Triton square in Malta’s capital city, Valletta as you’ve never seen it before as it hosted FAIRYLAND IN THE CITY in the festive season (See: Making arts, culture accessible to all on page 4)
Australia Day is celebrated in many ways by those that came to Australia. Together with the original inhabitants, they formed a formidable nation. The Maltese first arrived way back in the 1830s. In 1883, Maltese nationals started to come to Australia in organised groups. Therefore the Maltese are proud to have given their contribution. On Australia Day one not only remembers and celebrates but also says thank you to the country that gave the Maltese their second home.

A solemn symbolic celebration is held every year organised so well by the Maltese Community Council of NSW at the Waratah Room, Holroyd Function Centre at Merrylands. This year’s function was attended by a number of dignitaries from State, Federal and Local Governments, a clear indication of the respect authorities have for the Maltese.

Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP opened the programme with a prayer, while the President of the MCC Emanuel Camilleri spoke about what Australia Day means for him. The keynote speech was delivered by 17-year-old student Ruby Vella. She spoke eloquently about her ancestry and her love of Malta. (Report in more detail in the next issue of The Voice).

The recipients of the Order of Australia attending were presented to the assembly by Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie. Also present were Julie Finn MP and Councillors from Parramatta and Cumberland Local Councils. There are 38 persons from NSW who had been duly honoured in the Order of Australia; more were announced this year.

The afternoon was energised by the entertainment provided by the delightful singer Natasha Vella and the always dependable MCA Choir under the direction of Marisa Preitera. The selection of the music was ideal for the occasion.

Cr Steve Christou, the Mayor of Cumberland Council wrapped up the event by giving credit to the Maltese and their contribution to the city of Cumberland (formerly Holroyd).

Both the Multicultural NSW and Cumberland City Council were acknowledged for the assistance in the presentation of this event.
Two Maltese from NSW named on Australia Day 2020 Honours list

Two prominent members of the Maltese community in NSW, Mark Caruana OAM from Marayong NSW and Patrick Joseph Bartolo OAM from Tonngabbie NSW have been named by the Governor-General and Chancellor of the Order of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), in the list of 1,099 recipients of the Order of Australia Honours on Australia Day 2020.

According to the Awards Secretariat, Mark and Patrick are the only two Maltese born recipients featured in the list of honours that includes, five appointed Companions of the Order (AC), 59 appointed Officers of the Order (AO), 224 appointed Members of the Order (AM), and 549 awardees of the Medals (OAM).

Announcing the list, David Hurley said that the people recognised on this day are, “Dedicated, committed, selfless” and that “they are outstanding and exemplify the best of Australia.”

On behalf of the Maltese community, The Voice of the Maltese in particular congratulates Mark and Patrick for this honour. Both are true quiet achievers. Mark Caruana OAM is a well known Maltese community historian. He was featured in our Personality of the Month feature for May 2018. He is co-founder of the La Valette Social Centre and former President. He also served as Vice President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW until recently. He worked with the Department of Education and Training and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs dealing in ethnic affairs where he was highly regarded.

Patrick Joseph Bartolo OAM is the official photographer of this magazine and the MCC of NSW and acting conductor with the MCA Choir. He is a member of the Maltese Community Council of NSW and the Maltese Sub-Branch of the RSL. Patrick is also a musician involved with entertaining various age groups and co-ordinates music for various churches. He is a member of the Maltese Community Council of NSW and the Maltese Sub-Branch of the RSL.

There are others with Maltese sounding names that appear on the honours list but who have not declared their ancestry or involvement with the Maltese community. They include, Joanna Geraldine Agius from South Australia, Antonio Arrigo from Bunyip Victoria, Judith Ann Sammut from Doncaster Victoria, Joseph F. Buhagiar from Yass, and Damian J Demarco from NSW and Michael Said from Victoria.

There could still be others with connections to the Maltese community. If any readers know these people, they are kindly requested to let us know on maltesevoice@gmail.com.

In Malta, the occasion of Australia Day was very special as H.E. Ms Julienne Hince, whose term of office as the High Commissioner for Australia in Malta, comes to an end this week, welcomed the guests on board the Catamaran Saint John Paul II, largest commercial catamaran operating in the Mediterranean and the second largest in the world that was built in Tasmania at the Virtu Passenger Terminal.

She offered sincere thanks to the Portelli Family and Virtu Ferries for hosting the reception on the ship that was attended by the President of Malta, HE Dr George Vella and his wife Miriam, and the new Minister for European & Foreign Affairs Evarist Bartolo.

Also present was the Speaker, Dr Anglu Farrugia, a number of other Government Ministers, members of the Opposition, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other guests, including the representative of The Voice magazine.

*Continued on page 13
Another blow for Melbourne’s Maltese community

Community Radio Station 3WRB, call sign 97.4FM Stereo has shut down. Its last air date was on January 16. This means that the Maltese Community in Melbourne and surrounds have therefore lost four hours of broadcasting in the Maltese language. Other ethnic communities broadcasting from this station are also affected.

Ray Anastasi the co-ordinator brought his Wednesday and Thursday teams of broadcasters together for the last Maltese broadcast.

Besides the usual “thank you” that goes with the last after the last radiothon? It is believed that the Maltese community had promised about $3,000 via the phones. Perhaps the community deserves an explanation.

Abysmal system – BOV replies

Dealing with the Bank of Valletta in the last year has caused a lot of sleepless nights to the Maltese living in Australia. They had trusted this bank with their money, especially those who visit the island often and therefore avail themselves of its service while holidaying or doing business in Malta.

The Voice of the Maltese keeps receiving numerous complaints, some we publish, while others are forwarded to the appropriate destination. According to some of the complaints reaching us, what is most worrying is the inconsistency of some of the replies from BOV. It appears that one section does not know what the other is doing.

You would be told that you account has been closed, and then you are told that it is not, or that your money has been refunded, but it is not received.

All this leads to the complainers concluding that communication with the bank is abysmal. The customer care section is a disgrace. The Maltese-Australian clients are still of the opinion that the BOV has a responsibility and a duty of caring towards its customers.

When Bank of Valletta was contacted it insisted that the upgrade to its IT system that was carried out at the end of December was “a success”, this despite customers complaining they still experienced various problems.

On complaints by customers not getting through to the bank’s helpline, the bank’s spokesperson admitted that the number of calls going through had increased during that period of transition, and said that the bank was in the process of recruiting more people to beef up the customer care service.

