A beautiful picture of Cittadella, the Medieval fortified city of Gozo with its bastions Cathedral Square and the baroque Cathedral of the Assumption as you have never seen it before.

Photographer George Formosa
The numbers speak for themselves

by Hon, Evarist Bartolo
Minister for Education and Employment

Anything that doubles in value over seven years is a worthwhile investment. When you double a country’s GDP, the core value of a nation, over seven years it is nothing short of impressive.

As Minister for Education and Employment, I sit in the respective council in Brussels with other ministers. They are envious of the opportunity being afforded to me as Minister, because nowhere else has the education budget more than doubled in just under seven years. Many Ministers have faced reductions in their budgets; the few ones doing well have seen incremental increases.

The figures speak for themselves. The recurrent budget for education and employment in 2012 was €360 million while the capital budget stood at €40 million, a total of 400 million.

Budget 2020 presents a recurrent budget of €650 million and a capital budget of €215 million, a total of €865 million for education and employment.

The numbers are simply overwhelming, and they put an even greater responsibility on myself, my colleagues and the rest of government to make sure these huge resources at our disposal are spent wisely and efficiently and deliver value for the group that is putting up all this money in the first place - taxpayers.

The University of Malta, under a Labour Government, has seen its budget increased from €50 million to €83 million and MCAST from €15 million to €37 million.

Over the past eight years we’ve spent more than €112 million on school infrastructure, through FTS, despite the fact that the previous PN Government left an €80 million pending bill.

When the Nationalist Party talks about how it built a new school every year, it’s important to remember that a Labour Government is actually paying for it. It’s nice and dandy to place an order, it’s another thing to actually pay for it.

The assistance that Government provides to Church Schools has also increased considerably. It has risen from €45.2 million in 2012 to €95 million in the 2020 budget.

Government assistance to Church Schools has risen from €45.2 million in 2012 to €95 million in the 2020 budget.

This initiative comes after consulting stakeholders, especially teachers. Over three years we will invest 6 million euros in security in schools, starting from 2020 with €1.2 million. This investment varies from reception areas to technological equipment.

Since 2015 we’ve invested a total of €1.7 million in purchasing 288,000 books. This is a different budget from public libraries, with the books specifically for schools. This works out at an average of €15,000 per school, which basically means refreshing the whole library of every school.

These investments have only been possible because our economy has grown steadily. Sometimes progress brings problems, which people rightly highlight, but it also means this - more books in schools, more teacher salaries, nicer schools and more tools for the educational experience. It’s about balance and sustainability. As I go to the next EU council in Brussels one thing is for sure: Malta will be the only one at the table that has had increases of this magnitude.
Q. I am 57 years old and my husband is 60 years. I work full time but my salary is not very high. My husband lost his job three months ago and at his age he is struggling to find another. He has a superannuation fund which he was contemplating of touching to subsidise our income. Can you please advise us on what our options are?

A. As your husband is 60 years of age he is able to commence an account based pension and take a monthly pension of at least 4% per annum. This income will be tax-free income and can be used to subsidise your living expenses. If he finds employment he can always revert this account back into accumulation, but in the meantime it would have helped you to subsidise your income.

Another option is for him to make a small lump sum withdrawal from superannuation to top up your bank account to cover your living expenses. He has met a condition of release that is age 60 and not working and therefore these options are available to him.

Q. I have just received an inheritance of $30,000 from my late aunt. My husband and I are currently on a part age pension. Will this inheritance affect our age pension entitlement?

A. You have not mentioned whether you are being tested on the Income test or the Asset test. However you mentioned that you are on a part age pension. This means that you have other assets and therefore this $30,000 inheritance will definitely reduce your pension if you are being tested on the asset test you will lose $45 per fortnight each of age pension while if you are being tested on the income test your pension will reduce by around $9 each a fortnight.

Q. My mother is a pensioner, 76 year old and has cancer. She has been given three months at most. She has an account-based pension of approximately $350,000. She wishes to cash this in and gift my two siblings and myself $100,000 each and leave the other $50,000 in her bank account to cover her daily needs. Can she do this?

A. Yes, at her age your mother is able to cash in her account based pension at any time. This will be paid to her tax-free. She is also able to gift you each the $100,000 and this will not affect her current age pension as Centrelink are already treating this account-based pension as an asset. As long as your mother will have enough money to live on until she passes on, this strategy is quite commendable.

Q. I have two parcels of shares valued around $45,000 that I would like to give to my two adult children. Can I do this or do I need to sell them first and then buy them back in their names?

A. You can definitely gift your two children these shares. You do not need to sell them but make what we call off market transfers. You will divide each parcel in two and fill in a transfer form with your name as the seller and their names as the buyer. You will not need to pay brokerage on doing this but the broker may charge you a fee for the preparation of the transfer forms. Although you will not be actually selling these shares but gifting them to your children, you will still trigger a capital gain or a capital loss. This is because the shares are changing owners. If you trigger a capital gain and if you have other income you may have to pay some capital gains tax. If you trigger a capital loss, you can preserve this loss and you can offset it against future capital gains. You do not need to utilise your losses in the same year that you make them. You should see your accountant on this matter.
Something magical happens each time you enter these city walls. Architectural excellence captivates your visual senses, as every step leads to a landmark of historical value. Walls and pavements that line the grid of narrow streets whisper secrets and mystics to passersby, whilst the air fills up with modern art, live music, and an array of celebrations. The Unesco World Heritage Site could perhaps best be described as a place where history meets the present; where every explorer can find something they love. How will your Valletta story unfold?
A popular and respected lady in the field of financial services

Integrity, trust and experience are what makes our selection for the November Personality of the month stand out from the crowd. Marie Louise Muscat speaks fluently in both the English and the Maltese language. She has addressed many gatherings of the Maltese all over NSW. She is indeed a popular and respected lady in the field of financial services.

Marie Louise Muscat

Marie Louise Muscat was born in Sliema on October 10, 1955 to Lina and Anthony Agius. The eldest of three daughters, she attended the Rosary Primary School St Julian’s that was run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and afterwards attended St Louis Grammar School at Ta’ Giorni.

Marie Louise later attended a secretarial college and became pay mistress at Malta Wool and Leather at Marsa. After a couple of years, she became a Kindergarten teacher where she remained until she married to Frank Muscat on December 20, 1980.

Six weeks later, Frank and Marie Louise migrated to Australia, arriving on February 1, 1981. Marie Louise assumed a secretarial position with Cablemakers Australia, where she worked in the planning department for four and a half years until her first child, Amanda was born in 1985.

She then took up a position as a Personal Assistant to the Research and Development and Quality Assurance Departments at Johnson & Johnson P/L in Campbelltown. During this period, her second child, Anthony, was born in 1986.

Marie Louise left Johnson and Johnson in December 1991, and after that attained the position of Personal Assistant to Harold Bodinnar of Bodinnars Personal Financial Planners in March 1992. She was his assistant for seven years until she became a qualified financial adviser in February 1999 in her own right. When Harold retired in May 2002, he sold his financial planning business to Fiducian Financial Services where Marie Louise still works to this day.

