Unjoni Ewropea, saħansitra qed idawru r-ratings negattivi tagħhom f'qasam kruċjali bħall-enerġija, għal ratings pożittivi"

Busutill: "Il-Kummissjoni Ewropea mhux se toħroġna mill-Excessive Deficit Procedure Programm."

Muscat: "Il-proġett li beda jitwettagħ max-il xahar ilu qed ikun ibbażat fuq il-prijoritajiet tal-poplu Malti, fejn kulhadd ikollu l-opportunità li jirnexxi u li jgawdi mill-ħolqien tal-ġid. Forsi huwa rari li wiehed jismagħha minn fomm il-politiċi tagħna li jwettqu dak li jwiegħdu."

Busutill: "L-għajta qarrieqa ta' 'Malta Tagħna Lkoll' li llum ma saret t'fisser xejn għall-fatt li l-gvern ma żammx il-wegħdi elettorali tiegħu u qed ipoġġi l-interessi partigġjani qabel dawk nazzjonali."

Sintendi l-gurnali lokali ma naqsux li wkoll jagħtu l-fehma tagħhom. Kitbu dwar il-pożittiv u n-negattiv, b'sintendi jagħmlu enfasi dwar il-pożittiv jew in-negattiv skond il-ġibda politika tagħhom.

Għalkemm għandi l-fehma tiegħi, mhux se nagħmel ġudizzju, għax nemmen li l-ġudizzju jrid jagħmlu l-poplu, u sa ċertu punt kull individwu, li irid jagħmel ġudizzju dwar dak li wettaq jew ma wettaq il-Gvern matul l-ahhar sena.

Nahseb li dan il-ġudizzju, b'xi mod jista' jjiġi rifless fl-elezzjoni tal-Membri tal-Parlament Ewropew li se isir f'Mejju.

Unuri għal Malta

L-ispiżjara Danika Agius Decelis rebhet l-unur Ewropew bit-teżi tal-Masters tagħha. L-unur mogħti mill-EAHP - EPSA Student Science Award ingħata għall-aqwa riċerka xjentifika. Agius Decelis rebhitu b'teżi dwar l-irwol tal-ispiżjar fl-immanigjar tal-uġiħ wara li pazjent jkun għadda minn kirurġija fil-qalb.



Danika Agius Decelis

Ewlenin għall-Għadds

Minn unur personali ngħaddu għal iehor nazzjonali. Dan għax il-gzejjer Maltin gew ivvutati bhala t-tieni l-isbah destinazzjoni għall-għadds,

mid-Diver Awards u l-iSport Diver Awards.

Dan ifisser hafna għal Malta.

Għal paġna 15



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FEAST OF JESUS THE REDEEMER
 March 30 at St Mary's Star of the Sea Church 33 Howard Street West Melbourne from 2.30 pm: Solemn Mass, Street Procession with the Statue of Jesus the Redeemer.
 Maltese Choir of Victoria.
 Buses available.
 For more information call Joe Attard on 0400357001

Wara 47 Sena ...

Iva, daqshekk għadew l-snin biex raġel irnexxielu jhassar ismu minn fuq iċ-ċertifikat ta' dik li għal 47 sena kienet meqjusa bhala bintu.

Dan ir-raġel iżzewweġ fl-1963. Fl-1967 martu welldet tifla, imma r-raġel ma riedx jikkonixxiha bhala bintu għax kien konvint li ma kienetx tiegħu.

Imma wara pressjoni li saret mit-tabib u l-mara tiegħu, kif ukoll billi nġhata l-impressjoni li hu biss seta' jirreġistra t-twelid tat-tifla, aċċetta li jnizzel ismu fuq iċ-ċertifikat tat-twelid.

Sadaniant fl-1968 dan ir-raġel issepara legalment minn mal-mara u saħansitra, fl-1971 irnexxielu jgħib ukoll l-annulament mill-Knisja.

L-omm dejjem irrifjutat li jsir test tad-demem biex jiġi stabbilit il-paternalita' tat-tifla, imma fl-1990 it-tifla aċċettat li jsirilha t-test tad-DNA. Minnu rriżulta li hija

ma kienetx bintu.

Ta' min jgħid li sa dak iż-żmien il-liġi Maltija ma kienetx tippermetti li wiehed iressaq provi li tarbija ma kienetx tiegħu. Għalhekk fl-1996 ir-raġel fetax kawża kostituzzjonali biex jgħid li dan kien jichadlu d-drittijiet fundamentali tiegħu.

Wara li l-Qrati Maltin ma tawhx raġun, mar fil-Qorti Ewropeja tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem, li fl-2006 iddeċidiet li l-liġi Maltija kienet tmur kontra l-Konvenzjoni Ewropea tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem.

Id-deċizjoni wasslet biex fil-Kodiċi Civili l-Parlament Malti jintroduci paragrafu li fih jingħad li raġel jista' jichad li jagħraf wild (tifel jew tifla) innissel matul iż-żwieġ jekk jipprova li fiż-żmien imsemmi martu tkun wettqet adulterju.

Dan għamilha possibli li dan ir-raġel iressaq il-każ tiegħu

quddiem il-Qorti tal-familja, u nġhata raġun. Għalhekk ismu tneħha minn fuq iċ-ċertifikat tat-tifla, li sintendi llum hi mara ta' 47 sena.

Bidlitlu t-tifla

Filwaqt li r-raġel fl-istorja ta' fuq għamel għieda shiha biex iħassar ismu minn fuq iċ-ċertifikat ta' tifla, iehor dahal il-qorti biex ismu jidhol fiċ-ċertifikat tat-tifla wara li omm it-tifla għamlet minn kollox biex dan ma jsirx.

Saħansitra, fit-tentattiv tagħha biex isem dan ir-raġel ma jidherx fiċ-ċertifikat tat-tifla, meta kellu jsir it-test tal-paternita', minflok din it-tifla l-mara ipprezentat tifla oħra u wara anke mara oħra min-flokha. Finalment is-sewwasar magħruf u l-Qorti ordnat li isem ir-raġel ikun imnizzel fiċ-ċertifikat bhala l-missier.

