Malta will be spending €50 million in the Grand Harbour Clean Air Project, an investment aimed at improving air quality in the Grand Harbour area that would reduce air pollution from cruise liners visiting the Malta by more than 90%. (See report on page 12)
Ruby Vella a 17-year-old student from Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School, Castlecrag is a third-generation Maltese, her parents were both born in Australia, father Steve is second generation Maltese and her mother Amanda is Anglo-Australia residing in Leichhardt NSW. Speaking to a packed hall at the Maltese community’s celebration of Australia Day at Merrylands NSW Ruby explained very clearly the connection between the girl in the small island of Malta called Katerina who caught a kingfish and Ruby who lives in an island continent:

Katarina ġibtlek lampuka,
Katarina qabbad in-nar
Katarina iftaħ it-tieqa ħalli joħroġ id-duħħan.

In an emotional speech, Ruby Vella said that both these islands are home to her, one figuratively and one literally. This story is from her childhood, the bridge between her Maltese and Australian heritage.

In fact, she continued, it is a metaphor for the two island homes that have shaped her identity. She feels very lucky to be of both Australian and Maltese heritage. Her two ethnicities have influenced her throughout her life and have helped shape the person she is today.

“When I was 11 years old, I visited Malta for the first time with my family. I was struck by a familiar culture which I felt so connected to in a completely unfamiliar country. My 11-year-old self was fascinated by the Maltese accent and I longed to learn the language and to be able to understand whether my cousins were really whispering about me, the ‘odd Australian’, in Maltese”.

“During my stay in Malta, I learnt the importance of faith to the Maltese culture and of the bravery as its people have endured centuries of invasions. The country’s experiences moved me during the Second World War in which 14,000 bombs were dropped. Malta was the most bombed place on Earth.”

“However, the Maltese people fought on and in unity, were awarded the George Cross so as to bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people.” This award symbolises Malta’s bravery and strength as a country and the courageous spirit that is unique to its people.

Ruby was also struck by the beautiful blue bays and the contrasting ancient alleyways and churches that were unique to Malta. She was amazed by the pristine Mediterranean waters of the blue lagoon off the island of Comino and the beautiful historical buildings in Mdina (known as the ‘Silent City of Malta’) made from limestone with exquisite doorknockers that the city is famous for.

When her family took her for a trip to Gozo, an island off the mainland, they were absorbed into one of the biggest celebrations she has ever experienced; the festa ta’ San Gużepp, in Qala where people threw confetti down from overhanging balconies and the parish priest stopped to share a beer with the community amidst the celebrating crowd down below.

The most important feature of Maltese culture she said is the love and gathering of family, where memories, laughter and a lot of food are shared.

Ruby’s grandparents emigrated to Australia from Malta in 1968 and were welcomed into Australia where they started a completely new life and raised their three children. This decision was not an easy one to make, and it requires a very brave person to make this journey to an unknown country.

This land has provided her grandfather with the chance to make connections between the Maltese and Australian cultures as he has written books, spoken on the radio and worked with the Maltese Community Council in order to recognise Maltese Australians. “After Christmas, both my Maltese and Australian sides of the family unite in celebration to share a post-Christmas meal”.

This gathering was a common example of her racially diverse country and represents Australia’s mixture and undivided embrace between different cultures.
Due to the proximity of the Australia Day celebrations in Malta with the publishing of the last issue, we could not include the important speeches delivered by Her Excellency the High Commissioner of Australia to Malta Ms. Julienne Hince and His Excellency the President of Malta George Vella in The Voice of the Maltese. They were very important and we believe it would be fitting to publish them today on the next pages.

Deepening people to people links

Her Excellency the High Commissioner of Australia to Malta Ms. Julienne Hince’s speech on the occasion of Australia Day

The commemoration of the annual Australia Day in Malta organised and hosted by H.E. the High Commissioner for Australia in Malta Julienne Hince and her staff, was held on board the largest commercial catamaran operating in the Mediterranean, the Saint John Paul II. It was the last such occasion hosted by the HC whose term of office has just come to an end.

The venue an innovation as it turns out, because such celebrations normally took place in the Chancery, was indicative of the High Commissioner’s pride in a vessel that was crafted by Australian shipbuilders, INCAT in Tasmania. Ms Hince expressed her thanks to the Portelli Family and Virtu Ferries for hosting the event on the ship.

In her speech for the occasion, HE Ms Hince gave some background to the history of the catamaran that was built by Incat’s founder Bob Clifford, who as a schoolboy, his love of fishing and sailing led him to start building seacraft at home.

“Bob’s love for the ocean and continuing interest in building ships led him to found and develop one of the most successful and esteemed ferry building companies in the World,” she said.

Ms Hince then referred to the catastrophic fire conditions Australia is currently going through. She mentioned the devastation to large swathes of the bush, and to some of the country towns and communities.

“We are very grateful for the outpouring of support for Australia including the many offers of assistance and donations from Malta,” she added.

The High Commissioner pointed out that the Australian Government was well resourced and well organised and has allocated an initial $2 billion to a National Bushfire Recovery Fund to undertake recovery, rebuild and resilience activities.

She sent her condolences to her fellow Australians who have lost loved ones, and to the hundreds more grieving over houses, land, pets and wildlife.

Ms Hince said: “To those who ask, ‘how can we help?’ I would say continue to buy Australian, visit Australia, study in Australia and invest in Australia. Much of Australia is not affected by bushfires - indeed many tourism sites are operating normally.”

One part of Australia which may be lesser known, and which she fully recommended to visit, is Tasmania, the Apple Isle, which, she said, is famous for beautiful land and seascapes, fertile soils and wonderful fresh produce, you are probably imbibing Tasmanian produce now.

As Australian ambassador to Tunisia, HC Julienne Hince also took the opportunity to acknowledge the assistance of His Excellency Zyed Bouzouita Ambassador of Tunisia and his staff. She said that the Tunisian Embassy in Malta assisted her greatly in advancing Australia’s relationship with Tunisia.

She said that the Australian Government was pleased to fund the International Institute for Justice in delivering a training programme in Tunis for magistrates and police prosecuting terrorist cases.

On the matter of trade, the HC maintained that one way to multiply exchange of goods and services is through an Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement. Five rounds of negotiations, the latest in Canberra in October have already been concluded.

Initial goods market access offers have been exchanged with the EU and there will be exchange services and investment and government procurement market access offers ahead of the next round this February.

Ms Julienne Hince said that Australia and the EU have a close trading relationship, and share many values including a commitment to the rules based order. She hopes that an FTA will generate new market opportunities, for goods and services and promoting two-way investment, and looks forward to Malta helping to achieve this ambitious arrangement.

“A point that out Prime Minister has made to all ambassadors is the overarching professional goal to deepen people to people links. People matter most,” she said.

As well as the resident community in Australia, it is estimated that roughly 50,000 Australians visited Malta in 2019. When it comes to relationships between the two peoples, the High Commissioner said: “The strong relationship between Malta and Australia is outstanding and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the Maltese community when I was at home in Australia too”.

Her speech was also a farewell speech as she was departing Malta at the conclusion of her posting. She said that she would have moments of withdrawal from Malta’s welcoming people and the Mediterranean beauty of the islands.

She concluded by thanking the people who have supported her in Malta at the conclusion of her posting. She also expressed thanks to the most compact and collegiate diplomatic corps she had the pleasure of serving with, and wished the new Government of Malta harmony and success.

Before wrapping up she requested the guests to join her in offering a toast to His Excellency, the President of Malta, Dr George Vella and Mrs Vella, and to the people of Malta.
Macau proud to sustain close cooperation with Australia

The President started by commending High Commissioner Ms Julianne Hince for the chosen venue for the commemoration, which he said, reminded one of “Our beloved Mediterranean Sea and Tasmanian shipbuilding craftsmanship, and provided an excellent and exciting meeting.

