The President of Malta HE George Vella lets his paternal instinct take the better of him and falls to the charm of some of the children under the care of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus in Rome during the visit he and his delegation recently made to the Vatican and Rome where he primarily had a private audience with Pope Francis (right) and later also held talks with his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella.

(See report on page 13)
On the eve of the 55th anniversary of Independence, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat officially opened the first phase of the €70 million Marsa Junction project, two flyovers structures of the seven scheduled and described the occasion as a fitting gift of a different kind to Malta and its people on this important day.

Dr Muscat said that the project was not possible without the surplus that Malta was achieving, and that when the project is completed it will equate to much less traffic, and a better quality of life.

He commending all those contributing to this project, particularly Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg for his leadership in this important sector as well as Infrastructure Malta for the way in which it is delivering such projects. He augured more progress and looked ahead towards more advancement in this multi-million project.

The two flyovers, connecting Aldo Moro road to Giuseppe Garibaldi road stand four storeys high making the structure the highest flyover in the country.

Saturday September 21 was a public holiday in Malta marking the 55th anniversary of Independence, one of Malta’s five National Days that was established in 1964 when, following centuries of foreign occupation it became a sovereign state.

As is the norm, on this day the highest authorities of the country, President George Vella, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, and Leader of the Opposition Adrian Delia saluted Independent Malta with the laying of wreaths at the Floriana monument that commemorates the event.

Before the laying of wreath ceremony, the authorities, members of Parliament and members of the Diplomatic Corps attended a Pontifical Mass that was celebrated by Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna at St John’s Co-Cathedral.

The Archbishop also delivered a homily in which he pointed out the duty of Malta to promote the rule of law and respect for human rights. He recalled those at the helm of the country to uphold a policy as a service and that accountability demands that they are subjected to public scrutiny.

He said Independence Day should challenge Maltese citizens to develop “a true sense of the state” and for voters to grow out of what he called the “atavistic sense of entitlement at the hand of a benevolent despot” – a reference to Malta’s colonial past – and instead take up the challenge to be co-stewards in the running of the state.

Referring to the phenomenon of irregular migration in the Mediterranean, he said, “This globalisation of care should encourage us to play an active part on the international stage to promote a true sense of fraternity among nations.”

PM inaugurates first phase of €70m. Marsa Junction Project
One great issue I take with the history of Malta as it has been written and portrayed, and especially of the period during the Great Siege was the seeming lack of recognition of the Maltese who played such a significant part in the defence of the Islands.

At the time, leading up to the time of the siege, the population of the Islands was somewhere in the vicinity of 30,000. Given that a number of Maltese who could afford it had abandoned the islands and fled to Sicily when they realised the Ottoman invasion was imminent, it is reasonable to assume that the population on the island at the time of the landing of the invasion forces would have been somewhere in the vicinity of 25,000.

Every man, woman and child on the island had been withdrawn to the main fortifications of St Michael and St Angelo with a number of able bodied Maltese men being sent to St Elmo to defend it with the knights and ‘regular soldiers’ posted to the fort.

In his book *The Siege of Malta 1565*, Francisco Balbi di Correggio detailed the defences on the island and the makeup of the defensive forces. On a number of occasions he mentions the ferocity of the Maltese men who defended against and attacked the invaders when the opportunity and the need arose.

Balbi also mentions the women and children who were engaged in frontline defence of the fortifications as well as in supporting and resourcing the troops engaged in the fighting.

Their role was often preparing weapons of war such as the incendiary hoops, boiling oil and water and stones that were dropped on the enemy when they approached the walls and moving equipment and ammunition to where it was most needed. None of the names of the women or children have been retained. They have been lost to history.

One of the very few Maltese named by Balbi was ‘Bajada’ whose first name was unknown. Perhaps significantly, perhaps coincidentally, the name Bajada also pops up as a leader of the *Sette Giugno* movement. A family name to be proud of! However, when you consider that there were originally, according to Balbi, 3,000 Maltese frontline troops at the beginning of the siege there must also be a recognition that among them would have been many, many heroes.

Not only that, the ranks of the defenders would have been added to by the other Maltese men who were previously farmers, boat builders, fishermen, stonemasons and carpenters who would have willingly picked up arms to defend their homeland and their families and friends.

It is fair to say that without the men, women and children of Malta and the sister island of Gozo who put everything on the line in the siege, the defence would have never succeeded. Yet their names, the names of those who had prevented the whole of the world’s history from changing have been lost to perpetuity.

*to be continued*
Q. My aunt is in an aged care facility and her health has been deteriorating fast. She still has her home, as she did not wish to sell it thinking she may be able to move back there. I am her executor and was wondering if we sold the house now whether this would save on capital gains tax. Can you advise please?

A. If your aunt has left the house vacant this would still be treated as her home. You therefore have two years from her passing to sell the house without triggering capital gains tax. Therefore if she does not wish to sell it do not make her do it. Also once the house is sold while she is living in aged care, she will have all that cash which could increase her means tested fee.

Q. I am a widower in the process of downsizing. My house has just been sold and I will be moving into a retirement village next month. I should have around $500,000 of surplus funds. I have been told I can invest these surplus funds in superannuation. Is this correct?

A. Yes you are able to invest $300,000 (maximum) of these surplus funds into superannuation. You need to have been living in your home at least 10 years. The house needs to have been valued more than the $300,000 that you are investing in super. You also need to invest these funds in superannuation within 90 days of settlement.

Q. I am a part pensioner and live in my own home. I have only one son, and he has just gone through a divorce and at 60 had to get a mortgage to buy a house. I have money sitting in a term deposit earning very little. I wish to gift him $50,000 in order to ease his burden. Can I do this?

A. Yes you can gift your son any amount of money you wish. However only $10,000 will be treated as a gift. The remaining $40,000 will continue to count as your assets for the next five years by Centrelink. Your part pension however should not be affected if Centrelink are already aware of this term deposit.

Q. I have just become a grandmother and wish to open a bank account for my grandchild. I plan to invest $10 a week in this account so that I will build it up for her future. Should I open this account in her name or in her parents’ name.

A. I would recommend that you open this account in your name in trust for your grandchild. In this way you can control this account and nobody else can touch it. If you open the account in the grandchild’s name she will have tax to pay in a few years’ time.

Q. I am on the full age pension. My daughter and her husband are struggling with their mortgage repayments. They both lost their jobs a few weeks ago and my son-in-law has not been able to find a job yet. They are living on one income and it is making it very hard for them to meet their mortgage repayments as their surplus funds have been used up.