Fortunatament f'dan il-każ il-Qorti ma ħaditx is-snin biex tiddeċiedi.



Malti innominat għall-Emmys

L-Akkademja Internazzjonali tat-Televizjoni, l-Arti u x-Xjenza għadha kif innominat il-film mahdum fil-Kanada, 'Time Tremors' b'direzzjoni u produzzjoni tal-Malti Mario Philip Azzopardi, għal wiehed mill-aktar unuri prestigġjużi fil-qasam taċ-ċinematografia, l-*Emmy Awards*.

Bhalissa Azzopardi jinsab Malta fejn qed jipproduci l-istagun Teatru Malti fit-Teatru Manoel filwaqt li f'April li ġej se jidderiegi spetaklu ibbażat fuq hajjet Mikiel Anton Vassallo.

Kwistjoni dwar il-kunjom Camilleri Cauchi

Il-kunjom Camilleri Cauchi huwa l-magħruf sewwa, anke fost l-Maltin/Awstraljani, l-aktar minn dawk li jhobbu l-festi, minhabba li l-familja Camilleri Cauchi hija magħrufa sew kemm għall-istatwi kif ukoll kwadri u pittura reliġjuża li huma mxerrda mhux biss fil-Gżejjer Maltin, immad f'diversi pajjiżi tad-dinja, fosthom fl-Awstralja.

Il-pijunier ta' din il-familja fi-qasam artistiku kien Wistin Camilleri, iżda maż-żmien Paolo, iben Wistin, li kien iġib il-kunjom Camilleri, beda jiffirma bil-kunjom Camilleri Cauchi billi xi nies kienu jhalltuh ma ġar tiegħu li kien iġib l-istess kunjom.

Jidher li din ta' Camilleri Cauchi għoġbot ukoll lil hut Paolo, li l-koll huma

artisti. Dawn bdew ukoll jiffirma bħalu. Iżda meta fl-2012 iben wiehed mill-ahwa dahhal ufficjalment dan il-kunjom fiċ-ċertifikat tal-magħmudija tiegħu, l-ahwa l-oħra oġġezzjonaw għax qed isostnu li l-kunjom setgħu jużawh biss l-ahwa u mhux uliedhom.

U kif jiġri s-soltu minn kwistjoni familjari, spicċat fi kwistjoni quddiem il-Qrati.



Malta l-aqwa għall-ghadds/minn paġna 14

Wara l-ghadd ta' artikli dwar Malta u kemm il-barranin isibuha ideali għall-btajjel, issa qed ukoll titqies bhala ewlenija f'dan l-isport u jqisuha bhala fost l-ewlenin għall-ghadds fil-Mediterran. Il-votazzjoni saret mill-qarrejja ta' *Diver Magazine* u *Sport Diver Magazine* u minn dawk li żaru s-siti elettronici ta' dawn ir-rivisti. Qabel Malta gie ivvutat l-Egittu.

Division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW
Inc. PO Box 5332, Greystanes LPO, NSW 2145

Learn Maltese!

Learn the Maltese language, the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions and about the amazing history of this magnificent Mediterranean island.

Our trained and experienced teachers are qualified in language teaching and have Maltese study credentials. Classes available for students from 6 yrs to adults at all levels of ability in the Maltese language.

Classes are held at:

- | | |
|--|--|
| HORSLEY PARK
Horsley Park Public School
1759 The Horsley Drive, Horsely Park | SEVEN HILLS
The Meadows Public School
Fuller Street, Seven Hills |
| SCHOFIELDS - Terra Sancta College. Hambeldon Rd, Schofields | |

For more information and all enquiries
call Carmen Cassar on 0402 002 454



A quick glimpse at Australia

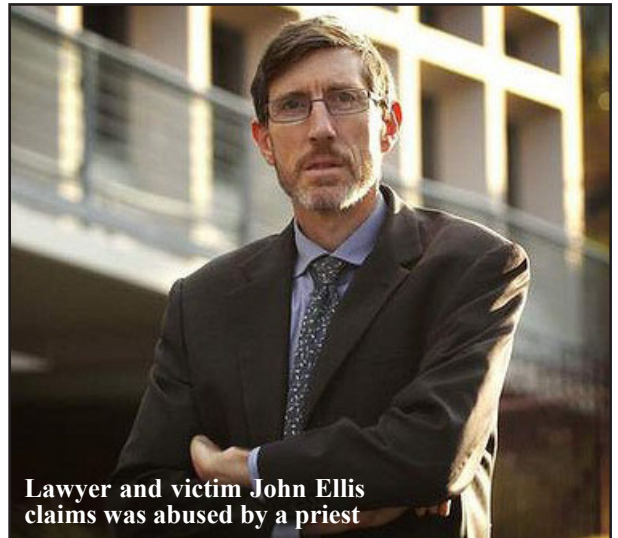
Qantas and foreign ownership

A bill lifting the 42 percent foreign ownership restriction in Qantas Sales Act cleared the House of Representatives 83 votes to 53, after a stormy debate in which Labour leader Bill Shorten branded Coalition MPs “the cheese-eating” surrender monkeys of Australian jobs”.

The bill faces defeat in the Senate at the hands of Labour-Green alliance, although Labour has signalled it is prepared to discuss subsidiary limits on individual airline holdings and a cap on individual equity.

The Abbott Government was considering either a debt guarantee or an unsecured loan for \$3 billion to the airline. Qantas upset the Government by declaring that major issues facing the airlines are not related to carbon tax pricing.

After much pressure from senior Government MPs, a statement from the airlines quantifies cost of the carbon tax as \$106 million in financial year 2013 and \$59 million in half-year 2014, and states it is “among the significant challenges we face”.



Lawyer and victim John Ellis claims was abused by a priest

Who is buying Australian homes?

Wealthy Chinese buyers have purchased \$24 billion of Australia housing in the past seven years, and over the next seven years an additional \$44 million will be spent on residential property.

