

The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

Issue
173

fortnightly magazine for the Diaspora

February 20, 2018



Malta Prime Minister Joseph Muscat to lead delegation to Australia in April for the opening of the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast in Queensland /turn to page 12



Inclement weather conditions disrupted Carnival 2018 in Malta but supporters of the annual event still managed to celebrate and make merry with a spectacular and colourful show /see pages 2 and 14



Minbarra l-artistrija fil-karrijiet, dis-sena, forsi aktar minn snin oħra, spikkaw il-kreattivitàta' fil-kostumi li biex saru ntefqu l-eluf kbar ta' Ewro

KARNIVAL BIS-SULLUZZU



Hekk hassewhom id-dilettanti tal-Karnival

F' wiehed minn qwiel Maltin jinghad li "Il-bniedem jipproponi u Alla jiddisponi". Ghal min forsi ma kienx midhla tieghu jew ma kienx jaf xi jfisser facli jifhem jekk iħares lejn l-aħħar jiem f'Malta. Skont l-organizzaturi l-Karnival ta' Malta ta' dis-sena kellu jkun mhux biss l-aqwa, imma wkoll l-itwal renju, ta' sitt ijiem, bhala parti mic-celebrazzjoni ta' Valletta 2018. Imma ma kellux ikun; gie mħarbat bil-maltemp. Biss tkompla gimgha wara. Ghalhekk gie li kellna Karnival bis-sulluzzu.

Bejn nhar il-Gimgha 9 u t-13 ta' Frar, fosthom f'Jum San Pawl, in-natura has-bitha mod iehor. Il-Gimgha u s-Sibt kienu karatterizzati

minn xita qliel u rih li kkawżaw sfrattu tal-festi mhejjija minn dawk li jieħdu gost u jonfqu l-eluf ta' Ewro biex jagħtu xhieda tal-hila li għandhom li jibnu l-karrijiet tal-Karnival li jferrihu tant Maltin, kif ukoll turisti. Ghal dawn li wiehed jista' jsejhlhom xejn inqas minn artisti, u dawk l-ohrajn li jistennew dan iz-zmien biex jirrilassaw fl-hekk magħruf bhala r-Renju tal-Bluha, dis-sena r-renju kif kien skedat safa riddott għal wiehed mill-iqsar. Kellu jdum sitt ijiem, imma ha biss tlett ijiem.

Kien hemm jumejn li fihom infetħu bwieb is-sema, u spikka l-qawl Malti li "Frar ifawwar il-bjar". Fil-jiem l-ohra kien imposibbli li t-22

karru jieħdu sehem fil-isfilati. Għall-inqas, it-Tnejn fil-ghodu t-temp żamm u parti mill-programm tal-Karnival tat-Tfal li kien diga' tħassar is-Sibt ta' qabel seta' jsir.

Tassew kien ta' dizappunt l-aktar għal dawk li ħadu x-xogħol u għamlu tant spejjeż. Ma kienx hemm aktar minn jum wiehed li fih sar programm shih kif skedat.

Kellu wkoll jithassar l-hekk magħruf bhala l-Gran Final tat-Tlieta li mbagħad



gie pospost għall-Hadd li għadda. Biex ipattu għal dan id-dizappunt, l-awtoritajiet, il-Ministeru tal-Kultura u *Festivals Malta*, iddeċidew li did-darba jaġevolawhom u tawhom iċ-ċans li fi tmiem il-gimgha li għaddiet, nhar is-Sibt u l-Hadd li għadda jipprezentaw l-attivitajiet li tħassru fil-jiem proprja. Kienet tkun hasra li ma ngħatax dan iċ-ċans. B'hekk seta' jiġi sodisfatt min tant iħobb din l-okkażjoni.

Hekk għal darb'ohra wiehed seta' jammira hilet dawk li għal xhur shaħ matul is-sena jagħtu hinhom biex jibnu l-karrijiet, dawk li jħitu l-kostumi mer-aviljużi dawk li jhejju biex jagħtu gost lill-pubbliku biż-żifniet ħafna drabi wkoll kreattivi tagħhom.

Matul il-jiem, xorta waħda setgħu jsiru l-Karnivali spontanji f'Hal-Għaxaq u fin-Nadur, Għawdex, kif ukoll dak fil-Hamrun permezz tal-baned il-Hadd fil-ghodu.

Interessanti wkoll kien did-darba kien hemm ukoll il-Karnival organizzat għall-ewwel darba fit-tlett ibliet tal-Kottonera l-Hadd ta' qabel il-jiem prorprja li fost kulhadd ħadu sehem fih ukoll mijiet ta' tfal li taw spettaklu ta' żfin u kostumi.

(ara wkoll paġna 14)



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

Protective Trusts: Tough love protects vulnerable adults from being manipulated out of their inheritance

by Paul Sant

It is a tale often repeated by concerned parents and grandparents alike. How do I make sure that my most vulnerable child manages their inheritance properly? Often, we are approached by clients desperate to protect their vulnerable adult children from exploitation.

Considering establishing a protective trust for your loved one could be a fruitful asset protection strategy that would protect the capital of the estate from exploitation and ensure the ongoing maintenance of your loved one.

This is accomplished by creating a trust for the vulnerable person that has the following features:

1. It should ensure that the vulnerable person is not entitled to the capital of the estate. This results in the vulnerable person not having the authority to call for payment of the trust assets and therefore wind up the trust at their discretion. In a protective trust, the residual capital is reserved for beneficiaries nominated by the will-maker.
2. The trustee has control of the investment, the use of trust capital and how much of the trust income will be paid to the vulnerable beneficiary. This may mean that all of the income is paid, or only part of the income is paid.
3. It must ensure that the interests of the residual beneficiary do not overshadow the needs of the vulnerable beneficiary. The interests of the vulnerable principal beneficiary are made the

priority of the trustee during the lifetime of the principal beneficiary. This means that the purpose of the capital investment should be to generate income, not boost capital.

There are two types of commonly used protective trusts. These are the Special Disability Trust (usually used to cover care and accommodation expenses) and the All Needs Protective Trust.

How can you make a protective trust?

The trusts can be established by either a will-maker as part of their Will, or in a Deed during their lifetime. The trust will continue to operate until the vulnerable beneficiary is deceased. However, the maximum life of a trust is 80 years, and if the primary beneficiary lives beyond this the trust will be wound up regardless

Who is the trustee?

If the trust was created by a Will, then the trustee is often the executor of the Will. Given the personal nature of the purpose of a protected trust, and the vulnerability of the principal beneficiary, it is important that will-makers choose their trustee wisely. The trustee should be a person that is trustworthy, and capable of making considerate and mature decisions in the best interests of the vulnerable beneficiary.

What about the remaining capital of the trust after the vulnerable principal beneficiary has passed?

During the lifetime of the vulnerable beneficiary, the only purpose of the capital of the trust is to pay for the needs of

the vulnerable beneficiary. Following the death of the vulnerable beneficiary, the residual beneficiary or beneficiaries (who are identified in the Will), become entitled to the residual capital.

Centrelink Treatment

The type of protective trust that you choose could affect the beneficiaries entitled to Centrelink benefits. Usually, unlike the assets in a Special Disability Trust, the assets in an All Purpose Protective Trust will be counted as part of the assets of the principal beneficiary for means testing purposes.

Risk of Challenge by vulnerable beneficiary

It should come as no surprise that the vulnerable beneficiary may not be happy with the will maker's decision to deny them access to lump sum wealth. The terms of the trust can be challenged on the basis that:

1. the will maker did not make adequate provision for the vulnerable beneficiary, or
2. the trust's terms are overly restrictive, given the circumstances of the vulnerable beneficiary or their ability to make adequate financial decisions.

Some alternatives to a Protective Trust

An alternative way of providing the vulnerable beneficiary with an income stream, without unduly jeopardising the capital of the trust is by giving them an annuity. This type of gift gives the beneficiary an absolute right to the income. There are also a number of disadvantages:

1. The annuity may become inadequate because of inflation;
2. Potential affect on the beneficiary's Centrelink benefits;
3. There needs to be absolute certainty that the portion of the estate designated for the creation of the annuity is sufficient to meet the regular payments of income. In the event that it is not sufficient, the remainder of the estate may be used to fill the gap.

A second alternative is a discretionary trust. In a discretionary trust the trustee has the ultimate power to decide whether to pay any income/capital at all, and which beneficiaries will receive the income/capital. If for any reason the trustee does not appoint income or capital to the beneficiary the property passes to those entitled on default of appointment.



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Maltese Spoken



To be selected by your adopted country with its highest honour is in any one's career a milestone to cherish. Two veterans of the Australian community in NSW received the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Australia Day honours list. They are both avid supporters of *The Voice of the Maltese*. We are proud of their achievements and are therefore dedicating February's Personality of the Month title to both of them.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH

They shine a light on community

service

George Bartolo OAM JP

George Bartolo arrived in Sydney, Australia from Malta on the MS Flaminia on September 17 1959 at age 19. Five years later, in 1964 he got married to Doris nee Fenech and has two daughters Karen and Janet. Both daughters are university graduates Karen in visual arts and Janet is a geologist.

Speaking about the honour, George told to *The Voice of the Maltese*, "This award is not all mine. Half of it belongs to my late wife Doris too. She always encouraged, supported and got involved with me to make sure that I always succeed in the projects that I get involved in. Without her support, I wouldn't have been able to be where I am today".

George is synonymous with the broader community of Wollongong and the only Maltese OAM in this district. In 1960 organised the soccer team for the George Gross Club (Maltese Community of Wollongong) and for two years, 1963-65 he served as the club's Secretary.

In 1966 he was elected President of the George Cross Club and held that position until 1979. During this time he was responsible for initiating and project-managed the construction of the Club building on its premises at Lake Avenue Cringila. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1968.

George is also a founding member of the Maltese Community Council of NSW and for a number of years served as its v/President. He was awarded Life Membership of the council in 1988, was elected President in 1994 and served for two terms. From 2003 he held the position of secretary to the Council for three terms and since 2009 has been serving as its treasurer.

He joined the Wollongong Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial show committee and has served for twelve years as Chief Pavilion Stewart, Senior Vice-President and also President for two years.



Charles N. Mifsud OAM, MQR, JP

Charles was born in Sliema, Malta and arrived in Sydney at the age of 14. In 1961 he got married to Jessie Martin at St Luke's Catholic Church Revesby and they are parents to three sons David, George and Emanuel (deceased). They live at Burraneer NSW.

Charles joined the army RAEME 1956/61 and left with the rank of sergeant. He served on the committee of the Melita Eagles SFC and joined the Ghaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' NSW in 1988. He is its current President. He is also the president of the Maltese Sub-Branch of the RSL. In 1980 he was appointed Justice of the Peace.

He served as President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW for 12 years, between 1996 and 2008, and was appointed life member. He currently occupies the position of PRO n the Council. Charles is also the co-ordinator of the Sutherland & St George Maltese Group and is well known for his initiatives and skills to attract to Australia the best entertainers from Malta.

For his services to the Maltese community, on December 13 2015, at the Republic Day ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Valletta, Charles received the prestigious Gieħ ir-Repubblika medal from the Government of Malta.

**Continued on opposite page*

**Continued on opposite page*

Personality of the Month/ continued from page 4

George Bartolo/ from opposite page

George has been a member of the Illawarra Dog Training Club (Obedience training) since 1972, served as Chief Instructor for seven years and President for six years. In 1986 he was awarded Life Membership and is now the longest continuous serving member. He gained first Dog Obedience Judge's licence from the Australia National Kennel Council in 1993 and is now a full panel Judge. He was on the judging panel in the NSW State titles and Queensland State and Australian National titles.

