



# The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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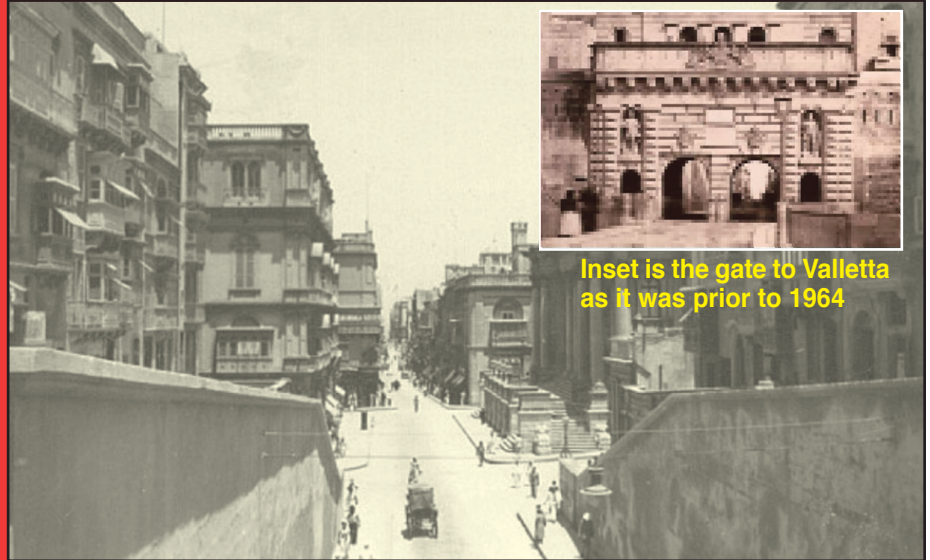
## Entrance to Valletta.... then and now

Two pictures that tell a very interesting story. On right is *Strada Reale*, Kingsway, before it was adequately renamed as Republic Street, as pictured from above *Porta Reale* (Kings Gate) towards the city as it used to be. The other picture (below) shows the new entrance from inside the city, at the beginning of Republic Street, until recently known as Freedom Square.

Once inside City Gate, the picture above is how the entrance used to look like before 1964 when the main entrance through the bastions into the city was originally known as the Gate of St George and then *Porta Reale*.

It was designed by military engineer Francesco Laparelli de Carotona during the reign of Grandmaster Jean Parisot de Valette, and was erected between April 1566 and 1569.

In 1632 a more ornate gate designed by the Maltese architect



Inset is the gate to Valletta as it was prior to 1964

Tommaso Dingli, during the rule of Grandmaster Antoine de Paule, replaced *Porta San Giorgio*. Dingli's design consisted of a central archway with a smaller arch at each side, and a wooden drawbridge across the deep, dry moat that lies immediately outside the walls of Valletta.

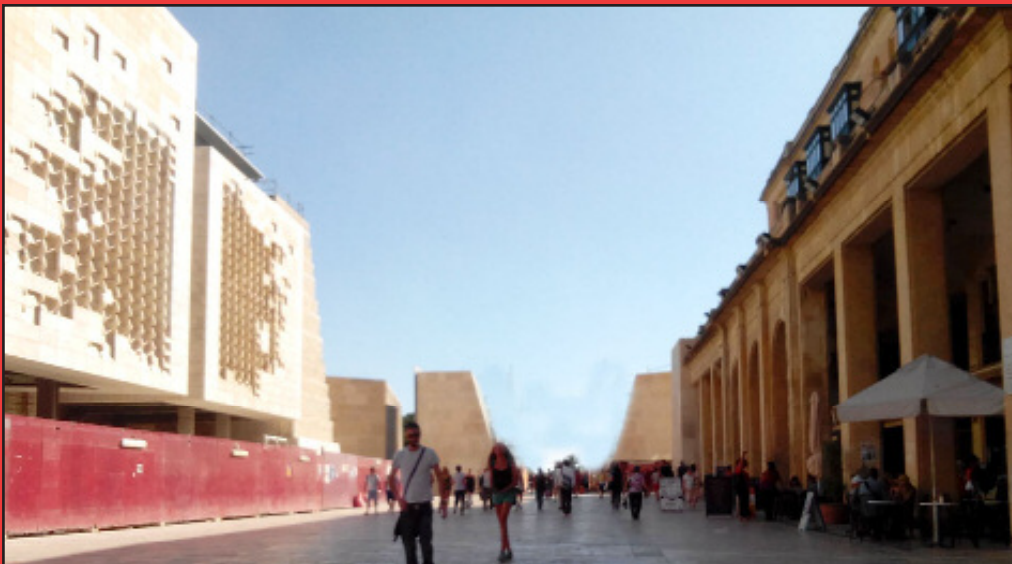
In 1853, at the height of British rule over Malta, a new gate designed by a certain Col. Thompson of the Royal Engineers was erected, consisting of two central arches with two smaller ones. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, City Gate was known as *Porta Reale*,

which became "*Putirjal*" in Maltese, and "Kingsway" in English.

The old gate was pulled down in 1964 to be replaced by the new City Gate. It was part of a project that never materialised, that of redeveloping the entrance to Valletta and the Royal Opera House. Its Italian modernism design was the source of much controversy. It pleased nobody but the people who took the decision to replace the old one.

The new (fifth) City Gate (!) currently under construction -since 2011 - follows the design by Italian architect Renzo Piano. His design incorporates a new Parliament building that is scheduled to be inaugurated in October, and the new entrance. By no stretch of the imagination can the entrance still be called a door or a gate to the city. It is simply an opening. It and the new Parliament building are nearing completion

The design also took in the building of an open theatre to replace the Royal Opera House that was destroyed during World War 11 in 1942 in a German air strike.



# Malta PM asks whether Commonwealth is still relevant after 65 years

Malta Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat gave the leaders of the Commonwealth countries a lot to chew on when he delivered a lecture at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London on 'The Commonwealth at 65 – from London to Valletta' - in which he considered the future of the Commonwealth, and how to ensure it is an effective, prosperous and relevant organisation which meets the needs of its citizens.

This was his first commitment during a four-day very busy trip to the UK, and with Malta due to host the next Heads of Government meeting, CHOGM 2015 next year.

Dr Muscat also addressed the Commonwealth Games Business Council at the University of Glasgow and had several meetings with Commonwealth leaders, including British PM David Cameron.

During his stay in the UK he also presided over a conference of the small states of the Commonwealth that focused on building sustainable and reliable island economies, attended a meeting in Glasgow with Mr Kamal Sharma, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, had talks with Alexander Salmond, the First Minister of Scotland, had a private audience with Prince Charles, and also met the Maltese athletes taking part in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

During his meetings he pointed out that Malta would make sure the leaders coming to Malta for next year's CHOGM won't be coming for a holiday.

Dr Muscat, the Prime Minister of a small country celebrating its 50th year of Independence, and a proud member of the Commonwealth, pointed out that there was an important question the Heads of states needed answering, that is, whether, after 65 years, the Commonwealth should call it a day and withdraw from the international scene.

He said that to him, the independent and Republican ethos of his nation was never an issue to be questioned and he always considered this a natural state of affairs, and added that like many people from his generation, he cannot contemplate the idea of being a colony or of having a foreigner as a Head of

State. "Thus," he said, "the sentimental relevance of the Commonwealth is steadily decreasing in the minds of my compatriots, as it is, I believe, in the minds of many young people across the countries that make up this organisation."

Dr Muscat said one has to admit there are all the symptoms of division and dysfunction in an organisation (the Commonwealth) that depends on unity and cooperation.

"I believe that in the minds of many, the Commonwealth is seen as a vehicle of each and every member's relations, many times of the rollercoaster type, with the United Kingdom. Can it be otherwise?" he asked.

He said that smaller countries look at the Commonwealth as a means to foster their

“**It is politically correct to debate Britain's role in the Commonwealth**”

relationship with the UK and some other global players, and that they, and peripheral countries see these meetings as rather exceptional occasions where they can rub shoulders with important international players, and have their ear in discussions crucial to their own economic development.

"It is legitimate to say that in some quarters there is much more interest in fostering bilateral relations with a handful of countries rather than engaging in a genuine multilateral discourse that would produce a healthy debate on global issues, which such a genuinely trans-continental organisation is ideally poised to host," Dr Muscat said.

One of his first suggestions is to do less finger pointing and tone down the blame game.



The Maltese PM during his lecture at the London School of Economics

"It is time and it is politically correct to debate Britain's role in the Commonwealth. It would be acknowledging the elephant in the room, and I believe it would come as a huge relief to everyone, including the UK.

"Indeed, a nation that is ready to debate the secession of an integral part of it, and its own relationship with its immediate neighbours, would probably have no qualms in debating itself and its relationship with those countries who are mostly its former subjects," he added.

He said that talking about the good and the bad times, and seeing how to make better the things that they still have in common, would offer many countries the opportunity to clear the air and hopefully get a break from the blame game.

Referring to Britain's 200-year direct influence on Malta he said this was essentially positive. But 50 years ago, the Maltese decided it was time to move on and became an independent nation. He said the decision could not have come a day sooner and eventually led to a Republican constitution 10 years later, the closing down of British military bases, and, a decade ago, membership of the European Union.

He indicated that while the United Kingdom cannot claim the sole paternity for success stories in the Commonwealth, other countries cannot keep thinking that Britain is uniquely responsible for problems that, many times now, are of their own making.

*Continued on page 13*



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# Going down the shelter - after the war

The house was ugly. Even as a child, I could see that. There was another problem with it: the courtyard in the middle. Oh yes, I know, that kind of feature is much appreciated by many, but it was no good to me. Sound carried too well and my aunt had a very sharp ear.



By Marie Borg

But not that day. Ha! Ha! The crackle of the blue paper as I extracted one candle sounded so loud in my ear, but my aunt must not have been washing her ears, cause I got clean away with it. The packet had layers of three candles in a row and I had to loosen the candle from the other two. Candles had no metal cup as today, and sometimes, the heat made them fuse together.

I walked sedately down the lane but once I turned the corner I quickened the pace, and practically ran up the road. As I came to Cathedral Square I faced the big church with the two clocks, and then I quickly glanced around. Where were the others? I looked up at the time clock, and I knew I was on time. What was I to do, all alone in this big square? I stuck out like a sore thumb.

Anytime now, I'd see the heavy curtains of the big house on my left moving. I could see the sheen on the red copper saucers hanging there, wondering how they managed to keep them so flawlessly shiny. I guess their stoves never smoked and marked the pots like our kerosene one did.

I could go down the shelter on my own, that way I would not attract too much attention. But I did not have matches and it was too dark to find my way around without a light. Doris was supposed to get those. With a candle each and some matches we could go and investigate the passageways that ran underneath the

square, and find out where each went.

Last week we followed the passage on the left, and made it all the way to the football ground before our one candle gave out. The football field is on the other side of Mdina, but still within the bastion walls. We knew that there were many exits, some of them connecting the wartime shelter to the palace-like houses in Mdina.

This week, we agreed that if we have more candles, we could take more time to try the right-hand passageway, and get to the end of it, however long it is. We might also be able to give the boxes and other stuff we saw in the first room, a better look. At first glance, there seemed to be boxes piled on each other sideways.

Probably to make a nest of cubbyholes as shelving. We saw a few bits there, but we could not see too well with the one tiny candle we had. Karmen said she would bring a candle cup today. That should help the candle to last longer.

I was lost in thought, planning our run for the day. To us, the wartime shelters spelled adventure. We had no memories of the fear, the panic that must have quickened the pace of those scurrying to the shelters, dragging children and carrying a wicker basket with some food and water to sustain them.

I checked the clock again. Neither Karmen, nor Doris had appeared. I loved going down the shelters with the others, but on my own . . . it felt spooky. I think I'll go back home



Visitors to Malta should not miss visiting the War Museum that is located at the original historic entrance of Vittoriosa (Birgu), the older from the Three Cities.

This building stands to document for posterity the great ordeal that the brave people of Malta and their defenders endured during the dark days of the Blitz (1940-43). Vittoriosa (Birgu) is former home to the Royal Navy in Malta and one of the most bombed places in WW2.

The museum combines an attractive exhibition about the Second World War in Malta along with the viewing of an original wartime documentary – 'Malta G.C.' and a visit into an underground air raid shelter (like the one below) in which hundreds took refuge during the raids.

This attraction has recently undergone a complete remake co-funded by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund, the Government of Malta and Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna.

The result is a new attractive museum spread on nine galleries. Each of these is dedicated to a given aspect of wartime Malta. The museum display is organised in a chronological manner and includes some 10,000 original artefacts connected with the subject. These vary from clothing, weapons, instruments, equipment, printed matter and other large exhibits.

After the massive death toll of the Illustrious Blitz in January 1941, it seemed that the only safe haven during Luftwaffe air raids was underground. So the authorities were determined to provide bombproof shelters as a matter of urgency. Public shelters (such as mentioned in the article and also pictured left), and private ones were dug down. Malta's rock was not that hard but ten feet of rock thickness over your head was safe enough. It provided the ideal cover.

However, underground shelters would take a long time to complete, therefore, over 2000 miners and other labourers were given the task of digging out hundreds of rock shelters in key locations.



# Knowing Malta: Its Cities and Villages

## HAMRUN

On August 10, Hamrun in Malta will be celebrating the feast of its patron saint, St Gaetan. As such it is fitting that for those interested in knowing about the towns and villages of this island today we focus on this old town with its long main street of tiny shops that sits astride the Rabat road 2km from Valletta and close to Malta's famous Grand Harbour.

With a population of around 9,315, as of March 2013, Hamrun is built on a plateau that rises gently in the area of Tas-Samra.

The roads of Hamrun are mainly straight, apart from a number of narrow streets surrounding the police station and the town comes closer to the model of most modern cities. Its bustling atmosphere, with all sorts of shops and businesses, also make it as busy as you could expect of the island's capital, nearby Valletta.

Today the town is a residential town with a busy commercial centre. In fact, St. Joseph High Road, lined with a number of shops, offices and showrooms, has become one of the busiest roads around.

Hamrun is located in a very densely populated part of Malta, where the towns and villages practically merge into each other. In fact, it emerged from the three Parishes of Qormi, Birkirkara and Floriana and grew such that eventually the Parishes of Santa Venera and Marsa emerged



**The facade of the Hamrun parochial church dedicated to the patron saint, St. Gaetano**

the small Baroque style Chapel of Porto Salvo, known as *Ta' Santu Nuzzo* and dedicated to St Mary of Porto Salvo. When it was built in 1736 it was originally conceived as a village chapel.

Due to the rivalry between the two main band clubs of St Gaetan, known as '*tat-Tamal*' and decked in red, and St Joseph, known as '*tal-Miskina*' decked in blue, St Gaetan's festa, celebrated on the first Sunday after August 7, displays Maltese festa culture at its most exciting.

On the day on the feast, both band clubs hold marathon marches from the early morning to late afternoon.

from it.

Hamrun is quite unique in that it has three Patron Saints: San Gaetano, il-Kuncizzjoni (the Immaculate Conception) and San Ġużep (St Joseph). There are three respective band clubs and two Titular feast days celebrated in this town.

The parochial church is dedicated

to St. Gaetano. It was built in the second half of the 19th century in a Neo-Gothic style designed by George Schinas. The statue is the work of the famous Maltese sculptor Charles Darmanin and was completed in 1885. There's also a famous titular painting the work of Pietro Gagliardi in Rome

It is worth noting that it was

During these marches, the respective followers dance to the brass band marches, or to popular music.