She continues to work full time as a Certified Financial Planner. She has a segment on 89.3 2GLF’s Maltese programme every third Sunday of the month, where she answers financial questions for her Maltese listeners. Every year she gives a seminar organised by the Maltese Welfare (NSW) following the Federal Budget. In addition, she has a very popular monthly article, “Money Talks Q & A” in The Voice of the Maltese newspaper, where she answers her readers’ questions on finance.

Marie Louise is also actively involved in her Parish community. She is a member of the Parish Finance Committee, Parish Fund Raising Committee and a member of the Legion of Mary prayer group – a role she has held since 1999 in Australia, and ten years prior to this in Malta.

She has enjoyed living in Australia especially as her parents, sisters and their families followed her about four years later. She still loves visiting Malta.

Marie Louise is now a grandmother of three, with the latest grandchild being born on October 8 this year. She loves being a grandmother and always prioritises her family amidst her busy schedule.
Balluta Blues
Poeżija għas-seklu 21


Fenech iżid: “Żgur li l-arti kaligrafika ta’ Pace Flores, kultant fil-forma ta’ graffiti, drabi oħra fi żwieġ perfett ma’ l-kitbiet ta’ Flores bil-forom u l-ċiklu ta’ tagħna ġiniżixxi ma’ ġin jinbaż ġin jitbew il-kittieb ta’ Flores.”

“Balluta Blues” jinsab għall-bejgħ mill-ħwienet kollha f’Malta.

Standards regolatorji mahsuba li jsahhu d-drittijiet tal-anzjani

Ghal bejgh jew le? Il-Madre Superjura ġejja minn Malta

Minhabba l-fatt li s-soru Georgina Sultana OP li tamministra St Dominic’s Home for the Elderly ta’ Blacktown NSW ghazlet li tinjora ghal kol-lox III The Voice of the Maltese, din il-pubblikazzjoni bl-ikbar cirkulazzjoni li qatt kellha l-komunita’ Maltija fl-Australja, kellna nifttxu sorsi oħra biex niksbus taghriż halli nghadduh ill-qaqrejja.

Fost l-oħrajna kellinna lill-Madre Superjura ta’ l-Ordni Dumnikana f’Malta, Carmelita Borg OP li taħthা jaqaw ukoll is-sorijiet Dumnikani fl-Australja.

Mitluba titla dwal dwar dak li se jessh tassew mid-Dar tal-Anzjani ta’ Walters Road Blacktown, u wara dak li t-tmexxija fi NSW qalet li qed ttiftex sidien godda ghal din id-dar Madre Carmelita qaltlina li fil-fatt m’hemm xejn li s-sorijiet se jerhu minn idejhom din id-dar. Meta fakkarniha li l-istess sorijiet fi istarrija semmew il-bejgh qaltlina li dan kien kollu ghadjud (hearsay).


Hu importanti li l-komunita’ anzjana Maltija fl-istat ta’ NSW ssir tal x’se jsir b’din id-Dar u jekk is-sorijiet hux se jibqgħu jipprovdu l-kura professionali li ilhom ghal ghexxien shah ta’ snin jagħtu lir-residenti. ‘Sadanittant minn sorsi oħra ta’ min jorbot fughom sirna nafu li nhattru agenti biex jibdew in-neqgożju tal-bejgh, u qed isir kull sforz biex is-sidien il-godda jkunu ta’ religjjon Kattolika halli almenu tiqiex fi kliemha jinħoloq mhux biss interess iżda wkoll kuntatt aktar mill-qrib bejn il-korangazzjoni u li-individwi minn madwar id-dinja kollha.

Il-Madre Superjura ġejja minn Malta w’koll is-sorijiet Dumnikani fl-Australja, kellna nifttxu sorsi oħra biex niksbus taghriż halli nghadduh ill-qaqrejja. Lest we forget.

Commemorating Armistice Day

The Maltese RSL Sub Branch NSW organised its annual Armistice Day service and Remembrance Day mass at Mons Depiro House East Sydney where the names of the deceased were read out at the beginning of the mass celebrated by Fr Tarcisio Mi-callef mssp (pictured above).

Another memorial mass was also organised at OLQP Church in Greystanes by the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW where mass was celebrated by Fr Joe Lam, The Choir of the association took part.

Other similar functions were held around Australia including the laying of the wreaths at the Cenotaph. Lest we forget.

End of hostilities

Armistice Day is commemorated every year on November 11 to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France at 5:45 am, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I.

It took effect at 11.00 a.m. – the “eighth hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918.

Lest we forget.

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 for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com
Morrison wake up before it’s too late

Harry CC, Cairns, Queensland writes:

I really hate it when I see the Australian Prime Minister, the leader of such a great nation aligning with US President Donald Trump in more ways than one. From the moment Morrison agreed to help Trump investigate something that does not concern Australia (the so-called Mueller inquiry) the country has been stapled to cartwheeling madness in Washington, which has only intensified as Trump thrashes ever more wildly against his potential impeachment.

But to be honest, I don’t really care about Morrison’s behaviour in this case. What makes me really angry is his acceptance of Trump’s reasoning when it comes to climate change. Both are in denial. They fail to accept the science and try to ignore the dangers such as we have been seeing lately, the fires in California (USA) and NSW and Queensland (among others).

They don’t want to recognise the dangers or accept that man-made climate change is real and that it poses a great threat to the planet and its inhabitants. A federal government laden with climate-change deniers and charlatans gives us no guarantee.

Climate change in Australia has been a critical issue since the beginning of the 21st century. The carbon emissions in Australia have been rising every year since the Coalition Government abolished climate change. So Prime Minister, wake up before it is too late!

Is SBS fair and equitable?

Tony Sant from St Mary’s NSW writes:

Special Broadcasting Services (SBS) breathes discrimination. It is in a state of chaos. A powerful lobby of the largest ethnic communities runs it. They refuse to conduct surveys to assess who in fact is listening to their radio programmes or viewing their TV programmes.

They extended a massive 24-hour radio to a community because they wanted to prevent radicalisation. They gave larger communities 14 hrs. of radio a week. They disrupt, without hesitation ethnic news broadcasts because of sports. The Maltese TV programmes are always on the hit list.

They say that multiculturalism at the Federal level is close to death; SBS is administering the last rights.

Piano utter disaster

Michael Brincat-Lisano from Sydney, writes:

I have to say prosit, prosit tassew(!), for putting to writing what I am sure a very large number of Maltese both in Malta and overseas feel about the utter disaster that Renzo Piano has inflicted on Valletta. (The Voice of the Maltese November).

This has always been il-Pjazza Teatru Rjal but where is the teatru now? On my last visit to Malta a few years ago I felt so upset as I walked by. Yet some are too willing to pay homage simply because Renzo Piano did it.

Moreover, it seems to me that the new Parliament House, in a totally different architectural style and sitting right next to what is left of the old theatre is an encroachment. But as you say ma hemmx x’taghamel (there’s nothing you can do).

There is enough room for only one centre of attraction and that is the teatru. Can you imagine a second edifice going up in London’s Trafalgar Square competing with Nelson’s pillar?

