Malta’s new Prime Minister takes office

Dr Robert Abela the family man with wife Lydia and daughter Georgia Mae (left) acknowledging the verdict of the Labour Party members that elected him as party leader, and (right) exchanging a kiss with Georgia Mae at the swearing in ceremony. (See report page 12)
What is it that makes Malta so special to me? This is a question that has gone through my mind a number of times since I first returned there in 2015 after a 52-year absence?

In many respects it is a perplexing question, in others it is one that yields a self-evident truth: it is home. However, the question about its special nature remains. A second question, a corollary to the first, also sits with me: why is it more ‘home’ to me than Australia after having lived here for 55 of my 68 years?

The answer, I think, in the experience of Malta that is beyond an intellectual grasping of the islands. There is a strong feeling that comes to me when I think of Malta that always seems to feature my grandmother. She was only a little woman with those strange legs that seemed to rise from the ground parallel to each other and disappear up a long and rather shapeless black dress.

She always wore black. She always had a clean smell about her that was the same smell as the big block of ‘key soap’ (sapuna taċ-ċavetta) that she always had in one of the wet areas, especially that used for washing clothes. It was a particular smell and I remember it well. In so many ways it was the smell of Malta from my childhood.

What really interests me most is the strong sense of familiarity that comes to me when this image comes to my mind, both visually and in an olfactory way. I so clearly remember my Nanna’s face and her hair, lank, meticulously clean yet ironically uncared for.

She had far too many other ‘important’ things to worry about than her appearance when bustling around the house cleaning, tidying, cooking, washing and performing all the other tasks which kept her astonishingly busy given how tiny her upstairs semi-detached was.

I remember her lighting the primus stove: MethyLATED spirits, kerosene, a match and pumping until an angry blue flame roared its way into existence. On that stove she cooked miraculous meals of stewed rabbit and spaghetti. I still can’t quite work out how she did it on the one burner but she did. Maybe it’s my child’s memory.

However, this woman was an alchemist. She could take relatively or apparently worthless or insignificant things and turn them into articles of great value. After having raised eleven children and losing two it was inevitable that miracles were an everyday event for her.

She was absolutely murderous on chickens. If they were to be food for the family there was no way that sentimentality would get in the way of her kitchen knife.

Woes betide anyone who, horrified at the sight of the execution, uttered the words: “jaħasra!” (“poor thing”). She would shout at them to stay quiet because the bird would not die if someone said that. Although living without a head always struck me, in my childish innocence, as both theoretically and practically impossible.

*continued on page 3

by ANDY BUSUTTIL

ANDY BUSUTTIL was born in Malta but left the island for Australia in 1964 as a 12-year-old. He left Malta after completing his first year at St Augustine’s College which, in those days, was in Tarxien.

Andy went on to gather a number of qualifications in social sciences and education. He became best known for his music and his band Skorba which has presented a number of concerts about Malta.

This is his story.
The other experience that will always live deeply embedded in my memory was my grandfather, after whom I (and most of my male cousins!) was named. He had a pipe. He smoked a home-grown tobacco leaf that he mixed with a leaf from a grape vine. There were times when he would celebrate the gift from my dad of a tin of ‘MacBaren’s Plumcake’. It smelled just like plum cake! However, much to my disgust when one day I managed to find my way into it when the tin was unattended, it tasted not at all like plum cake! Ten year olds should never be left alone with anything that smells like plum cake.

I remember the smell of the smouldering tobacco in his pipe and that scraping sound that he used to make when he was cleaning some of the ashes out of the bowl and the top part of the stem. I remember his leathery hands and how deft they were when making me a kite always in the colours of the Vatican, yellow and white or making a ‘trabokk’ a trap designed to snare small birds so he could put them in his aviary.

I remember being on the roof of their home where he had a little workshop. He had a workbench in there with a selection of tools, always the right tools, that he used so skilfully, pipe in mouth, smoke curling up into his eyes, cap on his head and leathery hands.

I remember the high-pitched calls of the street vendors in the distant streets. They sold a variety of products such as ‘bigilla’ a bean mash or ‘peanuts and nuts’. ‘Karawett u lew’ is a call I will never forget. After many years I found I had that voice and use it when I sing, always in a high pitch.

I remember the smell of the streets and the feel of the uneven cobbles under my feet and the clip-clop of horses’ hooves as they neatly trotted along always hauling a small cart of some kind. It was only in the city that they hauled people if they had to go through Marsa.

Only a short walk often but sometimes we had to go home by bus. Aah, the buses! Multi-coloured they were with each colour telling you where they were going. I remember in particular the yellow buses. They were among those that used to go through Marsa.

The smell and the feel of these buses that was unlike any other bus that I have ever been on, the way they rocked and if you had a driver who was a goer, the speed with which they travelled through ridiculously narrow roads so late at night.

I remember the evening strolls from Marsa to Hamrun and on towards Valetta usually stopping at Bonacci’s to buy kannoli or a local bakery to buy a dozen pastizzi to share between us. Stopping off to buy a Kinnie while the old man drank a Cisk. Remember our night-time strolls down the waterfront at Msida or Ta-Xbiex.

I remember the boats rocking gently on the black water, their lights casting a magical pathway to the shore, one that you could imagine walking on to get to the boat at the end. I remember the smell of the water and the fishermen hoisting a huge meal of vopli or spartli to take home with them.

I remember them dipping their fingers into foul smelling jars to extract the contents to mix with bread dough in the hope that some idiot fish would take a liking to it and become a part of the fisherman’s family.

I remember the peculiar sound of our language being spoken everywhere on hot summer evenings when everyone sat out on woven-cane-on-wood-framed chairs.

I remember the funny little fans that looked like woven cane flags being rotated back and forth to try to bring some relief from the relentless heat of summer. I remember the kind eyes and the smiling faces of those who knew and loved me and who I knew and loved.

These are memories that, even after these many years, never leave me and neither do I want them to. These are memories that always sustain me and make me so deeply aware of the fact that you can take the boy out of Malta but you can never take Malta out of the boy.
Making a Will: Mental Capacity

by Paul Sant

In order to have a valid Will, there are a number of elements that need to be met. However, even if the Will is expertly drafted, it will not be executable if the person making the Will does not have the requisite level of mental capacity at the time that they sign the document.

If you know someone who is making a Will, or you are wondering about whether a Will should not have been made in the first place, you should pay close attention to the explanation below. But what is mental capacity?

There is no single legal definition of “mental capacity” in New South Wales. The rigour of the test is dependent upon circumstances of each case and the type of decision or transaction at hand.

This means that the criteria or level of mental capacity required will differ between areas of the law. For example, a Court or Tribunal may determine that a person is incapable of managing their own financial affairs, however they may have the requisite capacity to make a simple Will.

Further, mental capacity is fluid. It changes over time, sometimes within hours, or during different types of situations. Mental capacity does not necessarily decline if there is an issue, and can be regained, for example if a person is treating their illness with medication.

In relation to the making of a Will, it is largely accepted that the following must be present if mental capacity is present:

1. The person making a will:
   a. needs to have the ability to understand the nature of the act of making a Will and its effects;
   b. must understand the extent of the property that the Will deals with;
   and
   c. must also have the ability to understand the moral claims of potential beneficiaries (for example, spouse, child, etc.).

2. The person making the will must not be suffering from a condition that affects their normal decision-making.

What are the warning bells of lost capacity?