In the evening, then, the band clubs play on a bandstand adjacent to the parish church, while a procession with the statue of the patron saint leaves the church and roams around the town.

The festa ends with the volunteers carrying the statue running up the stairs of the Parish. A spectacular fireworks display and loud cheers from the crowds couple the run.

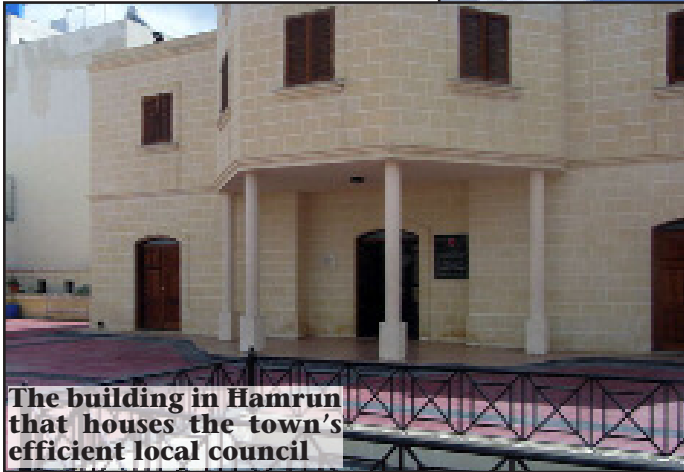
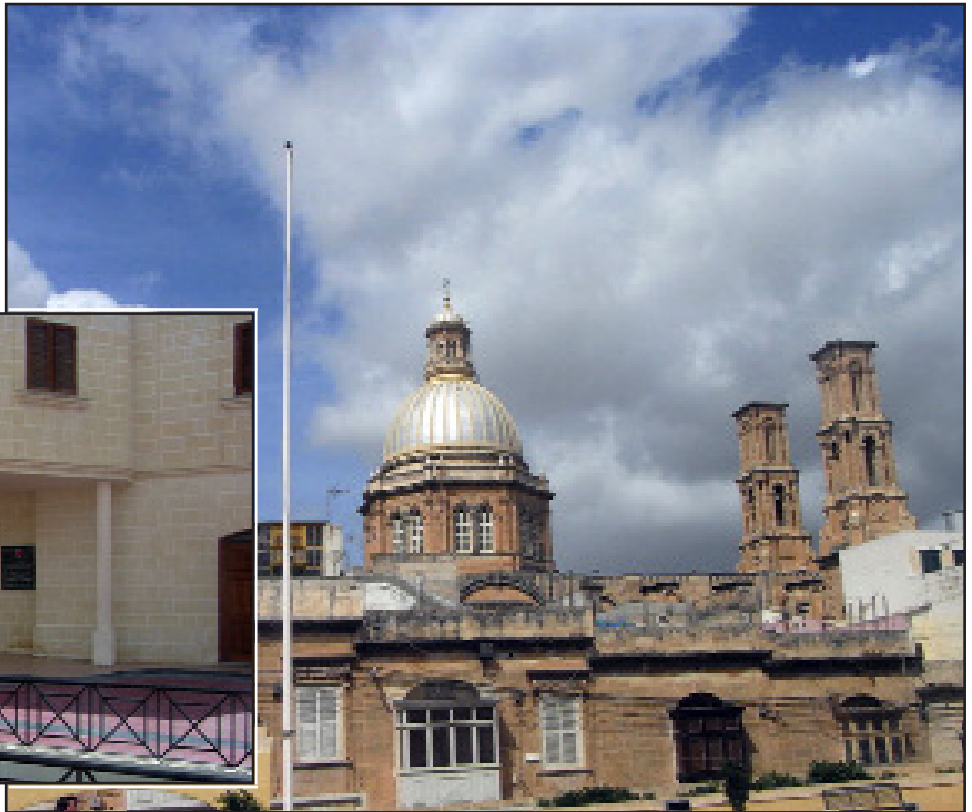
The Immaculate Conception feast, which is celebrated on the first Sunday of July and on December 8, is also worth attending, however it is much more subdued. The church was built in the 1960s to cater for the increasing population of Hamrun.

Another church is the one dedicated to the Lady of the Miraculous Medal, built by the Society of Christian Doctrine, known as MUSEUM. In its crypt is buried San Ġorġ Preca (1880-1962), founder of the Society. Dun Ġorġ, as he is locally known, lived most of his life in Hamrun.



**Hamrun's St Joseph High Road as it was, adorned with trees, near the former Hollywood Theatre**

The cupola on top of the St Gaetan Parish Church and the belfry or bell towers (right). The cupola was often used to provide a lookout or to admit light and air, it usually crowns a larger roof or dome, in most cases in Malta, the churches. The bell towers are a towers built and designed to hold bells, even if it has none.



The building in Hamrun that houses the town's efficient local council

# HAMRUN

from page 4

This former priest's life and works as well as the miracles and graces granted to those faithful to him have led to his beatification in 2001 and recognition as a Saint to all effects in 2007.

Hamrun also hosts the Our Lady of Atocja Chapel, known locally as *Tas-Samra*, which is the oldest chapel in Hamrun, dating back to the early 17th century. The Church of St. Francis of Assisi Church was built in the 1950s.

The Hamrun residents are also traditionally affiliated within one of two groups: *Tas-Sikkina*, meaning 'those who carry a knife' or *Ta' Werwer*, meaning 'those who



scare' or 'the scary ones'.

*This appellation could stem from the fact that a considerable number of Hamrunizi used to work as stevedores on the docks and thus carried a knife at all times. Another theory was that the community of Sicilians who settled there illegally in the 16th century danced a traditional dance that involved the wielding of small stilettos they carried in their socks, waving them in the air and back to their sheaths.*

A third theory is that it points to the trouble-making image that the local football club has.

Mingling with the "*Hamrunizi*" you will soon notice that the most prominent name for boys is Gaetan or Gejtu due to their strong allegiance to the town's Patron Saint.

**A flashback: Hamrun's main street, known as St Joseph High Road in the early twenties (left) when it was also part of the route for the tram to Valletta. Above: the same street dressed up for St Gaetan feast**



Grupp mill-ghaqda Don Bosco li marru għaċ-ċelebrazzjoni f'Wahroonga u ħadu ritratt ta' tifikira ma' Fr Carmelo Sciberras (qmis griza).

## Fr Carmelo Sciberras - 50 sena qassis

Xieraq li fix-xahar ta' Lulju 2014, nifirhu ma' Fr Carmelo Sciberras li fakkar il-50 sena mindu ha l-quddiesa. Qaddes għall-ewwel darba fil-katidral ta' St Marys Sydney fit-18 ta' Lulju 1964. Propju f'it gimghat ilu, reġa' qaddes fl-istess katidral, quddiesa funebri għall-habib kbir minn tfulietu, l-mibki Fred Fenech (hafna jiftakru lil Freddie bhala l-president tal-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW).

F'dawn l-aħhar sentejn lil Fr Carmelo sirt nafu f'it aktar mill-qrib, billi huwa d-direttur spiritwali tal-ghaqda Past Pupils & Friends of Don Bosco. Fil-fatt, huwa iżjed minn direttur spiritwali. Hu wiehed minn tlett fundaturi tal-ghaqda li twaqqfet fi 1972 fi NSW bl-isem Salesian Old Boys Assoc. Fr Carmelo hu tifel ta' dari, jew Salesian Old Boy, tas-snin ta' wara t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija.

Fr Carmelo tweled Tas-Sliema u ġie l-Awstralja ta' 18-il sena fl-1956. Hu kompla l-istudji tiegħu għal sacerdot fis-seminarji ta' Springwood kif ukoll f'dak ta' Manly.

Jien u hafna ohrajn nafuh fil-parroċċa ta' Greystanes meta din twaqqfet, fis-sena 1972. Dam sentejn jahdem mal-ewwel kappillan ta' OLQP, Fr. Terry Duggan, u kompla jahdem ma' Fr. Ronald Darmania, li kien responsabbli għall-bini tal-knisja meta dan hadha f'idejhim minghand Fr. Duggan. Wara l-mewt ta' Fr. Darmania, bejn is-snin 1976-79 hu reġa' serva fil-parroċċa ta' Greystanes ma' Fr. Brian Galloway.

Imma ta' min ifakkar ukoll il-hidma aktar mifruxa ta' Fr Carmelo barra dik ta'

### Kitba ta' Mark Caruana

Greystanes. Tajjeb li ngħidu li f'dawn l-aħhar 50 sena ta' sacerdozju, huwa serva fi hdax-il parroċċa. Fosthom, għal hdax-il sena, kien il-kappillan ta' Narrabeen u għal tmien snin kappillan ta' Wahroonga. Fr Carmelo kien l-ewwel kappillan djoċesani meta ntab jieh u f'idejhim it-tmexxija tal-parroċċa minn idejhim id-Dumnikani li kienu waqfuha 48 sena qabel. Barra s-servizz spiritwali lill-parruċċani tiegħu f'Wahroonga, Fr Carmelo kien ukoll responsabbli għall-bini tad-dahla tal-knisja u l-iċċangar b'kuluri sbieħ tal-art tas-sant-warju u l-artal tal-irham.

Kemm dan iservi fil-parroċċi ta' madwar Sydney, għal tlett snin kien ukoll il-kappillan tar-Repatriation Hospital, u kappillan fultajm għal sentejn fl-Armata Awstraljana fis-2nd Training Battalion f'Kapooka qrib Wagga Wagga.

Għal seba' snin kien ukoll kappillan tal-Pulizija, u għal 18-il sena kappillan fl-Army Reserve fejn anke spiċċa bir-rank ta' logutenent kurunell.

Issa li rtira, aċċetta l-hatra ta' kappillan tal-Marine Rescue Hawkesbury u kappillan tan-National Servicemen's Association. Fil-qosor, huwa kappillan għal darba tnejn, għax f'dawn il-postijiet ta' appostolat fl-ghalqa tal-Mulej seta' u għadu jqarreb lill-membri lejn il-Mulej.

Ohrajn jiftakru lil Fr Carmelo bhala xandar fil-programmi tar-radju. L-ewwel radju fejn xandar kien l-SBS Radio 2EA fejn għal 17-il sena ha hsieb il-programmi reliġjuzi. Aktar ricenti, kien jghin lix-xandar Fred Fenech fir-radju 2RRR FM.

Għall-festa ta' 50 sena bhala qassis, kien hemm żewġ okkażjonijiet fejn il-Maltin u l-parruċċani ferhu miegħu. L-ewwel attivita' kienet quddiesa kkonċelebrata mal-kappillan Fr Bob Bossini fil-parroċċa ta' Greystanes, il-Hadd 13 ta' Lulju fejn għaliha attendew hafna parruċċani. Fr Carmelo qalli li xtaq jagħti ħajr lil dawk kollha li hejjew l-ikel Malti u kejk sabih biex ifakkru l-gublew tad-deheb tal-ordinazzjoni tiegħu.

It-tieni attivita' kienet quddiesa fil-parroċċa ta' Wahroonga l-Hadd 21 ta' Lulju. Kienet ikkonċelebrata mill-kappillan ta' Wahroonga u żewġ qassisin Maltin ħbieb tiegħu, Fr Laurie Cauchi u Fr Robert Borg.

Il-knisja kienet mimlija minn ħbieb u parruċċani li kellhom stima kbira lejn Fr Carmelo.

Nifirhu ma' Fr Carmelo u nixtiequ li jgawdi sahha u aktar hidma fejjieda, għax minkejja li qassis jirtira ta' 75 sena, fil-fatt għadu attiv f'diversi hidma ta' apostolat.

*Ad multos annos.*



Fr Sciberras jaqta' l-kejk sabih tal-okkażjoni (xellug) li għamlulu l-parruċċani ta' Greystanes NSW. Jidher ukoll il-kappillan Fr Bossini

# John Aquilina in Ceremony in Malta commemorating Feast of St. John the Baptist

H.E. John Aquilina, High Commissioner of Malta to India, took the opportunity of a recent visit to Malta for the Annual Ambassadors' Conference to participate in the celebration of the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist, as well as the annual Promotion and Awards Ceremony of the Maltese Association of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.

"I was delighted that my visit to Malta coincided with this important event in the annual calendar of the Maltese Association of the Order, held at the St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta", Mr Aquilina told *The Voice*.

The knights and dames were robed in the Sacristy to the tune of the impressive bells of the Co-Cathedral. This was followed by a procession through the streets of Valletta presided over by His Lordship, Bishop Charles Scicluna, and the President of the Maltese Association, Dr Philip Farrugia Randon.

At the conclusion of the procession, Bishop Scicluna concelebrated a Solemn High Mass, during which he gave a brief homily on the life of St. John, placing special emphasis on the meaning of John which he said translated into the God of Mercy. At the conclusion of the Mass the knights and dames all processed to the Oratory where the ceremony of promotions and awards to various association members took place.

Mr Aquilina said: "Having now been an Australian member of the Order of the Maltese Association for several years, it was an honour to join the members of the Association in my homeland of Malta for this memorable celebration".



H.E. Mr. John Aquilina (right) with H.E. Mr. Anthony Miceli Demajo, V/President of the Maltese Association and Hon. Con. Gen. to Monaco, in front of the famous Caravaggio painting at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

# Malta Lace Making in Australia

After attending the 16th World OADFA lace Congress in Adelaide South Australia, Dr Consiglia Azzopardi, a Maltese lace maker expert and author of the Gozo lace book presented workshops to the Maltese community in South Australia.

In Sydney her classes at the Alfred Fenech Maltese Resource Centre at West Parramatta were well attended as can be seen from these photographs.

Lawrence Dimech and Emanuel Camilleri from the MCC of NSW welcomed the lace maker expert to Australia and thanked those at-

tending for their appreciation for Malta lace.

Josephine Bigeni from the Xaghra Association of NSW, responsible for organising the workshops said that the exercise was worthwhile and showed how popular Malta lace was even in Australia. Mrs Bigeni thanked the Maltese Community Council of NSW for their support to these workshops.

**Below: Dr Consiglia Azzopardi (left) and Josephine Bigeni, and right: one of the workshops at the Maltese Centre in Sydney.**



# Have your say! Xi trid tgħid?

Your letters/ *L-ittri tagħkom ...*

## Where is the compassion? Responding to the letter titled who are the real refugees?

*Fred Gabriele writes from Nowra.*

I was rather disturbed by Connie Mallia's attitude towards people she called asylum seekers queue jumpers, in the latest issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*, titled: 'Who are the real refugees?'

I am also bothered about Mallia's attitude towards two female persons mentioned in her letter, because they have a different view and a compassionate soul. I am further disturbed, though not mentioned, if the writer has a Maltese background.

In general we the Maltese people are known to be good Christians, kind, generous and good at heart. I would like to know what luxury or other benefits Mallia missed out on since and during the arrival of such people seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

Has this person ever watched the news to see what human beings are capable of doing to one another? Does she blame most, or all of the arrivals for leaving their war-thorn homeland?

Thousands of others from my country left Malta as my family and I did, during 1955, at the age of fifteen years for a

better life, when times were not so good after World War II. Yes we were not Asylum Seekers, just the same we needed all the help we could get and a lot of understanding. What would have happened to my family and hundreds of thousands if we were treated with the same attitude as Mallia's?

Since it has been all those years ago, there is no need for me to tell her or anyone else. Unfortunately the world now is far different.