He also extended his heartfelt condolences, sympathy and support to the Australian people that were badly hit by months of raging fires, and assured Her Excellency the HC that the Australians were not alone, “the Maltese people would continue to provide support and assistance.”

President George Vella said that the ongoing ecological disaster in Australia and other widespread climate change effects should be of grave concern to us all.

He hoped that in 2020 world leaders would take the lead and the world recognises the importance of cooperation and action, particularly in relation to “our shared environment.”

In this regard he quoted Pope Francis’ declaration about climate change, that it “demands a collective response capable of placing the common good over particular interests”.

Turning to political and commercial relations between Malta and Australia, he said that diplomatic relations between the respective countries date back to 1964, and throughout the years they continued to transform and develop into close commercial, people-top-people and educational exchanges.

Due to the two countries’ geographical position, President Vella said that past colonial relations in the 20th Century Malta looked at Australia as a faraway land of opportunities and fascinating landscapes, and it became home to thousands of Maltese migrants and their respective families.

He mentioned the figure of 175,000 as being the total number of people claiming Maltese ancestry in a number of towns in Australia, therefore it was no surprise that most of the Maltese have a first-or second-line relative living there.

“Malta is proud of its Maltese Diaspora and proactive communities who although fully integrating and adapting to Australian customs and society continue to maintain a strong link to their mother-country, customs, and hopefully also the Maltese language,” the President said.

He went on to say that Malta continues to look at Australia with great interest and hundreds of Maltese continue to visit for touristic and work-related opportunities. President Vella maintained that Malta is proud to sustain close cooperation with Australia and collaborate both at the bilateral and multilateral level.

He explained that at the bilateral level the trade delegation led by Malta’s Prime Minister in 2018 was an important milestone. It continued to develop further the respective commercial relations.

At the cultural level the two countries sustain cooperation and throughout the year organised various events, particularly during the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the European Council, which included an Aboriginal exhibition, that was a perfect example of the to countries’ vibrant cultural exchanges.

He said that such initiatives are very important to further explore our respective cultures, traditions and historical past.

President George Vella: “I believe we should develop this sector further and through innovative cultural cooperation better represent the uniqueness of our respective peoples.”

At the multilateral level Malta is pleased that dialogue and cooperation between Australia and the European Union continued to solidify with the signing in 2017 of the EU-Australia framework agreement, and the President said that Malta was also confident that ongoing negotiations for the EU-Australia free trade agreement would continue to pave the way to boost trade and sharing of successes which he mentioned. These include the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence, which it is hosting.

He was also pleased that Australians also take great interest in the Mediterranean region, particularly the Maltese islands, customs and traditions. In fact, during 2019, the figures of incoming of Australians amounted to over 50,000.

President Vella is confident that Malta’s rich historical past, long standing traditions and vivid Mediterranean culture are three of the leading reasons Malta is such a popular destination withustralians. Add to that the cosmopolitan charm of the island’s evolving social fabric and transformed infrastructural landscapes that are also novel interesting aspects of the Maltese island “that we call home”.

The President believes it is now time to push this friendship a step further and explore new avenues for cooperation and augured that both Maltese and Australian High Commissions recognise the important role of cultural diplomacy and further facilitate cultural exchanges, particularly for younger generations.

President Vella concluded his speech by thanking High Commissioner Ms Julianne Hince on behalf of the people of Malta for “the excellent cooperation and solid diplomatic participation in our regional and local affair,” and wished her all the very best for her future diplomatic career.
Australia Day 2020 has come and gone. In the last issue of The Voice of the Maltese magazine we managed to include reports about commemorations held in NSW and in Malta prior to the day itself. There have been other celebrations in other states with the full participation of the Maltese community, which we could not include due to our deadline.

One of these was in Melbourne where on the actual date of Australia Day, January 26, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) participated in the Australia Day Flag raising parade in Melbourne. It was the first time in many years that the Maltese community participated in a state held event.

The group proudly marched down Swanston Street with nearly 1000 people representing more than 80 community groups. As the group walked down Swanston Street in their colourful traditional Maltese costumes holding the Maltese flag and waving the Australian flag, they were introduced as one of the smallest groups. There were 13 proud people telling stories of their Maltese heritage as people cheered them on. In the crowd outside the Melbourne Town Hall was the Maltese Consul General for Victoria, Mario Farrugia Borg, who could be seen with a look of pride across his smiling face.

In fact, it was Mr Farrugia Borg who brought this spectacular event to the attention of the MCCV after he noticed in the 2019 ceremony that the Maltese were not represented.

The MCCV now also looks forward to participating in the 2020 Moomba Parade on March 9 and is encouraging people to get involved. It looks forward to continuing to promote Maltese culture, heritage and well-being.

Enquiries to admin@mccv.org.au or phone on 03 9387 8922.

MCCV at Melbourne’s Australia Day flag raising event

Family law: if my partner wasted money during our relationship, can I get more out of what is left?

by Paul Sant

In many relationships, one partner may spend more money, albeit on gambling, drinking, or shopping, than the other. Here, we will briefly discuss what relevance you or your former partner’s spending habits may have, if the court were to decide a property settlement between you.

In answering the question above – the short answer is no. The court approaches pendings during relationships with the view of taking the good with the bad. The principle was established in the case of Kowaliw & Kowaliw in 1981, where the court stated: “You share in the fruits of the relationship, as well as the losses, with each not necessarily equally”.

However, that is not the be all and end all. Section 75(2)(o) of the Family Law Act 1975 allows the court to consider “any fact or circumstance, which in the opinion of the Court, the justice of the case requires to be taken into account”.

Negative contributions

Under section 75(2)(o), an argument may be made that one party is entitled to an adjustment on the basis of a negative contribution from the other party. Following from Kowaliw, you would need to satisfy the court that your former partner either:

1. Embarked on a course of conduct intended to reduce or minimise the value or worth of matrimonial assets; or
2. Acted recklessly, negligently, or wantonly with matrimonial assets, and overall the effect has reduced or minimised the value.

Polito & Polito [2009]

In this case, the wife sought an add back of $121,344, due to the husband’s gambling, drug and alcohol addictions during the relationship. The court, based on the evidence, noted the husband’s conduct in losing $139 per week over 5 years and 7 months (with 1 year of unemployment therein) was reckless, negligent or wanton conduct, which reduced or minimized the value of the assets.

The Judge went on to note that use of alcohol and marijuana was for entertainment, and an amount of $30 per week was reasonable to spend on entertainment. He determined the loss from the husband’s conduct amounted to $32,264 and included as an add back in the property pool.

What about money spent after separation?

In Todd & Todd [2014] the Judge found the husband removed almost $1.4 million from the asset pool, after separation. Approximately $400,000 was applied to gambling. The Judge made a 12% adjustment in favour of the wife, by way of section 75(2)(o).

Reasonable living expenses

It is often the case that the party who vacates the former matrimonial home may reside in rental accommodation, where there is no family member or other real property owned by the parties to make use of, until such time as a final settlement is reached. Payment for accommodation, and other reasonable day to day living expenses, will not be added back into the pool: Omacini & Omacini (2005).

Mantle & Mantle [2014]: Husband un-successfully contended his Wife’s post-separation spending of $122,000 in a month was wanton or reckless. The court concluded the wife’s explanations about how the money was spent were reasonable based on the evidence.

What else could be added back?

If legal fees are paid from a bank account that would otherwise be property of the parties, that amount will almost always be added back. Guidelines for doing so were established in a 2004 case, Chorn & Hopkins, recently re-confirmed in Trevi & Trevi (2018).