There are some common warning signs that if present, should cause any examiner to potentially get a medical expert involved for a formal assessment. These include:

1. difficulty with recall or memory loss;
2. ongoing difficulty with communications;
3. lack of mental flexibility;
4. a client is accompanied by friends, family or carers to interviews with the solicitor but is not given the chance to speak for themselves;
5. limited ability to interact with the solicitor; or
6. limited ability to repeat advice to the solicitor and ask key questions about the issues.

How can you prove capacity?

There are a number of ways that capacity can be proven. Where a will was drafted with the assistance of a solicitor, that solicitor can give evidence in the following forms:

1. By providing a recount of a conversation had with the testator prior to the signing of the will;
2. The production of a written acknowledgement by the testator;
3. Video or audio recording evidence made by the testator as at the time that the Will was made.

Evidence can also be found in statements from friends and family who interacted with the deceased at or around the time that the will was made.

If there is concern about a person’s mental capacity at the time of making a Will, it is always a good idea to seek a medical report about whether the testator is suffering from a condition and how the condition impacts the testator’s decision making.

If the condition is particularly precarious, you may wish to seek two independent reports, to confirm the findings and minimise the chances of a challenge of the Will.

The existence of a condition, for example dementia or bi-polar, does not automatically mean that the person is incapable of making a will. Instead, the evidence should address the question of how severe the condition is, and whether it impacts the answer to any of the questions outlined in the test in Banks & Goodfellow (summarised above).

Role of a Solicitor

Although solicitors do not have the medical expertise to make a definitive assessment regarding mental capacity, their role is valuable as they often:

1. Make a preliminary assessment of mental capacity. This is often carried out by way of interview with the testator.
2. If the questioning result in a cause for potential concern, a solicitor will seek a formal evaluation of the testator’s mental capacity by a clinician with expertise in cognitive capacity assessment.
3. The solicitor is the person who will make a final legal judgment about mental capacity for the particular decision or transaction.

Assessing capacity is not always obvious, and can be a subtle and complex task.

If you wish to make a Will, you should always contact a solicitor to assist you.
Come April, 11-year-old Maltese ballerina Claudia Santamaria would be participating in the classical ballet category of the Youth America Grand Prix finals (YAGP), the world’s largest international student ballet competition to be held in New York.

Claudia has been shortlisted for the event and would be joining a slew of other hopefuls from around the world vying for a scholarship to one of the world’s best dance schools. She is the first student from Malta to make it to the finals.

Brigitte Gauci Borda, the girl’s ballet mistress has expressed great pride at her student’s brilliant achievement. She described it as exciting news! She also congratulated, not just Claudia, but also Ms Tatiana for her continuous support and coaching.

Meanwhile, on a handmade card that she attached to her Facebook post, Claudia Santamaria extended her gratitude to her mentor for having seen her through to the finals. She wrote: “I thank you loads for preparing me and giving me so many opportunities to shine and do my best. After all, you, Ms Brigitte, are the one who makes all my dreams come true” she wrote.

Claudia qualified for the finals through her performance of Variation from Paquita in the YAGP2020 Paris Semifinals held November 7-10 in Paris, which she has described as “one of the best experiences” of her life.

Malta’s Young Talent Fund and the Art Council’s National Fund supported Claudia for Artistic Excellence.

The Cordina Family would like to wish you and your family a

Happy, Safe & Healthy 2020

We look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

Cordina Factory Outlet
Direct to the Public

Monday to Friday 7.00am - 3.30pm
Saturday 6.00am - 11.30am
104 Magowar Road, Girraween NSW 2145 Call: 02 9912 1752

Full Range of Fresh and Frozen Poultry
• Daily specials
• 10% discount to Senior Card Holders (excluding already reduced items)
• Off-street parking with disabled access

104 Magowar Road, Girraween NSW 2145 Call: 02 9912 1752
Each year on January 26, Australians celebrate Australia Day, the official national day that commemorates the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales, and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain at Sydney Cove by Governor Arthur Phillip.

In October 1786, Arthur Phillip was appointed captain of the HMS Sirius. He was assigned to transport British convicts to the continent. His mission was to establish an agricultural work camp. After an eight-month journey, the fleet made up of 11 ships and 1,500 passengers, including 700 convicts, arrived on January 26, 1788.

On 26 January 26, 1788 the First Fleet landed in Sydney Cove. Between January 18 and 20, the First Fleet sailed into Botany Bay to set up a penal colony. The formal establishment of the colony occurred two weeks later on February 7.

In 1818, January 26 was declared a legal holiday, marking the 30th anniversary of the British settlement in Australia.

Australia Day 2020 commemorated at a tough period and a heavy heart

Australia Day 2020 commemorated at a tough period and a heavy heart

Australia Day Celebration
Organised by the Maltese Community Council of NSW
Sunday 19th January 2020
Holroyd Function Centre
Waratah Room 17 Miller Street
Merrylands NSW

Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Entry & Parking Free
Light Refreshments

Australia of the Year Awards

Each year on this occasion, an “Australian of the Year” award ceremony takes place on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra. The awards go to four individuals who have made outstanding achievements. The award categories are: Australian of the Year; Senior Australian of the Year; Young Australian of the Year, and Australia’s Local Hero.

Other events are organised across the country, especially at Sydney Harbour Bridge where the Aboriginal and Australian flags are raised. Other events include an aerial display by the Royal Australian Air Force, the Tall Ships Race, the Australia Day Harbour Parade, a Regatta, and the thrilling annual tradition of Australia Day Parade in Melbourne.

Other attractive events are normally held at The Parklands at South Bank in Brisbane, where fireworks cap off a day of music, interactive art, and swimming. While in Perth’s Langley Park is the site of the state’s largest annual fireworks celebration.

On behalf of the readers of The Voice of the Maltese magazine we wish all Australians, a splendid day that could perhaps make up somewhat for the heart-breaking events of the past months resulting from the bushfire crisis. As such, most probably, not all celebrations planned would go ahead, some might be cancelled.
Il-Kardinal Prospero Grech, Teologu
li halla legat

N

ar il-Hamis li ghadda 9 ta’ Jannar fil-
Katidral Metropolitan ta’ San Pawl fl-
Imdina, ġiet imqaddsa quddiesa pre-
enta cadavere għal ruħ il-Kardinal Malti
Prospero Grech li kien magħruħ hafna mhux teo-
logu li miet fil-Vatikan xarriż 30 ta’ Diċembru
li ghadda, sitt jinmu biss wara li kien ghadhu kif
għaqa 1946 sena. Wara ndielen fl-oqbra tal-Prov-
inċja Agostinjana Maltija, fiċ-Cimiterju tal-Ad-
dolorata.

Qabel gisem il-Kardinal ingieb Malta, fit-2 ta’
Jannar kien diga sarlu il-funeral fil-Bazilika ta’
San Pietru fil-Belt tal-Vatikan li tmexxa mill-
T-Gvern Malti mill-Malta kienet rappreżentata mill-Pa-
ċ-ċċess kollha mezz’asta. F’nofsinhar indaqqet
ali fuq bini pubbliku jittajjar
Jum ta’ Luttu, bil-bnadar nazzjon-
naħat tal-Kamra.