Using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Foreign Investment Review Board, Credit Suisse estimated that 18 per cent of new property purchased in Sydney and 14 per cent of the supply in Melbourne are Chinese owned. This does not include second-hand homes.

However, Americans and Canadians buy more property in Australia than the Chinese. Over the past 12 months, property prices in capital cities have jumped 10 per cent. Analysts predict that a generation of Australians are being priced out of the property market. Many face a lifetime of renting.

The church can be sued

In 2007, the New South Wales Appeals Court found the Catholic Church could not be held liable for the conduct of its priests, nor could it be sued, because it does not exist as a legal entity. This was the verdict after allegations made by lawyer and victim John Ellis, who failed in his attempt to sue the Church. He was abused by Fr Aidan Duggan in Sydney between 1974 and 1979.

In 2002, Cardinal George Pell, as Archbishop of Sydney, wrote to Mr Ellis telling him the aged priest who had abused him for years was too old to deal with his complaint.

The 12-year battle was over whether the Catholic Church can be sued for damages under common law.

The case set a precedent that is now referred to as the 'Ellis defence' and is seen by many in the legal fraternity as a major barrier to people seeking compensation.

At a public hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse involving the Catholic Church in Sydney, senior counsel Gail Furness read a statement by Cardinal Gilroy.

It stated: “Whatever position was taken by the lawyers during the litigation or by lawyers or individuals in the Archdiocese following the litigation, my own view is that the Church in Australia should be able to be sued in cases of this kind”.

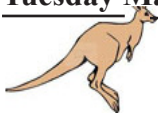
Domestic violence

The vast majority of dangerous, abusive and violent behaviour that occurs in the privacy of people's homes is committed by men against women. Just under half a million Australian women reported that they had experienced physical or sexual violence or sexual assault in the past 12 months. Three-quarters of all women killed in NSW die at the hands of their loved ones.

According to NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione, domestic violence is one of the biggest issues modern society has to face. On International Women's Day 2014 it was revealed that domestic violence is responsible for about two in five of all homicides and assaults with 24 women dying in the year to September 2013. One of the victims was 23-year-old Christine Camilleri who was found stabbed to death in a Guildford granny flat on December 5, last year.



**While visiting Malta Stay at:
The Diplomat Hotel, 173 Tower Road Sliema
Email: sales@diplomat.com.mt Tel: (00356) 23497000**



A quick glimpse at Australia

Angry summer

Across Australia, major cities battled with scorching heat and ranging bushfires. Sydney had its driest summer in 27 years. Melbourne perspired through its hottest 24 hours period and Canberra experienced 20 days of at least 35 degrees. Perth had its second hottest summer on record while Adelaide had a record 11 days of at least 42 degrees.

"The climate is really heating up and we can see that from the last 15 years where we experienced eight of the hottest summers".

There were severe fires across Victoria, Perth and South Australia. Fire danger increased because of the frequency of the heat waves" said Professor Will Steffen, an earth system scientist and co-author of the Angry Summer report.

Change of national flag even if Key is ousted

The current flag of New Zealand depicts the Southern Cross star constellation and includes Britain's Union Jack in the top left corner. Many complain it is too similar to Australia's flag and doesn't reflect New Zealand's independence from former coloniser Britain.

In a recent speech, John Key, Prime Minister of NZ said the flag represents a past era. "The flag remains dominated by the Union Jack in a way that we ourselves are no longer dominated by the United Kingdom," he said.

Key said Canada's 1965 decision to embrace a distinctive maple leaf design was a good example, and he couldn't imagine Canadians now wanting to go back to

Paul Zahra is back

Would David Jones and Myer, the two biggest retail stores in Australia merge? Are these groups tailor made for marriage of equals?

The first thing that Gordon Cairns, the new chairman of David Jones did was to confirm Paul Zahra as the chief executive.

In October 2013, 47- year-old Paul Zahra stunned investors by announcing he would resign as soon as a replacement was found although speculation has since mounted that the decision of this Australian-Maltese (son of ex Melbourne - George Cross FC President, Alfred Zahra) was promoted by disagreement with the ousted board members.

Oscar breakers

Australian Cate Blanchett won the best supporting actress Oscar nine years ago for her role as Katherine Hepburn in The Aviator. This time she won the best actress award in the 2014 Oscars for her portrayal of a socialite whose life is disintegrating in the Woody Alan film Blue Jasmine.

Costume designer Catherine Martin becomes Australia's most prolific Oscar winner, picking up the best costume and best production design awards for The Great Gatsby, to go with the two she won for Moulin Rouge in 2002.

Murdoch is normal!

Malcolm Turnbull the Communications Minister is in favour of further deregulation of the Australian media industry. He said he was very sympathetic to the deregulation. He supports his view with the arrival of Internet and the additional diversity and avenues for competition that it brings, really it says we should have less regulation and more freedom.

Mr. Turnbull also hosed down suggestions he had described Rupert Murdoch as a "demented plutocrat" arguing the News Corp head is "the most normal" media mogul he knows when you compare him to Conrad Black, Kerry packer, Box Maxwell, Jimmy Goldsmith... "Rupert is a very straitforward, normal person."

Two State Elections

As you read this page you could possibly have read the results of the State elections held in the States of Tasmania and South Australia on Saturday March 15. Labour has been in power in South Australia for 12 years and the Liberals have been in Opposition in Tasmania for 16 years. The likely outcome in both States is a win for the Liberals.

their old Union Jack flag.

"We should be represented by a flag that is distinctly New Zealand's," said Key, adding it would not signify an end to the South Pacific nation's constitutional ties to the British monarchy or participation in the Commonwealth group of countries.

Would Australia follow NZ's change of flags?



FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE HOUSE NSW

(Formed in November 2011)

Founder /Coordinator: Jim Borg

Structure: Secretary: Marisa Previtera; Treasurer: Rita Kassas

Official Bank Account: Commonwealth Bank of Australia:
BSB: 062 416 A/C 10199448

Aim of Association: Raising funds for Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Malta

Money raised so far: l2012/2013 - \$ 2,500 and 2013/2014 - \$35,000.

