



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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The ANZAC Day commemoration: The Australian High Commissioner to Malta, HE Ms Julienne Hince (*left*) and the President of Malta, HE Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca during the wreath-laying ceremony at the Pieta cemetery

Commemorating ANZAC Day 2018



Photo: Patrick Bartolo

The Group of Maltese ex service RSL Sub-Branch after the march in Sydney, pose with Maltese Minister Helena Dalli who was on a visit to NSW. (See reports and more photos on pages 3 and 4)



I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to Prime Minister Muscat and his team. Thank you for your incredible hard work. You represent a Commonwealth truth, that the size of a country does not limit its ambition and impact.

I hope that in the coming days and months we can build on the work you have begun as we forge a future for our common good.

– Theresa May (left) in her opening speech at the formal opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Buckingham Palace (London 2018)



Dr. Joseph Muscat addressing the formal opening of CHOGM at Buckingham Palace

Malta PM Joseph Muscat tells Commonwealth leaders:

Equality a central theme for CHOGM

On the occasion of the opening of the Commonwealth Summit 2018, in the Ballroom in Buckingham Palace prior to the first executive session at Lancaster House on April 19, Malta's Prime Minister, Dr. Joseph Muscat, who was Chair in office since Malta organised CHOGM two years ago, concluded Malta's term by touching upon a central theme, that of equality, that had been addressed at the CHOGM in Valletta.

In the presence of Elizabeth II, Queen of the UK and the Commonwealth realms, in the opening that marks the official start to CHOGM, and before handing the responsibility for the next two years to the UK and Prime Minister Theresa May, Dr. Muscat said it had been quite a journey since the Malta meeting.

He said that the world is a different place, things one took for granted are now rooted in deep uncertainty, and while progress continues to be achieved, this is uneven and unlevelled.

In his address, Dr Muscat said that despite this, "the Commonwealth, our Commonwealth, is experiencing a rekindled interest, with our family growing, and positive changes happening."

He wished the United Kingdom the very best for the two years ahead and at the end of Malta's term he said that instead of listing the achievements and the works in progress, he would rather conclude the term by touching upon a central theme, that of equality, that had been addressed two years previously in Malta.

He said that while respecting the different cultures and backgrounds, the Commonwealth must be a force that nudges and encourages its members to embrace this fundamental value.

"By standing together, our Commonwealth has fought, proudly, for equality amongst different races, at a time when such equality could not be taken for granted. That is a feather in our cap.



"But we have to remind ourselves that equality is not a relative value. We cannot be in favour of one type of equality, and ambivalent about or against another," he added.

He said that that is why Malta believes that the advocacy for gender equality, and equal rights for the LGBTIQ community should remain firmly on the Commonwealth agenda – not to point fingers or cross swords, but to assist decision makers, engage with communities and promote best practices.

"We can register progress with brave steps taken in some members of our family, but there are still too many of our sisters and brothers who are criminalised, discriminated against, or even subjected to violence. If there is at least one takeaway from our term as Chair, we do hope it is this, and that the engagement continues," Malta's Prime Minister said.

The outgoing Chair in Office wrapped up his speech by thanking the Queen for the personal interest she takes in "our Commonwealth".

"As proud, independent nations, we look at your leadership of our family as a honour you are affording us. What your father, His Majesty King George, started, you have not only continued, but also elevated to unprecedented levels," Dr. Muscat said.

He also commended His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, for his active participation in Commonwealth affairs, and for what he said is his strong Commonwealth dimension in his various national and global initiatives.

The opening was also addressed by UK Prime Minister Theresa May before the formal opening, by the Queen, the session was also addressed by UK Prime Minister Theresa May and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland QC.



Il-Ministru Helena Dalli (fin-nofs fuq wara) mar-rappreżentanti tal-għaqdiet tal-Maltin (ritratt: Patrick Bartolo)

Il-Ministru Helena Dalli tiltaqa' mal-kapijiet tal-komunita' ta' Sydney

L-Onor Helena Dalli Ministru għall-Affarijiet Ewropej u l-Ugwaljanza ta' Malta li kienet fuq mawra fi NSW, l-Awstralja fl-aħhar jiem, bejn is-26 u 28 ta' April attendiet għal laqgħa għolja internazzjonali magħrufa bħala l-Global Summit of Women tal-2018.

Magħha għal din it-18-il edizzjoni tal-forum imlaqqa' biex jiddiskuti t-tema *Creating Economies of Shared Values* kien hemm preżenti wkoll għadd ta' nisa oħra prominenti minn madwar id-dinja, fosthom prim ministri, politiċi, rappreżentanti ta' gvernijiet, u nisa minn oqsma oħra fin-negozju u l-kummerċ.

Minkejja dan l-impenn, il-Ministru Dalli sabet ukoll hin biex tul il-ftit jiem li għamlet f'dan l-istat, tiltaqa' mar-rappreżentanti tal-għaqdiet Maltin fi NSW taħt il-kappa tal-Kunsill tal-Komunita' Maltija. Intqal li l-komunita' Maltija f'it inghatat tagħrif minn qabel biex tfejji għal din iż-żjara, għalhekk ma kienx possibli li l-Ministru tiltaqa' ma' ċirku akbar ta' Maltin.

Bla dubju li bħal ma jsir dejjem waqt żjarat bħal dawn, il-Ministru Helena Dalli ntlagħhet b'entuzjażmu kbir mill-komunita' fiċ-ċentru f'West Parramatta. Hija għamlet saġhtejn shaħ tithallat' mad-delegati, tisma' b'attenzjoni kbira dwar il-ħtiġiet u l-aspirazzjonijiet tagħhom halli bejn iċ-ċittadini Maltin, jgħixju fejn jgħixu fid-dinja, tirrenja l-ugwaljanza.

Il-Ministru tkellmet dwar l-avvanzi li qed tagħmel il-mara f'Malta f'hafna oqsma u semmiet b'herqa l-*universal free childcare scheme* li l-Gvern Malti daħhal fl-2014.

Qalet ukoll kemm għoġbitha l-belt ta' Sydney u kemm kienet impressjonata fit-trankwillita' tal-hajja. Semmiet li meta niżlet fl-ajruport ta' Sydney, l-ewwel pulizija li tlaqgħet miegħu kellimha bil-Malti.

Wara l-laqgħa l-Ministru tkellmet ukoll ma' *The Voice of the Maltese* fejn spjegat l-ammirazzjoni tagħha għall-heġġa u d-determinazzjoni tad-delegati li tant għadhom kburin b'pajjiżhom. Wegħdet li fejn hu possibli se tissokta tressaq it-talbiet tagħhom.

Il-Ministru Dalli li kienet akkumpanjata minn Silvan Agius mid-dipartiment tal-Ministru tagħha, u Denise Demicoli, id-Deputat Kummissarju Gholi u l-Konslu Generali fi NSW.

Il-Ministru Helena Dalli fuq quddiem fl-isfilata tal-ANZAC f'Sydney

Sadanittant, nhar l-Erbgħa 25 tax-xahar, Skif jagħmlu kull sena, il-Maltin li servew fid-difiża ta' Malta u tal-Awstralja immarċjaw fl-ibliet ewlenin jiehdu sehem fl-ANZAC DAY, il-jum btala li tant hu venerat fl-Awstralja u f'partijiet oħra tad-dinja fejn hu rrapreżentat dan il-kontinent. Din id-darba, flimkien mal-kontingent Malti fit-toroq ta' Sydney immarċjat ukoll il-Ministru Dalli.

Kull sena jiġu organizzati attivitajiet biex jiġu mfakkra l-qalbiena li hađu sehem fil-gwerer, l-aktar fl-ewwel gwerra dinjija fejn servew 320,00 Awstraljan voluntiera barra p a j j i z h o m ; 60,000 minnhom ma rriturnawx

Dak iż-żmien il-popolazzjoni A w s t r a l j a n a kienet ta' f'it inqas minn hames miljun. Barra l-isfilati jiġu organizzati b'qima kbira u rispett id-*Dawn Services*. Dan kien il-103 anniversarju ta' meta t-truppi Awstraljani u ta' New Zealand (ANZACs) az-zardaw jinwadu Gallipoli.

Din is-sena hadet sehem fuq quddiem nett tal-isfilata fit-toroq ta' Sydney il-Ministru Helena Dalli li nżertat f'din il-belt biex tattendi konferenza. Il-preżenza tagħha għet apprezzata ferm mill-Maltin li servew fil-gwerrer u l-qrabathom li flimkien mal-banda Maltija OLQP għamlulna unur jimmarċjaw taħt il-bandalora Maltija.

Charles Mifsud il-President tal-Malte Ex-Service Group qal lil *The Voice* kemm il-Ministru Dalli hadet l-opportunita li mhux biss timmarċja imma wkoll lil tiltaqa'ma' hafna Maltin veterani u għamlet hin twil titkellem magħhom, ġest li ġie ferm apprezzat.

Dan l-avveniment storiku ġie wkoll imxandar fuq it TV u għalhekk kulhadd seta' jsegwih u japprezzah. Fost li attendew id-Dawn Service ewlieni f'Martin Place Sydney kien hemm il-Maltija, Lea Harding li toqgħod Curl Curl li illum tghodd 91 sena. Ilha tattendi dan l-avveniment għal dawn l-aħhar 40 sena. Hija tiftakar sew lil-zijuha Charlie Bonavia li ta' 24 sena kien fost dawk li mietu fl-ewwel jum li beda il-ġlied fid-Dardanelles. (ara wkoll paġna 4)



Il-Ministru Helena Dalli flimkien ma' Silvan Agius u Charles Mifsud (xellug) waqt l-isfilata



Laying of wreaths at the Anzac Day commemoration in Malta. **ABOVE** (from left): Mrs Jill Camilleri, the New Zealand Hon. Consul, Dr Chris Fearn on behalf of the Government of Malta; Dr Angelo Farrugia the Speaker, and Dr Adrian Delia leader of the NP. **ON LEFT:** Joseph Cutajar on behalf of *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine, and Ms Monica Chetcuti on behalf of Aussies in Malta

ANZAC DAY in Malta since 1916

The ANZAC Day commemorative Service in Malta organised by the Australian High Commission on the island, was held at the Pieta` Military Cemetery with a Wreath Laying Ceremony with the participation of the highest dignitaries.

Anzac Day has been observed in Malta since 1916 when it was originally observed with two services. One, for non-Catholics, was held at the Pieta` cemetery and the other at the Addolorata Catholic Cemetery. With the unveiling of the Malta Memorila in 1954 the services were combined and held at one location. Since 1979 it has been held at the Pieta` Military Cemetery that houses most of the Anzac graves (231) in Malta.



Helena Dalli, Malta's Minister for European Affairs and Equality with Mr. Charles Mifsud, president of the Maltese RSL, Sub-Branch of NSW before she marched with the group on Anzac Day in Sydney



A section of the Maltese group in the Anzac Day march in Sydney (photo: Patrick Bartolo)

Q. . I am a bachelor and on the full age pension. I have just come into an inheritance of \$300,000 from an aunt. I have been informed that the other beneficiary resides in Canada and for this reason it is taking time to locate him. Should I advise Centrelink about this inheritance now or when I actually receive the funds?

A. Although you have been told that you have inherited this large amount of money, until it comes into your possession it is not considered as your asset. You could advise Centrelink that you will be receiving these funds shortly, but it could take months before the funds are actually transferred to your name.

Your age pension will be affected once the funds are received into your bank account and not while they are still being held by the executor.

Q. I work and have been salary sacrificing all through the year. Between my employer's superannuation contribution and my salary sacrifice I believe I have already contributed around \$24,000 this year.

I believe the amount of concessional contributions is \$25,000 for 2017/2018 financial year. Am I allowed to stop my salary sacrifice and who can advise me on the amount of contributions that I have made this year?

A. Yes the concessional contributions for everyone this year has been reduced to \$25,000. You should first of all contact your pay office and ask to have your salary sacrifice terminated for the rest of this financial year. You can then call the customer service office of your superannuation fund and con-

firm the amount of contributions that have been made since 1 July 2017.

Your employer will still need to make their Superannuation Guaranteed contributions for the rest of this financial year. If you have gone above the limit you would be asked to withdraw the excessive amount and pay tax on this amount at your marginal tax rate.

Q. I am a grandfather of two and would like to start a savings plan for each of my grandchildren. I need to know how best to invest these funds whether directly in their names as trustee.

A. . I must commend you on starting a savings plan for your grandchildren. I would however recommend that you have the investment in your name as the trustee. You will be paying tax on the earnings yourself, however if your savings plan included exposure to Australian shares you should receive franking credits, which would be offset against any tax

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



liability.