“The numbers have shot up, and we are aware that some people are not getting through. We are working on resolving that,” the spokesperson said. Meanwhile, in a statement, the bank’s chief technology officer Joseph Aguis said the upgrade was not a straightforward one for a minor system.

“It involved the decommissioning of major banking systems and replacing them within a new state-of-the-art core banking IT system,” Mr Aguis said.

Caption to Front page:

Making arts, culture accessible to all

Throughout 2019 Valletta took advantage of the publicity it generated in 2018 when it was named as the European Capital of Culture, and strengthened its claim as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

Malta’s capital stepped up this tag during the most wonderful time of the year, last Christmas, and the first days of the New Year when the Triton square hosted FAIRYLAND IN THE CITY (pictured) that comprised Christmas Markets, a Ferris wheel and an Ice Skating rink.

Most probably Valletta had never seen that many people for such a long stretch of time, and though that activity is now over, Valletta keeps attracting locals and tourists alike.

The Valletta Cultural Agency is determined to keep the momentum going throughout 2020 by launching a cultural programme of over 40 large cultural events with the participation of about 300 artists (240 Maltese) who would be offered the chance to express their talent. This would be an investment of over €3 million.

A calendar of events has been drawn that is intended to continue strengthening Valletta’s cultural identity.

In the meantime, infrastructure upgrading continues to be regenerated in the city with the ultimate aim being that arts and culture become accessible to all.

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
Q. I am 67 years old and on the age pension. My wife is 61 years old and has just recently lost her job. She has applied for new start allowance. We still have an outstanding mortgage of $170,000. My wife has a superannuation fund of $230,000. Is she able to withdraw money from superannuation to pay this mortgage as we are struggling to keep up the repayments now that she has lost her job?
A. As your wife is not working and she is over 60 years of age she has met a condition of release. She can therefore withdraw any amount that she wants from her superannuation tax-free and pay it on your mortgage. It can be beneficial if she does that now prior to going back into the workforce. This will give you peace of mind of having no mortgage at your age, and also once she is back in the workforce if she starts to make further contributions into this super fund she will then not be able to make any lump sum withdrawals until age 65.

Q. I am 59 years of age and my wife is 58. I work full time and my superannuation is around $85,000. My wife is retired and her superannuation is around $15,000. I was self-employed and had purchased an investment property which is worth around $650,000 and this was to be our future retirement income. We are renting it out at $450 per week. Are we doing the right thing?
A. There is nothing wrong in having an investment property. However in your case, when you do retire you will most probably qualify for a very small part age pension, if any, based on your assets. Would the rental income and another $500 per month from your superannuation be sufficient to live on?

Q. I have just received an inheritance from my aunt’s estate. This was a third share from the sale of her residential home. My share is $330,000. My aunt passed away 18 months ago. How much tax would I have to pay on these funds once I receive them?
A. As these funds are from the sale of your aunt’s residential home, and as she has passed away less than two years ago, her estate would not have any capital gains tax to pay and therefore you would receive your share of the inheritance from this property in full.
Our choice for the first month of the New Year is our columnist Ivan Cauchi. This 51-year-old born in Malta to Gozitan parents has been leading a full and colourful life. The vast experience he has gained from his various paid and voluntary occupations in Malta and Australia has helped him to contribute in many ways to the Maltese community.

Ivan Cauchi

Ivan was born in Malta and lived with parents at Rahal Gdid and thereafter at Fgura. He went to school at De La Salle College, Cottonera. Afterwards he attended 6th Form at the New Lyceum in Msida, working with the Public Registry at the Computer Centre at Swatar.

He entered the University of Malta reading Electrical Engineering, majoring in telecommunications and computer system engineering.

He was elected a member of the Kunsill tal-Istudenti Universitari (KSU) – the university student council. Work experience followed at the Bormla dockyard, with TeleMalta Corporation and the professional audio equipment maker Willi Stüder AG in Switzerland.

He graduated B. Elec. Eng. (Hons.) and was appointed as engineer with TeleMalta, responsible initially for phone line maintenance and planning until joining the IT department of the company, eventually appointed Head of Planning.

He also completed a part-time Masters research degree M.Phil. in multimedia telecommunications.

During this time, he took up part time teaching and lecturing in subjects tied to telecommunications and computer networks: at technical colleges in Kordin for courses by City & Guilds of London Institute, with the University of Malta and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.

In 1995, Ivan married Margaret, a pharmacist from Birkirkara, at San Lawrenz in Gozo and went to live in Żejtun. After leaving TeleMalta, he joined Vodafone Malta, managing a group of engineers and technicians providing several popular mobile phone services, such as text and multimedia messaging, voice mail, mobile Internet and others.

Ivan was a youth leader with the Kerċem Movement at Rabat. He joined the sports arm of Kerċem, playing volleyball in the national league and participating in several volleyball marathons as fundraising for Id-Dar tal-Provvidenza at Siggiewi which takes care of people with disabilities.

For a short period of time, he formed part of the Maltese national volleyball team, one of his best experiences being representing his home country at the Small Nations Games held in Andorra in 1991.

He played tennis for many years, a sport he still loves today. He also played soccer with the engineers’ team at University, the Lija Lions team in the MAFA Division 4 and 3 leagues, and with the Vodafone Malta team in the ISA league.

Ivan was director then coordinator of Mid-Dlam ghad-Dawl (MDD), working with prisoners and their families. He helped set up Victim Support (Malta), an independent organisation working with victims of crime.

Finally, he became one of the founders of the Daritama Foundation which encompassed MDD, a community radio station Radju Kottoner as well as an educational scheme for disadvantaged children.

In 2005, Ivan moved to Sydney with Margaret, to take up a position as IT Infrastructure Architect with Vodafone Australia, and worked amongst others on a large IT project spread over three countries.

For many years, Ivan volunteered with Youth Off The Streets (YOTS), at events for kids in a disadvantaged part of Western Sydney, and looking for kids sleeping rough in the back alleys, and sometimes the main roads, of central Sydney.

He was given the Circle of Courage award by YOTS in 2013 and the Quiet Achiever award by Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc. in 2017.

For six years he was an Official Visitor on behalf of the NSW Government in the maximum-security Parklea Correctional Centre, fielding inquiries and complaints by inmates and staff and pursuing their resolution.

In Australia, Ivan and Margaret have gone camping with a camper-trailer and a 4WD in all the states and territories of Australia, including Tasmania.

Ivan started teaching Maltese in 2013, first with the Maltese Language School of NSW, then on a private tuition basis with the brand Dwejret il-Malti, teaching from absolute beginners up to HSC level, to individuals and groups, face-to-face at La Valette Social Centre (LVSC) in Blacktown, the biggest Maltese club in NSW, or online as required.