I have a reverse mortgage but have used up very little of the amount that was offered to me. Can I use say, $10,000 from the reverse mortgage to help them or will this affect my age pension entitlement?

A. If you are only planning to give them $10,000 this could be treated as a gift and you are allowed to do this. If you decided to increase the amount, Centrelink will treat the rest of the funds as if you had cash sitting in the bank.

The house is not an asset but if funds are withdrawn from it and are gifted to others or maintained in a bank account they will then be treated as an asset and can affect your age pension entitlement. However this would depend of what your current assets are.

A single pensioner can have $258,500, not including their home, before their pension is affected.
The migrant, the soccer fanatic and the editor

The contribution to the history of the Maltese migrants in Australia by Lino Vella has been unique. Throughout the pages of The Maltese Herald (1961-2013), many chapters have been added to the general post-war migration in Australia, a research tool that lamentably has been largely neglected.

Without much of a formal education, Lino Vella was the editor of The Maltese Herald for forty-one years, until this “institution” closed publication for the last time on April 2013. He was perhaps the longest-serving editor of any newspaper, anywhere.

Carmelo (Lino) Vella AM, MQR

Lino was born on September 22, 1936, at Raħal Gdid (Paola), the eldest of five sons and three daughters. When he was three his family moved to Birżebbuġa. During the war a bomb demolished their house. He was also involved in a nasty accident where he broke his jaw and the sole of his foot. In 1945 the family moved to St Julian’s, and his first employment was with his father at the NAAFI.

Unable to run properly because of his earlier mishap when he broke one of his ankles, Lino took up the pivotal role of a goalkeeper. He was also a good swimmer and played waterpolo with the Balluta Waterpolo Club.

His decision to migrate in November 1954 was influenced by his father, post-war poverty and the air-raid destruction of Malta. With his best friend Tony Gambin and Tony’s mother Ruby, sister to well known Maltese politician Guze Ellul Mercer, they sailed on the m/v Sydney and settled in Balmain NSW.

Lino tried his hand at many jobs, moving from one factory to another until he settled with Olympic Tyre at Roseberry where he stayed for six years. Settlement for Lino and the Gambins was not easy. From St Julian’s to suburban city living was indeed a traumatic experience.

CUSA House was the hub of Catholic social activities and many young Maltese regularly attended, among them Lino and Barbara Platel an English smart lass on holiday in Sydney. They fell in love and married at St Mary’s Cathedral in November 1957.

Bestman at Lino’s wedding was Tony Gambin, who eventually returned to Malta. Also present at the wedding was his life-long friend Lawrence Dimech, the dynamic duo who introduced and nurtured Maltese journalism in Australia. Barbara Vella, a popular and hard-working member of the Maltese community in her own right, passed away in July 2003.

Lino and Barbara had settled in Bankstown. Their son Paul was born in 1959 and in 1960 had a second child Annette. Five years later they went to England but and after an unforgettable 11 months in Malta and UK they returned to Sydney.

Football and a career in journalism were intrinsically linked. He started kicking a round ball in his native St Julian’s (Sliema). Frankie Tabone (of Floriana Ajax fame) then Birkirkara’s coach gave him his first senior chance.

When he arrived in Sydney in late December 1954 Lino went to Queens Park to watch Malta Eagles play and was signed on instantly. He served the Eagles as player, coach and administrator and earned the prestigious role of life member.

Lino Vella held minor roles at The Maltese Herald until 1971, and when the then editor Lawrence Dimech accepted a position as Migration Attaché with the Malta High Commission, in 1972 he became a full-time editor and remained in this position until 2013.

Lino Vella held several high profile government positions with the Australian Government, such as the Social Security Consul-tative Council and Australia Day Committee. He was also the President of the Australian Soccer Press Association and the Ethnic Media Council of Australia, and for 15 years he presented the sports segment on 2EA (SBS radio).

He was awarded the Maltese Achiever award, the De Vilhena Award and the Maltese Cultural Award, but his highest award came in January 1999 when the Federal Government appointed him Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australian Day Honour List. He is one of the few Maltese accorded this high award (AM).

In 2006 the St Julian Municipal Council Malta awarded him Gieħ San Ġiljan.

Lino has donated all the copies of The Maltese Herald in bound ledgers by years of publication to the Maltese Community Council of NSW for its archives.

There is no other way to describe Carmelo (Lino) Vella other than a shining icon of the Maltese community in Australia.
Il-vapur tal-art' (Il-Ferrovija) f’Malta – L-ahħar parti –

Il-poplu fittex mezz ieħor ta’ trasport


Il-vagun restawrat fi
Gnien l-istazzjon
f’Birkirkara

It-tramm beda wara u spiċċa qabel il-ferrovija

Malta mourns the loss of...

Guzeppi Theuma (1945-2019) sculptor, ceramist and painter

A month ago, on August 24, Malta mourned the death of Guzeppi Theuma, a 75-year-old talented artist, essentially a sculptor but was comfortable in any media that provided scope for creativity, who had been gracing the country’s cultural scene for around 53 years.

Guzeppi, who used to describe his work as abstract art with a strong hint of surrealism, was born in Paola on January 18, 1945. It had all started for him at the age of 12 when an aunt of his discovered he had talent and presented him with a set of oils. In 1964 he settled in the UK where he attended the Hertfordshire College of Arts in the City of St. Albans Herts, and in fact, held his first exhibition at the St. Albans Town Hall.

In 1977 he returned to Malta where he studied the visual arts development. He took part in many collective exhibitions both in Malta and the UK mainly with his paintings and for seven years, between 1980 and 1987 he was a leading caricaturist for several national papers.

Guzeppi was better known for constructing metal and ceramic sculptures but has ventured into oils, acrylics, watercolours and in the last few year also in digital art. His digital impressions are uncomplicated. His palette of colours is at once logical, yet realistic of the subject he composes. In 1999 he joined the Executive Committee of the Zabbar Sanctuary Museum where he served as the Secretary since 2004. His main priorities within the commission were documentation and restoration coordination.

In 2014 he shared with Carol Busuttil a duo Exhibition entitled ‘Entwined’ in the Zabbar Sanctuary Museum Gallery, and in February 2017 held a retrospective solo exhibition at the Razzett Mallia Tabone Mosta entitled il-Vjagg; 50 years in Art. In 2018 he held another personal exhibition of acrylics and sculptures, entitled ‘Intimate Reflections’. In 1999 he joined the Żabbar Sanctuary Museum Committee where he is now the Secretary. His main priorities are documentation and restoration coordination.

Virtually all of Theuma’s creations depict an aspect of the uncompromising world that surrounded him. His effects of colour and light used to reveal his sense of pursuit for the truth that was reflected in his intimate portrayal of life both still and alive.