In the 1970s he represented the George Cross Club in the formation of the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council, (now known as the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra), and in 1986 negotiated the amalgamation of the two Maltese clubs, the George Cross Club and the Maltese Falcons, (two Maltese organisations in Wollongong), and also elected the first President of the George Cross Falcons Club. Overall, he served as President of the Maltese Club in Wollongong for twenty-eight years.

He is also a founding member of the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra formed in 1975, Elected Senior Vice Chairperson in 2002 and granted Life Membership of the council in 2005. At the MCCI 40th anniversary dinner he

was recognised for his voluntary services to the multicultural communities of Illawarra.

He is also a founder member of the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra that was formed in 1975, was elected Senior Vice/Chairperson in 2002 and was granted Life Membership of the council in 2005.

Among his many honours for his voluntary work, in 1977 George Bartolo was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

He also received the following honours:

- The United Nations International Day for the Elderly 2009 by the Wollongong City Council. This is an award that acknowledges outstanding contribution to the welfare of the aging in the City of Wollongong.

- In 2005 was recognised by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia for Commitment and Contribution to Australian Multiculturalism.

- Presented a Recognition Award by the Federal Minister for Aging, Mr. Christopher Payne MP and Ms. Sharron Bird MP Federal Member for Cunningham, for Achievement and Dedication in the Cunningham electorate in 2007.

George Bartolo OAM would like to thank those that nominated him for this year's prestigious award and all the other individuals and organisations that supported his nomination.

Charles N. Mifsud/ from opposite page

He told *The Voice of the Maltese*, that when he received the official letter informing him that on Australia Day 26 January this year he would be receiving an OAM, he felt very honoured and humbled at the same time. "I was elated with joy and satisfaction that one's voluntary work had been noticed both on the ground and in high places. I also thank those who have supported me in this quest".

Charles Mifsud stressed that he was, and still is very happy with his family because without their support and

encouragement he could not have done his community work for over 50 years. "Community/ voluntary work takes you often away from your family," he said..

He also paid tribute to his colleagues and friends who have also worked tirelessly for the benefit of others. "I hope that this award will encourage others to continue with their voluntary work. The MQR I received from Malta back in 2015, and now this recognition from my adopted country have both given me a new lease on life". I thank Almighty God that at my age He still gives me the energy and the enthusiasm to carry on."

David Earl Borg also gets an OAM

The family of David Earl Borg is very proud to have learnt that on Australia Day, a member of the family, David Earl Borg was also among those honoured with an OAM for services to Australia.

David has been in the Royal Australian Air Force, for the past twenty-six years. way back on January 18 2005 he was also mentioned in the *The Maltese Herald* for being instrumental in the rescue of US navy personnel who

crash-ed landed near Banda Aceh airport.

In his commendation for receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Military Division, it was stated that Squadron Leader David Earle, NSW was honoured "for meritorious performance of duty in air base aviation safety and air traffic control development."

It was further stated that David Earl Borg "is an exemplary officer whose remarkable innovation and incisive

leadership optimised the aviation safety systems at Royal Australian Air Force Bases Richmond and Williamtown, whilst significantly enhancing Number 44 Wing's contribution to Australia's civil-military Air Traffic Management Network.

"His outstanding contributions ensured that both the civilian and Australian Defence Force airspace users at these major facilities now enjoy safe and more efficient traffic control services.



Squadron Leader David Earle Borg



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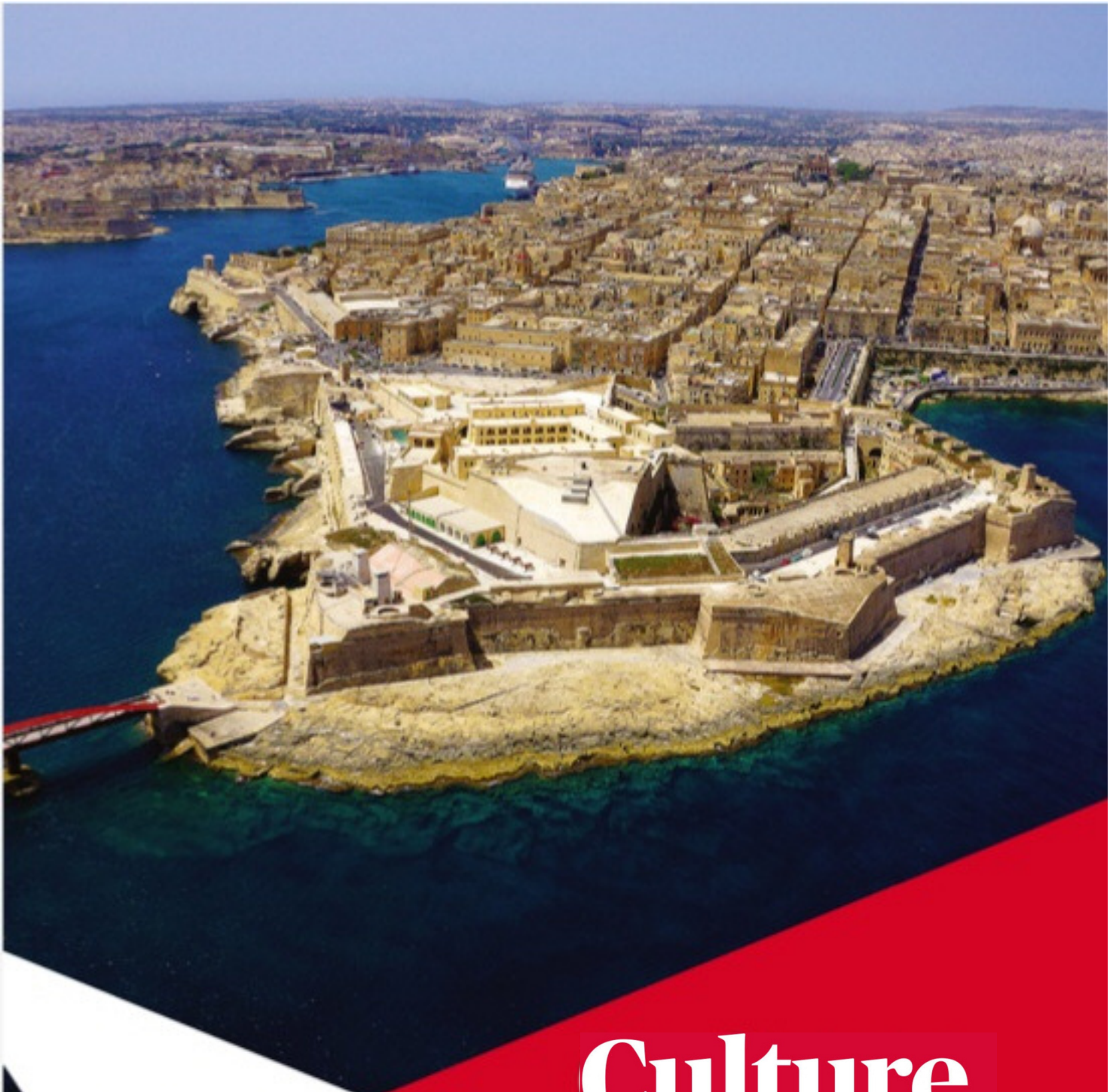
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Telgħu l-Awstralja għal btala u mietu f'incident tat-traffiku

Tliet Maltin, fosthom koppja minn Birżebbuġa li telgħet l-Awstralja f'it tal-jiem ilu għal btala u biex tattendu għal tiegħ ta xi ħbieb tagħhom, tilfu ħajjithom meta l-karozza li kienu fiha, kienet involuta f'incident fatali tat-traffiku fi triq li f'it li xejn hi traffikuża, fis-subborg ta' Bow Bowling fil-belt ta' Campbelltown, 55 kilometru bogħod minn Sydney, fi NSW.

Doreen, ta' 58 sena, u żewġha Lorry Pulis ta' 57, kienu passiġġieri fuq wara fil-karozza li kienet misjuqa minn ħu Doreen, Ġużi, ta' 74 sena li kien jgħix fi NSW.

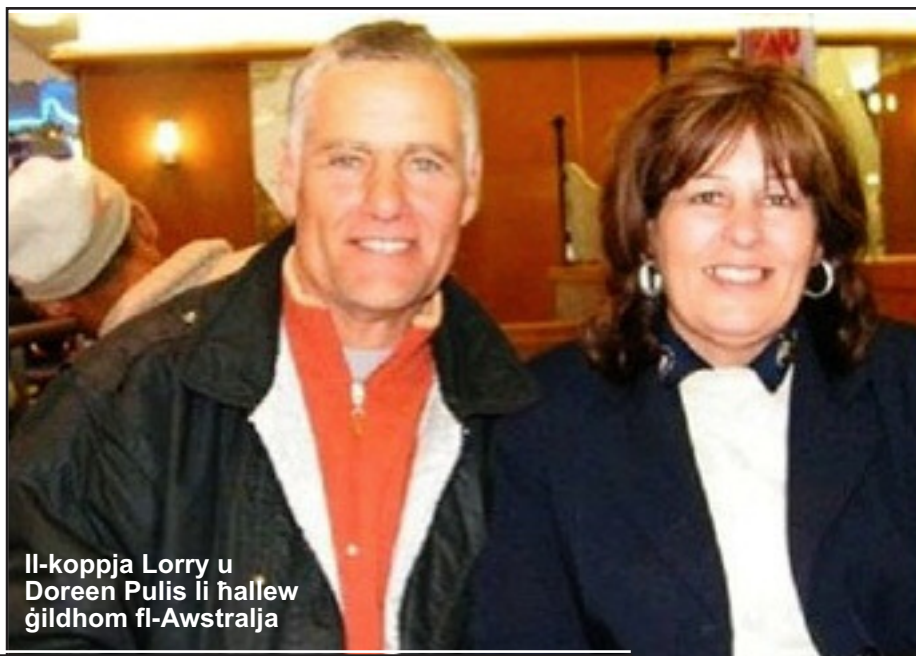
It-tlieta mietu fuq il-post wara ħabta frontali ma' trakk. Paramediċi li waslu fuq il-post ippruvaw jikkuraw lill-vittmi, li madankollu mietu f'it wara li sehħet il-ħabta, għal xil-11.30 a.m. hin lokali ta' nhar il-Ġimgħa li għaddiet 16 ta' Frar.

Tnejn minn nies oħra, li wkoll kienu fil-karozza, mara ta' 75 sena u raġel ta' 44 li kien fuq quddiem ħdejn is-sewwieq, li wkoll jgħixu fi NSW, u li huma qraba tal-mejtin, wegġġghu u ttiehdu l-isptar ta' Liverpool għall-kura. Huwa mifhum li għal kull waħda minn il-kundizzjoni hija wahda stabbli.

Il-mara inqas b'et' fit-tifrik u kellhom jgħaddu mal-20 minuta biex setgħet tinheles. Hija sofriet griċhi f'sidirha u dahra. Ir-raġel wegġġa' f'sidru u ġenbu.

Is-sewwieq tat-trakk, raġel ta' 59 sena, ukoll ittiehdu l-isptar fejn sarulu xi testjiet, imma ma nżammx.

Il-pulizija għet irrappurtata tgħid li t-tort tal-ħabta ma kienx tas-sewwieq tat-trakk



Il-koppja Lorry u Doreen Pulis li hallew ġildhom fl-Awstralja



għaliex għal xi raġuni kienet il-karozza li dahlet fiha fuq in-naħa tat-triq tiegħu. Mal-ħabta l-karozza nbeżqet u għal fuq ċint fil-ġenb tat-triq u sfrundatu (*fug*).

Skont dak inkarigat mill-ambulanzi, il-

paramediċi waslu fuq il-post mill-ewwel imma b'xorti ħażina, minkejja li ppruvaw jikkuraw lil kulhadd, tlieta mill-involuti mietu fuq il-post.