I feel very strongly about this in more ways than one. Why Renzo Piano? Are there no Maltese architects worthy of delivering a truly Maltese solution? We still suffer from the notion that any expert from overseas - in any field - is necessarily better than what any Maltese can deliver.
From Malta to Melbourne: The story of Olive and Loreto at devastating times of war

It all started with a movie theatre date in London

This incredible story of a love that started after the devastating war tells a tale of perseverance, struggle and life-long marriage. It’s not every day we hear about such stories, but when they do come around, they leave us in total awe.

Loreto and Olive York’s journey started right after the war, but before we get to that, you need to know a little bit about Loreto. He was born and raised in Malta from 1918 to 1940. His parents, Loretta and Salvatore Meliak were originally from Għajnsielem in Gozo, but in 1917 they moved to Sliema, where Loreto was born. He was the eleventh child, even though four of his siblings died as babies.

“He volunteered for the Royal Air Force in Malta and was sent overseas to Alexandria and other parts of the Middle East,” his son, Barry tells OurWedding. “After the War, my dad was stationed with the RAF in the UK and ended up in London. His parents had died in Malta during the War years and Malta was devastated. He felt he had nothing to return to, so he remained with the RAF in London, renting a room in a house owned by a good friend he met in the RAF in West Hampstead, London.”

His friend’s wife told him she knew a family who had two lovely unmarried daughters: Vida and Olive and promised she’d introduce him. “He was initially keen on Vida,” Barry says. “However, Olive fell for him at first sight and when he mentioned one day that he had tickets to go to the theatre, Olive quickly jumped in and said, ‘I’ll go’.”

“They lived on opposite sides of a railway line. Olive also lived upstairs in her (widowed) mother’s house and as my dad’s room was also upstairs in the house across the railway line, they would signal each other in the dark of night by turning the lights on and off in their respective rooms. Romantic!”

But as you may have noticed, Loreto and Olive are Yorks, but Loreto was born Meliak. Barry tells us that it all came down to discrimination in London as well as easier spelling for Loreto to change his surname.

“He told me that he would try to spell it but would pronounce some letters, such as ‘e’, in the Maltese way rather than English and would become frustrated and sometimes his senior officers would be annoyed with him for seemingly not knowing how to spell his name. Also, there was occasional discrimination against ‘foreigners’ in London at that time.”

“He tried hard to integrate and to speak English properly, though he never lost the Maltese accent. He was fiercely proud of being Maltese and spoke the language fluidly. Heaven help anyone who spoke negatively about Malta in his presence!” says Barry.

“My mother was a Londoner and never visited Malta and my dad never went back. Most of his siblings migrated to Australia. His brother, Mike, migrated in 1925 and was working on the Melbourne waterfront.

“He nominated us as assisted passage migrants and we sailed to Melbourne from London in 1954. His brother, Mike, emigrated in 1949. Others followed, too,” Barry notes.

“I think my father was badly affected by the War, mentally. He could be very charming and jovial but could suddenly change. He had a very quick temper,” Barry says, which is a major component that affected the Yorks’ marriage over the years.

Olive believed that “their happy years were in the 1970s, when my father was involved in local politics in Brunswick, Melbourne, and was elected Mayor in 1972,” says Barry.

“He continued to work in a factory, but they were a diligent Mayor and Mayoress. He was the first Maltese mayor of an Australian city.

“In 1990, they divorced – aged in their 70s. Thereafter, they lived separately but kept in close touch – and both said they never had got on so well! Life can be cruel and so strange,” Barry says.

His parents have since both passed – Olive in 2003 aged 87, and Loreto in 2009, aged 90.
Aħjar minghajr reliġjon?

Dan l-ahhar inzertajt programm fuq l-istazzjon tar-radju ABC RN, b’dan it-titlu (minghajr il-punt in-terrogativ). Biex nghidilkom id-dritt, ghalkemm bhal ma tafu jien kritiku mhux fiit ta’ parti tat-twemmin u tal-prattika tal-Knisja li nappartjeni ghalilha, hassejtni xxukkjaż li wieħed jista’ jasal jagħmel stqarrija bħal din.

Narraturalment nafl li hemm hafna persuni huma aτei (jijigifier li l-eżistenza jew le ta’ entità divina ma tistax tkun ip-argumenta li aħjar bnbiedem ma jkollux reliġjon daħħal mi-dawm li Alla ma’ jeżistix), anjostiċi li Alla jew xi entità suprema teżisti, jew it-huma ateji (jijigifier n-nuqqas ta’ twemmin stqarrija bħal din).

Jekk wieħed ikollu għajnejn u widnejn miftuħa, u lest li jisma’, jinduna li f’kull reliġjon ikunu hemm dibattitu shih jew jahraq, kulant fil-mohbi, dwar kif ghandhom ikunu interpretati kliem u avvenimenti li jkun miktaba fil-kotba mqaddsa, u dan mijiet jew dawk li jkollhom orjentazzjoni sesswali differenti; tal-post, jew dawk li jkollhom orjentazzjoni sesswali differenti; u it-twarrrib ta’ persuni li jkunu bidlu l-fehma tagħhom u li fil-fatt tal-post, jew dawk li jkollhom orjentazzjoni sesswali differenti; tal-post, jew dawk li jkollhom orjentazzjoni sesswali differenti; u it-twarrrib ta’ persuni li jkunu bidlu l-fehma tagħhom u li fil-fatt jispiċċaw maqtugħin minn rabtiet kulturali u soċjali minbarra it-twarrib ta’ persuni li jkunu bidlu l-fehma tagħhom u li fil-fatt jispiċċaw maqtugħin minn rabtiet kulturali u soċjali minbarra it-twarrib ta’ persuni li jkunu bidlu l-fehma tagħhom u li fil-fatt.

Fuq livell inqas, imma xorta gravi, wieħed jista’ jżid id-diskriminazzjoni kontra minoranzi, bhal immigranti li aktarx ikollhom twemminijiet differenti min-nies stabbiliti (jekk mhux indiġeni) twemminijiet differenti min-nies stabbiliti (jekk mhux indiġeni) tal-post, jew dawk li jkollhom orjentazzjoni sesswali differenti; u it-twarrrib ta’ persuni li jkunu bidlu l-fehma tagħhom u li fil-fatt jispiċċaw maqtugħin minn rabtiet kulturali u soċjali minbarra dawk reliġjużi.


Per ezempju, it-teżmat li semmejt huma l-Buddisti ta’ Myanmar, u l-parteci-pazzjoni tagħhom fil-kriti tar-Rohingya, bil-qtil ta’ ħafna minn tal-persuni oħra. Allura kif nista’ nara lil min ipparteċipa f’dan il-mas-sakru tar-Rohingya bħala rappreżentattiv tal-Buddisti?

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Il-benefattur tal-Knisja ta’ San Pawl tar-Rabat Mons Savatore Manduca

K if tidhol fil-Knisja ta’ San Pawl fir-Rabat mill-bieb tal-ġenb (ta’ Triq il-Kullegġ), issib il-Kappella ta’ San Stefnu, u bla ma trid harsek dejjem tmur mill-ewwel fuq monument sabih u ta’ valur artistiku kbir li hemm f’din il-kappella tal-Monsinjur Salvatore Manduca.