If the investments were in your grandchildren's names they will have to pay tax once the earnings for the financial year go above \$416. Earnings for children under the age of 18 are heavily taxed with earnings between \$417 and \$1307 taxed at 68% and anything above \$1,307 taxed at 45%.

Q. My wife and I are downsizing and moving into a retirement village. After paying for the unit we will still be left with around \$400,000 of surplus funds. We settle on both properties on the 15th May 2018. I am 67 years old and my wife is 66 years old and both of us have been retired for a couple of years. Is it possible to invest these surplus funds into super?

A. As you are both over the age of 65 you are not able to make contributions into superannuation unless you pass the work test which is working 40 hours over a 30 day period. If you managed to pass this work test the maximum amount that you could both invest in superannuation is \$100,000 each.

After the 1st of July 2018 anyone with surplus funds because of downsizing will be able to invest up to \$300,000 per person into superannuation, but in your case unfortunately you have missed out.

However, there are other ways of investing your funds; one option would be to invest in a number of managed funds in different sectors of the market, and then establish a regular income stream. The only difference between managed investments and account based pensions is that earnings are tax free in account based pensions whilst earnings are taxed at your marginal tax rate on managed investments.

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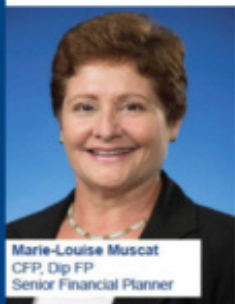
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The Flemish Tapestries in the Conventual Church of the Order of St John in Valletta



Dr. Doris Cannataci



The Conventual Church of the Order

The church of St John was built on the plans and design of the famous Maltese Architect Gerolamo Cassar (c.1520-1586). This splendid sixteenth century church is said to be his greatest creation; it rises majestically in the heart of Valletta.¹ This church is Cassar's masterpiece.

It is a "gem of architecture, grand in its austere façade, dramatic in its interior."² St John's church is "a reflection of the Order's vision of service to Christianity."³ This stately 'fortress of the Faith' completed in 1578, has for long been considered as one of the Order's greatest monuments embellishing our island.⁴

This House of Prayer, Conventual Church of the Order depicts the spirit of a real religious Order. It shows the splendour of religion and the excellent tastes of the aristocracy of the Knights who at the time were the élite of all Europe. St John is the greatest historical monument of Malta.

The church of St John is remarkable for its artistic aspect. It was built in 1578 with a very plain interior. Later it was transformed from a Mannerist building into a Baroque church except for the façade.

The church's architectural proportions, the richness of the internal decoration with its treasures in monuments, tapestries, different ancient ecclesiastical furniture, and masterpieces of the greatest sixteenth and seventeenth century artists in Europe make it a magnificent temple.

St John's Church is unique in its history and objets d'art both on a national and international level.

Although at first glance it seems to be entirely Baroque, it incorporates all periods of art from the Gothic to the Neo-Classical.

From an artistic aspect the Conventual Church ranks as one of the highest historic monuments of the world.⁵

The artistic eye enjoys the symmetrical grandeur of the temple. One admires the genius of the great artists who embellished it, the creative power of Mattia Preti, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, Giuseppe Mazzuoli, and several others.

The whole church is richly decorated in the triumphant detail characteristic of the baroque of the sixteenth and seventeenth century.⁶ The Conventual Church may be considered as an anthology of the history of Art in Malta.

The Flemish tapestries of St John are art treasures. Their high artistic quality testifies to the importance that the Order attached to its artistic patronage.

Grand Master Perellos had great artistic aspirations. He was a great lover of art, and this can be confirmed from the gorgeous Flemish tapestries he donated to the church. Their style and lively colours blend so well with the ornamentation of the church.

These tapestries enhance the ensemble baroque effect of the

Conventual Church. The magnificent Flemish tapestries from the best looms in Europe can be regarded as the church's crowning glory.

Its pavement is like "the *Almanach de Gotha translated into marble*."⁷ The baroque tombstones of the proud hospitaliers carpet the entire floor of the church. This marble inlaid pavement is "the most beautiful floor in the world."⁸

Nicholas de Piro confirms it as "the finest floor in the whole world."⁹ The same author also described it, as an intarsio marble blazoning blankets the peaceful remains of those illustrious and devoted men who dedicated their lives to Catholicism and the defending of the true faith.¹⁰

This building is a great treasure house, a priceless gem that can be described as a temple, a cemetery and a museum. It is a major monument of Southern Baroque.

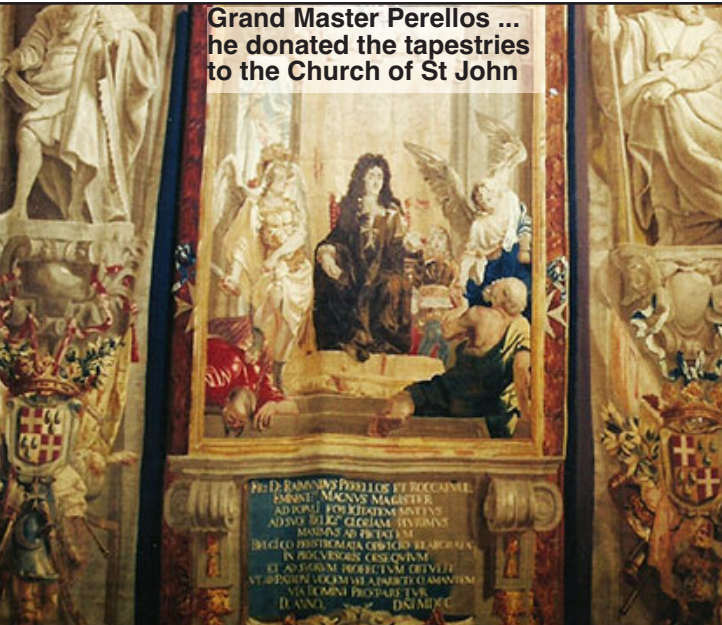
The baroque interior of the Conventual Church in Valletta is the finest, most sumptuous, angelic and heavenly sight in the Maltese Islands.

Hannibal P. Scicluna in his book about the Church of St John wrote: "Whether in art or in history, civil or religious, national and international, St John's Church holds a place of its own."¹¹

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Grand Master Perellos ... he donated the tapestries to the Church of St John



Mother's Day, an event honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society, this year will be celebrated on May 13. The occasion, celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May is this year being celebrated on the same day, in Malta and Australia.

Mother's Day complements similar celebrations honouring family members, such as Father's Day, and in some countries, also Siblings Day, and Grandparents Day.

The celebration began in the United States, early in the 20th century. It is not related to the celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have occurred throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration (originally a commemoration of Mother Church). But in some countries, Mother's Day has become synonymous with these older traditions.

Sometimes, the modern derived version of Mother's Day has been criticised for having become too commercialised.



The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make it a recognised holiday in the US began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann died.

Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. She wanted to honour her mother by continuing the work she started and set aside a day to honour all mothers. she believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone else".

However, Mothers have been celebrated

over the centuries in varying forms and traditions since possibly before Roman times.

In the 1600s' the Church of England instigated 'Mothering Sunday' in recognition of Mary the Mother of Jesus. Later this religious celebration was expanded to include honouring all mothers. As time passed the celebration became less popular in many churches, but some Anglican churches still celebrate Mothering Sunday.

In some countries the date adopted is one significant to the majority religion, such as Virgin Mary Day in Catholic countries. Other countries selected a date with historical significance.

In the Roman Catholic Church, the holiday is strongly associated with revering the Virgin Mary.

In Islam there is no concept of Mother's Day, but mothers hold a very high position in religious matters, while in Hindu tradition, Mother's Day is called "Mata Tirtha Aunshi" or "Mother Pilgrimage fortnight". It is celebrated in countries with a Hindu population, especially in Nepal.

Whoever you are and wherever you are, Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, particularly of our readers.

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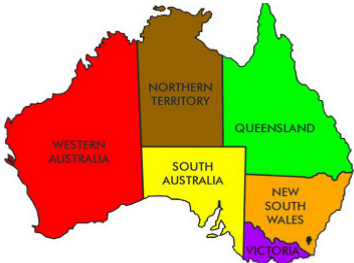
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The Voice of the Maltese

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 ...

Appreciation from Canada

Charlie Bugeya, from Scarborough, Canada writes:

Just a few words of encouragement. I was born in Malta, but came to Canada, in 1963, with my brand new Maltese wife.

We had two children here, and now they each have two children of their own. Unfortunately my wife passed away in 2001, but somehow, I still manage to cope.

I have been receiving *The Voice of the Maltese* for a while now. (I can't remember the first one!). Anyways, I appreciate all the news that you compile. Thank you.

Of course, you being in Australia, the News is mostly from Australia. I have cousins in Australia, but heaven knows where they are.

We do have clubs and other 'gathering places' in Toronto too, but don't ask me to be their voice. We also have a church, dedicated to St Paul, (in the Dundas and Keele area), with a hall next door.

I personally live in Scarborough, a suburb of Toronto, some distance away from the Maltese Community, but on the rare occasion, I go down there for (what else), some fresh pastizzi.

Just wanted to say Hello, especially now that the Maltese President is coming Canada.

Thanks from Malta NOC

Joe Cassar, General Secretary of Malta National Olympic Committee writes:

Thank you for your frequent magazine and interesting contents. Thank you also for covering our participation at the Commonwealth Games.

Ejja ngħozzu l-ilsien Malti

Anthony Cassar from St Albans, Victoria writes:

Bir-rispett kollu rrid ngħid li ma nifhimx ir-raġunar wara l-ittra ta' D. Sammut fl-aħħar haġġa tal-magazine meta qal li skont hu, il-paġna tat-*Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija* mhux għal min irid jitgħallim jew hu interessat fl-ilsien Malti, jew dawk li għalihom il-Malti mhix l-ewwel lingwa tagħhom għax jgħixu barra minn Malta, bħalna l-emigranti.

Isemmi wkoll li l-paġna għandha tkun immirata lejn dawk li għalihom il-Malti mhux l-ewwel lingwa. Jekk inhu Malti bħali u l-hafna eluf li emigrajna minn Malta, l-ilsien Malti HU l-ewwel lingwa tagħna, u jagħmel hażin min jinjarah dan għax qed ngħixu barra minn Malta.

Għandu jkun ta' vantaġġ għal nies bħalna t-*Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija* li f'Malta tgħallimna l-lingwa, għax anke jekk ilna snin twal ngħixu barra, għandna l-bidu tal-lingwa, għalhekk tagħrif bħal dan jgħinna nissudaw f'lsien art twelidna. Jekk int Malti l-lingwa tiegħek hija l-Malti u għandek tagħmel minn kollox biex mhux biss titkellimha, imma wkoll titgħallimha biex hekk tkun ukolltista' tiktibha.

Mur għid lill-komunitajiet l-oħrajn fl-Awstralja, l-aktar lit-Taljani, jew lis-Serbi u l-Pollakki (biex insemmi biss f'it), li minflok jissahhu fl-ilsien originali tagħhom iqisu l-sienhom bħal ta' nies minbarra pajjiżhom!

Dawn kollha huma kburin bil-lingwa tagħhom, u aħna l-Maltin ukoll, m'għandniex inkunu inqas. Jekk il-qarrej, bħali jgħozz il-Malti, jagħmel minn kollox biex jgħozzu u jipperfezzjona ruħu f'dak li jemen

Le, għalina l-emigranti Maltin, aħna fejn aħna, m'ahniex inqas minn dawk li għadhom jgħixu f'Malta. Konna, u għadna Maltin. Ilsienna hu dak li jagħmilna poplu differenti u nazzjon.

The Voice filling a void in the Maltese community

Charles Sant from Blacktown, NSW writes:

Thanks for the regular forwarding of the *The Voice of the Maltese*. It is greatly and wonderfully filling a void in our community. It's more than news, I'm finding it to be a goldmine of information. Thanks.

Keep up the good work

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The Maltese GeriActivists a virtual reality project

For the past few weeks, the Llandilo Maltese Seniors Group gathered together with David Ryan of *Illuminart* to produce a 360° film entitled *The GeriActivists*.

Andy Busuttill from the band *Skorba*, joined in the conversation to help compose the group's outlook into a song with Maltese and English lyrics. He also recorded the song with the voices of the MCA Choir singing *a capella*.

Recently the Maltese groups came together at the Psaila home in Londonderry to shoot a film clip using advanced 360° film technology. The virtual reality film clip expresses the hopes and good wishes for the future of their children and their grandchildren. It will be illustrated with futuristic 3D animations of the local area.

The producers, *Illuminart*, a Blue Mountains-based creative team worked alongside Western Sydney University to articulate the dreams of local people from Maltese cultural heritage.