Method of fund raising: Functions, tours, donations, raffles, sponsors. Percentage of funds raised donated to Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Malta – 100%

Future fund raising: Donations direct to the official bank account, sponsorships, tours, functions and raffles.

The Friends of Providence House NSW is the official Ambassador of Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Malta in Australia

Contact details: Jim Borg, Co-ordinator
Phone: (02) 9636 7767 (Mb) 0418 825 591

Email: foph@bigpond.com

HC's message of solidarity with Maltese Community in Morwell

Maltese High Commissioner to Australia, H.E. Charles Muscat has sent a message of solidarity to the Vice Honorary Consul in Victoria Mr. Mario Sammut in order for him to inform the Maltese community of Morwell and the surrounding region that the Commission is in solidarity with the Maltese Community during this difficult period when they are suffering from the smoke coming out from the burning in the old coal mine.

On his part, Mr Sammut conveyed the High Commission's and the Consul General in Victoria's messages during an interview on SBS Radio and urged anybody needing assistance to get in touch with their offices.

Earth Hour 2014: Lights Out for the Reef

In a few days' time Australia's branch of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will be launching the all-new Earth Hour 2014: Lights out for the Reef, with the participation of almost one in three Australians.

Earth hour has grown to become the largest mass participation event of its kind and we urge our readers to participate as it is for a good cause.

For one hour – Saturday, March 29th – the people of 152 nations and 7001 cities unite to show their commitment to tackling climate change. But, it's going to take more than one hour to solve the climate crisis.

That is why this year WWF Australia is doing something very special on March 29th, by turning Earth Hour on its axis – from a moment, to a year round social movement. This year the spotlight will shine on the impact of climate change on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

In its message for Earth Hour, WWF explains that by the help of everybody, it can demonstrate the people's enormous power and re-



mind all Australians why Earth Hour was created in the first place: to come together and build momentum to tackle climate change.

Earth Hour is a worldwide grass-roots movement for the planet. It engages a massive mainstream community on a broad range of environmental issues. It was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007.

The event held worldwide, continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movement. It is held annually, encouraging individuals, communities households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

Hosting your very own Earth Hour gathering is easy. One can have a quiet night in with family and friends, or invite the whole neighbourhood. The venue can be anything from one's living room to a favourite café, pub, local community hall, place of worship, park or beach. Earth Hour is scheduled from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

You can be part of it. To learn how, log on to earthhour.org.au

Community Language Schools Annual GM

Albert Vella re-elected president of FCLS

The annual general meeting of the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools (FCLS) was held in Marrickville.

Mrs Mary PaceFeraud, the chairperson of the Maltese Language School of NSW (part of the Maltese Community Council of NSW) and about 40 other representatives from different ethnic schools attended.

Maltese born, Albert Vella, who was once again elected as president of the Federation, insisted and urged all schools to participate in events that show the language and culture of their country.

The next event will be the First Aid Course April 6 (9.00 am to 4.30 pm). Every teacher who has not done this course should attend.

Four days later, on Thursday April 10, there will be the Premier's Harmony Dinner that will be hosted by the Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell.

The Federation's president has called for all schools to send representatives for the function in order "to make our community school voice heard".

The FCLS Annual Dinner to be held on 28 June 28 will follow. Folkloric dance groups are being urged to perform during the evening.

During the AGM, Nick Valsamis read the fed-federation's financial statement. It showed that financially the Federation is doing well.

A discussion on holding classes in Private Schools was also held. One of the delegates pointed out that they were being charged for the use of the room and requested the Federation to do something about it.

The federation's president, said however, that nothing could be done about that. He suggested they should use public schools.



Lejla ta' Taghrif dwar Kif Nistghu Nevitaw Il-Waqghat (Falls Prevention)

Qed titef il-bilanċ? Qed taqa' ta' spiss? Wiehed minn kull tlett anzjani jghaddi minn din l-esperjenza kerha, b'konsegwenzi x'aktarx serji.

X'nistghu naghmlu biex innaqqsu dawn il-konsegwenzi koroh? The Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc. se jkompli jaqsam maghkom taghrif dwar dan is-suggett importanti



Nhar l-Erbgħa, 9 ta' April 2014 fis-7.00 pm
Fiċ-Ċentru San Gorġ Preca (meeting rooms),
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes NSW

Dan it-taghrif se jinghata minn persuna ikkwalfikata bi ftehim mal-Fairfield Hospital Fall Prevention Team.

Kulhadd huwa mistieden. Dhul b'xejn.
Nitkellmu bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.

Għal aktar informazzjoni tista' ċċempel 9631 9295

Sponsored by:



Maltese Bowlers Social Group NSW, Australia, Inc.

(Combined Members with The Royal New South Wales Bowling Association, Inc.)

(Website: www.maltesebowlersnsw.org.au)

Email: maltesebowlersnsw@hotmail.com)



Tour to Port Stephens (Sunday May 25)

\$65-00 per adult. Children half price.

Includes coach, morning tea, lunch, sightseeing of Port Stephens,

Nelson Bay and Surrounding areas and visit to local markets

Coaches depart from Liverpool Station at 8.00am

Kingsgrove, Cr. Morgan St. and Kingsgrove Road at 8.30am

Greystanes, Cr. Braeside and Old Prospect Roads at 9.00am

For bookings phone:

Social Organiser, Victoria Bezzina 9584 9552 Mobile 0426 199 445

Moses Mifsud 8501 1144 Mobile 0405 513 898

Lina Rolé 9726 0782 Mobile 0411 585 986

Book early as seats are allocated on a first come first served basis

Deposit of \$30.00 is required at time of booking

Seats are limited.