Il-benefattur tal-Knisja ta’ San Pawl tar-Rabat Mons Savatore Manduca

Peter Paul Ciantar

Il-benefattur tal-Knisja ta’ San Pawl tar-Rabat Mons Savatore Manduca

Peter Paul Ciantar
Malta attracts Korean students to undergo aviation maintenance training at MCAST

The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, MCAST, has reached an agreement with two private companies, EOS Projects and the American aviation company, Wasinc International, and the South Korean government for students from South Korea to start training in the aviation sector at MCAST.

As of the start of next year, the Government of South Korea would send students to Malta not only to study but also to carry out their practice with companies on aircraft maintenance. After staying in Malta, they will be in a position to work in Malta and also the possibility of returning to their country where they can support the aviation industry. EOS Projects’ CEO, Captain Eric Abela confirmed this was an initiative by MCAST and the Malta Enterprise to support to the aviation sector in Malta. It managed to attract the South Korean government, which has provided a fund for South Korean students to be able to study and work abroad.

Austrian President and Mayor commend Malta’s achievements

As part of his visit to Austria where on Saturday he inaugurated the Maltese crib on the site of the Vienna University, President George Vella had a meeting with the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen at the Hofburg who underlined the two countries’ attachment to multilateralism.

President Van der Bellen commended Malta on its economic performance and low unemployment figures and expressed satisfaction at the intensification of economic relations through business-related events, as well as the stronger exchanges being registered in the academic and scientific fields.

President Vella expressed his agreement on the excellent state of bilateral relations, and added that the two countries share regional priorities such as stability in the Western Balkans, the future of the European Union, EU enlargement, and Brexit.

The two Presidents discussed developments in the region, and President Vella referred to Malta’s hope that Libya returns to stability through an inclusive political dialogue. Changing international dynamics in the security and defence fields was another issue discussed.

Reference was also made to pressing global matters such as climate change and migration. They both agreed that these issues warrant increased European and international attention.

Earlier, President Vella and Mrs Miriam Vella were received by the Mayor and Governor of Vienna Michael Ludwig and other dignitaries at the Vienna City Senate.

The Mayor mentioned Malta’s profile as mediator between East and West, and its exemplary role on how small countries can contribute tangibly to international affairs. The Mayor added that despite apparent geographical differences, the two countries share several common characteristics.

An investment of €153m in 26 cannabis projects

Malta Enterprise has already approved 26 projects in the field of medicinal cannabis with a capital investment of more than €153 million within a 18 months since the law on medicinal cannabis was introduced.

Making the announcement at the first summit on medicinal cannabis held in Malta the Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business Chris Cardona said that Malta is becoming the first country in the European Union with a regulatory framework for medical cannabis.

The summit aimed to ensure that Malta builds a strong network to better understand how this industry is expected to deliver greater value to the local economy and be more visible in other countries thereby being able to deliver on its priority of manufacturing this product and exporting it to the EU.

Accelerating careers for UoM students in video game development

The University of Malta and Gaming-Malta have signed an agreement aimed at accelerating careers in the video game development sector, through which, 50 University of Malta students will be receiving certification of the Unity Game Engine programming, a programme that is sought after within the esports and video game industry.

Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation Silvio Schembri who presided over the signing of the agreement said that this is an important step forward as “Education is at the core of our vision for the esports and video game development industry.

The programme is to add valuable prestige to the excellent educational programmes already provided at Post Grad M.Sc and Doctorate levels by the Institute of Digital Games.”

Through the Unity certification, future game developers are being offered a complete package, sound theoretical foundations, intensive practical sessions based in Unity’s own experience, an industry valued certification whilst equipping these students on their way to a successful and bright future within the industry.

Prof Alfred Vella, the rector of the University of Malta said that the agreement is a sign of University’s commitment to serve the students, tomorrow’s workforce that will be an essential part for Malta’s economic growth.
Improving the quality of life in the Cottonera area

The government has launched a public consultation strategy for the Cottonera area aimed at increasing the quality of life, enhancing the environment and increasing commerce in the area made up of Birgu, Bormla, Isla and Kalkara.

The strategy document is made up of a number of proposals intended to improve and regenerate the Cottonera area. At the end of the consultation period a Foundation would be established to implement the project. It was learnt that the strategy has been designed following consultations with residents, groups and associations, Local Councils and the Church. They all maintained the necessity of infrastructural improvements, regeneration, an increase of parking facilities and an increase of services and greater connectivity between Cottonera and Valletta. A lot of developments have been made in recent years that have brought many improvements but a lot more needs to be done.

New, secure ePassports for Malta

The Maltese people are to be the bearers of a new technologically advanced and highly secure ePassport that combines travel with culture and heritage.

At the launch of the new ePassport, Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms, Citizenship Julia Farrugia Portelli said that the new ePassport has an intricate imagery used in the inner visa pages that depicts Malta’s long and colourful history, and will mainly stand out for its new security features. It will further prevent document forgery and the fraudulent use of other people’s identity.

The gradual rollout of the new ePassports will occur over a span of years. New ones will be issued on a new application or the renewal of a passport. Existing travel documents will remain valid and fit for travel until their expiry date.

€4million investment on new robot to assist surgeons at Mater Dei

A €4million investment in a medical robot at Mater Dei Hospital will help surgeons perform key-hole surgery with pin-point precision. It will also provide physicians with 3D imagery of the operation, allowing for more delicate procedures to be undertaken.

The AI technology will also relieve pressure off surgeons and help them to extend their concentration, further minimise blood loss during surgery and eventually shorten patients’ hospital stays.

The robot will initially be used to perform a prostatectomy. It would start being used on around 35 patients a year who normally travel abroad to undergo prostate related surgery. It would eventually also be utilised to perform operations on the liver, and for gynaecology-related and ENT (ears, nose and throat) procedures.

Health Minister Chris Fearne said that of the 10,000 hospitals on the continent, only 500 have to date introduced the machine. The Mater Dei robot will be the 890th such model introduced in Europe.

“While the technology will not be trialled in Malta, it still remains amongst the most cutting-edge pieces of equipment one can find in Europe’s health centres,” Fearne said. He added that despite the robot facilitating the surgeons’ work, their expertise would still be required to carry out procedures.

Other AI technology at Mater Dei includes a medicine robot that helps doctors and nurses prescribe the right medicine and the right dosage that would potentially eliminate all human error that could result in intoxication from dangerous chemical combination.

Malta water project first to get UfM recognition

For the first time, a Maltese project has been given the Union for the Mediterranean recognition. The EU-Med organisation, UfM, gave its endorsement to Malta’s LIFE-IP Water Project, which aims to improve water management in coastal and island communities.

UfM’s endorsement, which is a highly influential organisation that brings together EU and Mediterranean countries, establishes Malta’s project of Mediterranean importance and highlights the replication potential of the project’s results in other countries in the region. It is also a key project that can support the development of the UfM’s Water Agenda for the Mediterranean being closely built on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems nexus.