The Llandilo Maltese community supported the filmmakers' artistic process with good humour. At first, it may seem counter-intuitive to ask seniors where they see the Llandilo community in 2068, but when you really think about it, who better to ask? "We don't have a crystal ball to gaze into the future but can make one," quipped one of the participants.

Northwestern Sydney, once a gentle expanse of dairies and market gardens, is now the frontier of urban sprawl. The *Illuminart* team deliberately ventured into Llandilo, just beyond the developer's burning front to stimulate and awaken yesterday's farmers before their heirloom farms become tomorrow's 'Llandilo Lakes' (there's never a lake). Their work begins over coffee and cake at the local hall.

How much do governments and developers consider the sociocultural impacts of the new suburbs they're mapping? How can we compel them to consider the pre-existing cultural character of a place?

The mood in the discussion group becomes sober at times as the Maltese elders consider the challenges that lie ahead for their heirs, but David guides them back to their strengths of legacy and heritage.

"The developers are thinking in the short term. We're projecting ten years, twenty... fifty years in the future! Really, it's about continuation."

The Maltese market gardens of Llandilo, just over the horizon from Marsden Park, hold endless stories of largely Maltese adventure and family. The creatives of *Illuminart* are working with these seniors to conceptualise and create one of five short films.

Each of these five films will be from a different geographical pocket of Western Sydney but ask the same question: "What can the future be?"

These 360° VRs are intended to be viewed by members of the public, at different libraries to share a kind of community-wide consciousness of futurism.

The project is doing what many creative projects normally do, that is, stimulate connection in the process of conceptualising and planning. Woven throughout 'concept' and 'process' is what I suspect David knows is the prime objective: an awakening of that community to the value of their own humanity and cultural heritage. The participants become almost childlike in their imaginings. This project is good for them.



Fred and Aloysia

As David Ryan points out, "It's really the purest of methods: "We're using a camera, and a microphone, and we're telling a story." Another of our group members emphatically adds, "Except we're not making it up. It is there, and it all happened."

And because of *Illuminart*'s thoughtful work, we'll remember it.

The Australia Council for the Arts and Create NSW has funded the *GeriActivists*' project. The completed film will be shown at community events for free in libraries in Penrith and St Marys. It can also be viewed online through a VR headset. For further details on the project contact david@illuminate.com.au

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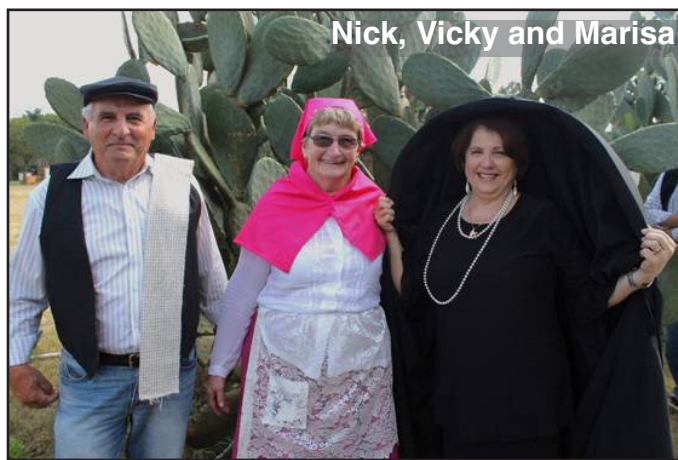
7:30pm Dinner & Show starts at 8:30pm



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Nick, Vicky and Marisa

I think strengthening the Maltese language is a very important step towards safeguarding its future. In schools we should extend the opportunities as much as possible with programmes that fit the need. Elsewhere, we must make sure we help create a digital ecosystem that serves as a firm platform for the Maltese language. Failure to do so imperils the language for future generations

Look at your smartphone apps

Evarist Bartolo
Malta Minister for Education

Look at the apps on your smartphone. Do the same on your tablet and laptop and your social media pages. Go on YouTube and the content you've seen in the past. What is the common factor between them? They're probably all in the English language. Most of the websites you visit are probably in English as well. The Maltese language is simply not there in the vast majority of our online consumption.

Studies have shown that Maltese is one of four languages that are in serious peril due to the digital revolution. Languages such as ours, used by relatively small numbers compared to major ones, are in danger of being absorbed by the English language which is so predominant on the internet and on our technology.

The role of the Maltese language in the digital world is an important discussion to have. It is, by and large, the most serious danger faced by our language. Countries such as France and Germany, whose language is used every day by tens of millions, are also having this same debate because they feel aggrieved. If they are worried, why aren't we, with a much bigger task at hand?

I think these are the discussions that need to take place because these are the big questions that need to be asked about the future of Maltese, and not creating a storm in a teacup on baseless speculation. If the Maltese language vanishes from the online world in 10 or 20 years' time, our language will be in jeopardy.

We must come up with solutions to level the playing field and make sure Maltese finds its place in our smartphones, tablets and websites. Artificial



Intelligence and much improved automatic translation of online content can be very crucial, and possibly our salvation.

We've seen efforts on Google and Facebook, but I think there's still a long road to finding the right balance.

In addition to this we must make sure we safeguard the Maltese language in online communications, including texting. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has received text messages in Maltese which need some sort of decoding equation to understand.

MATSEC examiners have pinpointed this out in their reports – where the misuse of Maltese in the context of shorthand texting practices has found its way into assignments and examination papers.

This is another important challenge that we must address, and while languages such as English have the luxury of being subject to auto-correction on smartphones, tablets and software, Maltese remains in its mumbo-jumbo form. This is not only worrying in terms of the correct use of the language, but it is not even useful when communicating through messaging.

I think there's little doubt that more can be achieved in schools. 40 per cent of students who partake in 11 years of lessons in the Maltese language leave compulsory education with little to no certification. This is simply not good enough. The average pass mark might be the same as other subjects, but we're talking about our own language.

I think we should also address the anomaly in our schools where foreign students are able to learn other foreign



languages such as a foreign language. Maltese as a foreign language.

Having this subject, obviously, doesn't mean that it would be open to Maltese students since, in their case, it is not a foreign language. From what we've seen in the past days, there seems to be a need to explain this.

It is important to highlight the fact that whether such a subject is accepted by any educational institution, including the University of Malta, for entry to its courses remains the prerogative of the same institution and not the Education Minister.

A Council of Europe report has been clear on the needs from an educational perspective as to the need of alternative assessment and curricula for those in vocational tracks.

I think strengthening the Maltese language is a very important step towards safeguarding its future. In schools we should extend the opportunities as much as possible with programmes that fit the need. Elsewhere, we must make sure we help create a digital ecosystem which serves as a firm platform for the Maltese language. Failure to do so imperils the language for future generations.

Nota dwar Perspettiva: F'din il-harġa ma kienx possibbli li jkollna l-artiklu fis-serje interessanti ta' Ivan Cauchi, *Perspettiva* minhabba li bhalissa jinsab fuq btala bi ffit li xejn *reception* tal-mobajl u l-Internet. Jerga' lura bl-artiklu tieghu fil-harġa ta' wara.



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Malta's Ambassador to China receives award for Outstanding Contribution to International Cooperation

On the 17th Anniversary of Home and Abroad News Press, a media organisation committed to publicising international events in China, and the undertakings of foreign diplomats stationed in Beijing and other parts of China, the world's most populous nation, Malta received international recognition for its "Outstanding Contribution to International Cooperation".

The award was presented to Malta's Ambassador to PR China, H.E. Mr. John Aquilina at the glittering hall of the enormous China National Convention Centre, scene of many of the world's major Conferences and Conventions.

The Citation before the presentation read out to the audience read: China Home and Abroad News Press specially award you the honour of 2017 "Outstanding Contribution to International Cooperation of the 'Belt and Road Initiative'"

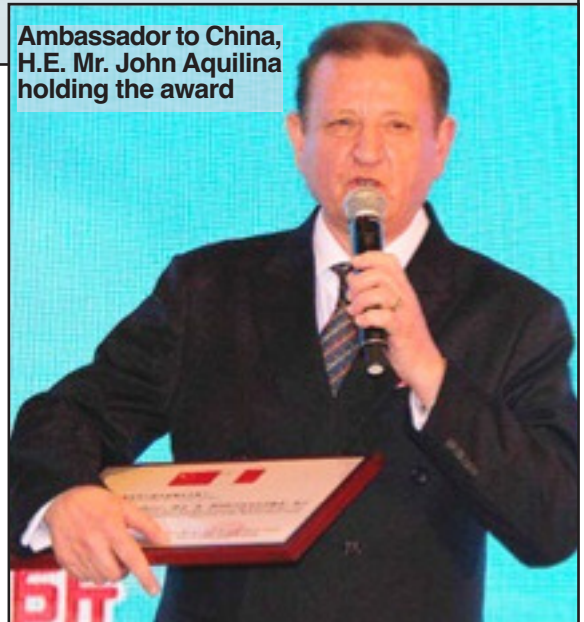
The 500 strong audience at the glittering hall of the enormous China National Convention Centre, scene of many of the world's major Conferences and Conventions included senior representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments, as well as a vast range of senior diplomats and some of the most prominent Chinese business people and investors.

A Gala Dinner consisting of an eleven-course meal of specialised Chinese provincial cuisine followed the award-giving ceremony.

In receiving the Plaque with the Citation, Ambassador Aquilina congratulated the executive, journalists and staff of Home and Abroad News Press on the Anniversary of their organisation, and on their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to promoting harmonious relations among the nations of the world.

He also thanked the organisation for the recognition it had given to Malta in granting this award to him, and for the assistance it had provided to him in promoting Malta in China.

As is fitting at all anniversary celebrations, the evening ended with the cutting of a massive cake.





Roundup of News About Malta



Malta registers highest surplus among 28 EU member states

Malta has managed to record a surplus of €436.6 million in 2017, which is equivalent to 3.9 per cent of GDP. It is the highest amongst the 28 European Union member states and also shows a considerable increase from the surplus of 1.0 per cent registered in 2016.

In his reaction to the news, Minister for Finance Edward Scicluna (pictured right) said that together with a higher level of GDP, Malta's debt-to-GDP ratio has now fallen from 56.2 per cent in 2016 to 50.8 per cent in 2017.

He explained that when comparing 2017 with 2016, the government's total revenue has increased by €612.6 million rising from 38.1 per cent to 40.5 per cent of GDP. Total expenditure recorded a smaller increase of €276.9 million, such that it decreased from 37.1 per cent to 36.5 per cent of GDP.

He pointed out that the current administration has succeeded in registering a surplus net of the revenue from the IIP. In fact, he added, in 2017 the IIP revenue was equal to €285 million, while the government surplus was equivalent to €437 million.

Which means, he said, "Government achieved these results by mindfully containing the increase in expenditure and ensuring that this increase is lower than the increase in revenue".

Meanwhile, addressing a seminar organised by Adherence, a New York City based compliance firm, in the presence of over seventy professionals at the University Club, New York during a business promotion, Minister Scicluna said he was thrilled

to hear US companies expressing their intention to set up their digital business in Malta.

Professor Scicluna, who was leading a business delegation organised by the Malta Stock Exchange, also



participated in another event hosted by renowned international law firm White & Case during which major

issues in global blockchain regulations were discussed.

During this event US company ABE announced its intention to set up digital securities exchange in Malta. Miko Matsumura, who founded crypto exchange Evercoin, also expressed his intention to set up business in Malta.

The Minister was also the special guest on Bloomberg live television programme Bloomberg Markets European Close, that included global trade issues, digital taxation, and immigration, and later was interviewed by the American weekly newspaper Barron's, published by Dow Jones & Company.

During the three-day visit, Minister Scicluna was accompanied by the Stock Exchange Chairman Joseph Portelli and by a number of other senior officials from MSE, MFSA and Finance Malta, as well as by lawyers from Maltese legal firms. The delegation attended some 50 meetings during its stay.

More US investment for Malta

Unemployment in Malta at an all-time low - 1.1% in March

Unemployment in Malta is at its lowest rate in history with National Statistics Office reporting that in March, the number of persons registering for work stood at 1,954 – that is at 1.1 per cent of the labour supply.

There was not much difference between the rates for men and women, with the former being 1.3 per cent and 0.9 per cent for the latter.

Data provided by Jobsplus for March 2018 indicate a decline of 621 persons registering under Part I and a decrease of 74 persons among those registering under Part II of the unemployment register, when compared to March 2017.

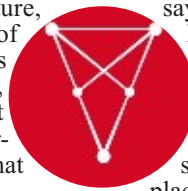
The decreases were noted across all the age groups, and irrespective of how long people had been registering. The largest decrease was recorded among persons who had been registering for work from 21 to 52 weeks.