The guidelines may be summarised as follows:

1. Ultimately, how to treat monies applied to legal costs is a discretionary matter – the Judge may decide.
2. In reaching a decision, a Judge should look at the source of the funds.
3. Where funds existed at the time of separation, and it can be established that both parties had an interest in those funds, they should be added back as a notional asset of the party.
4. Generally, where a party has paid legal fees from funds they obtained post-separation, either from income, or a gift or inheritance, such funds are not added back as a notional asset.
5. Similarly, if one party has borrowed monies after separation, and applied in payment of legal fees, that loan or debt would not be included as a liability in the balance sheet between the parties.

Conclusion

Addbacks are the exception, not the rule – the court’s task is to: “examine and make findings about the particular circumstances surrounding expenditure, and determine... the manner in which overall justice and equity indicates the diminution in the pool ought be treated.” Kouper & Kouper (2009).

If you require family law advice, Paul Sant has extensive experience and would be pleased to discuss how he may be of assistance.
Waslu l-jiem tant mistennija, dawk tal-bluha

Joseph Cutajar

Kull sena f’Frar, bhala f’hafla pajjiżi madwar id-dinja, f’Malta ssir dik li l-Maltin ihobbu jsibuhu bhala ‘il-festa tal-bluha’ il-Karnival, hamest jjiem ta’ attivitajiet ta’ brjuju u kuluri, li din issena se jsir bejn il-Gimgħa 21 u t-Theta l-25 ta’ Frar, avveniment festiv u ta’ xular li bhal dejjem jiżi fiit taż-żmien qabel jibda r-Randan.


Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565.

Fiż-żifna kienu jiegħu sehem bejn l-24 u t-30 persuna, bejn tfal u kbar, u kienet tibda minn quddiem il-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru fi Pjazza San Gorġ kienet tibda fil-port lesti halli jgħaxxod ma jwiefhum, u wkoll il-Parlament il-ġdid.


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Premijiet oħra, m’għand-xix xi nqibdu, ikun jiġi kompetu ghalihom l-istess kumpanjiji li jkollhom il-karrijiett fl-isfilata, li wkoll kienu jiżjun, jew fi Pjazza San Gorġ inkella f’Misraħ il-Helens qabel ma’ nbena il-Parlament il-ġdid. Dawk tal-bluha

Din tal-Karnival f’Malta ta’ ħafna snin liu għaddhej minn il-Torok. Impressjoni kienet ta’ aktar dawk il-ballijiet. Kienu jsiru wkoll il-Parlament il-ġdid. Dawk tal-bluha

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Inżekżjonijiet reċenti l-Karnival beda jsir fuq hament jiex. Jiftah nhar ta’ Hamis bl-islilata tar-Re tal-Karnival, karru li jkun ikkummissjonat mill-Għaqda tal-Karnival li thalli x-xhogol f’idejn artist/artisti ma nghfurfa jew mhux biss ghadhom isiru, imma frott tal-ħidma eccellenti u ma taqta’ xejn ta’ min imexxijiet. Dawk tal-bluha

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Have your say/ Xi trid tghid?

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

From a follower Malta has now become a leader

Charles Zammit from Penrith, NSW writes:

You hit the nail on the head when you titled your main item in the Roundup of news about Malta pages, ‘PM Robert Abela building bridges’, as from what I have learned by watching and listening to the TVM news bulletins, Malta’s new Prime Minister is truly making an impact.

In the short time since succeeding Dr Joseph Muscat as PM, Dr Abela has not only managed to smooth the road ahead and mend any cracks that might have appeared in the island’s armour, but even gained such popularity among the people with his early decisions, that it is as if there weren’t any stoppages at all.

Malta’s progress in so many sectors therefore continues to surpass much bigger countries and has become an example for others to follow. It is not a follower but has become a leader.

Well done indeed. Though we live so many miles apart, we as Maltese citizens are so proud of you! If I could, I would return home tomorrow!

Where is the money going?

George Abela from Altona Victoria writes:

From bushfires to floods within a few days! This is Australia, a land of extreme weather.

The Federal Government was caught napping this time around as it only intervened when the damage was already done. We need more preventative measures and a clear picture of how and where all these millions of donations are being spent. Is it reaching the very persons that are left homeless and penniless?

We need answers.

Anchored in Australia but craving for Malta

Paul Farrell from Perth, Western Australia writes:

I would like to add my name and comments with those already expressed in the last issue of the magazine about Andy Busuttil’s article in a recent issue of The Voice of the Maltese.

I have been following Andy’s contributions since they first appeared in the magazine years back. I also follow his musical skills by attending whenever I can, to his, and his Skorba group’s concerts.

This man’s love for Malta is second to none. Every time he writes he manages to show that although he left Malta at a very young age, his heart and his mind are still there. I dare say they still belong to Malta despite living for most of his life in Australia. I also appreciate the the fact that this magazine keeps strengthening our link with Malta.

There are still Maltese people like him (and me) in Australia who though settled to this vast continent still crave for Malta, but because we are now anchored and have our closest families here, are unable to return. However, Malta is the first country we think of when we plan our holidays.

Ghaqda reliġjuża Maltija ghall-Maltin

M. Borg minn Sunshine Victoria jikteb:

Sajna li hawn fostna ġ’Melbourne, is-superjir general tal-Missjunarji ta’ San Pawl (MSPP), Fr Mark Grima li sintendi qieghed jistħarreġ is-sitwazzjoni fl-Australija mal-kap t’hawnhekk, Fr J. Taliana MSPP. Nittama li s-sitwazzjoni fi NSW tiġi studjata bir-reqqa wkoll ġhaż ma rridux nittiflu l-uniku saċerdot Malti li din l-ghaqda Maltija ghandha wkoll f’dak l-istat.
Pope Francis to make Malta visit

Pope Francis is to visit Malta shortly, it has been learnt. No date has as yet been set but a Papal visit is a certainty. The Government and the Malta Church Authorities have been informed that the Holy See has accepted one of the many invitations Malta had extended to the Pope.

The latest invitation was made by President George Vella during a private audience he and his wife had with him at the Vatican in September last year. Details could be announced soon.

This would be the fourth visit by the Head of the Roman Catholic Church to Malta. Pope Benedictus XVI made the last visit ten years ago in April 2010. Pope John Paul also paid two visits, in May 1990 and again in May 2001 for the beatification of Nazju Falzon, Maria Adeodata Pisani and Dun Gorg Preca who was later canonised as a Saint.

Malta’s Destiny for Eurovision

Destiny gave a stunning performance in the Final to win the second edition of X Factor Malta and earn the right to represent Malta in the forthcoming Eurovision 2020 to be held in Rotterdam, Holland, in May.

The 17-year-old with Nigerian and Maltese roots was born in Birkirkara, Malta. Her father, Ndubisi Chukunyere was a footballer with Hibernians and later also became a coach. He was present to see her daughter give an explosive performance.

Though only 17, Destiny is no stranger to Eurovision as in 2015; she not only represented Malta but also won the Junior Eurovision Song Contest with a song titled "Not My Soul".

Destiny, has already been in a Eurovision Song Contest stage just last year as Michela Pace’s backing vocalist. Saturday’s was not her first talent show. In 2017, she also auditioned for Britain’s Got Talent and even qualified for the live shows.

The X Factor Malta final was so spectacular. All four finalists were at their best and though there was just one winner, the runner up, 16-year-old Justine Shorfid, took the stage for the duet round that didn’t impact the first elimination. During the duets round, Michela Pace (Malta 2019) performed with Kyle.

Shortly after Kyle Cutajar was eliminated, and the three remaining acts performed another song, this time in Maltese. F.A.I.T.H were the next to be eliminated.