Minister for Energy and Water Management Joe Mizzi received the award at a ceremony at the head offices of the Union for the Mediterranean Barcelona, Spain where he also met and discussed with Nasser Kamel, Secretary-General of the UfM the importance of the LIFE-IP project, not only for Malta but for the Mediterranean region as a whole within the framework developed under the UfM’s Water Agenda.

Minister Mizzi explained that this endorsement encourages the project to further contribute to on-going regional cooperation, partnerships and synergies between the member states, and the establishment of the regional water agenda.

Secretary-General Kamel recognised the importance of the role played by Malta in the region particularly in the water sector.

Attwalment din il-parti baqghet maqtugħa mill-kumplament taċ-ċimiterju ghal hafnà snin u kien bss li żmien Gvern Laburista, fl-1972, li mbaqax isir difin fiha.


Żied jewħid li fost l-eluf ta’ Maltin u bar-rarin midfuna hawnhekk hemm nies, li bejn dawk li mięt u f’paċċi mal-Knisjja u huma kien hemm ħajt, li ġummi waqqi u ġużżaw bhal “il-Mizbla” fi żmien Gvern Laburista, ġenerał Reformist. Ma naqsux dawk li sejju bhal għem l-Archivo bhal “just a PR stunt to ‘score political brownie-points’, or to redeem the wounded reputation of the Catholic Church in general.” James Debono artikolist tal-Maltatoday ta stampa differenti meta kibeb: “Perhaps by blessing the ‘mizbla’ graves, Scicluna is eyeing a chance to redeem himself in the eyes of Labourites who see red whenever he dares criticise Muscat’s government.”


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**Guże Ellul Mercer**

**L-Archivo Mons Charles Scicluna fil-Mizbla fil-Addolorata żdilek il-qubara ta’ Guże Ellul Mercer**

**Reazzioni**


**While visiting Malta Stay at:**

**The Diplomat Hotel, 173 Tower Road Siema**

**Email:** sales@diplomat.com.mt

**Tel:** (00356) 23497000

**Tuesday November 19, 2019**
“Ġest ta’ min ifahhru”

Min-naha tiegħu l-Avukat Joseph Micallef Stafrace, li minħabba li kien membru parlamentari ħtim isem il-Partit Laburista, ġżejn isem il-Partit Laburista, ġżejn tennekk kien spicċa biex kellu jizzewweġ fis-sagristija, t’intervista ma The Times ta’ Nożembru 7, 1990. "Though years ago Archbishop Joseph Mercieca had apologised, Mgr Charles Scicluna’s unexpected gesture went a step further and was the boldest step ever.”


Dr. Joseph Scicluna's action (for this positive act is no mere gesture), will hopefully bring closure not only to family members of the 1960s were not one-sided".

Imbagħad sostna li dan il-perijodu m’għandux jintnesa: “It was an unhappy period of our history from which we should draw appropriate lessons, concentrate on not forgetting them, while forgiving and forgetting each other’s errors of judgement.”

Nasħbel li għandna naħfru, imma ma nistgħux inħassru l-istorja, ghax dan li ġieli jsegwi lura u fuq kollox mill-żbalji tal-passat nistgħu nistgħu mill-xiniex biex ikollna futur aħjar.

In memoriam

Alfred Taliana (1948-2019)

Fred, as he was known was born in Msida Malta on February 1, 1948. He migrated to Australia as a child but remained to Malta, married Lilian in 1970 and returned to Sydney. They had three children, David, Nancy and Jacqueline, and five grandchildren, Isabella, Danniella, Lachlan, Emily and Lennox. Fred was involved with the La Valette Centre in the early stages and the West Sydney United SC. RIP.

Rita Borg (1939-2019)

Rita was born at San Lawrenz, Gozo. She married George Borg in January 1951 and was widowed on January 3, 1990. She migrated to Sydney, Australia in 1964. Loving mother and mother-in-law to Joseph & Mary, Emmanuel & Karyn, Lawrence & Geraldine, Mary & Frank, Anthony & Michelle, Louis & Angle, Francis, Andrew, Maureen, Margaret and Glen; grandmother of 22 and great grandmother of 28. Forever in our hearts. RIP.

Albert Vella (1942-2019)

Albert E. Vella of Toronto peacefully passed away on November 9 at the age of 77. Loving husband of Therese for 50 years and devoted father to Edward, Karen (Styvens) and Mark. Survived by his brother Victor and his cherished sister Isabelle. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Albert will be remembered for his dedication to the Maltese community. For many years he was the senior vice president of the Bank of Valletta in Canada. His funeral was held on November 16 in Scarborough, Ontario.

Fr David Muscat imwissi

Lil Fr David Muscat ġieli semmeju ta’ llum se nerga’ wara li minkejja l-kritika li saritx xorta qa’a ghaddej, kemm fuq il-gazzettijiet wkoll fuq il-proġrammi tat-TV Xarabank bi stqarr:rijijet dwar kwestjonijiet funżjonijiet Kattoliċi. Minkejja diversi kummenti u saħansitra lista ta’ mistoqsiqi mill-kuruna ta’ ward fuq il-kappella l-Arċisqof tal-ħajt li jkun żball kbir jekk din il-ċens, ma nistgħux inħassru l-istorja, dan li jsegwi lura u fuq kollox mill-żbalji tal-passat nistgħu nistgħu mill-xiniex biex ikollna futur aħjar.

“Ġest ta’ min ifahhru”

“Ġest ta’ min ifahhru”
Why Labor lost the last general election

Labor lost the last Federal election because of a weak strategy that could not adapt to the change in Liberal leadership, a cluttered policy agenda that looked risky and an unpopular leader, the review reads.

“No one of these shortcomings was decisive but in combination, they explain the result.” It bluntly stated “Bill Shorten’s unpopularity contributed to the election loss,” but clarifies none of its conclusions should be taken as a personal reflection on the former leader.

The $60 million advertising blitz from Clive Palmer was blamed for playing a role in the Labor leader’s demise. The campaign review also found the relatively high number of Christian voters in Queensland electorates contributed to the party’s nightmare result in the state.

“The groups of voters who swung most strongly against Labor were self-described Christians and economically insecure, low-income voters who do not like or follow politics. These voters are heavily represented in Queensland,” the review found.

This is a vast continent; floods and bushfires are the norm. If any of our readers are concerned about family, friends and people you know, they should get in touch with the Malta High Commission in Canberra or the websites of the rural fire services.

NSW remains in a state of emergency. Bushfires have ripped through more than one million hectares in New South Wales and have claimed four lives. Many properties are being lost during catastrophic bushfires extending across 1,000 kilometres.

In Queensland, heavy winds have for days been whipping fire fronts. It is this time of the year with bushfires and floods in specific areas across Australia. It is difficult to keep our readers up to date, as these events have been changing from day to day.

This was the result of the much-anticipated review led by Party elders Craig Emerson, former MP and Jay Weatherill, former S.A. Premier. The review makes 60 findings and 26 recommendations for change to put the party on track to win at the next election.