Finally I wish to express my gratitude for having *The Voice* magazine sent over to me for several months.

### Jixtieq xi proverbji Maltin!

*Albert Mamo jikteb minn Victoria:*

Nixtieq nagħmel suġġeriment lit-tmexxija ta' dan il-magazine li tant qed jidhol fid-djar tal-Maltin.

Minn xi daqqiet id-dar nitfa' xi proverbju bil-Malti li għadni niftakar u t-tfal jibqgħu iċċassati lejja. Tistgħu minn xi daqqiet tip-pubblikaw xi proverbji għax jekk ma noq-oghdux attenti se jittilfu għal kollox l-identita' tagħna.



**The Voice of the Maltese**  
**online magazine**

**This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly online publication specifically targeting all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian scene.**

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Letters for publication in *The Voice* either in Maltese or English should be emailed to: [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com).

## The refugees (including Maltese) made Australia what it is today

*Daniel Zammit from Belmont, Perth writes:*

I was shocked by Connie Mallia's letter in the last issue of *The Voice of the Maltese* when she questioned who the refugees are and slamming good people like Indira Naidoo and Sarah Hanson Young for wanting to help the refugees and asylum seekers who make so many sacrifices in order to make a living for themselves and their families in this vast country, Australia, that, it has to be said, was built by prisoners and refugees.

Me, thousands of Maltese, and perhaps millions others, are grateful to Australia for receiving us when decades ago our families sought to improve their lives and in doing so also softened the burden of successive Maltese governments by migrating to this new world.

We (my family included) not me, because I was born in Australia, made sacrifices to leave their close-knit families in Malta to

come to this continent not knowing what they could find.

Those coming to Australia did not have it easy. They toiled and shed tears away from their families to make a life for themselves. In the end they made it and gave us the kind of life that perhaps we could never expect in tiny Malta. I for one am happy to become an Australian although I would never deny my roots.

What's so different now? Today's refugees, asylum seekers, risk their lives to reach Australia's shores in a bid to start living the sort of life a human being should. It is so wrong for the Australian government to turn them back so they could again face the misery they so eagerly wanted to leave behind.

Australia is a big country. Whatever the politicians say it still needs people. I often wonder if it is the colour of their skins that the politicians don't like! It was so wrong for Connie Mallia to be so racist! I also wish to refer her to Ivan Cauchi's article

about refugees and asylum seekers in the last issue of *The Voice*. She could learn a thing or two!

It is the refugees who made what Australia is today.

I wish to refer Connie to issue No. 79 of *The Voice* and the item on page 19 titled: "A refugee as Governor". It is the story of Hieu Van Le who arrived at Darwin as a penniless boat person fleeing Vietnam in 1977 and will now be the next Governor of South Australia.

There are hundreds of others like him, even Maltese who have made a contribution to Australia. They came here as refugees, worked hard, some even fought Australia's wars and gave so much, even their lives for this country.

So keep this in mind when it comes to calling on the government to turn back the boats or criticizing those like Naidoo and Young who implore the government to show more pity on the asylum seekers.



Have your say! Xi trid tgħid? 12

# Malta dejjem fi ħsibijietna

Jos. Busuttil minn Newport Victoria jikteb:

Irrid nifrah lill-Gvern Malti għall-kisbiet li qed jagħmel fix-xena internazzjonali l-aktar, għalkemm anke lokalment qed jimxi b'politika li jtejjeb hajjet il-Maltin, u niringrazzja lil *The Voice* li qed iwasslilna t-tagħrif.

Kull gvern li jkun imexxi lil Malta jagħmel hiltu biex jagħmel użu mill-ftit rizersi li għandha din il-gzira ċkejkna u jżomm lill-poplu Malti kemm jista' jkun kuntent. M'għandix dubju li meta jsiru żbalji ma jkunux intenzjonati imma hu ċar ukoll li jkun hemm gvernijiet li fil-berah juru li jafu jahdmu aktar minn oħrajn.

Bhalissa jidher li Malta qed titmexxa tajjeb hafna u qed tkabbar isimha mad-dinja. Għalkemm pajjiżi żgħir nahseb li anke pajjiżi ferm akbar, fosthom dawk mill-Unjoni Ewropeja qed jgħiru għaliha u milli nsegwi jidher li qed ituha importanza kbira.

Interessanti hafna l-aħbar dwar it-tishih tar-relazzjonijiet li qed jtkabbar maċ-Ċina. Tassew li ma titwemminx li pajjiż kbir daqstant, bħaċ-Ċina, irid jidhol fi shab ma' nazzjon hekk żgħir

bhal Malta.

Minn ftit taż-mien iehor iċ-Ċina se tkun l-aqwa pajjiż f'dik li hi ekonomija, akbar mill-Istati Uniti, u kull pajjiż qed jagħmel minn kollox biex jiġbed investment lejn minn hemm.

Tara pajjiżi ġgant iehor fl-Ewropa bħall-Germanja li tant qed jagħmel biex ikabbar in-negozji magħhom u minbarra l-biljuni ta' Ewro fi prodotti li diġa' jbiegħulhom, wara mawra li għamlet il-kanċellier Germaniż Merkel issoktaw jissahhu r-relazzjonijiet u sa fabbrika tal-karozzi Germaniżi qablu li jifthu hemm. gharfu l-potenzjal.

Qrajt ukoll li l-mexxejja Ċiniżi anke marru l-Argentina biex ukoll jinvestu hemm, l-aktar fl-enerġija, u naf li hafna pajjiżi oħra kemm Ewropej u minn kontinenti oħra qed jagħmlu minn kollox biex jiġbudhom lejhom.

Imma tgħidx kemm kont kburi naqra l-aħbar ta' dak il-ftehim ta' hames snin li iċ-Ċina għamlet ma' Malta, l-aktar li fil-fatt hu l-ewwel wiehed ma' pajjiż Ewropew. Tassew Malta qed tagħmilna kburin li ahna wliedha u minkejja li ninsabu tant bogħod, din il-gzira tibqa' fi ħsibijietna.

# Il-Kuncert ta' Joseph Calleja

Salv.Bugeja minn Rouse Hill NSW jikteb:

Fil-harga Nru. 79 ta' *The Voice of the Maltese* tat-8 ta' Lulju qrajt b'ferha li l-kuncert tal-famuz tenur Malti Joseph Calleja li kellu jagħti fit-18 ta' Lulju fuq il-Fosos tal-Furjana kien se se jigi muri fuq l-SBSTV, almenu hekk habbartu.

Jien ghamilt stharrig mal-SBSTV halli nara f'liema data se jintwera, imma b'sorpriza għaliha dawn qaluli li ma kienu jafu b'xejn dwar dan il-kuncert, aħseb u ara kemm se juruh fuq it-TV fl-Awstralja.

Nibqa' nittama li jagħmlu sforz qawwi biex ahna minn din in-naħa tad-dinja naraw lill-aqwa tenur li hawn fid-dinja f'dawn iż-zminijiet fuq it-TV Awstraljan.

### Nota editorjali:

L-aħbar li l-kuncert ta' Joseph Calleja kellu jixxandar fuq l-SBSTV giet mogħtija mill-organizzaturi tal-kuncert stess meta habbruh waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet f'Malta. Min-naħa tagħna f'Malta għamilna minn kollox biex nikkuntattjaw lill-promuturi tal-kuncert l-NnG Promotions halli nindaqqaw.

B'qajna sorprizi li sa dawn l-aħħar jiem stess, HADD ma wieġeb it-telefonati tagħna, u lanqas kellna risposta għal email li bghatnielhom minkejja li mill-post fejn wiehed seta' jaqta' l-biljetti għad-dhul fil-kuncert accertawna li dawn l-emails iweġbuhom. Barra minhekk qalulna wkoll li kellhom jgħaddu l-messaġġ tagħna lill-promuturi.

Fl-aħħar jiem anke ktibna messaġġ fuq il-facebook tat-tenur Malti f'dan is-sens. S'issa għad m'għandniex tweġba. Kif inkunu nafu aktar dwar din it-trasmisjoni ngħarrfu lill-qarrejja.

# F'Muscat Malta b'Mintoff iehor?

F. Bugeja minn South Australia jikteb:

Fraht hafna b'dan il-magazine għax al-menu qed jitrattana ta' intelligenti, u anke fl-aħbarijiet mill-Awstralja qed naraw items li mank naqrawhom jew nisimgħuhom ta' kuljum.

Sintendi jien ma naqrax kollox għax mhux kollox hu ta' interess għaliha iżda għandna varjeta'.

Qed niehu pjaċir li Malta mhux qed thares biss lejn il-pajjiżi falluti tal-UE iżda fethet ukoll ix-xbiek lejn l-India u iċ-Ċina.

Hekk għandu jkun għax mhux l-Unjoni Ewropeja biss teżisti.

Jien lill-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat ma nafux għax ilni l-Awstralja 50 sena iżda jidher li se jkun xi Dom Mintoff iehor għax milli hidher bħalu qed jara kbir għal Malta.

### Please Note

Organisations wishing to publish notices or news intended for the Maltese community in Australia in *The Voice*, are advised to stick to the magazine's deadline and submit material at least a week prior to publication.

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# PERSPETTIVA

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:  
<http://perspective-ivan-cauchi.blogspot.com.au>

kitba ta'  
IVAN  
CAUCHI



## Il-Qassisin Nisa

**F**l-14 ta' Lulju li ghadha, Sinodu Ġenerali tal-Knisja Ingliża id-deċieda li jippermetti lin-nisa li jsiru isqfijiet<sup>1</sup>. Għall-Knisja Ingliża, dan huwa biss żvilupp iehor minn deċizzjoni li kienet ittiehded f'sinodu iehor fl-1992, fejn in-nisa għall-ewwel darba thallew jiġu ordnati saċerdoti<sup>2</sup>.

Għal xi partijiet oħra tal-Komunjoni Anglikana, li l-Knisja Ingliża tiffirma parti fundamentali minnha, dan l-iżvilupp sehh snin qabel, bħal fil-Knisja Episkopali. M'għandniex xi nghidu, dan l-iżvilupp huwa kontroversjali hafna.

Anke issa, fid-deċizzjoni li l-Knisja Ingliża ghadha kif hadet, qed toqghod attenta li tillegġisla biex il-parroċċi li ma jaqblux mad-deċizzjoni jithallew jagħzlu li jkomplu jitmexxew minn raġel. Dan jista' jevita li l-Komunjoni tkompli tinqasam b'riżultat ta' dan is-sugġett.

L-istess storja bejn wiehed u iehor grāt fid-denominazzjonijiet Protestanti u Riformati. Dawn ma jtkellmex dwar isqfijiet u qassisin, imma dwar pastors u ministri. Uħud ihallu lin-nisa jkunu ordnati, u oħrajn le.

Fl-ahharnett, it-tagħlim tal-Knisja Kattolika Rumana hu li l-Knisja m'għandniex awtorità li tordna lin-nisa bhala saċerdoti. Il-pożizzjoni tal-Knisja Ortodossa hija simili.

Il-Katekiżmu tal-Knisja Kattolika f'paragrafu 1577 jagħti zewġ raġunijiet ewlenini għal dan it-tagħlim:

- li Ġesù għazel lil irġiel biss biex jiffurmaw it-tnax l-apostlu (għażla divina);
- li l-apostli għamlu l-istess meta għażlu l-kollaboraturi tagħhom li kellhom jiehdu posthom fil-ministeru tagħhom (it-tradizzjoni).

### L-Apostli

Il-kelma 'apostlu' ġejja mill-kelma Griega *apóstolos* li tfisser 'wiehed mibgħut'<sup>3</sup>. Meta Ġesù fil-bidu għazel it-tnax, li kienu rġiel, dawn kienu 'dixxipli' mill-kelma Latina *discipulus* li tfisser wiehed li jitgħallm. Għalhekk id-dixxipli saru 'apostli' meta ntbagħtu minn Ġesù biex jgħallmu<sup>4</sup>.

Li huwa interessanti li mhux it-tnax biss jissejju apostli fil-knejjes Kattolici u Ortodossi.

- Luqa l-Evangelista kieb li Ġesù bagħat grupp ta' sebghin persuna, tnejn tnejn, biex ixandru l-bxara t-tajba<sup>5</sup>. L-iskrittura ssejgħilhom dixxipli u dan ukoll huwa t-tradizzjoni tal-insara fil-punent (Kattolici), però l-insara tal-lvant (Ortodossi) jirreferu għalihom bhala apostli;
- San Pawl fl-Ittra lir-Rumani jirreferi għal Andronicus u Junia bhala li kienu miegħu il-habs u 'prominenti fost l-apostli'<sup>6</sup>. Junia aktarx kienet il-mara ta' Andronicus;
- Ahna l-Maltin kburin b'San Pawl u San Luqa li kienu Malta minhabba l-għarqa tax-xini li kienu fuqu fi triqithom lejn Ruma. San Luqa kien wiehed mit-Tnax, imma San Pawl ma kienx. Madankollu, il-Knisja xorta tirreferi għalih ukoll bhala apostlu;
- Fl-istorja tal-mewt u qawmien ta' Ġesù, irid jingħad li l-iktar persuna li tisemma fl-erba' vanġeli u li tat l-ahbar tal-qawmien lit-Tnax hija Santa Maria Maddalena. Forsi mhux magħruf minn kulhadd li l-Knisja, mill-bidunett tagħha, hafna sekli qabel ix-Xisma bejn l-Ortodossi u l-Kattolici Rumani, bdiel u għadha ssejgħilha 'Apostlu lill-Apostli'<sup>7</sup>.

### Ġesù egalitarju

Apparti t-Tnax, Ġesù kellu grupp iehor li kienu jkunu miegħu kull fejn imur. Dawn kienu nisa, li kienu jassistuh mill-mezzi tagħhom<sup>8</sup>. Però, fis-siegha tal-prova (il-krucifissjoni), kienu n-nisa l-aktar li baqgħu miegħu hdejn is-salib, u li akkumpanjaw lil ġismu lejn il-qabar<sup>9</sup>, waqt li t-Tnax Prattikament sparixxew.

Lil nisa Ġesù għazel biex jizvela l-qawmien tiegħu, mhux lit-Tnax<sup>10</sup>. Lil nisa Ġesù ried biex iwasslu l-ahbar tal-qawmien lit-Tnax, li fil-bidu lanqas emmnuhom!<sup>10</sup>

It-Testment il-ġdid isemmi lin-nisa relattivament hafna iktar mit-Testment l-Antik. Ġesù intervjena jew tkellem kemm 'il darba favur in-nisa, bħal fil-każ tat-thaġġir tal-adultera<sup>11</sup> u d-diskursata mas-

Samaritana<sup>12</sup>. Jien għaliġa din l-importanza li jagħti Ġesù lin-nisa, f-soċjetà li żgur kienet iktar patrijarkali milli hi illum, kienet rivoluzzjonarja u tagħmlu egalitarju hafna qabel żmienna.

### Tradizzjoni

Il-Kummissjoni Pontifikali Bibblika tal-Kurja ta' Ruma fl-1977 ikkonkludiet li t-Testment il-ġdid wahdu mhux biżżejjed biex tiġi riżolta l-kwestjoni tal-ordinazzjoni tan-nisa b'mod ċar darba għal dejjem<sup>13</sup>. Għalhekk, il-Knisja tirreferi wkoll għat-tradizzjoni tagħha, fejn il-mexxejja tagħha dejjem kienu kuntrarji li n-nisa jwettqu l-ministeru saċerdotali.