Fi Frar tas-sena l-
obra meta il-ġu jriri mal-professuri u l-is-
tudenti tal-Augustinianum il-Papa
Franġisku kella l-ħajja speċjali għall-
Kardinal Prospero Grech u għaddie ta’ kum-
pliment mill-isbah meta għarf fil-
show il-Kardinal Prospero kien jirr- 
ner meta ltaqa’ mal-professuri u l-is-
kompliment mill-isbaħ meta għarfu
Franġisku kellu laqgħa speċjali għall-
Malta l-Kardinal Prospero Grech u għaddielu
oħra meta ltaqa’ mal-professuri u l-is-
kompliment mill-isbaħ meta għarfu
naħat laqgħa speċjali għall-
met ta’ unur ta’ Papa ġdid, imma qabel beda 
nominata ta’ karigi impor-
tanti fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
kemm f’Oxford u wkoll Cambridge fl-In-
gilterra. Wara mar lura Ruma fejn serva
bħala espert fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
rina tal-Fidi u għallem f’għadd ta’ univer-
sitajiet konnessi mas-Santa Sede. Kiseb
ukoll id-dottorat fit-teoloġija mill-Univer-
taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet b’tifkira
bħala wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-istitut.

Il-Kardinal Prospero kien isseieheb mal-Ordni tal-Agos-
stinjani fl-1943 fl-età ta’ 29
sena. Ġie ordnat saċerld seta’
šnina bħala fil-Bazilika ta’
 Сан Giovanni Laterano f’Ruma.

Minn kmiemi wera l-gerf
tieghu. Kien baqa’ jistudja
ekemm f’Oxford u wkoll Cambridge fl-In-
gilterra. Wara mar lura Ruma fejn serva
bħala espert fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
rina tal-Fidi u għallem f’għadd ta’ univer-
sitajiet konnessi mas-Santa Sede. Kiseb
ukoll id-dottorat fit-teoloġija mill-Univer-
taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet b’tifkira
bħala wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-istitut.

Il-Kardinal Prospero kien isseieheb mal-Ordni tal-Agos-
stinjani fl-1943 fl-età ta’ 29
sena. Ġie ordnat saċerld seta’
šnina bħala fil-Bazilika ta’
San Giovanni Laterano f’Ruma.

Fi Frar tas-sena l-
obra meta il-ġu jriri mal-professuri u l-is-
tudenti tal-Augustinianum il-Papa
Franġisku kella l-ħajja speċjali għall-
Kardinal Prospero Grech u għaddielu
kumpliment mill-isbah meta għarf fil-
show il-Kardinal Prospero kien jirr- 
ner meta ltaqa’ mal-professuri u l-is-
kompliment mill-isbaħ meta għarfu
Franġisku kellu laqgħa speċjali għall-
Met ta’ unur ta’ Papa ġdid, imma qabel beda 
nominata ta’ karigi impor-
tanti fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
rina tal-Fidi u għallem f’għadd ta’ univer-
sitajiet konnessi mas-Santa Sede. Kiseb
ukoll id-dottorat fit-teoloġija mill-Univer-
taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet b’tifkira
bħala wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-istitut.

Il-Kardinal Prospero kien isseieheb mal-Ordni tal-Agos-
stinjani fl-1943 fl-età ta’ 29
sena. Ġie ordnat saċerld seta’
šnina bħala fil-Bazilika ta’
San Giovanni Laterano f’Ruma.

Fi Frar tas-sena l-
obra meta il-ġu jriri mal-professuri u l-is-
tudenti tal-Augustinianum il-Papa
Franġisku kella l-ħajja speċjali għall-
Kardinal Prospero Grech u għaddielu
kumpliment mill-isbah meta għarf fil-
show il-Kardinal Prospero kien jirr- 
ner meta ltaqa’ mal-professuri u l-is-
kompliment mill-isbaħ meta għarfu
Franġisku kellu laqgħa speċjali għall-
Met ta’ unur ta’ Papa ġdid, imma qabel beda 
nominata ta’ karigi impor-
tanti fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
rina tal-Fidi u għallem f’għadd ta’ univer-
sitajiet konnessi mas-Santa Sede. Kiseb
ukoll id-dottorat fit-teoloġija mill-Univer-
taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet b’tifkira
bħala wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-istitut.

Il-Kardinal Prospero kien isseieheb mal-Ordni tal-Agos-
stinjani fl-1943 fl-età ta’ 29
sena. Ġie ordnat saċerld seta’
šnina bħala fil-Bazilika ta’
San Giovanni Laterano f’Ruma.

Fi Frar tas-sena l-
obra meta il-ġu jriri mal-professuri u l-is-
tudenti tal-Augustinianum il-Papa
Franġisku kella l-ħajja speċjali għall-
Kardinal Prospero Grech u għaddielu
kumpliment mill-isbah meta għarf fil-
show il-Kardinal Prospero kien jirr- 
ner meta ltaqa’ mal-professuri u l-is-
kompliment mill-isbaħ meta għarfu
Franġisku kellu laqgħa speċjali għall-
Met ta’ unur ta’ Papa ġdid, imma qabel beda 
nominata ta’ karigi impor-
tanti fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
rina tal-Fidi u għallem f’għadd ta’ univer-
sitajiet konnessi mas-Santa Sede. Kiseb
ukoll id-dottorat fit-teoloġija mill-Univer-
taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet b’tifkira
bħala wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-istitut.

Il-Kardinal Prospero kien isseieheb mal-Ordni tal-Agos-
stinjani fl-1943 fl-età ta’ 29
sena. Ġie ordnat saċerld seta’
šnina bħala fil-Bazilika ta’
San Giovanni Laterano f’Ruma.

Fi Frar tas-sena l-
obra meta il-ġu jriri mal-professuri u l-is-
tudenti tal-Augustinianum il-Papa
Franţisku kella l-ħajja speċjali għall-
Kardinal Prospero Grech u għaddielu
kumpliment mill-isbah meta għarf fil-
show il-Kardinal Prospero kien jirr- 
ner meta ltaqa’ mal-professuri u l-is-
kompliment mill-isbaħ meta għarfu
Franţisku kellu laqgħa speċjali għall-
Met ta’ unur ta’ Papa ġdid, imma qabel beda 
nominata ta’ karigi impor-
tanti fil-Kongregazzjoni għad-Dut-
rina tal-Fidi u għallem f’għadd ta’ univer-
sitajiet konnessi mas-Santa Sede. Kiseb
ukoll id-dottorat fit-teoloġija mill-Univer-
taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet b’tifkira
bħala wieħed mill-fundaturi tal-istitut.

Il-Kardinal Prospero kien isseieheb mal-Ordni tal-Agos-
stinjani fl-1943 fl-età ta’ 29
sena. Ġie ordnat saċerld seta’
šnina bħala fil-Bazilika ta’
San Giovanni Laterano f’Ruma.
The proof is all there

Chris Muscat from Bowen Hills, Qld. writes:

If any more proof was needed as to the weight The Voice of the Maltese car- ries and the credentials it has with the authorities in both Australia and Malta, then this was shown in the Special Christmas issue, the last one for 2019.

To manage to have the President of Malta, the Prime Ministers of Australia and Malta, the Foreign Minister of Malta and the Leader of the Opposition in Australia, along with those of the respective High Commissioners, was something to be proud of.

I know of no other magazine or newspa- per, in particular one that looks after the inter- ests of the Maltese Diaspora, especially in Australia that has ever been so honoured.

There are a lot of newsletters, mostly run by amateurs, flying around among the Maltese in Australia but none of them en joys this much esteem from the people who matter.

So no wonder that most of the members of the Maltese community that I am ac quainted with are readers of this magazine and regard it so highly. Even the fact that SBS listens to you and that you have so many distinguished correspondents is a feather in your cap.