He was also considered an art historian and is the author of a hardbound fully illustrated 220 page book about Maltese art, entitled L-Arti fil-Knejjes minn Mitt Pittur Malti, a short biography of 100 Maltese painters – cataloguing their works visually. It includes no less then 2,230 quoted works and more than 260 full colour plates.

Guzeppi’s epitome of happiness used to be completing a work piece that fulfilled him, which he used to say, “Was rare”.

TVM to launch Youtube station showing its documentaries with English language sub-titles

Television Malta (TVM) is to launch a station on Youtube that will transmit a number of documentaries shown on its stations that will be underscored by English language subtitles.

Among the first documentaries to be featured on this station will be “Pass Pass ghal Auschwitz” that was recently selected as the best documentary of the month at the TMFF festival in Glasgow, Scotland. It shows the suffering, the bitterness and the persecution thousands experienced in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp during World War II.

The announcement was made by PBS Chairman Dr. Tonio Portughese at a meeting the PBS Board of Directors had with Jonathan Farrugia, the director of co-productions between PBS and Flash Productions. He raised the high standard attained by the production and the benefit value it reflected on Maltese broadcasting, and said that preparations are also on hand for this documentary to be shown at the museum dedicated to the Holocaust during the international day dedicated to Holocaust Victims.

He said that the Public Broadcasting Services is committed to broadcast historic episodes that have left their mark on humanity and relaying these to the younger generations, including school children.

Meanwhile, PBS CEO, Charles Dalli, said the station on Youtube would launch its transmission by relaying the documentary “Kulħadd għall-Belt”, depicting the chain of events that paved the way for the bloody riots of Sette Giugno 1919.
Letters for publication in The Voice magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.

Editors:
Malta: Joseph Cutajar
Australia: Lawrance Dimech: MOM, OAM, JP
email address: maltesevoice@gmail.com

Dorothy Brown minn North Sydney tikteb:
Għaliex mhux f’Sydney Opera House?


Dr Hugh McDermott MP
State Member for Prospect
For issues concerning:
Ageing and disability - community services - education - environment - health - housing - planning - Police - transport - water
P: (02) 9756 4766
E: prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au
2679 The Horsley Dr, Smithfield NSW 2164

Imburġat bl-ahbarijiet
Mario Grisciti minn Ta’ Xbiex Malta jikteb:
Ir-revejiet il-Jarja Nr. 211 ta’ ‘The Voice of the Maltese’ u nxixli liema artiklu jew ahbar se naqrà l-ewwel, ghax tant din il-magżin hu Imburġat b’ahbarijiet, kitbiet, avvivi u affairijiet oħra ta’ tagħlim u tagħrif, li tahsul tithawwad lil fiema artiklu, tagħrif ta’ tagħrif priċjiż. ‘Tassew grazzi lilkom ta’ dan l-operat gur-nalistiku dinijżu.”

Il-preżentazzjoni saret waqt serata fiċ-Centru la Valette ta’ Blacktown li fl-ewwel parti tagħha tkellem il-President tal-għaqda kulturali, Charles N. Mifsud li spjega kif u għaliex jiġi mogħti l-premjju kulturali li baqa’ popolari għal dawn l-aħħar 28 sena.

Għall-okkażjoni ħa sehem ukoll l-uniku kor Malti li għad baqa’ fi NSW għal darboħra, taht id-direzzjoni ta’ Marisa Privitera, li kanta għadd ta’ kanzunetti addattati għall-okkażjoni.


Ir-rebbieha

Doris Caruana


Kumitat Festa San Nikola

Adani u l-problema għall-progressivi


Dawg favur il-minjiera jsemmu primarjament vantaġġ mill-Australja, forsi l-kelma Adani tfisser ftit li xejn, imma id-dijaspora Maltija barra. Bejn impriżi li joffru servizzi kummerċjali (bħal ngħidu aħna bini l-Jobbole tal-maiti)

Dawg favur il-minjiera jsemmu primarjament vantaġġ mill-Australja, forsi l-kelma Adani tfisser ftit li xejn, imma id-dijaspora Maltija barra. Bejn impriżi li joffru servizzi kummerċjali (bħal ngħidu aħna bini l-Jobbole tal-maiti)


Dawk favur il-minjiera jsemmu primarjament vantaġġ mill-Australja, forsi l-kelma Adani tfisser ftit li xejn, imma id-dijaspora Maltija barra. Bejn impriżi li joffru servizzi kummerċjali (bħal ngħidu aħna bini l-Jobbole tal-maiti)

Dawk favur il-minjiera jsemmu primarjament vantaġġ mill-Australja, forsi l-kelma Adani tfisser ftit li xejn, imma id-dijaspora Maltija barra. Bejn impriżi li joffru servizzi kummerċjali (bħal ngħidu aħna bini l-Jobbole tal-maiti)


Dawk favur il-minjiera jsemmu primarjament vantaġġ mill-Australja, forsi l-kelma Adani tfisser ftit li xejn, imma id-dijaspora Maltija barra. Bejn impriżi li joffru servizzi kummerċjali (bħal ngħidu aħna bini l-Jobbole tal-maiti)

Dawk favur il-minjiera jsemmu primarjament vantaġġ mill-Australja, forsi l-kelma Adani tfisser ftit li xejn, imma id-dijaspora Maltija barra. Bejn impriżi li joffru servizzi kummerċjali (bħal ngħidu aħna bini l-Jobbole tal-maiti)


Marlene Scicluna shortlisted for Australian Community TV Awards

Marlene Scicluna (pictured right), host and co-executive producer of community TV show Maltese DownUnder has been nominated for Best Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Personality at the 2019 Antenna Awards. This is the first time ever a Maltese Australian TV show has been shortlisted for these awards that recognise outstanding community television programmes broadcast around Australia. The awards will be made on October 5.

Marlene Scicluna (formerly Galea) is a broadcast journalist and producer. She started in broadcast media as a 17-year old in Malta in 1987, as a radio presenter on Mill-Gżira ta’ Calypso, formerly Mit-Tokk i’Għawdex; a show she presented for 10 years.

Following her return to her native country in 1998, she was the Senior Producer with Maltese Language Programmes on SBS Radio for 15 years; altogether 18 years as a broadcast producer.

In 2015, together with friend Mark Avel-lino, Marlene co-created Maltese DownUnder, a community TV show produced in Melbourne. She directed, produced, co-edited, hosted and co-presented five seasons of the show.