Fis-sekli tal-bidu, diversi komunitajiet insara, bhan-Njostiċi u l-Montanisti, kellhom nisa li eżerċitaw il-ministeru saċerdotali. Diversi Missirijiet tal-Knisja ta' dakinhar, bħal Iranaeus u Tertulljan, ikkundannaw din il-prattika<sup>14</sup>.

Għalkemm il-Knisja tirrikonoxxi preġudizzji kontra n-nisa fil-kitbiet tal-Missirijiet tal-Knisja, minn kmieni ikkundidrat 'l dawn il-gruppi bhala eretiċi, u żammet il-pożizzjoni tal-Missirijiet kontra l-ordinazzjoni tan-nisa<sup>15</sup>.

### Kumment

Sabiex jipprova jwaqqaf id-dibattitu fil-Knisja dwar is-sugġett, il-Papa Gwann Pawlu II fl-1994 hareġ ittra Apostolika li l-Knisja m'għandha l-ebda awtorità li tordna lin-nisa bhala saċerdoti, u li dan irid jiġi segwit minn nies ta' fidi<sup>16</sup>.

Din mhix generalment meqjusa fiha nfisha bhala infallibbli għax ma saritx taht il-Maġisterju (awtorità li tistabbilixxi t-tagħlim awtentiku) straordinarju (dikjarazzjoni solenni ex-cathedra), imma l-Kongregazzjoni fuq id-Duttrina tal-Fidi hareġet sqarrija sena wara li d-dikjarazzjoni hija infallibbli taht il-Maġisterju ordinarju u universali<sup>17</sup>.

It-tentattiv li jitwaqqaf id-dibattitu fil-Knisja Kattolika Rumana ma tantx jidher li kellu suċċess. Diversi gruppi għadhom jaħdmu u jtkellmu favur l-ordinazzjoni tan-nisa, bħall-Women's Ordination Conference, Roman Catholic Womenpriests (li huma skumnikati mill-Knisja), grupp ta' teologi ġermaniżi u l-Association of Catholic Priests tal-Irlanda, fost l-oħrajn.

It-tagħlim tal-Knisja Kattolika f'dan ir-rigward narah bhala pass lura mill-ispirtu ta' dixxerniment tas-sinjali taż-żminijiet, spirtu li kien qawwi fil-Knisja fi żmien il-Kunsill tal-Vatikan II tas-sittinijiet. Nahseb li fit huma daww fis-soċjetajiet tal-Punent li ma jarawx moviment qawwi favur l-ugwaljanza tan-nisa f'kull aspekt tas-soċjetà. Jien nara li dan għandu japplika wkoll għall-Knisja, u bl-ebda mod ma jista' jittqies kontra t-tagħlim ta' Ġesù.

Inhoss li l-Knisja mhix qed tirrikonoxxi biżżejjed ir-rwol ewlieni ta' xhieda ta' tal-fidi tan-nisa, meta Ġesù kien haj kif ukoll bhala habbara tal-Bxara t-Tajba wara.

Barra minn hekk, it-tradizzjonijiet isiru u daww li mhumiex fundamentali jistgħu jinbidlu maż-żmien li diġa' grāt fil-Knisja kemm-il-darba). Li mexxejja irġiel jagħmlu minn kollox biex iżommu sistema patrijarkali hija mistennija, anke jekk ġenwinament jemmnu fiha imma li hija profetika u lanqas ma naraha koerenti mal-hsieb ta' Ġesù. It-tradizzjoni għadha għaddeja u tibqa' ssir.

Bhala nisrani, inqawwi qalbi li nara l-ispirtu egalitarju ta' Ġesù haj fil-knisja tiegħu. Bhala bniedem mghammed fil-Knisja Kattolika, jiddispijaci ni li dan għadni ma narax fil-knisja tiegħi.

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# Hbieb bil-posta u l-festa ta' Marija Assunta

Kitba ta' Lawrence Dimech

Niftakar sewwa meta konna studenti kemm konna niddilettaw bil-*"pen-friends"*. Konna niktbulhom u nzommu kuntatt maghhom ta' spiss, ikunu fejn ikunu fid-dinja. Illum il-korrispondenza bil-posta kważi spicċat għax ghandna dik elettronika, l-email, xi haġa istantanja. Imma l-posta xorta ghadha twasslilna l-ittri.

Jien u Frank Galea, is-segretarju tal-Festa ta' Santa Marija Assunta li ssir f'Melbourne, qatt ma ltaqjna, imma bhal fiż-żmien tal-penfriends il-kuntatt bejnieta dejjem kien permezz tal-posta u l-emails.

Frank ta' kull sena jibgħatli bil-posta l-ktejjeb tal-programm li jipubblikaw għal żmien il-festa f'Melbourne, li dis-sena se tkun il-31 darba li se jiċcelebrawha (ara avviz fil-pagna 19).

Il-ktejjeb huwa mhejji b'sengħa u attenzjoni. Fih hafna x'taqra, 72 faċċata fil-fatt. Huwa miżgħud b'hafna ritratti bil-kulur kif ukoll ritratti tal-membri tal-kumitat.

Fih ukoll diversi messaġġi, fosthom mill-Isqof Grech t'Għawdex, u l-Arċipriet tal-Kattidral ta' Għawdex, kif ukoll mill-Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta fl-Awstralja, u l-Konslu Ġenerali f'Melbourne. Insibu wkoll messaġġi mill-Kappillan tal-parroċċa ta' St Peter Chapel ta' Deer Park fejn issir il-festa, kif ukoll mic-*Chair* ta' Brimbank Administrators.

Il-ktejjeb jehodna dawra ma' hafna mill-Katidrali madwar id-dinja, kollha iddedikati lill-Madonna Assunta. Insibu wkoll il-programm ufficjali tal-festa, bl-attivita-jiet li jsiru kemm fil- knisja kif ukoll dawk ta' barra. Izda l-iktar li jolqotni huma r-ritratti tal-istatwi tal-Madonna bil-kulur li wiehed isib fl-iMqabba, il-Mosta, Had-Dingli, Hal-Ghaxaq, l-iMgarr, il-Qrendi, il-Gudja, u H'Attard f'Malta, u z-Zebbuġ u r-Rabat f'Għawdex.

Meta tmorru għall-festa f'Deer Park Melbourne bejn il-15 u s-17 ta' Awwissu ip-purvaw akkwistaw dan il-ktejjeb.

Il-habib postali tiegħi Frank Galea, li qatt ma ltaqjt miegħu persunalni żgur li jkompli jibgħatli kull sena dan il-ktejjeb sakemm xi darba jien ukoll naghmel kuraġġ u mmur għall-festa f'Melbourne.



# 237 Languages spoken in Sydney

There are 237 languages spoken in Sydney, one of the world's most linguistically rich cities, including 75 with at least 1,000 speakers. Liverpool, 27km from the GPO boasts 20 languages and it is the city's most linguistically rich suburb.

The top ten languages spoken in Sydney are in this order, Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Greek, Italian, Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Korean. Yellow Rock, in the Blue Mountain, has the least linguistic diversity as 97 per cent of residents speak English.

Prof Joseph Lo Blanco from the Melbourne University says "language is incredibly important because it becomes the connection to the old ways".

Not every group gives language the same importance. It depends on a constellation of factors including when, why and how people migrated, the social and political environment of the new country, and intermarriage between language groups.

For each group, you've got to make an investigation into the history and each history is unique. The Maltese for example, often abandon their language in the first generation, while Greek and Italian immigrants still speak it at home even a generation later.

George Cross Falcons Club Inc.

# The Maltese Club of Cringila (Wollongong)

By Louis Parnis (president) ▶

The Maltese Club in Cringila, suburb of Wollongong was built by the Maltese and has been opened since 1951. On arrival in Australia many Maltese headed to the Wollongong region to work at the Steel factories. Most lived in hostel accommodation until they bought their houses in the vicinity.

The Maltese needed a social outlet and our pioneers worked hard to establish a clubhouse. Things moved quickly and two blocks were purchased on the main street located at 25/27 Lake Avenue Cringila. These premises went through lots of renovations. At one time we had a strong soccer team hence the name "Falcons" added to the name George Cross.

The club has a billiard table, bocci pitches and a modern hall with full kitchen facilities. Committees, during the years worked hard to keep the club open.

Some nine years ago, the club was facing serious financial problems. I was asked to help out, as the club was about to close its doors. Today, with the help of



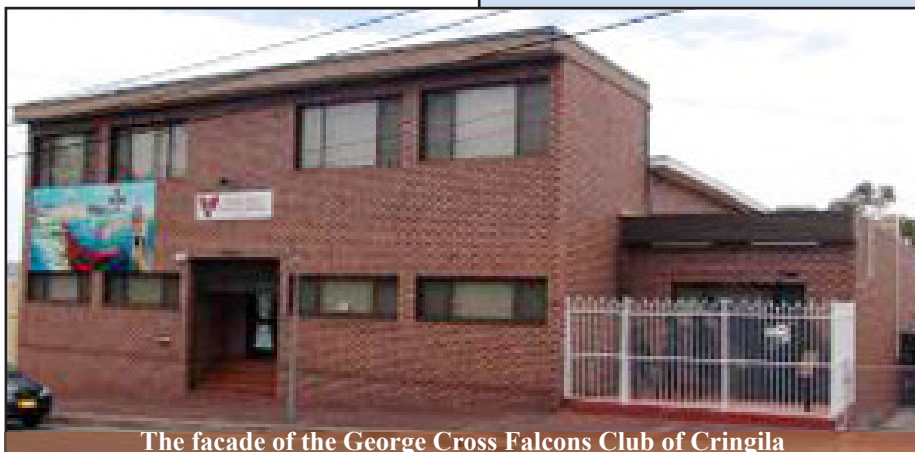
the committee, the club is prospering. Those visiting the club are impressed with all the changes.

The club holds computer classes for seniors and has a men's shed where wooden toys are built and donated to the Illawarra disability trust and sick kids in need of cheering up.

I encourage those who never attended the club to contact me on 0420857363 to provide them with more information. It is with pleasure to thank those groups from outside the Wollongong region that regularly visit the club when functions are held.

The George Cross Falcons Club is affiliated to the Maltese Community Council of NSW.

In conclusion, I encourage all Maltese to support and visit their clubs wherever area they are located, to be proud of our heritage and to pass our stories of hardship, struggles and successes to our kids and grandchildren.



The facade of the George Cross Falcons Club of Cringila

## ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

# Maltese worker abducted in Libya released unharmed after 11 days

A story that began so badly has turned out fine for the family of Martin Galea, a Maltese oil worker who was abducted in Libya and released from captivity 11 days later, to see him climb down the steps of a special Medavia flight at Luqa International Airport last Monday week.

He was flown back to Malta with Consul Maria Farrugia and six Armed Forces officials on board that was sent specifically to Libya to recover Mr Galea.

Martin, who was welcomed on the apron by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, Foreign Minister George Vella, Home Minister Manuel Mallia and members of his family, was happy to be safe. He said that his release was achieved due to the hard work of the government. He thanked all those who worked for his release, particularly the Maltese consul to Tripoli, Marisa Farrugia, who, he said, had saved his life.

Martin, a former Armed Forces captain was working in Libya as a health and safety officer with Arab Geophysical Exploration Services Company, AGESCO. He was abducted when the car that was taking him to work was stopped at a roadblock outside

Tripoli. It is unclear who was responsible for his kidnapping.

The Prime Minister said the government had indications who the kidnapers were but would not commit to making a statement on this issue for the time being.

He thanked the diplomatic corps and the uniformed services for their 'silent and delicate work', and also the Islamic community in Malta.

Dr Muscat said, "We worked in silence because any declarations or information could have been used against Galea. It was a delicate operation and we didn't want to risk his life."

Martin spent his first night back home under observation at Mater Dei hospital.

Shortly before Martin's departure from Libya, Dr Muscat briefed the press about his release. He had asked for an embargo on the news until the aircraft entered Maltese airspace and later expressed his appreciation that the press obliged.



A relieved Martin Galea (left) is welcomed at Malta airport by Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat

No ransom was paid for Mr Galea's release. He said: "Nobody ever asked for money ever since we got involved on Sunday," adding, that the government was informed that the oil company that employs the Maltese worker was asked for money at one point but that no ransom was paid.

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and Opposition leader Simon Busuttil also welcomed the release.



## Duchess of Cambridge to visit Malta for 50th Ann. of Independence

The Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton will be visiting Malta as the Queen's representative for the 50th anniversary celebrations commemorating Malta's Independence. She will be in Malta on September 20 and 21.

This will be the duchess's first solo overseas visit. The Queen last visited Malta in 2007.

## Three suffer spinal injuries jumping off Comino rocks

Three people suffered spinal injuries while jumping off the rocks in Cominotto over the weekend of July 25-27.

The Emergency Response and Rescue Corps reported that the first incident on the 25th involved a woman who suffered back pain after jumping from a rock near Cominotto, known as 'il-gwardja'. The other two on the 27th involved two men. In both cases, the lifeguards assisted the swimmers and took them to Mgarr Harbour in Gozo for onward transport to Gozo hospital.

Every summer Cominotto lures many youngsters to its cliffs from where some 10 people, mostly foreigners, were injured last summer alone as they hurled themselves from the rocks into the sea.

In June Malta Tourism Authority chairman Gavin Gulia said Cominotto would this summer be out of bounds to daredevils who use it as a dangerous springboard.



## 29 autopsies (on migrants' bodies) in three days

The mortuary at Malta's general hospital, Mater Dei recently conducted an autopsy on 29 bodies – 28 men and a woman – in less than three days. It was the largest mass autopsy since the hospital's opening in 2007. The bodies were recovered from the sea following the most recent migrant tragedy close to Lampedusa. It was also the second largest ever amount of autopsies performed at the same time, at the time of the EgyptAir hijacking in 1985. Then autopsies were performed on 60 bodies.

Forensic expert Dr Mario Scerri who led the autopsies, concluded that all migrants died from drowning; some could have been killed in a stampede to climb aboard a rescue boat.

**ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA**

# C'wealth commands 30% of votes but fails to pull its weight at UN

*Continued from page 2*

On a more practical level, in order to encourage a more fruitful multilateral approach at Commonwealth events, he said governments should, even with Commonwealth Secretariat's sustained support, spend more time fostering bilateral relations during the two-year period between one Heads of Government meeting and another, and not schedule such meetings almost exclusively during these summits.

Furthermore, he pointed out, it would do the institution a great deal of good if Heads of Government took the time to meet informally at the margins of the annual United Nations General Assembly. "It would help create the sense of missing camaraderie that could really make the difference at the end of the day."

He said that the Commonwealth commands 30% of votes at the United Nations, but almost always fails to put forward common candidates and adopt significant common stands. He added that such meetings would foster these possibilities.

Turning to the European Union, the Maltese Prime Minister said that whereas for most member countries, membership of the Commonwealth is a historic fact, as they did not actively choose to become members of the Commonwealth, joining the European Union, EU, is a choice about one's future and not a statement about one's past.

He proposed that the Commonwealth should be about commitment rather than history, which "It should be about the future rather than the past."

In order to do this, he said there are three obvious models which one could adopt, the first being, disbanding the Commonwealth as it is today and regrouping, setting out updated guidelines and Charter of Values to which participants must strictly abide.