So please keep it up for the sake of us readers. I really wish you the best for the New Year and hope that you continue to work for our causes.

Fejn huma r-riżorsi?

Tony Spiteri minn Brunswick, Victoria jik-tch:

Kalhadd jaf li l-Awstralja ghandna temp tal-genn, b’gharghar fix-xitwa u nirien bla kontroll fis-sajf. Din mhix xi haga ta’ kultanti imma regolari, ta’ kull sena li tifni lilna li nghixu hawnhekk.

Ma nistax nifhem kif l-awtoritarjet ta’ dan il-kontinent vast u b’tant r-riżorsi mhumiex kapac jieqbghu ghal dawn id-diżastri b’ak tar effiċjenza biex itaffu kemm jista’ jkun it-tbatija lilna li nghixu hawn.

Fejn huma l-ajruplan li jistghu jintuzaw halli jassistu billi jittqgħu miljuni ta’ ilma u mhux biss dawk li naraw bhalissu? Għaliex il-militar ma jnurx hu jgħin halli ifti n-nar u mhux qisu jhalli t-tifi biss f’idejn il-voluntieri?

Dawn id-diżastri mhumiex xi ħaġa ta’ kull mitt sena żda jolqjuna kull sajf u kull xitwa. Il-poplu jitklob iskar serjetà f’dawn iż-żmienjiet ta’ tbatija u dular.

Ghall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Monument ta’ żewġ realtajiet f’Ghajnsielem

F’Ghajnsielem, l-ewwel rahal li min iżur Għawdex jiltaq’a mieghu ghad kif gie inawgurat mill-Ministru ghal Għawdex Justyne Caruana u s-sindku u kunsilieri tal-post, monument u proġetti ta’ tarag li jiżid isebbah dan ir-rahal.

Minħabba l-pożizzjoni strategika tar-rahal, il-Ministru qalet li dan jirrekjedi li jinżamm f’kundizzjoni ottimali, ghalhekk il-ministeru qed jinvesti bis-shih fih kemm fejn tidhol infrastruttura, u kemm fejn jidhu attivita-jiet, inizjattivi u progetti.

Fakkret kif fil-baqtig digża habbret investment ta’ 122,000 biex flimkien mal-parrocċa ta’ Ghajnsielem il-ministeru jagħmel il-proġett tal-pjazza flimkien ma’ ghadd ta’ torq.

Il-projet li ghadu kif sar hu dak primarju li minnu nibtet l-idea tal-monument ispirat minn żewġ pjażez, Pjazza 10 ta’ Dicembru u Pjazza Madonina Loreto.


Il-monument huwa xogħol tal-artist Għawdxi Manuel Farrugia.

L-ekonomija Maltija dgawdi b’€40m minn produzzjoni rekord ta’ 21 film

I-s-sema li ghad kif intemmet kienet waha rekord għall-industrija tal-films f’Malta wara li l-gżira serrar ewx biex flimkien mal-parroċċa ta’ Għajnsielem il-ministeru jagħmel il-projett tal-pjazza flimkien ma’ ghadd ta’ torq.

Il-projet li ghadu kif sar hu dak primarju li minnu nibtet l-idea tal-monument ispirat minn żewġ pjażez, Pjazza 10 ta’ Dicembru u Pjazza Madonina Loreto.


Il-monument huwa xogħol tal-artist Għawdxi Manuel Farrugia.

Dan għaliex fl-inħawi, il-knejjes huma niexfin qoxqox daqs il-bqija tal-kontinent, għax trid tagħmel wegħda biex issib waħda, ta’ liema denominazzjoni tkun.

Fil-fatt, f’Mallacoota hemm knisja waħda, dik ta’ St Peter, li jiha kooperazzjoni bejn il-Uniting Church of Australia u l-Knisja Anglikana. Din is-sena kell naqraw li bastimenti mill-flotta navali Awstraljana kellha tintuża biex tevawxa lin-nies lokali u turisti mill-post, operazzjoni li għadha ghaddejja s’issa.

Kien b’soghba kbira nsiru nafu wara li n-nar hebb ukoll għall-villażuitt ta’ Mallacoota, u sakemm qiegħed niktieb, għad hemm hafna nies maqbudin f’dan il-villażuitt, qrib tax-xatt biex jaharbu min-ninien, ma jistgħu johorġu mill-unika triq li minn Mallacoota tghaddi ghal Genoa.

Ħaġa straordinarja kienet li naqraw li bastimenti mill-flotta navali Awstraljana kellha tintuża biex tevawxa lin-nies lokali u turisti mill-post, operazzjoni li għadha ghaddejja s’issa.


Il-istorja għadha ma spiċċatx, u huma mistenija jiem oħra ta’ temperaturi għoljin u riskji ġudda jew imkabbra.


A proud sponsor of
The Voice of the Maltese

website: www.breakawaytravel.com.au
Breakaway Travel 94 corner of Main & Campbell Streets, Blacktown NSW
..... for all your travel needs.
L-Istrina fl-imghoddi
- okkażjonji li t-tfal kienu jistennewha bil-herqa

On Monday (January 13), Robert Abela, a 42-year-old lawyer by profession, was sworn in as Malta’s eighth Prime Minister since Independence in 1964 and the 14th since self-government in 1921. He claimed the position automatically after winning the election for the Leadership of the Labour Party early on Sunday morning, beating Chris Fearne in a race which he had begun as an underdog.

The swearing in ceremony at the palace in Valletta was presided by President George Vella, in the presence of Abela’s family, cabinet ministers and friends. Afterwards he walked to his PM office in Castille amidst the greetings of the people.

He succeeds Joseph Muscat who announced his resignation last December and left the office as PM and LP Leader on Sunday. Dr Abela beat his rival by securing 9,342 votes, equivalent to 57.9 per cent of the votes cast. Dr Chris Fearne obtained 6,798, or 42.1%, of the votes in what is being described as one of the biggest upsets in contemporary political history.

Robert, born June 22, 1977 is married to Lydia, the secretary of the Labour Party executive committee. They have a seven-year-old daughter, Giorgia Mae. He is the son of former President Emeritus George Abela who himself had also run for the Labour Party leadership and lost to Joseph Muscat in 2008.

Robert has been in Parliament for less than three years. He had been elected to the House of Representatives in the June 2017 General Election after contesting for the first time the sixth district, that included Siggiewi, Luqa and Qormi. He became a legal consultant to former Prime Minister Joseph Muscat’s cabinet, but never occupied a Cabinet post.

On November 28 last year he had claimed that the Labour Party would need deep-rooted changes rather than superficial ones, and only announced that he would be running for the Labour Party leadership and automatic Premiership early in the New Year. His meteoric rise took less than three years to achieve.

He focussed his campaign on social housing, free medicines for the elderly, cracking down on cheap labour migrant workers and better employment conditions for blue-collar workers.

Speaking for the first time after winning the race, early Sunday morning (at about 1.45 a.m.) with wife Lydia besides him, Robert Abela said, “I am humbled. I thank my friend Chris (Fearne the other contestant) and look forward to working together for the good of the party and country.

“There is only one winner today, the Labour Party. Now we must work hard to unite the country”.

Addressing the crowd, he said, “Let’s get to work.”

Voting among the Labour Party faithful was held on Saturday among just over 17,500 paid-up Labour Party members who were eligible to vote for either Cabinet adviser Robert Abela or Deputy Prime Minister Chris Fearne to take over from outgoing Prime Minister Joseph. There was a very high turnout of around 92.5 per cent.