The number of disabled persons who were registering for work also dropped by 18 when compared to the previous year, reaching 286.

Blockchain-based esports venture to be part of Malta's blockchain ecosystem

A blockchain-based esports venture, chiliZ, has decided to be part of Malta's blockchain ecosystem, thus joining companies such as Binance, Okex and Neufund, and others that would soon be joining this ever-growing Blockchain community, that have put their trust in Malta.

The chiliZ platform is a blockchain-based platform that allows enthusiasts to crowd-manage sports and esports teams and organisations, thus giving supporters a direct



say in managing their favourite teams. It consists of around 20 people and has been based in Malta for the past 12 years.

The chiliZ team have confirmed that \$27 million have already been secured through early, private token placement.

In a statement the company described Malta as an EU member country with a pro-blockchain government that is actively building regulatory and technological infrastructure to support such initiatives whilst attracting the biggest blockchain-based companies.

Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation Silvio Schembri said that having companies like chiliZ, that want to be part of Malta's ecosystem, helps for the diversification of the economy and the creation of new economic niches through this new emergent technology.

Silvio Schembri expressed his satisfaction over the interest shown since Malta issued a regulatory framework for this sector. "Several were the companies that put their trust in Malta such as Binance, Okex and Neufund and others will soon be joining this ever-growing Blockchain community," said Schembri.

10 Opposition members vote with Govt on bill regarding gender and domestic violence

Following a call for a Division by the Opposition, Parliament has approved the third reading of the Bill regarding gender and domestic violence. The Bill was approved by 44 votes in favour and 20 against, meaning that 10 members from the Opposition, including the two representing Partit Demokratiku voted with the Government.

Before the vote was taken Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said that all Government Members were unanimously united in their approval of the Bill.

The PN leader made a commitment that in the event of a PN the amendments would be reversed within the first 100 days.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta President starts North America visit with stop at Toronto

Malta President HE Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca has just embarked on a tour of cities in North America, with her first commitment being a visit to Toronto, Ontario in Canada, which has the largest Maltese community in that coun-

try, accounting for around 40,000 Maltese and their descendants.

will be afforded the opportunity," the President said. President MLCP pointed out that as they are of Maltese descent, have every right to be citizens of Malta, which also means citizens of the European Union.

They could also avail themselves of the opportunity to work in Malta.

The delegation also includes the Minister Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela who had earlier visited Detroit, in the state of Michigan, in the USA as part of the delegation's visit, and Mr Edgar Preca. The President had been scheduled to visit the city but due to other engagements in Malta could not make it.

In Detroit, the Maltese delegation visited the Maltese American Benevolent Society, the oldest Maltese society in the Corktown area, and the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn, and met the Maltese community there at the Maltese United Society Club of Wind-



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and Minister Carmelo Abela addressing the Maltese community in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

sor Ontario and the Maltese Club of London Ontario.

The President and her delegation are also scheduled to meet with the Maltese communities in Vancouver, Canada, and San Francisco, California in the USA.



Minister Carmelo Abela and the President's husband Mr Edgar Preca meet the Maltese in Detroit

At a meeting a number of students of Maltese descent she was told of the eagerness of the children and grandchildren of Maltese migrants to learn the Maltese language.

The President was further informed that about 40 Maltese-Canadian students, as well as a number of foreign students, are being taught Maltese in a Toronto school on the initiative of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad that came up with the idea of creating a digital platform for Maltese to be taught through online lessons.

The President pointed out that it is important for the young generation of Maltese descendants in Canada to learn Maltese language. She said that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion has a €2 million project for online lessons. "One hopes these will be effective, so that even these youths wishing to learn the language

The importance of dialogue

Dr Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the Maltese Parliament and a Parliamentary delegation, has just attended the 5th Summit of Speakers of Parliaments of the UfM, an inter-parliamentary organisation bringing together the parliaments of the 28 European Union member states and of 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

Dr. Farrugia was one of the key speakers at the event

that was held in Cairo, Egypt (April 28-29). The meeting provided a unique forum to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Speaker welcomed the opportunity to reconvene and exchange ideas on on-going challenges and opportunities in the shared Euro-Mediterranean region. He said that this year's topic, Counter-Terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region, builds on the excellent discussions held during the 2017 Summit of Speakers and continues to strengthen the importance of dialogue and exchange of best practices at parliamentary level.

He explained that members of parliament hold a pivotal role to transpose laws, promote parliamentary diplomacy, and sustain close cooperation with their constituency. He welcomed developments within the European Union addressing money-laundering, cash en-

tering and leaving the EU, and increased regulations on explosive precursors.

He also spoke about the regional and international organisations that have a seat in Malta and congratulated them for their work in addressing terrorism from political, social, economic, and religious perspectives.

In this regard, Speaker Farrugia welcomed the inter-parliamentary work of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. He announced that in the summer, the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, also based in Malta, is launching its parliamentary dimension to further advocate the role of Parliamentarians to promote religious understanding, tolerance, and peace.

The Maltese Parliamentary delegation was also made up of MPS Glenn Bedingfield, Anton Refalo and Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn *Ġuzè Camilleri*

Attakk wara l-ieħor

X'aktarx li f'dawn l-aħħar ħames snin, meta wara 25 sena ta' amministrazzjoni Nazzjonalista il-poplu ddecieda li jgħaddi l-poter lill-Partit Laburista, il-Gvern Malti qatt ma għadda minn burraxka ta' attakki u kritika daqs kemm għadda f'dawn l-aħħar gimagħtejn.

Wara li għal sitt xhur shaħ saru insinwazzjonijiet u kritika fuq il-Gvern mhux biss f'Malta, imma wkoll barra dwar il-qtil tal-ġurnalista Daphne Caruana Galizia, issa nfethu bibien is-sema meta nholqot ġemgħa ta' ġurnali u ġurnalisti barranin bl-isem ta' The Forbidden stories-Daphne Project li fih qed jiehdu sehem 18-il organizzazzjoni tal-aħbarijiet fosthom the Guardian, Reuters, The New York Times u t-Times of Malta.

Il-proġett jikkonsisti filli dawn jissokkaw "jindagaw stejjer li kienet bdiet Caruana Galizia qabel ma nqatlet bl-iskop li joħrogu aktar stejjer".

S'issa ħarġu għadd ta' stejjer, forsi l-aktar waħda li qajmet furrur kienet fejn sostnew li l-Ministru Chris Cardona kien intemah ikellem lil wiehed minn dawk li qed jiġu mixlija bil-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia xi jiem qabel ittellgħu l-Qorti, f'hanut tax-xorb fis-Siġġiewi... xi haġa li Cardona innega immedjatament.

Saħansitra l-Oppożizzjoni talbet diskussjoni dwar l-allegazzjoni, li rriżultat waħda mqanqla fil-Parlament. Kif jiġri s-soltu kullhadd baqa' fejn kien.

Sadanitant reġġu bdew il-protesti, fejn saħansitra fi protesta quddiem l-Għassa tal-Belt Valletta, l-Għaqda li ħadet l-isem ta' *Occupy Justice* talbet lill-Pulizija tindaga dwar l-allegazzjoni.

Fir-reazzjoni tiegħu għall-allegazzjoni, u mingħajr ma kien imsejja l-Ministru Cardona stess mar u ta stqarrija ta' ċaħda lill-pulizija. Hu sostna li din kienet gidba mil-bidu sal-aħħar.

Strategija?

Dak li seħħ f'dawn gimagħtejn in-għata għadd tal-interpretazzjonijiet. Kien hemm min sostna li kien proċess normali ta' demokrazija fejn il-Gvern kien qed jiġi kkritikat għal dawk li jsostnu li huma n-nuqqasijiet tiegħu. Ohrajn sostnew li dak li qed jiżvolgi jidher li Daphne Caruana Galizia hi aktar perikoluza mejta milli meta kienet għadha ħajja.

Ohrajn marru aktar 'l-bogħod u taw interpretazzjoni aktar wiesgħa. Sostnew li billi bħalissa l-Partit Nazzjonalista jinsab f'qagħda xejn sabiħa, fejn ftit jidher li qed joffri oppożizzjoni qawwija

Wehel ukoll Joseph Calleja

Kellna mbaġhad għadd ta' persuni li marru jaġhmlu protesta f'Londra fejn il-Prim Ministru kellu jattendi għal kuncert li ta t-tenur Malti Joseph Calleja u gie organizzat mid-ditta Henley and Partners li jiehdu hsieb il-Programm ta' Cittadinanza b' Investment, dak li ħafna jsibuh bħala l-bejgħ tal-passporti.

Dawk li pprotestaw mhux biss laqgħu lill-Prim Ministru b' posters jikkritikaw il-bejgħ tal-passaporti, iżda anke lill-istess Calleja għax ippretendew li dan ma kellux jiehu sehem fil-kuncert.

Joseph Calleja, li huwa wkoll-Ambaxxatur Kulturali għal Malta, ħassu mweggħa' bil-protesta għax żgur ma kinetx lokha. Lil dawk li kienu jipprotestaw qalilhom fost kollox, "meta jien kantajt snin ilu fil-Commonwealth, kemm kien hemm mexxejja li kienu dit-taturi u qatlu għadd ta' nies? Qed hawn kontra l-pariri kollha li nġhatajt mill-avukati u ħbieb. Qiegħed hawn għax



jien mhux ambaxxatur kulturali meta jaqbilli biss".

Issokta jgħid: "Jien qed nonora impenn li ilu mifthiem ħafna qabel dan l-istorbju". Habbar li l-ħlas kollu li kien se jirċevi għall-kuncert se jmur nofsu għall-BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation u l-bqija għand il-Karmelitani

Calleja qal li huwa jifhem il-vantaġġi li qed iġib il-Programm ta' Cittadinanza b' Investment u appella biex in-nies li jiġu aċċettati f'dan il-programm jibqgħu jgħaddu minn proċess rigoruż.

Irreagiġxa wkoll billi waqt il-kuncert iddedika requiem għal ruh Daphne.

...u anke l- IVF

Fil-waqt li kien għaddej dan kollu nfe-taħ front ieħor kontra l-Gvern, speċifikament kontra l-emendi li jrid jaġhmel fl-Att dwar IVF (*in-vitro Fertilisation*) li qed jipproponi li jwessa' aktar l-użu ta' din is-sistema biex dawk li ma jistgħux ikollhom tfal tinghatallhom il-possibilita' li jwettqu l-holm tagħhom.

Dawn l-emendi ġew ikkritikati minn

lill-Gvern, bilfors li kien meħtieġ li jgħid xi hadd biex kif qalu, jieqaf lill-Gvern u ma jhallix jirrombla fuq il-poplu.

Sintendi ma naqasx li ma' dan ziedu li f'dan il-mument hekk kritiku dawn l-Għaqdiet u individwi qed jaġhmlu minn kollox biex jaġhtu palata lill-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Uħud isostnu li l-midja u l-fora barranija qed tiġi nkluza f'dawn il-protesti u kitbiet li xejn ma jaġhtu stampa sabiħa ta' Malta, bil-għan li forsi l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż tmur lura, għax jemmnu li dak l-uniku ċans biex il-Gvern ma jibqax popolari hu li tikkrolla l-ekonomija.

*ikompli f'paġna 15

diversi individwi u għaqdiet, fosthom l-Arcisqof ta' Malta u l-Isqof ta' Ghawdex

li mhux biss ħarġu ittra (li nqrat fil-quddies fil-knejjes kollha) fejn sostnew, li ma setgħux jaċċettaw sitwazzjoni kif ipproponuta. Waqt il-quddies kollu saret ukoll sejhu biex il-fidili jattendu rally fil-Belt biex issotnu l-fehma tagħhom u juru li huma kontra l-emendi.

Il-kwestjoni kollha ddu mal-iffriżar tal-embrijuni b'dawk li qed jopponu jinsistu li l-embrijun huwa ħajja u allura jmur kontra l-etika u l-morali li dan ikun iffriżat, bħala norma u mhux fl-eċċezzjoni kif tistabilixxi l-liġi sal-lum.

Minkejja dan il-Prim Ministru baqa' jsostni li kien se jibqa' sejjer bl-emendi għax hu kien fuq in-naħa ta' dawk li l-uniku mezz biex ikollhom it-tfal kien permess ta' dan il-proċess.