Community News

Tune In to Radio and Television

Maltese Radio Programmes

In **MELBOURNE**, on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on 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 at 11am 2GLF FM89.3, or on demand on www.893fm.com.au

In **BRISBANE** listen to the Maltese Program on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00am to 8.15am and Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm

To listen to the Maltese Radio of **UNCLE SAM DJ** from Australia tune in to link: www.unclesamdj.com

FRED FENECH: Every Thursday from 5.00pm till 6.00pm on 2RRR FM 88.5. Can be reached from the Parramatta and Holroyd region!

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 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

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

VIVA MALTA

VIVA MALTA on Central Coast Radio NSW on Thursdays: Next on March 27 from 6 pm -7pm on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford. NSW.

Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

Web streaming is also available on: www.coastfm.org.au.

Computer Clases for Seniors

The Maltese Community Council (NSW) Inc. will be conducting Computer Clases for seniors from the MRC cnr Franklin and Young Street, Parramatta West.

Lessons Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30

For more information phone: Emanuel Camilleri on: 9822 0228

Stella Maris Maltese Assoc. Inc (Melbourne) - Founded 1988

Activities for 2014

April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th.

All Family Get Together at St Joseph The Worker

Watch for more activities on The Voice

The Committee for 2014

President Charlie Xerri, V/President: Lino Fava; Secretary: Frances Fava Tel: 03 9449 7290; Asst Secretary: Lilian Wessley; Treasurer: Paul Scerri; Asst Treasurer: John Darmanin. Committee Members: Sunny Micallef, Charlie Cach-ia, Carmen Cachia, Antoinette Gauci, Manny Bugeja.



HAMRUN ASSOCIATION PTD LTD ABN: 73 000 314 196
President: Lawrence (Lal) 0418 407 433 Secretary: Maria 0430 000 000

HAMRUN ASSOCIATION Inc.

IL-Kumitat tal-Klabb tal-Hamrun se jorganizza lejla speċjali għall-**Mother's Day** nhar is-Sibt 10 ta' Mejju 2014 fill-klabb taghna li jinsab f' 100 Jackson rd, Marsden Park. Il-hin huwa mis-7.00pm sal-11.00pm

Ejjew u gawdu ikla ta' tlett 'platti' għal A\$30. Ix-xorb m'hux inkluż, imma jkun jista' jinxjara mill-bar fejn wiehed ikun isib Export Lager u birer oħrajn, Kinnie, inbid u soft drinks, te u kafe'.

Ġibu lill-hbiebkom. Iddevertu, iżfnu u kantaw mal-popolari Vince Bezzina

Għall aktar taghrif ċemplu lil

Eddie Ellul: 0410 407 423; Jew lil Mary Said: 0421 285 698

Notice to Former members of ... Malta Society of New Zealand

We now have a Facebook page that we invite you to join. It is called **Mainly-Maltese-in-Auckland**.

We can be found online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mainly-Maltese-in-Auckland/396193070527203?ref=hl>

It is open to anyone who is Maltese or has an interest in the Maltese culture.

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 Llandilo 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)



MALTESE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF QLD (IN)

Mothers Day Dinner Dance – 3/5/2014

Special Guest Artist - Fortunato

To be held from 6.30 pm at Jindalee Bowls Club
Sinnamon Rd. Jindalee. Phone: 33761240

Members - \$35/ Non Members \$40 (includes Show, Buffet Dinner, Desert, Tea & Coffee)

For bookings please ring Lucy on 38089557/
0423406482 or Alex on 32009321 /0400900199

Book early to avoid disappointment

Happy Mothers' Day

**Mothers Day Lunch & Dance At La Valette Social Centre
175 Walters Rd., Blacktown, NSW**

On May 4, starting at 11.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m.

Entertainment: DJ Uncle Sam

Entrée: Three platters per table consisting of Ham, Salami, Cabanossi, Octopus, Olives, Crackers; Fresh Prawns per table

FIRST COURSE Lasagna

MAIN COURSE: Beef or Pork served with roast vegetables and potatoes

DESSERT Cassata traditional ice cream; Tea & Coffee served with pastizzi & cannoli

**Complimentary wine – 2 bottles per table
Beer and soft drink can be purchased at bar**

Sponsored by CB Travel Adventures (02) 9622 5779

Donations \$50 per person, tickets available through La Valette Social Centre on (02) 9622 5847 – Espedito Zammit: (02) 9625 2035 or 0414 674 936

Future events: Father's Day Lunch & Dance: August 31

MRC MALTESE SENIORS GET TOGETHER GROUP

Now meets every 3rd Friday of each month (unless stated) starting Friday March 21 at 11 – 1 pm.

Venue: MALTESE RESOURCE CENTRE Cnr Franklin & Young x Pitt Strs Merrylands (Mays Hills) at the Headmasters Cottage, behind Parramatta West Public School.

DATES:

3rd Friday: March 21

2nd Friday: April 11

3rd Friday: May 16

3rd Friday: June 20

3rd Friday: July 18

3rd Friday: August 15

3rd Friday: September 19

3rd Friday: October 17

3rd Friday: November 21

2nd Friday: December 12

Give a senior friend a lift. Everyone welcome. No need to book. Just come and enjoy each other's company. Please bring a plate of food to share. Free Parking close by. Any suggestions welcome. Speak to Fred, Rita, Nancy, Francis

St Helena Maltese/Australian S.C.Inc. (Melbourne)

Activities for 2014

MAY 3: Saturday Feast of the Cross/Mother's Day at MELROSE TULLAMARINE

MAY 17: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

JUNE 21: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

JULY 19: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

AUGUST 22: Friday Mass 7.30PM at Croatian Church ARDEER

AUGUST 23: Saturday Feast Dinner Dance, at MELROSE TULLAMARINE

AUGUST 24: Sunday Feast & Concert at Croatian Church Hall, ARDEER

SEPTEMBER 20: Saturday AT MOONEE PONDS BOWLING CLUB

OCTOBER 18: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

OCTOBER 25: Saturday AT MOONEE PONDS BOWLING CLUB

NOVEMBER 15: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

DECEMBER 20: Saturday Xmas Function at MELROSE TULLAMARINE.