Qal ukoll li mal-impatt il-vetturi sofrew ħsarat kbar.

Għal xi hin it-triq għet magħluqa għat-traffiku sakemm seta' jsir l-istħarriġ u titnaddaf it-triq mill-biċċiet tat-tifrik.

Qraba ta' Doreen u Lorry f'Malta qalu li l-koppja kien ilhom iġemmgħu biex jagħmlu btala fl-Awstralja fejn għaldarb' oħra setgħu jil-taqgħu ma' Ġużi li kien ilhom snin ma jaraw, u xi qraba oħra.

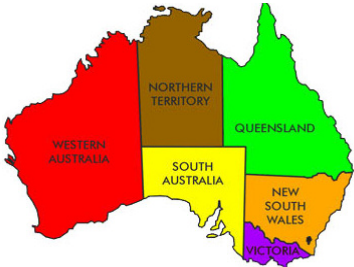
F'Malta, Lorry, dilettant kbir tal-festi u tal-muturi (*taħt*), kien jaħdem ma' Trans-



Lorry u Doreen ... kienu tant kuntenti



Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

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

The magazine can also be read in flipbook format online. A pdf copy is also sent via email on request. If you require a printed copy we can also oblige.

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



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Thomas Busuttil minn Brunswick, Victoria jikteb:

Qrajt b'interess l-ittra ta' Mark Caruana u l-artiklu ta' Lawrence Dimech (fil-ħarġa ta' *The Voice* tat-23 Janar) dwar ix-xogħol tas-CMLA.

Fittixt fuq l-Internet u fuq il-websajt tal-Ministeru tal-Affarijiet Barranin, u la stajt insib in-notifika u lanqas il-formola tal-ap-

Trasparenza

pplikazzjoni.

Jekk jogħġbokom tistgħu tgħiduli minn fejn nista' nsib l-istruzzjonijiet għal min huwa interessat?

Nota Editorjali: L-aħjar li tikkomunika mal-uffiċċju tal-Malta High Commission f'Canberra.

A challenge to Minister Dutton

J. S Curmi from Croydon Park NSW writes:

The case of bokie-ex-boxer Alex Vella has merit. I was glad you mentioned it and ridiculed the stand taken by the right-wing Daily Telegraph.

Alex had done many things in his life but does not deserve to be away from his wife and children. It is against natural law.

It was correctly stated that if Minister Dutton is as tough as he thinks he is, he should call back Alex Vella to Australia and deal with him in this country where he lived legally for 37 years.

Come on Dutton, do not be a chicken.

Surprised, Impressed

Michael Borg from Derby, UK writes:

About a month ago I visited Malta for the umpteenth time with some friends from the UK whom I convinced to travel with me for the inauguration of Valetta 2018, and also to escape the cold in Britain. To be honest, though I had read the programme that was being prepared for the occasion, I never thought it could be achieved. It looked too ambitious for me and I was quite sceptical.

There were five of us. I was the only Maltese. We all agreed that it was such an interesting occasion to say the least.

We were impressed by the skills of the Maltese artists in the four venues of Valletta who managed to organise such diverse programmes in this beautiful city that was so alive for the whole evening.

During the evening we also met other tourists who like us enjoyed the celebrations tremendously. Well done Malta!

As we are also avid fans of rock music we have already decided to return to the island to see what lies ahead and to attend the two spectacular shows in the programme of activities. I am certain that in the next visit I would have persuaded more friends from the UK to travel with us.

Stand Tall Malta

Joanne Degiorgio from Perth WA writes:

We did not have many athletes participating at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, only one, Elise Pellegrin, but when MALTA came on the full screen on my TV in the opening ceremony, I was ecstatic.

So proud of my little country of Malta. The Maltese athlete and the officials accompanying her marched proudly. We cannot compete with the bigger countries, but we can stand tall. Well-done Malta.

Il-Melita Eagles hemm għadhom

Tony Callus minn Granville NSW jikteb:

Hafta drabi nisma' li l-Parramatta Melita Eagles FC kienu spiċċaw iżda mbagħad qrajt l-artiklu fl-aħħar ħarġa ta' *The Voice of the Maltese* u tgħidx kemm frajt għax issa naf li dawn fil-fatt għadhom hemm.

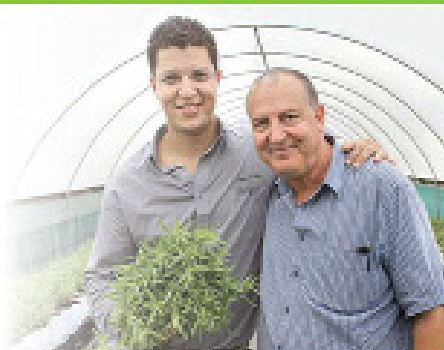
Nifraħ li l-Melita Stadium huwa l-unika struttura fi NSW li għib isem pajjizna, mhux xi La Valette jew xi George Cross. L-istadju għadu hemm ukoll imma t-tim qed jilgħab bhala Parramatta FC.

Bhali Malti u dilettant tal-futbol nawgurallhom li fl-istaġun li ġej ikollhom wiehed ferm aħjar minn tas-sena l-oħra.

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Il-Konfraternita` tar-rużarjanti

Ir-Rużarjanti ... Konfraternità mill-aktar maghrufa f'Malta twaqqfet fil-Parroċċa ta' Porto Salvo, il-Belt, (eżattament dil-Parroċċa ta' San Duminku) minn ġabra ta' Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann, (Spanjoli, Franciżi u Taljani) u wkoll minn xi Maltin. L-iskop warajha kien li ssabbar u tassisti lil dawk li jkunu ġew ikkundannati għall-mewt.

Dak iż-żmien, il-Patrijiet Dumnikani kienu qed jibnu l-knisja u l-kunvent tagħhom fil-belt Valetta u wara li kienu ġabu l-permess minn Ruma dlonk kienu laqgħu t-talba biex iwaqqfu l-għaqda.

Għaldaqstant id-Dumnikani taw biċċa art mill-kunvent tagħhom lil din l-għaqda. Il-ftehim sar u l-konfraternità, kif bdiet tissejjah, kellha tibni minn flusha żewġ kappelli fil-knisja, kif jidher fl-Atti tan-Nutar Salvatore Briffa li jġibu d-data tas-26 ta' Ottubru 1576.

Skont l-istatuti li ġew ukoll approvati minn Ruma, l-imsieħba tal-konfraternità kellhom id-dmir li jxerrdu r-reċta tar-Rużarju u wkoll li jieħdu ħsieb dawk li jkunu sejrin għall-forka.

Il-Gran Visconte, kif kienu jsejhu lill-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija f'dawk iż-żminijiet, kull meta kienu jkunu sejrin inehhu lil xi ħadd bil-forka kien jibgħat jgħid lill-konfraternità biex skont l-istatut tiegħu ħsieb l-aħħar jiem ta' hajjet il-kundannat u wara mewtu anke d-difna tiegħu.

Dawn il-fratelli tar-Rużarjanti kienu jkunu l-aqwa nies tal-pajjiż, u matul it-tlett ijiem kappella tal-priġunieri kienu johorġu jgħbru mat-toroq tal-Belt u fl-irhula, libsin il-konfratija bajda, biċ-ċinglu abjad u l-kuruna tar-Rużarju sewda mdendla, kif ukoll b'kappell qisu trespikos f'rashom.

Kienu wkoll jgħattu wiċċhom b'kappun abjad bit-toqob għall-ghajnejn biss. Id-dehra tagħhom kienet tnissel fi qlub in-nies ċertu misterju, biża' u ħniena.

Għaldaqstant it-tfal kienu jibzġu minn-hom jarawhom ġejjin kwieti kwieti bil-bott f'idejhom jgħbru mingħajr ma jieqfu mkien. Nofs il-flus li kienu jingabru kienu jinghataw lill-familja tal-ikkundannat u n-nofs l-iehor imur għand il-Patrijiet Dumnikani biex isir quddies għal ruħ il-mejjet.

Il-Maltin, speċjalment in-nisa twajbin,



kienu juru ċerta devozzjoni lejn l-erwieħ ta' dawk li kienu jkunu ġew ikkundannati għall-forka. Kienu jemmnu li l-erwieħ tal-ikkundannati kienu jaqalghu l-grazzji.

Ninu Xkora, li hafna jemmnu li kien innocenti, kien inghata l-forka f'tit jiem qabel l-Ghid tal-Erwieħ. Dwar Ninu Xkora hemm għajdut li kien fetah il-kancell taċ-ċimiterju lil wahda mara li marret iżżur il-qabar tiegħu stess.

Stampa antika li turi għadd ta-Rużarjanti fi Triq il-Merkanti, il-Belt



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A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

Kitba ta'
**IVAN
 CAUCHI**



Il-bejgħ tal-armamenti immorali?

Jien kelli mistoqsija waħda għadde-
 jja minn mohħi li domt ftit biex in-
 wegibha waqt li kont qed naqra
 fuq stqarrija mill-gvern federali Aw-
 straljan dwar strateġija biex dan il-pajjiż
 isir wiehed mill-ikbar għaxar pajjiżi es-
 portaturi tal-armamenti fid-dinja fi
 żmien għaxar snin.¹

Mistoqsijiet oħra malajr wasalt għal
 konklużjonijiet fuqhom. Per eżempju,
 għaliex dan il-gvern lest li joffri biljuni
 ta' dollari (\$3.8 biljun biex inkun eżatt)
 biex jiffinanzja kumpanniji li jixtiequ
 jespertaw l-armamenti, waqt li waqqaf għajnuniet finanzjarji lill-
 manifatturi Awstraljani tal-karrozzi u ma jridx jgħin iktar lill-in-
 dustrija tal-enerġija sostenibbli?

Malajr tinduna li t-tabella peġorattiva ta' 'għajnuna soċjali lil
 intrapriżi' tintuża b'mod selettiva u d-deċiżjonijiet tassew isuru
 abbażi ta' ideoloġija.

Eżempju iehor: possibbli li l-gvern lest li joffri dan l-iffinanzjar
 waqt li jnaqqas drastikament l-għajnuna barranija umanitarja,
 b'iktar minn biljun dollaru f'dawn l-aħhar snin?² Mhux biss pos-
 sibbli, imma hekk hu. Tassew bla qalb, bħu għalihom!



Issa niġi għall-mistoqsija ewlenija
 – il-prinċipju tal-bejgħ tal-arma-
 menti huwa morali jew le? Eja
 nwarbu għall-mument f'liema
 pożizzjoni tal-gradwatorja tal-es-
 portaturi tispicċa l-Awstralja
 għaxar snin oħra, jew kemm biljuni
 ta' dollari se jiġu ffrankati min-nies
 f'pajjiżi barranin li qed imutu bil-
 guħ biex jintefqu fuq il-produtturi
 tal-armamenti – dettalji biss.

Tim Costello, minn *World Vision
 Australia*, kiteb li hemm skop

wiehed biss li jsiru l-armamenti, u dan hu biex jinqatel xi hadd
 bihom. Naturalment, din kienet daqsxejn ta' simplifikazzjoni,
 għax jeżistu armamenti li huma biss difensivi, u anke armamenti
 offensivi li jista' jiġi deċiż li jintużaw biss f'sitwazzjoni difensivi.
 Madankollu ma rridx infettaq, għax bhala prinċipju ġenerali l-ar-
 mamenti xogħolhom hu kif iddeskrivihom Costello. Nafu kemm
 inqatlu miljuni ta' nies bihom matul is-snin, u għadhom joqtlu
 sal-gurnata mqaddsa tal-lum.

Jien il-vjolenza nobogħdha, ta' kull tip, u l-armamenti, il-gwerer
 u l-ingustizzji li jikkawzawhom xejn inqas. Dan ifisser li l-pajjiż
 m'għandux ikollu l-armamenti u forzi armati? Kieku m'hemm
 le-bda theddida, jew il-potenzjal ta' theddida, jew li hadd iktar
 m'għandu forzi armati jew armamenti, kieku ngħid li le.