The party election was the second consecutive Labour Party leadership race to feature a member of the Abela family. In 2008, Joseph Muscat beat Robert’s father George for the position post.

On Sunday afternoon, at the closure of the 2020 Congress at the Corradino Sports Complex that officially declared him the winner of the leadership race, Dr Abela delivered his first official speech.

He told party supporters: “From now on I do not want to hear of Chris’s people, or Robert’s people. We are all children of the same party.” He also thanked Fearne for his role in the race. He said Dr Fearne had called him in the morning to congratulate him and to pledge his loyalty.

He stressed on continuity, suggesting he would fulfil Labour’s electoral mandate. “I will continue the project started by Joseph Muscat. This will be a party open for everyone,” he said.

At the end of the day, after Robert Abela’s swearing in Monday, regardless of their personal preferences, the Parliamentary group has pledged to back the new leader to the hilt. “We will all be gas down behind the new leader, because that is what the party and the country deserve,” Parliamentary whip Byron Camilleri said.

In his first public statement one day after the contest, Chris Fearne pledged loyalty to the Labour Party and its values. He also thanked the “thousands” who had voted for him.

Outgoing Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said he would be “proud to be handing over the office of Prime Minister to Robert.”
Fitch affirms Malta’s A+ rating

Fitch Agency has affirmed Malta’s A+ rating with positive outlook in its credit rating report, a decision that has been welcomed by the Ministry for Finance as reflecting that Malta’s institutions are considered stronger than the majority of similarly rated countries.

The positive outlook reflects Fitch’s expectation of sustained high economic growth from diverse sources in the medium term. As a result, it expects Malta’s per capita income to continue converging to the EU average in the coming years.

Malta also outperformed the ‘A’ median on the World Bank human development and governance indicators. Fitch acknowledges that the government guarantees are on a clear downward trend. It expects Malta to continue-upholing its fiscal rules targeting a balanced budget in structural terms and ensuring that expenditure growth does not exceed the economy’s potential growth rate.

Despite the strong economic growth enjoyed by the Maltese economy, Fitch notes that there has been little evidence of overheating. Indeed, it forecasts inflation to remain below the 2% threshold this year and the next.

The agency further acknowledges recent efforts to strengthen supervisory and regulatory institutions. It commends the recent increase in the FIAU and MFSA budget, as well as the new supervisory procedures introduced in July.

The credit rating agency also notes that financial soundness indicators are strong and improving.

On the external side, the credit rating report expects Malta’s current account balance to remain in surplus despite the Eurozone slowdown. Finance Minister Edward Scicluna said, “I am pleased to note that Fitch has acknowledged our policies to sustain growth by diversifying the Maltese economy as well as our sound and prudent management of public finance.

The positive outlook reflects Fitch’s expectation of sustained high economic growth from diverse sources in the medium term. As a result, it expects Malta’s per capita income to continue converging to the EU average in the coming years.

Malta also outperformed the ‘A’ median on the World Bank human development and governance indicators. Fitch acknowledges that the government guarantees are on a clear downward trend. It expects Malta to continue-upholing its fiscal rules targeting a balanced budget in structural terms and ensuring that expenditure growth does not exceed the economy’s potential growth rate.

Despite the strong economic growth enjoyed by the Maltese economy, Fitch notes that there has been little evidence of overheating. Indeed, it forecasts inflation to remain below the 2% threshold this year and the next.

The agency further acknowledges recent efforts to strengthen supervisory and regulatory institutions. It commends the recent increase in the FIAU and MFSA budget, as well as the new supervisory procedures introduced in July.

The credit rating agency also notes that financial soundness indicators are strong and improving.

On the external side, the credit rating report expects Malta’s current account balance to remain in surplus despite the Eurozone slowdown. Finance Minister Edward Scicluna said, “I am pleased to note that Fitch has acknowledged our policies to sustain growth by diversifying the Maltese economy as well as our sound and prudent management of public finance.

Ministers Chris Fearne and Justyne Caruana

In favour of family businesses in Gozo

At an information session on initiatives in favour of family businesses held jointly between the Family Business Office, the Ministry for Gozo and the Gozo Business Chamber that was attended by, among others, Minister of Health Chris Fearne and the Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana, Fearne stressed the importance of small enterprises that are family owned.

He said that the government is committed to continue to assist these business entities’ progress, and highlighted their importance for the national economy, and the need to continue providing them with the required assistance, so that they are able to compete on a level playing field with larger business entities, which leads to a more sustainable economy.

Minister Justyne Caruana on her part pointed out that the opening of a branch of the Family Business Office in Gozo is only one of the initiatives being undertaken to continue to enhance the Gozitan economy.

She said that other initiatives currently in the pipeline also include incentives for companies to relocate to Gozo, initiatives to attract private companies’ back office work to Gozo, and also initiatives to incentivise companies, enabling them to provide teleworking to Gozitan employees.

40 cultural events in Valletta in 2020

During this year Malta’s capital, Valletta would be hosting over 40 large cultural events that would include the participation of about 300 artists. Two of the main events would be, “Belt il-Belin” on Valletta Day in Pjazza San Gorg and the Valletta Pageant of The Seas on June 7.

Further German investment in MEDAC

An agreement that should see further investment by Germany in the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies has been signed in Valletta between Ambassador Walter Haßmann, on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, and Professor Godfrey Pirotta, Chairperson of the Academy.

The agreement would also see the continuation of a German Chairperson for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC, confirming Germany’s interest in the Mediterranean Region.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela who said that in the last 30 years of the MEDAC establishment, students from 31 countries (35% from Europe, 23% from North Africa and 25% from the Middle East) have benefited from scholarships on offer.

The Minister said that this affirms the importance of MEDAC in training diplomats, not just for Malta, but also for countries in the Mediterranean and beyond. Today, many alumni now occupy high positions in national governments and regional, as well as international, institutions.

It also shows that both Malta and Germany recognize the vital importance of the region, especially with regards to the latest political developments and the need for strong, cooperative Euro-Mediterranean relations.
Joseph Muscat: ‘Ma jiddispjaċini xejn li ddedikajt hajti ghall-pajjiż’

Appelli biex il-PL ma jhalli qatt li l-firda u l-mibgheda jirbhu fuq l-imhabba

Joseph Muscat filmien ma' martu Michelle u wiedu Etoile u Soleil li timiex l-ahħar diskors tiegħu bħala Prim Ministru u mexeż l-partit Laburista. "Iddekkat hajti ghall-diskors ta' ma jiddispjaċinix."
Il-Maltin b’fiduċja b’sahhitha fil-Gvern

S'tħarriġ tal-Ewrobarometru wera li l-familji Maltin għandhom fiduċja b’sahhitha fil-Gvern, u ferm aktar milli għandhom ċittadini f’pajjiżi oħra tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Dan l-istħarriġ jindika li 51% tal-poplu jafdaw fil-Gvern, kontra l-34% fil-bqija tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Qabel il-bidla fl-amministrazzjoni fl-2013, il-fiduċja fil-Gvern kienet tlaħħaq biss l-34%. Barra minnhekk il-proportion ta’ Maltin u Għawdxin li ma jafdawx ill-Gvern huwa t-tielet l-inqas madwar l-Unjoni Ewropea.

B’kuntrast l-Ewrobarometru jindika li l-fiduċja tal-poplu fil-gazzetti naqset għal 28% biss, li hu l-inqas livell ta’ fiduċja wara dak fl-Ingilterra.