Ivan writes the column Perspettiva (Perspective) in Maltese on the fortnightly digital magazine, The Voice of the Maltese for the diaspora, an English version of which may be found in his blog at https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com. He tackles cultural, social, political, religious, technological, business and other topics.

He is the La Valette SC treasurer and helps its subcommittee MAYC (Maltese-Australians’ Youth Committee), in their efforts to keep the Maltese culture alive with 2nd and 3rd generation Maltese descendents.

Ivan provides IT consultancy on a part-time basis from his extensive experience. He does this through his company FalconICT.

His main focus today is being a stay-at-home dad for twins Eliana and Matias, aged three and a half, that he and Margaret have been blessed with. They live in Blacktown in Western Sydney.
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?

VisitMalta.com
Your letters/ L-ittri tagħhom...

Thank you for the memories

Chas. Mangion from Melbourne writes:

It gives me great pleasure and fills me with a great sense of patriotism towards my country of origin, Malta, when I read articles such as the latest one by Andy Busuttil in the last issue of The Voice of the Maltese magazine, entitled, ‘For the love of home’.

I have been living and rearing a family in Australia since the early fifties. I have given this continent around 70 siblings with kids of my own, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Like Andy I have never forgotten my roots and this is something that I also have tried to instil in each and every member of the family.

Though I am not that well versed in the Maltese language when it comes to writing, I can still hold my own when I speak the lingo that my parents taught me in the lovely island of Malta, in particular when I visited there every other year to meet the rest of my relatives and the friends I still have at Bormla.

Awguri lill-Prim Ministru l-ġdid ta’ Malta taghna

Paul Debono minn Fairfield NSW jikteb:


There are still many Maltesers like me in Australia, especially in Melbourne who feel as I do about our country of origin, and when I read articles such as Andy Busuttil’s and all that The Voice offers to us readers every fortnight to show the progress Malta has made in all sectors brings out the best in me.

It is good that people like Andy who has this gift of writing try their best to remind us of those far off days in Malta. Many of us who during our youth, a few years after the end of the war years had been deprived of the luxurious were still a happy lot. If anything, we grew even faster and had the chance to become creative.

When my father decided that the family could have a better future in Australia and against the advice of other relatives brought us to Australia, we had a tough time to start with. It wasn’t easy to settle but by using the skills we had learned and the schooling in Malta we could get by. Eventually we managed to earn the respect of the Australian entrepreneurs and the authorities and established ourselves as first class citizens.

We have made a success of our “adventure” but we will never forget our roots. Thank you Andy for bringing all this up. Thank you for the memories!

A confession from deep inside Andy’s heart

Augustine J Borg from Cecil Hills, NSW writes:

Andy Busuttil’s poignant and emotional expression of the deep abiding love he holds for his homeland, was revealed in the January 14 edition of ‘The Voice of the Maltese’. The two-page confession allows no questions at to its veracity. His confession comes from deep inside his heart; the same place where his ethereal music seems to come from.

I had to stop reading several times, as recollections, now more than eighty-years-old, awoke quickly, fresh and quite undimmed, all trying to overwhelm me by waves of sadness and sweet emotions that I did nothing to subdue.

Even as I write, I can still see his nunnu, and mine, one smoking his pipe and the other, a ‘home-made’ cigarette of dubious contents, and their wives, always busy, always there, ready to spoon out endless love with their ministra.

Thank you, dear friend Andy. I’m sure you’ve stirred up similar feelings in all your readers, and I’m also sure that, just as you maintain, we all hate the very thought of losing them.
‘Maltese’ 2019 Farmer of the Year runner-up

Matthew Fenech from Horsley Park, a farmer of Maltese descent but born in Sydney has been named as runner up in the 2019 NSW Farmer of the Year Award. Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture in NSW, presented him with a finalist trophy.

It was a great achievement to be amongst the top three farmers chosen by the judges as finalists. The judging panel included senior members of the Department of Primary Industries, NSW Farmers Association The Land Newspaper and Safe Work Australia.

The finalists met at an informal dinner the night before the announcement. This was a chance to get to know each other and talk about their farming backgrounds. The other finalists were from different parts of NSW. Matthew was the only finalist representing Western Sydney, an urban farm and a poultry farm.

Matthew Fenech is a third generation poultry farmer located in a peri urban area that has undergone tremendous demographic change since his grandparents established the business in the 1960s.

Surviving and thriving in a changing landscape has seen Matthew embrace new technology and approaches as he grows and diversifies the operations while still proudly maintaining the company’s small family business roots and values.

Matthew is the son of Joseph and Marion (nee Grima). His father was born in Mosta, Malta. His grandad on his mother’s side, Charlie, was born in Mellieha. Mathew's grandparents, Charlie and Rose Grima, are well known in Horsley Park where they established an egg farm in the 1960s.

He is married to Pauline (nee Calleja). They have three children: Isabelle, James and Luke. Pauline describes her husband Matthew as the quintessential quiet achiever. His ability to embrace diversification and ongoing investment of time and training into empowering and retaining staff has turned a humble egg farm into an award-winning wholesale and retail business.

The Fenech Family Farm is located at 53-65 Ferrers Rd, Horsley Park, 2175 where they sell fresh farm eggs and other produce direct to the public.
Ħafna mill-qarrejja x’aktar xemghu jew qd isegwu l’ahbarijiet dwar virus gdid li gie skopert fiċ-Cina f’dawn l-ahbar jiem. Huwa perikoluż ghax iwassal għall-mnevmonja u diġa kkawża mijiet ta’ infeżzjonijiet u wkoll xi miwiet. Hemm x’juri li qed jingħadda minn bniiedem għall-ieħor, u għalhekk jista’ jikker f’epidemia. 


Din il-virus il-ġdid idjer li originat fil-belt ta’ Wuhan, f’suq tal-hut fiċ-centru tal-pajjiż, u s’issa nxxered f’xi pajjiżi oħra fl-Asja, għall-Gappun, il-Korej t’Isfel u t-Tajlandja fost l-ohrajn. Diversi pajjiż qeghdin għassa ghad-dħul tieghu fil-pajjiż. Barra l-Asja, gaw ikkonfermati infezzjonijiet fl-Australja, l-Istati Uniti u Franza, kollha b’konnessjoni ma’ Wuhan.