Bill Shorten again took responsibility for his role in the May defeat against Prime Minister Scott Morrison. “The May result was a shock and surprise but it was not a landslide and if Mr Morrison continues to disappoint Labor is in swinging distance of forming Government,” he said. “There are many players on a team but as captain of that team, I take responsibility for the policies taken to the election. But we must learn the lessons of defeat.”

The continuing saga SBS vs. the Maltese community continues unabated. In 2013 Maltese radio airtime was savagely cut from nine to two hours, the largest for any ethnic community.

On many occasions, the community experienced blank TV screens, as programmes did not arrive on time. SBS never gave any explanations on air. Now with satellite transmissions, we are faced with a new bogey. The Voice of the Maltese is always at the forefront at keeping our readers abreast with what is happening.

Marisa Previtera, a member of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad and welfare officer of the MCC NSW also has a keen eye and demands explanation from SBS when it fails to deliver as on Sunday, November 3.

In a letter of protest, Ms Previtera said that for SBS a basketball playoff was more important than the Maltese TV news. The Maltese community is being discriminated against all the time. She added that many Maltese viewers still cannot access Channel 31 as most age-old pensioners have older TV sets; so cannot just upgrade. Put us back on Channel 30, she asks.

The twice-weekly broadcast of the Maltese news that keeps the Maltese community connected with its homeland is keenly followed, so much so, that the Australian members of the CMLA have now asked the Government to suggest to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in Malta to introduce sub-titling.

SBS and the Maltese

The Voice of the Maltese

Tuesday November 19, 2019

A quick glimpse at Australia

Bushfires and floods all over

Craig Emerson (Left) and Jay Weatherill

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When Australians think about religion

Seventy-one per cent of Australians told the ABC’s Australia Talk National Survey that religious discrimination happens “occasionally” or “often” in this country. Ironically, this is a point on which the devout and the heathen are in agreement.

According to Annabel Crabb the ABC’s Chief Political Writer (pictured right) even among Australians with no religion, 68 per cent agreed that there is discrimination, as did 74 per cent of Catholics, 72 per cent of Protestants and 74 per cent of “other religions”. Still, we’d rather the devout kept quiet.

But a broad majority of Australians – 60 per cent – would prefer that people keep their religious views to themselves. This was a view held most strongly, as you might imagine, by non-religious respondents, of whom 73 per cent wished not to hear the religious opinions of others. But even a slim majority of Catholics – 53 per cent – agreed that it was better to keep religion a private affair.

Protestants were more inclined to support full disclosure; only 39 per cent of them felt religious views should be private. And people from other faiths were divided on the question: just shy of a majority – 47 per cent – agreed religion should be a hush-hush affair.

If you’re wondering why all religious respondents besides Catholics and Protestants are grouped together, it’s because only those two faith groups provided a large enough sample to isolate in a statistically reliable fashion.

According to the 2016 Census, 2.6 per cent of Australians follow Islam, 2.4 per cent are Buddhist, 1.9 per cent are Hindu and 0.4 per cent are Jewish. Catholicism is the leading single religious group, claiming 23 per cent of the population, while 13 per cent identify as Anglican and 16 per cent as “other Christian”.

Australia is not a country in which religious belief is the dominant determinant of identity, social status or indeed even social activity. When given a list of eight attributes and asked which was most central to the respondent’s sense of self and identity, Australians placed religion stone-cold, motherless last.

Stop cruelty to horses

Once heralded “the race that stops a nation” and so much part of Australian life, the country’s most prestigious horse race, the Melbourne Cup with $8 million in prize money, was this year staged surrounded by controversy.

In the state of Victoria, it is a public holiday, but some Australians are turning away from the 158-year-old institution and saying “nup to the cup” angry about the treatment of former racehorses, following a two-year investigation into the treatment of discarded racehorses and a spate of horse deaths during previous cups.

Since 2013 six racehorses have died as a result of the Melbourne Cup, a fact pushed by animal welfare groups encouraging punters to boycott the event. The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses said 122 horses had died on Australian tracks in one year.

Australia’s highest court agrees to hear Cardinal Pell appeal

The High Court of Australia decided that Cardinal George Pell, the 78-year-old who is currently serving a six-year jail term for child abuse convictions will have his appeal heard next year. It is rare for the High Court to grant an appeal.

The decision keeps Pell’s chances for an early release from prison alive. He has been in prison since March this year. He is within his rights to apply for bail, but the chances of bail being granted are very slim.

The most senior Catholic to be found guilty of child sex abuse crimes was not in the Canberra courtroom when the decision was handed down, nor did he appear via video link. The Vatican had exhausted all of his legal avenues for appeal.

The Victoria Court of Appeal in August rejected Pell’s appeal in a 2-1 ruling. He was sentenced to six years in prison and is no longer a member of Francis’ Council of Cardinals or a Vatican official.

Equal pay for the Matildas

A new pay deal for Australia’s national women’s football team is being widely hailed as a landmark moment in women’s sport. Under the new agreement, the pool of money for the Matildas and Socceroos would be equal - with all commercial revenue brought in by both sides split evenly.

Former Socceroo Craig Foster said that means it’s about so much more than the match fee players receive. “This is about a whole game agreement, all of the commercial arrangements, all of the sponsorships and indeed performance conditions, so it’s very much a holistic approach,” Foster said. “This is the result of a long term commitment strategy and advocacy by the players.

It has been a slow march to equal pay at the elite level. The Matildas were formed back in 1978 but in those early years were forced to pay their own way to play the game they loved.

At one stage, the national women’s team even posed nude in a controversial calendar to raise funds and awareness. It’s not the first equal pay deal for a women’s national team. Norway has paid its women’s team the same as the men’s since 2017.

The plan to split revenue would be a genuine leap forward. It is a great victory for equality.
Poeta, filosfu, teologu, storiku u senatur

F'żogħżitu Pawlu (warra Patri Anastasju) kien maghruf bħala bniedem gharef u jħobb jstudja. Fil-fatt tal-hajtu hafna jiqsib bħala filosfu, teologu, storiku, oħra. Minn kmeni fi ċkunitu ċara inklinizazzjoni lejn il-knisja u waqt li temm l-iskola elementarji li jieħor kien jgħall ħafna snin wara bdaqghu lghom kienu bdaqghu jfaħħru għall-sett ta' ż-żgħażagħ. Ħafna tnejjeb tad-doni li tah Alla biex mod kif kien iwassal it-tagħlim tiegħu.


Filosfu għaref, teologu studjuż, oratur c-kunitu wera inklinazzjoni lejn il-kbri, storiku u senatur. Minn kmeni fi versità Rjali ta' Malta fejn għamel 13-Fil-fatt tul ħajtu ħafna jqisibuh bħala il-sena, sal-1939.


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Harsa lura lejn grajja ta’ 75 sena ilu u l-Pellegrinagg tal-Kunċizzjoni

Wahda mill-aktar festi ghal qalb il-Maltin, u partikularment il-Bormliżi hi tal-Immakulata Kunċizzjoni li tigi cċelebtrata bil-kbir fit-8 ta’ Diċembru. Imma jista’ jingħad li did-darba l-festa ġiet aktar kmieni, inkella li se tkun saret doppja, wara dik ta’ dan l-ahhar bl-istess statwa f’Birkirkara.