Mhux hekk biss, imma Malta hija wieħed mill-ftit pajjiżi fl-Unjoni Ewropea fejn il-maġgoranza ta’ dawk intervistati jisostnu li l-affarijiet f’Malta sejjer fid-direzzjoni t-tajba, kuntrarju għar-rata medju ta’ 31% madwar il-pajjiż tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Ta’ min jinnota li kienu biss 29% ta’ dawk intervistati li sostnew li l-pajjiż sejjer f’dawżza ta’ 70% tal-poplu fl-Unjoni Ewropea huma 47% li jhidu li l-elektroma jejna ta’ 82% tal-familji f’Malta hija ma jhidu li jlih b’tehżin l-ekonomija. Il-proportion li hu kważi d-doppju ta’ dak fl-istħarriġ li kien sar qabel il-bidla fil-Gvern fl-2013.


Skont stħarriġ tal-Ewrobarometru ...

Il-Maltin b’fiduċja b’sahhitha fil-Gvern

Mkill-l-ta’ Jannar ta’ din is-sena l-anzjani kollha ċittadini Maltin li għandhom 75 sena jew aktar b’dew żgħażagħ ta’ ħeswija tal-trasport pubbliku, billi jivvjaġġaw faq tal-linja bla ma jhalu. Hekk b’dew ugdaw minn miżura li kienet ġiet imħABBra fl-ahħar baghit.

Issa l-Ministru għat-Trasport u Infrastruttura Ian Borg qal li l-iskema ma għalha bus75+ se tingħad na’ dik tal-Bus20 (żgħażagħ ta’ 20 sena) u wkoll l-iskema għat-trasport pubbliku b’xejn għal persuni b’diżabilità.

Waqt konferenza tal-ahbarijiet il-Ministru spjega kif din kienet wejseta ohra mwettqa fil-baġit ghal din is-sena.

The Greens have called for a Royal Commission into the country's bushfire crisis amid weeks of political debate and calls for stronger action on the fires from the federal government. There is a need to go to the "root cause" of the bushfires.

Greens leader Senator Richard Di Natale said Prime Minister Scott Morrison had failed his "duty to keep citizens safe from harm. His inadequate response to these fires and his obstinate refusal to accept what we have known for decades: that burning climate-changing fossil fuels would lead to more frequent and intense bushfires is putting the lives of Australians at risk," he said.

Senator Di Natale also said "Australia's climate has changed and we need to make sure that our land management, disaster response and climate policies are relevant to the new reality we face." Mr Di Natale also called on the Prime Minister to convene an emergency summit to "ensure that everything is being done to address the immediate crisis".

He said the federal government and the opposition must both step up to tackle extreme weather by phasing out coal.

But Opposition Labor leader Anthony Albanese said while he wouldn't rule out a Royal Commission into bushfires, he wants to see action now. "I think it's immediate action that is required, not something that will report in six months, which is the minimum time for a Royal Commission normally," he said.

"They take years rather than months and what we need right now is for COAG [Council of Australian Governments] to be convened."

Meanwhile capital city Canberra's air quality has been rated the worst in the world as bushfire smoke shrouded the nation's capital. The IQAir AirVisual website, which collates air quality information globally, ranked the Australian nation's capital above the likes of Kolkata and Delhi in India.
Re bushfires: Consult the aboriginal people

Australian golf legend 64-year-old Greg Norman (pictured left) has posted an emotional message of heartbreak as Australia’s bushfire crisis rages on even as we go to press. On his Twitter account, he wrote: “Seeing these images of death and destruction, the strength of the human spirit, the pure heartache and tragedy the people of Australia have endured cuts to my core and to be brutally honest exposes the stupidity of mankind, I am no expert, but I am a global observer, of course, there is climate change taking place. It is happening worldwide. Australia is just one example”.

“To the powers to be who make decisions, wake up, open your eyes and absorb these horrific images and ask yourselves a few very simple questions, because we must learn from this cataclysmic disaster.”

Norman went on to offer four strategic bushfire-combating strategies he hopes Australia’s political leaders will head. His range of strategies includes consultation with indigenous leaders.

1) Procedures, protocols and preparations,” he wrote in the 300-word post. “What lessons have been learnt? What must be adjusted or what new should be implemented? This will happen again. Let’s not kick the can down the road.

2) Should there be a National Fire Service? Not each State being responsible for their own. Australia is on fire!

3) Burn back. With the animal death toll approaching 1 BILLION, would control burn backs in winter months help reduce this carnage? Seek the advice of Australian Aboriginals. They have been the custodians and carers of our land for over 50,000 years.

4) maybe a refresh to the 2006 agreement between America and Australia on bushfire/wildlife cooperation. “Fires happen in America as well and there are approx 25 fire-bombers in the USA. Learn and support. We must ALL help prevent this magnitude of ugliness from returning and NOT continue to operate with the mentality of suppression vs. prevention!”

Visas to reduce congestion in major cities

The federal government recently introduced two new regional visas – Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) and Skilled Employer Regional (subclass 494) – as part of its promise to reduce congestion in major cities.

Successful applicants will be required to work and stay in a regional area – considered anywhere in Australia outside of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne – for at least three years, at which point they will be eligible for permanent residency.

While the federal government announced the regional push, it is largely up to the states to implement the reform as state sponsorship is required for the majority of the 25,000 allocated places.

States determine who is eligible for the visa based on qualifications, profession, age and time spent in the region. For successful applicants, it’s a daunting road ahead to permanent residency. The new regional visas replace the subclass 489 regional visa and require visa holders to stay an extra year in the regional area, earning a minimum of $53,900 a year to qualify for permanent residency.

In the lead up to the 2019 federal election, the Coalition announced it would cut the annual permanent residency intake from 190,000 to 160,000 in a bid to ease congestion in the major cities. The change was not opposed by Labor.

Some of the places previously allocated to the Skilled Independent Visa (subclass 189), which replaced the controversial 457 visas in 2018, have now been redirected to the new regional visa stream. That’s further reduced the number of permanent resident visa options for migrants.

How to help

To help those on the front line of the recovery effort, a donation, preferably in cash can be made to various organisations and charities. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has urged people to pledge money - not clothes or food - to his state’s communities, saying they don’t have the time, space or people to sort through items.

“I don’t want to appear harsh in any way, but we don’t need any more clothes, food, trucks on our roads,” he said on Sunday. “I know it all comes from a place of kindness and I thank everybody who’s made those donations.”

The CFA, Victoria’s rural fire service, echoed that call: “Experience tells us that donation of money is much more effective and provides more flexibility than the donation of material items or pre-loved goods.”

Donations can be made to the state-funded rural fire services. Some states allow pledges to individual brigades: Victoria: CFA; NSW: South Australia: CFS Foundation; Queensland: RFBAQ
DORIEN MICALEF - qieset li kull bniedem bir-ruh għandu fih ukoll il-pożejja


L-ewwel snin tal-edukazzjoni taghha hadhom fl-iskola primarja u dik sekundarja tal-gvern il-Furjana fejn għexet l-ewwel fitn snin ta' hajjitha. Hijja komplet tavvanza l-istudji taghha fil-Malti, fil-letteratura moderna Ewropea, fl-arti u wkoll fil-filosofija.

Doreen speċjalizzat fil-letteratura Maltija u Ingliża u anke kisbet MA fil-letteratura, diploma fir-relazzjonijet umani u diploma oħra fit-features politika.