Għalkemm hemm thassib dwar l-implikazzjonijiet ta’ dan kollu, sakemm qed jinkiteb dan l-artiklu kienet għadha ma ġietx iddijjarata emerţenza tas-saħħa pubblika mill-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tas-Saħħa (WHO – World Health Organisation), għalkemm din id-dikjarazzjoni qed tiġi kkunsidrata.

Niftakar il-pandemonju li kien qam meta kienu tfaċċaw is-SARS u l-MERS, u wisq nibża li ġej żmien ieħor ta’ stejjer ta’ preokuppazzjoni, biex inżiduhom ma’ dawk fuq in-nirien mifruxa mal-continent Awstraljan li ilhom jaħarqu x-xħur. Alla magħna!


Niftakar il-pandemonju li kien qam meta kienu tfaċċaw is-SARS u l-MERS, u wisq nibża li ġej żmien ieħor ta’ stejjer ta’ preokku-pazzjoni, biex inżiduhom ma’ dawk fuq in-nirien mifruxa mal-kontinent Awstraljan li ilhom jaharqu x-xħur. Alla magħna!

Referenzi


Statwa oħra tiegħu hija dik ta' Santa Katarina f'Tad-Dahla (limiti tar-Rabat). Din hija kopja ta' fil-minjatura ta' Santa Katarina taż-Zurrieq. Hemm ukoll dik ta' San Martin tal-Bahrija, xoqžol ieħor ta' Głormu Dingli.


PM Robert Abela building bridges

Since January 13 when he was sworn in as Malta’s new Prime Minister, Dr Robert Abela has been busy building bridges. He had pledged continuity and to be close to the people, and that is what he has been doing in his first two whirlwind weeks. He has also shown that he is a man of action and that even when it comes to taking unpopular decisions, he does not shy away from responsibility.

As of his first message to the nation, Robert Abela said he was humbly welcoming the responsibility to serve the people and that Malta needs to keep moving forward to create more prosperity that can reach everyone and be better distributed.

He pointed out that people wanted stability and peace of mind in order to continue to move forward. He promised work to carry out the electoral manifesto that elected the LP in 2017.

Dr Abela said there needs to be national unity, which has always won over fear. “It is unity that has always made the Maltese people stronger,” he said. His intention is to find out that which brings people together rather than what divides them.

He added that the country needs to continue succeeding with a strong economy and the creation of more employment. He said he entered politics to help people and promised that he would work to strengthen social mobility so that everyone is given the opportunity to reach his aspirations and to go forward.

Malta reaches aviation targets

Malta’s 9H aircraft registry has reached an important target that the government set in 2019, that of reaching 400 registered aircraft. A goal that the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg said was achieved thanks to the dedicated work of Transport Malta and the Civil Aviation Directorate within it.

A satisfied Minister went on to describe aviation as a very important industry for Malta, since as an island it is dependent on connectivity by sea and air for commerce and transport to and from other countries.

He said that the results mean more economic growth and more employment opportunities and the government would not stop at achievements, in fact it is looking beyond all this and this year it wants to reach 460 aircraft. The amount has already reached 411. “We want to increase the number of operators,” he said.

An Air Operator Certificate was presented to Galistair, an efficient and sustainable Spanish operator that provides aviation services as well as aircraft charters with commitment towards the environment. There are five more applications for Air Operator Certificates and three more interested training organisations.

The country’s targets for the sector also include better environmental standards towards improved sustainability.

A double act of solidarity

Thousands of people that included Prime Minister Robert Abela, a number of cabinet ministers, and other deputies from both sides of the House of Representatives, on Sunday morning joined President George Vella in the first Solidarity Fun Run.

At the end of the 11th edition of the Solidarity Fun Run, organised by the President’s office in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation the President said that the people had shown a double act of solidarity, solidarity with each other as a people, and solidarity with those in need.

The activity, a run/walk that started from four main points, attracted the crowds. In the last phase the runners and walkers converged as one to enter Valletta and finish the event at St George’s Square where they were addressed by the President, the Prime Minister, and the deputy leader of the PN.

The President thanked and expressed great satisfaction as the people heeded the appeal to join the run that had been postponed from just before Christmas because of inclement weather. He said, it has proved the greatness of the Maltese people.

He said that by taking part in this event the people had shown a double act of solidarity, solidarity with each other as a people, and solidarity with those in need.

He repeated what he had stated when he had been named as President, that he would continue to work towards national unity until the end of his term.
The outgoing Australian High Commissioner to Malta Ms Julienne Hince with Minister Evarist Bartolo at the farewell luncheon

Minister Bartolo hosts Australian HC to farewell luncheon

Malta’s newly assigned Minister for European & Foreign Affairs Evarist Bartolo and his wife Gillian hosted a farewell luncheon at the Ministry in honour of H.E. Ms Julienne Hince the High Commissioner for Australia in Malta whose three-year term ends this week.

It was also attended by His Excellency Zeyd Bouzouita Ambassador of Tunisia, the British High Commissioner in Malta Mr Stuart Gill, staff members from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the representative of Malta’s President, and Joseph Cutajar on behalf of The Voice.

In a short message, Mr Bartolo wished Ms Hince well in her next assignment as she continues her diplomatic career.

On her part the Australian HC thanked the Minister and Malta for a pleasant and fruitful term in Malta and said that she would continue to follow Malta’s progress.

Australian High Commissioner pays farewell visit to Mr Speaker

Ms Julienne Hince also paid a farewell visit to the Speaker, Anġlu Farrugia who expressed his gratitude to the High Commissioner for her hard work during her tenure of office in Malta that enhanced the very close relations that exist between Malta and Australia.

He also expressed his sympathy to the Australian people for the suffering endured during the recent fires that brought Australia to its knees.

The discussion between the two dignitaries also included the recent political events in Malta, the meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and international relations, particularly with China.

Commemorating Australia Day in Malta

*continued from page 3

Ms Hince’s address for the occasion also served as her farewell speech. She mentioned the catastrophic fire conditions Australia is currently suffering from and said it was very grateful for the outpouring of support for Australia including the many offers of assistance and donations from Malta.

She also mentioned the work of the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement and that five rounds of negotiations have already been concluded.

She maintained that the strong relationship between Malta and Australia is outstanding and that she thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the Maltese community when she was at home in Australia too and pointed out that roughly 50,000 Australians visited Malta in 2019.

The Australian High Commissioner ended by wishing the new Government of Malta harmony and success.

Malta’s President George Vella also addressed the occasion.