The second is that of a multi-speed Com-



**Dr Joseph Muscat (front far right) with Prince Charles and other Commonwealth leaders**

monwealth. So, he said, one might argue that for this organisation to remain relevant for the future is to have the present Commonwealth as the foundation for a much more integrated sub-group.

"Members of this new Commonwealth could decide to adhere to strict rules, from democracy to gender equality, from religious freedom to minority rights (including LGBTI issues), from transparency to environmental sustainability. These rules should be much more stringent than the current Charter, with membership coming after close scrutiny, and screening being an ongoing process."

The third model emerges from a critique of the second, which can be seen as a formalisation of the ingrained differences between different groups of countries, and the creation of even more divisions. He said one could opt for an improved Commonwealth that would engage in more regular and dynamic exercises by means of which each and every country is offered more political and technical assistance.

In his opinion there might obviously be other models that could serve as a basis for change, but what is for sure is that change does not happen by itself or by accident. "We need to work for change. Staring at a decaying organisation and hoping that its fortunes might suddenly turn around is delusional."

## Maltese PM tells CNN: Europe must promote legal migration

Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat told American news network CNN in an interview, that the European Union, EU, was not offering any solutions to the phenomenon of irregular migration. He also claims Europe must promote legal migration.

He said that however, good migration management was needed, as the present time, the only solutions being offered are not being offered by the European Union but by individual countries, like Italy.

He uttered his oft-repeated comment that countries on the frontiers should not be shouldering the burden of irregular migration on their own as refugees and asylum seekers look towards a safe haven in mainland Europe.

"These people do not want to come to Malta or Italy but they are in search of a new life in mainland Europe... so it is not solely our borders in question but Europe's as well and that is why we need concrete immigration policy," he said.

He added that the EU should be promoting legal migration, although this required good migration management, and that Malta is supporting proposals for such a legal migration system whereas a person applies to live and work in Europe, with the burden being shared among the 28 member states.

The Maltese Prime Minister said that Legal channels of migration would be created in countries of origin, applications screened and those approved would be relocated among all countries of the bloc according to pre-established thresholds.

He pointed out that the Commonwealth should not retire, but should decide what it wants to be. It can opt to remain as it is and sink in total irrelevance within the next decade or so, or have the courage to make changes, by starting to tackle them at least in piecemeal fashion.

In his opinion, in order to be relevant, the Commonwealth should be about people rather than diplomats. It should be about economic growth rather than bureaucracy, and that it should be about the future rather than the past.

A National Statistics Office report indicates that as at December 2013, total foreign liabilities in Malta decreased by €2.78 billion over the position prevailing a year earlier.

As a consequence, total foreign assets declined by €2.65 billion during the same period, resulting in an overall increase in the IIP of €0.13 billion.

## €1.71 bn net international investment as at end 2013

At the same time, Malta's total foreign assets abroad amounted to €44.88 billion, while other Investment accounted for 51.9 per cent. Portfolio Investment represented 43.9 per cent of total foreign assets.

Decreases of €2.55 billion and €0.70 billion in loans generated by the banking sector and in debt securities respectively were the main contributors to the overall decline in foreign assets.

Malta's foreign liabilities were estimated at €43.16 billion. Other Investment totalled €32.66 billion, (75.7 per cent of total foreign liabilities).

# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

*minn Ġużè Camilleri*

## Maħtuf fil-Libja u meħlus wara 11-il jum

Aħbar li ddominat il-media Maltija matul dawn l-aħħar jiem kienet dik tal-Malti, Martin Galea, li nħataf fil-Libja minn waħda mill-fazzjonijiet militari li bħalissa qed jissieltu kontra xulxin fil-Libja. Galea, ta' 40 sena, eks impjegat tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta, jgħix il-Bidnija. Huwa kien magħruf sew fost il-komunità Maltija fil-Libja.

L-aħbar tal-ħtif tiegħu nġhatat għall-ewwel darba minn The Times ta' Malta. Meta nġhatat din l-aħbar il-Malti kien ilu li nħataf tmint ijiem.

Kif isir issoltu malli nġhatat l-aħbar, bdew il-kummenti. Sintendi dawk li ssoltu jikkritikaw lill-Gvern mill-ewwel harġu qatta' bla habel jattakkawh li żamm din l-aħbar sigrieta.

Iżżeffen hafna fin-nofs il-fatt lil għal darba wara l-oħra l-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin, Dr George Vella, kien stqar li għalkemm is-sitwazzjoni fil-Libja xejn ma kienet sabiha, ma kienx il-każ li jagħti l-ordni biex il-Maltin jiġu evakwati minn dan il-pajjiż. Al-lura dawn il-kummentaturi kwazi kwazi tefghu t-tort ta' dan il-ħtif fuq il-Gvern Malti. Kien hemm minn saħansitra talab għar-riżenja tal-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin.

(Attwalment il-Gvern ipprova trasport bl-ajru għal dawk li xtaqu jirritornaw Malta, iżda kien hemm minn ipprefera li jibqa' l-Libja. Dan ġie ikkonfermat mill-Prim Ministru meta qal "kull min qed jitleb għajna biex jitleq mil-Libja qed intuh din l-għajna. Għandna d-dettalji u kuntatti ta' kull persuna li hemm fil-Libja u li nafu bihom".

L-aħbar tal-ħtif tal-Malti kumbinazzjoni harġet fl-istess jum li fiha kellha tiġi diskussa fil-Parlament mozzjoni tal-Oppożizzjoni dwar il-Libja fejn l-Oppożizzjoni kkritkat lill-Gvern l-aktar għax ma żammx lill-Oppożizzjoni mgharraf b'dak li kien qed jiġri fil-Libja.

Min-naha tiegħu l-Prim Ministru sostna li filwaqt li jifhem "il-kritika li tista' ssir li l-aħbar ma nġhatatx pubbliċita, iżda l-pariri li nġhatatna kien li haġtu għad mhix sigura. Mill-aħħar informazzjoni li kellna kienet li għadu haj, iżda

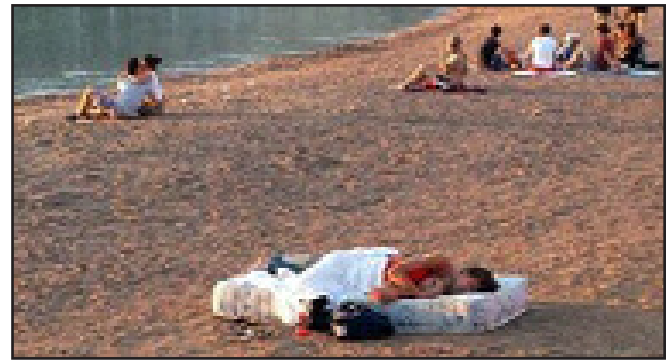
qalulna li aktar ma ssir pubbliċita aktar ikun hemm hsara lil din l-istess persuna". Aktar ma ssir diskussjoni fil-media dwar dan il-ħtif aktar ikun diffiċli li dan il-Malti jinheles.

Dan ma jfissirx li l-Gvern ma kien għamel xejn meta sar jaf bil-ħtif. Fil-fatt l-awtoritajiet Maltin kien irnexxielhom isiru jafu min hataf lil dan il-Malti u kienu f'kuntatti mal-fazzjoni li hatfitu f'tentativ biex jinheles. Għalkemm il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Simon Busuttil fl-intervent tiegħu waqt id-diskussjoni fil-Parlament qal li, "l-Oppożizzjoni se tappoġġja lill-Gvern biex jiġi Malta qawwi u shih u mill-aktar fis."

Fl-istess waqt xorta sostna li din kienet "aħbar xokkanti għax l-aħbar ġiet mohbija mill-pubbliku. Jien lanqas b'mod kunfidenzjali ma ġejt infurmat biha."

Iżda minn dak li qal waqt intervista fuq radju lokali, il-kelliemi għall-Oppożizzjoni għall-Affarijiet Barranin, Dr Karm Mifsud Bonnici, jidher li l-Oppożizzjoni qablet mal-Gvern dwar il-ħtieġa li kemm jista' jkun id-diskussjoni fil-media u fil-pubbliku dwar dan il-każ tkun limitata, għalkemm imbagħad fuq Twitter, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni sostna li l-Gvern għandu jżomm il-poplu infurmat b'kulma jiġri.

Nistghu nġhidu li l-gvern f'it li xejn ta tagħrif dwar il-każ qabel mal-Prim Ministru habbar li Galea kien inheles. Aħbar li tal-inqas s'issa, ma qajmitx diskussjoni. Kulhadd hareġ jifrah biha mingħajr ma kif jgħidu l-Inglizi kien "ifs and buts"



## Raqda fl-apert

Li tara xi persuna jew persuni jiehdu xi nagħsa fil-berah f'xi Lżmien u aktar u aktar fil-qilla tas-sajf f'xatt-il-bahar hija xi haġa komuni. Iżda li xi hadd jiehu miegħu fuq ir-ramel saqqu ta' sodda mdaqqsqa żgur li mhux xi haġa daqshekk ta' kuljum.

Imma hekk ġara fil-każ tal-mara li flimkien ma binha jew bintha li (ma nafux kif) hadet is-saqqu, li żgur mhux daqshekk hafif biex iġġorru, tagħmlu f'nofs il-Bajja ta' San Ġorġ (limiti ta' San Giljan) li bħalissa tkun miżgħuda l-aktar bi studenti li jiġu Malta biex jistudjaw l-Ingliz.

Li hu żgur hu li aktarx din għamlet xi lejl fuq dan is-saqqu għax Mateo Lanfranco, li ġibed dan ir-ritratt, hadu fis-6.30 ta' filgħodu.

Kemm damet hemm u kif spicċat l-istorja ma nafux.

## Kemm jinbidlu ż-żminijiet hux!

Żgur li sa f'it tas-snin ilu, hadd ma kien johlom li xi għaqda Maltija kienet se tiċċelebra tmien ir-Ramdan - l-Iftar - tal-Musulmani. Iżda, dak li ma ġarax għal bost snin, ġara f'dawn l-aħħar snin meta saħansitra ż-żewġ Partiti Politici qegħdin jagħmlu dan bl-akbar pompa.

Attwalment l-ewwel Partit li beda jiċċelebra dan l-avveniment kien dak Laburista, li bla dubju ta' xejn, minn żmien ilu kien meqjus bhala l-Partit l-aktar qrib tal-Pajjiżi Għarab... anzi kultant fis-sahna politika saħansitra kien jiġi mghajjar minhabba l-pożizzjoni tiegħu fil-konfront tal-pajjiżi Għarab.

Iżda, minkejja li minhabba l-immigrazzjoni llegali għadd ta' Maltin xejn ma jharsu sabih lejn il-Musulmani (fuq kollox mhux l-immigranti llegali kollha huma musulmani, imma għandna tendenza li nitfegħu lil kulhadd fl-istess keffa), maż-żmien l-affarijiet inbidlu issa, għall-ewwel darba anke l-Partit Nazzjonalista iċċelebra l-Iftar fejn ġew mistiedna mexxejja u membri tal-komunita' Għarbjia f'Malta. Dan l-avveniment nġhata prominenzza kbira, l-aktar fil-midja tal-Partit Nazzjonalista.

U din iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet serviet ukoll biex il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Simon Busuttil, jiddikjara li l-Partit Nazzjonalista hu partit sekulari li jirrispetta t-tweġmin reliġjuż u jiggarrantixxi l-libertà u d-dritt ta' kull min jemmen li jxandar u jwettaq tweġminu.

Busuttil sostna li l-komunità Musulmana hi parti integrali u importanti li tagħni s-soċjetà Maltija. Hu fisser irrieda tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li jżid il-koperazzjoni mal-komunità Musulmana biex flimkien jawnanzaw l-aspirazzjonijiet komuni tat-tnejn.

Insomma, iċ-ċirkustanzi jinbidlu u l-progress (u forsi anke l-ħtieġa) ma jżommu hadd.



Il-kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Smon Busuttil (fin-nofs) waqt l-iftar flimkien mal-Imam

# Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija 2

## Bdew jitharrku

Wiehed mill-ilmentanti li ta' sikwit konna nisimghu u naqraw dwaru kien id-dewmien esagerat li wiehed kien irid jistenna biex jigi operat fi spatarijiet pubblici.

Issa jidher li l-affarijiet bdew jiccaqilqu u dan gie ikkonfermat minn figuri li ngehataw dan l-ahhar dwar l-ghadd ta' operazzjonijiet li saru fl-isptar ta' Ghawdex fejn fl-ahhar sena u nofs saru 4,217-il-operazzjoni. Fis-sena 2013 kienu saru biss 2,678 operazzjoni.

U meta jsemmilil Ghawdex wiehed irid iqis li l-ghadd ta' operazzjonijiet li jsiru f'din il-gzira huma limitati, ghax hafna drabi l-kirurgi jitolghu minn Malta biex jaghmlu l-operazzjonijiet.

Min-naha l-ohra ghadd ta' pazjenti Maltin jaghmlu l-operazzjoni taghhom Ghawdex, x'aktarx ghax l-istennija ghall-operazzjoni f'Ghawdex hija nqas minn ta' Mater Dei.



Il-President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca (fin-nofs) flimkien mal-imsieħba li acceftaw li jkunu parti mill-Forum Nazzjonali tat-Trade Unions

## Tghid tirnexxi?

Matul is-snin sar kemm il-tentattiv biex tinholoq xi ghaqda li tigbor fiha l-ghaqdijiet tal-haddiema (Unjins) li hawn fil-Gzejjer Maltin. Biss dawn it-tentattivi fallew ghax dejjem kien hemm unjin jew aktar li xorta ma dahlux fl-Ghaqdiet (Forums, Konfederazzjonijiet, ecc) li saru.

Issa ghandna inizjattiva gdida, li ttiehdet bi shab bejn il-Prezidenza u c-Centru ghall-Istudju tax-Xoghol fi hdan l-Universita ta' Malta, fejn gie mwaaqqaf il-Forum Nazzjonali tat-Trade Unions (FNTU).

Meta nawguratur dan il-Forum, il-President tar-Repubblika, Marie-Louise

Coleiro Preca, sejjhiet il-jum bhala, "storiku li ghandu jghin biex insawru l-ghaqda fost il-Maltin u l-Ghawdxin".

Min-naha taghhom, kemm Victor Carachi (GWU) kif ukoll Josef Bugeja (UHM) fessru dan il-pass bhala wiehed li se jfisser li l-unjins f'Malta se jkunu qed jersqu aktar lejn xulxin u jifhmu aktar lil xulxin.

Issa naraw jekk wara dan il-kliem sabih hemmx is-sustanza u li fil-fatt l-Ghaqdiet kollha tal-haddiema attwalment jissieħbu f'dan il-forum, u l-aktar importanti, li tal-inqas f'affarijiet Nazzjonali, jikooperaw ma' xulxin.

Iz-zmien jaghtina parir?

## Malajr solvewha l-problema

Semmejna kemm-il darba l-film li l-koppja Brad Pitt u Angelina Jolie se jaghmlu fil-Bajja ta' Mgarr-ix-Xini f'Ghawdex.

Jidher li fost il-ftit xkiel li sabu biex jissoktaw bil-progett taghhom, kien speci ta' gabbana, li sserve x-xorb u l-ikel li hemm propju f'din il-bajja. Is-sidien taghha sostnew li matul it-tlett xhur li se jkun qed jingibed il-film, matul is-sajf, kienu se jitlfu il-flus ghax il-bajja se tkun maghluqa ghall-pubbliku.