For information, Bookings phone: Victor: 0412 99 1325 or Mary Abdilla: (03) 9370 5164



St Nicholas Festa Committee

FIERA TAL-FNIEK

'FIERA MALTIJA'

Il-Hadd 30 ta Marzu
Mis-1.30 p.m. fil-Good Shepherd Hall
f'130-136 Hyatt Road, Plumpton

DIVERTIMENT KANT U DAQQ
-minn Ron Borg/Joe Xuereb & Tony Fenech

Fil-Fiera: fniek, inbid, whisky, Birra, Hams, Fruit Trays u affarijiet ohraj

Mill-kcina: ikel Malti - bhal hobz biz-zejt u bil-bigilla, pastizzi, biskuttini, ikel u xorb, u anke gelati b'xejn ghat-tfal

Dhul u parking ikun b'xejn

Ghal aktar taghrif cemplu lil:
Bill Schembri: 0416261415

*All correspondence to: 282 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes NSW 2145
Email: snfcommittee@gmail.com*

President Secretary Treasurer
Bill Schembri Danica Gatt Donna Bonnici
9896 1415 9671 3919 0410 695 388

Public Relations: Joe Fenech - 0412009957

Attivitajiet Ghaqda San Gejtanu (Melbourne)

Is-Socjeta` San Gejtanu ta' Melbourne ghadhom kemm ip-pubblikaw kalendarju bl-attivitajiet li ghandhom ippjanati ghal tul is-sena 2014. Ikun sewwa kienu jkollna iktar ghaqdiet Maltin li jipubblikaw bil-quddiem l-attivitajiet taghhom halli kemm jista' jkun jonqsu l-attivitajiet tal-istess xorta fl-istess jiem.

Programm - dak li jmiss:

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 iklà 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: Jmmy Chirkop: 0435847173; Rita Hili: 93311430 jew Joe Cassar: 93742767.

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

Community News Continued

THE MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc

Easter Monday Luncheon
Monday, April 21 at Maltese Cultural Centre 6 Jeanes Street Beverley
Lunch Menu will be advertised on the Radio and on the Notice Board

The Maltese Guild Centre and the bar will be open from 9.30 a.m. onwards.

ADMISSION: Members: \$7.00; Non-Members - \$10.00; Children - \$5.00
After lunch we will be playing Bingo and other games.

To book: see or phone, *Nina Abela: 8340 0345, Joseph Briffa: 8254 6988, or anytime on the mobile: 0421 791; George Craus: 82812329, or see any committee member.*



THE CITTADINI 2014 CALENDAR
SUNDAY 3rd May 2014
Wentworthville Leagues Club 2 p.m.



KUMMIEDJA
Together With
For tickets ring **JOE GRIMA**
Monica.....9896 0712 or 0414 859386
Doris...9636 2295

Sunday 26th October 2014
Wentworthville Leagues club 2pm

Joe Galea
DIRECT FROM MALTA

ELEANOR CASSAR & JOE GALEA
KUMMIEDJA FROM CITTADINI
For tickets sydney ring
Monica...9896 0712 or 0414 859386
Doris...9636 2295
Melbourne Reno Grima 0412 990664




In-Cittadini Sponsored By Bank of Valletta P.L.C. and Pendle Hill Travel

COMING UP ACTIVITIES OF NOTE: Wednesday March 19-Seniors Week:
Quiet Achievers, Night of Recognition at 7.15 pm at Annunciation Hall, St Dominic's at 171 Walters Road Blacktown NSW
For information ring 0409 744 376

Maltese Language Schools

Maltese Language & Cultural Schools

If you wish to learn Maltese in SYDNEY
call: 0402 002 454 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

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-iMnarja

19th October: Spring Fiera

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

7th December: San Nicholas Festa

Memorial Service in memory of Charles (Babyface) Curmi

A memorial service is to be held for Charles (Babyface) Curmi on the first anniversary of his death

Venue: St Dominic's Hostel

Date: March 22, at 7.00 p.m.

Address: 171 Walters Road
Blacktown NSW 2148
Afterwards tea, Coffee and refreshments will be served



Books for Sale

Telqu għal Għonq it-Triq
(Book 2)

by Lawrence Dimech

Call: Australia – 61 2 9631 9295
Malta – 356 2144 1545



Holy Trinity Association Missions Fund Raiser

Functions and Outings for 2014

April 27: Picnic at Narragingi

June 14: Marsa Holy Trinity Dinner Dance

August 17: Bus to Central Coast Santa Maria

September 14: Bus to St Mary's Cathedral

October 18: Missions night dinner

November 23: Christmas bus trip

Sports 1

Manny Muscat's Malta national team career over!

The international career of A-League club Wellington Phoenix's stalwart defender Manny Muscat is believed to be over, particularly under the current national coach. Recalled to the Malta national football team – 18 months after his last call-up in 2012 – for the friendly international against Albania on March 5, he was left out in the cold and sources close to him said he was so disappointed that he indicated that he would never return.

Manny, who can play in defence and in midfield, and has been turning out regularly for Wellington Phoenix had not featured in the Malta team since Italian coach Ghedin took over in 2012 and was enthusiastically looking forward to be making his comeback in the warm-up match that kicked off Malta's Euro 2016 preparations. He looked poised to be among the starters in the friendly.

However, after assessing him at training before the trip to Albania, Ghedin decided that the 30-year-old defender, so highly regarded at the Phoenix club, doesn't enter his plans and despite making such a long and strenuous trip, Manny's hopes of making the starting line-up were nil.

The Maltese-Australian flew to Albania with the squad expecting to make his 10th international appearance, but when he learned of his omission, and despite the fact that Melbourne Heart, Malta captain and roommate in Albania, Michael Mifsud tried to pacify him, he decided there and then, a few hours before kick off to take the first flight available from Albania and return straight to Australia.

Before leaving, Manny who did not even watch the match wished the coach, the team



manager and the players well, and left.