(A full report dealing with the speeches about the Australia Day commemoration in Malta by President George Vella and HC Juliene Hince will be carried in the next issue of The Voice of the Maltese)

Maltese songs, artists on first digital compilation by German CAP-Sounds

Thirty years since its foundation, CAP-Sounds, a German production and music publication agency, has launched its first digital compilation of songs in Maltese by the name of Maltese Hits, giving a voice to some of the country’s most established singers and a number of new emerging local talent.

The company was set up in 1989 and has been supporting Malta artists since 1996 when it assisted then Malta’s Eurovision Song Contest participant, Miriam Christine.

This first compilation consisting of 20 songs by established singers like Fabrizio Faniello, Thea Garrett, Philip Vella, Miriam Christine and Janice Mangion, and a number of young talented singers.

You can listen to them on Spotify or on: https://backl.ink/104507309
Vittmi’ tal-investigazzjoni

L -investigazzjonijiet dwar il-qitil ta’ Daphne Caruana Galizia, barra li wasslu ghal titlet persuni mixlija bil-qitil taghha u persuna ohra li allegament kien dak li hallas ghal qitil taghha, qed jitqies li halliet “vittmi” ohra, fossthom, Ministr, l-istess Prim Ministru, u ġurnalist.

Il-Ministru

Wahda mill-vittmi kienet il-Ministr ghal Għawdex, Dr Justyne Caruana, li propju fiti jiem biss wara li hadet il-ġurament ta’ Ministr spċiċet biex tirriżenja ghax indirettament giet involuta il-investigazzjonijiet tal-qitil ta’ Caruana Galizia.


L’Vittmi’ tal-investigazzjoni


tal-Oppożizzjoni li saħansitra qal li dan kien l-ewwel test tal-Prim Ministru: ma’ Fenech kien hu li ħallas għas-safra tiegħu u li dakinhar ma kienx jaf li Fenech li:

minn Ministru kien qiegħed taħt suspett, il-Ministru Caruana Abela, Dr Justyne Caruana saħqet 14 T

il-Ministru għu nnifsu u mad-

Ġurnalista

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L i Maltin iħobbu żaqqhom hija xi haġa maħgrufa mhux biss f’pażjiżna, imma anke lil hinn minn pażjiżna, l-aktar fejn hemm konzentrazzjoni ta’ emigranti Maltin, bħal fl-Awstralja u l-Canada.


Dan kollu ġie rifless fi stħarrir tal-agenzija tal-Unjoni Europa, l-Eurostat.


Dan kollu ġie rifless fi stħarrir tal-agenzija tal-Unjoni Europa, l-Eurostat.


Dan kollu ġie rifless fi stħarrir tal-agenzija tal-Unjoni Europa, l-Eurostat.

Attenborough criticises Canberra’s approach to climate change

Omitting the destruction prompted by Australia’s wave of bushfires, Sir David Attenborough, 93-years old British naturalist, criticised Canberra’s approach to climate change, saying the government’s support of coal mines suggested it does not care about the environment.

David Attenborough says the “moment of crisis” has come in the fight against climate change, warning that governments’ targets for decades in the future are not enough to save the planet. The British naturalist also called on China in particular to reduce its carbon emissions, saying he thought other countries would follow if China set the lead.

The moment of crisis has come - we can no longer prevaricate, David Attenborough raised public awareness around the world of the danger of plastic pollution in oceans with his television series Blue Planet II.

“We have been putting things off year after year, raising targets and saying ‘Oh well if we do it within the next 20 years...’,” he told the BBC in an interview.

Unlock housing wealth to fix aged care

Catholic Health Australia’s chief executive Pat Garcia writes that the aged care-funding crisis is now so deep the Government can’t realistically fix it with taxpayers’ money. The waiting list for home-care packages now has 120,000 names on it. The aged care royal commission noted, many seniors are now dying in discomfort well before they win the lottery for a package.

The Government, recognising the problem, last month announced a fresh $500 million for home-care packages enough to provide an extra 10,000 places. A welcome step, but not nearly enough.

To actually clear the list would cost several billion dollars, and that would just be to deal with the backlog. Demand would continue to rise sharply from then on as the population ages.

We need to find better ways of unlocking some of the resources older Australians have accumulated over their lives, to better ensure they are happy and comfortable in their final years. So what is needed from Government is significant structural reform – a process that will be difficult and contentious.

The PM, climate change and volunteers

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced under some pressure that he would “continue to evolve” his government’s climate change policy while also flagging a royal commission into this summer’s tragic and ongoing events. He admitted that he was in the wrong when he took a flight to Hawaii with his family during Australia’s bushfire crisis and that he could have “handled things on the ground much better”.

People in Australia are rushing to join volunteer fire fighting services in record numbers as bushfires continue to rage across the country, with more than five times the usual yearly number of applicants expressing interest in joining the NSW Rural Fire Service since November.

In the two-and-a-half months since the start of the fire season, the RFS has received more than 25,000 membership enquiries, community engagement manager Anthony Bradstreet told SBS News, compared to an average annual application intake of approximately 4,000.

The RFS is the biggest volunteer fire service in the world, with more than 70,000 members across 2,002 local brigades.

Colonel Bruno Ulliac, the leader of a team of five French fire-fighters, has almost 40 years’ experience fighting fires across Europe and South America, but says he was still shocked when he came face-to-face with Australia’s devastating bushfires. His team were still grappling with the sheer size of the Australian crisis.

Colonel Pierre Schaller is also part of the French team and said even 40 years’ experience fighting fires across Europe and South America, but says he was still shocked when he came face-to-face with Australia’s devastating bushfires. His team were still grappling with the sheer size of the Australian crisis.

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As we went to print it was reported that 5.1 million hectares were razed by megafire, 55 national parks burnt out, 24 per cent of koala habitat scorched and 35 per cent of natural rainforest destroyed.

David Attenborough

Colonel Pierre Schaller
Priestly celibacy must be discussed

Nick Brodie historian and writer, writing in Eureka Street says that debates about priestly celibacy are almost as old as the Catholic priesthood itself, but they should be a feature of Australia's upcoming Plenary Council Debates about priestly celibacy and sexual continence. Progressive-minded commentators will usually point out than the strict, universal rule for Latin-rite priests is of medieval European origin.

Conservative-minded commentators tend to highlight that historic married priests were periodically discouraged from having sex until they gradually abandoned the habit of marrying in the first place and that the last half a millennium bears witness to the ideal of sexual continence.

Whether Australia’s bishops are willing to discuss seeking a local relaxation of the rule of mandatory celibacy, this is one of the big questions of Plenary 2020.