Destiny and Justine Shorfid got to perform once more. Destiny’s interpretation of “He Lives In You” from Lion King was fiery as one could get on the world’s best stages. Eventually she was announced as the winner.

Malta made its debut in Eurovision back in 1971 and has been in the contest 32 times since - without a victory. Best result is two runner-ups in 2002 (Ira Losco - 7th Wonder) and 2005 (Chiara - Angel). In 1922, Mary Spiteri classified third with Little Child.
Prevenzjoni jew kura?

Fil-harja numru 219 ta’ The Voice of the Maltese xahar ilu, kont tkibit dwar l-esperjenza personali tieghi u tal-familja tieghi nivjvaxxi f-xlokk tal-Australja waqt li t-tragedja tan-niexin ta’ din is-sena kienet qiegħda tiżvolgi, u b’barka kbiria mwxelija nissqicaw l-aghar effetxi tagħha, lihef ghal rih persi- tenti ta’ duħhan, u jum minnhom epارت ta’ duħhan.

Ilum se nitratta l-politika madwar ir-risposta tal-gvern federali Awstraljan.

Bhal ma nafu, disgrazzjatament kien hemm iktar minn tletin imwiet ta’ persuni, elfejn dar mitlufa, stima ta’ biqbijj hlejja li miyet u hdxaw il-miljun ettaru m’ghraic,5 u l-istorja ghadha ma spiccats.


Din kienet seħħet f’Victoria fejn kieni mietu 173 ruħ, jiġifieri iktar minn id-darba, imma l-art m’żaħna kienet ‘biss’ 400,000 ettaru.5 Jiġifieri din is-sena, inħarqet art iktar minn għoxrin darba (s’issa) dik tal ta’ dakinhar.

L-organizzazzjonijiet tat-tifi tun-nar, illolk statali, ilhom jaħdum bis-shih biex jaghmu li jistgħu, u suċċessi kellhom bis-shih, iżda l-iskala tal-problema wriet li r-rizorsi li għandhom m’għandhom m’għandhom ex’taqsam ma’ x’hemm bżonn.

Fil-gvern Awstraljan gharaf li hemm bżonn kbir li tnaqqis fit-tniġż, pożizzjoni li kienet huwa ċar li l-pajjiżi jridu jirduppjaw l-ambizzjoni tagħhom.

Fil-fakt, l-Australja x’ qed tagħmel?

Infakkar li sa nofs Diċembru tas-sena l-oħra, xahrejn biss ilu, l-Australja kienet qiegħda f’konferenza dwar dan is-suġġet f’Madrid, u jargomenta li minflok tnaqqas it-tniżż tagħha daqskemm inmiewgħed fil-Ftehim ta’ Pariżi (innaqas ta’ 26-28% mis-sena 2020 sa 2030), għandha titħalla tapplika kreditu kbir mill-Ftehim ta’ qabel, dak ta’ Kyoto, haga li li biss qed tipprowwa li toppilka.

Jekk dan isir, ifisser li jkollha bżonn tagħmel 10% biss tax-xoghol li hemm bżonn ta’ innaqas fit-tniżż, pożizzjoni li kienet ikkritikata bl-ahrax mill-pajjiżi partecipanti l-oħra.6 Jekk lanqas ahna li qiegħdin inbatu u għandna x’nitilfu ma nuru ħegga, kif se nikkonvinċu ‘l pajjiżi oħra biex jistinkaw għalina? Fejn hi l-prevenzjoni?

Referenzi

Il-festi tradizzjonali Maltin – fl-antik kienu tlieta ewlenin

Ma nafl jekk minn fost il-qarrejja ghad hawn min jif takkar b’xi wegħda li kien għamel lil martu li jekk jiżjewwiż jehoda fil-festi ewlenin fil-gżira Maltija u jixtriilha xriek qubbajt li jkun tal-qannebusa ‘għax minnu tiggosta s-sinjura għarusa’. Imma naħseb li hadd ma jif takkar dan, għax din id-drawwa hi waħda antiq mhux ħażri.


laġenba lejn il-kulur u jduqu t-togħma bnina tiegħu u jiftakru siġar jew f’xatt il-baħar, wara l-ikel ta’ nofsinhar. Flimkien bit-tazza nbid (kultant anke bil-flixkun) f’idejhom iħarsu Dawn it-tliet festi kienu jlaqqgħu ħdejn il-baħar folol ta’ nies matul is-sajf meta l-Maltin kienu jinġabru għad-dell taħt is-San Ġwann (l-24 ta’ Ġunju); u l-Imnarja (d-29 ta’ Ġunju).


Il-festi tradizzjonali l-Maltin kienu jibda għax għalihom okkażjoni bħal din kienet tiġi jiċċelebraw dawn il-festi kien different ħafna.

Maltija u jixtrilha xriek qubbajt li jkun tal-qannebusa ‘għax il-festi ewlenin ta’ dari kienu San Pawl il-Baħar; u l-aktar parti tal-festa li jkunu qed jistennew kienet tkun dik tax-xalata tal-għada tal-festa; jen qatt ma qbilt magħhom.

Nif takkar li l-għada tal-Festa ta’ San Filep f’Haz-Żebbug, wiehed min fostna kien jiikk karozza ghal ġurnata minghand id-De Luč tar-Rabat u ħerhina naqni mi jin jisjena jew jinkafa mill-gallerija tad-dar tan-naħa t’isfel ta’ Malta meta jitilgħu għax-xalata tal-għada.


It-tiżjin mal-karozzi mikrijra, b’xi wkadur l-qaddis mal-body tal-karozżu l-festi qabel ma xini ġwiix xi Għar Lapsi huwa tefgħa ta’ ġebla biss bogħod minn dan ir-raħal sabiħ u antik. Anzi dana jiġi ġwiix xi ġwida xi jemmin għadam għall-obra. Xi ħbieb tiegħi kienet jgħiduli li ħlul u l-liedna li jista’ waħda kbira, jew ħajar esagerata.


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PM advocates for equal pay for equal work

A meeting with the administration of Malta’s largest trade union, the General Workers’ Union, Prime Minister Robert Abela said that the law needs to be amended so that employers would be obliged to give equal pay for equal work. He also agreed with the GWU’s proposal for trade union membership to be mandatory on workplaces.

GWU secretary Mr Josef Bugeja stated, that according to a study carried out at workplaces where employees are not affiliated to a union, the issue of equal pay for equal work stands at 19%.

PN in turmoil: three resign, but not Delia

The Opposition Nationalist Party in Malta is in turmoil and a number of MPs are in rebellion with a majority them forming part of the PN parliamentary group requesting party leader Adrian Delia (pictured above) to step down, something that he publicly declared on the party TV station, that he is not prepared to do. He said “that would be betraying those who wanted the party to return to the people”.

This all follows a meeting of the PN Parliamentary group that discussed the previous Sunday’s MaltaToday survey that showed the PN Leader’s trust rating hitting its lowest ever level since getting the leadership over two years ago.

The survey indicated that the after three weeks as Prime Minister and Labour Party Leader Robert Abela scored a trust rating of over 62.5%, the highest ever achieved by any party leader, while the Opposition leader registered a dismal 13.5%.

At the parliamentary group’s meeting 17 MPs had urged Delia to consider whether he should stay on as leader and that he had to reckon with the disastrous polling against the new Labour leader Robert Abela.

In spite of a troubled last two months of 2019 and the election of a new leader, Robert Abela and the Labour party not only did not lose ground, but Abela is proving to be a model new leader and Prime Minister. He enjoys a lot wider trust rating than the Opposition Chief, who not only has failed to make any headway, but worse, fallen even extra behind.