Min-naħa l-oħra, fil-waqt li attakka bl-ikrah dawn l-emendi, u saħanitra qal li meta jkun fil-Gvern iregġgħhom lura, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, xorta ta vot ħieles lill-membri tal-Oppożizzjoni għax skont kif gie rrapportat f'xi ġurnali ma kienx hemm qbil dwar x'kellha tkun il-pożizzjoni tal-Oppożizzjoni fil-kwestjoni.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Strategija? Reazzjonijiet differenti

*ikompli minn paġna 14

Qed isostnu li is-suċċessi ekonomiċi u ta' xogħol li qed ikollu dan il-Gvern huwa r-raġuni li l-poplu għadu jappoggjah għax il-poplu jħares aktar lejn il-qagħda finanzjarja u tal-ħajja tiegħu milli lejn il-prinċipji.

Ma' naqsux dawk li raw il-periklu li tista' wkoll tiffaċċa mill-ġdid il-gwerra politika-religjuża li għalkemm tidher li mietet u ndifnet, skont huma donnu hemm min li qed jipprova jkebbisha mill-ġdid.

Tassew diffiċli li wieħed jiddeċiedi liema hija l-aktar raġuni plawsibbli għax jidher li l-borma fiha minn kollox.

Mera tal-futur?

Dak li seħħ fil-Parlament dwar liġi oħra, li b'xi mod għandha x-taqsam mal-Liġi dwar il-protezzjoni tal-Embrjuni, tista' wkoll tkun mera dwar x'se jiġri wkoll dwar din il-liġi.

Il-Parlament Malti għadu kif għalaq id-dibattitu tal-Liġi dwar il-Vjolenza Domestika. Fid-dibattitu min-naħa tal-PN en hemm min ikkritika t-tibdiliet fil-liġi għax qalet li dawn ma kienux isemmu l-protezzjoni tat-tarbija fil-ġuf.

Izda l-Gvern sostna li dil-protezzjoni kienet inkluża fl-Att tal-Harsien tal-Embrjuni, għalhekk m'acċettax l-emenda li giet min-naħa tal-grupp Nazzjonalista biex tidahħal din l-protezzjoni.

Meta waslu għall-vot finali dwar il-liġi l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni ta l-free vote lid-deputati tiegħu, u nofs dawk prezenti għad-dibattitu - 10 (inklużi it-tnejn tal-Partit Demokratiku) ivvutaw mal-Gvern.

Fost li vvutaw kontra kien hemm il-kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Dr. Adrian Delia, fil-waqt li l-eks kap tal-partit Nazzjonalista, Dr Simon Busuttil ivvota mal-Gvern. Kienet mos-sa li giet ikkritika ferm minn partitarji Nazzjonalisti kontra dawk li vvutaw favur il-Gvern.

Lest jibdel il-liġi

Dan ir-riżultat wassal biex il-PL jōhroġ jikkritika lil min ivvota kontra, fosthom lil Dr. Delia, fejn sostna li dawn kienu kontra l-liġi li tati protezzjoni lil dawk li jsufri minn vjolenza domestika.

Immedjatament il-PN stqarr li l-partit dejjem kien kontra l-vjolenza domestika, u dan urieh bil-fatti, bil-liġijiet li għamel. Sostna li fi żmien mitt jum minn meta jkun fil-Gvern kien se jibdel il-liġi li għadu kif għadda l-Gvern.

Għalkemm fil-kwestjoni tal-IVF il-magġoranza assoluta tal-kleru qagħdu attenti kif jirreagixxu, u hafna minnhom illimitaw ruħhom li jwas-slu dak li qalu l-Isqfijiet dwar il-kwestjoni u qraw l-avviż biex il-fidili jmorru għad-dimostrazzjoni, kien hemm uħud li maru lil hinn minhekk.

Każ, li nġhata ċerta pubbliċità kien ta' qassis li fil-Paroċċa tax-Xewkija f'Għawdex. Waqt quddies-a, li għaliha jattendu l-aktar it-tfal, dan werwirhom billi qalilhom li jekk tghad-di l-liġi "hafna babies Maltin u Għawdxin se jispicċaw jew jinqatlu, jew isiru oġġett, li tista' tixtrih, tista' tpartathom".

Intqal ukoll li fl-aħħar tal-omelija dan is-sacerdot hareġ karta, u beda jġieghel lit-tfal jiffirmawha favur li kien qed



Patri Mark Montebello

jġhid, bil-għan li wara jibgħatha lill-Ispeaker tal-Parlament.

Filmati ta' dak li seħħ f'dil-quddies-a gew mxerrda fuq il-website tal-Paroċċa, iżda mbaġhad tneħ-hew wara l-kritika ħarxa kontra.

Sadanittant, il-magħ-ruf Patri Mark Montebello fetaħ il-kanuni tiegħu fuq l-istrategija li qed tuża l-Knisja Kattolika fil-konfront tal-kwestjoni tal-IVF.

F'artiklu li gje ippub-

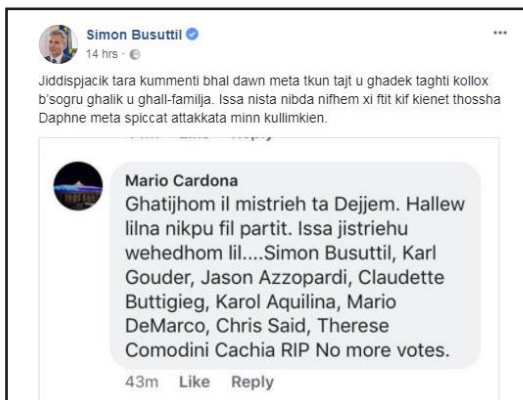
likat fuq il-gazzetta The Times Patri Montebello sostna li l-Knisja reggħet qed tagħti l-impressjoni li hija istituzzjoni, "irrazzjonali, intolleranti, intransigent u insensittiva."

Huwa wasal sa anke akkuża lill-knisja Maltija li ma kinetx qed tifhem il-ħtieġa li tirrifirma ruħha u għalhekk, "qed tixtri l-estinzjoni tagħha stess".

Il-President t'Appella

Wara dan kollu ħarġet l-aħbar li l-President tar-Reppublika, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca appellat biex id-diskussjoni dwar il-Liġi dwar l-IVF tkun posposta sakemm issir id-diskussjoni u riflessjoni akbar dwar il-kwestjoni kollha.

Fil-waqt li qabel li kellha ssir aktar id-diskussjoni u riflessjoni, il-Gvern ma waqqafx id-dibattitu fil-Parlament għax sostna li dan seta' jsir waqt id-diskussjoni dwar l-istess liġi.



Kopja ta' tweet ta' Simon Busuttil u ta' xi-partitarji Nazzjonalsiti wara l-vot mal-Gvern



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Lowering voting age in Australia to 16?

Australia could soon follow Malta, and some other nations in lowering the voting age in General elections to 16 years. That is, if a bill to lower the voting age to be introduced to Federal Parliament by the youngest senator in Canberra, Greens' 23-year-old Jordon Steele-John, who besides being a politician since October 2017 is also a disability rights advocate, finds the necessary support for the bill to go through.

It would allow almost 600,000 Australians aged 16 and 17 to engage in the democratic process. The compulsory voting age would remain 18, the West Australian senator said.

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition chair Katie Acheson said young people were artic-

ulate about their political views.

The 23-year-old, said research showed the youth split their votes "pretty evenly" between the Greens, Labor and Liberal, and he urged fellow parliamentarians to support the bill.

"What we're going to do is energise Australian politics," she said.

On 5 March this year, Malta became the second state in the European Union after Austria to lower its voting age to 16. It follows a unanimous vote in the Maltese Parliament in favour of amending the constitution, lowering the official voting age from 18 to 16.

Senator Jordon Steele-John 



Problems with the aged care sector

The Federal Government announced that an independent commissioner would be put in charge of safety and quality standards, giving older people, and their families and friends, a single point of contact to address problems with their care. There are 1.3 million older Australians in aged care across the country.

Aged care homes will be subject to tougher standards, which will apply to food and medical treatment, and will face unannounced inspections. Care providers who break the rules face being named and shamed in an online register. The government will also set up a serious incident response scheme with roving teams of experts to deal with crises.

"Our senior Australians have built the nation that we enjoy today," aged care minister Ken Wyatt told the Herald Sun. "They have rightly earned the respect of the community and must be cared for with the dignity they deserve."

Under the changes, to be in force by January 1, aged care agencies will be merged into a new Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. The reforms have been driven by a special taskforce on ageing, run by the Prime Minister's office. The reforms follow warnings that the nation's nursing homes need \$33 billion of investment over the next decade.

Foley wants fewer migrants

NSW Opposition leader Luke Foley has flagged a slowdown in immigration as Sydney speeds towards a population surge of more than a million

Traffic congestions in Sydney

So you think you have traffic congestion in Malta? Spare a thought for those of us living in Sydney, this large metropolis. The Federal government wants to spend unprecedented infrastructure, as people are demanding congestion reduced. They want to find it easier to get to and from work.

Data shows Sydney's most congested roads have become steadily slower over the past decade. According to the NRMA it now takes 10 minutes longer to drive the M4 than it did in 2007 when there was an average commute time of 30 minutes.

Congestion issues are unacceptable in a modern city like Sydney. Light rail projects upgrading the rail network and the metro line are now in progress as there was no investment for decades. Only now the Government is catching up.

people over 12 years. Mr Foley suggested state governments get a greater say in determining the volumes of migrants being allowed into Australia.

"With migration, the states need to have a seat at the table with the Federal Government, at the moment, the Commonwealth Government in Canberra – the least congested city in Australia – reaps all the dividends of new migrants, but state governments have to foot the bill."

"In Sydney, we are hurtling from a population of 4.7 million to six million in 12 years. Would we not be better off if it took 20? "If I was Premier, I'd be banging down the door of the Prime Minister saying 'you need the states on board here and you have to listen to our concerns'."

GC2018 Closing "A stuff-up"

Despite the finale being heavily criticised, Peter Beattie, organising committee chairman of the recent Gold Coast Commonwealth Games labelled the last 11 days as "innovative" and "inspirational".

Nine world records fell and 83 Games records were broken; five countries won medals for first time in the 21st edition of the event. Australia blitzed the medal tally with 80 gold, making it the country's fourth most successful Games, while arch-rivals England had a final tally of 45 gold.

After seven years of preparation and 11 days of competition, the final act of the Commonwealth Games fell flat after viewers and host commentators slammed the closing ceremony for breaking tradition.

Following outrage from viewers and even the Channel Seven broadcasters, Peter Beattie apologised for the "stuff-up" claiming the decision was driven by athlete welfare. But we made a mistake. That was clearly a stuff-up. I am sorry."



While visiting Malta Stay at:

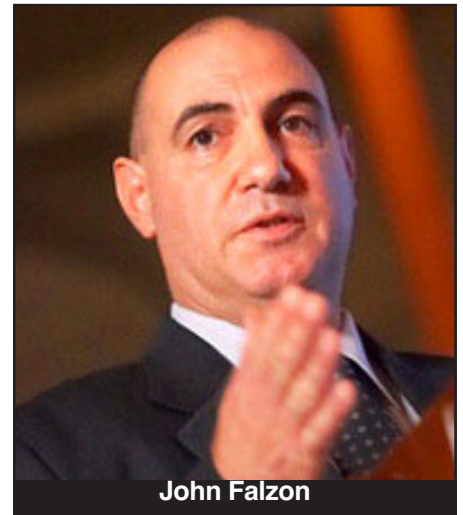
The Diplomat Hotel,
173 Tower Road Sliema

Email: sales@diplomat.com.mt
Tel: (00356) 23497000



A quick glimpse at Australia

Government harassing those seeking asylum



John Falzon

Federal government cuts to a service that provided an allowance and other support to asylum-seekers is leaving people destitute, according to St Vincent de Paul Society's National Council.

The council released a briefing paper to alert the community to the seriousness of the problem with the cuts to the Status Resolution Support Service that took effect on April 1, with chief John Falzon calling on the Turnbull Government to "stop harassing the men, women and children seeking asylum in our community".

"We are seeing people living on the streets, young people forced out of education, and people going hungry, all because of mean-spirited government policy," Dr Falzon said.

"When you cut essential payments you're cutting down the safety net and when you

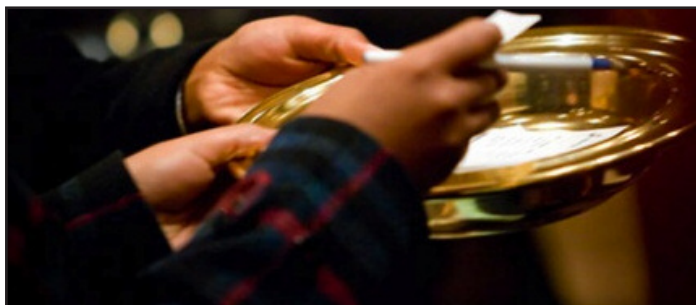
cut down the safety net disaster will follow," he said. "These cuts are hurting ordinary people in our community. This systematic degradation of some of us is a degradation of all of us."