An interesting fact is that although she is fluent in Maltese and has worked in Maltese media for over 30 years, Marlene is only Maltese by adoption. She is very proud of her diverse heritage; born to an Aboriginal Australian mother and American father with Irish and German ancestry.

Maltese DownUnder is a Melbourne-based bi-lingual production, showcasing Maltese cultural heritage, featuring the arts, music, food, cultural events and sports. The show promotes Australian-Maltese artists, personalities and associations outside traditional Maltese circles to a broader audience.

The show is broadcast in Maltese and English to preserve and strengthen the cultural links for all Maltese Australians, on all things Maltese.

Since its first screening in February 2016, the quality of production has seen the show capture and engage a sizeable audience online and was the most viewed show on C31, in the culture category and in the top 5 shows overall.

Through its YouTube platform, the show continues to reach audiences beyond Australian shores.

The five seasons of Maltese DownUnder are available on demand via YouTube Channel Maltese DownUnder TV.

Maurice Cauchi’s: Memoir, 2019
The Making of a Medico

This memoir covers a period of over eight decades, starting form a near-idyllic life in Gozo, through a strenuous, even challenging period at university, followed by further education overseas. While this is where the history of an average 'medico' normally ends, for emeritus Professor Cauchi it is really a beginning of a varied career, involving not only cancer research, involvement as leader of the Maltese as well as the general ethnic community in Australia, broadcaster, lecturer, writer of monographs on medical and social issues, contributions to scientific journals as well as newspapers in Malta, and finally, when arthritis interfered with playing the piano, at the age of 79 he started playing the cello, managing to achieve a reasonable level of expertise in that area also.

This memoir covers these many aspects of a person who has contributed an enormous amount of effort, time, and energy to the community through his continuous involvement in many aspects of life, both in Malta and overseas.

‘Professor Maurice N. Cauchi is without a doubt one of the most solid and effective heads that the Maltese Community in Australia ever had.’ The Maltese Herald.

The book is available from BDL books, email: info@bdlbooks.com, or from the author (mnc25@optusnet.com.au)

Obituary
Salvina Formosa (1914-2019)

It is with great sadness to announce the dead of Salvina Formosa born in Nadur, Gozo, Malta on March 16, 1914 at the grand age of 105 years. Possibly the oldest Maltese in NSW, Salvina was very well known around the Greystanes/Pendle Hill area. She was active until recent years with the Greystanes Adult Group. Salvina was a person with beautiful spirit.

She will always be loved and remembered. RIP
Roundup of News About Malta

PM dismisses as speculations that he is about to step down

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat dismissed as mere speculation reports in the media that he was to step down in October after the presentation of the 2020 Budget. The Leader of the governing Labour Party said in an interview that he has no intention of resigning, before, during or after the coming budget.

He pointed out that along with the rest of the cabinet he is focussed on the coming budget due to be presented in the House of Representatives on October 14. He said the budget is very important, and his only concern is to ensure that upcoming budgetary measures are implemented.

He said, “Let me be very clear: I have no intention of resigning before, during, nor after the next Budget.”

He went on to say that the budget is so important not when it is devised, but also [in terms] of it being implemented. “My only concern is to do the work that is needed in the coming months to keep pushing Malta higher,” he said.

Meanwhile, in his pre-Budget document, Finance Minister Edward Scicluna said that the coming Budget’s theme will be ‘Sustaining inclusive growth’.

He added that the government would also continue with its drive to strengthen regulatory and supervisory institutions while focusing on making Malta a leading player in technological innovation and to raise the quality of Malta’s tourism product.

Minister EZLto work to end all inequalities

Minister Edward Zammit Lewis, the Minister for European Affairs and Equality has promised to “work relentlessly to end all inequalities within society”. The Minister made the promised during the ‘Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Characteristics Unit (SOGIGESC) Annual Conference.

He welcomed the publication of the first annual report related to the implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and Action Plan, that portrays the hard work undertaken by all stakeholders in the various ministries, agencies and departments as well as civil society organisations.

He said that the challenge is to forge a mentality revolution starting at grassroots level and addressing the whole social spectrum.

As he reiterated his commitment to ensure that Malta continues to lead the world on LGBTIQ equality and be a role model of best practices not only to EU member states but to the international community, he said: “Equality will remain a priority for us”.

Soon Parliament shall start discussing the Equality and Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill.

Speaker points out the reality of climate change

Addressing the closing ceremony of the annual conference of the Malta Model United Nation Society Conference held at the Malta Maritime Museum themed “Ego Vs Leadership, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anglu Farrugia, spoke about the reality of climate change.

The Speaker welcomed the society’s sense of initiative and energy that, he said, helps youths and young professionals to discuss international issues of concern.

He said that the overarching theme of this year’s event has framed the context of the numerous challenges that our society and community of nations are facing, adding that “such challenges require each and every one of us to not only overcome these challenges but also to emerge stronger from them.”

Dr Farrugia pointed out that while young people may be more idealists and hopeful than their older predecessors, it is this idealism that enables change in our localities, the country, the European Union and the world.

“Malta achieved its independence, and became a republic and neutral state through the vision its past leaders had,” he said.

The Speaker outlined other challenges that require leadership from Malta’s youth, which include, balancing economic growth with a fair distribution of wealth.

He said that our society needs to learn to adapt not only to climate change but needs leadership on other issues as well, such as the fast emerging Artificial Intelligence.

He urged those present in the UN-focused conference to continue in their education and formation that would help them to provide leadership on the issues they discussed during the three-day conference ranging from climate change, economic growth and tackling the migration crisis.

He commended all for their energy and passion and called on them to continue with their engagement in society so that challenges can become opportunities for the future.

The Speaker also presented awards to the participants at the Conference that was hosted by the House of Representatives.

The keynote address was delivered by President George Vella who spoke about the balance between leadership and participative democracy.

He ended by noting how the presence and active participation of students in the Conference was an opportunity to discuss and reflect on how much key leadership skills should be reinserted into the egos of all those who wished to take over leadership positions, especially in diplomacy and in national and international politics.

The line-up of speakers also included MaltMUN Secretary General Andrea Schwaiger, US Embassy Charge d’Affaires Mark A. Schapiro, and UNHCR representative in Malta Kahin Ismail.

S&P affirms Malta’s economic progress

In its latest report, the credit rating agency Standard and Poor’s affirmed Malta’s Rating at A-/A-2 with a Positive Outlook.

It stated that Malta’s positive rating is attributed to “its strong growth performance, recurring current account surpluses driven by its large services exports, and the Government’s improving budgetary and debt positions, and fiscal management.”