Hailstorm ravages the city of Canberra

It was not fire this time but hail the size of golf balls left their mark on buildings and hundreds of cars in a 30-minute frenzy before the sun reappeared. Emergency services worked through the night to respond to roof and window damage, fallen trees and electrical hazards.

Car windscreens were obliterated at the Australian National University and Old Parliament House, while a wind gust of 117km/h was recorded at Canberra Airport. A catastrophe was declared in the wake of a fierce hail storm. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) have been surveying the damage with several valuable research projects in tatters.

It is estimated at least 65 CSIRO glasshouses were damaged in the storms, devasting crops of wheat, barley, legumes and cotton. The research body had been growing the material on-site to improve crop sustainability, but those efforts now appear to have been in vain.

“For projects that potentially might have been close to the end of say two or three years of work, that is really distressing; unfortunately, most of those projects will be totally lost.” CSIRO chief operating officer Judi Zielke told the ABC.

Donations will not cover the repair bill

The more than $250 million donated to charities for bushfire relief in recent weeks is “probably not enough” to repair the damage caused by blazes across the country, the head of St Vincent de Paul Society NSW said.

As fires continued to burn across New South Wales, Victoria and on Kangaroo Island, Vinnies NSW chief executive Jack De Groot said the amount of money given to help those affected had been overwhelming.

“We’re at $11.7 million of donations from the public for the Vinnies appeal in Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria and South Australia,” he said.

“I’ve never seen this sort of generosity for a bushfire appeal across multiple states. We’re only halfway through a bushfire season, too, so I think people will continue to be very generous.”

But while the Morrison Government had also allocated $2 billion to the recovery effort, Mr De Groot said more would be needed to address the scale of destruction. It is the second-largest amount the charity has received for a cause after the public donated $400 million in 2009 to help communities recover from Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria.
Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

L-aċċent u l-appostrofu


Nispjegaw

L-appostrofu (') jiżi wżat biex wiehed juri li hemm xi haga nieqsa jew imqassra, bhal nghidu ahna xi vokali li waqgħet (ez. l-’Aprīl minflok fi Ąprīli), jew il-konsonanti gh l-tarf il-kelma (ez. rega minflok reġgh).


Meta kas u meta każ


Bhala spjejga jista’ jinghad li: każ (plural każ jew każijiet) tfsix “xi ġaħa li ssehh” jew “okkajżjoni partikolari” u tintuża bħal meta, nghidu “fil-każ li ma jiġi hadd; fil-każ ta’ hrugu, kien każ ta’ ominċidju jew dawn huwa każ speciċi”.

kas tfsix “attenzjoni” u tintuża biss fl-espressjoni ta’ kas, bhal: qatt ma ta’ kas it-τal; ma jagħtux kashom; għalih fejn laqat laqat, ma jagħti kas xejn u hadd.

Minn sħarrirg sibna li l-kelma kǔss hi ta’ nisel Ru-manż (Sqalli case, Taljan caso) u daħlet fil-Malti f’zewg għamlet differenti, f’zewg perjodi jew kummutajiet differenti. Għalhekk għandha żewġ tifsiriet u fonetikament iġgib ruhha b’mod differenti.


Il-Munxar mhux biss raħal f’Għawdex

M in hu midhla tal-Gżejar Maltin jaf li f’Għawdex hemm raħal magħrif bhal a l-Munxar li jinsab fin-nofsinar tal-gżira, qrib ir-raħal ta’ Sannat. Imma li għandha ma jiġi ħadd; fil-kliem, il-kelma kǔss, każ, kas, kasna, kas (plural każ jew kas, kasna), boż, boż jew dawn huma fl-espressjoni ta’ kas, bhal: qatt ma ta’ kas it-τal; ma jagħtux kashom; għalih fejn laqat laqat, ma jagħti kas xejn u hadd.

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Il-mfred nin hu midhla tal-Gżejar Maltin jaf li f’Għawdex hemm raħal magħrif bhal a l-Munxar li jinsab fin-nofsinar tal-gżira, qrib ir-raħal ta’ Sannat. Imma li għandha ma jiġi ħadd; fil-kliem, il-kelma kǔss, każ, kas, kasna, kas (plural każ jew kas, kasna), boż, boż jew dawn huma fl-espressjoni ta’ kas, bhal: qatt ma ta’ kas it-τal; ma jagħtux kashom; għalih fejn laqat laqat, ma jagħti kas xejn u hadd.

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The Gozo Tourism Association has awarded the Said brothers, Joe and George with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Tourism at the 12th edition of the Gozo Tourism Awards held recently. The brothers were commended for their investment and achievements in the tourism sector along the years, which contributed towards job creation and economic on Gozo.

Other winners in the 2019 awards also included Charlayne Galea, a diving company secretary based in Xlendi, who was named Worker of the Year. The awards, organised by the Gozo Tourism Association are intended to acknowledge, commend, encourage and thank all the workers, entrepreneurs and entities who distinguish themselves in the performance of their duties and activities in the vital touristic industry in Gozo.

For the first time an award was presented to Mifsud Brothers as a non-Gozitan organisation that worked in favour of tourism in Gozo. This year, the tourist agency will bring the 100th cruise liner to Gozo.

The winners of the awards were:
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Joe and George Said
- **Gozo Tourism Worker of the Year** – Charlayne Galea
- **Gozo Young Tourism Worker of the Year** – Megan Cauchi
- **Gozo Tourism Entrepreneurship** – Francis Azzopardi
- **Gozo Cultural/Social Achievement** – Dwejra Environmental Educational Centre
- **Special Recognition Award** – Daniel Cilia

Addressing the occasion, Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said that, together with the Gozo Minister, she would be drafting specific programmes and initiatives in order to strengthen the Gozitan tourist sector.

**Traditonal feast of St Anthony the Abbot**

On January 19 Xagħra celebrated the annual traditional feast of St Anthony the Abbot. The programme included a concelebrated Mass by Gozo bishop Mario Grech at the chapel dedicated to the saint at the Tal-Qaċċa area, and street marches by the Victory Band of Xagħra. Rector Can. Michael Galea then blessed horses and the statue of St Anthony was carried around followed by a re-enactment, by the Xagħra Historical Reenactment Organisation.

**Gozo Business Chamber is 20 years old**

The Gozo Business Chamber celebrated its 20th year anniversary at the San Lawrenz Kempinski hotel, the same venue where 20 years ago the public deed that constituted the same organisation was signed. The commemorative evening was highlighted by speeches from the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation, Daniel Borg, Associate Professor within the Department of Public Policy, Dr Edward Warrington, the permanent secretary of the Ministry for Gozo, John Borg, (on behalf of the Minister for Gozo) and Joseph Borg, the President of the Gozo Business Chamber.