Hija għexet fi żmien li fih fid-dinja kien ħaddun bħala dan li permezz tiegħu ż-żgħażagħ ali u kultant diskriminatorja. Moviment Qawmien Letterarju li għenhom ddejqet tkun kontroversjali ladarba kienet jimirħu f'metodi ħielsa ta' ħsieb u kitba.

Kienu determinati li l-kreattività tagħhom f'oqsma pubbliċi, imma Doreen qatt ma tkunx maħnuqa mir-riġidità tradizzjonħolqu movimenti ta' żgħażagħ ribelli li diplomar fir-relazzjonijiet umani u diploma oħra fit-teorija politika.

Fil-filosofija, fil-arta moderna Ewropea, fl-arti u wkoll fil-istudji taghha fil-Malti, fil-letteratura ftit snin ta' ħajjitha. Hija komplet tavtal-gvern fil-Furjana fejn għexet l-ewwel snin tal-edukazzjoni ħa -

Taħt:

I


Kienu determinati li l-kreattività tagħhom f'oqsma pubbliċi, imma Doreen qatt ma tkunx maħnuqa mir-riġidità tradizzjonħolqu movimenti ta' żgħażagħ ribelli li diplomar fir-relazzjonijiet umani u diploma oħra fit-teorija politika.

I

Narraxximent modern tal-ħsieb f'Malta wassal biex għadd ta' żgħażagħ iffurmaw il-Moviment Qawmien Letterarju li għenhom jmirħu f'metodi ħielsa ta' ħsieb u kitba.

Kien ħaddun bħala dan li permezz tiegħu ż-żgħażagħ riedu bidla kbira fil-ħsieb kien inħoloq bħal dan li permezz tiegħu ż-żgħażagħ ali u kultant diskriminatorja. Moviment Qawmien Letterarju li għenhom ddejqet tkun kontroversjali ladarba kienet jimirħu f'metodi ħielsa ta' ħsieb u kitba.


Doreen għexet hajja sempilċi, qfrja, kwietta u umli. Fatt li nikkitha ħafna f'ħajjitha xahar ta' Frar. L-akbar habib u idol u kem kissems maħla fil-qasam teatrali kien Francis Ebejer.

Christmas joy provided by the Maltese in Australia

They come from far and wide to witness and enjoy the Christmas cheer and beautifully decorated houses with bright lights and messages of good hope. The festive season in Australia comes during the hot days of summer, this year somewhat spoiled by the devastation caused by the bushfires.

Maltese all over Australia proudly decorate their homes.

In Greystanes NSW along Cumberland Road, we visited the house of Joe & Doris Caruana and that of Sam & Doris Mejak (picture above).

In front of Vicky Rubnik-Borg’s house in Kootingal Street, (top picture) carols were sung and a large gathering had a great evening of entertainment. It is becoming a must event during the festive season.

At the La Valette Centre in Blacktown, hundreds attended carols by candlelight and an interesting pageant featuring many children, il-priedka tal-Milied and Nannu Santa.

Lejla Mġarrija
organised by Horsley Park Community Social Group

For the Maltese Community & Friends
Saturday March 7 at Mandavilla Function Centre
Horsley Drive, Horsley Park

Entertainment provided by: Heartbeat
Cost $65.00pp: includes Maltese antipasto, 3-course meal, beer, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee and more.

Bookings call: Theresa Quattromani 0402 178-781, Josephine Borg 0402 040 954,
Come and join us for a fun time.

The proceeds of the evening with go to The Cancer Council
A joint last post ceremony to commemorate two Maltese veterans of the first war, private Charles Bonavia and private Waldermar Beck took place at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on December 28.

The Ceremony is held 364 days per year at the Commemorative area of the Memorial. This time it was held to honour the two brave Maltese soldiers as inscribed in the Roll of Honour.

After the playing of the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament, the visitors, including the Malta's High Commissioner in Australia H.E Charles Muscat and the President of the Maltese Ex-servicemen Association of NSW, Charles N. Mifsud laid wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. The ceremony ended with the sounding of the Last Post.

The Maltese Ex-Servicemen from Sydney organised a bus that took the visitors to Canberra for what was described as a very respectful and dignified service.

Mrs Lea Harding, Charles Bonavia’s niece, Mrs Barbara Barter, the niece of Waldemar Beck’s fiancée and members of the Maltese Ex Servicemen Association of NSW who travelled to Canberra from Sydney for the occasion, were also present (below at the ceremony).

Maltese veterans commemorated at Canberra War Memorial ceremony

Below: Mrs Lea Harding, Charles Bonavia’s niece, and her son being greeted by Mr Charles N. Mifsud

Photos by David Mifsud

We offer legal services in Melbourne (Lt Collins Street) and Werribee.

Family law is our specialty.
- wills, powers of attorney,
- manage deceased estates, and provide purchase and sell property
- purchase and sell businesses.

Marlene Ebejer (speaks Maltese) an accredited family law specialist
- divorce, children, property,
- child support, intervention orders.
- Maltese Wills, Powers of Attorney
- Maltese Property matters.

Phone: 03 9741 1722
www.ebejerlawyers.com.au
email reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au

We get to the point, provide the right advice and get the work done at a reasonable price.
Maltese Monument inaugurated at Cringila

Last December the George Cross Falcons Club of Cringila inaugurated a monument comprising of three columns with four plaques, commemorating the 7th of June 1919 Maltese uprising and the Maltese Anzacs 1914/18 on the front two columns, and the Maltese Pioneer in Illawarra (The Cassar Family) and the Maltese Bowlers on the back column.

The idea for erecting a Maltese monument in the Illawarra is to be applauded. A good crowd attended for the unveiling ceremony. It is most unfortunate that for lack of space not a better place than the back corner of the car park could be found for the monument.

Mr. Stephen Jones the Federal Member for Whitlam officiated at the inauguration of this monument.

As the occasion occurred so close to Christmas a Christmas Pageant was also held in the club building. A procession in which children dressed as shepherds and singing Christmas hymns was held while the statue of baby Christ with Mary, Joseph was carried around. The students that attend the Maltese language class at the club also took part with readings and the singing of Christmas hymns in Maltese.

The Maltese Language School of NSW (Skola tal-Malti) is a division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. It was established exactly 21 years ago in January 1999, and is supported by the NSW Government.

The school is proud to serve the Maltese community of NSW in keeping alive the Maltese language and culture in Australia. Photo shows students and teachers of the Maltese Language School of NSW at the End of Year Presentation that was held recently at the Horsley Park Public School.

The current principal is Mary Pace Ferraud with fellow teachers, Maria De Carlo, Mark Caruana, Ivan Borg and Sandra Grech. The school employs native Maltese speaking teachers. There are presently vacancies for paid teachers.

For more information on how to enrol contact one should phone 02 9601 2189 or 0400 376 607 or email malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com.