S&P’s expects the Maltese economy to continue to expand at a fast pace with GDP growth likely to exceed that of countries with similar income levels and stages of development.

The credit rating report notes that Malta’s real GDP growth accelerated to 7.7 per cent on average in the 2014 to 2018 period.
Malta also had three homeport operations. Ships with a larger capacity in terms of passengers much better than expected. Cruise Port, said that 2019 would be even the Chief Executive of the Valletta popular Mediterranean cruise line destination which would be a record year. are expected to have visited the island, cruise liners as almost 900,000 passengers that have ever entered Malta on board B...
Il-kappillan ta’ Santu Wistin mixli b’kompliċita’ waqt serqa mill-kunveni tieghu

Malta l-ewwel pajjiż fid-dinja b’Università tar-Raba’ Età

L’Università ta’ tat-3 eta’ nدرت sew f’ Malta bi’ miżijiet ta’ ‘l fuq minn 60 sena f’ għadd ta’ ‘jien il-ġimgħa fl-żmien jinħaxxaw fl-madwar il-gżira jattendu għal lezzjonijiet minn professjonisti f’dversi suġġetti, fosthom isna differenti. Issa se mmorrux oltre, bl-Università ta’ Tar-Raba’ Età.

Dan se jsehh wara li s-Segretarju Parlamentarju għall Persuni b’Diżibilju u Anzjani Attivu Anthony Agius Deccelis ħabbar li Malta se tkun l-ewwel fid-dinja li se jstabbilixxi din l-Università f’ żewġt idjar tal-Anzjani, f’San Vinċenċ de Paul u f’ Dar San Gużèpp fil-Fgura.

Is-Segretarju Parlamentarju qal li permezz ta’ dawn ieċentri, fosthom dawk tat-Tielet Eta’ l-anzjani f’ pajjiżna qal jingħataw ieċ-ċans li jibgħu attivi b’mod intellewtali u soċjali, u jibgħu jithallmu dwar suġġetti varji minn professjonisti magħżula mill-Università ta’ Malta.

Il-Pro-Rettur għall-Affarijiet tal-Istudenti u Staff, u Outreach Prof Carmen Sammut qalet li permezz ta’ dan il-feħim l-Università ta’ Malta laħqet livell gdid fil-viżjoni tagħha, hekk kif jiġa stabbilit l-ewwel ċentru ta’ ‘l-Università ta’ Tar-Raba’ Età, bis-servizzi tal-Università jiġu estizi halli jkomplju jiejb lu kwalità tal-hajja għall-Anzjani fid-djar residenzjali u fil-komunità.
Ġifen Puniku fix-Xlendi

Il-Ministru Justyn Caruana flimkien mal-Professur Timmy Gambin (fin-nof) u l-arkaeologisti u ghaddasa li qed jahmdu fuq il-proġett ġment ghax-xogħol delikat li qed iwettqu r-ricerkaturi f’ambjent ristrett u f’kundizzjonijiet xejn favorevoli peress li dan il-ġifen jinsab f’fond ta’ aktar minn 110 metru.

Irimarkat li din is-sejba storika se tagħti aktar għarfien tal-ħajja f’din l-epoka mbegħda kif ukoll ikompli jarrikixxi lil Ġhawdex li hu diġa mogħni bi storja li tmur lura sa 5,000 sena qabel Kristu.


Ħawnhekk parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra tar-Rappreżentati itaqghu għal logħba futbol li d-dħul tagħha mar ‘ghal Puttinu’.

Ħawnehkk parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra tar-Rappreżentati itaqghu għal logħba futbol li d-dħul tagħha mar ‘ghal Puttinu’.
Refugees are welcome

In 2014 Leeton Shire Council voted for the shire to become a Refugee Welcome Zone, now one of 163 shires in Australia. In 2012 they formed the Multicultural Support Group, a community group that welcomed new people and helped them settle in their town.

BS Riverina Plant Manager, Brett Meads said as one of the largest employers in Leeton, JBS Riverina has a very diverse workforce, employing team members from 36 nationalities.

Technology has also contributed to IVF success rates

Experts said it’s important for women and couples looking to conceive to have greater access to IVF information but not at the risk of unsafe clinical practices.

UNSW Professor for Policy, Analysis and Epidemiology Georgina Chambers said transparency on clinic success rates is important in the digital age but needs to be regulated.

“It needs to be done very carefully so that we don’t disadvantage patients that may not have as good a chance of success,” she said.

“We also don’t want to encourage multiple embryo transfers or other forms of aggressive IVF treatment.”

‘Abortion is infanticide on demand’

Thousands joined the rally at Hyde Park Sydney to oppose the bill which is due back before the NSW Upper House for amendments to be debated.

Among them was former federal Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce, who has repeatedly weighed into the debate over the contentious bill. Mr Joyce labelled the bill “animalistic” and said it failed to recognise the rights of the unborn child.

“There is not one person here who was not born … there comes a time when there are two people, and two people have rights, and those rights must be respected otherwise society is destroyed,” he told the rally.

“If you want to kill someone, how do you do it? You dehumanise them, you give them another word, you don’t call them a person … well I’ll call them a fetus.

“Where does this animalistic process stop? This is the slavery debate of our time.”

Former PM Tony Abbott (no longer in Parliament) also a speaker, was scathing in response to the Berejiklian Government allowing the private member’s bill to come before the parliament, saying it was not what it was elected to do.

He said that the first serious legislation that the new Government puts into this Parliament is for the most radical abortion laws in this country, and claimed that the bill was based on “a lie” because “whether we like it or not, abortion has been decriminalised in this state for up to sixty years.

He described it “as a Licence for sex selection abortions, and late-term abortions” and said it was “effectively infanticide on demand”.

“You don’t have to be a Catholic; you don’t have to be a Christian, you don’t have to be an evangelical, you don’t have to believe in anything other than the basic decency of every other human being to think that we should never have infanticide on demand.”
Obey the laws in Victoria not those made in Rome ... Premier Andrews

The state Parliament of Victoria passed laws carrying sentences of up to three years for failing to report abuse, but Premier Daniel Andrews said that he did not know of any convictions under Victoria’s broader mandatory reporting laws, in place for 25 years.

Mr Andrews said his Government now expected Church workers to obey the law of Victoria, not rules written in Rome. “I’ve made it very clear that the law of our state is written by the Parliament of Victoria, it’s not made in Rome and there are very significant penalties for anybody and everybody who breaks the Victorian law,” he said.