Meanwhile, while this has been going on, PN deputy leader for party affairs Robert Arrigo announced he was resigning from his post, and in a parting message to fellow MPs, warned that the “aim to oust has now turned to destruction of the party”.

Two more resignations followed, by General Secretary Clyde Puli and MP, Kristy Debono from PN general council president.

In another twist, former PN Minister Louis Galea who had been called in and entrusted by Delia with drafting a reform of the party, has asked the party executive to take all necessary steps to choose a new leadership team. He also accused Adrian Delia and PN Secretary Clyde Puli that they had ignored all warnings.

€50 million Grand Harbour Clean Air Project in favour of better air quality launched

Malta is embarking on a €50 million investment project aimed at improving air quality in the Grand Harbour area. The Grand Harbour Clean Air Project that was announced by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital projects Ian Borg, is set to reduce air pollution from cruise liners visiting the Malta by more than 90%.

The Grand Harbour Clean Air Project that is to be implemented by Infrastructure Malta, includes the development of the electricity infrastructure required for cruise liners to switch off their gas or heavy-fuel-oil-fired engines and plug in instead to shore side electricity points to power their services whilst they are berthed at port. This service will eventually be extended also for Ro-Ro vessels.

With the help of this new project, by switching off their auxiliary engines cruise liners visiting Valletta will emit 93% less nitrogen dioxide, 92.6% less particulate matter and 99.6% less sulphur dioxide.

Launching the project, Minister Ian Borg (pictured below) said that the maritime industry, which includes the cruise liner sector, was an essential contributor to Malta’s economy. Between 2014 and 2018 the industry had seen an increase of 30% in sea passengers, and an increase of 13% in cruise liners in ports between 2014 and 2017.

Last year Malta welcomed 372 cruise liners carrying more than 900,000 passengers. These numbers mean more economic growth and more employment in an important sector for an island state like Malta.

By reducing air pollution in the region, the Grand Harbour Clean Air Project will contribute towards EU and national climate change objectives in line with the Paris Agreement.
MIA kicks off ambitious €100m Terminal Expansion Project

Malta International Airport (MIA) has revealed details of an investment of about €100 million in a Terminal Expansion Project that will see its terminal double in size and islands through several improvements deliver a 5-star airport that the Maltese islands can be proud of.

The company’s CEO, Alan Borg said he wanted the Malta International Airport to reflect Malta not look just like any other airport. The Terminal Expansion Project would double the building’s current footprint from 18,000sq.m. to 31,200sq.m. and include an increase of 25 check-in desks, four additional security lanes and 15 more gates.

Mr Borg also announced that the company’s traffic forecast for 2020, indicates that passenger numbers would rise by another 2-3% to reach 7.5 million movements.

“The Terminal Expansion Project will equip us with the capacity to handle further traffic growth and enable us to offer a 5-star airport experience,” he said.

He explained that this would be achieved through a combination of increased operational space, a superior F&B and retail offering, a stronger sense of place, and the use of cutting-edge technologies.”

This project will mainly focus on improving the experience and airport processes at key points of the passenger journey through MIA, most notably within the check-in hall, the security screening Area, and at the departure gates.

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli who was present at the news conference explained the Terminal Expansion Project as another great investment that would certainly leave a positive impact on Malta’s tourism industry.

DBRS confirms Malta’s A (High) rating with stable prospects

Credit rating agency DBRS has confirmed Malta’s credit rating at A (High) level with stable prospects. It assigned the level as a result of improvement in the island’s economic performance and the prudent fiscal policy, after the Government improved its financial situation with a surplus in government finances and a reduction of debts that went down to almost 43% of the gross domestic product.

In its report, DBRS observed that since Malta joined the European Union, on average, the GNP increased by 30% and during the past seven years its economic growth has grown on average by 7.0% rising by more than three times the average of the EU states.

Finance Minister Edward Scicluna welcomed the rating. He said DBRS has acknowledged that Malta’s current public finance position and debt dynamics provide the government valuable room to support the economy in the event of a negative shock.

The report is the second positive credit rating report at the beginning of this year, following that of Fitch.

Key rating drivers were Malta’s extremely strong economic performance and its increasingly diversified economy coupled with the improve almost 43% of the gross domestic product.

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Since 2016, Malta’s budgetary surpluses have been both in nominal and structural terms. The report notes that the debt-to-GDP ratio in 2019 is expected to be one of the lowest in the EU.

Tourist arrivals in 2019: 2.8m.

Tourist arrivals to Malta in 2019 amounted to over 2.8 million people, an increase of 6% over 2018. December arrivals amounted to 144,706 tourists, an increase of 18% on the same month the previous year.

Total expenditure by tourists in 2019 reached €2.8 billion, an increase of almost 6% over the previous year.

In her reaction, Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said the figures reflect the effects of planning by the authorities. She noted that over the last four years tourist arrivals have increased by one million.

Unemployment now 1,642

Unemployment in Malta up to the end of last year stood at 1,642, a drop of 7% in the 12 months of 2019, NSO has indicated. The number is 34 less than it was in the previous month, November.
Jidher li minkejja li xi xhur ilu, wara li kien ittiehied vot ta’ fiduċja mirbuh faċilmint mill-mexxija tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li wassal biex l-istess Adrian Delia jiddikjara li l-kwestjoni dwar it-timexxija tal-partit kienet ghad-diet u li allura kien issa qed ihares biex jissahb, reġa beda jberraq 
Kif ikkomenta l-eks-deputat Nazzjonalista, Franco Debono il-PL “tulef opportunità tad-deheb biex jikkaptitalizza mit-terremot politiku li ghadda minnu l-
mexxija tal-PL, u wara r-rizzultati li kien igħ bl-istħarriġ il-mexxej ta’ qabel, Joseph Muscat, tit bassru li il-fl-ewwel stharrig, il-
Rega’beda jberraq fil-PN
Gvern”. Il-Partit Nazzjonalista ma ggwawa danja xejn wara li politikament il-Gvern kien ha l-ikbar daqqa. “...l-ahhar mewgħa issa ghaddiet” u l-Partit Nazzjonalista ma appriffixx ruhu mill-okkażjoni.
Biss kien hemm min ittama li attwalment xorta kien ghad baqa’ ċ-ċans li l-affariżjet jinbidlu. Dan bili kien ghad baqqa t-tirija ġhall-hatra tal-mexxej tal-Partit Laburista, u wara dak li sehh fi hdan il-PN meta kien ghadda l-istess tirija, kien hemm min haseb li se jgri l-istess lill-Partit Laburista u seta’ jaghiti tama ġidda lill-PN u lill-mexxej tieghhu Adrian Delia.
Iżda jidher biċċ-ċar li l-Partit Laburista rnxexxielu jegħleb l-isfida u hureq aktar b’sahhtu.
Dan ġie ippruvat minn:

Stharrig tal-Malta Today
Attwalment dak li hureq minn dan l-istħarrig hasad mhux biss lil dawk li jappogġjaw lill-Partit Nazzjonalista, iżda sahansitra lill-partitjarji Laburista.
Żgur li hadd ma basar li wara dak kollu li ghaddew minnu, b’xi hadd gdid fid-
Gvern Laburista ghadda minn jiex tassee diffiċli, fejn kien attakka u kkritikat mhux biss f’Malta, fejn sahansitra sarar di-mostrazzjoniżiet kontrih, imma wkoll minn barra, minflor mal lura żamm il-vantaggi fuq l-Opozizzjoni Nazzjonali, u fil-fatt anke kabbbar il-vantaggi li kellu.
Skont l-istħarrig, li kellha ssir elezzjoni bhalissa, il-Partit Laburista jikseb 49.2% u l-Partit Nazzjonalista 23.8%. Li jisser distakk ta’ 25.4%. L-istħarrig imma wkoll li minn Diċembru ‘l hawn il-PN qaqqas 6% ta’ dawn li kienu lest jaffdaw bil-vot. Għalkemm għall-ewwel kien hemm kummentaturi Nazzjonalisti li prpvaw ma jaghtux daqsthekk importanza għall-istħarrig bil-mexxej Nazzjonalist infissu jgħid li filwaqt li kien jaghiti kas tal-istħarrig, ma kienex li jwasslu jirriżenj għax “Inhares lejn is-surveys u l-čħefet ħaga ħija li taqbad u titlaq ... meta kollox ikun kontra tried tiggieled aktar”. Bil-mod il-modal bdew jiħru aktar talbiet biex il-PN jiżfi sew l-istħarrig, u sahansitra bdew ġaslu l-ewwel kummenti dwar kemm li tenibbli l-pożizzjoni ta’ Delia wara dan ir-rizzultat.
Ribellioni

Il-kritika tkompli żżid, dik li t’nofs il-ġimgħa li ghaddiet kellha tkun laqgħa tal-Grupp Parlamentari Nazzjonali biex jirrikkinda r-rapport tal-Avukat Louis Galea li kien mqabbad minn l-istess Delia halli jirrikkinda r-riformi mehtieġa biex il-partit ‘l quddiem, spiċċat f’maratonata ta’ ġames siegħa diskussjoni dwar t-tmexxija tal-PN.


Skont min attenda, Delia wiegħed li kien se jikkonsidra l-pożizzjoni tiegħu, iżda lanqas għaddew fitn minuti, li kif if-faċċiżja lill-istampa Delia stqarr ċar u tond li ma kienx se jirrijenja u se jmirx li partit se jmur lura fil-Grupp li jistgħu jneħħuh minn il-pn-f.”

L-ewwel li saffar is-suffara kien il-MP Jason Azzopardi li fuq il-Facebook li Delia wiegħedhom li se jirrifletti fuq dak li nqal u jejna ‘kellimhom.


Żied jisħaq li Delia kien messu kien aktar raġel u qalilhom minn qabel li kien iddeċieda li mhux se jirrijenja u mhux “uża” l-laqgħa. Insista li l-maġġoranza assoluta tad-deputati qalul biex jirrijenja, iżda minflok semagħhom, Delia se jiġi jaqqat u jqum mill-pożizzjonijiet tagħhom u minn kif tħossha dwaru l-maġġoranza tal-elettorat. Warajħ ħarġu oħrajn fosthom Theresse Comodini Cachia, li qed jingħad li għandha interes fit-tmexxija tal-PN, sakemm finalment l-istampa b’titli b’bik tarbat tghid:

Updated: 17 PN MPs want Delia out, only four support him (Malta Independent).

Delia mhux se jċedi

Dawk li ma ridux jaċċettaw din ir-realtà. Ħpipruvajt, insejħulu bridge building, li nasal, iżda int tista’ tibni, tasal u tibni l-pont kollu, madankollu n-naħa l-oħra jrid ikun hemm rieda ta’ xi ħadd li jrid jasal ukoll, li jekk jien wettaqt mitt pass, hu jwettaq pass wieħed”.

Indirettament ikkonferma li ma kienx se jċedi għall-pressjoni li qed issirlu biex iwarrab, u stqarr:

“Wasal iż-żmien li niddeċiedu jekk il-PN hux il-partit tal-ftit, jew il-partit tan-nies. U jien se nibqa’ leali lejn in-nies, u mhux se nitradixxi lin-nies”.

Riżenji ta’ tliet uffiċjali tal-PN

Waqt dan it-taqlib kollu li ghaddej minn bhalissa l-Partit Nazzjonali, f’temp ta’ 24 siegħa thabbru r-riżenji ta’ tliet uffiċjali importanti.

Beda l-Vici Kap Robert Arrigo, Kirsty Devono irriżenjat minn President tal-Kunsill Generali, filwaqt li, l-Ġimgħa riżenjat wkoll is- Segretarju Generali tal-partit, Clyde Pulz.

It-tlieta li huma ħadmu mill-qrib ma’ Adrian Delia minn minn b’vot tat-tesserati fitt aktar minn sentejn ilu, għażlu ħa bla l-Partit tal-partit u awtomatikament il-Kap tal-Opopozizzjoni.

It-tlieta wrew li kienu mweġġa’ b’dak li kien qed isehħ minn xi membri tal-grupp Parlamentari.

Sadanitant jidher li minkejja l-pressjoni lill-Partit, mhux bħalsiebu jċedi, għax fuq Net TV, waqt maratonata ta’ ġbir ta’ fond fil-PN, Eddie Fenech Adami qal:


Indirettament sostna li li PN mhux tad-Deputati Nazzjonali u li l-partit hu ta’ dak li jaktiv li jistgħu jneħħuh minn il-partit. Anke tefna’ wkoll it-tort ta’ dak li ġara u qed jiġri fil-Partit Nazzjonali, mingħajr ma semma’ xi kategorija u ismiżiet fuq l-fazzjoni li opponietu:

Jien urejt rispett kbir lejn dawk li ma qablux, dawk li ma ridux jaċċettaw din ir-realtà. Ħpipruvajt, insejħulu bridge building, li nasal, iżda int tista’ tibni, tasal u tibni l-pont kollu, madankollu n-naħa l-oħra jrid ikun hemm rieda ta’ xi ħadd li jrid jasal ukoll, li jekk jien wettaqt mitt pass, hu jwettaq pass wieħed”. 

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Tuesday February 11, 2020

The Voice of the Maltese 15

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Updated: 17 PN MPs want Delia out, only four support him (Malta Independent).

Maggioranza ta’ 17 il-Deputati Nazzjonali jridu li Delia jittalq (illum).

Tel-ahhar ikkwotat ukoll li ġir l-partit tal-PN jghidu: ‘Qed nistennew lill-Präsident isejiluna’. Dan billi l-Prresident jista’ jneħħ li Delia minn Kunsill tal-Opopozizzjoni (ghal-kemm xorta jibqa’ kap tal-PN) jekk il-maggioranza tad-deputati Nazzjonali jirrikkinda li ma ghandhom fiduċja f’Delia.”

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Black summer

The Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison has written to state and territory leaders seeking their approval of draft terms of reference for a royal commission into the devastating bushfire season. “We owe it to those we have lost,” Mr Morrison told the first day of parliament. He put forward former defence force chief Mark Binskin to lead the proposed royal commission and wants the probe to look at when the federal government is able to step in above state counterparts in natural disasters.

Elsewhere in Parliament, Nationals Party leader Michael McCormack forced to fend off a challenge from former leader Barnaby Joyce. The Greens also elected a new leader in Adam Bandt following the sudden resignations of Richard Di Natale.

Federal Parliament first sitting for year 2020 (above) was entirely dedicated to bush fire tributes as the nations’ horrific fire season continues. It has claimed 33 lives. Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Labor leader Anthony Albanese began the day at a traditional church service in Canberra.

Bushfire-affected NSW communities are facing one of the nation’s biggest-ever clean-up in our nations’ history. Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said the average cost to clean up a site was about $50,000 with the price rising if hazardous materials like asbestos were involved.

Some 300 homes, another 260 facilities and 5200 outbuildings have been destroyed to date this bushfire season.

Meanwhile, the European Union’s climate monitoring system reported that last month was the warmest January on record globally, while in Europe temperatures were a balmy three degrees Celsius above the average January from 1981 to 2010. Across a band of countries stretching from Norway to Russia, temperatures were an unprecedented 6 degrees above the same 30-year benchmark.