Izda kif jghid il-Malti, bil-flus taghmel triq fil-bahar. U hekk ghallet din il-koppja fa-, muza ghax malajr id-decidiet li tikri din il-gabbana ghat-tlett xhur tas-sajf... u skont kif gier rapportat is-sidien marru tajjeb ghax inghataw eluf ta' Ewro. Ghalkemm wahda mis-sidien sostniet li dak li ngehatalhom kien inqas milli jaqilghu s-soltu.

Nispera li din qieset sewwa dak li qalet, ghax, jekk le, malajr issib lil tat-taxxi wara bieħha!!!!

## Jissokta jizdied it-turizmu f'Malta

Cifri li ghadhom kif gew ipubblikati juru li s-settur turisticu f'Malta issokta jissahhah, tant li f'Gunju li ghadda zdied bi 8.6 fil-mija mqabbel mal-istess xahar tas-sena l-ohra.

L-ufficcju tal-istatistika habbar li f'Gunju zaru Malta 179,610 persuna li 152,991 minnhom gew fuq btala, filwaqt li l-14,562 l-ohra ghamlu dan ghal raguni ta' ne-

gozju.

L-istess cifri juru li 9.9 fil-mija tal-wasliet, (jew 146,717) kienu minn pajjizi msieħba fl-Unjoni Ewropeja bl-akbar ghadd ikunu nies bejn l-etajiet ta' 25-44.

L-iljieli li t-turisti qattghu f'Malta wkoll zdiedu bi 8.6 fil-mija fuq l-istess xahar tas-sena l-ohra u l-lahqu l-1,354,060 lejl, bl-akbar ghadd minnhom iqattghu l-jiem

taghhom fil-lukandi.

Huwa stmat li n-nefqa totali ta' dawn tul iz-zjara kienet ta' €160.8 miljun, zieda ta' 11.0 fil-mija.

B'dawn il-figuri t-turisti li zaru Malta fl-ewwel sitt xhur tas-sena issa laħqu s-730,938, jgigifieri 8.7% aktar mill-istess zmien tas-sena l-ohra.

## Issa se jkollna wkoll birra Ghawdxija

U issa jekk izzur Malta se jkollok ic-cans li dduq birra lokali ohra minbarra dik ta' Farsons ... u din id-darba Ghawdxija, ghax fil-kumpless tal-Gozitano fix-Xewkija twaqqfet birrerja artigjanali bl-isem ta' Lord Chambray Ltd li qed ttiproduci birra (*Premium Ale*) ta' kwalita' bl-isem ta' Blue Lagoon, Golden Bay and San Blas.

Waqt l-inawgurazzjoni mill-Ministru ghal Ghawdex Dr Anton Refalo, id-direttur manigerjali tal-birrerija, Samuele D'Impero qal li l-familja tieghu kienet zaret Ghawdex ghall-ewwel darba 25 sena ilu u mill-ewwel saret

thobb il-gzira. Issa hassew li jistghu jaghtu xi haqa lura ta' kwalita' u jixtiequ jaqsu l-passjoni li ghandhom tal-birra mal-klijenti.

Min-naha tieghu l-Ministru Refalo qal li dan l-investment - ta' miljun ewro - jaqbel mal-politika tal-Gvern li jippromwovi l-investment privat f'Ghawdex li jkun kapaci johloq aktar impjeggi ghall-Ghawdxin.

Qal li l-birrerija se tkun ukoll attrazzjoni turistica ghax turisti Maltin u oħrajn barranin li jzuru Ghawdex se jkollhom ic-cans li jesperjenzaw dawra mal-birrerija u jkunu jistghu jaraw kif tinhadem il-birra u x'kapaci toffri.

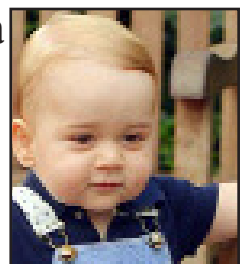
## L-Aqwa Rigal?

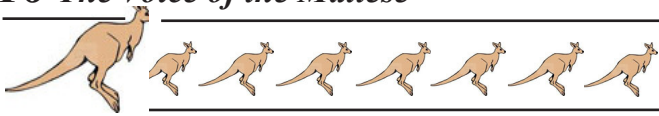
Ma nafux jekk irigal li ta' l-Prim Ministru Malti lill-Prinċep

George f'gheluq l-ewwel sena tieghu hux l-aqwa rigal li ngehatalu.

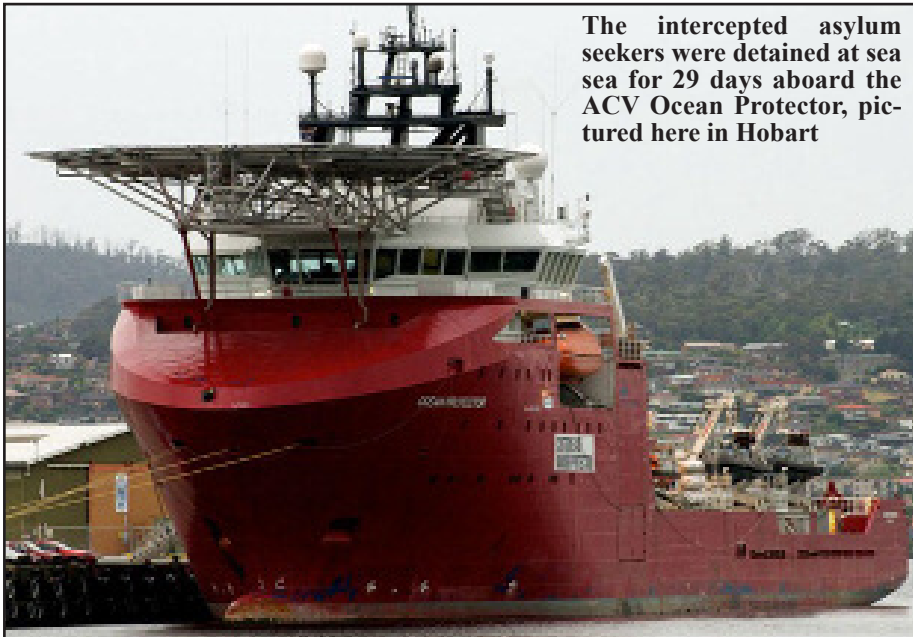
Skont is-*Sunday Times* ta' Londra irigal, li kien sett tal-breakfast tal-fidda, kien l-aktar wiehed extravagant. Skont l-istess gurnal wara dak tal-Prim Ministru Malti kien hemm dak tal-Papa Frangisku li kien jikkonsisti minn globu tal-hagar prezzjuz b'salib fuqu.

Min-naha tieghu l-President Amerikan heles billi ta lill-Prinċep George, kutra, ghalkemm ma ntqal xi kwalita' hi.





## A quick glimpse at Australia



The intercepted asylum seekers were detained at sea for 29 days aboard the ACV Ocean Protector, pictured here in Hobart

## Work for the dole programme

A new job replacement programme, set to begin on July 1, 2015 will force job seekers to look for 40 jobs a month and perform up to 25 hours of community service. This three-year programme will cost the Federal Government \$5.1 billion.

Under the proposed overhaul, job seekers under 30 will be eligible for welfare payments for six months after applying for benefits, and will have to work 25 hours a week for six months of the year.

Those between 30 and 49 will be asked to do 15 hours' work a week for six months a year, while those aged 50-60 will undertake 15 hours a week of an approved activity, such as training.

## Crime and absurd

Nobel prizewinner economist Joseph Stiglitz said that the government's plan to deregulate universities is a "crime" and the move for co-payments for medical services is 'absurd'.

He said the two biggest mistakes the Government can make is changes to university fees and Medicare as that would take us down the American path of widening inequality and economic stagnation. "Countries that imitate the American model are kidding themselves," said the American economist.

## No more with the stroke of a pen

August 1st, 2014 was D-Day for the traditional method of paying for goods and services. From this day on Australia's credit and debit cardholders are no longer able to pay for goods and services with the flourish of a pen, they have to use a PIN number.

If you cannot remember your pin number, it is best that you go to your Bank. In the brave new world of PIN-only verification there will be some situations where a PIN won't be necessary, for instance, when someone is making a contactless payment of less than \$100; or a small tickets purchase of less than \$35; or using a card at a vending machine or parking meters.

The switch to PIN-only verification is designed to reduce fraud.

# A shade of history

Asylum seekers, 157 of them, Tamils from Sri Lanka were detained on the high seas throughout July on the Ocean Protector. On July 1st, two days after the boat was intercepted off Christmas Island, a national security committee decided those on board "should be taken to a place other than Australia".

This committee headed by Prime Minister Tony Abbott maintains they are acting within the scope of Maritime Powers Act in detaining the asylum seekers on the customs vessel and had no obligation to procedural fairness.

They were reportedly kept locked in small windowless rooms for 21 hours a day, sleeping in bunks stacked four high. They had three hours outside daily. Family members were split from each other, and they had no access to translators.

A challenge to the High Courts of Australia resulted into a ruling "that they should be brought back to mainland Australia".

This is the first comprehensive test of whether the government has the power to intercept boats on the high seas and whether the Australian government had the right to hold asylum seekers against their will and take them where it chooses.

Minister Scott Morrison, who has refused to acknowledge the existence of the boat, confirmed the asylum seekers including 37 children would be transferred to the Curtin detention centre in Western Australia.

Curtin is widely considered to be one of the harshest detention centres on Australia's mainland due to its remote location. It has been earmarked by the government for closure next year.

Scott Morrison and Lt-General Angus

Campbell were in India recently trying to negotiate a deal. India's biggest-selling English daily, *The Times of India* described Morrison as the "embattled Immigration Minister" and reported his earlier attempt to convince Sri Lanka to accept 157 asylum seekers "but Colombo blew them away".

Now it seems the High Court has done the same. Minister Morrison is now saying that the asylum seekers on board are Indians and they are economic migrants.

History tends to repeat itself. In 1916 a boat named Gange with 214 Maltese migrants on board were turned away from their intended port of disembarkation in Sydney after having failed a dictation test in the Dutch language in Melbourne.

They became a "prohibited immigrants" unable to disembark anywhere in Australia, as they were shoved from port to port and finally finished in New Caledonia, as the ship carrying the Maltese was French.

It was then Prime Minister Billy Hughes who made the political decision to keep the Maltese on board from entering Australia, even though they were British subjects and Malta had fought with the allies in Gallipoli.

## No off day for Anzac in 2015

There will be no extra days off next year when Anzac Day falls on Saturday.

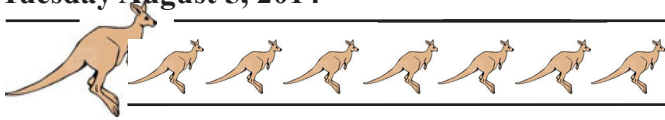
Unlike Australia Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day, no additional day is granted for the national day of remembrance in NSW under the Public Holidays Act.

The last time Anzac Day fell on a Sat-

urday, was in 2009; no extra day's holiday was observed. Anzac Day will be 100 years next year.

The Maltese Branch of the RSL in NSW has lodged a complaint with the organisers of the Malta Convention 2015, as it is to be organised at the same time as the Anzac centenary celebrations.





A quick glimpse at Australia

## Swing in Queensland goes banana

Queensland was always that “awkward” State when it comes to politics. On March 24, 2012, Campbell Newman who was the Mayor of Brisbane scored the biggest victory in Australian electoral history attracting 62.8 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. In the 54th Parliament, that gave the Liberal/National Party 78 seats and Labour just 7 seats with 4 more to other candidates, a total of 89 seats.

Since the election the political scene has

changed with the Government now having 73 seats, Labour 9, Katter Party 3, Palmer Party 2 and Independent 2.

Since his election Newman has reduced the Queensland public service by 14,000.

In a bye-election held recently the LNP lost the seat of Stafford in an 18.6 percent swing against them. Historian, Prof Ross Fitzgerald is now the 9th Labour member. Labour leader is Annastacia Palaszczuk

## No more Carbon Tax

On Thursday July 17, Australia became the first country in the world to abolish a price on carbon. The Senate passed the Abbott government’s repeal bills by 39 votes to 32. After two weeks of negotiations, and several false starts, the Abbott government achieved its long-held ambition to axe the tax.

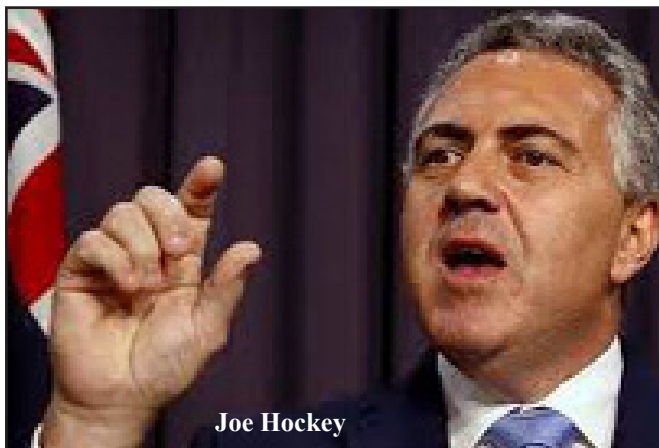
Passage of the legislation delivers the policy on which the government staked an election campaign, which ushered PM Tony Abbott to the head of his party, and helped kill the leadership of ex-PMs Julia Gillard, Kevin Rudd and former opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull.

The Abbott government clinched its victory after a rocky two weeks trying to wrangle the new Senate and an unpredictable crossbench.

Ross Gittens, the economics editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote, “PM Tony Abbott is right about one thing: the price of electricity has shot up and is now a lot higher than it should be. It’s a scandal, in fact. Trouble is the carbon tax has played only a small part in that, so getting rid of it won’t fix the problem.”

“Until the rotten system is reformed, the price of electricity will keep rising excessively, so I doubt if many people will notice the blip caused by the removal of the carbon tax.”

The Australian Competition and Consume Commission (ACCC) is now gearing up to closely monitor companies that flagged a price increase as a result of the carbon tax now the controversial measure has been abolished.



Joe Hockey

## Hockey for leader!

Fascinating to know what goes on behind closed doors. In the authorised biography, *Hockey: Not your average Joe*, by Fairfax Media columnist, Madonna King a former News Ltd journalist and ABC broadcaster, we read an interesting piece about, the Fall guy—the men who betrayed Joe Hockey.

On December 1, 2009, the current Treasurer was ready to take over the reins of the Liberal Party; everyone assumed that Joe Hockey was a shoo-in as the Liberal Party Leader. A spill motion was carried and the job of federal leader was open. Joe Hockey was to stand against Tony Abbott.

Joe Hockey did not anticipate that Malcolm Turnbull was to re-contest the leadership. The first ballot was Hockey 12 votes, Abbott 35 and Turnbull 26 votes. Hockey was eliminated and on the second ballot Tony Abbott was elected leader by 44 votes to 41 votes.

The issue that got rid of Turnbull was the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, also known as emission trading scheme (ETS).

## And Combet as well

Embattled Julia Gillard secretly offered to stand down as Prime Minister in June 2013 and secure the leadership for cabinet colleague Greg Combet in order to fend off Kevin Rudd.

Mr Combet whose partner is Juanita Phillips the ABC-TV newsreader said so in this book, *The fights of My Life*.

Mr Combet battled illness and near-constant pain for much of his time as minister, including vascular condition in one leg, and osteoporosis that left him with neck shoulder and arm pain.