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council has called for some immediate changes of government policy. These include:

- All people seeking asylum in Australia be issued with bridging visas with the right to work, the right to study, access to income support and Medicare.
- SRSS payments be paid on the basis of need to all those awaiting assessments or review of their claims for protection, including claims before the courts.
- The eligibility criteria for SRSS payments be clearly set out in a public document that is published on the Department of Human

Services website.

- The practice of denying SRSS payments to persons because they are studying or otherwise deemed eligible to work be discontinued.
- SRSS payments be increased to the level of the Newstart Allowance.



Police close to catching Gatt's killer

The Victorian police are probing the death of Sarah Gatt who's decomposed body was found in a bathtub mine months after she was killed say they are looking for a sole killer. (The story of the 40-year-old mother found in a Lambert Street Kensington property in January was featured in our issue of April 3 p17).

A number of new witnesses have come forward with information, with significant progress made. Police are still awaiting forensic results. Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Melbourne churches targeted in crime spree

More than 20 churches and other Catholic buildings in Melbourne have been targeted as part of a crime spree over the past two months.

The Sunday Age reports that offenders have potentially reaped hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of Mass collections, as well as electronic equipment, keys, and other small items.

A 42-year-old man from Kew has been charged with burglaries that took place in Box Hill, Brunswick, Canterbury and Camberwell, and has been remanded to appear at Melbourne Magistrates Court on May 18.

But many others churches have also been hit – including some from other religious denominations – in the suburbs of Reservoir, Clifton Hill, Malvern, Ashburton, Caulfield, Melton, Oakleigh, Camberwell, Balwyn, Mentone, Coburg, Doncaster, Glen Iris and Ivanhoe West.

The crime spree has alarmed Melbourne Archdiocese, with one email sent out to parish priests last week warning them "all collection monies should be banked immediately".

Priests have also been advised to conceal

safes from view, install motion sensors and CCTV, and limit community access to a common area within the presbytery or parish office.

Acting inspector Alan Rumble said the buildings targeted were affiliated with vari-

ous religious denominations.

Therefore, "while it is possible these offences may be linked, there is nothing to suggest they are religiously motivated as different religious backgrounds of the community have been affected," he said.

Michelle Rowland

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GREENWAY

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MEJJU: Xahar ta' Fjuri u muzika

Fwieha differenti imma pjaċevoli

Mad-dinja kollha, imma forsi l-aktar f'Malta fejn ir-Rebiegħa tkun fl-aqwa tagħha, ix-xahar sabiħ ta' Mejju, li għadna kif bdejna, minn dejjem kien fost l-aktar xhur popolari, partikolarment mal-għarajjes li hafna jagħzluh biex jiffesteġġaw iż-żwieġijiet tagħhom. Waqt li hafna jsibu dax-xahar bhala tal-Madonna u tal-fjuri, lili nebbahni għall-artiklu tal-lum. Il-fjuri, li nixtieq norbot magħhom ukoll il-mużika, il-fwieha 'pjaċevoli' imma differenti. Huma żewġ ingredjenti li nsibuhom hafna fil-kultura Maltija.

Meta kont żgħir kienet timpresjonani sensiela fuq il-BBC li fiha l-prezentatur kien jagħzel suġġett għal kull programm u jorbto mal-mużika. Minn dejjem xtaqt li nagħmilha jien ukoll, imma minhabba x-xogħol u r-riċerka li kienet tinthieq tagħha qatt ma rnexxieli nwassalha sa quddiem il-mikrofonu.

Niftakar, u dan aktar minn 50 sena ilu, li f'Mejju l-prezentatur kien għazel it-tema tal-fjuri u fetaħ il-programm b'wiehed mill-isbaħ valzi li nsibu fir-repertorju mużikali, l-valz tal-fjuri mill-ballet *'Nutcracker'* ta' Tchaikovsky. Niftakru jgħid li dan hu wiehed mill-isbaħ valzi li nsibu f'dan ir-repertorju.

Minbarra li jhennik bil-melodija sublimi tiegħu, dan il-valz, donnu jressqek lejn fwieha 'pjaċevoli' li tinzel għasel fil-qlub.

La semmejt il-valz, ta' min ukoll isemmi lil Johann Strauss Jnr. li wkoll għandu valz sabiħ insemmi għall-fjuri, il-famuż *'Roses from the South'*. Li forsi wiehed ma jafx hu li dan il-valz huwa taħlita ta' temi meħudin mill-operetta tal-istess kompożitur bl-isem ta' *'The Queen's Lace Handkerchief'* ispirata min-novella ta' Heinrich Bohrmann - *'Riegen'*.

Naturalment hemm hafna mużika, kemm operistika kif ukoll orkestrali, li fiha l-kompożitur kellu l-ispirazzjoni tal-fjuri. Nikkwota dak li kien qal il-prezentatur tal-BBC, li hu diffiċli li wiehed isemmihom kollha.

Meta kont qed nitkellem mal-habib tiegħi Albert Storace, dwar dan is-suġġett, semmieli kompożitriċi, pjanista u għalliema universitarja Maltija, Veronique Vella mwielda fl-1979 li kitbet xogħol *'da camera'* għal xi strumenti u li jismu sempliċement *'Fjuri'*. Veronique hija waħda mill-ftit



Veronique Vella

kompożituri nisa Maltin.

Izda bla tlaqlieq ngħid li d-dwett operistiku l-aktar magħruf u marbut mal-fjuri (għall-inqas fil-fehma tiegħi) huwa d-dwett tal-fjuri mill-opra *Madama Butterfly* li jtkanta minn Butterfly u Suzuki. F'dan id-dwett Puccini jaqsam il-qlub u jdahhal fina l-fwieha tal-fjuri hekk kif Butterfly tkun qed tnejji għall-wasla ta' Pinkerton li suppost kien il-maħbub tagħha.

Dwett ieħor operistiku magħruf, mhux daqs dak ta' *Butterfly*, huwa d-dwett tal-fjuri fl-opra *'Lakmé'*. Din hi opira fi tliet atti ta' Léo Delibes li nkitbet bejn l-1881 u l-1882 u deheret fis-sena ta' wara f'April, fit-teatru 'Opera Comique' ta' Parigi.

M'hemm dubju li l-paġna mużikali l-aktar magħrufa minn din l-opra orjentata fi 'British India' f'nofs is-seklu 19 hija d-dwett tal-fjuri li jtkanta fl-ewwel att bejn Lakmé, it-tifla ta' Brahmin (qassis), u l-qaddejjja tagħha Mallika. Min hu midhla tal-qasam operistiku jaf ukoll li din l-opra ta' Delibes tgawdi wkoll il-famuza arja tal-qniepen li nsibu fit-tieni att.



Giacomo Puccini



Fl-istess serje ta' programmi l-prezentatur kien ta importanza lix-xogħol ta' Benjamin Britten, u dwar sett ta' hames ghanjiet korali msemmin għall-fjuri, *'song cycle'* għal kor ta' tfal minghajr akkumpanjament.

Waqt li kont qed inhejji din il-kitba, qgħadt nismagħhom ... *verament sbieħ, speċjalment l-ewwel waħda msemminja għan-narċis ('daffodils')*. L-Ingliżi jhobbu l-korijiet u lit-tfal minn ċkunitom iħajruhom lejn dan il-ġeneru sabiħ u edukattiv.

Mill-ġdid immur għall-qasam tal-opra. Jekk wiehed jifli sewwa u bir-reqqa jsib passaġġi mhux hażin marbutin mal-fjuri li jtkatru sewwa f'dan ix-xahar ta' Mejju. Hawn insemmi l-famuza arja tat-tenur fit-tieni att tal-opra *'Carmen'* ta' Bizet, *'La fleur que tu m'avais jetée'* fejn Don José jfakkur lil Carmen (li diġà qed tibred sew minnu) li meta kien arrestat għaliex halliha taħrab, żamm qrib qalbu dik il-fjura li kienet wadbitlu kif kienet qed taħrab.

Hi fil-kultura tagħna li l-Maltin, u sa ċertu punt anke daħlet bhala tradizzjoni li nħobbu l-opra, x'aktarx minhabba l-influwenza Taljana fil-bidu tas-seklu l-ieħor, anke jekk l-opri ma kienux biss ta' kompożituri Taljani. Hafna għallhekk, żgur li jiftakru sew aktar passaġġi operistiċi marbutin mal-fjuri u naslu għall-aħħar att ta' *'Adriana Lecouvreur'* ta' Cilea.

F'din l-opra s-sopran tkanta *'Poveri fiori'* lil dawk il-fjuri li baġhtilha r-rivala kbira tagħha l-Principessa de Boullion. Adriana tithassar lill-fjuri sbieħ u jfuhu imma li huma ddestinati li jinxfu u jmutu għaliex maqtugħin. Jahasra Adriana ma tafx li meta xammithom, xammet ukoll il-velenu li r-rivala tagħha bexxet fuq dawk il-fjuri li jwassluha għall-mewt.

Nixtieq ukoll insemmi l-opra *'La Traviata'* għaliex Violetta suppost li zżejjen l-appartament tagħha bil-kamelji, il-fjura favorita tagħha. Wiehed irid jiftakar li l-opra hija bbażata fuq rumanz ta' Dumas l-iben *'La dame aux camélias'*, is-Sinjura tal-Kamelji.

Insemmi wkoll l-opra *'Iris'* ta' Mascagni li fiha Iris, it-tfajla Ġappuniża serja, sabiħa u onesta ma tkunx thobb wiehed li kien iħobbha u biex ipattihelha tiġi maħtufa, tintbagħat taħdem bilfors f'burdell u meta jsir jaf missierha jshetha. L-imsejnkna tintefa' għall-mewt f'kanal tad-drenaġġ u tegħreq. Skont il-leġġenda, minn dak il-ħmieġ u hama spuntaw il-fjuri li jgħibu isem din l-imsejnkna vittma bhala xhieda tat-tjubija tagħha.

Insemmi wkoll il-baži tal-istorja ta' *'Der Rosenkavalier'* ta' Richard Strauss, għalkemm hawnhekk, il-warda tkun biss waħda simbolika u dekorattiva. Imbagħad hemm ukoll il-ballet *'Le spectre de la Rose'*, qasir mibni fuq mużika li hija orkestrazzjoni, xogħol Carl Maria von Weber, *'Invitation to the Dance'*.

Dan li semmejt huwa parti żgħira, minn dak li wiehed jista' jgħid dwar dax-xahar. Jekk wiehed ifittex żgur li jsib hafna aktar. Mhux biss, imma jekk wiehed jidhol ukoll fil-qasam tal-kanzunetta *pop* isib hemel ta' kanzunetti marbutin mal-fjuri, fosthom, u bhala eżempju, *'Paper Roses'*!



Georges Bizet

Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

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

TIBDIL FIL-KONSONANTI LI JIXXIEBHU (ikompli)

56. Meta dan it-tibdil fil-lehen tal-konsonanti jidher biss f'sura waħda u le f'tiswir ieħor tal-kelma, dik il-konsonanti tinkiteb fuq dik ta' gherq il-kelma.

Għalhekk sewwa niktbu: *btiehi, libsa, sdieri, ġfien, bieb, kbir, jibki, nerv, serv, żfin, tisboq, qabad, fiħ, biħ, dmugh, tluġħ, wsiegħ, qligh, qtiġħ, blieh, ikrah, xebħ, xebah* u mhux *ptiehi, lipsa, zdieri, ċfien, biep, gbir, jipki, nerf, serf, sfin, tiżboq, qabat, fiħ, biħ, dmuħ, tluħ, wsieh, qlih, qtiħ, blieh, ikrah, xebħ, xebah*, meta nafu li f'suriet oħra tal-kelma jagħmlu *biħa, lbiesi, sidrija, ġifen, bieba, bi-bien, kiber, kobor, kburija, beka, nervi, servi, żifna, sebaq, qabdu, fiha, biha, demgħa, tala(ġħ), telgħu, wasa(ġħ), wisgħin, qala(ġħ), qata(ġħ), qatgħa, bluħa, kerħa, xbieħa, xbiħat*.

Għalhekk ukoll niktbu: *feġġ* u mhux *feċċ*, *qabeż* u mhux *qabes* (ara wkoll *qabza*), *thin* u mhux *dħin* (ġejja minn *tahan* – ara *mithuna*), *merfugh* u mhux *merfuħ* (ġejja minn *refaġħ* – ara *merfugħa*).

T.ċ. Toħroġ minn din ir-regola l-kelma *wiċċ* li għalkemm mill-plural tagħha *wċuħ* imissna niktbuha *wiħ* (Għarbi *wiġħ*) fil-Malti l-lehen ta' *ħ* jitwaħħad fil-ħoss ta' *ċċ*.