Imma lkoll nafu li din hija biss ħolma, anke jekk waħda li
 wiehed jista' jagħmel haġtu jahdem bla heda biex javvanza. Fil-
 verità, nafu li armati militari ilhom eluf ta' snin jippruvaw jibnu
 imperi billi jattakkaw lill-ġirien tagħhom, li min-naħa tagħhom
 jużaw l-armati militari tagħhom biex jilqgħu għal dawn l-attakki.

Jien ma jidhirlix li wasalna f'punt fejn din it-theddida għebhet.
 Altru min hekk.

Għalhekk, naħseb li huwa legittimu li l-pajjiż ikollu forza mil-
 itari, u li jkollu armamenti ta' stoffa li bihom ikun jista' jgħleb
 lill-għadu. Biex inkunu ċari, hawn l-oġġettiv jista' biss ikun li
 toħroġ rebbieh. Li toħroġ tellief lanqas trid toħlomha.

Jekk taċċetta dan (u naf li mhux kulhadd jaċċettah), il-konseg-
 wenza hija li l-armamenti jridu jinxtraw minn x'imkien.

Għandu jkun hemm regola li tgħid li l-armamenti jridu jinxtraw
 biss minn barra l-pajjiż, u ma jridux jinħadmu hawnhekk, fl-Aw-
 stralja?

Intqal li min jesporta l-armamenti qiegħed jesporta l-mewt u
 jagħmel flus mill-qtil, li hija verità traġika. Madankollu, malli
 taċċetta li jkollok forzi armati u armamenti, diġà tkun qiegħed
 tgħid li lest tużahom bil-potenzjali li tikkawza l-mewt.

Veru li wiehed jista' jagħmel limiti stretti fejn dan jithalla jiġri,
 biss jibqa' l-fatt li xi darba jkun hemm ċirkostanzi fejn din il-ħaġa
 se ssir.

Jekk aħna diġà parteċipi bhala pajjiż fis-suq tal-armamenti
 bhala xerrejja, ma narax sitwazzjoni aghar morali meta nip-
 parteċipaw bhala bejjiegħa. Fil-fatt, dan diġà qiegħed jiġri, u li
 qiegħed jiġi propost li dan il-bejgħ jizjed.

B'dan ma rridx nagħti l-impresjoni li jien komdu bl-iskala tal-valuri
 ta' dan il-gvern, jew bid-dettalji tal-istrateġija tiegħu, imma biss biex
 nikkummenta dwar il-kwestjoni stretta jekk hux moralment aċċet-
 tabbli li jsir bejgħ ta' armamenti. Mill-perspettiva tiegħi, iva.

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Maltese Heritage get-together to Commemorate feast of St Paul



Religious, Priests and Laypeople of Dedicated Life of Maltese Heritage commemorate annually the shipwreck of St Paul on the Maltese Islands in 65 AD, which the Church in Malta commemorates this feast day on February 10.

This year 21 members of the above Maltese Heritage met for prayers and reflection followed by lunch at St Do-

minic's Hostel, Blacktown.

This loose association of priests, nuns, brothers and consecrated laypeople residing in the Sydney/Wollongong area currently consists of 46 members. Some of them were ordained or took their vows in Australia; others came from Malta to administer in this country.

Some 17 years ago Fr Carmelo Sciber-

ras who was then Parish Priest of Holy Name Church Wahroonga invited priests for lunch to commemorate the occasion.

Then the Maltese Missionaries of St Paul (MSSP) took over the arrangements and extended the invitation list.

All enjoyed the recent happy occasion (above) that builds Christian love and friendship.

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Roundup of News About Malta



Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat to visit Australia in April

What the Maltese Community in Australia has been wishing for since 2013 when he became Prime Minister will come into fruition this April

when Joseph Muscat will visit Australia.

This will be his first visit to Australia in his capacity as the head of state of the Maltese nation following his first election victory on March 11, 2013. He subsequently won a second term in office on June 3 last year. On both occasions he led his party to record wins with the greatest majority in history.

The Voice of the Maltese can now reveal that the Maltese Premier, accompanied by his wife Michelle, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Carmelo Abela and the Parliamentary Secretary for Sport, Youth and Voluntary Organisations, Dr. Clifton Grima, will visit Brisbane on his way to the opening ceremony of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast in Queensland on April 4 at the Mettricon Stadium.

Joseph Muscat will be attending the Games, the 21st edition of the international multi-sport event involving

athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations, in his capacity as Chair in Office of the Commonwealth.

The itinerary of the visit has not as yet been formalised, however, during the visit to the Queensland capital, the Maltese delegation would attend a welcoming reception in a Hotel in Brisbane for the members of the Maltese-Australian community and other guests.

This will be a free event, but registration is required. Therefore, members of the Maltese-Australian community wishing to attend the reception are being requested to register their interest to attend by March 1.

It is reliably understood, that following the visit to Queensland, the Prime Minister would also fly to Melbourne, the city in the state of Victoria that has the largest Maltese community in Australia.

The possibility also exists Joseph Muscat and his delegation would also visit other states.

This will be Joseph Muscat's second visit to Australia. The first was in 2010 as Leader of the Opposition two years after becoming leader of the Malta Labour Party.

On that first visit he was accompanied by his wife and his twin daughters. Dr George Vella, and Mr Charles Buhagiar also accompanied him.

This also means that the Maltese contingent at the Commonwealth Games that has not yet been announced, but is reportedly expected to be made up of 22 athletes, will not only have the Maltese community but also the Prime Minister egging them on to give their best for Malta.

Fitch agency confirms Malta's A+ rating

A report by four economists from the International Credit Rating Agency, Fitch has affirmed Malta's credit rating at A+ with stable prospects. In their report the economists said the rating is based, among others, on the average income level, the strong economic growth, the balance of payments and governance indicators, together with a low unemployment rate.

Fitch said that Malta's open economy makes it vulnerable to factors not under the country's control, however, the Government reached its economic targets in 2016, three years before schedule.

It added the Maltese economy will continue to perform well as consumption is the direct result of a low level of unemployment and improvement in salaries.

Fitch agency confirmed Malta's rating after its economists evaluated the economic indicators, including the growth of the Maltese economy which last year reached 7%. The economists' view is that the Government will continue with the 1.5% surplus increase in its budget.

US investment employing 300 workers officially inaugurated

Fifty-three weeks after Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat announced its capital investment of €100 million, US-based security printing firm Crane Currency became the newest addition to Malta's manufacturing sector with a state-of-the-art plant at Hal Far.

At the official opening of the new plant that is creating 300 quality jobs, only two of them filed by foreigners, the Prime Minister said that "beyond the photos and celebrations, with a capital investment of €100 million, this is the true legacy of this project," Muscat said, at the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

He added that the investment also reflects the strong relationship between Malta and the United States.

US ambassador to Malta Kathleen Hill who was present at the official opening said that US companies have



Prime Minister Muscat at the opening played, and will continue to play an important part in Malta's economic success.

"We see Malta as an extremely important destination for US businesses, also thanks to its status as a gateway to the EU," she said.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta's competitiveness the result of well-trained workforce and expertise

Addressing members of the Institute of Financial Services Practitioners at an Efficiency and Innovation Conference, organised by the Institute of Financial Services Practitioners (IFSP), Finance Minister Edward Scicluna said that competitiveness in having a well-trained workforce and expertise in place and efficient institutions and businesses, is resulting in the success Malta is registering in the fi-

ancial services sector

He said that a recent OECD International Tax Cooperation Report showed Malta to be among the world's most tax-compliant countries. The assessment is based on the absence of harmful tax practices in relation to base erosion in general, a strong commitment in relation to tax cooperation, and on the automatic exchange of information.



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca with the UfM Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi at the signing

15% increase in Maltese travelling abroad in 2017

The number of visitors to Malta last year reached record levels as arrivals reached over 2.3 million. But according to figures released by the NSO, there was also an increase of Maltese travelling abroad.

NSO has indicated that during 2017 there were over 572,000 trips abroad by Maltese citizens, or 15% more than in the previous year. Altogether they spent a total of nearly four million bed nights on the island.

It has also emerged that the Maltese spent over €516 million on travel, which is nearly 12% more than in 2016.

The UK remained the most popular destination for Maltese travellers.

Joseph Calleja tops UK charts

Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja has hit number one in the UK the classic musical charts in the United Kingdom with his latest album.

Calleja's album was also the highest new entry on the Classic FM chart.

Giuseppe Verdi's album that also has the participation of soprano Angela Gheorghiu and Baritone Vittorio Vitelli classified first in the Specialist Classical Chart.

Reacting to his success, Joseph Calleja told BBC's Breakfast show: 'Singing opera is like a sport. You're like an athlete and your body is the instrument.'

'Tourism a constructive means for peace and prosperity'

Malta President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca called the signing of a memorandum of understanding, MoU between the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation MTF, and the Union for the Mediterranean, UfM, "a first in the tourism sector".

Presiding over the signing, the President, who is also Patron of MTF praised the collaboration that began last year when she led a delegation to the UfM premises in Spain.

She said that this collaboration highlights the commitment of both parties for peace-building through tourism, as "tourism is an ideal sector to bring people together from diverse cultures."

The UfM is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together the 28 European Union member states and 15 countries from the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean. It also provides a unique forum to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Through this MoU, both organisations have agreed to follow an action plan by working together in order for a number of aims to be achieved.

They include:

- Capitalising on tourism's potential to advance sustainable economic growth, social inclusiveness, decent employment, women and youth empowerment, and poverty alleviation;
- Promoting the contribution of tourism to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, enhancing resource efficiency, and investing in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Bolstering the links between sustainable tourism and cultural values, diversity and heritage;
- Harnessing the transformative power of tourism in the promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue, tolerance and understanding, as the building blocks of peace and security; and
- Identification and development of projects for possible union for the Mediterranean labelling, with a special focus on those targeting sustainable development.

Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca is also Special Ambassador of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

Equality and parity in science for peace and development

Minister for European Affairs and Equality Helena Dalli hosted a two-day conference at the United Nations Headquarters commemorating the third International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This day is celebrated annually on February 11, following a resolution put forward by Malta that was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015.

The theme for this year's conference was 'equality and parity in science for peace and development'. In her opening remarks, the Minister shared Malta's experience in its efforts to place women at the centre of the pharmaceutical sciences through collaboration between industry, Malta's Medicines Authority, and the University of Malta.

During the conference a number of countries commended Malta for leading the way in bringing the discussion on gender disparities in the area of sciences on the agenda of the United Nations.

The conference adopted an outcome document in which signatories from 22 UN member states pledged to work towards the effective empowerment of women and girls at all levels, including as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders in science, technology, and innovation.

Minister Dalli called on the participating states and organisations to put the conclusions of the outcome document into practice by providing the necessary support structures for women and girls to pursue careers in the fields of science and technology.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn *Gużè Camilleri*

Il-Karnival ...imma meta l-aħjar?

Kif stajtu taqraw fil-paġna 2 ta' din il-ħarġa, f'din is-sena, waħda mill-aktar li fiha kellna xitwa shuna u bla xita, iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tal-Karnival proprju ġew imfixxkla mix-xita li kienet fl-aqwa tagħha propju fl-10 ta' Frar.. il-festa ta' San Pawl Nawfragu.

U din tax-xita f'San Pawl fakkret lil hafna fl-istorja li jgħidu dwar kif f'sena ta' nuqqas ta' xita, San Pawl gibed lejha lill-Apostlu San Bartilmew (il-qaddis li l-Maltin nassoċjawh mal-istaġun tax-xita) u lmenta miegħu minhabba n-nuqqas ta' xita.