Bejn it-3 u is-Sibt li għadda 16 ta’ Novembru saret it-tifkiera tal-75 sena anniversarju mill-Pellegrinagg Nazzjonali ta’ meta fit-Tinei Gwerra Dinijja, minħabba li Bormla kienet taħt attakk mill-ajruplani tal-għadu il-Kapitlu ta’ Bormla iddeċieda li bħala prottezzjoni jieħu l-vara fil-Bażilka ta’ Birkirkara permezz ta’ pellegrinagg iehor.

Fi triqitha lejn Birkirkara twaqqfet f’żewġ parroċċi oħra, tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu fil-Fgura u tal-Kunċizzjoni fil-Hamrun.

Il-presepju Malti issa armat ukoll if Vjenna

Il-Presepju tradizzjonali Malti li diga’ gie esebit f’żewġ parjiżi differenti minbarra f’Malta fl-ahhar ittq sin, ghall-festi tal-Milied ta’ din is-sena jinsab armat fil-kapitali tal-Awstrija, Vjenja biex b’hekk l-artiġjanat Malti jkun ukoll il-presepju li ġiet imdawra mat-toroq akkumpanjata minn folol kbar u l-baned ewlenin tal-local.

Minn dakhinar l-okkazjoni tal-anniversarju baqgħet tiġi mfakkra f’kull ġurnata b’għadd ta’ attivitajiet oħra, l-aktar liturġiċi, immexxija mill-kapitli taż-żewġ parroċċi, fosthom f’purċissjonijiet li fihom ħadu sehem nies minn kull strata tal-ħajja.


Fi triqitha għaddiet, u twaqfet għall-qima fl-parroċċi ta’ Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera, San Gejtanu l-Ħamrun, tat-Trinita’ Mqaddsa l-Marsa, u Kristu Re f’Raħal Ġdid. Mal-wasla f’Bormla ntlaqgħet b’entużjażmu kbir mid-devoti Bormliżi li issa bdew iħejju biex jissoktaw bil-festa proprja ftit inqas minn tlet ġimgħat oħra, forsi wkoll akbar minn qabel.

A musical and visual presentation of the Great Siege of Malta 1565

SKORBA instil a strong sense of pride into a Maltese audience

Last Saturday (November 16), a large crowd was regaled with the band Skorba’s production, a musical and visual presentation of the Great Siege of Malta 1565 that was performed at the Maltese Community Council of Victoria on the invitation of the President of the Council Marlene Ebejer.

It was a great success with the Maltese members of the audience leaving with a great deal of pride in their homeland and a deeper understanding of how our tiny homeland has impacted on the history of the world.

Among the audience was Simone Cremona who gave her impressions of the concert to the Voice. She said it was a great audio-show that through its evocative music and lyrics, as well as a slide show of images, described the events leading up to the Knights of St John’s occupation of Malta and the Great Siege from the perspective of the common people.

The show was interwoven with the story of two fictional childhood characters, friends Eduardo Bonnici and Salvinu Camilleri who, through a very common twist of fate, ended up on opposite sides of the conflict when, during a raid the Ottoman Turks capture one of them.

Their story and that of their family is the cornerstone of this musical presentation. The narrative was great, and there was clearly much work and research put into the development of the slide show.

The musical score was so engaging, with highly skilled musicians alternating a range of classic and folk instruments and contributed so heavily to the emotions created through the story line.

Andy Busuttil, who led Skorba, was able to instil a strong sense of Maltese pride into each and every one of the audience, linking the account of the Great Siege, which we all know so well, to other instances of Malta’s role in other significant events in history.

The band ‘Skorba’ was formed by Andy Busuttil, a Maltese immigrant in Australia who arrived there in 1964. It has been presenting musical documentaries about significant events in Malta’s history and has been rapidly gaining a great reputation among Maltese organisations in Australia.

What makes this concert so compelling is the combination of original music composed by the band members, a narrative that explains each song and tune within the context of the overall story, and a visual presentation on a large screen.

Skorba is currently presenting the story of The Great Ottoman Siege of Malta with an emphasis on how the events of that time affected the Maltese people themselves. The story of the Siege is always portrayed from the perspective of the Knights of St John. However, Andy believed that there was a powerful story in the sub-text of the siege that needed to be told.

Skorba is being invited to perform for Maltese, as well as non-Maltese, events around Australia.

14-year-old Eliana to sing for Malta at JESC

Malta will be taking part in the seventeenth edition of the annual Junior Eurovision Song Contest to be held on November 24 and organised by Telewizja Polska (TVP) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). Malta is to be represented by 14-year-old Eliana Gomez Blanco with the song, “We Are More”.

Maltese living in Australia especially and those living in other countries members of the EU eligible to vote are being requested to consider extending support for Malta’s representative at the Junior Eurovision Contest.

Eliana was chosen to carry Malta’s flag by a jury and public vote during a national selection held in summer. She started her singing career since the tender age of six, wherein she participated in various festivals both locally and abroad and never looked back until she reached one of her dream goals to participate in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest.

Eliana will be interpreting the song WE ARE MORE, with the lyrics by Rachel Suter, Jonas Thander, Joe Julian Farrugia and Kevin Lee, and composed by Jonas Thander and Rachel Suter.

The song carries a message urging youths to be positive and not give up. It is a two-language mix, English with some verses in Maltese.

Malta needs to exploit every opportunity to promote Eliana’s song and Malta in this highly popular junior festival. It needs a strong vote from Australia. The EBU’s voting system is 50%/50% tele-voting and juries.

Nineteen countries will participate in the contest, with Spain taking part for the first time since 2006.

Watch and Listen Eliana Gomez Blanco’s song for Malta here - https://youtu.be/wu4TBECwLqA

Australia will be represented by 14-year-old Jordan Anthony. He will compete with the song, “We Will Rise”. 
A new book, part of the project Linja Nota – Ilwien u linji li sawru ħsieb, was launched at the Bishop’s Conservatory secondary school in Victoria (above). The project is sponsored by the Arts Council Malta as part of the Kreattiv initiative. Following a concert by the travellers at the school, all students were asked to give their own personal interpretation to the music. The art students who illustrated them then brought the interpretations to life. The book, with the same name as the project, is a collection of illustrations, together with lyrics.

The Nadur song festival, organised by the Mnarja Philharmonic Society (left), was held recently at the MBC Theatre. There were 26 singers who participated in four categories and Team Netta dancers. Lelio Spiteri presented the programme.

The Franciscan Friars of Għajnsielem inaugurated a new statue of St Francis of Assisi by Michael Cutajar Zahra. The statue was carried to the church from Għajnsielem Square accompanied by the St Joseph Band. Tripoli Bishop George Bugeja blessed the statue Tuesday November 19, 2019

A new statue of St Francis of Assisi at Għajnsielem

The series of talks at il-Ħaġar museum in Victoria resumed after the summer break with a talk by Douglas Gresham (pictured top), who reminisced about his relationship with his stepfather C.S. Lewis. Mr Gresham, actor and author, also related personal episodes form his life.