A video presentation outlining the history of the organisation and its contribution to Gozo’s socio economic development was also shown during the event.

An important part of the evening’s celebration was the presentation of mementos to present and past Council members and former presidents. The interventions during the day focused on various aspects, including the Gozo Business Chamber’s contribution to Gozo’s achievements throughout the years, the need for good governance, and how the Chamber should develop in the coming years.
Se jhallu Warrawong wara 65 sena

S tar maghruľ li bhalissa ghaddej proċess biex l-Ordni Frangiskana Konventwal li ilha fil-parroċċa ta Warrawong (limiti ta’ Wollongong) ghal dawn l-ahhar 65 sena tirtira minn din il-parroċċa minħabba nuqqas ta’ saċerdoti.


L-ahhar saċerdot Malti tal-Ordni Frangiskana Konventwal, Fr Leonard Testa (xellug) jinsab irritat minħabba sahttu ghal kemm xorta ġhadu resi-denti f’dawk in-nahat.

Skorba concert honours our Island Malta’s rich history

A ndy Busuttil’s Skorba band that performs music about periods in Malta’s history will be performing at the Petersham Bowling Club, 77 Brighton Street Petersham in Sydney on February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

The concert of music will be about ‘L-Assedju il-Kibr’ of 1565. It will be the story of The Great Siege of Malta in music, narrative, and images on a screen.

The occasion promises to be a night of great music with support act Mara and Llew Kiek presenting a great selection of music from the Balkans and Asia Minor representing the region from which the Siege was launched.

Anybody interested to attend should get in touch with Andy for further information on https://bluemountainsound.com.au/

Andy’s message is: “Come and be proud of our little nation’s history and what we have contributed in ourmighty smallness!”

The online ticketing for the Skorba concert is https://www.trybooking.com/596249.

In-nuqqas ta’ saċerdot Malti fl-inhaiwi ta’ Blacktown

H uwa wkoll maghruľ li ċ-centru La Valette ta’ Blacktown NSW ġhadu ferm bogħod milli jsolvi l-problema tan-nuqqas ta’ saċerdot Malti, mhux biss għall-membri tiegħu imma wkoll ġhadu maġżogranza tal-komunità li tghix fl-inhaiwi tal-western suburbs.

Bhalissa l-La Valette SC qed jinqdew b’saċerdot li mhux Malti, idża anke hawn jidher li ġhap xi problemi minħabba li l-visa ta’ dan is-saċerdot waslet biex teskjadi.

Saru hafna interventi li qanqu hafna in-teisses minn individwi mal-kurja ta’ Malta idża l-komunikazzjoni tal-Kurja maċ-Ċentru mhux dejjem kienet mill-ahjar.

Ittra dibghuta miċ-centru lill-Kurja ta’ Malta fit-22 ta’ Mejju tas-sena l-ohra langas biss ġget imwieġba, imma fit-13 ta’ Novembru, aktar minn hames xur wara qalulhom li rċewewha.

MALTESE-LANGUAGE-SCHOOL-OF-NSW
A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc. Established in 1989

Learn Maltese!

Learn the Maltese language: the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions, and about the amazing history of the magnificent islands of Malta and Gozo.

Our trained and experienced teachers are qualified in language teaching and have Maltese study credentials. Classes available for students from six years to adult at all levels of ability in the Maltese language.

Classes are held at Horsley Park Public School 1759 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park NSW (entry from Walworth Road)

On Sunday morning 9.00 a.m.-11.15 a.m.

ENROLMENT DAY
Saturday February 1, 2020: 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Classes for Term 1 commence on Saturday February 8.

For more information email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com
Mobile: 0400-376-607
Bassendean parish priest Fr Kim Son Nguyen has published a book describing his family’s 10-year quest for freedom from communist-controlled Vietnam. The paperback, titled *Son of Vietnam*, was co-authored with Bedford parishioner Paul Calleja.

The Perth priest moved to Australia in 1991 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2000 after years of formation at St Charles’ Seminary in Guildford. He said that the idea for the book was to preserve his family’s stories for future generations.

Writing in *The eRecord*, Joshua Low said that the topics addressed in the book are religious freedom and the practice of faith.

The 179-page book was released last year as a gift to mark Fr Nguyen’s parents’ 60th wedding anniversary. “My father wished to write a book a long time ago in Vietnamese,” Fr Nguyen said. “Millions and millions of people suffered more than we did.”

Although he usually attends Mass at Bedford parish, Paul Calleja grew up in Bassendean and came to know Fr Nguyen through the duty of regularly driving his elderly father to Mass.

“Dad was 89, [he] couldn’t drive safely. It coincided with Fr Son arriving at Bassendean,” Mr Calleja recounted.

“Fr Son was using his homilies to get his parishioners acquainted with him. He told stories of Vietnam, I listened intently because I am interested in history – my brother was called to service in Vietnam.

“I had just finished another project and was just fascinated with Fr Son’s story, so I approached him, and put [the idea of a book] to him. After some time, he said his family were interested for him to go ahead with it.”

Son of Vietnam took more than five years to develop and is written in English.

“The generation [of Vietnamese people] reared in Australia can have a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the sacrifices and contribution that their ancestors have made to allow them to enjoy these benefits,” Mr Calleja told *The eRecord.*

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**Il-bijografija ta’ Mons Philip Calleja fi ktieb**


Hi x-xewqa tal-Kummissjoni li dan il-Mużew ikun ġrajja ħajja u minjiera ta’ tagħrif dwar l-istorja tal-emigrazzjoni f’Malta.
ST NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE

Sunday 2nd February
Good Shepherd Parish Hall
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton
Sydney NSW
(Opposite the shopping centre)

RFS FUNDRAISING

Hall will be open from 11 a.m.
Music & entertainment by
Martin Vella – Katelyn Vella
& much more, with lots of music for your enjoyment

Lots of fantastic prizes to be won from Raffle
& Chocolate Wheel.

There will be drinks and food for sale, including
Pastizzi, hobż biz-żejt, hot chips and sausage sizzle

Entry is free and plenty of parking
So come along, bring your family and friends. Enjoy an
afternoon of fun and raise money for our RFS team!