Biex wiehed ma jagħletx liema mill-konsonanti, li jixxiebh fil-lehen, għandha tinkiteb fil-kelma, nistgħu minn dawn ir-regoli nwaqqfu, għal kull kelma, regola waħda u ngħidu:

57. Kull meta rridu nkunu nafu sewwa liema mill-konsonanti li jixxiebh fil-lehen għandha tinkiteb fil-kelma, (1) inżidu vokali jew sillaba, jekk il-konsonanti tkun f'tarf il-kelma, (2) inbiddu s-sura tal-istess kelma billi ndeffsu

vokali wara l-konsonanti, jekk din taħbat ġewwa l-kelma jew fil-bidu.

(1) Minn *qalb, ħabib, ried, żebaġħ, żebbuġ* biż-żieda ta' vokali jew sillaba, nagħmlu *qalbi, ħabibi, riedek, żebaġħna, żebbuġa, żebbuġiet*, fejn l-aħħar konsonanti ta' kull gherq tinkixef ħafif ħafif.

(2) Minn *libsa, żfin, ġfien, sdieri*, nagħmlu *lbiesi, żifen, żifna, ġifen, sidrija*, fejn il-konsonanti huma *b, ż, ġ, s*, u mhux *p, s, ċ, ż*.

58. L-ittri likwidi *l, m, n, r* fil-kitba Maltija, jistgħu jidhru waħda flok l-oħra bħalma jingħata f'isla oħra.

Ara: *spizjar, spizjari* minn *speziale* (Taljana)

<i>kalzri, kalzrieri</i>	“	<i>carcere, carceriere</i> (Taljan)
<i>tinzlor, tinzlori</i>	“	<i>terzeruolo</i> (Taljan)
<i>marsuttin</i>	“	<i>malsottile</i> (Taljan)
<i>ballotra</i>	“	<i>baddottula</i> (Sqallija)
<i>rkant</i>	“	<i>incanto</i> (Taljan)
<i>artat</i>	“	<i>altare</i> (Taljan)
<i>timplor</i>	“	<i>punteruolo</i> (Taljan)
<i>kenur</i>	flok <i>kenun</i> .	

59. Il-konsonanti tal-gerżuma *gh* u *h*, meta jaħbtu f'tarf il-kelma, ma jinħassu b'xejn kemm-il darba l-vokali ta' qabilhom tinħass mingħajr aċċent twil. Jieħdu l-lehen ta' *ħ* meta l-vokali ta' qabilhom tinħass b'aċċent twil fuqha.

Ara: *refaġħ - merfugh; sama(ġħ) - smiġħ; fiħa - fiħ; (wiħ) wiċċ - wċuħ; siġħan - siegħ qala(ġħ) - qluġħ*

T.ċ. Joħroġu minn din ir-regola l-kliem *ikrah, koroh; iblah, boloh; xebah, xebbah*.

Fil-kliem *zghazagh, forogh* u *zebagħ*, il-*gh* wara l-vokali mingħajr aċċent tinħass *ħ* għax din l-ittra twiegeħ għall-konsonanti *gh* bil-lehen qawwi *ġ* tal-alfabett Għarbi.

Aktar regoli u tifsir fil-ħarga li jmiss

Boroż ta' Studju:



MCCV MALTESE CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP 2018

Il-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria qed iniedi l-liskema ta' boroż ta' studju biex jinkoraġġixxi ż-zghazagh jieħdu interess fil-Kultura Maltija.

Il-Kunsill qed jipprovi fondi biex persuna jew persuni iżuru Malta ħalli jieħdu sehem f'attivitajiet kulturali Maltin u biex wiehed ikun jista' japprezza il-kultura Maltija mil-qrib.

Min irid jirċevi tagħrif u u formola ta' applikazzjoni uffiċjali għandu jibgħat email lill-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria fuq:

admin@mccv.org.au

Il-Kunsill Malti ta' Victoria qed jilqa' l-applikazzjonijiet għal-MCCV Maltese Cultural Scholarship sat-30 ta' Gunju liġej.

Edwidge Borg

(Maltese Language Classes Co-ordinator
Maltese Community Council of Victoria)

2 Maltese singers, same goal at Lisbon Euro Song Contest

Malta will have two singers at the upcoming Eurovision Song Contest in Lisbon, Portugal and they will both be competing in the second semi-final on May 10. However, only one will be representing Malta, Christabelle, while Jessica will represent San Marino. Christabelle (right) will sing *Taboo*, a song that talks about compassion for people suffering with mental illness after winning the Malta Eurovision song contest where she managed to obtain maximum points from all the members of the jury, and the public.



Jessica (left), a good friend of Christabelle will sing for the republic of San Marino after winning the contest there with the song 'Who We Are'.

This is the second time in the Eurovision Song Contest's history that two Maltese singers will compete in the same activity. In 2006, Keith Camilleri represented Switzerland and Fabrizio Faniella sang for Malta.

Sigār Maltin – tagħrif, tniissil, ħarsien, għajdut

Ktieb ta' Alfred E. Baldacchino

Jekk wiehed jinteressah isir jaf aktar dwar is-sigār li jlibbsu u jżejnu lil Malta, jew kemm dawn jgħinnuna, inkella jekk wiehed jixtieq jgħin halli jkun hawn aktar għarfien u aktar apprezzament lejn dan il-wirt naturali, allura żgur jinteressah l-ktieb bl-isem "*Sigār Maltin – tagħrif, tniissil, ħarsien, għajdut*" li għadu kif ippubblika Alfred E. Baldacchino, bniedem li għandu ferm għal qalbu l-ambjent Malti.

Alfred, imwieled ir-Rabat, Malta, huwa ggradwat f'għadd ta' sugġetti li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-ambjent. Għamel anke żmien membru fid-Direttorat għall-Ħarsien tal-Ambjent, ippubblika diversi xoghlijiet popolari dwar in-natura, u minkejja li rtira mis-servizz xorta wahda għadu nvolut fuq bażi personali fl-edukazzjoni, komunikazzjoni u tishih tal-kuxjenza pubblika dwar il-biodiversità.

Huwa ppreżenta għadd ta' programmi televiżivi u fuq ir-radju, dwar il-materja li tant hi għal qalbu, u bi pjaċir nistgħu ngħidu li issa anke aċċetta li jkun wiehed mill-kontributuri fuq *The Voice of the Maltese* b'artikli dwar in-natura u anke drawwiet fil-Gżejjer Maltin.

Imma lura għall-aħhar ktieb, minn sensiela ta' Alfred Baldacchino, ippubblikat mill-Klabb Kotba Maltin.

Il-ktieb, "*Sigār Maltin – tagħrif, tniissil, ħarsien, għajdut*",

• Jagħti tagħrif wiesa' fdwar is-sigār u jidhol aktar fil-fond fuq xi speċi indigeni Maltin.

• Jiġbor tagħrif dwar il-ħajja tas-sigār u l-ambjent naturali tagħhom, kif dawn jistgħu jtnisslu u saħansitra jintużaw fit-tisbiħ tal-art.

• Juri ritratt bil-kulur ta' kull speċi msemija, kif ukoll taz-zokk, tal-werqa, tal-fjura u taż-żerriegħa.

• Jagħti tagħrif ukoll fuq kif dawn kienu jintużaw fil-medicina tradizzjonali, kif jissemew fil-mitoloġija u fil-Bibbja.

• Jissemew ukoll il-prinċipji tal-ħarsien, l-użu u l-immaniggar tas-sigār u t-thedd minn speċi invażivi.

• Ifiehem l-obbligi dwar il-ħarsien tas-sigār u l-ambjent naturali tagħhom – kemm dirett kif ukoll indirett – li Malta għandha bħala msieħba f'għadd ta' ftehimiet internazzjonali, u anki daww bħala pajjiż Imsieħb fl-Unjoni Ewropea.

Fil-ktieb, l-awtur jagħti wkoll ħarsa lejn il-liġijiet tal-ħarsien tas-sigār: mill-ewwel regolament li gie ppubblikat fil-Gżejjer Maltin sa daww li hemm fis-seħħ illum.

"*Sigār Maltin – tagħrif, tniissil, ħarsien, għajdut*" huwa ta' għajnuna għal kull min jixtieq ikun jaf aktar dwar is-sigār, u jgħalliem aktar l-imħabba u l-għarfien tagħhom bħala parti mill-ħajja naturali li



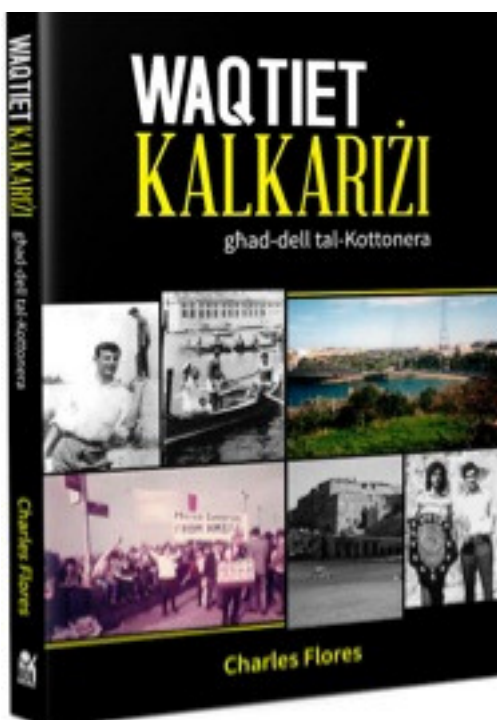
taqsam din l-art magħna.

Maltin li jgħixu barra u li għadhom jgħożzu l-wirt naturali u kultarali ta' Malta, forsi anke biex jgħaddu lil uliedhom u lil ulied uliedhom, jagħmlu tajjeb li jiksbu kopja tiegħu.

F'kaz li wiehed isib diffikulta' biex jikseb il-ktieb, jista' jikeb dirett lis-Sur Alfred Baldacchino: aebaldacchino@gmail.com

Baldacchino, A.E. (2018) *Sigār Maltin – tagħrif, tniissil, ħarsien, għajdut*. Klabb Kotba Maltin. 226 pps + xxv.

Ktieb għdid ta' Charles Flores



WAQTJET KALKARIZI – għad-dell tal-Kottonera

Iċ-ċiklu tal-ġenerazzjonijiet jiffirma l-parti shiħa mit-tnissil tal-istorja ta' pajjiż, belt, raħal u nazzjon. Matulu jsir taqlib soċjali u ekonomiku li jkompli jħawwar il-ġrajjet tagħna kemm bħala individwi kif ukoll bħala ġens.

F'din il-gabra ta' kitbiet, Charles Flores jaqbad epoka li fiha l-ġenerazzjoni ta' wara t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija halliet il-marka tagħha f'oqsma varji bħall-isport, il-kultura, il-Letteratura, is-soċjetà, id-divertiment, il-politika u r-reliġjon fost oħrajn.

Il-Kalkara hija s-subborg ħleju tal-Kottonera fejn tkebbu t-tifikiriet nostalgici tal-awtur. Fl-istil ħafif u mexxej tiegħu, Charles Flores iwasslilna stampi minn tfulitu u parti minn żoghżitu biex hekk joffri holqa oħra fil-ħannieqa ta' ġrajjet u waqtiet interessanti li jsawwru l-istorja.

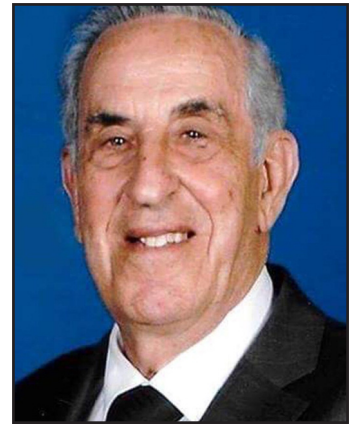
Charles, li minbarra li hu kittieb ta' għadd ta' kotba hu magħruf ukoll għall-

pożizzjoni li sawwar. Hu wkoll ġurnalista, allura m'għandux jonqos li f'dan il-ktieb juri din il-hila waqt li jehodna fl-għelieqi tal-futbol, f'postijiet fejn kienu jehdew it-ftal u ż-żgħażaġh qabel il-miġja tal-kompjuter u l-Internet, u jsemmi d-drawwiet, iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet u l-mod ta' għajxien li jiddistingwu ġenerazzjoni minn oħra.