The last five years have been the hottest on record, as was the ten-year period 2010-2019. Temperatures were likewise higher than normal in New South Wales, Australia, where massive bushfires devastated large areas of the state.

Climate change and the fossil fuel industry

According to the Australian Electoral Commission, the fossil fuel industry continues to bankroll the Federal election campaigns of Australian political parties, recent data has revealed.

Clive Palmer's Mineralogy, which tipped $83.7 million into the United Australia Party, was the most significant fossil fuel donor during the election. The sector donated $1,894,024 to political campaigns before last year’s election – with Woodside, Adani and gas lobby group APPEA, among the biggest donors.

The Coalition received the most from the fossil fuel industry, receiving $1,147,376, while Labor took in $725,448.

Mr Palmer failed to win a seat in the upper or lower house at the May 2019 election, despite his company’s cash splash and tens of millions spent on advertising.

Liberal donations in total reached $165m, while Labor took in $126m, The Greens received some $20m and One Nation $3m.
In November, Queensland Health Minister Steven Miles introduced legislation that would ban the “highly destructive” practice of conversion therapy, defined as practices that attempt “to change or suppress a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity”.

The legislation would create penalties of up to 18 months jail time for health service providers performing services deemed to be conversion therapy, such as aversion therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy and counselling aimed at changing a person’s gender identity or sexual orientation.

LGBTIQ+ conversion therapy is opposed by the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Psychological Society, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. The Queensland Law Society also expressed concerns about the bill, suggesting that the current definition of conversion therapy in the legislation is “extremely broad” and may have unintended consequences.

The organisation agreed that conversion therapy is a “reprehensible practice”, but wrote that the broad definition and the prospect of criminal prosecution “may fetter otherwise legitimate aspects of psychological and psychiatric treatment.”

Gay conversion therapy

As public submissions close on the Government’s draft religious discrimination bill, a professor warned the bill included provisions that may be “motivated by a desire to allow people to be nasty to others”.

In explanatory information accompanying the bill, the Government said it would not be discrimination under any Australian anti-discrimination law for “merely expressing ... genuinely held religious beliefs in good faith”. Attorney-General Christian Porter said the bill’s approach to statements of belief was a “commonsense position”.

“In essence, the bill simply takes the uncontroversial position that, on their own, mere written or spoken words are not discrimination – provided they express genuine religious beliefs and are stated in a way that is not malicious and does not harass, vilify, threaten, intimidate or urge criminal offences.”

But Monash University associate professor of constitutional law Luke Beck said the practical effect of the right to make statements of belief was to establish “the right to be a bigot”, noting there was still room for statements that insulted, offended, ridiculed or humiliated others. He also noted the proposed bill ruled out only “serious” intimidation.

While many faith groups, including the Catholic and Anglican churches, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the National Imams Council, have been pushing for greater religious freedoms in the bill, the Uniting Church has been among those saying there needs to be more protection for vulnerable groups.

Order of Malta honours Australian Jesuit priest

The Sovereign Order of Malta has recognised an Australian Jesuit priest in Thailand for his efforts to get Pakistani Christian refugees in the kingdom resettled in third countries.

The Order’s ambassador to Thailand H.E. Michael Mann, presented Fr Michael Kelly SJ with the Grand Cross “pro piis meritis” pro Merito Melitensi.

Established in 1920, the Knightly Order pro Merito Melitensi is given in recognition of those activities that have conferred honour and prestige on the Sovereign Order of Malta. “Pro piis meritis” awards are specifically for clergy.

“It is in recognition of Fr Kelly’s own physical as well as moral support for displaced people, something which is at the heart of the work of the Order. Fr Kelly has been working with the embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta for many years to help these wonderful people meet their immediate health needs and, importantly, to find them safety and a future in third countries.”

Fr Kelly is the English-language publisher of La Croix International and founder of CathNews.

A right to be a bigot
Dhifferiti xgħid ghal xiei l-aktar li jibqa’ magħruż Alfons Maria Galea, hux ghal kitbietu inkella l-karitā li ggamlu tal ħajt, ghalkemm dawk midhla tal-kitbietu Maltija jsostnu li fost kolloks tisperkka kitbietu.


Il-hijra għall-kitba żdiedet fih u kien għid li l-aktar awseppa tieghu kienet, li jhalfal n-negozju ghal kolloks u jiddedika l-bqija ta’ ħajtu għall-kitba. Fl-1899 beda johrog sensiela ta’ Kitbiet Ta’ Mqofmijiet il-Miżjura ta’ Ħajiet Alla issa għandkom il-kotba kollha tal-Bibbja għall-Malti... Il-kotba kollha tal-Bibbja bil-Malti… ta’ Baruk. Dwaru b’sodisfazzjon kien kelma tagħhom hi l-kelma ta’ Alla, u mhux le tal-bnedmin li kitbuhom.”

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Gejtu Deguara, a stalwart of the Melbourne Maltese community, was awarded a special certificate by Radio Station 98.9NW FM and the Maltese programme for his excellent, loyal and continuing service to broadcasting mostly in the sports section.

Now retired and living in Gowanbrae with his beautiful wife Mary, Gejtu was Vice President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria for 16 years and for six years in the San Gejtau Festa Committee.

Emmanuel Brincat, the instigator of this certificate of recognition spent 16 years together with Gejtu on 3ZZZ and later on 98.9 North West FM. He praised Gejtu for his loyalty and deep commitment.

“Gejtu deserves this recognition, he has feet on the ground and knows the community in Victoria inside out” Emmanuel told The Voice.

The Voice of the Maltese is always grateful to Gejtu for his continuing support both to The Maltese Herald, and for the past six years The Voice of the Maltese.
Marsaxlokk: much more than just a fishing village

Malta and its islands (Gozo and Comino), an archipelago in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea (between Sicily and the Northern African coast), are home to a most remarkable concentration of intact built heritage, including the highest density of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in any nation-state anywhere.

The island is packed with interesting architecture, brimming with turquoise sea, charming cities and a laid-back vibe with a city, Valletta, one of the UNESCO sights, that was built by the proud Knights of St. John. In 2018 it was that year’s European Capital of Culture.

Malta's patrimony in stone ranges from the oldest free-standing stone architecture in the world, to one of the British Empire's most formidable defensive systems, and includes a rich mix of domestic, religious and military architecture from the ancient, medieval and early modern periods.

With superbly sunny weather, attractive beaches, a thriving nightlife and 7,000 years of intriguing history, there is a great deal to see and do.

There are a number of things to do on this European Island, but one of the first things that I would advice visitors to do is to visit the small picturesque fishing village of Marsaxlokk. It is a small village (with close to 4,000 inhabitants), but by far the largest fishing village on the island.

About 70% of the Maltese fishing fleet is based there; therefore it is no surprise that fishermen coming from this port catch most of Malta’s fish supplies.

The traditional fishing village where colourful boats clutter the bay and the shore is lined with fresh fish restaurants is located in the South Eastern part of Malta, adjacent to Żejtun, Marsaskala and Birżebbuġa.

One should particularly also visit the fishing village on a Sunday morning when the open-air local fish market sells the morning catch. If you happen to be living in a self-catering accommodation, you can choose to make your own purchases to cook up at your leisure. Otherwise just pick one of the many roadside restaurants to indulge in a selection of fish offered by some of the finest fish restaurants on the island.

This village is also well known for the peaceful walks around the coast and sheltered harbour, replete with traditional luzzu’s and larger fishing vessels lining the harbour in a colourful display that has been the subject of countless photo shoots, as well as for its secluded and untainted swimming zones. It also has a number of military outposts built by the British to protect its harbour during World War Two. Some of these still stand today.