Genuine anxiety for some people of faith

As Federal Parliament prepares to consider the Morrison Government’s religious discrimination laws, Michelle Rowland MP, Labor’s communications spokesperson said there were “practical questions” emerging about the bill, which would allow religious schools to employ staff of a particular faith and let health practitioners conscientiously object to performing an abortion.

She said it was not clear why the bill put extra requirements on big companies — in terms of the evidence they have to provide for curtailing employees’ religious expression — but these did not apply to businesses with a revenue of less than $50m a year.

“What are religious freedoms being determined by the size of the company?”

Shortly before the election, Labor introduced a reproductive and sexual health package that included plans to use hospital funding agreements to increase abortion services in public hospitals. While the policy had strong support in the ALP caucus, some Labor insiders have since said it was not enough time to explain it to religious communities.

Labor suffered swings against it in highly religious seats, including Ms Rowland’s seat of Greenway and other western Sydney seats that voted “no” in the same-sex marriage postal survey.

“I don’t think it’s lost on anyone that there was clearly an issue with Labor and people of faith at the last election,” Ms Rowland said.

“There is a sense that we didn’t get it right.”

She said Labor’s reproductive and sexual health policy was framed around equal access to healthcare, but she said it was “confounded with a number of broader religious issues”.

“I think it’s fair to say this caused genuine anxiety for some people of faith.”

Ms Rowland said she was “not blaming anyone” but these [policies] were being proposed in a vacuum without consideration of how they would be received.

Mr Andrews said the laws, and the new legislation, were intended to create a culture in which all abuse or mistreatment of children was reported, regardless of how it came to light.

He said the bill, which passed the upper house with bipartisan support, was intended to send a message all the way to the top of the Church in Rome.

“The most important thing is to send a message that the law is to be taken seriously, if people don’t obey the law, then the penalties are very significant,” he said.

“The culture is one where people have taken the laws and their responsibilities in terms of mandatory reporting very seriously.”

The changes will bring religious leaders into line with police, teachers, doctors, nurses, school counsellors and youth justice workers who are required to report child abuse to authorities.

The Church has insisted priests would be obliged to defy the laws, with Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli previously stating he was prepared to go to jail rather than break the confessional seal.

“For Catholics, confession is a religious encounter of a deeply personal nature. It deserves confidentiality,” he said in August. Tasmania’s upper house passed similar laws mandating clergy must report abuse, even when disclosed in confession. Hobart Archbishop Julian Porteous said the bill had “serious implications on religious freedom”.

Tribute to a lovely lady

On September 3 Teresa Camilleri, wife of Emanuel Camilleri, President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW passed away after a prolonged illness.

Theresa, or Tess as her friends knew her was a very respected lady in the Maltese Community of Victoria and Sydney in her own right. She was a member of the Maltese community, attending functions by her husband’s side, always a step behind not to get involved in political or community issues. She was the typical lady who let her husband lead but always by his side for support.

For Theresa her family mattered most, her conversation was all about her children and grandchildren, her love and passion was playing bingo with her friends every Tuesday night, her home was her sanctuary, she was always busy, up early in the morning cleaning and making sure that her home is sparkling clean and a environment suitable for her family.

During her last eighteen months since she was diagnosed with Cancer, Theresa never changed her attitude. Strong minded and positive she always told people inquiring about her health, “I’m fine, all well,” she used to say with a smile and assurance.

During her last months she travelled to the USA to visit her daughter’s family, a wish she wanted to fulfil. Sadly after her return home, her health had deteriorated and asked to be admitted to hospital. Even at the end Theresa did not want to be a burden on her family. Constantly in pain she never let on so her family would not worry.

A truly strong lady who made the Maltese community and her family proud.

Rest in peace Theresa.

Emanuel Camilleri and his family would like to thank all those who sent condolences and/or flowers and attended the funeral services for Theresa.

The kindness shown was overwhelming.
Il-Maltin f’Sydney jfakkru Jum il-Vitorja


L-għaqdiet mal’Maltin bil-bandalori kuluriti taghhom komplew jaghtu dehra ta’ festa Maltija, filwaqt li l-Kavallieri ta’ Malta (SMOM) żammew l-appuntament taghhom firkien ma’ Lawrence Buhagiar, ir-rappreżentant tal-Gvern Malti fi NSW. Il-kummentatur kien Mark Boffa.


FUQ: Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Il-qarrejja li jixtieqju juru l-fihmiet taghhom dwar xi suġett huma mheggja li ma jhallux għall-ahhar. Indirizzaw l-email is fil maltesevoice@gmail.com. L-trtri għall-publikazzjoni indikawhom: Letters to the editor.

FUQ: Xelluġ: L-għaqdiet Maltin jmxu bil-bandalori taghhom minn qalb il-kongregazzjoni quddiem il-vara ta’ Marja Bambina fil-purċissjoni fil-Katidral St Mary’s f’sydney. (Fuq lemin): Dr George Boffa u Lawrence Buhagiar, il-Konslu Generali fi NSW, waqt il-qari fil-quddiesa.
In Melbourne devotees pack ‘the Church of the Maltese’

The Feast of Maria Bambina in Parkville was this year held on September 8, at St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne, that most of our community relate to as the Church of the Maltese.

The church was packed by devotees for the mass concelebrated by Fr Ignatius Borg, the Archpriest of the Parish of Qala, Gozo, who was on a visit to Melbourne. Fr Lonnie Borg, Fr John Talina, Fr Noel Bianco, Fr Silvio Bezzina (all MSSP) and Fr Karm Borg and Can. Fr Manny Bonello were co-celebrants.

Among the attendees were members of the Executive of the MCCV, former MCCV presidents Victor Borg and Joe Stafrace, members of the Knights of Malta and the Maltese Associations, the Ex Servicemen Association, and members of religious communities.

Because of bad weather the procession took place inside the church, where the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society played hymns. The singing and music during mass were conducted by Mr Charles Schembri.

A large number of Associations attended with their banners.

At the end Fr Lonnie Borg thanked the congregation, and the statue bearers, and especially the Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, which as always, organised the occasion on behalf of the fathers of the Missionary Society of St Paul.

A group of helpers made up of George Topolcsanyi, Charlie Sacco, Charlie Zammit, John Hili, Joe Castillo, Victor Vella, Paul and Salvina Vella saw to the organisation.

Paul Vella

F’Wollongong: kienu żmien ahjar

Nhar is- Sibt 7 ta’ Settembru fil-knisja ta’ San Frangisk ta’ Assist f’Warrawong, subbord ta’ Wollongong, saret il-festa tat-twelid tal-Madonna li l-Maltin insibhu bhala l-festa tal Vitorja.