Feast of St Paul at La Valette SC

La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847
On Sunday February 9: La Valette Social Centre is celebrating
the feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul
Mass will start at 5pm in the Main Hall
Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band
MANWELL GRECH DJ will provide the entertainment
The Bar and the Kitchen will be open
Everyone is Welcome
For Information contact the centre 9622 5847

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

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, Brittaney & 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

Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.
L-MCCV qed jilqa’ applikazzjoni-jiet għall-pożizzjoni ta’ għaliem/a part-time tal-ilsien Malti fil-binja taghom f’14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.
L-applikanti ghandu jkollhom għarfien sew tal-Malti kemm mitkellem.
Ibgħat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill: admin@mccv.org.au

L-ahbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

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

Events for 2020
Sunday March 8
Fete
Sunday July 5
Lejla fil-Buskett
Sunday October 18
Fete
Saturday November 14
Dinner Dance
Sunday December 6
Festa San Nikola
MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11 am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00 p.m. 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
Day Time Analogue and Digital
Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Pre - FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. 97.7fm SBS 2.

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

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council (11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahbar aħbarijiet

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide:
Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm:
Sunday: 7.30am; Monday : 8.00 am; Monday 6.00pm
Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 543 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

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

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.

**Tune in to Radio and Television**

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

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00 p.m. 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
Day Time Analogue and Digital
Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Pre - FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. 97.7fm SBS 2.

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

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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

*Daceville Maltese Seniors*
Meets the last Wednesday of the month in the Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceville.

*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 OQP 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 info contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud J.P.Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298.

Avviż ill-qarrejja

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

Melita Eagles first winners of Maltese Cultural Cup

Parraimatta Melita Eagles beat Altona City 5-3 in the final on Monday to become the first winners of the tournament for the Maltese Cultural Cup.

The tournament between six club teams with roots in the Maltese community organised by Caroline Springs at City Vista, Plumpton (Victoria) was such a huge success that it is anticipated to become an annual event over the Australia Day weekend.

The Eagles and Altona City won their respective groups on goal difference after the participating groups on goal difference after all teams finished level on three points. The competition started on January 23 when Altona City beat North Altona 4-0. Then on Friday a good-sized crowd saw Green Gully beat Caroline Springs George Cross 2-1.

In the other matches on Saturday Parramatta Melita Eagles surprisingly emphatically beat Green Gully 3-0 and Keilor Park defeated Altona City 2-1. On Sunday the Eagles were beaten 2-1 by hosts Caroline George Cross, but managed to score the all-important goal six minutes from time. In the other match Altona North beat Keilor Park 2-1.

Josie Urpani dies aged 83

The football community in Malta was deeply saddened by the news that the former Valletta and Malta inside forward, Josie Urpani has died aged 83. Josie as he was affectionately known, was born in St Julian's on October 12, 1936 and started his football education with the Floriana Colts when he was still very young. He showed his potential from a very young age and when still a student at Stella Maris Athletic.

He joined the Valletta minors team in the 1953-54 season, and on November 28, 1954, and at the age of 18, he made his first-team debut for the Citizens in their 2-0 victory over Birkirkara.

During that season he only played seven times for the first team but then became the team’s schemer-in-chief and subsequently established himself as a key member of the Valletta team that won three league championships and other major domestic honours, including the FA Trophy (twice), the Cassar Cup and the Scicluna Cup.

Josie Urpani was known as a player with superb ball-control and for his remarkable quickness of thought.

He won his first championship with Valletta in 1958-59. That season he played in all his team’s matches and ended the season with a tally of eight goals. Always elegant in his appearance and out of the football field, Josie thrilled the stadium crowds. In the FA Trophy, Josie scored two of Valletta’s five goals against Marsa but then in the quarter-finals, he sustained an injury that kept him out of the game for the rest of that season.

Urpani was again one of Valletta’s mainstays when they retained the league title in 1959-60 and then again in 1962-63 That same season he won his only FA Trophy when Valletta defeated Sliema 1-0 in the final. He scored the all-important goal.

In 1963-64 he scored 10 more league goals, but the following season he managed four league appearances and at the end of the 1967-68 he called it a day.

Disappointing participation

Malta’s national waterpolo team had a most disappointing participation in the European Championships in Hungary where it lost all its five matches conceding 89 goals and scored only 30 in the process to end the tournament last among 16 teams.

The greatest disappointments were in the Group matches and the defeats against Turkey (10-13), and against hists Hungary (0-26).

GROUP C matches
- Malta v Spain: 7-23
- Malta v Turkey: 10-13
- Malta v Hungary: 0-26

Match for 13th-14th place
- Malta v Slovakkia: 4-8

Match for 15th-16th place
- Malta v Holland: 9-19

D’Agostino scores to earn Olyroos OG qualification

Nicholas d’Agostino of Perth Glory FC scored the decisive goal against Uzbekistan U-23s to secure the Olyroos’ first qualification to the Olympic Games since 2008. Nicholas of Maltese descent is the son of Joseph. Both Joseph and his father James played for Melita Eagles. His aunt Doris Drury was also president of the Maltese club.

Nicholas was featured in an article on The Voice of April 23, 2019.

FA Trophy: Floriana taken to extra time by Senglea

The past weekend the Premier League in Malta made way for the fourth round of the FA Trophy in which four teams from the lower divisions, two of them from Gozo joined 11 from the Premier. As a result, the ony team from a lower division to make it to the next round was Division 1 Pieta who defeated Gozo’s Xewkija 2-1.

Aside of Pieta, the other seven teams to make it to the Qtr Final stage were, holders Balzan, League leaders Floriana who were taken to extra time by Senglea, Hibernians, Birkirkara, Valletta, Hamrun and Gudja.

RESULTS - Day 15

Floriana v Balzan: 3-1
Hibernians v Tarxien: 4-0
Valletta v Sliema: 2-1
Sta Lucia v Gzira: 2-1
Sirens v Mosta: 2-0
Birkirkara v Senglea: 1-1
Hamrun S. v Gudja: 1-0

Gzira sacked Italian coach Giovanni Tedesco and replaced him with Paul Zammit after the surprise defeat against Sta Lucia on Day 15. Zammit signed a two-and-a-half year contract.

Floriana retained top position on 15 points, four ahead of Hibernians after beating Balzan by 3-1.

FA Trophy Round 4
- Birkirkara v Mosta: 2-1
- Balzan v Sta Lucia: 2-0
- Pieta H v Xewkija: 2-1
- Floriana v Senglea: 2-0
- Hibs v Pembroke: 4-0
- Hamrun S v Svieqi: 3-1
- Valletta v Sirens: 4-1
- Victoria H v Gudja: 1-3

Pictured: Malta Cultural Cup organisers George Cross (white kit) before their game with Green Gully won by the latter.