Marsaxlokk village is only 6.5 kilometres away from Malta International Airport. There are no hotels in the village, but some guest houses have cropped up of late and a stay there is ideal for those seeking a relaxing time away from it all. The village offers a limited number of accommodation options, such as self-catering apartments that get good reviews from customers.

Inhabited and well-known since antiquity, Marsaxlokk was used as a port by Phoenicians, Carthaginians and also has the remains of a Roman-era harbour. Originally a part of the city of Żejtun, the fishing village became a separate parish in the late nineteenth century. Due to the association of Marsaxlokk Bay with the Roman and Punic remains at Tas-Silġ, it is sometimes referred to as Portus Herculis. The Tas-Silġ site includes megalithic remains, scattered edifices belonging to three distinct temples.

The name Marsaxlokk comes from the Arabic word marsa, which means port and xlokk, which is the Maltese word for southeast. The word is related to the name for the dry sirocco wind that blows from the Sahara, comparable to the equivalent Catalan word, xaloc. The inhabitants of the village are called the Xlukkja and are, traditionally, fishermen by trade.

In the 1930s, Marsaxlokk bay was used as a staging post by four-engined Short C-Class flying boats of Britain’s Imperial Airways as they pioneered long-distance air travel to across the British Empire. During the Second World War, it was the base for the Fleet Air Arm with a base at Kalafrana. In 1989, the famous summit meeting between Soviet and US leaders Mikhail Gorbatchev and George H.W. Bush was held on-board a ship anchored in the bay.
A total of 345 writers from 15 different schools in Gozo submitted entries as Gozo Live, a non-governmental and voluntary educational organisation, run by Barbara Day, celebrated Gozo’s young writers.

This is the sixth year running that Gozo Live, a non-governmental and voluntary educational organisation, run by Barbara Day, organised the event. All the submissions at the Gozo College Middle School were highly applauded.

Creativity in writing was celebrated as a student from each school read its entries and shared their inspirations, hopes and dreams with the large and receptive audience. Pamela Zerafa, Education Officer for English, who hosted the event interview each reader.

The 37 entries have been included in Gozo Live’s annual.

Bishop Mario Grech marked his 14th year of his episcopate with a concelebrated Mass at the Good Shepherd church, Ta‘Cawla, Victoria. The occasion also marked the feast of Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

As part of the VASTE Programme currently undertaken under Operational Programme II – European Structural and Investment Funds 2014 – 2020 “Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society”, project part-financed by the European Social Funds, Jobsplus held an employers Information Session at the ITS in Qala.

The objective of the session held through the assistance of the Gozo Business Chamber, was to provide more information on the services available to particular vulnerable groups. Daniel Borg, CEO of the Gozo Business Chamber introduced the session, while Olivia Farrugia, (right) Head of the Inclusive Employment Services Division from Jobsplus provided an overview of the objective of the session.

Other presentations were delivered by a number of personnel and various interventions and questions were made from the floor. Joseph Borg, President of the Gozo Business Chamber, closed the session.
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 Saturday morning from 9.15 to 11.15 am.

Classes for Term 1 commenced on Saturday February 8.

For more information email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com
Mobile: 0400-376-607

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

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

Last Saturday of the Month: - Għana Night with Saver Bonanno and friends

Every Thursday: Maltese Respite Care Service:
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)

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!

Festa 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
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: Emmanuelle Brincat.

MELBOURNE: STEREO 974 (93180930): 97.4FM Wed (Maltese Magazine) & Thursday (Mehra): 6.00pm to 8.00 pm Co-ordinator – Ray Anastasi.

On SBS Radio
Day Time Analogue and Digital
Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00
97.7fm SBS 2.

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 bernadettethagiar@gmail.com
Ron Borg: 0418 543 890. Email ronborg@mac.com

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.

SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3.
Isma’ l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta’ NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM.
(Jista’ wkoll jinstema’ On Demand minn fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council (11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahbar ahbarijiet

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-Ahbarijiet are now on SBS TV 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 9535 2357

Greystanes Maltese Seniors
Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Centre of QLOP 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 Mitsud J.P.Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298.

*(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 55b Franklin Street (corner with Young St) Parramatta West NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School).

Avviż lill-qarrejja

Biex dan isir wieħed għandu l-ewwel jikkomunikika b’email halli jagħmel it-talba lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jittieb tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta’ abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun iрид jissieħeb ma’ dawk kollha li mhumiex kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tieghu, jgharrafna."
Reigning champions Valletta won’t surrender their Premier League title that easily. In fact, after halting Floriana’s unbeaten run the previous week by beating them 1-0, at the weekend even managed to become joint leaders with 35 points. This results from Floriana’s failure to go beyond a 2-2 draw against Gzira, and Valletta’s 3-1 defeat of nine-man Balzan. It all points out to the probability that the Citizens’ hopes of a successful defence of the Premier Championship keeps gaining ground.

Floriana’s failure to gain just one point from a possible six in their last two outings completely erased their four-point lead at the top after 17 matches. In Round 16, Gzira lost their opening game under a new manager, but managed to gain some hope of an improvement by holding Floriana to a draw in Round 17. Meanwhile, elsewhere, Tarxien finally broke the duck by winning their first match of the season by beating Hamrun who keep sliding down the table after failing to win a match from their last 10. This led to the Spartans sacking their Italian coach and getting contracting a new one.

Sliema did themselves a world of good by beating Gzira the previous week, but then came a cropper on Saturday by losing to Gudja. The Eagles’ new signing, former Sliema Wanderers striker, Jean Borg, with the Cup. Jean, the first Malta-born signing in 42 years since Ray ‘Zazu’ Farrugia in 1978, impressed at the tournament and finished as the Eagles’ leading goal scorer with three goals, including a double in the final.

While Australia was celebrating Australia Day on January 26, Maltese football enthusiasts were mourning the death of one of their own, legendary footballer Tony Vella who died aged 88. With his brother Lolly, Tony was a product of the famous Floriana Ajax team. He established himself as a mainstay with the club and Maltese football. A product of the Floriana Ajax team, between 1949 and 1955 Tony won five league titles and the triple crown in season 1949-50. He also represented the Malta FA XI 14 times before moving to Australia with his brother Lolly in 1955. In Australia he first played for Footscray JUST and in 1971 joined Green Gully Ajax as their senior coach and player. In his first year at the club the Green Gully won their first ever championship and put them on the football map in Victoria.

Tony helped the growth of football Australia. He also played for Footscray JUST, George Cross, Lions, Polonia, Pasco Vale and St Albans, and even represented Victoria State and Australia.

Melita Eagles’ triumph in Melbourne tournament

At the Parramatta Eagles club in NSW they are still basking in their triumph at winning the first edition of the football tournament for the Maltese Cultural Cup that was played in Melbourne over the Australia Day weekend between six teams with roots in the Maltese community. The tournament, organised by Caroline Springs at City Vista, was such a huge success that it will to become an annual event over the Australia Day weekend.

Victoria State clubs Caroline George Cross and Green Gully, both considered as pertaining to the highest grade among the participants, and better quoted for victory, in the end, had to make way for Parramatta Melita Eagles who rose to the challenge and eventually won the title by beating Altona City SC 5-3 in the final.

Vale legendary Tony Vella

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Valletta become joint leaders with Floriana

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RESULTS - Day 17

Floriana v Gzira U 2-2
Valletta v Balzan 3-1
Hibernians v Senglea 1-1
Birkirkara v Mosta 2-1
Gudja v Sliema W 1-0
Sta Lucia v Tarxien 3-1
Sirens v Hamrun (Mon)

Day 16

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

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The Parramatta Melita Eagles squad after their tournament victory.

(Photograph: Tadashi Miyashita)