Fl-imgħoddi din il-festa kienet tiġi ċċelebrata b’ħafna pomp bil-purċisjoni bil-vara tal-Madonna tigi mdawwra mat-toroq ta’ madwar il-knisja u l-parteċipazzjoni tal-baned ta’ Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band jew il-Wollongong Brass Band jigu mistiedna jdoqu immijiet u marci biex jaghuha l-bixra ta’ festa Maltija.


George Bartolo
The Maltese Seniors group, meeting monthly at OLQP George Preca Hall in Greystanes invited the Daceyville Maltese Seniors group (from the areas around Kingsford, Pagewood, Eastgarden, Mascot, Botany) to join them for a celebration morning tea for Jum il-Vitorja.

During it they also watched a very interesting World War II documentary about Operation Pedestal that finally saw the crippled oil tanker Ohio, with its deck almost at water level, limp into Malta’s Grand Harbour supported on each side by two destroyers.

The success of Operation Pedestal was a turning point in Malta’s history during the war years.

The group enjoyed this documentary that highlighted how imperative this wartime operation was to the survival of the Maltese.

The Daceville group meets every last Wednesday of the month at Room One, 3, General Bridges Crescent Daceyville.

Interaction between seniors’ groups on National Day

It included original footage and interviews with some of the crewmembers that were serving on the ships from this convoy.

It was good to see these two groups of Maltese seniors interact in friendship to celebrate one of Malta’s National Days.

Each member of the group also received a complimentary hard copy of The Voice of the Maltese, the only Maltese magazine printed in Australia.

The Daceville group meets every last Wednesday of the month at Room One, 3, General Bridges Crescent Daceyville.

L-ewwel poeżija bil-Malti ta’ Dun Karm ippubblikata fl-1912


Il-perjodiku, “i m ħewwa q b’kull xorta ta’ dawl, ta’ taghlim, ta’ aħbarijiet u ta’ mogn-diija taż-zmien: imma dejjem Nisrani u habib tal-qalb” kien jgħorġ darba fil-ġimgħa, kull nhar ta’ Ħamis u dam jgħorġ sal-1928.

Tul dawk is-16-il sena kien mezz ta’ pubblikazzjonijiet letterarji, kemm minn poeti prominenti kif ukoll minn poeti minuri.

Akkademici jghidu li fih kien jispikka l-element qawwi ta’ għaqda li nissel bejn diversi auturi u ġurnalisti, li hadmuxishebi biex il-Malti jkun miktub b’mod korrett u b’hekk seta’ jibbenefika l-poplu ingenerali.

Il-paġna dwar ‘Taghrif dwar il-kitba Maltija u dawk li matul is-sekli hadmu għall-izvilupp tal-ilsien Malti’ tirritorna fil-ħarġa li jmiss, tat-8 ta’ Ottubru
The Maltese Language School of NSW is a Division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.

Learn Maltese!

Classes are available for students from six years to adults at all levels of ability in the Maltese language. We have trained and experienced teachers qualified in language teaching and with Maltese study credentials. Learn the Maltese language, the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions and about the amazing history of the island.

Teachers urgently needed - Paid positions

For more information and enquiries
Phone 9601 2189 or Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com
Supported by the Minister of Education and Training and the NSW Community Languages Schools Programme.
Member of the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools of NSW;
Member of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools of Australia;
Supported by 16 Maltese associations affiliated with the MCC of NSW.
The Maltese Language School of NSW is a Not-For-Profit organisation.

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 for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com

OLQP FESTA Greystanes Sunday, Sept. 29

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Rd Greystanes
3.30pm: Mass celebrated in English. After Mass Procession of the Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace
4.30pm: Short Fireworks.
5.15pm: Maltese Cultural Association of NSW Choir performing at the George Preca Centre.
5.30pm: Performance by Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band.
6.30pm: Musical Performance by OLQP Primary School Band.
7.15pm: Musical Performance by Our Lady Queen of Peace.
8.30pm: Fireworks Display
Food Stalls – Amusements – Rides – Entertainment – Fireworks – Market Stalls

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/olqp.festa/

OLQP FESTA Greystanes Sunday, Sept. 29

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Rd Greystanes
3.30pm: Mass celebrated in English. After Mass Procession of the Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace
4.30pm: Short Fireworks.
5.15pm: Maltese Cultural Association of NSW Choir performing at the George Preca Centre.
5.30pm: Performance by Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band.
6.30pm: Musical Performance by OLQP Primary School Band.
7.15pm: Musical Performance by Our Lady Queen of Peace.
8.30pm: Fireworks Display
Food Stalls – Amusements – Rides – Entertainment – Fireworks – Market Stalls

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/olqp.festa/

OLQP FESTA Greystanes Sunday, Sept. 29

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Rd Greystanes
3.30pm: Mass celebrated in English. After Mass Procession of the Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace
4.30pm: Short Fireworks.
5.15pm: Maltese Cultural Association of NSW Choir performing at the George Preca Centre.
5.30pm: Performance by Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band.
6.30pm: Musical Performance by OLQP Primary School Band.
7.15pm: Musical Performance by Our Lady Queen of Peace.
8.30pm: Fireworks Display
Food Stalls – Amusements – Rides – Entertainment – Fireworks – Market Stalls

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/olqp.festa/
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 Bankstown 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 Coordinator:
Charles Mifsud J.P.
Phone: (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298.

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am
Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahbarjiet minn Malta, mużika, taghrij, kultura, avviżi u sughetti ta’ interest.

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:

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 Coast 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
The Voice of the Maltese 23

Sports on 2 pages

George Cross’ move from a Third World ground to a modern stadium

For George Cross it’s a case of ‘good things come to those who wait’

– Part Three (final) –

by Victor Brincat

The City Vista Court facilities currently being used by Caroline Spring George Cross are truly amazing and will no doubt assist the club into becoming a truly professional club on and off the field.

No expense has been spared to ensure that the players have the best facilities to play on at the new stadium.

The complex has two artificial and two grass pitches all with lighting for night matches, and the main pitch is equipped with cameras on the light towers in order for matches to be telecast and shown on the large screen at the ground.

Provision is also made for those who prefer to watch matches in comfort on various TV screens inside the bistro.

A drone can also be used to film training sessions for the club coaches to scrutinise tactics and erase errors.

The complex also has eight changing rooms all with toilets and showers, players’ own lockers, messaging tables and lockers.

The men’s home team changing room also has a coach’s office; a mini gym, a fully-equipped laundry and full size ice buckets to assist in player recuperation from injuries and minor ailments.

The ground is also equipped with a referee’s room, a 120-seat function room, the sportsman’s bar that now has the TAB in operation and the ‘Georgies On Vista’ bistro that overlooks the main pitch.