Qallu li ma kienx sew li hu ssogra ħajtu biex jgħid il-fidi lill-Maltin, u issa, minhabba li talbu kemm felhu u x-xita ma għamlitx, kien hemm periklu li jtilfu din il-fidi.

San Bartilmew ikkalmah u qallu li kien se jaqtagħlu xewqtu... u żamm kellmtu għax baġat kemm felah xita, u baġatha propju fl-10 ta' Frar. Minhabba x-xita San Pawl kien se jkollu jibqa' fil-Knisja fil-belt.

Din is-sena x-xita għet fl-10 ta' Frar, imma San Pawl iffrankaha għax minhabba l-Karnival, hareġ mill-Knisja gimgha qabel.. meta kien jum tassew bnazzi.

...u minflok San Pawl, wehel il-Karnival.

Kif dejjem jigrri kull meta x-xita tisfratta l-Karnival, tinfetħa il-polemika jekk il-Karnival kellux jitmexxa eqreb lejn is-sajf minhabba li sena ta' hidma mid-deletanti qed kważi tispicċa fix-xejn.



Niftakru meta fl-1972, Gvern Laburista kien iddeċieda li jittrasferixxi l-Karnival minn Frar għal Mejju. Dakinhar kienet inqalghet polemika shiħa bejn min jaqbel u min le. Kien hemm min ġenwinament hass li l-Karnival kellu jżomm il-jiem tradizzjonali tiegħu, kif fuq kollox jinżamm fihom f'pajjiżi oħra, li bejn wiehed u iehor jiċċelebrawh fl-istess jiem li jsir f'Malta.

Sintendi kien hemm min kiteb favur jew kontra skont jekk kienx jaqbel mal-Gvern tal-gurnata (Laburista) jew mal-Oppożizzjoni (Nazzjonaista). Lanqas ma naqset il-laqta religjuża, l-aktar u l-

aktar meta kien hemm fl-aqwa tagħha l-kwestjoni politika-religjuża, u għalkemm il-Karnival ma fih xejn reliġjuż, imma xorta kien hemm min defes ir-religjon.

Il-Karnival baqa' jsir f'Mejju sal-1987. Meta nbidel il-Gvern, dak Nazzjonalista biddel id-dati għal dawk tra-

dizzjonali.

Issa l-polemika qabdet mill-ġdid, iżda fuq skala ferm inqas u mingħajr ma ddefset il-politika. Wara kollox f'dawn l-aħħar snin qed ukoll ikollna l-Karnival tas-Sajf.

Minkejja d-dizappunt għad-delettanti tal-Karnival u l-kotra li tidhol il-Belt u postijiet oħra biex tgawdi l-Karnival, xorta se nibqgħu bil-Karnival fl-aqwa tax-xitwa.

Chalkemm din is-sena kien hemm ċaqleqa minn dak li jsir is-soltu billi ġie deċiż li parti mill-Karnival ġie trasferit għas-Sibt u l-Hadd li għadda, li jfisser li għall-ewwel darba parti miċ-ċelebrazzjoni saret fi żmien ir-Randan, xi haġa li sa ffit snin ilu hadd ma kien imqar jgħaddilu minn moħħu li jissurgeriha.

Għawdex marru aħjar

Minkejja li minhabba t-temp forsi n-negozju f'Malta marbut mal-jiem tal-Karnival kien xi ffit batut, f'Għawdex marru ferm aħjar, għax minkejja x-xita u l-baħar qawwi hafna minn li kellhom jaqsmu għall-Għawdex biex igawdu ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet xorta għamluh. U x-xorti daħkitalhom ffit, għax tal-inqas il-Karnival fin-Nadur, li huwa l-aktar wiehed li jgħbed nies f'Għawdex sar u sar bil-kbir.

Skont il-Gozo Channel fi tmiem il-gimgha tal-Karnival proprja għamlet 330 vjaġġ biex wasslet lil madwar 34,000 persuna li jaqsmu l-fliegu.

Fil-Karnival tan-Nadur, li min imur għalih ma jmurx għall-karrijet, iżda biex attwalment jiehu sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet, ma jonqsux il-maskaruni satiriċi li mhux darba u tnejn wasslu għal xi polemika.

Jiġini f'moħħi dak iż-żmien meta xi żgħażaġ ġew fl-inkwiet mal-pulizija għax libsu ta' qassin u sorijiet.. għax il-ligi kienet tipprobbixxi dan.

Did-darba l-polemika ma naqsitx għax ġie wżat vann li fuqu nkitbu kliem li ġew interpretati bħalha li qed jgħaddu biż-żmien b'dawk b'xi problema mentali.

Kien hemm min qal li min piŋġa l-vann ma kellux il-ħsieb li joffendi. Imma fuq il-midja soċjali saret kritika qawwija (*ara ritratt xellug*) għax intqal l-kliem xejn ma kien sensitiv. Anke l-President ta' Malta kkritikat it-tpiŋġija.

Nghiduha, illum li l-poplu huwa aktar sensitiv u jipprova minn kollox li ma jikkawżax dwejjaw lil dawk li għaddejin minn xi problema jew settur ta' nies partikulari. Allura wiehed irid joqgħod ferm attent għal dak li jikteb jew jespri-



Christabelle Borg

10 hrs •

Moments like these will only make me continue to work harder. I promise that I will be a voice for all those who are suffering from mental illness and continue to raise awareness to break this TABOO.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Barka għall-bdiewa

Ta' min jghid li filwaqt li d-delettanti tal-Karnival harġu diżappuntati bix-xita, mhux hekk il-bdiewa.

Dawn laqgħu x-xita b'idejhom mif-tuhin, wara li tant kien ilhom jistennewha għal ġimghat għax in-nuqqas tagħha kienet qed tinkwethom.

Skont il-bdiewa x-xita giet fl-aħjar żmien għall-ghelieqi tagħhom u l-uċuħ tar-raba'.

Sar magħruf li x-xita li niżlet min-nofs il-lejl sa nofsinhar tal-10 ta' Frar kienet kwart tax-xita kollha mkejla mill-1 ta' Settembru.

Skont l-uffiċċju meteoroloġiku tal-ajruport, fin-nofs ta' nhar tas-Sibt fil-ghodu tal-10 ta' Frar niżlet medja ta' 86 millimetru ta' xita u kkaġunat għargħar f'diversi bnadi.

Ir-riħ qawwi wkoll ikkaġuna ħafna ħsara b'diversi hitan fl-ghelieqi jiggarrfu u sigar qodma jinjalghu mill-gher-ruq. Sehhet ukoll, traġedja meta sigra kbira nqalghet minn postha fi triq ewlenija fl-Imrieħel u giet fuq karozza li kienet għaddeja dak il-hin. Ir-raġel, Rumen safa mejjet fuq il-post, filwaqt li martu wegġgħet serjament.

Kellna wkoll vapur irregġirat it-Togo li nkalja qrib Fra Ben, fil-Qawra (taħt).

Il-maltemp wassal ukoll għall-mewt ta' għadd ta' għasafar tal-bejt li nstabu taħt sigra fi Triq Ghajn Qajjet, ir-Rabat.

Il-Popolazzjoni tikber sewwa

Skont l-aħħar statistika mahruġa mill-Suffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika, fl-aħħar tal-2016 il-popolazzjoni f'Malta kienet ta' 460,297, li jfisser li f'dawn l-aħħar 11-il sena żdiedet b'55,000 persuna billi fl-2005 kienet tammonta għal madwar 405,000.

Izda ż-żieda mhix riżultat ta' żieda qawwija fit-twelid tat-trabi, imma minhabba l-miġja ta' għadd kbir ta' barranin. Biżżejjed ngħidu li skont din l-istatistika fl-2016 f'Malta kien hawn joqogħdu madwar

54,000 persuna barranija, jew madwar 12% tal-popolazzjoni Maltija.

Kull ma jmur il-popolazzjoni Maltija qed tixxjeh, tant li madwar 25% tal-popolazzjoni hi ta' aktar minn 60 sena, filwaqt li 17% huma zghazagħ ta' taħt it-18-il sena. U bir-raġun li n-numru ta' anzjani qed jikber, għax matul dawn l-aħħar snin jidher li n-nies qed jgħixu aktar, tant li skont l-istess statistika l-eta' medja ta' kemm jgħixu l-irġiel f'Malta hi ta' madwar 81 sena u dik tan-nisa 84.

L-Abort: It-twegiba ċara... "Le"

Minn żmien għall-ieħor tissemma l-kwestjoni tal-Abort. Dan l-aħħar xegħlet mill-ġdid meta l-Kummissarju tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa għad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem saħaq li Malta kellha tibda taċċetta l-abort. It-twegiba tal-Gvern Malti kienet ċara u tonda, "le".

Attwalment, kemm il-Partit Laburista, kif ukoll dak Nazzjonalista jaqblu dwar din il-materja. Magħhom taqbel ukoll il-maġġoranza tal-poplu, anke jekk dan l-aħħar bdejna naraw xi kummenti favur l-abort f'ċerti ċirkustanzi... kummenti li sa fti taż-żmien ilu hadd ma kien lest jagħmilhom.

Izda filwaqt li Gvern, Oppożizzjoni u l-maġġoranza tal-poplu huma riżoluti li l-

abort ma jidholx f'Malta, ma nistgħux ngħidu li m'hemmx Maltin li jirrikorru għal dan il-mezz biex jehilsu mit-tqala, u billi l-abort hu kontra l-liġi f'Malta, isiefnu biex jagħmlu barra.

Infatti, waqt li kien qed jitkellem f'attivitva' organizzata mill-Malta Unborn Movement, Carmelo Cacopardi, iċ-Ċerspersin tal-Alternattiva Demokratika sostna li għalkemm il-figuri uffiċjali juru li madwar 60 mara Maltija jagħmlu abort ta' kull sena, dawn il-figuri huma biss ta' dawki li jmorru jagħmlu dan fir-Renju Unit.

Zied jghid li skont taġġir li gabar sostna li l-figura hi ta' bejn 300 u 400 abort fis-sena, minhabba li minbarra fl-Ingilterra, xi nisa Maltin iwettquh ukoll f'pajjiżi oħra, fosthom fl-Italja (Katanja, Ruma u Milan), u wkoll fil-Ġermanja, l-Olanda u l-Belġju.

Jekk dawn il-figuri huma korretti jfisser li fuq kollox il-persentaġġ ta' aborti fuq nisa Maltin, jitqabbel sew mal-medja tal-pajjiżi tal-Ewropa.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li l-istess kelliem qal li sikwit ikun hemm min jistaqsi: "Min se jdaħħal l-Abort f'Malta?". It-twegiba tiegħi u tal-maġġoranza hi, "Hadd. Għax l-abort diġa' qiegħed fostna."



Għall-kotra tal-Maltin id-dwana ma għadhiex dik li kienet snin ilu, meta malli tirfes fl-ajruport tlesti ruhhek għal tfit-txija fil-bagalji. Dawn it-tfit-txijiet naqsu sew l-aktar meta wiehed ikun diehel Malta minn xi pajjiż tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Ma jfissirx li tfit-txijiet ma jsirux.. isiru u mhux darba jew tnejn li nisimghu b'xi qab-diet kbar ta' drogi u oġġetti oħra li whud jippruvaw idahhluhom bil-mohbi.

Izda dan ma jfissirx li l-hidma tan-nies tad-dwana naqset. Anzi kompliet tinfirex u tis-sahħa, l-aktar fil-portijiet Maltin, fosthom fil-Port Ħieles fejn dan l-aħħar inxtara apparat li jiswa l-miljuni tal-Ewro li jagħmilha aktar faċli li ssir tfit-txija fit-trailers u l-kontejners kbar li jidhlu f'dan il-Port.