He was another victim of the carbon tax which he launched in 2011.

## Children at high risk of abuse

There were 273,000 reported cases of children at risk of abuse nationally in 2012-13, up from a low of 237,000 in 2010-11 according to new figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Child welfare experts attributed the increase to greater pressure on families and a heightened awareness of abuse.

The 272,980-abuse notification involved 184,216 children, the majority living in NSW and Victoria.

Only 45 per cent of the reports were investigated nationally. About 50,000 allegations of abuse in NSW were not investigated and 54,000 reports received no scrutiny in Victoria.

Children most at risk came from poorer background, while 42 per cent of abuse victims were from the areas of lowest socioeconomic status. Other figures show that indigenous children were at the highest risk, being eight times as likely as non-indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.



**MICHELLE ROWLAND MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER  
FOR GREENWAY**



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Acacia Gardens, Blacktown\*, Girraween, Glenwood, Kellyville Ridge, Kings Langley, Kings Park, Lalor Park, Parklea, Pendle Hill, Prospect\*, Quakers Hill\*, Riverstone, Rouse Hill\*, Schofields, Seven Hills, Stanhope Gardens, The Ponds, Toongabbie\*, Vineyard

\*Parts of

230 Prospect Hwy, Seven Hills 2147  
Ph: 9671 4780

Email: [Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au)

Find us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/mrowlandmp](http://www.facebook.com/mrowlandmp)

Twitter: @mrowlandmp

## Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija ta' Victoria bi programm Letterarju f'għieh il-kittieb Dr Adrian Grima

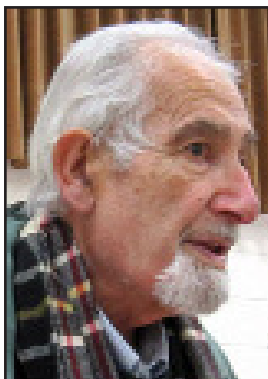
Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija ta' Victoria l-dan l-ahhar organizza programm letterarju fis-Sala tač-Centru Malti ta' Parkville biex jagħti merħba lill-awtur u poeta Malti, Dr Adrian Grima, li kien fuq btala f'Melbourne minn Malta, flimkien ma' martu Natalie u wliedhom Samuel u Raphael.



Maria Catania



Paul Vella



Manwel Cassar



Frank Bonett



Marie-Louise Anastasi

żiji u u wkoll stejjer. Fl-2002 hareġ ukoll żewġ kotba għall-adoloxxenti, "*Din Mhix Logħba*" (stejjer qosra) u "*Vleġġa ikkargata*" (poeżiji). Huwa wkoll ha sehem u qara xoghlijiet tieghu f'hafna pajjiżi, fosthom f'Bali u n-Nicaragua.

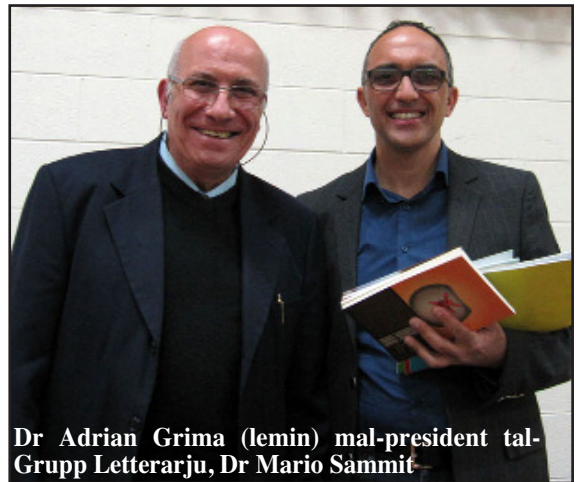
Il-programm letterarju ġie miftuħ minn Paul Vella li ta merħba lill-mistednin minn Malta u wkoll lil dawk li attendew għal din il-lejla. Wara, il-president tal-Grupp, Dr Mario Sammut indirizzi lill-miġemgħa u tkellem dwar ix-xogħol tal-grupp biex ikabbar l-użu tal-Ilsien Malti u l-kultura Maltija f'Melbourne.

Semma li l-grupp jiltaqa' kull l-ahhar ġimgha tax-xahar fejn il-membri jaqraw xoghlijiet letterarji tagħhom jew ta' awturi oħra. Wara li semma li l-akbar avveniment tas-sena tal-grupp huwa l-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju li jsir għal Settembru, stieden lil Dr Grima biex ikellem lil-laqgħa u anke jaqra' xi xogħol minn tieghu.

Dr Grima tenna li kien iħossu kuntent li qed jiehu sehem f'dan il-programm għaliex dejjem kienet il-holma tieghu li jaqra' bil-Malti għall-Maltin fl-Awstralja fejn l-udjenza tifhem x'qiegħed jaqra, minhabba li ġieli kien hemm okkażjonijiet meta qara xogħol minn tieghu fejn l-udjenza ma kinetx tifhem bil-Malti, anke jekk li l-poeżija b'lingwa oħra kient tkun proġettata fuq screen.

L-ewwel żewġ poeżiji li qara kienu, "Kieku kelli lanča żghira" u "Fl-ghelieqi midruba". Wara qara "Venja" novella fuq storja vera ta' żmien it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, minn riċerka u hafna qari li għamel, u minn rapporti tal-ARP, dwar attack mill-ajru li sehħ fis-26 ta' ġunju, 1942 bejn il-ġnien tal-Gzira u Ta' Xbiex, u fejn żewġ tfajliet, hut in-nanna tieghu, u oħrajn tilfu hajjithom. Qal li dakhinar, b'kollox dakinahr kienu mietu tnax, filwaqt li tnax oħra sfaw midruba.

Wara intervent mużikali, mem-



Dr Adrian Grima (lemin) mal-president tal-Grupp Letterarju, Dr Mario Sammit

bri tal-Grupp Letteratura ta' Victoria qraw xi xogħol, kemm minn tagħhom u wkoll ta' awturi oħra. L-ewwel beda Dr Victor Sammut li qara poeżija tal-mibki u qatt minsi membru tal-grupp, Laurie Armato, "Is-Sena għall-Paċi 1986". Poeżija oħra li kiteb hu stess kienet "Talba għall-Paċi" u spicča b'oħra ta' Trevor Zahra, "Il-Malti".

Maria Catania qrat poeżija ta' Laurie Armato, "L-Ilsien li bih twelidt" u oħra tagħha, "Lill-Mons. Joseph Grech, Isqof ta' Sandhurst". Il-v-president tal-Grupp, Marie Louise Anastasi qrat poeżija ta' Paul Saliba "Int ridtu għalik" u oħra tagħha, fl-okkażjoni tal-mewt t'ommha, "Ma, illum m'ghadekx magħna".

Fost il-membri l-oħra li qraw xoghlijiet letterarji kien hemm, Frank Bonett, b'zewġ kitbiet minn tieghu, "Fil-bitha" u "Memorji"; Manwel Cassar, li qara ftit hajki u żewġ poeżiji oħra, "Amnesija" u "Sodisfazzjon", u Paul Vella li qara l-poeżija tal-poeta Malti Awstraljan, Frank Zammit, "Lil Rużar Briffa".

Fl-ahhar Paul reġa' stieden lil Adrian Grima jaqra tlett poeżiji oħra, tieghu: "Mostar", "Rajtni kif kont għaddej?" u "hallejt ġenbejk fuq ruhi".

Il-programm intemm b'intervent iehor mużikali, imma mhux qabel ma' Dr Victor Sammut, f'isem il-Grupp ippreżenta xi kotba bil-Malti li juru x-xogħol tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, filwaqt li Dr Grima ippreżenta xi kotba minn tieghu lill-librerija tač-Centru Malti, li hi meqjusa bhala l-akbar librerija ta' kotba bil-Malti barra minn Malta. Huwa ġie mdawwar mal-librerija mill-PRO.

Paul Vella



Dr Adrian Grima fuq il-podju jaqra mix-xogħol tieghu waqt il-programm letterarju f'għieh f'Victoria

# Community News



## Maltese Past Pupils & Friends of Don Bosco NSW Inc. 27th Annual Dinner Dance

**Saturday October 11**  
**Mandavilla Function**  
**Centre Horsley Park NSW**  
**Tickets \$55.**

**Dress: semi formal**  
**Music by Joe Apap**  
**Book early. Don't be disappointed.**  
**Tel: Mrs Marlene Dimech 9631 9295**

## Tune In to Radio and Television Maltese Radio Programmes

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

In **MELBOURNE** on 98.9 North West FM, each Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. Presenter Emmanuel Brincat.

In **SYDNEY**, listen to the MCC radio programme Sunday at 11am 2GLF FM 89.3, or on demand: [www.893fm.com.au](http://www.893fm.com.au)

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

**UNCLE SAM DJ** (Maltese Radio) tune in to link: [www.unclesamdj.com](http://www.unclesamdj.com)

### Maltese Programmes on TV and 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 - 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 need receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard on digital TV. SBS Radio 2 is on Channel 38 and SBS.

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

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

### VIVA MALTA

VIVA MALTA on Central Coast Radio: August: Thursdays 14 and 28; September 11th and 25th from 6 pm -7 pm on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford NSW  
 Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

**Web streaming is also available on:** [www.coastfm.org.au](http://www.coastfm.org.au).

## Xaghra Assoc. of NSW Inc.

### Presents: Tal-Vitorja Dinner Dance

*Let's celebrate this National Feast together*

**Guest of Honour: Fr. Joseph Curmi**

**When: Saturday, September 20**

**Where: Balmoral Function Centre, 47-49 Balmoral Rd, Blackown**

**Time: 6:30pm onwards**

**Food: 5-Course Meal, beer, wine & soft drinks, tea/coffee**

**Entertainment: Roc-A-Tac & Giuseppe Verdi Brass Band**

**Contact: Josephine/Ray 9627 4182 or 0439 974 182; M'Anne Theuma 9627 4641**

## Community News for 'publication'

Organisations wishing to publish notices or news intended for the Maltese community in Australia in *The Voice of the Maltese* online magazine, are advised to stick to the magazine's deadline and submit material at least a week prior to publication. Also please try to be brief so we could accommodate most requests

### Meetings of Day Care Maltese Groups in NSW

#### 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..

#### Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

Meets every second Friday of the month; Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 am

#### Llandillo Maltese Seniors

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

#### Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of the month in the Youth Room of OLQP

**\*(All Groups are Sponsored by The Maltese Community Council of NSW). Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123. The MCC offices are at 59 Franklin Street Mays Hill NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School)**

Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

#### The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Ongoing: We meet every First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am-1:00pm

Our Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining.

Come Join us and make new Friends  
**For more information contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud J.P. Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298**

## Community News

### Festa Santa Marija Assunta 2014 Programme

**Friday August 15: 6.30 pm:** Confessions in Maltese and English; 6.45 pm: Holy Rosary; 7.00 pm.: Presentation Of Flowers to Sta Marija, followed by solemn Mass. Afterwards a merry band march amid a fireworks display and continuation of Marian Marches at The Hall.

**Saturday August 16: 6.30-12.30 am:** THE SANTA MARIJA ASSUNTA ANNUAL DINNER DANCE at The Lakeside Banquet Convention Centre.. Live Band entertainment by: The Tequila Bros & The Maltese United Brass Band.

**Sunday August 17 (Festa Day): 2.00 p.m.:** A concelebrated High Mass by Bisop Vincent Long OFM Conv Auxiliary bishop of the Western Region of Melbourne, assisted by Fr. John Manuel Sunaz CMF parish priest and other Maltese priests. Fr Dennis Carabot will deliver a short Panegyric in Maltese. The accompanying Choir is The Philippine "Himig Pilpino Choir of Maidstone"

**3.45 pm:** A Procession with the statue of Santa Marija amid a fireworks display, accompanied by The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc and other Associations.

After the procession a musical concert hosted by The Maltese Own Band followed by DJ Domenic.

For tickets Contact: Frank Mintoff: 9363 5325; Frank Galea: 9314 4231; Bill Deguara: 9366 9956; Joe Attard: 9361 1396; Doris Bonello: 9745 9934; Christine Attard: 9364 5049.

Adults: \$60; Children U/12: \$45 (food, drinks will be available)

### Il-Festa ta' San Bert f'Sydney

Il-Hadd 24 ta' Awwissu fiċ-Ċentru La Valette, f'175 Walters Rd, Blacktown NSW, se tiġi iċċelebrata l-festa ta' San Bert.

Il-jum jibda b'quddiesa fil-11.00 am. Wara jkun hemm ikel Malti u xorb servut mill-klabb.

Se jindaqqu l-marċi fuq CD's, jintwera video tal-festa f'Hal Gharghur, Malta, ikun hemm loġhob tal-boċċi, u wkoll divertiment minn Tony Fenech u Joe Xuereb.

Is-sejha hi biex min irid imur jiffestegġja mal-Gharghurin ta' Sydney

Kulhadd huwa mistieden.

Għall aktar tagħrif wiehed jista' jċempel lil Maria Mercieca: 02 4735 3590.

### Maltese Language Classes in Liverpool

The Maltese Language School of NSW is opening a new class to teach the Maltese language and culture at the Casula Public School in De Meyrick Avenue, Casula.

Lessons to be given on Wednesdays after school hours  
Contact Mary on 9601 2189

*This is another initiative of the Maltese Community Council of NSW*

### Avviż għal min tinteressah il-kitba

Id-direzzjoni ta' *The Voice* thegġeg lill-qarrejja li jhossu li jew għandhom talent għall-kitba inkella li jaħsbu li bi ftit għajnuna jistgħu jrabbu l-kunfidenza għall-kitba, biex jekk iridu jistgħu jissottomettu x-xogħol tagħhom lil *The Voice* fl-email address: [maltese-voice@gmail.com](mailto:maltese-voice@gmail.com)

### Il-festa tal-Vitorja mill-Fathers Maltin

Il-Fathers Maltin jixtiequ jfakkru lill-komunita` Maltija li l-Festa tal-Vitorja din is-sena se tiġi iċċelebrata nhar il-Hadd 14 ta' Settembru fil-Katidral ta' St Mary's Sydney.

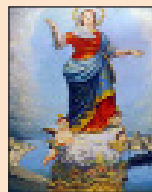
Fis-2.30 pm tibda l-purċissjoni. Wara jkun hemm quddiesa li tkun ikkonċelebrata mis-sacerdoti Maltin.

Kulhadd huwa mistieden. Min jixtieq jattendi għandu jaħseb kmeni halli jilhaq post.

Jekk hemm xi hadd li għandu xi tfal li jkun jixtiequ jiehdu sehem fil-purċissjoni

Jista' jċempel lil Antoinette Mascari: 9899 1938.

### The Maltese Guild of SA Inc cordially invites you to The Feast of Santa Maria For 2014



Tuesday August 12: Mass at 10.30am at the Guild Hall  
Confession and Mass Celebrated by Fr. Gabriel

Sunday August 17 from 12.15pm: Celebrating the Feast of St. Mary at The Maltese Cultural Centre 6, Jeanes Street Beverley

Free lunch to members. Ravioli followed with dessert  
Non Members \$10, Children \$5

There will be TV Flash Backs of Festivities of Santa Maria From Malta

From 2 pm to 4 pm the Maltese Queen of Victories Band will present a Musical Programme of Popular Music And Marches

You Must Book Your Lunch with Joe Briffa on 8254 6988 / 0421 791 327, Mary Craus on 8281 2329 or see anyone from the committee.