The club employs full time bar/canteen staff, bistro assistants and two full time chefs. In the short space of time The Georgies on Vista bistro has been operating it has proven to be very popular and continues to build a strong and regular clientele.

The Bistro offers a full range of meals at competitive prices and includes senior meals. Lately the Bistro has introduced many tempting Maltese dishes that will surely add to its popularity. Patrons are made to feel welcome at the Georgies on Vista Bistro and everyone is assured of a great meal at the best possible price. For menu and opening hours one should check The Georgies on Vista Facebook page.

George Cross have also negotiated a two-year deal with new A League Club Western United to train and use the new centre for practice matches. Western United have set up their offices within the City Vista Court complex while their new ground is being built.

Up to last week, Western United had played three midweek practice games at the City Vista stadium that have attracted over 8,000 spectators. George Cross were the first team to offer opposition to United; Preston Lions and North Geelong also played Mark Rudan’s new team.

Many people have been involved in making the dream at City Vista Court a reality. All are to be congratulated for their efforts, but one guy that must get extra recognition is Eddie Gauci who has been involved in the project throughout.

Eddie has thrown his heart and soul to ensure this project is completed on time and everything is done to the club’s specifications. In far from ideal circumstances he has held daily meetings with various councillors, builders, grounds-men and numerous tradesmen to ensure that everything is done correctly and on time.

The project is far from complete and a lot of work still needs to be done before it becomes the stadium befitting a club like George Cross.

In the short space of time at the new centre the club has already outgrown certain aspects of the place. At some matches car-parking space was nowhere near enough for the number of people attending matches.

The club has already applied to council for more car-parking space and it is hoped the request would be met favourably. There has also been limited space for the few functions the club has so far organised and hopefully one day the provision that is in place to build another storey above the current clubrooms would also be approved.

It’s said that ‘Rome wasn’t built in one day’ and for the time being club members will continue working until the project is completed.

For the first and only time in the club’s history George Cross will have the infrastructure in place to be able to compete with the best football teams in Victoria.

Moving to the City Vista Court Stadium has been a shot in the arm for George Cross in so far as prestige is concerned. It is a far cry from the days of playing in a third world ground like Chaplin Reserve, where conditions reflected badly on the club.

Early signs indicate the fans love the new premises. It is something George Cross thoroughly deserve, and something the Maltese community of Victoria should be proud of.

New coach Eric Vasiladias summed it up best by saying: “It’s onwards and upwards for the Georgies from now on”.

And by golly George Cross fans have been very patient for a long, long time!!

(End of series)
Manchester Utd cement ties with Malta

A t Manchester United’s Aon Training Complex recently, the English Premiership club that has a global fan base of over a billion, and the Malta government signed a multi-year partnership that will see United promote Malta as a tourist destination.

Manchester United players Juan Mata, Phil Jones and Andreas Pereira, as well as club legend Bryan Robson, were on hand to welcome Malta’s Tourism Minister Konrad Mizzi and officials from the Tourism Ministry and Malta Tourism Authority to celebrate the collaboration and the historic agreement.

Manchester United have deep and enduring ties with Malta, where the club supporters’ officially run the club’s oldest Supporters Club, that was founded in 1959 and this year is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

As part of the partnership, Visit Malta and Manchester United will encourage the club’s fans around the world to experience the vibrant, exciting and beautiful country with Maltese Tourism Ministry providing attractive travel offers exclusively for Manchester United supporters.

Through the partnership, Visit Malta will get strong exposure during home matches with a Visit Malta banner around Old Trafford, and on the club’s digital marketing channels, social and printed media.

Scan Jefferson, director of partnerships at Manchester United said: “Manchester United has long-standing links with Malta, welcoming hundreds of Maltese fans to Old Trafford every season. We are proud of our association with the country and look forward to working with them to highlight the destination’s many great qualities to our international fanbase.”

Minister Mizzi said that this partnership complements Malta’s tourism strategy to consolidate its traditional markets such as the UK, whilst targeting new markets from Eurasia region, where Manchester United holds a very strong following.

Thanks to this agreement, Malta’s name is being splashed across the Old Trafford stadium, that has a capacity for 76,000 spectators.

Hamrun, Floriana, Sta Lucia share lead

C hampions Valletta are crawling back to their rightful place as main challengers for the Premier League title once again; so too Hibernians following victories on Day 4 of the Championship. But the initial stages of the 2019/20 campaign belong to Santa Lucia, Hamrun Spartans, and Floriana who share the leading position in the league standings.

Santa Lucia are the surprise packet. The newly-promoted side keeps going great guns having beaten neighbours Tarxien on Sunday to stay in touch with Hamrun, who defeated Sirens, and Floriana who could only manage a scoreless draw with Gzira in one of the main fixtures of the weekend.

All three enjoy a one-point lead over Valletta, who beat Balzan in another much-awated clash, Hibernians, who were pressed hard by Senglea but managed to beat them despite having goalkeeper red-carded, Senglea and Sirens who suffered their first defeat, a heavy one, against Hamrun.

Birkirkara’s change of coaches does not seem to have done them much good as they are still searching for their first victory. In their last outing they were held to a 1-1 draw by Mosta.

By Day three the Premier League table had a strange look about it as none of the teams expected to be in the thick of the battle for the title were around the top placings.

It had been newly promoted Sirens, in their debut season in the Premier, Senglea, who had a tough time last season and Floriana, who have been trying to find their feet after their glorious years, that shared top billing.

But now the supporters of champions Valletta and last season’s runners-up Hibernians are hoping that their teams’ machines have started to function to make a go of it.

Even more disappointing at the start of the league campaign are the supporters of Birkirkara and Siema Wanderers, who only have two points to show for their toils.

Hamrun, Floriana, Sta Lucia have 8 pts

Malta’s next EURO 2020 qualifier against Sweden

M alta’s next match in the EURO 2020 qualifiers will be a home tie, set for October 12 at the national Stadium against Sweden. It will be Malta’s seventh game in the qualifiers and comes after this month’s away ties against Norway and Romania. The coming fixture is the return tie against Sweden after the 3-0 defeat.

Thus far, Malta has collected three points from the home victory over Faroe Islands and lost the other five matches against Spain, the leaders of the group with 18 points. Next come Sweden with 11 points, Romania 10, Norway 9, and MALTA with 3. Faroe Islands, Malta’s opponents on October 15 at Torshavn bring up the rear. They are pointless.

Malta’s remaining group matches after that would be in November, away to Spain (15th) and Norway at Ta’ Qali three days later.