Minbarra l-qari legġer tagħhom, dawn l-akkwarelli helwin jagħtu lok ukoll għal eżerċizzju komparattiv għal min – student, għalliem, riċerkatur, storiku eċċ – ikun irid jidhol ferm aktar fil-fond tal-istorja tal-Kottonera, l-Kalkara u l-madwar....riflessa wkoll fil-bixra nazzjonali tal-istorja ta' Malta u Għawdex kif rajniha, u għadna narawha, titkattar mal-milja tas-sin.

Għal min irid jordna l-ktieb: <https://www.bdlbooks.com/history/671-1-waqtiet-kalkarizi.html>

Lewis Stafrace dies aged 86



On Tuesday April 17, one of the most loved people among the Maltese community in Victoria, Lewis Stafrace, died aged 86. Lewis, a dear friend and fellow broadcaster in the Maltese Broadcasting Group on Community Radio 3ZZZ, leaves to mourn him his wife Mara and three daughters, Christina, Annette and Louise. He was also a grandparent of six boys and one girl and a grandparent of four girls and a boy.

The people who attended his funeral and Mass presente cadevere on April 23 at the St Catherine of Siena Church in Caroline Springs, was proof of the high esteem people had for Lewis. A number of prominent people were also present to give their last respects.

Lewis Stafrace was born in Valletta, Malta, on September 3, 1931, the son of Vincent (Royal Navy) and Carmen (nee Micallef), He

spent his early days as a student at the Baviera Primary School and later at St Aloysius College in Birkirkara.

After leaving school he worked in a solicitor's office in Valletta and later for an importers/exporters company.

At age 18, on November 7, 1949 he emigrated to Australia and landed in Melbourne December 2.

He became Australian Citizen in 1969. In November 1954 he married Maria.

Lewis held a number of high positions and was president and Community Leader of various associations. In the end he was a retired businessperson. He was also a Justice of the Peace, and being a musician, he was President of Community Bands.

Lewis was also a keen sportsman and spent years 15 years as a referee in Melbourne. For 15 years (1955-1970) he was a FIFA referee and an executive member of the Victorian Soccer Referees Association. For seven years he was also president of Green Gully Ajax.

In 2015 he was elected as the new Convenor of the Maltese Programmes of Melbourne Community Radio 3ZZZ, a position he carried out in a fair and professional way. The broadcasters of the Maltese programmes, will all feel his loss with great sadness.

Lewis always produced programs to his great ability and listeners loved his programs. We used to admire his dedication in travelling a fair distance from home to broadcast his programs. He will be missed. He will be missed by his fellow broadcasters and listeners in general.

PaulVella

Victor Grech 1942-2018



B'dispjaċir kbir imħabbru l-mewt ta' Victor Grech li għat f'it tal-jiem ilu wara marda qerrieda fl-eta' ta' 76 sena.

Victor twieled Ghawdex fl-1942 u emigra lejn Sydney fl-1979.

Huwa kien għalliem tal-arti u għal hafna snin President tal-Maltese Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

Sakemm ġejna biex nippubblikaw il-magazine ma kienx għad kellna dettalji dwar il-funeral tiegħu.

Aktar tagħrif dwar Victor fil-harga li jmiss.

Me, Kniest & Understanding

From the young age as Fiona laid there in a hospital bed after one of the biggest surgeries in her life, she knew then that she wanted to share her life story with the world. It was that very moment her story truly came to life.

A book by Fiona Porch of ten, in a hospital bed after one of the biggest surgeries in her life, she knew then that she wanted to share her life story with the world. It was that very moment her story truly came to life.

Fiona Porch, who was born in Sydney, Australia and is of Maltese background, is passionate about helping others to leap their hurdles and pursue their goals.

Me, Kniest & Understanding provides an insight into Fiona's unique life story. It reveals a touching perspective on living with a rare form of dwarfism and embracing life beyond measure. There are less than 200 people worldwide with Kniest Dysplasia. When Fiona was born in 1982 she was the only known case her doctors knew of within Australia.

Fiona gently reminds us that it is okay if we all do not look the same, act identical, or believe in similar things while providing insight and encouragement to push through heartache and pain, and embracing the life you gain. Fiona has experienced many obstacles throughout her life, as she shares her most compelling nature of finding the strength within herself to rise above life's challenges.

About the Author

Fiona Porch is also a singer/songwriter. She has released a Single, an Album and an EP, the most recent titled "Strength from Within."

Fiona has additionally recently published her first collection of poetry, titled "Soul Cried." She began writing poetry in her early teens as a way of expressing her emotions. At first it became her outlet and unique way of coping with her

struggles throughout life. As she grew older she evolved her poetry to express her many emotions, including joy, and love; not just her struggles.

Soul Cried; ISBN: 978-0-6482737-2-1 (paperback) and ISBN: 978-0-6482737-3-8 (ebook) Available on Amazon, Kindle, iBooks, and all leading booksellers globally.

For more about Fiona, visit: FionaPorch.com



Community News

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 għal għaliem/a tal-ilsien Malti

Min japplika jrid ikollu għarfien sew tal-Malti, miktub u mitkellm. Dan hu xogħol volontarju, bla ħlas. Min hu interessat jibgħat l-applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lil: edwigeborg@hotmail.com
Għal tagħrif iehor ċempel fuq **0412 115 919**. Falli nnumru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura

The Cittadini

Present direct from MALTA

Marisa D'Amato

Malta's Queen of Country

SHOWS IN Sydney and Melbourne
In Sydney: **October 14**



Brilliant Comedy from The Cittadini IS-SENDUQ

When: Sunday October 14. At: 2 p.m.
Where: Wentworthville Leagues Club

For tickets phone:

Monica Ledger: 9896 0712 or 0414 859386
Joe Borg: 96 242280; Julie Farrugia: 96 367679;
Dorothy Gatt: 96 361834.
Donation of \$20. Kids: \$12

L-aħbarijiet PBS (Malta) Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tagħ-ha, imma l-qarrejja xorta qed jiġu mħegġa biex x'hin iridu jistgħu jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż: www.tvn.com.mt.

Il-website hija aġġornata tul il-jum kollu għalhekk wiehed jista' jieħu stampa cara tal-ġrajjet li anke jkunu qed iseħħu f'dak il-waqt

Australian High Commission on facebook; HC on twitter

The Australian High Commission's in Malta now has a new Facebook page, and the High Commissioner a Twitter account that could both be accessed by the readers.

The High Commission's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AusHC-Malta/>

The Commissioner's Twitter handle: <https://twitter.com/AusHCMalta>



La Valette Social Centre Upcoming events in May

La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown NSW 2148
Tel. 96225847 Email: lavalette@bigpond.net.au

Feast of St George Preca

Sunday May 6: 3.00 p.m.: Mass.

Further details over the next few weeks and the full programme will be in the Notice Board at the entrance of the Centre.

Alternatively one can contact the Centre on 9622-5847 or speak to one of the Committee members

Happy Mother's Day

Thursday May 10: Two-Course Lunch

Entertainment by **Joe Grima**

Tickets: \$20.00

For bookings and further details contact Centre on 9622 5847

Saint Nicholas Festa Committee

Main events for 2018

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

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

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 Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00

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-Ħadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, 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 in the Bank-stown CBD area.

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:

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***(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).**

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Sports... on 2 pages



Valletta make it 24 title victories

Valletta inadvertently became "part of the Valletta 18 celebrations" when they won the BOV Premier League title for the 24th time in their history after beating Gzira United 2-1 on the final day of the championship, while challengers Balzan lost out by suffering a 1-0 loss to Hibernians that deprived them the chance to play-off for the title.

Valletta and Balzan entered the final day equal on points. However as so often has been happening in the past two seasons in particular, Balzan seemed to go AWOL. After leading the league table for most of the season their challenge fell flat in the final run-in, by first by surprisingly losing rather convincingly to Tarxien three games from the end, and then suffered the loss against Hibernians. Valletta finished the season three points to the good.

As to Tarxien, at the end of the campaign they had to play a relegation play-off with third team in Division I Zejtun to avoid the drop. They succeeded to win the tie. So only two teams were relegated from the Premier, Naxxar and Lija.

Now Valletta also stand a chance to make it a League and Cup double when they face Birkirkara in the final of the FA Trophy on Saturday. The win also assured

Birkirkara of a Europa League spot next season.

In the semi-finals at the weekend, Birkirkara defeat-ed Sliema 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw over 120 minutes (including extra time), while Valletta defeated Balzan in a keen encounter by 2-1.

Valletta played most of the second half with a numerical disadvantage after a sending-off of Steve Borg. Then Balzan took the lead but Valletta recovered to score two quick goals, the first from a disputed penalty, to win the match.

Balzan complained about refereeing errors, and perhaps rightly so. They were denied two penalties claims and in between the referee awarded one to Valletta. These decisions brought a swift reaction from Balzan's Maltese-Australian president Anton Tagliaferro who described the goings-on as "a joke". He was so angry that he would not even confirm if he would retain his position as a club official next season.

FINAL DAY'S RESULTS

Valletta v Gzira Utd	2-1
Hibernians v Balzan	1-0
Birkirkara v Hamrun	4-2
Floriana v Lija	6-2
Mosta v Sliema	1-0
Naxxar L. v Senglea	3-0
St Andrews v Tarxien	0-0

FINAL PLACING

Team	P	Pts
Valletta	26	58
Balzan	26	55
Gzira U	26	51
Birkirkara	26	47
Floriana	26	46
Hibernians	26	46
Sliema W.	26	40
Hamrun S.	26	35
Senglea A.	26	26
Mosta	26	26
St Andrews	26	24
Tarxien R.	26	23
Naxxar L.	26	22
Lija A.	26	6

*Naxxar L. and

Lija A. relegated

First defeat for Green Gully

NPL Vic: *Bentleigh G v Green Gully 2-1*
Melbourne K. v Green Gully 1-5

Green Gully suffered their first defeat in seven weeks by going down 2-1 to joint league leaders Bentleigh Greens. Gully trailed 1-0 at the break but fought back to be on level terms through a Kieren Dover 55th minute goal. The home team regained the lead with 20 minutes to go and were able to hold on for all three points to widen the gap over Gully to eight points.

*In the previous match The Greens showed they mean business in their pursuit of the championship with this devastating 5-1 win over the Melbourne Knights. Four first half goals from Nick Krousoratis, Jonathon Bounas, Joshua Barresi and an own goal ended this match as a contest after 45 minutes.

The Knights had no answer to Gully's power and went further behind when Jay Davies added a fifth goal. The home team scored a late consolation.

SGC unlucky to just share spoils

NPL 2 West: *Sunshine GC v Nunawading 2-2*
Sunshine GC v Whittlesea R. v 2-2

Sunshine George Cross can consider themselves unfortunate not to take all three points in a game they dominated. They led 1-0 at half-time through an Adrian Logozzo, goal but failed to add to the score from the many chances they created in the opening 25 minutes of the second half.

Nunawading took advantage of their luck and scored twice in 10 minutes to take the lead. SGC has a 90th goal by Calvin Mbargo mysteriously disallowed the goal but continued to attack and were rewarded with a Firoal Likassa equaliser in the 94th minute.

The Georgies were forced to play 16 year old goalkeeper Cyrus Gbatu when 17 year old keeper Ryan Gauci was ruled out through illness.

*The Georgies picked up a deserved point from a thrilling 2-2 draw with Whittlesea Rangers. The visitors were the better team early in the game and deservedly led 1-0. The Cross rallied to take a 2-1 half-time lead with goals from Adam Hodor and Ser

Whittlesea levelled after break. To their credit SGC answered the challenge and launched a series of attacks but without success to share the points.

Parramatta suffer two more defeats to make it three straight losses

Parramatta Eagles suffered their third straight defeat, this time by 2-0 at the Melita Stadium to Spirit FC. The Eagles supporters had high hopes of a positive result against a side that were winless in their last three matches.

The home side suffered an immediate onslaught from the first whistle, and the fast-paced play stunned the Eagles, conceding two goals in eight

minutes. Parramatta did hit the crossbar towards the end of the match, but that was as close as they were to scoring. 2-0 was the final result.

The previous week the Eagles travelled to Campbelltown to face the struggling Macarthur Rams, but lost 4-1. This being a must win match for Parramatta, started well looking to open the scoring, but the Eagles who were not able to diffuse three counter

attacks, were made to pay by the Rams, scoring 3 unanswered goals and take a 3-0 lead at the break.

Shortly after the break the home side made it 4-0. Parramatta finally grabbed a consolation goal. Finishing was the main difference between winning and losing in this match. If Parramatta FC are to avoid relegation this season, things must turn around and fast.

Melbourne Victory, Newcastle Jets in A-League Grand Final

Melbourne Victory and Newcastle Jets will contest the A-League Grand Final on Saturday following identical 2-1 semi-final wins. Victory beat A-League champions Sydney FC and Newcastle beat Melbourne City.