XAGFRA ASSOCIATION OF NSW Invites you to come & celebrate: AUSTRALIA DAY 2020

With a Dinner Dance on Saturday January 18, 2020

Time: Doors open 6:30pm for 7:00pm start
Place: Mandavilla Function Centre, 1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park
Entertainer: Joe Apap
Dinner: 3-Course meal, beer, wine, soft drinks, tea, coffee, pastizzi & fruit platters
Contact: Ray & Josephine Bigeni: 627 4182, Mob: 0439 974 182
M’Ann Teuma: 4579 6771, Vicki Micallef: 0425 210 436

Learn our beautiful language
FESTA TA’ GENEROŻITA’

IN AID OF ID DAR-TAL-PROVIDENZA, MALTA
organised by The Friends of Providence
House NSW

Sunday 23rd February 23 from 2.00 pm
La Valette Social Centre, 175 Walters Road, Blacktown

Featuring: Charlie Muscat & James Cassar
Supported by: Martin Vella, Natasha Tatarinoff, Britanny & Katelyn Vella, and The MCA Choir

Enjoy An Afternoon of Great Entertainment, Prizes & Family Fun!
Lucky Donor Envelope Prizes & Raffle Drawn on The Day

Maltese food & drinks available from 12 Noon

Donation: Adults $10 Children u/15yrs: free

Bookings from: Jim Borg: 9636 7767 or Miriam 0419 476 924

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

La Valette Social Centre
Tel: 9622 5847

La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

Saturdays: Kitchen and Bar open from 5.00pm Traditional Maltese Cuisine. 6.00p.m.: Boċċi. 8.00p.m.: Live DJ and Bingo.

Last Saturday of the Month: - Ġhanna Night with aver Bonanno and friends

Thursday January 16: Maltese Respite Care Service reopens Mass in Maltese in the Main Hall at 10.15am.

Tuesdays: From 9am: BOĊĊI for members and friends
For more information contact the centre ___________________________________

MASS TIME: Saturday: St Francis Chapel: 5.30 p.m. (when a priest is available)

The Maltese Confectionery Specialist Wishes its clients a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Please phone: (02) 9671 1863

La Valette Social Centre
175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

SUNNY’S CONFECTIONERY

The Maltese Confectionery Specialist Wishes its clients a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
**Melbourne:** on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 6-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11 am.

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

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

On SBS Radio
Day Time Analogue and Digital
Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00
SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GL FM 89.3.
Isma’ l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta’ NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM.
(Jista’ wkoll jinstema’ On Demand minn fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)

Presenters: Nathalie Gatt.

**Sydney:** listen in by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.

**Tune in to Radio and Television**

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

**SBS Maltese News:** L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 31 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

**Brisbane** listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6:00 - 8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

---

**Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups**

- **Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors**
  Meets on the last Tuesday of the month. Group meets in Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights at 10 am.

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

- **Daceyville Maltese Seniors**
  Meets the last Wednesday of the month in the Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville. Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips Join us and make new friends.

- **Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors**
  Meets every second Friday of the month: Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 am.

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

**Maltese of Bankstown**
Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month in the 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.

---

**Avviż ill-qarerja**

**Tixtieq li jkollok kopja f’idejk ta’ The Voice?**

I nfakku lill-qarreja li The Voice of the Maltese, mhux biss magazine online, iżda wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ipublikat.

Fil-fatt huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li bdew japprofittaw ruhem minn dan u abbonaw halli anke jibdew jirċevu kopja pprintijata bil-posta d-dar bi hlas.


Biex dan isir wiehed għandu l-ewwel jiikkomunika b’email halli jagħml et-talba lill maltesesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta’ abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħd jekk ikun irid jissieħeb ma’ dawk kollha li mhumiex kuntenti biss li jqarraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgharrafna.
MFA presents Italian as new national teams’ head coach

The Malta Football Association has appointed Devis Mangia, an Italian, as head coach of its national teams. The Italian has signed a four-year contract that binds him with the MFA until the end of 2023. He has taken up his new role with immediate effect.

Since starting his coaching career in 2004 Mangia, 45, who obtained his UEFA Pro licence from the Italian FA’s Technical Centre in Coverciano, has coached both at club and international levels. He managed a number of Serie A, B and Lega Pro clubs in Italy. His last coaching job was with Romanian top division side CS Universitatea Craiova.

Malta FA President Bjorn Vassallo said he was pleased that Devis accepted the MFA’s offer to be in charge of “defining a common game philosophy for all our national team selections in line with the Association’s strategy.”

He described the Italian as a young and energetic coach with a wealth of experience, notably with the Italy Under-21 side whom he led to the final of the 2013 UEFA Under-21 Championship.

He went on to say that the MFA’s discussions with Mangia further strengthened the association’s conviction that he is the right coach to manage Malta’s national team and to lead the technical overhaul that he MFA is undertaking in the coming months.

“His vision and football philosophy fit with our plans to improve the performance and results of our national teams, including the project to enter a professional club in the Italian Lega Pro. Devis’s knowledge of Italian football and his coaching experience, will be an asset for us in this context,” the MFA president said.

In his first comments after the signing of the agreement Mangia said he was happy for reaching the agreement, and that the project presented to him was a very ambitious one. “I am confident that with hard work and dedication, together we can significantly improve the level of Maltese football.”

4 Eastern Europeans in Malta tournament

Four club sides from eastern Europe, three from the Czech Republic, Bank Ostrava, FK Mlada Boleslav and FC Zbrojovka Brno, and Slovakia’s FC DAC Dunajská Streda will be taking part in the second edition of the Tipsport Malta Cup 2020 to be played January 25-27, at the National Stadium.

The tournament that will serve the visiting team as a training camp, is supported by the Malta Tourism Authority and sponsored by Tipsport, and is being o-ordinated by MFA SportsPlus Limited.

The visiting teams will also be playing friendlies against a number of Maltese clubs.

Malta at European Waterpolo Championships

As of January 12, Malta started participating in the 2020 European Waterpolo Championships in the Duna Arena in Budapest. The event concludes on January 26.

Malta is in Group C with Spain, Hungary and Turkey. The rest of the teams in the 34th edition of the event are:

Group A: Croatia, Montenegro, Slovakia, and Germany.
Group B: Serbia, Russia, Romania, and Netherlands.
Group D: Italy, Greece, Georgia, and France.

Birkirkara hand Floriana season’s first defeat

Floriana’s 13-match positive streak (2 wins and a draw b) in the Premier League was halted at the start of Round 1 when they were handed their first defeat of the season by Birkirkara who defeated them 1-0. As a result their lead was cut down to four points - 31-27 -from Hibernians who defeated Gudja 2-0. Defending champions Valletta slip to third a point further behind after a 2-2 against Sta Lucia.

Sunday was not the Greens’ day. They were denied three times by the woodwork before conceding a 79th minute goal by Falcone. Sirens also dropped points in a 2-2 draw with Senglea. Late Monday Hamrun played Gzira.

Malta’s first commitment is against Spain January 14. The next is on January 16 against Turkey, and the last group match will be two days later, on the 18th, against Hungary. After the group matches, Malta (expected to finish fourth), will play the other fourth classified teams for places 13th to 16th.

The 2nd and 3rd teams will play each other to qualify ½ finals in cross group format, while the first team classified from each group will qualify directly for ¼ finals.

Parramatta Melita Eagles Annual Meet February 1

Parramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club Ltd would be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday February 1 at 9 am at the Club Rooms Melita Stadium Granville South NSW.

Maltese-Australian clubs for Maltese Cultural Cup

The much-awaited Australia Day tournament for the Maltese Cultural Cup organised by Caroline Springs George Cross is to be held January 23-27 at the City Vista Pavilion and Sports Field between six club teams from Victoria, namely top teams Green Gully and George Cross, Altona City and North Altona, Kello Park and Parramatta Melita Eagles from NSW.

Schedule of play

Jan 23: Altona City v North Altona
Jan 24: George Cross v Green Gully
Jan 25: Altona City v Kello Park
Jan 26: Kello Park v Altona North
Jan 27 is reserved for the finals