Talks at Il-Ħaġar resume

The Nadur song festival

Gozo round and about by Charles Spiteri

Students launch new book

Students launch new book
A joint last post ceremony to commemorate Private Charles Bonavia and Private Waldemar Beck will take place on December 28 at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Private Beck and Bonavia were two of the three Maltese Anzacs in Gioconda Schembri’s book ‘Three Anzacs from Malta, a true story of friendship, love, and loss.’

Mrs Lea Harding, Charles Bonavia’s niece and Mrs Barbara Barter, the niece of Waldemar’s fiancée, plan to attend.

The Last Post Ceremony is held 364 days per year in the Commemorative Area of the Memorial. Each ceremony tells the story behind just one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The format of the ceremony will be: A Memorial MC commences the ceremony. A bugler sounds the Last Post. A piper plays a lament during which visitors lay wreaths at the Memorial’s website (https://www.awm.gov.au/live) at approximately 4:55pm. In addition to this, visitors are more than welcome to appoint a family member to film or photograph the ceremony. The ceremony will also be live-streamed on the Australian War Memorial website.

For any further enquiries, one should contact Ms Caterina Agostinetto (lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au, or phone: 02 6243 4550).

Upon arrival, if wheelchair access is needed, one should use the lift entrance that is situated to the left of the front steps leading straight into the Commemorative Area.

Where an image is available, it would be displayed beside the Pool of Reflection. Families and groups often like to take photographs of their group in front of the image and the Pool of Reflection. It would be best if this were done between 4.00pm and 4.20pm. Once the ceremony concludes at 5.15pm, the museum will close and visitors will be asked to exit through the front gates.

The ceremony is to be broadcast live each afternoon via the Memorial’s website (https://www.awm.gov.au/live) at approximately 4:55pm. In addition to this, visitors are more than welcome to appoint a family member to film or photograph the ceremony. The ceremony will also be live-streamed on the Australian War Memorial website.

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Free Entry
A must see documentary about one of the most significant events in Malta’s history.
This is the true story of “Sette Giugno”.
Discover the facts and events that led to the uprising of 1919. Why did Maltese citizens rampage and riot against the British? Who were the innocent victims and how did these events change the course of Malta’s future?

This documentary, courtesy of PBS Malta, (in Maltese with English Sub-Titles) is presented by:

The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW

When: Sunday, 24th November Time: 2pm
Where: La Valette Social Centre
175 Walters Road, Blacktown
For more details please contact Mr Charles Mifsud: 0421 662 298

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Malta footballers humiliated in Spain

Malta suffered a humiliating 7-0 defeat against Spain in its penultimate Group F EURO 2020 qualifiers in Cadiz, so Monday they needed to regain some pride, individually and for the national team as they faced Norway to wrap up up their commitments.

From the outset Malta sustained a lot of pressure from Group winners Spain. They conceded first after 23 minutes from an Alvaro Morata goal and were pushed back to stay on the receiving end, yet managed to keep the score down to just 0-2 before the interval, after Santi Cazorla’s goal.

Spain kept up the pressure on the change-over and play was confined almost entirely to Malta’s half of the field. They missed several chances before adding to their tally on the hour through Pau Torres, and in the blink of an eye scored a fourth by Sarabia.

Substitute Olmo scored a fifth (68th min) and three minutes later Moreno added Spain’s sixth. Jesus Navas scored the seventh goal after 85 minutes. In the end Spain had 33 attempts on goal to Malta’s one, which wasn’t even on target.

Florian drop first points but retain four-point lead

In the last round (10th) of the Premier League before the international break, Floriana dropped their first points when Hibernians held them to a 2-2 draw. However, they still managed to hold on to their four-point lead as Gzira lost their unbeaten run by getting beaten 1-0 by Sirens who in turn replaced them in the runner-up position.

The Floriana v Hibs game was the round’s top game. That Floriana managed to pass the ordeal is proof enough as to their improvement.

Meanwhile Sirens are establishing themselves as the revelation side of the campaign in its first ever season in the Premier.

Another newly-promoted side, Gudja United made history of their own by winning their first match among the elite, against Birkirkara. They then followed that up with a back-to-back win over pointless Tarxien.

Balzan, Birkirkara and Siemba Wanderers somewhat improved their points tally with victories, but Siema’s position remains precarious bottom but one.

Two defeats for U/19s

Malta’s Under-19 football team produced a disciplined performance in their opening match against hosts Italy at the UEFA Under-19 Championship Group 6 Qualifier in Misano that they lost 2-0 with a goal in each half.

In the second match the Maltese youths go down by 3-0 against Slovakia

Football remains Number 1 in NSW

The latest AusPlay survey released by Sport Australia confirmed football’s position as the No. 1 organised club-based participation sport in NSW, with more than 516,000 participants enjoying the game. Both Football NSW (FNSW) and Northern NSW (NNSWF) once again achieved healthy registrations for 2019 as the game continued to blossom across all sporting codes.

Overall numbers indicated that from June 2019, 1,853,600 people played football across the nation comprising 1,084,200 adults and 769,400 children. There was an impressive 18.2% growth in the number of children aged 14 years or under.

A delighted Football NSW CEO Stuart Hodge said AusPlay Data also highlighted football as the one sport in the country.

“Football plays such an important role in our communities, providing significant physical and mental health benefits, helping the fight against obesity, promoting social cohesion and multicultural inclusion. Football NSW once more continues to experience exceptional growth with 11% growth over the past five years for the winter season. This is undoubtedly due to the phenomenal work of our Associations and Clubs.

“Summer football has also grown significantly with 60,000 players registered showing a record number of females, referees and coaches in the game. These stats further strengthen football’s case as a year-round sport for participants and with the additional growth in Futsal, puts an increasing strain on facilities of all types.

“Grant sources such as the NSW Asian Cup 2015 Legacy Fund and Lets Light Up Football have assisted associations and clubs in improving their venues but a lot more has to be done to keep up with high demand which will further increase football’s popularity.

“As our game continues to grow and develop, we face several challenges including an increase in participation and population along with pressure on facilities with added demands for drainage and amenities, as some clubs are stretched to accommodate the player demand in their area.

“Football continues to partner with all levels of government to provide support with funding participation programs and infrastructure upgrades, but as the Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League and National Teams popularity increases within Australia and Internationally, the demand to participate in football will continue to surge.”

Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) CEO David Eland congratulated the thousands of volunteers at the grassroots throughout Northern NSW for providing opportunities for people of all ages in their respective communities to enjoy football.

“More people played football in 2019 in Northern NSW than in any other season. The number of players participating in traditional club-based competitions has increased by 14% since 2015 and the number of registered female players has soared by a staggering 23% during the same period.

“NNSWF’s new strategic plan identifies Inclusion and Diversity and Women and Girls as priorities. It’s therefore vital that all levels of government support our efforts to increase the number of people pursuing healthy and active lifestyles by investing more in football facilities which are safe, welcoming and fit for purpose.”

To find out how you or your child can play football, log on to: www.playfootball.com.au