What must have been even more hurting the fact, that Manny could not even make the team when Malta needed his experi-

ence following the coach's decision to drop six of the country's best players, including Roderick Briffa, Jonathan Caruana, Shaun Bajada, Ryan Fenech and Steve Borg, following a training dispute with their club Valletta.

In fact, the controversial decision surrounding the exclusion of the Valletta players overshadowed the preparation.

The match itself was a disappointment for Malta. It ended in yet another defeat, 2-0, with the Albanians who dominated throughout scoring a goal in each half. Had they taken all their chances they created they would have won the game by a much wider margin.

When it comes to Manny Muscat, what is most puzzling the fact that he must have been recalled to the national team, because he was given the once-over by the technical staff that thought he was capable of making a contribution to the Malta squad. No wonder many believed he was a cert to start the match.

As such, the Malta Football Association requested him to accompany Michael Mifsud in the 48-hour round trip to Malta at great expense.

No wonder football supporters in Malta are questioning both the MFA's and also national coach Pietro Ghedin's decisions, in the first place to get Manny to Malta, and then to disregard his possible contribution in the team against Albania.

Many believe that it is inconceivable that a player who could distinguish

himself in a professional and tough championship such as the A-League in Australia is not regarded as good enough to win a place in the Malta national team.

Sports 2

MFA and Valletta 'clash' head-on



In the days preceding Malta's international against Albania, controversy surrounded the national team's training sessions, and a war of words ensued between MFA president Norman Darmanin Demajo (above) and Victor Sciriha, the president of one of its topmost

member clubs, Valletta FC. It followed Valletta's failure to honour an agreement with the MFA over the training procedure of the national team over the release of its players to train with the national team coach for the first two days of the preparations for the match with Albania.

Darmanin Demajo harshly criticised Valletta's Dutch coach Andre Paus and the Valletta committee for not honoring the agreement, saying it was shameful of Valletta to act this way.

Sciriha's response was equally harsh. He took Darmanin Demajo to task and said his club had all the right to act the way they did as the players belonged to the club and it was the club that pays their wages.

He also indicated that he felt insulted by the MFA president's comments and demanded an apology, which Darmanin Demajo is not ready to give as he believes he was right in saying what he did.

Sciriha then challenged Darmanin Demajo for a debate on television, which the MFA

chief ignored, saying he "had no time to waste".

If he does not get the apology Sciriha has even threatened to not allow "his" players to join the Malta squad that in May would be taking part in the UEFA European U/17 Championship that Malta would be host.



Hibs beat B'kara to thow chase wide open

Four rounds into the Premier's Championship Pool Hibernians reignited their hopes to challenge for the league title by surprisingly defeating league leaders Birkirkara by a Jackson Lima goal midway through the first half. It stopped Birkirkara from retaining their five-point lead over Valletta gained in the previous round when Valletta were held to a 2-2 draw by Mosta.

In the previous round Birkirkara had beaten Sliema 3-1 after opening the score with a goal by Edward Herrera (12'). Sliema equalised through Stanley Ohawuchi (23'), but Paul Fenech restored Birkirkara's lead (41') and then Jhonnattann (57') put the result beyond doubt with their third. Sliema had gone 10 matches without defeat before this loss.

In the weekend Valletta beat Balzan 3-1. They took the lead through Jonathan Caruana (21'), Lateef Eford-Alliyu added a second (55'), Balzan reduced the arrears through Lyndon Micallef (83) but Edmond

Agius restored their two-goal advantage (88'). Balzan are still seeking their first points after three matches.

Mosta and Sliema shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw with Stanley Ohawuci (32') for Sliema and Manolito Micallef (54') for Mosta getting the goals. Both teams had a player sent off.

In the previous round Mosta held Valletta to a 2-2 draw. The citizens had gone ahead through Alan da Silva Souza (8'), but Mosta levelled through Gianmarco Piccioni (15'), and then the same player put them ahead (65'). Valletta shared of got the equaliser through Elford-Alliyu's goal (78').

Before their victory over Birkirkara Hibernians had bounced back after two successive defeats beating Balzan 4-2 for their first points in the Championship pool. It was Balzan who forged ahead inside two minutes through Andrew Scicluna, but lost the lead to a Jackson di Lima Siqueira goal (22').

Clayton Failla (24' and 48') the first from a penalty turned the tables in Hibs' favour. Though Balzan reduced the gap through Mark Spiteri (54'). Hibs wrapped it all up with a fourth in added time by Jean Paul Farrugia.

In the standings Birkirkara have 37 points, Valletta 35, Hibs 30, Sliema 27, Mosta 24 and Balzan 14.

Relegation Pool

*Meanwhile, in the Relegation Pool, drew with Rabat 1-1, but lost 5-1 to Mosta who also beat Naxxar by the same score. Tarxien first beat Floriana 3-0, and then Rabat 2-0, while Floriana drew 1-1 with Naxxar.

Championship Pool	Results: (Round 3,4)	Relegation Pool	Results: (Rounds 3,4)
Hibernians v Balzan	4-2	Vittoriosa v Rabat A	3-1
Valletta v Mosta	2-2	Qormi v Naxxar L.	5-1
Birkirkara v Sliema	3-1	Tarxien v Floriana	3-0
Sliema W. v Mosta	1-1	Qormi v Vittoriosa	5-1
Valletta. v Balzan	3-1	Tarxien v Rabat	2-0
Hibernians v Birkirkara	1-0	Floriana v Naxxar L.	1-1

Ten-man Brisbane Roar share points at Sydney

Despite playing with only ten men for all of the second half, due to the red carding of Besart Berisha after 42 minutes, Brisbane Roar managed to salvage a point in a 1-1 draw at Sydney's Allianz Stadium against Sydney FC to stay well ahead of all others in the standing after 23 matches. As such, they virtually sealed the Premier Plate.

Home side Sydney were without Alessandro Del Piero, out injured. In his absence they acknowledged creativity. Sydney, who came back from a goal down (scored for Brisbane by Berisha) to level from Nicola Petko-

vic consider theirs a setback for failing to win against ten men.