U propju dawn it-tfit-txijiet hallew il-frott għax matul is-sena li għaddiet l-uffiċjali tad-dwana qabdu mal-20 miljun oġġett fal-

Maqbuda mid-Dwara

sifikat (jigifieri li jgħibu l-isem ta' xi ditta magħrufa, izda fil-fatt ikunu foloz) minn dan il-port biss.

Il-biċċa l-kbira tal-oġġetti maqbudin kienu jikkonsistu minn sigaretti, fejn b'kollox inqabdu mad-19.53 miljun.

Inqabdu wkoll 162,000 tooth-brush, 78,000 par żraben, 33,000 cover tal-mowbajls, 28,000 batter-iji tal-mowbajls, 24,000 biċċa hwejjeġ, 7,800 arloġġ, 7,700 hwej-jeġ/oġġetti sportivi, 2,300 part tal-karozzi, u 1,500 earphone.

Minn xi daqqiet l-apparat li għandha d-dwana jintuza għal hidma differenti għal kollox, għax fil-fatt meta kellha tiġi rrestawrata l-istatwa tar-Redentur tal-Isla, li tiġbed devozzjoni kbira, u kien diffiċli kif jehdulha x-ray biex jaraw xi ħsara kien fiha, kienet propju d-dwana li pprovdiet l-apparat biex dan seta' jseħh (ara taħt).





A quick glimpse at Australia

Stolen generation repatriation scheme

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's historic apology to the stolen generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar says a national reparation scheme is needed to help resolve the "national tragedy".

The apology and reparation scheme, including financial compensation, were key recommendations in the 2007 "Bringing Them Home" report that found between one in 10 and one in three indigenous children were forcibly removed from their

families over a period stretching from 1910 to 1970.

NSW, Victoria and South Australia have set up their own reparation programmes, but the federal government has repeatedly refused.

Ms Oscar welcomed the action taken by the states but said a "patchwork approach" was unhelpful and that a bipartisan and long-term national scheme was needed.

"The legacy of the stolen generations is not a South Australian issue, or a Victorian, or a NSW one, it has left a dark shadow from history across the entire continent," Ms Oscar said in a speech to a Reconciliation South Australia breakfast. "Therefore, it demands national restitution."

Ms Oscar's speech was delivered before Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull releases the latest report card on the



Ms June Oscar... "a bipartisan and long-term national scheme is needed"

Closing the Gap strategy that was put in place after Mr Rudd's famous apology.

In defence of Public interest

The Attorney-General Christian Porter is expected to redraft a proposed suite of tough new national security and secrecy laws to give journalists a court defence when reporting government secrets that are in the "public interest".

But he warned organisations like Wikileaks dumping large caches of unfiltered documents in the name of "radical transparency" could still risk falling foul of the law if they published dangerous information. "It can never be in the public interest to do something that endangers the lives of Australians, or the lives of intelligence officers," Mr Porter told reporters.

He said the term "journalist" would not be strictly defined and would be left to court interpretation, but was likely to extend to bloggers in many cases. But, Commonwealth employees are expected to face tougher and broader laws than non-government citizens – like lawyers, journalists, lobbyists and academics – who will now only be prosecuted for "the most serious and dangerous" conduct, the government said.

Big banks target the low-income earners

In one of the first public submissions to the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Finance Sector, the Consumer Action Law Centre (CALC), a leading consumer finance advocacy group, highlighted the design of credit card products, the marketing of credit and excessive bank fees as key areas of exploitation.

CALC chief executive Gerard Brody said, while financial services misconduct affects all consumers it has a disproportionate impact on the lives of low-income,

vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

"This inquiry should hopefully look at the issue that is in front of our face," Mr Brody said.

"Bad financial advice and business banking have received a lot of consideration at various inquiries already, this inquiry needs to focus more on impact of misconduct has on the most vulnerable people."

CALC noted bank fees tend to have a harsh and disproportionate impact on lower income Australians. "For people who are already struggling with debt, late fees only make the task of repayment more difficult," it observed.

"A \$40 penalty fee for a person earning a basic Newstart income of \$13,993 (per annum) equates to almost 15 per cent of their weekly income.

"For families budgeting week to week, an errant penalty fee can risk payment for essential services like housing or energy."

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A quick glimpse at Australia

Barnaby Joyce apologises



Deputy PM Barnaby Jones

A During a parliamentary debate on same-sex marriage, which the Nationals leader strongly opposed, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce revealed his 24-year-long marriage had broken down last year

He said, "The current definition of marriage has stood the test of time – half of them fail, I acknowledge that," he told the House of Representatives at the time. "I'll acknowledge that I'm currently separated, so that's on the record.

Meanwhile, an emotional Malcolm Turnbull, the Australian PM delivered a scathing rebuke to his deputy as he revealed the re-wording of the code of conduct to forbid relationships between ministers and their staff. "Ministers, regardless of whether they are married or single, must not engage in sexual relations with a staff member," he told a press conference in Parliament.

"Doing so will constitute a breach of the standards and, while this new standard is very specific, ministers should be acutely aware of the context in which I am making this change and the need for them always to behave in their personal relations with others."

He also had strong words for the Nationals leader. The Senate has added insult to injury for Barnaby Joyce, calling on the embattled deputy prime minister to quit. "The deputy prime minister will be taking leave from Monday 19 February to Sunday 25 February, and accordingly will not be able to be acting prime minister while I'm overseas," Mr Turnbull told parliament.

With foreign minister Julie Bishop also overseas, the government's Senate leader Mathias Cormann will act as prime minister in the PM's absence.

Mr Joyce, 50 years, a conservative Catholic, defended "traditional" marriage throughout the same-sex marriage debate and eventually abstained from the vote in the Lower House.

His estranged wife Natalie Joyce of 24 years with whom he has four daughters told the Australian she was "deeply saddened by the news that my husband has been having an affair and is now having a child with a former staff member.

"This situation is devastating on many fronts," Ms Joyce said. "For my girls, who are affected by the family breakdown, and for me as a wife of 24 years, who placed my own career on hold to support Barnaby through his political life."

Rumours of the relationship with 33-

year-old staffer Vikky Campion have been circulating since the New England by-election in October, which Mr Joyce won by a strong margin after the dual citizenship saga forced him to recontest the seat.

The couple have reportedly moved in together, and their baby is apparently due in April, according to various press reports

The defiant Nationals leader apologised to his estranged wife and his daughters "for all the hurt" caused by the fallout from his recently exposed affair with his former media advisor Vikki Campion, who is now pregnant with their child. He also apologised to Ms Campion, whom he conceded was now his "partner". "To Vikki Campion, how deeply sorry I am that she has been dragged into this," he said.

The Daily Telegraph and *Courier Mail* reported on an incident in 2011, separate to the affair with Ms Campion, alleging inappropriate behaviour. Mr Joyce strongly denied the report and said he would consider legal action.

A Push for religious freedom law

The submission to the religious freedom review headed by Philip Ruddock (former Attorney General) and due to be delivered to the PM in March was made by the Freedom for Faith think tank, which is led and endorsed by Hillsong, the Presbyterian Church and the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.

The proposal calls for exemptions from anti-discrimination laws for religious organisations would be permanently enshrined in federal law similar to a charter of rights, which would codify and expand the exemptions to anti-discrimination laws currently extended to churches when it comes to hiring and firing.

As well as furthering protections for people who don't want to associate with same-sex marriages, the act would limit and override the anti-discrimination laws of Australia's states and territories.

"We've never needed to protect religious freedom before, but now we do," said author Patrick Parkinson, a professor of law at the University of Sydney and a Freedom for Faith board member.

Essential to the proposed law is the right for church-run organisations – including schools and aged care homes – to hire and fire staff in accordance with their values. That would extend to employees who enter into a same-sex marriage following its legalisation late last year.

"Any religious organisation would want to maintain its moral standards around family life and sexual conduct – at least the right to do so. Christians are not into freedom to discriminate; they're really into freedom to select." Professor Parkinson said.

Michelle Rowland

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GREENWAY



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After losing visa fight in the High Court...

Malta-born man faces deportation 61 years after arriving in Australia

The media in Australia has given wide coverage to a recent High Court decision on appeal by which it refused to reinstate a visa to a Malta-born convicted drug trafficker who is now facing deportation to his native country 61 years after arriving in Australia as a toddler with his family in 1956.

Victorian grandfather John Falzon could be deported to Malta, a country he left when his parents migrated to Australia in 1956, and where he's got no relatives or knows anybody. He never gained Australian citizenship.

Falzon's visa was cancelled on character grounds. He has been in immigration detention on Christmas Island following his release from jail following a cannabis trafficking conviction. Falzon has been in immigration detention since his release from jail, fighting through the courts to get his visa back.

In 2008 Falzon pleaded guilty to cannabis trafficking and served eight years in jail.

Falzon argued in the High Court that he had served his time for his 2008 crime. Therefore, ejecting him from Australia was an attempt to punish him even further. In a unanimous decision the High

Court dismissed that argument.

The court found that if the minister was satisfied that a person failed the character test because of a substantial criminal record, the minister must cancel the visa held by such a person.

Falzon's application was dismissed with costs.

All Falzon's family, which includes two sisters, four brothers, four adult children and ten grandchildren, is in Australia. It has been running social media campaigns, saying deportation would be an unbearably cruel act for a man who knows no one in Malta, and who would be forced to abandon a large and loving family in Australia.

One of his sisters, Ann, told SBS News that the family was devastated with the decision. She said: "It all comes down to he's got to go back to Malta. He

came here when he was three-years-old, like he doesn't even know anybody over there.

"They're just going to dump him in Malta and leave him and what's he going to do, he's got no money, he's got nobody over there, we're all here," she said.

She said her brother has paid a high price for his drug trafficking.

"We've been waiting already how many years and we just get let down after let down. All this is over his marijuana. He grew a bit of marijuana and they locked him up for eight years and now he's been in detention for three years. He just wanted to come home."

After the High Court's decision, most of the people's verdict has been that "the law is an ass", meaning that the law, as created by legislators or as administered by the justice system, cannot be relied upon to be sensible or fair.



John Falzon in happier days, celebrating his 40th birthday



61-year-old John Falzon



Supporters rally in Melbourne calling for John Falzon to remain in Australia

Some schools, a few hospitals, an entire parish:

Fr Mario Zammit, the last Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victory at Horsley Park NSW when this parish was under the pastoral care of the Maltese Missionaries of St Paul from 1956 to 2012 was recently the subject of an article and interview

posted on the melbournecatholic.org.au portal. In the interview carried by the Media and Communications Office of the portal (*reproduced here*), Fr Zammit talks about his tasks and the challenges that go to make up his life.

For this busy Heidelberg priest, running a parish involves a lot more than just daily Masses. He's on call to no less than four hospitals and two schools, and his pager barely leaves him alone, day or night. Not surprising, given that the hospitals under his wing include the Austin, the Mercy and the Repat.

For Fr Mario Zammit, however, parish life is a great grace. 'I live and work in a beautiful, supportive community,' he smiles. 'And I have this wonderful church in which to celebrate the liturgy.'

He points towards the classic William Wardell-designed bluestone church, standing in St John's immaculately maintained garden grounds. "Our parish is one of Melbourne's oldest," "boasts Fr Mario, "and our church dates right back to our beginnings in 1851. It's a fabulous place for worship."

Fr Zammit spent time taking us through the tasks and the challenges that go to make up the life of a parish priest in the Melbourne suburb of Heidelberg (formerly the Melbourne 1956 Olympic Village), where most of his parishioners are either Australians or Italians, with a growing number of Indians coming to live in its leafy streets.

His own experience of teaching and unpacking the Catholic faith for newcomers to Catholicism has, he gratefully acknowledges, enhanced and grown his own! "As I find new ways and new words to express and explain core Catholic teachings," Fr Mario muses, "I find myself coming to a deeper understanding and appreciation too. It's win-win!"