# Community News



## Computer Class for the Elderly

The Maltese Community Council of NSW is conducting a computer class at the Maltese Resource Centre 59 Franklin Street, Mays Hill 2145 NSW every Friday between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00

For more information contact Emanuel Camilleri: 0409 744 376

### Notice to Former members of ...

#### Malta Society of New Zealand

We now have a Facebook page that we invite you to join. It is: 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 all have an interest in the Maltese culture.



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE  
MALTESE BAND NSW Inc

## Music Tuition Program

Learn a musical instrument with the Band

Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band is organising heavily subsidised music lessons for all ages 8 and up, at any level.

Lessons will be arranged for small groups or private tuition for anyone interested in learning a concert band instrument with the aim of becoming a Band Member.



To register your interest or for more information

CALL or EMAIL

Antoine - 0405 233 144 - [president@olqpmalteseband.com](mailto:president@olqpmalteseband.com)

Roderick - 9670 2020 - [secretary@olqpmalteseband.com](mailto:secretary@olqpmalteseband.com)

## St John Sydney Xewkija Ass.

Presents: Annual Feast Programme Dinner Dance Saturday August 23 at 6.30 p.m. at Balmoral Function Centre 47-49 Balmoral Street, Blacktown

### 5-COURSE MEAL

(including beer, wine and soft drinks)  
Music provided by Charlie Camilleri and Rockin Mustangs, and Our Lady Queen of Peace

Sunday August 24

Mass at St Michael's Church Orwell Street South Blacktown. After mass a procession with the statue of St John With Our Lady Queen of Peace. After the procession drinks and food will be served while the brass band will be in attendance

For further info contact: Sam: 46841617; mob: 0419781568; Rose: 96285424; Elia: 96226047; Martin Sciberras: 0417237524



## 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: 2012/2013 - \$ 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](mailto:foph@bigpond.com)

Proudly supported by:



## Community News

### Ghana fil-La Valette Centre

Il-La Valette Social Centre se jorganizza lejla ta' Ghana fiċ-ċentru fis-26 ta' Ottubru li ġej minn Saver u shabu. Il-hin ikun fit-8.00 pm u d-dhul se jkun bla hlas. Kulhadd huwa mistieden jattendi.

### Readers please note

*The Voice of the Maltese* online can be accessed anytime by logging to:  
<http://www.maltesewelfare.com.au> and clicking on: *The Voice* sign.

## Friends of Birzebbuġa

are organising a get-together on November 15, 2014 at 6.30 p.m. at Merrylands RSL Military Road Merrylands NSW with buffet and entertainment  
For tickets contact: Emanuel Camilleri: 029822 0228. Mob: 0409 744 376  
Come along. It will be a fun night

## Programm tal-festa f' Melbourne f' ġieħ Santa Liena Imperatrici Awgusta, 2014

IL-ĠIMGHA, 22 Ta' AWWISSU

7.30 pm: Fil-knisja tal-Croatians, Fitzgerald Rd, Ardeer: Quddiesa bil-Ingliż minn Fr. Edwin Agius, mssp. Jiehu sehem il-kor. Wara il-quddiesa, kulhadd mistieden fis-sala fejn il-Maltese United Brass Band iddoq marċi brijużi.

IS-SIBT 23 TA' AWWISSU

6.30 pm: Ballu kbir ta' lejlet il-festa fil-Melrose Reception & Convention Centre, Melrose Dr, Tullamarine. Tiehu sehem il-Banda Vibe, u floor show minn Joe Galea minn Sydney. Il Maltese United Brass Band iddoq marċi brijużi.

IL-HADD 24 TA' AWWISSU

3.00 pm. Fil-knisja tal-Croatians, quddiesa minn Fr. Edwin Agius, Fr. Emmle Adami, Fr. Dennis Carabott, u Fr. Dominic Degiorgio, meġhuna minn Manwel Farrugia. Jiehu sehem il-kor. Wara Barka Sagramentali.

4.30 pm. Purċissjoni bl-istatwa ta' Santa Liena madwar il-knisja, akkumpanjata miż-żewġ baned Maltin, il-Melita Band Inc. u l-Maltese Own Band Phil. Soc. Inc. L-għaqdiet Maltin mistiedna jiehdu parti bl-istandardi.

6.00 pm. Kuncert varjat fis-sala tal-Croatians - jibda biddaq ta' marċi brijużi mill-baned Maltin, li jikkumpanjaw il-Vara Artistika ta' Santa Liena. Wara li jispiċċaw il-baned, ikun hemm daqq varjat mid-DJ Dominic u floor show minn Joe Galea.

Dhul: Kbar: \$5.00. Tfal taht it-12-il sena jidhlu b'xejn. Fid-9.00 pm: Tluġ tal-lotterija.

*(Hadd ma jista' jdaħħal ikel u xorb. Fil-bar wiehed isib jixri ikel u xorb tradizzjonali)*

Għal iktar tagħrif ċemplan lil:

Victor Bartolo: 93798387 - Mobile: 0412 991 325; Joe Borg: 93044414 & Joe Busuttill: 93118968; Mary Abdilla: 93705164 & Mary Bartolo, Mobile: 0417 549 724

*Kulhadd mistieden jingħaqad magħna għall-Festa tal-Patrana ta' Santa Liena*

## Maltese RSL sub branch Call for Affiliate members

If you are interested in joining, please call Doris on mobile below so she will send you an application form. When filled out, the application should be sent back to the address below; but you also need to provide:

1. *Proof of eligibility that you have a relative (living or deceased) who is or was eligible to be a Service Member of the League.*

*A photocopy of the Certificate of Service is all we require, and...*

2. *Membership application fee (\$30) cheque made payable to: Maltese RSL sub branch*

You can send the completed application form along with the above requirements to:

Mrs Doris Pocock  
Administration Officer Maltese RSL sub branch,  
PO Box 8280, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153  
Tel: 0419 420 915/  
email: [rm pocock2@bigpond.com](mailto:rm pocock2@bigpond.com)

## Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day



21st Anniversary Luncheon  
on Wednesday October 8

Venue: St Stephen Serbian Orthodox Church Hall Corner of Woodstock Ave & Hyatts Rd Plumpton

Between 9:00am - Finish 3:00pm  
Starting with morning tea, followed by Mass  
A special lunch and dessert will be served  
live entertainment provided by well-known  
Maltese entertainers

Cost: Frail person(s) free; Carer \$25; Senior \$45  
Call one of the committee below to reserve your seat.

Doris Pocock 0419 420 915; Lina Magro 9629 4046

Our Elderly are forever grateful for this very special day

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 Sch.  
Fuller Street, Seven Hills

SCHOFIELDS - Terra Sancta College. Hambeldon Rd, Schofields

For more information and all enquiries  
call Mary Pace Feroud on (02)9601 2189

You can have access to *The Voice of the Maltese* online anytime by logging to:  
<http://www.maltesewelfare.com.au> and click on The Voice sign

# Sports 1

## Medals elude Malta Team

In Glasgow, Malta failed to add any medals to the four obtained in previous Commonwealth Games. The 27 participating athletes did not manage a medal between them.



Perhaps the biggest disappointment was shooter William Chetcuti. So much was expected of the winner of two bronze medals in the shooting ranges in previous Games. The winner of bronze in 2002 in Manchester, and 2006 in Melbourne failed to raise his performance.

The nearest Malta came to winning a medal in this sport was through 17-year-old Nahan Lee Xuereb who finished fourth in double trap. He narrowly missed out on a bronze after losing against India's Asab Mohd in the decisive shoot-off. In the same competition William Chetcuti even failed to make it to the final round finishing seventh.

In the trap competition Brian Galea finished 11th from 36 shooters with 109 hits from 125 clays. The gold medal went to an Australian of Maltese descent, Adam Vella.

In pistol shooting Eleanor Bezzina finished 13th and failed to qualify.

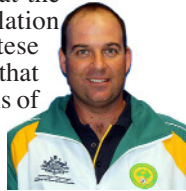
The colour bronze also narrowly eluded Malta in wrestling. Both David Galea in the 74kg category, and Adam Vella in the freestyle 61kg category lost their bouts for bronze.

Following are some of the other results obtained by Maltese athletes:

In Lawn Bowls, the three Maltese-Australians were eliminated in the group stage.

### Adam Vella wins Gold in Australian Colours

It appears that the only consolation for the Maltese sports fans is, that a shooter who is of Maltese descent and with a Maltese family name, Adam Vella, won a gold medal in trap shooting representing Australia.



For Vella, a 43-year-old born in Melbourne, Victoria, the son of a Maltese father, this is his fourth Commonwealth Games gold medal. He won the others in the Games held in Manchester, Melbourne and Delhi. He was also bronze medallist in the Athens Olympic Games

In the women's singles Carmen Spiteri won only one from five; Lenny Callus won three from six in the men's singles, and with John Parnis won three from five in the men's pairs.

In athletics, Rebecca Sare' finished only ninth in the Triple Jump but still managed to set a national record with a jump of 12.26m, while Rebecca Camilleri became the first athlete representing Malta to reach a Commonwealth Games track and field final after qualification in the long jump event.

All three judokas lost in the first round



Valletta's Shaun Bajada (right) in a duel for the ball with Qara Qarayev in Azerbaijan

## Valletta hit for 4 in Azerbaijan return

### 7 defeats from 8 for Malta clubs in UEFA competitions

Even more disappointments for the Maltese football clubs in European competitions with the elimination on an aggregate score of 5-0 of the Champions, Valletta, by FK Qarabagh of Azerbaijan following a 4-0 defeat in Baku in the return tie of the second qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League.

The four Maltese clubs representing Malta in this season's European competitions had a most disappointing adventure. They suffered seven defeats from their two-legged encounters and recorded only a draw.

Valletta were no match for their opponents who had already beaten them 1-0 in the first leg in Malta. But even more disappointing the fact that the citizens finished the game with only nine players due to the red carding of Jonathan Caruana (after 19 minutes) and Ryan Fenech six minutes from time.

Qarabagh went ahead after 15 minutes and after that there was no way Valletta could survive, particularly when, four minutes later they found themselves a man short with the sending off of Caruana. However, they managed to keep the score down to that goal by the end of the first half. But three minutes into the second half Qarabagh added to their lead with a goal by Chumbinho, and on 57 minutes Danilo Dias scored a third.

Leroy George wrapped up the scoring with a fourth in the 80th minute, and four minutes later Fenech picked up a second yellow card that amounted to a red and was sent off to become the third player from Valletta to be sent off against Qarabagh over the two legs.

Perhaps one of the most disappointed players with Valletta's elimination was Maltese-Australian Adrian Zahra. The former Perth Glory player must have thought he could make his European debut. But though he was in the Valletta squad for both home and away matches, he was not given his chance.

## SUPA IGA NPL NSW Mens 2 final Sept 21

Following their midweek scoreless draw at home to Northern Tigers in the 19th round, Parramatta now need only win one more match out of their remaining three to finish top of the Supa IGA NPL Mens 2 Div for possible promotion. They are now seven points clear. The Finals will be played at Blacktown's Lily Football Centre on September 21.

### Football results

#### NSW: Supa IGA National Prem League Div. 2

Mounties v Parramatta FC 2-2  
Parramatta v Northern Tigers 0-0

League ladder	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta	19	11	5	3	38	21	39
Northern T.	19	9	5	5	31	23	32
Macarthur R.	18	8	6	4	32	22	30
Sydney Univ.	18	8	4	6	27	29	28
Bankstown C.	18	6	8	4	32	27	26
Mounties W.	18	7	4	7	28	27	25
CC Mariners	18	6	7	5	24	23	25
Hills Brum.	18	5	6	7	27	29	21
Mt. Druitt	18	6	2	10	21	33	20
Spirit FC	18	5	4	9	28	30	19
Fraser Park	18	4	5	9	23	32	17
Bankstown B.	18	5	1	12	24	39	16

#### VICTORIA: NPL

Pt Melbourne v Green Gully SC 1-1

#### VICTORIA: Division I

St Albans S. v Sunshine GC 1-0

*\*Apologies as owing to circumstances beyond our control we could not include last weekend's results*

### Forthcoming matches

Supa IGA National Premier League (Div 2)  
**Aug 9:** 7.30 p.m.: Hensley Park: Sydney U. v Parramatta FC; Sydney U: Fraser Park v Mounties **Aug 16:** 7.30 p.m.: Jensen park: Bankstown C. v Parramatta; 7.30 p.m.: Lilys Cent.: Hills B v Mounties W.  
**Victoria NPL**  
**Aug 9:** Green Gully v Hume C.. **Aug. 17:** Melbourne K. v Green Gully. **Victoria 1 Division: Aug. 9:** N. Geelong v Sunshine GC; **Aug 16:** Sunshine GC v.Dandenong City

# Sports 2

## Sunshine George Cross mark important milestones: Reach 1500 matches mark in 67 years



Sunshine George Cross Football Club, formerly known as just George Cross, the first football club in the whole of Australia that was founded by Maltese immigrants, has this season reached two important milestones. The current season is their 67th in a league competition, and last Saturday (August 2), their home match at Chaplin Reserve against Richmond marked their 1500th league outing.

This Australian soccer club from Sunshine, a western suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, that currently plays in the Victorian State League Division 1, was founded way back in 1947 and played its first competitive match in Division III a year later, in 1948.

George Cross – who later began to be known as Sunshine George Cross and wear the colours on the Maltese flag, Red and white stripes for their home strip, – are the oldest club of all the NPL clubs in Victoria, and most probably also the oldest Maltese association in Victoria.

An avid reader Victor Brincat told *The Voice*: “It is a terrific milestone for the club to have stood the test of time and it is up to every Maltese descendant in Victoria to ensure the club continues to prosper in the future.”

George Cross was one of eight Victorian clubs to have participated in Australia’s National Soccer League and its best achievement was reaching the playoffs as finalists in the 1986 season.

Winners of the Australian Cup in 1964, Sunshine George Cross were named champions of the 1977 Victorian State League and were also runners up on nine



**George Cross SC 1949 Division III Champions with the club’s co-founders Emmanuel “Danny” Gatt and Bill Sandham. Back row (from left): Charles Gatt (committee member), George Gatt, unknown, Guy Zammit, unknown, unknown. Centre row: Baldas Calleja, Daniel Gatt (president), Kathleen Sandham (committee member), Bill Sandham (secretary), unknown. Front: The first two from left are not recognised, the Frank Zammit, Reno Mizzi and another player whose name is not known. (Photo from the George Cross archives)**

occasions. Throughout its history it produced five Weinstein Medallists and three Bill Fleming Medallists. It was also the first club belonging to Maltese migrants to recruit some of the best footballers Malta has ever produced.

The list is much too long to mention, but

names like the Vella brothers, Lolly and Tony, Joe ‘Ginger’ Zammit and Billy Dalli readily spring to mind. Nearer to our time, the club has also been home to two very well known players of Maltese descent, Kevin Muscat and Emmanuel Muscat. It has also been home to John Markovski, Craig Foster and Andrew Nabbout.



**A most recent team-photo of Sunshine George Cross before their match against St Albans Saints. Standing (from left): Manuell Sadiq, Lewis Shannon, Anthony Cassar, Chris Dib, Nabi Tuna, Eddie Cetkin. Front: Jacob Attard, Damian Rastocic, Matthew Oghanna, Christopher Oghanna and Adrian Logozzo.**