Melbourne Victory moved up to second in the table after snatching a 2-1 win over Perth Glory at Nib Stadium on Saturday night.

Michael Mifsud once again failed to make it even to the substitutes' bench when Melbourne Heart, took on and drew

2-2 their home tie against Wellington Phoenix.

Continued on page 24



RESULTS - Round 22	
Melbourne V. v Central Coast	3-1
Newcastle J. v Melbourne H	1-0
Sydney FC v Western Sydney	3-1
Brisbane R v Adelaide U	2-1
Wellington Ph v Perth G.	1-1
Round 23	
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	1-1
West Sydney v Adelaide U	0-0
Perth Glory v Melbourne V.	1-2
Central Coast v Wellington P	3-1
Melbourne H. v Newcastle J	2-2

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Roar	23	14	3	6	39	21	45
Melbourne V.	23	10	6	7	35	38	36
W. Sydney W.	23	9	8	6	26	24	35
Cent. Coast M	23	9	6	8	26	31	33
Sydney FC	23	10	2	11	32	32	32
Adelaide U.	23	8	7	8	39	31	31
Newcastle J	23	8	5	10	24	30	29
Wellington Ph	23	7	9	34	37	28	28
Melbourne H.	23	6	7	10	30	33	25
Perth Glory	23	5	7	11	22	30	22

Parramatta Eagles
Results of Trial Games
 First Grade:
 Parramatta Eagles v Liechhardt Tigers 2-1
 Parramatta Eagles v Northbridge 2-3

Parramatta Melita Eagles
Sport Club Ltd
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 30, at 10.00 am at
the Club Rooms, Melita Stadium
South Granville NSW.

Sports 3

Malta wins EU8 Nations waterpolo tournament

Malta won the EU8 Nations Waterpolo Tournament in Limerick, Ireland after beating Denmark in a close final by 9-8.

It was indeed a most satisfying tournament held March-14-16 for the national team led by coach Karl Izzo. In the end, Malta played five matches and won them all.

Malta's opponents in the final, Denmark, had finished runners-up to Izzo's team in the group matches and then faced Malta again in the final after winning their semi-final.

The international competition hosted in Ireland, was held at the University of Limerick's pool, and served as part of national coach Karl Izzo's preparation of the team in view of the Commonwealth Championship, to be held in Aberdeen, Scotland, between April 5 and 12.

Initially Malta were drawn in Group B along with Denmark,

Brisbane after Roma's Totti

In a bid to replicate the unprecedented success Sydney FC experienced from seeing Alessandro Del Piero playing for Sydney FC, reports indicate that current A-League leaders Brisbane Roar are interested in luring Italian World Cup winner Francesco Totti to the club.

The Roar see the 37-year-old AS Roma icon, who assumes legendary status worldwide for his football wizardry, longevity, and the fact he has dedicated his entire senior club career to one club, as being able to attract a similar following for them the same way Del Piero has.

Czech Republic and Wales and succeeded in winning all its group matches, 23-8 win against Wales, 18-6 against Czech Republic, and 9-8 against Denmark.

Topping the group, Malta drew hosts Ireland, runners up in Group A in the semi-final stage and beat them 17-7.

In the final the Maltese were again in top form and repeated the same score victory over other Denmark (9-8) with goals by Niki Lanzon (4), Jerome Gabaretta and Michele Stellini (2 each) and Matthew Zammit.



Malta coach Karl Izzo, who led the national waterpolo team to victory in Ireland. He also won the KMS Best Coach award

William Chetcuti, Sue Abela carry main titles in KMS 2013 Awards



William Chetcuti

At the weekend, a double Trap shooter William Chetcuti as **Best Sportsman** and bowler Sue Abela as **Best Sportswoman**, carried off the main awards at the first edition of the Kunsill Malti għall-Isports, (Maltese Sports Council) first edition of the Gieħ liSport Malti, adding the titles to their collection after winning similar ones earlier in the year in the National contests run by the sportswriters.

The Gieħ event (tribute) that focussed mainly on awarding Malta's leading sportsmen for their feats at international events, during 2013, was organised in collaboration of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport,

The awards comprised eight categories. Besides the Best Sportsman and Best Sportswoman accolades, the panel also chose the **Best**

Team Award that went to the Men's Seniors National Waterpolo team).

Other awards were: **Young Sportsperson:** Nathan Lee Xuereb (Shooting);

Best coach: Karl Izzo (waterpolo); **Best Official:** Edwin Vella (Shooting Federation); **Best Sportsman with Special Needs:** Jean Paul Grech (football), and **Best Sportswoman with Special Needs:** Sarah Caruana (Athletics).

Triathlete Dermot Galea won the **National People's Choice Award**.

Apart from commemorative trophies, the winners of the Best Sportsman and Best Sportswoman also received the s-called Legacy Award. They will be given the opportunity to take part in a short training camp abroad organised by an international sporting association.



Sue Abela

Heart miss chance to continue their late A-League finals charge

Continued from page 23

Manny Muscat returned to the Phoenix side after suspension.

Heart missed an opportunity to continue their late A-League finals charge against a 10-man Wellington Phoenix at AAMI Park.

Western Sydney's rein as Hyundai A-League premiers is all but over after they were held to a goalless draw by Adelaide

United.

In round 22, Brisbane Roar had sustained their overall supremacy by defeating Adelaide U. 2-1, while Western Sydney lost an early lead at Sydney FC. The latter were inspired by a penalty save by their goalkeeper to come from behind to win 3-1.

The round also marked Melbourne Heart's winning streak of five matches. It was halted at Newcastle where they lost to

a second-half goal in a keenly-fought match.

Melbourne Victory gave a gritty performance at AAMI Park to see off Central Coast 3-1 retain their challenge in the standing and shore up their final ambitions.

A late goal in a dramatic finale helped Wellington earn a share of the spoils in a 1-1 draw with Perth at Westpac Stadium.