We particularly appreciated Fr Mario's vision for the younger members of his church and school

All in a day's work for Fr Mario Zammit

community, who have always occupied a prominent place in the parish. "I insist that the young children have their own very important space in our worshipping community," he says. "No matter what noise they make or what language they sing in, this, as Pope Francis said, is how they pray!"



Fr Mario Zammit showing off his parish church at Heidelberg



The 70 Group

The NSW Over 70 group meets every last Tuesday of the month at the Maltese Resource Centre at Franklin Street West Parramatta NSW from 10 am.

Most of the time talk centres on the good old times, their favourite football teams, world affairs and Australian politics as they eat pastizzi, and the Maltese traditional drink, or "x'jip-provdi l-kunvent".

Between them, they amount to 900

years of life experience. They are still the backbone of the Maltese community.

Anybody is welcome to join by phoning: 0409 744 376.

Pictured back row (from left): Oscar Calleja, Lino Vella, Patrick Bartolo, Joe Busuttill, Lawrence Dimech, Charles Agius and Joe Fabri; Front (from left): Alfred Pace, Fred Carabott, Gerry Carabez, Joe Borg and Sam Farrugia.

Emanuel Camilleri shot the photo.

Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

Aktar regoli u tagħrif uffiċjali dwar kif wiehed għandu jkteb il-Malti. Dan skont kif maħruġ mill-Kummissjoni fi hdan l-Akkademja tal-ilsien Malti f'Malta.

L-ARTIKLU

Xi konsonanti (imsejnin *tas-sniien* = *dentali*) jingħaqdu fil-lehen ta' oħrajn li jixbhuhom u jmissu magħhom u għalhekk jinħassu u jiġi li jinkitbu bħalhom. Dan it-tixbih u tagħqid ta' konsonanti jsir:

- (1) Fil-bidu tal-kelma,
- (2) F'nofs il-kelma, u
- (3) F'tarf il-kelma.

45. Ittra konsonanti sew fil-bidu, sew fin-nofs, kemm fit-tarf tal-kelma, meta tinħass bħal dik li tmiss magħha, tista' titfisser u tinkiteb bħalha kemm-il darba ma tkunx waħda mill-konsonanti ta' għerq il-kelma.

(Ara wkoll *ir-Raba' Regola* – *l-Ewwel Taqsima*).

Ara: *ir-raġel, id-dawl, immur, irrid, illumek, issib, issum, ixxoqq, iżzur li jinkitbu flok il-raġel, il-dawl, (i)nmur, (i)nrud, (i)nlumek, (i)tsib, (i)tsum, (i)txoqq, (i)tzur* fejn il-konsonanti ta' għerq il-kelmiet *r, d, m, r, l, s, x, z* baqgħu bla mittiefa.

Johorġu minn din ir-regola l-konsonanti ta' għerq il-kelma *l, m, n, r* (likwidi) meta jiltaqgħu ma' xulxin fejn ta' qabel (ta' għerq il-kelma) tiegħu l-lehen tal-konsonanti ta' warajha (mhux ta' għerq il-kelma) u tista' għalhekk tinkiteb bħalha. Ara: *kellna* (jew *kenna*) flok *kenlna*; mill-flok *minn l*.

T.ċ. Fil-kelma *ghanna* flok *ghandna*, bejn iż-żewġ *n*, nistgħu nffissru n-nuqqas tal-ittra *d* bil-ħażż ta' apostrofu u niktbu *ghan'na*.

Hazin min jkteb: *hatt* flok *hadt*, (*ma*) *haxx* flok (*ma*) *hassx*, *tahha* flok *tagħha*, *refahhom* flok *refagħhom*, (*ma*) *riec* flok (*ma*) *riedx*, *ghacc* flok *ghatx*, (*ma*) *ghac* flok (*ma*) *ghadx*, *ghazza* flok *ghadsa* u *ghatsa*, *mazza* flok *mqaddsa*, *Ghawci* flok *Ghawdxi*, *fiċcu* flok *fittxu*.

Il-kelma *ruhha*, għalkemm jekk tinkiteb *ruhha*, l-ewwel *h* ta' għerq il-kelma *ruh* tibqa' bla mittiefa, hu tajjeb li għarreqqa tal-grammatika tinkiteb *ruhha* biex il-lehen ta' *h*, tal-pronom *ha*, jingħazel mil-lehen ta' *h* konsonanti ta' għerq il-kelma.

Tagħqid u twaħhid ta' konsonanti mtennija

46. Meta fil-kelma żewġ konsonanti ta' sura u lehen wiehed jaħbtu ma' oħra bħalhom, il-għaqda tat-tliet konsonanti bħal xulxin titfisser bi tnejn.

Għalhekk minn *qadded* nagħmlu u niktbu *qaddu*; minn *dellel, mdellel*, imbagħad *mdellin*; minn *raqqaq, raqqu*; minn *saddad, msaddad* imbagħad *msaddin*; minn *haffef, haffu, haffet*; minn *kebbeb, mkebbin*; minn *kennen, mkennin*; minn *qazzeż, qazzu*.

T.ċ. Dan il-lehen jiffisser bil-għaqda u t-twaħhid ta' żewġ konsonanti l-għaliex tliet konsonanti ta' sura u lehen wiehed mingħajr vokali bejniethom ma jistgħux jinħassu.

Nistgħu għalhekk minflok ma ngħaqquhom f'sura ta' żewġ konsonanti, infissruhom fi tlieta bil-ħażż tal-apostrofu wara l-ewwel tnejn u hekk niktbu: *qadd'du, mdell'lin, raqq'qu, msadd'din, haff'fu, mkebb'bin, mkenn'nin, qazż'zu* fejn l-apostrofu juri n-nuqqas tal-vokali maħtufa u nofsa siekta (*xewa' tal-Lhudi*) ta' bejn l-ewwel u t-tieni sillaba, ngħidu ahna flok *qaddēdu, mdellēlin, raqqāqu, msaddēdin*, eċċ., li skont il-15-il Regola tal-Ewwel Taqsima fi kliem Malti ma jistgħux jinħassu u jinkitbu.

47. Meta fil-kelma żewġ konsonanti tal-istess sura u lehen jaħbtu wara waħda mill-konsonanti likwidi *l, m, n, r* il-għaqda ta' dawn iż-żewġ konsonanti titfisser b'waħda.

Għalhekk minn *gerbeb, qancec, partat*, nagħmlu u niktbu *gerbu, qancu, partu* flok *gerbbu, qaniccu, parttu*. Hekk ukoll *mgerbin, mqancin, mpartin* flok *mgerbbin, mqaniccin, mparttin*, eċċ.

T.ċ. Bħalma fissirna qabel, nistgħu wkoll niktbu *gerb'bu, qanc'cu, part'tu*.



Aktar regoli u tifsir fil-ħarġa li jmiss

Good Friday Activities 2018 at Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park

Preparations for the Good Friday Procession in Horsley Park, NSW are already well underway and the Organising Group is taking this opportunity to advise the readers of *The Voice of the Maltese* of upcoming important dates and activities:

Thursday March 8, from 6.00pm: Helpers are needed to transport and arrange statues in the church.

Friday March 9, from 8.00pm: Helpers needed to organise and prepare other procession objects in the church. The Last Supper exhibition is also organised.

Sunday March 18, from 3.00pm: Children and youths are invited to try on and collect costumes for the pro-

cession in the Church Presbytery

From Monday 12 to Wednesday March 14, at 6.30pm: Lenten mission in Maltese with Fr John Taliana

Thursday March 22, from 7.00pm: Reconciliation in the Church

Friday March 23 from 7.00pm: The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. It begins with a mass, followed by the Stations of the Cross outside and a procession with the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows back into the Church.

Friday March 30 – Good Friday: Help is greatly needed early in the morning to install outdoor equipment necessary for the procession such as PA systems, lights and barricades.

Church service begins at 1.00pm.

The Church can only hold a certain amount of people, so come early.

At 2.30pm: the Maltese Cultural Association NSW Choir begins performing traditional dirges and hymns, alternating with Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band that will play funeral marches.

The procession begins at 3.00pm. All participants should be present by 2.00pm to prepare for the procession, rain, hail or shine.

The possibility exists that there would be costumes available to wear, especially for adults.

More information about anything one should call *Fred Cauchi* on 0407 914 051.



Prof. Godfrey Pirotta receives University of Sofia award

On behalf of the readers of *The Voice of the Maltese* we wish to congratulate Prof. Godfrey Pirotta (left), one of our friends and contributors of the magazine, who has been awarded the title of Honorary Professor in Political Science and International Relations from the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Medac, and the Bulgarian University.

The award to Prof. Pirotta was made at the same time that President Coleiro Preca was on a state visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of the Bulgarian Head of State. She also headed a delegation that included representatives of the executive branch of power and also of more than 50 Maltese companies.

At a joint news conference, the two Presidents called for a more prompt alignment of living standards and economic development between the North and South and the East and West in Europe.

Both Rumen Radev and Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca highlighted the need for an active EU policy towards migrants' countries of origin and for solidarity with the states that protect the external EU borders.

The two shared the opinion that the active cooperation between Bulgaria and Malta in the sphere of culture will contribute to the development of bilateral relations. Valletta is the European capital of culture in 2018 and Plovdiv will be such a capital in 2019.

At the meeting between the two Presidents the opportunity for regulating the child adoption policy was also discussed.

They also closed a Bulgarian-Maltese business forum where memorandums for cooperation between the Executive Agency for Promoting SMEs and Trade Malta, between the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Maltese Trade Chamber, between the Chamber of Commerce of Burgas and the Chamber of Commerce of Gozo were also signed.

In the past 20 years, Maltese investments in Bulgaria have reached 320 million euros, and the annual trade stood at 60 million euros.

In March Sofia, will host the first European conference to discuss the EU's Multi-annual Financial Framework for the post-2020 period.

The award was made in recognition of his service to the disciplines and their teaching.

Before being presented with the award he delivered a public lecture entitled *"Malta's Foreign Policy since Independence"*.

On the eve of the award, in the presence of the Presidents of the Republic of Malta Her excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and that of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev, Prof. Pirotta signed an MoU for closer co-operation between the

Bhal ma jaghmlu kull sena, din id-darba wkoll, ix-Xagħra Association of Australia

Ix-xalata tax-Xagħra

(Melbourne) organizzaw ix-xalata għall-membri tagħhom. Did-darba saret nhar il-Hadd, 4 ta' Frar, fi Brimbank Park. Għaliha attendew 140 membri u ħbieb.

Meta l-folla bdiet tingabar, beda t-tisjir, u wara l-ikel uħud marru għal mixja, fil-waqt li oħrajn tawha għal-logħob tal-boċċi, jew il-Bingo. Fost dawk li attendew

kien hemm uħud li kienu fuq b'tala f' Melbourne minn Malta u Għawdex

Aktar tard, f'diskors qasir li għamel, Fr Manny Bonello, il-Kappillan tal-Parroċċa ta' San Gużeppe Haddiem, North Reservoir tkellem dwar xi persuni mix-Xagħra li mietu dan l-aħħar.

Fost il-preżenti li nkludew ukoll għadd

ta' zghazagh, kien hemm il-President u s-Segretarju tar-Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors

Group, Salvina u Paul Vella rispettivamente, il-President tal-Australia Qala Association, Michael Buttigieg, u membri tal-Kumitat, kif ukoll il-Councillor Victoria Borg tal-Kunsill ta' Brimbank u DJ Christopher Galea.

Paul Vella



Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

Maltese Radio Programmes

MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

MELBOURNE: STEREO 974 (93180930): 97.4FM Wed (Maltese Magazine) & Thursday (Merħba): 6.00pm to 8.00 pm Co-ordinator – Ray Anastasi

On SBS Radio

Day Time Analogue and Digital
Friday: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2



Saturday: 14:00-15:00: 97.7fm SBS 2
To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip.

Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.

SBS MALTESE NEWS: *L-Aħbarijiet* on SBSTV twice a week nationwide; Sunday 8.00 am on SBS2 (Chan. 32) Thursdays at 8.00 am on SBSTV32.

SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM.

(Jista' wkoll jinstema' On Demand minn fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)

(On Demand: *Ethnic Maltese Council* 11am)
Il-Fladd 11.00 am: *l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, taġħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.*

UNCLE SAM DJ (Maltese Radio) tune in to link: www.unclesamdj.com

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live or catch up) at sbs.com.au/maltese and via mobile phone, using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.

VIVA MALTA on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford Central NSW. Aired on Thursdays every fortnight from 6 pm -7 pm.

Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

Web streaming:
www.coastfm.org.au

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

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Tuesday of the Month. Group meets in Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights at 10 am.

Maltese Seniors Central Coast

Have to contact our Welfare Officer for an appointment. For all information and referral matters call Censina Cefai: 02 439 000 12 or 0414 267 652

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets 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 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

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of each

month at the Llandilo Community Hall, Seventh Avenue, from 11am to 1 pm.

Maltese of Bankstown

Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month at New BCRG offices 15 Kitchner Parade, Bankstown NSW (opposite RSL Club).

Every other 3rd Thursday an outing. Enquiries call: Sam 9534 2357

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Centre of OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 am to 12 noon

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets every First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am-1:00pm. Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining, so come Join us and make new Friends

For more information contact our Co-ordinator: Charles Mifsud J.P. Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298.

**(All Groups are co-ordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123. The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (corner with Young St) Parramatta West NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School).*



Lejla Mġarrija

organizzata minn Horsley Park Community Social Group, Horsley Park

Għall-iMġarrin u l-Ħbieb

Nhar is-Sibt 14 ta' April
Fil-Mandavilla Events Centre
Horsley Drive, Horsley Park.

Divertiment minn: The Falcons

\$65.00 kull persuna. Jinkludi antipasti Maltin, ikla ta' tliet korsi, birra, inbid, soft drinks te' u kafe'.

Se jkun hemm: "Lucky Door Prize", "Raffle", wirja ta' ritratti u ħafna aktar.

Bieh tibbukja ċempel lil: **Theresa Quattromani 0402-178-781, Josephine Borg 0402-040-954**

Ejjew ħa niddervertu flimkien

Il-qliegħ kollu minn din il-lejla jmur għall-Cancer Council

Saint Nicholas Festa Committee



Main events for 2018

Sunday March 11: Fete

Sunday July 1: Lejla fil-Buskett

Sunday October 14 : Fete

Saturday Nov. 10: Dinner Dance

Sunday Dec. 2: St Nicholas Feast

Events are held at the Good Shepherd parish hall, 130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW

Community Wheels Inc.
Connecting you with your community

Community Wheels is your local community organisation that provides door-to-door transport services to eligible people (+65 years old etc.) to:
 * attend medical appointments
 * go shopping (including assisting clients with their shopping bags)
 * meet a friend for a chat or coffee, and *go on bus tours etc.
 Available in the Parramatta City Council and parts of Cumberland Council areas
 For information call 88681400



L-MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a tal-ilsien Malti.

L-applikanti jrid kollhom għarfien sew tal-Malti, miktub u mitkellem. Dan hu xogħol volontarju, bla ħlas. Min hu interessat jibgħat l-applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lil:
edwigeborg@hotmail.com
 Għal tagħrif ieħor ċempel fuq **0412 115 919**. Ffalli nnumru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura

Community News



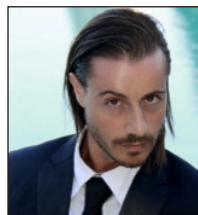
THE MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Proudly Presents one of Malta's most popular vocalists!

Ludwig Galea in the "U18 Concert"
Celebrating Valletta as the EU Capital of Culture 2018

Sunday March 25 at 2.00pm

"Starlight Room" - Wentworthville Leagues Club



Supported by the popular and talented Young Australian/Maltese singers **James Cassar and ALEE**

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT

Dorothy Gatt: 9636 1834; Charles Mifsud 0421 662 298; Monica Ledger: 9896 0712
 Donation: Adults \$22; Children u/12yrs: \$10



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Contact: George Vella Ph: 9622 7799
 94 Main Street, Blacktown



50 Smith Street, Wentworthville
 Ph: 02 8868 9200



La Valette Social Centre



La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown

Every Thursday: Maltese Respite Care Service 10.15am: Mass in Maltese Morning Tea and Lunch Bingo and Boċċi

Every Saturday: Kitchen & Bar open from 5.00 p.m. Traditional Maltese cuisine From: Boċċi; Live Dj (Emanuel Grech and Sam Mifsud (alternate Saturdays) Bingo starts 8.00pm

Last Saturday of the month: Ghana Night with Saver Bonanno and friends

FESTA TA' GENEROZITA' SPECIAL CONCERT

ORGANISED BY FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE HOUSE NSW
IN AID OF ID DAR-TAL PROVIDENZA, MALTA
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 2.00 PM AT LA VALLETTE SC
SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS: JOE GALEA AND STACEY SALIBA
 SUPPORTED BY ALEE, MARTIN VELLA, THE VELLA SISTERS, AND THE POPULAR MCA CHOIR

TRAVEL VOUCHER PRIZE FOR LUCKY DONOR ENVELOPE

MALTESE FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM 12 NOON

DONATION: ADULTS \$10 CHILD U/15YRS: FREE

BOOKINGS: GREG & AGNESE CARUANA 9626 6753 OR JIM BORG: 9636 7767

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY **Breakaway Travel** Blacktown CONTACT: 9622 7799

GRUPP SANTA MARIA SYDNEY

Se tiġi organizzata ikla għall-Imġarrin u l-ħbieb tagħhom Nhar il-Ħadd 11 ta Marzu mis-1.00 pm 'Il-quddiem fiċ-Ċentru ta La' Vallette fi Blacktown.

Se jkun hemm **BUFFETT**, u żewġ fliexken imbid fuq kull mejda. (Soft drinks u birer jinxtrow mill-klabb).

Caterers: Pelapidas Catering tal-istess ta Santa Maria.

Divertiment: **Charlie Muscat (Iż-Żebbiegħ)** u **The Vella Sisters**.

Guest singer: **Natasha Tatarinoff**.

Il-qliegħ imur kollu għal banda tal-Imġarr. Donazzjoni ta' \$55 dollars

Għal aktar tagħrif ċemplu lil:

Agnes: 9626 6753 (Mob: 0432 714 735); La Valette: 9622 5840

L-attivitva` se tkun sponsorjata minn **Breakaway Travel**, Blacktown.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP

State Member for Prospect

For issues concerning:

Ageing and disability - community services - education - environment - health - housing - planning - Police - transport - water

P: (02) 9756 4766 E: prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 2/679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164

Please Note

Anybody interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write to:

Maltesevoice@gmail.com



Sunshine George Cross kick off 2018 season with away draw

Of the teams associated with the Maltese Community in Victoria and NSW, Sunshine George Cross SC (above), who play in the NPL 2 Victoria League were the first to spring into action in the 2018 season.

In a fiery opening George Cross earned a share of the points in a 2-2 draw away at Dunstan Reserve against Brunswick and finished the game with only 10 men.

The Cross took the lead through youngster James Kemal, but Brunswick drew level within five minutes. After 30 minutes Kemal was shown a red card following a melee involving every player and Brunswick capitalised on the numerical advantage by taking the lead just before the break.

Sunshine George Cross, under coach Tony Ciantar lifted their game in the second half and controlled the game before Korean import Su-Beom An finished off a fine move.

Goalkeeper Ryan Gauci, still only 17, made an impressive debut for the club.

Sunshine George Cross who will play their home matches at the Knights Stadium this coming season make their home debut on Saturday against Altona Magic.

Valletta close in on Balzan

In the only programme played in Football's Premier League in Malta, adverse weather conditions disrupted Day 18 in that a number of matches had to be postponed to later dates.

One of the results had a direct bearing in the top reaches of the standing.

RESULTS – DAY 18

Balzan v Floriana	1-1
Valletta v Lija	3-1
Birkirkara v Sliema	2-1
Gzira v Hamrun S.	2-1
Hibernians v Senglea	5-1
Tarxien R. v Naxxar L	5-2
St Andrews v Mosta	0-0

Balzan dropped two points in a 1-1 draw against Floriana, and with Valletta figuring in an easy 3-1 win over bottom team Lija, allowed the Citizens to reduce the gap with the leaders to just one point.

In the same programme, in-form Birkirkara made it eight wins in a row after defeating Sliema Wanderers, while Gzira United came from behind to beat Hamrun Spartans 2-1 and end a run of two matches without a win. For Hamrun it was their third defeat in succession.

League ladder

TEAMS	P	Pts
Balzan	19	42
Valletta	19	41
Birkirkara	19	37
Gzira U	19	37
Hibernians	19	35
Floriana	19	33
Sliema W.	19	29
Hamrun S.	19	25
Mosta	19	23
Senglea A	19	19
S. Andrews	19	16
Naxxar L	19	14
Tarxien R.	19	14
Lija A.	19	5

FA Trophy Hibs lose in penalty shoot-out

The League made way for the quarter-final stage of the FA Trophy. As a result, four Premier League clubs qualified to the semifinals.

No surprises but Hibs were knocked out in a penalty

shoot-out against Sliema

Full results in Q/Fs:

Balzan v Lija A.	3-1
Valletta v Żejtun C.	2-0
Birkirkara v Qrendi	3-0
Hibernians v Sliema W.	0-0

(Sliema win 4-1 after penalties)

Malta's Best for 2017

For the second year running Duncan Micallef (Motorsport) won the Sportsman of the Year, while Yazmin Zammit Stevens (weightlifting) was voted the Sportswoman of the Year in the National Sport/Malta Awards for 2017.

Green Gully start with home match vs. Avondale

Green Gully kick off their 2018 season in the NPL Vic season on Friday February 23 with a home game at the Green Gully Reserve against Avondale.

In that game they are expected to give his debut to their new signing, 21-year-old Kieran Dover, described in the club's circles as "an exciting forward".

Senior coach Arthur Papas will be in charge of the Green Gully team.

New kits for Parramatta Eagles FC for new season

The 2018 season for Parramatta Melita Eagles in the NPL NSW 2 will start with a home match at the Melita Stadium on Sunday March 4 against St George FC.

Everybody is hoping that the season will offer something new - other than the new home and away kits (*below*) - when it comes to results after last year's disappointment.

If hopes are based on positive results obtained in trial matches the past few weeks, one would really have something to look forward to.

In these trial matches Parramatta beat Inter Lions SC 7-2, drew with Granville Rage FC (0-0), and with Fraser Park FC (2-2), and Sunday defeated Balmain Tigers FC 3-1



A-League Sydney FC lead now 11 points

Thanks to their fine 4-0 away victory over third-placed Melbourne City, and Newcastle Jets dropping failure to beat Sydney WA away from home, in the only programme played, Sydney FC have further strengthened their position at the top of the league standing.

The gap between them and their nearest challengers, Newcastle, has now increased to 11 points. That means that as they keep running away with the league title. They just don't have any challengers and the only battle in now is for the runner-up position between five of the eighth remaining teams for the runner-up position. The Jets have the edge.

RESULTS - DAY 20

Melbourne C v Sydney FC	0-4
W Sydney W v Newcastle J	2-2
Melbourne V v Brisbane R	1-2
Wellington P v Perth G	2-1
Adelaide U v CC Mariners	2-2